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Minister for Defence Shri. A.K. Antony speaking at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore on June 2, 2012.

Shri. A.K. Antony, Minister for Defence visited Singapore on June 1-2, 2012, to attend the 11th Asia Security Summit, known as the Shangri-La Dialogue, organised by the International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS).

The President of Indonesia Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono delivered the keynote address of the annual Shangri-La Dialogue on 1 June 2012. Shri. Antony spoke in the 2nd Plenary Session of the Conference on the topic 'Protecting Maritime Freedoms'.

On the sidelines of The Shangri-La Dialogue Shri. A.K. Antony had bilateral meetings with the Defence Minister of Singapore; Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka; Deputy Defence Minister of Vietnam; Minister of Defence, South Korea; Minister of Defence, France; Minister of National Defence, Canada; and PM and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defence, Tonga.

Shri. Antony's delegation included Defence Secretary Shri. Shashikant Sharma and the Chairman of the Integrated Defence Staff to the Chiefs of Staff Committee Vice Admiral Shekhar Sinha.

Excerpts from the Defence Minister's address at the Shangri-La Dialogue on June 2, 2012:

Over the years, the Shangri-La Dialogue has grown into an important forum which enables wide ranging discussion on security issues relevant to the regional and global community. This event brings together a wide spectrum of participants who play important roles in the defence and security developments. It provides us an opportunity to reflect on the major security challenges of our time and contributes significantly to the strengthening of processes to address these important issues.

I begin with a reflection on the genesis

of the maritime freedoms debate which has become so salient in our security discourse today. The interplay between the concepts of the Closed Seas and the Open Seas was linked to the changing needs of the powers which sought to control maritime trade. The revival of the concept of 'Open Seas' gained relevance when the needs of the Industrial Revolution in the West had to be fuelled by supplies from Asia and Africa.

Unlike in the previous centuries, maritime freedoms cannot be the exclusive prerogative of a few. Large parts of the common seas cannot be declared exclusive to any one country or group. We must find the balance between the rights of nations and the freedoms of the world community in the maritime domain. Like individual freedoms, the fullness of maritime freedoms can be realized only when all states, big and small, are willing to abide by universally agreed

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Shri. Antony with US Defence Secretary Mr. Leon Panetta (right)



Shri Antony with Singapore Deputy Minister Mr. Teo Chee Hean

laws and principles.

Today, the threats and challenges to maritime security and maritime freedoms arise from piracy, terrorism and organised crime and also, from the conflicting interests of countries — these may arise from the quest for political

influence or military dominance, maritime territorial disputes, competitive exploitation of marine resources or environmental challenges.

India's own security and prosperity is intimately tied to the security and prosperity of the extended Indian Ocean Region, which also includes the Asia Pacific region. A significant percentage of our global mercantile trade — almost 90% by volume and 77% by value — is carried by sea.

Given India's geographical location, extensive maritime interests, dependence on the seas for trade and the evolving asymmetric threats in the form of maritime terrorism, piracy and drug trafficking, maritime security issues have become a strategic priority for us. There are two different aspects to this imperative. The first is the concern for safeguarding of our territories and our adjacent waters against seaborne threats. The second is the desire to ensure that the traditional freedoms at sea are preserved to ensure access for all.

However, as countries seek to bolster their capabilities to respond to perceived challenges in the maritime domain, there also arises a need to avoid conflict and build consensus.

I am encouraged by the cooperative approaches we have seen between nations

when it comes to defending our collective freedoms against the activities of pirates, whether in the Malacca Strait or in the Gulf of Aden.

The Indian Navy, which has been operating in the Gulf of Aden, has provided escort to a number of ships of non-Indian flags. The same is true of some other Navies operating in the region.

There is a need to extend this spirit of cooperation to de-conflict contentious areas in the maritime domain. This is possible only through the process of dialogue and consensus building, within the framework of accepted principles of international law.

India is actively engaged in the process of constructive dialogue on security issues with a number of countries, especially with the ASEAN community, many members of which are our immediate maritime neighbours. We have wide ranging bilateral exchanges with the ASEAN nations in the area of defence and security. We also support ongoing initiatives like the ARF and the ADMM Plus mechanisms in building an inclusive security architecture which would foster a spirit of consensus on all issues which have common resonance. The Suez and the Gulf of Hormuz are also vital arteries of world trade. We also maintain a regular dialogue with the countries of the region.

To conclude, I will reiterate that India has vital interests in the maritime domain and we will make our contribution, as a responsible member of the international community, for the evolution of an open, transparent and inclusive maritime security architecture that would ensure the protection and preservation of maritime freedoms.

FIFTH INDIA-SINGAPORE STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

The Fifth India-Singapore Strategic Dialogue was held on May 28 and 29, 2012. The Dialogue, which is a Track II mechanism, is coordinated by the CII from the Indian side and the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) from the Singapore side.

