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welcomes a Global Leader
**Prime Minister
Narendra Modi**
to the United States



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Prime Minister
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Dr. B.K. Modi, Founder and President, Global Citizen Forum
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The GCF will host a special dialogue on *“Globalization and Sustainable Development: The role of NGOs, Government and the Private Sector”* at the UNHQ in New York in partnership with the Universal Peace Federation, sponsored by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations on Oct 31, 2014.



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SPECIAL REPORT ON
INDIA



Silo picture of India's Mars Orbiter Spacecraft on November 5, 2013 at the launch center in India. The spacecraft began orbiting Mars on September 24, 2014.

- **Modi's Amazing Journey**
- **His Mandate For Change**
- **Stakes for a New India-U.S. Partnership**
- **India's Innovations in Science and Education**

Editors: Douglas Burton
Siddharth Zarabi

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Narendra Modi's Surprising Indian Journey

BY NILANJAN MUKHOPADHYAY

The landslide victory in May of India's new prime minister has brought a newcomer to the helm of the world's largest democracy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 64, is a Hindu nationalist, a legendary orator and wily campaigner who rose from a small town in the state of Gujarat but who gained his first public office only 13 years ago. On September 30th, he will sit down with the U.S. President for the first time at the White House to talk trade, foreign policy and what could be a new strategic partnership.

He has survived controversies in India with Clintonesque elan. As recently as 2005 he was reviled by critics as turning a blind eye to murderous religious riots that left 1,000 Muslims dead, violations of religious freedom and fair play. U.S. authorities reacted by turning down his application for a business visa and cancelling his existing one.

Modi's image as an ascetic is based on the fact that he is a teetotaler, vegetarian, non-smoker who is single. His flamboyant style of dressing and fondness for expensive spectacle frames, watches and pens are well known but this does not affect his popularity because Modi never projected himself as a saint in the Gandhi mould.

A dramatic turnaround has come about solely because of the massive mandate he secured this summer from an Indian electorate of 815 million voters. Indians voted most decisively and gave Modi's party, the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), a clear electoral majority, last secured by Rajiv Gandhi's Congress party in 1984.

Modi's life could be the plot for a racy and riveting movie on politics: contentious ideology, searing ambition, a hostile opposition, an ample dose of intrigue and shocking levels of violence.

The only element missing is romance. He has lived his entire adult life as a bachelor although he was technically "married" to a woman chosen for him by his parents when he was a child. Modi and the woman married



Courtesy: Government of India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaking on India's Independence Day at the Red Fort on August 15, 2014.



Courtesy: Open Magazine.



Credit: Unknown source.

Left: Modi in elementary school, Year unknown, **Right:** Modi in disguise to evade police during the "Indian Emergency" period in 1975.

to him have never lived together but remain legally married. His wife is a retired school teacher.

Born into a low-caste, impoverished family, Modi's climb to respectability reminds some of the trials of the young Abraham Lincoln. At the time of his birth in a small hamlet nearly 100 miles north of Gandhinagar, the capital of the state of Gujarat, his low caste and poverty were a guarantee for anonymity and ignominy.

From his childhood, he was driven by the dream to carve out a different destiny from what appeared to be pre-ordained. Leaving home at 17, he tried to become a Hindu monk. But the order that he wished to join – the Ramakrishna Mission – refused

to admit him without a college degree!

After travelling through the Himalayas for a couple of years, a journey that saw him wander around in the mountains, living among Hindu monks, he returned to Gujarat, but not to the family fold. Instead he enlisted in the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) as a volunteer. The RSS, the National Volunteer Organization, was founded in 1925 as a right wing Hindu nationalist group to unite and train Hindu men to safeguard their religion and culture and get them to selflessly serve the nation. The RSS is the fountainhead of Hindu nationalistic politics in India.

Modi cut his political teeth as a young cadre in the RSS. That

was during the early 70s in India – a time of political strife. Indira Gandhi, India's prime minister, had secured a thumping majority in 1971 and led her country to a military victory against Pakistan. Yet, by late 1973 her government was rocked by one crisis after another. The RSS was at the forefront of that agitation, and Modi was given a part to play in that.

When Prime Minister Gandhi suspended civil rights and clamped down on journalists, Modi distinguished himself as a leader of protest demonstrations. Even as the Indian police tried to chase him down, Modi ferried banned literature and escorted senior leaders of the RSS from one safe house to another as they all tried to avoid arrest. Often, he went around in disguise – his experience in theatre as a child enabled him to enact the persona he assumed. This ability to change roles became his hallmark.

Modi is a powerful orator, a talent that held him in good stead ever after he moved to the BJP in 1987 as a full-time worker. In this role, he engineered a spectacular victory for his party in the city council elections of Ahmedabad, the capital of Gujarat.

Modi's rise in the BJP coincided with the party's meteoric emergence from a peripheral party with only two members in India's lower house of Parliament in 1984, to 85 members in 1989 and 120 by 1991. The rise was the result of a BJP campaign to demolish a medieval Indian mosque built by the Moghul king Babur, and replace it with a Hindu temple to mark the birthplace of Lord Rama, an avatar of the Hindu God Vishnu.

He continued to rise in the party hierarchy in Gujarat, eventually helping it secure a majority in the state assembly in 1995.

Yet, Modi's perceived abrasive ways also won him bitter rivals, many of whom plotted his ouster from the party. Modi was soon moved out of his home state by party bosses and asked to work elsewhere in India.

By the time the BJP won the federal elections in 1998, Modi had reached the party headquarters in New Delhi. Months later, he was a powerful general secretary and spokesperson, who

made his mark as a fiery Hindu nationalist.

A devastating earthquake in the Kutch region of Gujarat in 2001 saw him take the lead in rescue and rehabilitation work. The state was due for elections in 2003, and the central leaders anointed Modi as the chief minister. He had barely settled into the job when a bloody attack on Hindus set off communal riots in the state. This happened after 59 activists of an RSS affiliate organization were burnt to death in a train that was taking them back home after a campaign in Ayodhya for building the temple of Lord Rama.

More than 1,000 people, a majority of them Muslims, died in the violence. Modi was accused of not doing enough to prevent the carnage and not being serious in prosecuting those charged with murder, sexual violence and rioting. The cases went through the Indian court system. In late 2013, Modi was exonerated by a team of investigators appointed by the Indian federal Supreme Court, with the team concluding that there was no prosecutable evidence against him linked to the tragic events of 2002.

In May 2014, Indian voters handed him a decisive five-year mandate to rule India, a country of phenomenal diversity. Ever since he has slowly and steadily set in motion his administration, using a mixture of tight-fisted control and incremental moves over big-bang reforms. For those who follow India, the time to watch it more closely is now.



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Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay is a Delhi-based journalist and author of *Narendra Modi: The Man, The Times*

Outsider at the Helm of India

BY SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Either by destiny or sheer luck Narendra Modi was catapulted from the career as a party functionary of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), to the chief minister-ship of his home state of Gujarat in 2001. A beleaguered BJP, facing likely defeat in an election that was just a year away turned to him as a last ditch resort. Modi, then 51, had shown tremendous energy and acumen as a party organizer but had zero experience in governance and had never even run for public office. It was a calculated gamble—and one which paid off handsomely.

In the ensuing 13 years, Modi has led his party to conclusive victories in three provincial elections and a national election. Having established the hegemony of the BJP in Gujarat, he led his party to a spectacular national triumph in 2014. On May 16, he reversed a 30-year jinx that saw no single party win an outright majority in India's parliament.

If luck (Hindus prefer to call it fate) played a disproportionate role in thrusting him into the hurly-burly of electoral politics, what has sustained him in power and political stature are energy, farsightedness and the uncanny ability to surprise everyone.

Surprise has been Modi's secret weapon that he has used with devastating effect. Within months of assuming office in Gujarat, the province was shaken by nearly four days of Hindu-Muslim fighting that left hundreds dead. His opponents, who caricatured Modi as a Hindu zealot, immediately blamed him personally for the rioting. The government classes and their media allies joined the clamor for Modi's head.

A lesser man would have wilted under pressure, but Modi remained steadfast and turned adversity to his advantage. Where his opponents expected him to become shrill and fan Hindu rage, Modi appealed to regional pride and painted

his critics as out to tarnish the reputation of Gujarat. More importantly, he deftly shifted the focus of debate from issues of religious identity and sought to equate regional pride with rapid economic development of the state. Where the opposition banged on about the supposed injustices to minorities, Modi focused his narrative on round-the-clock power to consumers, water supply to drought-prone regions and a conflict-free social environment.

It was the same story in the 2014 general election. When he was anointed the BJP's prime ministerial candidate in September, his political opponents and the commentariat assumed that he would campaign on an emotive, "Hindutva" plank. Modi surprised them with his promise of creating an opportunity society and promising the "good times"—an appeal that transcended religious and social divisions.

Surprise has been Modi's secret weapon that he has used with devastating effect.

This "with you, for you" approach was complemented by an energetic, volunteer-based but professional campaign aimed at India's voters below the age of 35 years who make up the bulk of the electorate. In rarefied circles, the BJP had a fuddy-duddy image as the party of Hindu traditionalists with insular mentalities. Modi caught his opponents off guard by courting the youth vote with a pincer movement.

First, he toured the country extensively, speaking at over 400 public meetings in six months. His rallies were a blend of traditional politics and rock concerts with frenzied supporters chanting "Modi, Modi". Second, he launched an unprecedented outreach campaign on a social media.

His outreach through Facebook and Twitter served two



Credit: Government of India.

Narendra Modi (far right) taking the oath of office in New Delhi on May 26, 2014 following a landslide victory of his party. President Pranab Mukherjee (far left) administers the oath.

additional purposes. First, it allowed Modi to get his message directly to individual voters over the head of an establishment media that was—at least till the final stages of the campaign—quite hostile to him. Additionally, his slickly designed postings had a multiplier effect, and an army of Modi supporters emerged seemingly from nowhere to do battle for him.

