



INDIA TEACHER RESOURCES

INDIA IN THE NEWS

IBM to Cut U.S. Jobs, Expand in India

International Business Machines Corp., the technology giant, plans on transferring 5,000 U.S. jobs to India. They are building their foreign sector. Of the 4,600 employees laid off, several worked in sales and software units. Outsourcing has been a big topic for IT employees. IBM in particular, has benefitted from outsourcing by gaining new contracts and maintaining good profits. Outsourcing to India also allows IBM to directly compete with its biggest competitors, Infosys Technologies Ltd. and Wipro Ltd.

Bulkeley, William M. "IBM to Cut U.S. Jobs, Expand in India" The Wall Street Journal. 26 March 2009.

As Indian Growth Spars, Child Hunger Persists

The malnutrition rate for children is even greater in some parts of India than in many of Africa's sub-Saharan countries; India was ranked below 2 dozen of Africa's sub-Saharan countries on the International Food Policy Research Institute's Global Hunger Index. A fourth of the world's hungry, 230 million people, reside in India. Despite India's rapid growth, 42.5% of children under the age of 5 in India are underweight. "Malnutrition makes children more prone to illness and stunts physical and mental growth for a lifetime." India launched a \$1.3 billion dollar program, the largest child feeding program on the globe, is inadequately designed due to the lack of progress over the last 10 years. The Integrated Child Development Services program finances several soup kitchens in slums and villages. This program, however, does not address mothers or children under the age of 2. World Food Program found anemia to be on the rise among women of childbearing age. Most alarming, though, the institute found that states with the highest economic growth rates (i.e. Maharashtra and Gujarat) had "serious" hunger rates.

Sengupta, Somini. "As Indian Growth Spars, Child Hunger Persists" The New York Times. 13 March 2009.

Report: India Court 466 Years Behind Schedule

There aren't enough sitting judges in India's courts. There is about 1 judge per million people in a country with a 10.1 billion population. Not only is there a lack of judges, but many of the judges, along with the judicial system, are corrupted. Corruption is commonplace within the governmental systems in India. Although the numbers are not

as bad as last year, it is approximated that it would take India 466 years to update the judicial backlog of a minimum of 629 civil and 17 criminal 20-year old pending cases. A normal case takes India's court approximately 5 minutes to reach a verdict. There is plenty of time for the backlog to be solved. A retired Supreme Court judge stated that longer working hours would allow the backlog decrease. This would also allow normal citizens, just like the rich and those with connections, a fair and speedy trial.

The Associated Press. "Report: India Court 466 Years Behind Schedule" 12 February 2009. <<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29164027/wid/18298287/>>.

India's Enron

Satyam Computer Services, one of India's biggest software and services companies, announced the balance sheets for the company were inflated. The money stated on the sheet had been inflated and was not actually in holding. The head of the company attempted to buy out a sector of another company, Maytas Properties and Maytas Infra, in hopes of acquiring their assets and balancing the data sheets. Board members approved this buyout without knowing the company's financial situation. Stock holders, however, felt this a risky chance and revolted against the merger. As a result, the company did not continue with it and the unbalanced sheets came under the board's scrutiny. Much of India's IT status was set by Infosys and other large corporations of that sort. The system used by the companies is quite impressive. Although that is the case with bigger corporations, not all Indian companies are run the same way. That is a delusion.

"India's Enron: Scandal Hits India's Flagship Industry" The Economist. 8 January 2009.

Jobs Abroad Support 'Model' State in India

The Indian State of Kerala is borders the South Indian coastline. Keralites live nearly as long as Americans, read at nearly the same rate on a sliver of income. Kerala is famous for its leftist governments, which has invested heavily in healthcare and education, and it has been celebrated as an alternative to market-driven development. However, Kerala is under threat due to nearly 2 million Keralites working abroad. These citizens often migrate to the Persian Gulf to work for \$1 an hour. Kerala is being plagued by unemployment and Keralities are being forced to migrate or else face starvation. A depressive cycle begins for the Keralites: migration buys education, which leads to more migration.

DeParle, Jason. "Jobs Abroad Support 'Model' State in India" 7 September, 2008

Georgia Solar Company Lands \$480 Million India Deal

Suniva, a Georgia Institute of Technology-based solar company, contracted a plan with India to supply \$480 million dollars of equipment to an Indian solar energy producer through the year 2013. Suniva will open its first firm in Norcross, GA. It also made a deal with Solon AG, based in Berlin, Germany. These contracts help to further Suniva's outsourcing goals.

