

imprint

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

● Time to take a decision for Pakistan: Welfare of quake victims or F16's?

October 8 earthquake has devastated few regions of Pakistan, it needs a massive amount of capital for relief and welfare operations

The massive earthquake in Pakistan has left a deep wound which would take a long time to heal. This earthquake on October 8th measured 7.6 on the Richter scale and was one of the worst quake in the region.

This quake left thousands dead and almost an equal number of persons injured and homeless. It not only wiped out an entire generation but also left a number of children orphaned, with an uncertain



Indian Airforce provides aid to Pakistan

INSIDE

- Editor's Perspective
- Army upgrades field navigation system
- Turmoil in the Indian External Affairs Ministry
- Is Canada against Indo-US nuclear deal?
- India is now a technology provider

condition. The quake has completely destroyed hospitals, schools, prisons, offices and homes in the region.

The condition in quake affected regions is really bad and an in hospitable terrain is making it difficult to provide relief material to those affected by the earthquake.

Donors all over the world are being urged to keep money flowing to the United Nations appeal for

earthquake-hit Pakistan because aid operations there depend on their donations.

Pakistan needs an average of \$50 million a month

UN aid agencies in Pakistan need an average \$50 million a month to help people affected by the devastating October 8

(Continued on pg 3)

CHECKLIST OF VISITORS

Prime Minister of Fiji	Laisenia Qarase
Russian Defence Minister	Sergei Ivanov
Mexican Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs	Lourdes Aranda Bezaury
US Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs	Nicholas Burns
Commerce Minister of Romania	Ioan Codrut Seres
Prime Minister of Mauritius	Navinchandra Ramgoolam

October 10 to 16

October 15 to 17

October 17 to 21

October 20 to 22

October 22 to 24

October 23 to 30

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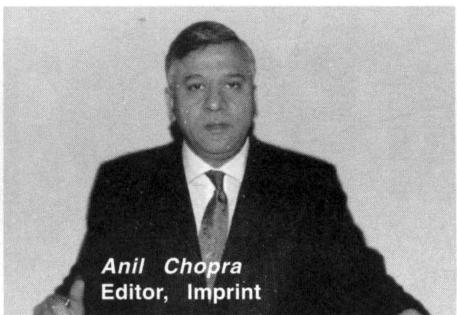
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PERSPECTIVE



*Anil Chopra
Editor, Imprint*

Conviction

I met a Kashmiri political activist recently and I was told point blank by this Kashmiri Pandit whose concern is of course not only the Kashmiri Pandits but equally Kashmir, his homeland, with Muslims, Buddhists, Christians, agnostics and Hindus too, that India till today despite all the wars and the army troops and all the verbal support from New Delhi on all international forums has not properly communicated that Kashmir is India. Period. All said and done the Kashmiri pandits at least still feel India has not conveyed with conviction that Kashmir and all its people are India. If the Hindus feel that way its not surprising to know why the others will not get the same feeling and be encouraged as a result. So if this is really true then our foreign policy is still not determined enough nor is it clear, there is no leadership and no vision in resolving the one problem persisting true independence. A problem once resolved we all know that will lead India into a period of liberation. Easier said than done. But we do have a clear-cut task in determining how exactly we can convey the conviction of Kashmir is India in the mind of all Indians and the government. Ironically the answer in the mind of the Kashmiri Pandit I met is that if this message is to be communicated then there is only one way, completely ignore any rights of any other party whether they be a neighbour or the Kashmiri people themselves. Nobody at all must be acknowledged as having any position to even discuss the subject of Kashmir. This is what the Kashmiri people want, whether they be Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Christians, or agnostics. They want to believe that they belong to India.

The earthquake in Kashmir is the saddest tragedy to happen now to a people homeless metaphorically and now hundreds of thousands actually homeless. US\$ 6 billion has been delivered to Pakistan. The world refers Pervez Musharraf as a moderate ally, who must get the aid to distribute to the radical Islamic terrorist organisations who are benefiting in reaching the aid personally to the quake hit regions. The Kashmiri Pandit I met in fact was not too happy that in the time of disaster even India was trying to reach out to Pakistan on account of Kashmir. It was alright that an Air Force plane delivers aid to Pakistan to alleviate suffering of ones neighbours but to think that a disaster would resolve the Kashmir problem was asking for sympathy, almost. If India thinks that tragedy will demoralise extremist religious based terrorism it is sad. Will the Muslims see the earthquake as a hand of God sending a message against the war in the name of God? This is a hope and question that is too far fetched. In Aceh in Indonesia it seems the Muslims have understood exactly this. In any case if India is hoping to see a blessing in disguise in the tragedy to resolve conflict or the suffering of the Kashmiri people then, the world too seems to see it this way. Except the Kashmiri people themselves don't see it this way. It is dismaying to them. That India's conviction is still not determined enough, to stir hope in such tragic situations to redeem their pledge to their own homeland. How do we convey the conviction of our policy? Just one way as the Kashmiri pandit believes - Very seriously without friendship. Period.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anil Chopra".

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.

(Continued from pg 1) **Time to take a decision for Pakistan**

quake. According to a UN official "We need money to be able to keep working, and above all to be able

that a plane load of blankets, medicines and other survival gear was kept ready to be despatched.

dian aid mainly to calm down the opposition.

World leaders are pronouncing that the two ri-

should be utilised to resolve the Kashmir issue.

Opening of border crossings is being described as a good first step but it is being penned in the media that Islamabad and Delhi need to make more gestures to bring lasting peace.

Various national and international donor agencies from all over the world are trying to pitch in their efforts. United Nations has been called upon to immediately scale up its aid operations on the ground in Pakistan and for international donors to properly fund the aid response.

This earthquake has really opened a debate that is it sensible for Pakistan to purchase such F16 and other war toys when it is requesting for aid from people all over the world?



Quake victims being airlifted

to keep saving lives. "The UN aid agencies are currently working hand to mouth with the money they have. Obviously, if the aid dries up or the money stops coming in, it's like a house of cards. Everything could fall apart," she said.

Aid workers say more needs to be done if relief is to be brought to thousands of people in stricken isolated mountain villages before the oncoming Himalayan winter makes it almost impossible to reach them. The funding shortfall also makes it tough for the UN to plan longer term aid efforts. At present, the top donors to the UN appeal so far are Sweden, Norway, the United States and Canada.

At this moment of extreme difficulty, Pakistan and India are harnessing the mood of cooperation and are trying to provide relief on both sides of the border. India, within hours of the quake offered help to Pakistan. Reports say

Pakistan was initially hesitant to accept the aid but later on accepted it. However aid was accepted in certain forms and formats. Or in other words, Pakistan imposed limits on In-

vals should use the tragedy to begin rebuilding trust eroded by decades of conflict over the disputed Himalayan region. These leaders believe that it is a good opportunity which



Pakistan needs to deal with the problem of homeless first



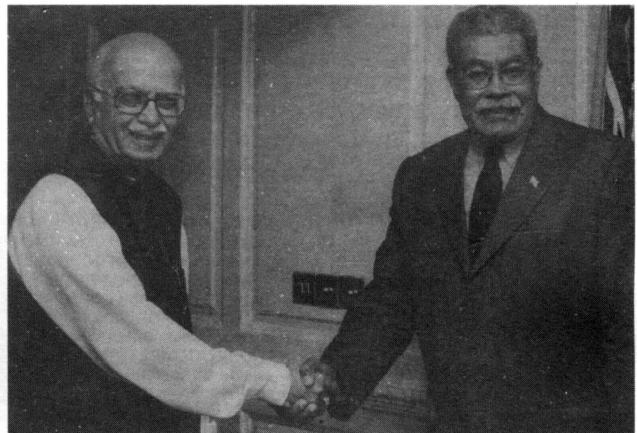
India explores energy: The Indian Petroleum and Natural gas Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar talks with Viset Choopiban. Indian Firms have been invited by Thailand for oil and gas exploration in its offshore region. India is also likely to set up CNG distribution network for the automobile sector.



How can India help? Commerce Minister Kamal Nath (l) meets with the Commerce Minister of Romania, Ioan Codrut Seres in New Delhi on 24th October 2005.



Indian Minister of External Affairs Rao Inderjit Singh shakes hands with Lourdes Aranda Bezaury, Mexican Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Aranda Bezaury, Mexican Under Secretary visited India in the end of October.



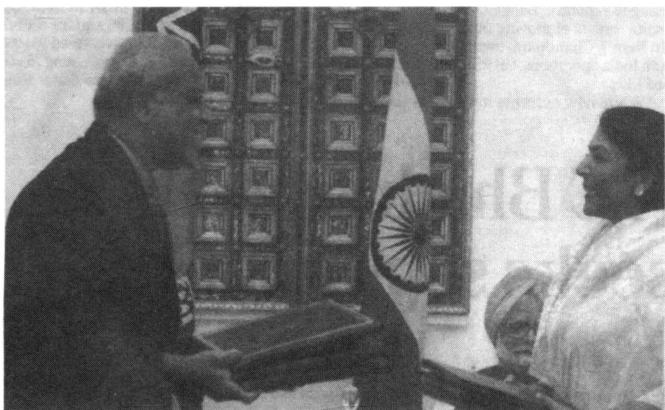
Reviving cultural connections: Indian leader of opposition L K Advani shakes hands with Laisenia Qarase, Prime Minister of Fiji. Qarase came on a seven day visit to India in the mid of October.