The Dialogue is co-chaired by Shri. S.K. Lambah, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of India, and Prof Tommy Koh, Ambassador-at-Large in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore, and comprised distinguished experts from government, business and civil society from both countries. The India delegation also called on Emeritus Senior Minister Mr. Goh Chok Tong and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law Mr. K. Shanmugam.



Participants of the Fifth India-Singapore Strategic Dialogue



External Affairs Minister Shri S. K. Krishna with President of China Mr. Hu Jintao in Beijing

SHRI. KRISHNA VISITS BEIJING FOR THE SCO SUMMIT

External Affairs Minister Shri. S.M. Krishna visited Beijing, China, on a three-day visit from June 5-7, 2012, to participate in the 12th summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). India is an observer at SCO. In his address at the summit, Shri. Krishna called on the security grouping to play a greater role in Afghanistan, and expressed India's interest to coordinate more closely with the group in combating terrorism in the region. Excerpts from the speech:

regional answer to this challenge. India looks forward to greater engagement with this structure. Illicit narco-trafficking and cyber security are other challenges in the region which deserve greater

best practices. India is already engaged with the SCO member states in areas such as information technology, management, and entrepreneurship development. We will be happy to share with SCO countries our unique experience in specific areas of economic endeavour, such as banking, capital markets, micro-finance, small and medium enterprises.

Energy cooperation is another area of interest to us. The proposed TAPI Project within our region is an example of cooperation that can bind us in energy linkages.

As we have emphasized at various SCO fora, India would be happy to play a larger, wider and more constructive role in the SCO as a full member, as and when the organisation finalises the expansion modalities. We welcome the general trajectory of the SCO towards expansion and redefinition of its role. We feel a wider and more representative SCO will be able to deal more effectively with the common challenges of security and development in our region."

India admires the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and values its contribution over the past decade, to peace, stability and prosperity in the region. As the SCO prepares for the next decade of its journey, we see a welcome process of introspection among members, on the challenges of the next decade and the role of the body in a fast-evolving world, strewn with multiple multilateral bodies, with intersecting agendas.

The most important security challenge we face today relates to Afghanistan, which lies in the heart of Asia and is a bridge, connecting not just Central and South Asia but also Eurasia and the Middle East. The SCO provides a promising alternative regional platform to discuss the rapidly changing Afghan situation.

The economic development projects of the SCO can be a meaningful additional effort for Afghanistan's reconstruction. India has already committed over 2 billion US dollars towards reconstruction and developmental activities in Afghanistan. This is a reflection of our commitment to the prosperity of the Afghan people. We will be unwavering in our support to this cause.

The other major security challenge of our age continues to be terrorism, which is a common threat to the international community and particularly to our SCO space. India is a long-standing victim of terrorism emanating from our region and believes that there is need for stronger resolve and firmer efforts in tackling this scourge.

We appreciate greater cooperation within the Regional Anti Terrorist Structure as an important

focus and stronger collective efforts.

Connectivity between SCO countries is crucial to bind us together. The SCO needs to address the problem of connectivity through regional solutions to encourage trade and investment flows between our countries. India is ready to cooperate with regional countries to find viable solutions to this problem and contribute to the endeavour to build bridges between Central and South Asia. The International North South Transport Corridor, which we are re-energising, is one such effort in this direction.

Members and observers of the SCO can prosper by mutual sharing of experiences and



The Indian delegation led by Shri. S.M. Krishna at the SCO Summit

MP CHIEF MINISTER SHRI. SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN IN SINGAPORE



officials and business representatives. On June 25, 2012, the Madhya Pradesh Trade and Investment Facilitation Corporation Limited in association with the High Commission of India in Singapore and the Confederation of Indian Industry in Singapore organised an Investment Promotion Session to showcase opportunities for investment and discuss cross-border partnerships. The session recorded an overwhelming response and was attended by over 100 representatives from Singapore's business community.

The Chief Minister also hosted a breakfast session with senior executives of leading corporate houses on the same day. The session was attended by senior representatives of Ascendas, Temasek, Hyflux, Jurong Consultants, Shahidhar and Agro Corp International amongst others. The discussions focussed on investments opportunities in the areas of food processing, infrastructure development and Tourism. The delegation also met Mr. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade & Industry of Singapore.

For details on the investment summit, visit <http://www.investmp.com/homepage.html>

A high-level delegation from Madhya Pradesh led by Chief Minister Shri. Shivraj Singh Chouhan was in Singapore on June 24 and 25, 2012, to promote the 'Invest Madhya Pradesh Global Investors

Summit', which will be held in Indore in October 2012.

