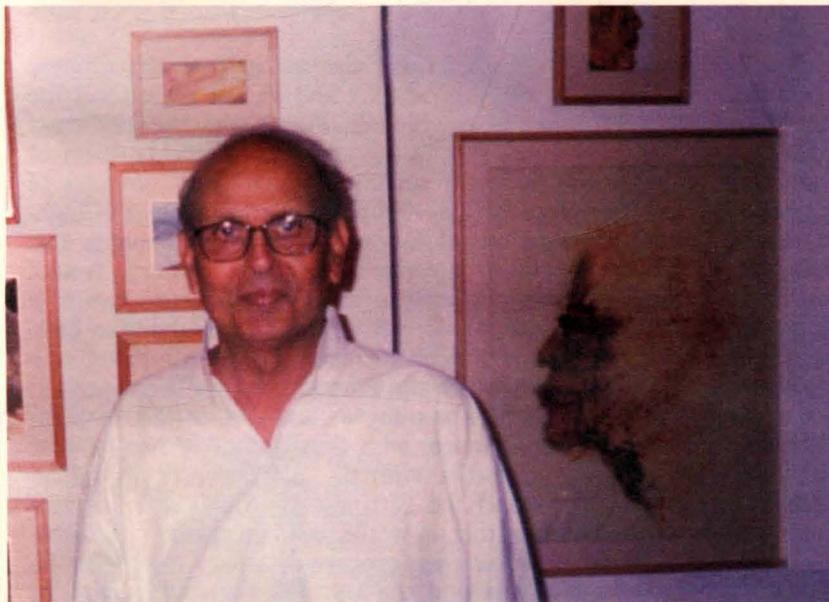


imprint

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

Raja Vishwanath Pratap Singh



V P Singh at the Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai

An Interview with the Master

The former PM is today a passionate painter and sublime philosopher.

Analysis PAGE 2

Priority Agenda for the National Security Advisor

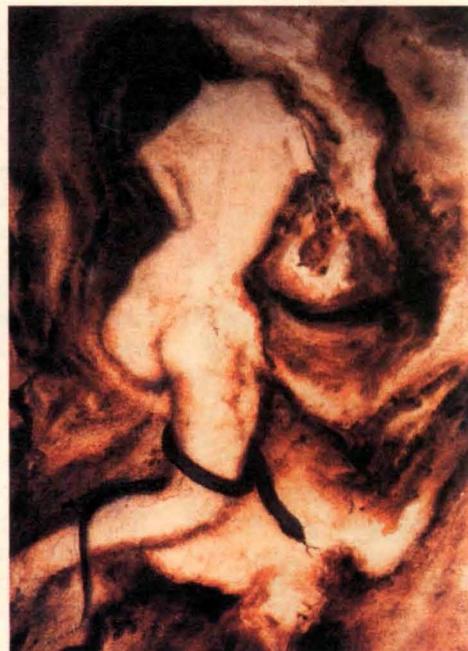
by Nishank Motwani

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India's Foreign Policy

Random Impulses -

Paintings and Poems
of
V P Singh



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Plundering India's Uranium

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PERSPECTIVE

V P Singh's advice

Impress with this issue steadily grows and emerges with a cover in colour. The content of the magazine is enhanced with an interview with VP Singh our ex Prime minister with a reputation of a social reformer. Priyali Chopra met V P Singh in Mumbai at the Sahyadri Maharastra state guesthouse on his visit as a painter commanding respect for his art and ready to talk about philosophy. Surprised on learning the interview was instead intended for *Imprint* and the subject was his political life, the statesman he is, V P Singh calmly agreed on the condition it was brief and to the point. Our interviewer opted for a single word question session, which actually was responded equally spontaneously. Going by the fact that V P Singh opined the dissolution of the Bihar Vidhan Sabha and this is what actually transpired, it is good enough reason to take every word of the old master seriously enough for a deeper understanding and meaning, as much as some of the best advice for our leadership politicians, in power or out of it. *Imprint* is thus more than satisfied with this first interview, after a long time. More interviews to follow, with some old gurus some of us might have forgotten.

The other highlight of this issue is Nishank's piece on the NSA. Short but incisive and more important it includes exactly what needs to be done. A have a highly purposeful analysis on an important department of the establishment and good work done for the NSA itself to follow.

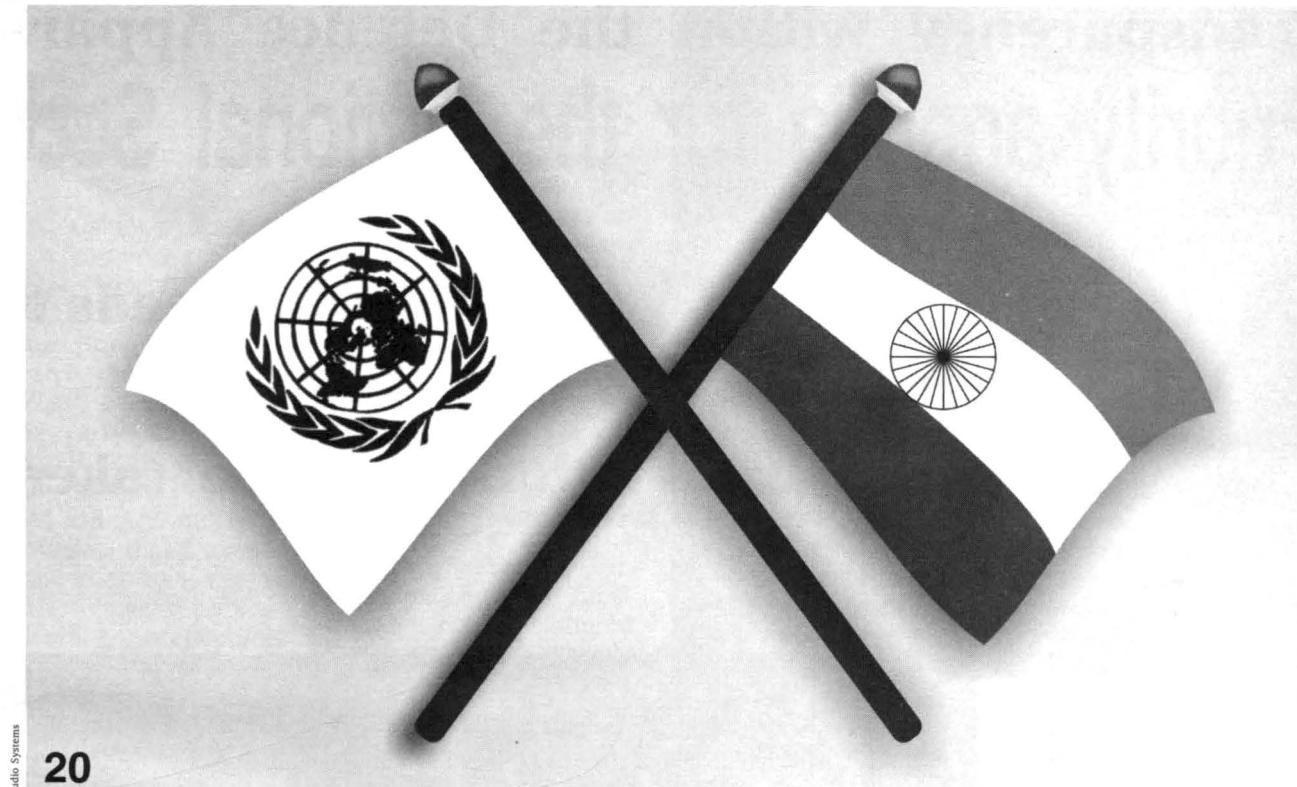
So what's up globally? The strength of the Yuan, the strength of the Chinese consumer, criticality of China's economy, all very pleasing and almost applauding the Chinese factor. On the other hand the problems of Italy, France and the 'big' crisis of the Europe constitution. There is almost a sense of jubilation in the problem of Europe coming to terms with the difficulties of union in which the economies of the countries are suffering due to failure of the European manpower in the high-tech digital environment and also the failure of Europe in industrialisation in this high-tech environment. Japan is the most superior technology country. Period. European companies are struggling with post-war technologies and the future is worrying enough for the constitution to fail for the winners like France who've been having a champagne time for long and not difficult for countries like Germany who must redeem themselves. But the glee with which the France 'non' has been received in the USA is not a good sign. US industry is nothing to boast of, in fact in high-tech areas the US companies cannot even compete with Germany or France for that matter. Of course, the glee is on account of this. With the experience of the Indian union and the future strength of China and the Japanese it is almost imperative that France and the rest of Europe realize that it would be only possible to thrive as a union rather than risk reliance on their own economies which will never be able to compete with the strengths of China and the US and even India. India of course is neither here nor there. Our future lies in developing closer relations with the 'mid-cap' countries. Closer cultural and business relations with the non-powerful countries are the key. But the last word belongs to the ex Prime Minister who in his interview has shown the way for India lies in educating our downtrodden masses who have been shamelessly disenfranchised by the corrupt intelligentsia of the people of India these last couple of thousand years. This did not happen in China.

Uzbekistan has been the other focal point recently. Once again the problem is similar to Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia, whether to aid 'democracy' or in the bargain accept Islamic fundamentalism. Or to aid Islamic fundamentalism when you have a government, which is in charge of it own country, and the agenda, is to basically get rid of such governments when they refuse to listen in on everything that doesn't suit ones needs! More on Uzbekistan later.

Anil Chopra, Editor & Publisher



The brief for *imprint* is India's international economic relations, and India's foreign policy impacting economic development, as also the imprint of India globally, arising from the actions of our government. And of Indians in their achievements internationally.



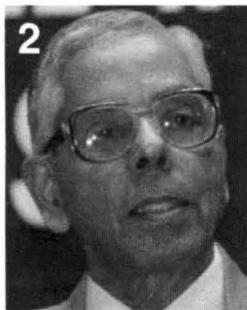
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UNSC Seat: To veto or not to, that is the question

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India's national security adviser M.K. Narayanan.

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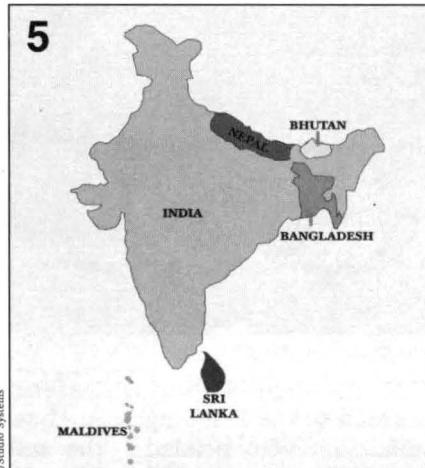
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Former President of United States	
Bill Clinton	May 25 to 27
Palestinian National Authority President	
Mahmoud Abbas	May 25 to 27

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Transparency within the Defence Apparatus: Priority agenda for the National Security

What Work the NSA needs to do?

What must be the Focus ?

What Action must be taken?



by **Nishank Motwani**

THE apparatus of the country's security is distributed between the Ministry of Defence, the three service wings, and the key position of the National Security Advisor (NSA). Following its establishment the position of the NSA has faced voices from both supporters and detractors over its role.

■ Birth

The position of the National Security Advisor was established during the Vajpayee led government in 1998. A special task force was created to look into the workings of the national security order in the US, UK and other countries in order to make proposals for a similar system the country could adapt and implement. Vital dignitaries involved in the fresh initiative included



The first NSA:
Brajesh Mishra, the National Security Advisor and Principal Secretary in PMO with Mr. Sergei Ivanov, the Russian Defence Minister

K.C.Pant, then Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission who headed the committee on national security planning. To craft a balance between the strategic initiative, foreign policy, and the defence committees, foreign services minister Jaswant Singh and Air Commodore Jasjit Singh then director of the powerful think tank Institute of

Defence Studies and Analyses become part of the task force.

