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A FRESH PUSH

Germany and India
win UNSC seats

INFINITE OPPORTUNITIES

Germany in India
2011-2012

FAST LANE

German architect designs
India's F1 race track

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EDITORIAL

/ JENS URBAN



Is $60 + 2 \times (2011 + 2012)$ a recipe for success? At least, the GERMAN NEWS team thinks it can be the formula for 'infinite opportunities'.

First, Germany and India will celebrate 60 years of diplomatic relations in 2011. These relations have steadily grown over the years and experienced a significant push after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the subsequent opening of the Indian economy in 1991. Today, we can look back on a long-lasting and solid relationship, which gives us a lot of scope for future joint initiatives.

This allows us, second, to act together on the global scene. In October of this year, both Germany and India were elected as non-permanent members of the UNSC for 2011 and 2012. Right after the election, Federal Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle came to Delhi to discuss with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Foreign Minister S. M. Krishna opportunities to push forward common interests in the UNSC. Reform of the United Nations and of global financial institutions, the fight against terrorism, nuclear non-proliferation and the situation in Afghanistan were high on the agenda. Furthermore, Pranay Sharma from Outlook magazine expects a new push for the G4 initiative. According to him, the joint UNSC experience will also be a test of the maturity of our bilateral relationship.

Third, and parallel to this global agenda, in 2011 and 2012 we will celebrate a 'Year of Germany in India'. Meera Menezes provides you with initial insight on what is to be expected. As chairman of the project committee, German Ambassador to India Thomas Matussek tells Yvonne Krause in an interview for GERMAN NEWS what drives his personal commitment to this mega-event and why it is an important step in strengthening our strategic partnership.

In our economics section, Helmut Hauschild from the Handelsblatt reports on Federal Minister of Economics Rainer Brüderle's visit to India to co-chair the annual session of the Indo-German Joint Commission for Industrial and Economic Cooperation. The German Minister and his counterpart, Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, underscored that

in spite of the global financial crisis in 2008 the €20 billion target in bilateral trade set for 2012 remains in place. Minister Brüderle furthermore encouraged Indian entrepreneurs to invest in Germany.

But where should one invest? Nadine Bös from the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung shows that 20 years after Germany's reunification eastern Germany has become an attractive region for Indian investment and entrepreneurs. Business journalist Volker Müller demonstrates that organic production has been a worthwhile investment for small-size German companies in India. After a decline, there is an upward trend in production and demand in India. Finally, Deutsche Bank's Gunit Chadha facilitates trade and investment in both directions. He is the new Chief Executive Officer of Deutsche Bank AG's operations in India. Kushan Mitra from Business Today profiles him for GERMAN NEWS.

In our science corner, Narayani Ganesh from the Times of India finds that the axis of basic scientific research has shifted from the New World to the Old one and a new mantra of scientific synergy has evolved. This approach is reflected in the initiatives taken by the German Research Foundation (DFG) in India. It promotes joint research projects on a large scale. Birgit Fenzel presents an ambitious Max Planck research project, which examines aspirations in megacities. Mumbai is one of the cities the researchers had a close look at.

Our cultural section goes 'expressive'. Sunanda Rao presents exciting new ways to learn German and express oneself in a language that belongs to the same historical language tree as Hindi and Sanskrit. Sadanand Menon, on the other hand, looks at a more physical form of expression. He tells us the exciting story of contemporary dance in Germany and India.

Finally, our $60 + 2 \times (2011 + 2012)$ formula even works with Formula 1. In 2011, India will get its own Formula 1 race-track, designed by German architect Hermann Tilke. With infinite opportunities on offer, Indo-German relations are on the fast track.

Enjoy your read!



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GERMAN HOT WHEELS

»Baby Schumi« was what the German tabloid press once called him, but it was Michael Schumacher himself who pointed out earlier in 2010 that Sebastian Vettel had outgrown that nickname. In 2006, Vettel was given his first shot in a Formula One car in a young driver test, immediately posting the fastest time. Force India CEO, Dr Vijay Mallya, had already in 2008 an eye on him.



GERMAN TEAR DROPS

An emotional Sebastian Vettel wept in his car after he outstripped all his rivals and won the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix for the outstanding Red Bull team. At the age of 23 years and 106 days, Vettel was crowned as the youngest driver champion in Formula One. He took the title from Briton Lewis Hamilton of McLaren, who in 2008 had achieved the same feat at 23 years and 307 days.



A NEW CURRENT

German Foreign Affairs Minister Guido Westerwelle paid a three-day visit to Delhi from 17 to 19 October 2010. The visit came right after both Germany and India had been elected to a two-year term as non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

/ TEXT: JENS URBAN

Upon his arrival in Delhi, Mr Westerwelle addressed the great expectations Germany holds for India. He said, »We are convinced that India, as a valuable partner in the UN and in the G20, should, in accordance with its weight, play an active and decisive role in this globalised, multipolar world.«

Westerwelle means »wave from the west« in German. India's boom in the last decade has produced a huge innovative wave from the east. Together, the two countries can form a strong current, pushing forward common interests in the UNSC. No wonder, then, that the upcoming joint term on the UNSC was broadly discussed when Mr Westerwelle met his Indian counterpart S. M. Krishna. The Foreign Ministers agreed to work together closely at the UN. The stakes are high, as the world has not exactly become a more peaceful place of late. When it comes to combating international terrorism and climate change, reforming the global financial order and fighting against poverty, both countries can bring a lot to the table.

In Mr Westerwelle's talks with both Foreign Minister Krishna and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, India and Germany also imparted fresh impetus to their joint efforts for reform of the UN Security Council. They emphasised the importance of the ongoing G4 initiative. India, Germany, Brazil and Japan are the members of the G4. Together, these countries strive to be permanently represented on the UNSC. Given that Germany and India enjoy a strategic partnership, Mr Westerwelle and his Indian counterparts also discussed other global issues such as non-proliferation, Iranian nuclear aspirations and the situation in Afghanistan. Defense and security cooperation played a prominent role in the talks as well.

On the economic front, bilateral relations are booming. The German Foreign Minister met Indian Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma, focusing on further deepening bilateral trade. Germany is India's fifth-largest trade partner. In 2009-10, Indo-German bilateral trade stood at €13 billion; the two sides have set a bilateral trade target of €20 billion by 2012. Both Westerwelle and Sharma are eager to seize further opportunities as the scope for mutual benefit is broad. Among the most promising fields are energy,

including renewable energies, high-tech and infrastructure projects. Furthermore, Germany is successfully engaged in a large-scale skills development programme in India. This was a major area of focus during bilateral talks. Germany is well known for its dual vocational training and Mr Westerwelle discussed ways to enhance cooperation in vocational training schemes between India and Germany.

On his last day the Foreign Minister visited Gandhi Smriti, where he had the opportunity to hold a discussion with some of India's highly distinguished intellectuals on »India and Germany, partners in a globalised world«. The »argumentative« Indian representatives fascinated the German Minister. The meeting provided a very fruitful exchange.

In order to intensify and broaden this exchange, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on a Year of Germany in India in 2011-2012 and a Year of India in Germany in 2012-2013 was signed during Mr Westerwelle's visit. The celebrations over these two years will mark 60 years of Indo-German diplomatic partnership. The German year will be celebrated with events across India. The motto for this event series is »Infinite Opportunities – Germany and India 2011-2012«. Germany aims to showcase itself as an innovative, creative partner for India in tackling challenges of the future. One of the biggest tasks in the decades to come is to manage our ever-growing mega-cities. That is why the theme »StadtRäume – CitySpaces« will be the focus of the series. The Minister underlined the importance of this ambitious initiative. The Federal Foreign Office is one of four stakeholders of the project.

Thus, 2011-2012 can give a big boost to Indo-German relations. Acting together on the global scene and discovering »infinite opportunities« during the Year of Germany in India will feed the »new current« in our bilateral relations. Does that sound too ambitious? Not at all, for the foundations are already there. As Mr Westerwelle emphasised in his speech at IIT Delhi, »India and Germany are a community of values. These include democracy, the rule of law and shared ideas about the value of freedom. This is what binds us together. This solid foundation of values is at the base of the strategic partnership between India and Germany.« ■

A FRESH PUSH

The recent election of India and Germany as non-permanent members to the United Nations Security Council has brought back the focus yet again on the demand for the restructuring and expansion of this elite decision-making body that is responsible for maintaining peace and security in the world.

/ TEXT: PRANAY SHARMA



United Nations flag flies outside U.N. headquarters

India and Germany, along with Colombia, Portugal and South Africa, will replace Austria, Japan, Mexico, Turkey and Uganda at the end of the year and will begin their two-year term at the UNSC from January 1, 2011. The election of India and Germany to the UNSC, although as non-permanent members, could not have come at a better time. Both these countries, along with Japan and Brazil, have formed the Group of Four and have been demanding their inclusion at the Security Council as permanent members for some years now.

India has the second largest population in the world and has its largest liberal democracy. It is also one of the fastest growing economies which is listed as the eleventh economy in terms of GDP and fourth in terms of purchasing power parity in the world. It is the largest contributor to UN peace-keeping efforts and activities and maintains the third largest army in the world.

Germany, on its part, has been the third largest contributor to the UN regular budgets. It is the fourth largest economy in the world and a key player in international affairs and one of the driving engines of the European Union's integration.

The Security Council was formed in the aftermath of World War II in 1945. Of the five permanent members of the Council, four – the United States, Russia (formerly Soviet Union), the United Kingdom and France – are countries that ended up as winners of WW II. China is the fifth permanent member of the Security Council. All these five countries, known as the P-5, also have veto power that can block any resolution from being moved in the Council. There are also 10 non-permanent members in the UNSC who take turns in serving a two-year term in the decision making body, but without the power to veto any resolution. But there is a growing recognition among the 192 members of the UN General Assembly – the main constituency that will elect new members to the Security Council – that it is time the UNSC was reconstructed and expanded. Many of these member countries want to see both India and Germany as permanent members in the Security Council so that it is more reflective and representative of today's world.

There have been debates in different parts of the world over the effectiveness of the UNSC. Many have questioned whether the Security Council continues to enjoy the power and authority to maintain world peace and security. Some have argued this point by giving examples of the manner

in which the US took the unilateral decision to invade Iraq some years back by totally disregarding the opinion of the Security Council. The proponents of this argument say that a powerful country and a big power does not need approval from others. It does what is in its interest. But the supporters of this view often forget that there was a raging debate in the US at the time when it had decided to invade Iraq, and that debate continues to a certain extent even today, not only in the US but also in the UK, the only other P-5 member that had supported the war. One of the major outcomes of this debate has been a re-assertion of multilateralism, as against unilateralism, and on the importance of consensus building among members of the world community.

India and Germany, both of which had opposed the US move, can take the lead now in ensuring that future crises in the world are faced by a collective decision based on consensus building. Their entry into the Security Council from early next year will provide India and Germany the opportunity to establish their ability and capability of facing the challenges of the world. This period will be crucial for the two countries. It will not only put their credentials to test in meeting these challenges. It will also test their ability to convince the other members of the Security Council and those in the General Assembly in reaching an agreement on the formula on the basis of which the highest decision-making body in the world can be reconstructed and expanded.

The relationship between India and Germany has been growing steadily closer over the years. There have been a number of high-level exchanges between the two countries in the past decade or so. Both are also looking at newer areas to deepen their ties as they continue to strengthen their economic cooperation. But sitting together at the high table of the Security Council will also provide them with the opportunity to test the nature and character of their growing relationship. Their ability to iron out differences on crucial issues and handle differences when they fail to reach an agreement will prove the true mettle and maturity of Indo-German relations. ■

Pranay Sharma is a senior commentator on foreign policy and writes for the Outlook magazine.

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GROWING TOGETHER

India was among the first Allied nations to terminate its state of war and set up diplomatic relations with Germany

/ TEXT: PRAMIT PAL CHAUDHURI

Jawaharlal Nehru and German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer established diplomatic relations between India and Germany soon after the Allied powers gave the permission to reopen the German Foreign Office in 1951. Independent India and Germany began their foreign relations on a positive note over a shared tragic national experience: partition. Still haunted by its experience of partition when it became independent, India recognised only West Germany and justified it with a 'one German' policy. It was not until 1972 that India was to extend diplomatic relations to East Germany.

West Germany was an early contributor to Nehru's ambitious industrialisation plans, an aid relationship that continues to this day. Nehru's first visit to Germany in July 1956 led to the first Indo-German development project, the Rourkela steel mill in Orissa. German aid helped establish the Indian Institute of Technology in Madras in 1959 as part of a programme to help India overcome a shortage of specialised engineers. Cultural and business links were institutionalised by the opening of several branches of the Goethe Institute (Max Müller Bhavans), the launch of the South Asia Institute at Heidelberg University and the inauguration of the Indo-German-Chamber of Commerce.

