

An initiative for Diplomats **imprint**

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

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NEWS



Second Deputy Premier and Minister of Interior Prince Naif receives Indian Ambassador Talmiz Ahmad at his office in Makkah on Saturday. They discussed security cooperation between two countries, especially in combating terror and drugs.

Ambassadors urged to help Saudis

Second Deputy Premier and Minister of Interior Prince Naif received a number of newly appointed Saudi ambassadors at his office in Makkah on September 5, 2010, Sunday and urged them to represent the Kingdom in the right manner and provide all services to Saudis.

"Being the interior minister I am ready to provide all assistance for you to support Saudis in foreign countries," the prince said.

"We are concerned with the security and safety of Saudi citizens abroad, whatever be their situations," he added.

He urged the ambassadors to work for strengthening the Kingdom's relations with other countries.

MEA laying greater thrust on economic diplomacy

Aspiring for two-digit GDP growth, India has decided to lay greater thrust on economic diplomacy and in this regard negotiations are being expedited on Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with a number of countries and regional groupings.

The government has asked its Missions abroad to vigorously pursue the economic component of relations with their host countries, an aspect which is seen as important for India's ambition of pushing its own growth.

The contours of the new priority area in diplomacy were outlined by External Affairs Minister SM Krishna while addressing the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of MEA held in Mumbai on Friday, sources said.

At the meeting which assumed added significance as it was held at the 26/11 target Taj Hotel, Krishna said a message had been sent out to all the 175 Indian Missions that thrust should be laid on economic diplomacy.

FTAs have already been signed with ASEAN, South Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan.

NEWS

Amid China trouble, India, Japan to firm up economic pact

Amid dissonance in relations with China, India is looking to expand strategic and economic ties with Japan as the two sides hold the final round of negotiations next week to finalise a key economic pact

ahead of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Tokyo in October. Commerce Secretary Rahul Khullar is expected to travel to Tokyo Tuesday to hold a final round of negotiations on a comprehensive economic

partnership agreement (CEPA) with Japan, well-placed sources told IANS. The pact, called Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) in Japan, is expected to slash tariff duties on around 9,000 products.

REGULARS

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Pak diplomats need few lessons in diplomatic etiquette

INDIAN Foreign Minister SM Krishna was insulted at a press conference in Pakistan by his Pak counterpart SM Kureshi. This was the worst display of diplomatic etiquette.

According to a report published in the Indian media, not only was the free-for-all at the joint press conference addressed by Foreign Minister SM Krishna and his Pakistani counterpart Shah Mehmood Qureshi quite unexpected, even more startling was Qureshi's venom filled speech against his guest at another press conference a day later - when Krishna was accused of being arrived

at the meeting without a mandate to negotiate. It certainly wasn't in the best traditions of Pakistani hospitality, to which many visiting Indians have paid glowing tribute - not to mention some basic canons of diplomacy.

However, as mentioned in the report, the stakes, are so high that New Delhi cannot afford to be deflected by atmospherics. To break off dialogue, is a cop-out. India cannot choose its neighbours, it has no alternative but to continue to press its concerns with Pakistan. Islamabad, on its part, underestimates the extent of the consensus against terror in India. The article further states that given the impact of the worst ever terrorist attack on Indian soil - in terms of

scale and perception if not casualties - no administration in New Delhi can win a mandate for engaging

Quiet diplomacy is more the need of the hour as both sides explore deliverables.

Islamabad across the entire spectrum of outstanding issues with a fixed time frame for resolution, until it is able to show that the latter is acting in good faith. Some action on the wealth of evidence that New Delhi has advanced, on the perpetrators of 26/11 currently on Pakistani soil, is essential for that.

In any case the a make-

or-break attitude is bad for the peace process, and in retrospect it's evident that a fixation on press conferences and joint statements, when the gap between the two sides has yet to be narrowed, can be deeply counterproductive. Quiet diplomacy is more the need of the hour as both sides explore deliverables.

And it may be necessary on New Delhi's part to extend its diplomacy by engaging the Pakistani army directly. That's an entity that continues to be deeply hostile to India, and given its power within the Pakistani establishment little can be done unless this hostility changes. Now the heat of Krishna-Kureshi exchange is cooling off and now is the time to restart the talks.