■ Structure

With the proposal of the task force, a three layer structure was prepared, consisting of the National Security Council (NSC), a Strategic Policy Group (SPG), and a National Security Advisory Board (NSAB). The func-

tion of each committee was outlined, and concentrated on areas of defence, intelligence gathering/management, intelligence filtration, and counter terrorism. The NSC showcased a similar blueprint to that of the US, where the committee is chaired by the prime minister and consists of a high-ranking political group. The SPG is chaired

Advisor

by the Cabinet secretary, and is comprised of the chiefs of the Army, Air Force, the Navy, the Intelligence Bureau, and the Research Analysis Wing (RAW). Its primary focus is to carry out policy proposals to the NSC. The NSAB includes senior retired military and civilian officials that played a fundamental role during their assignment, as well as leading intellectuals and non-government sages.

The role of the National Security Advisor was first undertaken by Brajesh Mishra, who also held the

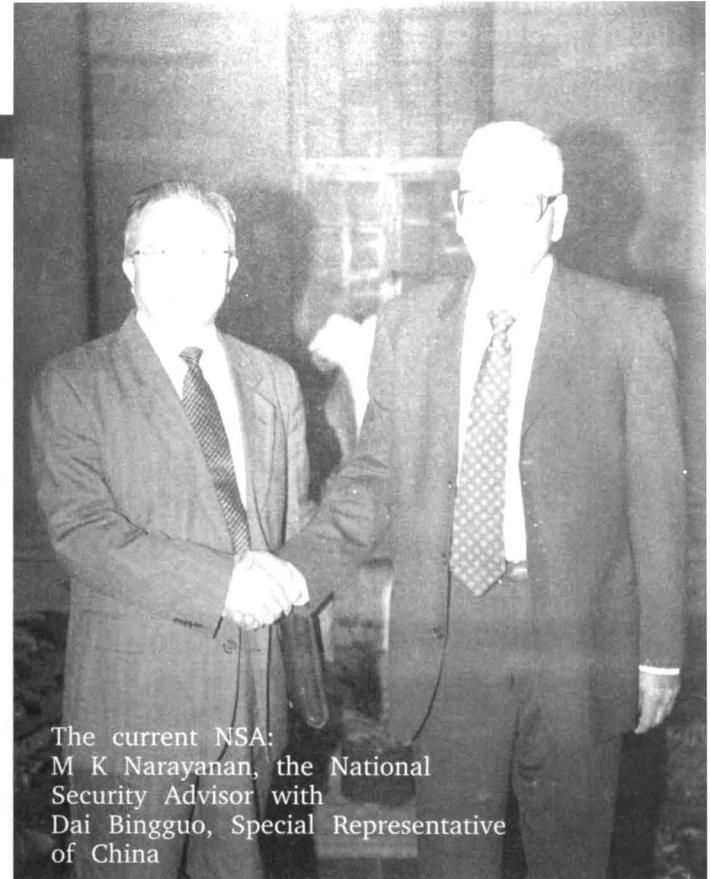
management.

■ Criticisms

Since its establishment, the role of the NSA and the security committees has come under fire for their lack of focus on internal security management and for the comprehensive infrastructure needed on national security planning. Limited access to information, infrequent sittings between the committees, irregular participation between primary leaders, and sluggish feedback from the government resulted in criticisms on the functionality of the National Security Management (NSM) infrastructure.

■ Assessment

The incoming government has identified the deficiencies within the



The current NSA: M K Narayanan, the National Security Advisor with Dai Bingguo, Special Representative of China

NSM infrastructure. Amongst them, the lack of systematic planning within the NSC apparatus added toward spontaneous decision making, the lack of tapping of groups such as the SPG and NSAB in policy and decision making, and the fluctuating frequency of meetings held between the security committees added little to the overall effectiveness of the national security of the country.

■ Methods

Though the incoming government has identified the absence of preparation in the NSM infrastructure, it has yet to outline the methods it will implement to better equip the intelligence committees with mechanisms that will outline their effectiveness. The role of the National Security Advisor currently under the third NSA M.K.Narayanan came after the death of J.N.Dixit,

the country's second NSA after Brajesh Mishra.

M.K.Narayanan was previously the Special Advisor to the Prime Minister and former chief of the Intelligence Bureau. The role of the NSA within the existing political and defence framework must be that of coordinator first, seconded by focusing on foreign policy. The defence infrastructure spread between the NSAB, NSC, SPG, and the powerful Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) requires coordination in their intelligence gathering and analyses, access to information, and policy making by the NSA. The current vacuum in communication between these committees faced is a derivative of internal bureaucracy that each one carries in the shadow. It is imperative that the NSA takes a coordinated approach between the defence committees rather than focusing exclusively on diplomacy. Neglect to security may possibly

WORK • FOCUS • ACTION

Bridge gap in defence committee

Communication is key in intelligence

Set up a nuclear command and control structure

Credible minimum nuclear deterrents

Potent campaign to showcase threat scenario

Clear form of transparency

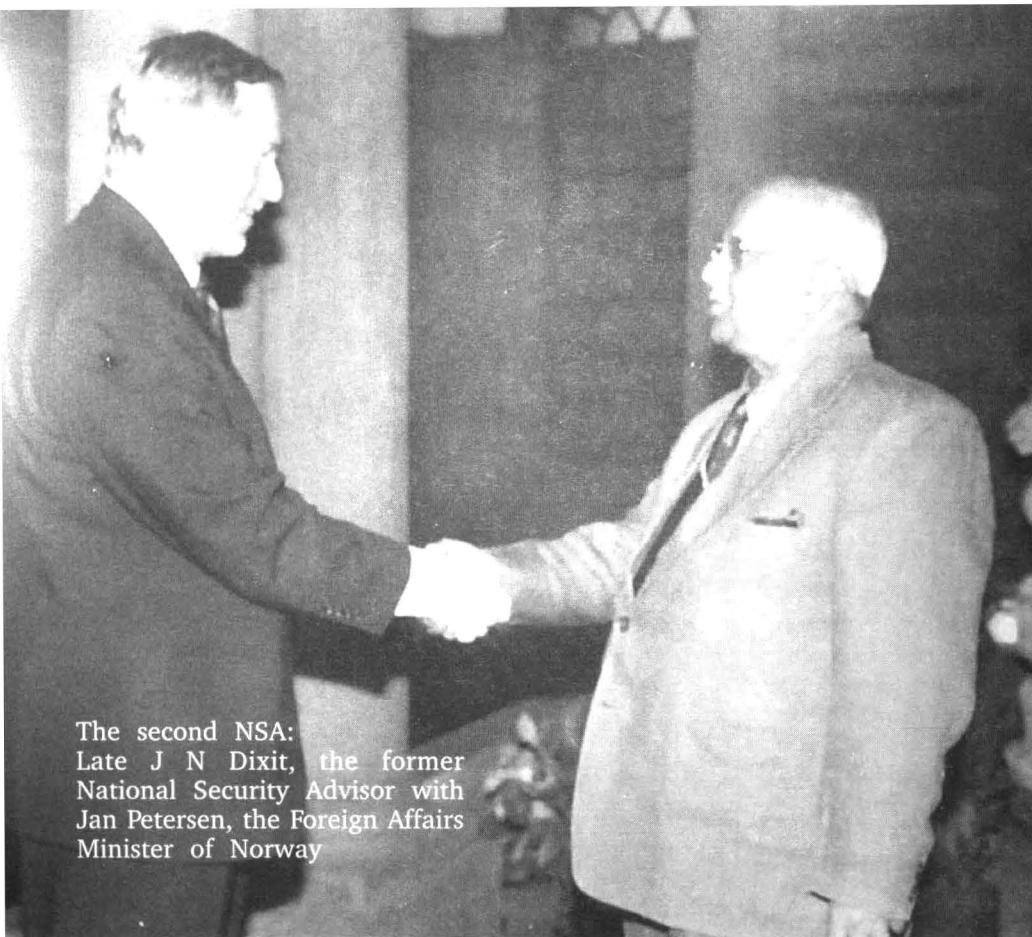
Policy planning for the long-term

Targetting plans, strategies

post of Principal Secretary to former Prime Minister A B Vajpayee in 1998.

With added responsibility, his post would demand a coordinated effort between internal security, the functionality between intelligence agencies, and intelligence

NSM infrastructure, and has decided to rectify and retain the policy making body created by the outgoing BJP government. In its assessment, the findings of their report illustrated vital elements that eroded the effectiveness of the powerful yet premature foundation of the



The second NSA:
Late J N Dixit, the former
National Security Advisor with
Jan Petersen, the Foreign Affairs
Minister of Norway

appear on the basis of focusing on diplomatic efforts, and as a consequence the lack of knowledge on intelligence and internal security matters that require constant evaluation.

■UK - US

In the UK, the Joint Intelligence Committee of the Cabinet Secretariat plays that of a coordinator between the defence committees and the three defence wings in order to actively manage the daily task of intelligence gathering and analyses, and acting as the base between the defence groups and their meetings. Though in the US, the NSA acts as the advisor to the president on all national security related matters and heads the NSCS (National Security Council Secretariat) which is responsible for the co-ordinated effort of gathering comprehensive intelligence across the defence committees. Since

the establishment of the US NSA in 1953, the post had been held by experts in foreign policy whose primary focus lay on diplomacy but had little expertise on internal security affairs. Experts point that the critical role of the NSA in the US led to the neglect in security due to its focus on intense diplomacy, resulting in the terrorist attacks of September 11th.

■Need

The role of the National Security Advisor in India needs to focus and concentrate on bridging the gap between the defence committees, as communication is a key ingredient in intelligence filtration, and the quick action needed to be taken to avoid further intelligence failures such as the hijacking of IC 814 from Kathmandu to Kandahar, or the attack on the Parliament. It also

mands made by terrorist groups. It must manifest a policy where a potent campaign is unleashed to make visible the threat scenario faced by the growing terrorist activities in Bangladesh, and Pakistan. The ISI (Inter Service Intelligence) have stretched their operations to Bangladesh, where attacks by the BDR (Bangladesh Rifles) in connection to ISI operatives/terrorists have become a regular occurrence against the BSF (Border Security Force) stationed in the Eastern border.

■Justification

The defence establishment needs to have a clear form of transpar-

PROBLEMS WITH THE NSA

Lack of focus

Birth of comprehensive infrastructure

Inadequate national security planning

Limited access to information

Infrequent sittings between the committees

Irregular participation between primary leaders

Sluggish feedback from the government

needs to set up in addition an evident nuclear command and control structure with targeting plans, strategies/policies, and see that the proper implementation of a "credible - minimum nuclear deterrent" is indeed following course.

The NSA must coordinate a powerful counter-terrorism policy that showcases a zero tolerance towards giving into the de-

ency, and focus on policy planning for the long-term only then will the true potential and relevance of the NSA be justified. **i**

The author has graduated from North Eastern University, Boston. He is a keen observer of defence matters in India.

Raja Vishwanath Pratap Singh

Random Impulses - an interview with the master

IN an exclusive interview with Imprint's Priyali Chopra, Raja Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the former Prime Minister of India discusses his views on the current political scenario. He was recently in Mumbai to promote his latest works of art, drawings and poems, at an exhibition held at the Jehangir Art Gallery; Vickram Sethi of the 'The Arts Trust' is the curator.

VP Singh is a legend in being the third Prime Minister to break the Congress monopoly. As a humanitar-

started the liberalisation policies, as a mentor of Manmohan Singh.