The use of surprise and innovation as political weapons weren't purely tactical. For all his flamboyance, Modi isn't impulsive. What appears to outsiders as unexpected shifts and turns are invariably preceded by a great deal of meticulous planning. Those who have worked closely with Modi will testify that he is patient and quite the inquisitive listener. He cross-examines closely and prefers actionable plans to abstract thought. Most importantly, he has the great gift of packaging ideas in a simple but catchy idiom.

His verve for effective communication isn't merely a marketing ploy. Modi's lodestar is the 19th Century mystic, Swami Vivekananda, who articulated a vision of a resurgent India rooted in its spiritual traditions. Modi can't be comprehended

through conventional and largely Westernisms. He isn't a doctrinaire politician in the same way as, say, Margaret Thatcher. He is undeniably a nationalist who puts Indian self-interest above everything else.

For Modi, the priority at present is to kick-start the economy and reverse the sluggish growth of what many regard as eight wasted years. In foreign policy, Modi's thrust is two-fold: to ensure a peaceful and, if possible, friendly neighborhood and to raise India's economic performance to global standards. Modi is only too aware that before assuming a meaningful role at the high table, India must first build capacity.

But it is not merely GDP growth and fiscal consolidation that constitutes the benchmark of success. As a politician, Modi is mindful of the soaring expectations from a young and impatient electorate. He has to find a meaningful, productive outlet for the one million Indians who enter the jobs market each month. The "make in India" policy he unveiled on India's Independence Day is aimed at turning India into a manufacturing hub for world markets. That involves the upgrading

infrastructure, improving labor skills, injecting capital and removing procedural roadblocks in the path of entrepreneurship.

Modi's short visit to the United States in late September should be viewed as an overture to American business and the hugely successful Indian diaspora. A spectacular measure of goodwill awaits him among business leaders and overseas Indians. His endeavor is to translate that goodwill into something rewarding for India. The time for redrawing strategic equations in Asia will come later after government-to-government trust is re-established.



Swapan Dasgupta is a political analyst based in New Delhi.

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'Ties of History and Culture Bind India to the United States'

CNN Interviews Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave his first television interview after taking office to CNN's Fareed Zakaria GPS. Excerpts of the global television exclusive on Sept. 20, 2014 follow.

Fareed ZAKARIA: After your election people have begun asking again a question that has been asked many times for the last two decades, which is, "Will India be the next China? Will India be able to grow at 8-9 percent a year consistently and transform itself and thus transform the world?"

Narendra MODI: See, India does not need to become anything else. India must become only India. This is a country that once upon a time was called 'the golden bird'. We have fallen from where we were before. But now we have the chance to rise again. If you see the details of the last five or ten centuries, you will see that India and China have grown at similar paces. Their contributions to global GDP have risen in parallel, and fallen in parallel. Today's era once again belongs to Asia. India and China are both growing rapidly, together.

Fareed ZAKARIA: But people would still, I think, wonder, "Can India achieve the kind of eight and nine-percent growth rates that China has done consistently for 30 years and India has only done for a short period?"

Narendra MODI: It is my absolute belief that Indians have unlimited talent. I have no doubt about our capabilities. I have a lot of faith in the entrepreneurial nature of our 1.25 billion people. There is a lot of capability. And I have a clear road-map to channel it.

Fareed ZAKARIA: China's behavior in the East China Sea and the South China Sea over the last two years has worried many of its neighbors. The head of the governments in Philippines and Vietnam have made very sharp statements worrying about it. Do you worry about it?

Narendra MODI: India is different. It is a country of 1.25 billion people. We can't run our country if we get worried about every small thing. At the same time, we can't close our eyes



Prime Minister Narendra Modi talks to CNN's Fareed Zakaria on September 20, 2014.

to problems. We are not living in the eighteenth century. This is an era of partnership. Everyone will have to seek and extend help mutually. China is also a country with an ancient cultural heritage. Look at how it has focused on economic development. It's hardly the sign of a country that wants to be isolated. We should have trust in China's understanding and have faith that it would accept global laws and will play its role in cooperating and moving forward.

Fareed ZAKARIA: There are many people in the United States and some in India who wish that the United States and India were much closer allies. The world's oldest democracy, the world's biggest democracy, but somehow that has never happened, and there have always been these frictions and difficulties. Do you think it is possible for the United States and India to develop a genuinely strategic alliance?

Narendra MODI: I have a one word answer: "Yes." And with great confidence I say "yes." Let me explain. There are many similarities between India and America. If you look at the last few centuries, two things come to light. America has absorbed people from around the world, and there is an Indian in every part of the world. This characterizes both the societies. Indians and Americans have coexistence in their natural temperament. Now, yes, for sure,

there have been ups and downs in our relationship in the last century. But from the end of the 20th century to the first decade of the 21st century, we have witnessed a big change. Our ties have deepened. India and the United States are bound together, by history and by culture. These ties will deepen further.

Fareed ZAKARIA: So far in your contacts with the Obama administration, you have had several cabinet members come here. Do you feel that there is a genuine desire from Washington to try to upgrade the relationship with India substantially?

Narendra MODI: Relations between India and America should not be seen within the limits of just Delhi and Washington. It's a much larger sphere. The good thing is that the mood of both Delhi and Washington is in harmony with this understanding. Both sides have played a role in this.

Fareed ZAKARIA: One of the areas that India has come on to the world scene or people have read about and heard about it, which has been unfortunate has been violence against women. This issue of rape. Why is it do you think that there is this problem of, it seems persistent discrimination and violence against women in India, and what do you think can be done about it?

Narendra MODI: Look, we political

pundits shouldn't tangle ourselves up in knots by searching for the root cause of this problem. More damage is done by statements from political pundits. Dignity of women is our collective responsibility. There should be no compromise in this matter. There should be no erosion in the law and order situation. We have to revive the family culture in which a woman is respected and considered equal, her dignity encouraged. The main thing here is girl-child education. By doing so, the possibility of empowerment will increase. On August 15, my government pushed ahead a movement called: "Educate the girl, save the girl."

Fareed ZAKARIA: Ayman al-Zawahiri, the head of al Qaeda, has issued a video and an appeal trying to create an al Qaeda in India. In South Asia he says, but the message was really directed towards India, and he says he wants to free Muslims from the oppression they face in Gujarat, in Kashmir. Do you worry that something like this could succeed?

Narendra MODI: My understanding is that they are doing injustice towards the Muslims of our country. If anyone thinks Indian Muslims will dance to their tune, they are delusional. Indian Muslims will live for India. They will die for India. They will not want anything bad for India.

Fareed ZAKARIA: Why do you think it is that there is this remarkable phenomenon that you have 170 million Muslims, and there seem to be almost no or very few members of al-Qaeda. Even though al-Qaeda is in Afghanistan, and of course there are many in Pakistan. What is it that has made this community not as susceptible?

Narendra MODI: Firstly, I am not the authority for doing a psychological and religious analysis on this. But the question is, whether or not humanity should be defended in the world? Whether or not believers in humanity should unite? This is a crisis against humanity, not a crisis against one country or one race. So, we have to frame this as a fight between humanity and inhumanity. Nothing else.

What to Expect of India as a Regional Player

BY DR. SUDHIR M. PARIKH

The Indian-American community is immensely excited about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the White House. Ever since his historic ascension to the office of the Prime Minister, Indian Americans have been eagerly waiting to see Modi received by President Barack Obama. But the fact remains that beyond the optics of this summit, the community may be well-advised to temper its great expectations.

As the first prime minister of India in a generation with a two-thirds majority in Parliament and with an unchallenged grip over his own Bharatiya Janata Party, Modi is in a position to steer India in a direction of his choosing without being beholden to any interests at home or abroad.

Modi has made several calibrated moves on the foreign-policy front since coming into office. First, he made concerted overtures toward India's neighbors, including Pakistan.

Second, his multilateral diplomacy as seen in the Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa [BRICS], Summit and his stand with regard to the WTO demonstrated the assertive role that India is likely to play in international affairs.

Thereafter, his successful visit to Japan and his summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping in New Delhi, underscore how important these two Asian economic giants are to India's developmental goals.

These diplomatic moves ahead of his much anticipated visit to Washington offer a clue into Modi's world view: that India's strategic and economic interests preclude any special relationship with any one particular country, including the United States.

Even as Washington remains a valuable strategic ally and an invaluable trading partner, Modi's vision of India's road to taking its rightful place in the comity of nations is not paved through Washington. Instead, it depends on finding equilibrium in India's economic and strategic relations with the United States, Russia, Japan and China, even as it strengthens and stabilizes its position in South Asia.

All this does not mean a downgrading of U.S.-India relations. The United States remains India's largest trading partner at nearly \$120 billion. Despite diversification of its sources, the United States is a major arms exporter to India, and defense ties between the two countries are crucial to their interests in the Indian Ocean and the Asia-Pacific region. Both countries have a tremendous

convergence of security and strategic interests - in India's immediate neighborhood and on many global issues.

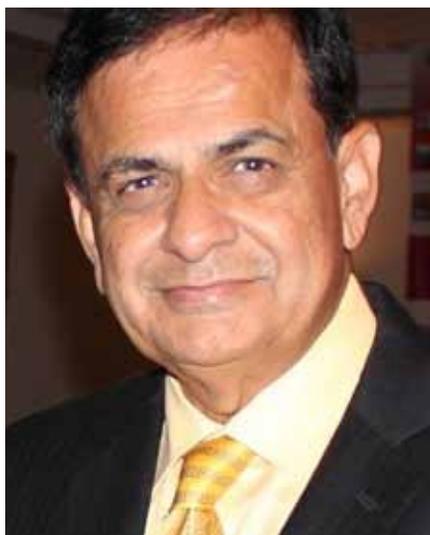
There is, however, no doubt that America's interests and responsibilities as a lone super power sometimes conflict with India's own economic, developmental and security imperatives. For instance, India can only go so far as to being a bulwark against the rise of China or become an ally of the United States against Russia, given India's geographical location, economic linkages and developmental goals.