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Shyam Saran visits Nepal

NEW Delhi decided to send Shyam Saran, former Indian Foreign Secretary who was also the Indian Ambassador to Nepal during one of the most crucial periods in Nepal's history, as a special envoy to Nepal ahead of a crucial prime ministerial election, states an IANS report.

The mission is reminiscent of Saran's earlier diplomacy in Nepal as Singh's special envoy three years ago when the country was floundering over another election. Nepal's biggest party, the Maoists, Wednesday said they were awaiting Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's special envoy, Shyam

Saran, with mixed feelings because they regarded India as playing a negative role in the country since it officially became a secular republic in 2008.

Saran, New Delhi's Nepal expert, was sent in 2007 to persuade the major parties into holding the constituent assembly election after it was deferred twice. This time, his mission is related to the election of a new prime minister after Nepal's lawmakers refused to give simple majority to any of the contestants despite three rounds of polls. With the fourth run-off scheduled Friday, Saran will be holding talks with the major political players in

the election drama - the Maoists, Nepali Congress (NC), communists and the bloc of four regional parties from the Terai plains. The NC, which has fielded its parliamentary party chief Ram Chandra Poudel as its candidate for the Prime Minister's post, is the closest to the Indian government traditionally. The Maoists with their 237 MPs have a definite edge over the NC and need the support of just one major party to cross the halfway mark of 300.

The former guerrillas said they had not been informed about Saran's visit and there were no meetings scheduled.

Seven new envoys present credentials

AN ANI report states that seven envoys of different countries presented their credentials to President Pratibha Devisingh Patil at a ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here on the last day of June.

The envoys who presented their credentials were—Dr. Ruben I. Zamora, the Ambassador of El Salvador, Ronald B. Allarey, the Ambassador of the Philippines, Thongphanh Syackhaphom, the Ambassador of Laos, Doulat O. Kuanyshev, the Ambassador of Kazakhstan, Dr. Nanguyalai Tarzi, the Am-

bassador of Afghanistan, Marco Piccinini, the Ambassador of Monaco and Byron Escobedo Menendez, the Ambassador of Guatemala.

In her interaction with the envoys, President Patil observed that they represented nations spanning different geographical zones, and with whom India enjoys friendly relations.

She said that India is a country with a wide diversity and offers to many areas for strengthening mutual cooperation.

“Developing good rela-

tions with nations is one of the main objectives of India’s foreign policy,” said President Patil.

She also stated that India believes that promotion of mutual understanding between peoples is essential for world peace, which in turn is conducive for economic growth and progress of nations.

In her address, President Patil mentioned that in the contemporary world, prospects of peace are threatened by forces of extremism and terrorism.

“Fighting terrorism requires a firm commitment

by the international community to act collectively and decisively. Drugs, gun-running and piracy, with their deep links to terrorism, add to the complexities faced while dealing with terrorism,” she said.

President Patil also said the global economy is recovering from the financial crisis of 2008-09, but the challenges of sustaining growth remains.

“For developing countries, higher growth rates are important to meet the aspirations of their people,” she said.



Ambassador of El Salvador Ruben I. Zamora presenting credentials to President Pratibha Patil



Ronald B. Allarey, the Ambassador of the Philippines presenting credentials in New Delhi



Thongphanh Syackhaphom, the Ambassador of Laos presenting his credentials in New Delhi



Doulat O. Kuanyshev, the Ambassador of Kazakhstan presenting his credentials in Delhi



Dr. Nanguyalai Tarzi, the Ambassador of Afghanistan presenting his credentials in New Delhi



Marco Piccinini, the Ambassador of Monaco presenting his credentials



Byron Escobedo Menendez, the Ambassador of Guatemala presenting his credentials in New Delhi

Mark Sofer, Israeli Envoy speaks on Defence and Technology ties

MARK Sofer, Ambassador of Israel to India, recently spoke about India-Israel bilateral trade relation.

Israel expects the bilateral trade with India to triple in the next three to four years reaching \$12 billion once the free trade agreement is signed between the two countries. Israel's Ambassador to India Mark Sofer also said that they would look at hi-tech transfer in fast growing sectors such as IT, defence, healthcare, agriculture etc, in an interview.

