



# PEOPLE AND UN

April 2013 ■ Rs 40/-

Published by The Indian Federation of United Nations Associations

## Crisis in the Korean Peninsula



“Even a limited provocation would be very risky for the North.”  
— **Ambassador Park Soo-gil**, WFUNA President





**Wfuna**



# WFUNA NEEDS RESTRUCTURING

**T**he 40th Plenary Assembly of World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) held at IBMEC University, Barra da Tijuca campus, from 6 - 10 November 2012 at RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL, was hosted by UNA Brazil. This is the second Plenary Assembly hosted by South American countries in the recent years. Earlier 38th Plenary Assembly in the year 2006 was hosted by Argentina.

The elections of the new Executive Committee in the 40th Plenary Assembly hosted by UNA Brazil were held and the results were shocking. The UNA Brazil which hosted the 40th Plenary Assembly was defeated in the elections for the post of Vice President of WFUNA. UNA Argentina which hosted the 38th Plenary Assembly was conspicuously absent in Rio De Jenerio and it is no more active in the WFUNA body. UNA India, which hosted two plenary Assemblies, three Executive Committee Meetings, three WFUNA Asia Pacific Conferences and Right to Protect Programme of WFUNA recently was also defeated in the Executive Committee elections at Rio De Jenerio. thus dampening the enthusiasm of these active UNAs.

WFUNA Constitution does take into consideration regional balancing in the affairs of the Organization, but there is no mandatory provision for regional distribution of seats and at times there is no regional representation in WFUNA. Article 18 (c) of the WFUNA Constitution suggests

that the Plenary Assembly shall give due regard to the qualification of the nominees, their availability and to equitable geographical distribution. Sometimes the African Region remains unrepresentative in WFUNA Executive Committee and sometimes even whole of Latin America remains unrepresentative in the WFUNA Executive Committee as there is no clear provision for regional representation in the WFUNA Executive Committee. What is needed is that WFUNA Ex.Co should have permanent seats on its Boards from the Countries such as UNA USA, UNA UK, UNA Germany, UNA Brazil, UNA South Africa, UNA China, UNA Japan, UNA Russia, one from Scandinavian countries UNA and UNA India, which have a long active contribution towards the cause of WFUNA since its inception the rest of the members may be elected from other regions on rotation basis. This amendment in the Constitution of WFUNA will increase the activities of WFUNA. An important UNA like UNA Japan is not even affiliated with the WFUNA. Similarly, an important country like UNA France is not active at all. If the UNAs of the concerned countries know that they are the permanent members of the Executive Committee and also know that they will be elected by rotation then all those UNAs would become more active in WFUNA activities and the affiliation fee of the permanent members may be increased to take care of the funding problem of WFUNA to some extent. ■



A VIEW OF IFUNA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (13-4-2013)

RNI NO. DELENG/2012/44082

# PEOPLE AND UN

Vol. 2, No. 2

A Publication of The Indian Federation of  
United Nations Associations, New Delhi  
Quarterly - April 2013

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY

**Suresh Kumar Srivastava**

Secretary General, IFUNA

on behalf of The Indian Federation of

United Nations Associations, New Delhi and

Printed at: **Modest Graphics Pvt. Ltd.**,

C-53, DDA Sheds, Okhla Phase-I, New Delhi-110020,

Ph.: 011-26817565, E-mail: rkjulka@yahoo.co.in

**PUBLISHED AT**

IFUNA, C-6, Qutub Institutional Area,

New Delhi-110016

Tel.: 011-26511257, 26852293

Fax: 011-26852291, E-mail: ifuna@ifuna.org,

ifuna@mail.com, www.ifuna.org

EDITOR

**Pran Mohan Parvatiyar**

ADVISORS

Charti Lal Goel Ms. Mohni Mathur

Sitaram Sharma A. S. Talwar

P S Paul S. P. Kalra

Seshadri Chari Sagar Ahluwalia

Vinod Srivastava P. C. Sinha

C. P. Mahajan Bharat Babbar

Ms. Meena Srivastava

\* All disputes to be settled in Delhi Courts only.  
All rights reserved. No responsibility is taken for returning  
unsolicited manuscripts. Views expressed in articles in the  
**PEOPLE AND UN** do not necessarily reflect those of  
the editorial.

**page 5**

## COVER STORY



CRISIS IN THE  
KOREAN PENINSULA

**PAGE 11**

## LEAD STORY

5TH BRICS SUMMIT FOR  
THEIR OWN  
DEVELOPMENT BANK



**PAGE 13**

## FOCUS

SRI LANKA:  
PEACE AND RECONSTRUCTION



**Page 16**

## GUEST COLUMN

ARIANNA HUFFINGTON  
VOLENCE AND TERRORISTS



**Page 20**

Health and Hygiene  
Tips for 100 years

**Page 23**

## CHATTISGARH UNA

Pitch for UN Library at Raipur

**Page 24**

## Maharashtra UNA

Observes World Health Day

**Page 26**

## BI LATERAL RELATIONS

INDO -GERMAN AGREEMENT



**Page 29**

## FACE TO FACE

AN INTERVIEW WITH  
MAGSAYSAY  
AWARD WINNER  
'WATERMAN OF INDIA'





**3**rd May is not only a day to celebrate hard-won press freedom, but also to recognize how fragile those victories remain.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in a message has said freedom of expression is a fundamental human right, enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is a cornerstone of good governance, sustainable development, and lasting peace and security. Yet every day round the world, journalists and media workers are under attack. They face intimidation, threats and violence from governments, corporations, criminals or other forces that wish to silence or censor them. The theme, "Safe to Speak: Securing Freedom of Expression in All Media", no doubt highlights the need for action to upholding the right of journalists to carry out their vital work. From traditional media platforms such as radio, print and television, to newer and more and more popular social media, blogs and citizen-led reporting, journalists are increasingly at risk. Over the past decade, more than 600 journalists have been killed — at least 120 in the past year alone. Hundreds more have been detained. The dangers are not only physical: from cyber-attacks to bullying, the powerful are deploying numerous tools to try to stop the media from shedding light on misrule and misdeeds. Last year alone 70 journalists were killed in the world. From 1992 till date 982 journalists have been killed. In a media survey of 196 countries only 35percent countries have press freedom. Around 33percent countries have partial freedom whereas 32percent countries have no freedom at all. The condition of our country i.e. India has also gone down. In a survey we are at 140 whereas two years earlier we were on 122. As per the report of Ernest and Young India "media in our country is in increasing demand, our domestic media including entertainment industry will be worth \$25 bn. in 2015. In 2010 it was \$16.3 bn. Though the industry is growing but it has yet to become professional and business like and secure.

**T**o become the first beneficiary of a policy change that allowed foreign airlines to invest in domestic ones Naresh Goyal's Jet Airways (India) Ltd joined hands with Etihad Airways. Etihad has agreed to acquire a 24percent stake in Jet Airways (India) Ltd for \$379 million (around Rs.2,060 crore). The deal was struck before Air Asia could win approval in March. It has made Jet Airways the first Indian airline to take advantage of rules introduced by the government in September allowing a foreign airline to pick up a stake of as much as 49percent. The Abu Dhabi-based national airline of the UAE will acquire shares by way of new stock and the dilution of Goyal's 80percent holding, which will drop to 60.8percent. Jet Airways (India) Ltd . "This is a smart move for Jet," observed Nawal Taneja, professor emeritus in the department of aviation at Ohio State University, about the deal. Indian carriers are seeking equity injections after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's government agreed to allow overseas carriers to buy holdings of as much as 49 percent. Air Asia, the region's biggest budget operator, last month formed a venture with Mumbai-based Tata Group to set up a local low-fare airline. AirAsia has won approval in March from India's Foreign Investment Promotion Board to hold a 49 percent stake in a new airline venture with Tata Sons and Telestra Tradeplace Inc. The Malaysian company aims to start Indian operations in September, with the venture operating out of Chennai in the south of the country.



**Advantage liberalisation**

Indians (especially middle class) are now looking forward to an affordable low fare air travel in the country.

— **Pran Mohan Parvatiyar**  
([pmparvatiyar@gmail.com](mailto:pmparvatiyar@gmail.com))



# CRISIS IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA

**"EVEN A LIMITED PROVOCATION-ANOTHER SHELLING OF SOUTH KOREA'S OFFSHORE ISLANDS OR ATTACK ON A NAVAL VESSEL, FOR EXAMPLE-WOULD BE VERY RISKY FOR THE NORTH."**

■ BY AMBASSADOR PARK SOO-GIL  
President, WFUNA

I greatly appreciate the invitation of Secretary General Suresh Srivastava to share with the members of the Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA) and the readers of PEOPLE AND UN my thoughts on the latest uptick in tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

I am particularly interested in this opportunity because of the long history of important contributions India has made to the United Nations and the cause of world peace. Those contributions have been not only by the Indian government's participation in official United Nations' work, but also by IFUNA's effective work in civil society to support the causes that the UN champions.

IFUNA support is especially effective because of the federation's extensive network of associations throughout the nation; the programs it conducts to teach Indians, especially the youth that will in turn be national and international leaders, about the UN and its work; and the vigor and creativity with which the federation and its leaders, most certainly including your secretary general, have



Ambassador Park Soo-gil, prior to his election as President of World Federation of United Nations Association (WFUNA) at the 39th Plenary Assembly in August 2009, served as the Republic of Korea's Ambassador in the Kingdom of Morocco, Canada, to the European Office of the United Nations in Geneva and the UN in New York, from 1984 to 1998. At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, in which he served from 1963 to 1998, Mr. Park has held such positions as Director-General of Treaty Affairs, Deputy Minister for Political Affairs, and Chancellor, the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security. Mr. Park also served as a member of the Sub-commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, an affiliate body of the former Commission on Human Rights from 1999 to 2003. He is currently teaching at the Graduate School of International Studies, Korea University as a distinguished professor on the subject of international organization and the United Nations. Mr. Park graduated in 1959 from the Korea University College of Law, and obtained a MIA degree in 1971 from the school of International Affairs and Public Administration, Columbia University. Ambassador Park is also an author of several Articles.

contributed to the work of WFUNA around the globe.

With great appreciation for those contributions, I am pleased to share my reflections on recent developments in Korea and the region.

It now appears that the latest in a long series of crises on the Korean Peninsula may be easing, although the signs are still mixed. The all-too-familiar pattern has played out again: North Korean provocations, a reaction from the world community through the UN Security Council, and a further outraged reaction from Pyongyang with dire threats and overblown rhetoric.

Of course, the world press and foreign ministries around the world pay attention to North Korean warnings that diplomats should consider leaving Pyongyang or that tourists and businessmen should flee South Korea, but embassies in the North are still operating; life in Seoul and the flow of tourists here continue as usual. Some international press reports have commented with some puzzlement on that normality here; have South Koreans become immune to fear? Do they believe that North Korea is all bark and no bite?