Taking stock of securities: Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board, of India M Damodaran(r) with John Thain, CEO New York Stock Exchange during a function organized by CII in Mumbai in October.



Building up defence: Indian Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee with his Russian Counterpart Sergei a Ivanove. The Russian Defence Minister visited India in the mid of October.

DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES



Energizing Indo-Fiji relations: Indian Minister of State for Tourism Renuka Choudhury with Foreign Affairs and External Trade Minister of Fiji. The occasion was the signing of an agreement in New Delhi on 11th of October.



It is the time for Indo-US technology Cooperation: Kapil Sibal, India's minister for science and technology (L) with US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice(r). India and US kept aside their differences on Intellectual Property Rights and signed an agreement to promote science and technology cooperation. The agreement was signed in Washington in the mid of October.

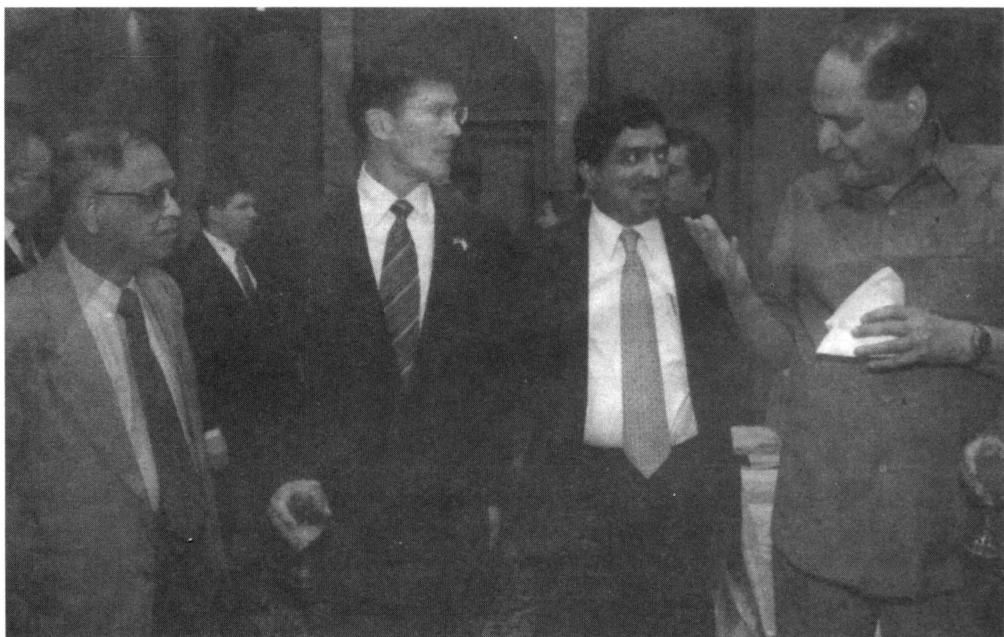


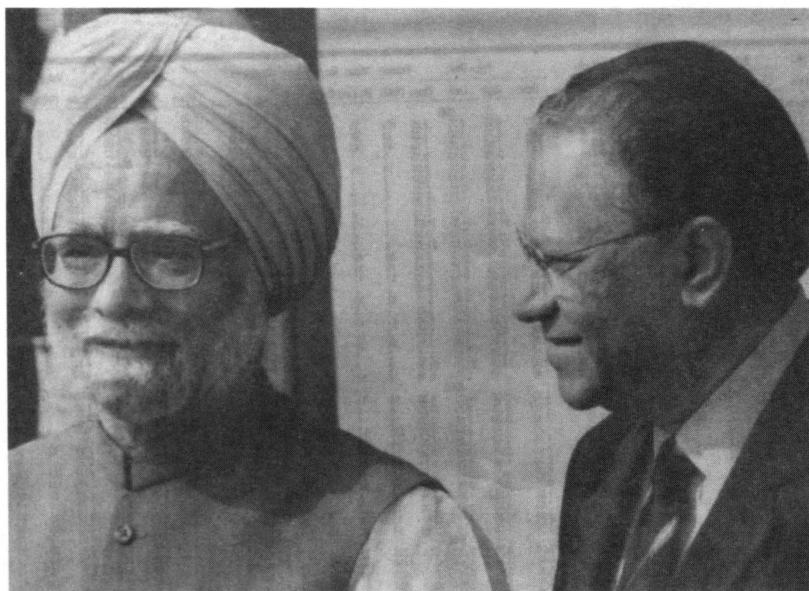
Petro-talks with the BP chief: Indian Petroleum Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar with the group Chief Executive of BP on the occasion of signing of a letter of intent. The letter of Intent was signed in New Delhi on 13 October 2005.



India's Director General of BSF R S Moosahari with his BDR counterpart J A Choudhury. The two heads of Para Military forces met on 31st September 2005.

Meeting with the Platinum Chips of Indian society: Infosys Chairman Narayan Murthy (extreme l) with John Thain, CEO of New York Stock Exchange, Nandan Nilekani, of Infosys Technologies and India's top industrialist Rahul Bajaj at a lunch during John Thain's visit to India in the mid of October.





Welcoming the neighbour: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with the Prime Minister of Mauritius, Navinchandra Ramgoolam. Prime Minister of Mauritius came to India in the month of October.

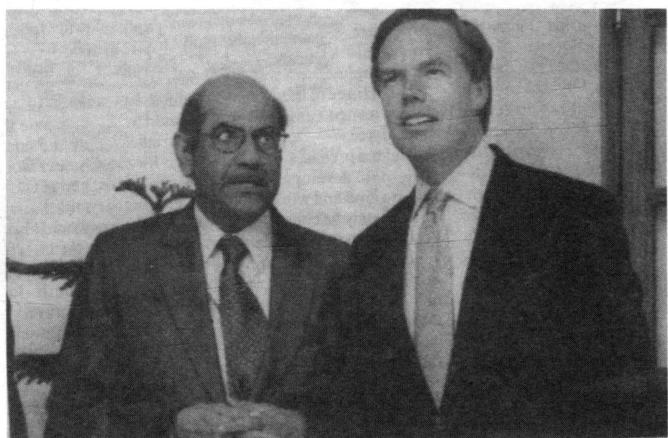


◀ India spreads its light of culture: Michael Bloomberg (L), New York City Mayor lights up a lamp to inaugurate the Diwali festival. In the centre is Nelom Deo, India's Consular General to New York. On the right is Andy Shenoy, President Indo-US Promotion group.

◀ Prime Minister of Mauritius, Navinchandra Ramgoolam (l) with his wife Veena. PM of Mauritius was presented with a bust of Mahatma Gandhi. Navinchandra Ramgoolam visited India in the month of October.



Mexico's Deputy Minister of Foreign relations Lourdes Aranda Bezaury (Centre) Flanked by Mexican Ambassador to India Rogelio Granguillhome (l). On the right is Professor R. Narayanan, national Fellow CSSR, Aranda Bezaury visited India in the month of October.

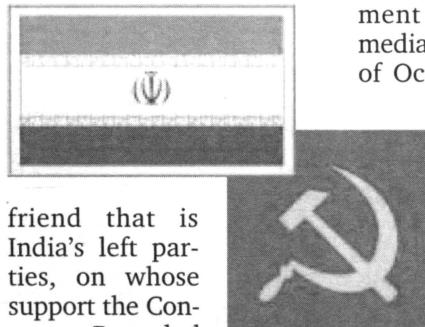


Thinking about complex state of current international political Affairs: Indian Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran with Nicholas Burn, US Under-Secretary of state for Political Affairs. Burn visited India in the end of October.

Left parties are Iran's new found friends in India

India has voted against Iran and the left parties in India have virulently criticized the government for its anti-Iran vote at the IAEA, which could result in Tehran being brought before the United Nations Security Council over its nuclear program, and have threatened to launch countrywide agitation.

So Tehran has a new



friend that is India's left parties, on whose support the Congress Party-led Manmohan Singh govern-

ment survives. As per media reports in the month of October, senior Iranian diplomats in the capital have been meeting with left party leaders, praising their stand as well as impressing on them that pressure should be built on the government ahead of

the November 25 IAEA board meeting that will decide whether Iran should be referred to the UN for possible sanctions. As printed in the Indian media, Tehran is also looking to develop bonds with other political outfits in India.

Now time only will tell whether this will help Iran in the future or not.

Admiral Arun Prakash visits Yokosuka base

The ties between India and US are increasingly



Admiral Arun Prakash

become strong. Latest evidence of these blooming ties was Naval Chief Admiral Prakash's visit to the US Naval base in Yokosuka, Japan. Indian Naval Chief made this visit in the beginning of October.

