INDIA-CHINA
RECOGNISE
THE LINE OF ACTUAL CONTROL

Peace-tranquility-Stability
IFUNA WELCOMES DELEGATES OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION, CHINA

A three member delegation of UNA CHINA as a guest of IFUNA arrived Delhi. The high power delegation discussed about the mutual interest and also promote the understanding of good will with the members of IFUNA and its chairman Dr. Mukul Sangma, who is also the Chief Minister of Meghalaya.

LEADER OF THE DELEGATION
Ambassador Lu Shumin

Born in Shaanxi Province of China in February 1950, Ambassador Lu is a university graduate. He was Staff member (1977-1979), Department of North American and Oceania Affairs, Foreign Ministry. During that period (1977-1979) he was also Staff member of Chinese Embassy in Canada. He has also served as Staff member (1979-1985) of Beijing Service Bureau for Diplomatic Missions. During 1985-1989, he was Third Secretary, Second Secretary, Chinese Embassy in Australia. During 1989-1993, he was Second Secretary, Deputy Director, Director, Counsellor, Department of North American and Oceania Affairs, Foreign Ministry and in 1993-1994, he was Deputy Director-general of Department of North American and Oceanian Affairs, Foreign Ministry. In 1994-1998, he was Counsellor, Minister Counsellor and Chinese Embassy in USA. In 1998-2002, he was Director General of Department of North American and Oceanian Affairs, Foreign Ministry. During 2002-2005, he was Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of China to Indonesia and in 2005-2008, was Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of China to Canada. From 2008-2011 August, he was Commissioner of Foreign Ministry in the Macao Special Administrative Region and became Vice President of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs.

In December 2012 Ambassador Lu Shumin took over as President of UNA-China.

MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION

Madam Zhang Xiaohan

Zhang Xiaohan graduated from Hangzhou University in 1982 and further studied in the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva during late 1980s. She was in the Chinese foreign service for nearly two and half decades and had long and wealthy experience with multilateral diplomacy especially on the UN affairs. She was posted to the Chinese Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York twice. She served as the Deputy Head and Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Israel for 5 years. She has been elected as the Vice-President and Director-General of the United Nations Association of China in May 2010.

Mr. Yan Liang

Born in Liaoning Province of China in August 1974, Mr. Yan Liang is a university graduate. In 1997-2001 he was Staff member, Chinese Embassy in Zambia and from 2001-2006 served as Attache, Third Secretary, Department of Information, Foreign Ministry. In 2007-2011 he served as Second Secretary, Office of the Commissioner of Foreign Ministry in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

From 2011 to April 2012, he was First Secretary, Department of International Organizations and Conference, Foreign Ministry. From May 2012 till July 2013 he was Poverty-Alleviation Representative of the Foreign Ministry in Jinping County of Yunnan Province. From August 2013 he is Director of the secretariat of the UNA-China.
Late Mr. P.S. Paul is seen with (L to R) S.P. Kalra, Ashok Sharma, Suresh Srivastava, P.S. Paul and P.M. Parvatiyar

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By the time this issue reaches your hand the tangent of 2014 would have kissed the circle of 2013.

The year 2013 unfortunately could not leave a very happy trail. We lost thousands of people in Uttarakhand state due to cloudburst. Tornado in Odisha and south eastern coastal region including Andhra Pradesh in India left many a people shelterless due to sudden flood in the rivers of these states. Besides that, Typhoon Haiyan in November devastated the Philippines, affecting the lives of 11.3 million people, including 10,000 people reported dead and around 670,000 people now finding themselves homeless.

With a heavy heart, on behalf of IFJNA and PEOPLE AND UN family, we express our sincere condolences to the affected people.

The year 2013 also snatched from us one of our dedicated member Mr. P.S. Paul. He was one of the pillars of IFJNA and was its treasurer for last 30 years. We pray for the peace of his departed soul.

In 1991, India adopted liberal and free-market principles and liberalized its economy to international trade under the guidance of the then Finance minister Manmohan Singh in the cabinet of Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, (1991 to 1996), who had eliminated Licence Raj, a pre- and post-British era mechanism of strict government controls on setting up new industry. Following these major economic reforms, and a strong focus on developing national infrastructure such as the Golden Quadrilateral project by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the country’s economic growth progressed at a rapid pace, with relatively large increases in per-capita income. One wonders why the prices of essential commodities are soaring high and economy seems to be out of grip of the government when the then finance minister is now prime minister of the country. Based on the survey of 1600 MNC executives from 70 countries, global consultancy firm EY has ranked India as the world’s most attractive investment destination above China and the US. Confidence is arguably the most important factor. For a while, investors had lost confidence in India. As a result investments have dried up, leading to a slowdown. A lot has to be done to turn the tide.

The 16-day US government shutdown in early October has, no doubt, hampered the progress of global economy to some extent, but it can’t be cited as an excuse of this financial crisis. Manmohan Singh has assured certain affective measures in this respect and we hope for an encouraging financial result in 2014.

The conflict in Syria has resulted in a dramatically deteriorating humanitarian crisis. Around 2 million Syrians have fled to neighboring countries in the hope of escaping violence, many with little more than the clothes on their backs. Violence continues to escalate due to fighting between the government forces and opposing groups. Explosive weapons are being used in densely populated areas, resulting in widespread death, injury, and displacement. The conflict in Syria has resulted in a severe and worsening emergency. The suffering of Syrian people will not stop unless world leaders find a political solution to the crisis. Syria is not witnessing a battle for democracy, but an armed conflict between government and opposition in a multireligious country. There are few champions of democracy in Syria. But there are more than enough Al Qaeda fighters and extremists of all stripes battling the government. We hope good sense will prevail upon all the concerned parties and peace and normalcy will return in 2014.

It is heartening to note that Iran and six world powers clinched a deal on curbing the Iranian nuclear program in exchange for initial sanctions relief, signaling the start of a game-changing rapprochement that could ease the risk of a wider Middle East war. We welcome this deal.

During Prime Minister Manmohan Singh recent visit to Beijing in October an agreement to increase co-operation at the borders, which are not yet settled, has been reached. Issues related to the Sutlej and Brahmaputra rivers are now taken up at the highest levels. Some kind of a firm beginning is made finally to co-operate amicably on the trans-border rivers issue. Better data will be available at the hands of Indian experts after the agreement on rivers which will go a long way in eventually taking up contentious issues about the actual sharing of water. Through the Border Defence Co-operation Agreement, a political message has been given from Beijing to the respective militaries, on the ground around the borders, that they should exercise maximum self-restraint when misunderstandings or a crisis erupts along the Line of Actual Control. We very much appreciate the efforts of our Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in the resolving Sino-Indian border issue. It is a landmark agreement towards peace, development and prosperity of both the countries.

We welcome 2014 with a positive note and hope that India shall get its seat in UN Security Council as a Permanent Member, which is long overdue.

Pran Mohan Parvatiyar
(pmparvatiyar@gmail.com)
IS THE UNITED NATIONS IRRELEVANT?

BY SURESH SRIVASTAVA
Secretary General, IFUNA

WHENEVER we talk about the United Nations some of us invariably start talking about the irrelevance of the United Nations because whenever there is a unilateral action and we talk over Rwanda, cold War, Darfur, Srebrenica Mass-
sacre, Khmer rouge, Sri Lanka, Libya, Iraq, Nuclear proliferation and Veto power. Then it seems that the United Nation has become irrelevant.

In other words it is not for the first time that the United Nations has been written off by some only to be found essential to the ensuing peace. The UN offers a legitimacy that no country or ad hoc coalition can muster for itself.

INDISPENSABLE

The United Nations was founded during a period when the world had known almost nothing but war and strife. Horror succeeded horror until in 1945 the world was brought face to face with the terrible tragedies brought by war, fascism, nuclear bombing and attempted genocide. Hiroshima and the holocaust. Had things gone on like that, the future of the human race would have been bleak indeed. But happily, we did not go on like that. The overall record of the second half of the 20th century is one of amazing advances. The world economy not only recovered from the devastation of 1945, it expanded as never before. There was astonishing technological progress. Many in the industrialized

NO DOUBT IT IS INDISPENSABLE, BUT NEEDS REFORM.
Saudi Arabia rejects UN Security Council seat

Saudi Arabia renounced a rotating UN Security Council seat, evidently miffed with its long-time patron US' overtures to Iran.

Saudi Arabia has renounced a rotating UN Security Council seat that was there for the taking, evidently miffed with its long-time patron United States' overtures to Iran, among other peeves. The unexpected Saudi rejection came just hours after the kingdom was elected unopposed on Thursday night as one of the council's 10 nonpermanent members. The two-year stint is prized by member countries because it gives them a temporary seat alongside the five permanent members, albeit without veto power.

The five rotating seats that opened up this year were uncontested, leaving Saudi Arabia, Chad, Nigeria, Lithuania and Chile to replace retiring members Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Guatemala, Morocco and Togo.

But in a sudden twist, Riyadh, apparently piqued with Washington over developments in the Middle East, lamented that the international community had failed in its duty towards Syria, where the Saudis have backed the largely Sunni rebels against the regime of Bashar al-Assad. Saying the UN "allowed the Syrian regime to kill people" and use chemical weapons in front of "the entire world without facing any penalties," Riyadh said it was regretfully declining the UN seat.