Despite this constructive beginning, the two countries maintained a cordial but shallow relationship during the period of the Cold War. This reflected simple geographical distance, but also the self-imposed isolation of India from

the world economy. Germany focused its diplomatic energies on forging a closer European union while, from the 1960s onwards, the shifting sands of Asian geopolitics led India to drift closer to the Soviet Union. The economic relations were relatively anaemic during the Cold War. The creation of a single European Union trade policy further weakened any incentive for New Delhi to spotlight on a German-focused trade strategy. India instead spent 12 years negotiating the 1974 Commercial Cooperation Agreement with the then European Economic Community. Given the static composition of India's exports throughout the decades before liberalisation, India's primary focus was on retaining the lower tariffs that were granted under the generalised system of preferences to developing countries. One of the areas German and Indian civil society did not meet on was immigration. Through the 1950s and 1990s, while millions of Indians migrated to English-speaking Western countries, only few came to Germany. This was to have its impact when India's economy began opening up in the 1990s. As numerous studies have shown, a professional Indian diaspora population played a crucial role in building the service industry links between their adopted and mother countries. Germany had no such migrant intermediary and its service connection to India has begun to develop about a decade after those between India and the US and the UK. However, during this period of benign neglect, bilateral bridges were held open through the German Peace Corps and the German Academic Exchange Service. ►



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German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh after they reviewed a German Bundeswehr guard of honour

A tectonic shift in bilateral relations took place after India decided to begin the liberalisation of its economy in 1991. As the country's economic growth rate increased and its domestic market expanded, trade and investment ties with Germany grew proportionately. Indo-German trade grew to €13.4 billion in 2008 as compared to less than €2 billion in 1991. Germany is now India's sixth largest foreign direct investor. A survey by the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce this year found many managers of German firms believed India would »soon catch up with China in terms of significance for their global businesses«. There are an estimated 2,700 joint ventures in India between firms from the two countries. The two countries laid out the blueprint for a more comprehensive relationship in the Agenda for Indo-German Partnership in the 21st Century, which was signed by the two countries' foreign ministers in May 2000. It sets out potential areas for intensifying bilateral relations. On April 23, 2006, it was supplemented by a Joint Declaration on strategic partnership between the two countries, signed by Federal Chancellor Merkel and Prime Minister Singh.

Science and technology is another burgeoning relationship and, arguably, the most important facet of bilateral ties. Indian students are the third largest recipients of Alexander von Humboldt scholarships. Indian scientists are among the largest foreign representatives in the Max Planck Institutes. The success of Indian firms in precision-engineered automobile components has been another source of interest to

Germany's car-centred corporate sector. India, in its turn, is looking to replicate the success of Germany's world-beating small and medium-sized engineering firms. One of the consequences of this agenda has been an attempt to bring a strategic element to the existing economic and technological relationship. This has seen tangible cooperation in the Group of Four, a group of countries including India and Germany who seek permanent seats in an expanded United Nations Security Council. The two countries have close counterterrorism and nascent military relationships.

Like many European states, Germany has begun urging India to take a greater role in global and multilateral forums. Berlin continues to urge New Delhi to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, but sees this as a part of a larger policy of persuading India to become an international stakeholder. Germany fully supported the US's recent decision to exempt India from Nuclear Suppliers Group sanctions. As German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle recently said, »We see India, with its strong commitment to democracy and to stable institutions, with its economic openness and dynamic growth, as our partner for a model of global cooperation among equals.« ■

Pramit Pal Chaudhuri is the Senior Editor of The Hindustan Times. Previously he was the paper's foreign editor. In his articles he specializes in India's international security and economic policy.



India's PM Jawaharlal Nehru (right) meets Germany's President Theodor Heuß (middle) and Chancellor Konrad Adenauer (left) in 1956

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Infinite Opportunities

The German Year in India – officially entitled »Germany and India 2011 - 2012: Infinite Opportunities« – which is being held in India from autumn 2011 until autumn 2012, is an important milestone in Indo-German relations and will mark the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and India

/ TEXT: MEERA MENEZES

Have you ever heard of the ›Möbius Strip‹? If not, then be prepared to see a lot of it in the coming months. Because this is the logo that has been chosen for a special programme that kicks off in September 2011: The Year of Germany in India. Titled ›Germany and India 2011-2012: Infinite Opportunities‹, this unique public-private partnership project strives to showcase the entire spectrum of Indo-German cooperation in the spheres of politics, business, culture, education, science and research.

Named after the German astronomer and mathematician August Ferdinand Möbius (1790-1868), the ›Möbius Strip‹ has a very unique feature. It has only one side and a single edge. Developed for the project by an Indian design team, it shows the Indian tricolour melding seamlessly with the colours of the German national flag, visually articulating the close ties between the two nations.

So why was the strip chosen to symbolise the programme? Heiko Sievers, Regional Director South Asia at Goethe-Institut New Delhi, who also heads up the project team, sheds

some light. »The famous Möbius Strip, selected as the logo for the Year of Germany in India, symbolises this partnership brilliantly – no inner or outer edges, just an infinite continuum of interrelations on an equal footing.«

During the recent visit of the German Foreign Minister, Dr. Guido Westerwelle, to India, a Memorandum of Understanding for the reciprocal Year of Germany in India in 2011-12 and the Year of India in Germany in 2012-13 was signed between the German Federal Foreign Office and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. While the theme of the German Year in India is ›StadtRäume – CitySpaces‹, the Days of India in Germany will be titled ›Connecting Cultures‹.

Envisaged to commemorate the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Germany and India, both the festive years will be conducted with the aim of further strengthening the strategic partnership and cooperation between the countries, as well as enhancing the mutual understanding and traditional friendship between their peoples.

The theme ›StadtRäume – CitySpaces‹ will encompass issues relating to mobility, migration, water, energy, waste management, housing and building technology, infrastructure, public space, finance, planning and governance among others. Platforms will be provided to highlight German expertise, products and research relating to the challenges posed by these issues.

»With the German Year in India and its focus on ›StadtRäume – CitySpaces‹ Germany will present itself as an innovative and creative partner who can address future issues in cooperation with India. We hope to enhance the visibility of the already existing reliable Indo-German collaboration in all fields and to provide impetus for new joint ventures,« says Clemens Kroll, Cultural Counsellor at the German Embassy.

The 15-month programme, which will extend from September 2011 till November 2012, will cover the seven Indian metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad and Pune. In addition, tailor-made events will be hosted in cities with a strong German business, science or cultural presence. These include Chandigarh, Coimbatore, Ahmedabad, Trivandrum, Aurangabad and Jaipur. The project will culminate with the 13th Asia-Pacific Conference of German Business at the beginning of November 2012 in Delhi.

A unique feature of the festival is a mobile unit that will host the events and will travel to the major cities of the subcontinent. Conceptualised as the ›face‹ of the German Year in India, it will serve as an interactive space that will bring together German stakeholders from the government, communities, the cultural sector, business, science and research as well as education on a common platform. This innovative, temporary architectural structure will be set up for approximately two weeks at appropriate public sites in the seven metros. The core structure will be complemented with smaller modules where individual companies can make their presentations. The intersection between the worlds of culture and business often has interesting spin-offs – as experienced by German companies at other international fora. A pop concert, for example, draws in younger viewers, which in turn often translates into them visiting the pavilions of German companies and getting acquainted with the innovative products or processes on offer.

The tender process for the selection of this mobile unit met with a tremendous response from 73 architectural firms in the fray. An eminent jury consisting of four German architects along with the two Indian architects, K.T. Ravindran and Charles Correa, whittled down the list to nine candidates before narrowing down their selection to the eventual winner.

Giving direction to the German Year in India is a consortium of stakeholders, which include three government-funded bodies – German Foreign Office, the Goethe-Institut, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research – as well as the Asia-Pacific Committee of German Business. While the aforementioned government organisations have pledged approximately €5 million towards the programme, they hope that their contribution will be matched by the German private sector. The response from German business circles so far has been extremely encouraging.

According to Friedolin Strack, Asia-Pacific Coordinator of the Federation of German Industry (BDI), there are a plethora of reasons why India is so attractive for German business interests. Firstly, the country – along with Brazil and China – can be viewed as a strategic growth market. Its rapid growth in the past couple of years has served as a stimulus, helping the German economy pull out more quickly from the recent financial and economic crisis. Secondly, the proximity to consumers and the market is of great importance for German industry. Consequently, projects that help increase the visibility of German companies in India automatically have a greater resonance. Thirdly, the occasion brings together the fields of politics, culture, science, education and economy onto a common platform.

In addition, Mr. Strack feels that Indo-German collaborations lead to mutual understanding and learning from each other. He singles out the Tata Nano as one such example of successful cooperation. According to him, the Indian vision coupled with the strong participation of German automotive supply companies – such as BASF, Bosch, Continental and Freudenberg – and the joint collaboration of Indian and German engineers helped develop specific solutions tailored to Indian needs.

It is an opinion echoed by Goethe-Institut's Heiko Sievers. »By transmitting authentic information about Germany and the Germans, the Year of Germany will further boost the positive image that our country enjoys in India. Conversely, the German maha mela and the new joint initiatives it entails will have tremendous positive repercussions in Germany and will further enhance India's image as a prized, innovative, high-capacity partner.« Clearly the upcoming Year of Germany in India promises to offer a win-win situation for both countries. ■

Meera Menezes is a senior specialist in the Marketing and Communications department at a multinational organisation. She has worked as a producer at the South Asia Bureau of ARD First German Television for over a decade.



Germany's Ambassador to India Thomas Matussek

CITY SPACES

Ambassador Thomas Matussek on strategic partnership and the infinite opportunities for Indo-German cooperation to confront the challenges of urbanisation

/ INTERVIEW: YVONNE KRAUSE

Germany and India 2011-2012: Infinite Opportunities – this unique public-private partnership project focuses on strengthening strategic partnership between the two countries. How would you define strategic partnership?

Thomas Matussek: Strategic partnership means that Germany and India on the basis of their shared values – democracy, respect for human rights, freedom of expression, market economy – want to pursue their common interests on a global scale, but also in the region and in their bilateral relationship. Reform of the United Nations, including the Security Council, reform of international financial institutions, fight against terrorism, climate and regional issues such as Afghanistan and Pakistan are high on our common agenda. The election of our two countries as non-permanent members of the UNSC will provide a fresh impetus for these important political objectives. In our joint efforts, we can contribute to make the world a safer, more stable and more prosperous place. When it comes to bilateral aspects of our strategic relationship, there are already many fields where our cooperation is outstanding. However, we must create even more awareness of the infinite

opportunities that we can offer each other. The inclusive growth programme of the UPA-II government offers an excellent opportunity for German science and technology, but also corporate Germany to bring their experience and know-how to the table. It ranges from the German system of dual vocational training to infrastructure, to energy – including alternative energies, to issues of mobility, water and waste management.

Why is ›StadtRäume - CitySpaces‹ the core issue of this project?

Thomas Matussek: One of the major challenges of our times is how to handle complex processes of urban transformation. When I lived in India in the eighties, about 75 to 80 percent of Indians lived in villages. In 10 years, it will probably be only 50 percent. This means that we will see ever-growing megacities. Delhi in the early eighties had 6 million inhabitants. Today it is 16 million. In 10 years it will probably have 22 million. This urbanization process creates a number of opportunities but also huge challenges. How can poor and rich live together in such megacities?

How can they move from one place to another? How can proper medical facilities be provided? How are we going to secure water and electricity supply? These are all problem areas that we have to address and where German know-how could be perfectly implemented. On a smaller scale we have shown in our own country, when it was rebuilt by our parents after the war, how we can make our cities more liveable. We would like to share this knowledge with India.

An aim of the German Year in India is to enhance mutual understanding. Why do you think mutual understanding is crucial for a successful bilateral collaboration?

Thomas Matussek: In a globalised world – if you want to live peacefully together and if you want to avoid sowing seeds of mistrust, of xenophobia and in the end even of conflict – it is very important to understand how the other culture functions. Many of the young Indian elites look towards the United States and Europe. They want to examine Western industrialised societies to find out what they can use for the further development of their own country. On the other hand Europeans and Germans look to India as a sort of laboratory to see how people – 1.2 billion from different ethnic, religious, cultural backgrounds – can live and work together, perhaps even as a model for the ever more integrating European Union.

You are the chairman of the project committee. What drives your personal engagement?

Thomas Matussek: My personal engagement is driven by my deep admiration and love for India. I see India as one of the leading powers of the future. It is a country which is

still in fermentation, which is deeply rooted in its old civilisation but at the same time a global player in the knowledge society of the 21st century. To be part and parcel of this process, not just as an observer but as a partner, is a very challenging and highly rewarding experience for a diplomat.