It was the first time that an Indian Naval Chief was on a visit to this naval base. As per media reports, Yokosuka has a strength of around 20,000 American military and Civilian personnel. It also has an amphibious battle group and an aircraft carrier.



India worried: Decides to hire another lobby firm in US

India has earlier hired the services of lobbyist firm Barbour Griffiths and Rogers. However India is anxious about its nuclear deal and to be on the safer side has hired another law firm. In mid-October India signed on Venable LLP which is America's top law firm.

This move of India is primarily to woo Democrats who are not in favour of the Indo-US Nuclear deal. Although India has the support of President Bush, in the wake of the reducing popularity of the American president, it is

necessary for India to gain the support of the Democrats, if it wants to see the materialization of the Indo-US Nuclear deal.

Free trade: Is it really beneficial?

World Bank in one of its report states that the benefits of the free trade are much below the estimates

tion as to what extent these agreements are help the economy.

If we take a look at the recent estimates of the World Bank then we really start questioning the hype around the issue of free trade.

In its latest report on the overall gain to the global

economy from the elimination of the tariffs and subsidies, World Bank states that there is a gain of \$290 billion from a move to free trade. As compared to this, in the year 2003 the estimated benefits were \$500 billion.

According to World Bank economist Richard New "If we assume full liberaliza-

tion, which means remove all tariffs and subsidies, the world total gains would be about \$290 billion." These estimates again make us doubt the relevance of free trade.

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A matter of serious concern: Bangladeshis in India

Assam Rifles raises its concern

Bangladeshi immigrants are scattered all over India. As reported earlier in Imprint, these immigrants come to India by paying few thousand rupees to agents and later on make fake ration cards and necessary documents and remain in India. These immigrants if caught by the police are happily put up in jails as they don't have to pay for their food there. If sent back to Bangladesh

they again come back through agents. There is nothing bad about immigration as long as there is no evil motive behind it.

Recently in the mid of October the Assam Rifles had made a presentation regarding the change in the demography due to influx of Bangladeshis. Assam Rifles indicated the role of Pakistani and Bangladeshi intelligence agencies in pushing these



immigrants into India.

According to Assam Rifles-Dhubri, Goalpara, Hailakandi and Karimganj districts of Assam are the ones where ISI and Bangladesh's Director General of Field Intelligence (DGFI) are active in spreading Islamic fundamentalism. In these districts, ISI and DGFI have made their hold strong by offering monetary incentives to poor people of the region.

INFORMS to save life on waves

India is going to develop a new sea communication system, which is expected to revolutionize marine communication.

There is some good news for people and agencies related to maritime. According to a report published in a leading Indian Newspaper, India is going to develop a new sea-com system. This futuristic response system is expected to provide a boost to maritime constituency.

This report which was published in the beginning of October stated that the Directorate of shipping has come up with a National Facilitation on Responsive Maritime System (INFORMS). This project

would operate on global positioning system(GPS) and other communication modes. The inability of the crew of MV Faiz failed to send out distress signals leading to death of the Captain PB Shelly and his family.

Besides communicating INFORMS could also be used for much wider application. According to MM Saggi, nautical advisor, Government of India, " Basically all stake holders in the maritime constituency will be connected through INFORMS.

INFORMS would have a

multi modal connectivity for communications, employing a data centre, Call Centre, Transactional Portal and a Disaster Recovery site. Or in simple words it will be a one stop solution for one and all shipping entities including Ship owners, importers, and exporters, manning agents, freight forwarders, ship repairers, foreign and Indian ports and security agencies.

The usefulness of this system lies in the fact that it will facilitate communication not only by tele-

phone but via SMS from a cell phone, interactive voice response system, electronic pulses through satellite phones and wireless devices. This system will also improve the speed of communication and exchange of data.

This project estimated at Rs 77 crores is the first of its kind in the world. However experts believe that it will indeed bring a revolution in the maritime communication. This will indeed be a pioneering step for saving the life of people on the high sea.

Role Reversal: India is now a technology provider

India is passing through a positive phase of development, till now India has mainly been a receiver of most technologies. However, now India is turning from a technology receiver to a technology provider, especially in the field of

Information Technology. With its expertise in Information Technology, India is now going to play its role in connecting Africa.

According to media reports a Pune based institute, International Institute

of Information Technology (I2IT) is going to help the International Telecommunication Union to connect Interior Africa through wireless connectivity.

As per reports, initially a demonstration model shall be set up in Kenya. Later

on this model will be extended to other countries. Scheduled to be completed in 2006, this project will use integrated Wi-Fi and Wi-Max systems to connect rural Africa with its existing urban communication networks.

Indigenous Accelerator Driven System: another decade before it is developed

At present a core group of scientists in BARC along with experts from variable energy cyclotron centre (VECC) Kolkata and Centre for Advanced Technology (CAT) are working on various types of technology so that India's first indigenous experimental Accelerator Driven System is developed on time.

What is this ADS? According to experts, ADS is

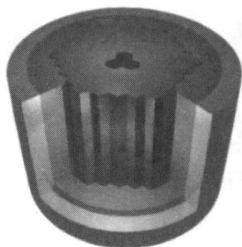
a subcritical reactor operated for fission power by a source of external neutron. These neutrons are produced by reaction of a high energy proton beams on a heavy metal target.

According to scientists of BARC, India's first accelerator driven system shall be ready in a decade's time. ADS is intended for thorium utilization schemes.

As per reports the three

sections of ADS will be accelerator, neutron generating target, and sub critical reactor. BARC is working on low energy segment of accelerator whereas CAT and VECC will work on the high energy part.

Earlier information regarding these high power proton accelerators was restricted under the control regime of nuclear suppliers group. At that time scien-



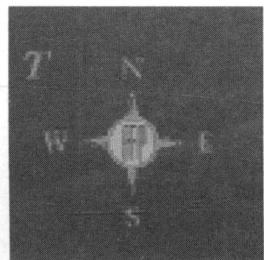
tists had limited access to the information on systems like accelerators. Now the US has recognized India as a nuclear power and there is a hope that it will now help many more similar projects.

Army upgrades field navigation system

Precision location data feature to be incorporated in Indian army's Saathi.

In the past few years, Global Positioning System (GPS) has emerged as an extremely helpful tool for identifying the position of objects. According to media reports GPS is swiftly transforming military capabilities of countries all across the globe.

Many a times, soldiers have to trudge the enemy land in darkness, there a major challenge is direction-finding due to unfamiliar terrain and lack of easily identifiable landmarks on ground. At this place



soldiers can use GPS for path navigation.

As per reports in the media, the Indian Army's Saathi, a robust tactical GPS-enabled personal digital assistant PDA with an integrated radio and a customized GIS application, helps the military movement of ground forces. Now a new hi-tech PDA with a miniature GPS antenna to display military maps and location of other devices, prepares Indian soldiers for

the future

For this, Encore Software, a Bangalore-based product development company with UK-based Sarantel would introduce new features such as precision location data in Saathi. Experts say, this will upgrade the potential of the GPS technology. Sarantel is a leading innovator in the design and manufacture of miniature antennas for portable and mobile wireless devices.

This new Saathi would weigh around 875 gm. The best thing is that it has optimum GPS reception across all environments and locations and is

compact in size. It is small enough to fit a soldier's palm. It's remotely operated self-destruction and activation feature prevents its misuse in case it falls into unauthorized persons' hands. It can also operate in the temperature range of -10 deg C to 50 Deg C, and is water and dust resistant.

As reported in the Indian media, around 90 devices were supplied in March 2004 to the Indian Army for field trials. Later on another 390 units were ordered. This will indeed help our soldiers in facing challenging conditions.

Augmenting strength: Indian Air Force to procure 80 helicopters

Air Marshal AK Singh of the Western Air Command (WAC) states that in order to combat terrorism, the Indian Air Force will buy 80 attack helicopters. These helicopters will be used for counter

insurgency operations. India is already buying 126 fighters for its front-line bases.

At present, the Indian Air Force is primarily playing a supportive role in missions and Jammu

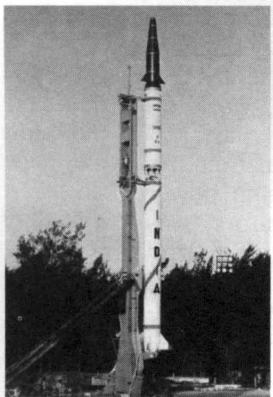
and Kashmir. It is mainly used for transporting supplies from one place to another, for surveillance closed air support to infantry movements. In future it will be used in pre-emptive force.



Agni III to be launched in the beginning of 2006

After Agni I and II, scientists of the Indian Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) are now working to expand the range of Agni missile upto 3000 km. The first flight of Agni III is scheduled in the beginning of next year. This missile is designed and being developed by DRDL Hyderabad. Reports say that in its

full capacity the surface to surface projectile would be able to go beyond Beijing. It is by reducing the weight of the missiles engine that the range has been increased. One of the important points about this missile is, that for the first time, a private sector company will be involved in the manufacture of engines



Nathula: need to speed up the infrastructure development

Nathula is going to be opened for trade and for that, India and China are improving the infrastructure. In the month of October a high-power Chinese delegation from the

trade mart, about 7 km from La, which will serve as the centre for the exchange of items between the traders once the route is opened. The team also inspected the "corridor" separating the mart with the Pass which Chinese traders are expected to cross once trade resumes.