"The kingdom sees that the method and work mechanism and the double standards in the Security Council prevent it from properly shouldering its responsibilities towards world peace," the country's foreign ministry said in a statement carried by state news agency SPA, calling for unspecified reforms.

There were other Saudi gripes beyond the Syria "let-down," notably the US approach with Iran, which reportedly led to the Saudi leadership ditching a scheduled speech at the UN general assembly last month. The largely Sunni Saudi Arabia is locked in a bitter feud with the mostly Shia Iran. It feels betrayed by Washington's recent advances with Teheran, whose nuclear program it views as a threat, although its own client state Pakistan is said to give the Saudis military and nuclear cover.

Given Saudi Arabia's preference for low-key, undemonstrative engagement, all this was masked in suitable diplomacy. "The failure of the Security Council to make the Middle East a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction, whether because of its inability to subdue the nuclear programs of all countries in the
region... is a sign and proof of the inability of the Security Council to perform its duties and responsibilities," the Saudi foreign ministry said.

Saudi Arabia has quietly asserted primacy in the region in the years since Iran fell out with the US, mainly by buying military and nuclear cover from its rentier, client-Pakistan and diplomatic shield from its patron, the United States. Washington's recent rapprochement with Iran and its discarding of Pakistan has rattled Riyadh, particularly as it comes at a time the US is fast becoming energy independent on the strength of the vast gas reserves it has recently tapped domestically.

A recent Pew Research study on global attitudes showed Saudi Arabia's image faltering among Middle East Neighbours, particularly in Lebanon, Tunisia and Turkey. The country's most favourable rating came from Pakistan (95 per cent approval).

world now enjoy a level of prosperity and have access to a range of experiences that their grandparents could scarcely have dreamed of.

Even in the developing world there has been spectacular economic growth, child mortality has been reduced, literacy has spread, the peoples of the so-called third world threw off the yoke of colonialism. We know that democracy and human right are not yet universal but they are much more the norm than the exception.

It is just not a debate in a point the fact remain is that in the present world the United Nations has become indispensable.

My question to you is: did all this happen by accident? No, it happened quite simply because in and after 1945, the group of far-sighted leaders, statesmen and stateswomen, were determined to make the second half of the 20th century different from the first. They drew rules to govern international behaviour and they founded institutions, for which different nations could co-operate for the common good to foster international relations, this was precisely to avoid what had happened in the first half the 20th century when these norms did not exist and were not entrenched.

It was very much explicitly in the vision of the UN's founders, particularly the great American president Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

When the successor, President Harry Truman, signed the United Nations charter in San Francisco, he said very clearly: "If you seek to use this instrument selfishly for the advantage of any one nation or any one small group of nations, we shall be betraying the ideals for which the United Nations has been founded".

Every country on earth belongs to the United Nations including the world's only superpower. Every newly independent state seeks entry into the UN almost as its first order of government business. Its seats in the UN are its most fundamental confirmation of its membership in the committee of nations.

But of course, the UN is at its best a mirror of the world. It reflects our divisions and disagreements as well as our hopes and convictions. It is folly to discourage an entire institution on the basis of a few occasions where it does not succeed.

Those who criticize the UN appear to be working on the basis of a yardstick, that it must succeed all the time.

RIGHT TO PROTECT (R2P)

In recent times a new concept has been developed - that is R2P.

The concept of R2P arose from the ashes of the traumas experienced in Rwanda and Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1990s. Genocide and ethnic cleansing in these countries and the failure of the international community to act, in spite of advance information, called for implementation of concepts like R2P, because the national authorities were not in a position to bear their responsibility to protect its own citizens.

Enshrined in the Outcome Document of 2005 World Summit, the concept of R2P, is rooted in three pillars. Pillar I recognizes the responsibility of each individual state to protect its populations from four crimes: genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. Pillar II provides for the international community to encourage and help States to exercise this responsibility and support the UN in establishing an early warning capability. It is in Pillar III, where the problem arises, wherein when peaceful means fail to prevent such crimes, Security Council is authorized recourse to the coercive and military means by invoking Chapter VII. While there is general consensus on Pillar I & II, there is an ongoing debate on the likely misuse of Pillar III, as experiences in Libya amply testify. Do we have any other such in institution or organization which can save this world from the scourge of war?

ADAM EVE - WHO ELSE

There is an old story about Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, and it is said that Adam, when he found that Eve was becoming a bit indifferent to him. Adam said to Eve, "Eve, is there someone else?" You think about that for a minute, because you could ask the same question about the United Nations. Is there another institution that brings together all the countries of the world to work together for common objectives in all our collective interests; there
clearly is not.

**REFORM OF UN**

U.N. reform and a commitment to multilateralism go hand in hand.

One has to accept that most states act both unilaterally and multilaterally. The former in defence of their national security or in their immediate backyard, the latter in pursuit of global causes.

We understand that there is no one to replace United Nations but does it mean that the United Nations functioning, its Charter, its composition is good for all the time to come. The United Nations came into existence more than six decades and much of the water has flown in all the rivers of the world bringing sea change in the scenario of the world.

The call for U.N. reform was widespread, beginning with, but not limited to, reform of the Security Council. It began with world public opinion--both by demonstrating its ability to deal effectively with the most difficult issues, and by becoming more broadly representative of the international community as a whole, as well as geopolitical realities of today."

Jacque Chirac - former France PM concurred. "There is no alternative to the United Nations. But in the face of today's challenges, this fundamental choice, as expressed in the Charter, calls for a far-reaching reform of our organization."

Reform ought to concentrate on the functioning of our multilateral system. The work of the Security Council illustrates this need. Without a doubt, the debate over its composition is bound to the need for attaining a greater degree of representation, and in this way to strengthen its legitimacy. It is necessary to ensure an adequate degree of representation, to limit the veto and regulate it, to advocate for a greater transparency, and to create a relationship that is more balanced with the other organizations of the United Nations, particularly the General Assembly.

The reality is that the same processes that bring all us closer together in a global village, are simultaneously placing the residents of the global village in different positions. Some have emerged as the dominant, and the rest as the dominated, with the dominant being the decision makers, and the dominated being the recipients and implementers of these decisions.

The current structure of the Security Council might have made sense in the aftermath of World War II, but it is a dinosaur now, and the world—with two or three notable exceptions—is clamouring for reform. The first and foremost reform that is needed is the elimination of the veto, a privilege accorded only to the five permanent members: Britain, France, Russia, China, and the U.S. The idea that any single country can veto a Security Council resolution is grossly undemocratic and unjust.

Alternatively the number of permanent members should be expanded to include representatives from Africa and Latin America, as well as new representatives from Asia and perhaps Europe. Does it not look ridiculous that India a country of 1.2 billion and a country with one million having same Voting Rights. As a matter of fact Security Council should have more representative character with inclusion of India, Japan, Brazil, South Africa and Germany.

**CIVIL SOCIETY - WFUNA**

Talking about UN by IFUNA and MUJNA has something to do with the history of UN as in San Francisco Harry Truman signed Charter of United Nations similarly on 26 June 1946 at San Francisco and the Charter was signed by the wife of the Founder of United Nations Ms Elia Roosevelt.

WFUNA - We the People of United Nations - John Majere, Elia Roosevelt and many important political thinkers --------

The WFUNA came into existence on 26 June 1946, Role of Civil society was never recognized but it is only after assuming the office of the Secretary General Kofi Annan gave a call for a partnership between United Nations and Civil Society. Mr Kofi Annan in his address to the General Assembly on the opening of the 52nd session September 22, 1997 he said "we aspire to United Nations that recognizes and joins in partnership with, and ever more robust global civil societies". In his January 1998 addressed to the World Economic Forum, he went on to say "Peace and Prosperity cannot be achieved without partnership involving Governments, International Organizations, the Business Community and Civil Society”. It was Mr Kofi Annan who truly initiated the role of civil society and United Nations and partnership of civil society with United Nations. The civil society had played a major role in influencing many decisions of the United Nations such as Human Rights, to ban land mines to provide the international community with useful information on country conditions and compliance with international centres. It is estimated that international NGOs provide as much as eight billion, dollars in development and relief assistance each year, helping to fill the growing gap between needs for such assistance and the capabilities of United Nations and other national and international sources.

It is estimated that international NGOs provide as much as eight billion, dollars in development and relief assistance each year, helping to fill the growing gap between needs for such assistance and the capabilities of United Nations and other national and international sources.

I am optimistic and hope the issue of Reform of the UN will gather further momentum and the civil society and United Nations shall have many new feathers in their caps. 

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Cover Story

Line of Actual Control
India-China border defence pact

Relations between the nuclear-armed Asian giants have been warming recently after decades of hostility following a 1962 border war which cost the life of the then Indian Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru. Despite fast-growing economic ties, these two neighbours have ultimately decided to resolve overlapping claims along their 4,000-km (2,500-mile) border.
Border defence pact

India and China have signed a key border defence pact called the Border Defence Cooperation Agreement (BDCA) to avoid face offs between the two armies along the disputed Line of Actual Control. Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang said that as many as nine pacts had been signed between the two countries, calling Prime Minister Mammanoh Singh’s visit a great success.

Below is the full text of the Border Defence Cooperation Agreement between India and China: The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People’s Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as the ‘two sides’), Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang.