Aerospace and Defence collaboration

The Israeli Ambassador also said that the Phalcon early warning radar sys-



Mark Sofer, Ambassador of Israel

tems, was an Israeli-Russian-Indian development went well. Homeland security is a serious issue which is affecting us today. In India clearly there is a huge growing demand for HLS not only in India but throughout the world.

There are number of Israeli companies working here, there are number of private contracts with hotels and airports. The tourism industry is very important and is a very easy target for terrorists. He also said that Israel will hold an international conference and exhibition towards the end of October, dedicated entirely to the safe city, everything that deals with HLS.

Indo-Israel technology collaboration

Ambassador Sofer says that in Israel today, economy is entirely based on technology and technological innovations, in all fields of human activity

from agriculture, medical, defence activities, mobile technologies. He further said that here is clearly a marriage made in heaven between Israel and Bangalore and you feel it, wherever you go, there are Israeli companies that are active here. One company Elbit Imaging has set up headquarters here in Bangalore. They are working in three fields, setting up hospitals they have a 300 bed hospital, they are involved in real estate and agriculture using Israeli technologies.

India- Israel economic relationship

If you examine the economic relationship between India and Israel, what has happened since 1990, we established diplomatic relations which is just 18 year old, it has grown from \$180 million to about \$4 billion. Don't forget it also about employment. I don't know any other countries which have built such a dynamic economic relationship in short period of time. My belief is that much of work between India and Israel in future will be in the field of economics, commercial trade, investment, joint ventures, joint development, scientific cooperation. All of it is going on, there will be government and private money. It will benefit India in terms of agriculture, water, medical technologies. Mutual admiration I think in each society for the other and free trade agreement will be the vehicle for achieving this aim.

SM Krishna attends Kabul conference

AN ANI report tells that External Affairs Minister SM Krishna, has reached Kabul on a two-day visit, met Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai and his National Security Adviser Rangin Dadfar Spanta. Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao and other senior officials of the external affairs ministry are accompanying Krishna.

This will be the largest gathering of international leaders in Afghanistan since the 1970s.

During the meeting with Afghanistan leadership, Krishna had likely discussed India's ongoing reconstruction works in the country and New Delhi's concerns over

the contentious Taliban reconciliation plan at the Kabul Conference. The ANI report further informs that India has strongly opposed any distinction between the good Taliban and bad Taliban and has invested 1.3 billion dollars in multifarious socio-economic reconstruction projects in Afghanistan.

Krishna also met US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Tuesday on the sidelines of the international conference that is being attended by foreign ministers and representatives of 70 countries and organisations.

Afghanistan, according to sources, is at a "critical turning point",

and the conference was scheduled to deliberate on an Afghan government-led plan to improve security, ensure good governance and crack down on corruption that has plagued the country.

According to The Independent, the document reveals that the withdrawal of NATO troops is to begin within months.

By 2014, it is expected that the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) would take charge of military operations in the country. Meanwhile SM Krishna has met Afghan President Hamid Karzai and also discussed the safety of Indians in Afghanistan.

Indo- American economic partnership flourishing says Envoy Roemer

Following statement of Envoy Roemer speaks about the recent developments in American- Indian partnership.

US ENVOY to India Timothy Roemer, recently in a write up in a leading Indian daily stated that in the past several weeks, Americans and Indians have witnessed the benefits of the improved US-India strategic partnership that began with President Clinton and Prime Minister Vajpayee, continued with the Bush Administration and UPA I, and has soared to new heights under President Obama and Prime Minister Singh.

The US Envoy mentioned that this June began with Secretary Clinton and minister of external affairs Krishna hosting the inaugural US-India Strategic Dialogue in Washington DC. The four days of meetings demonstrated the breadth and depth of our bilateral relationship as senior American and Indian government officials held productive discussions on regional stability, counterterrorism, defence cooperation, trade and economic relations, clean energy and climate change, scientific collaboration, agriculture and food security, women's empowerment, education, and health. Now that's a long list — it truly demonstrates that our bilateral relationship is no longer dominated by a single issue; rather, our governments collaborate on nearly any issue

you can name in order to promote global peace, security, sustainable economic growth, and prosperity.