What can Indians expect from ›Germany and India 2011-2012: Infinite Opportunities‹?

Thomas Matussek: Today's younger generation is curious, technology-minded and very interested in knowing what is going on in Europe and Germany. We are looking at ways to build upon this curiosity and to satisfy this demand for information. Three years ago we flagged off in Delhi the Science Express. This is a train that runs through India and has attracted over 2.2 million people. It showcases modern science and technology. In the railcars, modern multimedia technology and innovative exhibits show where the cutting edge of research currently stands in the world and which new topics are breaking new ground, how the different spheres of knowledge are interrelated and how they will affect our lives in the future. Furthermore, visitors can get more information on the possibilities for studying and researching in Germany. I think we will be able to draw the same kind of attention with the ›Germany and India 2011-2012‹ pavilion. We want to create a forum for discussion and exchange. There will even be rock concerts and electronic music events. I am sure it will be highly attractive and engage people's curiosity. I am convinced that further information, deeper knowledge and understanding will grow out of this curiosity. And that is what marks a relationship between two great democracies. ■

SKILLS GOODS TECHNOLOGY

Germany is India's most important trade partner in the European Union. The exchange of goods and services has been growing in double digits for several years

/ TEXT: HELMUT HAUSCHILD

A technician works on the bogie of a 190 tonne crane that can lift 160 tonne

Three years ago German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh met in New Delhi and agreed on an ambitious goal: by 2012 Indo-German trade would reach a volume of €20 billion. Soon thereafter, the world economic crisis erupted and the optimistic projections of the two leaders seemed obsolete. However, India's growth rate only suffered for a short time and Germany overcame a deep recession with flying colours. Hence, now is the time for an interim look at Indo-German economic relations.

A suitable opportunity for this was offered by the meeting of the Indo-German Joint Commission for Industrial and Economic Cooperation at the end of September when Germany's Minister of Economics Rainer Brüderle came to New Delhi with a large delegation of entrepreneurs. He chaired the session along with the Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee. Both politicians agreed on one thing: in spite of the global crisis the €20 billion target set by the two heads of government in 2007 would remain valid. The bilateral trade between the two countries was »on the road to success«, according to Brüderle. Mukherjee called the economic relations between the two countries »extremely dynamic«.

The statistics clearly support these claims. It was only in 2009, at the peak of the crisis, that it declined marginally by 2.3 percent. However, this dent was moderate, as compared to the sharp 13 percent decline in trade between India and the EU as a whole. German products have a good reputation in the Indian market. Capital goods like machines, electrical engineering and chemical products from Germany are especially in demand. In 2009 German exports to India amounted to about €8 billion. The imports from India – lately worth €5 billion – are dominated by textiles and apparels that account for about 30 percent of the total volume. However, Asia's third largest economy is also becoming increasingly more important as a buying market. The German industry procures chemical products, machines and vendor parts for the automobile sector here.

Germany hopes that the planned Free Trade Agreement between India and the EU will give Indo-German trade an additional impetus. Negotiations for abolishing most of the mutual duties have been going on for three years. Brüderle emphasised in Delhi that the talks were moving in the right direction. The German minister also indicated a willingness to accommodate Indian demands on a central point of conflict, namely the social clauses required by the EU. Instead of being directly included in the agreement, the clause pertaining to the prohibition of child labour could be regulated through voluntary commitments by Indian exporters, he said. Optimists believe that a basic agreement on the free trade pact could be reached in time for the EU-India summit at the end of the year in Brussels.

During his first visit to New Delhi and Mumbai, Brüderle stressed that he wants to encourage German medium-sized companies in particular to come to India. As an economic powerhouse with an average economic growth rate of more than eight percent per annum India offers German companies »excellent opportunities«. The German government is ready to help medium-sized companies in entering the Indian market, for example, by promoting trade fair appearances in India. Brüderle believes India will continue to drive the global economy along with China. »Half of the growth in the world's economy is on account of these two countries,« he said.

Brüderle sees good chances for greater cooperation, particularly in the immense backlog demand in the construction of roads, ports and airports and in the development of India's power supply facilities. The Indian government anticipates infrastructure investments worth \$550 billion in the current Five Year Plan ending in 2012 and hopes for German participation. Thus, Finance Minister Mukherjee solicited the participation of the entrepreneurs accompanying the German minister in infrastructure development within the frameworks of a Public Private Partnership (PPP). In the past months Indian Minister for Roads and Highways Kamal Nath has got a few legal reforms off the ground, that are expected to make PPP projects more attractive for foreign investors. In his discussions with Brüderle, Nath emphasized India's great interest in German engineering and planning know-how for large projects. According to him, medium-sized architectural and engineering firms from Germany would be highly welcome in India.

New Delhi is counting on German technology in tapping renewable energies also. A large-scale Solar Mission aims to generate a total of 20,000 mega watt from solar energy by the year 2022. The German, federally-owned KfW Bankengruppe, a promotional bank, is financially supporting the construction of the first solar-thermal power plant in India in the desert of Rajasthan. This also explains the presence of representatives from the German solar industry in Brüderle's delegation.

Indo-German economic relations rate high for both sides as demonstrated by the quick succession of visits by politicians from both sides this autumn. A few days after Brüderle's visit, the chief Minister of Lower Saxony David McAllister met a delegation of about 50 representatives from the fields of economy and science in India, including VW chairman Martin Winterkorn. Volkswagen has recently invested €580 million in an ultramodern automobile plant near Pune. Then the Indian Minister for Trade and Industry Anand Sharma travelled to Germany in the beginning of October. This was followed by German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle's visit to New Delhi in mid-October. ►

There was one common thread running through all the discussions: India's great interest in the German system of dual vocational education and training, whereby employers bear the costs of training young skilled workers in-house as well as in external vocational colleges. German society is increasingly becoming older and there is already a shortage of skilled personnel. India, in contrast, has a huge reservoir of young workers with its 1.2 billion inhabitants. However, many of them have not had any vocational training so far and remain stuck in poverty. This deficiency in training is also very disadvantageous for India's economic development. The country needs well-qualified skilled workers in order to attain its goal of progressive industrialisation.

Thus, vocational training figured high up on the list of topics during Brüderle's talks with Indian companies, as it did during McAllister's meeting with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. India's Minister of Trade Sharma also solicited Germany's help in training young skilled workers while he was in Berlin.

The first initiatives have already begun. The Indo-German Chamber of Commerce runs four training centres. During McAllister's visit Volkswagen opened a professional educational academy in Pune that primarily trains workers for the VW plant located close by. »This is a pilot project for qualification and training in the automobile industry for the whole of India,« says Mukesh Malhotra, President of the Chamber of Commerce in Pune. During his visit to Mumbai, Brüderle had announced the posting of a German expert who would help India in developing the curriculum for vocational colleges. Measured against the huge demand, these are merely small steps. However, they have clearly made an impact – as can be deduced from the growing interest of Indian politicians and managers in the German system of dual vocational education and training.

Germany ranks eighth among foreign investors in India. About 800 German companies are represented here through subsidiaries or joint ventures. »Most of them earn very well in India,« observes Hubert Lienhard, chairman of the

mechanical engineering company Voith and the chairman of the India Economic Committee of German Industry. German investments in India are still a long way off from Germany's involvement in China. However, they are constantly increasing. Thus, Daimler has invested €730 million in a new truck plant in Chennai. Siemens is planning a €250 million plant for the production of wind turbines. In 2009 the chemical company Lanxess bought the Indian concern Gwalior Chemicals for €82 million.

However, market access for foreign investors is still restricted in important sectors like retail, banking and insurance, telecommunications and defence. The German insurance companies Allianz and Ergo want to increase their 26 percent share in joint ventures with Indian partners, but they are not allowed to do so. A planned joint venture of the European aircraft company EADS with the Indian conglomerate Larsen & Toubro for the manufacture of defence-related electronic equipment was cancelled because of this 26 percent limit. »India must allow broader access to the sectors that are still protected,« Brüderle demanded. The industry seconded him. According to a manager from the armaments industry in Brüderle's delegation, India must allow foreigners a bigger stake if it wants transfer of technology in the defence sector.

Indian enterprises are also strengthening their presence in Germany. India is primarily interested in the medium-sized industry's technical know-how and knowledge of the market. The number of German firms being taken over by Indian companies is also rising after a decline caused by the financial crisis. According to Brüderle, this is a positive development. »Indian money is very welcome in Germany,« he said, inviting the hosts to join him in further developing the economic relations of the two countries. ■

Helmut Hauschild is the Bureau Chief South and Southeast Asia of Germany's leading business and financial daily Handelsblatt.

Turbine montage at Siemens AG in Saxonia, Germany



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HUNGER FOR ORGANIC

*Organic products are healthier, protect the environment
and bring more money to the producers*

/ TEXT: VOLKER MÜLLER

Employees pluck tea leaves inside the organic tea garden estate at Temi village in India's northeastern state of Sikkim

© REUTERS

It is September and the mornings are already cold. Wafts of mist float southwards along the gently sloping hills at sunrise. The moisture condenses on the delicate, light green leaves of the tea shrubs that proliferate on the hills and mountain ridges. The climate in Darjeeling, situated on the foothills of the Himalayas, is unique. Just like its tea.

Thomas Räuchle imagines himself walking through these lush tea gardens. For 25 years the company Teekampagne in Potsdam has been sourcing its raw material from this region, and since this year exclusively as an organic product. »The first organic tea cultivators had to be brave, visionary and tenacious,« says Räuchle, Teekampagne's general manager. In those days people laughed at them – in the best-case scenario. Occasionally they also had to face people's hostility and deal with aggression. Their harvests declined, as did their earnings.

The conclusion today is unequivocal: the step has paid off. Organic products fetch higher prices and are better protected against imitation. According to the Tea Board of India, only one out of four kilogrammes of conventional Darjeeling tea is actually genuine.

The shift to organic cultivation has helped many: consumers, importers, producers and agricultural labourers. »Organic cultivation has positive effects on the health of the farmhands. The number of cases of respiratory diseases in hospitals has significantly declined ever since organic cultivation was introduced in the plantations,« claimed an agromonomical analysis by Deutsche Bank. Today a majority of the tea estates in Darjeeling are cultivated organically.

However, Teekampagne and the Darjeeling region are an exception. So far, organic goods from India have been a niche product in Europe and Germany. According to experts, barely one percent of the 136,600 tonnes of food products worth €297 million imported from India to Germany in 2009 were organic. Mostly the importers are small local suppliers, such as Rudolf Bühler, an organic farmer from Wolpertshausen near Schwäbisch Hall. Since 2001 he has been buying organic pepper from Kerala – initially 1.5 tonnes per year and now more than 50 tonnes. He pays considerably more than the international market price and thus helps his Indian trade partners in being economically viable. It is a small project as compared to the national standard. So far, India's organic producers have also been a minority. In 2007 only 0.6 percent of the agricultural fields were being cultivated in a sustainable manner.

Yet, India has a tremendous potential, says Gerald Herrmann, director of the Munich-based business consultancy Organic Services: the size of the country, its rich agrarian tradition, a large range of crop plants and numerous climate zones. »However, there is still a lack of eco-infrastructure,« notes Herrmann. Hence, it is not easy to market and distribute the organic commodities profitably. »In my opinion the creation of value-added supply chains, the development of long term trade ties and the coordination of sales represent the biggest challenges for the Indian organic sector,« says Herrmann.

BioFach India, a subsidiary of the German company BioFach Nürnberg, wants to help. In 2009 the India Organic Trade Fair which was held for the first time in Mumbai brought together organic producers and traders, explored the opportunities for developing organic cultivation and discussed the challenges faced by the sector in India. This year BioFach will also open its office in Mumbai in the beginning of December.

Yet another positive impetus could come from the Free Trade Agreement, which might be signed by India and the European Union (EU). »It will facilitate an added sales potential of about \$9 billion,« states India's minister for economic affairs Anand Sharma – a large part of it in trade with agricultural products.

Organic cultivation has disproportionately large opportunities in countries like India, says Deutsche Bank's Claire Schaffnit-Chatterjee. »Organic cultivation requires a greater employment of labour, but it can cut costs in the purchase of nitrogen fertilisers, insecticides and herbicides.« Organic farming would lead to net savings, especially in regions where labour is inexpensive but capital is rare. It is particularly lucrative in the case of high value export goods.

Thomas Räuchle also believes that a changeover would give cultivators good returns in the medium term despite lower per hectare crop yields. »The yields decline by 15-20 percent but this decline is more than compensated by the 30-35 percent higher retail prices.« According to a survey carried out by the German League for Organic Food Production (BÖLW) consumers of organic products in Europe display a greater willingness to pay. The demand remains stable even in economically difficult times. Organically produced foodstuffs are the last items to be affected by economising and the turnover fluctuates only marginally. ►

Organic goods are not a marginal product in Europe any more. In 2008 the market in the EU alone grew by 10 percent as compared to the previous year to reach a volume of €16.76 billion. Germany is the biggest individual market with a volume of €5.85 billion, followed by France with €2.59 billion and UK with €2.49 billion. The Danes are the frontrunners in the per-head sales category. They spend €132.2 annually on organic goods. In contrast the EU's average per head expenditure is just €34.10.

