



Editor's Note

This issue of ODI Newsletter combines two issues October-December 2010 and January- March 2011, presents a wide range of coverage including institutional news, international news, conference and calls for paper, books etc.

ODI has organised two important seminars to highlight various issues concerning diaspora. Diaspora also became very active in many issues like women problem, constitutional discussion, and establishment of Chairs at various universities of the world. For the first time different states of India are seeking investments from diaspora for their respective states.

The Newsletter presents an interesting variety of institutional, national and international events and activities that will be useful for diaspora scholars.

ODI Newsletter

October-
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&
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Vol.2, No 4 &
vol.3, No 1

- **Institutional News**
- **International Diasporas**
- **Indian Diaspora**

Organization for Diaspora Initiatives (ODI) is working to understand the status and role of Diasporic communities across the globe both in domestic and international context. It maps the emerging roles, networks and operations of different Diasporic communities as a resource in the international civil society space as well as in the host and the home countries. ODI specifically focuses on Indian Diaspora as the main thrust of research.

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Institutional News

Swami Vivekananda Chair at University of Chicago

The Indian government hopes to set up a Chair at the University of Chicago to spread the ideals of Swami Vivekananda, 117 years after the monk delivered his landmark address in the US city. The Consulate General of India in Chicago is in contact with the university to set up the Chair, which would focus on inter-faith dialogues. Vivekananda had delivered his speech at the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago on September 11, 1893, where he introduced Hinduism as a faith that had taught the world both tolerance and universal acceptance.



In remembrance: School students in Udhagamandalam paying floral tributes to Swami Vivekananda

A senior official in the Ministry of Culture, GOI told “Our Consul-General is in dialogue with the University of Chicago on how to set up the

Chair....India may give funds through endowment for an annual Vivekananda lecture at the university also. The proposed Chair is part of the government's plan to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Vivekananda.

Source:

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1101121/jsp/nation/story_13202229.jsp

Current Issues of Diaspora Studies

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First International Indian Diaspora Women's Conference debates the issues of women of Indian origin (WIO) held by GOPIO

Delegates to the one-day conference held in London witnessed an explicable display of authoritative speakers who introduces a range of stimulating discussions. Discussions centred on the themes of: WIOs and Sustainable development, Legal and marital issues of WIOs, Gender issues in Education, Culture and Health, Women and Industry. The main achievements of WIOs were highlighted as well as raising awareness of the wide-ranging challenges they face. Issues of foeticide, widowhood, forced marriage, domestic violence; dowry and honour killings were debated. In addition the multiple roles of women in education, social and economic development, politics and professional life and the influence of role-models on women to encourage them to make changes in their lives. The event also witnessed an historic collaboration through the co-signing of the MOU between two powerful bodies: FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) and GOPIO International Women's Council (GIWC). These combined heralds a powerful new venture: a joint force committed to developing projects and solutions across the full range of issues that affect Women of Indian Origin (WIOs) across the globe. The collaboration aimed at facilitating awareness, education and promoting professional and cultural excellence for personal and socio-economic empowerment. The GOPIO International Women's Council (GIWC) launched a dazzling array of projects for 2011 encompassing books, films, skills training and health education. In addition the WIO e-group is now set to expand to become a major pivotal and dynamic forum.

Source:

<http://www.southasiaindian.com/news.php?id=88388>

Zimbabwe: Diaspora can also discuss new constitution

On 1st October 2010 there was the first ever Zimbabwean Diaspora Constitutional Consultation with the Constitutional Parliamentary Committee (COPAC) in a meeting organized by the Council of Zimbabwe Christian Leaders, UK and the South Africa based Zimbabwe Exiles Forum.

COPAC was represented by Co-Chairs Hon Douglas Mwonozora (MDC-T), Hon Paul Magwana (ZANU (PF) and the PA to Hon Edward Mkhosi (MDC-M), Mr Maxwell Zimuto while the Diaspora was represented by Constitutional Coalition (ZIMCC), The Zimbabwe Development Chamber, as well as the Global Zimbabwe Forum among others.

The aim of the meeting was to explain to the Diaspora how their views could be effectively collected and incorporated into the COPAC process. Previously the Diaspora felt that they had been excluded from all important exercise of drafting a supreme law for the country so engagement with the Diaspora was a watershed moment for Zimbabwean constitutional reform process. Noteworthy in the deliberations was the assurance by the Co-Chairs that the only barrier to Diaspora involvement was financial.

