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Zimbabwe should take advantage of Indian technologies; says Indian Envoy V Ashok *PAGE 14*
Sino-Indian relations heading in right direction says Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jeichi *PAGE 19*

An initiative for Diplomats

imprint

*Magazine on Foreign Affairs and International Relations.
A monthly on the Art and Practice of Diplomacy*

The transition to a world of powers

By A. Madhavan the Ex. Indian Ambassador to Japan and Germany

The author speaks about the transition of the world from the post-Cold War to a world of major powers.

What do diplomats do?

By B.S. Prakash, the next Indian Ambassador to Brazil. This is a simple but interesting document on the craft of diplomacy.

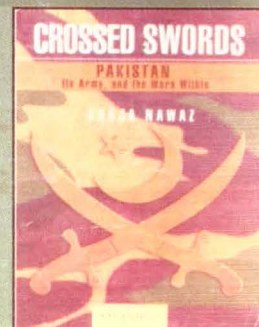
SICA Foreign Minister's meet in New Delhi

The SICA member countries include Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and Dominican Republic.

BOOK REVIEW:

Crossed Swords

Pakistan, its Army, and the Wars Within
by Shuja Nawaz



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NEWS

No factor can harm Tehran-New Delhi ties



Indian National Security Advisor M K Narayanan with
President of Iran Mahmaud Ahmadinejad

*President
Ahmadinejad's
statement that
no factor can
harm Tehran-
New Delhi
ties shows the
strength of In-
dia-Iran bond*

PRESIDENT Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on July 1, 2008 that no factor can harm Tehran-New Delhi ties. This is an extremely significant statement which speaks a lot about the strength of the bond between the two countries.

President Ahmadinejad in a meeting with the visiting Indian National Security Advisor M K Narayanan said, "There is no limit for promoting Tehran-New Delhi ties on bilateral, regional and global levels."

Islamic Republic News Agency IRNA reports, "The Islamic Republic of Iran's approach to relations with India is a long-term one and due to this we are eager to expand cooperation with the country," said Ahmadinejad

'Peace Pipeline' project

The report further says that on Iran-India-Pakistan cooperation on gas transfer, Ahmadinejad said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran insists the gas pipeline be laid among the three countries as this will be to the benefit of whole regional nations."

IRNA further reports that to promote regional relations and help regional security and fraternal co-operation, Iran considers implementation of the 'Peace Pipeline' project as an effective and helpful step which should be finalized and made operational as soon as possible.

Rapidly changing World

The president noted that the world is undergoing rapid changes, adding that regional states, especially Iran and India, should bolster mutual ties, making themselves prepared

for major developments worldwide and filling up the power vacuum in the region. He said Iran and India can have helpful and constructive cooperation in fighting drugs and terrorism, establishing the North-South corridor and maintaining regional security.

Need to further expand ties

India's National Security Advisor said that he had good and constructive talks with senior Iranian officials, adding that Indian officials want further expansion of 'historic and strategic' ties with Iran in different fields.

Same report says, Mr. Narayanan said the IPI gas line is important for better regional cooperation, Narayanan urged speeding up efforts to implement the plan to serve the interests of regional nations.

The brief for *imprint* is to be a media for the Art and Practice of diplomacy. It circulates within the Indian Diplomatic community globally. *Imprint* shall report the articles of Indian diplomats, as also the diplomatic activity in India of foreign diplomats. Send news to **info@imprintworldwide.com**

SICA Foreign Minister's meet in New Delhi

FOREIGN Ministers of SICA countries met Indian External Affairs Minister, Pranab Mukherjee on June 10, 2008.

SICA is the Central American Integration System and it comprises of eight members. The SICA member countries include Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and Dominican Republic.

Dignitaries present

Samuel Lewis Navarro First Vice President and Minister of External Relations of Panama, Haroldo Rodas Melgar Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, Bruno Stagni Ugarte Foreign Minister of Costa Rica, Clara Quinones de Longo Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Dominican Republic, Eduardo Enrique Reina Garcia Vice Foreign Minister of Honduras and Eduardo Calix -Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of El



Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari with Foreign Ministers of SICA countries

Salvador were representatives of the various SICA countries who spoke at the meeting.

Issues discussed

Issues like strengthening relations in trade, economy and information technology and against climate change, and the looming global food crisis were discussed during the meeting.

A huge opportunity

The SICA economies present a huge opportunity to Indian companies for exports in auto-parts, engineering products, Chemicals and agro-chemicals, pharma and healthcare, textiles, IT & ITES, defence equipments, plastics and rubber products and two wheelers.

Multilateral to

bilateral relations

The Indian government has said that the time was right to convert multilateral relations into bilateral relations with the SICA nations. "Now this is the right time when we need to convert multilateral relations into a bilateral relation," said Nalin Surie, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, who was present on the occasion.

The ministers of SICA nations presented their country's inherent strengths and detailed the various sectors wherein India could partner with them for better synergies.

All the ministers promised complete support and commitment to trade with India. Later, Foreign Ministers of the SICA reportedly called on Vice-President Hamid Ansari and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.

Indian Envoy to China, Nirupama Rao signs a cultural MoU

A PTI report informs that a MoU, between the ICCR and Shenzhen University was signed by Indian Ambassador Nirupama Rao and University President Zhang Bigong in Shenzhen.

The Shenzhen University would host a visiting Indian professor in the capacity of Chair for a 14-week semester every academic year over the next four years beginning

this autumn.

ICCR would implement the MoU on the Indian side select the professor in consultation with SZU, said a statement from the Indian Consulate at Guangzhou in the Guangdong province.

It is indeed an important move in strengthening the educational ties and creating a better understanding about each others culture.

Blast at Indian Embassy in Kabul

On July 7, 2008, a powerful blast rocked the Indian Embassy in Kabul. Afghan defence ministry sources inform that a suicide bomber banged an explosive laden car on to the gate of the mission. At least 41 people including four Indians were dead. Senior Indian Diplomat V. Venkateshwara Rao, Defence Attaché Brig. R.D Mehta and Ajay Singh Pathania were Roop Singh of ITBP were among the

Indians killed. The Indian Ambassador Jayant Prasad and his deputy were not in the Embassy at the time of the blast. India-Afghan bonds are centuries old and in the last few years India has been one of the largest supporter to Afghanistan in its reconstruction projects. This blast is being termed as one of the worst terror attack in Kabul in the recent past.

Chinese Consul General Mao Siwei says, Sikkim is part of India

NEWLY appointed Chinese Consul General in Kolkata Mao Siwei has recently stated that Beijing recognizes Sikkim as part of India. This is an important statement by the Chinese Envoy.

In a meeting held in India in the month of June, the Chinese consul general said, "During former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's visit to Beijing, the Chinese side had recognized Sikkim as a state of the Indian

Union."

But the diplomat said he thinks the border dispute between India and China won't be settled soon.

He also mentioned about "uneasy problems which will take time to resolve," presumably referring to the Sino-Indian border as a whole, which included Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh where the two sides had conflicting claims.

A media report informs that according to Mao, the

Sikkim-Tibet border had been settled in 1890 after Sikkim was brought under British protection and not in 1959, when the Chinese had consolidated their hold over Tibet by crushing a Tibetan uprising.

As per the reports, Mao Siwei said this border was to run along the watersheds. "The boundary of Sikkim and Tibet shall be the crest of the mountain range separating the water flowing into the Sikkim Teesta

and its effluents from the waters flowing into the Tibetan Mochu and northwards into other rivers of Tibet."



Mao Siwei

Consul General Mao Siwei seeks renewal of Chinese visas in India itself

A MEDIA report published in a leading Indian daily informs that China wants its work Visas for its nationals and businessmen based in India to allow their renewal in

India. Chinese authorities want this to save cost.

Mr. Siwei says that at present Chinese national working in India have to get their visa renewed from the Indian Embassy

in China, every six months which is very costly and time consuming. The Chinese Consul General was speaking at an interactive session with the members of the Calcutta Chambers

of Commerce. China allows Indian businessmen working in China to renew their Visas there. At present the issue is being discussed at the high level.

