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India Empowered to me is Nurturing spirit of business enterprise in our villages

NAINA LAL KIDWAI
Dy CEO, HSBC India



AN empowered India is an India where every Indian can hold his or her head high. To be proud to be Indian, with a strong sense of belonging and identification with India. It is about an India that enables every man or woman to rise to full potential, irrespective of caste, creed or religion, or based on birth and domicile.

As Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has said "we need harmony rather than uniformity"—the very diversity of India is our strength. We need to move from the zone of discrimination or favouritism to facilitation. That is, it is not just about creating quotas and reservations but enabling every person to be empowered to demand and realise rights.

It is about being heard—to have a voice. To use that voice to shape the future. Needless to say, we need governance structures and education to enable this.

Empowerment is about the ability to make choices. An India empowered must enable everyone to have a choice. To go beyond the drudgery of eking out a day-to-day existence, barely affording a day's meal, to being able to save. Empowerment is about aspirations and also the ability to fulfill them. In this respect, I believe microfinance and entrepreneurship at the rural level are key.

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I have seen the success of organisations such as SEWA in achieving this—the pride of the woman in the village who has dared social norms and has started earning for her family, supporting them and being able to make choices. To be able to choose what to eat, to wear, to send her children to school, to educate herself and not have to spend all her savings on health bills—60 per cent of the typical rural Indian family's earnings are spent on health issues. We need more such success stories. More such people like Ela Bhatt who make a difference, who selflessly empower a million women in our villages.

I have been fortunate in having choices. In having an environment that allowed me to dream the dream, and empowered me at various critical stages to fulfill those dreams. Empowerment is about national pride. I love my country and I am here by choice because there is no other place I would rather be. I have travelled and have had the option of working anywhere in the world but have chosen to be here because this is where I belong. I am proud to be from a country which is identified with global and timeless leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi and Nobel Laureates such as Mother Teresa.

The future of the business and corporate world is going to be influenced greatly by stakeholder groups. These groups include customers, employees, investors, suppliers, as well as community groups, media, NGOs and regulators. We are going to increasingly see these groups demand better governance and, more importantly, ethical governance of corporations.

Stakeholder groups, as is already happening in many countries, are going to play a crucial role in ensuring corporations in India address the interests of their customers, employees and shareholders, and also the environment in which they operate. Fortunately, we already have excellent role models in India in companies such as Infosys and Wipro who have established the highest standards in the world and are great global benchmarks.

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Ton after drought, Sourav rains on coach

In swipe at coach Chappell, says I was told to step down as captain; Yuvraj-Kaif combo was the pre-match buzz

AGENCIES
BULAWAYO, SEPTEMBER 15

IT was a classic one-two that may end up as a knockout punch for the morale of the Indian cricket team. A couple of hours after scoring a long-awaited century today, Sourav Ganguly told an incredulous press conference here that he'd been asked to step down as captain on the eve of the first Test

against Zimbabwe.

"I can tell you that before this match I was asked to step down as captain", Ganguly told reporters. "So it was an extra determination that I found (to score the century)."

When pressed to name the person who'd asked him to step down and whether it was coach Greg Chappell, Ganguly replied that what he'd said was true and the press would have to ask the coach



'I was under a lot of pressure'

for the reasons behind it.

Asked to comment, Chappell said the only thing he would share with the press was the composition the team should have in the match.

Ironically, that's what the whole issue seems to have been about. Ganguly was apparently told that if the best team was to be fielded, both Kaif and Yuvraj should play. Implicit in that was the suggestion that the skipper, in poor

form and facing calls for his resignation, step down.

On Monday, the day before this Test began, Ganguly was spotted leaving the team practice for half an hour. It was speculated then that this was over the issue of Yuvraj and Kaif and today Ganguly confirmed that, but with a twist.

"Yes, it was suggested. I was under a lot of pressure," he said. Later, in a TV interview, Ganguly repeated what he'd

said at the press conference. "It is not for me to prove anything because the criticism has been fair. I have got the ability to play for the team."

Ganguly's outburst came a day after the more reserved VVS Laxman celebrated his century by hinting at problems within the Indian team. "There have been some negative vibes in the team and outside and I just wanted to prove myself," he said yesterday.

UN India says we need to see consistent dip in terror on the ground; Pak camp testy, impatient General pushes for J&K troop cut; PM defers it, cautiously



Pak President Musharraf and Prime Minister Singh after their meeting in New York on Wednesday. PTI

C RAJA MOHAN
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 15

INDIA'S reluctance to consider early troop withdrawal from Jammu and Kashmir until there is a consistent decline in cross-border violence cast a shadow over the talks between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Pervez Musharraf here last night.

Even as differences over cross-border terrorism and Kashmir came to the fore in the Singh-Musharraf talks, India and Pakistan also succumbed to the bad habit of mutual political recrimination at international forums.