Mirroring the overall bilateral relationship, US-India economic relations continue to flourish. Despite the global economic slowdown, India has moved up to become the 14th largest US trading partner. We hope to see India on

Our governments collaborate on nearly any issue you can name in order to promote global peace, security, sustainable economic growth, and prosperity.

our Top 10 list soon. The Economic and Financial Partnership, launched by finance minister Mukherjee and treasury secretary Geithner in April, is laying the groundwork for greater access to the capital markets and increased public-private partnership in infrastructure, enabling greater participation by American businesses in closing India's infrastructure gap. Our economic cooperation now covers energy, agriculture, information and communication technology, and aviation safety and security.

This week's US-India CEO Forum in Washington and G-20 Summit in Toronto will be further examples of the benefits of improved relations between the United States and India due to our strategic partnership.

The US Envoy also said that the expanding trade and investment are improving the quality of life and creating jobs for people in both our countries. India's military is benefiting from the opportunity to purchase proven state-of-the-art technology, such as the Boeing C-17 transport aircraft undergoing flight trials in India now, and

like Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

Combating climate change and ensuring energy security, ramping up the deployment of infrastructure projects, enhancing the availability of affordable quality health care, and increasing opportunities for education at all levels, are key concerns of both of our countries that the CEO Forum will address. By leveraging the expertise and leadership of our corporate leaders, the Forum can help generate new and innovative solutions to meet the challenges facing us today and improve the daily lives of our citizens in the future.

Regarding G-20 he said, it is now the world's premier forum for discussing international economic affairs. The G-20 has played a pivotal role in restoring growth after the global financial crisis began in 2008. However, recent events in Europe have shown more must be done to safeguard the continuing recovery and strengthen prospects for growth and jobs.

The upcoming CEO Forum and US-India cooperation at the G-20 Summit will demonstrate our continued commitment to working together to provide tangible benefits to Americans and Indians today and to future generations, said Roemer in his statement.

the Lockheed F-16 IN Super Viper and Boeing F/A-18 IN Super Hornet competing for the Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) contract. US companies like Azure Power are providing solar power in Punjab, while Indian companies like Tata and Essar Steel are investing and creating jobs in Ohio and Minnesota. Joint ventures like Bharti-Wal-Mart demonstrate how modern retail can improve India's supply chains and benefit India's farmers and consumers. Both US and Indian companies will benefit from opportunities to provide civilian nuclear technology and services as India expands its clean nuclear power capacity and increases its citizens' access to electricity. And now, Indians even have the opportunity to purchase iconic American products

Australian making no changes in student visa programme

REPORTS in a leading Indian newspaper inform that Australia is not changing its student visa policy and there are no plans to cap the number of foreign students studying in the country.

According to the reports, the Australian High Commission has issued a state-

ment after media reports stated that around 15,000 Indian students could be forced to return after the new visa policy comes into force July 1. "First, we are making changes to Australia's skilled migration programme not our student visa programme," said the statement. It

added that these changes were not India-specific.

"They are not targeted at India or any other country. They were not triggered by the problems of the last year over attacks on Indian students," said the High Commission.

"No student, whether from India or elsewhere,

currently studying in Australia is going to be asked to cease their course because of changes to our skilled migration programme. They will be allowed to complete their studies. Many have visas that enable them to study courses for several years."

India-UAE working on prisoners transfer agreement: Envoy Lokesh

INDIA and the UAE are working on an agreement to allow transfer of prisoners between the two nations to serve their sentence terms in their home country, says a PTI report.

The agreement will

enable Indian convicts in the UAE to serve their sentences in their home country, and the UAE will bear their daily expenses, India's ambassador to the UAE, M K Lokesh said.

Once the agreement is signed, the legal depart-

ment in the UAE Embassy in India will follow up on the cases of prisoners who are transferred to Indian jails.

"Convicted Indians can request to serve their jail terms in India. This is done on humanitarian grounds.

The request can be made either by the Indian or the UAE government, or by the prisoners," Lokesh said. However, convicted prisoners involved in financial crimes or those sentenced to death cannot serve their terms.

MEA makes its debut on Twitter

THE Public Diplomacy (PD) division of the MEA has recently made its debut on Twitter with the user ID "Indian diplomacy" -- <http://twitter.com/Indiandiplomacy>. The mandate of the PD division includes production of print and audio-visual material that will help Indian embassies project the country's diverse facets more effectively, says a report published in a leading Indian daily.

The first tweet came around 10 am and read: "Official twitter account of Public Diplomacy Division of Ministry of

External Affairs, India @Indiandiplomacy".

