



Independence Day Celebrations 2011



Cd'A Ms. Vani Rao addressing the gathering

The 65th Independence Day of India was celebrated at the Embassy Residence on August 15, 2011. The event was attended by a

Embassy staff.

The national flag was hoisted by the the Chargé d'affaires Ms. Vani Rao, which was followed by singing of the National Anthem. The Chargé d'affaires read out the excerpts from Hon'ble President



Unfurling of the National flag by Cd'A

gathering of about 250 persons comprising Indian Jewish Community, Indian business community, Indian students and



Patriotic songs by Sophie Solomon

Shrimati Pratibha Devi Singh Patil's address to the nation.

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Bhangra performance

Excerpts from Address to The Nation by President of India Her Excellency Shrimati Pratibha Devi Singh Patil

■ This significant day in our nation's calendar takes us back to the events that made our country, a free nation. It is to Mahatma Gandhi – the Father of our Nation, to all the other leaders of our freedom movement, and to the millions of people of our country, who fought with bravery and courage, that we pay homage. Our independence was won on the principles of truth and non-violence. It is this, as well as the transformational impact it had in other parts of the world, that makes our freedom struggle exceptional. We can be proud that we all belong to a country that has proved its greatness through values, which have found such a wide resonance. We, as the inheritors of that great legacy, carry a responsibility to stand by truth and justice; to continue to conduct ourselves, in a manner that is in consonance, with India's standing, as a progressive and responsible country, where values of democracy, harmony and tolerance are deeply embedded.

■ India is the world's largest democracy. The country has performed well economically with a growth rate of 8.6 percent last year. We are committed to the welfare of all and are pursuing an inclusive growth agenda. A deep sense of responsibility is a call of our times. All institutions and all citizens, have to demonstrate great maturity and, a degree of self-restraint, as we deal with our problems.

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Fourth Meeting of India-Israel Forum



President Shimon Peres and Mr. Sam Pitroda



President Shimon Peres addressing the gathering

The fourth Meeting of the India-Israel Forum was held in Tel Aviv from August 31 and September 1, 2011. The Forum is an annual event organized by the Confederation of the Indian Industries and the Tel Aviv University, alternately in New Delhi and Tel Aviv.

The Indian delegation this year was led by Mr. Sam Pitroda, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Public Infrastructure, Information and Innovation.

The Israeli side was led by Mr. Aharon Fogel, Chairman, Migdal Insurance Financial Holdings Ltd. Issues taken up for deliberations during the forum included agricultural and industrial cooperation, infrastructure, homeland security, financial services and

investments; and hi-tech cooperation. The Indian side emphasized the need for relevant and affordable technologies for the Indian market.

Mr. Pitroda called for closer cooperation in innovation by domain expert groups from the two countries in five sectors, namely, agriculture, water, health, energy and hi-tech.

The highlight of the 4th Meeting was the presence of Mr. Shimon Peres, the President of Israel, as the Guest of Honour.

The Minister of Homeland Security, Mr. Matan Vilnai, spoke in one of the panels and the Minister of Finance Mr. Yuval Steinitz attended a dinner hosted by Ambassador.



A group photo with President Shimon Peres

RBI Governor visits Israel

Mr. Duvvuri Subbarao, Governor, Reserve Bank of India and Mr. Susobhan Sinha, General Manager & Executive Assistant to Governor, visited Israel from June 3-6, 2011 to participate in the Bank of Israel's Knowledge Conference.

Mr. Subbarao met the Governor of Bank of Israel, Mr. Stanley Fischer and Finance Minister, Mr. Yuval Steinitz.

Israel announces a new programme to increase trade with India

The Israeli Ministry of Trade, Industry and Labor in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance announced a new funding programme to increase trade with India and China, by allocating NIS 100 million (around US\$ 28 million).

Interested companies which would like to increase their business with either India or China can get up to NIS

700,000 (around US\$ 200,000) spread over three years to cover expenses including relocation of employees to India (or China); hiring a local consultant in the target country; and logistics expenses involved with opening an office in the target country. For more information visit: www.moital.gov.il/icf

Official Delegation from the State of Karnataka visits Israel



Ambassador with Mr. Sandeep Dave at the seminar

A nine-member official delegation led by Mr. Sandeep Dave, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Karnataka, visited Israel from July 31 to August 3, 2011 to explore possibilities of cooperation with Israel.

