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A monthly on the Art and Practice of Diplomacy*

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Raymond Davis Diplomat or Spy?





'Perspectives on Foreign Policy for a 21st Century India'

Keynote Address -Nirupama Rao, Foreign Secretary, India

I am delighted to be here today to open the MEA-IISS Seminar and to speak to such an august gathering of diplomats, scholars and experts. The MEA-IISS Foreign Policy Dialogue has, from modest beginnings, now become a dynamic platform, facilitating wide-ranging exchanges between scholars and experts from India and the UK.

Given the rather broad canvas of the topic that I have been asked to speak on, I have structured my presentation along the following lines. First, a delineation of our foreign policy priorities, and how our approach is shaped by a globalizing world. Thereafter, I shall focus on the three issues – climate change, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and terrorism - which form part of this seminar today. I will conclude with a few remarks on India's neighbourhood.

Our Republic is sixty years young this year. And, our foreign policy also has a trajectory that covers almost the same period. As the country has grown, so also our foreign policy has evolved and adjusted to the growing demands and challenges posed by rapid economic growth, the situation in our neighbourhood, the realization of our interdependence and integration into global markets,



and our consciousness of what India stands for in a changing and often turbulent world as a pluralistic democratic country that has created a successful standard for managing diversity. As far as the last aspect is concerned, some call it the power of the Indian example, of a big country that symbolizes the universal values of inclusiveness, tolerance, and peaceful coexistence. This self image is not new; in fact, from the very early years of the founding of our Republic, there has been awareness that our ability to manage diversity and respect pluralism would as some scholars have noted, be "a source of (India's) legitimacy in the international system".

It is a foreign policy truism that our aim is to secure an enabling environment to achieve the overriding domestic goal of all round, socially inclusive development. The corollary to this is that a

free and democratic India is a source of stability and a force for moderation in the region. India accounts for more than 70% of the population and more than 80% of the GDP of South Asia. We want to widen our development choices. We have a keen sense of our potential to be a great power by virtue of our population, our resources and our strategic location. A fundamental goal of India's foreign policy is to create an external environment that promotes the fulfillment of our economic growth targets and ambitions. And, these include three dimensions – capital inflows, access to technology and innovation, as well as the promotion of a free, fair and open world trading system that recognizes the development imperatives of a country like India. This requires a peaceful and stable neighbourhood and external environment, a balanced relationship

with the major powers and a durable and equitable multilateral global order.

We close the first decade of this century with the realization that the intersection, and the overlap, between the national and the global is an undeniable reality. Consequently, the challenges before us – be it sustaining economic growth rates, putting in place poverty alleviation strategies, addressing the challenge of climate change, energy security or global security issues, in particular the threat posed by international terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, etc – all require collaborative approaches.

That we live in an increasingly inter-dependent world was clearly demonstrated as never before during the global economic and financial crisis of the last year and more. The global financial downturn has seen negative rates of growth, a rising tide of unemployment which is yet to be quelled, rising trends of protectionism in the developed world, particularly, and a welcome introspection about the need to reform global financial institutions and systems of financial regulation and governance. That we are in a

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COUNTRIES

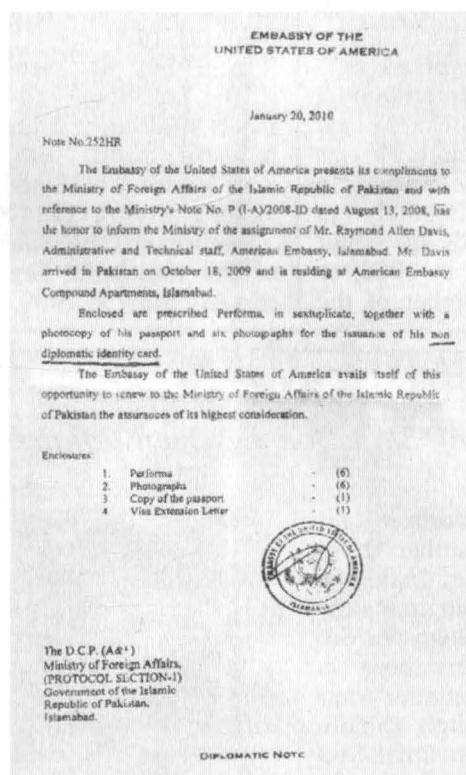
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Raymond Davis Dipolomat or Spy?