By 3 pm, the next post was the special edition of the MEA's bi-monthly magazine India Perspectives, dedicated to Rabindranath Tagore, with a link.

PD Division Chief Navdeep Suri confirmed it was a genuine Twitter account: "We are testing it. We have started by posting the India Perspectives magazine. This is part of our effort to use social media tools to conduct public diplomacy. We are hoping to get things going in the next 3-4 weeks."

India's diplomatic effort on to counter China-Pak deal

INDIA has intensified its lobbying with the key members of 46 member nuclear supplier group. This is probably to counter the China Pakistan deal. According to the reports, India has not only zeroed in with US, France, Russia and Britain but is also engaging with other members of the group. The purpose of this is to convey the negative aspects of the deal.

According to the reports the India group in the Track II dialogue on India-US relations met to firm up a strategy to counter the deal at various level. News reports also tell that apart from other important

diplomats, Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao and Joint Secretaries dealing with Pakistan and China, YK Sinha and Gautam Bambawale participated in the discussion. The NSG is going to meet in September exactly two years after NSG granted one time clean waiver to India to resume global nuclear trade. As is known, China has entered into a contentious deal with Pakistan under which it will supply two additional nuclear to Pakistan.

The Indian media is surprised that some NSG members are not raising any objection.

Diplomatic Quotes

“Clear links between Pakistan’s establishment and Pakistani-American terrorist David Headley have been established during Headley’s recent interrogation by Indian investigators.”

Indian National Security Advisor, Shiv Shankar Menon, in his address at ORF Heritage Foundation Dialogue in New Delhi.

“There is a realization among individual members of Taliban that their movement is not going to be helpful to Afghanistan and that they should reconsider their association with Taliban. Then I think they should go back to the mainstream.”

Indian External Affairs Minister SM Krishna on whether there was a shift in India’s stand on good Taliban and bad Taliban.

“It is for India to decide what it wants its role in Afghanistan to be. The US will back any efforts for better relations between India and Pakistan.”

Richard Holbrooke, US Special Envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan

“Politically the ties between India and UAE have strengthened significantly through sustained dialogue between the two countries at high levels during the past two and a half years.”

Talmiz Ahmad, Indian Ambassador to UAE on being transferred to Saudi Arabia

“Ambassadors should recognize that revolutions in transportation and communications have fundamentally changed their job, but rather than lament the loss of certain power and responsibilities they should seize the opportunity to be more relevant in other areas.”

Kishan S. Rana, Former Indian Ambassador

“As a nation you have great DNA. This advantage will have a multiplier effect on the economy when second generation policy reforms present businesses and consumers with the right incentives. There is so much pent-up dynamism at the micro level of India’s economy that entrepreneurs and workers will amplify the benefits of these reforms.”

Robert Blackwill, Former US Ambassador to India

“India, which is known for its globally recognised IT resources, can contribute substantially towards the success of our future projects.”

Shaikh Ahmed bin Ateyatallah al Khalifa, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Bahrain

BOOKS ON DIPLOMACY

This section provides information on the books on diplomacy. We hope our readers would find this information useful.

TITLE	AUTHOR	PUBLISHER
Diplomacy: Theory and Practice, Second Edition	Geoff Berridge	Palgrave
Arts of Power: Statecraft and Diplomacy (Cross-Cultural Negotiation Books)	Charles W. Freeman	United States Institute of Peace Press
Diplomacy (A Touchstone book)	Henry Kissinger	Simon & Schuster Paperbacks
Diplomatic Theory From Machiavelli To Kissinger (Studies in Diplomacy)	G. R. Berridge	Palgrave
Diplomacy for the Next Century (Castle Lectures Series)	Abba Solomon Eban	Vail Ballou Press

Jan Henderson to be New Zealand's Envoy

ACCORDING to a NZPA report, Career diplomat Jan Henderson will be the next High Commissioner of New Zealand to India.

Foreign Minister Murray McCully said India was on track to become one of New Zealand's most

significant partners and a trade agreement currently under negotiation would enhance that, says the report.

The report stated that two-way trade with India passed the \$1 billion mark last year, with exports growing to \$709 million,

making it New Zealand's 11th largest market, while Indian tourists and students were also increasingly coming here.