Not quite. Here in South Korea, the North's leaders have gotten our attention,



# North Korean Missile Launch Would be 'Huge Mistake'

After meetings with South Korea's president and foreign minister, Secretary of State John Kerry made it clear that both North Korea's bellicose rhetoric and its hopes of becoming a nuclear power are unacceptable. Kerry warned North Korea it will face further consequences should it test-fire a new missile

Kerry, on his first visit to Seoul, warned North Korea's young leader, Kim Jong Un, not to proceed with an anticipated launch of a medium-range ballistic missile.

"It is a huge mistake for him to choose to do that because it will further isolate his country and further isolate his people who frankly are desperate for food, not missile launches," Kerry warned.

Standing alongside Kerry, the South Korean Foreign Minister, Yun Byung-se, characterized Pyongyang's threats as a "grave provocation" to the entire international community.

Both officials agreed the door remains open for dialog if North Korea makes good on the various international agreements it has broken concerning development of weapons of mass destruction.

South Korea's semi-official Yonhap news agency quotes President Park Geun-hye as telling ruling party officials Friday there should be such a South-North meeting to "listen to what North Korea thinks."

North Korea, after conducting a missile launch and nuclear



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, left, South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se during a joint press conference at Foreign Ministry in Seoul, South Korea, April 12, 2013.

test in the past few months, has in short order unleashed a string of threats against Seoul and Washington. These have included renouncing the 1953 cease-fire which halted the Korean War, threatening to launch a pre-emptive nuclear attack on the United States and declaring a state of war in effect between the North and South.

Pyongyang this week also pulled its 53,000 workers from the

but not in the way they would have wished. Recent opinion polls suggest that more than 60 percent of us believe we should arm ourselves with nuclear weapons to counter the threat, although I see that as an opinion that has not been well thought out and which would create vastly more problems than it solved.

Although South Koreans have continued to go about their daily routines during this latest crisis, it is clear that the North's leaders have squandered quite a bit of the brotherly goodwill that has survived sixty years of division and confrontation. And in the battle to sway public opinion in the South, North Korea dismays its remaining sympathizers on the left by undercutting their arguments for accommodation.

We have to consider, I believe, both the very real threat to regional and world

## North Korea reiterates it will not give up nuclear arms

North Korea reiterated on April 20 that it would not give up its nuclear weapons, rejecting a U.S. condition for talks although it said it was willing to discuss disarmament

North Korea, in a sign of a possible end to weeks of heightened hostility on the Korean peninsula, offered the United States and South Korea a list of conditions on for talks, including the lifting of U.N. sanctions.

But the United States said it was awaiting "clear signals" that North Korea-

would halt its nuclear weapons activities.

"The U.S. should not think about the denuclearization on the peninsula before the world is denuclearized," the North's state-run *Rodong Sinmun* newspaper said in a commentary.

"There may be talks between the DPRK and the U.S. for disarmament but no talks on denuclearization," it said. North Korea's official name is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

North Korea signed a denuclearization-for-aid deal in 2005 but later backed

only remaining joint venture with the South, the Kaesong factory complex.

As Kerry was meeting top leaders in Seoul, the latest invective from Pyongyang warned Tokyo it would be "consumed in nuclear flames" should the Japanese shoot down any North Korean missile.

The trip to Seoul by the top American diplomat also coincided with an unprecedented visit to South Korea by a NATO secretary general. Anders Fogh Rasmussen. He has told reporters, he came to South Korea to demonstrate the international community's united stance and firm message to the North that a peaceful solution can come through dialog.

"We don't know much about what is the real intention of North Korean leadership, but we do know from the past and we do know from what has actually happened, that North Korea has the capacity to launch missiles. They have done nuclear tests and that's enough to express grave concern."

The visits by Kerry and Rasmussen came amid a disclosure in Washington of an excerpt from a classified U.S. intelligence report contending North Korea is now capable of arming a ballistic missile with a nuclear warhead. But officials at the Pentagon and the intelligence community quickly downplayed the analysis of the Defense Intelligence Agency. They say it would be inaccurate to suggest Pyongyang has fully tested or demonstrated the full range of capabilities needed to deploy a nuclear armed missile.

[In Moscow, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov called on the North to observe U.N. Security Council resolutions and resume talks on its nuclear program. Morgulov made his remarks in a meeting with North Korea's ambassador to Russia.

Also Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has said he

backed the idea of Switzerland hosting a fresh round of six-nation talks on North Korea's atomic program.

## IN JAPAN

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on 21st April in Japan for the final stop on an Asian tour aimed at solidifying support for curbing North Korea's nuclear program, and reassuring U.S. allies. Kerry stressed the United States is willing to engage with North Korea as long as it takes steps to give up nuclear weapons.

He also vowed Washington would protect its Asian allies against any provocative acts by the North, but said it wants a peaceful solution to rising tensions in the region.

"We are prepared to reach out but we need (the) appropriate moment, appropriate circumstance," Kerry told a small group of reporters, adding that North Korea had to take steps toward giving up its nuclear programs.

"They have to take some actions. Now how many and how much I want to have a discussion with folks back in Washington (about)... but they have to take action," he added.

The North has threatened for weeks to attack the United States, South Korea and Japan since new U.N. sanctions were imposed in response to its latest nuclear arms test in February. Speculation has mounted of a new missile launch or nuclear test.

"I think it is really unfortunate that there has been so much focus and attention in the media and elsewhere on the subject of war, when what we really ought to be talking about is the possibility of peace. And I think there are those possibilities," Kerry earlier told a news conference in Tokyo after a meeting with his Japanese counterpart, Fumio Kishida.

Kerry was in Japan for the final stop on an Asian tour aimed at solidifying support for curbing North Korea's nuclear program,

out of that pact. It now says its nuclear arms are a "treasured sword" that it will never give up. It conducted its third nuclear test in February.

The test triggered new U.N. sanctions, which in turn led to a dramatic intensification of North Korea's threats of nuclear strikes against South Korea and the United States.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry visited China, South Korea and Japan this month (April) for talks on North Korea and stressed his interest in a diplomatic solution to the tension on the peninsula.



Supreme leader of North Korea Kim Jong Un with his wife Ri Sol Ju

He later told a U.S. Senate hearing that North Korea's list of conditions was

"at least a beginning gambit", but added that it was "not acceptable, obviously, and we have to go further".

The Rodong Sinmun said U.S. talk of dialogue was "nothing but rhetoric".

North Korea has a long record of making threats to secure concessions from the United States and South Korea, only to repeat the process later. Both the

United States and the South have said in recent days that the cycle must cease.



and reassuring U.S. allies.

Kerry said the United States would "do what was necessary" to defend its allies Japan and South Korea, but added: "Our choice is to negotiate, our choice is to move to the table and find a way for the region to have peace."

Kerry also sought to clarify his comments made in Beijing on Saturday, which some took to suggest he might be offering to remove recently boosted missile defense capabilities in Asia if China persuaded North Korea to abandon its atomic program.

The Pentagon in recent weeks has announced plans to position two Aegis guided-missile destroyers in the western Pacific and a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile defense system in Guam.

"The president of the United States deployed some additional missile defense capacity precisely because of the threat of North Korea. And it is logical that if the threat of North Korea disappears because the peninsula denuclearizes, then obviously that threat no longer mandates that kind of posture. But there have been no agreements, no discussions, there is nothing actually on the table with respect to that," Kerry said.

"TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN"

Kerry said he might consider using someone other than an official U.S. government envoy to reach out to the North and he left the door open to a negotiation with the North that might not require them to take denuclearization steps in advance.

"If the Chinese came to us and said, 'look, here's what we've got cooking and so forth,' I'm not going to tell you that I'm shut-



**U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on Sunday stressed the United States is willing to engage with North Korea as long as it takes steps to give up nuclear weapons.**

ting the door today to something that's logical and that might have a chance of success," he said. "On the other hand, what the standard is today is they have to take action."

Sen. John McCain, a Republican, voiced skepticism about the resuming negotiations with the North.

"If we give them food, if we give them oil, if we give them

peace of North Korea's quest for and possession of nuclear weapons (and the missiles to deliver them) and the North's objectives in keeping those threats alive. Analysts distinguish between a potential adversary's capabilities and intentions; peering through the veil that the North has erected around its society, we can get some clues about both.

In recent weeks, we have seen movements of North Korean missiles to its east coast and threats to restart a nuclear reactor at Yongbyon to obtain more bomb-making material. Despite doubts that the North has at present the capability of attacking with nuclear-tipped missiles, it is clear that Pyongyang's capability to do so in the near future must be taken seriously. The United States and South Korea have, therefore, demonstrated publicly their ability to respond to any such attack. And as China also watches the Americans build up their missile defenses and other military capabilities near its doorstep, it is increasingly unhappy. Pres-



**South Korean army reservists salute during their Foundation Day ceremony at a gymnasium in Seoul, South Korea, where they denounced North Korea for its escalating threat for war. North Korea overnight loaded two missile launchers and warned foreign embassies to think about evacuating staffers.**

money, they will come around and they take our money and run," he said.

Japan's Kishida told the same news conference that the two allies want Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear ambitions.

"We agreed that North Korea should cease provocative speech and behavior and show it is taking concrete action toward denuclearization," he said. "We cannot allow North Korea in any way to possess nuclear weapons."

#### NORTH KOREA UNBENDING

Pyongyang, which was preparing to celebrate the birth date of state founder Kim Il-Sung on Monday, reiterated it had no intention of abandoning its atomic arms programs.

"We will expand in quantity our nuclear weapons capability, which is the treasure of a unified Korea — that we would never barter at any price," Kim Young-nam, North Korea's titular head of state, told a gathering of officials and service personnel applauding Kim Il-Sung.

The KCNA news agency also rejected as a "cunning trick" South Korean President Park Geun-hye's suggestion last week of holding talks with the North.

The South Korean capital, Seoul, displayed the calm it has shown throughout the crisis. Residents strolled in bright sunshine a day after the city's World Cup stadium was jammed with 50,000 mostly young fans of local rapper Psy.

On Saturday, Kerry met leaders in China, the North's sole diplomatic and financial benefactor, and said China and the United States were committed to "the denuclearization of the

Korean peninsula in a peaceful manner".

During his first stop in South Korea, where the United States has 28,000 troops stationed, Kerry said North Korea, furious at joint U.S.-South Korean military drills, would be making a "huge mistake" if it were to launch a missile.

He also said China was in a position to influence the North's policy and had to put "some teeth" into efforts to persuade Pyongyang to alter its policies.

Japan, separated from North Korea by less than 1,000 km (625 miles) of water and a frequent target of its anger, is well within range of North Korea's medium-range missiles.

Japanese news reports said Tokyo had sent Aegis-class destroyers capable of missile interception to the Sea of Japan. Patriot Advanced Capability-3 interceptor missiles have been deployed at key locations in the capital and surrounding areas.

Kerry's agenda in Tokyo also included Japan's territorial disputes with China, and the future of U.S. bases in Japan.

He repeated that while Washington took no position about the ultimate sovereignty of tiny isles in the East China Sea claimed by both China and Japan, the United States "opposed any unilateral action that would somehow change the status quo".