These figures also attract criminals. In April 2009 the Indian food export authority Apeda discovered »frauds on a gigantic scale« in the export of organic cotton according to its director Sanjay Dave. Large quantities of genetically modified cotton had been declared as organic goods by dozens of Indian farmers' associations colluding with western certifying firms.

The receivers of the counterfeit goods were European chain stores like H&M, C&A and Tchibo. In view of the higher prices, this amounts to cheating the consumers, says Lothar Kruse, director of the laboratory Impetus in Bremerhaven. »Those who buy organic would certainly not want GM.« Meanwhile, Apeda has tightened controls and compelled two of the certifying firms to change their operating procedures, since India does not want to jeopardise its \$3.2 billion export business in organic cotton.

Organic consciousness is also increasing in India. Organic stores have been opened in several parts of Mumbai and the city's first weekly market of organic goods was launched in March 2010 where customers can procure fruits and vegetables directly from the farmers – without any middlemen – a profitable venture for both sides. The consumers' favourite this year were the organic mangoes.

»A growing number of people are consciously opting for organic goods and especially coming to our shop to buy brown sugar, sesame oil or whole-grain flour,« reports Niranjan Deshpande, manager of the Nature's Basket branch in the

suburb of Lokhandwala. Reetha Balsavar, proprietor of the organic store Navdanya in Andheri, confirms the trend. »Our clientele has been growing continuously for several years. It consists primarily of mothers wanting to feed their babies healthy food who gradually convert the entire household.« In addition, there is the growing Indian middle class which has become acquainted with and learnt to appreciate organic goods abroad. Chain stores like Nature's Basket, a subsidiary of the conglomerate Godrej, now want to spread the Green Revolution further.

Experts believe that organic cultivation is not only an opportunity for India but also a challenge. Small farmers lack the knowledge and technique, the prevalent trade structures fleece the producers and the logistical infrastructure is deficient. Non-governmental organisations constantly complain about the organic producers being fleeced by middlemen. The government, on its part, complains about the large amount of food which is spoilt in transit. Occasionally it is also difficult for Indian suppliers to compete with their Asian neighbours who jumped on the organic bandwagon years ago, especially in the international markets.

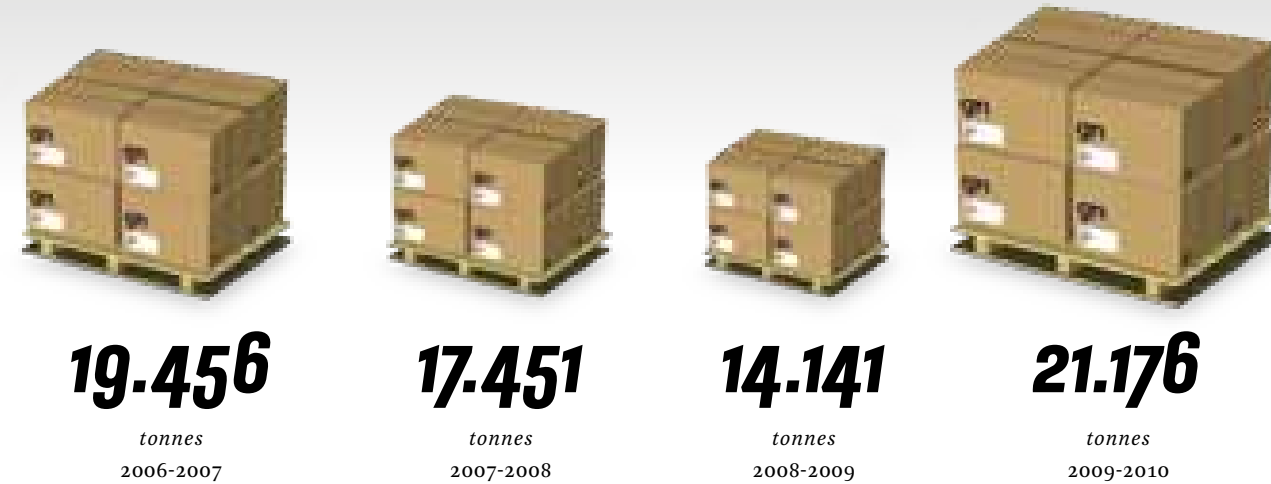
Thus, organic expert Herrmann recommends paying greater attention to the second level of the value-added chain: »I always recommend that India should offer semi-finished goods, processed goods and products with added value in the export market since organic raw materials from more reasonably priced suppliers, especially from other Asian countries, are competitively more viable.« On the other hand, the country also needs to develop the necessary structures for basic products as well as for processed goods. ■

Volker Müller is a Delhi-based business journalist and runs the correspondent office German Press India. He reports about the Indian economy regularly for leading German publications, including Die Welt, Financial Times Deutschland, WirtschaftsWoche, Capital and Spiegel Online.

AN UPWARD TREND AGAIN AFTER A DECLINE

Export of Indian organic products (in tonnes)

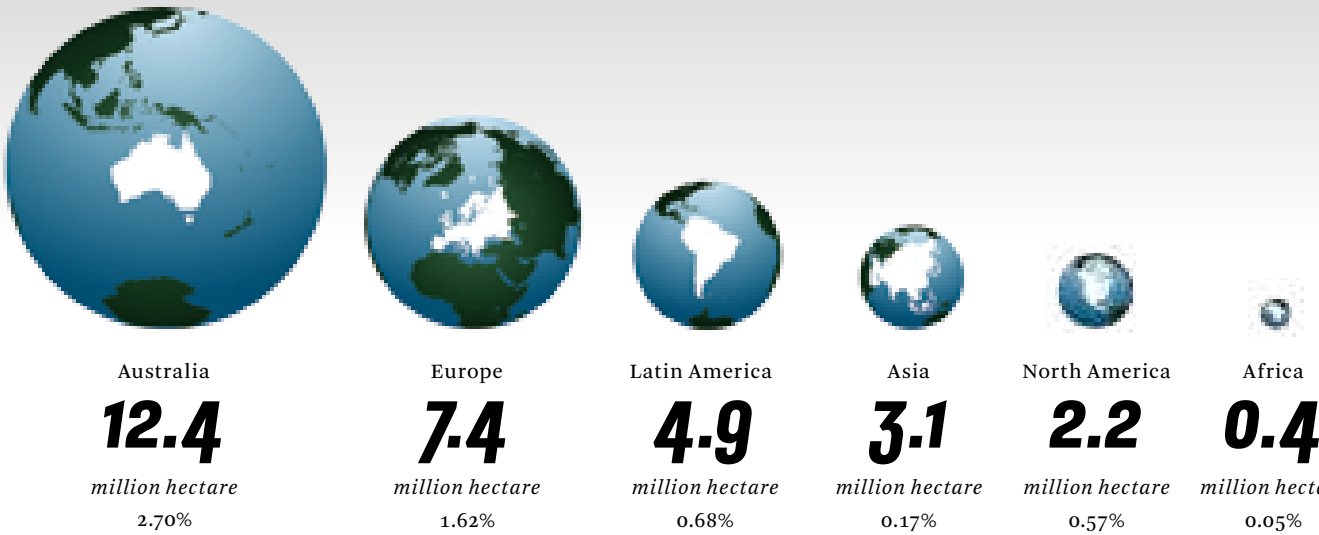
/ SOURCE: DGCIS/APEDA



HOMELANDS OF ORGANIC GOODS

Organically cultivated fields (In hectare / percent of the total acreage, continent-wise)

/ SOURCE: FIBL SURVEY 2008



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RUPEES FOR EASTERN GERMANY

On 3 October, 20 years ago, East Germany joined West Germany to become one country. The political impact caused by the fall of the iron curtain is commonly recognised in India. Though unnoticed for years, the east has kicked off as a worthwhile region for Indian investments and entrepreneurs

/ TEXT: NADINE BÖS

Brand-Erbisdorf, the capital of Saxony's Mittelsachsen district, is not exactly a place many Indians would be familiar with. This laidback former mining town located about half an hour from Dresden hasn't made many international headlines.

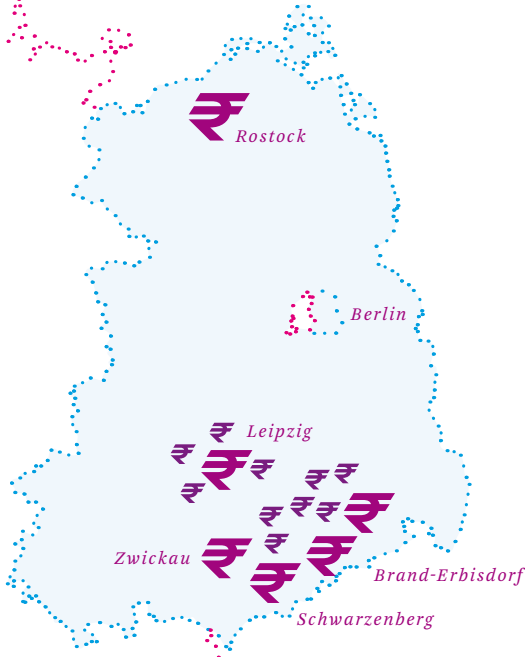
One of the few it did was thanks to Baba Kalyani when the head of the family-owned €1.8 billion Kalyani Group decided to invest in Brand-Erbisdorf. It was here – in provincial eastern Germany of all places – that Kalyani acquired the local aluminium forge, which was part of the liquidation assets of the bankrupt firm Carl Dan Peddinghaus. Today Bharat Forge Aluminiumtechnik may have a workforce of just a hundred employees, but with an annual turnover of €30 million, the automotive supplier is already »one of the major employers in the city«, says head of urban development department Jürgen Olbrich. The plant manufactures steering knuckles and control arms for the front axle of various models of Audi, Volkswagen, BMW, Porsche and Ferrari. Up to 1.7 million forged aluminium parts are dispatched from the factory every year. It is a market dominated by only very few highly specialised niche suppliers.

»It was a huge stroke of luck for us that Baba Kalyani bought the factory at the time,« says Peter Hopp, who heads Bharat Forge Aluminiumtechnik today. »His attitude wasn't smash and grab. He had long term plans. He wants us to earn our money here and reinvest it here.« Of course, the acquisition was also a cherry pick for Kalyani, given the investment incentives available in eastern Germany and the almost 30 percent lower wages as compared to western Germany. »We still have

the 42-hour working week,« adds Peter Hopp. Even in India the »Baba wouldn't be able to produce these specialised parts better and cheaper than in Brand Erbisdorf. »And that's why he's staying here.«

According to researchers and business consultants, Indian investors should actually be flocking to follow Kalyani's example and invest their money in the »new« states in eastern Germany. As a location, eastern Germany offers »very specific advantages« for Indian companies that are rapidly targeting the European market, according to Moritz Freiherr Schenck, an expert on India at the consultancy firm KPMG. Of course, investors across the board can benefit from the favourable labour costs, attractive government incentives and modern infrastructure available in the eastern German states; however there is a striking match between the interests of Indian investors and the conditions in East Germany. »Industry sectors for which the eastern part of Germany is best known are also those sectors that are currently the fastest growing in India,« says Schenck. »Renewable energy, microelectronics, engineering and automotive components.«

It may initially come as a surprise, but on the ground things are already moving in this direction. Post reunification, some Indian investors have opted for eastern Germany – and frequently they are from the sectors named above. Wind turbine manufacturer Suzlon chose Rostock for setting up its R&D centre in 2003. Last September the company reaffirmed its faith in the location by moving into a brand new technology centre.



The current 120-strong workforce in Rostock is expected to increase soon to 200, as announced by chairman and managing director Tulsi Tanti.

There are more such examples. Eisenwerke Erla, a highly specialised automotive supplier, has been part of the Indian Sanmar Group since 2007 with 250 employees in Schwarzenberg in South Saxony. IT service provider Larsen & Toubro Information Technology has offices in Leipzig. And electrical and electronic manufacturer Voltas has a minority shareholding in textile machinery firm Terrot in Chemnitz.