As we know, Ms Henderson has as served as ambassador to Turkey, Israel and Jordan and is currently director of the

environment division at the Foreign Affairs and Trade Ministry.

According to the report, she will also be cross-accredited to Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Nepal. Ms Henderson will take charge in the month of December.

Dornier and Chetaks to be gifted to Seychelles

INDIA has agreed to give three aircraft to the Seychelles for maritime surveillance in the Indian Ocean region that is plagued by threats of increasing piracy in and around the Gulf of Aden, Reports the Indian media.

Defence Minister AK Antony, was recently on a

two-day trip to Seychelles and made the promise of the three aircraft during his meeting with Seychelles President James Alix Michel, a defence spokesperson said here, quotes the report.

"On a specific request from the Seychelles, Antony agreed to provide, at the earliest, one new

Dornier and two Chetak helicopters from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for maritime surveillance," the spokesperson said.

Antony visited Seychelles for strengthening India's strategic ties in the southern Indian Ocean.

The trip comes close on heels of the visit by External Affairs Minister

S.M. Krishna earlier this month.

In June, President Michel was in India to discuss security issues, including the maritime security situation in the Indian Ocean region, particularly in the context of the spread of piracy in and around the Gulf of Aden, informs the report.

Indian investment in Ethiopia to go up: Ambassador Bishnoi

RECENTLY a report was published in the Ethiopian media which stated that the volume of Indian investments in Ethiopia is expected to grow by one billion dollars each year, according to the newly-appointed Indian Ambassador to Ethiopia, Bhagwant Bishnoi. The diplomat replaces the former Ambassador Gurjit Singh who during his tenure boosted relations between the two countries. Indian investment in Ethiopia was about 400 million dollars some five years ago, but now it has reached almost five billion dollars.

As stated in the report, currently, bilateral eco-

nomie relations between the two countries are moving forward with private sector investments from India. Almost 500 Indian companies have secured investment licenses in different areas with a total capital 4.4 billion dollars. These investments cover different sectors, such as agriculture and floriculture, engineering, plastics, consultancy and ICT, water management, cotton and textile, leather, education, hotel and restaurant services, and others.

With new ventures in the pipeline, especially in textiles and cotton, the figures for Indian investment in Ethiopia show an exciting

trend, says the ambassador. The embassy indicated it is investigating the outcome of a new study that has been submitted to the Ethiopian Government for comment, which is aimed at investigating investment opportunities as well as areas for the establishment of an integrated textile cluster in Ethiopia, states the report.

Even without finalising the study that cost the embassy approximately 320,000 dollars, the ambassador said Indian investors are expressing their interest in Ethiopia and some are taking action by setting up factories.

Around Kombolcha, an

Indian company, Spentex, is setting up a spinning factory with the capacity to produce about 700 million dollars worth of yarn every year. The ambassador added that the outcome of the study will be announced both to Indian as well as other international investors so that they can do business here. The study is expected to be finished in the next couple of weeks.

The ambassador said: "We have committed Indian investment of 4.4 billion dollars, and yes we will take it to five billion this year, and try to take it to six billion in the next year."

India provides USD 3.36 million aid to Nepal

A PTI report states that India remains committed to working closely with Nepal for further development of mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of water resources, including flood management, so that it contributes to development and prosperity of two close and friendly neighbouring countries, said the press release issued by the embassy, says a media report.

India has provided over USD 3.36 million as aid to Nepal for the construction of embankments along its flood-prone rivers, including Bagmati and Kamla. Indian Ambassador to Nepal Rakesh Sood handed over a cheque equivalent to USD 3.36 US million to Nepalese Irrigation Minister Balkrishna Khand at a function.

According to a leading

Indian newspaper report, the project is undertaken in accordance with the decisions made by the India-Nepal Joint Committee on Inundation and Flood Management.

India has been providing assistance to Nepal for strengthening and extension of embankments along Lalbakeya, Bagmati, Bhakuwa and Kamla rivers for flood control in Nepal and India.

With the present assistance, the total grant assistance already disbursed for embankment construction along these rivers, stands at USD 19.97 million.

India is also providing grant assistance for river training works along Gagan, Trijuga, Lakhendei, Sunsari and Kankai rivers in Nepal amounting to USD 2.64 million.

