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OUTCOME OF US PRESIDENT'S INDIA VISIT

Sushil Joshi

This was the first time a US President attended the Republic Day Parade though an invitation was once extended to then US President Bill Clinton but he had declined.

Mr. Obama also made several accommodations such as shifting his State of the Union address to an earlier date as it would have clashed with his visit to India. In addition, he cancelled plans to visit some cities in his country although US Presidents tend to do so after the State of the Union address to explain its finer points to the domestic constituency.

Mr. Obama also became the first US President to visit India twice, once in each of the two terms in his Presidency. The gap between his two visits was also the shortest ever. The first US President Dwight D Eisenhower came 12 years after India became Independent, Richard Nixon followed 10 years later, Jimmy Carter after nine years, Bill Clinton after a pause of 22 years, George W Bush's visit had a gap of six years while Mr. Obama's first visit followed four years later.

The visit also saw the most intensive interaction ever with an Indian Prime Minister. The two leaders - Mr. Obama and Prime Minister Narendra Modi - met several times in New Delhi that allowed them to understand each other on a more personal basis.

Preparations for the visit were also extremely intensive. A contact group on nuclear energy set up during Mr. Modi's visit to Washington last year met thrice in different parts of the globe while senior public servants of both countries including

US Vice President John Kerry also interacted on issues of great concern such as co-manufacturing of defence items, climate change and trade and investment.

The highpoint of the visit was acceptance of the fact that India was ready for the global high table. There was a unequivocal endorsement of the need to admit India as a member of the United Nations Security Council and during his joint address with Mr. Modi, the US President made it clear that Washington would do it best to get India admitted into four international export control organizations for sensitive and dual use items. These organizations such as the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) have barred membership if a country has not signed the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT). India is not a NPT signatory but the US has not given a similar assurance to either Israel or Pakistan which have also not signed the NPT.

The nuclear issue saw a breakthrough that eluded the Bush Administration and the first term of Barack Obama. Ever since India passed the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA) in 2010, the US has been insisting that it is not compatible with international covenants such as the Convention on Supplementary Compensation- the Paris Convention and the Vienna Convention. In particular it has been insisting on changes in Section 17(b) and Section 46 of the CLNDA. The consultations before the visit helped pave the way for the US accepting the Indian proposal for creating

an insurance pool to alleviate US misgivings on Section 17(b) that holds suppliers of equipment liable to pay compensation in case of a nuclear accident and also accepting India suggestion for approving a memorandum of law to surmount the issue facing section 46. This in effect means that in the coming years, two US companies (with Japanese shareholding) will be able to set up nuclear plants in India.

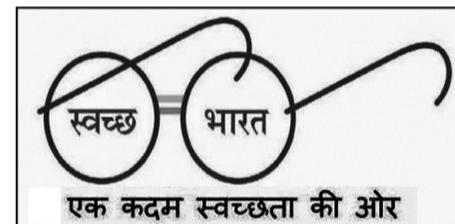
The defence sector also saw both sides reaching a modest agreement that could be the stepping stone for more instances of joint production mainly due to the Defence Trade and Technology Initiative (DTTI). The US as well as many other major manufacturers of defence products have been loath to part with the technology and are more content with selling finished products. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emphasis on Make-in-India bore fruit with the US agreeing to co-produce three of the 17 items identified by India for co-production. They include drones whose use and range is bound to grow in the coming years for a multitude of purpose ranging from crowd control to anti-insurgency operations.

Climate change was another area where convergence was seen between the two countries. For India combating climate change is as important as major emitters such as the US and China because the Himalayas are melting and India stands to be hit hard by this. Other countries are also interested in reaching a global agreement in Paris later this year. As the third highest emitter, although the per

capita emission is very low, India plans to increase its solar capacity by a huge amount as well as put up more nuclear plants. The visit saw Mr. Obama agreeing to loan two billion dollars for providing equipment that generates carbon-free form of energy. Now, reducing carbon emissions, as you know, is a delicate diplomatic tightrope for states.