James Bond, Mission Impossible and the Bourne Ultimatum series have to take a backseat as nothing compares to the real life drama that has recently unfolded in our neighbouring state, Pakistan. Raymond Davis, an American national is caught in a politically unstable and Taliban fraught country after killing two local men. On one hand America's most powerful have personally spoken in his defence and demanded diplomatic immunity. The Asian country will however hear none of it. The question is how far does the role of a diplomat extend to and will we ever know; we are in an age where it has perhaps gotten easier for highly trained spies to move into foreign countries under secure disguise backed by their government. The era of political espionage is by no means dormant but buzzing with activity like never before.



the magazine and also keep us informed on the events and activities that your consulates conduct. In the next issue the focus is on the recent outcry for Revolution and Reform in many Islamic states facing turbulence with their political leaders.

Priyali Mahtani, Editor & Publisher

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Know your Ministry: MEA

India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has made the first major reshuffle of his 20-month old Cabinet, but retained the cabinet ministers in charge of Finance, Home, Defence and Foreign Affairs. Lets take a look at the dignitaries in charge of India's external affairs; the ones who managed to keep their portfolios for another term.

S. M. KRISHNA External Affairs Minister

Somanahalli Mallaiah Krishna assumed charge as the External Affairs Minister on 23rd May 2009

Born on 1st May 1932, S.M. Krishna graduated from Maharaja's College, Mysore, and went on to obtain a law degree from the Government Law College, Bangalore. Later he studied at the Southern Methodist University, Dallas, USA and also at George Washington University as a Fulbright scholar. Back



in India, he worked as a Professor of International Law in Renukacharya Law College, Bangalore. He was elected to the Karnataka Legislative Assembly in 1962 and made his debut in Parliament in 1968, to become a Member of the

fourth Lok Sabha (People's House).

He was re-elected to the fifth Lok Sabha, but preferred to return to State Politics in 1972, when he was elected to the Legislative Council and inducted as Minister for 'Commerce, Industries and Parliamentary Affairs', a charge he held till 1977.

In 1980, he returned to the Lok Sabha and was made Minister of State for Industry during 1983-84 and Minister of State for Finance during 1984-85.

He became the Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly in 1989, and

held the post till 1992, when he was elected as Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka.

He was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1996 (Upper House of Parliament), and was a member till October 1999. He was elected as the Chief Minister of Karnataka in October 1999 and served till May 2004.

Mr. Krishna assumed office of Governor of Maharashtra in December 2004 and remained in the post till March 2008. He was re-elected as Member of the Rajya Sabha on 19th June 2008.

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Preneet Kaur

Minister of State for External Affairs



Maharani Preneet Kaur born 3rd October 1944 is the wife of Maharaja Amarinder Singh. Fondly known as Maharani Sahiba, she was born in Shimla to Satinder Kaur and Gian Singh Kahlon, who was first Chief Secretary of Punjab. She attended St. Bede's College, Shimla and graduated from Convent of Jesus and Mary, Shimla. Her sister Geetinder Kaur is married to Simranjit Singh Mann, President of the Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar). Her son Yuvraj Raninder Singh is also a member of the Congress party and contested elections in 2009

from Bathinda. A member of the 15th Lok Sabha she is currently serving as the Minister of State for External Affairs with the Government of India. She represents Patiala of Punjab in the Lok Sabha.

Kaur was elected to the 13th Lok Sabha in 1999, the 14th Lok Sabha in 2004 and to the 15th Lok Sabha, in 2009

from Patiala becoming the only Member of Parliament from Patiala to be elected to the Lok Sabha from Patiala for three consecutive terms. She defeated her nearest rival Prem Singh Chandumajra of the SAD (B) by over 99,000 votes in the general election of 2009.

Kaur is considered a social and cultural icon in Patiala. Prior to her elections as a MP she worked as an active social worker with Indian Red Cross and various other organisations for betterment of masses. She started Navjeevani an institute in Patiala for differently abled children.

Nirupama Rao

Foreign Secretary

Nirupama Menon Rao born December 6th, 1950 is an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, and the current Foreign Secretary of India, serving the External Affairs Ministry. In July 2009, she became the second woman (after Chokila Iyer) to hold the post of Indian Foreign Secretary, the head of Indian Foreign Service.

She has had extensive experience in relations between India and China, having served in the East Asia Division of the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi from 1984 to 1992, including as Joint



Secretary (East Asia). Mrs. Rao was a Fellow of the Centre for International Affairs (now the Weatherhead Centre) of Harvard University from 1992-93 where she specialized in Asia-Pacific Security. She was Ambassador of India to Peru with concurrent accreditation to Bolivia from 1995-98. Having served

in various world capitals, including Washington and Moscow; She was Minister in the Indian Embassy in Washington from 1993-1995, in charge of Press Affairs; From 1998-1999, she was Deputy Chief of Mission at the Indian Embassy in Moscow.