The delegation of top officials of the People's Government of the Tibet Autonomous Region includes its Deputy Secretary-General, the Deputy Director of the Foreign Affairs Office, Director, and Office of Border Trade Affairs Management, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Communication and Deputy



Tibet Autonomous Region visit be the Pass. The aim of this visit was to monitor the developments in the setting up of infrastructure for resumption of bi-lateral trade.

The 11-member team also visited the Sherathang

India-Israel bonds of business

India is fast becoming the operational hub for the business operations including Research and Development work of companies from Israel. Teva Pharma, one of the Israel's leading Pharma Company has opened a development centre in Pune. Amdocs, Magic Software and ECI Telecom are a few other major companies having operations in India. This begins a new era of cooperation between the two countries.

After Japan, India has become Israel's second largest trading partner in Asia. The extent of closeness and faith between the two countries is depicted by the fact that the only foreign speaker invited to speak at Israel's economic conference, scheduled on November 10 is the Indian Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath. During his visit, Kamal Nath will also release a joint study group report on boosting trade ties.

Ambassador Speaks



Vyacheslav I. Trubnikov
The Russian Ambassador to India

"Russia is fully prepared to play a substantial role in ensuring India's energy security. Moreover, we believe that a pro-active approach of Russian companies in literally fueling India's further economic development will turn out to be highly beneficial in the long run."

Rising temperatures bring India and US together

The two countries will work to develop species which can thrive in the changed environment

We are witnessing nature's fury in most parts of the world. Hotter summer, chilled winter and wet rainy season. We humans are trying to get accustomed to this change. However the flora on earth is extremely sensitive, a slight change in temperature is capable of disturbing their biological cycle of maturation and propagation. This might lead to total extinction of a particular species of vegetation. This in turn would threaten the survival of humans, as these plants are the primary segment of their food cycle.



Aware of the approaching danger, steps are being taken so that we can win in the race for survival. Latest in this regard is the

Indo-US cooperation to develop species which can thrive in the changed environment.

As a part of the Indo-US Knowledge Initiative on Agricultural Research and Education, India has sent its first draft proposal to US. This proposal also includes climate change.

As per Indian scientists, the experts will try to identify genes which make a species survive in a hotter climate and such genes can be incorporated in food crop species so

that it can survive in detrimental conditions. In simple words, it is similar to taking genes from cactus plant and introducing them in a wheat plant to increase the latter's tolerance to heat.

As part of this initiative, Director General of Indian Council for Agriculture Research, Dr Mangala Rai, with his team recently held four interactive sessions with his American counterpart on the areas of research which is mutually beneficial. This is indeed a useful initiative as it will help us move ahead in the race for survival.

Traditional knowledge piracy: India no more naive

India has a vast traditional knowledge. A large section of this knowledge is unaccounted. Many developed countries are using this knowledge, which means a loss of \$5 billion of royalty to developing countries.

We have been naive enough in the past to al-

low this loss, now India is not going to allow this in future. The Indian government has made its stand clear by declaring that it is not go-



ing to adopt a policy of selective fast tracking as far as harmonisation of patent system is concerned.

India's commitment on this harmonisation,

being carried out by the World Intellectual Property Organisation would be detrimental on its efforts to curb piracy. This was stated by Ajay Dua, Secretary Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, at a symposium on "The New Patent regime-Advantage India."

Is Canada against Indo-US nuclear deal?

India has great expectations from its nuclear deal with US. However not everyone across the globe is pleased with this. At least we can say that about Canada. In the beginning of October there were reports that Canadian experts are urging nixing of Indo-US nuclear deal.

As per reports, a former head of UN disarmament

committee, Douglas Roche had suggested that President Bush should end the civilian nuclear co-operation agreement with India. Roche said "What you are doing is conferring a status on them which they do not deserve."

This diplomat, at a Capitol Hill meeting had suggested that rather than initiating a change in its

laws, the US should kill the initiative of the nuclear deal.

This is a natural reaction from a person who is the member of a group which urges elimination of nuclear weapons. Roche further said, Canada is reeling under pressure of US to support the nuclear



technology agreement with New Delhi.

Google's googly to India's security

The month of October saw one development which was no less than a Tsunami for people responsible for India's security. As reported in the media, Google started providing free satellite images of geographical locations.

This was viewed as a considerable threat for

security of our country as the images on Google Earth were of sufficient resolution to give a clear image to that particular location.

This has put the Indian government on alert as it showed pictures of certain high security locations such as photographs of India's Missile carrier ships and

also the clear location of VIP residences.

In the wake of threat from extremist forces, Google Earth emerged as another headache for India's internal security.



US Under Secretary of State Nicholas Burn's visit to India

US Under Secretary of State Nicholas Burn visited India in the end of October.

US Under Secretary of State Nicholas Burns will arrive in New Delhi on October 20 to further consolidate the new momentum in bilateral relations while reviewing with his Indian interlocutors, progress in civilian nuclear energy cooperation. During his visit, bilateral official consultations (Asian Security Dialogue) will be held on October 21 and 22. Foreign Secretary

Shyam Saran will lead the Indian side.

"There will also be a meeting of the working group which has been constituted to follow up on the July 18 India-us agreement," External Affairs Ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna said on Tuesday. Saran heads the working group from Indian side. Burns will also call on External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh and National Security Adviser M K Narayanan during his stay in New Delhi.

In Washington, Secretary

of State Condoleezza Rice said Burns would "...further our historic partnership to promote democratic values, combat terrorism, support economic growth, expand bilateral activities and commerce and achieve peace and stability in the region and beyond." Ahead of his visit, Washington said the Indo-US Nuclear Agreement is an important one based on commitments by both sides. "We did sign an important agreement and we thought it was based on a realistic assessment of things and a com-

mitment by India to abide by certain agreements, as well," White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan said.

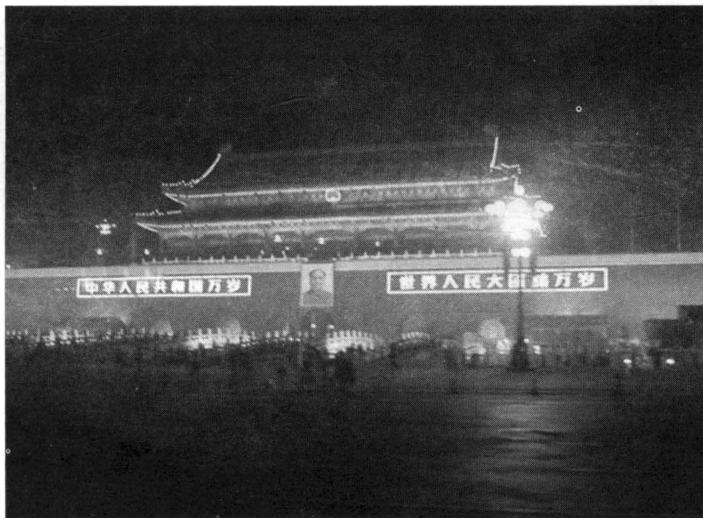
The landmark agreement on civil nuclear cooperation was reached in July between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Bush in Washington. It offered New Delhi comprehensive access to civilian nuclear technology in exchange for, among other things, voluntarily bringing its power reactors and other civilian nuclear facilities under safeguards.

Hello! : It is a call from India. MTNL invests in China

Indian companies are knocking the doors all across the world for making new alliances and expanding business. Latest in this list is the name of India's flagship telecom company MTNL.

As per the reports in Indian media, MTNL is planning to buy a minority stake in a Chinese company. This Chinese telecom service provider has stakes in four provinces including Shanghai.

It is a win-win situation for both sides as accord-



ing to media, Chinese companies covers a population of 20 crore and needs an associate which can offer its services on SCDMA network. Even MTNL is also interested in going beyond Delhi and Mumbai. Besides this, MTNL is also evaluating proposals from Nigeria, Sri Lanka and Kenya.

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US Foreign policy shift: Now it is focus India

India, which at one point of time was considered not so close to the US is now collaborating with the same country on various domains. Recently, ahead of a visit to India in the mid of October, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burn mentioned something extremely significant. Burn said, "American foreign policy, with its earlier focus on East Asia, has changed dramatically, during the last four years."

A senior Bush administration official said, US foreign policy has changed dramatically in the last four years, with its special focus on India that is "receiving the most substantial new attention" of American diplomats and strategists.