The CM's delegation included Shri. Kailash Vijayvargiya, Minister for Commerce, Industry & Employment, senior government

SEBI CHAIRMAN MEETS CEOs AND FINANCE HEADS IN SINGAPORE



Chairman of SEBI
Shri U. K. Sinha.

Shri U.K. Sinha, Chairman Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI), visited Singapore on June 17 and 18, 2012. He was invited by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) to inaugurate a course organised by the MAS for middle-level managers of Asian stock market regulators.

The High Commission organised an Interactive Session with Shri. Sinha on June 18, 2012, which was attended by CEOs and heads of various financial institutions based in Singapore. He spoke on the 'Indian Story - Perceptions & Facts', where he highlighted aspects of India's economy that were relatively performing much better than in other BRICS countries, namely growth rate, currency depreciation, inflation etc.

He pointed out that while negative issues such as falling rate of growth, high fiscal deficit, rising current account deficit, inflationary pressures, depreciating

currency, etc., were getting undue attention, the positive aspects of increasing exports, change in composition of imports, demography, deeper and more sophisticated financial markets, domestic financial system capable of funding Government debt, higher domestic savings etc were overlooked.

He also spoke of new SEBI initiatives such as Qualified Foreign Investors (QFI), wherein QFIs need not get registered with SEBI and are allowed to invest in listed equity shares, equity shares offered to public through IPO, units of equity and debt schemes of Indian mutual funds and corporate debt subject to acceptable KYC requirements from anywhere.

Other initiatives of SEBI included New Takeover Code, IPO reforms, regulations for Alternate Investment Funds (AIF), ownership and governance of stock exchanges, transparency in consent mechanism, rules for Algo and high frequency trades, among others.

MEA COMPLETES NATIONWIDE ROLLOUT OF 77 PSKs FOR IMPROVING PASSPORT SERVICES

With the launch of a Passport Seva Kendra (PSK) at the Regional Passport Office, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi on 14 June 2012, the Ministry of External Affairs has successfully completed setting up and operationalisation of 77 PSKs in the country. The ongoing reforms in delivery of passport services are envisioned under Passport Seva Project - a citizen-centric e-Governance initiative as part of the National e-Governance Plan.

The Passport Seva Project approved by the Union Cabinet and launched in Public Private Partnership mode with Tata Consultancy Services as partner aims "to deliver all Passport-related services to the citizens in a timely, transparent, more accessible, reliable manner & in a comfortable environment through streamlined processes and committed, trained & motivated workforce".

The Ministry is improving governance in Passport Offices by focussing on

citizen-centricity, service orientation and transparency. The intended benefits to common man are service provisioning in a transparent manner within defined service levels, closer and larger number of access points for services, easy availability of a portfolio of on-line services with real-time status tracking and enquiry, availability of good public facilities at PSKs and an effective system of grievance redressal.

The applicants are required to log on to the website www.passportindia.gov.in create their user ID and assign a password; fill & submit the application form online or download the e-form, fill & upload the same at the portal (applicants may scan and upload supporting documents, if they so desire); note the Application Reference Number (ARN); schedule an appointment and along with printout of Appointment Slip, original documents and photocopies visit the PSK for submission of application. The



photograph and biometrics are captured at the PSK. Status of applications can be tracked through website.

An important feature of the new system is that the citizens are assured of the status of passport issuance and they need not visit the PSK/Passport Office again for completion of various formalities/furnishing of documents as was often the case earlier in the old system. Tatkaal applications, in most cases, are handled at the Passport Offices.

SHRI. S.M. KRISHNA SENDS OFF KAILASH MANASAROVAR PILGRIMS



Mount Kailash

The Kailash Manasarovar Yatra conducted by Ministry of External Affairs in close cooperation with

Government of Peoples' Republic of China and State Government of Uttarakhand has completed 30 years.

To commemorate the occasion as well as to mark 2012 as the Year of India-China Friendship and Cooperation, External Affairs Minister Shri. S.M. Krishna hosted a function on May 31, 2012, at the Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan to send off the Yatri of the first batch.

The Minister congratulated the Yatri on their selection and wished them a safe and fulfilling Yatra.

In his remarks, the Minister brought out the unique characteristics of the Yatra, which takes the Yatri to the Holy Mount Kailash and Lake Manasarovar situated in remote parts of the Tibet Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China.

The Yatra involves trekking at high altitudes of up to 19,500 feet under arduous conditions. He said that the Yatri were indeed fortunate to be able to undertake the Yatra which traverses through numerous touristic and religious sites known for picturesque, scenic and the mesmerising beauty all over the world.

The Yatra is also a lasting symbol of India-China cooperation.

