

# WINGS CHAMBER

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## GUJARAT INNOVATES A NEW TRAIL IN RIGHT TO EDUCATION

One major initiative of the Indian government, in the field of education, was the Right to Education Act of 2009. This act has major problems, as has been argued by numerous observers and experts in the field. This Act focuses on the interests of incumbent public sector education providers, instead of focusing on the interests of children and parents.

It is focused on inputs into the educational process, regardless of the outcomes which are coming out. It penalises private schools that have weaknesses on inputs, regardless of the fact that these schools often induce better learning outcomes when compared with public schools.

At the same time, the translation of the Act into benign or malign outcomes critically hinges on the Rules under the Act, which are notified by state governments. Thus, now that Parliament has chosen to enact the RTE Act, the critical frontier that matters is how state governments choose. In recent weeks, Gujarat notified its Rules for the implementation of the Right to Education Act (RTE) 2009. It has introduced some of the most innovative ideas for recognition of existing private unaided schools. The committee in charge of drafting the rules in Gujarat, that was headed by the former Chief Secretary Sudhir Mankad, has broken new ground in understanding the policy issues faced in education in India today.

Instead of focusing only on input requirements specified in the Act like classroom size, play ground, and teacher-student ratio, the Gujarat RTE Rules put greater emphasis on learning outcomes of students in the recognition norms. Appendix 1 of the Gujarat Rules is the one which has a path-breaking formulation for recognition of a school: this will be a weighted average of four measures:

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## British soldiers killed by 'Afghan police'

Two British servicemen have been shot dead by people wearing Afghan Police uniforms, the MoD said



## Maldonado makes history at Spanish GP

Pastor Maldonado has become the first Venezuelan to win a Formula One race at the Spanish GP.



## Snapshots of 2012 London Olympic venues

From the majestic stadium to the main press centre, here are the venues of the 2012 London Olympic

# WORLD BUSINESS MAGAZINE



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**Student learning outcomes (absolute levels): Weight 30 percent.**

Using standardised tests, student learning levels focussing on learning (not just rote) will be measured through an independent assessment.

**Student learning outcomes (improvement compared to the school's past performance): Weight 40 percent.**

This component is introduced to ensure that schools do not show a better result in (1) simply by not admitting weak students. The effect of school performance looking good simply because of students coming from well-to-do backgrounds is also automatically addressed by this measure. Only in the first year, this measure will not be available and the weightage should be distributed among the other parameters.

**Inputs (including facilities, teacher qualifications): Weight 15 percent**  
**Student non-academic outcomes (co-curricular and sports, personality and values) and parent feedback: weight 15 percent.**

Student outcomes in non-academic areas as well as feedback from a random sample of parents should be used to determine this parameter. Standardised survey tools giving weightage to cultural activities, sports, art should be developed. The parent feedback should cover a random sample of at least 20 parents across classes and be compiled.

This is one of the first times in India's history that public policy has focused on children and parents, instead of focusing on the public sector producers of education services.

Furthermore, the Gujarat RTE Rules have taken a more nuanced and flexible

approach in other areas too. For instance, both class size and teacher-student ratio have not been defined in absolute terms, but in relative terms.

The required classroom size is 300 sq feet but in case class rooms are smaller, then instead of rebuilding them, the rules allow for a way to accommodate that with a different teacher-student ratio. The formula is:  $\text{Teacher Student ratio} = (\text{Area of the classroom in sq feet} - 60) / 8$ . This approach not only allows smaller classrooms to exist but also gives schools a more efficient way to manage physical infrastructure. If a private school is unable to meet recognition norms, then the RTE Act de-recognises the school and forces it to close down. This sudden forced closure would create serious problems for the students and parents who would have to find a new school in the neighbourhood. The Gujarat Rules allow for the state to take over the school, or transfer management to a third party, and create a genuine possibility for the school to continue and meet the norms. This, once again, shows the focus of the Gujarat Rules upon the interests of students and parents. This approach is significantly better than that of the other states where recognition norms are based solely on input requirements and that are also rigid (like playground, classroom size and teacher-student ratio). The Gujarat approach recognises the substantial contribution made by budget private schools in urban and semi-urban areas where land and buildings are very expensive. Actually many government schools themselves would not be able to meet the rigid input norms that RTE has mandated.

