

# imprint

India's Foreign Affairs Magazine. International relations.  
India's imprint on the world in business and culture.

## SAARC: An introduction

THE South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established with the formal adoption of its Charter on 8 December 1985 by the Heads of the Governments of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The thirteenth SAARC summit was held in Dhaka from November 12 to 13. Major leaders who attended this mega summit were, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Begum Khaleda Zia; the Prime Minister of Bhutan, Lyonpo Sangay Ngedup; the Prime Minister of India, Manmohan Singh; the President of Maldives, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom;

## INSIDE

- Editor's Perspective
- India-Ghana relations
- India soon to be a part of the thermo nuclear reactor project
- Dual citizenship for Indian Diaspora
- A glimpse of India Indonesia relations

## 13<sup>th</sup> SAARC Summit : A Report

13<sup>th</sup> SAARC Summit was successfully hosted by Bangladesh in the month of November. Major issues concerning the development of the region were discussed at this Summit. This article talks about the main points from the statement of the Indian Prime Minister. It also discusses the SAARC declaration and decisions taken up by the member countries on issues of common concern to the regions ranging from terrorism, South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) to tourism, poverty alleviation, natural disaster and information technology.



the King of Nepal, Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev; the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shaukat Aziz and the President of Sri Lanka, Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga.

The Indian Prime Minister said that the SAARC region has seen intense suffering caused by major natural disasters this year and there is a need to pool our collective resources and wisdom to deal with such disasters.

Prime Minister stressed on the need of an early warning system to provide relief and reconstruction through community involvement in planning and risk management, use of micro-credit both for pre-

disaster risk reduction and for post-disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation.

### • PM recommends food bank

Prime Minister recom-

(Continued on pg 3)

## CHECKLIST OF VISITORS

Czech President

**Vaclav Klaus**

November 6 to 12

Vice President & Foreign Minister of Panama

**Samuel Lewi Navarro**

November 18 to 24

President of Indonesia

**Susilo B. Yudhoyono**

November 22 to 24

US Undersec. Commerce

**David McCormick**

November 30 to Dec. 2

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**PERSPECTIVE**

**Lesser than Equal**



**Anil Chopra**  
Editor, Imprint

The SAARC summit is totally ignored by the International media. The important global magazines and global television channels totally ignored the summit in Dhaka. No question of any importance to the sub-continent's association of insignificant countries at all. Not even from the US for its partner in Pakistan as a member of SAARC.

Clearly India has failed in its diplomacy initiatives with respect to the region and its neighbours in favouring the SAARC club as a platform to unite the region and more important to build trust and friendship

with India. For one thing, India has been taking Pakistan too seriously whereas it should absolutely not, not the threat if any shall be perceived, not the importance, which is really not deserving in any respect to achievement of any sort in any field by a self-obsessed country, which has succeeded in attracting too much attention to itself. Now Bangladesh is repeating the same performance and once again India is falling into the trap. India has problems of its own with religion. This is one of the reasons why we have not been able to see beyond the myopic agenda of both Pakistan and now Bangladesh in their religious shenanigan. India seriously needs to ignore both countries in this game. However, with the SAARC club and the fantastic potential to create regional solidarity India has failed to impact the trade benefits for the whole region and allay the fear of the smaller economies of being swamped by Indian imports. What is required by India to achieve regional friendship? Tremendous self-confidence for one thing. India has to allow all its neighbours to exploit its advantages and markets to their fullest potential. If we are looking for an equal give and take with our neighbours it's not going to get us anywhere. *Us* are not all of the SAARC members, its India, *us* as in ourselves. India must not get into a syndrome of competing with any of the SAARC members. Importantly the SAARC members must get this feeling. The free-trade area being introduced January 1<sup>st</sup> need not have any product protected by India. India needs to be generous to a fault. Afghanistan's entry is the best thing to happen to SAARC in a long time. Going by the list of initiatives made by the Indian PM it seems the task of leveraging SAARC is not lost on South Block. In the SAARC report in this issue the proposals put forward at the Dhaka summit are detailed. The war exercises with China is opportune in conveying to the South Asian SAARC members and to the world that China is not an issue for India; if China wishes to attend, its an issue for China actually. Once again India has to rise to the occasion and ignore China's presence in the neighbourhood and lead with confidence and generosity if the exclusive SAARC club has to be of any use.

Natwar Singh's unfortunate overconfidence in his position and role in India's foreign affairs has cost fair damage to the MEA. His strong defence indicates his belief that he has a right to international privilege from heads of state on account of his personality as a diplomatic icon of sorts. His sense of foreign policy has been oily of late, its clear now the interest is more than strategic energy security. In any case a blessing in disguise possibly, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has served as well, if not better, diplomatically, in Dhaka.

PM Manmohan's neutralism is perfectly poised to win over our neighbours and as much emphasis on this task is better deserved in his tenure, the best chance to make SAARC meaningful.

Anil Chopra, Editor & Publisher

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(Continued from pg 1)  
mended a Regional Food Bank to combat the food security challenge. He said



that all member countries of SAARC would contribute to this fund.

#### • South Asian Energy Dialogue

The Indian Prime Minister also proposed a South Asian Energy Dialogue, involving experts, academics, environmentalists, officials and NGOs, to recommend measures to tap the vast, latent potential for co-operation.

#### • South Asian Development Fund

Manmohan Singh welcomed the decision to merge the different existing and proposed funds into an Umbrella, South Asian Development Fund, with different openings for different purposes. His next important suggestion was to establish a collaborative healthcare project involving a regional Telemedicine network utilising India's expertise in this field, by installing a facility linking all SAARC countries.

#### • Key points of the SAARC declaration

The Declaration issued at the Summit affirmed that it provided a unique opportunity to consolidate the gains made during the past two decades and to prepare a strategy to promote effective co-operation at all levels. In the declaration, the need for regional co-operation was recognised to promote the

South Asian identity. In place of a three-tier mechanism for poverty alleviation, SAARC countries decided to have a two tier mechanism for poverty alleviation. This mechanism will comprise the Ministers and Secretaries dealing with Poverty Alleviation at the National level. The members agreed to establish a SAARC Poverty Alleviation Fund and endorsed the SAARC Development Goals (SDG) as recommended by the Independent South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation (ISACPA). SAARC members entrusted ISACPA to continue with its task of advisory and advocacy role in this regard.

Ministers should meet within the first quarter after every Summit and also on the sidelines of the World Bank and ADB annual meet

#### • Advance Economic Cooperation

SAARC members reaffirmed their commitment to accelerate cooperation in the economic and commercial fields, especially in the energy sector. They noted the progress in the negotiations on outstanding issues and directed early finalization of all the Annexes ensuring entry into force of the South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) from 1 January 2006. The SAARC members stressed the importance of the entry into force of the SAFTA on the scheduled date. The launching of SAFTA would mark an important milestone on the road to a South Asian Economic Union.

The need to strengthen transportation and communication links across the region for accelerated and balanced economic growth and economic activities was reiterated. Proposal to study India's suggestion for daily

air service facility by designated airlines, on a reciprocal basis and without prejudice to existing rights, to all the SAARC member States was considered. There is a need to take the process of regional economic integration further by expanding the scope of SAFTA to include trade in services, enhanced investment and harmonized standards.

#### • Agreements signed

Following Agreements were signed during the thirteenth SAARC Summit:

- The Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters
- The Agreement on the Establishment of SAARC Arbitration Council
- The Limited Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax matters

SAARC members emphasized the need for parallel initiatives for dismantling of non-tariff and para-tariff barriers. A need of prompt action on conclusion of agreements on mutual recognition of standards, testing and measurements with a view to facilitating intra-regional trade was recognised. They also recognized the potential of trade in services which have expanded rapidly at the informal level. They called for a study to see how services could be integrated into the SAFTA process.

#### • Initiatives on Social Challenges

It was emphasized at the Summit that national implementation efforts to combat social challenges should be complemented by regional projects and programmes. In this context, they directed that regional projects, particu-

larly in health and poverty alleviation, should be initiated.

#### • Control of pandemics

Collaboration to address health emergencies, prevention and control of pandemics like avian influenza was recognized at the Summit. They called for early establishment of a SAARC Health Surveillance Centre and a Rapid Deployment Health Response System, to deal with emerging and re-emerging diseases.

SAARC members welcomed the preparation of a strategy for collective SAARC response to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.

