



# EMPOWER INDIA

## NEWS BULLETIN

Volume 2, Number 2, September 19, 2011,  
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***Inform, Inspire, Empower, Involve***

Dear IDCA Member or Friend,  
We are pleased to share this second issue, providing news summary from some of our members and from India. Hope you will find useful.

Please join us and support our efforts to serve less fortunate people in India.

### **Upcoming IDCA Events:**

Ninth International conference on October 15-16 in Chicago

Second West Regional Conference on November 19, 2011 in Milpitas, CA

Eighth International Conference in India on January 11-12, 2012 in Jaipur.

First South Regional Conference in Hyderabad on February 4-5, 2012

You can learn about the upcoming IDCA events at: [www.idc-america.org/upcoming.htm](http://www.idc-america.org/upcoming.htm)  
You can support our efforts to serve you all by joining as a member. To learn how you can join us, please click:

[www.idc-america.org/membership.htm](http://www.idc-america.org/membership.htm)

Let us know how you like the new format.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Learn more from our members at:

[www.irrad.org](http://www.irrad.org), [www.idsusa.org](http://www.idsusa.org), [www.idrf.org](http://www.idrf.org)

[www.prathamusa.org](http://www.prathamusa.org), [www.hohinc.org](http://www.hohinc.org)

**IDCA Team**

## IDCA Invites you to Ninth International Conference

India Development Coalition of America is organizing its Ninth International Conference in Chicago on October 15-16, 2011. We are pleased to invite you to join us to meet and learn from many NPOs / NGOs leaders about their accomplishments and challenges to eradicate poverty and mitigate climate change. We will focus on rural development, healthcare, Education, Water, Livelihoods, and renewable energy areas. IDCA believes by learning from each other and working together we can achieve our goals more holistically and quickly. The purpose of the conference is to promote networking, collaboration, learning, giving, sharing, and volunteering to achieve our goals individually and collectively in shortest possible time.

Conference Theme: ***Working Together to Eradicate Poverty and Mitigate Climate Change in India***. Conference Venue: Illinois Institute of Technology, Rice Campus, 201 East Loop Drive, Wheaton, IL 60187. Time: 9 AM to 9 PM ---October 15, 9 AM to 4 PM---October 16. Registration: \$75.00 (\$60. Member) to September 30. \$95. (\$75 Member) from October 1. You can register by completing the registration form (download at: [www.idc-america.org/upcoming.htm](http://www.idc-america.org/upcoming.htm)) or with your check or you can pay by credit card at:

<http://www.idc-america.org/DonationForm.htm>

Invited Speakers Include:

Counsel General of India Ms. Mukta D. Tomar; Ms. Jane Schukoske, CEO, IRRAD, Gurgaon, India;

Dr. Anant Pandhare, Director, Hedgewar Hospital, Aurangabad, Maharashtra; Ms. Nileema Misra—Founder, Bhagini Nivedita Gramin Vigyan Niketan, Bahadarpur, MH, Winner of 2010 Magsaysay Award; Mr. Jeff Klein, President and CEO, The Global Food banking Network, Chicago ; Dr. Anil Sarkar, Philanthropist/activist, Terre Haute,

Indiana; Professor Prodip Dutta, India Studies Program, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN; Ms. Madhu Sridhar, president, Akshay Patra Foundation, Boston, MA; Mrs. Biraj Solanke, Founder and president, Majalgaon Vikas Pratishtan, Maharashtra; Prof. R. Rajagopal, Univ. of Iowa, Director, India Wintrim Program; Prof. Ronald Fernandez, DePaul University, Chicago, Director, India Studies Program; Mrs. Chandrakala Bhardwaj, director, Adarsh Mahila Grah Udyog Samiti, Latur, Maharashtra.