Williams, Trevor and Mike Rast Jr. "Georgia Solar Company Lands \$480 Million India Deal" 8 August 2008.

Blast after Blast

Many of India's blasts were blamed on Pakistan's Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI). Many Indian officials believe that Pakistan made use of the Islamist extremists to some degree against India during the Pakistan-India rivalry era in the region of Kashmir, as well as other areas. Peace talks between the two countries stagger due to the created tension. India is more and more convinced of the ISI's involvement in attacks on India. However, India has been unable to present any evidence to substantiate its claims.

"Blast after Blast" Economist.com. 28 July 2008.

<http://www.economist.com/world/asia/displaystory.cfm?story_id=11826021>.

Facing a Wave of Violence, India Is Rattled

Terrorist attacks in India have increased greatly. The attacks occur about once a day and have become more violent. Some suspect the attacks are an effort to ignite war between Hindus and Muslims; they have been unsuccessful so far. The Indian Mujahedeen have claimed responsibility for a majority of the terror attacks. Several attacks have taken place in public places such as temples, mosques, train stations, in parked cars and bikes, and hospitals. The attacks have become more frequent, excessive, and, for the most part, remained completely anonymous.

Sengupta, Somini. "Facing a Wave of Violence, India Is Rattled" The New York Times. 28 July 2008.

At Least 45 Killed in Explosions in India

Shortly after 6:30 p.m., 16 explosions went off in the city of Ahmedabad in Gujrat State, killing at least 45 people and wounding about 110 people. Indian television stations reported that the "Indian Mujahedeen" warned of the attacks, but officials did not know whether the threats were valid or not. Officials said the attacks are trying to raise tensions and panic within Indian's people.

Sengupta, Somini. "At Least 45 Killed in Explosions in India" The New York Times. 27 July 2008.

Up to Their Necks in It

The Ganges River is considered "the source of life" in Hinduism. For that reason, many Hindus bathe in the river after visiting the temple. The *ghats*, or riverbank, have 60,000 bacteria per mL. There are also cremation grounds which dump about 30,000 corpses into the river each year. According to the World Bank, India's natural resources will be under more pressure than any other country by the year 2020. A survey by the Pew Research Centre indicated that 79% of Indians recognized pollution to be a "very big problem." India, however, plans to continue to emphasize on its growing economy. Despite these issues, India has excellent environmental laws and regulations which sadly, are not always carried out in all parts of the country. It has also given 51 billion rupees (\$1.2 billion) to cleaning rivers, half of which was dedicated towards the cleaning of the Ganges. The main approach is to build dams, but over half the money has not

been spent. Indian activists are trying to persuade the government to adopt a system designed by researchers at University of California, Berkley, which would be cheaper and uses “gravity and naturally occurring bacteria and uses almost no power.”

Economist.com. 17th July 2008.

<http://www.economist.com/world/asia/displaystory.cfm?story_id=11751397>.

Indians Are Complacent About the Perils of Multi-lateral Diplomacy, and Much Else

The prime minister of India, Manmohan Singh, pressed forward with a civil-nuclear cooperation agreement with America, giving India access to nuclear fuel and technology. Indians are sure this treaty will be approved as it is just beginning review. Indians have much pride in their economy, and with reason. Belief in India’s economy has risen about 12 percent among the richer middle-class since last year. India’s successes, however, do not promise India’s global dominance.

“Indians are Complacent About the Perils of Multi-lateral Diplomacy, Much Else”

Economist.com. 9 July 2008.

<http://www.economist.com/world/asia/displaystory.cfm?story_id=11700198>.

In a Season of Discontent, Many Protests Sweep India

Many protests over food, fuel, jobs, and land use have spread throughout India. Two possible causes of this uproar are either the clash between two parties (Congress Party and Left Front) or the change in Indian society. There have been riots in Kashmir, a province with a Muslim majority, Darjeeling, a Nepal-origin province, Rajasthan State, in which nomadic shepherds wanted more benefits, and nationwide protests resulted from a gas and food price increase. The protest in Kashmir was more sensitive due to the people’s demand for independence from India. The revolt that took place on a Saturday in Srinagar, a district of Kashmir, resulted with the use of “tear gas and bamboo sticks” by the police.

