

CONNECTING INDIA WITH ITS DIASPORA



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PRAVASI BHARATIYA

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# America's Gurus

There's a galaxy of **Indian Americans** today in top **U.S. universities**, helming the frontiers of knowledge and innovation. What is their mantra?

MINISTRY OF  
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS

PLUS

P 24 Tracing Roots | P 36 Interpreting Bharat | P 40 Cinema in Vienna

# GLOBAL – INDIAN NETWORK OF KNOWLEDGE (GLOBAL–INK): “THE VIRTUAL THINK TANK”

AN INITIATIVE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS

Global –INK positioned as a strategic “virtual think tank” connects Overseas Indians (knowledge providers) with the development process (knowledge receivers) in India and empowers them to partner in India’s progress.

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Editorial correspondence and manuscripts can be addressed to  
[pravasi.bharatiya@gmail.com](mailto:pravasi.bharatiya@gmail.com)

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## LOVE IN VIENNA

India-born Austrian film director Sandeep Kumar is making a Bollywood-style musical film, titled 'Servus Ishq' or 'Hello, Love', in the heart of picturesque Austria



## INDIA, QATAR SIGN OIL PACT, DISCUSS NRI WELFARE

INDIA AND energy-rich Qatar, home to half a million Indians, have sealed six agreements in diverse areas, including an overarching pact on cooperation in oil and gas exploration.

During his recent three-day visit to India, Qatar's Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani held talks with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on a range of issues, including boosting trade and investment as well as energy ties between the two countries. They also discussed issues relating to the welfare of Indian workers in

the Gulf country. Following the talks, India's Petroleum Minister S. Jaipal Reddy and Qatar's Energy Minister Mohammed Bin Saleh al-Sada signed a pact on establishing a cooperative framework to enhance bilateral cooperation in oil and gas.

The pact envisages cooperation in the areas of upstream and downstream oil and gas activities.

It is expected to encourage and promote investment and cooperation between the two ministries of oil and gas and through affiliated companies.

## KERALA DOUBLES AID TO DIASPORA

THE KERALA government on March 28 doubled the financial assistance extended to the weaker and poorer sections of the state's Diaspora.

The financial assistance is for exigencies such as medical help and bringing back the bodies of those who pass away abroad.

"The financial assistance for medical assistance and to take care of funeral expenses of those who pass away abroad has been doubled from ₹10,000 to ₹20,000," Chief Minister Oommen Chandy said.

"The assistance for conducting marriages of the children of the Diaspora has also been doubled to ₹15,000," the Chief Minister added.



## GITA GETS POLISH TRANSLATION

THE BHAGWAD Gita has found form in a new translation in Polish. Anna Racinska, an Indologist and an expert in Sanskrit, has translated the Sanskrit text of the conversation between Krishna and Arjuna into Polish. There also exists an earlier Polish translation of the Gita; it was translated from English in the beginning of the 20th century.

Part of the epic story of the Mahabharata, the Gita records Krishna's advice to Arjuna when the latter is beset with doubt at the prospect of taking up arms against his elders and those who are of his own flesh and blood. The text is the quintessential philosophy drawn from the ancient traditional Indian schools of thought.

Racinska, now in her 60s, spent almost a decade in Varanasi to master the nuances of Sanskrit. Two years ago, she received her doctorate in Sanskrit from the Oriental Institute of Warsaw University.

## INDIA CAUTIONS AGAINST SLOWDOWN IN IMF REFORMS

EXPRESSING ITS disappointment at the pace of reform on quota and governance issues in the International Monetary Fund (IMF), India has said that a dynamic reform process is necessary to ensure IMF's legitimacy and effectiveness.

"The best possible means to improve governance and legitimacy is by ensuring that there is no slippage on crucial reforms," Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee said recently at a joint session of the policy-making International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) and G-20.

Stressing the central importance of quo-

tas as the main determinant of the voting power of members, he said there should not be any slippage in the January 2013 target date for quota formula review.

For the emerging and developing countries, GDP was the most important variable in the quota formula and the weight of the blended GDP variable should be substantially increased in the formula, Mukherjee said.

"Our objective is a simple formula with GDP blend as either the sole or predominant variable and with a higher share of GDP-PPP," he said.

## SOUMITRA CHATTERJEE GETS DADA SAHEB PHALKE AWARD

LEGENDARY BENGALI actor Soumitra Chatterjee, who has played a wide range of characters in films by Satyajit Ray, has been awarded India's highest film honour — the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2012. Chatterjee made his debut in 1959 with Ray's *Apur Sansar* and soon became the director's favourite actor. He played the lead role in most of the moviemaker's classics, including *Sonar Kella*, *Charulata*, and *Ghare Baire*.

Apart from Ray, Chatterjee has also worked with other acclaimed directors, such as Mrinal Sen, Tapan Sinha, Tarun Majumdar, Aparna Sen, Goutam Ghose and Rituparno Ghosh.

Some of his notable movies are *Jhinder Bandi*, *Koni*, *Kaapurush*, *Akash Kusum*, *Aranyer Din Ratri*, *Joy Baba Felunath*, *Teen Bhubaner Pare*, *Ganashatru* and *Shakha Proshakha*.



Besides films, Chatterjee is also known for his passion for the stage where he has both acted and directed plays. He is also one of the all-time best elocutionists of Bengal.

He is also a recipient of Padma Bhushan, Officier des Arts et Métiers from the French government and a lifetime achievement award from Italy.

## INDIAN STUDENT WINS CONTEST



INDIA'S Sachin S. Kukke, seen above with India's Ambassador to the US Nirupama Rao, is the Asia-Pacific region winner and one of the six global winners of the YouTube Space Lab 2012 contest for young people to design experiments that could be performed in outer space.

The winners of the contest, conducted by YouTube and Lenovo in cooperation with Space Adventures, NASA, ESA (European Space Agency), and JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency), were announced at a ceremony at the Newseum in Washington on March 23.

A student of mechanical engineering at the BMS College for Engineering in Bangalore, Kukke's experiment explores transfer of heat in ferrofluid — a special liquid that gets magnetised when subjected to a magnetic field. The study can benefit development of advanced cooling and heat transfer systems.

## NEW PROTOCOL TO HELP INDIANS IN UAE

AIMING to streamline the registration of 1.7 million Indian contract workers in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), India and the UAE on April 4 signed a protocol to facilitate an electronic validation system for the purpose.

The new system will ensure transparency in the contracting process by mandating that the prospective worker be duly informed by Indian government-accredited recruitment agencies of the terms of the contract.

The information to be given to the worker

would include the scope of remuneration and employment conditions and benefits, as per a statement from the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs.

Overseas Indian Affairs Minister Vayalar Ravi said India was implementing a comprehensive e-governance system towards making the process of overseas deployment of Indian workers transparent and accessible to stakeholders.



## INDIAN MODERN ART GOES ONLINE

THE NATIONAL Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) has officially moved to a 'new address' in cyberspace where visitors can walk through its new-age



portals and check out the permanent exhibits in a virtual tour powered by the search engine Google. The popular search engine has also uploaded a separate slice of NGMA's archive of 94 artworks by 71 artists under its ongoing Google Art Project. The project recently

unveiled its tie-ups with the New Delhi-based NGMA and the National Museum, as part of its partnership with the Ministry of Culture.

Altogether, 250 artworks have been uploaded from NGMA and the National Museum, spanning more than 150 years of Indian art, starting 1850.

The partnership with the Ministry of Culture brings India on board the international project with 151 partners from 41 countries nearly a year after the project began in early 2011 with 17 countries to create an international database of art for online viewing.



## INDIAN BIZ SCHOOL COURSES FOR PAKISTAN

THE INDIAN School of Business (ISB), one of the top business schools in the world, recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi, to provide executive education in Pakistan.

The Centre for Executive Education

(CEE) at ISB will offer "open" and "custom-designed" programmes under the collaboration, the first as part of its mission of focusing on emerging markets.

According to the MoU, ISB would provide executive education courses to senior management executives in Pakistan.





## RHINO POPULATION UP BY 250

A CENSUS of one-horned rhinos at the renowned Kaziranga National Park (KNP) in Assam recorded an increase of almost 250 animals over a three-year period. The last census in 2009 recorded 2,048 rhinos in KNP, of which eight were trans-

located to Manas National Park. The latest census has recorded the presence of 2,290 one-horned rhinos in the park, a senior official involved in the census operation said. With 2,290 rhinos in KNP, Assam's total rhino population now stands at 2,505.

## \$430 BN IN NEW FUNDING FOR IMF

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund has almost doubled its "fire power" to protect the world economy against deepening debt turmoil in Europe with the Group of 20 nations, including India, pledging \$430 billion in new funding.

The new commitments to the global lender from the world's largest economies to guard against global risks were announced recently after a meeting of Group of 20 finance ministers and central bankers at the spring meetings of the IMF and World Bank.

"This signals the strong resolve of the international community to secure global



financial stability and put the world economic recovery on a sounder footing," said IMF managing director Christine Lagarde.

## HARAPPAN RELICS FOUND

ARCHAEOLOGICAL experts from Cambridge and Banaras Hindu University (BHU) have dug out relics believed to be associated with the ancient Harappan civilisation from a village in Haryana.

Extensive excavations at the ancient Tida Bud Teela, a mound spread over a 400 sq m area, in Khalsa Bohla village in Karnal district, 160 km from Chandigarh, have led to the relics.

"The relics include pottery, bones, mud walls, grain store and red-coloured utensils, which are believed to have been used by people belonging to the Harappan era," Arun Pandey, the excavation team leader, said.

## 'WORLD'S MOST ETHICAL FIRMS'

TATA STEEL and Wipro have been named among the world's most ethical companies by the American think tank, Ethisphere Institute.

These are the only two Indian companies to have featured in the 2012 list of the World's Most Ethical Companies prepared by Ethisphere Institute.

"It is a great honour for Tata Steel to be recognised under such an important and prestigious parameter," said H.M. Nerurkar, managing director, Tata Steel.

## '14 INNOVATION UNIVERSITIES TO BE SET UP IN INDIA'

FOURTEEN innovation universities would be set up in the country during the 12th Five Year Plan, Union Minister of State for Planning, Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Ashwani Kumar said in Chandigarh recently.

Kumar was speaking during a visit to the city where he reviewed the pro-

grammes and plan priorities of the Haryana government. The visit preceded the meeting of the Haryana government with the Planning Commission for the state's annual plan discussion.

Ashwani Kumar said he had asked the Haryana government to send a proposal to set up one such university in the state as it

was already developing an Education City in Sonapat district. Kumar said that the education hub being set up by Haryana at Kundli, 50 km from New Delhi, would benefit not only Haryana but also the whole of North India. He said the education hub would receive all necessary help from the Central government.



## COLLECTION OF INDIAN, ASIAN ART CREATES RECORD

THE DORIS WIENER Collection, a collection of Indian classical and Southeast Asian art auctioned by the Christie's in New York, has raised nearly \$12.8 million — one of the highest total price for a single collection by the auction house, Christie's said recently.

A 13th century bronze figure of Padma-pani from Nepal sold for \$2,490,500.

"The sale of the Doris Wiener collection on March 19 night marked a milestone for the field. Realising nearly \$12.8 million, this is the highest total ever achieved for a single owner collection of classical Indian and Southeast Asian Art at Christie's," said Hugo Weihe, international director of

Indian and Southeast Asian art.

He said the collection included "an outstanding group of exceptionally rare and beautiful works — testament to Wiener's discerning eye as a doyen in the field".

Weihe said several sculptures and classical art shot past their pre-sale estimates, including a "gilt bronze figure of Padma-pani and a bronze group of Somaskanda, sculptures depicting Lord Shiva, Uma and their son Skanda from south India."

The Doris Wiener Collection included nearly 400 sculpture and paintings from Gandhara, the Himalayas, India and Southeast Asia, assembled by Wiener, a renowned collector.

## URANIUM ORE MINE STARTS

INDIA commissioned a uranium ore mine and processing plant in Andhra Pradesh recently. The mine is estimated to have one of the most significant uranium reserves in the world and could fuel 25 per cent of the country's nuclear plants.

Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Srikumar Banerjee commissioned the ₹1.1-billion plant developed by the Uranium Corporation of India Ltd (UCIL) at Thummalapalle in YSR Kadapa district, which is estimated to have world's largest uranium reserves.

Speaking on the occasion, Banerjee told reporters that India now had the capability to develop its own uranium ore mines instead of depending on imports.

He said nuclear power generation in the country would reach 60,000 megawatts by the year 2050.

He described the uranium processed in Thummalapalle as one of the best quality uranium available in the world.

The newly-commissioned plant has a capacity of mining and processing 3,000 tonnes of uranium a day.

## NOD TO AIR INDIA'S RECOVERY

INDIA'S BELEAGUERED carrier Air India has got a new lease of life as the government recently approved plans for a turnaround in its fortunes with a rehaul of its financial and operational efficiency.

"The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the turnaround (TAP) and financial restructuring plans (FRP) for Air India. The company will start making cash profits from 2018, but net profit which is the actual profit will take some more time," Civil Aviation Minister Ajit Singh told reporters in New Delhi.

The comprehensive TAP involves an



operational aspect along with an FRP to help Air India improve its functional and financial position which includes hiving off maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) and ground handling (GH) businesses as subsidiaries of Air India and other measures.

## 'INDIA GOOD FOR INVESTING'

ALLAYING a "misapprehension" about some retroactive changes in Indian tax laws, Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee has assured corporate America that India was a good investment destination with a clear and stable tax regime.

"There is some sense of despondency amongst a section of US businessmen, particularly because of their apprehension, and I would say misapprehension, about certain legislative amendments which we have proposed," he said in Washington recently. "There is no uncertainty and the changes have been made to bring certainty to the tax law, that was the intention from the beginning," Mukherjee said in a talk at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, a Washington think-tank.

The proposed changes to impose retroactive tax on some international mergers that exchange Indian assets announced in the budget couldn't be used to reopen tax cases more than six years old as other legislation existed to prevent this, he said.

Mukherjee said, "No case can be reopened which is more than six years old."





# GLOBAL INDIANS AMERICAN GURUS

Cutting across domains, Indian Americans today have come to occupy top positions, due, in large part, to hard work and a determination to succeed in an intensely competitive multicultural context.

**Arun Kumar** writes from Washington

**T**he global Indian has made his mark everywhere. From administration to business to politics to science and technology to the academic world, overseas Indians have come to occupy the top echelons thanks to their intellect, hard work and determination to succeed. Over 3.2 million people of Indian origin have made America, the land of opportunity, their home over the years. Today, two of them are state governors, some lead multinational companies, a score of them hold high places in the Obama administration and as many head institutions of higher learning.