Upcoming Programs:

November 19, Second West Regional Conference, Milpitas, CA; Conference Theme: *Working Together to Eradicate Poverty and Mitigate Climate Change in India*. Registration: \$50. to September 30; \$75. to October 31; \$95.00 to November 19. <http://www.idc-america.org/DonationForm.htm>

January 11-12, 2012, Eighth International Conference in India, Jaipur, Rajasthan; Conference Theme: *Working Together to Eradicate Poverty and Promote Prosperity for ALL*. February 4-5, 2012, First South Regional Conference, Hyderabad, AP; Conference Theme: *Working Together to Eradicate Poverty and Promote Prosperity for ALL*

*IDCA is a 501©(3) not for profit organization registered in the state of Illinois since 2004. It was conceived and formed after a conference of 15 Not for profit organization and their supporters in October 2003 in the Chicago area. Since 2004 it has organized eight conferences in the Chicago area, one in Terre Haute, Indiana, 3 in DC area, one each in Milpitas and Houston, and Detroit. It has also organized 8 conferences in India. 4 in New Delhi, 2 in Gurgaon, and one each in Jaipur and Hyderabad. It has organized several forums in Chicago and organized seminars for visiting NGO leaders from India. We have been promoting networking, collaboration, learning, giving, and volunteering in US and India. Our Mission is to inform, inspire and empower nonprofits and individuals to help eradicate poverty and promote prosperity for all citizens*

of India. We invite you to join us in this undertaking to transform the lives of less fortunate members of Indian society. More information at: [www.idc-america.org/membershiphtm](http://www.idc-america.org/membershiphtm) .

For more information call: Porus Dadabhoy: 630-960-2425 or Dileep Thatte (DC): 240-316-9044. Mohan L. Jain, 630-303-9592 (O) , email at: [info@idc-america.org](mailto:info@idc-america.org) or visit our website: [www.idc-america.org](http://www.idc-america.org) .

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## Chicago Global Health Symposium—September 24, 11 AM to 5 PM

REGISTER NOW AT:  
[www.Globalhealthchampions.org](http://www.Globalhealthchampions.org)

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### Mission India Foundation ([www.mifusa.org](http://www.mifusa.org))

**Mission India Foundation** is sponsoring a concert featuring Indian Ocean on September 23rd at 8:30 PM in Chicago. All proceeds will go to charity and help support Mission India Foundation and the Association for India's Development.

#### About Indian Ocean:

Intertwining the Indian subcontinent's musical heritage with a markedly international flavor, MIF and AID proudly present Indian Ocean live in concert. Breaking stereotypes of musical orthodoxy with Kandisa, an Aramaic prayer, to the strains of Des Mera, from the blockbuster Peepli, Indian Ocean spans a wide swathe in both style and substance.

Trailblazers on the Fusion Rock scene, Indian Ocean's eclectic mix of melody and soul-stirring lyrics are acknowledged as a class apart in

Indie rock originating in the Indian subcontinent. Witness their legendary hits, and also songs from their latest album 16/330 Khajoor Road. Come... take a plunge in the heady experience that is Indian Ocean.

#### Event Information

**What:** Indian Ocean Concert

**Date:** Friday, September 23, 2011

**Time:** 8:30 PM

**Location:** [Mayne Stage, 1328 West Morse Avenue, Chicago, IL 60626](#)

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### AIF Raises \$1.4M at Tenth Anniversary Bay Area Gala

The influential American India Foundation, which was founded to coordinate aid efforts in the Indian American community after the 2001 Bhuj earthquake, commemorated its 10th anniversary Sept. 10 at a gala dinner and auction which raised more than \$1.4 million.

*Read these articles in India-West's special issue among other news in [Section A](#).*

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### Improving Reading Comprehension Through On Line Adaptive Instructions

**Date:** Wednesday, October 12, 2011

**Time:** 2:00pm ET / 11:00am PT

**Duration:** One hour

**Sponsor:** Headsprout

Hear how districts are improving reading comprehension scores in grades 3-5 with a web-based program called Headsprout, which uses individualized, adaptive instruction to meet each child's learning progress.