The members agreed to launch a regional initiative with regard to basic healthcare services and sanitation in the rural areas and encouraged exchange of experience and best practices within the region. They called for expediting elaboration of a SAARC Plan of Action for cooperation in medical expertise and pharmaceuticals, as well as traditional medicines and availing affordable pharmaceuticals produced in the region, harmonization of standards and certification procedures and production of affordable medicines. They also agreed that steps should be taken to promote traditional medicines and to protect the intellectual property rights related to them as a matter of regional priority.

#### • Meeting South Asia's Environmental Challenges and Natural Disasters

While expressing satisfaction at the progress in implementation of the SAARC Environment Action

(Continued on pg 7)



▶ We hope for a significant progress on Doha Development Agenda: Kamal Nath, the Union Commerce and Industry Minister with US Trade Representative Ambassador Rob Portman. The meeting was held on 13<sup>th</sup> November in New Delhi.



▲ Exchanging Smiles: US Treasury Secretary John Snow with Onkar S Kanwar. The Occasion was a meeting organized by the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, American Chamber of Commerce and the US India Business Council, at New Delhi on 11<sup>th</sup> October.



▲ Liberalize foreign investment norms: Indian Finance Minister P Chidambaram with US Treasury Secretary John Snow in New Delhi. In a joint statement issued by the two leaders, emphasis was laid on the necessity for pursuing sustained global expansion, so that the current account imbalance can be minimized.

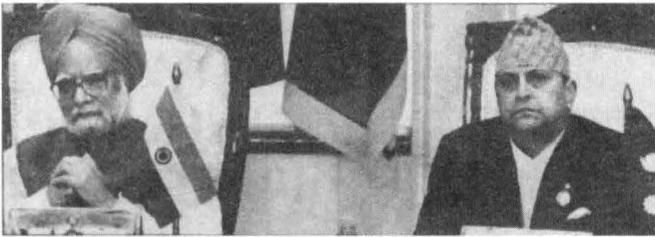
▲ The Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Kamal Nath (extreme left) and FICCI President Onkar S Kanwar present a memento to US trade representative Rob Portman (r). The occasion was a lunch meeting in the mid of November.



▲ Let us develop a mutually beneficial relationship: Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry President, Chaudhary Mohd. Saeed with Saarc Chamber of Commerce and Industry President, Macky Hashim and FICCI Secretary General Amit Mitra at a press conference in New Delhi.

▲ Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the National Martyr's Memorial in Dhaka. Manmohan Singh visited Dhaka for the 13<sup>th</sup> SAARC Summit held in Dhaka in mid November.

DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES



Efforts needed so that the gap does not increase further: Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with King Gyanendra at the SAARC Summit



Meeting the global industry leaders: Ron Somer, President, US India Business Council, Torkel L Patterson, President Raytheon International, William S Cohen, former US Secretary of Defence and Chairman and CEO, the Cohen group with the Co-Chairman and Managing Director Jubilant Organosys Limited, Hari Bhatia. The business leaders met during a meeting with the US-India Business Council (USIBC) delegation in New Delhi in the beginning of November.



Developing business ties: Union Commerce Minister Kamal Nath with Sao Paulo (Brazil) Governor Geracdo Jose Rodrigues Alcmin. The occasion was a business meeting in New Delhi on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2005

India is worried about the disturbance in the neighbourhood: Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with Khaleida Zia at the International airport in Dhaka on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2005.



India speaks: Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh addresses the Media in Dhaka after the conclusion of the SAARC Summit on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2005. This Summit was significant because three pacts covering avoidance of double taxation, customs and setting up of SAARC Arbitration Council were signed during this summit.



Sharad Pawar, the Union Minister for Agriculture, with US Trade Representative Robert Portman (l), Mangala Rai (standing r) and J B Penn (standing l) exchange the documents in New Delhi.

DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES



Riding the triumph train: Dominique Girard French Ambassador to India conferring the Knight of the Legion honour on E Sreedharan MD Metro Rail Corporation



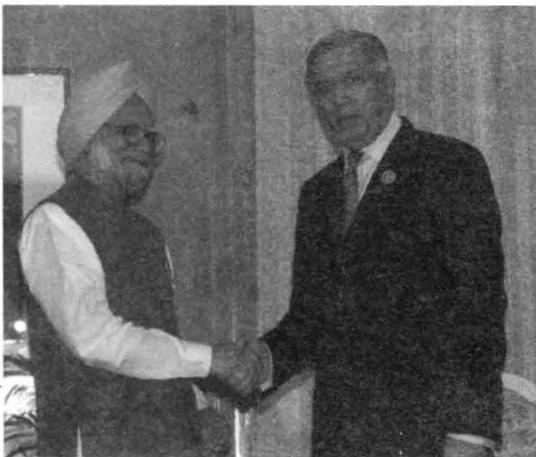
Prime Minister Manmohan Singh meets King Gyanendra of Nepal (r) on the sidelines of the 13<sup>th</sup> SAARC Summit.



Relinquish license on the dual use trade: Indian Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran with US Under Secretary for Commerce David McCormick. The US Under Secretary visited India in the beginning of December.



Connecting for fulfilling energy needs: Indian Petroleum Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar with his counterparts from Central Asian Countries. The Oil Ministers meeting was held in the month of November in New Delhi.



Hopefully Regional cooperation would resolve our problems: Manmohan Singh meets the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shaukat Aziz. The two leaders were in Dhaka for the 13<sup>th</sup> SAARC summit.



Indian Petroleum Minister, Mani Shankar Aiyar with the Petroleum Minister of Turkey, Mehmet Hilmi Guler at the signing of a MoU between the two countries. The MoU was signed in the end of November.

(Continued from pg 3)

Plan, the Leaders welcomed the decision of the Council of Ministers to establish a SAARC Forestry Centre in Bhutan.

SAARC members endorsed the recommendation for elaboration of regional programmes and projects for early warning, preparedness and management of tsunami and other natural disasters. They called for elaboration of a comprehensive framework on Early Warning and Disaster Management.

They endorsed the decision of the Special Session of the SAARC Environment Ministers to further enhance the capacity of the existing SAARC Institutions namely, SAARC Meteorological Research Centre and SAARC Coastal Zone Management Centre, to carry out their mandated tasks.

SAARC members directed the concerned national authorities to coordinate their activities in such areas of disaster management as early warning, exchange of information, training and sharing of experiences and best practices in emergency relief efforts.

The SAARC members present at the summit decided to proclaim the year 2007 as the "Year of Green South Asia" devoted to a region-wide afforestation campaign. They also agreed to address the problem of arsenic contamination of groundwater and assistance to affected people.

#### • Exchanging information and combating terrorism

Terrorist violence in all its forms and manifestation was strongly condemned. It was agreed that terrorism is a challenge to all States and a threat to all of

humanity, which cannot be justified on any grounds. They underlined that there should be no double standards in the fight against terrorism. In view of the continuing and recent terrorist attacks in the region and their impact on security, economic stability and social development, they expressed their determination to unite in their efforts in preventing and combating terrorism.

Member countries called for early and effective implementation of the additional Protocol to the SAARC Convention on suppression of terrorism. They underscored the need for an early conclusion of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. They also agreed that Member States would strengthen their cooperation in such important areas as exchange of information, coordination and cooperation among their relevant agencies.

#### • Security of small states

The Heads of States at the Summit noted that due to their specific vulnerabilities, small states require special measures for support from all concerned for safeguarding their sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

Member countries decided to launch 2006 as "South Asia Tourism Year." They directed their Ministers for Tourism to meet at an early date and elaborate a plan of activities to be undertaken during the year 2006. Initiatives by private sector entities in promoting understanding and harmony in the region would be encouraged.

#### • International political and economic environment

They underscored the imperative need to ensure universal adherence to the principles and objectives enshrined in the UN Charter. They called upon the international community to redouble efforts to meet the commitments of the Millennium Summit and the Monterrey consensus. They noted the outcome of the UN World Summit 2005 and underlined the need for meaningful reforms of the United Nations system in consonance with its role as the central organ for the cooperative management of the global problems and for the promotion of peace, security, development, justice and human rights.

They also reiterated their full support for a comprehensive approach, which would facilitate implemen-

tation of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in a time bound manner.

#### • WTO issue

SAARC member states reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen the multilateral trade regime of WTO. They called upon all WTO members to demonstrate necessary understanding and accommodation for a breakthrough at the Hong Kong Ministerial meeting in December 2005 to pave the way for the successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round.

SAARC member states emphasized the importance of peaceful coexistence in the environment of peace and stability.

#### • Strengthening Institutional Mechanisms of SAARC

SAARC members reiterated the need for a commensurate strengthening of institutional capabilities of SAARC. Recognizing the importance of thematic Ministerial meetings, they emphasized that these meetings should focus on regional challenges and priorities.