Take Renu Khator, 56, who in January 2008 became the first woman Chancellor

of the University of Houston System and the first Indian immigrant to head a comprehensive research university in the United States. Given the 'Outstanding Americans by Choice' award by the US, she is a member of the Indian Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council.

But it was not easy to break the 'bamboo ceiling', Uttar Pradesh-born Khator, who graduated from University of Kanpur before coming to the US to do a master's and a PhD in political science from Purdue University, says.

"As an immigrant woman, I always have known that I had to work harder to climb the ladder of success, I have been aware that certain difficulties exist, sometimes re-

Nitin Nohria, Dean of Harvard Business School, addressing some of India's top business leaders at Harvard Business School's first classroom in India set up by the Tata Group at Lands End in Mumbai. Inaugurated by Ratan Tata, Chairman, Tata Sons, the amphitheatre-style classroom has a seating capacity of 82 students and is indistinguishable from the MBA classrooms in Boston. The Harvard Business School faculty will offer programmes to Indian industry leaders in business, government and academia. Seen in the picture (from left, front row) are Ratan Tata, Tata Sons Chairman-Designate Cyrus Mistry, and Naina Lal Kidwai, Country Head of HSBC India.





ferred to as ‘the bamboo ceiling,’” she says.

“However, I believe you can transcend such limitations through ambition and hard work — as well as the assistance of wise mentors, considerate colleagues and supportive family members,” Khator says in explaining how she could make it to one of the most prestigious jobs in American academia.

#### A WIDE SWATHE

There are others too, who, like Khator, have made their mark in academia from business schools to institutions of science and technology to robotics to psychology and brain sciences.

In September 2010, US President Barack Obama, who has more Indian-Americans in his administration than any other that preceded his, named Subra Suresh, a graduate from Indian Institute of Technology-Madras and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF). Before joining this only American government science agency charged with advancing all fields of fundamental science and engineering research, Suresh was Dean of Engineering at MIT for three



#### American academia is a meritocracy

that allows the talented to prosper regardless of background or where you come from...

— **Renu Khator**  
Chancellor,  
University of Houston System

years. He is the author of over 210 research articles in international journals, co-editor of five books, and co-holder of 14 American and international patents.

Another Indian, neuroscientist Vilayanur Ramachandran, 60, has been listed by Time magazine as one of the 100 most-in-

Sunil Gupta, the Edward W. Carter Professor of Business Administration and Head of the Marketing Department at Harvard Business School, in one of his classes.

fluential people in the world and called “The Marco Polo of Neuroscience” by Richard Dawkins, author of *The Blind* and *Modern Paul Broca* by Nobel Laureate Eric Kandel. “What people overlook is the fact that a great deal of science originally comes from India,” says Ramachandran, who is Director of the Centre for Brain and Cognition and Distinguished Professor with the Department of Psychology and Neurosciences Program at the University of California, San Diego.

#### ‘MASTERY OVER TWO CULTURES’

Jamshed Bharucha, 55, was a Professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences at Dartmouth College, a private Ivy League university in Hanover, New Hampshire, till 2002, when he went on to become the Provost of Tufts University, before joining New York-based Cooper Union, one of

America’s oldest schools dedicated to art, architecture and engineering, as its President last year. Bharucha points out the advantages of what he calls “a mastery over two cultures”. Such a capacity helps Indians to bring to the table a global perspective and to fuse some of the finest features of the East and the West in pushing the frontiers of research and innovation, says the Mumbai-born Bharucha.

Another IIT-Bombay alumnus S. Shankar Sastry, an expert in robotics control theory, has been Dean of the College of Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley, since 2007. He was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 2001 and received the Donald P. Eckman Award in 1990.

Yet another IITian, Pradeep K. Khosla, 54, became Dean of the College of Engineering at Carnegie Mellon. He was previously Program Manager at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), where he managed a \$50-million portfolio of programmes in real-time systems, internet-enabled software infrastructure, intelligent and distributed systems.

#### THE ‘B’-SCHOOL MATRIX

However, Indians were finding it a bit hard to crack the top jobs in American B-schools until Assam native Dipak C. Jain, 54, a marketing expert trained in mathematics and statistics, became Dean of the prestigious Kellogg School of Management in 2001. Jain stepped down from Kellogg in 2009 and became Dean of INSEAD, Fontainebleau, France, one of the world’s most prestigious business schools, in March 2011.

Now, at least six Indian-origin people



#### A mastery over two cultures allows us to

think globally and to

bring in the best

features of the East

and the West...

— **Jamshed Bharucha**  
Professor, Psychological and  
Brain Sciences, Dartmouth College

head prestigious American B-schools. Among them is Nitin Nohria, 49, an IIT-Bombay alumnus, who, in July 2010, became the first Indian-American dean of Harvard Business School, possibly the most prestigious business college in the world.

“When I started teaching at HBS (in 1988), it was difficult to find Indian or Chinese case studies. Today, we have 80 cases on Indian companies,” says Nohria, the co-founder of *The Smart Manager*, the Indian business and management magazine, along with Gita Piramal and the late Sumantra Ghoshal. He wants to “give MBA students a dose of real-world experience” by introducing HBS’ “biggest curriculum change in nearly 90 years”.

IIT-Delhi alumnus Soumitra Dutta, 48,

too will become the first person of Indian-origin to head the Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management at Cornell University when he takes over as the 11th dean on July 1. Currently the Roland Berger Chaired Professor in Business and Technology at INSEAD, France, Dutta plans to focus on emerging markets to bring more faculty and students from Brazil, India, China and Indonesia.

“India needs more internal reforms: clean leadership, collective ambition and the courage to make bold decisions,” Dutta says, suggesting, “The Indian leadership needs to do more to ensure the economy doesn’t stall.”

#### ‘GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE’

Bangalore-born Sunil Kumar, 43, became the dean of another top school, Chicago University’s Booth School of Business, on January 1, 2011, after spending 14 years on the faculty of the Stanford University Graduate School of Business where he was the Fred H. Merrill Professor of Operations, Information and Technology. “Indians in the US clearly bring a strong global perspective. The strength of the Indian education system creates advantages,” he says.

Jaishankar Ganesh, 46, a graduate of the Madras Institute of Technology and a noted business education innovator and scholar in international marketing, became the first person of Asian-Indian descent to be chosen as full and permanent dean of the prestigious Rutgers School of Business-Camden in August 2010.

A global search brought G. ‘Anand’ Anandalingam, 54, to the helm of Mary-



**Vilayanur Ramachandran**, Distinguished Professor, Dept of Psychology & Neurosciences, University of California



**S. Shankar Sastry**, Dean, College of Engineering, University of California, Berkeley



**Pradeep K. Khosla**, Dean, College of Engineering, Carnegie Mellon



**Dipak C. Jain**, formerly Dean, Kellogg School of Management, and currently Dean, INSEAD, France



**Nitin Nohria**, Dean, Harvard Business School



**Soumitra Dutta**, Dean-Designate, Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management, Cornell University



land University's Robert H. Smith School of Business, one of the top 15 US business schools, in July 2008. Working there since 2001, he founded the school's Centre for Electronic Markets and Enterprises. Anandalingam also helped found its Centre on Health Information and Decision Systems.

Another Indian, Dr. Yash P. Gupta, with a B.Sc. degree from Panjab University and a Ph.D. in Management Sciences from the University of Bradford, England, has the distinction of serving as dean of business schools at four major research universities, including Johns Hopkins Carey Business School, for over 17 years. He quit Johns Hopkins in 2011 to become the CEO and President of LoganBritton, a data management consultancy.

Dr. Ajay Patel is Professor and GMAC Chair in Finance and Director of the Centre for Enterprise Research and Education at Wake Forest University, North Carolina. Patel, who earlier served as Dean of the Babcock Graduate School of Management, received the Educator of the Year Award 11 times across all the MBA programmes.

Mahendra Gupta, a Bombay University graduate in statistics and economics, became Dean of the Olin Business School at Washington University in St. Louis in July 2005. Students have given him the Reid Teaching Award eight times since 2001.

#### TOP HONOURS

Late last year, the US government conferred on three professors/scientists of Indian origin the country's highest honours in the sciences. Currently Distinguished University Professor, NC State University, and Director, Power Semiconductor Re-



**Indians in the U.S. clearly bring a strong global perspective. The strength of the Indian education system creates advantages...**

**— Sunil Kumar  
Dean, Booth School of Business,  
University of Chicago**

search Center, Member of the National Academy of Engineering and a Fellow of The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Dr. Jayant Baliga has helped transform the semiconductor industry with what he calls the Insulated Gate Bipolar Transistor. For his bouquet of inventions, the US government awarded him the National Medal of Technology and Innovation late last year. The Scientific American called Jayant "One of the Eight Heroes of the Semiconductor Revolution".

Also in the distinguished list was Dr. Srinivasa Varadhan, an Indian-American mathematician, who has done pioneering work in probability theory, helping in the understanding of "are events". His work has found use

in areas as diverse as quantum theory and insurance. Varadhan is Professor of Mathematics and the Frank Jay Gould Professor of Science, Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, New York University.

Prof. Rakesh Agrawal who was the third scientist of Indian origin to be awarded America's top science honour is the Winthrop E. Stone Distinguished Professor at Purdue University, Indiana, and has 116 US patents and nearly 500 non-US patents to his credit. He has made major contributions to the fields of natural gas liquefaction, cryogenics and renewable energy.

#### 'HISTORY OF SUCCESS'

"Indians have had a long history of success in the US academia," says Arvind Panagariya, Professor of Economics & Jagdish Bhagwati Professor of Indian Political Economy at Columbia University and a Non-resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution. "The numbers have grown larger recently partly due to the accumulation effect and partly due to larger numbers of Indian coming to study who then go on to join the academia," he says.

"Indian Americans have started making big impact in the US academic world due to the presence and availability of capable people from our community," says Dr. Thomas Abraham, Founder President of the Global Organization for People of Indian Origin (GOPIO).

"This trend of Indian Americans reaching higher levels in the US academic world will continue," he believes, "as many among the newer generations are also pursuing similar paths as their forebears who came to the US in the 1970s." 🇮🇳



**Jaishankar Ganesh,**  
Permanent Dean,  
Rutgers School of  
Business, Camden



**G. 'Anand'  
Anandalingam, Dean,**  
Robert H. Smith  
School of Business,  
Maryland University



**Yash P. Gupta,**  
formerly Dean, Johns  
Hopkins Carey  
Business School, and  
currently CEO,  
LoganBritton



**Ajay Patel, Prof &  
GMAC Chair, Finance,**  
and Director, Center  
for Enterprise  
Research & Education  
at Wake Forest



**Mahendra Gupta,**  
Dean, Olin Business  
School, Washington  
University,  
St. Louis



**Arvind Panagariya,**  
Professor, Columbia  
University School of  
International &  
Public Affairs



Siddhartha Yog



Anand Mahindra



Rajen Kilachand



John N. Kapoor

## INDIANS GIFT MILLIONS TO ALMA MATER

**S**everal Indians, who believe they owe their success to quality education at prestigious schools in the United States, have gifted millions of dollars to their alma mater.

Topping the list is Tata Group Chairman Ratan Tata, who attended the Harvard Business School in 1975, with a gift of \$50 million, the largest international donation in the school's history. The Tata Group gift in October 2010 is funding a new academic and residential building — 'Tata Hall' — on the HBS campus for the participants of the School's broad portfolio of executive education programmes.

The same month, Anand Mahindra, Vice-Chairman of Mahindra & Mahindra, who did his MBA from Harvard in 1981, gave the university \$10 million to support the Humanities Center in honour of his mother, Indira Mahindra.

It was the largest gift for the study of humanities in Harvard University's history.

In November 2011, Siddhartha Yog, founder and Managing Partner of The Xander Group Inc., an India-focused, emerging-markets investment firm, made Harvard University an endowment of \$11,000,001 to establish two new professorships and an intellectual entrepreneurship fund. The endowment also

covered fellowships and financial aid for students.

In September 2011, Rajen Kilachand, a Dubai-based entrepreneur, pledged \$25 million to Boston University, the largest in its history. The university has renamed its Honors College in honour of his parents as the Arvind and Chandan Nandlal Kilachand Honors College.

In April 2010, Infosys Technologies co-founder Narayana Murthy gifted \$5.2 million to Harvard University and Har-

**"We contributed because of the India connection. It will be a two-way flow of scholars and research," said Rohini Nilekani, founder of public charity foundation, Arghyan.**

vard University Press to institute a new publication series, 'The Murthy Classical Library of India' to help "make the classical heritage of India accessible world-wide for generations to come".

In November 2008, Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani and his wife Rohini gifted \$5 million to Yale University to catalyse fundraising for the Yale India Initiative aimed at positioning Yale University among the world's pre-eminent institutions for the study of and engagement with India and South Asia.

"We contributed because of the India connection. It will be a two-way flow of scholars and research," Rohini Nilekani said.

In 2008, Amritsar-born John N. Kapoor, widely regarded as a visionary in the pharmaceutical industry, invested \$5-million in the pharmacy school at the State University of New York in Buffalo to set up a fund for faculty research, student financial aid and emerging-technologies research. Kapoor has since gifted the university more than \$10.8 million.

Other Indians who have made gifts include a Florida doctor couple, Kiran Patel and his wife Pallavi, who donated \$5 million to the University of South Florida, to help construct the Kiran C. Patel Center for Global Solutions.

—Arun Kumar



# THAT INDIAN PROFESSOR...



They rule the Ivy League and their impact is truly global... For, most of them have had top-class education in India, says **Rohit Bansal**

Chris Fontein, my living-group mate at Harvard, and currently Chairman of the Board of the Netherlands Competition Authority, had difficulty remembering our accounting professor's name. But Prof. Srikant Datar, "that Indian professor", as Chris and Richard Gould, CEO of Somerset Cricket County, bantered, helped both emerge from the course "less helpless" before their CFOs.

Datar should have known. He isn't just a double gold-medallist from the Institute of

Chartered Accountants of India and the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, he sits on the board of Novartis, and when he isn't the Senior Associate Dean at Harvard Business School (HBS), he is "re-thinking the MBA", a piece of seminal work, kickstarted in the school's 100th year, that now has the education ministers of India and China as his collaborators.

One swallow doesn't make a summer. Indians at HBS are omnipresent. Out of 279 dons listed on the school's faculty list, over 25 have origins here. From Bharat Anand

to Guhan Subramanian — the latter being the first to be concurrently a professor with Harvard Law School — Indians make an impressive list.

Rohit Deshpande's path-breaking case study profiling the "selflessness and leadership" in the face of 26/11 and Tarun Khanna's work on the 'Tata culture' are gold standards used by MBA start-ups.

Fortune-50 companies would give an arm and a leg to feature in a marketing case study by Sunil Gupta or Ranjay Gulati — the latter besides working on "customer-centricity", is a broadcast buddy with Suzy Welch.