The Diaspora coalition used the meeting to highlight some preliminary constitutional issues from the Diaspora that include the demand for the vote, both at the Referendum stage and in future national elections and the desire for dual or multiple citizenship. The Diaspora also argued that socio-economic rights should be made justiciable. The Zimbabwean Diaspora groups requested COPAC to include them

in future processes and structures such as the thematic committees, the Second National Stakeholders Conference, the drafting stage and the Constitutional referendum. COPAC assured the Diaspora that henceforth the Zimbabwean Diaspora communities' views will be taken and made part and parcel of the final product. And there should be no political opposition to Diaspora participation.

Source:

<http://www.thezimbabwean.co.uk/news/world-news/34620/first-ever-zimbabwean-diaspora-constitutional-consultation-.html>

Indian Diaspora: Emergence and Road Map

The seminar on “Indian Diaspora: Emergence and Road Map” was jointly organized by GOPIO & ODI on 10th January 2011 started with the welcome note of Ambassador Paramjit Sahai where he focused on the main purpose which was to involve more academics, more groups and countries in Diaspora study. He said that ODI has taken a number of initiatives for the Diaspora study, for example publications of journals by ODI. There are three important issues which should be taken into account for Diaspora study i.e. diversity among GOPIO, the global stand of India and lastly how can we learn from the experience of other countries in Diaspora studies. The theme was introduced by Prof. Ajay Dubey, who said that the ODI was established in 2003 to promote interaction between Indian academics and Diaspora academics. Indian diaspora should be understood in a proper manner. For him focus of ODI is to see Diaspora as a resource and to see in comparative perception as to what role they will evolve in understanding countries boundaries. He also said that a refereed journal named “Diaspora Studies” has been published by ODI to understand

how Indian Diaspora has emerged. The inaugural address was given by Dr. Didar Singh (Secretary MOIA) who said that the recently held PBD on 9th January, 2011 turned out to be the largest PBD held ever. Here the concept of global Indian was introduced and also the branding of global Indian was done. For him PBD was not an event but a movement of person, capital, services and ideas. Ideas are important contribution for Diaspora studies. According to him in the study of Diaspora return migrants apart from migrants are important as movements of persons are a fact of economy. He has firm belief in the idea of Gandhiji and says that India is looking for engagement, and not for dollars with respect to Diaspora. It was a matter of regret that migration data has not been compiled till now. He concluded by saying that the academic work should be done on dual citizenship in India as less work has been done here. The vote of thanks was given by Mr. Selvarajoo Sundram who said that academics have to come forward to do much more work. NRI's and PIO are much vaguer than it was before. He said that 80% of the Diaspora is PIO so a proper study is required to understand them. .

The first session of the seminar was on “Emergence of Indian Diaspora: Last 20 years”. The session was chaired by Mr. Selvarajoo Sundram where the first speaker was Aruna Gopinath, who said that the process of education is undergoing change. 7th GOPIO international recommended for a global demand campaign for PIO youth professional education. India stands to gain a lot in the long run by providing quality professional education for PIO youths from around the world. An affirmative scheme has been proposed by GOPIO where 10,000 scholarships are to be spread globally by govt. of India for diaspora youths. Diaspora scholarships were also initiated for 300

students in 2007. The number of scholarships was supposed to increase every year. GOPIO proposed that minimum entry requirement into Indian university must be more open. Indian government has to update the pre-university entry qualification accredited by Malaysian accreditation board. The Association of Indian Universities must according to her be able to evaluate the foundation courses and also be able to accept them so that more students will come to India. She also focused on the importance of integrative training, evaluative training, enhancing teacher training, facilitating the acquisition of basic skills and increase learner involvement and motivation. The next speaker was Daniel Naujoks who talked about as to how there is inter linkages between countries. He gave importance to identification of Indianess, national, civic and ethnic identity. He sees all this from the perspective of state and culture. The next speaker was Bal Anand who talked about the diaspora issue in respect to diplomacy and international relations. He gave importance to the role of Hollywood and Bollywood in dealing with the emergence of Diaspora.