They also emphasized that while this would enable SAARC to realize its basic objectives of improving the quality of life of all South Asian peoples, it would at the same time create an enabling environment towards the establishment of a South Asian Economic Union. They directed the Standing Committee to formulate its recommendations, at its next special session, on a vision for SAARC's third decade and the course of action for its realization, to be elaborated by a high-level Committee of senior officials. SAARC nations declared the decade of 2006 to 2015 as the SAARC decade of Poverty Alleviation.

#### • Date and venue of the Fourteenth SAARC Summit

The Government of India's offer to host the fourteenth SAARC Summit in 2007 was welcomed.

The significant decision of the 13<sup>th</sup> SAARC Summit was to admit Afghanistan as a member and China and Japan as observers to SAARC. Now there is a need for some substantial actions, so that the plethora of promises turn into some consequential substantive actions and the SAARC association really works towards fulfilling the development goals for the region.



This new section on Indian Diplomats worldwide would provide information about Indian Diplomatic missions worldwide, their addresses and Indian representatives heading Missions. Present issue focuses on Indian missions in South America. Some of the photographs and information about the Embassies and High Commissions is missing in this issue. The information is being gathered and will be published in the future issues of the magazine

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Colombia and Ecuador	Nilima Mitra 	<b>Embassy of India</b> Carrera 7, No. 71-21, Oficina 1001, Torre B, Edificio Bancafe, Bogota DC Ph. No.: 00-57-1-3174865/4876 Fax: 00-37-1-3174976 Email: indembog@cable.net.co Web : www.embajadaindia.org	The Indian Embassy in Colombia also covers the region of Ecuador where at present India has its Consulate.
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Country	Diplomat	Address	Information
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Guyana	Avinash Gupta	<b>High Commission of India</b> Address 10, Avenue of the Republic, PO Box 101148, Georgetown Guyana	Telephone: 00-592-226-63996, 69865 Fax: 00-592-22-57012 Email: hicomind@guyana.net.gy

## Oil for food scam gulps Natwar

NATWAR SINGH was accused as a non contractual beneficiary in the oil for food programme in Iraq. However, Natwar refused to resign till the end and the Indian Prime Minister was forced to sacking him in the face of growing opposition demands. At present Natwar is a Minister without Portfolio.

Although Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will decide as who will be the next Indian External Affairs Minister in the meantime, bilateral meetings scheduled for the external Affairs Minister shall be handled by two state ministers

### Is there a void?

Natwar Singh can be

brought back as a Foreign Minister even if he relinquishes his ministerial post on moral grounds. More important from the point of view of Indian national interest is, however, selecting somebody to fill in the vacancy in the Ministry of External Affairs. It would not be helpful for the country to run the Foreign Ministry from the PMO. On crucial foreign policy and national security issues, the PMO in India has been playing an active role. But in the changed circumstances of the post-Cold War era and the demands of diplomacy in the information age, it is essential to fill in the post of the

Foreign Minister as quickly as possible.

### Impact on foreign policy

What impact the foreign Ministers removal is going to have on India's Foreign Policy? At present India is trying to come out of the isolation in the international arena. India is engaged in talks with major super powers. It is aspiring to be a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. It is trying to maintain a balance in its relations with Iran and US. Some experts believe that Natwar Singh's departure from the Ministry of External Affairs is not going to be a big loss to Indian foreign

policy, but keeping him as a Minister without portfolio and on the wait to return as the Foreign Minister after his name is cleared in the Iraq scam issue is certainly an unwelcome development.

For the time being Manmohan Singh has the portfolio of the Ministry for External Affairs and there is a Minister of State in the Ministry. The fall out of the Volcker Commission Report is likely to continue to affect Indian political processes for quite sometime to come. But the minimum the UPA Government needs to do is to keep foreign policy away from domestic political power struggle.

## India-China conduct naval exercise

THE world is changing and so is China. Realizing the needs of the changing world and with the intention of strengthening its position in the Indian ocean, the Chinese Navy is conducting its first ever exercise on the foreign shores. It was in the year

2003 that the first ever an exercise with the Indian navy at Kochi coast and with the Pakistani Navy at the Karachi coast. This would provide the Chinese Navy an exposure to the strength and capabilities of both countries.

Interestingly the Chinese navy is going to engage in



## External Affairs Minister's visit to Sudan

SHRI E. AHAMED, Minister of State for External Affairs, paid an official visit to Sudan from 7-9 November 2005. A high level delegation of representatives from important PSUs and business organizations like FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM accompanied the Minister.

India and Sudan have had traditionally friendly and cordial relations, which was further reinforced by the State visit of the President of India to Sudan in 2003. India and Sudan have a wide range of economic

and trade relations, in traditional and upcoming sectors. People-to-people contact between cultural centers and Universities and under the ITEC programme are also on the increase.

As per a press release, this was the first official visit from India to Sudan after the formation of the Government of National Unity in Sudan as envisaged under the historic Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in Septem-

ber 2005.

The visit was aimed at establishing high-level political contact with the Sudanese Government of National Unity. Earlier, Esrar Ahamed had represented India at the signing of the historic Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Nairobi in January 2005 between Government of Sudan and Sudan People's Liberation Movement under Dr. John Garang and also at the Donors' Conference at Oslo in Sudan in April 2005.

At Oslo, India has pledged a grant of US\$10

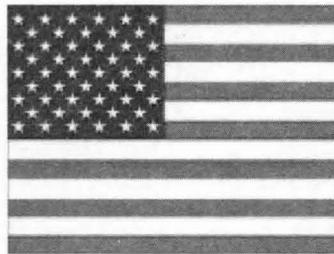
million, and a concessional Line-of-Credit of US \$ 100 million for the reconstruction of Sudan.

As per a press release, Esrar Ahamed called on President, Vice President and other prominent bigwigs in Sudan and discussed with them the potential of increasing trade between the two countries as well as cooperation in other areas such as infrastructure development, power generation, water supply and management, agriculture, education, IT, health, etc.

## Will US review space sanctions?

AS per media reports, US is going to review the sanctions on India's premier space launch centre, the Sriharikota Space Centre. Reports further say that the two countries are also working out landmark bilateral agreement on commercial space launches in India.

This information was revealed to press by Foreign Secretary, Shyam Saran after the India-US high technology meeting, at New Delhi on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2005. The Indian Foreign



Secretary believed that the US was "reviewing" the entities list.

Shyam Saran further said that India and US are working on two agreements, one on technology safeguard and other on

commercial space launches from Indian satellites using US components. The above two agreements are expected to be signed during President Bush's visit to India in February 2006.

If these reports are to be believed then it is indeed fine news for this premier Indian space research agency. However, a lot needs to be done in this area as India's Vikram Sarabhai Space Center's Solid Propellant Space Booster Plant and ISRO's

Liquid Propulsion System still remains under sanctions.

## Four Pacts to be signed with Russia

MANMOHAN SINGH, the Prime Minister of India is going to visit Russia from 4<sup>th</sup> December. During this visit India and Russia are scheduled to sign four space agreements. These agreements will mainly be in the field of space and defence.

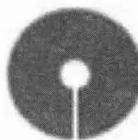
One of these agreements will be on crucial military intellectual property rights, second on amendment of Indo-Russian military-technical programme till 2010. Indian and Russian space agencies would sign a technology safeguard agreement to operationalize the 2004 pact on the combined use of the global Navigational Satellite System.

## Banking across the border

THE 1965 Indo-Pak war had many casualties; one of those was the banking sector. The two countries had discontinued their banking ties after the war. Now there is array of hope on this issue. If reports in the Indian media are to be believed then the banking ties between the two coun-

tries are to be re-established. This understanding will allow Indian banks to open two branches in Pakistan and vice versa.

Reports say that the State Bank of Pakistan and Reserve Bank of India would mutually decide as which



bank will be allowed to open branch in the other country.

This significant decision was reportedly taken during the meeting between Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Pakistani counterpart Shaukat Aziz in November 2004.

## A brief overview of India-Ghana relations

THE diplomatic relations between India and Ghana were formally established in 1957 with the opening of Indian Mission in Accra. India is respected and admired by Ghana for its democratic traditions and success.

In the past few years, there has been a regular flow of dignitaries from Ghana. Recently in March 2005, Ghana's Former High Commissioner to India, Prof Mike Oquye came to India with a delegation to attend the CII Conclave on 'India-Africa Trade Partnership'.