Similarly, the United States has its own priorities in not accommodating India's interests in various multilateral bodies and policies, including the United Nations, the international financial institutions and forums.

The challenge for both the countries is to strengthen and widen relationship on issues where there is a convergence of interests and minimize the differences where there is divergence. The summit between Obama and Modi will set the tone and tenor of the future relationship.

It is therefore imperative that we do not rush to make judgments about the success or failure of the visit. There are many unresolved issues between the two countries, including cooperation in civil-nuclear energy and issues relating to intellectual property that have a great bearing on bilateral trade and investment. And they cannot be resolved by waving a wand.

What we can hope is that given the good will between the peoples of the two countries, the shared democratic values and systems, the mutuality of interest, strong economic and strategic ties, the forward-looking leadership of both heads of state will open another great chapter in the relationship.



Dr. Sudhir M. Parikh is a New Jersey-based physician, publisher and philanthropist.



Source: The Sikkim Times. Date: October 16, 2009.

Narendra Modi, the then Chief Minister of Gujarat, shaking hands with a Chinese soldier at the Nathu La border pass in the Indian state of Sikkim with China's Tibet Autonomous Region.

Hindu Universalism May Inform Diplomacy

Prime Minister Modi has an opportunity to articulate a new vision of universalism in the international arena based on the timeless cultural values of the Vedic, Hindu, and Indian traditions. By encouraging economic growth, building infrastructure and advancing international commerce, he is strengthening the nation as a prerequisite to India taking its rightful place in the international arena. While building India's defense industry, Modi's government will emphasize peaceful coexistence with neighbors.

Modi believes in inclusiveness. His government is making a concerted effort to eliminate corruption. His approach is grounded in the universalism of Vedic traditions - humanity as one family, happiness for all and peace in every part of the world. He has a winning personality, a deep commitment to a new world order inspired by cultural, social, economic, and political fairness and an appreciation of the community of nations.

Modi's visit to the United States is strategic. As two of the largest democracies, India and the United States have much in common. We understand that President Barack Obama may seek cooperation from India in situations in Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq. There will be innumerable opportunities for cooperation between the two countries, including trade and investment agreements, deals to modernize India's military and perhaps the long-overdue signing of the 2008 civil nuclear deal.

U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel recently observed that India will shape a new world order in the 21st century, adding that, "Our interests are varied and common-stability, security, economics, possibilities, freedom. We need partners. We need relationships."

It is time that the U.S. and India become true partners.



Bishma K. Agnihotri is a former Ambassador-at-Large of India.

How Modi Can Strengthen Defense Ties with the U.S.

BY APARNA PANDE

High expectations surround the first meeting between President Barack Obama and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Washington has pinned its hopes of a strategic partnership with India on containing the military rise of China. There is also expectation of large contracts for U.S. corporations as India modernizes its military. But India's strategic thinking, and its insistence on independence in defense production, will not be as easy to overcome as some in Washington may be inclined to think. India continues to resist private investment – both foreign and domestic – in its defense industries, preferring instead to boost its government-funded, public-sector enterprises. Modi may want to change that but might not be able to do so on the timetable desired by Americans.

Modi's election campaign generated expectations of an India which does not just seek to be an emerging power, but is willing to take the decisions necessary to become one. Washington, D.C., like Tokyo and London, expects an immediate change, not just in style but in strategic decision-making by New Delhi on foreign- and economic-policy issues. Key among these is the defense sector.

The British viewed colonial India as critical to the maintenance of their empire and vital to the security of the Middle East. During the Cold War both the Soviets and the Americans were keen to have India in their bloc as its size, geographical location and potential resources made India a significant player. It was not as though Indians did not understand this fact.

However, India under its first and long-serving leader, Jawaharlal Nehru, chose to be non-aligned, preferring to keep away from external military alliances. This meant that while India received developmental- and economic aid from the West, including the United States, military aid was requested only during periods of immediate threat, such as the 1962 India-China war.

The colonial legacy fed the



Credit: Government of India.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on August 8, 2014.

Indian perception of multinational corporations as predatory – wiping out domestic industries – and neo-colonialist in nature. As a result of this lingering mistrust, India chose to focus its efforts on public-sector enterprises, from steel to fertilizer. This has continued

No American company will share its intellectual property unless it is certain its rights and technology will be protected.

for decades, even though the majority of these enterprises are inefficient and a drain on India's resources.

Further, while India continued to purchase military equipment from other countries, the preference was for government-to-government purchases, rather than government-to-corporation. India also preferred joint ventures that supported India's manufacturing sector. In addition, New Delhi insisted on foreigners sharing technology with their Indian counterparts. While countries such as the former Soviet Union were willing to follow these policies, others – like the United States – were not. This resulted in the former Soviet Union becoming

India's largest supplier of military equipment for decades.

The collapse of the Soviet Union led to a reevaluation of India's foreign policy. To prevent a scenario wherein India would be too dependent on a single country, there was a shift towards broadening the country's suppliers and partners. The collapse also led to a reassertion of the belief that India should develop its domestic industry and become less dependent on other countries.

A defining moment in India's defense partnership with the United States came in January 1995, when U.S. Secretary of Defense William J. Perry and Indian Minister of State for Defense M. Mallikarjun agreed to set up a Defense Policy Group (DPG) and Joint Technical Group (JTG). A decade later, this was continued when Indian Defense Minister Pranab Mukherjee and U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld signed the "New Framework for the U.S.-India Defense Relationship," establishing a new subgroup for the Defense Procurement and Production Group. This joint project has continued in recent years with annual meetings.

The two countries share many common global interests, demonstrated by India's leading role as a partner in military exercises with the United

States. What is now required is a deepening of ties in the arena of defense manufacturing and trade relations.

In the next decade, India plans to spend \$250 billion on upgrading its Soviet-era military equipment and narrow the gap with China's defense sector. In July, the Modi government raised the limit on foreign ownership in defense manufacturing to 49 percent from the existing 26 percent, in an attempt to boost investment in the defense sector. However, India still insists on "offsets" from foreign contractors to ensure that the technology is transferred or some of the deal's value remains in the country.

In his speech on the occasion of India's 68th Independence Day on August 15, 2014, Prime Minister Modi invited foreign investors to come to India, establish factories and sell to the world.

Many American investors are eager to invest in India and have offered jointly to manufacture products. However, no American company will share its intellectual property unless it is certain its rights and technology will be protected.

There have been purchases of American equipment, ranging from Boeing's C-17A strategic transport aircraft and P-8I Maritime Patrol Aircraft to Lockheed Martin's C-130J Hercules planes. However, there is still more that can be done. Partnerships between Indian and American corporations can promote deep ties, making them ideal champions of India-US ties in the long term.

India has the right to define its national interests and cultivate a broad range of partnerships with defense suppliers. However, only major economic and strategic ties will yield political alliances that could support India in times of crisis. India should never forget that during the 1962 India-China war, the nonaligned world remained 'nonaligned' whereas the United Kingdom and the United States supported India militarily.

The Indian prime minister, in his recent interview with Fareed Zakaria on CNN, remarked that ties between India and the United States are much more than those simply between two

governments. Both Washington and Delhi will benefit from this strategic alignment.

Despite being democracies and sharing values of pluralism and secularism, India and the United States never have been allies or major partners on the global stage. This is not for lack of trying on the part of individual leaders from either side, whether Presidents Eisenhower or Kennedy, or in recent years Presidents Clinton and Bush. Similarly, both Prime Minister Vajpayee and Singh sought close ties with the United States. In his interview, Mr. Modi asserted that India and the United States are similar in many ways and their ties will only deepen over time.

But meaningful relations cannot simply be ties between leaders. They must translate into linkages between institutions, corporations and societies. By the 1990s, India-US ties had been forged on a cultural and community level, due to the large Indian communities and student population in the United States.

Large-scale institutional and corporate partnerships are still missing. If Mr. Modi, and the Indian business sector he favors, can build these ties, a new level of India-US relations likely will be attained.



Aparna Pande is Director of Hudson Institute's Initiative on the Future of India and South Asia as well as Fellow, Center on Islam, Democracy, and the Future of the Muslim World.

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By Preeti Malhotra

From the beginning of time humans have migrated in search of optimum conditions for survival. Tiny bands and vast nations alike have migrated over regions and continents causing clashes as well as mergers of civilizations. Some peoples have reached the supreme pinnacle of culture under the reign of those who were once strangers. London, for example, flourished first under the Romans. Before breaking away from London the Founding Fathers of the United States flourished under England's rule. India achieved status as the "Golden Bird" of Asia under Muslim Mughal rulers.

The Idea of The World As One Family

Over the centuries, free migration has declined, giving way to self-serving princes and national governments. Eager to safeguard their national interests, regimes have implemented myriad security procedures and political constraints on travel to prevent migration. Paradoxically, in an era wherein technology has increased communication, rigid borders divide peoples and transcending these barriers is crucial for every international effort aimed at peace and harmony.

The United Nations, for instance, since 1945, has walked a tightrope between recognizing division and building peace. Increasingly, this global organization has allowed national and regional interests to take center stage.



Preeti Malhotra is a Founder-Member of the 'Global Citizen Forum' and the Executive Director of the Smart Global Group.

Peace and harmony are dependent on the formation of a world view that values all peoples and nations as respected members of one human family and allowed to visit one another without undue restraint. Technology has now given us the opportunity to build awareness and rebuild that human society of yore. This is the thought that led to the creation of the "Global Citizen Forum"

(GCF), a Singapore-based nonprofit founded by Dr B.K. Modi, whose objective is to re-create "One World, beyond gender, nationality, religion and boundaries."