Firmly believing that the India-China Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity serves the fundamental interests of the people of the two countries, Reiterating that neither side shall use its military capability against the other side and that their respective military strengths shall not be used to attack the other side, Recognizing the importance of materializing the spirit of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and Government of the People’s Republic of China on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility Along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Area signed on 7th September 1993, the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People’s Republic of China on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field Along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Area signed on 29th November 1996, the Protocol between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People’s Republic of China on Modalities for the Implementation of Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field Along the Line of Actual Control in India-China Border Area signed on 11th April 2005 and the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People’s Republic of China on the Establishment of a Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs signed on 17th January 2012, Have agreed as follows:

**Article I**

The two sides shall carry out border defence cooperation on the basis of their respective laws and relevant bilateral agreements.

**Article II**

The two sides shall implement border defence cooperation in the following ways:

1. Exchange information including information about military exercises, aircrafts, demolition operations and unmarked mines and take consequent measures conducive to the maintenance of peace, stability and tranquility along the line of actual control in the India-China border areas,
2. Jointly combat smuggling of arms, wildlife, wildlife articles and other contrabands,
3. Assist the other side in locating personnel, livestock, means of transport and aerial vehicles that may have crossed or are possibly in the process of crossing the line of actual control in the India-China border areas,
4. Work with the other side in combating natural disasters and infectious diseases that may affect or spread to the other side,
5. Any other way mutually agreed upon by the two sides.

**Article III**

Earlier this year, China and India have signed a series of agreements, including a border pact during Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh’s state visit to Beijing on 24th October 2013. It is a ‘landmark’ agreement. But, unfortunately this great development could not get its due importance in the Indian media, as they were grossly pre-occupied with the domestic political front.

There is little doubt that the Border Defense Cooperation Agreement (BDCA) is a positive step towards smoothing tensions and rebuilding cooperation and trust between the two countries. The BDCA’s main purpose, which includes provisions to improve communication between the two sides and increase military cooperation, is to reduce confrontation amid months of exacerbated tensions along the border.

The agreement emphasizes the two countries as civilization partners who have more to benefit from mutual cooperation than conflict, specifically on trade. Highlights of the agreement include increased communication and information exchanges, and expanded joint efforts such as combating smuggling and assistance during natural disasters. The agreement states that both sides will exercise maximum self-restraint and refrain from provocative actions, and not use force in situations where border forces come into contact with each other in areas that are...
Border defence cooperation visualized in this agreement shall be implemented through the following mechanisms:

1. Flag meetings or border personnel meetings at designated places along the line of actual control in the India-China border areas.

2. Periodic meetings between officers of the relevant Military Regions of China and Army Commands of India and between departments responsible for military operations.


4. Meetings of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs.


Article IV

In implementing border defence cooperation and to facilitate contacts and meetings between relevant organizations, the two sides may establish Border Personnel Meeting sites in all sectors, as well as telephone contacts and telecommunication links at mutually agreed locations along the line of actual control. The two sides may also consider establishing a Hotline between the military headquarters of the two countries. Specific arrangements shall be decided upon through mutual consultations between the two sides.

Article V

In order to enhance understanding and cooperation between the border defence forces of the two sides, each side may invite the other side for joint celebrations on major national or military days or festivals and organize cultural activities, non-contact sports events and small scale tactical exercises along the line of actual control in the India-China border areas. In addition, the two sides may also conduct joint military training exercises, at Army level, in each other’s country on a regular basis. The theme of such joint exercises will be decided through mutual consultations.

Article VI

The two sides agree that they shall not follow or tail patrols of the other side in areas where there is no common understanding of the line of actual control in the India-China border areas.

Article VII

In case a doubtful situation arises with reference to any activity by either side in border areas where there is no common understanding of the line of actual control, either side has the right to seek a clarification from the other side. In such cases, the clarification shall be sought and replies to them shall be conveyed through any of the mechanisms established under Article III of this Agreement.

Article VIII

The two sides agree that if the border defence forces of the two sides come to a face-to-face situation in areas where there is no common understanding of the line of actual control, both sides shall exercise maximum self-restraint, refrain from any provocative actions, not use force or threaten to use force against the other side, treat each other with courtesy and prevent exchange of fire or armed conflict.

Article IX

The two sides shall implement this Agreement without prejudice to their respective positions on the alignment of the line of actual control as well as on the boundary question.

Article X

This Agreement shall come into force on the date of its signature. It may be revised, amended or terminated with the consent of the two sides. Any revision or amendment, mutually agreed by the two sides, shall form an integral part of this Agreement.
Agreement during the Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's visit to India

Earlier during the Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's visit to India, China and India had signed eight agreements. None of them were ground-breaking; no resolutions on long-standing problems such as the disputed border or the Tibetan homeland.

But here's a look at what they did agree on, and what it might mean for India.

1. Buffalo Meat
An agreement on the trade in buffalo meat including minimum safety requirements for the meat was signed by India's ministry of commerce, industry and textiles and China's ministry of quality supervision, inspection and quarantine. India is currently the world's largest exporter of buffalo meat selling $3.2 billion to more than 65 countries, according to a person with knowledge of the export market. But it has missed out on the growing Chinese market for the food because it exports it via a third country, the person said, deeming to name the third party.

Meat industry insiders in India hope that the agreement will pave the way to direct exports of buffalo meat to China and help redress the trade imbalance between the two countries, which is strongly weighted in China's favor. India's trade deficit with China reached $40 billion in the financial year ended March 2012.

The Chinese demand for Indian buffalo could be worth $1.5 billion a year, industry experts said.

2. China has agreed to provide more information about how its dams are affecting the flow of rivers that discharge into Indian territory. China's dam building has been a source of contention between the countries as India is concerned its farmers will be left with too little water.

Under this agreement China will provide India with information on the water level, discharge and rainfall between 8am and 8pm (Beijing Time) twice a day from June 1st to October 15th each year from three hydrological stations on the Brahmaputra river.

3. Pilgrims
The two sides agreed to improve facilities for pilgrims on the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra to south Tibet, which take places every year from May to September.

China agreed to improve facilities on the route and to help pilgrims rent wireless sets and local SIM cards for cell phones.

The site at Mount Kailash is remote and currently has few amenities or hotels, according to travel agents working in the area. Lal Sodari, director of Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, a private travel agency running trips to the pilgrimage site, said the agreement would make the journey easier for pilgrims.

Hindus believe the site of the pilgrimage is the home of Lord Shiva, but it also holds religious significance for Jains and Buddhists.

In 2012, a record number of 774 people took part in the pilgrimage to the site organized by India's foreign ministry, for which only Indians, picked by ballot, are eligible.

4. Sewage
An agreement for better cooperation in sewage treatment might not immediately sound that thrilling, but the two most populous countries on earth have agreed to share their experiences of dealing with waste generated by their collective 2.5 billion residents.

Pretty crucial, we'd say.

5. Working groups
Three working groups to look at service trade promotion, economic and trade planning cooperation, and trade statistical analysis were set up under an agreement between the countries' ministries of commerce.

6. Water technology
This interim agreement aims to enhance cooperation in ways to use water efficiently for irrigation in agriculture. Most of India's large farming community relies on rainwater that falls mainly during the monsoon months to irrigate their crops.

7. Translation of books
The countries signed a memorandum of understanding on the translation of 50 books and contemporary classical works from China and India into Chinese and Indian languages. It was unclear which Indian works will be translated under the agreement.

8. Twinning
Both sides agreed to identify sister cities and sister states or provinces.
Cover Story

need to maintain momentum and increase opportunities for substantive strategic dialogue if they want to deepen economic relations and achieve the pledge to increase two-way trade to $100bn a year by 2015, given that last year trade between the two countries fell 10% to $66.6bn.

China and India signed an agreement Wednesday on border defence cooperation after a stand-off along their disputed frontier in April fuelled fears of conflict between the Asian giants.

China and India signed a deal on 24th October aimed at soothing tension on their contested border, as the two nuclear-armed giants try to break a decades-old stalemate.

The agreement was signed in Beijing's Great Hall of the People following a meeting between Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, visiting Beijing to seek a breakthrough in the territorial row that has soured relations for decades, witnessed the signing of the pact alongside Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.

The agreement will "help to maintain peace, tranquility and stability in our border areas", Li said following the ceremony. Singh told reporters: "We account for 2.5 billion people on this Earth and when India and China shake hands, the world notices."

The frontier agreement "will add to the existing instruments to ensure peace, stability and predictability on our borders", he added.

China and India fought a brief war in 1962 and the border between them has never been properly demarcated, although they have signed accords to maintain peace.

Harsh Pant, of the defence studies department at King's College London, said the agreement was a "significant takeaway" for Singh. "Anything that restores normalcy on the borders is a welcome development, though this pact is unlikely to resolve the border row."

Li said the two would hold joint counter-terrorism training in southwest China and "strengthen cooperation to combat terrorism".

Delhi and Beijing signed nine agreements in total on Wednesday, including separate memorandums of understanding to strengthen cooperation on trans border rivers and transport.

China is India's biggest trading partner, with two-way commerce totaling $67.83 billion in the last fiscal year, up $2.1 billion in 2001-02.

Singh - called the deficit "unsustainable" after his meeting with Li, who said the two countries "agree to pursue trade and mutual investment in a parallel fashion".

