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Factories in the US, Europe and Asia cranked up production last month, suggesting recovery from a deep recession was taking root in economies around the globe. The US manufacturing sector grew at its fastest pace in over five years last month and activity in Europe bounced higher, with a cheaper euro helping stimulate exports. UK manufacturing expanded at its fastest pace since 1994 while China's vast industrial sector also grew in March.



Education for children aged between 6 and 14 has finally become a fundamental right, with the notification of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act on Thursday. In an address to the nation, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh reiterated the government's "national commitment to the education of our children and to the future of India". He said, "The health, education and creative abilities of our children and young people will determine the well-being and strength of our nation. Education is the key to progress. It empowers the individual. It enables a nation."

While the notification of the Right to Education (RTE) and fundamental right to education is an important milestone, the government acknowledged that the real challenge lay in the effective implementation of the Act. In his short address, the prime minister referred to the need for all stakeholders to work together to realise the Right to Education, describing it as a "common national endeavour".

NEWS ALERT

On the Heels: Insole Ads Turn Readers into Wearers

Subscribers to the May issues of In Style and All You, and to the June issue of Shape will find an unusual ad for Dr. Scholl's for Her Open Shoe insoles: affixed to the heavy-stock paper will be an actual right insole.

Dr. Scholl's, a division of Schering-Plough, is making about 3 million of the mate-less insoles, with about 2.7 million going into magazines and the remainder available through the brand's Facebook page, to which readers who encounter the ad after samples have been removed will be directed. (Newsstand copies of the magazines will not include insoles.)

The insole, which will be affixed to heavy stock paper with

the same adhesive that holds it in place in shoes, encourages the sort of side-by-side demonstration unlikely with, say, shampoo samples, since people do not shampoo one side of their heads. But women who slip the insole into their sandals, slingbacks or shoes with straps cannot help comparing it to their left shoe as they walk.