A flare-up of the territorial row has raised fears of an unintended military incident near the islands, known as the Senkaku in Japan and the Diaoyu in China. The United States says the islets fall under a U.S.-Japan security pact, but is keen to avoid a clash in the economically vital region.



North Korean Army ready for any eventuality

ident Xi Jinping said on April 7 that no single country should try to create "chaos for selfish gain." He left no doubt he was referring to North Korea, which has become a magnet for what China interprets as a broader challenge to its influence in the region.

Clearly, there is a strong element of publicity-seeking in Pyongyang's drumbeat of bellicose pronouncements. There is a strong domestic component as well; it is an attempt to rally the nation and the leadership class to young Kim Jong Un, who has probably not yet consolidated his power completely. But Pyongyang sees the world through a strange ideological prism, and seems to dismiss the increasingly unhappy warnings from China, its neighbor and main lifeline, about avoiding provocations.

In such circumstances, even a limited provocation-another



shelling of South Korea's offshore islands or attack on a naval vessel, for example—would be very risky for the North. It is treading dangerously close to the line where Seoul and Washington's increased willingness to respond in kind to a military provocation would combine with a Chinese refusal to support the North's regime any further.

North Korea still seems convinced that its nuclear weapons are the key to obtaining the respect and security it wants. I have become more pessimistic about the prospects for a negotiated settlement of the nuclear issue, although I believe the six-party talks chaired by China or similar negotiations are very important. Equally important is the continued engagement of the Security Council in

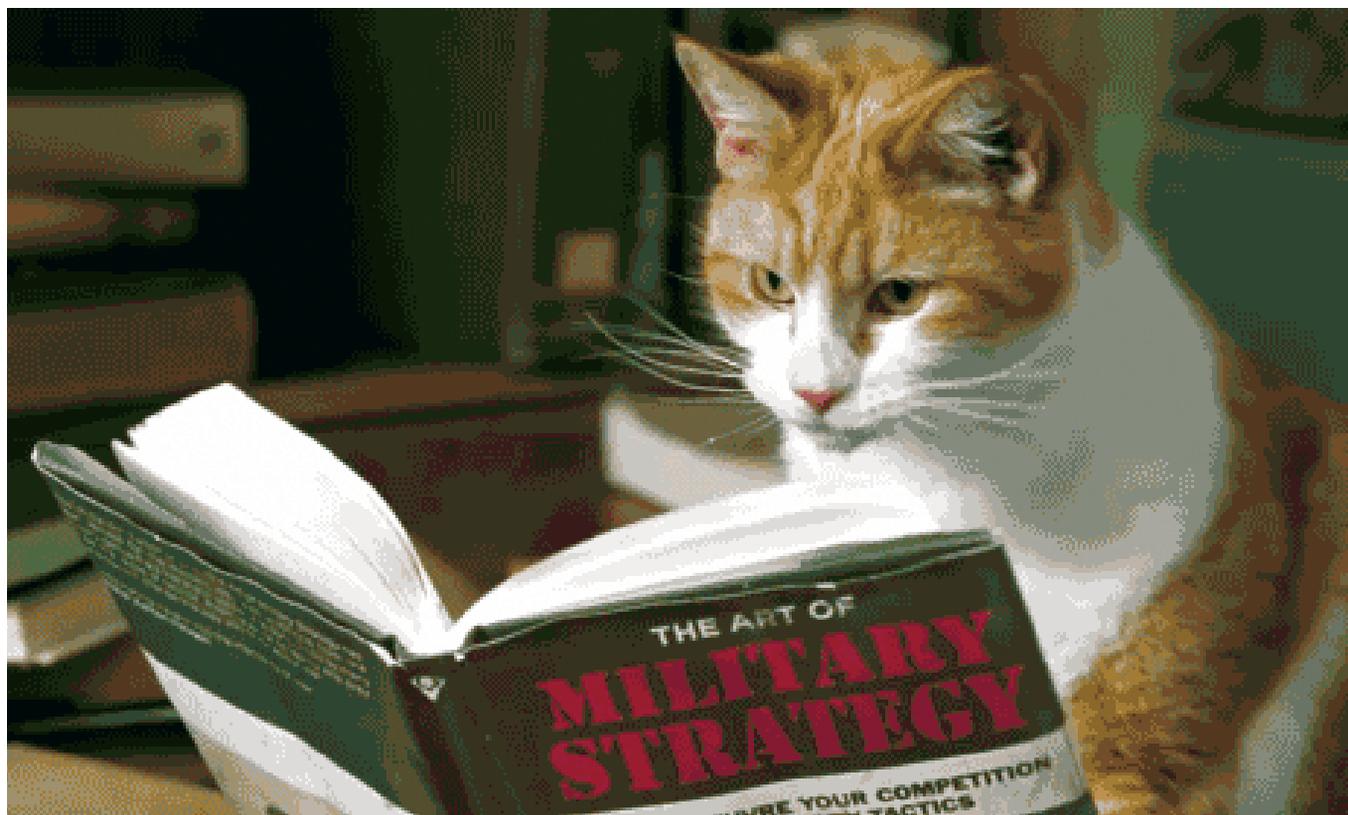
Korean issues; we must keep the North aware that its actions have effects not only domestically and across the DMZ, but on the world stage as well. Pyongyang's adventurism is not only a threat to the stability of Northeast Asia but also to the preservation of the global non-proliferation regime.

When considering Pyongyang's intentions, we must remember that even if the North Korean leadership is aggressive and willing to take huge risks, it is not irrational. Kim Jong Un heads a cruel and despotic leadership created by his grandfather, and preserving his demi-god status for the benefit of his dynasty and its loyalists is his main goal. Therefore, outside analysts generally agree that Pyongyang's leaders have no illusions

about being able to survive if they make a serious attempt to use any nuclear weapons they may possess against South Korea.

Seoul has responded very prudently to the new round of North Korean saber-rattling. While strengthening its deterrence, it has joined the rest of the world community in brushing aside Pyongyang's threats and following through on collective measures through the United Nations. President Park says the door to negotiations with North Korea—a policy she calls trust politik—is still open. That is a good balance of deterrence and peacemaking, and deserves a good part of the credit for the recent hopeful signs that tensions may be easing. ▼

## Stand off between India and China on Ladakh border





# BRICS SUMMIT-5

AS BRICS LOOK TO THE FUTURE, THE PROGRESS OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS ENCOURAGES IT TO SET HIGHER AMBITIONS, SEEK NEW AVENUES AND SUCH NEW GOALS FOR THEIR MUTUAL COOPERATION.



■ SURESH SRIVASTAVA

The G-20 and BRICS may not be an outcome to counter the West and the global governance architecture built against the backdrop of very different challenges and opportunities came loud and clear in Durban when India handed over batten of the chairmanship of BRICS to South Africa and in the words of Dr Manmohan Singh "it does so with a sense of satisfaction at the distance that we have covered in the course of the past year. Dr Manmohan Singh conveyed his profound gratitude to BRIC Partners and colleagues for their unstinted support to India in discharging its duties as Chair.

BRICS coordination and consultation

has become an integral part in the international forums such as G-20. As BRICS look to the future, the progress over the past five years encourages it to set higher ambitions, seek new avenues and such new goals for their mutual cooperation.

Russian President Vladimir Putin characterized the BRICS approach as "not against, but bypassing the West". The idea is clearly to rearrange the world, thus stripping the West of the fruits of its economic success. The present configuration of the world, by which everything depends on the US and the Euro zone, must change".

The Fifth BRICS Summit began on 26 March 2013 in Durban with the intention to have high declaration and initiative to be agreed upon by the all five member states as part of economic modeling resources to forecast global economic trends over the next half century.

The eThekweni declaration is rich in political statements with talk of the setting up of a permanent secretariat, which is now in the form of a virtual secretariat, BRICS is on the road to becoming an organization, not merely a group of G-20.

Ironically, the BRICS countries have deep involvement with the United States and Europe and the international financial institutions, which would largely influence their wellbeing in the immediate future. This was the reason for the caution with which BRICS began its meetings. At the fifth summit, with the addition of South Africa, BRICS seems to be abandoning that caution. Inevitably, a confrontational tone has crept into the pronouncements.

IBSA, formed by India, Brazil and South Africa had a logic and philosophy of its own. As the three biggest developing countries, with a high rate of growth, they have similar aspirations and challenges. It has now been overshadowed by BRICS, which originally was a generic name for a group of countries with similar characteristics, identified by a Goldman Sachs economist, to which South Africa was added by China ostensibly without consultation with the others. The inclusion of South Africa was hard to resist, even though South Korea and Indonesia had greater claim.

China and Russia reiterate the importance they attach to the status of Brazil,





Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with BRICS Leaders. Also seen India n Finance Minister P.Chidambaram and Commerce Minster Anand Sharma in 2nd row from right

India and South Africa in international affairs and support their aspiration to play a greater role in the UN. Recently international bank loans recorded one of the strongest growths in three of the four BRIC economies, according to the latest report released by the World Bank. While it doubled in India from \$3.5 bn in 2003 to \$7 bn in 2004, in Russia it went up from \$4.9 bn to \$8.2 bn during the period. In Brazil it also more than doubled from \$3.8 bn to \$8.9 bn. According to investment banker Goldman Sachs, over the next 50 years, the BRIC economies could become a much larger force in the world economy.

The unspoken agenda of BRICS to counter the West and the global governance architecture, built against the backdrop of very different challenges and opportunities came loud and clear in Durban.

The main objective of the establishment of a development bank was fashioned, essentially by China to counter the World Bank and IMF. Replacing the Western dominated financial system with a Chinese dominated one cannot be an unmixed blessing for the developing countries, even though it opens up possibilities for softer credits. The

summit established the feasibility and viability of a development bank, indeed phenomenal progress, but wisdom prevailed in the end and a decision on issues like contribution and venue was postponed for further negotiations.

The initial proposal for China to provide the largest share seems to have given way to a capital of USD 50 billion divided equally among the five members. The BRICS strategy of long-term economic cooperation, common infrastructure projects and BRICS Business Council will devolve on the richest of them all, China, which appears to be looking for an alternative to the way the world does business today.

For Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, the first meeting with President Xi was of greater importance than what BRICS as a whole accomplished. But though President Xi had put forward old wine in new bottle as a befriend India initiative, the meeting ended up on a dissonant note on Brahmaputra rather than on a note of bonhomie over BRICS. Bilateral discords cannot be covered up with multilateral accords.

This is their first time meeting. And although some foreign policy watchers with

a head for conspiracy theories might see this as an anti-American cartel, that is far from the case. They are nothing more than political and economic opportunists who know what the U.S., Europe and Japan also know: the growth of the world is coming from emerging markets. These are some of the biggest, if not most politically motivated. The theme of this year's summit is: BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Development, Integration and Industrialization.

China's neighbors, India and Russia too, don't speak the same language. India and China have border disputes. Trade with Russia is geared towards the usual item: oil and gas. On the deal side, China has been most active signing agreements pre-Durban.