Singapore, a tiny nation in South East Asia, has successfully emerged as one of the most developed regions on this planet. A true "melting-pot" of cultures, it constantly attracts immigrants from the Americas, Asia, Europe and Africa. Its global nature is evidenced in the fact that all these immigrants can adhere to and align with one common thought process. For us, at the GCF, this commonality of thought, social structure and culture is what defines a "Global Citizen."

The GCF is a body of such like-minded individuals who have gone beyond superficial boundaries and



Image credit: NASA.

This image from Apollo 17, and others like it, captured whole hemispheres of water, land and weather.

are committed to the cause of building "One World." For many years, this attempt at unification has been a prerogative of inter-faith efforts. Though not wholly unsuccessful, these efforts have always left people with questions on the religious identity of this "One God." The Global Citizen concept is to move beyond religion to see the inherent wisdom, belief, compassion and courage of humanity.

There is an upward trend in international migration of corporate professionals and students, coupled with the rise of international business conglomerates and a favorable trade-investment climate. This has rekindled the global nature of civilization and led to the creation of a common global culture. The GCF takes this one step further by advocating for a common social standard across the globe and taking a position against laws that degrade human dignity.

A burgeoning body of global citizens will one day found a new world order. We will witness an upscaling of our current political system from a national to a global level. Global entrepreneurs have led the way, and highlighted the pressing requirement for global diplomats, thought leaders and visionaries who can execute this vision of "One World." Politicians might be the last to turn to this new wave and slow to lead their constituencies out of the traditional context of nationalism. The aim of the GCF is precisely to promulgate Global Citizenship and to provide a new unified leadership aimed at achieving true peace.

Humanity Needs Global Citizenship

By Dr. Mahesh Mehta

The global scenario is ripe for a new thought leadership that can awaken human consciousness to the reality of the "global citizen concept."

The new vision for an India-US partnership has to be centered on the all-inclusive wellbeing of humanity. In search of human happiness, our endeavors have laid great emphasis on scientific and technological developments. The world is connected through communication and transportation to the extent that our living rooms have become a play stage – bringing all of human progress and problems instantly to our families.

During the last two centuries, human thought has been dominated by leaders advocating an exclusivist and fragmented world view. The world today requires a fresh thought leadership that stands for nonviolence and brotherhood, key principles that dominated the creation of the United Nations.

However, with evermore alarming statistics on war, poverty, sickness and suffering, the UN goal of sustaining peace is elusive. In the last century, one Indian leader, Mahatma Gandhi, advocated the powerful tool of non-violence for human freedom.

On September 11, 1893 a great son of India, Swami Vivekananda, delivered the message of universal well-being to Americans at the First Parliament of World Religions in Chicago. From the 9/11 of 1893 to the 9/11 of 2000, humanity seems to have gone astray under a fragmented leadership. More than a century later, humanity is still in search of a solution to such sectarian views.

People everywhere await the emergence of a world without divisions of race, religion and gender. Taking humanity to its highest potential is at the heart of the project of "Global Citizenship." Millions across the globe expect the two great democracies of India and the United States to deliver a new message making this September 2014 the beginning of a new chapter in the history of humanity.



Mahesh Mehta is the President of the Global Indians for Bharat Vikas Inc.

Modi Reforms Holding Indian Civil Servants Accountable

Interview with Dr. B.K. Modi

Q. Manvi SHARMA: What are your thoughts on the recent elections in India and the mandate that was granted by the people of the country to Narendra Modi?

B.K. MODI: The recent Indian election was actually like a revolution. Narendra Modi started his campaign nearly three years back. His re-election for the third consecutive term as Chief Minister of the Indian state of Gujarat was a precursor to the national campaign. For 10 solid years, he led Gujarat to become the most developed, technologically advanced state of India. That state has a special place in Indian history - Mahatma Gandhi was born there.

Modi's major strength was to harness the power of the Gujarati diaspora, present across the globe and in the United States. The diaspora have been harbingers of entrepreneurship, innovation and technology. This development project also gave him the opportunity to build his image as a modern leader, apart from the Hindu fundamentalist image that he had initially.

For the last 10 years Indians have been struggling to see how they can position themselves not only in India but in the world. Given the weak nature and scandal-tainted nature of the earlier administration headed by Manmohan Singh, the people of India wanted someone strong at the helm, a person who has his priorities marked out clearly.

Q. Manvi SHARMA: From your stand point, what are the three biggest changes that the Modi administration has carried out in India?

B.K. MODI: I think foremost is the work culture. He has changed the work culture of the entire government and he hold people accountable. From the ministers to the bureaucrats, everyone is accountable for their actions.

The second is the focus of technology. New technologies are being brought in for infrastructure, power, sanitation, cleaning of the Ganges river and in general administration. He is engaging Singapore, Japan, the US among other nations to bring technology into India. He is putting out a red carpet for overseas investors. The stock market has reacted very favorably and the investment climate has improved.



Thirdly, he has shut the doors on crony capitalism and corrupt practices. People used to say that there is a lot of corruption in India and in its politics. Modi reformed his campaign finance and collected money from small donors. Since there are no big donors, nobody can claim to be close to him.

Q. Manvi SHARMA: Let us now turn to Modi's maiden visit to the U.S. as the Prime Minister of India. You have tracked India and US relations for long. What do you expect from the visit?

B.K. MODI: Prime Minister Modi has made his foreign policy amply clear. India is not going to be sidelined and play second fiddle to anyone. It is a global power, and it aspires for global reach. He will speak as a global leader and focus on the ethos of India - we don't want war, we want peace. I am of the view that Modi can become a global thought leader who can play an effective role in international issues.

I also see a shift in the American approach. The Obama Administration that had hitherto ignored Modi is now trying to woo him. I think the United States

realizes that Modi is the new undisputed leader of India and has a massive mandate from the people in the world's largest democracy.

Q. Manvi SHARMA: So you are saying it is time to reset the US India relationship? How can that be achieved?

B.K. MODI: Yes, I think it is time. The United States recognizes that Indian-Americans have played a huge part in the development of the United States. The number of Indians in the Obama Administration, the election of Bobby Jindal as the Governor of Louisiana is proof of the power and success of this community. The India-US relationship is about the relations between global Indians and global Americans. Global Indians are American Indians who have contributed to the cultural, economic, political and social enrichment of the United States.

Indians living in India have shown to the world how they have held up true democratic values, despite all sorts of problems. The United States is proud about the way its democracy has functioned since its founding days. Even though India is a nascent democracy, it

has gone beyond the US by demonstrating resilience and maturity.

Q. Manvi SHARMA: You have studied in the U.S. and went back to India to take forward your family and your father's business and brought in joint technology ventures. You have set up the Global Citizens Forum. Tell us more about it.

B.K. MODI: We set up the Forum around two years back. If you want to create peace in the world you have to think in terms of one world. This new world has to work beyond religion, because religious boundaries create conflicts. It cannot be created within the boundaries of nationality, and it cannot be created in the boundaries of gender. Take, for instance, India. It has 29 states with each province having different languages, culture and ethnicity. But, this all comes together as a nation - with people first being Indians and then their regional identities. This is somewhat like Europe.

Our concept of 'One World' takes the same philosophy further. We say you are first a 'Global Citizen' and then a citizen of your respective county.

Not everybody can become a global citizen because to do so you have to have a global understanding, and your horizon has to expand beyond the regional context. I think corporate professionals and business leaders are the biggest promoters of this world view.

International business conglomerates have created a global culture, which has been picked up and polished by universities across the globe. It is these centers of education that are churning out 'global citizens'. Similarly, a lot of spiritual leaders have moved beyond religion to become globally acceptable.

Unfortunately, politicians have not adopted this worldview. The role of GCF is to invite these spiritual, business and professional leaders to influence the global thought process and create global politicians who can implement this vision.

Q. Manvi SHARMA: How well positioned do you think is the Indian PM to be a global thought leader?

B.K. MODI: Prime Minister Modi showed the first signs of being a global leader in the way he roped in and united global Indians to election campaign! The



Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana



Satya Nadella, C.E.O. of Microsoft



Indira Nooyi, C.E.O. of PepsiCo



Ami Bera, U.S. Congressman

Indian Diaspora in the United States making a difference in governance and the economy.



Narendra Modi addressing an election rally in India in spring 2014.

diaspora in America, Europe, South-East Asia, the Middle East and other regions think of him as the leader who can address the concerns and problems of their native land. As the chief minister of Gujarat, he worked with the Gujarati diaspora to encourage development in his home state. As the Prime Minister of India, he now has the power of the entire Indian diaspora at his disposal, which is enthused at the prospect of investing in India and reconnecting with their motherland. It allows them the freedom to adopt another political leader, outside their immediate county and political environment.

Q. Manvi SHARMA: What do you have to say to the American policy establishment, opinion makers and the public at large with regard to how

they should look at the full relationship with India?

B.K. MODI: There are a lot of things in common between India and the US. They are the world's largest democracies with a large cultural influence across the globe. In both these nations, several industries run parallel to each other...for instance Hollywood and Bollywood. Most significantly, both these nations have allowed their citizens to develop as free-thinking people.

So, if America and India combine their strength, you can create a new world order, because America is the global superpower in technology and India is the spiritual leader of the world. India's wisdom, courage and compassion have been exemplified in the Indian freedom struggle, the fight against terror and its religious and cultural assimilation.



Screenshot of Narendra Modi's official Twitter account.

To strengthen the relationship, there needs to be a shift in the thought process for both countries. They need to adopt a philosophy which is more inclusive. For instance, in America "in God we trust" is a governmental motto. However, it is exclusive in nature because it gives rise to various questions—Which God?—that of the majority or of the minority? What about atheists?