In 1999-2000, she was Distinguished International Executive in Residence at the University of Maryland at College Park. From 2001 to 2002, she served as the first woman spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs. She headed the Administration and Personnel Division of the Ministry of External Affairs as Ad-

ditional Secretary from 2002-04. Rao was High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka (2004-2006) and thereafter In 2006, she became India's first woman Ambassador to China up until 2009.

Having a literary flair; She has written a book of poetry, named Rain Rising. Her poems have been translated into Chinese and Russian. She is married to Sudhakar Rao, an officer of the Indian Administrative Service who retired as Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka. They have two sons, Nikhilesh and Kartikeya.

NEW DELHI

February 3rd, 2011

From Afghanistan with Love: Hamid Karzai

H.E. Mr. Hamid Karzai, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, visited India on 2nd-3rd February 2011 at the invitation of Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India. President Karzai held meetings with Pratibha Devi Singh Patil, President of India and Dr. Manmohan Singh. The

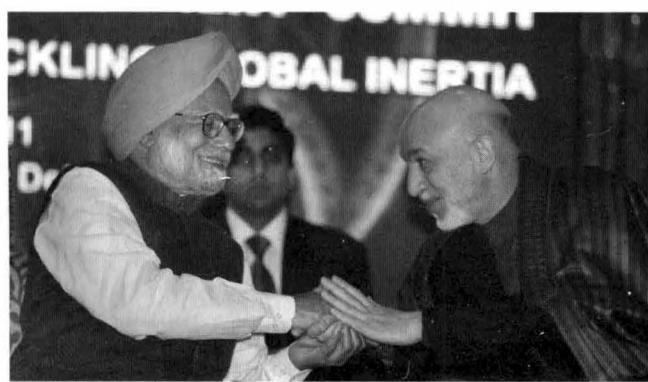
visit reflected the close friendship between the people of India and Afghanistan, and the continuing tradition of high-level and frequent consultations between the leaders of the two countries.

President Karzai and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh held detailed discussions covering issues

of bilateral and regional interest. The Indian side reiterated its long term commitment to the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan, and to the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan under President Karzai's leadership to build a strong, independent, democratic, peaceful and prosperous nation. The two leaders agreed that the strategic partnership between India and Afghanistan is a positive factor for peace and stability in the region. In this context, the two leaders also discussed the common threat faced by both their societies from terrorism. They agreed that this ran counter to the aspiration of their peoples. President Karzai expressed gratitude



of the Afghan people for the assistance provided by India over the years. He underlined the need for the two countries to work together in close cooperation in the interest of the people of the two countries and stability in the region at large. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh accepted an invitation from President Karzai to visit Afghanistan at an early date.



The President's Office: Diplomatic Missions to India

NEW DELHI

September 29th 2010

Welcoming the envoys the President said India seeks to intensify its relations with all countries, in areas where there is scope for mutual co-operation, opportunities exist for trade and investment and for building people-to-people contacts to promote greater understanding. The President also said that



Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
Dr. SeadAvdic

India's economy is growing and the Government is committed to reaching the benefits of growth to all sections of society. India is also committed to sharing its experiences with the world as it deals with global challenges such as food security and climate change, she added.



Ambassador of Apostolic Nunciature; Archbishop
Salvatore Pennacchio



Ambassador of Vietnam; Mr. Nguyen Thanh Tan



Ambassador of Mali; Mr. OusmaneTandia



Ambassador of Tunisia; Mr. Mohamed Elies Ben
Marzouk



Ambassador of Senegal;
Mr. AmadouMoustaphaDiouf



Ambassador of Chile: Mr. Cristian Barros Melet

October 18th 2010

Welcoming the envoys, the President conveyed greetings for Dussehra and Diwali. Referring to India's election as a Non-Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council, she said that India was grateful to the international community for the support extended and the confidence shown in India's capability to be a voice of stability as well as development in global affairs. She said India will contribute to global issues



Ambassador of Benin; Mr. Andre Sanra

in a constructive manner. The President mentioned the necessity of addressing the menace of terrorism, which was threatening peace. She also referred to the importance of co-ordinated action by the international community in economic and financial matters. The President further said that India was committed to building friendly ties and extending cooperation in mutually beneficial fields with other countries.



Ambassador of Albania; Mr. Fatos Kerciku



Ambassador of Republic of Korea;
Mr. Kim Joong-keun



Ambassador of Italy; Mr. Giacomo Sanfelicedi
Monteforte



Ambassador of Iraq; Mr. Ahmed Tahsin Ahmad
Berwari



Ambassador of Egypt; Mr. Khaled El Bakly



Ambassador of Denmark; Mr. Freddy Svane

December 8th 2010

As they presented their credentials to the President, Pratibha Patil mentioned that the envoys were beginning their tenure at a time when India would soon commence its two-year term as Non-Permanent Member of the UN Security Council.