What you will learn:

How adaptive instruction adjusts to each student

Providing the additional instruction each child needs right when they need it

Why improving reading comprehension can significantly increase student performance across other subject areas by cultivating critical thinking skills

How this research-based approach for teaching reading comprehension addresses the key areas of inferential comprehension, literal comprehension, main idea, and vocabulary from context

**Register Today!**

After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar.

#### **System Requirements**

PC-based attendees

Required: Windows® 7, Vista, XP or 2003 Server

Macintosh®-based attendees

Required: Mac OS® X 10.5 or newer

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## **News from India**

### **14500 Tribal Children in Melghat are Malnourished**

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/14-500-tribal-children-in-Melghat-are-malnourished-State-to-HC/Article1-746264.aspx>

### **These Schools have open doors to poor children**

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/These-schools-have-thrown-open-their-doors-to-poor-students/Article1-746271.aspx>

### **Bihar: Corrupt officials House converted into School**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-14836435>

## **Center for Science and Environment**

EDITORIAL: A monsoon warning

by Sunita Narain

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As I write this my city Delhi is drowning. It started raining early this morning and within a few hours the city has come to a standstill. The television is showing scenes of traffic snarled up for hours, roads waterlogged and people and vehicles sunk deep in water and muck. The meteorological department records that some 60 mm of rain has fallen in just about 6 hours; 90 mm in 24 hours; and with this the city has made up for its deficit of rainfall this season. In other words, in just about 24 hours Delhi and its surrounding areas got half as much rain as they would in the entire month of September. Delhi, like all growing cities of India, is mindless about drainage. Storm water drains are either clogged or do not exist. Our lakes and ponds have been eaten away by real estate. Land is what the city values, not water. So when it rains more than it should the city drowns.

This month almost all parts of the country are hit by rain and flood. We don't know the extent of damage because putting together news from across the country is difficult and the national media, obsessed as it is with corruption and the antics of politics, fails to present us with the scale and magnitude of breakdown and suffering.

Then we also take for granted that at this time of the year there will be rains and then floods. We do not look for news in these events; that there is something unusual about the ferocity of the rain and the extent of the damage.

I say this as a keen recorder of these events. Each year, unfailingly, around this time I end up chronicling the floods in most parts of the country. But each year, as I learn and write, I find the floods grow in intensity. Each year, the rain events get more variable and more extreme. Each year, the economic damage because of floods and rain increases.

This year, for instance, the Himalayan state of Himachal Pradesh says its bill for rain damage

is Rs. 334 crore, roughly half the year's budget for roads and infrastructure. As many as 30 lives have been lost as rivers have broken their banks, landslides have destroyed homes, hydropower stations have been shut and roads and crops damaged. What is worrying is the emerging pattern. Chief Minister Prem Kumar Dhumal says that in his state rains were normal in June, deficient in July and hyperactive in August. A record 342 mm of incessant rain within 24 hours on August 13 left the state shell-shocked and deeply damaged.

In Gujarat rains have left behind trails of damage. Over the past two months in different regions of the state, there have been cloudbursts and torrential rains, which have led to flash floods, ravaged homes and killed 140 people. The common thread in the events is the manner in which the rains have come—abnormally heavy rains with huge sub-regional variations. For instance, earlier this week, Becharaji taluka in Mehsana district of north Gujarat recorded 62 mm of rain, equivalent to a third of its annual average. On one single day, the otherwise dry region of Kachchh got nearly as much rain—some 250 mm—as it gets in a year.

Even as I write this, another region of India, Odisha, is struggling to cope with floods of high magnitude. Some 0.7 million people are already displaced as the Mahanadi has burst its banks at many places. My colleagues tracking developments there say this is mainly because there has been heavy rainfall in the catchment of the vast Hirakud dam. As a result in less than 24 hours the Hirakud managers, without warning and notice, opened all its 59 gates, releasing huge volumes of water into the already swollen river. This part of the country, which was recorded to have deficient rains of 40 per cent, is now in surplus. In just three days enough water has fallen to make up for the shortfall.

