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India Matters



Cambridge IGCSE India Studies Newsletter 11

March 2011

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India Matters sets out to support subject teachers in pilot schools, aiming to keep schools informed and seeking to encourage the spread of ideas and the exchange of good practice. Please keep in touch with feedback.

India Matters is published every other month and emailed to every contact address we have in each pilot school. All Cambridge IGCSE India Studies teachers in your school should have a copy so please circulate it to everyone involved. There is no restriction on photocopying.

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[The cover photograph shows President Obama at the India–US Business Council and Entrepreneurship Summit held in Mumbai in November 2010. Think about how and why this picture might be used when discussing key issues for study and examination in Paper 1 Theme 2 and Paper 1 Theme 4.]

Paper 3 film question for 2012

The nominated film for the 2012 Portfolio question on India in Film is *Mr & Mrs Iyer* (2002; directed by Aparna Sen). Available on DVD, most of this film may also be accessed in 9 minute chunks on the video sharing website YouTube. This bite-size format might prove useful for classroom discussion. Your students may also find access via YouTube useful.

Fact Box 1: World leaders queue to visit India

The leaders of 5 major world states visited India during second half of 2010:

US President

French President

British Prime Minister

Chinese Prime Minister

Russian President

During the same period, Prime Minister Singh visited:

Germany

Japan

Subjects discussed included civil nuclear power, defence, space and trade. The cover picture on this issue of *India Matters* was taken during the US President's visit.

'Why India is being courted by a string of world leaders'

This was the headline of a news report in December 2010 from Amit Baruah, editor of the BBC Hindi Service. His article would start useful class discussions around two of the themes for Paper 1 ('Economic development' and 'India and the world'):

"India is like a bride being wooed by many suitors". That's the description used for this country of a billion and more by Alexander Kadakin, Russia's ambassador to India ...

His message was not lost on a country that has hosted heads of government and state from all five permanent members of the UN Security Council... In the last 45 days alone, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has issued joint statements with US President Barack Obama, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. In between, Mr Singh has found time to visit Japan and Germany this year, signalling India's engagement with all the major economies of the world.

... Even China wants India to play a larger role on the world stage, if the formal statements emanating from Mr Wen are to be believed as the two countries grapple with what is possibly the largest unresolved land border dispute in the world. China is India's largest trading partner - with two-way trade expected to touch \$60bn (£39bn) in 2010.

... Medvedev's visit produced as many as 11 government-to-government agreements - from co-operating in conducting elections to jointly developing a fifth generation stealth aircraft (reportedly worth \$35bn) to setting up a new steel plant.

Already, since India came out of international nuclear isolation in 2008, the country has been buying nuclear fuel not just from Russia but from France as well. Its nuclear plants are producing more electricity than ever before thanks to the imported nuclear fuel.

... "These visits are growing evidence of the importance of India," Amitabh Matoo, Professor of International Relations at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, told the BBC. According to Mr Matoo, India is not just seen as a large market but also as a source of investment for the rest of the world, including the developing economies. "You have to look at all these visits with different prisms. But Barack Obama's visit stands out. Like for the rest of the world, India's relationship with the United States is the most important," he added.

In a sign that a developing world country like India could also present an economic opportunity, President Obama sold his trip to Mumbai and Delhi as a mission to boost US exports and create jobs. Rajiv Sikri, a former secretary in India's foreign ministry, believes that all these visits happening in a matter of months are a bit of a coincidence. "But the signal is clear: people are looking for business," Mr Sikri told the BBC. "And, of course, it is good for India's global profile," the former diplomat said ..."