Others would be content with a tutorial of just a few hours on their global strategy with Krishna Palepu. Not surprisingly, Drew Faust, the Harvard President, has Palepu by her side as lead of the iconic school's globalisation initiative for areas as diverse as law, politics and medicine.

What's the secret sauce of "that Indian professor"?

Three things, I feel. First, India's fantastic higher-education grounding — Deshpande has a BSc from Bombay and an MBA from Northwestern while Gulati read at St. Stephen's and IIM-A — gives them con-

ceptual and communication skills that the world covets.

Second, many, if they aren't second-generation immigrants already, preferred the US for their doctoral and post-doctoral work. Anand went to Princeton, Datar to Stanford, Gupta to Columbia, and so on.

Third, and let's not state the obvious: they worked real hard and all of them invariably had a genuine interest in marrying research with industry and vice-versa.

The shared vision is powering HBS Dean Nitin Nohria's vision for "the world's most international school". Nohria wants to soak in over 50 percent of case knowledge from outside America (non-US cases were less than 10 percent when he joined HBS in the late 80s), and correspondingly, take in the vast variety of ideas that emerge from the salad bowl his colleagues create at Boston.

In an interview with Nohria, this author wondered if his "success was Indian or American". The reply seemed to capture just what all the professors above could have potentially said: "Like many other immigrants to America, I am proud of my Indian heritage and just as proud to be an American citizen. Having lived almost half my life now in two different countries, I have always been drawn to learning more

about different cultures. Since I study MNCs, I have travelled and done research in Asia, Europe, Africa and Latin America. Thus, for a multitude of reasons, both personal and professional, I have a truly global perspective."

The Nohria story, or the HBS story, goes beyond business schools like Cornell (Soumitra Dutta), Chicago Booth (Sunil Kumar), and Kellogg Northwestern (Deepak Jain has since moved to INSEAD).

Typifying gen-next, there's a queue for Priya Ranjan's international economics course at the University of California in Irvine. Ditto for Sreenath Sreenivasan's course on new-media ware at Columbia.

There is probably little systematic evidence to support what I am arguing, but it has been replicated across the academic world in America.

From tenured professors (folks who are blessed with academic freedom and lifelong employment) to what former University of Pennsylvania don Vivek Bhandari describes as the "I-95 Corridor between Boston and Washington", that "Indian professor" lends immeasurable value to India's soft power.

What about trends?

Not everyone is staying put.

In America, those who aren't writing cases on India, and aren't exactly in line for a "tenure", are actually coming back! Bhandari returned 'home' despite having tenure at his alma mater, because in 2007 when he was a mere 37, he got the chance to lead the Institute of Rural Management, Anand. He attributes this reverse migration phenomenon to "what young associate professors in the US feel after rapid upward mobility has been achieved" and the "superlative salaries that await them at some of our private universities".

Will more gurus, the new-age academic dons, return like Bhandari has? Or will the place they swipe their ID card at become less and less consequential?

Naturally, there will always be exceptions, and in plenty. But what can be asserted confidently is that the guru 'dakshina' these gifted folks can demand will continue to be in top currencies across the world! ☺

(After 18 years in the media, Rohit Bansal did the advanced management programme at HBS. He's CEO and Co-Founder, India Strategy Group, Hammurabi & Solomon Consulting. Email: rohitbansal@post.harvard.edu)

## FROM GRAMMATOLOGY TO FINITE GROUP THEORY: THE GREAT INDIAN



**Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak**  
University Professor,  
Columbia University

One of the pillars of postcolonial and gender studies, Spivak translated into English French philosopher Michael Derrida's complex work, *Of Grammatology*.



**Jagdish N. Bhagwati**  
University Professor,  
Dept of Economics,  
Columbia University

Tipped to win the Nobel Prize in Economics almost every year, Bhagwati, an advocate of globalisation, has served in the World Trade Organisation and the UN.



**Jagdish Shukla**  
University Professor,  
Climate Dynamics,  
George Mason  
University

'Padma Bhushan' Shukla is a top meteorologist. In 2008, the UN gave him the 52nd International Meteorological Organisation Prize for climate research.



**Meenakshi Wadhwa**  
Professor,  
Washington University

Wadhwa has been part of NASA teams searching for extraterrestrial life and has had the unique honour of having a meteorite named after her.



**Vidya Dehejia**  
Barbara Stoler Miller  
Professor of Indian &  
South Asian Art,  
Cambridge University

Awarded the Padma Bhushan this year, Dehejia's studies range from Buddhist art to esoteric temples. She is the author of critically acclaimed *The Body Adorned*.



**Vijay Prashad**  
George and Martha  
Kellner Chair in South  
Asian History,  
Trinity College

Known for his radical views, Prashad is the author of books such as *Arab Spring*, *Libyan Winter* and *Uncle Swami: South Asians in America Today*.



**Shreeram Shankar Abhyankar**  
Marshall Distinguished  
Professor of Mathematics,  
Purdue University

Known for his contributions to algebraic geometry, the 'Abhyankar' conjecture of finite group theory is named after him. He also postulated what's called the 'Abhyankar inequality' theory.



**Madhu Sudan**  
Principal Researcher,  
Microsoft Adjunct  
Professor,  
EECS, MIT

Awarded the prestigious Rolf Nevanlinna Prize, Sudan is known for his outstanding contributions to the mathematics of computer science.



**Akhil Reed Amar**  
Sterling Professor of  
Law & Political Science,  
Yale University

One of the top legal minds of America, he is known for his acclaimed *America's Constitution: A Biography*. He also co-edited *Processes of Constitutional Decision Making*.



**J.N. Reddy**  
Distinguished Professor  
& Oscar S. Wyatt  
Endowed Chair,  
University of Alabama

An authoritative theoretician in mechanics, Reddy has made seminal contributions to the 'Finite Element Method', plate theory, and solid mechanics, among others.



**C. Radhakrishna Rao**  
Eberly Professor  
Emeritus of Statistics,  
Penn State University

Rao is among the world leaders in statistics. Terms like 'Cramer-Rao inequality', 'Rao-Blackwellization' 'Rao's Score Test,' etc., appear in all books on statistics.



**Homi K. Bhabha**  
Anne F. Rothenberg  
Professor of Humanities,  
Dept of English,  
Harvard University

A leading figure in postcolonial theory, cultural change and power, and cosmopolitanism, he wrote the seminal *Nation and Narration* and *The Location of Culture*.





(File pic) Indian Americans celebrating India's Independence Day in Oak Tree, New Jersey.

# A MILLION VOICES

Indian-Americans have emerged as a powerful group set to influence the course of American politics

Indian-Americans have emerged as an increasingly powerful segment of the American electorate as President Barack Obama makes his re-election bid this November, according to a demographic snapshot of South Asians.

The number of Indian-Americans who, as US citizens, are eligible to vote has now crossed one million with their total population growing by 68 percent over the 2000-2010 decade from 1.9 million to 3.19 million. Even counting single ethnicity (discounting mixed race), the Indian-American population grew

from 1.67 million to 2.84 million in the same period, according to data released by an organisation devoted to strengthening South Asian Communities in America. Based on the 2010 census, the number of Indian-Americans who can vote has increased 100 percent from 2000, when it was 576,000, to 1.15 million in 2010, South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT) and the Asian American Federations (AAF) noted.

The population of non-US citizens of voting age has also increased since 2000. This includes green-card holders who may become US citizens

in the future and will add to the growing electorate.

Indian-Americans now make the third-largest Asian-American group in the US after Chinese-Americans (3.79 million) and Filipino-Americans (3.42 million), but with a much faster growth rate.

People who identified themselves as Indian-origin citizens comprise the largest segment of the 3.4 million-strong "South Asian Americans", making up over 80 percent of the total, followed by Pakistanis, Bangladeshis, Sri Lankans, Nepalis, and Bhutanese. While the South Asian community as

a whole grew 78 percent over the last decade, the Indian-American growth rate, however, was the slowest.

The Bangladeshi community experienced the most significant growth, jumping 212 percent to 147,300 in 2010. The combined Bhutanese and Nepali populations grew by at least 155 percent.

Pakistani-Americans, the second largest among South Asian Americans, grew 100 percent, from 204,000 in 2000 to 409,000 in 2010, while Sri Lankans went up 85 percent from 24,500 to 45,400.

States that have historically had significant South Asian populations continued to do so in 2010. The five states with the largest South Asian populations are California, New York, New Jersey, Texas, and Illinois. Metropolitan areas with the largest South Asian populations are New York City, Chicago, Washington DC, Los Angeles, and San Francisco-Oakland.

Over the last 10 years, the Washington DC Metropolitan Area overtook the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area as the third-largest South Asian population area. Outside the big metropolitan cities, the South Asian population grew the most in Charlotte, North Carolina, increasing 187 percent over the past 10 years.

This was followed by Phoenix (Arizona), Richmond (Virginia), Raleigh (North Carolina), San Antonio (Texas), Seattle (Washington), Stockton (California), Jacksonville (Florida), Harrisburg (Pennsylvania), and Las Vegas (Nevada).

When a non-resident Indian (NRI) lands in India now, he or she can zoom through customs with duty-free goods worth ₹35,000 (\$685). That's a small increase from the earlier duty-free allowance of ₹25,000. As millions of Indians travel abroad every year and have become big spenders, they have been clamouring for a duty-free allowance of at least ₹50,000 (\$1,000). They argue that considering the prices of designer goods, which the middle and upper-income Indians and NRIs aspire for, even this amount is not enough. However, they can now walk through the green channel with goods worth ₹35,000 plus a laptop, a mobile and a camera, among other small items.

The budget has quashed a major fear of NRIs about paying income tax on their global income if they stay in India for more than 60 days a year. It was feared that if an NRI travels to India more than once and stays for a total of 60 days in the year, he will be regarded as a resident and will have to declare his foreign income and



## WELCOME WINDFALL

The Union Budget holds out a range of benefits for NRIs and quashes tax fears, says **Kul Bhushan** from New Delhi

pay tax on it. It does not matter if the person has lived outside India for decades. This change in tax residency has been deferred for now. The change in tax residency is part of the Direct Tax Code. Therefore, an NRI will be considered a tax

resident only if he stays in India for more than 180 days in a financial year.

NRIs are entitled to claim relief in India only based on a Tax Residence Certificate (TRC) from the government of the resident country. Even

though no difference between individuals and companies has been given, a TRC appears to be more relevant for an off-shore company because it will be important to determine if such a company is a mere shell entity or is a real company having substantial presence in that country. In the case of an individual, the tax residence cannot be easily determined/established by way of entry stamps of countries visited/stayed in his/her passport, said a leading lawyer and a qualified accountant Rajan D. Gupta of SRGR Law Offices.

Payments by some Indians to NRIs will be examined by the tax officer for determining taxable income. If such remittances from Indians are intended to be free of withholding-tax (TDS), a No Objection Certificate from the tax officer will be required.

Basically, the budget has encouraged NRI investors.

*(The author has worked abroad as a Business Editor and later as a media consultant to a UN agency. He lives in New Delhi and can be contacted at: kb@kulbhushan.net)*

## MURTHY AMONG FORTUNE'S 12 TOP ENTREPRENEURS

Fortune magazine has listed Infosys co-founder N.R. Narayana Murthy among the 12 "greatest entrepreneurs of our time" alongside Apple's late chief Steve Jobs, Microsoft founder Bill Gates and Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg.

"The outsourcer" Murthy, ranked 10th, "proved that India could compete with the world by taking on the software de-



velopment work that had long been the province of the West," the magazine said. The "visionary founder" of Infosys has built "one of the largest companies in India, it noted, citing his lesson that an organisation starting from scratch must coalesce around a team of people with an enduring value system. "As one of six co-founders of Infosys and the CEO for 21 years, Murthy

helped spark the outsourcing revolution that has brought billions of dollars in wealth into the Indian economy."

"It is all about sacrifice today, fulfillment tomorrow," Murthy, 65, who is now Chairman Emeritus, is quoted as saying. "It is all about sacrifice, hard work, being away from your family, in the hope that someday you will get adequate returns from that."





# ATOP THE ANDES

Malli Mastan Babu, an intrepid Indian mountaineer, recently scaled the tallest peaks of South America. Babu tells PB in Buenos Aires that his expedition has only begun...

**T**hirty-seven-year-old Malli Mastan Babu is the only Indian to have scaled the tallest peaks of the Andes in South America. He also holds a Guinness record for having climbed seven major summits of the world in 172 days.

Babu, who hails from a farming family in Nellore in Andhra Pradesh, has been credited with scaling the Aconcagua in Argentina three times. At 6,962 metres, it is the tallest peak outside the Himalayas.

He also climbed the Huascarán (6,768 metres) in Peru, Sajama (6,542 metres) in Bolivia, Chimborazo (6,310 metres) in Ecuador and Ojos del Salado (6,800 metres) in Chile. No Indian has ever been to most of the places where he has gone. Also among the above was the Vinson Massif peak (4,887 metres) in Antarctica. This was one of the toughest challenges for him due to the extreme cold.

Babu has spent about nine months in South America in his four trips since 2005, R. Viswanathan, India's ambassador to Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay, said.

When Babu went to climb the Cristobal Colon peak in the Sierra Nevada mountain range of Colombia, the local Indians would not allow him to go up. They consider the mountain as sacred and would not let outsiders climb it. Babu did not give up. He told them that he was also an 'Indian' and that the people from India too worshipped mountain gods. The Colombian Indians relented, Viswanathan said.

Babu's current trip to the region is to reach the top points of all the 12 countries of South America. To climb Pico Neblina, the highest peak in Brazil (3,007 metres), he has to travel by boat up the Amazon river to reach the base of the mountain. "I asked him how he managed the language problem. He smiled and said, 'Mountains all over the world speak the same language'," Viswanathan added.

Babu, who studied at the Indian Institute of Management Kolkata and at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, has given lectures on leadership at companies like GE, Intel, John Deere, and in management schools in the US, UAE, Kenya and India. 🇮🇳

## TWO INDIANS AMONG 2012 YALE WORLD FELLOWS

**Y**ale University has named two Indians, Ayush Chauhan and Ruchi Yadav, to its list of 16 World Fellows for 2012. Chauhan leads Quicksand, a multi-disciplinary design and innovation consultancy working at the intersection of business, development, and culture.

Chauhan is also a partner at the Box Collective, where he conceptualised



Ruchi Yadav



Ayush Chauhan

and launched UnBox, the first interdisciplinary festival in Delhi bringing together leading voices from across the world for inspiration, debate and reflection.

Yadav, who is Senior Programme Officer, The Hunger Project, has a background in advertising, human rights, and the women's movement in India.

Yadav's focus is to empower elected women representatives at the grassroots level as key change agents in local institutions of government across seven states in India.