But Indian companies from other, very different sectors have also set up shop in the »new« German states; for instance Essel Propack from Mumbai, manufacturer of packing tubes. The company has held a 24.9 percent share in Essel Deutschland GmbH in Dresden since the year 2000. Essel Deutschland produces toothpaste and cream tubes and supplies primarily to discount retailers. The remaining 49 percent in this Indo-German joint venture are held by Munich investor Helmut Röschinger and 26.1 percent by a sleeping partner. »In terms of location, Dresden offers several advantages,« states the managing director of Essel Deutschland, Matthias Lütke-meier. »At that time investment incentives were being provided here and land was reasonably priced. The labour costs are also 20 to 30 percent lower than in the western part of Germany.«

Business is booming at the Dresden plant; that much is evident at first glance. Next to the production halls where employees dressed in sterile white lab coats and caps feed the clanking tube machines, bulldozers are at work on a construction site. »Our plant has become too small. We have just laid the foundation stone for a new hall next door,« says Lütke-meier. »We will be investing a total of €8 million.« A new logistics section is planned and production is set to rise from the current 200 million tubes a year to 300 million tubes by 2015. Among the reasons that Lütke-meier proffers for business flourishing are the advantages that the location offers.

But the reason the Indian partners initially wanted the plant in Dresden was quite different. Röschinger, one of the shareholders, had also invested in a toothpaste manufacturing company by the name of Dental-Kosmetik in Dresden. The tubes were earlier manufactured for their own requirement. When he needed an investor for his tube unit in the year 2000, he found one in India. The Indian partner brought in the know-how, Helmut Röschinger the market. »Since Dental-Kosmetik was our first and most important customer, it made sense to set up the new tube manufacturing plant in Dresden so as to be close to the customer,« Lütke-meier recalls. »So it was actually more by chance that we were simultaneously able to utilise the advantages available in eastern Germany.«

More by chance, less by intent – this is still largely the case when Indian investors opt for eastern Germany, according to Rajnish Tiwari from the Hamburg University of Technology, who has been researching Indian investments in Germany for many years. The volume of engagement is low when compared to western Germany. »The total investments by Indians in the new German states are about €70 to 100 million,« estimates Tiwari. On the other hand, total Indian investments in Germany as a whole amounted to a sizeable €4.125 billion since reunification. According to Tiwari, the advantages offered by eastern Germany »continue to be significantly underestimated«.

However, KPMG expert Moritz Freiherr Schenck believes that this could change once the economy starts rebounding after the crisis. »Industrial clusters, such as »Silicon« Saxony, the chemicals industry around Leipzig, the automotive hub in the Erzgebirge region and the solar industry at Thalheim could prove interesting for Indian investors,« prophesies Schenck.

This view is confirmed by lawyer Markus Hoffmann, who specialises in Indian investments in the region and also heads the business network German-Indian Round Table Mitteldeutschland. »One other major advantage the region offers is infrastructure,« he says. »There is an excellent network of interstates and several important airports.« Real estate prices are low. Also, many East German universities have a technical orientation and provide the right training for skilled manpower in the relevant industry sectors. »Overall it is basically a dream location for those who want to invest their rupees in Germany,« feels Hoffmann.

According to Hoffmann, the fact that this is not yet reflected in the numbers is due to the modest marketing efforts of the eastern German states in India. Tiwari agrees: »The region has tremendous potential.« However, eastern Germany's industrial base is of course significantly smaller than that of the west. Moreover, Tiwari – who is from India himself – believes that there are also »emotional« barriers. »The big Indian communities in Germany are to be found in Düsseldorf, Frankfurt and Stuttgart. So, most Indians tend to gravitate to these regions. Eastern Germany needs to aggressively showcase itself to be able to tap into its potential,« feels Tiwari. He recommends catching the young by promoting university partnerships between India and eastern Germany. ■

Nadine BöS is business correspondent for the German daily newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ), mainly working for FAZ.NET . She first travelled to India in 2005, focusing on the topic of micro-insurance for the poor for her diploma-thesis. In her work for FAZ she has always kept an eye on topics related to India.

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Gunit Chadha, CEO of Deutsche Bank India

Deutsche Bank's new asset

Gunit Chadha has, in the space of seven years, transformed Deutsche Bank into India's leading investment bank. The secret to his success?

Enjoying his work, building keen teams and having a strong set of ethics.

/ TEXT: KUSHAN MITRA

Gunit Chadha is an extremely busy man, but when he takes a precious few minutes from his schedule to meet up with us, his demeanour is not of a harried executive, instead exuding a warm, cheerful feeling. A smiling and positive happy Banker is not how you would expect the Chief Executive Officer of Deutsche Bank AG's operations in India to look like. Many bankers who are often seen by the media to have an exalted opinion of themselves would do well to learn from Chadha.

That is because Chadha has reason to feel important. Why? After taking over Deutsche Bank's operations in India in 2003, the company has gone from strength to strength. From under 500 employees in 2003, there are over 7,500 employees in the Bank's Indian operations today – approximately 10 percent of its global workforce. Indian operations contribute about a quarter of the firms' profits in Asia Pacific. Euromoney, an international Business and investment magazine and website, has awarded Deutsche Bank 'The Best

Investment Bank in India' award in 2007 and 2009, and the bank has grown at a compounded 25 percent per annum for the past five years. No surprise then that in 2010, Deutsche Bank AG has book-run ten out of the twelve dollar bond issues by Indian companies as well as four of the six largest equity offerings of the year, including the recently concluded \$3.4 billion Coal India Limited issue.

For Gunit, this could so easily not have happened. In 1979, after completing his schooling from Delhi's prestigious St. Columba's School, Chadha, like his father and several other family members, was all set to join the Indian Army. He even cleared the exam for the National Defence Academy, India's premier military training academy for school graduates. Yet a few days before his medical examination, Chadha had a motorcycle accident and had to forego his medical examination. Instead, he joined Delhi University's premier institute, St. Stephen's College to read Economics. Following that, he studied at the Indian Institute of Management in Ahmedabad.

On graduation from management school, at a time well before the Indian economy was a powerhouse, Chadha joined the American banking major Citibank, where he spent the next 15 years. His job eventually landed him into the financial capital of the world, New York City. However, around 2000, Chadha resolved to return to India. And unlike some of his peers, he was steadfast in his resolve; to the extent that he and his family gave up their green cards and returned to Mumbai, where he joined as the MD & CEO of the semi-private/semi-government IDBI Bank. »This role exposed me to India through a very interesting business model around retail and mid-cap companies.« In 2003, at the end of his term, Chadha did not seek a renewal, choosing instead to join Deutsche Bank AG as its Indian CEO.

Deutsche Bank has been in India since 1980 and is celebrating their 30th anniversary in India this year. Yet, it was a small player in the corporate and investment banking space in 2003. Chadha transformed the company. »Being raised in an Armed Forces family gave me very strong set of middle-class values and a strong set of ethics. In Investment Banking, ethics is vital to building customer trust and without trust you will get nowhere, both at a personal and institutional level.« In the process, Chadha has also taken the Bank beyond just facilitating trade between India and Germany, though that remains a vital part of business. »Do you know that there are over 1,000 German companies in India? Not just the 'big boys' such as Lufthansa, Bosch, Siemens, Volkswagen and Bayer; but also a whole host of small and medium German companies. And now there are several Indian companies too who wish to invest and do trade with Germany. We facilitate trade and investment in both directions.«

In fact, Chadha believes that Deutsche Bank's growth in India has been helped tremendously by support from the top management. »Dr. Josef Ackermann, Chairman of the Management Board, has come to India several times, including hosting Deutsche Bank's premier annual Senior Management Conference in India in 2006 (the first time it was in Asia). Anshu Jain, Corporate & Investment Banking Head and Member of the Management Board, visits India to meet clients at least twice a year and Jürgen Fitschen, Member of the Management Board and Head of Regional Management annually brings along delegations of German midcaps to India, companies that have not yet invested in India, and shows them the massive opportunities that are here.« In fact, Chadha says, it was the opportunity to play a role in India's massive growth that brought him back to India in the first place. »Where else in the world can a company start out and become a market-leader in a decade. Look at what the team has done at Deutsche Bank.« It is with that growth objective in mind that Chadha has started retail and wealth management services for Deutsche Bank in India. »It's early days, but there is a massive opportunity in India in the consumer space as well.«

Asked whether he would have done anything differently, Chadha answers, »If I was to relive life, I would do everything – or let's say most things – the same way.« The only thing that could have been different was that Chadha might have become a sports commentator. »I even listened to the radio commentary of Ranji Trophy matches between Haryana and Delhi! And my junior from IIM, Harsha Bhogle, one of India's top sports commentators, is doing quite well for himself.« Sports' gain would have been banking's loss then. However, he still maintains an active interest in sports. Even though he gave up playing squash a few years ago, he still enjoys a game of golf, though he jokingly remarks, »my handicap is nothing to write home about.«

In addition, Chadha has a deep personal interest in primary education. His mother and wife were both teachers and his sister is the Principal of one of Delhi's leading schools, the Shriram School. In fact, while at IDBI Bank, Chadha himself gave classes, for over a year, on »Governance and Ethics« to Grade 11 students at Mumbai's Cathedral School. His passion for education is evident as he continues to serve on the Boards of several NGOs in India.

For now, Chadha is enjoying life and work. »You have to enjoy what you do, and what I really hate is people telling me that they cannot maintain a good work-life balance. Let me tell you, it is not as hard as it seems. And to lead a full life, you have to enjoy both.« ■

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SCIENTIFIC SYNERGY

IS THE NEW MANTRA

*Bilateral initiatives show great promise of
cutting-edge research and innovation*

/ TEXT: NARAYANI GANESH

Cells expressing carbohydrate structures on their cell surface

The axis of basic scientific research has shifted from the New World to the Old. In the last decade, European Union countries have been proactive in scouting research talent in India to forge new partnerships for common benefit. Earlier, students of specialised scientific disciplines wouldn't think twice before heading to America to pursue their dreams in fundamental research. Besides state-of-the-art laboratories and equipment, the US had the added advantage of having the English language as its lingua franca. This is no longer the preserve of the US or even the UK, for, European research institutions are increasingly getting comfortable with discourse in English, and this has opened up opportunities for collaborative inter-disciplinary research initiatives between, for example, Indian and European universities and institutions of higher learning in disciplines like biotechnology, nanotechnology, microbiology, physiology, biochemistry and materials sciences.

The shift in scientific research supremacy is paving the way for a more eclectic rather than rigid approach to scientific inquiry, a trend facilitated by developments in many other disciplines worldwide that require a global approach. Also, the other trend of scientists announcing their findings to the media rather than wait for careful peer review – perhaps in order to garner additional funding from private agencies -- has resulted in considerable lack of credibility. This has prompted new researchers to look for stability that comes with assured funding and minimum bureaucratic accounting exercises. For the spirit of free inquiry would require not just a democratic environment, it would include freedom from anything that detracts from the mission at hand.

European countries like Germany and France have no doubt been at the forefront of advanced research for long, but their intellectual efforts were more national than international, given the constraints of the pre-digital era. In today's digitized world with free flow of information and communication including simpler and faster means of transport, isolation of intellectual pursuit would tantamount to denying the researcher the benefits of sharing not only knowledge and effort, but costs as well. Hence the new mantra is scientific synergy. This approach is reflected in the initiatives taken by DFG, the German Research Foundation, flush with funds from German federal and state departments. It is also able to provide access to sophisticated labs at Germany's centres of excellence in universities and institutions like the Max Planck Centers.

The DFG's approach to research is in keeping with the mood of the new generation of scientists who are brimming with ideas – that are often multi-dimensional – and who are happy to translate them into lab experiments and research papers that add value to innovative techniques and findings as long as they are given a relatively free hand to do so. Commenting on the potential in India for collaborative scientific initiatives, the DFG president, Prof Dr Matthias Kleiner said, »In India, there is a genuine tradition of interaction of thoughts. Therefore, India is a valued partner for us.« Indeed, as a youthful country with almost 500 million youth – a demographic dividend – India is the perfect choice for research investment. »India's got great talent« acknowledges Dr Torsten Fischer, India director of the German Research Foundation in New Delhi. The DFG India office began its activities in February 2006 in order to represent the organisation as a funding agency to promote high-end basic research between Indian and German scientists. Fortunately, its goal is in tune with India's science policy that seeks to promote cutting-edge scientific research through collaborative work.

The DFG's core vision to promote collaborative bilateral fundamental research is best reflected in the two Indo-German International Research Training Group (IRTG) that were launched at the Free University of Berlin and the University of Muenster for creating virtual centres with partner groups at the university of Hyderabad early this year. The DFG earmarked some €7 million for the funding of these centres from the German side. Overall, the DFG has an annual budget of €3 billion to fund fundamental research in Germany; in the case of collaboration with Indian scientists, Indian agencies are being tapped to partly fund bilateral initiatives on their side. »The DFG is a facilitator; it listens to scientists. It is a service provider to the scientific community,« says Fischer. Promising »more than just a Ph D«, the IRTG aims to establish a longtime relationship with its doctoral students, and they are encouraged to broaden their vision far beyond the topic at hand to enable future applications, especially in enhancing the quality of life. Such an approach could also marry fundamental research with practical application, even though the realisation of that prospect might take some time.