Lastly, the much talked about BRIC Bank remains a flop heading into the Summit. The fivesome cannot agree on their individual share of funding for a development bank geared towards building their economies. But that does not mean that the Fifth BRICS Summit was a failure. Rather it gives a ray of hope to the developing countries and emerging markets to have their share in world prosperity. ▼

# Conflict, Peace and Reconstruction in Sri Lanka



■ BY SESHADRI CHARI

Sri Lanka is probably the only country in the world since World War two, which has successfully destroyed a terrorist outfit and saved the country from a Partition and its consequences. It was no doubt a tough military task involving hardnosed strategies. But a more rigorous task ahead for Colombo is winning the hearts of the population in the North and the Eastern coastline. For more than thirty years these areas had become a severe conflict zone heaping untold miseries on the hapless people. Areas in Northern Sri Lanka came under the control of the LTTE, the self-styled sentinels of the Tamil population and were deprived of any socio-economic development resulting in abject poverty and malnutrition. Agriculture, industry and education took a back seat and even women and children were drawn into the vortex of the conflict.

The Tamil and Sinhalese relationship and Hindu-Buddhist traditions have a long history dating back to the Sangam period in Tamil Nadu and The Mahavamsa. While a section of the Sinhalese majority often use Mahavamsa as a proof of their claim that Sri Lanka is a Buddhist nation from historical time, a strong "Mahavamsa bashing" movement began in the 1930s, especially from within the Tamil groups claiming that most of the Sinhala kings, including Vijaya, Kasyapa, and Parakramabahu, were Tamils. What began as an intellectual debate soon transformed into demand for Tamil Eelam versus Sinhala nationalist movement. The forma-

tion of various Tamil groups led to the consolidation of the LTTE as a terror group resulting in a civil war in Sri Lanka, which ended in 2009.

After the end of the conflict the North and East of Sri Lanka, now back under the total control of Colombo, is waiting for the roadmap to progress rolled out by President Mahinda Rajapaksa. The "Uthuru Wasanthaya" (Vadakkinn Vasantham-the spring in the North) is not just a jingle or a strategy for Colombo anymore. It is a promise to keep, as important as it was to win the war on LTTE terror. Slowly, but surely, people are picking up their lives out of the debris in Jaffna, Vavuniya, Vanni, Killinochi and many other towns and hamlets which were once synonymous with a ghastly conflict that killed more than a lakh of people and maimed and dis-housed twice that number. Even a whirlwind tour of these places exhibits an assurance of a will to restart life and forget the past like a bad dream. Weekend markets are mushrooming, schools are reopening, temple bells are chiming again and the economy is stirring. Tourism is likely to pick up in

the North.

Colombo is seriously seized of the mammoth task of restoring peace, rebuilding and development of the areas devastated by the conflict. LLRC appointed in May 2010 barely a year after the armed conflict ended submitted its 800 page report with 285 recommendations in November 2011 which was presented to the Parliament a month later. A task force headed by the President's Permanent Secretary, Lalith Weeratunga monitors the report's implementation.

When the three-decade long war ended in May 2009, around 11,800 ex-LTTE cadres surrendered to the Sri Lankan security forces. Now only 636 ex-combatants remain in rehabilitation camps while 10,970 (91.5%) have been reintegrated in to the society.

Yet, the fact is that Colombo needs to pull up its socks and allow freer access to investments in infrastructure and service sectors. There are tremendous opportunities in the tourism sector, infrastructure development, consumer products, health sector and education as the end of conflict offers enormous growth potential. The most important



Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa at venkateswera-temple



**Men participating in a procession at the Nallur Kandaswamy temple festival to pay homage to Lord Murugan, patron god of the Tamils, carry a replica of a deity past the southern entrance of the temple. The festival had been curtailed during the long conflict. The temple, first built in the 10th century, with several subsequent reconstructions, is currently being refurbished. Its damage is due to normal wear and tear, as the building was mostly spared during the war.**

aspect of a flourishing tourism industry is a sense of security which Colombo has been able to provide. One thing the Tamil population of the North and the East are experiencing commonly is a life without fear of the LTTE.

The local body elections gave ample opportunity to the President Rajapaksa to further his dream of rapprochement between the North and the South. The President's party lost the elections but he has won the trust and faith of the people for having restored normalcy and democracy, two things that the LTTE took away from the Tamil people. On the Tamil question itself, he is on record to have said that a Parliamentary Select Committee will work on the political solution and put up before the Parliament for discussion. Colombo is seriously considering holding the next phase of elections by this year end.

According to officials in Colombo, all the 300,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) have been resettled and given titles to their homes and land. Over 78,000 houses are being built in the North to rehabilitate

Tamil's caught in the conflict. Particular attention was given to the 594 child soldiers who surrendered. A special programme of 'catch up education' is now provided to former combatants. Under this, 361 students sat for the GCE Advanced Level Examination in 2010, and 222 of these students passed the examination. The police have adopted stringent guidelines with regard to the treatment of persons taken into custody. This will have a salutary effect on the allegations of torture and mistreatment.

A Court of Inquiry was established in January 2010 regarding civilian casualties and a probe into the Channel-4 video footage. Part One of the inquiry is complete the rest will be completed shortly. Meanwhile, punitive action against Sri Lankan units and soldiers found guilty of war crimes continues to be taken.

The military has been withdrawn from many aspects of civilian life, and are now confined to security-related matters. In December 2009, the troop strength in Jaffna was 27,000. It is now well under 15,000. And much of the armed forces are involved in

development work and de-mining activities to help IDP's return home. The Sri Lankan Army was given the responsibility of de-mining the largest area of land, an area of 1,500 sq kms, including the most densely mined regions.

At the end of June 2012, over 450,000 antipersonnel mines, 1400 anti-tank mines, and over 385,000 unexploded ordnance devices laid by the LTTE had been recovered.

The rebuilding of the northern railway, a length of over 250 kilometers, totally destroyed by the LTTE as they plundered the rails and sleepers to build bunkers, has only been possible because the Sri Lankan armed forces volunteered to de-mine the entire length enabling the Indian Government to rebuild the railway line via its bilateral assistance.

On devolution of political power, a Parliamentary Select Committee is taking the initiative to have a serious and structured dialogue with all political parties, and those representing minorities in particular, to develop consensus on devolution. The President is understood to be committed to tak-

## Current Focus

ing the dialogue to the highest political level.

Other concrete steps involve zero tolerance of disappearances and abductions, harassment of journalists, display of "impunity" behaviour/actions by the police, activities of illegal armed groups; assuring freedom of association and peaceful protest.

Promotion of a trilingual policy with a special place for Tamil, and employment of Tamil-speaking officers in all government offices is considered a significant step towards rapprochement. According to a report, since the end of the conflict, a 22% economic growth has been recorded in the Northern Province, while Sri Lanka's overall GDP recorded around 8% growth in 2011.

Notwithstanding these achievements, the task of winning the trust of Tamils is made more daunting as Colombo is facing serious charges of excesses committed albeit by a section of the army. In reply Colombo has refuted the allegations and accused the terror outfit of using women and children as human shield to stall the Sri Lankan army. The argument of collateral damage appears to have refused to wash with the international community also.

The woes of the Tamil community are also far from over. They are practically leaderless but the political aspirations of the Tamil speaking population are alive and unfulfilled. Colombo is fully aware and seriously seized of this aspect. The most striking feature is that neither the Tamil population nor the government has been able to put across their views effectively and in an unbiased manner to the world community.

Meanwhile, after condemning UNHRC, the Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International etc., for years, for toying a wrong line on Kashmir and targeting us in the past for alleged anti-human rights acts, India's vote against Sri Lanka has exposed us to greater criticism. Besides deviating from our time tested policy of not voting in favour of any country specific resolutions, India has seriously antagonised a section of the Sri Lankan polity with no tangible gain from countries with whom we joined hands. Compulsions of coalition politics have influenced New Delhi's Sri Lanka policy effectively holding foreign policy issues to ransom.

While our stakes in Sri Lanka are much greater, it is nobody's argument that one should overlook the human rights violations



A cyclist watching the damages of conflict in Jaffna

as the US strongly puts forward. Our strategic partnership with the US should give us freedom to forge our own independent neighbourhood policy and yet maintain the balance in Indo-US relationship. After all, diplomacy is all about doing (or not doing) things which do not shrink our elbow space for diplomatic manoeuvres.

Now as a result of India's vote against Sri Lanka, there has been a shift in Sri Lanka's attitude towards the Indian Government which the President describes to close friends as "pain and sorrow" at being let down by "an elder relative." Apart from privately expressed views, the change in attitude is noticeably evident in public statements suggesting that India is abdicating its leadership role in the region and not appreciating the seminal role Sri Lanka has played in safeguarding India's strategic interests in the Indian Ocean. A large section of India's security establishment fail to understand that despite Sri Lanka's dependence on Pakistan and China for weapons during the last five years — there was no alternative for Lanka, in the face of India's refusal to supply spares or offensive weapons — President Mahinda Rajapakse was a bulwark against anti-India elements and lobbies in his own country.

In the prevailing situation, India needs to emphasise on strengthening bilateral relations in the areas of security and cultural exchanges as well as in the economic domain involving the promotion of entrepreneurial and manufacturing skills of the Sri Lankans through India's own expertise in

the matter.

Sri Lanka believes India should do its best to bring about a trade balance which is not adverse to Sri Lanka and make the process sustainable. Sri Lanka's economy is significantly dependent on exports. Military joint training and counter-terrorism and anti-piracy exercises can be conducted in India's western seaboard and north-east. Needless to say, all this cooperation does not mean that India should overlook Sri Lanka's failure on reconciliation and accountability issues, implementation of the Recommendations of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission and conducting an independent and credible investigation into allegations of violations of international human rights law. Instead of piggy riding on the US sponsored resolution and outsourcing our responsibility, we should deal with Colombo bilaterally on these issues.

During the most sensitive period of Indo-Sri Lankan relations especially when the LTTE was facing defeat in 2009 and radical pro-Tamil elements were exerting pressure on the Indian government, there was remarkable and continuous interaction between New Delhi and Colombo that kept temperatures low and led to a deepening of trust. That trust seems to have evaporated now. India's second-time vote against Sri Lanka in the UNHRC has resulted in a serious weakening of ties to the detriment of India's interests in the region. ▼

*(The views expressed are personal)*



# After Boston: Why It's Important That We Keep Asking 'Why?'



■ ARIANNA HUFFINGTON

I, and all of the law enforcement professionals, are hoping for a host of reasons that the suspect survives," said Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick on Saturday, "because we have a million questions, and those questions need to be answered."

Foremost among those questions is, why? Or, as NBC's Pete Williams put it on Meet the Press, "the biggest question for investigators now is a) you know, why did he turn this way?" This sentiment was echoed by Doris Kearns Goodwin, who recounted the celebration that ensued in the bar she was in when Tsarnaev was captured: "Everybody was just screaming, 'thank God we got him alive,' because they want the answer to the question, why?"

A lot of the who, what, where and how of the bombing and what led up to it have already been answered and, no doubt, more details will eventually be filled in. The why, however, is the more elusive question. But it's also a crucial one. And the why we need answered has to do with more than just questions about Chechnya and Russia, and the conflict between the two. We also need to know why we have so many disaffected young men in our culture, and what compels them to act out that disaffection in violent ways.