V P Singh exemplifies his knowledge and understanding of Indian politics in this interview, much before the Bihar Vidhan Sabha was dissolved. V P Singh though has never been seen as a political animal. The charisma of V P Singh lies in his sophistication and unaggressive posture. The truth about V P Singh is his steely determination and extremely clear conviction on the path of progress, to the India of his ideals.

(UP), and a many time member of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. V P Singh was the founder of the first anti-Rajiv/congress bloc; the Janta Dal and National Front that took charge of the government after defeating Rajiv Gandhi in the 1989 elections. During his term as PM, many remember that Singh surprisingly kept his promise to enforce the recommendations suggested in the Mandal Commission. Albeit this was an undertaking in the election manifesto, few expected V P Singh to honour it. This allowed a further 27 percent section of central government job seats reserved for the Backward Classes that totalled to a final 49.5 percent with 22.5 percent already reserved for the Scheduled Castes and dalits. Since most North Indians depend on these jobs as future career prospects, it led to a feeling of being discriminated at the cost of the backward classes. Subsequently there were widespread riots all over North India, many of Singh's close associates were also upset at his decision and started to leave him. However, India was not ready for a coalition government and V P Singh's government lost the vote of confidence within 11 months of rule. Always a pathfinder for the Sched-

uled and Backward castes, the poverty-stricken and the underprivileged, V P Singh has put in motion several initiatives and samelan's that have continued to benefit the poor tremendously.

Bihar?

What kind of resolution to Bihar would you like to see, as an elder statesman of India.

Right now there is a situation of deadlock in Bihar. In the next six months, if there is no progress then there should be re-elections in the state. As for Mr. Paswan's decision on not joining hands with either party, he is perfectly entitled to it. He is not bound to any party.

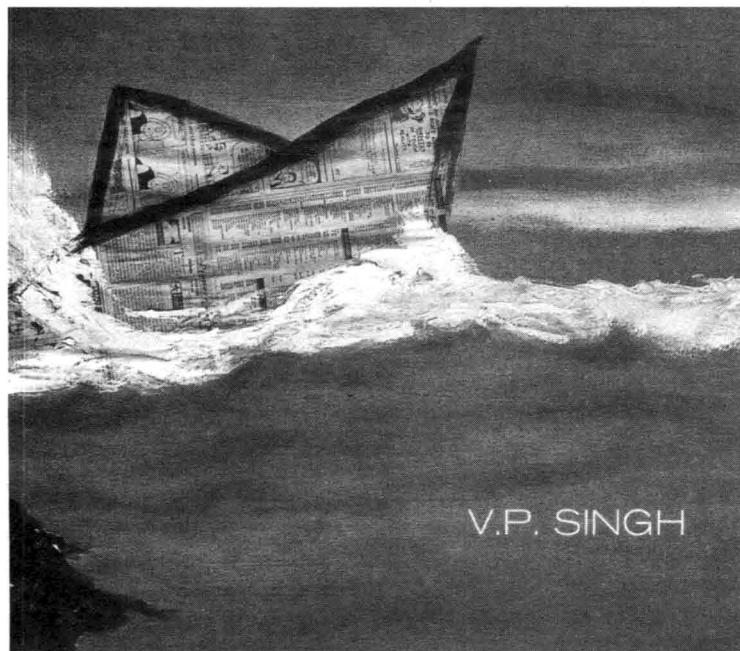
UP?

I have no comments. I would not like to pass a judgement on state governments.

BJP?

How would you account for BJP's popularity in India.

I don't think they are feeling very good right now. Nor are they shining. If they did achieve popularity in the country, the graph is going down now. They are on the downhill. Plus they are very confused right now. Be it Advani, Vajpayee, Rao, Uma Bharti, all of them. With so much in-



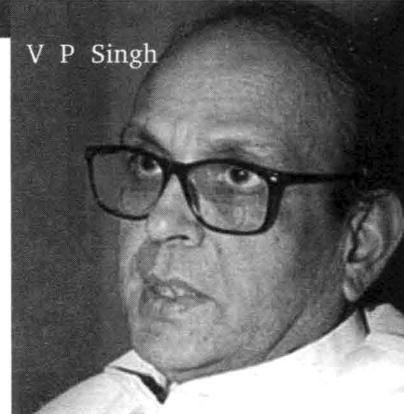
"Suddenly still afloat I found my childhood paper boat It beacons 'Come, it is time to go' expression in the words of the painter, philosopher, politician himself.

ian leader obsessed with liberating the lower classes into social freedom and equally a visionary, and a practical one at that, he

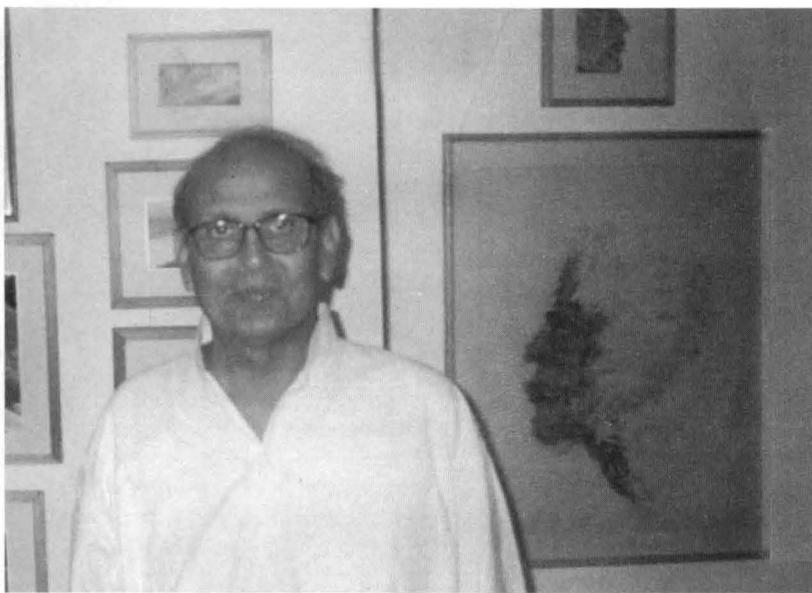
As a senior statesman of the country he has previously held the post of Union Minister of Commerce, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh

lition government and V P Singh's government lost the vote of confidence within 11 months of rule. Always a pathfinder for the Sched-

V P Singh



April 22 "There should be re-elections in the state (Bihar)" - V P Singh



V P Singh at the Jehangir Art Gallery at his exhibition of Dramas, Paintings and Poems- Random Impulses

ter-party politics how can they succeed?

Liberal Policy?

I was the one who first initiated the liberal policy for India. It is going good so far but more needs to be done. There should be more schools and colleges. Now the stress

should lie on education. The country is facing problems and will continue to face problems on

“Now the stress should lie on education”

this account. Stress should be given on creating schools and anyone should be given admission on the basis of merit and grades. Once the country is educated, many problems that we are facing today will disappear. Currently, at the cost of liberalisation, the poor are encountering the adverse effects, this is not right. The side effects braced by

ख्वाबों में ख्वाइशें यूं पूरी हुईं
जैसे सुबह होगी ही नहीं
मुझे क्या पता
यहां ख्वाबों की
खताओं की भी
सजा होती है

the poor people in the country should be buffered.

Reservation Policy?

As the architect of the policy to support the progress of the backward classes with reservation, are you satisfied with the degree of social change in the last five years bringing the backward classes into the main stream.

When I started it, up until now, it has changed the face of the country. Look at it, the backward classes have come up and started getting integrated in every sector. They are now a part of almost every single field.

Singh is concerned, I think he is doing a very good job. Especially what he has done with China and Pakistan. It will be remembered. The UPA government and Manmohan Singh is one and the same thing. But of course there will always be slight differences. On the whole I would say its doing well.

Liberalisation?

If its economic liberation we are talking about then I am not at all worried. India is going fine. Where as social reforms then there is much action that can be taken. 'All India Slum Policy' can be created. Look at what the congress have done? They promise rehabilitation and then they go back on it. India needs a law which does not allow any political party to go back on any promise they make, during elections or otherwise.

The election commission should also be a part of this. If the party cannot achieve their goals they must at the very least, attempt it seriously.

Rejoining Politics?

I am already in active politics. I continue via samelan's. I am doing another one next month for the farmers in UP. As for joining a particular political arty, I don't think so. But what I am doing now days, I consider it as being actively involved in politics.

Artist and Art?

As an artist I don't need to send political messages through my art. I can just say it, since I am politician, I don't need art as a voice box. I am leaving art for my personal creative expression.



The only concern I have is that now, with every political party, having to include them in a substantial amount, there shouldn't be a case where the upper class becomes the victim. That is a possibility. So care must be taken. For what the reservation policy was created, it has fulfilled the job. Now no class must get victimised. There shouldn't be hatred, But there is. That is not good for secularism.

Manmohan Singh and UPA?

Considering you were one of the first to recognise Manmohan Singh's potential and know him to be as one of the liberator's of the Indian economy. Are you satisfied with the current scenario?

As far as Manmohan

One year of UPA government: Foreign Policy and International Relations Major decisions and initiatives

The PMO office has released their report on its own understanding of its initiatives with Indian neighbours and after major foreign policy decisions taken by the government

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

The UPA Government completes one year on May 21, 2005. During this period, the Government has taken several important initiatives. Some of these are being brought out in the series 'Major Decisions and Initiatives'.

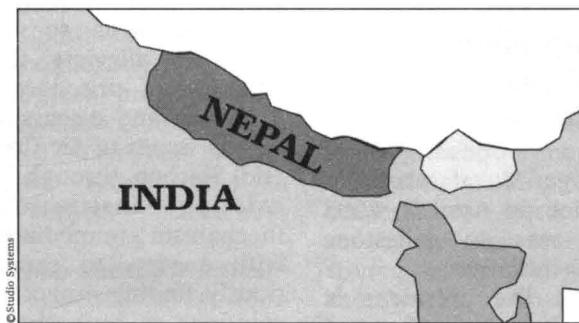
India today, enjoys a unique profile in the international arena as a factor of stability, a model of plural and secular democracy and economic powerhouse that is destined to play a greater role in international affairs. The UPA Government has adopted a foreign policy, which is purposeful, result oriented and pro-active. India has emerged as a compulsory destination in the itineraries of the world leaders.

Amongst the earliest crisis that the Government faced was the kidnapping of three Indians for ransom in Iraq. The successful and mature handling of this crisis set the stage for reorientation of Indian Foreign Policy in the service of the nation in a rapidly transforming and ever more challenging global environment.

High Priority to Relations with Neighbours

Nepal

Considerable progress has been made in India's



cooperation with Nepal in the area of border security and management. New mechanisms have been established to strengthen cross-border coordination and exchange of information. Texts of a new Extradition Treaty and Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in criminal matters have been finalised. Several infrastructure projects have also been launched. These projects would facilitate bilateral economic cooperation and also contribute towards strengthening security in border areas.

There is a wide understanding and deep appreciation amongst liberal and democratic forces and people at large of India's stance in the wake of February 1, 2005 Royal Proclamation leading to assumption of executive authority by the King of Nepal.

Bhutan

His Majesty the King of Bhutan paid a working visit to India in November 2004, which was followed by a State Visit to



India as Chief Guest for the Republic day. Three MoUs were signed with Bhutan during the State Visit of the King. These relate to further expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of hydro-power; the conduct of feasibility studies for establishing broad-gauge rail links between bordering towns of India and Bhutan and cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors.

The two countries have also established a "Project Implementation Mechanism" to monitor the progress of various projects being undertaken in Bhutan with India's assistance.