Next session was “India and its Diaspora Networks” and also “Indian Overseas: Intra and Inter- Diaspora Dialogue” which was chaired by Prof. Marimuthu who said that the emergence of Indian Diaspora 20 years ago was not a new concept. GOPIO as a concept and an idea is very important. The main aim is to network with Indians spread across the globe. The language, culture and identity effects, globalization and I.T. revolution all this has profound effects on Diaspora. The next speaker was R.K. Jain who spoke about the cultural aspects of diaspora. He also gives importance to caste in diaspora studies. The next speaker was Prof. Sri Prakash who said that we need a detailed profile of coun-



Prof. Ajay Dubey (Left) Didar Singh(Centre) nad Paramjit Sahay (Right)

-tries to understand Diaspora. With the establishment of GOPIO tourism has increased. Development has also taken place through internet, Bollywood, etc. The last speaker was Mr Gopalkrishnan who laid stress on the importance of ICT as an important tool to engage the Diaspora. Social media for him is conversation, community, collaboration, contribution and sharing of resources. It is cheap and easy to contact. It is important for introducing people and to people. Thus it is the cheapest way to engage with Diaspora. .

Finally the seminar came to an end with discussions and question answer session. . The view of Dr. Didar Singh regarding dual citizenship was discussed extensively. . The character of Diaspora, nature of Diaspora and way of migration also discussed.

International Diaspora

Unifying Africa and the African Diaspora through International Trade and Commerce

The Africa-USA Chamber of Commerce (AfUSA) conducted a two day Pan African Global Trade Conference on 21st to 22nd October 2010 at California State University Dominguez Hills. The conference is an important step to establish a U.S. based public/private coalition to develop and implement policies and strategies for bilateral economic development between the U.S.A., the African Continent and the African Diaspora.

It has provided important information about trade and commerce with African and the African Diaspora for small business owners and students. This landmark event in Southern California covered topics designed to help small businesses get started in international trade and commerce with Africa. It has also offered a wealth of networking opportunities with private and public sector leaders from the U.S., Africa and the African Diaspora. This Conference participant were exposed to essential business practices associated with international trade and commerce and current business opportunities in Nigeria, South Africa and Liberia. They also participated in business roundtables to discuss & recommend programs to develop important international trade initiatives. This conference has presented and discussed the African Diaspora Mobilization Initiatives currently being developed by the African Union, the World Bank and the Sixth Region African Diaspora Caucus and their potential for providing viable opportunities for bilateral trade and commerce between Africa, the State of California and the African Diaspora.

Source: <http://srdcinternational.org/?cat=52>

A Film Festival Unites the African Diaspora in New York

The African Diaspora International Film Festival runs from November 26 to December 14 2010 in New York City. This festival presented the diversity of the Black experience through a wide range of thought provoking films and documentaries. Over one hundred and six films screened with 25 US premieres and 39 New York premieres. The African Diaspora International Film Festival (ADIFF) has partnered with local organizations and businesses to bring stories from around the world to the New York audience. Women, Latinos, dancers, lovers; the 2010 selection has a little bit of something for everyone. "ADIFF is a bridge," say the Speech's, curators of ADIFF, "between diverse communities looking for works that cannot be found under the same roof in other festivals."

Women Indies Night on 4th December 2010 sponsored by New York Women in Films and Television, which presented four works about women by women. The selection includes a short fiction "Riches," by this year's resident filmmaker Ingrid Sinclair. The film depicts the story of Mollie, a single mother who escapes apartheid South Africa, to find herself rejected in her new home of Zimbabwe because of her progressive ideas. "Riches" is one of six works by the filmmaker showing this year at the festival.

Latin America is featured with "Chance," a hilarious comedy from Panama, which premieres on 5th December 2010. "Chance" is the story of Tona and Paquita, the housekeepers for a bourgeois family. Tired of being mistreated, Tona and Paquita take their bosses' hostage to get what they are due: seven weeks back pay. It has also included

“Sheherazade: Tell me a Story,” a drama which explores the sexual, social and political repression women face in Egyptian society, and “Josephine Baker: Black Diva in a White Man's World.”

Source:

http://www.blackradionetwork.com/film_festival_unites_african_diaspora_in_new_york

United Nations Agency Hails Move to Protect African Folklore and Traditional Knowledge

The United Nations agency charged with protecting intellectual property worldwide has welcomed the adoption by a number of African States of a new legal instrument that seeks to protect the continent's traditional knowledge and folklore.

