

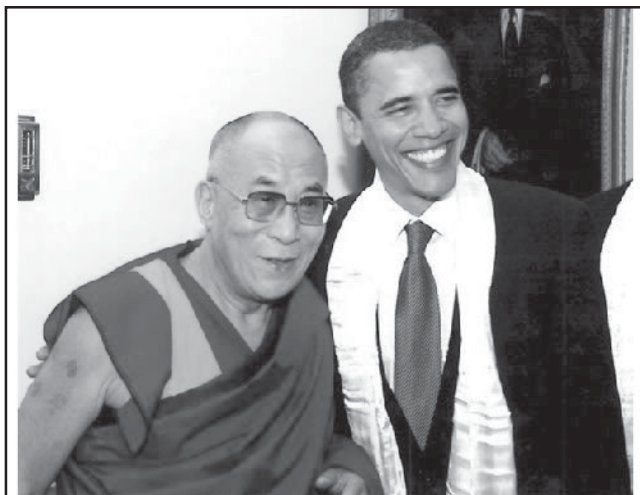
## Obama Meets Dalai Lama Defying Chinese Warnings

Washington: (IANS) President Barack Obama held a long awaited meeting with the Dalai Lama in February defying warnings from Beijing that it could further strain US-Sino relations amid tension over American arms sales to Taiwan and claims of Chinese cyber-spying.

Obama, who had failed to meet the Tibetan spiritual leader last year to keep Beijing in good humor ahead of his first state visit to China in November, met the Dalai Lama in the White House Map Room instead of his Oval Office to indicate the unofficial nature of the meeting.

No cameras were allowed as the two Nobel Peace Prize recipients opened their talks.

Dalai Lama has now met every sitting US president since George H.W. Bush in 1991, but



none of them received him in the Oval Office.

The Dalai Lama later held a separate closed-door meeting with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Across the White House, supporters chanted and waved Tibetan and US flags in snowy Lafayette Square to welcome the Tibetan spiritual leader who has lived in exile in India since 1959 when he fled his homeland.

Ahead of the visit the Dalai Lama's special envoy, Lodi Gayari, said he would be asking the US president to "help find a solution in resolving the Tibet issue that would be mutually beneficial to the Tibetan and Chinese people".

But it was "important in itself that the meeting is happening," he said. Gayari stressed that the Dalai Lama agreed with Obama's decision not to meet him last October, but said that "we had a lot of misgivings".

Meanwhile, a new national CNN/Opinion Research Corporation poll released Thursday said nearly three-quarters of all Americans think that Tibet should be an independent country.

But the survey also indicates that most Americans think it is more important to maintain good relations with China than to take a stand on Tibet.

## Sanjay Gupta Named Young Global Leader

Washington: (IANS) Sanjay Gupta, an Indian American senior executive, has been chosen by the World Economic Forum for its 2010 class of Young Global Leaders.



Gupta, a second-generation Indian American, is the senior vice president and advisor to the executive chairman

of Abraxis BioScience, a leading pharmaceutical and health-care innovator based in the US with offices throughout the world.

Commenting on his selection, Gupta stated: "I am deeply honored to be a member of the 2010 Class of Young Global Leaders (YGL) and I look forward to working with the YGL community around the world to advance a host of innovative and socially-beneficial initiatives."

"We are delighted that Sanjay has been recognised for his past and ongoing contributions to social progress through his innovative thinking, vision, and leadership," said Patrick Soon-Shiong, executive chairman of Abraxis BioScience.

The honor, bestowed each year by the forum, recognises and acknowledges between 100 and 200 outstanding young leaders from around the world for their professional accomplishments, commitment to society and potential to contribute to shaping the future of the world.

Rachel Maddow of MSNBC, tennis player Roger Federer, and the co-founder of Twitter, Evan Williams, are among those selected this year.

Recipients in prior years include the co-founders of Google, Larry Page and Sergey Brin, the founder and CEO of Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg, and television journalist Anderson Cooper.

Prior to joining Abraxis, Gupta served as the director of social enterprise at Intel Corporation. He has also served as the chief financial officer and director of strategy for Dossia, a social-enterprise sponsored by Intel, Wal-Mart, Pitney-Bowes, AT&T, Sanofi-Aventis, Cardinal Health, Vanguard Health, Abraxis BioScience, Applied Materials, and BP America.

Gupta was educated at the University of Oxford, where he earned his MBA and was a member of Merton College.