GOVT ANNOUNCES INCENTIVES TO BOOST EXPORTS



Minister for Commerce and Industry
Shri. Anand Sharma

The Government of India has announced a series of incentives, worth over Rs 1,200 crore, to boost India's exports. This intervention comes at a time when merchandise exports have been hit by the demand slowdown in developed markets such as the Euro Zone and the US.

Commerce and Industry Minister Shri. Anand Sharma announced the incentives at a meeting on June 5, 2012, as part of the annual supplement to the Foreign Trade Policy 2009-14.

Under EPCG Scheme, the 2 per cent interest subvention has been extended by a year to March 2013 for handlooms, handicrafts, carpets and small and medium enterprises as

part of the annual supplement to the Foreign Trade Policy 2009-14 announced on Tuesday.

Labour-intensive sectors, such as toys, sports-goods, processed agricultural products and ready-made garments will also now be covered under the interest rate subvention scheme.

The policy will give a thrust to employment creation, encourage domestic manufacturing, and reduce dependence on imports.

The government is confident that the 20 per cent export growth will be sustained in this fiscal year too. Shri. Sharma announced that the country was on course to meet the \$500-billion export target by 2014.

India expects exports to grow to \$360 billion this fiscal, up from \$303 billion last year.

'SCIENCE EXPRESS-BIODIVERSITY TRAIN' FLAGGED OFF FROM NEW DELHI

Minister of Environment and Forests Mrs. Jayanthi Natarajan and Delhi Chief Minister Mrs. Sheila Dikshit flagged off a special train, 'Science Express - Biodiversity Special', which will serve as a moving science exhibition, from New Delhi on World Environment Day on June 5, 2012.

The train will culminate in Gandhinagar on December 22, 2012.

The Science Express is an interesting and educative exhibition on wheels. With an aim to create widespread awareness on the unique biodiversity of the country, the Ministry of

Environment and Forests in partnership with the Department of Science & Technology will be running the train 'Science Express' that will cover over 100 stations in two years.

The 16 coaches of the train will have exhibits on India's biodiversity, climate change, energy and water conservation.

Speaking on the occasion Mrs. Natarajan said that the Science Express train is an endeavour to generate awareness about environment protection and sustainable development. She said that nature protects us if she is protected by us.



Schoolgirls visiting the 'Science Express-Biodiversity Special' train

INDIAN COAST GUARD HOVERCRAFT H-187 COMMISSIONED



Indian Coast Guard Hovercraft H-187

Indian Coast Guard Hovercraft H-187, the first of the series of 12 Air Cushion Vehicles (ACVs) designed and built by Griffon Hoverwork Limited (GHL), UK, was commissioned by Vice Admiral M.P. Muralidharan, the Director General Indian Coast Guard, at Okha in Gujarat on June 11, 2012.

The commissioning ceremony was witnessed by Deputy Inspector General BS Yadav, Commander Coast Guard Region (North-West) and other dignitaries from Central and State Government.

The 21 metre-long Air Cushion Vehicle

displaces 31 tonnes and can achieve a maximum speed of 45 knots. The ACV is capable of undertaking multifarious tasks such as surveillance, interdiction, search and rescue and rendering assistance to small boats/craft in distress at sea.

The Air Cushion Vehicle H-187 will be based at Okha under the Administrative and Operational Control of the Commander Coast Guard Region (North-West).

The hovercraft is commanded by Commandant Anurag Kaushik, who is a Communication specialist. The hovercraft has a crew of two officers and 11 personnel.

SIX INDIAN-ORIGIN SCIENTISTS

ELECTED FELLOWS OF ROYAL SOCIETY



Six Indian-origin scientists have been elected to the prestigious Fellowship of the Royal Society for 2012. The Society, founded in 1660 to recognise, promote and support excellence in science, has awarded the Fellowship to nearly 1,500 individuals so far, including Mr. Albert Einstein, Mr. Stephen Hawking, Mr. Isaac Newton and Mr. Tim Berners-Lee. Elected for life, the Fellows include more than 80 Nobel laureates.

The six Indian-origin scientists, who are among the 44 experts elected for 2012, include: Professor Tejinder Singh Virdee, Department of Physics at Imperial College London; Bengaluru-based Professor Krishnaswamy Vijay Raghavan, Director of the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research; Professor Chandrashekhhar Bhalchandra Khare, based at the University of California, Los Angeles; Professor Mathukumalli Vidyasagar, University of Texas at Dallas; Professor Shankar Balasubramanian, based at the University of Cambridge; and, Professor Varinder Kumar Aggarwal, University of Bristol.

Prof. Virdee is distinguished for the design, construction and exploitation of the huge CMC (Compact Muon Solenoid) experiment at the CERN Large Hadron Collider. He originated the concept of CMS with four colleagues around 1990 and there are now over 3,000 participants from 38 countries.