While Musharraf delivered some barbs on Kashmir at the United Nations General Assembly last afternoon, Singh responded in kind today with strong formulations on terrorism.

While the two leaders jointly declared their commitment to carry the peace process forward, pressures on them to posture to their domestic audiences appear to have acquired a political dynamic of their own.

Briefing the press this morning on Singh-Musharraf talks, Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran confirmed that the question of Indian troop withdrawal came up in the talks between Singh and Musharraf.

While not ruling out troop cuts a few months down the road, the Indian side insisted that steps in that direction will come only when a clear declining trendline on infiltration and violence is established.

Outlining India's assessment of terrorism on the ground situation in Kashmir, Saran said there was a "spurt in June and July". While indications are that infiltration has come down in August, Saran asked, "unless you see certain trends emerging over a period of time, how do you come to a judgment?"

After nearly four hours of talks over dinner that ended only after midnight, the two leaders issued a banal joint statement welcoming the progress so far in the peace process.

However, the infectious enthusiasm that marked the two earlier encounters between the leaders—last September here in New York and April in Delhi—was conspicuous by its absence. There was no hiding the disappointment in the

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Ready to give nuke tech to Islamic world: defiant Iran

PAUL HUGHES & CAROL GIACOMO
TEHRAN, UNITED NATIONS, SEPTEMBER 15

IRAN is ready to share its nuclear technology, considered to be a front for bomb-making by Washington, with other Islamic countries, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was quoted as saying today.

"The Islamic Republic never seeks weapons of mass destruction and with respect to the needs of Islamic countries, we are ready to transfer nuclear knowhow to these countries," the official IRNA news agency quoted Ahmadinejad as saying during a meeting with Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan in New York.

The comments were likely to heighten Western concerns about Tehran's nuclear programme. But the US said Washington and the EU may lack the votes next week to haul Iran before the UNSC.

Iran is ready to share its nuclear technology, considered to be a front for bomb-making by Washington, with other Islamic countries, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was quoted as saying today.

"Our primary aim is to deconstruct the illusion of neo-liberalism in China," says Wang Hui, leading New Left intellectual and professor of humanities at Beijing's Qinghua

"Old Left" or orthodox Marxists who opposed China's reform policies on ideological grounds, the New Left is a group of influential academics who broadly support the reform agenda but are critical of its current form and direction.

"Our primary aim is to deconstruct the illusion of neo-liberalism in China," says Wang Hui, leading New Left intellectual and professor of humanities at Beijing's Qinghua

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Caught trying to pack oil PSUs with Cong men and women, Petro Ministry now fudges facts

AMITAV RANJAN
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

THE Petroleum Ministry officially confirmed *The Indian Express* report today that a "majority" of its nominees for the post of independent directors on the boards of oil PSUs were indeed "Congressmen and women."

However, in its attempt to defend this decision, the Ministry issued a press statement that flies in the face of facts.

Consider the Ministry's "clarifications:"

Ministry: The names earlier recommended by the Search Committee for the selection of non-official (independent) directors have not been rejected. The list (with the Congress names) is a supplementary list of names.

Fact: A comparison of the Ministry's list and the Search Committee list sent by the Department of Public Enterprises, a copy of which is with *The Indian Express*, clearly shows who has been rejected to make way for the Congress men and women.

Business as Usual

By UNNY



This is wrong, we will take it up with the Prime Minister: CPI

■ We surely oppose this move. They are filling the boards of such navratna PSUs with Youth Congress and Congress partymen who are not at all in the know of the oil trade. We will take this up with the Prime Minister when he next calls us: A B Bardhan, general secretary, CPI

■ The appointment of Congressmen to the boards of oil PSUs is not proper. The Left parties will first discuss the matter among themselves and take up the matter with the government thereafter. The appointments will be opposed: Debabrata Biswas, general secretary, Forward Bloc

IIM Kolkata: Pritam Singh: Director MDI, Gurgaon.

Ministry: The Search Committee has been requested to "consider" the names given in the list.

Fact: Certainly, as *The Indian Express* report clearly

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Coalition of critics opposes FDI and sale of PSUs, sees party-business conspiracy at work

New Left is to Beijing what Left is to New Delhi

PALLAVI AIYAR
BEIJING, SEPTEMBER 15

CHINAS embrace of the market has created cities sheathed in glass, beacons of capitalism lighting up the erstwhile Middle Kingdom in neon. But the yawning inequalities that have resulted can no longer be effectively disguised.

Millions of laid-off workers with little or no social-security cover, rampant corruption and vanishing

provisions for education and health-care have combined to create disenchantment across large swathes of Chinese society.

Against this backdrop, the in-

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creasingly loud voices of a loose coalition of critics, labelled the "New Left" are finding resonance. Careful to distinguish themselves from the



Can't disguise yawning inequalities

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"Our primary aim is to deconstruct the illusion of neo-liberalism in China," says Wang Hui, leading New Left intellectual and professor of humanities at Beijing's Qinghua

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