"I am sure it will help to maintain peace, tranquility and stability in our border areas," China's Li told reporters following talks with Singh.

The border defense cooperation agreement is built on existing confidence-building measures and is designed to ensure that patrolling along the Line of Actual Control, as the unsettled border is called, does not escalate into an unintended skirmish, an Indian official said last week.

Singh said the agreement "will add to the existing instruments to ensure peace, stability and predictability on our borders".

Under the new deal, the two sides will give notice of patrols along the ill-defined border to ensure that patrols do not "tail" each other to reduce the chance of confrontation and will exercise "maximum self-restraint" should the two sides come face to face in areas where the line of control is unclear.

The two armies, strung out along the 4,000-km (2,500-mile) border from the high-altitude Ladakh plateau in the west to the forests of Arunachal Pradesh in the east, have also agreed to look at setting up a hotline between top-ranking officers in addition to existing brigade-level contacts.

The border defense cooperation pact is a small step forward in a complicated relationship marked by booming economic ties and growing distrust.

In May, armies from the two countries ended a three-week standoff in the western Himalayas after Chinese troops set up a camp at least 10 km (six miles) inside territory claimed by India, triggering a public outcry and calls that India should stand up to its powerful neighbour.

China denied that troops had crossed into Indian territory.

A Chinese airforce earlier this month blocked two Indian archaeologists from disputed Arunachal Pradesh from travelling to China, souring the mood in India ahead of Singh's visit. But Li sought to play down the differences.

"China and India are two old civilizations," he said. "Our two peoples have the wisdom and our two governments have the ability to manage our differences along the border so that it won't affect the overall interests of our bilateral relations."

"China stands ready to work with India to strengthen cooperation on infrastructure, especially railway construction, and to push forward the establishment of a Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar economic corridor," Li said. The proposed land corridor, dubbed a new "southern silk road", would pass through Myanmar and Bangladesh to connect the southwestern Chinese city of Kunming with Kolkata, one of India's largest cities.
BREATHROUGH DEAL
Curbing Iran's Nuclear Activity
'Great Satan' meets 'Axis of Evil' and strikes a deal

by P.M. PARVATIYAR AND SURESH SRIVASTAVA

WHEN Washington sanctioned Iran, it undermined the very goals that it would like to achieve. Rather than engaging Tehran, the sanctions were reinforcing the hardliners; isolating a moderate section of Iran's community, including the business community and the middle class; dividing old U.S. allies and strengthening China's clout in the Middle East.

While the sanctions were inflaming Iran's internal turmoil, progress in the U.S.-Iranian rapprochement contributing to deterioration of U.S.-Saudi relations. Riyadh attributes the latter to U.S. inaction in Syria, lack of Israeli-Palestinian progress and U.S. withdrawal of aid to the Egyptian military.

As a result, the Saudis refused the rotating seat on the UN Security Council, while the Saudi intelligence warned that it could cease U.S. cooperation in certain issues. In turn, the U.S.-Iran-Saudi division is used by Al Qaeda and other extremists to ignite sectarian flames in the fluid, oil-rich region.

In the aftermath of the "Arab Spring," Washington found itself in a double-whammy. If the Obama Administration does not act according to its stated principles, it is forced to rely on the remaining authoritarian Sunni governments. If, on the other hand, it chooses to honor its stated principles, it will contribute to the Shiite-Sunni friction and divide its allies in the region.

Hence at Geneva Iran and six world powers burned extra fuel to clinch a deal on 24th November Sunday curbing the Iranian nuclear program in exchange for initial sanctions relief, signaling the start of a game-changing rapprochement that could ease the risk of a wider Middle East war.

Saturday night had turned into Sunday morning and four days of talks over Iran's nuclear program had already gone so far over schedule that the Geneva Intercontinental Hotel had been given over to another event. At around 2:00 a.m., U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and counterparts from Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia were brought to a conference room to approve a final text of the agreement which would provide limited relief of sanctions on Iran in return for curbs to its nuclear programme.

Aimed at ending a long festering standoff, the interim pact between Iran and the United States, France, Germany, Britain, China and Russia won the critical endorsement of Iranian clerical Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khomeini.

U.S. President Barack Obama said the deal struck after marathon, tortuous and politically charged negotiations cut off Tehran's potential path to a nuclear weapon. But Israel, Iran's arch-enemy, denounced the agreement as an "historic mistake".

Halting Iran's most sensitive nuclear work, its higher-grade enrichment of uranium, it was tailored as a package of confidence-building steps towards reducing decades of tension and banish the specter of war over Iran's nuclear aspirations.

European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton, who has been coordinating diplomatic contacts with Iran on behalf of the major powers, said it creat-
ed time and space for follow-up talks on a comprehensive solution to the dispute.

"This is only a first step," said Iranian Foreign Minister and chief negotiator Mohammad Javad Zarif. "We need to start moving in the direction of restoring confidence, a direction which we have managed to move against in the past."

Hard-pressed by sanctions, many Iranians were elated by the breakthrough and prospect of economic improvement. The Iranian rial currency, decimated earlier this year due to sanctions, jumped more than 3 percent on news of the deal.

Obama said that if Iran did not meet its commitments during the six-month period covered by the interim deal, Washington would turn off the tap of sanctions relief and "ratchet up the pressure".

But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu condemned the deal as it left the nuclear fuel-producing infrastructure of its arch-foe intact. "What was achieved last night in Geneva is not a historic agreement, it was a historic mistake," he said.

"Today the world has become a much more dangerous place because the most dangerous regime in the world took a significant step towards obtaining the world's most dangerous weapon," he said in public remarks to his cabinet.

Nevertheless, the big power foreign ministers appeared relieved and elated after Ashton read out a statement proclaiming the deal in the middle of the night at the United Nations office in Geneva.

Ashton and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry hugged each other. Kerry and Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov shook hands. Minutes later, as Iran's delegation posed for photos, Zarif and French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius embraced. France had taken the hardest line on Iran in recent talks.

The West has long suspected that Iran has been seeking covertly to develop a nuclear weapons capability. The Islamic Republic, a major oil producer, denies that, saying its nuclear program is a peaceful quest for an alternative source of electricity to serve a rapidly expanding population.

The United States said the deal halted advances in Iran's nuclear program, including construction of the Arak heavy-water reactor that deeply worries the West as it could yield plutonium, another atomic bomb ingredient, once operational.

It would neutralize Iran's stockpile of uranium refined to a concentration of 20 percent, which is a close step away from the level needed for weapons, and calls for enhanced, more frequent U.N. nuclear inspections, a senior U.S. official said.

A U.S. fact sheet said Iran has also agreed to suspending enrichment above a fissile purity of 5 percent — the threshold suitable for running nuclear power stations, which is Iran's stated purpose. Refined uranium also provides the fissile core of an atomic bomb if refined to a high degree.

In return, Iran could obtain access to $1.5 billion in revenue from trade in gold and precious metals and the suspension of some sanctions on its automotive sec-
European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton (3rd L) delivers a statement during a ceremony next to British Foreign Secretary William Hague, Germany’s Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, Russia’s Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius (L-R) at the United Nations in Geneva November 24, 2013.

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tor, and see its petrochemical exports revive.

But Iranian oil exports would remain for now at their currently significantly reduced levels. "$4.2 billion from these sales will be allowed to be transferred in installments if, and as, Iran fulfills its commitments," a White House fact sheet said.

Much of the sanctions infrastructure, anchored by a Western embargo on Iranian crude oil and a ban on Iranian use of the international banking system, would remain in place pending a final deal aimed at removing all risk of an Iranian atom bomb.

"The approximately $7 billion in relief is a fraction of the costs that Iran will continue to incur during this first phase under the sanctions that will remain in place," the White House document said. "The vast majority of Iran's approximately $100 billion in foreign exchange holdings are inaccessible or restricted."

Relief from sanctions is to begin in two to three weeks, Iran's Mehr news agency quoted Zarif as saying.

The deal does not recognize an Iranian right to enrich uranium, U.S. officials said.

Some leaders of the Islamic Republic, nevertheless, welcomed the accord and insisted it did amount to recognition of what they say is Tehran’s right to enrich uranium.

"This can be the basis for further intelligent actions. Without a doubt the grace of God and the prayers of the Iranian nation were a factor in this success," Khamenei, who has the ultimate say on policy in Iran, wrote in a letter to President Hassan Rouhani published by the state news agency IRNA.

Rouhani, a moderate elected by a landslide in June promising "constructive engagement" with the world and relief from sanctions, said the "outcome of these negotiations is that the ... world powers have recognized Iran's nuclear rights".

Deal will boost India's energy ties with Tehran

INDIA'S first major engagement with Iran after it struck a deal with six world powers on its nuclear programme will take place here. India is expected to review with Iran’s the extensive list of India-Iran cooperative projects that have been put on hold because of the U.S. sanctions. Iran will look to get a windfall of more than $6 billion from its oil sales to India because the sanctions had cut off bank transfers. In the longer term, government officials, analysts and academics are anticipating gains in geopolitics, energy and trade transport.