I'm in no way suggesting that "society"

is to blame for these unspeakable murders, nor that the surviving Tsarnaev brother should, in any way, not be held fully accountable. But to understand is not to condone, and conflating the two only makes it more likely that other similarly violent incidents will happen, more lives will be lost, more families shattered.

Moving forward, steps will certainly be taken to make public events more secure. Questions will be asked about where and how the two suspects got all their firearms and explosives. More cameras will be added to further ensure that, when the next incident happens, the perpetrator can be quickly identified. That's all as it should be, but taking those steps doesn't preclude us from asking, and trying to answer, why such tragedies happen in the first place. We should be trying to stop these horrors at every point in the process, not just at the end stage.

As Simi Singh Juneja, who also gave

birth to a son 19 years ago, blogged on Huff-Post:

As a mother, I seek to know why young men are capable of such violence. What escapes us that motivates young men to act out in dark ways? If we don't ask and seek to answer these questions and simply rush to vengeful judgment, how are we going to slow this cycle and possibly prevent future tragedy? Virginia Tech, Tucson, Aurora, Oak Creek, Newtown, and now Boston all constitute sacred reasons to figure out why these young men like to blow things up and go out in a blaze of glory.

So what is it that initially puts young men on the path to seeking out violence? With Tucson, with Newtown, with countless other places, and now with Boston, the justifications may differ, but the end results have a lot in common. And so, likely, do the beginnings.

"Evil may not have a single face, but it can be reliably found within one kind of



Runners continue to run towards the finish line of the Boston marathon as an explosion erupts near the finish line of the race



body: that of an angry man in his late teens or twenties," writes Lisa Miller in *New York magazine*. "Angry. Young. Men. The description doesn't explain the motivations behind every notorious bloodbath, but it's a place to start -- perhaps the only place to start."

Obviously, not every angry young man turns to murderous violence, but that anger and disaffection manifests in plenty of other dangerous ways. According to the National Gang Center, from 2001 to 2010, there was a significant increase in gang activity -- even as overall crime declined. In 2010, there were an estimated 756,000 gang members throughout the country, and from 2009 to 2010, gang-related homicides increased 10 percent in large cities. In 2010, suicide was the third leading cause of death among Americans aged 15 to 24. In that age range, suicide accounts for 20 percent of all deaths each year.

In 2008, writer and technologist Phil Groman looked at the common elements found in gangs and radical Islamist groups. "One salient parallel between both move-

ments is the presentation and mobilization of violence as an attractive solution to disempowered youth," he writes. "In rejecting formal society, both movements offer a parallel social order that awards status through violence and violent rhetoric." He concludes that one of our challenges "as parents, teachers and community leaders" is to "understand and address the grievances that drive young people toward seeking empowerment."

A special report in 2010 by Colonel John Venhaus for the U.S. Institute of Peace specifically addresses the appeal of al Qaeda to young men, but his findings clearly have wider relevance. "Al-Qaeda's ubiquitous message of anti-Muslim oppression and global jihad appeals to the developmental needs of adolescents," he writes. "Potential recruits have an unfulfilled need to define themselves. Al-Qaeda's ability to turn them to violence is rooted in what each seeks: Revenge seekers need an outlet for their frustration, status seekers need recognition, identity seekers need a group

to join."

He notes that Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, the so-called "underwear bomber," once wrote: "I do not have a friend, I have no one to speak to, no one to consult, no one to support me, and I feel depressed and lonely. I do not know what to do." Those feelings, says Venhaus, are exactly what al Qaeda looks for. "The potential al-Qaeda recruits who live in this highly charged media environment are vector-less energy looking for guidance and direction," he writes. "They want to understand who they are, why they matter, and what their role in the world should be. They have an unfulfilled need to define themselves, which al-Qaeda offers to fill."

Vector-less energy looking for guidance and direction. That certainly describes not only young males susceptible to turning to radical Islam, but young males turning to gangs. And it also seems to describe the Tsarnaev brothers, whose friends and acquaintances seem uniformly shocked

*Continued on page 19*



Left to Right Malcolm Harper, Ms Ann Harper, Ms Meena Srivastava, Suresh Srivastava and Ms Rena Shashua (UNA Israel) during their visit to New Delhi

# Condolence

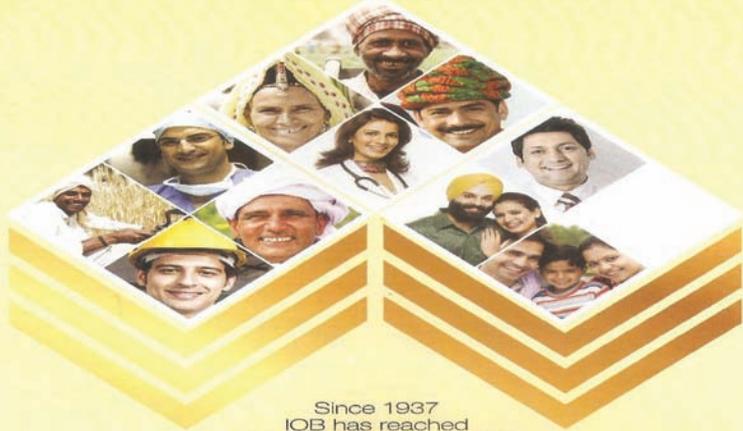
The members of Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA) deeply mourn on the demise of Mr Malcolm Harper. His association with IFUNA was more than four decades old and he was highly respected in IFUNA. Mr Malcolm Harper name was not only known with

the UNA UK and as Chair of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) but a source of inspiration for all of us. IFUNA leadership in particular was emotionally attached to Mr Malcolm Harper. The WFUNA 36th Plenary Assembly organized in Kolkata was a great success due to his continuous guidance to the leadership of IFUNA. He was always available to IFUNA for any guidance and cooperation. His visit to Kolkata and New Delhi (India) is still afresh in our memory. IFUNA Executive Committee, in an emergent meeting passed a condolence and prayed to the Almighty for peace of the departed soul and give enough of strength to his family to bear this irreparable loss.

Shri M.C.M. Chidambaram Chettyar  
FOUNDER



**Indian Overseas Bank**  
Touching hearts  
Spreading smiles



Since 1937  
IOB has reached  
out to millions in India and  
across the world

As we enter our 75<sup>th</sup> year, we rededicate  
ourselves to bring **Smile** on the face of every Indian.



**इण्डियन ओवरसीज़ बैंक**  
**Indian Overseas Bank**  
(A Govt. of India undertaking)  
Good people to grow with

www.iob.in



Still image taken from video shows one of the explosions at the Boston Marathon

that the two were behind the bombing.

Dzhokhar, the younger brother now in custody, attended the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, where he was a star wrestler. Until last week he was a sophomore at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth. His brother Tamerlan attended community college for a few years and was a Golden Gloves boxing champion who aspired to be an Olympian representing the same country he would later attack. Yet he also reportedly created a YouTube channel featuring videos that extolled Islamic fundamentalism.

So how did they get from there to here? Did social media play in this trajectory? Obviously, social media allows groups, both good and bad, to coalesce regardless of physical proximity. But even as social media can increase connection of a certain kind, they can also disconnect us from those around us, or even ourselves. When feelings of disaffection or alienation (or vector-less energy) are already there, do social media amplify them?

As David Remnick writes in the New Yorker, Dzhokhar's Twitter feed was a

"bewildering combination of banality and disaffection." Examples from the last year include:

"A decade in America already, I want out"

"The value of human life ain't shit nowadays that's #tragic"

Gregory Shvedov is the editor of the Moscow-based website *Caucasian Knot*. "These days there are social networks, and people make their decisions from them," he told Remnick. "I would not be surprised if they had another life over social media." Concludes Remnick: "The digital era allows no asylum from extremism, let alone from the toxic combination of high-minded zealotry and the curdled disappointments of young men."

Or, as Andrew Sullivan put it, "This is a reminder that we live in a new world: where the Internet can give people ideas, can turn mellow stoners into paranoid mass-murderers. And a reminder that we live in the same world."

Of course, it's not that the Internet is giving these young men ideas -- after all, killing

people is a very unoriginal idea that long predates the Internet or social media -- but, in some cases, it is fostering a sense of identity, albeit a poisonous one, that they're not getting elsewhere. Are they, as Shvedov implies, so desperately creating an online social world -- one with belonging, status and purpose, however odious -- that they're missing in the real world? What is it about our definition of male success that makes these young men feel alienated from it? "These crimes," said forensic psychiatrist Michael Welner to Lisa Miller, "are very much about the evolution of masculine identity."

So where is that evolution heading, and what can be done to help it evolve in productive -- rather than destructive -- ways?

Clearly there are no magic answers to these questions, but it's in all our interests to keep asking them. ▼

*(The writer is president and editor-in-chief at The Huffington Post Media Group, The views expressed are personal)*



# 11 Habits

## That May Help You Live to 100.



### Healthy Steps to a Longer Life

ONE of the biggest factors that determines how well you age is not your genes but how well you live. Not convinced? A study published in 2009 in the *British Medical Journal* of 20,000 British folks shows that you can cut your risk of having a stroke in half by doing the following things: being active for 30 minutes a day, eating five daily servings of fruit and vegetables, and avoiding cigarettes and excess alcohol.

While those are some of the obvious steps you can take to age well, researchers have discovered that centenarians tend to share certain traits in how they eat, move about, and deal with stress—the sorts of things we can emulate to improve our own aging process. Of course, getting to age 100 is enormously more likely if your parents did. Still, Thomas Perls, who studies the century-plus set at Boston University School of Medicine, believes that assuming you've sidestepped genes for truly fatal diseases like Huntington's, "there's nothing stopping you from living independently well into your 90s." Heck, if your parents and grandparents were heavy smokers, they might have died prematurely without ever reaching their true potential lifespan, so go ahead and shoot for those triple digits. Follow these 12 habits and

check out Perls' lifetime risk calculator to see how long you can expect to live.

### 1. DON'T RETIRE

► "Evidence shows that in societies where people stop working abruptly, the incidence of obesity and chronic disease skyrockets after retirement," says Luigi Ferrucci, director of the Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging. The Chianti region of Italy, which has a high percentage of centenarians, has a different take on leisure time. "After people retire from their jobs, they spend most of the day working on their little farm, cultivating grapes or vegetables," he says. "They're never really inactive." Farming isn't for



you? Volunteer as a docent at your local art museum or join the Experience Corps, a program offered in 19 cities that places senior volunteers in urban public elementary schools for about 15 hours a week.

### 2. FLOSS EVERY DAY

► That may help keep your arteries healthy. A 2008 New York University study showed that daily flossing reduced the amount of gum-disease-causing bacteria in the mouth. This bacteria is thought to enter the bloodstream and trigger inflammation in the arteries, a major risk factor for heart disease. Other research has shown that those who have



high amounts of bacteria in their mouth are more likely to have thickening in their arteries, another sign of heart disease." I really do think people should floss twice a day to get the biggest life expectancy benefits," says Perls.