He said in the century ahead "there will be no region of the world more vital to America's long-term military, economic and political interests than Asia. And the part of Asia that is now receiving the most substantial new attention of American diplomats, generals, strategists

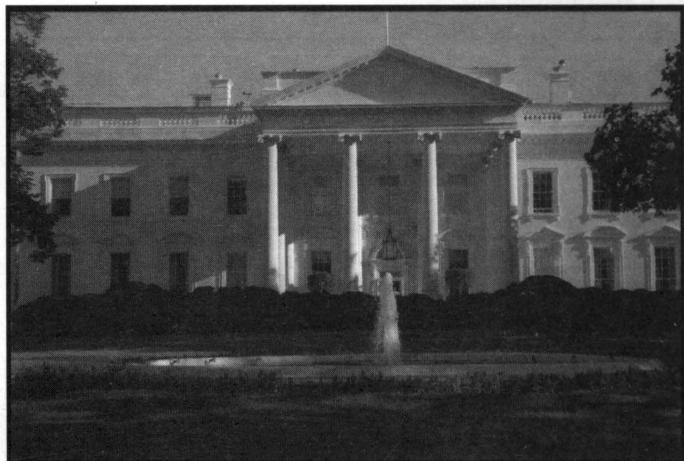
and business people is South Asia and, in particular, India, this major shift in American attention to South Asia is nowhere more evident than in our newfound strategic engagement with India," said Burn. He added, in the past Washington was pre-occupied with India's nuclear weapons program as a barrier to end proliferation and officials of both countries talked past each other rather than to discuss problems with each other. According to him it was President Clinton's visit in March 2000 which brought a fundamental change in the nature of America's diplomatic engagement with India.

"In many respects, this is one of the most significant foreign policy shifts in US global policy in recent years," he said, reiterating that "President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice are of the view that US engagement with South Asia as a whole is a strategic imperative."

Burn also said that India is a "natural partner" to Washington in global threats like terrorism, proliferation of chemical, biological and nuclear tech-

of Mass Destruction (WMD) threats," Burns contended.

One significant statement of Burn was that US seeks to engage with India on a



nologies, international crime and narcotics, HIV/AIDS and climate change, he said." The world would benefit from the military and other assets India could bring to bear by participating in the Proliferation Security Initiative, an innovative and crucial international arrangement by which we are making the world safer from Weapons

global basis," he added. And the relationship goes way beyond the government to government. Burns added that there were some two million Indian Americans in the US, he said pointing also to the India Caucus in Congress, the largest of its kind, as well as the nearly 80,000 Indian students this year alone.

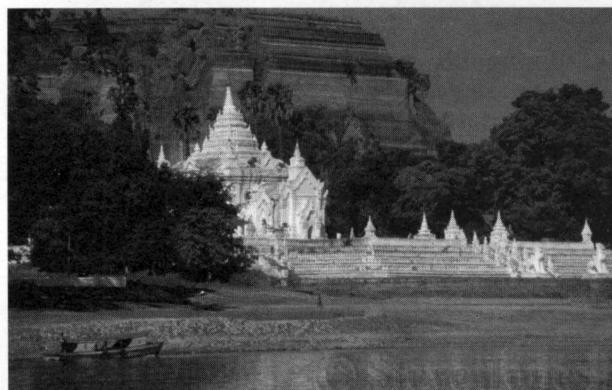
Fighting insurgency together: India-Myanmar

October saw the 11th round of Home-Secretary level talks between India and Myanmar. The significant outcome of these talks was an agreement between the two countries regarding the joint cooperation and operations against insurgents, drug traffickers and smugglers.

Myanmar's Deputy Minister of Home, Brigadier General Phone Swe was requested by India to look at the possible release of five

Indian citizens who were arrested by Myanmar Army

in June this year. In return the Indian side agreed to



deal sympathetically with incidents of Myanmarese fishermen straying into Indian side. In this meeting the status of development of infrastructure projects was also reviewed by both sides

Myanmar's Home Minister, Maj Gen Maung Oo assured Indian authorities in a meeting that if arm smugglers are caught on their soil, they will be severely punished.

India and Netherlands to cooperate in the field of Biotechnology

As per the reports in the Indian media, India and Netherlands are going to cooperate in the field of biotechnology. This project will be in the lines of one

such ongoing project in Andhra Pradesh.

Work on tailor made biotechnology products, processes, techniques and policy matters based on



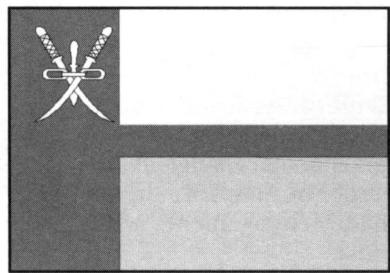
local needs are going to be some of the main activities of the project. This project will be carried under the MoU signed between the two countries in October.

Oman presents an Eid gift to India

Oman has waved the fine on Indian citizens overstaying in the country

There are around 10,000 Indians in the Sultanate of Oman whose visa has expired and they are still in Oman. But for the efforts of Indian Embassy in usual conditions, these persons would have paid a fine for overstaying even after the expiry of their visa. Now they will not have to pay

fine, as a special gesture, Oman has cleared the exit plans for Indians even without paying any penalty. As per reports published in the Indian media, around 10,000 Indians will be able to take benefit of this.



Indian government is ex-

tremely pleased with this gesture of the Sultanate of Oman which has been shown during the holy month of Ramazan. Indian Ambassador to Oman, Ashok Kumar Attri has expressed his gratitude to the government of Oman for this kind gesture towards India.

A Preferential Trade Agreement with Mauritius

In the month of October, India and Mauritius signed a preferential trade agreement (PTA). The framework for this PTA was signed between Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Mauritius counterpart

Navinchandra Ramgoolam.

According to Rajesh Jeetah, Mauritius commerce and industry Minister, the main aim of this PTA is to boost the island's exports and give India an opportunity to tap African

markets. This pact lists a number of products which the two countries can trade at a low or zero tariffs. Another agreement signed between the two countries during Ramgoolam's visit to India included a pact on

legal issues, consumer protection, transfer of prisoners and oil exploration. These recent agreements are surely going to boost trade between the two countries.

India-Mauritius come closer to boost marine product business

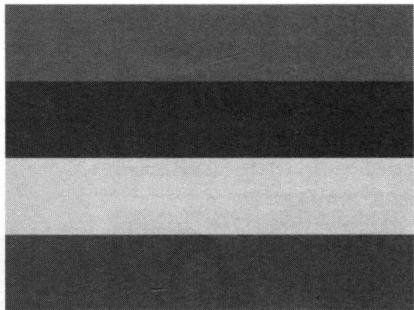
India and Mauritius are coming closer to boost the marine trade business. Seafood export association of India (SEAI) and Mauritius chamber of Commerce and Industry signed an agreement in the end of October this year.

Prime Minister of Mauritius Navinchandra Ramgoolam signed this

MOU during his visit to (SEAI) regarding the development of shrimp and other marine species in Mauritius.

As per media reports, other areas of cooperation include development of fishing activity on Mauritius coast. The focus will be on tuna and other fishes. Mauritius needs

India's support in the processing of sea food products. Another area of co-operation between the two countries include help and technical support in setting up testing facilities for facilitating exports from Mauritius to India under the partnership agreement.



Awaiting freedom: Indian nationals in Britain

From Jalandhar or Patiala, these men had gone to London to return home rich and wealthy, their dreams have turned into their nightmares. Forget about money, whatever respect they had in their

native place has also gone. Who are these people? These unfortunate men are from our own country and these



Indian nationals are languishing in overcrowded British jails.

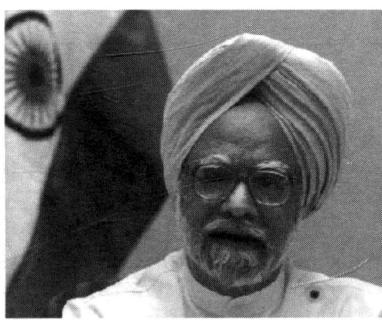
As per reports in the media, there are more than 10,000 foreign nationals

languishing in various British jails. Out of these majority are from Turkey, India, Pakistan, Ireland and Nigeria. The condition is so bad that reports in media say that the jails are overcrowded.

Strategic links with major powers indispensable in present situation: Manmohan Singh

India has voted against Iran and it has given rise to a major debate in India. Various opposition parties in India are questioning the ruling party regarding its recent step.

Now the political equations in the world are changing, earlier



India followed an idealistic foreign policy. With changing times, India has realized that being idealistic is not going to be of any help to it in the future, it should see what is helpful for India's own interests.

The Indian Prime Minister recently in the month

of October, while addressing a gathering of Armed forces said "It is in India's interest to develop strategic links with as many major powers as possible, in the global game of power, to tackle the diverse, complex and evolving security challenges faced by the country."

Ind-Pak relations: Mood is hopeful now

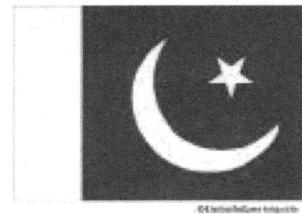
Indian External Affairs Minister Natawar Singh's visited Pakistan along with Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran. This was to mark the conclusion of second round of the composite dialogue between the two countries.

These two days were described as of friendly, intensive and productive talks on all aspects of our bilateral relations. Indian External Affairs Minister agreed with Foreign that the second round of the Composite Dialogue achieved more positive results than the first round. It has brought a hope that third round which will take place from January to July 2006 would be more productive.