From August to December, the World Fellows will enroll in a specially designed seminar taught by leading Yale faculty; audit any of the 3,000 courses offered at the University; participate in weekly dinners with distinguished guest speakers from around the world; receive individualised skill-building training; and meet American and foreign leaders. 🇮🇳

## PASSPORT SERVICES OUTSOURCED

**T**he Indian Embassy and its Consulates in the United States have, like many missions in other parts of the world, outsourced passport related services.

The outsourcing agency, VFS Global, was set to begin its operations for the Indian Embassy in Washington, and for the Consulates-General in Chicago and New York from April.

The Consulates-General at Houston and San Francisco will also be covered shortly.

In Washington, the VFS Global website <http://www.vfsglobal.com/india/usa> and a Call Centre num-



The Indian Embassy in Washington.

ber 202-800-7412 became functional from April 9 for providing assistance to passport services seekers.

Applications will be ac-

cepted by VFS Global in person or delivered by mail at Suite 103, 1625 K Street NW Washington DC. Addresses of VFS Global at other loca-

tions in support of the Consulates-General will be available on their respective websites.

Indian Visa/OCI/PIO services will, however, continue to be handled by Trivisa Outsourcing.

The Embassy and the Consulates-General will, however, continue to handle miscellaneous services like attestation of power of attorney. No prior appointment is necessary. Information on these services can be accessed from the websites of the Embassy and Consulates-General. 🇮🇳

## TABLA, DHOLAK IN T&T SCHOOLS



**N**early 167 years after Indians arrived here, the sounds of the tabla, dholak and harmonium will be heard in over 550 primary schools of Trinidad & Tobago, which will now teach the Indian musical instruments to students. The T&T cabinet has agreed to introduce a mul-

ticultural form of music in the primary school curriculum, representative of the country's diverse culture.

The Indian High Commission has been holding classes in Indian music and dance through the Mahatma Gandhi Centre for Cultural Exchange. Indians arrived in Trinidad

The Indian High Commission in Trinidad & Tobago donating Indian musical instruments to the St. Augustine Campus of the University of West Indies.

and Tobago between 1845 and 1917 to work on sugar plantations. 🇮🇳

—Paras Ramoutar, Port of Spain

## GOPIO PLANS GLOBAL GADAR CENTENNIAL

**T**he Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) is organising the Gadar Centennial Commemoration, the 100th anniversary of the Gadar Movement launched to liberate India from Britain with the force of arms. The nationalistic movement started as the Hindustan Association of the Pacific Coast in 1913 with headquarters in San Francisco.

GOPIO plans include a petition to declare 2013 as the year of Centennial Commemoration of Gadar Movement; issuance of a suitably designed postage stamp; and, publishing a historic Centennial Commemoration book about the Gadar Movement. 🇮🇳







# AN AMERICAN STORY

Yuba City hosts America's first Punjabi museum documenting the hardships the community faced on their arrival in California in early 20th century

**A** multi-media museum celebrating more than 100 years of the Punjabi community in the United States opened in the community-dominated Yuba City in California recently.

A brainchild of the Punjabi American Heritage Society (PAHS), the multimedia museum, the first of its kind in the US, highlights the contribution of the Punjabi community to the social fabric of their adopted land.

"The museum is a multi-media record of

the challenges and successes of generations of Punjabi Americans. It documents the hardships they faced on their arrival in California in the early 20th century and their journey to 'Becoming American,'" said prominent community leader Jasbir Kang.

In his message to the community on the occasion, California Governor Jerry Brown said, "Showcasing the story of the Punjabi American and South Asian migration to the United States is a valuable and needed resource for current and future generations."



"I congratulate all the individuals and families along with the Punjabi American Heritage Society of Yuba City for their dedication and hard work for the successful completion of this project," Brown added.

California Assembly members Jim Nielsen and Dan Logue, County Supervisors Jim Whiteaker, Larry Munger and Stan Cleveland, Yuba City Council member Tej Mann and former Yuba City mayors Kash Gill and Rory Ramirez were among the hundreds who attended the opening ceremony.

In a press release, the organisers said: "Since 9/11, Sikhs and South Asians have borne the brunt of mistaken identity by racist attacks, assaults and even murder. Through this exhibit, PAHS tells the story of Punjabis that have a long tradition of contributing to the success of their local communities.

"The story of the Punjabis, the Sikhs and the South Asians is the same as that of the Irish, the Italians and the Polish before them; it is an American story."

Yuba City was one of the first destinations of Punjabi immigrants to the US in the early 20th century.

Known as 'Punjab da Pind', the city has the largest concentration of the Punjabi community in the US and boasts many gurdwaras, temples and even a mosque.



(From top left): The newly opened 'Becoming American' exhibits at the Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County provide a variety of glimpses into the history and culture of Punjabis and South Asians of Yuba City.



# SUCH A LONG JOURNEY

A Guyanese Indian retraces a 'crossing' her father undertook over a hundred years ago as an indentured worker from a sleepy little village in Rajasthan.

Enid Whitehouse recreates that journey in a chat with **Shubha Singh**



**J**ust about a hundred years after her father left India for Guyana, Enid Whitehouse made an emotional journey to a small village in Rajasthan's Ganganagar district to learn more about her father's life.

A London-based lawyer, Enid had known that her father had come to Guyana from India as an indentured worker in December 1911. But her interest in his life was sparked off by her young nephew when he discovered fascinating vignettes of his maternal grandfather's life while writing a research paper on his family history.

Enid came to know that her father had played a prominent role in the Lusignan riots, which were a significant event in Guyanese-Indian history. There were documents about the agitation and the court case in the India Records section of the British Library and also in the Library of Congress as well as newspaper clippings of the trial.

Guyana-born Enid went to London in 1960 to study law and returned home to practise for some time. But when her father, Krishna, died in 1970 she moved back to London. "I became interested in my father's life. He never spoke about his past, but I wanted to know more about his earlier life. When I learnt about his deeds in Guyana, I became curious about his background in India and decided to visit India to see the small village from where he

began his life's journey," Enid said. Her journey took her to Sirdargarh village in Ganganagar.

According to family history, the family had owned land and camels in Sirdargarh village. Enid remembers being told that her

father used to relate that he had come to Delhi to see the king when he met a man who persuaded him to go to 'Demra' (Demerara in British Guiana).

Enid believes that her father may have been referring to the grand Delhi Durbar. He arrived in Guyana alone and later married a widow with a daughter. His wife died early and when the girl was 18, he married again



I became interested in my father's

life. He never spoke

about his past, but I

wanted to know more

about his earlier life...

— **Enid Whitehouse**  
London-based Guyanese  
lawyer of Indian origin

and had 10 children. He went into business and prospered.

For her own voyage, Enid contacted a travel agent in London and gave her destination, according to Krishna's emigration pass as Sirdargarh, Thana Anoopgarh, in Bikaner district. The travel agent made inquiries in Bikaner district and finally located Sirdargarh village in the district of Ganganagar. Enid travelled down to the small village of 200 houses. She could not locate any relatives in Sirdargarh but the villagers were happy to welcome Enid to their homes. "I was disappointed not to meet anyone who knew my father's family, but was deeply moved by the warmth of the welcome I received from the villagers."

"I remember that my father always wore a turban. When I showed my father's picture to the villagers, they told me that he was probably a Rajput because of the style of his turban. I was very surprised because his emigration pass showed his caste as 'Jat'. But I read that Rajputs were not preferred as indentured recruits as they were not used to doing agricultural work."

Relating the story of her father's jour-

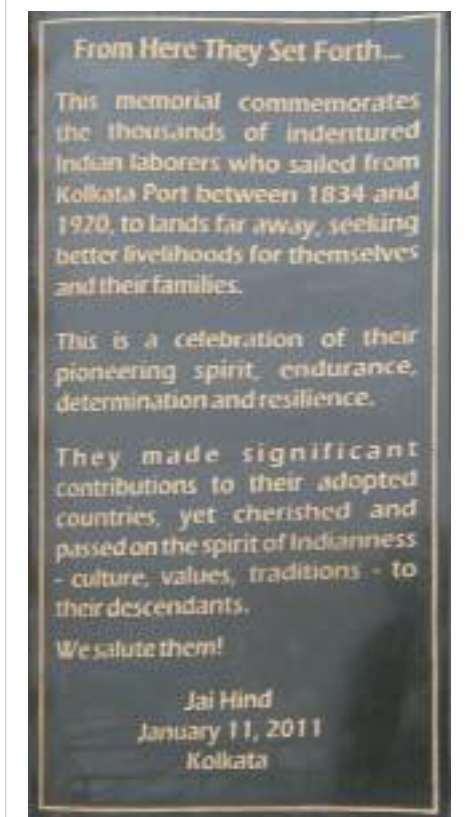
ney, Enid said: "My father was an adventurous man; he arrived alone in Demerara in 1911 and was assigned to the Lusignan Estate. Conditions were very difficult on the estate, the workers were overworked and the rising prices made it difficult to make ends meet."

Enid's father was one of the leaders when the workers rose in protest.

According to Enid, in September 1912, the sugarcane workers stopped work at the Lusignan Estate and went to manager Brassington's house to protest. Alarmed at the sight of the group of agitated workers, Brassington shot and killed one of the workers. Enid's father organised the workers and led a group of 300 armed with shovels to Georgetown to place their grievances before the colonial authorities.

The workers' agitation rattled the British authorities. Enid's father had asked the workers to cut off the telegraph lines. Later, he argued his own case in court and even refused the magistrate's direction to remove his turban.

For Enid, visiting Sirdargarh was a moving experience. "I could imagine my father in those surroundings," she said, when she saw the villagers in their colourful turbans. 🇮🇳



Left: The Kidderpore Depot Dock in Kolkata from where indentured labourers set sail for British colonies between 1834 and 1920. In January 2011, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs Vayalar Ravi inaugurated the 'Kolkata Memorial' at Kidderpore Depot. The memorial plaque (seen in pic, right), in English and Hindi, pays tribute to those thousands of labourers who on the back of circumstance and history travelled to remote colonies to make a living.



# KNOW INDIA PROGRAMME

An important outreach mechanism of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs aimed at Diaspora youth, the programme has proved to be a useful tool in advancing greater understanding among them about their forefathers' country of origin

*I always wanted to come to India but somehow couldn't make it. When I came to know about KIP, I was like, I have to apply for it...*

**S. Manian,**  
Malaysia  
18th Know India  
Programme

*It is beautiful and so culturally rich. I don't know why my parents did not get me here for so long... I am going to visit India frequently...*

**Chanelle Singh,**  
Australia  
19th Know India  
Programme

*I never thought Delhi was so modern and has such an advanced Metro. What I knew about India was through Bollywood movies...*

**Artika Devi,**  
Fiji  
18th Know India  
Programme

**S**o said some of the participants in the Know India Programme (KIP), one of the key outreach programmes of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA). Sinnapam Manian, who visited India as part of the 18th edition of KIP in October 2011, is a fourth-generation Malaysian of Indian origin. He has vowed to return to India in search of long-lost relatives whom the family lost touch with generations ago.

"I am sure some of our relatives are in Chennai and Bangalore but we are no more in touch. I would like to come back in search of them," said Manian, who had left his part-time job in an orphanage to come for the trip.

The highly popular Know India Programme aims to help familiarise Indian

Diaspora youth, in the age group of 18-26, with developments and achievements made by the country and bring them closer to the land of their ancestors.

The programme provides a unique forum for students and young professionals of Indian origin to visit India, share their views, expectations and experiences, and develop closer bonds with contemporary India. Artika Devi from Fiji, who was again part of the 18th KIP, had imagined India to be as was projected in Bollywood movies but her visit to the country made the 21-year-old realise there was so much more to it. KIP helps fill this vital gap. In fact, the young banker even observed a nine-day fast during the Navaratri festival!

The Ministry has so far conducted 19 KIPs and a total of 591 Overseas Indian

youth have participated in these programmes. The participants are selected based on nominations received from Indian Missions/Posts abroad. They are provided hospitality and are reimbursed up to 90 percent of economy class return airfare from their respective countries to India.

Interacting with the participants during a recent KIP, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs Vayalar Ravi said that the programme provided a unique forum for students and young professionals of Indian origin to visit India, share their views and bond closely with today's India. "I am happy to welcome all of you who have come from different parts of the world. This is a programme to introduce India to you."

"I want you to tell your parents about the economic growth of India when you go back to your respective countries," Minister Ravi added.

## Getting to know

Typically, each KIP delegation travels to various parts of the country and is co-

hosted by state governments. Members also get to live in Indian villages, interact with the villagers and even learn local craft. Besides travelling and sightseeing, they are also exposed to some of the institutions and systems of the country.

For instance, a group of 37 youngsters of the 19th KIP visited the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) to acquaint themselves with the education system there. "These youth are the children of Indians settled abroad and are visiting different educational institutions in India. The basic idea is to expose them to the diversity of our country," said an MOIA official.

According to an IGNOU official, the group showed a lot of interest in the programmes offered by the varsity and also had an interactive session with the Vice Chancellor.

Members of the 19th KIP were taken to New Delhi's Indian Institute of Public Administration, the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, and the Gandhi

Smriti. They also got to join a networking session with young professionals organised by the Indian Council for World Affairs.

## Impressions

Manian, 25, currently pursuing a bachelor's in Education in Kuala Lumpur University, says he was apprehensive before coming to India as his family members had warned him about poor hygiene and bad quality of food. "My parents were, like, I should not eat out else will fall ill. But in the last two weeks I have put on weight as I am eating so much and find the food really good," Manian said a smile.

Chanelle from Australia had this to say: "My father keeps coming to Jaipur and Delhi for business, but he never brings me here. There are a lot of similarities between Australia and India, and it was not a cultural shock for me as I had presumed before landing here."

KIP participants are, in the words of Artika, "totally smitten" and "want to return as soon as they can".



Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs Vayalar Ravi interacting with members of the 18th Know India Programme in New Delhi on September 29, 2011.

## KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAMME

- Presentations on the country, its Constitution, political processes and institutions
- Interaction with faculty and students of a prestigious University/College/Institute
- Presentations on industrial developments and visit to industrial complexes
- A visit to a village for a better understanding of the typical village life in India
- Exposure to Indian media and cinema
- Interaction with NGOs and organisations dealing with women's issues
- Visits to places or monuments of historical importance
- Participation in cultural programmes
- Exposure to Yoga
- Calling on high dignitaries, which may include the President of India, the Chief Election Commissioner of India, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, and Union Ministers in charge of Overseas Indian Affairs and other ministries/departments

## UPCOMING KIPs

- 20th KIP: 25 April–15 May, 2012; Partnering state: Goa
- 21st KIP: 29 August–18 September, 2012; Partnering state: Uttarakhand
- 22nd KIP: 21 Dec–10 Jan 2013; Partnering state: Karnataka



# LIFE CYCLE



A biker training at the Lutyen's Bikers' Zone at India Gate on a Sunday morning.