### 3. MOVE AROUND

► "Exercise is the only real fountain of youth that exists," says Jay Olshansky, a professor of medicine and aging researcher at the University of Illinois at Chicago. "It's like the oil and lube job for your car. You don't have to do it, but your car will definitely run better." Study after study has documented the benefits of exercise to improve your mood, mental acuity, balance, muscle mass, and bones. "And the benefits kick in immediately after your first workout," Olshansky adds. Don't worry if you're not a gym rat. Those who see the biggest payoffs are the ones





## Health & Hygiene

who go from doing nothing to simply walking around the neighborhood or local mall for about 30 minutes a day. Building muscle with resistance training is also ideal, but yoga classes can give you similar strength-training effects if you're not into weight lifting.

### 4. EAT A FIBER-RICH CEREAL FOR BREAKFAST

▶ Getting a serving of whole-grains, especially in the morning, appears to help older folks maintain stable blood sugar levels throughout the day, according to a recent study conducted by Ferrucci and his colleagues. "Those who do this have a lower incidence of diabetes, a known accelerator of aging," he says.



### 5. GET AT LEAST SIX HOURS OF SLEEP EACH NIGHT

▶ Instead of skimping on sleep to add more hours to your day, get more to add years to your life. "Sleep is one of the most important functions that our body



uses to regulate and heal cells," says Ferrucci. "We've calculated that the minimum amount of sleep that older people need to get those healing REM phases is about six hours." Those who reach the century mark make sleep a top priority.

### 6. CONSUME WHOLE FOODS, NOT SUPPLEMENTS

▶ Strong evidence suggests that people

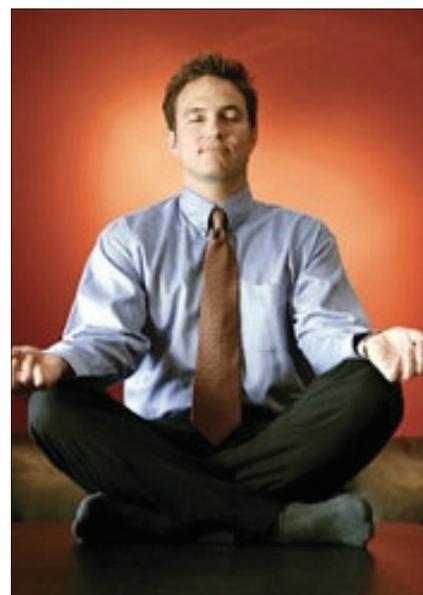


who have high blood levels of certain nutrients-selenium, beta-carotene, vitamins C and E-age much better and have a slower rate of cognitive decline. Unfortunately, there's no evidence that taking pills with these nutrients provides those anti-aging benefits. "There are more than 200 different carotenoids and 200 different flavonoids in a single tomato," points out Ferrucci, "and these chemicals can all have complex interactions that foster health beyond the single nutrients we know about like lycopene or vitamin C." Avoid nutrient-lacking white foods (breads, flour, sugar) and go for all those colorful fruits and vegetables and dark whole-grain breads and cereals with their

host of hidden nutrients.

### 7. BE LESS NEUROTIC

▶ It may work for Woody Allen, who infuses his worries with a healthy dose of humor, but the rest of us neurotics may want to find a new way to deal with stress. "We have a new study coming out that shows that centenarians tend not to internalize things or dwell on their troubles," says Perls. "They are great at rolling with the punches." If this inborn trait is hard to overcome, find better ways to manage when you're stressed: Yoga, exercise, meditation, tai chi, or just deep breathing for a few moments are all good.



Ruminating, eating chips in front of the TV, binge drinking? Bad, very bad.

### 8. LIVE LIKE A SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

▶ Americans who define themselves as Seventh Day Adventists have an average life expectancy of 89, about a decade longer than the average American. One of the basic tenets of the religion is that it's important to cherish the body that's on loan from God, which means no smoking, alcohol abuse, or overindulging in sweets. Followers typically stick to a vegetarian diet based on fruits, vegetables, beans, and nuts, and get plenty of exercise. They're also very focused on family and community.



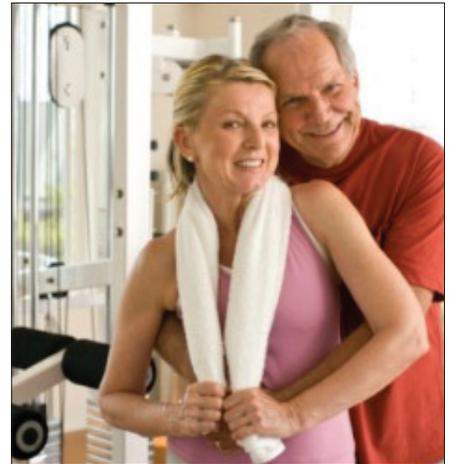
## 9. BE A CREATURE OF HABIT

Centenarians tend to live by strict routines, says Olshansky, eating the same kind of diet and doing the same kinds of activities their whole lives. Going to bed and waking up at the same time each day is another good habit to keep your body in the steady equilibrium that can be easily disrupted as you get on in years. "Your physiology becomes frailer when you get older," explains Ferrucci, "and it's harder for your body to bounce back if you, say, miss a few hours of sleep one night or

drink too much alcohol." This can weaken immune defenses, leaving you more susceptible to circulating flu viruses or bacterial infections.

## 10. STAY CONNECTED

Having regular social contacts with friends and loved ones is key to avoiding depression, which can lead to premature death, something that's particularly prevalent in elderly widows and widowers. Some psychologists even think that one of the biggest benefits elderly folks get from exercise is the strong social interactions that come from walking with a



buddy or taking a group exercise class. Having a daily connection with a close friend or family member gives older folks the added benefit of having someone watch their back. "They'll tell you if they think your memory is going or if you seem more withdrawn," says Perls, "and they might push you to see a doctor before you recognize that you need to see one yourself."



## 11. BE CONSCIENTIOUS

The strongest personality predictor of a long life is conscientiousness that is, being prudent, persistent, and well organized, according to *The Longevity Project*, coauthored by Howard Friedman and Leslie Martin. The book describes a study that followed 1,500 children for eight decades, collecting exhaustive details about their personal histories, health, activities, beliefs, attitudes, and families. The children who were prudent and dependable lived the longest, Friedman says, likely because conscientious types are more inclined to follow doctors' orders, take the right medicines at the right doses, and undergo routine check-ups. They're also likelier to report happier marriages and more satisfying work lives than their less conscientious peers.





Members of Chattisgarh UNA presenting UNIC report to Chattisgarh Governor H.E. Shekhar Dutt. (L to r) Rajesh Agrawal, Satya Narayan Sharma, Sanat Jain, H.E. Shekhar Dutt, Pankaj Sharma and Ripudaman Singh.

# A UN Library at Raipur

**R**aipur, President of Chhattisgarh UN Association and former Minister, MP & CG Shri Satya Narayan Sharma presented latest reports and publications (sent by UNIC, New Delhi) to H.E. Shri Shekhar Dutt, Governor of Chhattisgarh at Rajbhawan.

At this occasion Shri Sanat Jain-Secretary-General, Shri Rajesh Agrawal-Vice President, Shri Pankaj Sharma and Shri Ripudaman Singh, were also present. His Excellency also assured his full cooperation in setting UN Library at Raipur by Chhattisgarh UN Association.

**FORM IV**

Statement about ownership and other particulars about newspaper (*PEOPLE AND UN*) to be published in the first issue every year after the last day of February

1. Place of publication : DELHI
2. Periodicity of its publication : QUARTERLY
3. Printer's Name : SURESH KUMAR SRIVASTAVA

Nationality : INDIAN  
Address : C- 194, 1ST FLOOR, VIVEK VIHAR, DELHI - 110095

4. Publisher's Name : SURESH KUMAR SRIVASTAVA

Nationality : INDIAN  
Address : C- 194, 1ST FLOOR, VIVEK VIHAR, DELHI - 110095

5. Editor's Name : PRAN MOHAN PARVATIYAR

Nationality : INDIAN  
Address : C- 6, RAJ RESIDENCY, KAUSHAMBI, GHAZIABAD -201010, UTTAR PRADESH

6. Names and of individuals who own the newspaper and partners or shareholders : INDIAN FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS holding More than one per cent of the ASSOCIATIONS total capital.

Addresses : C - 6, QUTUB INSTITUTIONAL AREA, NEW DELHI -16

I, SURESH KUMAR SRIVASTAVA, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date-07/04/2013 Signature of Publisher

# 'de-stresses' on 'Prevention of Hypertension'

*MAHARASHTRA UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION (MUNA) IN COLLABORATION  
WITH INDIAN FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS (IFUNA), NEW DELHI, UNITED NATIONS  
INFORMATION CENTRE (UNIC) FOR INDIA AND BHUTAN, NEW DELHI AND KOHINOOR HOSPITAL,  
OBSERVED WORLD HEALTH DAY7, 2013: 2013 AT MUMBAI.*

## WORLD HEALTH DAY

**M**AHARASHTRA United Nations Association (MUNA) in collaboration with Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA), New Delhi, United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) for India and Bhutan, New Delhi and Kohinoor Hospital, Observed World Health Day7, 2013: 2013 at Mumbai.

"A little constraint and precaution can change your life." This was the message that Maharashtra United Nations Association (MUNA) in collaboration with Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA) United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) for India and Bhutan and Kohinoor Hospital gave on this World Health Day with regard to the fastest growing lifestyle disease - Hypertension.

The theme of the year 2013 given by World Health Organization is "High Blood Pressure"

An informative and interesting conference held in the town hall of the hospital, was graced by the presence of Suresh Srivastava, Hon. Secretary General - IFUNA), Ms. Mohini Mathur, Executive Chairperson (MUNA), A.A. Syed, Hon. Secretary General (MUNA), Ashraf Ahmed Shaikh, Hon. Secretary (MUNA) & President Maharashtra United Nations Youth Association, Major (Dr.) Sachin Mane, Head - Medical & Hospital Administration. At the outset major (Dr.) Sachin mane, Head - Medical & Hospital Administration explained the peculiar feature of the Kohinoor Hospital. "This hospital is part of



(L to R ) Ashraf Sheikh, Dr. Altmash Sheikh, Ms. Mohini Mathur, Suresh Srivastava, Dr. Ramesh Rao & A.A. Syed - Observing World Health Day - 2013, Kohinoor Hospital, Mumbai

the well-known and fast growing Mumbai-based Kohinoor Group. Kohinoor Hospital is Asia's first and the world's second LEED Platinum-rated hospital building under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System. It is a 175-bed capacity multi-specialty hospital, located at Kohinoor City, Kurla-Vidyavihar. The hospital is equipped with world-class medical equipment and technology."

Suresh Srivastava while addressing the audience also read out the excerpts from the UN Secretary General's following message:

"Raised blood pressure, a main trigger for cardiovascular disease, all too often goes undiagnosed because symptoms are rare.