The instrument, adopted earlier this month in Swakopmund, Namibia, by member states of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), is designed to preserve and protect the use of Africa's diverse knowledge systems and cultures for the continent's sustainable development.

It will enter into force following ratification by six ARIPO member states. Francis Gurry, Director General of the UN's World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) welcomed the adoption of the Swakopmund Protocol on the Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Folklore as "an historic step for ARIPO's 17 member states, and a significant milestone in the evolution of intellectual property."

Developed by African experts over a six-year period, the Swakopmund Protocol is a response to the misappropriation and misuse of the continent's traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions. It was developed in coordination with a similar instrument prepared over the same period by the 16 West African countries comprising the

Organization Africaine de la Propriete Intellectuelle (OAPI), and adopted in July 2007.

WIPO provided support to both organizations in the process of developing those instruments. Mr Gurry said that WIPO was also ready to respond to requests from ARIPO and OAPI member states for support in the development of national laws for the protection of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions.

Meanwhile, WIPO's Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore is working towards the development of a legal instrument for the effective protection of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions that would be international in scope.

Source:

<http://www.diaspora.uiuc.edu/news0910/news0910.html#13>

Indian Diaspora

Boost Educational Infrastructure and Invite Indian diaspora back Home

Seeking active engagement of the Indian diaspora in improving educational infrastructure, the government in 8th January, 2011 said that the country would need over USD 150 billion worth of investment in the next 10 years to sustain high economic growth. Speaking at the inaugural session of the ninth Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD), HRD Minister Kapil Sibal invited the diaspora back to the "land of new opportunities" and help the government bridge the mismatch between demand and supply in the education sector. Identifying education as the key to India's future, it was discussed there that in the next 15-20 years, the country will have to produce at least 250 million graduates and 500 million skilled workers to sustain high growth rate

and to become one of the top nations in the world.

He also called for collaboration from the Indian diaspora in building the education sector and invited them back to the land of "new opportunities". Speaking at the inaugural session of the ninth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) in New Delhi, Sibal said collaboration from the Indian diaspora in the Indian education sector was important so that the country reaches its true potential.

According to him, Indian government plans to increase the gross enrolment ratio of children reaching college from 12 to 30 percent by 2020. To cater to the increasing number of children reaching higher educational institutes, 1,000 more universities and 45,000 more colleges are needed according to him. Further, he added that the government has opened up the entire higher education sector. About the Foreign Universities Bill, which is pending in the parliament, he said: "We hope to get it passed soon".

Source:

http://www.ummid.com/news/2011/January/07.01.2011/sibal_invites_nris.htm

Chief Ministers Seek Investment from Diaspora

Eyeing better investment flow from diaspora, State heads showcased the competitive business environment and investor-friendly policy initiatives of their governments while identifying education and healthcare as key areas for deeper two-way engagement. Addressing the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, Chief Ministers of various states sought active support of the 25 million diaspora in enhancing infrastructure in their respective States, while highlighting India as a safe destination for investment. Making a fervent appeal for enhanced investment in his state,

Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi said inclusive growth should be the "mantra" of the development process if India has to emerge in the right earnest. The decade of Gujarat has been a decade of phenomenal growth he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda termed the Indian diaspora as a "formidable global force" who represent a "truly great resource" in the form of intellectual, technical, scientific and entrepreneurial excellence. Seeking investment for his state, Mr. Hooda described

Haryana as a land of "opportunities and enterprise" and said it had grown at 8 per cent even during the worst period of economic meltdown. Haryana has made rapid strides and carved a niche for itself. The state, which was largely an agrarian initially, is now one of the most industrialised states in the country with the manufacturing and services sector contributing about 80 per cent of the gross state domestic product, he said.



Punjab Deputy CM Sukhbir Singh Badal, Bihar Deputy CM Sushil Modi, Haryana CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda, PMEAC Dy Chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs Vayalar Ravi, Gujarat CM Narendra Modi and Goa CM Digambar Kamath at the Ninth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2011 in New Delhi.

Speaking on the occasion, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi said the government has made a huge “turn around” in the state and it is now growing at 11 per cent. Listing the progress made by Bihar government in the past five years, he said, “all the mines went to Jharkhand but the minds are still with Bihar and to nurture that we have appointed more than two lakh teachers in government schools. “He also said that the government has improved the law and order to great extent as neither a single case of death or a single incident of booth capturing occurred during the state assembly election last year”.