Bangladesh

There were a number of bilateral contacts between the two countries. Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh met Bangladesh Prime Minister on July 31, 2004 in Bangkok and the External Affairs Minister, Shri K. Natwar Singh, met Bangladesh Foreign Minister, in New York in October 2004. Both met again in Indonesia in April 2005. India announced flood relief assistance of Rs.100 crore to Bangladesh in October 2004 for supply of foodstuff, building material and medical supplies from India.

Sri Lanka

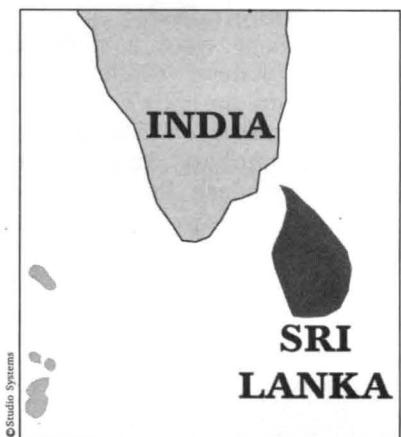
Negotiations with Sri Lanka to deepen and widen the Free Trade Agreement into a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement are underway. A Memorandum of Understanding on Fisheries is being negotiated and a Joint Working group on Fisheries has been constituted, which met re-



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cently.

India reacted swiftly and decisively to come to Sri Lanka's assistance following the Tsunami of December 26, 2004. Indian assistance was the first to



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arrive in Sri Lanka, a fact that has been acknowledged by the President and Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and other Sri Lankan leaders.

Maldives

The Government of Maldives has opened its first resident High Commission in New Delhi on November 30, 2004. Maldives appreciated India's timely relief assistance in aftermath of Tsunami disaster. India has also been assisting Maldives in developing its infrastructure facilities and by providing training facilities and scholarships to its personnel.

A Sustained and

Comprehensive Dialogue With Pakistan

The opening of Srinagar-Muzafarabad Bus Service on April 7, 2005 was a milestone initiative.

The president of Pakistan, General Pervez Musharraf, visited India from April 16-18, 2005. He and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, reviewed positively the progress in Pakistan-India relations and took inter-alia, the following decisions:

- To pursue further measures to enhance interaction and cooperation across the LoC including agreed meeting points for the divided families, trade, pilgrimages and cultural interactions;
- To increase the frequency of Srinagar-Muzafarabad bus service and that trucks would be allowed to use this route to promote trade;
- To operationalise additional routes including that between Poonch and Rawalkot;
- To start early bus service between Amritsar and Lahore and to religious places such as Nankana Sahib;
- To re-establish the

Khokhrapar-Munnabao route by January 1, 2006;

- To open the Consulates General of the two countries in Mumbai and Karachi before the end of the current year;
- To endorse the decision taken on the schedule of meetings later in the year, the agreements to be worked upon through these meetings and measures to be taken to alleviate the situation of prisoners;
- To convene discussions on the issues of Sir Creek and Siachen through the existing institutional mechanism immediately, with a view to expeditiously finding acceptable solutions to both the issues;

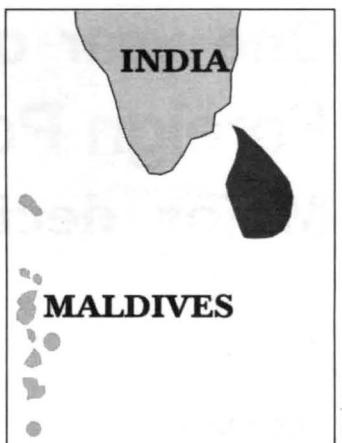
- The Ministers of Petroleum and Natural Gas would meet in May 2005 to explore cooperation in the sector including on the issue of pipeline;
- To activate the Joint Commission as soon as possible; and
- That the Joint Business Council should meet soon.

The Ceasefire, being observed along the International Border, LoC, and the AGPL in Siachen, with exception of a few incidents, has held since November 2004.

Afghanistan

India's political interaction with the Afghan Government has been regular and intensive. India continued its assistance programmes/projects for the economic reconstruction of Afghanistan. India's present commitments add up to US \$500 million, which is substantial for a non-traditional donor.

President Karzai came on a "working visit" from February 23-25, 2005. He called on the President



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and had talks with the Prime Minister. Two MoUs were signed during the visit on cooperation in field of media and in the field of Civil Aviation.

A new surgical block of Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health was inaugurated by the Minister of External Affairs, Shri K. Natwar Singh, on February 15, 2005 at Kabul. India has also offered to fund the construction of a new Parliament building in Afghanistan. Besides, 300 vehicles have been gifted to the Afghan National Army.

Relations With China

During the recent visit of the Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to India from April 9-12, 2005, the two sides agreed that India-China relations have acquired a global and strategic character. The leaders of the two countries agreed to establish an India-China Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity. The visit resulted in substantive outcomes and contributed to further strengthening of India-China bilateral relations. The two Prime Ministers signed a Joint Statement. Eleven other agreements were signed including agreement on political

parameters and guiding principles for the settlement of India-China Boundary question and the protocol on Modalities for implementation of Confidence Building Measures in the Military field in the India-China border Areas.

Broad Range Of Discussions With US

In the last one-year, relations between the two countries have acquired both maturity and dynamism. The meeting between Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and the US President on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session in New York on September 21, 2004, served to highlight the strategic dimension of India's relationship and underlined common interest in combating terrorism, WMD proliferation and enhancing global peace and security.

Canada

The visit of the Prime Minister of Canada, Rt. Hon'ble Paul Martin, to India on January 17-18, 2005 resulted in a Joint Statement highlighting many initiatives including strengthening the India-Canada partnership in advancing collaboration in Science & Technology and creation of Tsunami warning system for Indian Ocean countries. As part of the desire to enhance the architecture of the India-Canada partnership, Policy Planning Dialogues, Strategic Dialogues and 7th Meeting of India- Canada Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism were held in New Delhi after the visit of Canadian Prime Minister to India. India and Canada also held Foreign Office Consultations in Ottawa in

December 2004.

Multi-Faceted Relationship With Russia.

President Putin visited in December 2004 for the 5th annual summit meeting with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. Earlier, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Zhukov visited India in November 2004 for the 10th session of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation. Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov visited India in November - December 2004 for the 4th Indo-Russian Intergovernmental Commission on Military- Technical Cooperation. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov visited India in October 2004.

New banking links between the two countries have been established; and IT and energy have been identified as areas of focus. India is pursuing actively the possibility of investing in another oil field in Russia. Steps are also being taken to facilitate business travel and tourism both ways between Russia and India. Moreover, the possibility of trilateral cooperation in the economic field between Russia, China and India is also being discussed and explored.

EU - India An Indispensable Partner

There is growing recognition of India as an indispensable partner of the European Union (EU), now consisting of 25 members, seeking strategic partnership with India. This was the theme of the visit of Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan

Singh, to The Hague on November 8, 2004. The declaration on Strategic Partnership will now be followed by a Political Declaration, an Action Plan to be adopted at the next India - EU Summit in September 2005. This will provide a new focus and add substance to an already wide-ranging relationship with EU.

Central Asia - The Historic Relationship

India enjoys longstanding, historic and cultural relations with the near-neighbourhood of Central Asia. This region possesses one of the largest newly discovered resources of oil and gas in the world. Efforts are being made to develop energy relationship with the region.

A New Dimension To 'Look East Policy'

India's "Look East policy" has now been given a new dimension by the UPA Government. India is now looking towards a partnership with the ASEAN countries, both within BIMSTEC and the India - ASEAN Summit dialogue as integrally linked to economic and security interests, particularly for India's East and North east region. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh flagged off the first India - ASEAN car rally from Guwahati that drew enthusiastic support from within the ASEAN countries as also from the North Eastern States.

The adoption of document on "India - ASEAN Partnership for Peace, Progress and Prosperity" at the Indo-ASEAN Summit on November 30, 2004 symbolises that India now forms the inner core of the countries in ASEAN's political relationship with

the rest of the world.

West Asia, Gulf & Arab World

The importance, which the Gulf enjoys in terms of India's interest, cannot be overemphasised. More than three million Indian citizens live and work in this region. Recognising this, the Government has intensified India's relations with all key countries in the region, as well as with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) with which India has signed a Framework Agreement for Economic Cooperation. For the Indian citizens in the region, the Government has established a 24-hour Helpline Centre in Saudi Arabia and will extend it to other capitals. All Indian Missions and Posts in the Gulf observe an "Open House" once a month to enable the India nationals to meet senior officials without appointment to seek assistance.

Haj Pilgrims

The Government has taken a decision not only to increase the number of Haj pilgrims from India but also restored the subsidy, which had been reduced by the previous Government.

No Troops To Iraq

The Government has made a clear - cut enunciation of its policy of not sending troops to Iraq, which has been endorsed by Parliament. At the same time, the Government has maintained India's engagement with the friendly people of Iraq. This has taken the shape of humanitarian and reconstruction aid and recent support for the election process in Iraq.

To underline India's policy to the Arab world,

a special Envoy to West Asia and Middle East Process, Shri C.R. Gharekhan has been appointed.

Focus on Africa

One of the key achievements of the Government has been the 'Focus Africa Policy'. There has been a greater exchanges of high level visits, greater economic and technical co-operation, both bilateral as well as within the context of the African Union and India's contribution to peace – keeping operation in several African countries.

Assistance in the form of food grains, medicines were given to a number of African countries. A number of lines of credits on bilateral basis were given to many African countries. First India - Africa Business conference was held in March 2005, in which a large number of businessmen from Africa participated and Cabinet Ministers led some of these delegations

Latin America and Caribbean

Latin America is emerging as a new market for India's exports and business. India is engaging the political leaders of Latin America for support on bilateral and multilateral issues. The President of Venezuela visited India from March 4-7, 2005. Five MoUs and Agreements were signed which included cooperation in space, hydrocarbon and biotechnology. The President of Chile came on the first ever State Visit to India from January 18-22, 2005. Agreements on Economic Cooperation and MoUs on agriculture were signed. While the Foreign Ministers of Mexico, Venezuela,

Surinam and Paraguay came to India, Minister of State, Shri Rao Inderjit Singh visited Mexico, Honduras, Panama, Columbia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Surinam. India agreed to finance and construct a cricket stadium in Georgetown, Guyana to enable it to host World Cup Cricket tournament in 2007. India extended relief assistance to Jamaica worth US\$200,000 and US\$ 50,000 each to Grenada and Bahamas following hurricane, Ivan. Medicines worth US\$ 50,000 each were donated to Dominican Republic and Saint Vincent & Grenadines.

Shri Rao Inderjit Singh led the delegation at the India - Caribbean (CARICOM) Political Dialogue in February 2005, and addressed the conference. He also met the Secretary General of Central American Integration System (SICA) in San Salvador. The Preferential Trade Agreement(PTA) negotiation with (MERCOSUR) regional group consisting of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay have concluded and Annexure to the PTA containing rules of origin, list products, etc. was signed in March 2005.

India and the United Nations

India has been actively pursuing its candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council. There is growing momentum in the number of countries that have expressed support for India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council. A significant development in this regard was the

agreement reached in September 2004 by what is now being termed as the "Group of Four Aspirants" (G4) – Japan, Germany, Brazil and India – that these countries are legitimate candidates for permanent membership of the Security Council and will support each other's candidature. They agreed that Africa must also be represented in the permanent membership of the Security Council.