There are regular cultural exchanges between the two countries, as per

the cultural agreement signed during President Limann's visit to India in 1981. On the economic front, the trade and economic relations between the two countries are governed by the Trade Agreement signed in 1981. Ghana is being developed as a 'Gateway to West Africa' by the Ghanaian government. The Government of Ghana is also providing all incentives to attract FDI in the country.

Media reports say that there is a need for Ghana to look to India for further South-South cooperation. There are various sectors including agriculture and agro based industries in

which India and Ghana should cooperate. If we have a look at the public sector companies, then at present there are very few Indian public sector companies operating in Ghana. Few to be named are CDAC, RITES.

However, the presence of private sector companies is increasing continuously in Ghana. The Indian private sector companies are active mainly in Pharmaceuticals, agro-processing,

supply of agricultural equipments and rural electrification. Around 70 pharmaceutical companies have registered their products in Ghana so that they can sell their products through agents.



A.P.J. Abdul Kalam with President of Ghana, John A. Kufuor

## Putin, please deliver reactors at Koodankulam

MANMOHAN SINGH is visiting Russia in December and this time India expects something concrete from Russia. Reports in the Indian media say that India has provided an indication to Russia that as apart of the bilateral energy security dialogue, India would raise the issue of Nuclear Reactors at Moscow.

India's economy is developing rapidly and its civilian nuclear energy requirements are increasing rapidly. India is of the view

that it is legitimate for India to ask Russia to deliver its long standing promise to construct four more reactors at Koodankulam.

As a part of an earlier deal two 1000 MW light-weight reactors are being constructed at Koodankulam at present. During Manmohan Singh's last visit to Russia, President, Putin had offered to construct four additional reactors. However, later on Russia backed out stating constraints as it is a part of

Nuclear Suppliers Group.

However, now the situation is different as India has now taken enough measures to show US the urgency of the need for civilian nuclear energy. So there is a great hope that this visit of Manmohan Singh would bring a con-



Vladimir Putin

crete outcome regarding the issue.

## Will India take action against US amendment?

MEDIA reports say that if US fails to repeal the controversial Byrd Amendment, soon it would have to face retaliatory measures from India. The main issue is that the United

States continued dumping and subsidy offset act allow distribution of collected anti-dumping and anti subsidy duties to its domestic companies. Obviously, India is annoyed with US.

Reports say that an authorization has already been taken from WTO by India, Brazil, Canada, Chile, the European Union, Japan, Korea and Mexico. Retaliatory measures have

already been taken by Canada and EU.

If India under takes these measures then additional import duty will be imposed on US products coming to India.

## Manmohan Singh pitches for anti terrorism

MANMOHAN SINGH has again said something, which needs to be heard by people following the path of extremism. While addressing a conclave of business persons of the Saarc region, the Indian Prime Minister has said that South Asia must get rid of the menace of terrorism, in order to progress and prosper.

Prime Minister



**Manmohan Singh**

Manmohan Singh said at the Inaugural Session of the First Saarc Business

Leaders Conclave, "We have a collective stake in ensuring peace and security in the SAARC Region because no investor will come here if there is no assurance of peace and security."

Indeed the Economist Prime Minister of India was correct in speaking something which is

extremely significant because in simple words, investment comes to only those areas where there is stability of the Government and investors are free from the fear of the damage to their property.

If we want to bring peace to the South Asian Region then according to the Indian PM, the business community in the region would have to unite.

## Pakistan defers F-16 Purchase

BRUISES are showing and the damage has been done. Pakistan is going to defer the purchase of F16s. According to reports in the Indian media, Pakistan has decided to postpone the procurement of these planes. Sale of these planes was blocked by US for 15 years, to protest against country's nuclear weapons programme. However, in the month of March, US

decided to provide these to Pakistan, with a reason that it will help Pakistan in its fight against terror.

However, Parvez Musharraf says that postponing the purchase of F16s would not harm his country's security in any manner. Pakistan has at the moment only deferred the purchase of F16s but it has not cut its defence budget. This clearly raises

questions on Pakistan's intentions regarding the welfare of quake victims as the amount which will be spent on the purchase of these aircrafts would have

easily provided roof to hun-



dreds of people rendered roofless because of earthquake.

## India soon to be a part of the Thermonuclear Reactor Project

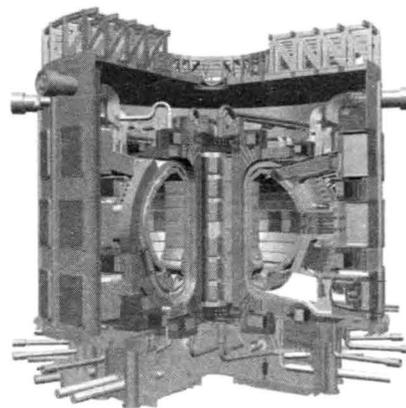
NOW India's long cherished dream of entry into the Thermonuclear Reactor Project is going to turn to reality. On 7<sup>th</sup> of November, India was asked to complete the formalities by providing an official request to join the programme.

As per media reports, a decision of this regard was taken in Vienna at the International Atomic Energy Agency Headquarters in a high level meeting of the ITER's Preparatory Committee. This commit-

tee consists of representatives from the EU, US, China, Japan, Korea and Russia. India was present as an observer in this meeting.

As per media reports, after examining the reports of the earlier negotiations and the reports of the teams that had visited India, all the participants were in favour of India.

Now the ITER team will team up with India to review the necessary adjustments regarding the



contributions earlier agreed to by the member coun-

tries on the responsibilities for procuring components.

US had made commitment in the July 18 Indo-US joint statement that it would help India become a member of the ITER project.

India's entry into this ITER project is extremely significant as it would mark the end of India's segregation from the cutting edge nuclear research which

is currently going on in the world.

## Ireland to 'connect with India'

IRELAND is one of the fastest growing economies of Europe. This progressive European country is all set to strengthen its ties with India, which is the world's largest software exporter.

The first month of 2006 will see the Irish Prime Minister descend to India with a plethora of various Irish business leaders, educationists and parliamentarians.

Ireland has seen India's

success in the field of software. This country does not view India as a competitor but is interested in harnessing India's expertise in the technical field and its linguistic resources. The present focus on India has come after a year of initiating a similar partnership with China.

Ireland generates maximum foreign revenue by exporting internet based services, computer related

goods and value added intellectual property. Now it is interested in cooperation with India which will enhance its competence in this field.

Prime Minister, Ahern recently said that in the past his country has not been able to develop close association with India as it has with China. He also feels that it is more and more important for the universities and technical



institutes in his country to collaborate with Indian educational institutes.

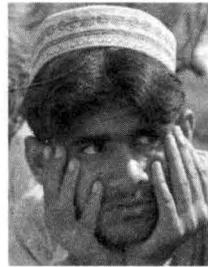
## India releases Pak prisoners

*India has released 25 Pakistani prisoners even though some plan to join Jihad!!*

AS a part of the goodwill gesture, India has released 25 civilian prisoners, which include some of the hardcore terrorists. These prisoners were handed over to Pakistani border guards at the Wagah border by Border

Security Post officials.

As per Indian media reports, one of the terrorist released in this group said that he did not have any grudges



regarding the days he spent in the Indian jails. These terrorists when released plan to go back and join Jihad.

It is indeed a positive move but

India must really think twice before releasing such prisoners. This statement is made because some of these prisoners are hardcore terrorists and if they plan to rejoin Jihad then it is not very pleasant news.

## A case of crashing UAV's

ISRAEL had supplied Unarmed Ariel Vehicles to India, but there is something wrong in the system of these UAVs. As reported

in the Indian media, within two years of Induction four UAVs have crashed.

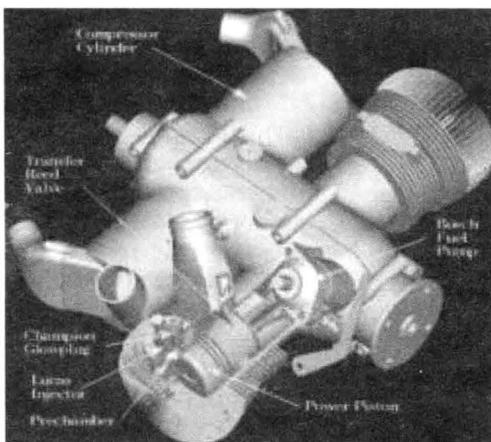
These UAVs were inducted in the year 2003 and the first crash happened soon after the induction of the first UAV. Out of the four crashed UAVs, two were from Air Force and two were from Army

As per

media reports, the original supplier of these UAV's have promised to repair them, free of cost. Indian Defence Minister, Pranab Mukherjee states "A continuous and multifaceted effort is underway in the defence forces to enhance and upgrade safety of these UAVs." Besides this the maintenance issues related to UAVs have also been discussed with Israeli suppliers.