China has no plans to 'encircle' India says Chinese Ambassador, Zhang Yan

IN THE month of June, a very important statement was made by the Chinese diplomat in India, Zhang Yan. The Chinese Ambassador in his statement said, "We don't have such an intention to establish a chain to encircle India."

The Chinese Ambassador further said, "It's not in China's interest



Zhang Yan.

to undertake this kind of strategic move. We see

India as our partner," he said, adding the speculation on a China policy of encirclement was "unfounded."

A suspicion has been raised recently by the Indian authorities that by building ports in Myanmar, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, China is planning to encircle India. The Chinese Ambassador further said

that thousands of commercial Chinese ships which pass through the Indian waters are not protected with any kind of military presence.

The Chinese Ambassador also said "We at this stage don't feel there is a need to send a navy ship to accompany our commercial ships in the area."

DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES



▲ Ambassador of China, Zhang Yan with Youth Affairs & Sports Minister, M S Gill during the Valedictory Function at a Workshop in New Delhi on June 27, 2008.



▲ Kamal Nath, Minister for Commerce and Industry and Swedish Trade Minister Ewa Björling at the Sweden-India Business Summit in Stockholm.



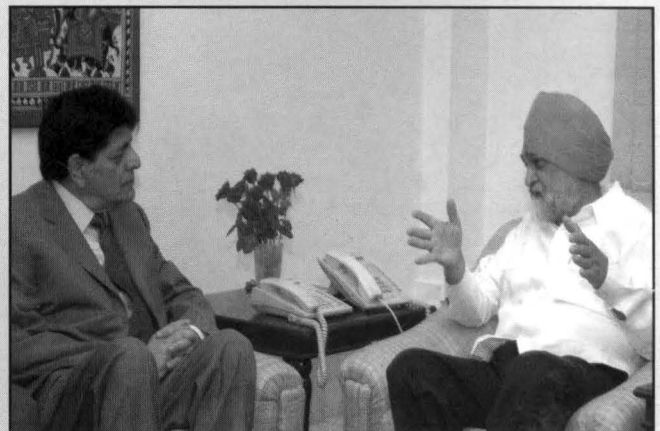
▲ The Pakistani Foreign Minister, Shah Mahmood Qureshi calling on the PM Manmohan Singh, in New Delhi on June 27, 2008.



▲ Norwegian Minister of Higher Education and Research Ms Tora Asland and India's Ambassador to Norway, Banbit A. Roy sign a MoU on cooperation in education on June 18th.



▲ Colombia's Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism Luis Guillermo Plata with P Chidambaram (to his right). On the left is Juan Alfredo Pinto, the Colombian Ambassador.



▲ Pak Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission Salman Faruqi meeting with Indian counterpart Montek Singh Ahluwalia, in New Delhi on June 24, 2008.



▲ The Ambassador of Oman, Mohd. Yusuf Dawood Shalwani with the Vice President Mohd. Hamid Ansari, in New Delhi on June 20, 2008.



▲ Tanzania's National Resources & Tourism Minister Shamsa Selengia Mwangunga calls on Minister of Tourism and Culture, Ambika Soni, in New Delhi on June 18, 2008



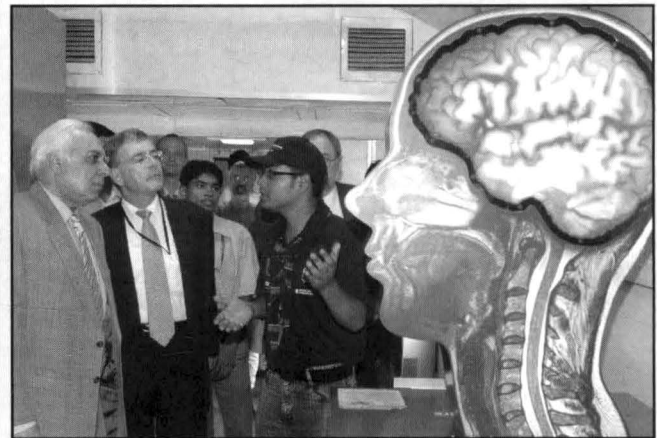
▲ The Bulgarian Deputy Minister of Interior, Goran Yonov meeting with the Union Home Minister, Shivraj V. Patil, in New Delhi on June 12, 2008.



▲ PM Manmohan Singh with the President of Syria Bashar al Assad at a Banquet hosted by the President, Pratibha Patil, in New Delhi on June 18, 2008.



▲ A Polish delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister, Ryszard Schnepf called on the Minister of State for Defence M M Pallam Raju, in New Delhi on June 16, 2008.



▲ Science & Technology Minister Kapil Sibal and Julius G Luy, Charge D' Affaires, German Embassy looking at the photo exhibition of the Science Express, in New Delhi on June 4, 2008

Diplomatic Quotes

"We aim to make real improvements in the lives of women and their children through this unique program, led by Indian institutions and facilitated by U.S.-based global expertise."

USAID Mission Director George Deikun on the launch of Rs 58 Crore Initiative by US to Improve Maternal and Child Health in India

"China had recognized Sikkim as a state of the Indian Union during former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's visit to Beijing."

Chinese Consul General in Kolkata Mao Siwei

"Australia's commitment to nonproliferation is firm and we respect that."

Indian Foreign Minister, Pranab Mukherjee during a visit to Australia in June end.

"A negotiated end to Sri Lanka's dragging conflict is still possible but not before the Tamil Tigers are 'verifiably demilitarised and democratised.'"

Sri Lankan Diplomat, Dayan Jayatilleka

"The two countries are 'mature enough' to deal with unresolved problems. Our boundary is peaceful and we are determined to keep it so. While we may have our differences, we will not let them become obstacles to the broadening and deepening of our relationship."

Indian Foreign Minister, Pranab Mukherjee during his China visit.

"Australia will keep its ban on selling uranium to India because of New Delhi's refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty"

Australian Foreign Minister Stephen Smith

"Despite difficulties, the US-India civilian nuclear deal will eventually be consummated."

Ronen Sen, India's Ambassador to US

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Indian Ambassadors posted abroad

June 10: N Parthasarathy to be the next Ambassador of India to Senegal

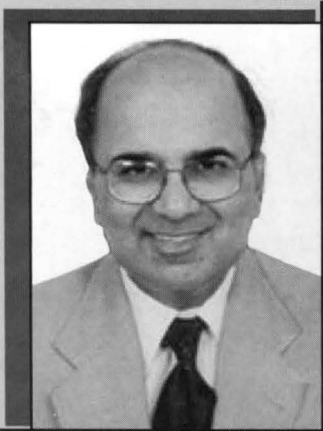
June 11: R S. Jassal to be the next Ambassador of India to Turkey

June 11: Chitra Narayanan to be the next Ambassador of India to Switzerland

June 13: B S Prakash to be the next Ambassador of India to Brazil

June 27: S R Tayal to be the next Ambassador of India to Korea

June 30: Arif S Khan concurrently accredited as Ambassador of India to the Republic of San Marino



B S Prakash

What do diplomats do?

By Ambassador B. S. Prakash

In this article, Mr. Prakash, who is the next Indian Ambassador to Brazil, has spoken in an uncomplicated language about what diplomats do. As a diplomat he considers, mostly facilitating communication is what he has done in his practice. This is a simple but interesting document on the craft of diplomacy.

THIS was the subject on which I was to speak to a bunch of bright American high school students who had assembled at Berkley for a summer programme.

Contrary to popular belief, summer can be a demanding season for the driven students in the American system. There is an infinite range of activities to choose from: go to Europe, hitch-hike or mountain climb, be an intern, take extra courses or cultivate an interest.

There are drifters, of course, in these parts known as the 'California slackers', but there are others who are seekers and strivers. The group of students, I was addressing were clearly in this category, from all over the US, brought together to learn about diplomacy and international relations.