Foreign Policy and Domestic Developments

Foreign Policy today cannot be divorced from domestic developments. In order, therefore, to ensure a more consultative approach in Indian foreign Policy, the Minister for External Affairs has initiated a mechanism for coordination with other Ministries and agencies as well as with State Governments, particularly those which border India's neighbours. For example, the Ministry of External Affairs is closely coordinating its diplomacy with the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas in respect of securing energy supplies for India in different parts of the world. The Government is also engaged in a major programme for up gradation of cross-border infrastructure working together with the Ministry of Home and Surface Transport as also with the State Governments.

Multidimensional & Consultative Process based on National Consensus

The Government has put in place a multidimensional and consultative process of thought and action. Foreign policy today has clear focus, a

sense of maturity and a proactive character recognizing that the lines dividing domestic from external, the political from the economic, are becoming increasingly blurred.

India's foreign policy has traditionally been based on national consensus. It is the Government's intention that the consensus should be maintained and strengthened. A foreign policy Advisory Group has been set up to get inputs on important contemporary issues from experts and academics outside the Government.

The Government is of the view that the practice of diplomacy must respond to the needs of the times. Accordingly, Indian Ambassadors abroad have not only become active in economic diplomacy but have been reaching out to the Indian diaspora with a view to involving them in the exciting task of building a new India. Indian Ambassadors are also mandated to look after the interest and security of Indians abroad.

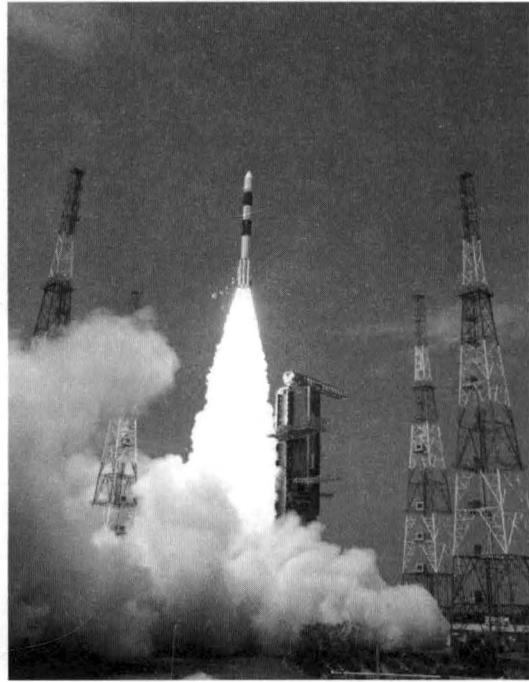
It has been the endeavour of the Government to follow the basic principles of India's Foreign Policy, which have guided India since its Independence. It has reoriented and readjusted it wherever necessary in response to new challenges that confront India. India would continue its journey towards a destiny which was eloquently articulated by India's first Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in 1947, a destiny in which India "attains her rightful place in the world and makes her full and willing contribution to the promotion of world peace and welfare of mankind". **i**

ISRO launches PSLV-C6: India's development on piggyback satellite launch

ON May 5, the Sathish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh witnessed the successful launch of India's eleventh remote-sensing satellite, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C6). The Cartosat-I (weighing 1560 kg) and the Hamsat went piggyback on the PSLV simultaneously. This is the first time a heavy satellite has been launched along with another smaller one and it is the inaugural launch for the new RTs 400 crore Second Launch Pad (SLP). The Cartosat-I is an advance remote sensing satellite that will send back 3-D images vital for earth imaging, the country's mapping and planning. Hamsat on the other hand is categorised as a micro-satellite (weighing 42.5 kg) that

will tremendously boost amateur ham radio communication in South Asia. Such satellite connection will help radio operators communicate emergency signals like earthquakes, floods, tsunami's at a significantly lower cost and faster speed.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has done it again. It keeps an international reputation for one of the best space organisations and has outdone itself again. ISRO Chairman G. Madhavan Nair said, "As India's need



PSLV-C6

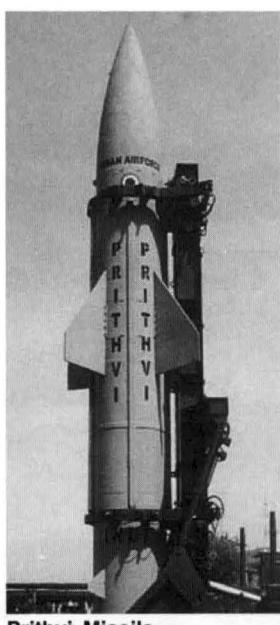
is only four launches a year, we can use the available time for launching other country vehicles on a commercial basis". Within 48 hours, signals

from both the satellites have been received by the Sriharikota High Altitude Range (SHAR) and only after Cartosat-I completes mapping India, shall it be considered for commercial operation.

With numerous more launches scheduled (Cartosat-II aimed for launch by year end), ISRO is moving by leaps and bounds. Countries such as UAE, China, Japan, and Germany have shown a keen interest in using ISRO's applications and opportunities. A strong space centre will be crucial to India's development and play a vital role in the future.

Going Great Guns: Prithvi Test Missile Launch

INDIA'S defence department is going great guns, with their whole new range of launches this year, the victorious test fire of the Prithvi missile is another feather to the cap. On May 12, scientists of the Indian Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and army officers conducted a surface-to-surface medium range Prithvi missile test fire described as a 'user's trial'. The missile has been developed with a firing range of 150 to 250 km, mounted on a mobile Tatra Transporter Erector



Prithvi Missile

Launcher from the integrated test range at Chandipur-on-sea.

The earthy missile has an advanced inertial navigation system that has the ability to use both solid and liquid propellants; it also features a sophisticated on-board computer. Weighing 3.6 tonne, excluding the payload and 8.56 metre high, the missile touch its target located at an approximate distance of 150 km in 300 seconds.

Three telemetry stations; sophisticated radar, electro-optic telescopes and a naval ship stationed

near the point of impact inside the Bay of Bengal, tracked the complete trajectory of the missile.

The nations integrated guided missile development programme has indeed outdone itself with the gamut of launches that India has witnessed in the past few months (read Brahmos missile launch). The success of the launch has seen the missile get operationalised and delivered to the army already. It was already an integrated part of the army's arsenal and the test firing was to further perfect its performance.



▲ Benefactors meet: Esrar Ahmed, Indian Minister of State for External Affairs attends the donor's conference on Sudan held in Oslo Norway on April 12, 2005



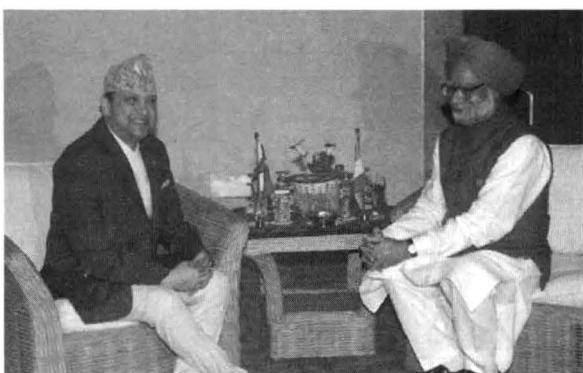
▲ Calling on the host: Manmohan Singh with the President of Indonesia Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono at the Jakarta Asia Africa Summit.



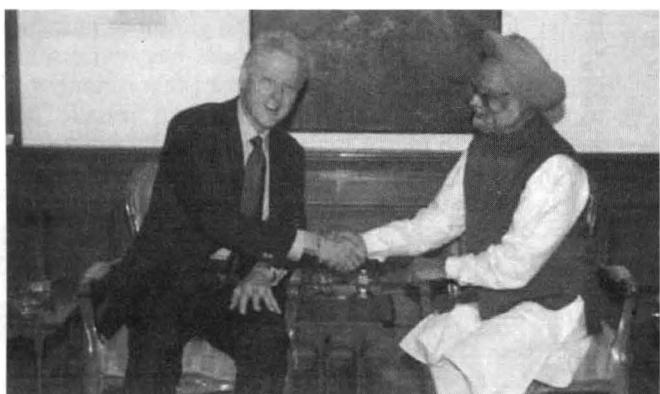
▲ Sharing experience for the path of success: Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with the President of Vietnam Tran Duc Luong. The venue is Jakarta, Indonesia, April 23, 2005.



▲ Democracy meets royalty: E Ahamed, the Indian Minister of State for External Affairs presents a letter from Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to King Mohammed VI of Morocco in Morocco on May 26, 2005.



Meeting with the troubled neighbour: Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh met with King Gyanendra of Nepal at Jakarta. Both attended the Asia -Africa Summit in Jakarta.



◀ Bill Clinton back among friends: Manmohan Singh with the former President of the United States of America in New Delhi, on May 26, 2005.



◀ Need for better trade ties with Japan: Junichiro Koizumi the Prime Minister of Japan with Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on April 29, 2005.



▲ India might not get veto power in UNSC: United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan in a meeting with the Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh. Kofi Annan visited India in the end of April 2005.



◀ Reviving old ties: Indian Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh meets the Russian President Vladimir Putin. The venue was the Grand Kremlin Palace 1, in Moscow.

Transport talks: Shamim Siddiqui (l), Pakistan's federal Minister for communication meet up with Alok Rawat (r) Indian Joint Secretary for Department of Road Transport and Highways. The Indian delegation visited Pakistan in the second week of May.



▲ The economist speaks about his vision: Manmohan Singh delivers a lecture on behalf of Asia. The occasion was a function to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the Asia African Conference 1955 at Bandung, Indonesia, on April 24, 2005.



▲ Palestinian National Authority President, Mahmoud Abbas meets the Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on May 19, 2005.



◀ Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi with commerce minister Kamal Nath (l) CII president SK Munjal, FICCI President Onkar S Kanwar and Assocham chief Mahendra K Sanghi on his visit to New Delhi

Asia-Africa summit at Jakarta: Foundation of a strategic partnership

DRESSED in his trademark white Kurta-churidar, Nehru Jacket and the blue turban, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh led the symbolic "historic walk" of about 250 meters from

Aligned Movement (NAM). The original Bandung conference was an attempt for a closer cooperation between Asian and African countries which were at that moment trying to emerge

appropriate to our societies". It was an honour for India to be chosen to speak on behalf of the fellow Asian Nations, even though leaders from Asian countries such as China and Japan were also

the trade and stepping up cooperation. This was an historic event at a historic place. At Bandung, the President of Indonesia Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and South African leader Thabo Mbeki signed a four page declaration on the New Asian African Strategic Partnership (Aasp). This new strategic partnership is going to be helpful to both Asia and Africa in many ways. Both continents have a vast pool of resources which can be intelligently shared and utilized.

Susilo Bambang Yudhono, at the signing ceremony informed, "We will pool together the vast resources and the tremendous creative energies of Asia and Africa to solve some of the persistent problems of development". In the declaration the leaders also said, "We are determined to prevent conflict and resolve dispute by peaceful means and endeavour to explore innovative mechanisms for conflict building and dispute resolution as well as for the post-conflict peace building."

"The strategic partnership provides a momentum in achieving peace, prosperity and progress" and will be based on nine principles and ideals, the declaration mentioned. This will include collective and united efforts in multilateral fields, protection of human rights and fundamental freedom, promotion of a just democratic, transparent, accountable and harmonious society and the commitment to open dia- ▶



A walk down memory lane: Manmohan Singh with 40 other heads of Asian African states at the Asia Africa street at Bandung. On the left is the Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. Bandung is termed as the birth place of the Non-Aligned Movement.

the Savoy Homann Hotel to Gedung Merdeka, the venue of the Bandung conference at Jakarta. Accompanying him was the Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. This was the same place where in 1955 the original Bandung summit was held and India's first Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru in his speech had cautioned the developing World against aligning with big power blocks. This later resulted in the birth of the Non-

aligned Movement (NAM). The original Bandung conference was an attempt for a closer cooperation between Asian and African countries which were at that moment trying to emerge

appropriate to our societies". It was an honour for India to be chosen to speak on behalf of the fellow Asian Nations, even though leaders from Asian countries such as China and Japan were also

from the colonial past. The Asia-Africa summit was held in Jakarta on 23 April and the commemorative function was held on 24th April at Bandung, west Java. Leaders from 106 countries were present at the summit.