China should come together for the stability in Pak

SENIOR member of the Chinese Foreign Ministry's Advisory Group has proposed that China and India cooperate for the stability of Pakistan in the present circumstances, informs a media report.

According to the report, the Ministry's Foreign Policy Advisory Group Member, Wu Jianmin, recently told a leading Indian newspaper that his intention was to "present this idea to the Chinese government in due course." He said this on the sidelines of a conference on "the role of the media in India-China relations," organised by the Singapore-based Institute of Southeast Asian Studies and its Nalanda Sriwijaya Centre, the National University of Singapore, and the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. The participants included India's former Ambassador to China, C V Ranganathan.

As published in the newspaper, on whether the idea of a China-India initiative for the stability of Pakistan would at all fly, Mr. Wu, formerly a career diplomat, said: "The rise of Asia requires peace and stability in this region. So, you can see that China's interest and

the Indian interest coincide. We in China do not regard Pakistan as a counterweight to India. It is not propaganda: you only have to put yourself in China's shoes. For the first time since 1840, we have a chance to modernise China. To achieve our goal, what we need is peace abroad and stability at home."

"Trust-building is now going on between China and India, and our common interests keep growing in the economic area, in trade and in other areas." Despite "some obstacles," the two countries "at the leadership level, are [also] very clear that they need each other."

About the risk that Islamabad might see any China-India initiative as a ploy to "fix Pakistan," he said: "We can tell our Pakistani friends. At the same time, India and Pakistan have their own channel of communication." On what he termed as "rumours" relating to the China-Pakistan moves in the civil nuclear domain, he said Beijing "abides by the international rules and will not go beyond them."

Shiv Shankar Menon visits China

NATIONAL Security Adviser Shiv Shankar Menon recently visited Beijing, as the Prime Minister's Special Envoy, Menon held talks with Premier Wen Jiabao in the Chinese leader's secluded Zhongnanhai compound. As per the reports, the agenda, was "broad" and not limited to specific issues that have troubled the relationship. Instead, the focus was on exploring how the two countries could make the most of the recent

positive momentum, to deepen engagement in a number of areas as well as make the relationship less vulnerable to specific issues of disagreement.

The report also informs that following a year of renewed strains, with a number of reports last year of incursions by Chinese troops into disputed areas and a spate of trade quarrels, ties warmed in 2010, buoyed by cooperation on climate change.

New Envoy at the India Embassy, Budapest

AFTER completing his four years in Hungary, Ranjit Rae had left his office on 10th April 2010 to take on a new assignment in Vietnam.

From 12th April 2010, the new Ambassador of India to Hungary and Bosnia & Herzegovina is Gauri Shankar Gupta.

Canadian delegation to begin India visit Saturday

A CANADIAN foreign affairs and trade delegation visited India from Sep 4-9 to meet ministers, officials and business leaders to understand the potential that the country holds as an emerging market and one of the fastest developing economies.

The nine-member delegation of Canada's Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade will visit New Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad, a Canadian high commission

pressnote said.

Speaking on the eve of the tour, committee chairperson Senator Raynell Andreychuk said: "India is fast emerging as a global power.

Both Canada and India share the values of democracy, rule of law and diversity of culture. Our mutual relationship has strengthened in the recent past with the visit of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to Canada in June 2010 and the visit of Prime Minister Stephen Harper to India in 2009. We look forward to

meeting several key decision makers and industry leaders during our forthcoming visit to India."

In New Delhi, the delegation will meet External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna, Minister for Human Resource Development Kapil Sibal, Minister of Road Transport and Highways Kamal Nath and Power Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde.

The senators will also meet T. Subbirami Reddy, chairperson of the parliamentary committee on science and technology

and environment and forests.

The parliamentary committee had given a report on the civil nuclear liability bill in the monsoon session of parliament.

In Hyderabad, the delegation will meet the state's Minister for Tourism, Culture and Public Relations J. Geeta Reddy.

In Mumbai, the delegation will meet Maharashtra Chief Minister Ashok Chavan and hold discussions with educationists, economists and business representatives.

India asks Sri Lanka to find political solution

INDIA recently asked Sri Lanka to look beyond the resettlement of war-displaced Tamils and start a political process that would meet the needs and aspirations of the country's minorities.

"The focus on development and rehabilitation is welcomed but a long-term perspective that also includes the issues relating to the political settlement that would meet some of the needs of the minorities

should also be kept in mind," Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao said while wrapping her four-day visit to Sri Lanka.