The choice of San Francisco was especially appropriate this being the 60th year of the founding of the UN and it is in this city that

the UN charter came to be written, negotiated and signed.

I have done a fair amount of UN related work in my time and would have spoken with ease about it, had the organisers allowed it. But they had more interesting ideas. The students want to know what you do as a diplomat, they said. So did the students, when I gave them the choice. This set me thinking.

Any diplomat knows that what

"I think a practising diplomat essentially works at facilitating contacts, communication and cooperation between the country he represents and the country he is serving in"

he does is not easy to explain in simple or clear terms. A doctor, a teacher, an architect won't have this problem, asked the same question: 'What do you do?' In fact his vocation entails that such a question is not asked.

A nuclear physicist, a stem-cell biologist, a semi-conductor designer will have problems explaining, but then it is readily conceded that her area is so inaccessible so as to make the question almost impudent. But some professions are in the public domain -- editor, director, politician -- and yet fuzzy and nebulous to

explain. A diplomat is in a similar position.

Faced with this challenge I asked the group of students what they thought a diplomat does.

'Diplomats work at securing world peace' said a blonde girl with a ponytail with great earnestness. She is headed for the Oxfam or 'Save the children'. I nodded solemnly.

'They resolve conflicts between nations' said another girl, who looked Korean-American. I have begun to notice how these days those who raise their hands first are all girls. Her Korean antecedents must have made her particularly alert to 'conflicts', I surmised.

'It is more than that' said a boy in the third row. 'They safeguard national interests'. He looked of Indian or Pakistani or Bangladeshi origin. Who can tell? In any case, it is heartening to see that in any group of talented youngsters in America every shade of ethnicity is represented.

I had to start my lecture and I took stock of the answers. Am I securing world peace, resolving conflicts, advancing core national interests, I thought. Perhaps, I am. It was a comforting thought.

'But, what do you do in your office, everyday?' this was again a girl with an impish look, a type that you come across in every group of students. This was a reality check. 'Am I advancing world peace, at work in my office? Who. Me?' A sobering moment.

About the author

A career diplomat, Ambassador Prakash has written extensively on various issues in international relations. He has several publications in academic journals on issues relating to international terrorism, UN reforms and UN Security Council restructuring, peace keeping and international humanitarian law.

B S Prakash has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Brazil. Presently he can be contacted at cg@cgisf.org

'Good answers. I think a practising diplomat essentially works at facilitating contacts, communication and cooperation between the country he represents and the country he is serving in', I said summarising for myself what I do in my office on a day-to-day basis.

The interaction with the students had made me cast my eye on all my years as a diplomat and how I would characterise the nature of my work.

Yes, I thought facilitating contacts and communication is what I have done in my practice most of these years.

The content depends on where you are and at what point in time.

As a young diplomat in Germany on my first training posting some decades back, cross-culture communication was my big challenge. Those days business delegations from India were full of general chatter and abundant goodwill, but without the samples, the price, or the delivery schedules of whatever they were trying to export.

The Germans on the other hand were all brisk and bristling efficiency: no time for talk about Willy Brandt, the Berlin Wall, World Peace which were the subjects on which our exporters of shoe uppers or manhole covers wanted to dilate.

German tourists on their part came to us asking for application forms or even contracts to sign to

visit ashrams in India or lawyers to go to if cheated by their potential Guru.

These were the days when Germans were serious about their spiritual hunger but even in their esoteric pursuits, they were as driven by efficiency as we were dedicated to ease.

All this has changed of course, but at that point in time and in that station and in my position, my task was to make contact and communication between these two alien cultures possible. And what did I bring to the job? Understanding of my country, familiarity with the host country including its language and a fervent desire to bring the two together.

Years later, I was in Saudi Arabia. The fascination with Indian gurus and exotica was not a priority, in fact these subjects were a taboo. Part of my job was to follow the international oil trends and the prospects for India to get its share of business in the growing Saudi market. The cross-cultural insights that one conveyed to visiting

Indian delegations were very different from Germany. Not to rush, not to fuss, not to insist on contracts, but to build trust. A different place and a different perspective.

Since then I have done many countries, each has been different and there are many tales to tell. The context and the content has varied.

If in Europe the interaction was

to get development assistance, in Uganda it was to offer such assistance. If in Vienna all my talk at the International Atomic Energy Agency IAEA was on matters nuclear, in Colombo the discourse was about terrorism, self-determination or devolution.

In my present locale, in California, all this acquires a fascinating dimension, which I am exploring in these columns.

"India has changed so much that my old parables have become obsolete and new paradigms need to be internalised. But the craft of diplomacy remains the same: contact, the search for cooperation and inter-cultural communication as an essential tool."

Curiously a group of eager and expectant young faces had brought home to me the truth that what a diplomat does is also to know a trick or two about how to operate in another environment while being committed to his own.

This article was earlier published on rediff.com

BOOKS ON DIPLOMACY

This new section provides information on book on diplomacy. We hope our readers would find this information useful.

TITLE	AUTHOR	PUBLISHER
Diplomats without a country	James T McHuge, James S Pacy	Greenwood Press
The Rise of Modern Diplomacy	Anderson	Longman Publishing Group
Arms and Disarmament in Diplomacy	Unknown	Vallentine Mitchell
Diplomatia Secretia - Romanian Language	Victor Duculescu	Unknown
Armana Diplomacy: The beginnins of International Relations	Raymond Cohen	Johns Hopkins Univ Pr

Guangzhou; A new Indian visa application centre inaugurated

AN outsourcing centre to streamline the application process for Indian visa was inaugurated at the booming Guangzhou city in Guangdong province on June 14, 2008. The inauguration of the centre comes a week after the new Consulate General of India was opened in Guangzhou on June 6, 2008.

Consul General of India Gautam Bambawale said at a function in Guangzhou, located about 120 kms northwest of Hong Kong that the process of applying for an Indian visa will be outsourced to the new India Visa Application Centre (IVAC). The centre, to be run by GZL International in consultation with VFS Global

Services, would commence operations from June 16, catering to visa applicants from Guangdong, Yunnan, Sichuan, Fujian, Hainan and Hunan provinces and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

The Indian Consul General, Gautam Bambawale says that outsourcing which helps streamline the visa application process

has been implemented not only in Beijing and Shanghai but also at many other Indian Embassies and Consulates across the world. Observing that interaction between and China is "getting more intense every passing day," Bambawale said trade and economic cooperation was booming.

French Embassy confers Legion of Honour to filmmaker Yash Chopra

A PRESS release from the French Embassy informs that France has given its highest award Legion of Honour to Indian filmmaker entrepreneur, producer and director Yash Chopra. Legion of Honour is the highest distinction that can be conferred by the French Republic on a French citizen as well as on a foreigner. The Order

of the Legion of Honour was instituted in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte.

With a career of fifty years in the film industry, Yash Chopra has been directly or indirectly associated with almost 40 films, most of which have been blockbusters. His artistic genius, combined with his flair for business, enabled him to build Yash Raj Film Studios, arguably

the most important of the Indian film industry.

Mr. Yash Chopra is probably the recipient of the greatest number of awards of any professional in the Indian film industry. Mr. Chopra even featured among the 20 most powerful figures of the world film industry in the power list of the American magazine, Hollywood Reporter, says the

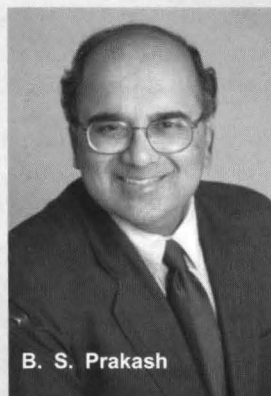
Embassy press release.

Ambassador of France to India, Jerome Bonafont, while bestowing the award to the noted Indian filmmaker said that Yash Chopra is the embodiment of Indian Cinema and Bollywood in particular, and has always been helpful in building bridges between Indian and the French Entertainment Industries.

B S Prakash appointed, next Indian Ambassador to Brazil

B S PRAKASH, Consul-General of the India in San Francisco, has been appointed India's next Ambassador to Brazil, the external affairs ministry has said in a statement.