They are part of a small but growing movement in Delhi — a group of cyclists who are riding out an emerging urban 'mobility crisis' on the humble cycle. **Madhusree Chatterjee** meets up with some of them at India Gate in the heart of New Delhi

**C**ycling to work may soon become a reality in Delhi, and not just for the poor. With pollution and shrinking road space, India's capital is under pressure to adopt the Netherlands model that promotes cycling as an alternative to driving.

"Cycle is the future in India but the voice has to reach out," says Pankaj Munjal, president-designate, All India Cycle Manufacturers' Association.

Every Sunday, Munjal and a group of 150 cyclists from across all walks of life assemble at the Lutyen's Bikers' Zone between Rashtrapati Bhavan (the Presidential Palace) and India Gate in the capital for 45 minutes of vigorous biking and bike-related discussions. The event ends with a small feast.

"We drive to India Gate at 6 am, offload our bikes and cycle on the biker's tracks," says Munjal, also the managing-director of Hero Cycles, India's largest cycle maker.

The machines range from the regulation black bikes at ₹10,000 to the designer models priced ₹1.5-2 lakh, Munjal says. His company manufactures nearly six million of the nearly 13 million bicycles made in India annually. A new study by the Centre



Cycling enthusiasts in New Delhi.

for Science and Environment (CSE) says Delhi must wake up to the "mobility crisis with non-conventional, eco-friendly and easier systems of transport".

"Increasing use of cars in the capital has reduced the carrying capacity of roads and by 2020, if the capital has to meet its target of 80 percent of public transport share, it will have to spend more on cycling and walking," the study says.

The report says with the "new biking and walking facilities in some parts of Delhi like the BRT stretch between Ambedkar Nagar and Pragati Maidan, Vikas Marg from ITO to Laxmi Nagar, the Tughlaqabad stretch and the Noida Link Road — built after the Commonwealth Games — cycling is still seen as street scraping rather than a continuous well-designed usable system".

"We have political commitment, will and interest, but it is actually work on the ground. We are not looking at cycling and walking as a small solution, but on a scale which actually works on the ground in the capital," Sunita Narain, Director-General, CSE, recently said at a forum, 'Our Right of Way: Walk and Cycle'. Citing figures for the capital, Anumita Roychowdhury,

Executive Director, CSE, says, "Delhi has one of the highest walk and cycle trips in the country."

"Even on the car-dominated roads like the Outer Ring Road, the share of cycles is quite close to that of autos — 7 and 9 percent, respectively," she says, quoting figures. "At least 34 percent of Delhi homes have a bicycle. The domestic bike market has expanded by 3 percent every year," Roychowdhury says.

But the cycling lanes have remained discontinuous and the intricate design of the tracks has created barriers for cyclists, Roychowdhury says. High-speed motor traffic often invades cycling lanes and there is no penalty for encroaching on non-motor vehicle roads. Cycling access to metro stations is also poor, she says. The high rate of fatal accidents in the capital has been a stumbling block to cycling and walking in the capital, says Satyendra Garg, the Joint Commissioner of Police, Traffic.

In 2011, nearly 104 cyclists were killed on the streets of the capital, Garg says.

"One cannot have proper cycling without the involvement of the city's governing bodies," says Rajesh Kalra, the initiator of 'Pedalyatri' (literally, a 'pedal' traveller), a

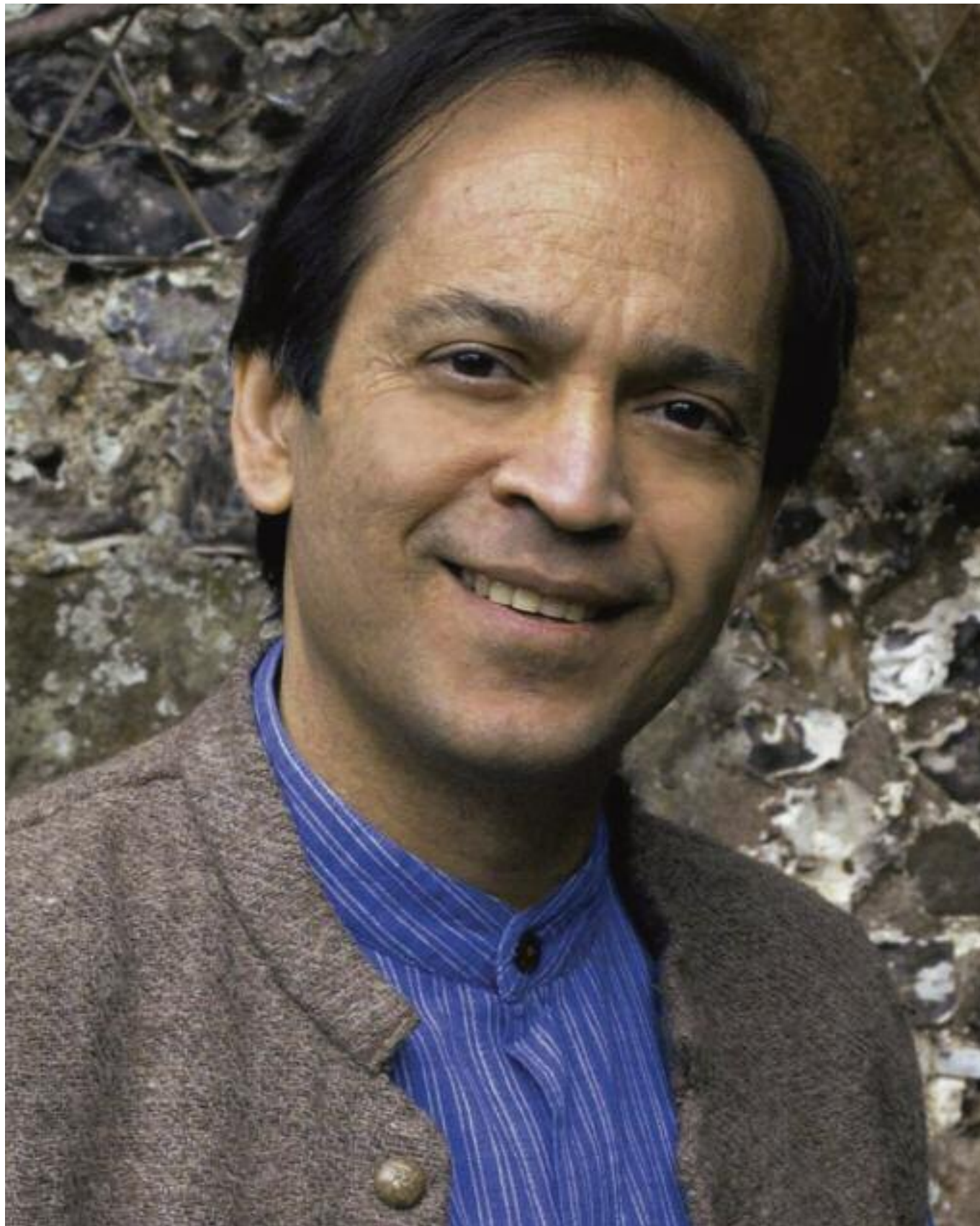


cycle initiative in the Delhi region.

"I am trying to promote the concept of bike sharing in the capital which will allow a commuter or a traveller to rent a bike for five rupees. But it requires funds and help from the government. The capital region needs more cycling space," says Kalra.

Kalra adds he is soon starting the 'India Cycle Service' — a cycle rental with innovator Prabhat Agarwal, an IIT/IIM alumnus. Referring to the Netherlands model, Jeroen Buis, of the Dutch Cycling Embassy, says, "The difference between the Netherlands and India is that in the Netherlands cycling is very much another mode of transport while in India it is something for the poor." 🚲

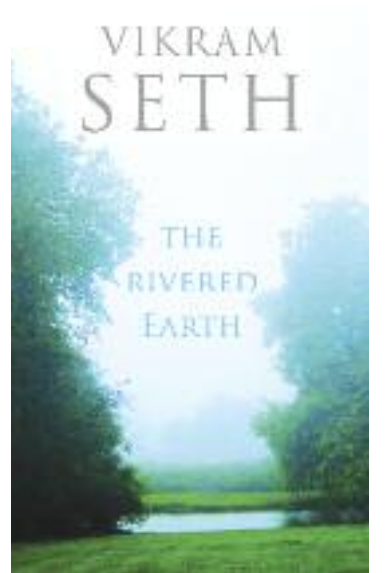




Vikram Seth

# ETCHED IN VERSE

*The Rivered Earth* by **Vikram Seth** is an anthology of poems that brings together music, calligraphy and poetry, inspired by his tryst with the 17th century poet George Herbert. In a conversation with **Madhusree Chatterjee**, the poet talks about his experiment with the three arts...



**M**usic, calligraphy and poetry. These three arts merge in Vikram Seth's new anthology of poetry, *The Rivered Earth*, a journey into the heart of rhythmic lyricism that the writer of *The Golden Gate* — a novel in verse — is known for. The slim anthology, inspired by Seth's tryst with the celebrated 17th-century poet George Herbert, was unveiled recently at Penguin India's Spring Fever Festival in New Delhi.

Seth, who bought Herbert's country home 'The Old Rectory' at Salisbury in Wiltshire, England, says the fact that he "got to live there has created an aspect of sharing with Herbert's poetry". Poetry comes naturally to Seth. "I never thought I would become a novelist," the writer said.

"The poem (by Herbert) I used as a template is 'Love 3'. When I compare George Herbert's poetry to those by contemporary poets, there is sincerity (in Herbert's poetry) and a wonderful way of creating a whole atmosphere," Seth said.

The book is divided into four segments — 'Songs in Time of War', 'Shared Ground', 'The Traveller' and 'The Seven Elements'. Each section comprises an introduction and a libretto, which has been set to music by noted English composer Alec Roth and violinist Philippe Roth, and calligraphy in Chinese, English, Hindi and Arabic.

Conversations between Seth and the musicians about transposing the texts to

music break through the rhymed verses like scenes from stage. The terrain of the poetry spans China, India and Europe.

The anthology is an extension of a project, 'Confluences', between Seth and his musician friends at his new home in Wiltshire by the river Nadder.

"Some time ago, when I was between books, I took part in a project that resulted

The book is divided into  
four segments — 'Songs  
in Time of War',  
'Shared Ground',  
'The Traveller' and  
'The Seven Elements'

in several remarkable works of music. It was a collaboration between a writer, a composer and a violinist. It developed over four years with a work produced each year. The libretti touched upon three civilisations — Chinese, European and Indian," Seth elaborated.

'Songs in the Time of War', the opening panorama of poems and translations of the Chinese poet, Du Fu, who wrote in the 8th

century, looks at imperial China in a series of musings, memories and stories from history narrated by Du Fu sailing on the Yangtze.

"In my twenties, I had lived in China for two years, studying at Nanjing University, doing research in economics and demography in the nearby villages and travelling around the country whenever I got the chance to do so. I grew to love China, in a complex sort of way," Seth says.

The poems are like narratives with references to folklore, myths, superstition, philosophy, rebellion and war. In one of his poems, 'Grieving for the Young Prince', Seth tells of an empire, ravaged by war: "Wolves, jackals roam the city. In the wild/The dragon and his court remained exiled/Take care, dear prince, I daren't speak long with you/But for your sake will pause a breath or two/...I hear the son of heaven has abdicated/And in the north the Khan, it is related..."

A section, 'The Traveller', is a personal interpretation of Indian spiritual poetry and a Rig Vedic hymn on creation and the traditional stages of life. It processes lores from ancient Indian texts in a contemporary poetic canvas.

Seth, who is writing a sequel to his novel, *The Suitable Boy*, says, "It would be ready soon. But I would like to get acquainted with *A Suitable Girl* (the tentative title of the sequel)!" *The Rivered Earth* has been published by Penguin-India. 📖





Indu Sundaresan



Greta Rana



Amitav Ghosh

## PAST WITH A SPIN

Fiction woven around history is slowly but surely carving a space for itself in the literary market, says **Madhusree Chatterjee**

**H**istory books are slowly inching back onto the bookshelves. Their acceptability among readers has increased primarily because the writers are now presenting history with a dash of drama and peppy language. These are elements that keep the average reader hooked.

"I think there are two major attractions that a historical narrative holds for us. First, history is all about stories. Stories about people and places with the benefit of hindsight. And who doesn't like a good story?" asks Udayan Mitra, Publisher of Allen Lane and Portfolio imprints at Penguin Books India. "Secondly, historical epics are full of heroism, grandeur and romance, something that entertains everyone," he adds.

People read historical fiction because they give readers a window on a time period they have had no idea of, says Priya Kapoor, Editor and Director of Roli Books.

"Historical fiction brings alive history in a more entertaining way. We would certainly like to know how people of that time lived, what they ate and what they did. Such books take history to another level," Kapoor says.

Roli Books have two new titles under production — *Hidden Women*, a work by British-Nepalese writer Greta Rana about the "Rana (royal) women of Nepal" and an untitled fictional work about the Maurya and Gupta rule in Magadha, what is now Bihar, by Geneva-based Indian Sumedha Ojha, a native of Bihar, Kapoor says.

The market is flooded with such titles. "History books priced ₹299 to ₹499 with exciting tales fetch the most business," Mirza Asad Baig of the Midland Bookstore in New Delhi says.

Very visible on the shelves is a fictional trilogy built around historical facts about the life of Mughal emperor Jahangir, his wife Noor Jahan and son Shah Jahan by Indu Sundaresan. The trilogy includes *The Shadow Princess*, *The Twentieth Wife* and *The Feast of Roses*.

Sundaresan says she decided to "write the trilogy after she stumbled upon a book on Mughal harems in her final year at the graduate school at the University of Delaware", and later realised that "there were stories to be told".

Author Alex Rutherford gives Mughal history a racy fictional twist in his trilogy *Empire of the Mughal*, while New

Zealand-based award-winning author David Hair connects to young Indian readers with lores from Ramayana in his *Return of the Ravana* trilogy — *Pyre of the Queens*, *Swayamvara* and *The Ghost Bride*.

The exploits of Rama of Ayodhya gets a fictional makeover in writer Ashok Banker's six-part Ramayana novels. In *The Forest of Stories*, Banker retells the *Mahabharata* while *The Krishna Coriolis* scripts the exploits of Krishna.

Writer Amitav Ghosh's semi-fictional *Ibis* series (*Sea of Poppies* and *River of Smoke*) documents the history of 19th-century migration while the Swadeshi Movement, the Second World War and the Partition of 1947 come alive in his 1988 classic, *The Shadow Lines*.

The canvas of Partition and Mughal



When you read a novel, you look

forward to an element of surprise... Historical fiction captures this essence...