The delegation met senior officials from the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MASHAV) and Members of the Knesset (the Israeli Parliament) among others. They visited the Agriculture Department at Hebrew University, Barkan Winery, the dairy farm at Kvuzat Yavne and Kibbutz Naan.

They participated in a business seminar organized by the Israel-Asia Chamber of Commerce and Israel Export and International Cooperation Institute and met leading Israeli companies.

The Karnataka State Agricultural Produce Processing and Export Corporation Limited (KAPPEC) signed an MOU with the Israel-Asia Chamber of Commerce (ISASCCI) to enable cooperation in agriculture.



The delegation from Karnataka

CONSULAR MATTERS

The Embassy has outsourced visa services (with effect from May 15, 2010) to two new agencies:

(a) M/s Caspi Aviation Ltd.

1- Ben Yehuda Street, Tel Aviv, Tel. No. 03-7962000, Fax No. 03-5108365,

website: www.caspi-aviation.co.il and

(b) S.M. Visa

No. 5, Droyanov Street, Tel Aviv, Tel. No. 03-5250332, Fax No. 03-5250786,

website: www.smvisa.co.il.

The above mentioned agencies have

offices in different parts of the country as under.

The Embassy website:

www.indembassy.co.il also contains all relevant details.

Branches of Caspi Aviation

Tel Aviv - 1, Ben Yehuda St., Tel : 03-5100214, Fax: 03-5107673

Bat Yam - 79, Balfur St., Tel : 03-5070797, Fax: 03-6596557

Netanya - 27, Dizengoff St., Tel: 09-8841830, Fax: 09-8332735

Petah Tikva - 20 Hahistadrut St., Tel: 03-9136136, Fax: 03-9307919

Ashdod - 17 Rogozin St., Tel: 08-8521521, Fax: 08-8522505

Haifa - 20 Nordau St., Tel: 04-8624919, Fax: 04-8624032

Branches of S.M. Visa

Tel Aviv - 5, Druyanov St., Tel: 03-5250332, Fax: 03-5250786

Tel Aviv - 24 Saadiya Gaon St., Tel: 03-7610255, Fax: 03-7602033

Jerusalem - 19 Hillel St., Tel: 02-6220018, Fax: 02- 6240724

Haifa - 8, Khatib St., Tel: 04-8650241, Fax: 04-8670886

Ben Gurion Airport - El-Al Building, Tel: 03-9717998

The Second Israel-India Technology Forum (Gyan Milan)



Ambassador addressing the conference

The Israeli Foreign Ministry, the Indian Angel Network and A&G Partners invited to Israel 40 executives from the Cleantech sector, in India from June 19-22, 2011.

Senior executives from Mahindra Engineers, ICICI Venture, Magnetar Venture, Ispat, Vishwa Infra, and Jindal Power were among the members.

Ambassador addressed the gathering at a business seminar organized for the delegation.

The delegation was introduced to the most advanced technologies in solar energy and water.



At the business conference

NaanDanJain inaugurates a new drip line plant



NaanDanJain has invested about NIS 15 million (about US\$ 4 million) in the new factory.

To date, including the investment in the new plant, Jain has invested about NIS 100 million (US\$ 27 million) in Israel.

NaanDanJain Irrigation inaugurated in the presence of Ambassador Navtej Sarna, a new plant for drip irrigation on June 12, 2011 in Kibbutz Naan.

Mr. Avner Hermoni, CEO of NaanDanJain, plans to increase the company's drippers' market share by 15% percent with the new factory.

Excerpts from Address to The Nation by President of India Her Excellency Shrimati Pratibha Devi Singh Patil

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- The attack in Mumbai last month is yet another grim reminder of the destruction that can be caused by terrorism. We need to be ever-vigilant, to fight this menace which is global phenomenon.
- I recall the words of Swami Vivekanand, "this national ship of ours my countrymen, has been plying for ages, carrying civilization and enriching the whole world with its inestimable treasures." The challenge for us is how effectively we carry forward the nation from now onwards. Let history be the judge that during our time, we found the right answers to the challenges we faced, and acquitted ourselves with dignity and continued to work with unity, to build the India of our dreams.