Prof. Vijay Raghavan is described as an “inspirational leader successfully promoting excellence in Indian biology”. Prof. Raghavan’s contributions to understanding the cellular and molecular principles of adult muscle

development in *Drosophila* are widely recognised, according to the Royal Society (RS). RS further said that he has “elegantly” combined these studies with those on the development of the nervous system to study the control and development of movement.

Prof. Khare is described as “an extremely original mathematician” studying the relationship between Galois representations and modular forms. The RS said: “His forte is finding ingenious but relatively simple new ideas.”

Prof. Vidyasagar has been elected to the Fellowship for making “outstanding contributions” to control and systems theory and statistical learning. His solution for maximally robust controllers has had a profound impact on linear control theory.

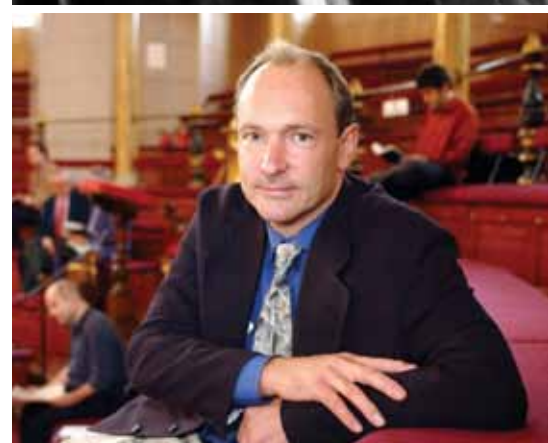
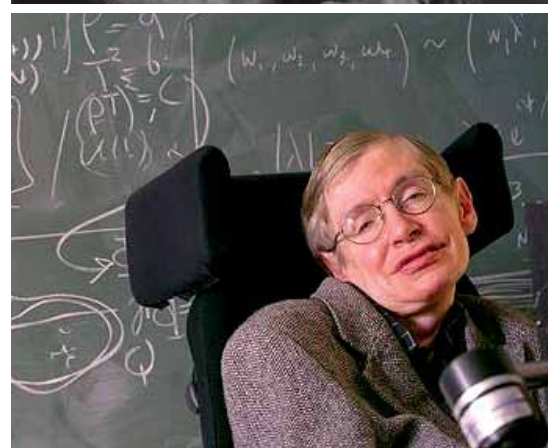
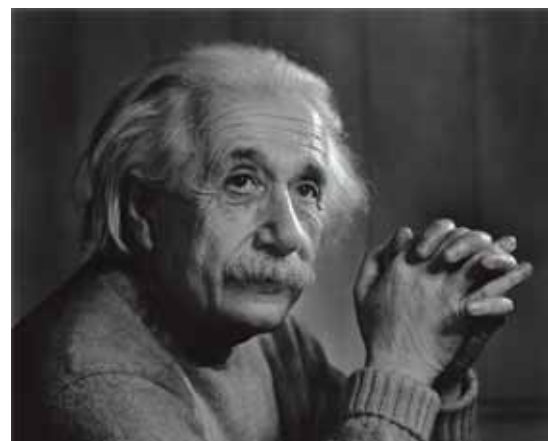
The RS further said, “He has combined probability theory, combinatorics, and artificial intelligence to produce a beautiful unified theory of statistical learning, and used it to solve NP-hard design problems.”

Prof. Balasubramanian is an internationally recognised leader in the field of nucleic acids who is known for pioneering contributions to chemistry and its application to the biological and medical sciences.

Prof. Aggarwal is distinguished for his “outstanding contributions” to the field of asymmetric synthesis, particularly applications of chemistry where he is the world leader. The RS said: “His productivity and breadth make him one of the foremost organic chemists of his generation and one who is very widely recognised internationally.”

The Fellowship, made up of the most eminent scientists, engineers and technologists from the UK and the Commonwealth, has Fellows elected for life through a peer review process on the basis of excellence in science.

The Society, founded in 1660 to recognise, promote and support excellence in science, has awarded the Fellowship to nearly 1,500 individuals so far



Other prestigious Fellows of the Royal Society: (Top to bottom) Mr. Albert Einstein, Mr. Stephen Hawking, Mr. Isaac Newton and Mr. Tim Berners-Lee



ICCR SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES

The Indian Council of Cultural Relations has been promoting cultural exchanges between India and other countries through the medium of arts, culture and education.

The ICCR annually offers about 2,325 scholarships under 21 scholarship schemes. About 3,550 students from at least 80 countries are presently in India studying under various schemes.

The students are in graduate, post graduate and doctoral programmes as well as in professional courses such as engineering, pharmacy, accountancy, business administration and management. Scholarships are also given for learning Indian dance, music, painting, sculpture, etc.