Crash of these UAVs needs to be taken extremely seriously by the Indian authorities. These crashes result in a considerably huge monetary loss. An-

other point which crops up in our minds is, are these crashings pointing to some kind of corruption in the examination of these UAVs prior to their induction. The problem in the system of these vehicles was ignored by those responsible for the inspection of UAVs. Was it by mistake or was it done deliberately? India cannot afford the loss of these kinds. We have many people sleeping without food under the open sky. The money spent in procuring such technically sophisticated equipment comes at the cost of these poor persons.



## Indo-US Air Exercise

*This article talks about the Joint Indo-US air exercise held at Kalikunda air base*

THE second Indo-US air exercise took place at Kalaikunda air base, West Bengal. This air exercise took place in the beginning of November. The exercise was codenamed 'Cope India 06'.

This exercise was significant because United States Air Force (USAF) is the most technologically advanced air force in the world and this exercise provide Indian Air Force Pilots an opportunity to interact professionally and culturally with the USAF.

Besides this, it was for

the first time that F-16 Fighting Falcons, E-3 Sentry Airborne Warning System Mirage 2000, MIG 21 bison, AN 32 GCI radars, and Control Aircraft of the US Air Force took part in an air exercise. As per Indian media reports, in this joint exercise, there were eight days of flying exercise with a holiday of three days thrown in between.

Besides this, frontline IAF fighters Sukhoi-30, MIG 29, MIG 27, participated in this air exercise. Indian media reports inform that

over the previous few years the IAF had carried out bilateral and multilateral air exercises with a number of foreign countries within India and also with other countries. The first such air exercise was held in Gwalior on February 1, 2004.

These exercises are helpful in promoting mutual



understanding and learning from each other's experience. Besides this, it helps enhance interoperability and help refine joint operational procedures.

## Indo-US arms pact; Is EU displeased about it?

*A report adopted in the EU parliament raises concern on US arms sale to India.*

ACCORDING to a report, "EU India Relations: A Strategic Partnership," authored by Emilio Menendez del valle, Spanish socialist member of the European Parliament (MEP), the Foreign Affairs Committee of the EU calls for a greater cooperation between EU and India. However, the European Union is not in favour of US arms sale to

India.

According to Media reports, EU parliament is concerned that the US arm sale to India would destabilise the region. Although the report recognizes the need of US to form an alliance with India, it also talks about the need for a multipolar world.

It is interesting to note

that the report takes an affirmative note of the planned strategic alliance between US and India which calls for the sale of US aircraft and sharing of Civilian Nuclear Technology. However, it disapproves Washington's intention to sell f16 fighter planes to Pakistan.

Further, the Spanish author mentions in the re-

port that the European Union must encourage cooperation in the South Asia by supporting projects which are peaceful in nature, such as the proposed Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline. This report was adopted on September 29 by a large majority during the European Parliaments plenary session in Strasbourg.

## Hike in H1B visa limit

THERE is good news for Indian professionals interested to work in US. Media reports say that the annual quota of H-1B visas to be issued by US has been increased by 30,000. This decision has brushed aside the fears that the move of Indian professionals would be blocked by the protectionist policies.

As per media reports the US senate also voted to increase the number of legal migrants into the country. This proposal was a part of a broad budget deficit reduction bill which was passed by a margin of 52 to 47 votes.



This budget deficit reduction bill also removes family members from ceiling on employment-based immigration visas.

This latest development would provide more Indian IT professionals a chance to work in the US. As per media reports this would lead to a 33% increase per year in the legal migrations into the country. However, the bill has yet to be passed by the US House of Representatives.

## Pakistan proposes self rule for valley; India declines

IN the month of November the Indian media reported that India has dismissed Pakistan's proposal to grant 'self governance' to the people of Kashmir valley on both sides of the border. This proposal was

discussed between the Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Pakistani counterpart, Shaukat Aziz during their meeting at Dhaka in the month of November.

India reportedly declined

this proposal of Pakistan on the grounds that although popular rights are enjoyed by the people of Jammu and Kashmir, the residents of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir do not have such freedom.

As reported in the media,

the Pakistani Spokesperson stated that this proposal was one of the many ideas floated to discuss solutions for the Kashmir problem. Also Pakistan is willing to discuss this idea at a later stage.

## Neighbourhood watch: Nepal Maoists to disarm under US supervision parties

*Nepal Maoists have reached an understanding with an alliance of seven political parties in Nepal*

THERE is a ray of hope emerging in the Himalayan kingdom. This conflict torn country is witnessing a period where the Communist party of Nepal has reached an understanding with an alliance of seven political parties in the country.

This understanding has come after a week of Nepal's senior leaders visit to India in the mid of

November. First the Communist leader Madhav Nepal visited New Delhi. Next was the turn of G P Koirala, following which the Indian Prime Minister met King Gyanendra in Dhaka. After this Maoist leaders Prachanda and Bhattarai

came down to New Delhi. This visit coincided with the New Delhi visit of the US Ambassador to Nepal, James Moriarty. The In-



dian Ambassador, Shiv Shankar Mukherjee was also present.

According to the Indian media, Girija Prasad Koirala and Madhav Nepal also convened with the Maoist leaders Baburam Bhattarai and Prachanda in the Indian capital. This has led to developments which might lead to the resolution of the conflict eating up India's neighbouring country.

This broad understanding is being termed as a peaceful agitation for full democracy which means that

a ceremonial or truly constitutional monarchy would be accommodated and this could lead to elect a constituent assembly. In return, the Maoists would disarm under US supervision.

### Is the Indian economy going to further open up?

INDIAN Finance Minister, P Chidambaram has stated that the Indian government is continuously going to re-examine its Foreign Direct Investment policies. This constant re-examination would be intended for further opening up of the Indian economy.

Chidambaram was speaking at the opening of the India Economic Summit 2005 organized by the CII. As per media reports the Finance Minister also emphasised the need for aggressiveness, as is shown by China in capturing large infrastructure projects.

The Finance Minister also opined that there is an urgent need of large amount of FDI in the Research and Development and Infrastructure sector.

## Pushing back development issues would lead to failure of WTO talks

IN a meeting of G-4 countries, including, India, Brazil, EU and US held in London in the month of November, the Indian Commerce and Industry Minister, Kamal Nath stated that the negotiation launch at Doha was called 'development round' and not 'the market access' round.

As per the Indian media, the Indian Commerce and Industry minister did



Kamal Nath, Indian Commerce and Industry Minister

raise a concern that it would be detrimental for the World Trade Organization (WTO) to push the developmental issues to the background.

This was mentioned by Kamal Nath in a letter addressed to trade ministers of 148 countries. He also stressed that the WTO was not about free trade alone.

## Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister's visit postponed

IRAN's Deputy Foreign Minister Mehdi Safari's proposed India visit has been postponed. Mehdi Safari was scheduled to visit India in the mid of November. Discussions regarding the Deputy Foreign Minister's visit to India were initiated by Iran and New Delhi had conveyed

its consent regarding the dates.

Tehran's decision to suddenly postpone its Deputy Foreign Minister's visit to India without stating any reason has raised many eyes in concern. Sources say that cracks are developing in Tehran's political circles regarding the ap-



Mehdi Safari

proach on the nuclear issue. One section has proposed a consensus with the

EU3 countries. The other section is eager to include Foreign Ministers other than the EU3 countries. Although Iran has not stated any reason for the postponement of Mehdi's visit to India, probably the internal rift on nuclear approach may be one of the reasons.

## Indians among top Management gurus

FOUR Indians have found their place in the list of top 50 management gurus. These four persons are C K Prahalad (No. 3), Ram Charan (No. 24), V Govindarajan (No. 30), R. Khurana (No. 33).

These men have been included in the 'Thinkers 50' rankings which were

released in London in the beginning of December by Suntop Media in association with the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD).

The 'Thinkers 50' is an online survey which is based on the votes of 1,200 business persons, MBA students, consultants, academ-

ics, and visitors to the projects website.

The indicators for judging the candidates are originality of the idea, their practical application, rigour for research, impact of their ideas, their practical application, loyalty of followers and their global outlook.



C K Prahalad Ram Charan



V Govindarajan R Khurana

## Surina Narula shines on the international arena

A London based businesswoman and fundraiser for charitable causes, Surina Narula has been declared as the 'Asian of the year 2005'. Narula has raised funds particularly for street children in India.

This trophy was presented to Narula, on 23 November at London. This

award is given by the Asian Who's Who International, a yearly publication.