Officials of both the countries will consider invigorating the energy ties through increased shipments to refineries that have almost halved their consumption of Iranian oil; exploration and drilling of gasfields allotted years ago by Iran; and resumption of talks for a gas pipeline.
Focus

Rouhani's attempts to repair diplomatic bridges broken by his bellicose predecessor Mahmud Ahmadinejad and his success in winning the backing of Khomeini reignited negotiations which had dragged on inconclusively, with the two sides talks reciting irreconcilable positions to each other, for 10 years.

"Ultimately, it is the Iranian people and the American people who deserve the most credit. Both are responsible for this initial victory by rejecting defeatists who said that a brighter future was not possible (and) diplomacy could not succeed," said Trita Parsi, president of the National Iranian American Council (NIAC) think-tank.

But many obstacles remain, he cautioned. "Hardliners in both countries will work harder than ever to sabotage this pivot towards a diplomatic path. Those whose only currency is confrontation will search for any opportunities they can find to undermine and sabotage this interim deal."

Kerry said the agreement would make it harder for Iran to make a dash to build a nuclear weapon and would make Israel and other U.S. allies safer.

He also told a late night Geneva news conference that while Obama would not take off the table the possible use of force against Iran, he believed it was necessary first to exhaust diplomacy.

He said the limited sanctions relief could be rescinded.

Kerry and the foreign ministers of the five other powers piled into the negotiations early on Saturday as the two sides appeared to be edging closer to a long-elusive agreement.

France's Fabius said: "After years of blockages, the agreement in Geneva on Iran's nuclear program is an important step to preserving security and peace."

President Barack Obama has pulled off a historic deal with Iran on curbing its nuclear program but he and other global leaders now have tough work ahead turning an interim accord into a comprehensive agreement.

In a sign of how difficult the coming talks will be, some differences emerged between U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and his Iranian counterpart in their public presentation of a key part of the deal - whether or not Iran preserved the right to enrich uranium.

Obama also has to persuade its ally Israel, whose Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu denounced the deal as a "historic mistake," that the accord will reduce and not increase the threat from its arch foe Iran. And he has to sell the accord to skeptics in Congress, including some in his own Democratic Party, who have been pressing for more sanctions on Iran.

The breakthrough accord was reached in the middle of the night at talks in Geneva between Iran, the United States, and Germany, China, Russia, France,
U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry (3rd R) hugs European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton after she delivered a statement during a ceremony next to British Foreign Secretary William Hague (L), Germany's Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle (R) and French Foreign Affairs Minister Laurent Fabius at the United Nations in Geneva on November 24, 2013.

Britain. It won the critical endorsement of Iranian clerical Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and marked a clear turn in a U.S. relationship with Iran that has been fraught since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, and vexed for years over the Iranian nuclear program.

But nobody doubted that tough work lies ahead in moving on from the initial deal that allows a six-month period of limits to Iran's nuclear program in exchange for up to $7 billion worth of sanctions relief, while leaving both the program and the sanctions in place.

"Now the really hard part begins and that is the effort to get the comprehensive agreement, which will require enormous steps in terms of verification, transparency and accountability," Kerry said as he began a meeting with British Foreign Minister William Hague in London.

The agreement, which halts Iran's most sensitive nuclear activity, its higher-grade enrichment of uranium, was tailored as a package of confidence-building steps towards reducing decades of tension and ultimately creating a more stable, secure Middle East.

The deal, which represents the most important thaw between the United States and Iran in more than three decades since Iranian revolutionaries held 52 American hostages in the U.S. embassy in Tehran. ▼

IRANIANS JOYFUL

For now though, many Iranians were joyful. A post in Farsi by Zarif announcing the deal on his Facebook page received 47,979 "likes" in two hours. There was an outpouring of gratitude and many described him as a "national hero".

"Dear Doctor Zarif ... Your efforts have filled the hearts of the whole nation with happiness," wrote Shariq Shamshirband.

"I am writing this comment with my eyes filled with tears. Thank you for everything ... After many years, you have returned happiness to the people. You have restored hope in our hearts and pride in my country," commented Mehrnoosh Moheri.
Indian firms perform best in BRICS: corruption watchdog

The anti-corruption watchdog Transparency International has admonished Chinese companies for their opaque business practices while praising Indian firms' relatively high standards, in a survey of emerging market multinationals released recently.

China got the lowest rating of the BRICS economies (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), whose companies made up three quarters of the total sample in the survey of 100 of the fastest-growing multinationals in 16 emerging economies. Indian firms performed the best.

Marked on how transparently they present measures to combat corruption, how they report on their organisations and how they disclose data like revenue, expenditure and taxes, three quarters of the companies scored less than five out of 10.

"As emerging market companies expand their influence they should seize the opportunity to play a bigger role stopping corruption internationally," said Huguette Labelle, head of the Berlin-based independent pressure group.

Widespread shortcomings included the failure of about 60 percent of all the companies surveyed to disclose information about their political contributions.

"Results show that companies from China lag behind in every dimension with an overall score of 20 percent," Transparency said in the report. "Considering their growing influence in markets around the world, this poor performance is of concern."

Eight of the 10 worst-performing companies were Chinese, such as state-owned Chery Automobile Co Ltd, which along with Mexico's privately-owned consumer goods group Mabe scored zero points.

Wang Wei, a spokesman for Chery, said that he had never heard of Transparency International and was never contacted by the organisation.

"Chery is not publicly traded, so naturally it is not as transparent as those listed companies," Wang said, noting that the automaker does publish quarterly and annual results to its bond investors.

Pablo Moreno, Mabe's corporate affairs director, said the report did not fairly reflect the company's control and transparency mechanisms because it was based on information available on company websites. As a private company, Mabe is not obliged to publicly reveal information related to its business activities, but complies with strict ethics and accountability codes, he added.

Transparency said Indian firms perform best in the BRICS with a result of 54 percent and several occupy the top positions in the overall index, attributing this to laws in India about how multinationals must report on subsidiaries.

Top of the class overall came India's Tata Communications Ltd (TATA.NS), which also topped the anti-corruption programmes category with 92 percent, followed by three more Tata companies.

A Tata Communications representative was not immediately available to comment.

Transparency International said public disclosure of anti-bribery measures "confirms a company's commitment to ethical conduct" and made it easier for the public to monitor them.

Emirates Airline, which is state-owned, came first in the category for organisational transparency, followed by Johnson Electric Holdings Ltd (0179.HK) of China and Malaysian state energy company Petronas.

Emirates, Johnson Electric and Petronas were not immediately available to comment.

This category marked firms on their disclosure of data like majority and minority holdings, percentages owned by the parent company and the country of incorporation and operation - all of which is often made "deliberately opaque for the purpose of hiding the proceeds of corruption", Transparency said.

Eleven companies scored zero in this category, nine of them incorporated in China. In the third category measuring standards of country-by-country reporting of revenues, capital expenditure, income before tax, income tax and community contributions, the Chilean retailing group Falabella scored highest with 50 percent.

Sandro Solari, Falabella's chief executive officer, said transparency was "a central element in building trust" and it would continue strengthening its ability to deliver information.

"Key financial data give citizens the possibility to understand the activities of a particular company in their country and to monitor the appropriateness of their payments to governments," said Transparency.

In a sub-index ranking just the BRICS nations, which the watchdog said accounts for 20 percent of global economic output and 15 percent of world trade, the companies from first-placed India were followed by South Africa, Russia, Brazil, then China.
Should political dynamics be allowed to supersede diplomacy?

by SESHA DRA CHARI

A serious question before Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings (CHOGM) is probably not what to do next, but why? If they do not know why they are doing something they may become even more irrelevant than the British Crown that created the Commonwealth after the Empire began disintegrating.

The meetings originated with the leaders of the self-governing Colonies of the British Empire, the first "Colonial Conference" held in 1887 followed by periodic meetings, known as Imperial Conferences from 1907. The growing demand for independence among the dominions, and the creation of a number of new dominions, changed the nature of the meetings. As the dominion leaders asserted themselves more and more at the meetings, it became clear that the time for 'imperial' conferences was over.

Born out of the vestiges of the Second World War, CHOGM began with seventeen Commonwealth Prime Ministers' meetings held between 1944 and 1969, sixteen of them held in London, essentially to debate on the modalities of the continuation of the Empire and the centralisation of power in the British Commonwealth Office. The one meeting outside London, in Lagos, was an extraordinary meeting held in January 1966 to coordinate policies towards the then Rhodesia. Her Majesty's Government was fast losing its colonies and their wealth. It needed an institution to link their former Colonies and the commonwealth, hence CHOGM.

While the scope of the CHOGM could have expanded beyond the meetings of the heads of governments, the institution itself did not keep pace with the changing dynamics of bilateral and multilateral arrangements the world over. This is evident in many ways but more particularly in the CHOGM events which have become progressively shorter, and their business agenda squeezed into less than 48 hours. The 1971 CHOGM lasted for nine days, and the 1977 and 1991 CHOGMs for seven days each. However, Harare's epochal CHOGM was the last to last a week; the 1993 CHOGM lasted for five days, and the contentious 1995 CHOGM wound up in three-and-a-half days. Since 2005, CHOGM conferences are held for just two days.

The economic and therefore the political fulcrum of the globe seems to have moved towards the eastern hemisphere. The fact that three out of the top four economies by 2050 would be Asian-China, India and Japan - the other being the US, underscores the shift of economic power from the West to the East and the concurrent political power profile. The former colonies have contiguous geography but totally divergent political and governance models.