Punjab Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal, while complimenting the NRIs for their contribution in development of the state, announced setting up of a Commission for NRIs to redress their grievances, especially related to property matters and other legal disputes. He said the commission would be headed by a retired judge of the High Court and Punjab would be the first state in the country to take such initiative to redress grievances and disputes of the NRIs. The contribution of the NRI fraternity to the prosperity of the state is immense. Every village in the state carries the stamp of their contribution. He called for greater partnership between the state and the diaspora.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said his government would soon come out with a policy to promote creation of key infrastructure while safeguarding interests of the farmers. Calling for better collaboration with the diaspora, he assured them to speed up clearance for industrial and infrastructure projects. “Efforts are being made to ensure easy availability of land so that land

conversion, land use change, plan approvals, etc. take minimum time.”

Goa chief minister Digambar Kamat, in his speech, also sought investment from the diaspora in the state and said despite occasional adverse publicity, the state’s tourism profile as an ideal leisure destination has not been impacted.

Source:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/article1075144.ece>

“Know India Program” by MOIA

Under "15th Know India Program", a joint initiative by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA), Govt. of India, a group of students representing Indian Diaspora youth from 9 different countries between the age group of 18-26 years visited Amity Business School, Manesar on September 07, 2010. The Indian Diaspora students were apprised with the Amity Group, the three universities under the group Amity University, Uttar Pradesh, Amity University, Rajasthan and Amity University, Haryana, the Founder of the Group, Dr. Ashok K Chauhan and his grand vision of making India a Superpower by 2020. The young Diaspora students interacted with the students of Amity Business School, AUH trying to understand and appreciate the diverse cultures of the countries they belonged to.

"15th Know India Program" was a three week internship program for Indian Diaspora Youth with the objective of connecting them back to their roots and acquaints the youth students with India's emergence from just a destination of art and culture to a Global economic powerhouse, taking giant strides in economic

and industrial progress. The students was be taken to the prestigious colleges and universities located in various cities of India including Delhi, Agra, Assam and Meghalaya, where the students got the opportunity to interact with best of the minds in academics and the Indian students.

Source:

<http://indiaeducationdiary.in/Haryana/shownews.asp?newsid=4051>

Bonanza for Indian Diaspora

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on 8 January 2011 announced, merging of the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) and the Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) cards into a single facility to simplify visa-free entry and participation of Indian Diaspora in business and other activities in New Delhi. He also said that the government had decided to extend the facility of the Indian Community Welfare Fund to all the Indian Missions from the current 42.

Hailing the Indian Diaspora, he pointed out that the government had introduced the OCI and PIO cards to facilitate visa-free travel of NRIs and Indian Origin people to India as well as to provide them rights of residency and participation in business and educational activities. The functioning of the schemes has been reviewed, and has decided to merge the OCI and PIO cards into a single facility.

To improve the conditions for migration, India has signed Social Security Agreements with 12 countries and finalised Labour Mobility Partnerships with two others, adding a generic arrangement is also being negotiated with the European Union also. As a further measure, the facility of the Indian Community Welfare Fund to all Indian Missions has been extended. At present, such funds are available in 42 Missions. Singh said

the government has decided to establish new Indian cultural centres in the US, Canada, Saudi Arabia, France and Australia.

"I urge the Indian communities in these countries to support and patronise these centres so that they become effective instruments for projecting the diversity and splendour of Indian culture," the Prime Minister said. In his address, Singh invited the Indian Diaspora to invest in the Northeast and contribute in accelerating the pace of development in the region.

Source:

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/pm-announces-merging-of-oci-pio-cards/735090/>

Tamil Diaspora Marked Sri Lanka Independence Day as Black Day

ON 5th February 2011, the Tamil diaspora in Canada marked Sri Lanka's Independence Day Friday as a 'black day' by wearing black badges.

'We join the Tamils back home in marking this day as a black day. The Tamil diaspora all over the world is mourning this day as a black day," said David Poopalapillai, national spokesperson for the Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC). It was also said that there will never be justice for Tamil under the current fascist regime in Colombo. Though 200,000 Tamils have been released from camps, there is no rehabilitation. These 200,000 people have become street people, with nowhere to go. Over 30,000 are still languishing in government camps.