I feel America has lessons to learn from the Indian value system, where inclusivity is ingrained in the national character.

In the same vein, India needs to learn from the various technologies available in the United States, and use them effectively to resolve their various problems. A collaborative Indo-US effort is the perfect amalgamation of the modern and the traditional.

The leaders of both nations need to connect with each other and earmark areas in which this collaboration can be most successful. This can be on the NGO level, business and knowledge level. The geographical setting is ideal as well - the United States is the leader of the Western world, and India is the leader of the East. Both need to work to bridge the gap between the two civilizations and harness their power to promote peace and development.

Dr. B.K. Modi is a respected global visionary and philanthropist and self-described 'Global Citizen.' He is the founder and president of the Global Citizen Forum. Dr. Modi spoke with Manvi Sharma on the recent elections in India and the new administration.

Prime Minister Modi's Foreign Policy: The First 100 Days

BY TANVI MADAN

When Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government was sworn in, there was little expectation that foreign policy would feature prominently on his agenda; domestic priorities were expected to dominate. And if you'd only listened to the prime minister's Independence Day speech on August 15, which did not mention foreign policy, you'd think that those expectations had been met. But looking past the rhetoric at the reality of the first 100 days of the Modi government, it is clear that foreign policy has not been missing in action. This should not surprise anyone, given that India's geography, economic connections, energy demand, large diaspora and role in various multilateral groupings make it difficult for any Indian government to ignore the external environment or set aside foreign policy. So, when it comes to Modi's foreign policy, what have we seen and not seen, what do we now know and still not know?

There's been a fair bit of continuity rather than change in the overall direction of foreign policy, but we have seen changes, especially in terms of style or approach, which has the potential to affect substance. For example, the intensity of international engagement has increased, with a number of high-level visits to and from India that have taken place or are on the docket.

What have we not seen thus far? We have not seen a major reorganization of ministries or responsibilities or a new coordinating mechanism put in place—though Modi has identified policy coordination as a problem across the government. We have not seen an influx of outsiders. We don't have a sense yet of whether Modi's foreign policy team is all in place, and we still haven't seen how the dynamics between the prime minister's office and the Ministry of External Affairs will play out. Moreover, we don't have clarity on where the Modi government stands on key global issues like climate change or cyber-governance, though we have got a glimpse of its view on global trade negotiations.

Certain themes have been evident, including the pursuit of a diversification strategy and a need to deal with crises stemming from the Middle East, as well as Outreach to the Neighborhood

There has been no lack of signals that Modi wants to make relations with India's neighbors a priority; his time in office indeed started with an invitation to the leaders of the South Asian

minister reaching out to the West Bengal chief minister before her trip to Bangladesh. On the other hand, the government has shown that it will not let a state's preference dictate foreign policy entirely, with an invitation to the Sri Lankan president for the swearing-in ceremony despite Tamil Nadu's objections.

This outreach is not difficult to explain if you think about

neighborhood, the next two can be seen as India's period of pivoting to the Asia-Pacific. Even before he came to office, Modi had made clear his interest in this part of the world. As chief minister, this interest was primarily economic, but as prime minister, there's a strategic dimension as well. He has already visited Japan and welcomed the Australian prime minister and the

back for its lack of official engagement with him during the last few years.

Option B: Continue to build on the bilateral relationship, recognizing the reality of the breadth and depth of India-U.S. relations and its potential to help his priorities (including economic growth, meeting energy needs, managing China's rise).

Over the last few months, it has become clear that Modi has chosen the second option. What's been surprising is the speed and extent to which he has done so, despite his supporters' unhappiness. The U.S. government has been a willing and eager partner. Three U.S. cabinet members recently visited India in the space of two weeks, even as crises raged in other parts of the world. Numerous other officials have traveled to India as well. Both style and substance will be important to watch during Modi's visit on Sept. 29-30, not least because the prime minister will want to have something to show for choosing Option B.

The major challenge that lies ahead in the India-U.S. relationship will be translating the various opportunities into outcomes. In India, this will likely involve tackling political and bureaucratic obstacles. It will also likely involve companies rather than the governments, limiting what officials can achieve on their part.



Credit: Government of India.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on August 1, 2014.

Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) nations and Mauritius to attend his government's swearing-in ceremony. Subsequently, the importance of the neighborhood was highlighted in the president's speech to parliament, which lays out the government's agenda. In addition, the prime minister and the foreign minister Sushma Swaraj have walked the talk, choosing neighboring countries as their first overseas stops.

Over the last few weeks, the foreign minister has visited Bangladesh and Nepal, while the prime minister has traveled to Bhutan and Nepal. We've seen India accept a United Nations ruling and surrender its claim to a section of the Bay of Bengal, partly to improve relations with Bangladesh. We have also seen the Modi government deal with Indian state governments in order to facilitate relations with the neighbors, with the foreign

the Modi government's stated priority: economic growth and development. Instability in the neighborhood can hinder the achievement of this goal, not least because it will require a diversion of time, energy and resources. Moreover, even if India finds a way to grow despite its neighborhood, it might find it harder to play a greater role outside the region if the disparity increases—a Gulliver tied down, struggling to break free of the binds of the region. On the flip side, positive relations with its neighbors and a peaceful neighborhood can indeed facilitate Indian connectivity with West and East Asia and serve as a springboard for a greater role abroad.

India's Asia-Pacific Policy: Getting from Look East to Act East

If the first couple of months of the Modi government's foreign policy emphasized the

Chinese president to India. The Indian president, in turn, traveled to Vietnam last week. Echoing then U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and many Southeast Asian countries, foreign minister Swaraj has highlighted the importance of India not just "looking east," but "acting east" as well. She has visited Myanmar, Singapore and Vietnam. While in Nay Pyi Taw, she participated in the East Asia Summit, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum and India-ASEAN foreign ministers' meetings. When she visited Vietnam, she also held a meeting with the heads of the Indian missions in East and Southeast Asia to discuss the way forward.

The United States

There were two approaches that Modi could have taken toward the United States.

Option A: hold the United States at arms' length to pay it



(Excerpted from a longer essay published by the Brookings Institution on Aug. 29, 2014.)
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Steering Through Storms in the Region

BY VIVEK KATJU

The Obama Administration and the American establishment have been slow to grasp the social and economic transformations that have taken place recently in India. This has reached a critical mass and has led to a yearning for honest political leaders who take quick action and are unhindered by past ideologies.

Modi has demonstrated an ability to provide clean, decisive and growth oriented and inclusive governance. Prior to the 2014 elections he gave a vision, especially to the youth, that the barriers of privilege could be overcome and aspirations realised. His own astonishing political journey and dogged determination to withstand calumny testify that the future he pointed to is no illusion. His vision has led the Indian people to give for the first time in 25 years a full mandate to one single politician.

President Obama will find Modi different from his previous Indian interlocutors. He is also more impatient and hands-on than his predecessors to get things done. Modi is acutely aware that it is necessary to harness the potential and power of the digital age to hasten India's economic journey; thus, cooperation in all areas of basic sciences and even more in technology will be a significant part of the objectives of his visit and the future direction of the bilateral relationship.

Modi has displayed confidence and a sure instinct in handling India's foreign relations in the four months since becoming Prime Minister. In a bold and unprecedented move, he invited the leaders of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) to his swearing in ceremony as Prime Minister on May 26. All SAARC leaders including Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan attended the ceremony. His message to these countries was to set aside the quarrels of the past and open a new chapter in cooperative endeavors. He emphasised that he considered India's developmental journey part of that of the growth story of the entire region. By visiting Bhutan and Nepal in the first few months of assuming office and by



Source: Government of India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi meeting the Chinese President Xi Jinping at the ceremonial reception at the Presidential House in New Delhi on September 18, 2014.



Source: PTI

File photo of November 26, 2008 terror attack at Hotel Taj Mahal, Mumbai.

urging shared economic growth through joint projects including in the area of energy he has shown that he means what he says.

Within a short period Modi has shown that he will remain unbending on India's core interests

but will be flexible and realistic where he can. Thus, while wishing to proceed further on the Trade Facilitation Agreement he would not bend on India's food security requirements

However, he had no difficulty

on agreeing that the Britain, Russia, India China and South Africa (BRICS) Development Bank Headquarters be located in China because it is logical to do so in view of Chinese financial clout.

India and the United States are both victims of international terrorism. The rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) poses an imminent and grave danger to open, democratic and plural societies everywhere. India is deeply concerned with the impact of the drawdown of U.S. forces in Afghanistan on its own security. It is evident that Afghanistan has slipped in American priorities as Washington has turned its attention to Ukraine and to Iraq. The entire Middle East is turbulent, and the forces of Islamist fundamentalism are on the march. Recent developments in Pakistan have added to the fragility of its state apparatus. Islamist groups, including Al Qaeda, with global ambitions continue to enjoy sanctuaries in Pakistan.

The two leaders need to discuss at length the new dangers emanating from terrorism and energize bilateral cooperative mechanisms in this vitally important area. They also need to give a fresh momentum to efforts at the UN for the adoption of the Comprehensive Convention against International Convention

(CCIT). Without a high-level political push this instrument designed to be a crucial addition to the legal architecture to combat international terrorism will continue to languish as it has since 1996.

Power equations in Asia are evolving. The rise of China is relentless. While seeking to project a spirit of accommodation it has displayed an assertiveness that is troubling its immediate neighbourhood and beyond. Japan is deeply worried, and during Modi's recent visit new venues of India-Japan economic and strategic cooperation were identified. China needs to show a new degree of sensitivity to India's concerns on Pakistan. As Modi navigates India through the perils and opportunities of Asia, he and President Obama need to have a candid exchange on the emerging architecture in the continent.

