

US INDIAN NEWS

Several MoUs Inked at S.F-Bangalore Sister City Trip

BY SUNITA SOHRABJI

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Eight memorandums of understanding, in areas spanning Shakespeare to sustainable city development, were signed Nov. 30, as San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom and a delegation of 40 city officials and leaders from the nearby Silicon Valley visited their newest sister city Bangalore.



The delegation descended upon India's technology hub Nov. 27 to forge economic and cultural ties with their Bangalore counterparts during the four-day inaugural visit. Bangalore and San Francisco formalized a sister city agreement on May 29. "We've got our work cut out for us," Jim Herlihy, co-chair of the San Francisco-Bangalore Sister City Initiative, told India-West. "We're taking the broad statements of interest indicated in these MoUs and turning them into action plans." The trip was an eye-opener for the mayor, said Herlihy. "It set the tone as to how the public sector should work with the private sector." Former San Francisco city mayor Frank Jordan also joined the delegation.

Each of the signed MoUs presupposes a U.S.-based company involvement, which would mean jobs for San Franciscans, said Herlihy. Newsom joined Amsterdam Mayor Job Cohen and Cisco chief globalization officer Wim Elfrink at a teleconference from Bangalore Dec. 1, broadcast to reporters throughout the world using the company's Telepresence technology.

At the teleconference, Newsom and Elfrink signed an MOU to develop a "Living Innovations Laboratory" within a new United Nations Global Compact structure, to be built in the Hunters Point Shipyard. San Francisco and the UNGC have agreed to establish a "Global Warming and Social and Economic Innovation Center" at the shipyard, featuring a conference center and "incubator space" for emerging companies, with a focus on green technology. "I'm trying to get the U.N. to locate back to its place of

birth,” said Newsom at the Bangalore teleconference.

In a July 27, 2007 speech in San Francisco, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon declared that San Francisco, where the vision for the U.N. was launched on April 25, 1945, could become the birthplace of a new movement to save the Earth for future generations. The new agreement also aims to create an eco-friendly San Francisco, with local initiatives to combat global warming. The City has already launched Cisco’s Urban EcoMap, which shows users how their zip codes fare in greenhouse gas emissions, along with suggestions to minimize an individual’s carbon footprints. Amsterdam rolled out its own UrbanEcoMap at the teleconference, as the two cities entered into a friendly rivalry to determine which city is more environmentally conscious. The project can be seen online at urbanecomap.com. “It is cities and regions that need to take leadership. We are laboratories of innovation; that is what cities are all about,” said Newsom during the teleconference.

Both cities signed an MoU for San Francisco to lend its expertise to Bangalore on waste-water treatment and solid waste management. The MoU also covered several new public health, public park and education initiatives, along with sustainable city innovations. The University of California, San Francisco also signed an MoU with the Bangalore-based Biocon, a biotechnology company founded and helmed by Kiran Mazumdar Shaw. The two organizations will focus on drug development and new methods for drug delivery; new therapies for diabetes, cancer and auto-immune diseases; a scientist exchange program and a resource-sharing program. Shaw will travel to San Francisco in January.

Agreements were also signed between the National Fashion Institute of Technology in Bangalore and the School of Fashion at the Academy of Art Institute in San Francisco. Ranga Shankara, headed up by actress Arundhati Nag, signed an MoU with the California Shakespeare Theater to provide artistic collaborations and exchanges of art personnel and ideas.

Tangible initiatives from the trip should emerge by the first quarter of next year, said Herlihy.

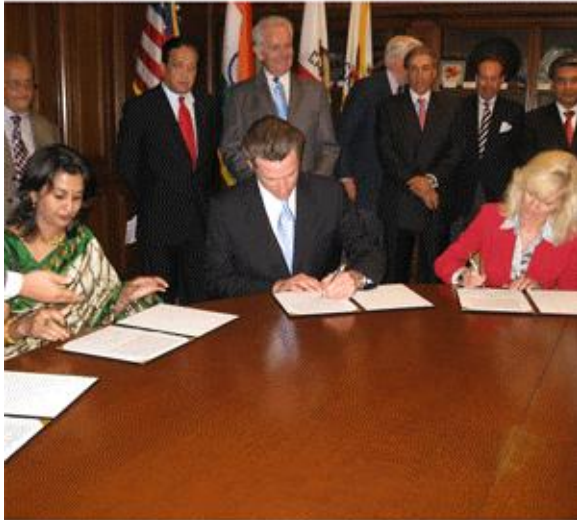
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SF Sister City Delegation to Visit Bangalore in Nov.

By SUNITA SOHRABJIindiawest.com

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A delegation of more than 40 San Francisco city officials, including Mayor Gavin Newsom, and heavyweights from the Silicon Valley tech industry will travel to Bangalore Nov. 27, in the inaugural trip of the San Francisco-Bangalore sister city collaboration. The delegation will aim to create partnerships between the two cities in trade, technology, investment, health and education. The delegation will also focus on cultural and philanthropic collaborations between the two cities.



Jim Herlihy, co-chair of the San Francisco-Bangalore Sister City Initiative, told India-West the delegation would finalize four to six memorandums of understanding that have been in the works since the sister city memorandum of understanding was signed between the two cities May 29.

The Public Utilities Commission will offer its expertise on wastewater treatment to Bangalore. San Francisco – one of the top cities nationwide for recycling – will also offer its proficiency on solid waste management, said Herlihy.

The delegation will also offer San Francisco city resources in the areas of infant and childhood disease and perinatal women's health. UC-San Francisco, one of the nation's leading health facilities, will sign an MOU with Biocon, the leading biotech company in Bangalore, headed up by Kiran Mazumdar, who sits on the Bangalore sister city board.

The National Institute for Fashion Technology will sign an MOU with the Academy of Arts in San Francisco for technical cooperation and student exchange programs, added Herlihy.

Judy Wilbur, board member of the San Francisco Asian Art Museum, and Jay Xu, museum director, will travel with the delegation to secure collaborations with Indian artists. The museum holds one of the world's best collections of Asian art. "We want the Asian Art Museum to be the gateway to bring shows of Indian art to the U.S.," said Herlihy.

Cisco's Bangalore satellite will host the delegation on the second day of its three-day trip.

Newsom will cut the ribbon on a new building on the sprawling Cisco campus in Bangalore. That evening, Vijay Mallya of United Breweries will host a gala reception for the group. Several emerging technology companies in the areas of biotech, alternative fuels, and clean tech will present their work on the last day of the trip at a seminar hosted jointly by the Bangalore and Silicon Valley chapters of The Indus Entrepreneurs.

In related news, the San Francisco-Bangalore Sister City committee offered its condolences to victims of the recent floods in South India that have left more than 250 people dead and about 2.5 million homeless.

"I offer my deepest condolences to those affected by the flooding in India," said Newsom in a statement. "San Francisco has particularly strong economic, social and cultural ties to our sister city Bangalore, and I was deeply saddened to hear of the suffering there," he said.

In other news, Ro Khanna, deputy assistant secretary for domestic operations, U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service at the U.S. Department of Commerce, will lead an energy efficiency trade mission to Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai Nov. 16-20.

The mission will focus on bringing energy efficient products from U.S. manufacturers to the burgeoning Indian market. Members will participate in a U.S.-India Energy Efficiency Technology Cooperation Conference in New Delhi Nov. 16 and 17, which is jointly organized by the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The delegation will visit Chennai Nov. 18 and Mumbai Nov. 19 and 20. Participation fees are \$4200 for large firms and \$3500 for small or medium-sized firms.

Khanna told India-West he was currently unable to discuss the mission.