In the Asia-Africa summit Manmohan Singh spoke on behalf of Asia. He in his address said, "We must realise that if development has to be sustainable, it cannot be transplanted from outside. It has to be intrinsic and be

present at the venue. This has also been given considerable importance since India is seeking a permanent seat in the expanded United Nations Security Council.

This summit saw the signing by Asian and African leaders of a new strategic partnership to ensure peace stability and security in the two continents. This aim is going to be achieved by stepping up the war against transnational crimes, terrorism and by boosting

▶ logues based on mutual respect and benefit.

Now the crucial question is how will strategic partnership be carried out? The leaders at the summit have decided that this new Asian-African strategic partnership shall be conducted through three tier of interaction, first on the inter governmental form, second on sub-regional

organisations and third through people to people interaction, particularly in business academia and civil society.

At the golden Jubilee of the Bandung Asia-Africa conference after taking the much talked about symbolic walk along with other world leaders, the Indian PM emphasised that the global trading summit

has to be made more sensitive to the needs and aspirations of poorer countries. He also mentioned that the Asian - African countries should ensure that the architecture of the international institutions is democratised and made more constitutional. He also expressed that the United Nations, its specialised agencies and

the international financial institutions should be included in this restructuring.

Bandung conference can be termed as a genuine and an encouraging effort by Afro-Asian leaders to make the world a better place through solidarity friendship and cooperation, and the world welcomes it.

BrahMos Missile: The contemporary Brahmastra

DISARMAMENT is ideal but on the other hand one cannot deny the importance to develop and possess modern so-

ciently successfully tested for the tenth time by the Indo-Russian consortium. This final testing of this missile cleared its induc-

anti-ship missile, Brahmos also has the capability to engage shore-based radio-contrast target. Another significant advantage of BrahMos over other missiles is that whereas other missiles follow a direct upward direction before falling on their target. Brahmos follows a horizontal trajectory and tears apart its target like a surgeon's scalpel with such a great precision. The missile is launched from a Transport-Launch Canister (TLC), which also

acts as storage and transportation container.

An anti-ship missile with a capability to engage land based targets Brahmos can also be launched either in vertical or inclined position and will cover 360 degrees. The Brahmos missile has identical configuration for land, sea and sub sea platforms. The

air-launched version has a smaller booster and additional tail fins for stability during launch. It has a target range of 290-km with capability to carry 200 to 300 kgs payload of conventional warhead mass.

Unlike others, BrahMos missile uses a liquid kerosene ramjet engine and flies at the speed of a 7.62-mm rifle bullet. In this missile a booster blasts the missile to supersonic speed and then drops off.

Launched from a ship, it can fly up to a height of 14 km at twice the speed of sound. It has a preset trajectory but a sensor on the head detects the target and can change its course to strike up to 20 km from the targeted range. The missile also has a device to skim at near-surface level. Immune to the known countermeasures, this missile is going to equip all major naval warships

Reports say that the mass production of this missile has been started and hopefully by 2015, the Indian army will have around 1,000 such missiles but at a hefty cost of Rs.10 crore per missile.



BrahMos Missile

phisticated weaponry and ammunition by a country to keep their armed forces at par with others. BrahMos a lethal missile, marginally over eight meters in length, 670 mm in diameter is a step by India in this direction.

BrahMos, a supersonic anti-ship cruise missile jointly developed by India and Russia, was re-

tion in the Indian army. BrahMos is a Supersonic Cruise Missile that can be launched from multiple platforms such as submarine, ship, aircraft and land based Mobile Autonomous Launchers (MAL). This property of BrahMos makes it feasible to be used by all three armed forces. Although it is primarily an

APJ Kalam: To Russia with love

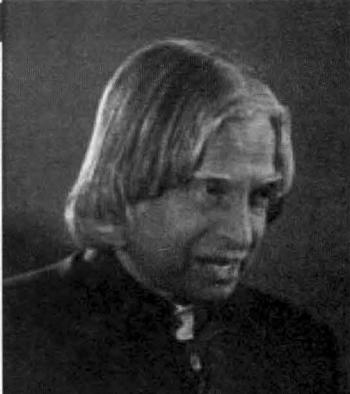
PRESIDENT of India, A P J Kalam's visit to Russia has proved to be a 'landmark' one, according to the Russian President, Vladimir Putin. Both sides have agreed to formulate their ties into a closer bond in sectors such as energy cooperation, space research and economic spheres. The two countries have already pre-established relations in the Indo-Russian nuclear power project at Kudankulam (Tamil Nadu) which is due for completion by 2007. Adding to that Russia has agreed to supply India with nuclear reactors, something that India has been coveting for a while, especially from the American government that sanctioned the trade permission fairly recently. Keeping in mind Russia's roots in the space industry and India's laudable efforts in the same, the two countries plan on implementing the agreement on cooperation in outer space projects that was signed in December last year. India's launch

of the PSLV-C6 that carried with it the Cartosat-I and the Hamsat has proved to be a success, and with many more projects on the waitlist, the opportunities available to Russia and India are innumerable. In line with his reputation for being a youth president, APJ Kalam suggested to the Russian government that a 'World Youth Satellite' is launched that can be helpful to the youth the world over. Amongst the gamut of prospective alliances, a key topic was the kind of economic and diplomatic policy that Putin feels, needs to be enforced in the Eurasian continent. "Our countries stand for forming order of justice in the world. The base for it should be formed by international law norms, principles of mutual respect and consideration of each other's interests. All the questions, that come up between bigger and smaller countries should be solved on dialogue basis, without dictatorship and out-

side interference."

All for love, love for all: India

A P J Kalam made it very clear that India as a nation stands on neutral territory, with no hatred, animosity or ill-feeling toward any other country. Whether it is Pakistan or China, with whom India has shared violent history and conflict, India is still holding the olive branch. There are constant efforts to promote peace and harmony with the two neighbours. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on his visit to India actually went forth to support India in its claim to the permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and outright-insulted Japan's claim to the same. "Both countries have evolved guidelines for mutual progress. Definitely peace prevails in our borders." Wen Jiabao sounds assuring about the peace relation that China has with India, presently



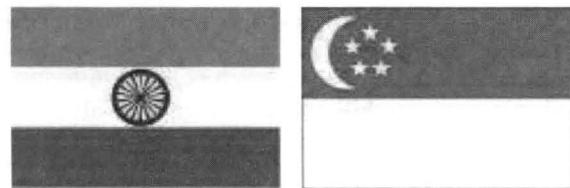
APJ Kalam

and for the future. As for Pakistan, the fact that routes for travellers have been opened after decades of blockages is better than good for a start. Kalam asserted on a crucial point of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), that even though India is not a signatory, it has kept in mind all the rules and regulations. India is not a non-proliferator of weapons of mass destruction. India has passed the weapons of mass destruction and their delivery system bill 2005 (prohibition of unlawful activities), mooted by the UPA government insures that India shall never be a proliferator. The final touch was when Kalam spoke of India's love for all and that "All nations want India to be their friend".

India Singapore Free Trade Agreement

THE main bone of contention between India and Singapore with regards to the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) was the Rule of Origin issue. This core issue has been settled. Singapore has agreed to the criteria for the "change in tariff heading" on raw material with 40% value addition. Ear-

lier the two countries differed on the issue of



custom tariffs. This issue has been resolved successfully; India has offered a four tier structure covering 80% of

Singapore's exports. This structure includes an early harvest list of duty-free imports. There is also going to be a phased elimination of the duties on the items in the list. Regarding the movement of people, it has been agreed that people drawing remuneration comparable to the existing salary in

Singapore would not be denied a visa. Still there are differences existing between the two countries on the telecom facade. In this front India wants a FDI limit of 49 percent whereas Singapore wants a limit of 74 percent. At present the two governments have managed to resolve the problems in the tariff rates. It seems that the India-Singapore FTA is now ready to move ahead.

Trade and Economic Relations Committee

Avoid trading faux pas: TERC

INDIA has an economist as a Prime Minister and this is having a beneficial influence on its Economic and Foreign Policy. Manmohan Singh the Indian Prime Minister (PM) has recently set up a high-level Trade and Economic Relations Committee (TERC) to coordinate India's economic and trade ties with other countries and also to promote India's economic interests.

Ministers for Finance, External Affairs and Commerce and Industry, the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Chairman of the Economic Advisory Committee to the PM, Chairman of the National Manufacturing Competitive Council and the National Security Advisor are going

to be the members of the TERC which is chaired by the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. T.K.A. Nair, principal secretary to the PM, is going to be the committee's convener.

"It is business and economy that drives relations between countries," and the Indian PM Manmohan Singh says and believes it. This is evident from the fact that this committee has been set up with the recognition of the fact that India's foreign policy is going to be gung-ho about economic policy and the need for decision-making in the changed context of globalisation.

Not too long ago, India hurriedly signed free trade agreements with Sri Lanka and Thailand. Later on it

had to countenance the problems which resulted because of this impulsive decision making. The new committee will be a think tank and also an implementing body. This committee would also invite other ministers and business representatives to seek their views on a particular issue. In the long term this committee would take decisions and its assessment will be implemented by the regular ministerial processes.

One of the committee's immediate tasks would be to finalise the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) that India will sign with Singapore and to prepare the ground for Manmohan Singh's visit to the United States in July.

Singapore PM Lee Hsien Loong is also expected to visit India to sign the pact. This is as per the decision taken when the two PM's met on the sidelines of the Asian-African conference in Bandung.

Setting up of the TERC has its significance as the Prime Minister had some major international schedules coming up in the near future, including a bilateral visit to the US and the G-8 summit in Britain.

Setting up of TERC signifies that India covets to improve its relations across the globe but definitely puts its economic interests first. Hopefully from now onwards India would not enter into any trade agreement without assessing the pros and cons of it.

Royal Friendship: India resumes military supplies to Nepal

AFTER two months of being kept on the waitlist, Indian Ambassador to Nepal Shiv Shankar Mukherjee met with the King to convey India's expectation for a return of the multi-party democracy in Nepal. The King surely knows how to check mate. Keeping India at a distance and appearing to be non-plussed by its disapproval, King Gyanendra played China against India to get India where he wanted. That is, a supplier of military aid. However, moving closer to democracy, the benevolent king has decided to hold municipal elections within a year. It is anticipated that once Nepal decides to release its

political prisoners, restore the freedom of press, and allow for political parties to function independently it's southern neighbour (read India) will definitely ease up. On the same note, the Asian-African Summit held at Jakarta did pave the way for closer contact between

the two countries. Indian External Affairs Minister, Natwar Singh had a meeting with the King, followed by another top-level meeting between the King and the Indian Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh. Clearly India is taking up a double-

handed policy that lets them criticise Nepal and simultaneously re-establish



the intimacy it once shared. It is apparent that India must not lose another opportunity at political brotherhood. Else Pakistan and China may just check-in leaving India behind as it happened before in the past, especially in the case of

Myanmar, where China currently reins a stronger foothold. The royal leader has also lifted emergency two days before it was due to expire. Additionally, there was a release of two leaders from house arrest, one of which was the former deputy prime minister and Chief of the Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (UML), Madhav Kumar Nepal.