Independence Day Celebrations 2011

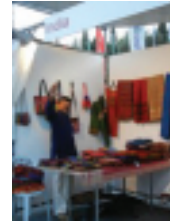
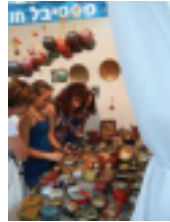
(Continued from page 1)



Gathering for the celebrations

A short cultural programme that followed included two patriotic songs by Sophie Solomon and "Bhangra" presentation by a team from Indian contingent of UNDOF. Indian flags and booklets on Indian tourism and culture were made available at the cultural counter.

Participation of Indian Craftspersons in 36th International Arts & Crafts Fair at Jerusalem (August 15 – 27, 2011)



A seven member delegation of Indian craftspersons, sponsored by Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, participated in the 36th International Arts & Crafts Fair held at Khutsot Hayotser Arts and Crafts Centre, Jerusalem. The fair was inaugurated on India's Independence Day 15th

August and continued till 27th August. This annual fair is organized by Municipality of Jerusalem and the visits of Indian participants are coordinated by the Mission. The highlight of the event was presentation of a wide variety of Indian arts and crafts representing

the rich heritage of India. These arts and crafts were created by some of the finest craftspersons belonging to Indian states of J&K, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Orissa and Karnataka. The successful conclusion of this fair is yet another addition to cultural relations between India and Israel.

10th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (January 7 - 9, 2012)

The tenth edition of Parvasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) convention is scheduled to be held in Jaipur, Rajasthan, India from January 7 – 9, 2012. The Prime Minister will inaugurate the flagship event of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) on January 8

and the President will deliver the valedictory address on January 9. This year's Parvasi Bharatiya Divas will focus upon issues related to sustainable development, alternative energy and inclusive growth. Special seminars on solar energy focusing on

investment in solar energy sector and in R&D are also planned during PBD 2012. The MOIA expects enthusiastic participation from the diverse overseas Indian community from across the globe.

The 4th Conference on Industrial Promotion



Mr. Sanjay Vyas addressing the gathering.

The 4th Conference on Industrial Promotion which is organized by BDO accounting firm was held this year on June 27, 2011 in Ramat Gan.

The business Conference which was attended by leading executives of the Israeli market included a

session on practical aspects of industrial activity in India. Keynote speakers at the Conference included Mr. Sanjay Vyas, First Secretary (Economic and Commerce), Embassy of India; Mr. H. S. Bedi, Director of PSBedi Group, India; and Mr. David Keynan, CEO, BDO-I2I.

INDIAN ECONOMY

Indian banking sector to be third-largest by 2025

The Indian banking sector is poised to become the world's third-largest in terms of assets over the next 14 years, according to a report by The Boston Consultancy Group (BCG). The domestic banking industry is set for exponential growth in the coming years, with its assets poised to touch \$28,500 billion by 2025, compared with the current \$1,350 billion (2010), says the report by Indian Banks' Association (IBA), FICCI and BCG titled 'Being five-star in productivity — Roadmap for excellence in Indian banking', prepared for the IBA.

India's merchandise exports grow nearly 82% in July 2011

India's merchandise exports have registered a growth of nearly 82% during July 2011 from a year ago to US\$ 29.3 billion, according to a release by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Exports during April-July 2011 reached US\$ 108.3 billion, up 54% over the same period a year ago, while imports stood at US\$ 151 billion, with a growth of 40%, during the same period.

India 2nd fastest growing market for domestic air travel

India's 2011 domestic air traffic grew at the second highest rate after Brazil, according to global figures for June compiled by the International Air Transport Association. The country's domestic traffic grew by 14% during the month as against Brazil's 15.1%. This happened even as demand for air travel and freight softened globally.

RBI relaxes NRI Bank Account Guidelines

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has

relaxed foreign exchange regulations to make it possible for Indian residents to hold joint accounts with relatives holding foreign currency accounts. Under the revised guidelines, non-resident Indians (NRIs) can open either a non-resident external or a foreign currency non-resident (B) account with their resident close relative on a "former or survivor" basis.