Prakash will replace Hardeep Singh Puri, who is expected to return to the headquarters and join as one of the secretaries in the ministry.

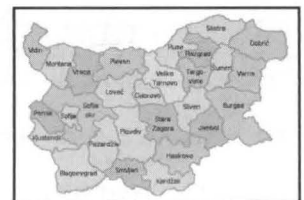


B. S. Prakash

India to open a Honorary Consulate in Bulgaria

INDIA will soon have their honorary Consulates in Bulgaria. Brazil will also open a honorary consulate in Bulgaria. Report informs that the Brazilian consulate will be seated in Varna, and the Indian - in Burgas.

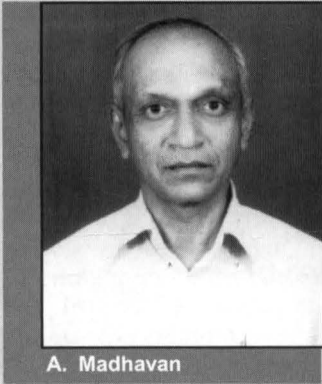
The functions of honorary consul of Brazil will be carried by Mihail Mihov, member of Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce.



Lubomir Mandjukov, vice president of the board of directors of Burgas Port will take the position of honorary consul of the Asian country

The transition to a world of powers

By A. Madhavan



A. Madhavan

The Ex. Indian Ambassador in his article speaks about the transition from the post-Cold War to a world of major powers, where the US is not the sole dominant power or superpower. He also speaks about Russia, China's foreign policy and also about the foreign policy course which India should adopt.

HISTORY is a record of transitions, some swift and sudden, some too gradual to be chronicled. But change is the twin of time. The 20th century made human history seamless, with two world wars, the prolonged cold war and many countries freed from colonial thralldom, though still consigned to economic and strategic dependency.

End of the cold war

If a date can symbolise the end of the Cold War era, 9 November 1989, when the Berlin Wall was breached, could be chosen as the marker. I witnessed the exodus of euphoric East Germans rushing into the hopeful West. It was the most historic event in my diplomatic career. Two years later, the Soviet Union abruptly broke up into fifteen republics. The world awaited the dawning of a new epoch of peace and prosperity, now that the two superpowers armed with nuclear overkill were no longer adversaries.

About the Author

A. Madhavan is a career diplomat who had served as India's ambassador to Japan and Germany before retiring in November 1991. He can be contacted at: Address: A. Madhavan, 1027 Panchamantra Road, Kuvempunagar, Mysore 570023 Tel: 0821- 2566913

Unchallenged American ascendancy

What followed was a unipolar decade of unchallenged American ascendancy. The US deployed its diplomatic and economic strength to integrate the world economy under the slogan of 'globalisation'. Many developing countries, India among them, loosened their state-controlled markets and opened up for investment, thereby registering higher rates of growth. In China the reforms of Deng Xiaoping accelerated the ascent of its GDP.

Peace dividend squandered in pursuit of strategic advantage

But the 'peace dividend' promised by the US was squandered in pursuit of strategic advantage. Neoconservatives planned to perpetuate American hegemony by extending influence over key regions and countries rich in natural resources. Their agenda unrolled to view after Mr. George W. Bush became president in 2001.

That very year, after Al Qaeda's horrific attacks at targets in the US mainland, notorious now as '9/11', the focus of American policy shifted to a generic 'war on terror'. It resulted in US-led military interventions in Afghanistan and Iraq, followed by 'regime changes' in both countries. The continued US occupation of Iraq and NATO's

war against the resurgent Taliban (operating from the Afghan-Pakistan border region) have undermined trust in America as the upholder of lofty standards of international conduct. News of Western oil majors eagerly staking out 'no-bid' contracts for oil exploration and extraction awarded by the Iraqi government, and US moves to emplace permanent military bases and troops in Iraq, have given a handle to critics who charge that oil was the real reason for America's invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Rise of the rest

Fareed Zakaria, editor of Newsweek's international edition, has titled his new book 'The Post-American World'. But he calls the current period, not "the decline of America", but "the rise of the rest". This period of transition is unlikely to go down in history as 'the New American Century'. Other powers have gained in competitive strength in manufactures, specialised services and exports. The European Union (EU), enlarged to 27 member countries, almost 500 million strong, with around 30 percent of the world's GDP, is a formidable global power and an extensive single market. Countries endowed with plentiful oil and gas resources exploit their advantage as the world demand for petro-fuels outpaces supply. Russia, China,

Singapore, and Gulf countries like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAR have acquired prodigious wealth and assets in the West, shaking the complacency of Americans in their economic supremacy. The decline of the dollar and the deepening recession in the US contrast with the nationalistic brio of both China and Russia, the former due to its massive trade surplus and growth rate, the latter due to adroit leveraging of its ample petro-resources. India too is flattered by attentions from the West as a potential great power, a tribute to its high rate of growth, expanding middle class with disposable income, skilled manpower and brain-power. Indians should however remember that it is our burgeoning market which is the newfound attraction.

Period of rising regional polarities

The unipolar world has not yet become multipolar. The current transition is a period of rising regional polarities. The concept of the nation-state as a territorially integral sovereign entity has been eroded by the need for concerted action in the global interest, subsuming narrow national interests. Epidemics and climate change are common threats from which no country can immunise itself. The next stage is an enlightened drive to work together for peace and universal welfare, free of selfish nationalism and discrimination. The transition is an era of amorphous allegiances among states. The US as the sole superpower (or 'hyperpower') may feel uneasy with rivals hot at its back, but American 'declinism' should be balanced by noting its huge lead, its GDP of \$14 trillion (India's is \$ 1.16 trillion), its innovative strength in science and technology, its tireless armouring of allies, its far-flung bases, its military might with strike missiles of uncanny accuracy and strategic reach extending into space.

Soft power frittered away

Some empires, like the Roman, decline over long time spans. Though a chunk of American 'soft power' has been frit-

tered away because of US double standards (for example, its selective privileging of democracy, unilateralism and inconsistent nuclear policy), it remains a beacon to millions around the world as the land of opportunity. Countless Indian families have human stakes in the US. We may deplore America's claim to 'exceptionalism', yet admire its openness and capacity for decisive response to crises.

The primacy of the US as a 'hard power' is well understood. Other countries avoid falling foul of it even as they jostle to augment their competitive edge.

China maintains a stable order

China has based its foreign policy on helping to maintain a stable order to speed up its own advance. It is wary of rising rivals, but willing to team up with them to gain more time to maximise its gains. It has recently shown this in its détente approach to Japan and Taiwan. Its cultivation of neglected countries in Africa, Central Asia and Latin America is reaping dividends. US moves to defang North Korea of nuclear weapons require Chinese mediation. China has a stake in preserving its profusely profitable economic interdependence with the US. Its diplomatic standing is noticeably increasing.

Russia's similar strategy

Russia too has adopted a similar strategy. It resents American initiatives to curb its resurgence, notably the eastward expansion of Nato, the planned American anti-missile defence stations in Poland and the Czech republic, the Western pipeline geopolitics to counter Russian supply lines to Europe, the strategy of enticing former Soviet republics and Warsaw Pact countries away from the Russian sphere and the promotion of opposition to the Medvedev-Putin ruling party in Russia. However, Russia is careful to keep its channels open with the US and to negotiate differences on all issues, including Iran and arms reduction.

China and Russia are closer

Russia and China have drawn closer. The Shanghai Cooperation

Organisation is no counterweight to NATO, but it is an Asian combine of strategic importance. Russia wants India and China to join in a cosy entente trio, but India is rightly wary of committing itself to an alliance that suggests an anti-US coalition. For the same reason, India should be equally wary of ganging up against either China or Russia. India is much stronger now than in the Cold War, when it relied on the security backing from the Soviet Union. But currently India is beset with diverse insurgencies in addition to tensions with neighbours. Its nuclear policy is stymied. Its promising economic advancement is blocked by the oil crisis and inflation at a time when the global economy is contracting. It must steer a course through the current transition which does not abridge its autonomy in foreign policy.