India has signed trade agreements with its neighbours and is continuously seeking newer ones with Russia, China, South East Asian countries and the West especially the US and EU. Some of its regional and bilateral trade agreements — or variants of them — are at different stages of development like the India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement, Trade Agreements with Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, China, and South Korea, India-Nepal Trade Treaty, Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)
India has signed trade agreements with its neighbours and is continuously seeking newer ones with Russia, China, South East Asian countries and the West, especially the US and EU.

PM skipping CHOGM would not only seriously hurt Indo-Sri Lanka relations, but could also dampen Colombo's initiatives in devolution of power. This was the first time a Tamil party (TNA) has been allowed to form a provincial government by Colombo. His conciliatory tone that the strife affected the entire Island country and that any solution to vexed issues can be found within the present Constitutional framework and united Sri Lanka has raised hopes of rapprochement. Colombo too for its part, seems to be more than willing to bury the hatchet and begin a chapter of peace and progress.

Then there is also a larger question of diplomatic, strategic and security parameters wherein pragmatic engagement with a friendly neighbour is far better than snubbing and isolating thereby ceding strategic space to forces inimical to our interest in the region and the Indian Ocean space. Strategically, Sri Lanka holds a strategic position in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) architecture. The Sri Lankan President has time and again reiterated that Colombo has neither any plans nor the capability to play the China card against India. But Beijing's 'string of pearls' strategy invariably needs New Delhi to be unwise enough to skip CHOGM and push Sri Lanka into the arms of China which is heavily funding large-scale projects.

Foreign policy is the exclusive prerogative of the Centre, and is not on the Concurrent list. Since the end of the war in 2009, India has played a leading role in Sri Lanka's reconstruction process by providing homes to IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons), building power and railway infrastructure, and nudging the Sri Lankan government to hold elections in the Northern Province as well as on implementing the 13th Amendment.

CHOGM being a multilateral institution, India needs to take a larger view of the ground situation. As in the UN, in any other world body, sulking and boycott isolates us, deprives us of our leverage and vacates our space to competitors. Whoever gains, we are the losers.

(The author is a former UN consultant and presently the Vice President of IFUWA. The views expressed are personal.)
Mind-blowing food facts!

1. PINEAPPLE is a natural painkiller. The fruit contains anti-inflammatory enzymes that bring pain relief from conditions such as arthritis, according to a study at Reading University.

2. Pomegranate juice could prevent a heart attack. This wonder juice is believed to improve blood flow to the heart and lower blood pressure.

3. Onions are natural antibiotics. They might make your breath pong but onions contain allicin, a powerful antibiotic that also protects the circulatory system.

4. Mushrooms can ward off colds. They contain more of an immune-boosting antioxidant called ergothioneine than any other food, say researchers at Pennsylvania State University.

5. Blueberries can boost memory. A study at Tufts University in Boston showed eating half a cup of this fruit regularly could delay age-related deterioration in coordination and short-term memory.

6. Eat chocolate, live longer. Hurrah! Harvard University scientists say that eating a couple of chocolate bars a week could extend your life by almost a year.

7. Grapefruit juice can stop medicine working. If you're taking medication, avoid washing it down with grapefruit juice as there is evidence that it prevents some drugs being broken down.

8. You should never drink tea or coffee with meals. Tannins in tea and coffee prevent absorption of certain nutrients. A cup of tea with a meal will halve the iron you get from it, whereas a glass of orange juice will double it.

9. Cherries can cure gout. Cherries contain compounds that significantly reduce the chemicals in the body which cause joint inflammation.

10. Eating curry could help prevent Alzheimer's. According to a report in the Journal of Biological Chemistry, a yellow pigment used in curry, curcumin, can stop amyloid plaques in the brain that cause the condition.

11. Sniffing a lemon could help you beat asthma. The UK's 5.1 million asthmatics could find lemons ease their symptoms. Studies in rats found that breathing improved after they inhaled limonene, the chemical that gives lemons their smell.

12. Kiwi fruit can improve your eyesight. This fuzzy fruit is a surprisingly good source of lutein, an antioxidant that protects your vision.

13. Garlic can cure mouth ulcers and verrucas. Here's an old wives' tale that works: halve a clove of garlic, squeeze, and apply a drop of the juice to the offending growth at bedtime.


15. It is important have too little salt in your meals. Too much salt isn't good for us but not getting enough can trigger low blood pressure in those susceptible. Consult your GP before making any major diet changes.

16. Figs can delay brittle bone disease. Good news for the three million osteoporosis sufferers in the UK - it is possible to slow its progress by eating calcium-packed figs.

17. Soya can mimic breast cancer drugs. A team of Cambridge researchers discovered that a diet high in soya can have a similar effect to anticancer drug Tamoxifen.

18. Barbecued food can cause cancer. Eating meat that's chargrilled or burnt can lead to stomach, pancreatic, colon and breast cancer because it creates high levels of carcinogenic compounds.

19. Cinnamon can help diabetics. Just half a teaspoon a day of this spice can significantly reduce blood sugar levels in diabetics, says US research.

20. Chilies can help you breath more easily. Capsaicin, which occurs in chilies, shrinks the mucous membranes which can ease blocked noses and sinuses.

21. Watermelon is good for the prostate. Men will be glad to know that the red flesh contains the antioxidant Lycopene, which helps keep the prostate gland healthy.

22. Coriander can lower your cholesterol levels. This aromatic herb can reduce cholesterol levels and prevent heart problems.

23. Banish bad breath with natural yoghurt. A few spoonfuls of natural yoghurt can neutralize halitosis, according to Japanese researchers.

Courtesy: Ms. Shyamala Mohan
MAHARASHTRA UNA

United Nations (UN) Day 2013 celebrated in Mumbai

THE Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA), New Delhi, Maharashtra United Nations Association (MUNA) and United Nations Information centre (UNIC) for India and Bhutan joined hands to celebrate the UN Day 2013 at Mumbai.

October 23, 2013 afternoon in Mumbai witnessed a unique and magnificent gathering of UNAs, Diplomats, Social Activists, Journalists, Media Personnel, Academicians, and professionals from various walks of life at the US Consulate General to celebrate and commemorate the 68th Birth Anniversary of United Nations at the United State Consulate General, BKC, Mumbai.

On this occasion a galaxy of guest speakers were invited to speak and share their views on United Nations and on the importance of this commemoration.

H.E. Mr. Michael Pelletier, Deputy Chief of Mission at U.S. Embassy, New Delhi, H.E. Mr. Peter Haas, U.S. Consul General in Mumbai, Mrs. Kiran Mehra-Kerpelman, Director, United Nations Information Centre for India and Bhutan, New Delhi. H.E. Mr. Mark Pierce, Australian Consul General in Mumbai, India, H.E. Mrs. Ceylan Ozen Erisen, Consul General, Consulate General of the Republic of Turkey in Mumbai, H.E. Mr. Jaroslav Mikus, Head of Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Mumbai, Mr. Suresh Srivastava, Secretary General, IFUNA, Dr. Seshadri Chari, Vice President IFUNA and Former United Nations Consultant addressed the gathering with their enlightened speeches.

At the outset Mr. Ashraf Ahmed Shaikh, Hon, Secretary MUNA &President of Youth Wing compered the formal function and introduced the guest speakers. He thanked Mr. Suresh Srivastava and all the members of Executive Committee of IFUNA for giving the responsibility and choosing MUNA to jointly organize the UN Day 2013 in Mumbai, which is a city of dreams and he also expressed his sincere thanks to UNIC Director, Mrs. Kiran Mehra-Kerpelman for collaborating for this joint celebration and explained the kind gesture rendered by the US Consulate General at Mumbai and the wholehearted tireless efforts and guidance by the staff of the US Consulate in organizing and this programme at their Auditorium in the Consulate premises.

The function began with the Indian National Anthem followed by a warm welcome to all by Ms. Mohini Mathur, Executive Chairperson MUNA. In her welcome address Mrs. Mathur said that, "68th Anniversary of the UN is a major instrument for realization of a just and peaceful world is no doubt a very significant occasion for the whole human race as it has pledged solemnly to save succeeding generations from scourge of wars which twice in our lifetime has brought untold miseries of mankind." She further added that, "The questions are often asked, Has UN succeeded? Is it still relevant today? Does it have a future? Or is it only a talk shop? She concluded by saying that since there were many eminent speakers she would further not dwell on the achievements of UN.

H.E. Mr. Peter Haas, U.S. Consul General in Mumbai in his welcoming remark on behalf of the US Consulate explained the significance of UN Day observance and thanked all the partners for organizing this event. He said were extremely happy to host UN Day 2013 in the US Consulate to celebrate the various work done by the United Nations and the work done by the partner organizers to make the work of United Nations known to others. He further added that were happy to have the expert panel of speakers who would be discussing on this subject. Mr. Haas then introduced H.E. Mr. Michael Pelletier.