For the full article, see <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-12051516>

Fact Box 2: India's economic sectors

	GDP by sector	Workforce by sector
Services	50%	24%
Industry	26%	16%
Agriculture	24%	60%
Total value	US\$2.5 trillion	Total number 406 million

***The Women Changing India* photo exhibition**

An exhibition of photographs entitled '*The Women Changing India*' toured five major Indian cities during November and December 2010. Called "*Across India*", the exhibition publicity stated "*Women are responding to change – whether in the form of technology, or new jobs, or accessing public spaces – with enthusiasm and excitement. In collaboration with Delhi-based female publishing house Zubaan, six Magnum photographers photographed six different subjects chosen to reflect the cultural and geographical diversity of life for contemporary Indian women, from young students looking to the future and women working at village level for the betterment of their communities, to those at the top of their professions, blazing a trail in a still predominantly male world.*"

Exhibition highlights are hosted on the website of the publisher Phaidon Press:
<http://www.phaidon.co.uk/agenda/photography/picture-galleries/2010/october/26/the-women-changing-india/>

Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Lectures online

Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Lectures are now available online. Given annually from 1966 and organised by the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust, these talks by eminent experts offer a superb archive of thoughts, views and interpretations of modern India:

<http://www.cambridgetrusts.org/partners/jnmt-memorial-lectures.html>

Distinguished lecturers have included Krishna Menon, Arundhati Roy, Manmohan Singh, Lord Stern & Ratan Tata. Teachers have a wonderful resource here for ideas and information. A good one to start with might be 'The Idea of India', the lecture that Nobel laureate Professor Amartya Sen delivered in 1993:

http://www.cambridgetrusts.org/documents/en/Lec/Lecture_16.pdf

‘Climate Change and India: a 4x4 Assessment’

The Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi, published a major report in November 2010 assessing the impact of climate change by the 2030s on “four key sectors in four climate sensitive regions of India”. Prepared by the Indian Network for Climate Change Assessment (INCCA) and entitled *Climate Change and India: a 4x4 Assessment*, the report states that India faces increased precipitation and storms and a continuing sea level rise. It also warns of food shortages because of a decline in farm output. “Climate change scenarios for 2030 indicate an overall warming over the Indian sub-continent associated with increasing greenhouse gas concentrations.” There is expected to be a “significant dip” in the production of rice, maize and sorghum. Production of apples in the Himalayan region could also be affected.

Releasing the Report, the Minister for Environment and Forests, noted “*There is no country in the world that is as vulnerable to climate change as India.*” For the press release, see

<http://moef.nic.in/downloads/public-information/Innca-press-release.pdf>

For the executive summary, see

<http://moef.nic.in/downloads/public-information/INCCA%20Exec%20Summary.pdf>

Fact Box 3: India–China trade

China became India's largest trading partner in 2008.

Bilateral trade hit \$60bn in 2010.

India's top exports to China include ore, copper, precious stones, metals, fabrics.

China's top exports to India are machinery, iron and steel, fertilisers, silk.

By 2050, India and China are tipped to be the world's two leading economies.

'Bollywood and the world'

Teachers with students interested in the film option for Paper 3 might be interested in 'Bollywood and the world', a filmed lecture given by Rachel Dwyer at the University of Rhode Island in November 2009. Dwyer is Professor of Indian Cultures and Cinema at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. The film lasts 1 hr 26 minutes and is available at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7vdJ9KA68Wo>



Please keep in touch – with each other as well as CIE.

Appendix 1: How Cambridge IGCSE India Studies inspired Natasha Patel of Ahmedabad International School