The prominent persons who attended the award ceremony were Lord Swraj Paul, recipient of the first Asian of the year award



Surina Narula

in 1987-88, Keith Vaz, MP, former Minister, Lord Bhikhu Parekh, Sir GK Noon, Baroness Shreela Flather, Raj Loomba, Lord Navnit Dholakia, Gurdip Singh Gujral and Karan Bilimoria.

## Ambassador speaks



Dominique Girard, French Ambassador to India.

"Over the years there has been substantial cultural exchange (between India and France), but it is time to strengthen this relationship. Cultural diversity is respected by both countries and it is part of the political and cultural agenda of both countries."

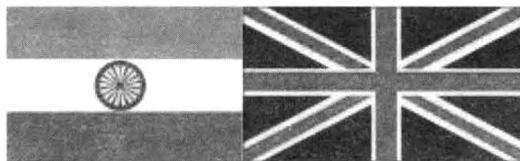
## Bloom in Indo-UK trade ties

INDO US trade ties are blooming. According to the British High Commissioner Sir Michael Aurther, Indian companies are contributing to the growth in the British industry.

He also says that the Indo-UK tie has become a

two way flow. UK has become a top investment

choice for Indian businessmen. At the same time there is significant rein-



vestment by some British companies like Vesuvius group in India.

## Easing of FDI norms in mining and trading

INDIAN automobile, telecommunication, electronic and software sectors have benefited with the availability of FDI for these sectors. Now it is the turn of the mining and trading sector to flourish. The Government of India has started the process of liberalising the

Foreign Direct Investment policy in mining and trading.

A cabinet note on FDI liberalisation in the above two sectors was recently prepared by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion. This proposal suggests liberalising norms for floriculture, pre-

cious stones, coal and lignite. This proposal was schedule to be circulated to all concerned ministries for their comments.

At present the FDI limit in captive coal ministries for power generation is 49%. If this proposal is accepted, it would allow FDI in captive coal min-

ing which is meant for commercial sale to industrial users including steel and cement manufacturers. However the ceiling would remain 49%. Reports say the work on FDI in retail would start only after such a model is identified, which would not lead to any job losses.

## Dual citizenship for Indian Diaspora

UNDER their local laws, 71 Countries including UK, US, Australia, Sri Lanka and Italy have approved dual citizenship for the Indian Diaspora in some form or the other.

The Indian Home Ministry states that the Overseas Citizenship Status (OCI) status will be granted to

persons of Indian origin (of all nationalities) except Pakistan and Bangladesh.

The OCI status will be granted to persons of Indian origin or their descendants, who have migrated after January 26, 1950.

Other amenities to be made available to OCI's



are multiple entries and multi-purpose life long visa to enter India. Besides this,

these persons will also be relieved from reporting to police authorities as long as they stay in India. Other than the rights for the acquisition agricultural or plantation properties, these OCI's shall be treated equivalent to NRI's in economic, financial and educational matters.

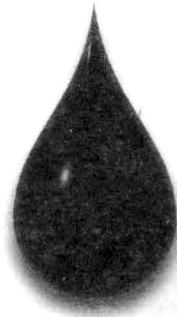
## Asian Oil Ministers' round table held at New Delhi

THE month of November witnessed a round table of Asian Oil Ministers. This round table was held on 25 November at New Delhi. Participants of this Round Table were Oil Ministers of North and Central Asian oil producing countries and major Asian oil consumers.

Participants of the round table recognised the need for integrating the energy

markets of the region as well as improving the transferring structure.

At the concluding session of this session, the Union Petroleum Minister, Mani Shankar Aiyar, said that a need was felt to study the possibility and feasibility of promoting and



developing gas and oil inter-connections through liquefied natural gas (LNG) and through trans-national oil and gas pipelines within the region for the purpose.

The oil producing countries included Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and

Azerbaijan. The major oil consuming countries were Japan, Republic of Korea, China, Turkey and India. Reports say that the participants have the same opinion that regional cooperation in the Asian oil and gas economy must be pursued within the framework of global cooperation. The next round table is scheduled to take place in Turkey.

## India to get Logistic support from US Defence Department

US department has approved the sale of logistics support to India. This logistic support will be for two Lockheed Martin Corp P3C reconnaissance aircrafts

which are planned to be leased to India.

This logistic support includes training



devices, operations, maintenance training as well as spare parts. According to the Defence Security Cooperation

Agency (DSCA), this support would help in improving India's security. Besides this it would also strengthen the US-India strategic partnership.

## Pakistani citizen stages abduction drama in India

ON 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2005 the Pakistan High Commission lodged a protest with the Ministry of External Affairs alleging the abduction of Roshan Ali, the son of a staff member of the Pakistan High Commission, Ashgar Ali. At the same time the Pakistan Foreign Office also summoned India's Acting High Commissioner in Islamabad and lodged a similar protest. According to the Pakistan High Commission the details of this incident are as follows:

Roshan Ali, a student of NIIT, South Extension was abducted by some unknown people travelling in a vehicle as soon as he left the NIIT around 5:15 PM hours on November 8, 2005. His abductors put a mask on his face rendering him unconscious. When he regained his consciousness, he found himself blindfolded in a room. On his shouting aloud after regaining consciousness one masked person entered the room, removed his blind fold and took him to an adjacent room where two other masked persons were already present. According to the boy, three dead-bodies with fresh blood on their clothes were lying on the ground in this room. As soon as Roshan Ali

entered the room, his abductors smeared blood from the dead bodies on his hands and forced him to hold a large knife in his hands. His tormentors then took his photographs in different poses with the dead-bodies

Later on Roshan Ali was again blind-folded and ear-plugs were placed in his ears to impair his hearing. The abductors then drove him in the vehicle for a long time before throwing him on the road side near India Gate in the wee hours of November 9, 2005. The boy's school bag, pocket money, wrist watch and colleges identity card bearing photograph with the High Commission address were retained by abductors.

Before pushing him out of the vehicle, the abductors also stuffed a handwritten letter in Hindi in Roshan Ali's front pocket. The letter is couched in an extremely threatening language warning that he should be sent out of Delhi within five days otherwise he would be eliminated. The letter openly professes that the abductors were in possession of Roshan Ali's photographs which can lead him to the gallows. It is an obvious reference to the photographs taken with the dead bodies under

duress and sedation.

According to the Pakistan High Commission Roshan Ali returned to the Mission at 2:30 AM in the morning in a dazed and traumatized state.

The Pakistan High Commission also informed Chanakyapuri Police Station of the missing boy around midnight and faxed note verbale to MEA at 3:21 AM.

The Police Station immediately launched a search for the boy and alerted mobile police vans and made enquiries at hospitals. On 9<sup>th</sup> November the matter was investigated by the police which discovered that the note in Hindi alleged to have been stuffed in Roshan Ali's pocket was actually written the same day at NIIT by his colleague, an Indian student, Rahul Sharma. Rahul Sharma has acknowledged that he wrote the note at Roshan Ali's request and as dictated by him. According to Rahul Sharma, Roshan Ali said that he would use the note to scare some of his Pakistani friends. Rahul Sharma also stated that he accompanied Roshan Ali from NIIT to the South Extension Part I subway where they parted ways.

Police investigation also reveals that there was no

report of any incident of the kind alleged by Roshan Ali outside NIIT around 5:15 PM on 8 November. This is a crowded area where an incident of this kind is unlikely to go unnoticed.

It is also surprising that Pakistan High Commission faxed a note verbale to the Ministry at 3:21 AM on 9 November stating that Roshan Ali was still to return when according to their own admission, he had reached the Mission at 2:30 AM.

PTV also carried a report on the alleged abduction early morning on 9 November stating that Pakistan had lodged a protest. The protest was actually lodged some hours later.

Rahul Sharma's statement and the absence of any corroborative report on the alleged abduction clearly establishes that Roshan Ali's story is fabricated. The rush to publicise the allegation in the media in Pakistan is an unfortunate attempt to sensationalise it without proper investigation.

The matter is being further investigated by the police which has requested Pakistan High Commission for interrogating Roshan Ali.