The two countries agree that India-Pakistan relations

have made a significant progress since January 2004. The two neighbors have reaffirmed their commitment, not to permit terrorism to impede the peace process.

During this visit, the Joint Commission met after a gap of 16 years. As we know, draft proposals to the Pakistani side on Visa



Liberalisation, Consular Access and on expanding both the exchange of pilgrims and increasing the list of shrines on both side was discussed. A draft Cultural

Exchange Programme was also discussed.

An agreement was signed to initiate technical level discussions to promote bilateral cooperation in a number of areas of mutual interest such as Agriculture, Health, Education, Science and Technology, Information, Environment and Tourism.

Regarding Siachen, it was decided that the two countries would continue discussion so that they can arrive at a common understanding before the next round of talks next year. Regarding the Sir Creek issue, the two sides called for an early resolution of the issue.

Another positive outcome of this talk was a news that from January next year, Indian Consulate in

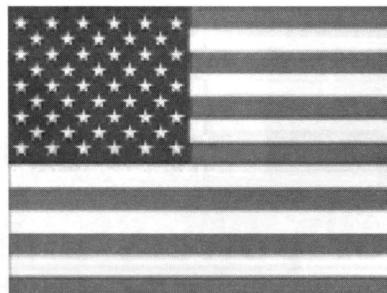
Karachi and Pakistani Consulate in Mumbai would start issuing visas

This visit of Natwar Singh was extremely successful because it was helpful in changing the hue of relations between the two countries. There has been a frost in the relations between the two countries, since Manmohan Singh met Musharraf in New York. This meeting showed as if India and Pakistan are again going to pass through not so positive phase of relations between the two countries.

Media reports say that although not much has been achieved from Natawar Singh's latest visit, one thing which emerged from these talks is, now the peace process will not go on a back track.

India-US to sign comprehensive science and technology agreement

This deal indicates sharing of intellectual property. Now India and US are going to sign a comprehensive science and technology agreement. Under this agreement, the two countries will work for research in health and weather monitoring and establishing protocol in sharing of intellectual property. This latest agreement



brings good news for Indian scientists as they will

now have a greater access to scientific information in US.

According to Kapil Sibal, the Indian Union Minister, "This is an extremely significant agreement for India as it will make way for frontier technology to arrive in India." This is an extremely crucial intergovernmental agreement

which will decide the path of collaboration between India and US in the field of Science and Technology.

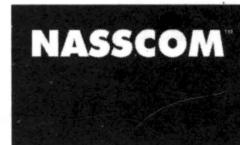
Now the Indian scientists can get credits in scientific papers, patents and also share royalty from patents. This will bring well deserved recognition for Indian scientists in the future.

Nasscom-Canada MOU

Nasscom has signed a MoU with Canada recently. This MoU has been signed between Nasscom and Information Technology Association of Canada (Itac). This MoU will encourage information and knowledge exchange.

This MoU will help the Indian Information and Communication Technology sector learn from Canada, the effective deployment of ICT solutions

NASSCOM™



within the country. It will also help India to forge partnership with Canada to act as near shore destination

for the North American market.

As per the media reports, the joint committee will undertake activities including such as conferences and research projects to improve business potential in India and Canada.

India or China? Trade equations are altering

India and China had traditionally been rivals in the field of trade and commerce. In past, relations between the two countries were not so pleasant. This had an adverse effect on trade between the two countries, which is extremely normal in such unfavourable circumstances.

At present the two countries are undergoing a phase of rapid economic growth, this, supported by positive relations between the two countries is helping trade.

Now the time has changed. In past few months, the Indo-Chinese trade has seen a positive

growth. Besides this, earlier the multinational companies business models were based on the profit generated by them due to low-cost Chinese manufactured goods and Indian service and the price paid by consumers in their home country.

Now the trade equation

is changing, Indian software services are indeed better priced and Indian companies are selling their services to Chinese companies. Indian companies such as Wipro, Infosys, and TCS are gaining direct access to Chinese market which is changing the economics in the region.

Defending India and the nuclear deal in the US

As per media reports in the beginning of November, US government has defended its Nuclear agreement with India but it has strictly put a condition that India should separate its military and civilian

nuclear facilities.

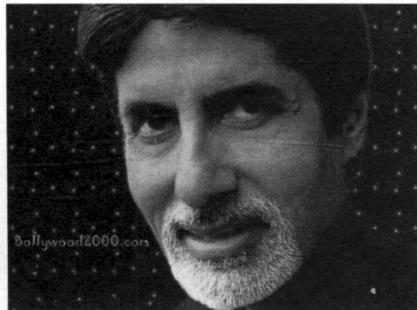
US Under Secretary of State, Nicholas Burns, informed the foreign relations committee of Senate in Washington, "Our judgement is that it will not be wise or fair to ask the US

Congress to make such a consequential decision without evidence that the Indian government was acting on its most important commitment- separation of its civilian and military facilities."

This clearly shows what US wants from India before going ahead on the nuclear deal. However, Indian authorities are unable to do anything regarding the separation of civilian and military facilities.

Indo-Pak combat; Target is deadly Polio virus

Popularity of Indian artists in our neighbouring countries is not something we are unaware of. Much had been spoken and written about this in the Indian media. However, it was interesting to learn that Pakistan wants Indian artists like Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Sachin Tendulkar



and Aishwarya Rai to kick start a Polio Campaign in Pakistan.

This indeed speaks a lot about the popularity of these persons in Pakistan. This is also a reflection of success of the Polio Eradication Cam-

paign in India in which some of these.

According to a letter of Pakistan's Health Minister Mohammad Nasir Khan's letter to Indian authorities in this regard, Pakistan plans a music video featuring these artists. This music video will be widely aired on Indian as well as Pakistani Television.

Turmoil in the Indian External Affairs Ministry

Natwar Singh named in the oil for food scam

These are the days of extreme tension in the Indian External Affairs ministry. Natwar Singh, the External Affairs Minister has been named in the list of people who have received unlawful benefits in the oil for food programme in Iraq. It is something which came as a shock for the government of India as well as people of this country.

At present, media reports indicate that there is

enough evidence to show that Natwar Singh's son Jagat Singh was involved in promoting companies so that it can gain benefit from the lucrative contracts under the Oil for Food programme.

Volcker has been named in the category of individuals who have either sold or gave

their rights to buy oil from Iraq. The report stated that

Masefield AG lifted the rights of 1.9 million oil barrels. Congress Party had rights for four million barrels, out of this one million barrel were lifted.

This report has given a new issue to the opposi-



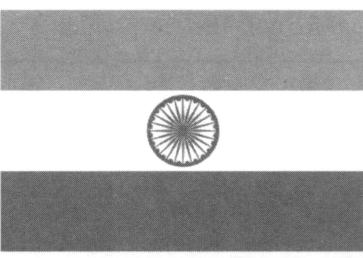
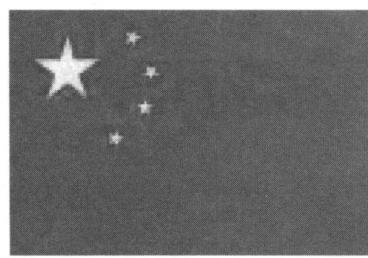
tion parties in India. "Natwar can't stay in his office after these serious allegations are made," opposition parties are shouting. These people are not saying anything without a reason. Naturally when Natwar Singh has been named as a non-contractual beneficiary, naturally every word of his will be suspected. Can we expect a foreign dignitary to sign an agreement with a tainted minister?

● Which is a more profitable destination? India or China

Everyone knows that China is attracting a lot of foreign investment, in other words it is one of the most attractive destination for foreign investors. However is China able to generate enough money out of that investment? Well according to the findings of Germany based Deutsche Bank, "Although India started economic reforms only a decade later than

China, it is far more advanced in its institutional infrastructure and corpo-

vestment is considerably lower than in China, but returns on investment are



rate governance. This is reflected in contracting outcomes. Foreign direct in-

better on average." This information was provided in an essay- China & India-

A visual Essay.

Report also says that India's rate of return on assets has been much higher and the stock market performance has been much better. Besides this India's non performing loans are also lower as compared to China.

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Capital Attacked: Is there a neighbour's hand in this?

Just before the main festival of Hindus and Muslims, there was an attack. This was in the form of blasts in busy Delhi streets. Indian media states that Pakistan based terrorist support groups might have a hand in this attack.

This blast has occurred

at a time when the two countries were going to discuss the possibility of opening up few border points to augment the earthquake relief operations. Indeed this will surely have a negative impact on India-Pakistan peace process. Such happenings

should be condemned strongly because such events always bring us one step back on a ladder towards peace.

One most likely fallout of this blast is India's decision to toughen its stand towards Pakistan.



Need of the hour: A friendly gesture along with strict vigilance on the border

The October 8 earthquake is a catastrophe for both India and Pakistan. In this hour of grief, India has offered Pakistan, an access to the quake hit areas in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir through the Indian territory. Not only this, Indian Prime Minister says, "If Pakistan has no objection, it would

consider developing a tele-

phonic link with Pak-Occupied-Kashmir."