The first IRTG set up in 2009 between the Universities of Muenster in Germany and Hyderabad in India is in Molecular and Cellular Glyco-sciences (MCGS). What's on offer is a researcher's dream. »The scope of research is bifurcated ►

between the student group in the University of Muenster and the group here at the University of Hyderabad but there is considerable overlap, presenting collaborative research opportunity. The four-year doctoral research programme entails two or three visits to Germany and to India so that the students can familiarise themselves with the particular conditions at the institutions and in terms of lab and equipment,« says Prof N Siva Kumar, who is coordinating the programme from Hyderabad. His counterpart in Muenster, Prof Bruno Moerschbacher, says, »PhD students from each group spend roughly half a year in the collaborating country as part of the research programme.«

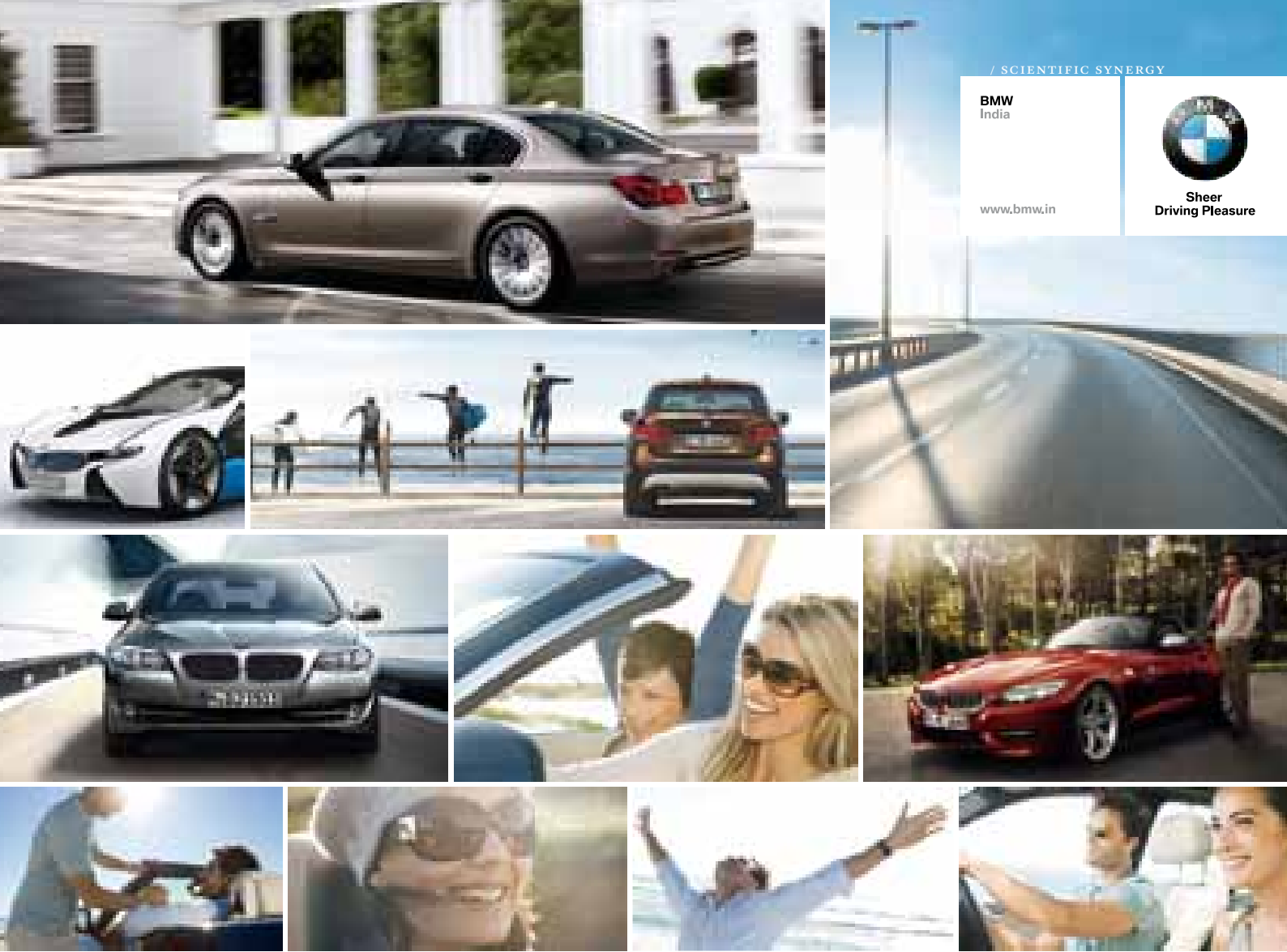
The MCGS project was formally approved in 2009 and is slated to receive funding of €1 million a year. Over the four-year period, doctoral students will be left to their research while the DFG takes care of administrative matters. The research period could be extended for another term if coordinators deem it necessary. The first group of Indian students spent the summer of 2010 in Muenster and a German group is expected in India in November. The challenge is not communication, as everyone speaks English, says the professor, but there are minor cultural differences. He is referring to the Indian approach to teamwork, where the team is happy to follow the leader whereas Germans see the team leader as guide and accept equal responsibility. To tide over this, workshops are conducted by a person of Indian origin – born and brought up in Germany – who helps Indian team members »get acclimatised to the situation here,« he says. So the exchange programme is a learning experience in more ways than one. »I began the first instalment of the programme in Germany and was there from April to July this year. I would be going again for a longer period later in 2011. We have to spend on average nine months in Germany and vice versa,« says Gnanesh who is registered for a Ph D with the University of Hyderabad. He is researching the Indian bean, profiling its gene and he says he likes the fact that in Germany he operates the machine himself, unlike in India, where a technician is required if a student wishes to use the equipment. Stephanie, a doctoral student at Muenster, sees the DFG and IRTG as great enablers in her research focused on sugar and

developmental biology. She eagerly looks forward to her India leg of the programme. »I collaborate with not only the IRTG group from India; I also interact with other groups in Muenster University as well as other universities and institutions that help my research in MCGS. I'm doing fundamental research but then ultimately, all this could lead to something that could help us deal with diseases like cancer,« she says.

The second IRTG project in India beginning this year is between the Free University of Berlin and the University of Hyderabad in Functional Molecular Infection Epidemiology. FMIE seeks to integrate expertise through interdisciplinary study in the field of infection biology, to create a link between host-pathogen genomics and the variation of host response to vital pathogens. FMIE could be the next big thing in disease prevention, a discipline that has benefited immensely from the recent sequencing of the human genome. The research outcome could help discover disease susceptibility, particularly with reference to tuberculosis.

The Department of Science and Technology and the Indian National Science Academy are working with the DFG to create a climate of innovation, having signed MoUs in this regard. The scale and scope of scientific research today far exceeds that of earlier days when data and tools were limited. The sequencing of the human genome is just one example of the bank of information available for further research. In that sense, the 21st century is experiencing a paradigm shift in the way we approach research – there is now really no alternative to teamwork and collaboration across borders. Bringing together scientists from different disciplines and geographical locations is only the first but important step; the more difficult but achievable goal ought to be to initiate joint research, allowing for free exchange of ideas and resources with as few speed-breakers as possible. ■

Narayani Ganesh is senior editor with The Times of India. She writes on issues related to science and technology, environment, heritage and philosophy.



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WHAT ONE WANTS

Max Planck research project examines urban aspirations in megacities

/ TEXT: BIRGIT FENZEL

Photography as a research tool – architect and urban morphologist Reza Masoudi-Nejad of the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity shot some 400 pictures of the processions during the Ashura festival in Mumbai to help him understand multi-religious and multi-ethnic societies. Using his photographs and a special computer programme, he was able to reconstruct the route of the processions through Mumbai. His aim is to create a street topology that would reveal the significance of various transportation routes for the city's residents – because the size of a city in itself is no indication of how important it is perceived to be. Through his study Masoudi-Nejad also attempts to understand how people with different religious identities organise their rituals spatially and how social exclusion and conflicts as well as integration and reconciliation manifest themselves. The researcher is part of a team of anthropologists, sociologists, urban planners and scholars of media and design that is conducting a comparative study of ›Urban Aspirations in Megacities‹ in Mumbai, Shanghai, Singapore and New York for the institute's department of religious diversity.

The observations of Masoudi-Nejad's colleague Darshan Vigneswaran, who conducted field research in Johannesburg, are also incorporated in this inter-disciplinary research project. At the Max Planck Institute in Göttingen, Vigneswaran is a political scientist in the department of socio-cultural diversity headed by Steven Vertovec, but he too prefers to conduct his research in the streets of the world's megacities. In his recent study he applied observation and experimental methods to research the behaviour of migrants in Johannesburg's inner city. Post apartheid, the South African metropolis attracted many new inhabitants with different backgrounds who now somehow have

to share the urban space. The question Vigneswaran posed against this backdrop was how the boundaries between the state and society are drawn in a milieu characterised by large numbers of newcomers. He specifically examined the functioning of the local police. For instance, he analysed the beats of policemen on the streets of Johannesburg. He also examined how government officials and civilians employ conceptual and social resources to understand one another, who defines what is perceived as ›the law‹ in this context and how this concept is implemented. Vigneswaran now plans to examine similar issues on the streets of Mumbai using his tried and tested field research methods. Subsequently, he will compare the findings with his results from Johannesburg and similar studies in other global megacities.

This approach links the different studies under the project, which regards megacities as a central element in the globalisation process. Common to all studies is the emphasis on a strictly comparative methodology. The focus is on features common to megacities as well as on the differences at the national and the international level. The anthropologists believe that globalisation is not the great leveller it is made out to be, quite the contrary. They observed that globalisation has affected different societies quite distinctly. It is these diverse manifestations that are of special interest to the scholars working with Max Planck director Peter van de Veer, who also heads the department of religious diversity. The disparate impacts of the IT revolution on different societies, for instance, are just one example of the highly specific influence that global movements or innovations have on human societies. The scholars observed that while the new technology resulted in different economic, cultural and social phenomena in European and Indian megacities,

these phenomena also differed at a national level: the impacts in Bangalore are very different from those in Mumbai.

Mumbai presents an exciting field of research for ethnologists for various reasons, not just because it is a financial capital. Its vibrant youth culture and the explicit religious nationalism, evident in many places, provide interesting insights into important arenas of urban developments and trends – so too Shanghai, the second post-colonial megacity selected by the researchers. The Chinese metropolis is similarly a financial capital and an important port city. Singapore, the third Asian megacity in this research project, was of interest to the researchers primarily because of its population mix. The majority comprises residents of Chinese or Indian origin and a minority is Malay. With the choice of New York as a western megacity, the researchers concentrated on a city that, again, is an important international financial centre and at the same time possesses unique ethnic diversity.

Over the next five years the researchers will employ new methodologies in their studies to delve into the hearts of these megacities and their residents. The studies will specifically examine the link between old and new media practices, their users and audiences. An analysis of the role of new technologies in the documentation, planning and design of ›urban futures‹ is also envisaged. This includes projects that examine the significance of geographic information systems (GIS) for mapping urban landscapes as well as studies on the role of cell phones for spontaneous street and urban photography. Texting as a form of expression and communication of a new youth culture is one of the other themes, as is documentary film culture as a bridge between art and social activism. Other studies examine the

The photograph ›train‹ was shot in Mumbai by Danny Klein in the course of the project ›The Promised City‹

function of traditional media: popular cinema, concerts, billboards, newspapers and other print products in the new media economy. Van de Veer and his colleagues are also interested in the role these media play in the emergence of new religious movements, churches or leaders, since they often formatively shape the social expectations of migrants to the city and thereby play a significant role in whether a general sense of calm or a propensity for violence prevails.

Despite the diversity of the issues they address, all the studies have one focus. Van de Veer and his colleagues employ new methodologies to determine the extent to which megacities are responsible for modernisation not having resulted in secularisation. They are especially interested in the role that typical features of urban life – cinema, political movements, software technologies, tourism, entertainment or the financial sector – play in different national and regional settings and how they facilitate new religious movements. Another area of interest is the development of a new neighbourhood demography, which redefines many of the perceptions of the residents of megacities relating to self and others, present and future, hope and despair. »Ultimately, we are concerned with what residents of megacities perceive a good life to be,« says Max Planck director Peter van de Veer about the objectives of the five-year project that his team is working on together with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) and Partners for Urban Knowledge Action and Research (PUKAR). The official curtain raiser was a week-long ›Winter Institute‹ in Mumbai entitled ›Stop or Go: The Social Dynamics of Urban Movement‹. ■

Birgit Fenzel works as a newspaper editor, as science editor at the ddp news agency, as editor for the Max Planck Society as well as author and spokesperson for different editorial offices of public broadcasting and television companies in Germany.