What should be India's course

The best course for India would be to keep on good terms with the stronger powers and the middle powers. At the same time India should also manage and modulate its relations with the US as a partnership short of strategic alliance, without committing us to ditto American foreign policy on issues where our interests may diverge, such as Iran. We should cooperate sincerely with the US and other powers for agreed objectives. Russia must remain a high priority for us. China could be both friend and foe. We should seek to diffuse our differences with China, while consolidating mutually rewarding efforts for the greater common good.

Will the transition lead on to an international order where the waning superpower and the rising major powers form a concert of nations truly dedicated to universal peace and prosperity? Neither supra-nationalism nor a world federation of equals appears likely in the 21st century. Yet we need the ideal. In the words of the biblical Proverb, "Where there is no vision, the people perish".

Nuclear deal is in everybody's interest says US Ambassador David Mulford

US Ambassador David Mulford recently made a statement that the Nuclear deal is in everybody's interest. This statement was made by the US Ambassador, in his meeting with the representatives of a leading Indian daily in New Delhi.

The US Ambassador said that he did not like to speculate about the deal but he was sure that the deal was good for the world and good for the world. The US Ambassador also added that both countries were large democracies and he



David Mulford recognized the importance of the political process. Mr. Mulford however did not say anything about the time frame finalizing the deal.

Envoy Chakravarty discuss Dhaka-Kolkata rail line

ON June 9, 2008, the Indian High Commissioner Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty called on communications adviser of Bangladesh, Ghulam Quader to discuss a number of ongoing problems facing passengers on the Dhaka-Kolkata rail route. Indian envoy informed reporters, "we hope to solve the persisting problems within six months." Huge numbers of Bangladeshi passengers travelling on the maitree express; they faced problems due to the location and lack of manpower at the Indian visa office in Dhaka.

CHECKLIST OF STATE VISITORS

President of African National Congress

Dr. Jacob G Zuma
June 8-11, 2008

Vice President and Panama's Minister External Relations

Samuel Lewis Navarro
June 10, 2008

Guatemala's Foreign Affairs Minister

Haroldo Rodas Melgar
June 10, 2008

Costa Rica's Foreign Minister

Bruno Stagni Ugarte
June 10, 2008

Dominican Republic's Foreign Affairs Deputy Minister

Clara Quinones de Longo
June 10, 2008

Honduras Vice Foreign Minister

Eduardo Enrique Reina Garcia
June 10, 2008

El Salvador's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs

Eduardo Calix
June 10, 2008

Sri Lankan Foreign Affairs Minister

Rohitha Bogollagama
June 10, 2008

Syrian Arab Republic's President

Bashar al-Assad
June 17-21, 2008

Foreign Minister of Pakistan

Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi
June 27-30, 2008

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Top Indian government delegation makes a sudden dash to Colombo

A TOP Indian delegation comprising Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon, Defence Secretary Vijay Singh and National Security Advisor M K Narayanan arrived in Colombo on June 20, 2008.

At that time, there were

speculations about the reason of the visit. Media reports informed that an Indian diplomat had told a news agency that the visit was in connection with the forthcoming SAARC summit, which is scheduled to open on August 1st in

Colombo.

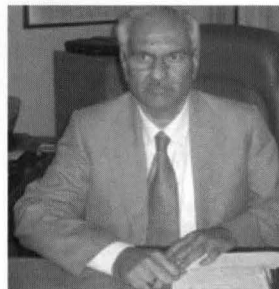
Media reports the visiting delegation was planning to meet President Mahinda Rajapaksa and other key government officials. This was reported as a sudden visit by the Indian media.

Presentation of Credentials by Envoy Biren Nanda

ON JUNE 10, 2008, at a ceremony held at the Istana Palace, Biren Nanda presented his Credentials to Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, the President of the Republic of Indonesia informs a press release on the website of the Indian Embassy in Indonesia.

Ambassador Biren Nan-

da arrived in Jakarta on April 14, 2008. He has previously served in diplomatic assignments in Singapore, Beijing, Shanghai, Washington, DC and Tokyo. He was posted as Consul General in Shanghai and the Deputy Chief of Mission in Tokyo (Japan).



Biren Nanda

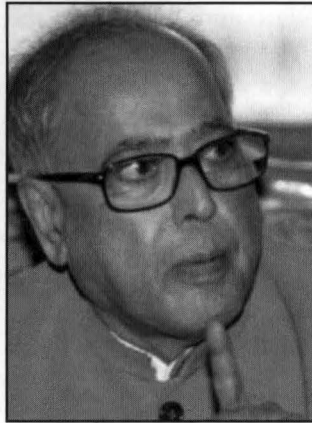
Indian Foreign Minister, Pranab Mukherjee visits Australia

External Affairs Minister was in Australia on 22-23 June 2008 for the 2nd Foreign Minister's Framework Dialogue

A PRESS release issued by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs informs that External Affairs Minister visited Australia on 22 and 23 June 2008 to hold the Second Foreign Minister's Framework Dialogue, with his Australian counterpart Stephen Smith, MP.

The press release further informs that India-Australia relations have been expanding rapidly in the last few years. There is immense scope for expanding trade, and cooperation in areas such as science & technology, information & communication technology, energy, education, agro-industries and tourism.

Partnership with Australia in the resources sector encompassing mutual investments and joint projects, and also a growing engagement



Mr. Pranab Mukherjee

in advanced technological areas and renewable energy, will be focused upon during the forthcoming dialogue. Keeping in view the demands of our rapidly growing relationship, India opened a Consulate General in Melbourne in 2006.

The resources sector is an important element of our economic engagement. Australia is an important

supplier of coking coal to India. We are now increasingly engaging in the oil and natural gas sector and we expect sourcing of LNG from Australia to India to commence in the near future.

On speaking further about Australia India relations the press release further said, our trade in services sector has also been growing.

An interesting feature here is that Australia is one of the few countries with which we have a deficit in our trade in services. Information technology is an important component of our services exports to Australia.

The presence of IT companies in Australia has been expanding. They operate 13 development centres in Australia; have invested over A\$ 98 mn. (including acquisitions);

and employ over 1300 Australians.

Education and tourism are the main components of Australian export of services to India. The growing number of Indian students has contributed to Australian services exports, both in terms of their studies, as well as travel.

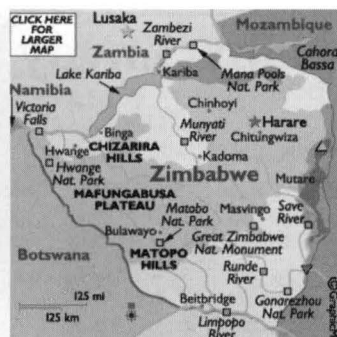
The number of Indian students in Australia has indeed been growing rapidly. The Indian community has been making useful contribution to the social and economic life here.

While integrating well with their adopted country, they have also maintained their family and cultural linkages with India. They should act as a bridge for future generations to understand each other better, said the press release.

Indian Envoy Venkatesan Ashok calls Zimbabwe to take advantage of Indian technologies

INDIAN High Commissioner to Zimbabwe, Venkatesan Ashok has recently stated that

India has made some progress in knowledge-based industries like information technology, biotechnology and other areas such as transportation, communication, health, agro-chemicals and pharmaceuticals. "I feel we have cutting edge technologies and human resources potential, both of which can be of great help to



Zimbabwe particularly in key areas such as health, agriculture, infrastructure development and mining," said the Indian Envoy in

Zimbabwe.

The Indian to Zimbabwe, Venkatesan Ashok expressed that Zimbabwe should fully exploit India's technological advancement to transform its economy and develop its infrastructure. The Indian High Commissioner also spoke about the affordable and cost effective technologies which are appropriate not only to Zimbabwe but also to the rest of Africa.

Venkatesan Ashok further said, "The economic

relationship has been under-utilized by Zimbabwe. More should be done to fully utilize India's advancement."