The Tamil spokesperson said even Sinhalese were getting fed up with President Mahindra Rajapaksa and very soon, they will rise up against his dictatorial regime as people have done in Egypt against Hosni Mubarak. Sri -

-Lanka's abysmal human rights will succumb to people's thirst for freedom and justice.'

A separate Canadian Tamil Congress statement said, 'Despite claims of a democratic, peaceful country, authoritarian rule is cementing its power in Sri Lanka. As the world witnesses the eradication of ruthless dictators in places like Tunisia, Egypt and Yemen, Sri Lanka is following an opposite path.' Since the end of the armed conflict with the LTTE, the Sri Lankan regime has curtailed basic civil and political rights and crushed human rights of its citizens, the statement said. Alleging large-scale abductions of citizens voicing opposition to President Rajapaksa by his para-military forces, the statement said, 'Sri Lanka has failed to account to the international community for war crimes committed during the last phase of the war. It has failed to cooperate with the United Nations War Crimes panel appointed to investigate war crimes in Sri Lanka.'

'The Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission appointed by President Rajapaksa, intended to investigate itself, has failed to make any meaningful inroads into resolving the long-standing and underlying grievances of the minority communities in Sri Lanka.' Canada is home to the largest Sri Lankan Tamil diaspora of over 300,000 people, followed by Britain with about 300,000. 'The decision to mark February 4 as a black day has been taken unanimously by the Tamil diaspora all over the world,' said Poopalapillai.

Source: <http://www.sify.com/news/tamil-diaspora-marks-sri-lanka-independence-day-as-black-day-news-international-lcfsnNcjfhh.html>

Scientists to work with diaspora

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was in Chennai in January, 2011 stressed on attracting the young Indian diaspora through joint research projects while urging Indian scientists to "think big" and "out of the box" for scientific advancement and innovations in the country. He said that he would like to see more joint research projects between Indians in India and those abroad so that we can draw on this global talent pool and strengthen our own teaching and research base. The high speed National Knowledge Network will greatly facilitate such collaborations," Manmohan Singh said in his inaugural address at the 98th Indian Science Congress here.

To Indian scientists, he said: "The time has come for Indian scientists to once again think big; think out of the box; and think ahead of the times. The time has come for India to produce the Ramans and Ramanujans of the 21st Century," the prime minister said. He was referred to eminent physicist CV Raman and renowned mathematician Srinivasas Ramanujan - both from Tamil Nadu. Raman was the recipient of the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1930 for the discovery that when light traverses a transparent material, some of the light that is deflected changes in wavelength. Ramanujan was a mathematician who had no formal training in pure mathematics but made substantial contributions to mathematical analysis.

However he said that the application of scientific knowledge to human and social development must be value-based. "How science is used depends on the values and priorities of the time in society. Thus splitting of the atom led on the one hand to the bomb and on the other to nuclear energy. One kills;

the other has extended the bounds of developmental possibilities on a planet worried about carbon emissions and climate change." Referring to the development of synthetic chemistry finding use in developing poison gas used in wars and of agro chemicals and pharmaceuticals, he said: "The application of scientific knowledge to human and social development must be value-based even though science may itself be value neutral." Citing modern developments in bio-sciences, referring to the poor translation of good science and research into marketable products in India, he urged the congress to come up with recommendations on strengthening the link between Indian universities, research laboratories and industry. The prime minister stressed on the need to better higher education in the country and claimed that the government was already moving forward in this direction. He said that 2012-13 will be the centenary year of the Indian Science Congress and asked the Ministry of Science and Technology to designate 2012-13 as the Year of Science in India.

He focused on to make a concerted effort at building and motivates a new generation of scientific talent. To this end INSPIRE or Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research Programme has been launched. More than 350,000 students in the age group 10-27 years have received awards and scholarships under this scheme. The congress at SRM University in Kattankulathur was the 98th held in India uninterrupted since 1914. The congress is always inaugurated on January 3 by the prime minister and chaired by the chief minister of the host state. However, Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister MK Stalin chaired the event on Monday.

Source: <http://www.odishaeye.com/Think-big-work-with-diaspora-Prime-Minister-Manmohan-Singh-urges-scientists--854.html>

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