The good news is that when it is detected early enough, relatively simple steps can significantly reduce the risk of heart attacks, heart failure and strokes. That is why the United Nations encourages all adults to have their blood pressure regularly checked at healthcare facilities.

Following a healthy lifestyle can add years to our lives. The evidence is unequivocal. Cutting down on the consumption of processed salt, eating a balanced diet, avoiding harmful use of alcohol, getting regular exercise, reducing stress and avoiding tobacco use minimize the risk of developing high blood pressure and further consequences such as strokes or heart attacks."

## Maharashtra UNA

Ashraf Ahmed Shaikh introduced the theme, he explained the importance of World Health Day observance all around the globe. He further elaborated the role of United Nations, WHO and UNAs in fulfillment of their objectives and need for creating awareness for the welfare of public at large.

Mrs. Mohini Mathur explained the various activities of MUNA and appreciated the role of youth of the organization in making outreach. She also spoke about the ill effects of High Blood Pressure and its effects. Ms. Mathur explained said the theme "High Blood Pressure" is extremely important as it is a silent killer and most of the people are not aware about their raised blood pressure.

Dr. Altamash Shaikh, Consultant Endocrinologist & Metabolic Physician, Dr. Rakesh Singh, Consultant Neurophysician, and Dr. Ramesh Rao, Consultant Nephrologist, enlightened the audience on how to tackle hypertension with small lifestyle changes.

One out of every three individuals is a victim of hypertension. People fail to consider the prevention aspect of hypertension. When a person gets to know that he has high blood pressure, he considers it to be a normal phenomenon that cannot be prevented. Lifestyle changes like reduce in consumption of alcohol and tobacco;



**Major (Dr.) Sachin Mane, Head Medical & Hospital Administration Lighting the ceremonial lamp, looks on A.A. Syed, Ms. Mohini Mathur, Ashraf Sheikh & Suresh Srivastava**

increase in physical activity and healthy food intake can help in prevention of high blood pressure.

Doctors of the country have been successful in eradicating epidemics like small pox, polio and malaria which were much prevalent in the past. Kerala, known

for its damp climate, reported very few cases of malaria in the previous year. Also, there was no case reported of polio from India in the previous year. Hence if people take necessary precaution, hypertension too can be similarly eradicated.

A.A.Syed, Secretary General, MUNA, Proposed a vote of thanks and in his address he thanked all the partner organization for coming together for such an important and relevant cause on health.

The programme was concluded by a free blood pressure, blood sugar and weight check for all the delegates present in the observance. Maharashtra United Nations Association (MUNA) has also launched its website on this occasion [www.muna.org.in](http://www.muna.org.in) by the auspicious hands of Adv. Suresh Srivastava, Secretary General - Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA).WHO Country office for India sent 'WHO information Kits' on this occasion.

The scientific contents for this programme was designed and developed by Dr. Altamash Shaikh, Leading Consultant Endocrinologist & Metabolic Physician at Mumbai. ▲

*(Report By Ashraf A. Shaikh Secretary MUNA)*



**Ms. Mohini Mathur, Chairperson - MUNA getting her blood sugar test on World Health Day-2013. At Kohinoor Hospital.**



# INDO German Agreement

**ANGELA MERKEL AND PRIME MINISTER MANMMOHAN SINGH HAVE HAILED GERMANY AND INDIA  
"TAKING A STEP CLOSER TOGETHER" IN THEIR BERLIN MEETING**

*"New Delhi and Berlin have already reached a consensus in the agriculture sector. Two-way trade between India and the EU stood at \$91.3 billion in 2010-11."*

**T**he Indo-German cooperation opens up excellent prospects for developing both countries to the benefit of their peoples.

In the back drop of German Chancellor Angela Merkel warning to the Germans in her annual New Year address that the economy, Europe's biggest, would experience a harder time next year than in 2012, she co-chaired a meeting with Indian Prime Minister Man Mohan Singh in Berlin on 11 April, 2013 and agreed to broaden the cooperation and "shape the future" of both the countries with focus on trade, bilateral investment, energy, hi-tech and defense. They shared the view that new initiatives in the area of trade, bilateral investment, energy, energy security, the environment, culture, education, training, research, technology and defense can catalyze and activate the great potential of their bilateral ties,

Angela Merkel and Prime Minister Man Mohan Singh have hailed Germany and India "taking a step closer together" in the Berlin meeting. A desired free trade deal with the EU remains a pipedream for now though.

Besides agreeing to greater cooperation



**Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and his accompanying cabinet colleagues with German Chancellor Ms. Angela Merkel in Berlin. Seen l to r are Indian Ministers, Salman Khurshid, Jaipal Reddy (on wheel chair) German Chancellor Ms. Merkel, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Farooq Abdullah and Anand Sharma.**

at all international bodies, both sides agreed to continue working together to prepare the ground for India to accede to the export control regimes as a full member and thereby strengthen the international non-proliferation regime.

"The Indo-German cooperation opens up excellent prospects for developing both countries to the benefit of their peoples.

"Germany and India share the view that

new initiatives in the area of trade, bilateral investment, energy, energy security, the environment, culture, education, training, research, technology and defence can catalyze and activate the great potential of their bilateral ties," said a joint statement released at the end of the Indo-German intergovernmental consultations held in Berlin.

Germany and India are determined to

## BILATERAL RELATION



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and German Chancellor Angela Merkel talk with Indian schoolchildren from Kendriya Vidyalaya at the Federal Chancellery in Berlin

further expand their cooperation in higher education, research and technology -- dynamic core areas of the Indo-German Partnership -- and to open up new and innovative areas of cooperation, the statement said.

The statement titled 'Shaping the future together' noted that close trade and investment relations are a core dimension of bilateral partnership and of great importance for the development of both the Indian and the German economies.

"Both governments will strongly back a further intensification of Indo-German business cooperation. Both sides would encourage cooperation in the field of rare earths on mutually beneficial terms. Both Governments recognize that expanding high technology trade and cooperation is key to deepening the strategic content of their relations.

"They agree to consult regularly on advancing this objective and to this end form a High Technology Partnership Group including both government and business,"

Both sides emphasized that freedom of movement for business visitors and professionals is important for the sustained growth of trade and investment flows, and agreed to work together to facilitate such movement between the two countries.

Germany and India reaffirmed that they

### SIGNIFICANCE OF GERMANY TO INDIA:

- ◆ Germany is India's largest economic partner in Europe and one of our key global partners for trade, investment and technology.
- ◆ Indo-German bilateral trade had registered an increase of 18.4 per cent and reached Euros 18.37 billion in 2011.
- ◆ Germany is also a key partner for us in areas like infrastructure, manufacturing, science and technology, higher education, vocational training and clean and renewable energy.
- ◆ Germany plays a key role in the global economy and, in particular, in stability and growth in the Euro Zone, which has an important bearing on the Indian economy

### OUTCOME OF THE MEET:

- ◆ India and Germany agreed on the importance of an early conclusion of a balanced India-EU Broad Based Trade and Investment Agreement.
- ◆ Both have agreed to set up a High Technology Partnership Group.
- ◆ Both countries agreed to continue with their efforts through the G-4 for the reform of the United Nations Security Council to reflect the current realities.
- ◆ They also emphasized the importance of sustained international support to Afghanistan through its transition to a stable, peaceful and democratic future.

will continue their successful development cooperation in a spirit of partnership. Assisting projects with innovative approaches in the mutually identified priority areas of energy, environment and sustainable economic development support India's inclusive development and poverty reduction programmes..

Germany and India expressed satisfaction at the deepening comprehensive bilateral relations between India and EU and "recognize that both India and EU, as long-standing strategic partners, are committed to working together to reinforce the relationship in all areas".

"The leaders underline their strong



**BERLIN:** India and Germany on Thursday inked six key MoUs including that for putting together 7 million for next four years towards joint research in the field of higher education and a pact for a soft loan of 1 billion for strengthening the green energy corridor. A pact to promote German as a foreign language was also signed by the two sides following the 2nd round of inter-governmental consultations in Berlin. Under pacts signed, both Germany and India have committed to 3.5 million each towards working on joint research and innovation programmes. According to officials, under the strengthening of German language collaboration, currently 30,000 children in Kendriya Vidyalaya are learning German and under the pact they will try to increase the capacity. A pact regarding the establishment of green energy corridor was also signed besides one in agriculture and establishment of a working group in infrastructure, cooperation in standardization, conformity assessment and product safety. Under the pact for the green energy corridor, the grid system in several states will be used to transmit energy produced by renewable and non-conventional means. Another pact for India-German civil security research was also signed. Minister for human resources development Pallam Raju, who accompanied Prime Minister, said the two countries knew each other's strengths and have identified some areas for the joint research. The human resources development minister also said Germany has been on a "very sound technical footing" because of which there were many programmes assisted and handled by Germans in both IIT Chennai and IIT, Mandi. According to official data, around 4500 Indian students are pursuing various courses in Germany, while around 800 German students are studying or doing their internships in India.

### India-EU FTA talks gain momentum

WHILE seeking a good package for the IT industry, including allowing flexible movement of IT professionals, India has made it clear to the European Union (EU) that it cannot go beyond the parameters of the TRIPS (Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights) Agreement and its laws for Intellectual Property Regime (IPR) in the ongoing negotiations for a trade and investment agreement.

The Indian position was conveyed by Commerce and Industry Minister, Anand Sharma, who led a high-level Indian delegation during negotiations in Brussels on April 15 for a ministerial dialogue with EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht on the ongoing India-European Union Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) talks.

Stating that the negotiations had gained momentum in the light of talks between the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, and the Prime Minister,

Manmohan Singh, Anand Sharma underscored the importance of getting a good package on services, including declared interests in IT and movement of Indian professionals. "The April 15 meeting was less aimed at trade talks but more directed at conveying a political message about the importance of concluding this agreement at the earliest," a senior official, who was part of the talks, said.

Officials, who were privy to the negotiations from the Indian side, said India impressed upon the EU negotiators on the need to declare India a data-secure country. At the same time, both sides sought a

complete understanding on a balanced package in the services sector. Mr. Sharma also highlighted the issue of market access for agricultural products, pharmaceuticals and textiles.

The EU side strongly pitched for concessions in the financial services, including opening up of the insurance sector for foreign direct investment (FDI) from the present 26 per cent to 49 per cent. The EU side was also forthright in conveying to the Indian side its strong interest in the automobile sector, where it was demanding dismantling of duties, working on putting in place a stable taxation regime for wines and spirits and access for dairy products. The EU negotiators also sought an assurance on the facilitation of registration of their Geographical Indicators.

Both sides termed the talks as positive and moving in the right direction and decided to hold the next ministerial in June. It



**Anand Sharma, Commerce and Industry Minister of India with EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht in Brussels**

was felt by both sides that after the meeting of Dr. Singh and German Chancellor and the recent high-level dialogue with President François Hollande of France and U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron, the need for demonstrating pragmatism was underlined to conclude an ambitious and balanced agreement. The candid discussion between the leaders covered all the elements of the package. A clear understanding was reached that a fine balance needs to be arrived at for meaningful expectations of market access on both the sides. "We look forward to renewed progress in the coming months,"

commitment to a successful outcome to the EU India negotiations for a broad based, ambitious and balanced Free Trade Agreement that will generate jobs and growth in both countries and their hope for final agreement in 2013," the statement said.