Zimbabwean authorities should take notice of the fact that India is interested in strengthening relations with Zimbabwe. This is the time when efforts should be done from both the sides to see that the relations between the two countries witness a mutually beneficial positive trend.

Indian Envoy, Gautam Mukhopadhaya says Syrian Presidents visit to India will boost relations

INDIA'S Ambassador to Syria, Gautam Mukhopadhaya, has stressed, as per a media report that President al-Assad and wife's state visit to India would contribute to boosting historical relations between the two countries, and will give it strong momentum in various fields.

Gautam Mukhopadhaya says that India and Syria enjoy deeply rooted civilization and fought against colonialism for independence. And both are members of the Nonaligned Movement, stressing that cooperation

between the two countries falls in the service of the two peoples' interests.

As per the report, the Indian Ambassador expressed hope that the visit will contribute to activation of cooperation and signing of many agreements in spheres of double taxation, encouragement of investment, cooperation in agriculture, building and construction, phosphate, transport, waters, energy, information technology, and industry.

He indicated that there is a possibility of the establishment of free trade zone between the two



Gautam Mukhopadhaya

countries and that will increase interaction between the businessmen of both countries.

The Indian Envoy also expressed India's readiness

to cooperate in spheres of development, indicating that India hosts 500 trainees in various specializations, and contributed to the establishment of the Bio-technology Center in Syria.

The Indian Ambassador also indicated that the volume of trade exchange has begun to grow at a rate of 50-60 percent and that in the year 2006-227 the volume of trade exchange reached USD 500 millions and in current year the volume of trade exchange has reached so far USD 750 millions.

Indian Ambassador to Spain, Sujata Mehta attends India- Iran-Colombia oil talks in Spain

A PIB press release informs that India held wide ranging bilateral talks with Iran and Colombia on the sidelines of the 19th World Petroleum Congress in Madrid, Spain on July 1, 2008. These discussions further enhanced cooperation in various activities in the hydrocarbon value chain. In a meeting between Murli Deora, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and his Iranian counterpart Gholam Hossein Nozari, Iran conveyed its optimism on implementation of Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline project citing the positive progress made by India and Pakistan in settling outstanding bilateral issues. Indian Ambassador to Spain Ms Sujata Mehta was also attended the

talks.

Mr. Nozari said that Iran was open to considering India's proposal to change the point of gas delivery from Iran-Pakistan border to Pakistan-India border.

The Indian Petroleum Minister reiterated New Delhi's commitment to speedy implementation of the IPI pipeline project and said that delivery point issue will be soon discussed with Iran. Expressing satisfaction on the progress made in resolving outstanding issues, Shri Deora said that most of the issues have been settled and some remaining issues will be discussed in the forthcoming trilateral meeting.

Iran also said that it was open to the proposal of ONGC to jointly develop LNG project in Iran with

a complete chain by setting up an LNG regassified complex in India with Iranian participation.

Earlier, in a meeting with Colombian Minister of Mines and Energy

Hernan Martinez Torres, the Indian Petroleum Minister Deora proposed ONGC's participation in improving oil recovery from the existing fields in Colombia.



The Indian Ambassador to Spain, Ms. Sujata Mehta with the Indian Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Murli Deora and other dignitaries at the Indian Pavilion of the World Petroleum Congress Exhibition at Madrid, Spain on June 30, 2008.

India to contribute US \$ 200,000 for the restoration of Shwedagon Pagoda

India to contribute US \$ 200,000 for repair and renovation work at Shwedagon Pagoda complex, Yangon, Myanmar

A MEDIA release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on June 3, 2008 states that, India has decided to contribute US \$ 200,000 towards repairs and renovation work at the holiest of Buddhist shrines in Myanmar – the Shwedagon Pagoda complex in Yangon.

During the visit of Minister of State for Commerce & Power, Jairam Ramesh to Yangon in May 24-25, 2008, he visited the Shwedagon Pagoda and witnessed

the damage to some of the structures in the complex by the devastating cyclone in Myanmar earlier in May.

Given the close and friendly relations between the two countries, particularly India's ancient civilizational and spiritual links with Myanmar and in keeping with our commitment to assist Myanmar in the rehabilitation phase, India will contribute a sum of US\$ 200,000 for the renovation of the Shwedagon Pagoda complex.



India- Egypt strengthen defence cooperation

A PRESS release issued by PIB informs that a six-member Egyptian Defence Delegation led by Maj Gen Mohamed Mohsen Saad El Shazly, Deputy Chief of Operation Authority of the Egyptian Armed Forces, called on the Minister of State for Defence Dr. MM Pallam Raju in the month of June. The two sides discussed ways to enhance Defence Cooperation and greater interaction between their Armed Forces. The Egyptian delegation is on a week-long visit to India to participate in the 2nd Indo-Egypt Joint Defence Committee Meeting. India and Egypt, both members of the Non-Aligned Movement, are emerging stabilizing forces in the world's two strategic regions, - South Asia and Middle East.

The press release further informs that while recalling the close relationship enjoyed between the two countries during the Nehruvian era, Pallam Raju expressed the hope that India and Egypt, as members of G-15, will play an important role in South-South Cooperation apart from the existing trade partnerships in Africa. The Minister also expressed his happiness over the increasing training cooperation between the forces of both the countries in each other's Defence Training Institutes. Pallam Raju stressed that India follows a policy of having friendly relations and peaceful co-existence with all its neighbours based on the principle of Panchsheel.

The two sides later signed on the minutes agreed upon during the

Defence Committee Meeting held here yesterday. Maj Gen Mohamed El Shazly and PK Rastogi, Special Secretary, Ministry of Defence, India, exchanged documents to the effect. Proposals include training

and visits of soldiers to each other's Defence Institutes. The visiting Egyptian delegation also called on the Defence Secretary Vijay Singh and discussed matters of mutual interest.



The Deputy Chief of Operation Authority of the Egyptian Armed Forces, Maj. Gen. Mohamed Mohsen Saad El Shazly and the Special Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Mr. P.K. Rastogi signing the agreed minutes of the 2nd Indo-Egypt Joint Defence Committee Meeting

FOREIGN EMBASSIES IN INDIA

In this issue, we present you information on South East Asian diplomatic missions in India, their addresses and representatives heading these Missions. Photographs of the Ambassadors and information about the Embassies and High Commissions is being gathered and would be published in the future issues of Imprint.

SOUTH EAST ASIA FACT FILE

Country	Diplomat	Address	Information
Brunei Darussalam	Haji Sidek bin Ali	High Commissioner High Commission of Brunei Darussalam 4, Poorvi Marg Vasant Vihar Ph No: +91-11-2614 8340, 2614 8343 Fax: +91-11-2614 2101 E-mail: bruneidelhi@dishnetdsl.net	Working Hours: Monday To Friday: 8:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. & 3:30 P.M.
Cambodia	Choeung Buntheng	Ambasssador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Royal Embassy of Cambodia W-112, Greater Kailash-II New Delhi-110048 Ph No: +91-11-29214435 Fax: +91-11-46016117 E-mail: cambodiaembassykapoor@yahoo.com	Monday To Friday: 9.00 A.M. to 12.30 P.M. 2.00 P.M. to 5.00 P.M.
Indonesia	Rizali Wilmar Indrakesuma	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Embassy of Indonesia 50 A, Chanakyapuri Kautilaya Marg New Delhi-110021 Ph No: +91-11-2611 8642, 2611 8643, 2611 8644, 2611 8645, 2301 2123, 23016860 Fax: +91-11-2687 4402, 2688 6763, 2688 8279 E-mail: iembassy@giasdl01.vsnl.net.in	Working Hours: Monday To Friday: 9.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M.