H.E. Mr. Michael Pelletier, Deputy Chief of Mission at U.S. Embassy, New Delhi in his special address welcomed everyone
and shared his happiness to celebrate the UN Day 2013 and the values of United Nations at the US Consulate in Mumbai. Mr. Pelletier appreciated the work done by MUNA, IFUNA and UNIC to make the work on United Nations known to the people. Mr. Pelletier specially mentioned the work of United Nations Associations in India and all over the world in the areas of Peace, Democracy, Human Rights, Economic Opportunities and Sustainable Development etc., which is incredibly important at this point of history in India as India is deepening its engagement in international affairs and United States supports it. Mr. Pelletier also mentioned and appreciated the voluntary work of the each individual members working for UNAs as by doing so they help India becoming global leader.

Mr. Pelletier quoted a few excerpts from the speech delivered by US President Mr. Obama last year on the occasion of UN Day Celebration at the US, “We commemorate the United Nations Day by celebrating the founding ideals laid down in its charter and reaffirming the remembrance of Peace building, Human Rights and Social Progress that will guide us for the years to come.”

Mr. Pelletier concluded by saying as Mr. Obama celebrated with those words last year we celebrate today together here with different countries representing different parts of world, ethnicities, cultures, faiths, gender and communities to celebrate those shared values which brings all of us together today and he thanks MUNA, IFUNA and UNIC for the partnership and support.

Mr. A. A. Syed, Secretary General, MUNA briefly explained the activities of MUNA the rich historical background of it. He informed the audience that the first women president of United Nations General Assembly and the then Governor of Maharashtra H.E. Mrs. Vijaya Laxmi Pandit was the first Patron of MUNA. He further said that, “Under the guidance and support of IFUNA, New Delhi, MUNA strives to focus its programs and activities around the vital concerns of the United Nations, like, Peace, International Understanding, Environment and Human Rights. In conducting all these activities and programs, effort is made to involve the leadership from all sections of society so as to make them broadbased and effective.”

Dr. Mukul Sangama, Hon’ble Chairman of IFUNA and Chief Minister of Meghalaya has sent a special message on this occasion which he congratulated IFUNA, MUNA and UNIC for organizing and celebrating UN Day 2013 at Mumbai and also he emphasized the role played by UN since its formation. The message was read out by Dr. Seshadri Chari, Vice President, IFUNA.

Mr. Suresh Srivastava – Secretary General, IFUNA in his address explained the relevance of UN Day observance. Since it’s the birth anniversary of United Nations, every year IFUNA observes and celebrates it. This is the time to introspect the work done and to assess the success, achievements, commitments, dedications and failures of the organization in order to make future action plan and road map ahead. Mr. Srivastava further said that there are many instances and issues on which people talk about United Nations and its achievements and failures such as Rwanda, Darfur, Sri Lanka, Iraq, Libya, nuclear proliferation and Veto Power. Mr. Srivastava stressed the need of reforms in the United Nations in order to bring the democratic voice of the world into it. He very aptly explained the new concept of Responsibility to Protect (R2P) and the three pillars of it. Mr. Srivastava has also informed that IFUNA has recently organized a conference on R2P along with WFUNA in New Delhi.

Mr. Srivastava also explained the formation of United Nations Associations...
(UNAs) and the people’s moments which are required for strengthening the UN, which UNAs are striving to build throughout the world. The importance of people’s moment for the United Nations and the support through UNAs which has gained momentum soon after the formation of UN has played a significant role in bringing United Nations closer to the people and nations. He thanked MUNA for organising the grand observance in Mumbai and appreciated the efficient role played by MUNA.

Mrs. Kiran Mehra-Kerpelman, Director, United Nations Information Centre for India and Bhutan, New Delhi delivered the keynote address and UNSG’s message on for this day. “UN Day is an occasion to celebrate the UN’s achievements. Equally, it is a time to look ahead and assess the way forward”, said UNIC Director Kiran Mehra-Kerpelman. “Because our task will never be done until the manifold challenges facing the world are addressed. Peace, development and human rights – these are not abstract concepts but practical tasks that the UN sets out to do on a daily basis around the world”. She thanked MUNA and the US Consulate for hosting the occasion. “At the UN Information Centre, we undertake campaigns that highlight the work of the UN and also promote its various messages and interlinked themes”, she added. Quoting from UN Secretary-General’s message for the day, she said: “We continue to show what collective action can do. We can do even more. In a world that is more connected, we must be more united”.

H.E. Mark Pierce, Consul General of Australia in Mumbai gave an extremely interesting overview of Australia and the United Nations and their role in the Security Council. H.E. Ceylan Ozen Erisen, Consul General, Consulate General of the Republic of Turkey in Mumbai, talked about the UN and the girl child and the significant progress Turkey has made in this respect.

H.E. Jaroslaw Mikus, Head of Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Mumbai provided an emotional account of Poland’s struggle over the years to actually presiding the UN Human Rights Council in 2013. He recounted the poignant story of how more than 50,000 Polish refugees were given asylum by the Maharaja of Nawannagar in India, between 1942 and 1948 and how welcoming the Indian people were. Dr. Seshadri Chari, Vice President, IFUNA and Former UN Consultant proposed the vote of thanks followed by a grand High Tea where audience interacted with each other and exchanged their views. ▲

*Report by Mr. Ashraf Ahmed Shaikh – Hon. Secretary MUNA and President of its Youth Wing*

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**Mr. J Mikus, counsel general of Poland**

**UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**POLAND**

POLAND was one of the original 1945 group of ‘United Nations’ that came together to defeat Nazism. For reasons of Cold War intrigue, Poland did not take part in the UN’s founding deliberations in San Francisco in 1945. From then it took a full 45 years for Poland’s citizens to achieve the basic human right of freely electing their own leaders.

You all know how that happened. It was a triumph of national determination. More importantly it was a moral triumph, of non-violent political means bringing about a peaceful political outcome. And just imagine how Europe would look now with the terrible violence now seen in many countries. Even in modern Europe a full two decades after the end of the Cold War, the battle for basic human rights is not yet fully won.

Poland knows that this distinguished Council is the forum for fierce battles of principle on what human rights are, and how they are applied and upheld (or not) in practice. The UN Charter and the UN Universal Declaration are our definitive texts. Poland won this right the hard way. During the martial law period thousands of Poles were arrested, imprisoned, beaten. Striking miners were gunned down. So we approach human rights in the Council armed with these painful experiences. We have learned that the best results sometimes require healthy pragmatism, even under extreme provocation. We all know too well that life round the world throws up tough policy questions. That it is impossible to be invariably consistent. Compromise, pragmatism and inconsistency for noble reasons are not ignoble hypocrisy, or ‘double standards’. Of course the Council can’t wave a magic wand to solve the world’s human rights problems. But each Council member, including Poland and every other UN member state, constantly has to live up to its human rights obligations. To set the world an example of tolerance. To watch its own performance. To be open to – and indeed ready to welcome – honest criticism.

Second: The impact of technological change on human rights issues. Once upon a time the UN loftily debated HR principles far from the sites of HR abuses. The victims could testify months or years later. Now those victims have mobile phones and computers. They can send us pictures and video of atrocities as they happen, straight to the Council. Citizens round the world every day are getting more powerful. They have new ways to keep an eye on what their leaders are doing, and express their views. Whether we like it or not, whether we find it easy to accept or not, these changes create a new sense of global community and shared global responsibility.

Poland knows from its own long and bitter but ultimately triumphant experience that it is possible – and in fact vital – to pursue and achieve rightful outcomes by rightful methods.
NATIONAL SEMINAR ON
'A WORLD FREE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS'

To mark Mahatma Gandhi's birthday (2nd October), which has been declared as International Day of Non-Violence since 2007 by the UN General Assembly, West Bengal Federation of United Nations Associations (WEBFUNA) jointly with Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA) and United Nations Information Centre for India and Bhutan in association with Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies and Soka Gakkai International organised a day-long National Seminar on "A World Free of Nuclear Weapons" on 29 September 2013 at Calcutta University, Kolkata.

The seminar has hopefully brought back the issue of disarmament to the forefront of the International Agenda, which had been put on the backburner during last few decades.

In his welcome address Mr. Sitaram Sharma, Chairman, WEBFUNA, and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, pointed out, "we all know that there were nine nuclear powers by the year 2006, it is more important to remember that 12 countries of the world have actually abandoned nuclear weapons or handled them over"

In her special address Ms. Kiran Mehra-Kerpelman, Director, United Nations Information Centre for India and Bhutan highlighted the 'Education for Peace' slogan to show that education is vital for fostering global citizenship and building peaceful societies, and that peace education must become part of the curriculum. "We must teach our children the value of tolerance and mutual respect," she said, and went on to describe how UNIC does extensive outreach work aimed at schools and universities, particularly through Model UN Conferences, and has ensured that peace and non-proliferation issues are explored by young people across the country.

In his Presidential Address, Prof. Saugata Roy, Member of Parliament and President, WEBFUNA, said "Nuclear weapons do act as deterrents and have not been used since Hiroshima, but that is no reason for not going ahead with the process of disarmament."

Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, Member of
Parliament and former Union Minister, in his Keynote Address, gave a mesmerizing presentation of history and how the major wars occurred, and pointed out that since the time when former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi presented his 'Action Plan for a Nuclear-Weapons-Free and Nonviolent World Order' to the UN General Assembly in 1988, no other Government or Head of State has revisited it in that forum. "Nuclear weapons are made not to be used — if used, no one will be left to tell the story", he said.

The Session concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Mr. Suresh Srivastava, Secretary General, IFUNA, who specially thanked Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, saying, "your gracious presence here only shows your commitment to the cause of a nuclear-safe world."