Most of the scholarship holders come from developing countries in Asia, Africa, South and Central America. ICCR also offers a couple of cultural scholarship schemes for students from developed countries.

THE ICCR SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

ICCR scholarships are meant for foreign students interested in learning Indian music, dance, painting, sculpture, etc. These scholarships are initially valid for one year and likely to be extendable up to three years. The scholars are attached with various universities/institutions and Gurus imparting training in performing and fine arts.

THE IOR - ARC SCHEME

The Council implements this scheme on behalf of the Ministry of External Affairs. Under the scheme, the Council offers two scholarships to each member country of the IOR-ARC (Indian Ocean Rim for Regional Co-operation) to pursue post-graduate studies in India. The countries covered under this IOR-ARC scheme are: Australia, Kenya, Mauritius, Oman, Singapore, South Africa, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mozambique, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Yemen, Bangladesh, Iran, Thailand and UAE.

CULTURAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR LEARNING INDIAN DANCE AND MUSIC

International students wishing to learn Indian music and dance have access to the best of institutions and gurus across the country through this scheme.

Facilities are available to learn all types of classical and traditional forms of dance and music.

The institutions and the teachers themselves, given their stature, often organise public performances in which the students, after attaining an adequate degree of expertise, can hope to participate.

Learning dance or music in India is not only about learning an art form in all its complexity and richness. It is also learning about a civilisation that shaped and inspired it. It is about knowing Indian creativity, and the cultural and spiritual sustenance of the people of this

country. It is learning to listen to the heartbeat of India.

THE CRAFT INSTRUCTOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Under the scheme, 10 bursaries for training in a one-year Craft Instructor Course are offered annually to nationals of Commonwealth Countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Under the control of DGE&T Ministry of Labour & Employment under CW Educational Co-operation Plan, the applicants get the opportunity to learn various trades at India's advanced training institutes and central training institutes for 'craft instructor' in Mumbai, Hyderabad and Chennai.

THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

The ICCR awards Junior and Senior Research Fellowships to international scholars specialising in Indian studies in the fields of culture and social sciences. Under this programme, the selected Fellow is affiliated, on the basis of mutual consent, to an academic institution in India.

Senior fellowships are given to eminent scholars with proven academic credentials and an established body of published works, while junior fellowships are meant for young research scholars wishing to do post-doctoral research on relevant topics.

Academics from various countries such as New Zealand, Hungary, Bulgaria, Italy, Germany, South Africa, Australia, Mongolia, Iran, Zambia, Greece, Vietnam, Ireland, Myanmar, Nepal, Fiji, Uzbekistan, Netherlands, Iran, Mexico, Japan and Kazakhstan have availed themselves of this offer in the recent past.





Somnath Temple, Gujarat

The Gujarat Tourism Department is all set to make state travel a great experience by providing high-tech facilities for its visitors

GUJARAT TOURISM GETS TECH-SAVVY



Darbargadh Poshina, Ahmedabad

The Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited (TCGL) is all set to provide not just better infrastructure facilities to those coming to the state, but has also decided to woo the tourists through internet and mobile services.

The tourism department has decided to have a 24x7 call centre, a mobile application and GIS mapping of the tourist destinations of the state to help the tourists get information about the destinations, facilities and hotels. It will also help them in arranging taxi services and online bookings.

The TCGL will provide the services through the Gujarat Info Petro Limited (GIPL). Shri. V. K. Sharma, the Chief Executive Officer of GIPL said, "We are in the midst of developing the facilities for the Tourism Corporation of

Gujarat and the facilities, if everything goes as per plan, will be launched next week."

Shri. Navjeet Khokhar, business development officer at GIPL, said that they have been given three projects by TCGL and all of them are in the last stages. These include a 24-hour helpline where the operator would give information based on the queries, while the second would be a website for online booking and the third a mobile application.

GIS AND MOBILE APPLICATIONS

As soon as one enters Gujarat with a mobile number which is outside the Gujarat circle, he would be greeted by the Gujarat tourism department and will be prompted to download an application which would not only give directions within the state but would also facilitate him to book hotels and taxi from his mobile (using mobile internet) and even book hotels. The software will be different for iPhone, Android and Blackberry mobiles. The download would be free. Also there would be a link to download it directly from the TCGL website.

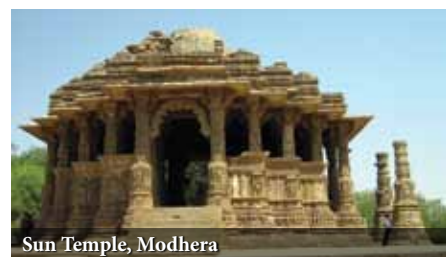
CALL CENTRE

GIPL will facilitate a five seated call centre exclusively for the TCGL. It will not only give information about the places to visit in the

nearby areas, but will also suggest where to stay and will also help the person choose the hotel as per his choice. The call centre will help the person by giving him the taxi operator's number and the prevalent rate in the region. The operators at the centre will also design the package if the person was willing to give out his package. Information about the various modes of travel to the tourist destinations will also be given.