Also on the fast track will be Indian investments in manufacturing and technology as investors and entrepreneurs explained various issues and problems to Mr. Modi and Mr. Obama who took time from their busy schedule especially for them. Both India and the US attached great importance to trade and investment especially after the two leaders targeted a five-fold increase in their bilateral economic engagement from the present 100 billion dollars to 500 billion dollars. In addition to Indian Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the US Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker was also at hand. Ms. Pritzker announced that financing option from EXIM Bank of India for Indian small and medium sized companies who are interested to expand overseas could be availed of while assuring Indian companies

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JOB HIGHLIGHTS

NTPC

National Thermal Power Corporation Limited requires 120 Engineering Executive Trainees through GATE - 2015.

Last Date : 03.03.2015 (pg 10)

MRPL

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited requires 100 Workman and Assistants.

Last Date : 23.02.2015 (pg 31)

BHU

Banaras Hindu University invites applications for various posts of Professor, Associate Professor, Reader and Assistant Professor and Non - Teaching Posts.

Last Date : 20.02.2015 (pg 12-15)

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SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AS A CAREER

Dr. Shailendra Kumar

Social science is 'a scientific study of human society and social relationships'. The areas for research include ethnicity and gender, employment and leisure, recreation and tourism, population health, lifestyle & well being. Social science research is the gathering and analysis of this social data using scientific methods. Research methods can be classified in two broad categories- quantitative and qualitative research methods. Quantitative research methods are distinguished from qualitative research methods by their emphasis upon the use of mathematical and statistical techniques in gathering, analysing, interpreting and reporting upon, research data. They originally developed in the natural sciences to study natural phenomena. Examples of quantitative methods now well accepted in the social sciences include surveys and laboratory experiments.

Qualitative research methods are typically non-numerical and were developed in the social sciences to enable researchers to study social and cultural phenomena. Examples of qualitative methods are in-depth interviews and questionnaires, the analysis of documents and texts, and value being placed upon the researcher's impressions and reactions and research results in the form of narrative description. Increasingly, researchers are required to use more than one method in a study.

What do Social Science Researchers do?

Researchers often work as evaluators, policy analysts or advisory officers in gov-

ernment departments. Research, however, is only one component of a wide job brief. Advisory work tends to focus on developing policy, providing advice to the Minister and monitoring and evaluating policy implementation, impact and outcomes. Research work tends to be more concerned with the acquisition of knowledge and the production of appropriate, accurate and timely data for decision-and policy-makers and those advising them. They are skilled in the design, management, delivery and interpretation of research programmes. Researchers are generally required to adhere to the appropriate scientific methodology and standards. The selection of an appropriate process will depend upon the data to be collected, how it will be evaluated, the format in which results will be presented, the degree of technical scrutiny that the process and results will need to withstand and finally the financial cost and actionability of the knowledge that will result. Researchers must have the interpersonal and public speaking skills to discuss their research with colleagues, the client that commissioned the research, the public and the media. They may publish reports, or provide papers for senior managers and Ministers to consider when making policy decisions. Some research teams in government departments operate as independent business units and offer research services and advice on research methods to external clients as well as to those within their own department.

Tasks and Responsibilities:

• Design and Implement Surveys

Surveys are generally used to collect data for policy decision-making, to predict future conditions, to evaluate social programmes, or to collect quantitative data. They may be conducted by mail, telephone, face-to-face or via the internet. A survey of a 'total' population relating to one particular area is a census. This is an expensive and time consuming project and alternative like surveying a representative group or a random sample of the population may be appropriate to reduce the amount of data to be collected and therefore time and cost. Researchers may assemble a list of experts in a particular field and survey them either individually or collectively.

• Analyse Data

There is an element of 'number - crunching' in all social science research and quantitative research requires a good knowledge of statistics and the ability to process large amounts of raw data. This is important for the collating and coding of surveys or census forms and their analysis using statistical analysis software or mathematical modelling techniques. Researchers produce and interpret tables or graphs.

• Compile and Evaluate Information

Researchers may summarise analyse and draw conclusions from information they have gathered from a variety of sources like libraries and archives, or from interviewing people. For example, a client may request a review of literature

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OUTCOME OF US...

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that her Commercial Service team was dedicated towards supporting Indian companies who are planning to expand across sectors in United States. The US also promised to support the Modi Government's ambitious Digital India Programme that envisages broadband connectivity to 2.5 lakh villages and WiFi in as many schools by 2019. The US-India collaboration in this space will help create viable and scalable business models for digital infrastructure, including e-governance and e-services etc.