— **Kapish G. Mehra**  
Managing Director,  
Rupa & Co

emperor Akbar's reign is best captured in Salman Rushdie's cult fiction *Midnight's Children* and *Enchantress of Florence*, respectively, while writer Shashi Tharoor's *The Great Indian Novel* is still the most popular retelling of the ancient history of the *Mahabharata* in the modern Indian historical context.

"There is an immediate connect. When you are reading a novel, you are looking forward to an element of surprise in the story and yet you have a faint idea what the story is all about... Historical fiction captures this essence," says Kapish G. Mehra, Managing Director of Rupa & Co.

"History has to be retold and put into fictional accounts for the lay readers to know and appreciate," says Manoj Kulkarni, Chief Publishing Manager of Amaryllis, an imprint of Manjul Publishing House. 📖

### FICTION



**The Sins of the Father**  
Author: Jeffrey Archer  
Publisher: Pan Macmillan  
Price: ₹350



**Kill Shot**  
Author: Vince Flynn  
Publisher: Simon & Schuster  
Price: ₹Rs.499



**The Sense of an Ending**  
Author: Julian Barnes  
Publisher: Vintage Books  
Price: ₹299



**Tea for Two and a Piece of Cake**  
Author: Preeti Shenoy  
Publisher: Random House  
Price: ₹125

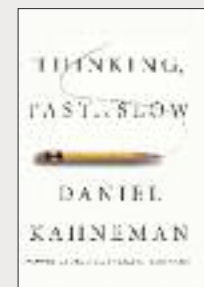


**The Secret of Nagas**  
Author: Amish  
Publisher: Westland  
Price: ₹295

### NON-FICTION



**The Magic**  
Author: Rhonda Byrne  
Publisher: Simon & Schuster  
Price: ₹399



**Thinking Fast and Slow**  
Author: Daniel Kahneman  
Publisher: Allen Lane  
Price: ₹499



**Behind the Beautiful Forevers**  
Author: Katherine Boo  
Publisher: Penguin  
Price: ₹499



**A Life in Words: Memoir**  
Author: Ismat Chughtai  
Publisher: Penguin  
Price: ₹499



**Confessions of a Serial Dieter**  
Author: Kalli Purie  
Publisher: Harper Collins  
Price: ₹250

Source: Bahrison's, Delhi; Capital Book Depot, Chandigarh; Spell & Bound Bookshop&Cafe Pvt Ltd, Delhi





# 360° ART SPACES

Art galleries are turning into integrated spaces that exhibit, sell, teach, offer residencies and run cafés

**N**ot too long ago, art galleries merely exhibited and sold art. Today, Indian art galleries are fast turning into “integrated spaces” that teach art, conduct residencies for artists, sell handicrafts and even offer a quick snack to the tired and hungry soul.

One such emerging integrated art hub in New Delhi is 1QA, a sprawling green acre next to the Qutab Minar. It opened recently with a multimedia exhibition, ‘Roti Kapda, Makaan’, featuring works by 23 artists at its in-house gallery — Ojas Art.

Developed by the Ramchander Nath Foundation, 1QA is a non-profit, promoting art and culture. On its premises there is a handicrafts and jewellery shop and a

manicured garden with space for performance and outdoor display. It proposes to add to the existing amenities with living rooms and a café to attract tourists who throng the nearby Qutab Minar and the Mehrauli Archaeological Complex.

“1QA has an exhibition and design space and a crafts shop with a garden that will be my USP in winter. I want to host cultural shows and everything related to art, fashion and design,” says Anubhav R. Nath, the owner of Ojas Art.

However, this idea of an integrated art space is not new; a similar experiment was the Religare Arts Initiative. When it was launched, it turned the urban milieu of Connaught Place into an interactive art

Resident artists at Religare Arts Initiative.

space. It was a holistic approach to art, so to say. It was a platform with an exhibition space, a café and a souvenir shop.

Lyla Rao, head of client services at Religare Arts Initiative, says, “Today, integrated art spaces are feasible in India. The focus of a 360-degree platform is to nurture all dimensions of art. Given the recent robust development of the Indian art sector, integrated spaces will draw most of the traffic.”

“We don’t have individual spaces for performance and interactive art, art education and residency programmes in the country. Galleries double as integrated spaces to cater to all aspects of art, including archiving,” says art curator Bhavna Kakar.

The success of integrated art-space models like the government-run Lalit Kala Akademi with its books division, Epicentre (Gurgaon), Cholamandalam Artists village (Tamil Nadu), Bharat Bhavan (Bhopal) and artist Jogen Chowdhury’s Shantiniketan Society for Visual Arts can be attributed to multiple resource pools, diversification of business models, government backing and occasional foreign funding, according to a leading art gallery owner in the capital. 📍



A banner portraying scenes from ‘With Love: Finding Rabi Thakur’.

## FINDING TAGORE

A new dance-drama deconstructs Tagore by interrogating his relationships with the women in his life

**T**hey were at once his muses and lovers. To understand Rabindranath Tagore, one needs to look at the consonance between his poetry and the women he loved — Kadambari Devi, the companion of his youth, Mrinalini Devi, the wife he learnt to love, and Victoria Ocampo, the Argentine feminist with whom his friendship lasted 23 years, till his death. A new play also talks about a fourth one — a woman he created out of the idea of womanhood he cherished in his imagination — the Manipuri princess Chitrangada.

Gujarat-based Darpana Performing Group has come up with a dance-drama, ‘With Love: Finding Rabi Thakur’, which examines Tagore through the relationships he had had with the three women. The production features noted classical and conceptual dancer Mallika Sarabhai and actor Tom Alter, among others.

The production, the last of a Tagore trilogy by Sarabhai’s group, has been written and directed by her and Australian culture and arts promoter Steve Mayer-Miller. ‘With



I wanted to  
find him  
through his

women and researched  
his correspondence,  
diaries and works...

— **Mallika Sarabhai**  
Dancer & Choreographer

Love...’ is mix of linguistic and stylistic techniques that employs flashbacks, soliloquies, dialogues, the concept of time travel, dramatised snippets from Tagore’s short stories, ballet and Rabindra Sangeet to probe Tagore’s persona. Tom Alter plays Tagore, a tortured global citizen torn between his loves, dilemmas and changing

outlooks on life. In his intensely private moments, Tagore talks to his younger self, a suave youth in love with Kadambari Devi, brother Jyotirindranath’s wife. When the poet is in a muddle about his feelings for the 34-year-old Victoria Ocampo, a married woman, he seeks help from his younger self on how to express his love for Ocampo. The young Tagore advises the old man to return to Jorasanko, his ancestral home in Kolkata, to look for answers from his past. It was at Ocampo’s palatial villa, ‘Miralrio San Isidro’, that Tagore composed his ‘Puravi’ poems and began to paint. He dedicated them to Ocampo and christened her Vijaya.

Chitrangada makes a brief appearance to flaunt her “immortality as the tough warrior princess, but a failed lover”. Ghosts exorcised, Tagore returns to his old age to “profess his love for Ocampo, who accepts him as he is”. Tagore is haunted by the ghosts of his lost loves. “He lost all the women he loved by the time he was 30, till he met Victoria Ocampo at 63,” Sarabhai, who plays Ocampo, says.

‘With Love: Finding Rabi Thakur’ completes the trilogy that took off with a reinterpretation of Rabindra Sangeet using contemporary music and dance followed by a dance drama ‘Street of Voices’, a feminist choreography combining the voices of Tagore’s women with those of today’s India.

“I wanted to find him through his women and researched his correspondence, diaries, journals and works. Every word spoken by the characters is from his papers, mainly his letters,” Sarabhai says. 📍



# PAINTING BHARAT

A number of foreign artists, some of them long domiciled in India, are interpreting its symbols, culture, mysticism and sensibilities on canvas. A look at the 'Indian vocabulary' some of them use in their oeuvre



Michael-Buhler Rose



Olivia Fraser-Dalrymple



Peter Nagy



Nicola Strippoli



Zachary Becker



Francesco-Clemente

The tag "expat artist" sits on them like misnomers. Meet this band of painters who are of foreign origin but have been carrying indelible images of India abroad due, in part, to their fascination with the mysteries, faiths and colours of the Orient.

Indian multimedia artist of Dutch origin Sterre Sharma, who made India her home in 1971, delves into Oriental spirituality and everyday reality to look for inspiration. "All my paintings are inspired by Indian spirituality and culture," says Sterre.

She has painted anecdotes from the love story of Radha and Krishna, using the visual imagery of Vrindavan's traditional peacock dance, and has interpreted the stories of Hanuman and the sacred Hindu symbol of 'Om' in mandala-like abstract compositions in her art. The Hindu epic Mahabharata that she read after marrying Indian politician Satish Sharma has been a life-changing experience.

She has been helping nearly 1,200 families of poor Indian performers from the slums in the capital to showcase some of India's endangered arts in Europe since 1992. "I wanted to be an artist when I was seven," says Sterre.

British artist Olivia Fraser-Dalrymple inherits her passion for Indian art from her ancestor, James Baillie Fraser, who painted vignettes of Indian architecture during the 'raj' of the East India Company. Olivia paints in the north-Indian miniature style and picks up her subjects from the folk and street cultures of India.

Olivia, wife of well-known novelist William Dalrymple, says she uses "Indian vocabulary" in her work. The fact that she started off as a linguist helps her approach her art as an interpreter — "to capture the meditative quality of Indian miniature art".

The history of the British Raj, beginning from the fag-end of the Mughal rule till independence, is peopled with artists who were commissioned to document India — then the new jewel in the empire's crown — for branding in Europe.

After Independence, Company painters, such as Thomas and William Daniell, James Forbes, John Zoffany, George Chinnery and James Fraser, passed into history, making way for artists who called themselves 'Indophiles'.

Spirituality remains their source of primary inspiration, but coloured by issues, such as sustenance, economics and perspec-



All my paintings are inspired by

Indian spirituality and culture. I have also tried to interpret the sacred symbol of 'Om'

— Sterre Sharma  
Indian multimedia artist of Dutch origin, New Delhi

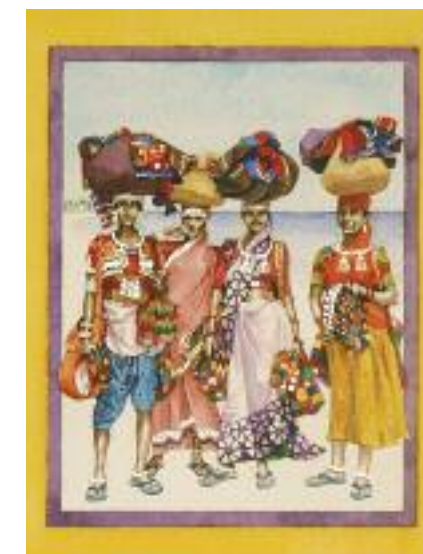
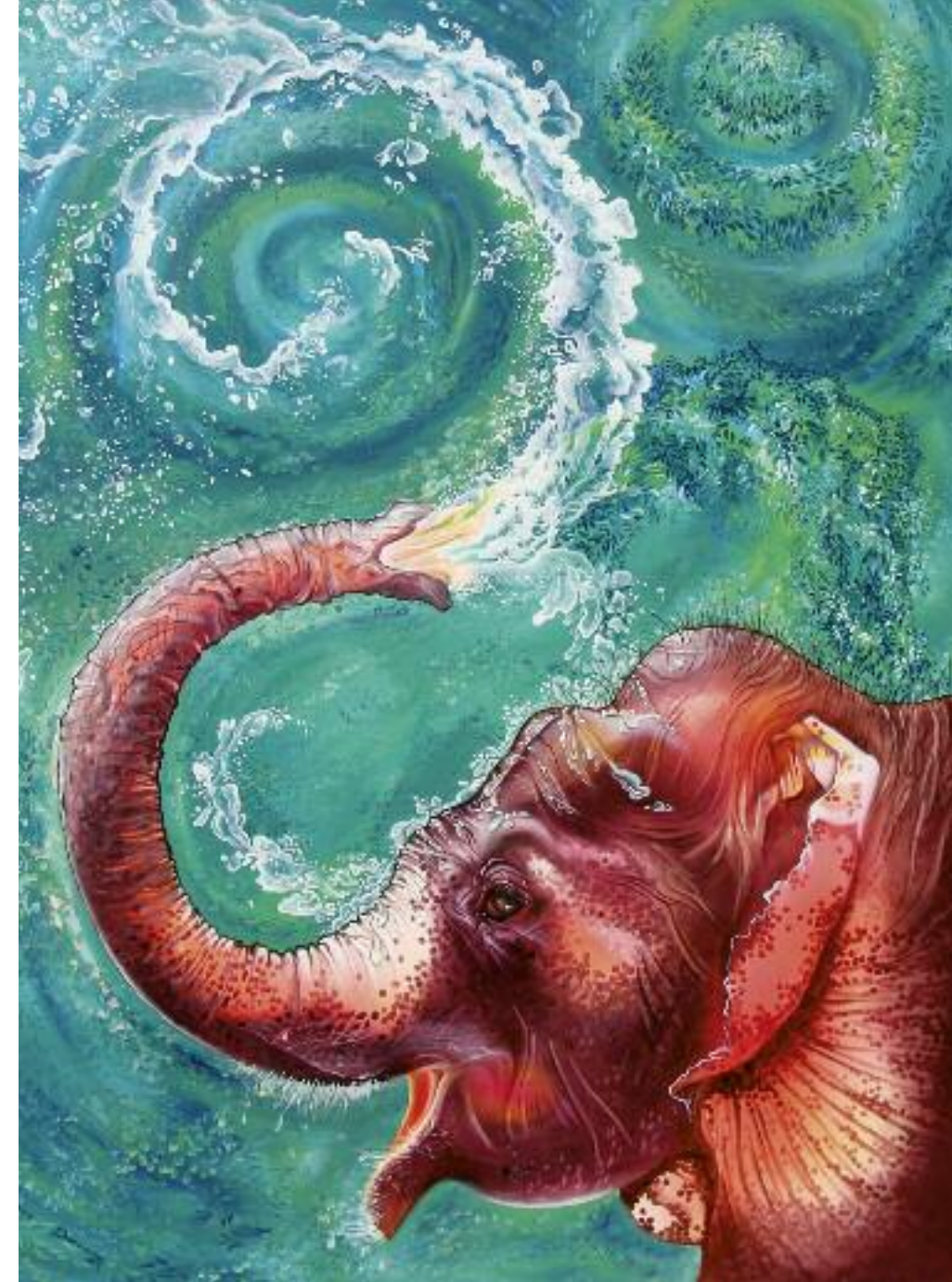
tives. "The avenues for foreign artists to showcase their works are far and few between. They have to adapt to Indian sensibilities to relate to buyers. But galleries now do look for foreign artists," says arts promoter Anubhav Nath of the Ramchander Nath Foundation.