THE PROMISED CITY

Berlin – Warsaw – Mumbai: Two continents, three metropolitan cities, a million dreams.

The possibilities held out by metros are the subject of The Promised City, a multi-disciplinary arts project that examines what makes cities like Mumbai, Berlin and Warsaw attractive. The three metros exemplify many places in the world where politics and economy, information and the entertainment industry, consumerism and commerce agglomerate in a similar manner. They stand for social movements, new blueprints for life and artistic experiments. One of the components of The Promised City, organised by Goethe Institute Mumbai, Berlin and Warsaw, was to capture the cities' promises and immigrants' illusions. Young photographers from India, Germany and Poland have undertaken the project of tracking the 'Fortune Seekers' in these three metropolitan cities. The findings were presented in an exhibition.

www.promised-city.org

DEG PROMOTES ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN INDIA

The dynamic economic and social development in emerging market countries such as India is leading to a rapidly growing energy demand. Thus, an efficient use of energy is important to combine economy and climate protection. This is why DEG, Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft mbH, now promotes the diffusion of German technology for heat recovery in the Indian textile industry. Private partner of this project is Brückner Trockentechnik GmbH & Co. KG, a German SME, producing drying lines especially for the textile sector. Brückner plans to build a mobile heat recovery system that is to be set up in 15 Indian textile plants in order to disclose energy-saving potentials to all companies involved. Brückner contributes €219,000 to the project, an amount which DEG supplements by €200,000 through its programme "Climate partnerships with the private sector". The German Federal Ministry for the Environment backs this programme with about €2 million.

www.deginvest.de

FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR & IIMA JOIN HANDS

The Frankfurt Book Fair, the largest book fair in the world, along with its India office (German Book Office, New Delhi) and the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIMA) signed an MoU to launch a publisher's training programme.

With the Frankfurt Book Fair bringing in the industry experience and the IIMA with its reputation of being the best B-School in India, the course aims to establish a comprehensive and much needed training for professionals in the industry as well as other professionals from affiliated industry who might want to know more or enter this segment, which seems to be growing at a positive rate of about 30 per cent. The initiatives kick off will be a week-long course for mid-career senior managers held in early 2011 at the IIMA premises in Ahmedabad and will be conducted by national and international industry experts and IIMA faculty.

www.newdelhi.gbo.org

OUT WITH IT!

The fact that German, Hindi and Sanskrit together with Urdu and Punjabi belong to the Indo-European language tree establishes a very special Indo-German language brotherhood.

TEXT: SUNANDA RAO-ERDEM

Though German as a foreign language has been taught earlier in some elite schools, universities and Goethe Institutes in India, a new initiative has given fresh impetus to spread German in India and around the world. The project 'Schools: Partners for the Future' – or PASCH as it is more popularly known – was the brainchild of former German Foreign Minister Franz Walter Steinmeier. Since the launch of the programme in 2007, the project has been a resounding success worldwide, especially in India. Within the span of two-and-a half years, 52 schools have emerged as partner schools of the PASCH Initiative. 12 of these schools are in New Delhi. Puneet Kaur, PASCH Project Coordinator, expresses satisfaction at the response from Indian schools, "The success of the project proves that Indians have realised the importance of Germany as an important partner in all fields and that learning German will open up new opportunities for them."

One of the key achievements of this programme has been to bring the state-run schools, mainly the Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs), into the fold. For the first time in India, two Kendriya Vidyalaya schools in New Delhi have been recognised as PASCH Partner schools. In 2010, another 30 KVs have started offering German in Delhi, Chennai and Hyderabad. Ashok Chandra, chairman of Delhi Public School Society, says, "This programme provides a sound basis in German and can easily be built upon in future. Besides learning about a different culture and nation, students can look forward to many more job opportunities with foreign companies."

The PASCH schools are increasingly adopting innovative methods to teach German. Outdated textbooks are replaced with more modern and interactive ones. Instead of rote learning, multi-media equipments and scientific methods

are applied for learning the language. The 'German-Room' in a PASCH School is more like a learning lab with LCD screens, projectors, laptops and CD players. German teachers benefit from being constantly updated in their knowledge of didactics and methodology of teaching German as a foreign language. The Goethe-Institute offers scholarships to all teachers for courses in Germany. Interacting with native German speakers enables them to refresh their knowledge of the language. In order to train teachers, Max Mueller Bhavan has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the New Delhi-based Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) to offer a diploma in German language teaching. Besides, the Central Agency for German Schools Abroad (ZfA) can send teachers, paid by the German Government, to help a school reach the required level in German.

The German School New Delhi (DSND) has served as a major catalyst in bridging the language and cultural barriers in India. As it celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2011, it has surely come a long way. What started as a small education centre with kindergarten and a primary school in 1961 in a residential house is now a full-fledged school system. In 2007, the school first obtained permission to set up the 'Oberstufe' (Secondary Level II), thereby lending it an opportunity to expand further. The first 'Abitur' examination took place successfully in May 2010. And now, efforts are being strengthened to streamline coordination between Indian and German school systems. ■

Sunanda Rao is based in Delhi and works as senior consulting associate with CNC communications India. She has worked as diplomatic editor for the Hindi daily New World. She lived in Germany and worked with Deutsche Welle for 13 years.

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A MOVEMENT FOR RECOVERING THE BODY

Contemporary Dance in Germany and India

/ TEXT: SADANAND MENON

Trying to evaluate, in the same space, ›contemporary‹ dance in India and in Germany is like trying to compare the earth and the sky. Apart from the fact that both are pre-occupied with new ways of comprehending and expressing with the body, there is little commonality between their respective moments of evolution, histories, paradigm shifts, basic confrontations and their evolving aesthetics. However, in each instance, it is the context that is important.

When one of the prime triggers of the contemporary movement in Indian dance, Chandralekha, a great friend of German choreographers Pina Bausch and Susanne Linke, was asked in 1995 what was common between her and Pina, she had replied: »There is much that is common between us; she is relevant in her context and I in mine.«

Their friendship had a quality of unspoken intensity and Pina had dedicated one of her very last works ›Bamboo Blues‹ to the memory of Chandra who had passed away a couple of years before it was premiered in India in 2008.

On hearing of Chandra's passing away in 2006, Pina had written to me: »She meant so amazingly much for me and for my work. I loved and adored her and her so unique philosophy of life and dance. She will leave a huge gap in our world.«

This was interesting, for it reminded me of the considerable influence that Indian philosophy, meditative gestures, flowing body postures and percussion music had on the conceptual formation of Mary Wigman, one of the founders of German *Ausdruckstanz* way back in the 1920s. On

hindsight, one realises that the decade of the 1920s saw the emergence of a modernist and avant-garde attitude to the body in Europe and the United States, due to the impact of over a century of exposure to the ›otherness‹ of Asian/Indian forms of movement. This is ironical because, during the same decade, in India itself some of the older dances practiced by specific communities of temple dancers, was reinvented and termed ›classical‹ or ›traditional‹.

It now seems a strange trick of history that what should ideally have been called ›modern‹ Indian dance then got pigeonholed into being a fake carrier of Indian ›heritage‹ and ›culture‹. With the result, the idea of ›modernity‹ in Indian dance took a longer time to emerge as a consistent practice.

In Germany, the contribution of Mary Wigman was seminal. She was at the School of Rhythmic Gymnastics at the Festpielhaus Hellerau, near Dresden and studied with Emile Jacques-Dalcroze. In 1913, she went to study at Ascona, Switzerland, with Rudolf von Laban, this ›new art of free dance‹. Combining dance, movement, pedagogy and therapy was the flavour of the times and dancers were beginning to explore the idea of ›cross genres‹. Rudolf Steiner had already propounded the idea of eurhythmics and Rudolf von Delius had articulated the idea of *Körpersprache* or body language.

The concerns that emerged during these few decades laid the foundations of German contemporary dance. The thrust was towards abandoning the straitjacket of form in favour of the natural expressiveness of the body. ►



›In The Light Of Irom Sharmila‹
by Choreographer Rajyashree Ramamurthi was performed
at the *Ignite Festival of Contemporary Dance* in New Delhi.

The modernist moment required a complete overhauling of the classical conventions of the idealisation of the body. The post-World War-I world was also looking for the freedom for the body to express distortion and brutalisation. It would enable a new self-referentiality, autonomy, experimentation, ambiguity and effacement of content to the dance work. It would also deliberately deny the earlier zeitgeist or expression of collective consciousness inherent in the forms. This was to lead to a new choreography of repetitive motion as against the subservience of the body to formal decorativeness.

One cannot also discount the compelling contribution to the discourse on the changing meaning of body during that period ushered in by ethnology, anthropology and an overarching orientalism. There was a hypnotic fascination with trance, voodoo, bewitchment, occultism and the Der-vish and Devadasi dances, which constructed the contours of the vocabulary of the new dance. Pretty images were shunned for new dynamic between movement and space.

These were very much the principles that resurfaced after WW-II when Kurt Jooss, another Laban student, set up the Folkwang Tanztheatre in Essen, exploring his idea of mixing classical form with theatre. The academy there was to emerge as among the great dance schools of our time, producing renowned dancers and choreographers like Pina Bausch and Susanne Linke.

Susanne Linke brilliantly captures the impulse behind the practice of this generation: »The public wants to be lied to. It wants to see clichés; it wants illusions and dreams. Not to fulfill this expectation is a tightrope walk. Irony and parody are a good possibility there. That is why people often do not like my pieces; they say they are a bit too much. Today many artists work deliberately in this direction. They want to shock. I wanted to touch people.«

This organicity of the contemporary dance movement that we see in Germany got impaired in the Indian context due to the false opposition created between 'tradition' and 'modernity' under conditions of colonial domination. However, the few significant moments of modernity would include the work of Uday Shankar and his attempt at forging a trans-generic form in the 1940s and the melodramatic narratives of Mrinalini Sarabhai in the 1950s. Only with the East-West Dance Encounter of 1984 in Mumbai, convened by Georg Lechner under the aegis of the Max Mueller Bhavan and the National Centre for the Performing Arts, did the debate around bringing contemporary relevance to dance in India really take off. It saw the re-emergence of Kumudini Lakhia

and Chandralekha as choreographers with a new vision who wanted to dialogue with ›tradition‹ as well as the opening out of space for dancers like Astad Deboo and Uttara Asha Coorlawala whose training was more in the Western idiom.

Dancers associated with both Chandralekha and Kumudini Lakhia have, over the years, emerged as significant choreographers themselves. Kumudini's students Daksha Seth and Aditi Mangaldas are important figures in the Contemporary Indian Dance circuit. So are dancers who worked initially with Chandralekha like Padmini Chettur, Navtej Singh Johar, Jayachandran and Tripura Kashyap.

In the absence of any serious ›official‹ recognition to this movement, there have only been sporadic platforms and festivals available to these young choreographers. However, the recently concluded Ignite Festival of Contemporary Dance in New Delhi, has finally settled the issue. Organised by Gati, a group of contemporary dancers led by Anusha Lall, not only was it a representative festival that included most of the variations of the contemporary dance practice in India and amidst the Indian diaspora, it also presented some compelling work from the new choreographers based both in India and abroad. The works of Preethi Athreya, the Post-Natya Collective, Divya Vibha Sharma and Sudesh Adhana pushed for attention in the company of ›seniors‹ like Shobana Jeyasingh, Aditi Mangaldas, Padmini Chettur and Navtej Johar.

It was also appropriate that the festival included ›A Mary Wigman Dance Evening‹ by the Ecuadorian dancer Fabian Barba, which neatly slipped into the sub-text of the festival the original preoccupations of the contemporary dance movement at its beginning, a century ago – to simplify, to clarify and to express. Or, as Chandralekha said, »The basic quest is centred around a conscious return to the body and to see the body in itself. This is the quest – how to see the body; how to maximise its energy; how to understand the meaning of that energy.«

Dance historians Susan Manning and Melissa Benson have titled their masterly essay (2002) on German modern dance as ›Interrupted Continuities‹. By that token, the story of Indian contemporary dance till now can be described as ›Continuous Interruptions‹. Perhaps now the movement will dig deeper roots. ■

Sadanand Menon is an arts editor and photographer. He was lights designer for all Chandralekhas' productions and is currently Adjunct Faculty at the Asian College of Journalism in Chennai.

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FAST LANE

India fuels up for its own Grand Prix on the 5.14-km-long F1 track
sketched out by a German architect and racetrack designer

/ TEXT: PANKAJ DOVAL

It is a drive down dusty and uneven roads that takes you to the upcoming Indian Formula 1 track, around 35 km outside of Delhi. Hardly a place one would associate with the glamour and glitz of F1, the place today wears the face of urgency – thousands of labourers racing to complete the track before the all-crucial homologation (final inspection) process in May 2011 by the International Automobile Federation (FIA), the governing body for motor sports. A clearance will pave the way for the much-anticipated Indian round of F1 that is slated for October 30 next year at Greater Noida, on the outskirts of the national capital.