The visit saw US companies also agreeing to back the major project underway to develop industrial corridors connecting all four corners of the country by agreeing to look at the possibility of investing in manufacturing facilities along the corridor. India has a young demographic profile and needs assistance in the education and skills upgradation sectors. Mr. Obama and Mr. Modi agreed to step up collaboration in the field of skills development, student and scholar mobility, faculty collaborations between the two countries, including ongoing collaboration on community colleges, improvement of

workforce training, expansion of research and teaching exchanges. In the area of skills and vocational education, the key to promoting orderly growth of manufacturing by adequately training the workforce in the skills required by Indian industry, new initiatives in curriculum development were agreed upon. That India has come of age and is ready to play a more high profile role in world affairs was demonstrated by the Joint Statement issued by the two leaders in which they clearly asked for international laws to prevail instead of one country seeking to dominate in international waters of South China Seas through

which a huge amount of trade and oil passes. In sum the visit brought about, due to the election of the first majority Government in three decades, a sea change in US attitude towards all the issues held dear by India including energy security, greater investment, combating climate change, becoming self sufficient in defence production and enhancing the skill sets of the millions of young Indians who are poised to join the workforce.

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SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH ...

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on the causes and prevalence of infertility (Ministry of Health) in order to know what current thinking and theory is. Researchers may also be asked to monitor the impacts of government policies on different groups or sectors of the economy or evaluate government programmes to assess their effectiveness e.g. the review of youth justice supervision orders (Ministry of Social Development). Both are examples of non- numerical or qualitative research.

- **Present their Results**
Alongwith presenting statistics in an easily digestible form (graphs, models, spreadsheets), researchers write reports in language that can be easily understood and read quickly by busy decision makers. They may also present their findings verbally to the client, or at conferences and seminars. Work is almost always in the form of specific projects with definite deadlines. Social science research demands a diversity of skills.
- **What makes a good Social Science Researcher?**
- **The Skills**
- **Quantitative Skills-** The ability to understand and apply the tools of statistical

- analysis. Unless you want to concentrate on the statistical side of research, you don't have to be a mathematician, just comfortable with numbers and able to apply statistical methods.
- **Communication Skills-** Spoken and written. You need to be able to establish exactly what your client wants to find out and to explain your research methods clearly. Good listening skills are essential as well as the ability to write in a range of styles.
- **Analytical and Conceptual Skills -** You need to be able to analyse complex problems and suggest appropriate solutions.
- **Organisational Skills -** Good time management is essential. You can often work on more than one project at a time.
- **Good Judgement -** The ability to choose the method of research most appropriate to the situation and to know when to change direction if the process is not achieving the desired result.
- **Creativity -** An interest in looking for new and better ways of doing things and not simply following customary methods and processes.
- **Computer Literacy -** Familiarity with the standard word processing software and adequate keyboard skills. Knowledge of software used for statistical data analysis.

- **Qualifications:**
Social science subjects studied at university level include Sociology, Psychology, Social work, Social policy, Criminology, Anthropology and Women's studies. Other related subjects are Politics, Economics, Economic history and Statistics. Employers of social science researchers find that a Bachelor of Arts, Postgraduate Diploma or Master's Degree , Ph.D. in a social science discipline is most useful.
- **Institutes Offering**
Many universities and colleges offer Bachelor, Master, M.Phil and PhD courses in Social Sciences. Some of them are:
 - University of Delhi
 - Tata Institute of Social Sciences
 - Delhi School of Economics
 - Aligarh Muslim University
 - Mumbai University
 - Banaras Hindu University
 - University of Lucknow
 - Jawaharlal Nehru University
 - University of Allahabad
 - Indian Statistical Institute
 - Indian Institute of Technology
 - Patna University
- **Where do Social Science Researchers Work?**
Social Science researchers are employed in a range of Central government depart-