India is going all out to offer aid to Pakistan. This is a time when India should provide a friendly hand to Pakistan in all kind of relief operations, but in no circumstance we should



become oblivious. The reason is the destruction of majority of bunkers on the Indian side. This has exposed our soldiers on the front.

Not only this, softening of borders have made our border more porous, therefore this is the time to provide a healing touch as well as to be on our guards.

Public opinion

Major findings of a survey conducted regarding India's world view

One of the India's leading magazine recently conducted a survey and asked its respondents as what India should do to become a super power. This survey was conducted in 10 Indian cities amongst 1000 adult respondents. The results of this survey were

really interesting.

As per the survey results, India needs to build international trade and infrastructure rather than a representation in the UNSC, to become a superpower.

A little more than one third of the respondents

considered US as an unfavourable nation. In this age of Indo Chinese cooperation too, a little less than half of the respondents considered China as a competitor.

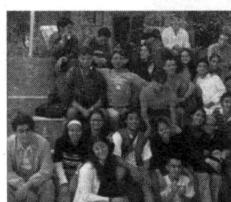
Around half of the people surveyed still had an unfavourable opinion

regarding Pakistan. This shows still there is a lot to be done in this regard. One significant result of this survey is that there is a need to resolve Kashmir issue, if India wants to develop a constructive relationship with Pakistan.

India - France visa row resolved

In the month of September, Lok Sabha speaker, Somnath Chatterjee's delegation was denied a visa by French authorities. This had crested a diplomatic row between the two countries.

As an effect of this, the Indian External Affairs Ministry had put on hold all visits to France. Later on this matter was taken up by



the Indian Ambassador to France, TCA Rangachari at the French Foreign office.

Paris expressed regret

regarding the inconvenience caused to Indian officials and promised to speed up the clearance of official and diplomatic visas. In return India also withdrew its advisory to Indian agencies and ministry.

Natwar Singh visits Bhutan

As per a press release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs, K. Natwar Singh, External Affairs Minister, had a meeting with The King of Bhutan in Paro (Bhutan) on 18th October 2005. The discussions covered the entire array of India-Bhutan relations, including development coop-

eration, hydro-power projects, border manage-



ment and security related issues. Both The King and EAM expressed their satisfaction at the excellent state of bilateral relations which are a model of good neighborly cooperation to our mutual advantage.

The King and the Queen of Bhutan hosted a lunch in honour of Shri K. Natwar Singh. As per the press release, External Affairs Minister returned to Delhi on 19th October.

India and China are coming closer. However India should remain alert

Of late there has been a tremendous improvement in Indo-Chinese relations. Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao visit to India has once again created, a wave of positive feeling towards China in India. Let us now talk about Indo-Chinese relations in view of Tibet which has a special place in Indian

relations.

Reports in the Indian media proclaim that China's border policy is extremely progressive and it should not be ignored by India. These reports also say that Dalai Lama has been staying in India for such a long duration but India has not made proper use of this factor. India is willing to make efforts to improve relations between Dalai Lama and Chinese authorities. However, there is no such gesture from the Chinese side.

China is engaged in hectic infrastructure development near the Indian border



Wen Jiabao with Manmohan Singh, during his visit to India earlier this year

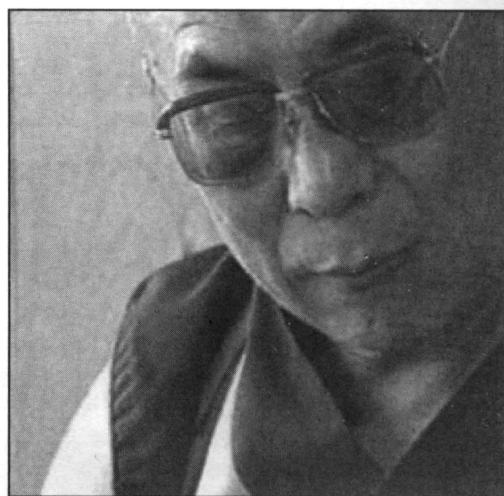
hearts. Tibet has always been an important compo-

in Tibet, which means if there is a crisis situation,

definitely China will be at an advantage. Conversely, Indian side had done all the necessary infrastructural developments in Sikkim, but China postponed the opening of Nathula pass till next trading session. Should India take this as a gesture of not recognizing Sikkim as a part of India?

China is also interested in considering Tawang as a disputed region; in turn it wants leverage in Ladakh. Besides this China is also reluctant to exchange maps in the western sector as it is unable to accommodate India's claims over parts of Pok relinquished into China.

Reports talk of a rapid infrastructure development on the Chinese side. There



Dalai Lama

are talks and also some action on the Indian side regarding the construction of roads and other infrastructure facilities but as usual the progress is very slow.

It is a time when India should take advantage of its positive relations with China. However Indian authorities should not ignore the developments on the Chinese side of the border.

The mystery of Green Rose

A Bhangra group visited Germany and nine members of this team went missing. This has created a diplomatic row

Nine members of a Bhangra troop Green Rose visited Germany in the month of September. This was a Government of India sponsored visit. Everything was fine till their first performance after nine members of the troop disappeared.

This has created a diplomatic row between India and Germany. The question being asked is, whether it was a planned action or was there some thing else behind this. Reports say that this could be a part of a prearranged racket.

This incidence has created trouble between Germans and Indian authorities responsible for sending



troops to Germany. Indian side says that the report

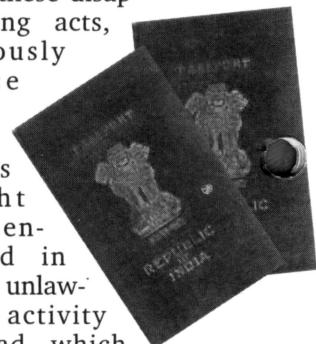
was lodged the day troops went missing but German authorities did not take any action.

This is not the first incidence of this kind. Every year, many Indian visit western countries with valid visa and then vanish into thin air. The lure for fast money make them do so. These Indians become apart of a cultural troop

or pose as invitees to conferences and disappear

after reaching destination.

As per reports in the Indian media this practice is abetted by tour operators who charge a fat sum for arranging their journey. Indian officials should take these disappearing acts, seriously since these Indians might be engaged in some unlawful activity abroad which could strain our relations with those countries.



Is Pakistan brainwashing its future generation

Behaviour or reaction of an individual towards a stimulant depends on his psychology, or the way he perceives that external stimulant. Tutoring an individual against something naturally makes him react against it in a negative manner. This is what is happening in Pakistan. On one side there are talks or goodwill and removing hatred, on the other side Pakistani history books are poisoning innocent minds.

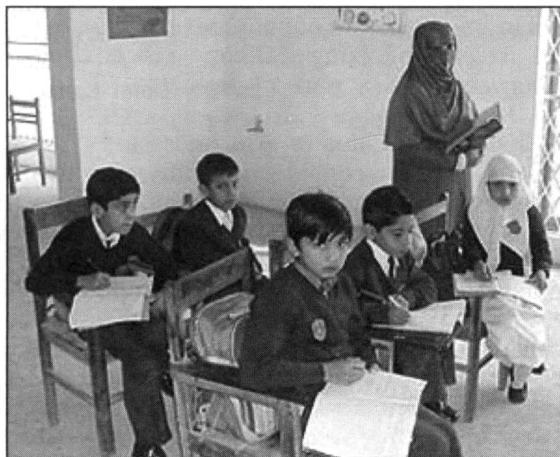
Reports say, ruling establishment, under the leadership of President

Musharraf is misusing books to develop an anti-India, anti-Hindu mindset.

Jews and Christians.

Recently one of India's leading weekly published sections from Pakistani text books. These portions clearly show that brainwashing is being carried out deliberately.

Indian experts strongly condemned this and state that authorities in Pakistan should look into this matter; otherwise we will never be able to remove animosity from our heart.



Not only this, these books are creating sentiments against Western countries,

Renewal of India New Zealand air service pact

In the month of October, India and New Zealand renewed the bilateral trade agreement between the two countries.

This will replace the existing agreement which was signed in the year 1997. This new agreement would allow seven flights a week by designated carriers and have codeshare agreement.

This is indeed a outstanding step which would help not only the business class but also help in promoting tourism between the two countries.



Battle Field: Boeing offers to supply Fighter planes

Boeing company is planning its moves in the Indian defence market. As per media reports, the company wants to supply 100 next generation aircrafts to Indian armed forces.

Over the next 10 years the company visualizes a \$10-15 billion market for modern machines in India. Boeing President, Jim Albaugh visited India in the month of October to



brief Indian authorities regarding what is available from his company in

the range of Fighter planes and warfare systems.

The company is interested in understanding India's defence requirement and states that they will provide solutions as per the specific needs. Besides this, Boeing is exploring the option of outsourcing critical component manufacturing to Indian companies.