The actual event may be some months away, but excitement is already palpable with companies like Renault and Vodafone showcasing their F1 cars in the market. India's infrastructure major Jaypee Group has bagged the rights to construct the track and is working overtime to ensure that deadlines are met and the track comes out as promised. »It will be the pride of India. We are on schedule and the track, when completed, will be the second-fastest F1 track in the world,« says Manu Bhaskar Gaur, a member of the Gaur family that owns the Jaypee Group. Gaur, a young Berkeley Graduate in civil engineering, is Executive General Manager at Jaypee Sports International (JPSI), the parent group's subsidiary that is building the track at an estimated investment of close to \$300 million.

The 5.14-km-long track has been designed by renowned German architect and racetrack designer, Herman Tilke, who has also designed other world-class race circuits in Malaysia, Bahrain, China, Turkey, Indonesia, the UAE, South Africa, South Korea and the US. Tilke's architect and managing partner Peter Wahl is excited about the Indian track and reaffirms that work is on schedule. »Actually,

all bulk earthworks have been done – including all related service piping works. The contours of the track itself are well visible and the infrastructural access-roads are under development. With regard to the necessary building facilities, all foundations are nearly complete and we can now see the structures of areas like the pit building and the team building growing every day,« Wahl says in an exclusive interview to GERMAN NEWS. He adds that special effort has been made to give a distinct identity to the Indian circuit. »A race track is always a unique creation in its own right. However, the Indian circuit has a very distinctive layout. It has a combination of a very fast part with two straights and tight corners and another slower track part with challenging turn configurations and higher levels giving some up-mountain and down-hill impressions. There is a section where track parts are running parallel and very close to each other. This will give the feeling of high-speed and this area also forms a »gate« between both track parts, which is also a symbol for the Gate to India,« Wahl says.

The preparedness has been lauded by none other than Formula 1 supremo, Bernie Ecclestone. The F1 boss visited the under-construction circuit at Greater Noida late October and had words of praise for the work done so far. »I can't praise enough... Everything was much better than what I thought. The track is much better than many,« the 79-year-old Ecclestone said after his day-long visit.

In October, the World Motor Sport Council formally approved India's inclusion on the race calendar for 2011, although a final yes will be given after the approval in May. India's emergence as a fast-growing economic superpower is seen as the biggest reason that tilted things in favour of an Indian circuit. Big global corporations, especially in ►



Design of the Jaypee Group Circuit, New Delhi, including pit building, main grandstand, media centre, medical centre, team buildings, circuit school and entrance gate

the auto sector, have been expanding rapidly in the Indian market, which is forecast to grow by leaps and bounds in the coming years. Ecclestone is also quick to acknowledge this and says the Indian economy's growing clout makes the country a fit candidate for an F1 circuit. »I had heard about India, I thought that is where we should be.«

However, not everyone is positive about the success of F1 in India and whether it will be able to become a rage with the masses. Hormazd Sorabjee, Editor with Autocar India magazine, doubts any widespread success for F1 in India. »We do not have a motorsport culture and it will be difficult to sustain the sport in India. An F1 track in India can be expected to have the same success as a cricket match in Italy,« he says.

Sanjay Sharma – who heads the Motorsport division at local tyre-maker JK Tyre & Industries – is not so sceptical about F1's success in India and its elitist nature. »If you have it in you, there are ways you can become big in motorsports, even in India.« Sharma says companies like his have been actively supporting the growth and expansion of motorsports in India. »We operate at the grass-root level and charge just Rs 150 (around \$3) for allowing anyone to participate in a karting race. If you are talented and can keep winning, there is no way your progress will be stalled as we are there to support your growth.«

And while F1 may be dwarfed by the success of sports like cricket in India, it sure is keenly followed among the younger population and motorsport enthusiasts in urban India. And with half the population under the age of 25, the potential for growth is huge. India's rapid economic growth and the rising affluence of millions of middle class families means

that the country could turn into a dependable financial future for the sport. Also adding to the popularity of F1 in India is the success of local lads like Narain Karthikeyan (who raced for Jordan in 2005) and Karun Chandhok (signed up with Hispania this year) on the racing circuit. The country also fields its own team, Force India, owned by liquor baron Vijay Mallya, which is again a plus point.

The run-up to the race has already seen multinational companies come to India with their racing cars. French carmaker Renault has already done so; and so have others like F1 team sponsors Bridgestone and Vodafone, who have brought the Ferrari and the McLaren cars to the country as part of brand promotion activities. »Obviously, we will increasingly use more and more of our F1 heritage in India. It is a huge marketing tool for Renault and we will use it very aggressively,« says Ashish Sinha Roy, Vice-President Communications & Corporate Affairs at Renault India.

Ecclestone too makes no bone about the importance of the Indian market. »We should have been here before. I am sure F1 will be accepted in India. It will expose India to the rest of the world. India can get out of the event whatever they want.«

So, the races are just round the corner. And if they do turn out to be a success, as expected by the F1 managers, it will open up a whole new market for the sport and Germany's Sebastian Vettel, the sport's youngest-ever world champion, might drive in millions of new fans and enthusiasts. ■

Pankaj Doval is Assistant Editor with the daily newspaper The Times of India. He writes on the Indian corporate sector, with particular focus on the automobile industry.



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DID YOU KNOW THAT...



© MAX BECKMANN, INDERIN; TÄNZERIN, 1943, ÖL AUF LEINWAND
SPRENGEL MUSEUM HANNOVER, FOTO: MICHAEL HERLING / ALINE GWOSE

... Max Beckmann was inspired by Indian Theosophical Ideas

/ TEXT: JUTTA JAIN-NEUBAUER

The engagement of German modern artists with Indian art and art theories was more pronounced than generally known. Artists of the German expressionist group *Die Brücke*, founded by Erich Heckel with Ernst Ludwig Kirchner and other artists in 1905, were quite familiar with it. Heckel had seen reproduction of Ajanta wall-paintings in a library in Dresden, done by John Griffith of the J.J. School of Art in Mumbai and his students. Heckel introduced Kirchner to these, who was instantly fascinated by them. Kirchner remarked in an essay, »These works made me almost helpless with delight. I thought, I would never be able to achieve this unprecedented uniqueness of representation, this monumental tranquillity of form. All my endeavours seemed hollow and unsteady to me. I copied a lot from the pictures, mainly to arrive at my own style.« It is quite apparent that his painting ›Five Bathers at the Lake‹ of 1911 was inspired by Ajanta wall paintings. Intensive discussions about form, content and aesthetics of Indian art were prevalent among the artists' circles in the beginning of the 20th century in Germany, and every artist worth his name was part of it. Though Max Beckmann did not belong to any of the artists' groups for more than a fleeting presence, and preferred to trod his own distinct artistic way – he nevertheless was well aware of these debates and deeply inspired by Indian religious and philosophical ideas.

Not only philosophically inclined thinkers, but also many artists and musicians in Europe and the USA, such as Piet Mondrian, Max Beckmann, Arnold Schönberg, Marsden Hartley, Wassily Kandinski, Jackson Pollock, and Francesco Clemente were influenced by these ideas. Some artists were members of the Theosophical Society, which was founded by Helena Blavatski in New York in 1875. She later on moved its headquarters to Adyar in Madras. Establishing a universal brotherhood of humanity, studying comparative religions and philosophy and exploring the laws of nature and the human mind were its main objectives.

Max Beckmann is undoubtedly one of the most recognised German artists of the first half of the 20th century. His oeuvre underwent a number of transformations, which could be attributed to personal tragedies and the horrifying experiences of both the World Wars. Born in Leipzig in 1884 as third child of a miller, he moved to Braunschweig after his father's death in 1894. Early in life he was fascinated by fairy tales and legends from distant countries and cultures, and attempted to illustrate these. He studied art at Weimar. His journeys to Paris influenced him to paint landscapes in an impressionistic style. After a nervous breakdown during World War I, depictions of tragedy and misery became

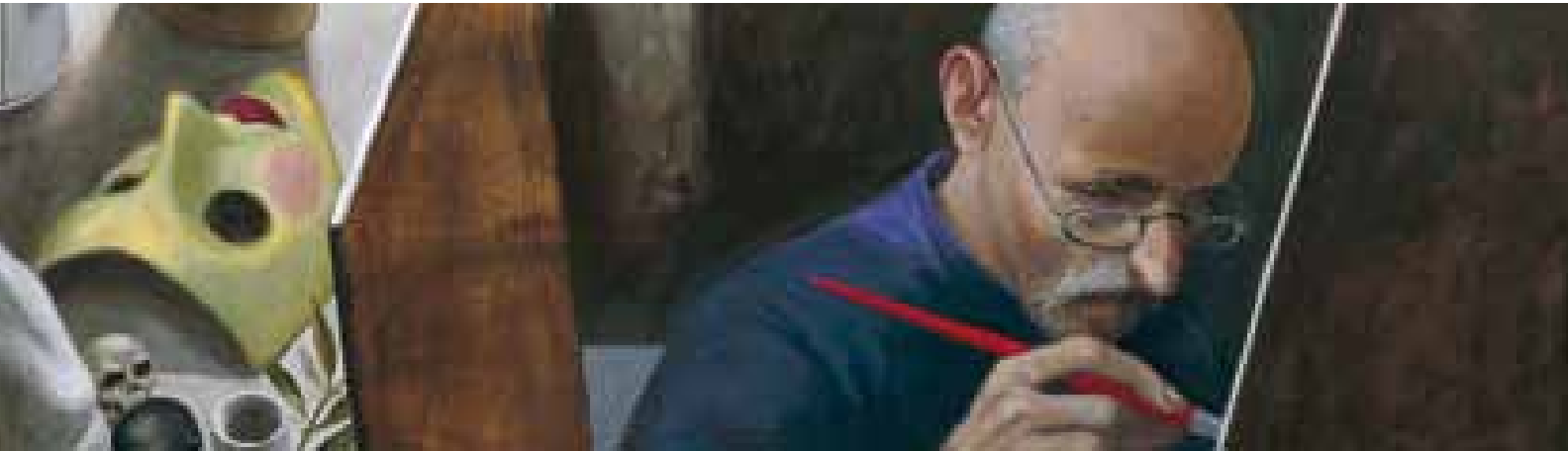
frequent in his paintings. In 1925 he became a professor at the State Academy of Fine Arts – Städelschule in Frankfurt, but quit in 1933 when some of his work was described as »degenerate art«. Max Beckmann left Germany, and moved to Amsterdam and then Paris. Taking up an assignment at Washington University Art School, he went to the USA in 1947. But he died soon after, in 1950 due to heart failure on his way to the Metropolitan Museum, where he wanted to see his painting ›Self portrait in a blue Jacket‹.

In his exile in Amsterdam, Max Beckmann was deeply engaged in the study of Indian religions and philosophies, especially the Theosophical ideas. Commenting on these he pondered: »What I want to show in my work is the idea hidden behind so-called reality. I am looking for the bridge, which leads from the Visible into the Invisible, as the famous cabbalist once said, ›If you want to comprehend the Invisible you have to advance as far as possible into the Visible‹.«

In this background it might not be too strange to find one painting by Max Beckmann depicting an Indian woman, entitled ›Inderin (Tänzerin)‹ and painted in Amsterdam in 1943. It is most likely that the inspiration for this painting came from Indian girls performing during the War in dancing clubs and music halls of Amsterdam, which left a strong mark on Beckmann. In his diary he wrote, »Oh, I wish I could see the typical Indian dancing girls again.« This intriguing painting depicts a reclining woman, leaning on a bolster, against the backdrop of prominent orange-coloured drapery of curtains and a potted plant. Her head is covered with a white veil which allows streaks of her black hair to peep out. Her delicate, light face with large, black eyes and a central bindi on her forehead appears almost fragile and is contrasted by her oversized, frightfully marked with a dark almost black streak, vertical arm. The figure gives the impression as if the woman is resting after a tiring performance. The large bead necklace, the bindi, deep red bangles and the irregularly chequered dress allude to her Indianness.

Note: I gratefully acknowledge the help by art-historian Christina Degethof, Berlin. As source material I referred to a number of publications and essays on Kirchner and Beckmann, especially the catalogue *German Expressionist Paintings* (New Delhi, 1982), and the book by Hyang-Sook Kim *Die Frauendarstellung im Werk von Ernst Ludwig Kirchner* (Munich, 2002). ■

Jutta Jain-Neubauer is an art-historian writing on Indian miniature painting, history of Indian textiles, and other aspects of Indian art. Since 2006 she has been writing the column ›Did you know that ...‹ on lesser known aspects of Indo-German cultural relations.



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