It added that Germany and India will seek to intensify consultations within the G20 and strengthen the G20's role as the premier forum for international economic and financial cooperation.

"Both sides will therefore, make strenuous efforts to achieve a consensus on trade facilitation by a balanced package of issues this year at the 9th WTO Ministerial Conference so as to ensure there is still a prospect of bringing the Doha Round to a conclusion,"

On the security front, both sides agreed to intensify further their exchange of views

and experience on combating terrorism as well as their practical cooperation in this connection, also in the Indo-German Working Group on Counter-Terrorism as well as multilateral forums.

"In the light of new security challenges both sides are keen to intensify their security policy dialogue and exchange of views. "Both sides expressed their keenness to enhance cooperation in the defence sector through dialogue and exchanges on matters of mutual interest, including in the area of defence technology collaboration," the joint statement said.

Germany and India reaffirmed that they will work together for a world without nuclear weapons, for universal and non-discriminatory global nuclear disarmament and a reduced salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines. ▲

## INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF WATER COOPERATION JAL JAN JODO ABHIYAN

# The 'Waterman' is on a mission, yet again

As the United Nations launched the International Year of Water Cooperation on 11th February 2013, **Rajendra Singh** – the Magsaysay award winning 'waterman' of India 50 people "who could save the planet", embarked on a crusade yet again. He is on a Jal Jan Jodo Abhiyan and travelling across the country from 20th April 2013 to mobilize the masses against the "flawed water policies" that has not just resulted in turning rivers into drains, but are also not in compliance with the United Nations conventions. In an exclusive interview to **Deepak Parvatiyar**, Singh speaks about his movement. Excerpts:

### What is the purpose of your Jal Jan Jodo Abhiyan?

► We are facing a crisis, on one hand from scarcity of water and on the other hand from surplus water. The scarcity of water causes drought and surplus water causes flood.

Sometime the people say it is a natural calamity but now I realise that in India drought and flood is not a natural calamity but a man made calamity. Earlier, there was a disciplined use of water in agriculture, industry and domestic lives. But in the last two hundred years, the people in my country have forgotten that water is life, and water is nature. Today use water as a commodity. Therefore, those who use more water for engineering, technology, and exploit and pollute it, they are the big people. Those who are using less water and adhering to discipline in life, they are not respectable people. So this is the sentiment that shifts the paradigm of development today.

The Jal Jan Jodo Abhiyan is for creating an awareness on water conservation in society. We want to start a debate within the Indian community, civil society, bureaucrats, technocrats and politicians. We don't respect the privatisation of water but we respect the communitisation of water. I have got time tested success in last 30 years in communitisation.

### How confident are you about the success of this

### movement?

► I am getting good response to my call. I reached Kannur on 20th April 2013. On 21st April 2013, two ministers of Kerala government – Mr. K. C. Joseph, rural development minister and Mr. K. P. Marena, Agriculture minister met me and decided at the end that they will not institute any desalination plant in Kannur, as was proposed earlier but will, carry on water literacy awareness programs. This was a good beginning. The water desalination plants that would have adversely affected the marine life as in these desalination plants more than 35 per cent are concentrated due to which pollution rises. This is not my movement but of the people. It is open for everyone. Scarcity, flood, privatisation of water are big issues that we are facing today. More than 100 bureaucrats, technocrats and politicians have joined this movement. My movement is a continuous process for changing the management system to uphold the right of Nature. It is a long war and does not have a temporary solution. We need good policy as well as good action.

### You are already a member of the National River Ganga Basin Authority, and an expert member of the Inter Ministerial Group on River Ganga. Why did you decide to take to the streets and launch the movement?

► The purpose of the Inter- Ministerial Group on Ganga river management was to find out ways to save Ganga and restore its flow. It was set up by the prime minister on 17 April 2012. But after working for a year, the committee prepared a report, which instead of talking of saving the river, talked about how to give green signal to dams on Ganga in Uttarakhand. "There are 69 dams being built on the Ganga, out of which 14 have been commissioned, 18 are under construction, 16 are proposed and rest are under various stages of approval. Once completed, they will cover 83 per cent of the river and will destroy the Ganga as we know it today. The report is just the



opposite of the mandate given to the committee. It was supposed to look at the health of Ganga by finding ways to restructure old dams and stop construction of new dams to ensure the environmental and ecological flow of Ganga. During discussions within the group, it was noted that a minimum environmental flow of 75 per cent in winters and 50 per cent in summers should be ensured. However, the final report reduces these to 30 per cent and 20 per cent, respectively. It appears that report is prepared to facilitate the big dam lobby so I have submitted my dissent note where I have clearly stated that I don't accept this report because it does not have the intention to ensure the clean flow of Ganga but to safeguard the interest of the big dam lobby. They are very active and were also present during the meetings. Only they have been heard in this report.

Moreover, my proposal is that community driven decentralized water management system should be implemented which is much cheaper. I had already submitted a recommendation before the ministry of water resources and ministry of environment and forest in this regard. So far there is no response from the government. The matter is quite serious and that's why I have decided to start a

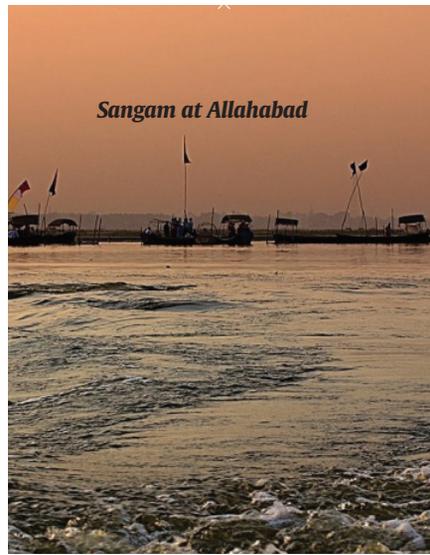


countrywide journey from Kannur to spread awareness about the flawed water policies of the government.

**Your allegations are quite serious. How do you assess the water situation in the country?**

▶ We have rejuvenated seven dead rivers in Rajasthan. On one hand the community driven decentralised water management created a great thing and on the other hand wherever they spend the money and create big dams, there is no greenery and we face the climate change. A lot of people now put the onus of development on our leaders, state, and municipal corporations. In earlier times, this was not the case. The thinking was that if the rains come, we can catch the drops and collect these drops and use them in life. So every home had a tank for storing drinking water. Nowadays nobody, has tanks. People depend on the municipal corporations to supply water from the pipeline to their kitchen, bathroom and home. The dependency syndrome is very high and because of this nobody bothers about the conservation of water. The thinking among the politicians, bureaucrats and technocrats is that they have the right to encroach upon the water sources, pollute rivers and exploit the underground water.

The declaration of development starts with displacement – displacement of knowledge, displacement of the wisdom, displacement of the greenery, displacement of the moisture from the soil, and displacement of the people from the country. And after displacement starts the destruction and finally this process of destruction reaching to disaster. Now you can see in Maharashtra. Maharashtra is a state where they have spent a lot of money in the name of water resource development. 40 per cent of the dam is constructed only in the one state i.e. Maharashtra. Big dams...lot of big dams. Now there is no water there. Lot of people are committing suicide. Lot of people are migrating from rural to urban areas. So you complain about the displacement from the urban to the rural. Now you complain of the pressure on the urban area and tension between the rural and urban people. Compare this with Rajasthan, where people conserve water and make some disciplined rule and regulations for usage of water in a disciplined way. Today, they are the flood free people. They



Sangam at Allahabad

are the drought free people. Now they have enough water there. So I can say where the community driven decentralised water management system is alive in our country, there is no drought and no flood. No natural calamity. But where there has been development of big dams, canals, and pipelines, there is no water there. Lot of money is spent there in the name of the development of the dams.

**So would you say that India's record in upholding the UN Conventions on Water is not satisfactory?**

▶ India's position is not satisfactory because we are not serious. The new global market is coming. There are new threats to the rivers in terms of pollution, over exploitation and encroachment of river source. There is encroachment on the rivers, lakes, water sources and water bodies. Every river is being polluted by the government institutions such as the panchayat bodies, municipal corporations, and industrial corporations. The exploitation of the water bodies and rivers is continuous. So if we cannot give equal right to people, pure drinking water will not be available. There is no awareness about the UN conventions in our society and the bureaucracy as well.

**So what is your action plan?**

▶ There should be safe drinking water for everyone. Water is a human right but more than 60 per cent people don't get safe drinking water. We plan to create awareness about catching the cloud and rain harvesting like in Rajasthan. We want awareness about making community driven decentralised infrastructure. A lot of different type of people are showing interest today. They are giving their commitment. I have some seeds of hope. Today some good state governments too coming to us but this is also because elections are on the hand and they feel they can show some good work. We are not bothered about the governments.

**Face to face**

We are bothered about the people. People are taking interest and they are helping. For the last three years I am working for a good river policy...not water policy, but a good river policy because there is no state in our country, which is bothered about rivers. Every river is going dry and dead like drain. Today the water policies by states are dictated by market forces that treat water as a commodity. The water market is behind such water policies. These policies are not good. Nobody today realises that the river has a right like the human rights. Every river has a freedom and nobody has the right to change the status of the river bed and its catchment areas.

**It seems you have a Utopian dream...**

▶ We need the infrastructure for this type action but we are not making it a centrally controlled infrastructure expenditure intensive program but making it a community driven decentralised investment for infrastructure development by mobilising of the source at the local level to make a good model like what we did in Rajasthan. I am not spending a single paisa from the government but taking money from the community, from those who are taking interest in this action. So this community driven view is a transparent way and we are making a system where the people can show good models all over the country. I am happy that different people are coming to me to take up different roles and responsibilities.

**The present UPA government shelved the NDA's grand plan of linking the rivers. Do you think the project could have helped resolving the issue of floods and droughts?**

▶ The Indian Constitution has no provision for the linking of the rivers. If they can change the Constitution they can link rivers. But it is going to cost heavily not only in terms of money but also in terms of our ecology. I was made an expert member of the linking of the river task force. I am always against the linking, right from the beginning. I created an awareness campaign against the linking move at that time. Linking of rivers will cause social, environmental, political, economical conflict and we have no judicial system that could resolve these conflicts. ▲

*(Deepak Parvatiyar is a New Delhi based senior journalist and an award winning film maker)*



Dr. Mukul Sangma, Newly elected Chairman, IFUNA  
Sitting in the centre

Editor and Advisors of PEOPLE AND UN welcome Dr. Mukul Sangma, The Honourable Chief Minister of Meghalaya on his election as the Chairman of Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA).



*With  
compliments  
from*

***Indian Beverage Association***

**5th floor, PHD House, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi-110016**

**Tel. 46508722, Fax: 46508733, [www.in-beverage.org](http://www.in-beverage.org)**