As per reports Boeing is also continuing talks with Defence Research and Development Organization to conduct joint research this research will be to develop technology of critical warfare equipment.

If Boeing collaborates with Indian defence forces then this will be a new beginning because till now India has sourced fighter planes and defence equipments from Russia.

Nigerian oil blocks: India need to negotiate with South Korea

As per media reports Nigeria has requested India to negotiate with South Korea for a higher stake in the two oil exploration blocks for which ONGC had bid. As per reports India had put a higher bid but was given a lower stake. This was stated by the Nigerian Petroleum Minister, Edmund Dakoru during his visit to India in the month of October.

This visit of the Nigerian Petroleum Minister and his team was organized by



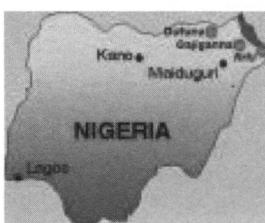
Laxmi Nivas Mittal, who was in India in the month of October. India is seek-

ing stake in the Nigerian oil blocks. However, Nigeria has made it clear that only those project which would augment development in the country shall be promoted.

ONGC Videsh had lost a bid for two blocks 323 and 321 in the Gulf of Guinea. The reason for losing this bid was South Korea's commitment to undertake development work and other projects in the petroleum value chain in Nigeria.

India Nigeria come closer

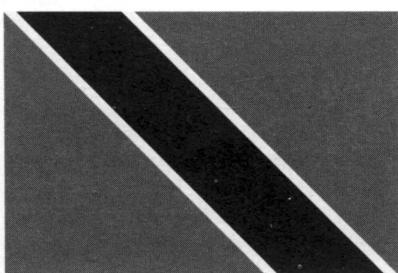
There is a lots happening between India and Nigeria, the two countries



are coming closer. This is good news since the two countries can contribute a lot for each others betterment. As per media reports, Indian companies are interested in cooperation with Nigeria. These reports state that three main sectors which are appealing Indian companies are power, petroleum and railways. Talks were held regarding the cooperation between the two countries, in the month of October, during the Nigerian delegations visit to India. Reports say that the Nigerian government is looking out for offers which would invest in the infrastructure development projects in Nigeria.

It is the time to cooperate with Trinidad and Tobago

Recent media reports say that India has been invited by Trinidad and Tobago to



invest in its oil and gas sector. This is good news for Indian companies which are looking at options for cooperation in this sector.

Recently the RTT listed specific areas of interest by Indian oil and gas companies, including the Caribbean gas pipeline project. India's

involvement in eight exploration and production (E&P) blocks, domestic cross-island pipeline project, 5.2 million tonne per annum expansion of Atlantic LNG Train 4

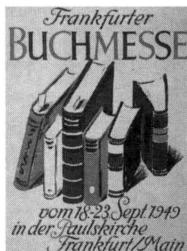
Interestingly RTT figures in the list of 22 countries identified by ONGC Mittal Energy Limited for exploration and production blocks.

A rare honour

Indian is again a 'Guest of Honour' at the Frankfurt Book fair

There is good news for Indian writers and book lovers. India has been invited to be the Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair, 2006. This is real moment of pride for India because it is for the

first time that any country has been chosen for the second time for this at the most prestigious book fair in the world. Chairman of the



National Book trust, Bipan Chandra states that India's presence next year shall not be limited only to the exhibition, parti-

pants from India shall also take part in exhibitions, seminars and film screenings. With the increase in literacy rate and a publishing boom in India, indeed the country deserved this honour.

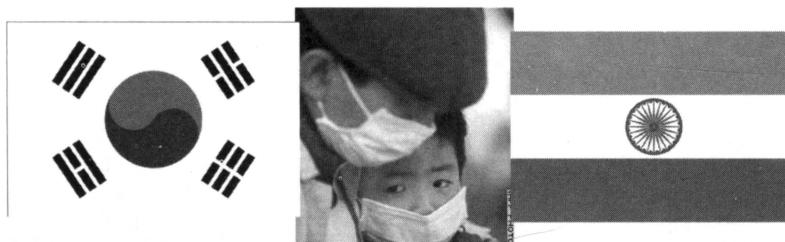
India-South Korea to fight communicable diseases

In the present times every one is talking about weapons of mass destruction, countries are invaded in the search of these weapons (which are never found); billions of dollars are spent in maintaining armed forces in these countries. These so called searchers of weapons of mass destructions forget that there are few other things which are deadlier than these weapons; these

are communicable diseases and certain non communicable diseases.

One such communicable

flu has already taken many lives and is now threatening economies of many nations.



disease which is scaring the world population these days is the Avian Flu. This

Realizing the most obvious threat to human lives and economies, India and

South Korea have come together to fight this disease. In the month of October, the Union Health

Minister Anubumani Ramados visited South Korea to discuss the plan of cooperation in this regard with his South Korean counterpart, Kim, Greun Tae. Ramados also visited the stem cell research laboratory at the Seoul National University. Reports say that South Korea is a pioneer in the stem cell research.

Regional trade agreements to aid India

Recently, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh stated that India's strategy of going in for trade agreements with various countries provides a rapid boost to India's trade.

There are certain product categories under which al-

though India is not a world leader, it is competitive with select group of countries, here it makes sense to have a regional trade agreement with select group of countries because it means exposing Indian products to limited competition in these

countries but shielding them from global risk to local industry.

Besides this if India goes for a trade agreement with a lesser developed country, it would present a reason to that nation to notice India's point of view.

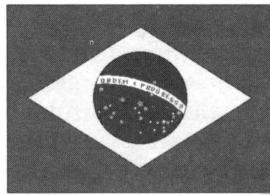


Business with Brazil

Latest news reports say that India is extremely interested in strengthening trade relationship with Brazil. This information was given by Rakesh

Kumar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs in the beginning of October.

Rakesh Kumar was ad-



dressing a meeting organized by Ficci, he said that there is a distinct possibility of an

India-Brazil-South Africa free trade agreement. Besides this according to him the Indo-Brazil trade is going to see a tremendous increase in the near future.

Gandhi's imprint on Norwegian heart

Mahatama Gandhi has influenced the lives of a large number of persons. Thousands all over the world read his life history and try to understand as what was in this frail looking man, that he was able to lead a country to the path of freedom.

There are many who think that it is difficult to follow Gandhian principals in present times but there is no dearth of followers and



admirers of Gandhian values. One such person is Ole-Frederik Olsen. This Norwegian philatelist col-

lects stamp related to Mahatama Gandhi. Olsen's collection from 82 countries depicts Gandhi's life chronologically, his school and his

fight against Apartheid. Olsen started this collection around 36 years ago when he received a regis-

tered airmail cover with a Gandhi Stamp. This sparked his interest in Gandhi and he started collecting stamps, envelopes, postcards, postal labels and miniature sheets.

Olsen believes that in the present world when Gandhi's name has reduced to politicians vote collection means, still the world needs to know about Gandhi and his approach towards life.

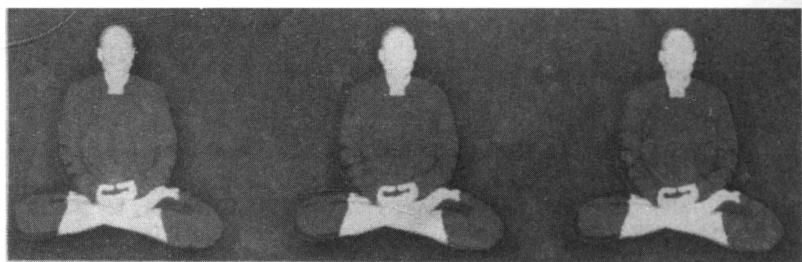
New bridge between India and China: Yoga

Yoga, an art of keeping body as well as mind healthy, had originated in India. Still a large chunk of Indians practice Yoga. Yoga was accepted by the west, long ago. Now China is realizing the importance of this ancient Indian practice.

With the lifestyle becoming extremely hectic and stressful due to the speedy economic development, many Chinese people are finding respite in practicing Yoga. Yoga relaxes not only body, but also mind.

Few Chinese tourists who had been to India and learnt yoga here have gone back and opened Yoga training centres in China.

Yin Yan is one such person who was influenced by Yoga and learnt it and after going back to China started three Yoga training centres there.



Yin Yan has now teamed up with Yogi Mohan to start Yoga Vidya centre in China. The popularity of Yoga in China is depicted by the fact that there are around 1000 members in her three Yoga training centres in Beijing. Ms Yan says that Yoga can act as a bridge between India and China as more and more people are learning Yoga.

Beyond Borders: British Council's South Asian festival

Beyond Borders is the name of a unique project of British Council in India. This Project is carried under the British Council's Connecting Futures Programme. The Annual

Festival of this project is scheduled on November 29 and 30 at the British Council Grounds, New Delhi.

Teams from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and UK will visit India and

participate in this festival. As per media reports, there is going to be the screening of films, photo exhibitions, pantomimes and street plays by college students.

The theme this festival is "identity, diversity and active citizenship." This festival would indeed give an excellent opportunity to the participants to understand Indian culture.

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