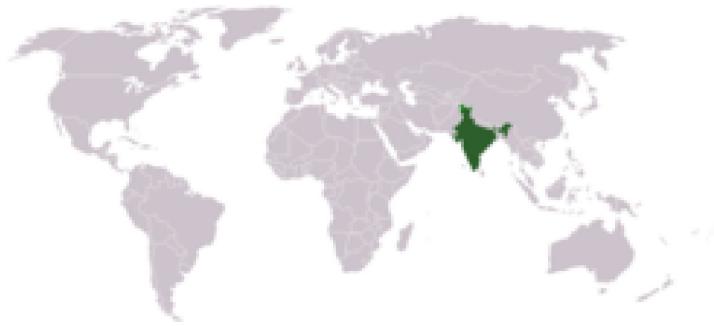


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Project management in India
Entering into the next decade

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In a few months from now we will enter 2010 and this has a great significance for India. This year will mark the first step towards the cherished goal of many to become a developed world what is commonly referred to as India Vision 2020. While the dream is lofty, the challenges are many, not the least being the fact that the goal has to be achieved taking in stride the ground reality of incompetent resources, political compulsions and bureaucracy, environmental issues, disparity between 'haves' and 'have nots' and regional political tensions. Let us look briefly at the main events that have taken place or are happening in 2009 and what we can expect in 2010.

Leaving behind 2009

Conferences , seminars and events

PMI India and Chapters (Major events)

- Project Management Conclave 2009 by PMI India - June 2009 Mumbai
Automotive and Pharmaceutical sector
- International Project Management day - PMI Mumbai Chapter - Nov 2009
- Project Management Conference - India - Hyderabad - Nov 2009
- PMPC 2009 - PMI Bangalore - Sep 2009

Project Management Associates

- 17th Global Symposium Dec 14-16 , 2009 (to be held) New Delhi
Managing projects, programs and portfolios
- PMA opened Chapters at Hyderabad , Bhubaneshwar and Ranchi

Others

- Infrastructure Project Management by Marcus Evans Mumbai - Oct 2009
- Complex Project Management by Marcus Evans - Mumbai - Mar 2009

Looking ahead in 2010

Commonwealth games



Suresh Kalmadi , Chairman 2010 Commonwealth ,Organizing Committee at a construction site , Delhi Source : Hindustan Times July 25 ,2009 .

Scheduled during October it is the most visible event that is expected to take place in 2010 in India. It has its share of controversy and debate mainly on whether it will be completed on time. In light of the 26/11 attacks at Mumbai and historical happenings in sports events in other parts of the world, terrorism and security is also a big issue. As project management professionals, it will be interesting to observe how the event will be managed! While at the operating level, professionals have or are being inducted, the top is managed by the ex-government officials and politicians. The scale of the project is huge as in case of any large scale sports event and one wonders if the right project management processes, tools and skills are being deployed. We have to keep our fingers crossed to see its outcome! However, some academic institutions (the Indian Institute of Management, Shillong and Drexel University, USA) have taken on a research project to study the games.

Growth sectors

The World Bank has projected an 8% growth for India in 2010, which will make it the fastest-growing economy and for the first time, overtaking China's expected 7.7% growth. In general, the growth areas expected are in infrastructure, (power, ports, roads and railways) renewable energy, fast moving consumer goods and durables, healthcare and auto ancillaries. The IT sector (though not as much affected as other parts of the world) is slowly picking up and focusing on local markets particularly the SME (Small and Medium enterprises). Some specific examples of projects and investments are

- About US\$ 20.48 billion are expected to be spent on the setting up of power plants based on renewable energy sources by the end of 2011-12, according to the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA).
- Infrastructure projects worth about US\$14.9 billion have achieved financial closure during the last three months of 2009.
- The Indian healthcare industry is expected to provide huge investment opportunities with the medical tourism and services segments witnessing growth in the recent past. Significantly, companies such as Fortis Healthcare, Apollo Hospitals Group and Metropolis Health Services are in an expansion mode to capture a pie of this growing sector.
- Apollo Tyres has announced that it will expand capacity by 50 per cent 10 global tyre makers in the next five years. Similarly, Indian tyre company, JK Tyre and Industries, is aiming to double exports from its Mexican subsidiary, Tornel, within a year.

Role of project management

Considering the expected growth, the infrastructure sector with its base sector (construction) has very good opportunities for deploying formal project management processes, training and consulting. However, historically, this sector has been implementing projects informally and in an ad-hoc manner and without the use of standard processes or methodology. The challenge here for consultants and evangelists is to advocate the value of using project management processes, tools and practices.

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Mr. Rao is also principal consultant for Xtraplus Solutions, a PM consulting and training company based in Chennai. Mr. Rao has a B.Tech degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Madras, India; a Diploma in Management from the University of Bombay; an Advanced PM certificate from Stanford University; and a certificate from IIM Calcutta. Mr. Rao has over 30 years' experience in engineering, process and project management and has been an active member of PMI for several years. He is currently a member of PMI's OPM3 2008 Update project, and was a team member for development of several recent PMI standards. A founding member and vice president for the PMI Chennai Chapter, Raju is also a member of the PMI Pharmaceutical SIG, member and Chair of the Advisory Committee for the South India chapter of AACE International, and founder of the Indian Project Management Forum. Raju Rao lives in Chennai, India and can be contacted at rao.raju@gmail.com. Additional information about Mr. Rao can be found at <http://www.pmforum.org/pm%20forum%20team/index.htm#5>.