There is no doubt, therefore, that something

strange is afoot. Scientists will tell you that there is a difference between weather and its natural variability and climate change, a pattern brought about by human emissions heating up the atmosphere faster than normal. Scientists who study the monsoons will tell you that they are beginning to make that distinction between “normal” monsoon and what is now showing up in extreme rain events. This when the monsoons are a capricious and confounding natural event, hard to predict and even harder to pin down.

Clearly, it is time to accept that we are beginning to see the impact of climate change. It is time to demand that the world change its ways to mitigate emissions. It is equally important we change the way we deal with water. The opportunity lies in making sure that every drop of the rain is harvested for future economic use. Since rain will come in more ferocious events we must engineer for its drainage and storage. Channelising and holding rain water must become the nation's mission.

This does mean that every waterbody, every channel, drain and nullah and every catchment has to be safeguarded. These are the temples of modern India. Built to worship rain. Built for our future.

Post your comments on this editorial online at <http://www.downtoearth.org.in/content/monsoon-warning>

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### **Trains soon to be equipped with DRDO's bio-digesters**

DRDO will soon equip around 1,000 passenger trains with bio-digesters to solve human waste disposal problem.

The technology developed by the premier defence research organisation was used to decompose biological waste generated by soldiers deployed in high-altitude regions such as Siachen and Ladakh.

“The pilot project to install bio-digesters in trains has been completed successfully. Necessary modifications have been made as per Railways requirement and soon the technology will be implemented on a mass scale,” DRDO Chief Controller William Selvamurthy told PTI here. Keeping in mind the specific requirements of passenger trains, Railways and DRDO signed a MoU to co-develop these bio-digesters to keep railway tracks clean.

### **Global: Innovating to improve women and children's health**

For less than \$100, poor, pregnant women in India can now give birth in a private hospital focusing on low-income families, with comparable quality to expensive, private ones. This is an alternative to overcrowded, poorly staffed government-funded hospitals. Lifespring is a rapidly growing chain of hospitals in India that provides maternity and delivery care. This is one of many new ideas and innovative tools being published in a new report, *Innovating for Every Woman, Every Child* to improving health and save the lives of women, infants, and children in low income countries. On September 12, the report is being published online by *The Lancet* and Every Women, Every Child, the website for the United Nation's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health. It was prepared as part of the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's "Every Woman Every Child" Initiative, a global strategy for improving women and children's health, launched last year.

The Secretary-General will revisit the strategy on September 20 at the UN General Assembly to review progress and to, once again, assess efforts toward meeting the two most elusive Millennium Development Goals, MDG 4 to reduce child mortality, and MDG 5 to improve maternal health.

For more details:

[http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2011-09/unf-it090911.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2011-09/unf-it090911.php)

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## **There's enough to feed 7 billion, but 1 billion still hungry**

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/blogs/alertnet-news-blog/theres-enough-to-feed-7-billion>

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## **Amnesty Scheme for Black Money on Anvil**

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics/nation/as-demanded-by-industrialists-ratan-tata-anil-ambani-anand-mahindra-y-c-deveshwar-n-r-narayana-murthy-g-m-rao-r-p-goenka-and-shashi-ruia-amnesty-scheme-on-cards-for-black-money/articleshow/9990079.cms>

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**PBD 2012 In Jaipur on January 7-9, 2012. More information at:**

[www.pbdindia.org](http://www.pbdindia.org) or  
[www.rajasthanfoundation.org](http://www.rajasthanfoundation.org)

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## **Top News from The Chronicle**

### **Charities' Fund Raising Barely Keeping Up With Lost Donations**

Nonprofits aren't able to recruit enough new donors to make up for those who have stopped giving, a new study finds.

### **White House Names New Head of Social-Innovation Unit**

Jonathan Greenblatt, a businessman who helped create an online volunteer database that can be used nationwide, will advise the president on nonprofit issues.

### **Nonprofits Fight Proposal to Curb Charity Tax Breaks**

Charities are already courting lawmakers to protest limits on write-offs by wealthy donors.

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