As a consequent result of all this, India has finally decided to accede to the official requests made by Nepal for military supplies. This can be

► declared as one of the smartest moves India has made in reference to diplomatic relations with its neighbours. The Indian defence department has

always assumed the role of a big brother to Nepal's Royal Nepal Army (RNA). Since 1952 until 2001, India has taken care at building and equipping

with RNA with a decent arsenal. India's decision to resume military supplies to Nepal followed after the lifting of emergency, aimed at highlighting

India's support of democracy and belief that Nepal will soon restore the constitutional monarchy and multiparty democracy.

New patent law: US praises India

UNITED STATES (US) has praised the efforts made by India for enacting the new patent law but on the other hand it also alleges that in India the protection of intellectual property in numerous areas remain weak. Acting US trade representative Peter Allgeier in an interview given to the media stated "India took a significant step to improve its patent protection regime this year with passage of a new patent amendment".

A government mandates a patent right for the inventor of the product or process. Since a patent right is trade-related, it is mandatory for India, being a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), to make its patent-related laws (the Patent Act 1970) and other trade-related Intellectual Property Rights

laws (like those related to copyright, geographical indications, etc.) conform to the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (known as TRIPS) norms. Latest

trade representative expresses, "India should improve its Intellectual Property Regime with respect to protecting undisclosed data, against unfair commercial use for pharmaceuticals

patent is granted. The extent to which India's new patent legislation satisfies India's TRIPS commitment is still under review and will depend in part on its implementation".

We must keep in mind that amendments in patent laws are not simply a matter of aligning national laws through legislation. It involves substantial administrative expenditure by national governments, expenditure that ultimately is borne by the masses. According to the World Bank economist Michael Figner,

such administrative cost for overseeing just three sections of the WTO treaty will be in excess of \$150 million per year, a considerable sum even for a large country like India. So at the moment the fact is that India continues to be on the US priority watch list.

Now what is this patent? Patent is an exclusive monopoly granted by a government to an inventor over his invention for limited period of time. An inventor or any other person/company assigned by the inventor can obtain the patent over his invention. The inventor or his assignee obtains a patent by filing an application with the patent office in the stipulated forms as required by the Patent Act of that country.

amendments are an effort in that direction. The basic objective of the recent amendment to the Patent Act was to introduce product patenting in three sectors that is pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals and food.

But despite India's efforts, acting United States

pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical products as well as copyrights, trademarks and patents. The law does not permit holders of patents that will issue from 'mailbox' obligations to enforce them with respect to generic copies that continue to be marketed on date that the

Has the time arrived for a Saudi citizenship?

SAUDI ARABIA'S by-law has been changed to the naturalisation law. From 23rd of May the foreigners working and living in the kingdom continuously for 10 years will be granted the citizenship. The new law will make them eligible for acquiring citizenship of the Kingdom and admittance to the related rights. The degree

holders in medicine, computer science and other branches of science and technology are going to be given priority for naturalisation. The new Saudi Law also allows the government to withdraw citizenship from a naturalized Saudi within 10 years if he is convicted of any crime related to honour or undermining

security.

The reason for changes could be that Saudi Arabia faces a shortage of skilled professionals such as doctors and engineers. Also it does not want to lose expert professionals due to brain drain. Besides this, if Saudi Arabia wishes to enter the World Trade Organization then it has to bring its

Naturalisation law in line with the rest of the World.

However the Saudi government has fixed the number of expatriates that can be given citizenship in a given period of time. Also, at present the Saudi government is not giving any encouragement to speed up the process. There are certain doubts that whether non-Mus-►

lims qualify for this or not. And it is also feared that the amended law may not actually mean any large scale handout of Saudi citizenship to non-Saudis. Expatriates who wish to get the Saudi nationalities should be fluent in the Arabic lan-

guage. Some experts believe that this change in the law does not mean an easy access to the Saudi citizenship. Dr Ahmed Al-Salim, Under Secretary at the Interior Ministry in Saudi Arabia states, "Many have misunderstood the amended law

as they thought it has made an inroad to Saudi citizenship easy. But in reality, there is no major change in conditions and regulations".

There are a large number of Indians who live and work in Saudi Arabia, and this new announce-

ment has definitely created a sense of excitement amongst them. The reason is that this new change in the law would, apart from giving citizenship rights, enable them to avail privileges such as that of owning property as well as businesses.

Shelling Out: Creating an oily mess

OIL producing nations must do deals with international oil companies (IOCs) and not Chinese and Indian national oil companies (NOCs). This caution has been specified by the Royal Dutch/Shell Group of companies. Shell cautions oil producing countries that they will face government interference while dealing with NOC's. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Shell, Jeroen van der Veer states that the IOCs are only concerned with extracting oil for profit and do not have any hidden political agenda. "You can see a trend of NOC's trying to do government to government deals," states the CEO Shell. He adds, "Government to government deals introduce dependence and that governments have their own hidden agenda".

This warning by the Shell CEO is perceived as a sign of threat from state owned Chinese and Indian oil firms such as Sinopec and Oil and Natural Gas Commission. This appears to be a classic case of the grapes being too sour. At present Shell and other super majors, BP and ExxonMobil face intense competition from their Asian rivals in bidding for oil and gas resources around the world. We also know that in order to secure energy and gas supplies for their blooming economy the Indian and Chinese governments are providing full support to help their state oil firms to participate in major oil and gas projects such as the massive Sakhalin field off Russia's eastern coast. May be this is the reason behind the misleading

propaganda by Shell.

However the good news is that Middle Eastern oil producers do not seem to give any heed to this warning. They do not perceive the deals with India and China as a serious threat. These oil producers have entered into contracts with the Indian and Chinese companies. Middle Eastern oil producers argue that their countries too have national oil companies therefore they are not averse to having deals with state owned companies from India and China. Moreover the market is always driven by the principle of demand and supply. And the greatest growth in demand for oil comes from Asia especially, the land of the tiger and dragon which cannot be ignored by the oil producing nations.

Involve Kashmiris: Pervez Musharraf

THIS time round when Pervez Musharraf, the President of Pakistan,



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came to India he spoke about the Kashmiri leader's involvement in the Indo-Pak dialogue for finding a solution to the Kashmir problem. This declaration of the President of Pakistan's supports the Government of India's view that the real solution of this problem lies in the involvement of leaders from the cross section of the Kashmiri society, elected representatives of Jammu and Kashmir as well as separatist leaders in the talks. To the separatist leaders, Pervez Musharraf communicated that they should bury their differences and then be involved in talks on the issue.

China for US

Changing partners for the better

COMMERCE and Industry Minister Kamal Nath recently expressed that within few years, there is a definite possibility of China replacing US as India's largest trade partner.

In the present global scenario with a rapidly increasing role for India and China in the world

economy, the two countries realise that, it is important to keep contentious issues aside and be working partners. Recently, with the establishment of a strategic and cooperative partnership between the two countries, India and China have embarked into an era of corporatisation of

the two giant economies.

It is Wen Jiabao's visit that has spurred this significant consequent outcome. Trade analysts observe that the significant trade balance of the world is being shuffled and America is not a happy witness.

UNSC Seat: To veto or not, that is the question

A veto powered permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), this has become a national obsession for India.



Manmohan Singh at UN

tion B.

With Natwar Singh making a case for India in Senegal and his Deputy Rao Inderjeet Singh doing the same in Latin

America and various other diplomats trotting over the globe to gain support for India's bid for a permanent Seat in the UNSC. India is not leaving any stone unturned in its efforts to get the support of countries all over the world.

In the future India might get a permanent place in the Security Council but the biggest unanswered question is that of veto power. UN Secretary

members".

As the September deadline for expansion of the UNSC arises. The major dilemma in front of India is whether to accept a permanent seat in UN without veto or not. There are two views towards it. Some experts believe that a permanent seat in the UNSC should itself be considered as an honour by India. As this would mean recognition of, India's past contributions to the UN, and its emerging role as a valuable global partner to deal with multifaceted problems of instability, terrorism, and human rights. India's permanent representative to the UN, Nirupam Sen has conveyed to the Ministry of External Affairs that India should not press too hard on the issue of veto power. On the contrary, some experts believe that getting a permanent seat in the UNSC without a veto is like sitting on the high table and being gagged.

The truth is that at present the five permanent members jealously guard their power to influence global policy. Joining as permanent member without a veto would mean the countries and regions which have so far been unrepresented in the council would definitely get a chance to speak but with no real ability to decide.

On the flipside, one must remember that United Nations Security Council's expansion is not something which happens every day or every year, it is a rare opportunity, so India could gear up all its diplomatic efforts to over-

come the challenges such as that of bringing G4 nations to a consensus and getting the support of African nations and convincing United States for its support.

India's Invite to the East Asian Trading Bloc

INDIA has been invited to participate in the inaugural East Asia Summit scheduled for December 2005, hosted by Malaysia. It is going to be held in tandem with the 11th ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) Summit that will be a significant contributor. ASEAN has ten-member nations including China, Japan, and South Korea. The summit shall be a key meeting point on regional and international trade, economic and security issues.

The Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar announced that India is definitely invited to participate since they have "satisfied the criteria". On the other hand Australia and New Zealand have been kept on hold because they have not yet signed the Non-Aggression Treaty that bans the use of violence to settle regional disputes. There are expectations from the East Asian community that this group shall prove to be a counter force to the European Union and perhaps the US.



G4 Nation heads

As we know that there are two proposed options for the expansion of the UNSC. Option A, proposes the addition of six permanent and three non permanent members to the existing 15. Option B proposes six members on a permanent basis. India, Japan, Germany and Brazil, the G-4 nations support the option A whereas the so called coffee club of Pakistan, Italy and South Korea favour Op-

General Kofi Annan on his recent visit to India in the end of last month poured cold water over India's ambition of gaining a veto powered seat in the UNSC. Kofi Annan stated that the high powered panel set up by him did not envisage giving veto power to new members, "It would be utopian to expect the present five member countries to give up their veto power or to extend it to other

Plundering India's Uranium

AMIDST the bonhomie between India and China, what lies beneath are possibly murky attempts at underhand dealings. According to sources in the security forces posted in the North Eastern state of Meghalaya, certain Chinese agencies have apparently approached the banned National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) to smuggle uranium ore from the state into China. The local Guwahati police cracked on to two men who were in possession of semi-processed uranium. It is suspected that the booty was stolen from Meghalaya, the seized contents were of Uranium-235 that can be

used for preparing explosives.

This is not the first time smugglers have been caught with high-end minerals that can be used for international smuggling or for bomb-explosives. In December 2004, two were arrested in possession of thick metal plates containing radioactive uranium. After the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in Mumbai examined the lot, it was reported that the metal plates were 99 per cent uranium. This sort of uranium that is either processed or semi-processed can be attained from state-run laboratories that have the required equipment. The kind that

can be also used to make bomb explosives. Not only is it embarrassing for India to catch such criminals because that means the state-run nuclear laboratories and research centres are either not given enough security or that the system itself is corrupted enough to allow for such activities.

India must shake itself from the slumber it has been indulging in. As a nation with nuclear capability comes a certain amount of accountability that India has so far abandoned. If India is unable to protect itself from minor assaults, one can only imagine what the future holds.

Greener pastures for Indian professionals

IT is quite possible that in the future Indian doctors, accountants and software professionals can take up jobs in the United States without worrying about H1B visa quotas. Indian companies will be able to give unhindered service to American companies. American companies will be able to freely enter the travel, insurance, hospitality and retail industries in India.

All this will be possible if the Indian Commerce



Ministry gives a go ahead signal to the Indo-US Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on service. Moreover, it is not so easy in practicality.

"The US is likely to demand extremely low or zero tariffs on commodities and industrial goods exports to India," says Rajesh Chadda, Chief Economist at the National Institute of Applied and Economic Research (NIAER). T.S. Bhaumik, Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) senior Director advises that the time is not yet ripe for an FTA and there is a need to make the service sector more competitive.