### NEW APPOINTMENTS

#### Indian Ambassadors posted abroad

7<sup>th</sup> November 05: Ashok Kumar Sharma concurrently accredited as High Commissioner of India to Saint Lucia

10<sup>th</sup> November 05: B.R. Muthu Kumar appointed next Ambassador of India to Peru

28<sup>th</sup> November 05: Parbati Sen Vyas concurrently accredited next Ambassador of India to Guinea Bissau

## Special Kuwait Cell (SKC) Untraced Claimants

UNITED Nations Compensation Commission, Geneva, (UNCC) had approved payment of compensation to the eligible claimants who were victims of the Gulf War 1990-91. The applicants whose claims were found successful by the UNCC were individually intimated by the Special Kuwait Cell, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA, SKC), New Delhi, as well as by the four designated banks through communication sent from time to time. However a number of successful claimants did not contact MEA (SKC) or the designated bank for completing the stipulated formalities for disbursement of the approved claim amounts to them and consequently the

amounts had been returned to UNCC.

A list of such claimants, as supplied by UNCC, containing 8,615 names has been put on the MEA web site. Persons whose name and passport number appear in this list may write to A.K. PANDYA, Director, Special Kuwait Cell, Ministry of External Affairs, IInd Floor, ISIL Building, 9 Bhagwandas Road, New Delhi-110001, mentioning their present address and enclosing photocopy of the first four pages of their passport. The envelope and the letter should bear the notation "UNTRACED CLAIMANTS". On proper identification, the detailed prescribed formalities will be communicated to them and on completion thereof,

the disbursement of their approved claims will be processed.

It is to clarify that mere appearance of the name of the claimant here under will not entitle them for the claim amount, which will be payable only on receipt of funds from UNCC. There is no liability on the Government of India or the four designated banks for payment of the claim amounts as the banks through the Government of India are only disbursing agencies. The MEA Press Release states that full care has been taken in mentioning correct names and passport numbers of the successful claimants, yet there is no liability for any error



that might have inadvertently crept in. It is to further clarify that there is no fresh award or sanction, and there is no call for fresh claims. The list is only of the untraced amongst earlier successful claimants.

At present the deadline for locating and paying these claimants, as decided by UNCC, is September 2006.

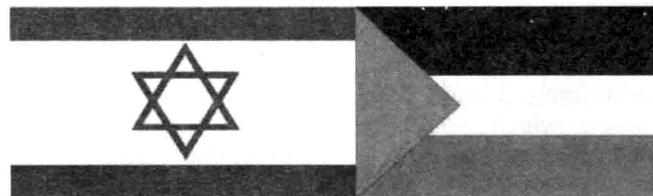
## Israel-Palestine Agreement

*India's special envoy for West Asia and Middle East Peace Process, Ambassador Chinmaya R. Gharekhan comments on the agreement*

INDIA warmly welcomes the agreement that was concluded in November, between Israel and the Palestinian Authority on the Rafah border crossing, travel between Gaza and the West Bank, and for building a sea port in the Gaza Strip.

This is a significant development that, India believes, would go a long way towards improving the lives and economy of the

Palestinian people living in the Gaza Strip. It was not easy for the two sides to



find answers to all the complicated issues of security and dignity.

India's special envoy for West Asia and Middle East Peace Process, Ambassa-

dor Chinmaya R. Gharekhan express his appreciation for the tireless efforts made

most of all by the parties themselves who displayed the necessary spirit of understanding and cooperation. He also acknowledged the contribution made by others, especially the Secretary of State of the United States, and the Special Envoy of the Quartet James Wolfensohn, in facilitating this agreement. He is confident that this would lead to further steps in the context of the Roadmap.

## Terrorist attack in Amman

INDIA strongly condemned the terrorist attacks in Amman on November 9,

2005 which resulted in the injury and death of many innocent persons. Terrorism

cannot be condoned in any form. The international community should cooperate

closely to counter terrorism everywhere with determination and firmness.

## Panama's Vice President visits India

SAMUEL LEWIS NAVARRO, Vice President and Foreign Minister of Panama, visited India at the invitation of the External Affairs Minister of India. He was accompanied by a delegation consisting of officials and businessmen. The Panama delegation had meetings with the Indian delegation led by Rao Inderjit Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs and had meetings with the Commerce & Industry Minister of India.

The Indian side welcomed the first-ever visit of the Foreign Minister of Panama. The two sides agreed to strengthen bilateral relations and have more frequent exchanges of high-level visits in the future.

The two sides agreed to explore and strengthen bilateral cooperation in ar-

eas such as science and technology, agriculture (including research and agro-industry), energy (including refineries, LNG and pipelines), non-conventional energy sources and maritime affairs. The Indian side, as part of its commitment to South-South Cooperation, agreed to share information, technology and extend cooperation in the areas of interest to Panama.

The Indian side expressed its willingness to assist Panama in capacity building in IT which included the setting up of a Centre for IT training in India. The Panama side thanked the Indian side for the ITEC training scholarships being given annually for the nationals of Panama.

The two sides agreed to promote trade and busi-

ness (exchange of delegations, participation in Trade Fairs and business seminars) between the two countries in collaboration with the Chambers of Commerce and private sector. The Panama side invited the Indian companies to invest in the Free Trade Zones and IT and biotechnology sectors in Panama.

The two sides exchanged letters of agreement facilitating business visas for visitors between the two countries.

The Indian side expressed its interest in strengthening dialogue and cooperation with the Central American Integration System (CAIS) of which Panama is a member.



Samuel Lewis Navarro

Panama would explore the possibility of hosting the second India-CAIS meeting in the first semester of 2006.

The two sides exchanged views on regional and multilateral issues, including UN reforms.

## Commonwealth Heads of Government meet at Valetta, Malta, November 25-27, 2005

AT the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in Valetta, Malta from November 25-27, 2005, India announced a special contribution of Euro 1 million for the Commonwealth initiative on bridging the Digital Divide, in the context of the special theme for the CHOGM - 'Networking the Commonwealth for Development'.

Kamal Nath, Minister for Commerce & Industry, who led the Indian delegation at the CHOGM, announced the Indian contribution to the Special Fund for the implementation of the Commonwealth Action Programme for the Digital

Divide at the Executive Session of the Meeting of the Heads of Government. In his statement, he said that India had developed considerable expertise in the field of Information and Communication Technology, which could be used effectively to address the developmental challenges of the people in terms of access to education and health.

Nath also informed the distinguished gathering about the recent launch of the Indian initiative on establishing a Pan-African E-Network project that would link the 53 member states of the African Union. The project would focus on tele-

education and tele-medicine and assist these countries in the achievement of Millennium Development Goals in the areas of education and health. The project will connect 5 universities, 51 learning centers, 10 super-specialty hospitals and 53 patient-end locations in rural areas spread all over Africa and would put in place a network providing video conferencing facilities connecting all 53 Heads of Government in Africa.

India's contribution to the technical cooperation programmes of the Commonwealth is growing and will be increased to £ 1 million progressively by 2009-10 as part of India's



commitment to South-South cooperation. This assists projects in the other developing countries who are members of the Commonwealth.

India is fully engaged in the Commonwealth. The Speaker of the West Bengal State legislature was recently elected as the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. India will be hosting the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference in 2007.

## 6th India-South Africa Joint Ministerial Commission Meeting to be held in New Delhi

*Meeting will be on December 5-6, 2005*

A high-level South African delegation led by Aziz Pahad, Deputy Foreign Minister, and including Jabulani Moleketi, Deputy Finance Minister, along with a 40-member official delegation will be visiting India on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> December 2005 for the 6th session of the India-South Africa Joint Ministerial Commission. The JMC will be co-chaired by Rao Inderjit Singh, MOS for External Affairs from the Indian side. The Joint Commission will be preceded by a meeting of senior officials chaired by Shashi Tripathi, Secretary (West) on the Indian side and Anil Sooklal, Deputy Director

General from the South African side.

The 6<sup>th</sup> session of the Joint Ministerial Commission will review the whole gamut of relations between the two countries, encompassing political, commercial and economic matters, including science & technology, culture, education, health, energy, information and communications technology and human resource development.

Many positive developments have taken place in bilateral relations since the 5th session of the Joint Ministerial Commission which took place in Pretoria in July 2003. There has been a State visit of

President Mbeki in October 2003 and the return visit of President Kalam in September 2004 - the first ever by the Indian President to South Africa - which have been milestones in the strategic partnership between the two countries.

Active exchanges have taken place between India and South Africa including frequent Ministerial visits as well as those of official and business delegations. Of particular note has been the visit of the Ministerial delegation led by Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, Minister for Public Service and Administration, to India from November 14-18, 2005 to discuss cooperation in ca-

capacity building as well as mechanisms to facilitate skills transfers and cooperation in key sectors.

At the Joint Commission, the two sides will also exchange Instruments of Ratification of the Extradition Treaty and of the Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters. Progress on other pending agreements such as Agreement on Health and Medicine, Programme of cooperation in Science and Technology, Agreement on cooperation on maritime matters, Agreement on Housing, bilateral cooperation in arts, culture, sports and recreation will be reviewed.