## SWISS WATCH CONTINUES TO BRING THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE SET OF HIGH-END BRANDS IN LAS VEGAS

Swiss Watch, JCK's high-end timepiece event, will continue to deliver the strong roster of brands from years past, in addition to welcoming several new exhibitors this year. The show will run alongside LUXURY, JCK's high-end jewelry event, further solidifying its position as the destination for fine time pieces during JCK Las Vegas Jewelry Week 2012. Swiss Watch will take place June 1-4 in the suites at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino, The Hotel as well as at the Mandarin Oriental at City Center Suites in Las Vegas.

A private, appointment-based show, Swiss Watch is already home to fine Swiss brands such as Baume & Mercier, Breitling, Corum, Hublot, Raymond Weil, and Tag Heuer. The 2012 show will welcome Eberhard, Glycine and Parmigiani to this prestigious collective of exhibitors. Of the new exhibiting brands, Dave Bonaparte, Senior Vice President from JCK explains "The addition of Eberhard, Glycine and Parmigiani makes for a well rounded set of high-end watch exhibitors which are of special interest to top-tier retailers attending the Show. With the robust presence of Swiss Watch, we are essentially delivering every corner of the high-end jewelry and watch market to retailers that specialize in that caliber of product."

Steven Kaiser, President of Kaiser Time adds "Beyond the strength of each individual brand at Swiss Watch, the breadth of the collective of exhibitors is what makes it so appealing for buyers. They are able to hit every pocket of interest from the high-end collector's timepiece to sporty weekend wear."





## Pieter Elbers Joins KLM Management Board

Pieter Elbers (42) has joined the KLM Management Board. His proposed appointment was approved today during the annual general meeting of KLM shareholders. Pieter Elbers has served as KLM's Chief Operating Officer since 2011. In addition to KLM President & CEO Peter Hartman, KLM Managing Directors Camiel Eurlings and Erik Varwijk, Pieter Elbers now forms part of the statutory management board.



Pieter Elbers joined KLM in 1992. He has held several posts abroad and also served as Senior Vice President Network & Alliances. KLM Media .

## MEKONG TOURISM FORUM TO EVALUATE 20 YEARS OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

The Mekong Tourism Forum 2012 will take place in Chiang Rai, Thailand, 13-14 June. The forum will address the theme, "20/20 Vision: Building on Two Decades of GMS Cooperation."

Speakers will deliver a candid assessment of what progress has and has not been accomplished by Cambodia, China, Laos, Thailand, Myanmar, Vietnam and donors such as the Asian Development Bank. The grouping united in 1992 to build the Greater Mekong Sub-region as a single tourism destination.

The GMS countries are collectively targeting 52 million international tourist arrivals and US\$53 billion in sub-regional tourism revenue by 2015. There were 10 million arrivals in 1995, rising to 35 million in 2011.

"A great deal has been achieved," said Mekong Tourism Coordinating Office, Executive Director, Mason Florence.

"Multi-country holidays are now common in the GMS, but we still need to reduce red tape, increase cross-border flows and boost sustainable tourism in rural areas where incomes are still too low," he said.

Tourists surveyed in the six countries say that the friendly people are one of the area's most important assets. The forum will

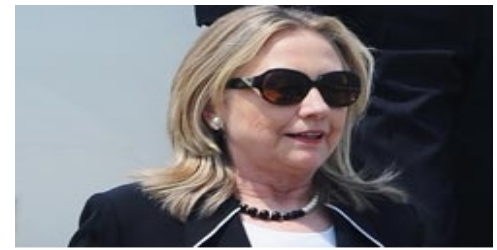
assess how the attraction, retention, training and development of the Mekong workforce has progressed and what needs to be done. Tourists surveyed in the six countries say that the friendly people are one of the area's most important assets. The forum will assess how the attraction, retention, training and development of the Mekong workforce has progressed and what needs to be done.

Participants will address the recent changes in Myanmar and the impact of ASEAN Economic Cooperation, due in 2015. There will be a session on how private and public sector tourism operators in the GMS can better leverage the shift to electronic distribution, social media, and mobile.

"Anyone with a stake in the future of tourism in the GMS should be at the forum," said Florence.

The Mekong Tourism Forum 2012 will take place in northern Thailand at the Dusit Island Resort Hotel in Chiang Rai, a city which celebrates its 750th anniversary this year.