Timmons, Heather. “In a Season of Discontent, Many Protests Sweep India” The New York Times. 29 June 2008.

Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals Presentation

The Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals (ISAP) serves as a non-government and non profit organization that was started in 2001 under Section 25 of the Indian Companies Act. It consists of agriculture, allied sector professionals in India, and developing countries, while it is an increasing network with over 15,000 registered associate members. This includes 1500 Agri-Experts, 525 Partner NGOs, over 824 individuals, and more than 1050 researchers. ISAP arranged programs for horticultural farmers and Self Help Groups during June 2008. Its intentions were to focus on cultivation practices for sustainable agriculture, organic farming, using farm technology, value addition and marketing of farm produce. ISAP has also organized training programs on medicinal plants at Bhopal, while focusing on technologies of medicinal plants such as Safed Musali, Sarpendha, Ashwagandha, and Stevia. It will also

organize a mega Horticultural Exhibition in 2008 called HORTIEXPO and will be held at Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology Bhubaneswar, while also being organized by Horticulture Society of India. There will be a variety of speakers and topics, incentives for displaying horticulture diversity, inputs, productivity, and post harvest management aspects and trade related issues. It also strives to create awareness about potential for the state horticulture and food processing sector, and searching for other opportunities for investment and technologies. The ISAP Agri-Clinic and Agri-Business program aims to aid agripreneurs to set up their own business and has trained 864. This training is for unemployed agriculture and allied sector graduates.

"ISAP Presentation." Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals. 23 June 2008
<<http://isapindia.org/>>.

India Agri Fund Summary of Proposed Investment

The agriculture sector in India plays a big role in India's economy, while the growth in this sector has fallen behind by dragging down the overall growth rate and widening social and income inequalities. Modernization of the agricultural economy is crucial in order to reduce poverty. The Fund's manager intends to manage mid-sized companies, improve governance through broad participation, strategy setting, assist professionalizing management, and improve financial and operational performance. IFC's environmental and Social Review Procedure has considered this project as a Category FI project. The fund will be examined and will determine the capacity of the fund to manage social and environmental risks, while establishing and maintaining a Social & Environmental Management System (SEMS). They may also impose Supplemental Actions if necessary in order to comply with the Performance Standards or have a satisfactory action plan within a reasonable time frame.

"India Agri Fund Summary of Proposed Investment." International Finance Cooperation World Bank Group. 23 June 2008.

A Daughter of India's Underclass Rises on Votes That Cross Caste Lines

Although discrimination based on caste, social class, gender, etc. is illegal, discrimination plays a vital role in politics. Kumari Mayawati is the daughter of an untouchable and therefore of a lower caste system, Dalit, than other politicians. Ms. Mayawati, daughter to a Delhi government worker, was a schoolteacher, earned a law degree, and joined a young political party. She has made history by being the first Indian of her caste (and a woman) to break caste barriers and acquire votes from all over the caste pyramid, elite to lower-class. "Her main rallying cries are for an eight-lane highway, better policing and private investment as a means to ease poverty." Depending on how hard she rallies, Ms. Mayawati may be the first Dalit to become prime minister. Although Kumari Mayawati has many supporters, she also has many critics. Some people consider her to be corrupt and "see her as a symbol of increasingly crude and unprincipled politics."

Sengupta, Somini. "A Daughter of India's Underclass Rises on Votes That Cross Caste Lines" The New York Times. 18 June 2008.

Debt Collection Done From India Appeals to U.S. Agencies

Indian debt-collectors cost about a quarter less than Americans and also do a better job according to debt collecting executives. Contrary to popular belief, Indian collectors are calm, polite, and respectful, which are traits people can easily bear. The collectors work on commission (the number of people they get to pay off their debts) and begin work after a morning boost meeting in which employees are encouraged and motivated. The downside to overseas collectors is the communication gap that may result due to slang or other reason. Collectors are under stress in the work environment for if they raise their voice or try to use harsher tactics with debtors they receive a warning, but if collectors give misleading information to a debtor they are fired. The strains allow India's collectors to continue trying to deliver great customer assistance and advice on paying off debts.

Timmons, Heather. "Debt Collection Done From India Appeals to U.S. Agencies" The New York Times. 24 April 2008.

India's Democracy Illusion or Reality?