Innovative solutions have to be found for the differences that have developed in bilateral ties on civil nuclear cooperation within the parameters of India's concerns, visa issues and other irritants. The diplomatic bureaucracies of both countries have to be vigilant to avoid repetitions of incidents that affront national honour. Imaginative approaches to find common ground on climate change, international trade regimes, India's membership of the UN Security Council within the framework of UN reform and India's membership in technology-denial regimes are possible if there is political will in both countries.

There is little doubt that Modi's visit will open new pathways in India-US ties.



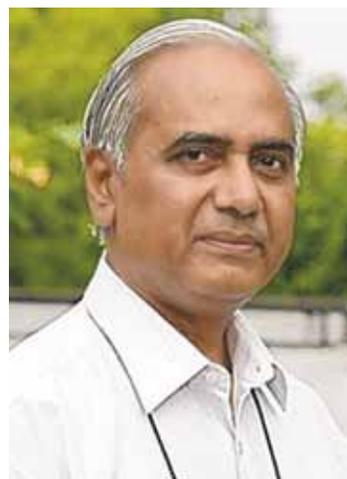
The author is former Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, India

President Obama's Opportunities for Engagement

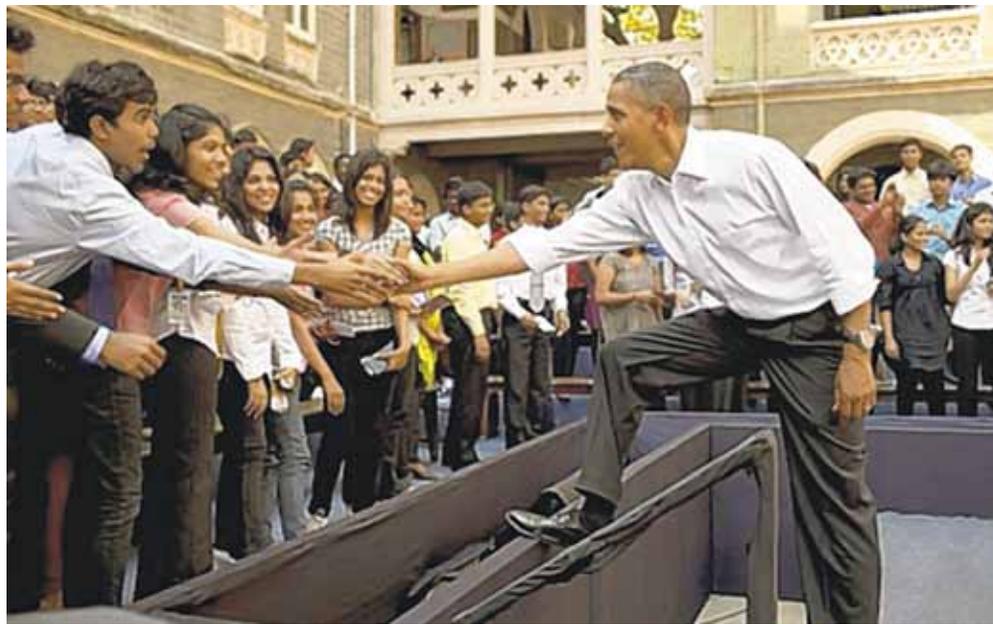
BY SESHADRI CHARI

The world's two largest democracies, India and the United States, have much in common. The huge convergence on issues such as democracy, supremacy of the judiciary, respect for pluralism and independence of the media and above all zero tolerance to terrorism, are some of the many common values. But far from common interests, India-U.S. relations have undergone a series of ups and downs, stresses and strains. These issues are more likely to persist for a longer time, but the resilience in the Indo-U.S. relationship is such that regardless of irritants, New Delhi and Washington can cozy-up at the earliest opportunity.

The United States was probably the last country to recognize, albeit grudgingly, the overwhelming victory of Narendra Modi. Notwithstanding the fact that "Defining relationship" and "Strategic Partnership" have been some of the choicest phrases to describe Indo-U.S. ties which went sour more than once. Be it the 1971 Bangladesh liberation or the nuclear test by the National Democratic Alliance government in May 1998 under Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, the United States did not hesitate to test India's patience. Therefore, the United States should not expect political changes in India to cast out



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Official White House Photo by Pete Souza.

President Barack Obama greets students following a town hall meeting at St. Xavier College in Mumbai, India, Nov. 7, 2010.

overnight the causes for bitterness. The United States was singularly responsible for the souring of the "defining relationship" of the 21st century after it imposed economic sanctions on India in retaliation for the nuclear tests. More recently the arrest and strip-search of a serving Indian Diplomat Devyani Khobragade on December 11, 2013 caused a furor.

Ironically, instead of diffusing tensions triggered by the Khobragade issue, the United States has provoked another crisis by imposing trade "enforcement action," read "sanctions," through Special 301 Report, evidently under pressure from U.S. business, to get India to ease its patent regime.

The United States also has expressed its displeasure over India's bold and independent stand in the World Trade Organization (WTO). Besides economic and trade issues, the major differences between the two democracies concern their respective outlook on Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, Syria, global trade and climate change.

In the best interest of the world's largest democracies, the United States should rework its approach towards India and send positive inputs.

In spite of Pakistan's role in terrorism, its policy of running with the hare and hunting with the hound, its double standards

in international and nuclear policies and above all its role in upsetting the U.S. apple cart in Afghanistan, the Obama administration seems to overlook

partnership. At the least, President Obama should ask his officials to put away the crowbar. It has no place in international relations.

The aspirational India of today manifested in the mandate to Modi will have to find a place in Obama's political priorities. The President has to convincingly demonstrate that henceforth, he will be hands on when it comes to U.S. policy and relations with India.

all the acts of commission and omission on the part of Islamabad. Worse still is the unrealistic policy of equating India and Pakistan at every international forum and balance-of-power discussion. Washington should learn to look at India with all the seriousness it deserves.

In other words, India does not seem to figure as a priority in President Obama's scheme of things. If India-U.S. relations were politically important, then President Obama, like President Bush, would have taken greater interest to ensure that such avoidable irritants did not keep recurring. He would have made the various arms of his Administration fall in line and work in tandem towards diluting negative sentiments and healing a wounded strategic

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang once said that there was "friction" with the United States, and the world's two biggest economies must respect each other's core interests. "It's a fact that some friction exists in the course of cooperation, but this is the trouble with cooperation," Li told a news conference at the close of China's annual Parliamentary session. "Of course, China and the United States, because their history and cultural background are different, and their stage of development is different, have differences on some issues. As long as we respect each other, respect each other's core interests and major concerns, control well our differences, have equal consultations and especially pay particular attention to expanding

our common interests, then [we will] be able to enhance the level of our bilateral relations," Li said.

The basic parameters of Sino-U.S. relations can be applied to India as well. The history and cultural background of India and the United States are different, too. As in the case of China, India also expects the United States to respect its core interests. India's energy security cannot be overlooked by the United States while calibrating its Iran policy. Nor can the United States expect India to accept China as first among equals in Asia. The race for development and supremacy is something that the Asian countries will themselves settle. None of these countries need the United States as a jury. The global policeman role of the United States has diminishing appeal in the region.

Modi's emergence is not just a change of government. Rather, it heralds a transformation. His emergence marks the rise of new Indian socio-political realities and a new cultural assertiveness driven by the urge to put economic development at the center of politics and to ensure that such development is aided by responsive and transparent governance.

Therefore, it is of utmost importance that the United States view Modi through a different prism; and India under Modi through a larger prism of the same type. Otherwise, Washington may not grasp the transformation set to sweep this country and thereby the region.

The aspirational India of today manifested in the mandate to Modi will have to find a place in Obama's political priorities. The President has to convincingly demonstrate that henceforth, he will be hands on when it comes to U.S. policy and relations with India. This is necessary because all parties in India are of the view that India has fallen off the U.S. radar since Obama took office.

America has a dream. India too has a dream, a world mission. The United States must recognize that India's independence in world affairs is because of the country it is, and not because of its economic or military clout. The reasons are cultural and historical, and these reasons would be even more to the fore under Narendra Modi.

Hinduism's Divine Encounter According to an American Believer

BY SADHVI BHAGAWATI SARASWATI

The phenomenal rise of Hindu nationalism in recent years and the landslide victory of the new Indian Prime Minister, the standard bearer for that cause, have raised the question of what exactly Hindu's believe?

People across the world ask me: "Have you converted to Hinduism?" The question is understandable. After all, people don't often behold an American woman of Jewish ancestry draped in the saffron robes of a Hindu renunciant.

However, although the question is simple, the answer is complex. Hinduism does not convert. It does not exist in a box with borders and boundaries. There are more differences between lineages within Hinduism than there are between Hinduism and some other religions.

If one were to ask several Hindu's, "What is the most fundamental tenet of Hinduism?" or "How is God understood in Hinduism?" one would get a wide range of equally viable, equally legitimate answers. In fact, two of the most fundamental teachings of Hinduism are, "Let all the noble thoughts come from all directions," and "The Truth is one but the sages call it by different names."

So, what exactly is Hinduism, then, that is open enough to embrace an American *sanyasi* (a Hindu renunciant)?

Nowhere in the Vedas - the foundational texts of Hindu theology - does one find the word, "Hindu." Rather, "Hindu" is actually the name given to the people living beyond the banks of the Sindhu or the Indus River, in what was known as the Indus Valley Civilization. Hindu's refer to their religion as *Sanatan Dharma*, the eternal way of life. This way of life encompasses everything from a philosophical understanding of the nature of the universe and our role in it, to treatises on science, math, music, architecture and medicine.