WEBSITE

The TCGL official website will not only provide pictures of the facilities at the tourist destination but will also facilitate online booking. This facility will be for the properties owned by the Tourism Corporation of Gujarat and for the other hoteliers at the tourist destination.



Sun Temple, Modhera

SINGAPORE IMPRESSED BY TAJ EXPRESS

The musical 'Taj Express' greatly impressed Singapore audiences with its performances from June 6 to June 10, 2012 at the Esplanade Theatre by the Bay. The musical was produced and directed by Ms. Shruti Merchant, choreographed by well-known choreographer Ms. Vaibhavi Merchant, and the music was composed by the famous Indian musician duo Salim-Sulaiman.

The Taj Express put up seven performances over the four days.

The 120-minute musical showcased a variety of performances including drama, traditional Indian dance and quintessential Bollywood, and beautiful moving sand paintings shown on a big screen. The 'Taj Express' musical brought together the elements of Bollywood and pop culture to the stage.

Taj Express featured over 2,000 extravagant costumes, 1,500 accessories and magnificent sets. Many in the audience greatly admired the dance performances by the lead actors Shri. Pulkit Samrat and Ms. Pallavi Sharda.

Singapore was the first international venue for the musical.



IIFA CELEBRATES INDIAN CINEMA IN SINGAPORE

Leading Bollywood personalities were in Singapore for the 13th Jaypee International Indian Film Awards Weekend from June 7 to 9, 2012.

This year, IIFA celebrated 100 years of Indian Cinema and gave out special awards to Shri. Ramesh Sippy, director of Bollywood blockbuster *Sholay*, centenarian actress Mrs. Zohra Sehgal and actress Ms. Rekha for their outstanding contributions to Indian Cinema.

Shri. Ranbir Kapoor won the Best Actor award for his movie *Rockstar* and Ms. Vidya Balan won the Best Actress award for the movie *The Dirty Picture*. *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara* won four awards of the night —

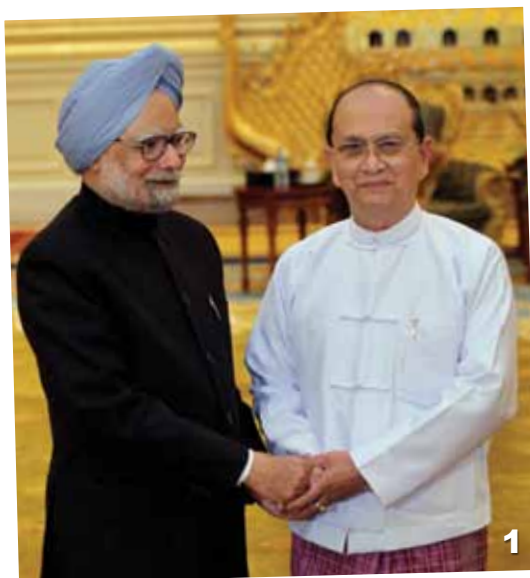
Best Film, Best Director, Best Story, and Best Supporting Actor.

South Indian superstar Shri. Kamal Hassan, who launched his news movie *Vishwaroopam* at IIFA, also attended the Awards.

Over 7,000 people attended the Awards night, which was anchored by actors Farhan Akhtar and Shahid Kapoor.

The film awards was organised by Mumbai-based agency Wizcraft Entertainment International. Although other countries have hosted it more than once, Singapore is the only city to have hosted the IIFA Weekend twice.





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1. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh meeting the President of Myanmar, Mr. U Thein Sein at the presidential house in Naypyitaw, Myanmar (May 29, 2012)

2. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with President of Paraguay Mr. Fernando Armindo Lugo Mendez in New Delhi (May 25, 2012)

3. External Affairs Minister Shri. S.M. Krishna meeting with Vice Premier of China Mr. Li Keqiang in Beijing (June 6, 2012)

4. External Affairs Minister Shri. S.M. Krishna with Dr. Guido Westerwelle, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany in Bengaluru (June 22, 2012)

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The High Commission of India in Singapore invites expression of interest from individuals or companies who could undertake redesign and redevelopment of the publication it brings out: **India News** (Monthly) and thereafter also work with it in their regular publication.

Those interested must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.).

For further details and scope of work please contact Shri. Debashish Choudhuri, Attaché (Press, Information & Culture); e-mail: admin@hcsingapore.org. Financial quotations will be invited from only those who are shortlisted on technical evaluation.