For program information visit [www.MekongTourismForum.org](http://www.MekongTourismForum.org). Bookings: [mtf2012.eventbrite.com](http://mtf2012.eventbrite.com).



## Hillary Clinton to meet Mamata

Hillary arrived on a two-day visit during which she is likely to discuss FDI in multi-brand retail with



## Kashmir launches water taxis

In an effort to reduce traffic woes on the streets of J&K the state govt has launched water taxis



## Brit tourist killed in 'Majorca hotel fall'

A 23-year-old has died after reportedly plunging from a balcony in a Spanish party resort



## Sarkozy concedes defeat to Hollande

France will have a Socialist president after Nicolas Sarkozy conceded defeat to Francois Hollande.



# SUPERDRY UNVEILS SPRING SUMMER COLLECTION 2012, THE MOST DIVERSE TO DATE

*New range makes strong fashion statement about upcoming trends in UAE haute couture*

Superdry, the stylish fashion brand has unveiled its new Spring/Summer collection, the most diverse to date, which highlights the new styles for the season ahead in the UAE.

Emad Hussein, Superdry brandmanager in the UAE, said: "We expect visitors to rush in droves to our stores at Mall of the Emirates, Deira City Centre, Mirdif City Centre, Dubai Marina Mall & The Dubai Mall, to grab the new exciting range in high fashion."

The diverse collection includes denims ranging from reactive women's standard blue jeans to summer weight premium stitch classics, culminating in premium foundry styles with back synch and new skinny fits. The washes and colors are updated with saline blues and dusted pinks. Cuts, weights and detailing are paramount for Ss12 along with the ultimate in fabrics and techniques. Graphic fine thread tees are re-defined with progressive blocks and art-house decorations that push the Superdry design language.

Circuit tees showcase modern multi-media, double cracked print techniques, while eagle tees come super distressed in oily colors. Tailored swim launches as a full concept; a premium beach story in a sunset palette, vintage board shorts and silk touch rive inspired bikinis.

Military fatigues and shorts arrive in muted armies and blissed out over dyes with hand destroyed features and rugged rescue detailing. Nylon time trials jackets come feminine in bloom pink or bright blue, with waist cinching belt and checked lining.

Military fatigues and shorts arrive in muted armies and blissed out over dyes with hand destroyed features and rugged rescue detailing. Nylon time trials jackets come feminine in bloom pink or bright blue, with waist cinching belt and checked lining.

The classic mackintosh is updated with a Superdry twist. Flight parkas come engineered to wear with flight zip detailing and quilted, colour-pop lining. Hand burnished wax cotton dispatch rider, messenger jackets and artisan tar pit leathers are the pinnacle designs in the exclusive preview jacket gallery.

Militarily tailoring is uniform influenced with brass buttons, two-tone twills and 'ottoman' labels. The highest quality Italian fabrics, alongside the acetate lining encompass a classic feel. The regiment jacket and wren coat are key pieces; heritage shirting sits alongside this iconic cotton jacket collection.

Women's wear sees Vintage Thrift diversify with ultrafine sheers, sun-scorched fabrics and cinch to fit washed cotton skirts and culottes. Meadow teddy playsuits sit alongside preppy shorts, in spring pinks and lipstick reds. Dresses are updated with ruffles, woven paneling and florals.

The new color palette showcases paisley pink, sunset and pale greys. White Label Delicates' cami sets are updated with lace paneling, color-pop lining and scooped backs. Gingham, paisley and dogtooth- printed sheers keep the line fresh and classically feminine. Men's heritage basics hark back to a Wild West era; vintage granddad tops and skinny thermal tees.

Collegiate tops in preppy colors and crest detailing sit alongside spring-weight bison knits, updated from winter with brighter colourways and new prints. Accessories showcase seasonal trends from nautical rope detailing to military inspired satchels and pastel hessian sacks. Tri-color totes and leather clutches inject fun into the collection. The canvas mail bag program is a particular highlight with muted colors and distressed printed logos.

Superdry's boot company leather foot wear is a seasonal pinnacle, heeled peep-toe shoe boots for women and premium leather boots for men. Espadrilles come with deckchair stripes. Sport underwear, rugged luggage, harbour bags and camping classics are high points. iPhone and iPad rubber touch shells are shown alongside new hi-fi headphones in crisp Superdry sport colours, completing this progressive collection.