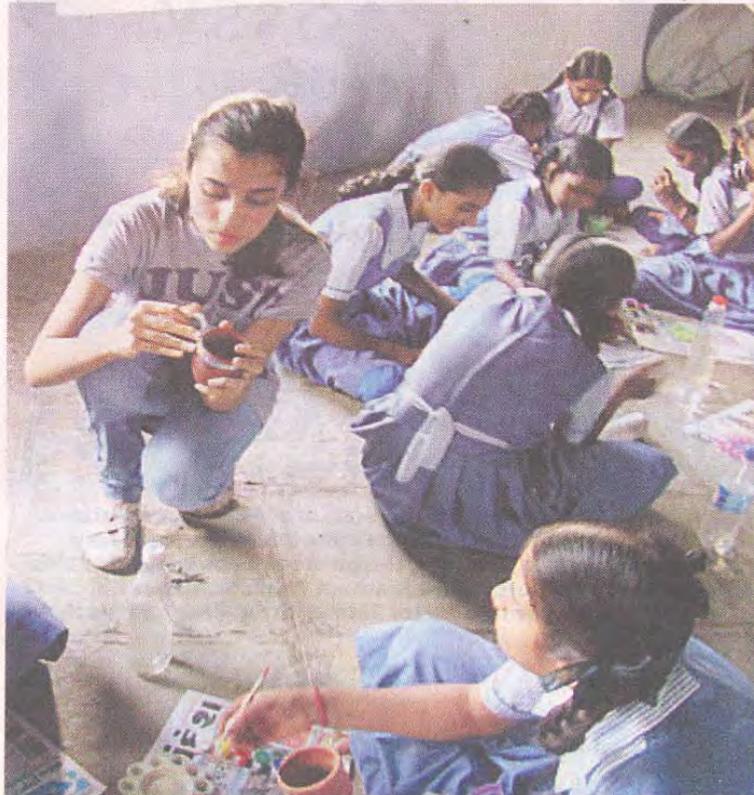
A local newspaper in Ahmedabad reports (20/9/2010) the story of Natasha Patel, one of the pupils studying Cambridge IGCSE India Studies at Ahmedabad International School.

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At 15, she lives for

Natasha Patel, a class 10 student, has been spending her pocket money to educate the rural children about Indian art and culture



Natasha Patel was inspired by a chapter on rural India in her school text of India Contemporary Studies

HEMINGTON JAMES

While girls of her age are busy playing and watching movies, Natasha Saumil Patel is busy channelling her energy towards providing a better life for rural kids. Natasha, who is a class 10 student of Ahmedabad International School was inspired by a chapter on rural India in her school text of Indian Contemporary Studies.

Driven by an urge to know more about the rural India, the 15-year-old pleaded with her mother to send her to Godhavi village, some six kilometres from Ahmedabad. On reaching there, the teenager was moved by the simplicity of girls in a village that was far removed from the hustle-bustle of a city.

She was touched after meeting the students of V D Secondary and Higher Secondary school. Natasha realised that it was the place for her to see her dream comes true.

She started visiting the

school regularly and taught the students about art and culture.

Her interest and dedication towards her mission bore fruits and the strength of the class rose from 30 to 70. She touched the finer aspects of life which enthralled the students. Her fascination for colours helped in teaching the students about designing dandias, colouring pots and making rakhis.

SPENDING POCKET MONEY

NATASHA HAS been spending her pocket money to teach the students. "She started saving money for her mission," said Neha Patel, Natasha's mother, adding "though I was a bit sceptical about her mission, she was determined to take a plunge".

"The subject of Indian Contemporary Studies speaks about problems of India. It also speaks about good things of India such as, its relations with other countries and condition of farmers. I discussed it with my parents. My grand mother encouraged me a lot for the cause," said Natasha.

B.K. Dinesh Patel
B.K. Chitra Iyengar
Rollwala Ankur Aggarwal
Behind NAVRAN

Appendix 2: India and South Asia

The Resource Bank in India Matters 6 (April 2010) had a focus on India's relationship with China. In this issue, we offer a series of visuals that might be of value when considering India's relationship with other immediate neighbours and India's regional policy in South Asia (both topics in Paper 1 Theme 4).



The Prime Minister with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, 2009



Indian Border Security Force troops patrol the border with Bangladesh in Tripura, 2009



The Prime Minister welcomes the President of Sri Lanka to India, 2010



Protesters in Delhi calling on the Indian government to condemn the Sri Lankan offensive against the Tamil Tigers, 2009. The poster shows the Indian Prime Minister and the Sri Lankan President.



The President and Prime Minister welcome Than Shwe, head of the Burmese junta, to India, 2010



A protest in Delhi during Than Shwe's visit to India, 2010



The Prime Minister at the signing of the new Friendship Treaty by the King of Bhutan, Delhi, 2007



The Prime Minister welcomes the new Maoist Prime Minister of Nepal, Delhi, 2008