Thereafter, the day-long Seminar, in three different sessions, discussed and deliberated on 'A World Free of Nuclear Weapons', 'Peace & Development' and 'A World Without Wars'.

The First Session on 'A World Free of Nuclear Weapons' was chaired by Amb. Krishnan Srinivasan (Former Indian Foreign Secretary). Mr. Srinivasan stated emphatically, "India has taken very many decisions for disarmament. Certainly, time has come now for a New Great Indian Initiative."

Eminent panelists for this session were Prof. Arun Banerjee (Formerly Professor of International Relations, & Dean of Arts Faculty, Jadavpur University), Dr. Binod Kumar Mishra (Director, Centre for Studies in International Relations and Development), Maj-Gen (Retd.) Arun Roye, AVSM, VSM (Executive Director, Research Centre for Eastern and North Eastern Regional Studies, Kolkata). The ensuing Interactive Session saw an educating exchange of thoughts on the possibility of a nuclear-free world.

Post lunch, the second session on 'Peace and Development' was chaired by Lt-Gen A.K. Chowdhury, AVSM, SM, VSM (GOC Bengal Area). "Peace and development are two concepts that are very closely intertwined. Development is necessary to implement lasting peace, and peace is the only way towards economic, social and cultural development of nations," said Lt-Gen Chowdhury while introducing the subject. He added, "We today are living in an interdependent world, with our common interests and common challenges. In this situation, our common development is only possible if the international community joins its hands together for common good."

Esteemed Panelists for this session were Prof. Jolly Mohan Kaul (Journalist & Gandhian Scholar), Prof. Shantanu Chakravarti (Convenor, Academic Committee, Institute of Foreign Policy Studies, University of Calcutta), and Dr. Murali Shankar Aiyar (Fellow, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata). The Interactive Session here showed the deep hunger within the participants for a peaceful, developed world order.

Post tea, the third session on 'A World Without Wars' was chaired by Prof. (Smt.) Krishna Bose, Ex MP, (Chairperson, Netaji Research Bureau), who stated simply, "A world without wars, nuclear or otherwise, is my dream, but I do not know whether it is possible, and how it is possible. I am not so sure about it."

Panelists here were Dr. Syed Samsul Alam (Vice Chancellor, Aliah University), Prof. O.P. Mishra (Dept. of International Relations, Jadavpur University) and Dr. Akash Ouchi (Soka Gakkai International, Tokyo, Japan), who took up several questions and doubts from the participants in the following Interactive Session.

Prof. Hari Vasudevan (Dept. Of History, University of Calcutta) chaired the Valedictory Session. While offering his take on the preceding three Sessions, he concluded, "The important focus of the Seminar is to take us back to Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan, his vision... to make us re-visit his vision in today's context... so that the young generation takes up the issue of a nuclear-free world — with a wider, changed yet complete global perspective." In his Valedictory Address, Dr. Vidya Shankar Aiyar (Honorary Advisor to the Indian Prime Minister's Informal Group on the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan, 1988) pointed out that, "The only reason India developed nuclear weapon was to allow itself the strategic space to pursue its own development, and thereby not be constrained be the greater powers or neighbourhood conflicts."

The seminar concluded with an animated interactive question and answer session, with active contributions/ideas from the delegates present. The Seminar was coordinated by Mr. Rajeev Makheshwari, Secretary General, WEBFUNA and Ms. Kusum Musaddi, Additional Secretary General, WEBFUNA.
Dr. Mukul M. Sangma (5th from right) Chairman-INDIAN FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS and Chief Minister MEGHALAYA with the members and Office Bearers of ASSAM UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION at its Guwahati office. DR. ASWINI SARMA, Secretary General, ASSAM UNA is standing behind him (on his right).

A VIEW OF UN MOCK ASSEMBLY ORGANIZED BY ASSAM UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS AT DON BOSCO SCHOOL, GUWAHATI
ODISHA CELEBRATED UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION DAY

UN DAY was celebrated in Bhubaneswar, (capital of the state of Orissa) by the Indian Federation of United Nations Association (IFUNA) and Utkcal Federation of United Nations Associations (UFUNA) chief Guest Mr. Rajiv Chandran, National Information Officer, United Nations Information Centre, New Delhi is seen addressing the audience. Mr. P.C. Sinha, M.L.A., West Bengal Assembly is sitting 2nd from left next to Manoranjan Pattnaik, President UFUNA.

UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION DAY was celebrated by the Indian Federation of United Nations Association and Utka Federation of United Nations Association (UFUNA) on 30th October 2013 under the chairmanship of Manoranjan Pattnaik, Advocate and President UFUNA at Red Cross Bhavan, Bhubaneswar. Speaking on the occasion, chief Guest Mr. Rajiv Chandran, National Information Officer, United Nations Information Centre, New Delhi observed that though there are some failures in political field, the UN has achieved great success in socio-economic development for the welfare of mankind for a better world to live in. He also cited about valuable contributions of India in UN activities. The Chief speaker Mr. P.C. Sinha, MLA and former Cabinet minister of West Bengal asked the people to pledge themselves to fulfill the objectives of United Nations in view of the valuable contributions made by UN towards common progress. On this occasion former Speaker Sarat Kar, former minister Bajaman Behera, Social Activist Ms. Usha Jha, former ambassador Abasar Beuria, former MLA Bijaya Nayak and M.A. Rafique also expressed their views on the role of the UN. Singers Trupti Das, Smt. Sangeetha Gosain, Sumitra Mohapatra, Dr. Adyasha Das, Smt. Githa Pattanaik, Professor P. Yosodhara, Teacher Kabita Bhuyan were given Ovation on behalf of Indian Federation of United Nations Association. Mr. K. V. Ramachandran gave introductory speech. Behadur Patanshi welcomed the guest and other prominent persons attending the meeting. Ms. Jayanti Pattnaik proposed a vote of thanks. ▲
OF CATS AND DOGS OF BRAZIL

By Chander P Mahajan
Former Chief Engineer, Himachal Pradesh and a freelance journalist.

Brazil is the largest country in South America and is a federative republic that achieved its independence from Portugal in 1822. Brazilians can vote at age 16, and are obliged to do so from age 18 onwards.

The African-Portuguese influence in Brazil has created world-renowned musical styles such as Samba and Bossa Nova. Most pre-Carnival street parties in Brazil are all about samba. Hundreds of decked-out dogs - and a few brave cats - get in on the Carnival fun at Rio de Janeiro's annual pet-friendly parade. The neighbourhood of Copacabana has currently the most dog owners per square meter.

Known as "pet shops" (in English), these small businesses are amongst the most successful in Brazil. Dogs are popular pets and are often treated like children: owners buy those outfits, shoes, fancy collars, and doggie beds. Also, since Brazilians are very concerned about personal hygiene, they also keep their dogs very clean, often bringing them to a groomer once a week.

According to Globo, sixty percent of Brazilian households have a pet, and as such, pet products sell better than children's clothes and the Brazilian pet industry accounts for R$4 billion a year. Juiz de Fora, a major city in Minas Gerais, located close to the state border with Rio de Janeiro is a particularly pet-crazy city. There are special pet photographers, and dozens of pet shops and groomers. The groomers not only offer baths, but also dye jobs (partial and full), tattoos, and fur decorations.

In general Brazil is very accepting of dogs, allowing them to travel domestically on almost all public transport provided the dog is properly secured or, in the case of certain airlines and taxi services, confined within a suitable crate. When making travel plans, nevertheless, the basic requirements are a health certificate issued within four days of travel endorsed by the Brazilian consulate in the owner's country of residence. Plus, dogs must have had all of their vaccinations plus a rabies jab which will be tested thirty days before travel.

As a city, Rio has endeavored to create a dog-friendly environment, providing suitable walkways, parks and pet centers. "The dog park in Ipanema is fantastic!"

There are nearly 150,000 stray and unwanted cats and dogs in Rio de Janeiro. Many roam the streets sick and injured. Others live in animal protection shelters. They are everywhere, in posh neighbourhoods and in the countryside. Even people who can't afford puppies by them these pets can't grow up properly if they are not cared and are ultimately and forced to live on the street. The problem for the dogs is that food on the street is scarce and the stray dogs pick up nasty diseases".

"Most people cherish pet, but a few people don't take care of pets to the end. The pets become homeless and some of them are killed! I think people who have pet must take care of pets to end." Says Durate, a student.

All in all, before choosing to keep an animal at home, people should consider whether the animal is going to be happy in their environment.
OBITUARY

The members of IFUNA and PEOPLE AND UN deeply mourn the sad demise of its Senior Member Mr. P.S. Paul. Mr. Paul was not only the Treasurer of IFUNA since over 30 years but he was also a friend philosopher and guide to many of us. His passing away has created a void not only in IFUNA but also in several other social and voluntary organizations he was associated with. He was also a dedicated Mason and had adored many senior positions in the organization.

We pray god to give his wife and family members enough of strength to bear this irreparable loss.
WE also pray for the peace of the departed soul.

South Africa, Mahatma is no more

A fundamental concern for others in our individual and community lives would go a long way in making the world the better place we so passionately dreamt of.

—— Nelson Mandela
With compliments from

Indian Beverage Association

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