FOREIGN POLICY ON THE WEB

This section provides information about websites which give political information. We hope our readers would find this information useful. Do send us your feedback.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. www.newstoday.com - | This website speaks about Indian diplomacy |
| 2. www.indiandefencereview.com - | This website speaks on Indian defence and diplomacy |
| 3. http://www.crito.uci.edu/ - | This is the website of the Centre for Research on Information Technooogy and Organizations |
| 4. www.thaindian.com - | This is a news website which gives information also on diplomacy news |
| 5. www.caspianstudies.com - | It is the website of the International Institute for Caspian Studies |

Is it safe to allow private companies to handle Visa procedures?

Security concerns are being raised on this issue

ALL across the Globe VFS global is handling migration Facilities. VFS Global is carving a niche in the high-tech handling of sensitive personal information. However, this is raising concern all over the world. Slowly diplomats and diplomacy experts are questioning its security implications.

That they've just started doing that for Canada in China alarms activists and experts here who fear the Chinese government could get its hands on the information. Canada outsourced tasks such as taking applications and fees and booking appointments in Beijing

and Shanghai two weeks ago to VFS. On June 25, VFS will take over visa tasks in Guangzhou.

Using VFS isn't mandatory, and there is an extra fee, but it is "strongly encouraged." The embassy makes it clear they will still make the decisions. In Beijing now, because of VFS, people who want a visa for Canada can apply from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, instead of the one hour a day the Chinese embassy was open for applications, and track their applications online.

"There's the accountability issue, the privacy issue and why are we outsourcing

something to a for-profit entity that belongs in the security mandate?" asked Victor Wong, Executive Director of the Chinese Canadian National Council. "Anyone who is seeking to leave China requires an exit visa. For anyone who has been critical of China, and there are many dissidents in China, there is some risk to them."

Biometric visa which enable the personal information and images in

VFS, with more than 200 offices in 39 countries handling 6 million visa applications a year, has doubled its business each year in recent years. Despite a scandal last year when

the data of 50,000 Indians who applied for British visas became available online, Britain expanded its 32-country relationship with VFS to include biometric passports and security checks on immigrants.

The security breach lasted about a year before it was discovered. VFS will spend \$2 million on online security in the next year, Bhaduri said. The company, which has a high-tech infrastructure, is careful to note that "a vigilance and security team" monitors its employees, who are warned not to influence applications or diplomats.

Costa Rica Foreign Minister, Bruno Stagno Ugarte visit India



Costa Rica's Foreign Minister Bruno Stagno Ugarte shakes hands with India's Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee, right after signing the Memoranda of Understanding on Foreign Office consultations

FOREIGN Minister of Costa Rica Bruno Stagno Ugarte visited India from 9-11 June, 2008. The Minister participated in the meeting of the For-

eign Ministers of SICA (Integration System of Central America) on June 10 with External Affairs Minister of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee

The SICA Ministers had extensive discussions on India's relations with Central America.

The Foreign Minister of Costa Rica discussed bilateral technical and economic cooperation including the setting up of an Information Technology Center by India in Costa Rica.

Foreign Minister Bruno Stagno Ugarte also signed along with Pranab Mukherjee, a Memoranda

of Understanding on the establishment of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Costa Rica during the occasion.

The visiting Foreign Minister called on Prime Minister of India Shri Manmohan Singh and the Vice President of India Shri M Hamid Ansari during the visit along with the other Ministers.

Thereafter there was a meeting with prominent businessmen organized by Confederation of Indian Industry and the Confederation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama visits India

INDIA press release issued by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Colombo says that, Rohitha Bogollagama came for a visit to India on June 15, 2008. The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister came to New Delhi to extend the formal invitation to Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India to attend the 15th SAARC Summit in Colombo.

It is customary in the SAARC to deliver invitations in person to all Heads of Government. As India is the current Chair, the first invitation will be delivered to the

Indian Prime Minister. During this visit Minister is expected to have bilateral talks with the Indian Minister of External Affairs, Pranab Mukherjee. Minister is expected to return on Monday.

Media report informs that the visit of the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, Rohitha Bogollagama to India and his invitation to the Prime Minister of India, Manmohan Singh and Minister of External Affairs of India Pranab Mukherjee to participate at the SAARC Summit and its antecedent meeting of the Council of Ministers



Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

emphasizes that continuity of the valuable work done by the past Chairs of SAARC would be a guiding principle for Sri Lanka's stewardship of the Association.

Minister Bogollagama also briefed the Indian leaders of current developments in Sri Lanka and consulted them on the key issues before SAARC.

Sino-Indian relations heading in right direction says Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jeichi

REPORTS inform that after attending a dinner hosted in Beijing by the Indian Ambassador Nirupama Rao, the Chinese Foreign Minister, Yang Jeichi said, "We believe that we should continue to strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries. We think that we will afford our bilateral trade hitting the target of 60 billion US dollars by 2010. We also have more exchanges in the humanity areas and the international affairs. The two countries have cooperated across the board. So, I think the relationship is heading in the right direction."

Wide range of discussion on bilateral relations

The Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab



Yang Jeichi

Mukherjee on this occasion said, "I had wide range of discussions on bilateral relations. We shared our perceptions on many international issues, including the energy crisis, the food crisis, issues posed by climate change. We decided to work together not only to improve our bilateral relations, but also to address the problems faced by the international community," said Mukherjee.

As per a report, both Foreign Ministers expressed satisfaction over their four-day talks.

India-China MoU on sharing information

Reports inform that an information sharing MoU has been signed between India and China on trans-border rivers and also jointly issued stamps. The two sides have also resolved to maintain security and peace and on their borders and to find a mutually respectable solution to their disputes.

Defence dialogue

Both countries have also reportedly agreed to expand their defence dialogue and conduct joint military exercises and increase in high-level exchanges. Pranab Mukherjee reportedly halted at Chengdu enroute to New

Delhi on Saturday to hand over a new consignment of aid for the earthquake-affected people of Sichuan province.

This is the eighth Indian aid consignment for China since the May 12 earthquake.

Mukherjee's visit, which is aimed at building a positive momentum in bilateral ties, comes amidst warming relations between India and China and a thriving trade.

Diplomatic Countdown

Embassies in India - 96
High Commissions in India - 29
Consulates in India
Mumbai - 30
Delhi - 16
Chennai - 7
Calcutta - 6
Pondicherry - 1
Hyderabad - 1
Goa - 1

Indian Ethiopia Embassy organizes workshop on capacity building efforts by India

Indian Embassy in Ethiopia organizes workshop on India's role in capacity building in Ethiopia

A PRESS release from the the Embassy of India, Ethiopia informs that on June 16, 2008, the Embassy organized a Workshop on the role of India in Capacity Building in Ethiopia for Sustainable Growth and Development, for the benefit of the Standing Committee on

Capacity Building of the Ethiopian House of Peoples Representatives.

Report also informs that the Standing Committee members headed by Tekele Tesema attended the function. This event was part of the celebrations of the 60 Anniversary of establishment of diplomatic

relations between India and Ethiopia.

As per the report, Gurjit Singh, Ambassador of India to Ethiopia, on this occasion outlined the efforts of the Embassy of India and the Government of India in human resources development and capacity building in Ethiopia and

highlighted the excellent track record that India has achieved through ITEC programmes, Pan-African e-Network project, Designers Workshop, grant of scholarships, study tour of parliamentary delegations to India and outreach programmes for youth, women and journalists.

Documents signed between the India and Syria on June 18, 2008

A MEA press release informs that following documents were signed between India and Syria on June 18, 2008

Name of Documents	Syrian Signatory	Indian Signatory
1. Agreement on mutual promotion and protection of investment between the two countries	Amer Housni Lutfi Minister of Economy	External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee
2. Agreement on avoidance of the double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion with respect of taxes on income	Amer Housni Lutfi Minister of Economy	Indian External Affairs Minister ,Pranab Mukherjee
3. Work Plan under MOU in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors for 2008-09	Ahmed Arnous Deputy Foreign Minister	P K Mishra, Secretary Agriculture

India and Nepal should forge ahead for cultural co-operation says Indian Envoy to Nepal, Rakesh Sood

INDIAN Ambassador to Nepal, Rakesh Sood has recently stated in a leading Nepalese newspaper that Nepal and India should forge ahead

for the development of culture side by side the mutual cooperation and collaboration.