Indian Vaishnavism is young American artist Michael-Buhler Rose's muse. Buhler, known for his India-inspired spiritual photographs, tries to put the West in the Indian context often through images of foreign women clad in saris.

The 32-year-old, who exhibited at expat gallerist Peter Nagy's Nature Morte gallery recently alongside Olivia, looks for ideas from "Indian scriptures, performance traditions and religious mores".

Then there is Delhi-based American artist Zachary Becker. "I came to India in 2009 to work for an art project for young inmates of Tihar jail in the capital and then stayed back," Becker says. Becker, who works in multimedia on the sights and sounds of the capital, including politics and migration, says he often features in his own photographs of the city. Unlike many Western nations, hit by the recent global downturn, India helps him to survive as an artist.

The school of 'East-meets-West' paintings has been pioneered by Italian architect, art professor and spiritualist, Nicola Strippoli, known by his Sanskrit name 'Tarshito'. He has been collaborating with artists and craftspeople from Indian villages from the 1980s.



Above: An interpretation of Hindu mythology by Sterre Sharma; Left: Banjara women stick gatherers by Olivia Fraser.

Italy's lasting love affair with Indian art finds expression in Francesco Clemente's mystical Oriental art on Indian handmade paper. Clemente lived and painted in India for several years during the 1980s and became the subject of a book, *Made in India*, compiled by art critic Jyotindra Jain.

"The Russian painter, Nicholas Roerich, who made the Kullu Valley his home, can be described as the best example of this maverick group who chose to paint India away from their home," a leading Delhi-based art writer says. 🌺



# A THOUSAND BUT ONE...

At a concert in Bengaluru, 1,100 veenas came together to produce music never heard before...

**W**hen a musician plucks the strings of a veena to play the notes of a composition, the listener is carried off to an ethereal world. Imagine the effect that an ensemble of over a thousand veenas would produce! Recently, music lovers in Bengaluru were treated to such a spectacle at a concert of 1,100 veenas.

Held to foster India's ancient heritage of classical music, the concert organised by the Art of Living (AoL) Foundation saw veena exponents from Bengaluru and eight other cities from across Karnataka play at the Bangalore Palace grounds. The audience witnessed musicians playing exquisite compositions based on classical ragas like 'hamsadwani', 'dhanashree', 'brindavani', 'kaafi', 'hindola', 'mayamalawagowla', 'revati' and 'mohana'.

"In happier times your love for music is

spontaneous. In tough times music can soothe, heal and relieve you of stress. So, make music an integral part of your life. Veena is the most ancient instrument known to mankind. Its resonance is unparalleled, captivating and takes you to another dimension," AoL founder Sri Sri Ravi Shankar said on the occasion.

"We always recognised music as a profound means of experiencing harmony with oneself and organised many events of music and dance," Ravi Shankar said.

"The inspiration behind this concert was the AoL's 'brahm naad' event in 2008 in New Delhi that brought 1,094 sitarists on one platform for the first time. It made me realise that we need to create platforms to uplift practitioners of ancient arts and enhance the exposure of Indian classical music," said Suparna Ravishanakar, secretary at the Ranjini Kalakendra (Centre for Performing Arts).

# RAW CORE OF VICKY DONOR

Film: **Vicky Donor**;  
Music Directors: **Abhishek-Akshay, Donn-Bann, Rochak Kohli and Ayushmann**;  
Lyricists: **Kusum Verma, Vijay Maurya, Ayushmann Khurrana, Juhi Chaturvedi and Swanand Kirkire**;  
Singers: **Akshay Verma, Aditi Singh Sharma, Clinton Cerejo, Ayushmann Khurrana, Vishal Dadlani, Sunidhi Chauhan, Bann, Mika Singh and Sukanya Purkayastha**;  
Rating: \*\*\*

**V**icky Donor scores a first on many fronts — it not only marks John Abraham's foray into production, it is popular VJ Ayushmann Khurrana's first movie too and Abhishek-Akshay also start their journey as music directors with the movie.

The duo impress with the rawness in the album.

Donn-Bann, Rochak Kohli and Ayushmann too have contributed to the film's soundtrack.

The compositions are supported by lyrics from five different lyricists, who have done a decent job.

Opening track 'Rokda' has ordinary lyrics, but the catchy tunes and composer Akshay Verma's voice make it worth listening to. Aditi Singh joins him and together they manage to pull it off well.



hosting music shows, singing it. He amazingly fits the bill.

Ayushmann's voice is fresh and soothing and it goes well with the composition, a blend of folk and pop tunes.

Ayushmann has co-composed and penned parts of the song and it is an absolute delight.

The track also has a female version by Sukanya Purkayastha, which is equally comforting to the ear.

What follows is love ballad 'Mar jaiyan'. Composed by newcomers Donn-Bann, the song has elements of both Sufi and rock.

The lyrics are by Swanand Kirkire and the mesmerising voices of Sunidhi Chauhan and Vishal Dadlani do justice to the song. This is a perfect song, so just sit back and enjoy it.

It also has a melancholic version sung by Bann, which has a rustic feel and would be a good listen for those facing heartbreak blues.

Last but definitely not the least is "Chaddha" where Mika delivers the perfect ending track.

'Chaddha' has funny lyrics like 'Kismat ke lag gaye pakode, peeche pad gaya Chaddha' and catchy beats pointing to the character of Dr. Chaddha played by Annu Kapoor, who is chasing sperm donor Ayushmann.

Overall, *Vicky Donor* is a good effort and the coming together of various artistes makes it worth listening to.

—Bhaskar Pant





Director Sandeep Kumar (Left, foreground and above) with his crew. (Photo: Wolfgang Garhoefer)

# LOVE IN VIENNA

India-born Austrian film director **Sandeep Kumar** is making a musical film à la Bollywood, titled *Servus Ishq* or *Hello, Love*. **Mehru Jaffer** caught up with Kumar for a chat in Vienna where he was shooting the film's first romantic song sequence...

India-born Austrian film director Sandeep Kumar is celebrating spring with a difference this year. He has installed lights and cameras in the heart of Vienna's Hirschstetten Botanical Gardens to film the first song for his *Servus Ishq* in Bollywood style.

At this time of year, the botanical garden is a riot of colours with 360,000 spring flowers already in bloom and another 1.5 million summer flowers about to burst into life. Kumar calls it "an enchanting backdrop for a movie".

"I could not have asked for more. This is the backdrop to a romantic song that I will film in different parts of Austria," Kumar said. The *mahurat* (a ritual conducted at an auspicious hour) of *Servus Ishq* or *Hello, Love* was held here at a temple to the chant of mantras.

An Indo-Austrian production, the film is slated for release early next year. *Servus Ishq*, written, produced and directed by Kumar, is

a musical drama, a colourful mix of romance, songs and spirituality. It is also the first crossover film to be simultaneously shot in English, German and Hindi.

Kumar is delighted to have Mumbai-based Afroz Khan compose the music for the five songs in the film, two of which are sung by Mohammad Salamat of 'Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam' fame.

"I have so many stories in mind. Most of them are about my own experiences of an Indian living in Austria. I am so comfortable being Indian and Austrian. The delicious taste of feeling at home here and there at once is a theme close to my heart," said Kumar, whose first film *Kesariya Balam* is the story of a Rajasthani woman reborn in Vienna. *Kesariya Balam* premiered in Vienna in 2010 and bagged numerous awards in Austria, including the prestigious Austrian National Champion Director award in 2011.

Kumar came to Austria about a decade ago after studying business management in the U.S. and Germany. For many years, he worked as a management consultant by day and wrote scripts by night.

Now he has taken a break from work to film *Servus Ishq* that stars Victoria Nougieria, a first-time Austrian actress and second-year student at Schuppielschule Krauss, an acting school in Vienna. Nougieria, who plays 'Maya', the central character, in the film, is an Indian with Austrian roots. Nougieria



Victoria Nougieria. (Photo: Ritchy Pop)

was chosen after a countrywide audition of 150 contestants for the role and has since mastered the moves of Bollywood dance.

In the film, Maya is shown arriving in Vienna from India following the trail of a diary left by her late grandmother who was Austrian. Shot entirely in Austria, the film traces the pilgrimage Maya undertakes to the picturesque city of Mariazell, about 200 km from Vienna and sacred to Catholics, where she lays her Austrian grandmother's ashes to rest. During the same journey Maya also finds the love of her life.

"The magnificent church from the 17th century and the Erlaufsee Lake nearby serve as yet another spectacular backdrop to our tender love story," said Kumar of Mariazell.

The inspiration to include the location as part of the film came after his Hindu mother, who also lives in Vienna, told him that she felt like praying at Mariazell.

"I accompanied my mother to Mariazell

and experienced a memorable feeling of spirituality. This was a surprise to me. My impression was that spirituality was dead in contemporary Europe," recalled Kumar.

The song and dance saga is choreographed by Vienna-based Kathak danseuse Neha Kapdi, originally from Mumbai, who also stars in the film. Kumar's crew of 25 people is mostly Austrian. Master cinematographer Max Leimstaettner is the director of photography.

Kumar's love for the performing arts goes back to Delhi's St. Columba's School, where he was four years junior to Shah Rukh Khan. His most cherished memory is of the time when he shared the stage with the Bollywood 'Badshah' who played the wizard in the school's version of L. Frank Baum's *The Wizard of Oz*. 🎬



# HEART OF DARKNESS

Dark, mysterious, spooky... That's the Kutumsar caves in Chhattisgarh. Regarded as one of the longest caves in the world, it is not for the faint-hearted or the claustrophobic, says **Rahul Vaishnavi**

**W**alking down the narrow, steep staircase in a rock crevice surrounded by dense foliage, one enters through a small iron door the pitch dark and intimidating Kutumsar caves. Considered one of the longest caves in the world, the exhilarating journey, which lasts about an hour, is a must for those seeking an adrenaline rush.

Situated in the Kanger Valley National Park in Bastar, which is around 350 km from the Chhattisgarh capital Raipur, in central India, the caves have been named

after the nearby village. They are 40 feet deep and an amazing 4,500 feet in length.

The entrance of the cave is extremely narrow and big enough only to crawl through. However, a couple of feet down via the man-made iron staircase the caves open up to be explored with the help of guides equipped with solar lanterns. Once inside, the enigmatic setting will help you play out your Indiana Jones fantasies as you walk on the uneven and treacherous rocky surface thrilled by the fear of the unknown.

However, breathing in the damp air

amidst pitch darkness and echoing sounds does make it a spooky adventure and a strict no-no for the faint-hearted or claustrophobic.

As the torchlight falls on the rocks around, mystifying and vivid stalactite and stalagmite formations on the roofs and walls are a visual treat powerful enough to trigger your imagination.

The natural patterns have formed over hundreds of years due to rainwater percolating through small crevices in the rocks. While a pattern on the roof may resemble the eyes of goddess Durga

another on the wall may look like an elephant's trunk or a peacock's feathers.

As you move ahead, small water pockets are inhabited by a unique species of fish and frogs which according to the locals are genetically blind, breeding in the dark depth as not even a single ray of sun penetrates inside.

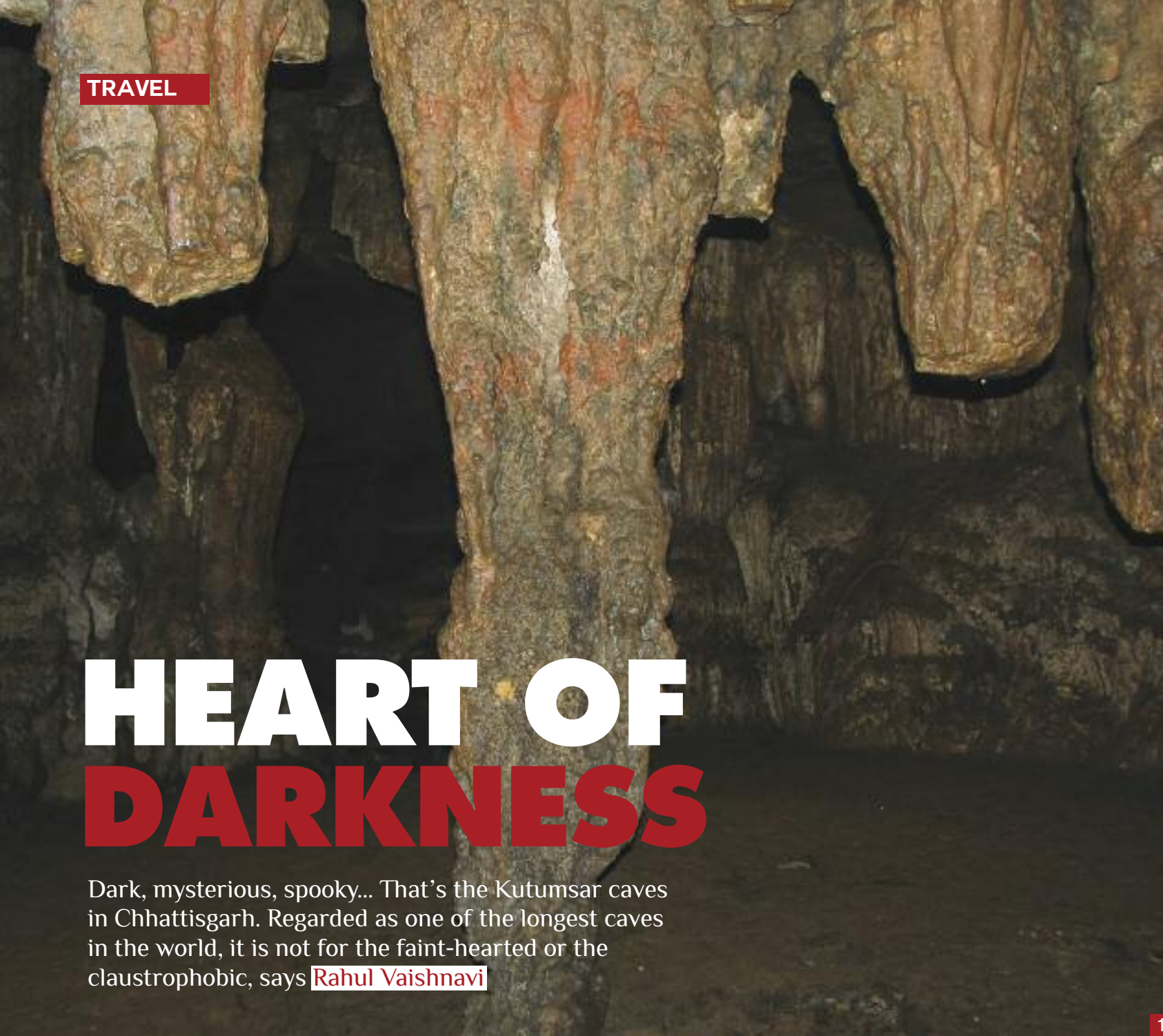
There are several chambers inside the caves in all directions and in 2011 a new chamber believed to be 410 metres deep was discovered.