- ments, including Statistics India, National Library, Parliamentary Services, and in government ministries. They are also employed in local government, NGOs and related organisations.
- Social science researchers also work in the private sector, in market research, broadcasting, management consultancy, banking and insurance. Experienced researchers often work independently as consultants. Some choose to have academic careers- as university lecturers and researchers.
- **What other Experience is useful?**
 - Voluntary Work - Undertaking research projects for community and welfare organisations.
 - Paid work- particularly in a research role.
 - Any experience in the sector in which you would like to conduct research, e.g. health, social welfare or in the community.
 - Field Work - Practical street survey and interviewing experience such as for a market research firm is also valuable.
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NEWS DIGEST

- **Shri S. Jaishankar takes charge as Foreign Secretary**
Shri S Jaishankar, a 1977-batch IFS officer has taken charge as the new Foreign Secretary, replacing Smt Sujata Singh. He will have a two-year tenure as per rules. Before his sudden appointment as Foreign Secretary, the 60-year-old diplomat was India's Ambassador to the US. He had also been posted as Ambassador to China, Singapore and Czech Republic. The decision to appoint Jaishankar, who played a key role during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US in September last year and US President Barack Obama's just concluded visit, was taken by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister.
- **Centre not to challenge Bombay High court order on Vodafone**
The Union Cabinet has decided not to oppose the Bombay High Court order which overturned a 3,200 crore rupees tax demand from Vodafone in a transfer pricing case. This is the biggest positive signal to foreign investors that government is fair in its dealings.
- **TRAI recommends 22% lower base price for 3G spectrum auction**
Telecom regulator TRAI has recommended a base price of Rs 2,720 crore per Mhz for pan India 3G spectrum. This is about 22 percent lower than the previous auction. Earlier, government in 2010 had auctioned 3G spectrum at pan-India reserve price of Rs 3,500 crore per megahertz.
- **Cartoonist R K Laxman, creator of 'Common Man', dead**
Eminent cartoonist R K Laxman, who immortalised the 'Common Man', died in Pune on 26th January at a private hospital at the age of 94. He was awarded Padma Vibhushan. He also won the Magsaysay award in 1984 for journalism, literature and creative communication arts. His front page pocket cartoon "You said it" started in 1951, in the Times of India (TOI) unleashing his iconic "common man".
- **Alexis Tsipras is new Prime Minister of Greece**
Alexis Tsipras has taken over as the new Prime Minister of Greece after winning the general elections. He is country's youngest Prime Minister in 150 years. He belongs to the left-wing Syriza party and will govern in coalition with the nationalist Independent Greeks party.
- **Padma Awards 2015 announced**
Nine dignitaries including senior politician and former Dy. Prime Minister Shri Lalkrishna Advani, actor Amitabh Bacchan, Punjab Chief Minister Prakash Singh Badal, DB Hegde, actor Dilip Kumar will be given Padma Vibhushan. Scientist Dr. Vijay Bhatkal, writer and educationist Supandas Gupta, former Chief Election Commissioner N. Gopalaswami, constitution expert Dr. Subhash C Kashyap, former Attorney General Harish Salve and wrestling coach Satpal's name are included in 20 recipients of Padma Bhushan. 75 dignitaries will be awarded with Padma Shri which include Artist Naresh Bedi, film director Sanjay Leela Bhansali, writer and economist Bibek Debroy, literature Dr. Sunil Jogi, lyricist Prasoon Joshi, writer and educationist Ram Bahadur Rai and Prof. JS Rajput besides others.
- **All-women contingent march down Rajpath on R-Day**
While women officers have been participating in previous Republic Day parades, this was for the first time that an all-women contingent of the armed forces participated. While the Army contingent was led by Capt Divya Ajith, the Navy was led by Lt Commander Sandhya Chauhan. The Air Force contingent was led by Squadron Leader Sneha Shekhawat. The contingents had 148 personnel each drawn from the Army, Air Force and the Navy.
- **IIP rises to 5-month high of 3.8%; inflation slightly up at 5%**
Reviving hopes of manufacturing recovery, industrial production grew at five-month high of 3.8 percent in November last year, but retail inflation inched up to 5 percent in December.
- **Brett Lee retires from all formats**
Australian pace baller Brett Lee has decided to bid adeau from all the formats of game, ending a 20-year long career. The 38-year-old, who announced his retirement on 29th January at the Sydney Cricket Ground, called time on his international career in July 2012, but continued playing T20s in both the Indian Premier League and the BBL.

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