Response

Sent: May 27, 2005

Dear Sir,

We thankfully acknowledge the receipt of April, 2005 issue of your magazine "Imprint". We found the information contained in it useful.

V S SAINI

Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun
E-mail: vssaini@iip.res.in

Fortune favours India

FORTUNE intends on an expansion, and its main target is the world's second largest democracy, India. The American magazine group has decided that India would be a fine place to tee off from, especially in the Asian market. Considering it's growing literate (read English) population, the potential to expand readership would be tremendous. "The Fortune Magazine currently has a paid circulation of 8000 in India." According to Friedman, a senior editor of the magazine, the publishing company is looking at expansion in more ways than one. A lucrative proposition would be if Fortune can tie-up with Indian newspapers and magazines (both English and regional languages) and syndicate content. Ideally a joint venture that will allow an Indian edition of Fortune to be published would be best suited to their plans. It is good that one of the world's most favourite business magazines is vying India as their next spot, however, it can be read as a sign of things will be in time to come. India is opening up to the global market; its economy is shooting across with unsurmountable speed and bringing back with it is the stuff that developed countries are made of, or not. It will unmistakably prove to be competition for the local magazines that will either enter into mergers, joint ventures or just fade away.

CORPORATE CAPSULES

Wal-Mart to invest in India

WHEN the world's largest corporation plans to invest in a country, definitely it becomes news. Here we are talking about \$ 288 billion Wal-Mart Stores Inc which has de-

clared India its first destination in its growth plans. According to Wal-Mart officials India is an important retail market. Presently, Wal-Mart does not have



a retail presence in India but its Bangalore office, does outsource goods through third party suppliers in India.

TATA to invest in Bangladesh

TATA Group plans to invest \$ 2.5 billion in Bangladesh. They have recently given a formal proposal to Bangladesh state-run Board of Investment (BoI) for the prospective project. Mahamudur Rehman, Executive Chairman of BoI



recently disclosed to the media that they have received a formal \$ 2.5 billion investment proposal. The Present TATA proposal is five times the total foreign direct investment (FDI) proposed in Bangladesh. Tata Group, India's largest truck manu-

facturer, biggest software exporter, and largest hotel chain has also invested in South Africa, Korea and Singapore. Tata Group has 80 business entities in materials, engineering, service and energy sector, consumer products, chemicals, communications and information systems.

Hamara Bajaj to expand

BAJAJ is planning to expand. This Indian scooter giant plans to invest Rs 200 crore in the next one and a half year. This amount is going to be spent primarily on capacity expansion. Bajaj, which also dominates the Indian three-wheeler market, might also buy a stake in the

Philippines division of the motorcycle maker, Kawasaki Motors. For over a year now, Kawasaki Motors has been importing Bajaj motorcycles and selling them in the Philippines along with their own motorcycles. Officials from both companies are evaluating the options and would go for the



Inspiring Confidence

deal if it is mutually beneficial. Reports mention that a part of the latest capacity expansion would be towards three new scooter models. The first of these three models will be in the market within this year.

Jet set to fly high

INDIA'S topmost domestic airline, Jet Airways is



strengthening its wings. The company has gone global. It has launched a Mumbai-London direct

flight and also plans to expand its service in UK and other parts of Europe. The company officials are currently analysing the feasibility of flying to Manchester in UK and to Rome, Milan, Zurich and Amsterdam from London. As per the reports, the

company also aims to maintain its double-digit earnings growth into its new fiscal year. This is despite high fuel costs and rising competition. The airline also expects its international routes to account for 10 to 15 percent of the turnover this year.

Stork to invest in India

THE costal district of Srikakulam has been selected by Austrian firm Stork for the setting up of Titanium (beach sand mineral based) project. If the Andhra Pradesh government agrees to the proposal, Stork Handeges plans to invest an amount of more than Rupees 5,000 crore in the project. Stork director of technical sciences Alexander Soskil and his team visited India in the month of March to discuss the project. Later, toward the end of April, Stork representatives held talks with the Indian government. This project will help India immensely as this will reduce India's dependence on the imports for Titanium.

Honda revs up in India

THE demand for passenger cars in India is increasing and the Honda motor company wants a piece of the pie. The Japanese company plans to invest an amount of Rs. 950 crores in India. This investment will be used to introduce new premium models, to completely overhaul the existing City and Accord car models and also for increasing capacity at the Greater Noida unit of the company. In the year 2006-2007 Honda plans to roll out one of its new model which is code named as UH. This new model will be designed to suit the needs of Indian customers.

'Operation Karakoram' gets fictionalised

ARVIND NAYAR'S debut novel, the Indian political thriller, possibly the first of its kind, 'Operation Karakoram' was released by the K Natwar Singh, Minister of External Affairs

himself. Nayar was studying law at Delhi University when he decided to embark on a fictive narration on the strained relations between India and its neighbour, Pakistan. Ow-

ing his inspiration to the numerous books on cold war that he has read, Nayar thought it strange that India-Pakistan have had no such book to their name. The credibility lies in au-

thentic research, the accurate representation of the Indian political scene, the kind of underhand tensions and diplomacy via which a country and its governing system operates.

Kishore Mahbubani: An emerging name in the literary field

BEYOND the Age of Innocence: *Rebuilding trust between America and the world* is the name of the book written by Kishore Mahbubani. Kishore Mahbubani recently stepped down as Singapore's ambassador to the United Nations.

The writer, in this 233 page book, places criticism subtly after the acknowledgement of all the good things that America has done for the

world. He expresses, the US offered him hope that he could also improve his life.

The writer in his book criticizes America for not signing the Kyoto Protocol, for failing to solve the Palestinian Israel dispute and for abuses at the Guantanamo Bay. America's other mis-



Kishore Mahbubani

takes such as mis-handling of the 1997 Asian financial crisis and the resistance to revoke agricultural subsidies that hurt the Third World are criticized more severely.

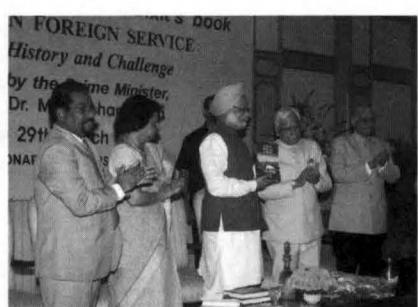
Mahbubani writes, "It would certainly be unfair to place more responsibility on America for all the ills of the world," but on the

other hand he damns America for encouraging the poverty and backwardness of Islamic states by not having implemented a Marshall Plan for Middle East after the World War II. Mahbubani closes his book with a plea for a kinder and gentler superpower to promote greater respect for international law.

Gujral Gets Grilled in Dixit's Book

HANDLING of Foreign Affairs by I K Gujral as External Affairs Minister and then as Prime Minister has come in for sharp criticism in a book authored by late National Security Adviser J N Dixit.

Titled *Indian Foreign Service: History and Challenges*, the last works of career-diplomat 'Mani' Dixit released recently by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and launched by the Ministry of External Affairs, says that Gujral's approach of taking decisions on his own ignoring the foreign service had created a "piquant and unique predilection" for the foreign ser-



Manmohan Singh at the launch of Dixit's book by Ministry of External Affairs

vice.

It says Gujral's inclination to function as his own spokesman had "created controversial situations, with the foreign service being left to pick up the debris of the fallout of Gujral's pronouncements".

The book, however, describes the period between

1998 and 2003, as a "watershed" stating that it was during this period that a "different sense of India's image" was advocated by the Vajpayee government.

Tracing the history of India's Foreign Service, the book by the former Foreign Secretary points out how various governments affected the functioning of the department.

The book remarks that "comparative marginalisation" of the Foreign Service in foreign policy-making was witnessed after P V Narasimha Rao government's departure in 1996.

PUBLISHING work of political leaders. This seems to be the present mantra for the Penguin publishers. In the month of May, this Publishing house of repute is going to come out with poems of Soka Gakkai International's Chief Daisaku Ikeda's poems, *Fighting for Peace*.

Earlier in the month of April, this year, Penguin released President A P J Abdul Kalam's old poems with a new name 'The Life Tree'. The forward to this poem was written by the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.



Indian film festival in America: Showcase of the changing society

FILMS are an important medium to showcase a society and its culture. And the role of Bollywood films in spreading awareness about the Indian culture cannot be ignored. A nonprofit organization, The Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles (IFFLA) is working towards a greater appreciation of India's cinema and diverse culture by providing the public with a selection of films from and about India by Indian and international filmmakers.

This year the Indian film festival was held at Arc Light Cinemas, a well-designed, modern facility at Sunset and Vine in Hollywood from April 20-24, 2005. This festival showcased a combination of features, shorts and documentaries and offered the Los Angeles community a unique opportunity to learn about India's multi-faceted culture and long history of filmmaking. In this festival, reputed directors, producers and cast were invited to present their films and share their experiences with the audiences. Industry professionals from major and independent production and distribution companies were also invited to participate in one-on-one 15-minute meetings with the participating filmmakers. This programme offered the new generation of talented filmmakers the opportunity to meet with



Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles

the gentry of the North American film industry and provide them with a unique opportunity to advance their careers.

Apart from this IFFLA also offered a jury award for Best Feature, Best Documentary and Best Short film. An "Audience Choice Award" in the same categories gave the audience the opportunity to vote for their favorite film while on the other hand it gave the filmmakers a valuable feedback from the public. One of the highlights of this year's IFFLA 2005 was a Short Film program which showcased some of the most remarkable short films in current recall. These included an appealing saga about the "rickshaw driver with the heart of gold" a story about a young cripple and a wonderfully animated short film program. FFLA's opening and closing night functions began with a screening of a feature film followed by receptions that included music and dance performances. In addition, during the festival, various Indian-influenced art and music exhibitions were offered to the public.

iDream Production's latest film "Naina" will have a world premier at the Cannes Film Festival. It will be screened in the

market section at the Festival on May 12, 15 and 18.

Producers of the film are confident that "Naina" will become the first Indian horror thriller to appeal to the global audience.

Aishwarya Rai, who has appeared on America's primetime television shows and her latest appearance being in the Oprah Winfrey Show, will be at Cannes to promote her beauty and hair care endorsements at the Festival being held from May 13 to 23.

Similarly, Nandita Das will be on the Cannes jury this year. Ash was on the the jury in 2003. Actress Mallika Sherawat's first overseas film with Jackie Chan "The Myth" will be premiered at the festival.

The English version of Subhash Ghai's "Kisna" will be showcased in the Market section at the Cannes Film Festival on May 14 and 17. Produced under Mukta Arts, the Hindi version was released worldwide in January 2005.

Designed to suit international audiences, the length of the English version has been trimmed down to an hour and 35 minutes. Starring Vivek Oberoi and debutantes Isha Shravani and British actor Antonia Bernath, the film's music has been composed by A R Rahman and Ismail Darbar.

Arun Sarin
CEO Vodafone

GRADUATED from the Indian Institute of Technology, this is one Indian who has entered into the magic blue circle of the corporate world. Arun Sarin (age 50), earning as much as 1,100,000



Arun Sarin

sterling pounds a year, is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of one of the worlds largest mobile phone companies, Vodafone Group Plc. The Chairman of Vodafone, Lord MacLaurin announced that Sarin was selected for his new office, succeeding Sir Christopher Gent.

Starting his career as a management consultant for a small American company, Sarin soon became the President and CEO of AirTouch International and AirTouch Communications. Formerly, he was also a non-executive Director of Vodafone, Charles Schwab Corp., Cisco Systems and Gap Inc.

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