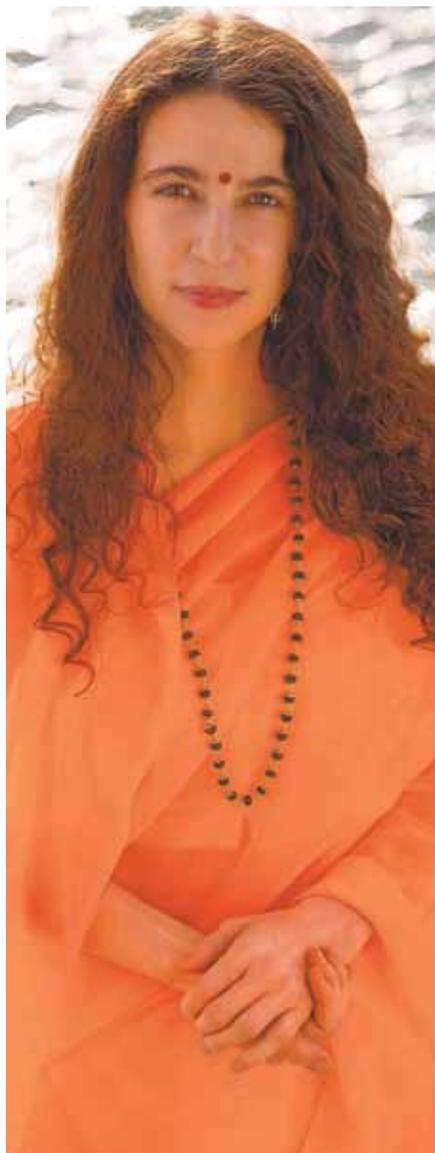
The "religion" of Hinduism, if one wanted to attempt to neatly box it up, could be said to include several components.

The first of these is inclusivity. Hinduism excludes almost nothing. The arms of Hinduism are immeasurably long and embrace innumerable names, forms and concepts of the Divine. However, worshippers of varying Divine manifestations all agree on one essential component: the Supreme Reality is infinite, omniscient, omnipresent, and knowable by all names.

As God is infinite and all of creation a manifestation of the same Creator, Hindu's see the whole world as one family. In fact, the scriptures state clearly:

Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam, or "The world is one family." Hindu prayers are prayers for all; Hindu's don't pray for Hindu's or Indians. Rather, Hindu's pray,

*Sarve bhavantu sukhinah
Sarve santu niraamayaah
Sarve bhadraani pashyantu
Maakaschit duhkha bhaag bhavet*



Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati

It means, "May all be happy, may all be healthy, may all behold that which is good and auspicious, may no one suffer."

Another aspect is that of a personal relationship with God. Regardless of the name or form in which a Hindu believes, he or she is encouraged to have a personal connection with that particular form. The God of Hinduism is a God who is knowable, approachable, infinite and yet fully prepared to incarnate in material form, a God to whom our food, water, earnings

and lives are dedicated.

One common misconception of Hinduism is that it is polytheistic. With so many images, it is understandable that people would assume that each image is a separate God. However, Hinduism is very much a monotheistic religion, in which that one, infinite Supreme Reality is manifest in all of creation. The first line of the *Isopanishads* reminds us:

*Ishaavaasyam idam sarvam
yat kim ca jagatyam jagat*

It means the entire universe is pervaded by the Divine. That same all-pervasive Supreme Reality manifests in infinite forms with infinite names. In the *Bhagavad Gita*, Krishna explains beautifully, "By whatever name and form the devotee worships me with love, I appear to the devotee in that form."

For this reason, Hindu practices emphasize *ahimsa*, or nonviolence toward humans, animals and Mother Nature. A large majority of Hindu's are vegetarians, avoid leather, pray to and for Mother Nature and have rituals surrounding the ways and times that one may pick flowers, fruits or otherwise injure a living plant.

Stemming from the tenet of an all-pervasive God, one of the core components of the Hindu tradition is service, *seva*, or *karma* yoga. Hinduism teaches us to see God in the poor, sick and needy; the tradition is filled with stories of God appearing as an unexpected guest or a beggar.

Most Hindu organizations have large social-service programs engaged in a wide range of charitable activities. Service is seen as one of the highest forms of worship.

As the traditional name of Hinduism is *Sanatan Dharma* or "eternal way of life," the tenets and principles of Hinduism are not relegated only to worship or prayer. Rather, Hinduism informs every aspect of our lives from the moment we awaken to the moment we sleep. There are *Shashtra's* (rules) and *sutra's* (aphorisms) for nearly every component of life, as well as for architecture, medicine, science, math and music.

Hinduism, in the words of Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, "is not a weekend business." A Hindu's actions are governed by spiritual laws in the home and in the workplace as well as in the temple.

Another central and unique aspect of Hinduism is emphasis on the divine feminine, or *Shakti*, as the essential energy and force through which creation, sustenance and dissolution are performed. Worship of the Divine Mother - whether in Her nurturing, compassionate form or in Her fierce, fiery form - is a common thread

that weaves through the entire tapestry of Hinduism.

However, it is not only the Feminine in Her ethereal, celestial role that is worshipped, it is the feminine in her human form. We are exhorted by the scriptures to hold women in the highest ideal: "Wherever women are adored and respected, there the Gods are happy."

As news reports cover the rape and abuse of girls and women throughout India, people misconstrue this as a subjugation of the female endorsed by Hindu culture. The abuse of women is a societal evil which must be swiftly eradicated. However, it couldn't be further from the very tenets of Hinduism.

Encyclopedia of Hinduism

To make the tenets and truths of Hinduism available to both Hindus and non-Hindus, Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji founded the Encyclopedia of Hinduism project. Conceived near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at the Hindu-Jain Temple in Monroeville which Pujya Swamiji founded, the Encyclopedia of Hinduism became a more-than-two-decade journey of love, faith, penance and austerity.

Prior to the publication of the encyclopedia, there was no comprehensive, authentic, authoritative source of reference on Hinduism; therefore, there has been much misunderstanding and many misconceptions about this ancient, yet timeless, tradition.

The encyclopedia, which has finally been completed, presented to the President of India, and launched academically in the United States, comprises 11 gorgeous volumes of more than 600 pages each, totaling approximately 7,000 unique entries!

Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati is the managing editor of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism and president, of the Divine Shakti Foundation.

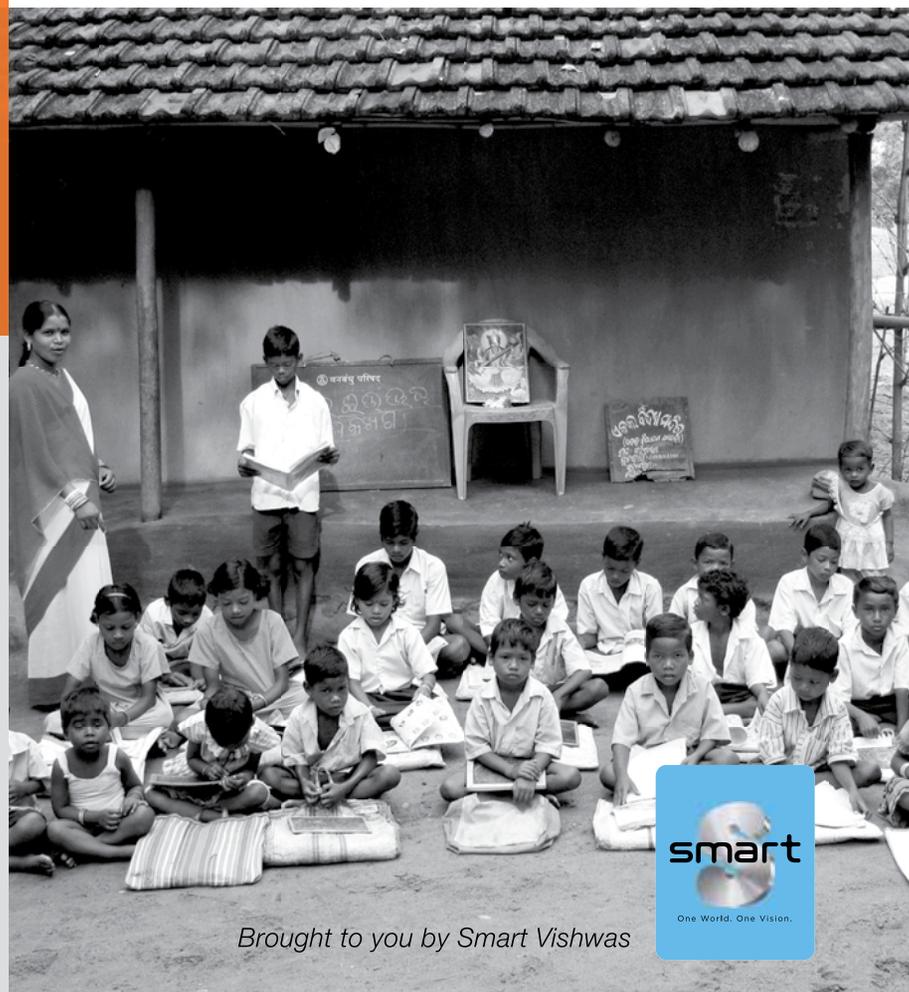
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\$1-a-Day School Revolutionizes Indian Education

BY VINOD JHUNJHUNWALA

More than two decades ago, Chandini, a young woman in a poverty stricken area in

the eastern Indian state of Bihar could never have dreamed of getting an education. There was no school in her village, and the system was such that parents of girls such as Chandini did not see the value of an education. Very often boys also did not go

to school and instead would end up working as farm hands.

That changed in 1990 when a small school was started in Chandini's village. Named after the Hindi word "Ekal" or "single," the idea was quite simple. Set up a small school, with one teacher, who is not only responsible for the basic education of the children but who also teaches moral values, health and sanitation awareness.

A key feature of these single-teacher schools is that they are not set up by the government. They are projects of the *Ekal* movement, now the largest, grassroots, non-government education movement in India. The schools operate in remote and tribal villages, and today there are more than 54,000 such schools with 1.42 million students enrolled.