The Indian Ambassador was giving certificates

to the participants of a Painting Protection Workshop organised by the Indian Embassy and Sirjana College of Fine Arts in Nepal.

Ambassador Rakesh Sood said the sector of art and culture will also be helpful to strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries.

Crossed Swords: Pakistan, its Army, and the Wars Within - Book review by Anil Chopra

BASED on 30 years of research and analysis, this definitive book is a profound, multi-layered, and historical analysis of the nature and role of the Pakistan army in the country's polity as well as its turbulent relationship with the United States. Shuja Nawaz examines the army and Pakistan in both peace and war. Using many hitherto unpublished materials from the archives of the United States, the United Kingdom, and the General Headquarters of the Pakistan Army, as well as interviews with key military and political figures in Pakistan and the United States, he sheds light not only on the Pakistan Army and its US connections but also on Pakistan as a key Muslim country in one of the world's toughest neighbourhoods. In doing so, he lays bare key facts about Pakistan's numerous wars with India and its many rounds of political musical chairs, as well as the Kargil conflict of 1999. He then draws lessons from this history that may help Pakistan end its wars within and create a stable political entity.

Shuja Nawaz was a newscaster and current affairs producer with Pakistan Television from 1967 to 1972. He covered the 1971 war with India on the Western front. A graduate of Gordon College, Rawalpindi and the Graduate School of Journalism of Columbia University, he has worked as a journalist for The New York Times and the World Health Organization, and as a Divisional Chief at the International Monetary fund and as a Director of the International Atomic Energy Agency. He also has been the Editor of Finance and Development, the multilingual quarterly of the IMF and the World Bank, and has written

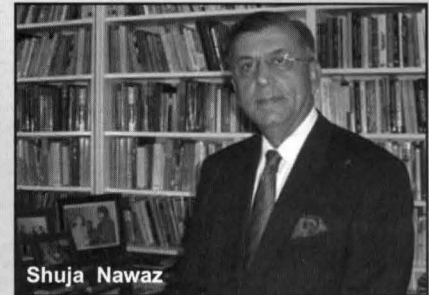
and spoken widely on military and politico-economic issues. He lives in Alexandria, Virginia

Shuja Nawaz dedicates the book to his father-in-law, Lt. Col. J.D. Malik and his brother, no less, chief of army staff of Pakistan, Gen. Asif Nawaz. It would seem thus the agenda of the book is to find reason and excuse the army in Pakistan from all its sins.

The guise of the book is a transparent and open analysis on the psychology and motivation of the Pakistan army having failed in its dharma and having failed the people of Pakistan, time and again. However the disguised Shuja Nawaz has not damned the army, rather glorified the army chiefs of Pakistan.

Even Muslim countries have the attitude of liberalism, democracy and other high ideals such as the interest of its people especially when the mother country is a genuinely liberal, democratic, transparent and secular.

Shuja Nawaz tells us that idea of Pakistan was motivated by a movement of Indian Muslims to seek greater social and economic opportunity for them and it was a



Shuja Nawaz

movement of the salaried classes. It was never meant to be an Islamic state. It was never supported by the rural Muslim masses in the Muslim majority states and was never supported by Islamist parties.

Thus the farce of Islamic Nationalism has slowly turned into a grim reality. A nation without an identity thus relied on the neutral army as and when it lost its integrity.

Thus the army has been having a ball in Pakistan.

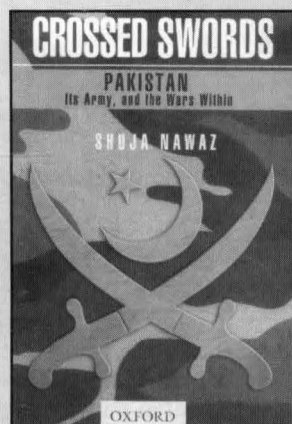
Nawaz also tells us that it was the army in establishing a relationship with Islamist parties against popular leaders such as Muzibur Rehman and Bhutto fuelled the Kashmir Insurgency.

Nawaz reasons that the Kashmir problem was never about Islam or Muslims, it was always about the army retaining power.

Nawaz also tells us that by the very nature of Islam which basically disallow freedom of thoughts in morality and spirituality and therefore of philosophy. The Muslim people do not confer legitimacy to elections, which is supposed to also grant freedom of thoughts to the people.

Since it is an Islamic state, there is a beginning and end of all politics.

Nawaz has attempted to rationalize the army's role and more



Author: Shuja Nawaz
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so the selling of its soul to the United States.

Today Pakistan feels it will regain its identity by liberating itself of the US involvement.

Nawaz Sharif is today this voice of Pakistan's soul.

This may or may not happen. Despite the recent elections under a sigh of relief from all of us. Reason being as we have just learnt in an Islamic state elections do not grant

moral authority to rule. The army's role will thus always continue in Pakistan, due to the inherent lack of integrity in creating the nation.

Last but not the least comes the question, if whether it's culture and race and language that creates a nation and an army to protect it?

Nawaz's Crossed Swords does not answer these questions. It is in great detail all about the Pakistan army and its great Generals.

Ambassador Speaks



**Juan Alfredo Pinto
Saavedera,
Ambassador of Colombia
in India**

The military intelligence services of Colombia, in an impeccable operation without any victim and without a shot fired, rescued kidnapped Franco-Colombian Ex-Presidential candidate, Ingrid Betancourt from the captivity, perpetrated by the terrorist group FARC. Also, three American Citizens and eleven members of the Colombian National Army recovered their freedom in this action.

With this extraordinary military operation, the Colombian institutions of the most stable democracy in Latin American Region have progressed towards achieving the aim of the consolidation of "Security Democratic Policy" enhanced by the Government of the President Alvaro Uribe during the last 6 years and by which it has been possible to reduce at its minimum the terrorist activities of guerrillas and paramilitarisms forces in Colombia. The Country has been placed in a cycle of economic growth, high flow of foreign Direct Investment, and an effective diminution of poverty.

The Ambassador of Colombia in New Delhi, Mr. Juan Alfredo Pinto, sharing the happiness of the Colombian Community in India expresses gratitude to the Honorable Diplomatic Corp, the Indian Business Community and other friends of Colombia for their wishes and solidarity shown.

Indian assistance for solar electrification of a Nepalese village

A press release Issued by the Indian Embassy in Nepal informs that VDC Jaljala in District Baglung has started obtaining electricity using one of the most modern and environmentally clean source of electricity. This project was implemented with assistance from the Government of India at a cost of NRs 33.79 million. Under this scheme, 723 homes in village Jaljala in District Baglung have started receiving light from the home lighting systems using Sun light. Each of the homes has received a solar panel, a maintenance

free battery and home lighting system of 75 Watts, consisting of four lighting sets of 12 Watts each. This is the seventh year running, when a solar electrification project has been successfully executed.

On behalf of Ambassador of India, the project was formally inaugurated and handed over by Colonel MS Dhanoa, Defence Attaché, Embassy of India to the Gaon Upbhokta Samiti at Village Jaljala, District Baglung, on 05 Jun 2008. Senior local officials of Nepal community leaders and representatives were present.

Russian Foreign Minister meets Shivshankar Menon

A press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation informs that Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, received on June 30 Indian Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon, who



Sergey Lavrov

was in Moscow to hold bilateral consultation at the level of the first deputy heads of the foreign affairs agencies.

During the conversation, priority issues for Russian-Indian cooperation were discussed, along with interaction internationally. Special emphasis was laid on the process of realization of the accords reached at Lavrov's meeting with Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee in Yekaterinburg in May this year.

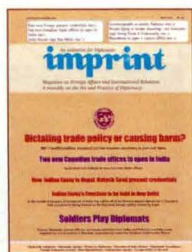
The sides reaffirmed their mutual desire to carry on active dialogue between the two foreign ministries in the interest of developing the Russian-Indian multifaceted strategic partnership.

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