India to be second largest steel producer by 2013

India will emerge as the second largest steel producer by 2013 with an installed capacity of 120 million tones according to Minister for Steel. The growth will be based on high levels of growth in construction, housing, real estate, automobiles and agriculture sectors.

India to add 3,500 MW of renewable power during the current fiscal

India will be adding about 3,500 megawatt (MW) of renewable power during 2011-12, which would entail a capital investment of approximately Rs 29,000 crore (US\$ 6.33 billion), according to Dr Farooq Abdullah, Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy.

TELECOM / IT / BIOTECHNOLOGY

India's total telephone subscribers reached 886 million

The number of telephone subscribers in India at the end of June 2011 reached 886 million. The Wireless subscriber base increased to 851.7 million (as of end June 2011). Wireline subscriber base reached 34.3 million. Overall tele-density in India reached around 74%.

The number of subscribers using their

mobile phones to access Internet will touch 46 million in September, according to a report published by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and market research firm IMRB. This represents a 15 per cent growth quarter to quarter. According the report, online news is most frequently accessed followed by e-mail; chat and social networking sites.

HCL Tech opens delivery centre in Redmond

Indian IT services company HCL Technologies has opened a new global delivery centre in Redmond, Washington.

The initial investment of US\$ 4 million will create more than 400 jobs in the Seattle area over the next two years, an HCL statement said. With a 350-seat capacity, the 'Collaborative Engineering Hub' will be a focal point for HCL's near-shore engineering programs and will provide both engineering and product development services in the areas of internationalisation and mobility.

US-based CSC buys AppLabs Tech

CSC, a New York Stock-Exchange listed company, has bought AppLabs Technologies, the Hyderabad-based testing tools and quality management company, for an undisclosed consideration. The integration process is likely to be completed in three to six months.

Top 200 IT companies in India log revenue of US\$ 84 billion in FY 2010-2011

India's top 200 IT companies reported combined revenues of US\$ 84 billion in Fiscal Year 2010-11, having grown at 25% - the highest rate of growth in last 4 years according to annual research findings by Dataquest. The combined revenue of the top 20 companies was

US\$ 54 billion (an increase of 8% compared to previous year).

Chennai facility set to become Nokia's biggest in Asia

In the next one year, the Chennai (Oragadam) centre of Nokia Siemens Networks (NSN) could be the company's biggest manufacturing hub in Asia, overtaking the China facility, according to a senior company official.

AUTOMOBILE

Tata Motors starts commercial vehicles assembly in South Africa

To support its growing volumes in the African market, Tata Motors has opened a new plant in South Africa for the assembly of commercial vehicles. In its current format, it can assemble light, medium and heavy commercial vehicles in the 4-50 tonne range, from semi-knocked down kits.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN INDIA

Techtextil India

Oct 10-12, 2011, Mumbai
www.biztradeshows.com

MIFBEC

International exhibition & conference on food & beverages
Oct 12-14, 2011, Mumbai
www.biztradeshows.com

India Chem Gujarat 2011

Oct 13-15, 2011, Gandhinagar, Gujarat
www.indiachemgujarat.com

India Electro Expo

Oct 14-19, 2011, Mumbai
www.biztradeshows.com

India Global Summit on MSMES

Oct 19-20, 2011, New Delhi
www.indiachemgujarat.com

31st India International Trade Fair (IITF)

November 14 to 27, 2011, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. www.iitf.in

India International Furniture Fair

Nov 16-18, 2011, Mumbai
www.biztradeshows.com

Nanotech India 2011

Dec 1-3, 2011, Kochi, Kerala
www.biztradeshows.com

IFSEC India

Dec 8-10, New Delhi
www.biztradeshows.com

India Lab Expo

Dec 8-11, 2011, New Dlehi
www.biztradeshows.com

EIMA Agrimach India 2011

Dec 8-10, 2011, New Delhi
<http://eimaagrimach.in>

Mumbai Jewellery and Gem Fair

Dec 9-11, 2011, Mumabi
www.biztradeshows.com

Paperex 2011

Dec 10-13, 2011, New Delhi
www.biztradeshows.com

Printex

Dec 15-18, 2011, Mumbai
www.biztradeshows.com

The Partnership Summit 2012

"New Age Innovation Partnership"
Jan 11-13, 2012, Hyderabad
www.ciionline.org

Convergence India 2012

March 21-23, 2012, New Delhi
www.biztradeshows.com

ACMEE 2012

Auto Components Exhibition
June 14-18, 2012, Chennai
www.biztradeshows.com

Popular Indian Recipes

Besan Ke Ladoo



Ingredients:

- 4 cups Gram Flour
- 1 cup Pure Ghee
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 tsp Powdered Cardamom
- 1/2 cup chopped Almonds and Raisins

Method:

Heat the ghee in a pan. Add the gram flour and fry it on a low flame stirring continuously till brown. Once it is browned, let it cool. Add powdered cardamom and sugar. Mix well. Add chopped almonds and raisins. Shape into ladoos and serve.



India Calls - Assam

The State of Assam is bordered with Bhutan to the North and Arunachal Pradesh to the East. Known for its tea, Assam has breathtaking scenic beauty. Filled with the rarest flora and fauna, vast open rolling plains, waterways, it is nothing short of a haven for nature, being one of the most beautiful and scenic parts of India. Assam is rich in natural resources, minerals, forests and water and has vast tracts of fertile land. It is primarily an agrarian economy, with 74% of its population engaged in agriculture and allied activities. Cereals like paddy, wheat and plantation crops like tea are grown extensively. In fact, the State of Assam is the world's largest tea-growing region (mostly black teas, although, the region also produces smaller quantities of green and white teas). With its vast hills and forests, Assam is the home to a variety of medicinal herbs and plants. About 300 types of medicinal herbs and plants are known to exist in abundance in the state with the Brahmaputra valley itself having 150 varieties of herbs and plants of commercial value.



Major attractions

Kaziranga National Park: The first and the oldest National Park in Assam is a World Heritage site spread over an area of 430 sq. kms. This National Park is the natural home of the world famous one-horned Indian rhinoceros. Declared a National Park in 1974, the landscape of Kaziranga is of sheer forest, tall elephant grass, rugged reeds, marshes and shallow pools.



Manas National Park Located in the Himalayan foothill bhabar area in the western Assam, Manas has transformed from being originally a game reserve, then tiger reserve, to a biosphere reserve, until 1990 when it declared as a National Park. Covering an area of 519.77 Sq. Kms, it has a core area of 360 Kms. Manas is one of the nine tiger reserve sanctuaries in India and it has its own peculiar faunal features, the rarest species of which are Hispid Hare, Pigmy Hog, Golden Langur, Indian Rhinoceros, Asiatic Buffalo etc.



Guwahati: Once known to be a vast kingdom during the Mahabharata period, today Guwahati is a bustling city and serves as the hub for the region. One can visit a number of temples spread throughout the city, like the great Kamakya temples, among others.

Kamakhya Temple: This Shakti Temple of Mother Goddess

How to reach

By Air: The Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport at Guwahati is 18 km from the city centre. There are regular flights to Guwahati running all year long on daily basis.

By Rail: Assam has a convenient railway network connecting the state to the rest of the country. There are train services from Kolkata, New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, Cochin and Trivandrum.

By Road: A network of National Highways and other roads connect Guwahati with all the important places of Assam and India. It is the connector city of NH - 31, 37 and 40 with the other cities of India by road.

Kamakhya is situated on the top of the scenic Nilachal Hills overlooking the majestic river Brahmaputra. It is 8 Km. away from the railway station of Guwahati.

Majuli: The world's largest river island is situated in the midst of river Brahmaputra, is the centre of Vishnava culture in Assam. There are nearly twenty two Vaishnava monasteries or satras in Majuli.



The major satras are Kamalabari, Natun Kamalabari, Auniati, Garmur, Samoguri, Dakhinpat and Bengenaati. These satras are regarded as the main centres for Assamese art, music, dance, drama, handicrafts, literature and religion etc.

Bhalukpunq: Encompassed by mystic blue hills and evergreen forests, Bhalukpunq is a haven for peace and tranquility. It is also known for its angling and rafting along the river Jia Bhoroli.

Sibsagar: Sibsaagar is the leading tea and oil producing district in the country. The town has a rich culture, and is quite beautiful. It was once the capital of the Ahoms for six hundreds years, before the arrival of the British.