Since India gained its independence in 1947, it has been known as the world's largest democracy, while some see it as an illusion after various crises and events. It has handled internal and external crises well, while also accommodating new political leaders, movements and patterns of political rule and opposition. There has been a wide range in ideology, policy, and social base of winning parties. India has also had a higher voter turnout of the poor than the non-poor, which is contrasting to other developed countries such as the United States. Even though India has grown economically, it remains a poor country with per capita income at a level that usually distinguishes democracies from dictatorships. The lack of a military coup and the threat of one also explain why India is a democracy. The income equality does not thoroughly explain India's success, but it is its ability to solve problems as they were done in earlier successes. Overtime, the Congress developed a certain kind of leadership and internal functioning that worked well with democracy. These later served as political attributes which make today's democracy the reality that it is.

Oldenburg, Philip. "India's Democracy Illusion or Reality." Asian Government and Legal Systems 12 (2007).

Sweet Success in Indian Agribusiness

Located in the Baramati district, the factory of Harneshwar Argo Products Power & Yeast, also known as "Happy India" uses tropical sugar-beet for its feedstock. This large vegetable produces as much sugar as sugar cane in half of the time and with one-third of the water. This allows less land to be used without reducing the sugar output. India's crucial agriculture sector is only growing at about 2 percent a year because of its outdated methods and an inefficient supply chain. Sugar beets are intended for temperate climates, while sugar cane is intended for tropical climates. In 1995 Dilip Gokhale saw potential for these sugar beets and was initially discouraged from testing them. However, he continued testing for 10 years in Baramati and later came up with a strain resistant to hot and dry conditions. A farmer and chairman of Happy India worked to persuade 12,300 local farmers to fund the ethanol project in exchange for shares and

a location to process the new beet crops. This tropical sugar beet can produce the same amount of sugar as sugar cane in sixth months. Farmers would not have to give up food production and still make a profit. Sugar cane is thirsty, not as successful, and uses land for years at a time. A large increase in this crop will take time, but are slowly becoming familiar with more open minded farmers.

Leahy, Joe. "Sweet Success in Indian Agribusiness." 21 Aug. 2007. 23 June 2008 <<http://www.theaustralian.news.com/au/story/0,,22276886-36375,00.html>>.

India Grapples with how to Convert its Farmland into Factories

India continues to struggle when it comes to delegating land for industrial purposes. In a country with more than half of the population still living off the land, taking land from citizens often results in stealing their only method by which to grow food. India is quickly industrializing and developing, thereby creating a domestic demand for land on which to build factories. Land, to many rural farmers is their livelihood, not just a plot of land. The farmers are responding in a variety of ways. In many cases, as displayed in the article, citizens rise up to boycott and shut down various corporations that are infringing upon the rights of farmers. In other areas, farmers are demanding the land be returned to them, or the government pay them a compensation fee for use of the land. The populace is divided on the matter. Many educated individuals welcome the establishment of manufacturing plants, seeing the opportunity for employment in the factories. Others, for whom farming is a way of life, have difficulty sacrificing their traditional lands for new corporations. The article uses the recently protested Tata Corporation as an example of a company struggling to find a peaceful area in which to establish its plant and enjoy the benefits of reliable labor.

Sengupta, Somini. "India Grapples with how to Convert its Farmland into Factories" [The New York Times](#).

Decades Later, Toxic Sludge Torments Bhopal

In Bhopal, India, toxic waste is polluting the water, soil, and air. Once the site of a functioning industrial plant, Bhopal has now begun to feel the effects that the toxic sludge has brought about. The site has been contaminated for over twenty years, and the reason it has not been cleaned up is due mainly to inefficiency on the part of the Indian government. The Union Carbide company was first to blame when they allowed 40 tons of gas to leak into the air, killing over 3,000 people, but the Indian government is also at fault for not having cleaned up some of the mess or worked to contain it. The company that caused the catastrophe in the first place has since switched ownership, and the new owner refuses to take responsibility for the waste dump, claiming that it is now the responsibility of the Indian government. Immediately after the contamination, many citizens moved right next to the dump and built their houses on the perimeter of where the old factory used to be. This has led to a number of health issues encountered by the surrounding population, which are discussed in the article.

Sengupta, Somini. "Decades Later, Toxic Sludge Torments Bhopal" [The New York Times](#).