This extraordinary effort can be traced back to 1986 when a group of young educators began work with primitive tribal children in the dense forests of east India. One of them was a nuclear scientist, Rakesh Popli, who held a PhD from Purdue University. He, along with his wife, Rama Popli, refined the concept, which soon spread as others joined in. By 1996, the state of Jharkhand in east India had 1,200 such schools. All of this was made possible

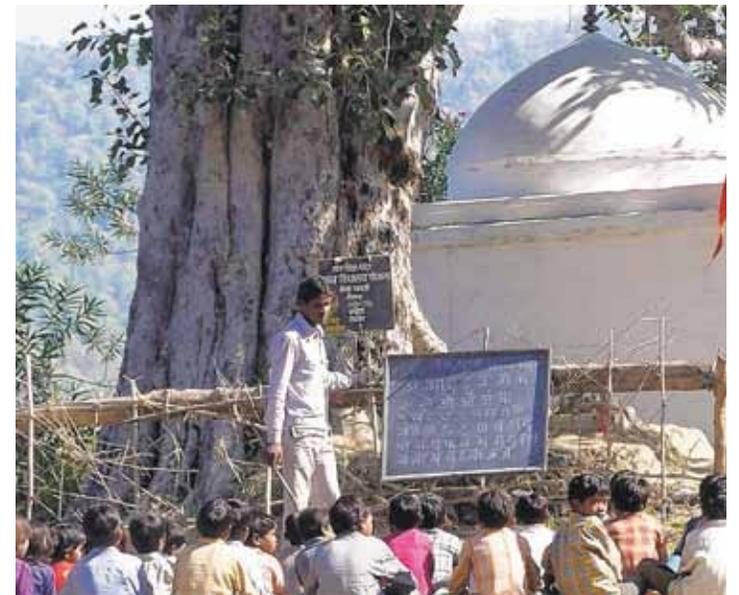


Photo courtesy of Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation.

Indian Boys receive lessons under a tree in the East of India at a single-teacher school.



Photo courtesy of Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation.

Indian-American activists and others have set up thousands of one-teacher schools in rural areas since 1986.

through the support of philanthropists. However, what is truly amazing is that these schools cost just one dollar a day to run.

The schools are run in spaces owned or provided by the local village community – sometimes under a tree or in the home of the village head. Children between the ages of 6 and 14 attend school for three years and gain enough knowledge to gain

admission to fifth grade in a government school. Many go on to high school.

Chandini studied at one such school. She went on to college to get an undergraduate degree and now teaches at that very same school.

Vinod Jhunjhunwala is the International President of Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation, USA.

Indian Prosthetics Could Give Manufacturers a Leg Up

BY D.R. MEHTA

At institutional levels, whether scientific, commercial or social, collaboration of Indian and U.S. counterparts could greatly benefit humanity at large. The United States is known for its scientific temper and achievements. Great American universities have changed the world with their research.

India, too, has something to offer the United States – the capacity to produce high quality goods with the least cost. To cite just one example: Indian pharmaceutical companies produce generic medicines at a small fraction of the cost consumers normally pay in the United States. Recently, California-based Gilead Sciences, which makes one of the world's costliest drugs, said it has struck agreements with seven Indian generic-drug makers to sell the \$1,000-a-pill Hepatitis C treatment for just \$10-a-pill.

The time has come for the



Source: Jaipur Foot.

Taken in 2007, the picture shows D.R. Mehta (left), founder, Jaipur Foot, helping a child take his first steps after being fitted with a new prosthetic limb at a medical camp in Iraq.

United States to look closely at the Jaipur Foot project – the mission of an Indian nonprofit that has provided artificial limbs to more than 1.3 million amputees and polio victims in India and 26 countries across the globe. It is a foremost example of "frugal" engineering that aims to develop low-cost, robust manufacturing processes and products.

The late management guru Prof. C. K. Prahalad of the University of Michigan had written in 2002 that the cost of one Jaipur foot prosthetic was \$30, whereas a comparable artificial limb in the United States sold for \$8,000.

Such affordable prosthetics are not available for patients in the United States on account of regulatory- and liability issues, but U.S. institutions, including Stanford University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology already are collaborating with the Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS), the parent body of Jaipur Foot. Stanford and BMVSS have developed

a new knee joint for above-the-knee amputees called the Jaipur Knee. The Knee was hailed by *Time* magazine (November 23, 2009) as one of the world's 50 best inventions in 2009. More than 6,000 such joints have been fitted. Field trials are underway for an updated version.

I would describe these prosthetics, including calipers and other appliances, as a case of Gandhian engineering – meaning, "more for less." If U.S. capitalism again starts recognizing the paramount importance of low cost, without sacrificing quality, the kind of economic melt-down that America and the western world has suffered would never occur, and pristine capitalism, focused on competition, would re-emerge. Gandhian engineering could work wonders in the U.S. medical marketplace.

D.R. Mehta is a former chairman of India's stock market regulatory agency and the founder of Jaipur Foot.

By Gopichand Hinduja

The election of the new government under the leadership of Narendra Modi has brought new opportunities, dynamism, hope and vision for India's economic development, growth and standing in the world.

The Indian Prime Minister deserves to be commended for appointing a team of government ministers with good credentials and experience. This is critical as India must demonstrate to the world that it is "open for business" and will provide a secure environment for foreign investors. Needless to say, only foreign direct investment can secure India's economic future.

The Indian defense sector presents a major opportunity for collaboration with foreign partners as imports of arms are expected to exceed \$100 billion in the next decade.

The visit of the Prime Minister to the United States comes at an important juncture in India-US relations. In the defense sector it is encouraging to see that both countries are working closely. During the last five years, the United States has surpassed Russia as India's largest supplier of defense materials.

This is an important development, and the outlook

Contractors Take Heart: India 'Open for Business'



Source: Lockheed Martin.

Photo of the C130 J Super Hercules. The Indian Air Force purchased six of these aircraft in 2010 from the United States at a cost of \$ 1.1 billion.

for the future is promising. While the United States may have lost out in the bid for 126 combat aircraft for the Indian Air Force, it has been awarded \$9 billion of defense contracts, including the supply of C-17 and C-130 aircraft, P-8 marine aircraft, and Chinook and Apache helicopters.

However, expansion of defense deals may prove

to be challenging given the constraints. While the United States clearly has stated that it wants to be India's privileged defense partner, a number of issues are holding back full, open and transparent collaboration. In particular, India would like Washington to relax restrictions on the transfer of defense technologies; it would also like the

United States to be much more proactive in supporting its membership in the Wassenaar Arrangement [a trading convention regulating trade of dual-use technologies], allowing India easier access to defense-related technologies.

India also would like for the United States to treat India more generously under

the U.S. list of the International Traffic-in-Arms Regulations (ITAR).

Significant opportunities abound for further collaboration in defense between the two countries, and I am encouraged by Prime Minister Modi's objective to develop a robust, indigenous defense-manufacturing base in India. However, there is much to be done, as India lacks local manufacturing capacity and capability in defense equipment.

The government's recent increase of the ceiling of foreign direct investment to 49 percent in defense manufacturing and the greater involvement of India's private sector for defense production surely will bring more foreign manufacturers to India.

Importantly, as these relationships develop further with foreign contractors, Indian policy makers very much want to move beyond production under licence to collaborations based on co-production and development of defense equipment with foreign suppliers and to open advanced-technology transfers.

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Gopichand Hinduja is co-chairman of the Hinduja Group.

India Eyes Manufacturing as Key to Growth

By Meenakshi Lekhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's new campaign 'Make in India', launched on September 25, will give a much-needed boost to the manufacturing sector. The initiative is expected to boost annual manufacturing growth to 10 percent in the long term. Investors across the globe, including the United States, are being invited to partner in this new initiative.

The visits of U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel to New Delhi have laid fresh foundations to further India-U.S. ties. Key initiatives in energy, education and health are being worked, including bilateral consultations at the level of the Joint Working Group on Climate Change. Renewed attention has also been given to the India-U.S. Defense Trade and Technology Initiative.

A robust strategic partnership of

India and the U.S. has great potential in the South Asian region and would help in enhancing peace and stability in the region especially with countries such as Afghanistan and Myanmar.

True, India's relations with the United States have suffered in recent years due to wrangling over the civil-nuclear cooperation agreement, the standoff over Indian diplomat Devyani Khobragade's case, constraints to market access due to visa- and immigration policies and the recent standoff on the World Trade Organisation's trade rules.

Nonetheless, things seem to be changing, and the time is ripe to revive India-U.S. relations with full vigor. All existing differences need to be ironed out and cooperation in energy, defense, infrastructure, cyber-governance, trade and investment need to be expanded.

The new Indian administration is committed to revive the economy and

has taken several close-up measures to this end. India's wholesale inflation rate fell from 5.19 percent in July to 3.7 percent in August. The Indian economy grew at 5.7 percent between April and June this year, with the insurance, real estate and business services sectors performing well.

On the policy front, the government has proposed to increase equity limits for foreign direct investment in the insurance sector from 26 percent to 49 percent. The government has also allowed greater foreign investment in railway infrastructure and defense manufacturing.

India-U.S. ties likely will benefit greatly from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Barack Obama's meeting in Washington. The people of these two great democracies look forward to the beginning of a whole new chapter in the partnership.



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Meenakshi Lekhi is an Indian lawyer and Member of Parliament from the Bharatiya Janata Party.

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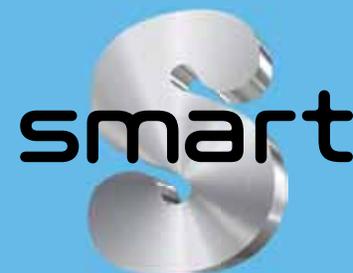
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