## 'India Needs More Trained Healthcare Professionals'

Washington: (IANS) A leading Indian-American cardiac surgeon suggests a "lean healthcare" system model for India to attract larger private investments and widen its reach and says the country needs more trained healthcare executives to manage the growing industry.

"The best implementation of lean principles is optimising of available resources directly reflected by visible increased productivity," says Dr. Mukesh Hariawala, 50, who has just completed a "Physician Executive Healthcare MBA" program at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

"This methodology, if implemented correctly, makes most hospital systems viable with augmented profitability," the Boston-based doctor told IANS. "This in India will attract and increase private sector participation including larger investments in the healthcare space."

"My dream is to see a vibrant Indian healthcare industry managed by trained educated professionals who can navigate India to the path of prosperity."

Hariawala, who did his MD from Topiwala National Medical School, Mumbai, said doctors in India too could do a better job of managing hospitals with a specialised management course like the one offered at Tennessee.

"Predominantly the culture of hiring CEOs in Indian hospitals is to seek retired defence personnel," he said. "The attraction is not experience or good finance acumen but simply their ability to bring in higher standards of discipline in the organization."

"Some excel with experience gained on the job," Hariawala said, but "it would be more desirable if healthcare executives go through a formal business education and the results would be exponentially greater."



Dr. Mukesh Hariawala

## Pandit Says Citi 'Fundamentally Different', Much Healthier

Washington: (IANS) Citigroup's Indian American CEO Vikram Pandit says the troubled banking giant is today "fundamentally different" and far healthier than when he took over thanks to an over \$45 billion government bailout.

"I am pleased to say we are in a far different and much healthier position," Pandit said in testimony before the Congressional Oversight Panel Thursday. The independent watchdog group oversees the \$700 billion financial bailout.

The bank had returned to being a bank, not "a financial supermarket", he said.

Facing sharp questions from the panel, he said taxpayers will likely end up with a profit on the entire set of Citi rescues. Among them: a \$20 billion infusion that has been repaid, and \$25 billion that was converted into common stock and has since gained value.

Calling the bailout funds a "bridge over crisis", Pandit said he looked forward to helping taxpayers realise a return on the 27 percent of Citi the government still owns.

Citi is one of the best capitalised banks in the world, with Tier 1 capital ratio of 11.7 percent, Tier 1 common ratio of 9.6 percent and loan loss reserves of \$36 billion, reduced exposure to risky assets and a balance sheet that's been cut by half a trillion, he said.

Turning to lessons learned, Pandit said: "The entire financial system can systemically underestimate risk - and that an entire system can show hubris."

There was too much leverage, diversification didn't work because risk exposures were more "concentrated and correlated" than supposed, he said endorsing a "systemic regulator".

Herbert Allison, assistant treasury secretary

for financial stability, said Citigroup's bailout was "warranted and necessary". If Citigroup had been allowed to falter, investors might have lost faith in the strength of other banks, he said.

"Due to the deterioration in confidence, there was concern that, without government assistance, Citigroup would not be able to obtain sufficient funding in the market over the following days," Allison said.

"A further deterioration of Citigroup would have led investors to doubt the ability and willingness of US policy makers to support US banking institutions and financial markets," he said, adding that the bank's presence in more than 100 countries also played a role in the government's decision.

The government has a \$1.15 billion paper profit on its stake in Citigroup, the third-biggest US bank by assets, based on its 7.7 billion shares and the current stock price of \$3.40.



## Obama Names Indian-American Amy Singh On Arts Body

Washington: (IANS) President Barack Obama has picked up an Indian American to serve on the US President's Advisory Committee on the Arts for the prestigious John F. Kennedy Centre for Performing Arts.

Announcing the appointment of eminent Indian American attorney, Amy K. Singh, based in Obama's home town of Chicago, the White House Monday noted she works to support the arts and youth, which develops civic leadership in the city's high school youth.

Singh practises in areas of entertainment, advertising and marketing, and provides counsel to

clients on event production and promotion, television production, talent and other matters.

Before starting her own practice, she held several positions, including as general counsel/senior vice president of DDB Chicago Inc, and as an associate in the Chicago office of the firm now known as Sidley Austin LLP.

Singh was a member of the Junior Board of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and is currently on the Board of the Mikva Challenge, an organisation that prioritises the development of civic leadership in underserved Chicago high school youth.