Crusader Sees Wealth as Cure for Caste Bias

This article discusses the ways in which India's recent economic success on the global scale has worked towards eliminating the caste system within India. By increasing per capita wealth, members of the Untouchable class have been able to work their way up the social ladder. The article tells the story of Mr. Prasad, a man who had been born an Untouchable, but is no longer a member of the Untouchable class because of his success as a journalist. Meanwhile, many citizens of India have begun to pressure the government for ending poverty and improving living conditions. Critics of Mr. Prasad argue that his Dalits class of the Untouchables is no longer in poverty do to a number of reasons besides economic growth, such as the rise of Dalit politicians. Despite the recent improvements, much of rural India still remains poor and in shambles. Lastly, the article stresses the importance of education to increasing the living standards of the penniless Untouchable class.

Sengupta, Somini. "Crusader Sees Wealth as Cure for Caste Bias" [The New York Times](#).

Quantum Politics

This article speaks of India's nuclear activity and future ambitions. The world's 45-nation nuclear cartel made the decision to allow India to import uranium from abroad to be used for domestic energy purposes only. While the imported Uranium might be used for this purpose, the domestically harvested Uranium can now be diverted towards nuclear armaments, and subsequently, India has become a force with which to be reckoned. The United States also played a large role in fighting for India to become nuclear, pushing the objections of smaller nuclear nation aside once the voting procedure came around. Although India now possesses a license for importing Uranium, the country still domestically lacks certain elements necessary for developing a sustainable energy source, meaning that India still faces many challenges in the near future.

The Economist. "Quantum Politics".

Rapid Rise

Bad weather and the growing world population influence the global wheat shortage. With the cost of wheat flour raising the poor suffer the most.

Barker, Catherine L. "Rapid Rise" [National Geographic](#).

The D.C. Heath Document Sets for Western Civilization

Indian prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru's address in 1961 to a congress of Asian historians questions the history of a country's isolation from the rest of the world. He tries to view history as a process that leads man to improved and higher stages of progress, but is no longer impressed by technological and scientific innovations. Nehru was seeking something deeper and more meaningful than physical aspects of civilization, while being more interested in what Plato or Buddha said. He challenges

the question of whether or not our present-day history actually has moved on to a higher stage of human existence. In 1920 an Indian woman opposing British imperialism spoke out as a result of murder committed in her country. She speaks against Englishmen that have pride in chivalry, but have dishonored and insulted veiled women of Punjab. Women were stripped naked and flogged, which greatly betrayed and dishonored the British democracy. She questions why man should gain the whole world when it can cause him to lose his own soul, while nations can also be the slave of its own despotism.

Hunt, Martin, Rosenwein, Hsia, and Smith. "The D.C. Heath Document Sets for Western Civilization to accompany The Challenge of the West." Connecting with the Past II (1995).

Country Profile: India

India is not only the second most populous country, but has transformed into the world's largest democracy and a major power following a time of foreign rule. India has a fast growing economy, large-skilled workforce, yet widespread poverty, while also being a nuclear weapons state. The sub-continent including mountainous Afghan frontier and jungles of Burma was under foreign rule from the 1800s until 1947, which was the fall of the British Raj. However, the border of this area sparked future conflict with Pakistan consisting of three wars. Two were fought for the disputed territory of Kashmir. There has been a relatively successful peace process since 2004 despite an attack over Kashmir and ongoing tension. There are also persisting communal, caste, and regional tensions which sometimes threaten the long lasting democratic and secular ethos. India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru longed for a socialist society and created a vast public infrastructure, which later weakened the state. Starting in the 1980's India encouraged economic reform and foreign investment. India launches its own satellites, while also having a massive film industry. However, many are still illiterate, impoverished, and continue to live according to the Hindu caste system, which places them in a fixed position in the social hierarchy. Pratibha Patil became India's first female president in 2007 and has had several women in powerful positions such as Indira Gandhi, who was one of the first female prime ministers in 1966. Broadcasting has boomed since 1992, while Star Plus airs their version of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" which has resulted in a big success. Their public TV service caters to 400 million viewers, while their cable TV market has more than 60 million subscribers. India's press is lively and strongly driven by the middle class and the number of internet users increased to 42 million by 2007. Occasionally there is tension regarding media between Pakistan and India, which causes banning relays of broadcasts from each other.

"Country Profile: India." 18 June 2008. 6 July 2008 <http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/south_asia/country_profiles/1154019.stm>.