## Mangala Samaraweera, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka visits India

**M A N G A L A SAMARAWEEERA**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, came on an official visit to India on November 30-December 1, 2005 at the invitation of the Government of India.

India-Sri Lanka relations are excellent. It is marked by frequent interaction and good understanding at the political level; rapidly growing trade and invest-

ments; expanding infrastructural linkages and increasing people-to-people contacts.

The economic dynamism of the relationship is manifest in the success of the Indian Sri Lankan Free Trade Agreement. Bilateral trade is close to US \$ 2 billion annually and talks are underway to deepen and widen the Free Trade Agreement into a Compre-

hensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

During his visit, Foreign Minister Samaraweera met senior Indian leaders including Prime Minister and the Minister of State for External Affairs. Issues of mutual interest were discussed and ways and means of further strengthening bilateral relations were identified.

Apart from a review of bilateral relations, the visit provided an opportu-

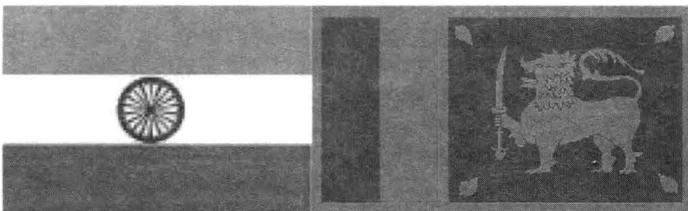


**Mangala Samaraweera**

nity to take stock of the current status of the peace process in Sri Lanka.

This was the first visit abroad by Mangala Samaraweera after assuming the office of Foreign Minister in the new govern-

ment led by President Mahinda Rajapaksa. The fact that Foreign Minister Samaraweera made India the destination of his first overseas visit before visiting other countries is testimony to the importance attached by both countries to their bilateral relations.



## Agreement with Pakistan on opening crossing points across the LoC

IN pursuance of the agreement reached with Pakistan on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2005 in Islamabad on opening 5 crossing points across the LoC for facilitating movement of people and relief material for earthquake relief, work is under way to operationalise them.

The crossing point at Chakan da Bagh (Poonch) was operationalised on 7 November, 2005, at Kaman (Uri) on November 9, 2005 and Tithwal (Tangdhar) on November 10, 2005. Relief material for earthquake victims were sent through these crossing

points. People can start using these points to cross the LoC as soon as their names are approved by both sides.

As agreed, due to the non-availability of or damage to infrastructure at the above crossing points, crossing is permitted on

foot.

All Indians desirous of using the crossing points may collect application forms from and apply to RPO Srinagar, the FRRO or his representative in district headquarters or Director (Pak), MEA, New Delhi.

## A glimpse of India-Indonesia relations

THE President of the Republic of Indonesia, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono visited India from 21-23 November 2005. While in India he met President APJ Abdul Kalam and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2005, President Yudhoyono addressed a Business Summit, jointly hosted by the Apex Chambers of Indian Commerce and Industry (CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM). The Indonesian President also visited Bangalore where he saw defence, space and Information Technology establishments, and also Agra where he visited cultural and historical sites.

The Indian Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh and

President Yudhoyono noted that Asia is emerging as a leading growth centre of an increasingly interdependent globalised economy.

### New strategic partnership

The two sides decided to establish a new strategic partnership between their countries in keeping with contemporary realities. This would impart stronger economic and socio-political dimensions to their bilateral relations and would address the long term interests of both countries, enhance all-round cooperation and contribute to regional and global peace and stability.

This new strategic partnership, calls for closer

diplomatic coordination, stronger defense relations, enhanced economic relations especially in trade and investment, greater technological cooperation, as well as intensified cultural ties, educational linkages and people-to-people contacts. This partnership also compels both countries to harness the unbounded opportunities that lie ahead and to draw from each other's strength.

### Defense cooperation

President Yudhoyono welcomed India's offer of cooperation with the Department of Defense of the Republic of Indonesia in the procurement of defence supplies, defence technologies, joint production and

joint projects. They agreed to further increase contacts and exchanges of visits between their respective defense officials and intensify joint education and training of these officials.

### Annual India-Indonesia Strategic Dialogue

The two sides decided to hold an annual India-Indonesia Strategic Dialogue at the senior official's level which would commence its first meeting in the first half of 2006.

Both sides agreed to take measures to facilitate tripling of bilateral trade from current levels to at least US\$ 10 billion by 2010 in a balanced and mutually advantageous way.

## Another consignment of relief material sent to Pakistan

THE Government of India despatched another consignment of relief material by train, comprising 27 wagons to Pakistan on 17 November 2005. The train carried relief material weighing 600 tonnes and consisting of snow tents, snow sleeping bags, blankets, essential medicines

and medical equipment including injections such as Pethidine for pain and X-ray machines, among others. These 600 tonnes are in addition to about 300 tonnes of relief goods sent to Pakistan as official assistance in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake on 8 October 2005

and about 400 tonnes carried by 45 trucks and handed over to Pakistani authorities. With this consignment, the total relief material provided by India to the earthquake victims in Pakistan amounts to 1300 tonnes.

India, several private organisations have sent rel

The High Commission of Pakistan in New Delhi has also been permitted to source supplies of relief material from India.

It may be recalled that the Government of India has pledged US\$ 25 million assistance to Pakistan at the International Donors Conference held at Geneva.

## Fourth Indo-US High Technology Commerce Group meets at New Delhi

*Delegations review the recent developments in export control policies and procedures*

THE fourth meeting of the US India High technology commerce was held on 30<sup>th</sup> November and 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2005 in New Delhi. This meeting was co-chaired by India's Foreign Secretary, Shyam Saran, US Under Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Security David H. McCormick. The US Government delegation included representatives from the relevant departments and organisations, including the Departments of Commerce, State, Defense, and Health and Human Services, the National Science Foundation and the National Aeronautics and Atmospheric Administration. The Indian delegation included representatives from the Ministries of External Affairs, Commerce, Defense, Information Technology and Science and Technology, the National Security Council Secretariat, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Biotechnology and the Department of Space.

The US India High



Shyam Saran

Technology Commerce Group was constituted in 2002 to provide a standing framework for facilitating and promoting the High Technology Trade between the two countries and building confidence for trade in sensitive items. The government-to-government meetings were held in December.

Foreign Secretary Saran welcomed Under Secretary McCormick as the new US Co-chair of the HTCG. Under Secretary McCormick was confident that the discussions provided an excellent foundation for moving the HTCG forward. During their discussions, the two leaders

agreed to take concrete steps to make the HTCG more "result-oriented," expand the public private partnership by addressing their legitimate concerns, evolve strategies to ensure that licensing could become more efficient, transparent and predictable for India, and to focus on key trade sectors that are affected by tariff and non-tariff trade barriers. Based on the recommendations provided by the Indian and US industry, the two delegations agreed to a detailed action plan that will further promote high-tech cooperation.

The HTCG also included a dialogue on strategic trade and export controls in which both delegations reviewed recent developments in their export control policies and procedures. The United States commended India's recent developments to strengthen its export control system and underlined the importance, on both sides, of continuing to implement steps that promote high technology cooperation. Both countries

also underlined the need to concentrate on promotion and outreach activities and pledged to work together to organise events in both countries geared to these objectives.

In this meeting the two sides recognised that:

- Only 1% of US exports to India require a license and over 90% of license applications were approved in the Financial Year 2005.
  - Processing time for dual use application has dropped by 25%
  - Trade in high technology items is expected to significantly expand in the coming years.
  - The contribution of the private sector Working Group on defense technology has helped in forging bilateral cooperation in this sphere.
- The two delegations agreed to hold another meeting in 2006 and stressed the need to implement the action items developed during the sector-specific breakout sessions as soon as possible.

### CULTURAL IMPRINT

## First Indian Buddha temple in China

INDIA is going to recreate history. The first Indian Buddhist temple in China is going to be built by two Delhi based architects Akshay



Jain and Raka Chakaraborty. This project will be executed in Luoyang, a place where first Buddhists from India arrived in China.

The Chinese government has given the largest piece of land at the Baima

temple complex in order to build an Indian Buddhist temple. As per media reports, this temple is ought to be designed similar to Sanchi Stupa.

Reports say that the structure will be built as a hollowed out structure,

with a congregation hall inside. This hall can be used by worshipers to conduct service. An image of Buddha in a Dharmachakra pravartana pose is going to be sculpted by an eminent Indian sculptor.

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