However, the guided tour passes through one main cave and venturing into

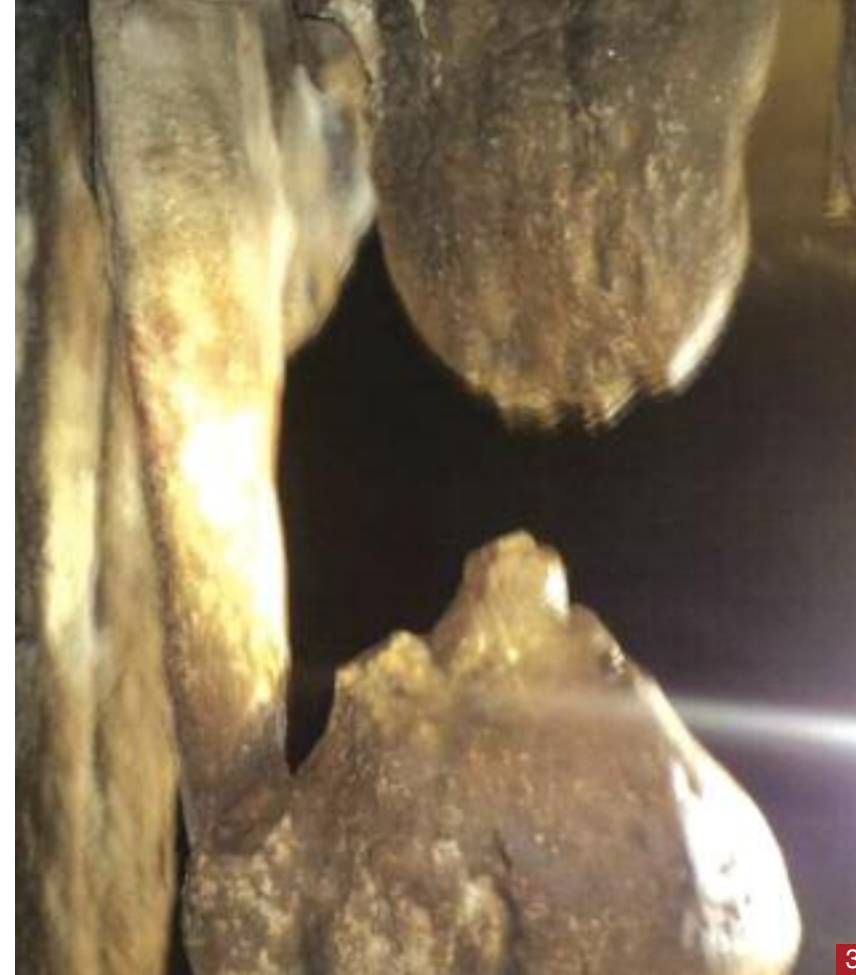
the other chambers is prohibited. Access to the main cave too is limited to a point owing to lack of oxygen.

At the very end of the main cave lies the naturally formed Shiva 'linga' and every year on Maha Shivratri hundreds of local residents go down the cave to offer prayers.

According to local folklore, the caves were first discovered in 1951 by tribals who were hunting a porcupine and followed it inside the caves. However, according to the official version, the caves were discovered around 1958 by geographer Shankar Prasad Tiwari. 📍



1



3



2

1. The Kutumsar Cave.
2. One of the many stalactite formations inside the cave.
3. At the very end of the main cave lies the naturally formed Shiva 'linga' and every year on Maha Shivratri hundreds of local residents go down the cave to offer prayers.
4. A view of Kanger 'Dhara' (waterfalls) in the Kanger National Park.



4

## KANGER VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

**L**ocated near Jagdalpur, in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh and close to the Kutumsar Caves is the Kanger Valley National Park, a biosphere reserve spread over an area of approximately 200 sq km. It derives its name from the Kanger river that flows through it. The park is known for its rich fauna and flora. While touring the Park, there are two other well-known caves one can visit — Kailash Caves and Dandak Caves. Kanger Dhara (seen in the pic), Tirathgarh Waterfalls and Bhaimsa Dhara (a Crocodile Park) are other key attractions.

The best time to visit is during the months of November-June.

## How to Reach

Kanger Valley can be approached from Jagdalpur, the district headquarters of Bastar. It is at a distance of about 27 km from Jagdalpur on the Jagdalpur-Konta road. One can also approach the park via Jagdalpur-Sargipal-Jatam-Nianar-Bodal road. Raipur (330 km) is the nearest airport and Jagdalpur (27 km) is the nearest railhead and bus stand for the Kanger Valley National Park.



# SUNNY-SIDE UP

The egg's versatility and popularity is making gourmet chefs in India create tantalising new dishes. The culinary tales of some of India's top 'egg chefs'...

Times are a changing for the humble egg. Gone are the days of *bhurji* and egg curry. It is the age of "personalised omelettes" with names inscribed on them, of one-eyed Susans and of egg jellies for dessert. Egg's sheer versatility is making gourmet chefs create dishes as tantalising as egg jellies, egg sausages and fried egg desserts.

A decade ago, a dish of spicy egg curry, cooked to a shade of angry red, with *parantha*, was staple in homes across states like Bengal and Kerala and in the Parsi broods of Mumbai and Gujarat, while *bhurji* was common on north-Indian platters. However, in the deft hands of chefs like Sabyasachi Gorai, who was conferred the Indian National Tourism Board's Best Chef 2011 award by President

Pratibha Devisingh Patil, the homely eggs have turned magical. Chef 'Saby', as he is known in his professional circle, gives the example of "the perfect omelette — white on the outside and runny inside, like the perfect half moon glued around the edges, an art that takes about six to eight months to master".

"At the Eggs' Station that I run at the Olive Bar & Kitchen we serve Eggs Benedict, poached eggs, egg sausages stuffed with minced meat, jelly eggs and sweetened fried eggs with vanilla toast for children," says Saby.

The young chef, "who grew up on eggs as a child" makes use of a wide variety of eggs, including those of quail and duck, in experimental dishes such as the egg 'potli' — egg with runny yolk and cooked in



Chef Sabyasachi Gorai,  
Olive Bar & Kitchen, New Delhi

Culinary Forum, an association of professional chefs, says eggs have assumed a different dimension on the Indian gourmet's menu because of the rising popularity of fusion cuisine. "Quail eggs and duck eggs are increasingly appearing on the table — either as base or topping or batter for South-East Asian cooking and fusion dishes." One of Sagar's favourite is "fish fillet dipped in an egg batter, dusted with cumins and fennels and fried".

Veteran chef and author Devinder Kumar, the head of the Indian Culinary Forum, says, "Eggs give texture and add extra flavour to the dish. With innovation and creativity becoming the buzzwords, the

a plastic pouch — served with roast tenderloin or chicken. "I am also trying to revive classic western egg recipes like the One-Eyed Susan which is a toast with a hole in the centre and a whole egg thrown in the middle," he says.

Chef Vivek Sagar, who is a member of the Indian



A folded Spanish omelette  
with olives

egg *bhurji* is taking on new flavours. I like to scramble eggs with lemon leaves for an Asian flavour." The chef, who has authored *Just Kebabs: Celebrations for 365 Days and One for the Leap Year*, says he often uses roasted potato as a mould in which he puts some scrambled egg and serves it with various herbs.

"I sometimes make an egg mille feuille — a thin omelette

with layers of ham rolled in with herbs — and border the dish with some mashed tomato and basil sauce. Egg knows no boundaries; it is yet to acquire an identity, either as a vegetarian or as a non-vegetarian dish. It is how you perceive it," quips Kumar.

Kolkata-based celebrity chef Shaun Kenworthy says, "Egg is important to classical cuisine. A classical and popular French

dish is eggs cooked in a bowl with truffles on top. Another dish that I like is boiled egg set in a rich veal consommé and served with truffles. I love gull's eggs — small and blue and have cooked duck's eggs for years."

At Jaypee Hotel's Eggspectation in New Delhi, the egg gets an American and continental makeover with its signature dishes like "Three-

Omelette Eggspectation', 'Triple Treat Tortilla' and 'Egg Chilada' — drawing hundreds of youngsters to it every day.

"Like in India, it is one of the most popular foods in my native Italy and in North America from where I started my chain. It is one of the most basic breakfast dishes and widely accepted in India," says co-founder of Eggspectation, Enzo Renda. 🍷

## SOME EGGCITING RECIPES

### Chef's Choice

Chef Saby (Sabyasachi Gorai) recommends Egg Malvani Curry from the Konkan region of Maharashtra and Goa. "I just love the Egg Malvani Curry," Saby says.

### EGG MALVANI CURRY

— One of the popular styles of Malvani Egg Curry

#### Ingredients

- Eggs: 4 (hard boiled)
- Green chillies: 2 (medium spicy)
- Coriander leaves: coarsely chopped
- Garlic: 4
- Ginger: coarsely chopped
- Onion 1 1/2 no (chopped)
- Fresh coconut: 1/2 cup
- Red chilli powder: 1 1/2 tsp
- Malvani masala: 1 1/2 tbsp
- Garam masala: 1 tsp
- Cumin seeds: 1/2 tsp
- Dry red chillies: 2
- Hing: a pinch
- Salt: to taste
- Oil: 2 tbsp + 3 tbsp

#### Method

Heat 2 tbsp of oil in a pan. Add onions and sauté till translucent. Add grated coconut. Sauté till onions and coconut turn light golden. Remove from flame.

Grind ginger, garlic, green chillies, coriander leaves and sautéed onion and coconut into a fine paste.



Heat 3 tbsp of oil, add cumin seeds and allow them to crackle. Add hing and dry red chillies.

Add the ground paste and sauté the masala till oil separates.

Add red chilli powder, malvani masala and sauté for 5 minutes.

Add water to get the required consistency. Add salt and sprinkle garam masala.

Let it boil until oil surfaces.

Cut the boiled eggs in half and add to the gravy.

Garnish with fresh coriander leaves and serve hot with rice or chapatti with some onion and a lemon wedge on the side.

### DEVILED STUFFED EGGS

#### Ingredients

- 12 hard-boiled eggs
- 1/3 cl finely chopped pickles or sweet relish
- 1/3 cl salad dressing
- 2 tbsp. finely chopped onion
- 1/4 tsp. salt

#### Method

Remove egg shells. Halve eggs lengthwise.

Remove and mash egg yolks. Dice 1 egg white.

To make filling: In a bowl, combine yolks, diced egg white, pickles, salad dressing, onion and salt.

Spoon about 1 tablespoon filling into each remaining egg white half. Garnish with half a pimento olive. Cover, refrigerate until serving time, at least for four hours.

You may top them up with olives! 🍷





# BAGTA WORK FETCHES \$300,000

A previously unrecorded work by master Indian artist Bagta (1769-1828) has fetched a record \$302,500 at the Indian, Himalayan & South-East Asian Art auction in the US recently.

Dated 1808 and measuring 16 x 22 inches, the painting depicts Rawat Gokal Das (fl. 1761-1814), the 18th-century ruler of Devgarh in Rajasthan, celebrating Holi with his consorts.

Bagta was a consummate artist who attained great success with his maiden painting 'Boar Hunting'. He played a vital role in the development of what came to be described as the Devgarh style of painting. Bagta was featured in the landmark exhibition which opened at the Museum



Rietberg, Zurich, and was on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York's 'Wonder of the Age, Master Painters of India, 1100-1900' exhibition until recently. "It was truly in-

credible to witness the sale of this work come to fruition. Bringing in a lot of this calibre has proven to be not only a highlight of my career but also a highlight for (auctioners) Bon-

'Rawat Gokal Das playing holi', 16"x22", 1808. A painting by Bagta.

hams and for this 2012 Asia Week," said Edward Wilkinson, Bonhams department specialist.

# UNIVERSITY AWARD FOR INDIAN LINGUIST



Dr. Mohammad Jahangeer Warsi

Dr. Mohammad Jahangeer Warsi, a gold medallist linguist from Aligarh Muslim University, is the recipient of this year's James E. McLeod Faculty Recognition Award, an academic honour given to teachers for positively influencing the educational experiences

of the students at Washington University.

Previously called the Faculty Awards, the recipient of the prestigious honour is selected by the students of the university at St. Louis, Missouri.

Congratulating Dr. Warsi, Robert E. Hegel, Chair of the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, said: "This is indeed exciting news — congratulations! This is a wonderful honour and strong testament to your efforts in the classroom."

Dr. Warsi is also the recipient of the 'Unsung Hero' award 2005 from the University of California at Berkeley, and a recipient of UP Hindi-Urdu Literary Award for the year 2011.

## INDIA-BORN JOINS U.S. ACADEMY



Kamaljit Singh

INDIA-BORN Kamaljit Singh Bawa, a distinguished professor of biology at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, has been elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Bawa, founder and president of Bangalore-based Ashoka Trust for Ecology and the Environment, will join the academy on October 6. Among others elected to the Academy are: US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton; former Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen, Jr; veteran diplomat R. Nicholas Burns; and television journalist Judy Woodruff.

## AJAY BANGA TO HEAD USIBC



Ajay Banga

AJAY BANGA, president & CEO of MasterCard Worldwide, has been elected next chairman of the US-India Business Council (USIBC), a trade association of 350 top American and Indian companies.

Banga takes over from Harold McGraw III, president, chairman, and CEO of The McGraw-Hill Companies. "By expanding the partnership between our two nations over the next several years we can move from \$100 billion in two-way trade to \$500 billion by the end of the decade," Banga said.



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## For details contact:

**Ms. Sujata Sudarshan**  
CEO, OIFC, and Director – CII  
249-F, sector 18, Udyog Vihar, Phase IV  
Gurgaon — 122015, Haryana, INDIA  
Tel: +91-124-4014055/6  
Fax: +91-124-4309446  
Website: [www.oifc.in](http://www.oifc.in)



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# Apravasi Ghat



Apravasi Ghat, situated on Quay Street at the Port Louis harbour in Mauritius, was where indentured labourers from India first set foot in the then French colony. Some 400,000 Indian labourers, men and women, trod its steps between 1834 and 1924 to reach their new homes in colonial plantations. The buildings that exist today constitute only a part of the original ensemble. The entrance is still there, as well as the hospital meant for the immigrants, a shed for horses, the kitchens, the common halls, the water-closets, the area where the immigrants washed themselves upon arrival, and the quarters for the sirdars. Apravasi Ghat was earlier known as 'Coolie Ghat'. In 1976, the Folk Museum of Indian Immigration of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute documented nearly 200,000 photos and other documents relating to the period between 1834-1920 for display. On July 12, 2006, UNESCO recognised Apravasi Ghat as a World Heritage Site.



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