She conveyed India's view to Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa when she met him at his Temple Tress residence in Colombo Wednesday.

"He (Rajapaksa) constantly said he was focused on that (political solution) need. And that he plans to move on it. He has

his sights set on that," Rao said while alluding to her discussions with the Sri Lankan leader. She added that the Sri Lankan government was aware about how India was looking at the issue of a political settlement.

Rao stressed that she articulated this viewpoint in all her discussions and interactions in India. "One of the points I sought to articulate in my meetings with the various represen-

tatives of the government and the people I met on my visit was that apart from pursuing the rehabilitation and resettlement of the IDPs, we would also have to move beyond to the political processes involved," she said.

Rao also raised the issue of attacks on Indian fishermen and suggested regular meetings between the joint working group to address their alleged harassment.

BOOKS ON DIPLOMACY

This section provides information on the books on diplomacy. We hope our readers would find this information useful.

TITLE	AUTHOR	PUBLISHER
The Evolution of Diplomatic Method (1954)	Harold Nicolson	Constable & Co Ltd.
The Pure Concept of Diplomacy	Jose Calvet De Magalhaes	Greenwood Press
Renaissance Diplomacy	Garrett Mattingly	Jonathan Cape
International nuclear diplomacy and India	U. N. Gupta	Atlantic Publishers & Distributors (P) Ltd.

International presence in Afghanistan should be extended

RECENTLY an article was published in a leading Asian media, which significantly mentioned that India is of the opinion that international presence in the war-torn Afghanistan, was needed for a much longer time even though the US has announced that it will begin pulling out its troops from Afghanistan from July 2011.

The article further quoted that just back from Kabul after attending an international conference on Afghanistan, External affairs minister SM Krishna said in New Delhi that he shared Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai's enthusiasm for the Afghan forces to take

over security of the entire country from 2014.

According to the article, when asked if India was willing to help in raising the security forces necessary for the task, the minister replied, "Well, if Afghanistan asks, India shall help. We have been helping Afghanistan in our own way. It depends on what kind of help they seek and what kind of help we can render."

Responding to a question as to whether the US decision to commence troops pullout in a year was premature, Krishna said, "I feel that international presence is needed in Afghanistan for a much

longer time than it has now been projected. We hope that international presence will act as some kind of insulation to Afghanistan for normalization."

Asked whether India would like the US to take a fresh look at its decision, the minister said that New Delhi had conveyed its views to the US and to Afghanistan in bilateral meetings. To a question on Pakistan's efforts to play the power broker in Afghanistan, Krishna said that India had emphasized that any initiative for future set-up in the country had to be "Afghan-led and Afghan-owned".

going to be helpful to Afghanistan and that they should reconsider their association with Taliban. Then I think they should go back to the mainstream."

India-US sign Counter Terrorism Cooperation Initiative

THE India-US Counter Terrorism Cooperation Initiative signed by officials recently calls for closer cooperation between the two countries' commando and special forces, says an AFP report. Timothy Roemer, the US ambassador to India, who signed the agreement on behalf of Washington, said it would go a long way to strengthening cooperation between the two countries.

"Today, with the formal signing of the initiative, we take several significant steps forward against terrorism," Roemer told reporters.

India said the pact also aims to increase "exchanges between coast guards and the navy on maritime security" and establish procedures to undertake joint investigations.

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"Today, with the formal signing of the initiative, we take several significant steps forward against terrorism," Roemer told reporters.

"In the coming days and months

there will be even closer information-sharing and collaborative efforts on issues ranging from bomb blast probe and major event security to mega-city policing, cyber and border security," he said. The diplomat said the pact was forged on the sidelines of a state visit to the United States by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh last November.

"President (Barack) Obama and the (Indian) prime minister have acknowledged the common threat that international terrorism poses to all people," Roemer added.

Signed in the form of a memorandum of understanding, the accord will also enhance cooperation in tracking money laundering and the financing of terrorism, the home ministry statement said.

Mullen, on a two-day visit to India, said the memorandum underlined a growing strategic alliance between the two countries, including military and security ties as well as trade and economic cooperation.

The US-India relationship "has grown dramatically in recent years," Mullen said, and he called for further bolstering military relations.

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