Expression of Interest must be delivered to the address below by Wednesday, August 15, 2012:

THE HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA

Attn: Mrs. Vanaja K. Thekkat, First Secretary & Head of Chancery
31 Grange Road, Singapore- 239702
Tel: + 65 62382514, Fax: + 65 67326909
E-mail: hoc@hcsingapore.org



LITTLE INDIA CHEF 2012



IRAS presents Little India Chef 2012 at Race Course Road venue on July 7, 2012. The cooking competition will be for locals and new immigrants with lots of prizes. Each team will comprise of two parents and one child. The event also aims to promote integration within the various communities.

When & Where: Saturday, July 7, 2012 @ Race Course Road @ Drama Centre Theatre

Tickets: Registration needed, submit online form available at <http://www.irasingsapore.org/events/cooking-competition/>

Contact: IRAS at 6341 5355 or email to iras1997@gmail.com

7TH JUL

'CHAKRA' - THE PHILOSOPHIES OF VIVEKANANDA

After its much-acclaimed world premier in Bangalore, India, CHAKRA - the Philosophies of Vivekananda makes its debut in Singapore with a one-night only performance.



With the choreographic artistry of Cultural Medallion winner Santha Bhaskar, this full-length inter-disciplinary dance work explores the four dimensions of Yoga and Man's pursuit of becoming harmoniously balanced in all these four directions.

The philosophies and teachings of the 19th century spiritual genius Vivekananda will be brought to life through Bharata Natyam, Kathak, Mohini Attam, Folk and Ballet.

When & Where: Sunday, 7.30 pm, July 22, 2012 @ NAFA Lee Foundation Theatre

Tickets: Standard - S\$50, S\$40 (Excludes booking fee)

Contact: Sistic Hotline 6348 5555 or www.sistic.com.sg

22ND JUL

INDIAN CINE NIGHT BY IRAS



The Indian Restaurants Association presents Indian Cine Night as part of the Seafood Mela @ Little India.

This evening would be dedicated to both the local community and the foreign workers. Both local and international cine celebrities will be invited to partake in the celebrations as Food Festival @ Little India comes to a close.

The celebrities will be performing for the spectators and it promises to be a night of memories for the participants.

When & Where: July 15, 2012 @ Little India

Tickets: From \$30 onwards (Excludes booking fee)

Contact: IRAS at 6341 5355 or www.irasingsapore.org

15TH JUL

THE JAI HO CONCERT - SUKHWINDER SINGH



Sukhwinder Singh is the man with the 10000 Watt Voice.

He is the most famous International Voice of Bollywood. The voice that put 'Jai Ho' from *Slumdog Millionaire* on the world stage. Spike Lee used the Sukhwinder Singh song 'Chaiyya Chaiyya' (*Dil Se*) for the titles in the

Hollywood movie *Inside Man*.

This concert creates a magical multimedia experience with a 14 meter LED screen creating surrealistic 3D effects, amazing Lights and a bevy of Bollywood dancers. A not to be missed heart thumping experience.

When & Where: Sunday, August 5, 2012; 7.00pm @ Kallang Theatre

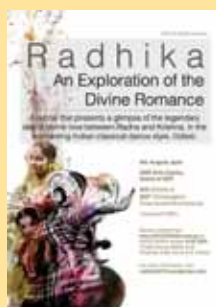
Tickets: \$68 onwards (Excludes booking fee)

Contact: Sistic Hotline 6348 5555

or www.sistic.com.sg

5TH AUG

RADHIKA - AN EXPLORATION OF THE DIVINE ROMANCE AN ODISSI RECITAL



In Hindu philosophy, Krishna represents the Divine, and Radha his true devotee. Radha's intense love for Krishna symbolises every devotee's passionate longing for ultimate unification with God.

When & Where: Wednesday, August 8, 2012, 8 pm @ DBS Arts Centre, Home of SRT

Tickets: \$40 onwards; Concession for students and NSFs (Excludes booking fee)

Contact: Gatecrash hotline at 6100 2005 or

www.gatecrash.com.sg; visit <http://radhika2012.wordpress.com> for details

8TH AUG

ECHOES BY AMAN NEIL DOKANIA A VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION

After having explored Asia - from Bhutan's cloud-coated Takteng monastery, the sunlit temples of Borobudur, the silent stories of the Ganges to the opulence and grandeur of Rajasthan's heritage, and the majesty of India's tigers - Aman Neil Dokania will be showcasing 30 of his favourite images at a silent auction in aid of select charities.

Charities: SINDA, Save The Tiger

When & Where: July 11 to July 15, 2012; 10am - 8pm @ Print Gallery

Tickets: Free admission

Contact: Aman Dokania at 91854940 or email at amandokania@yahoo.com



11-15TH JUL