She stated that India looked forward to work-

ing with the international community to fulfill its obligations as a responsible Member of the Security Council. Referring to the need for urgent reforms of the UN, including the expansion of the Security Council, the President said that India has all the credentials to be a permanent member, in an expanded UN Security Council.

The President called for building harmony in the world, and in this context, highlighted the role of trade, investment and greater people-to-people contacts in promoting greater understanding and linkages between countries and societies. She emphasized the need for all countries to work together to defeat terrorism,

which poses the greatest threat to progress and prosperity.

The President referred to India's commitment to further strengthen its ties with countries, whose envoys had presented their credentials, across a broad range of fields on the basis of mutual respect and mutual benefit.



Ambassador of Estonia; Peep Jahilo



Ambassador of Yemen; Khadija Radman Mohamed Gahnen



High Commissioner of Namibia; Dr. Samuel Kaveto Mbambo



High Commissioner of Gambia; Dembo Badjie



High Commissioner of Canada; Stewart Beck



Ambassador of Ukraine; Oleksandr D. Shevchenko



Ambassador of San Marino; Lucio Amati



Ambassador of Libya; Dr. Ali Abd-al-Aziz al-Isawi

AUSTRALIA

January 19th - 21st, 2010**Krishna Goes Down Under**

*One more attempt at wooing Australia's uranium deposits;
Can India have a piece of the pie please?*

External Affairs Minister SM Krishna flew back to New Delhi after attending the seventh round of Foreign Ministers' framework dialogue during which he discussed regional and bilateral issues with his Australian counterpart Kevin Rudd and other leaders.

During his three-day official visit, Krishna met Rudd, several senior officials and leaders of the country including new Victorian premier Ted Baillieu and Energy and Resources Minister Martin

Ferguson.

During his meetings with Rudd and Ferguson, Krishna raised the issue of India's standing request to Australia to sell India uranium to generate clean energy.

Earlier, in a wide-ranging interview with *The Age*, he said, "Climate change demands we aim at clean energy. It has been accepted by experts that nuclear power is the cleanest power, and India is committed to pursue its nuclear power expansion."

"I think it is necessary that we engage Australia in a continuing dialogue about this question. Here is a situation where you are endowed with enormous deposits of uranium and there is a



SM Krishna & Kevin Rudd

whole world which is starving for energy — especially the developing countries, and more specifically India," he said.

Mr. Krishna also held special talks with Australia's Resource, Energy and Tourism Minister Martin Ferguson on uranium sales. After the meeting, Ferguson rejected India's request for the sale of uranium.

Australia has one of the world's largest yellowcake deposits — the fuel for

nuclear reactors — but refuses to export to countries that are not signatories to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

"So we discussed the entire gamut of the energy requirement of India and what Australia can do in term of helping us out," said Krishna, who was accompanied by Indian

High Commissioner Sujata Singh and Secretary (East) Vijay Latha Reddy. Australian High Commissioner to India Peter Varghese was also present during the meeting. During the meeting, Australia conveyed its willingness for Indian companies to invest in its coal and energy sector, apart from assuring additional supply of coal to India, Indian officials said. As for Uranium we will have to wait our while.



Japan's next Indian Ambassador

Alok Prasad has been appointed amidst talks of CTBT

On December 23rd, 2010 Alok Prasad, presently Deputy National Security Advisor, was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Japan, in succession to H.K. Singh. He is expected to take up his assignment shortly. Concurrently talks between India and Japan on collaborating in the nuclear energy sector yet remain to be finalized. The Japanese Prime Minister, Mr

Naoto Kan's government in Tokyo has indicated that Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), and India's signing of it, are not likely to hinder a civil nuclear cooperation agreement. Tokyo understands the opportunities for the Japanese companies in the Indian civil nuclear energy sector, especially in reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel. Additionally American and French companies having joint



ventures or collaborations with Japanese businesses

would be handicapped in the absence of an enabling agreement between India and Japan. Mr Yukio Hatoyama, Mr Kan's predecessor as the prime minister in the Democratic Party of Japan-led government said that while the Japanese people have particular sentiments about nuclear energy, the need to help India produce the energy it will need in the future cannot be ignored.

Tajikistan - India's ties continue

New Ambassador of India to Tajikistan presented his credentials to H.E. Tajikistan President

On July 8th, 2010 Asith Kumar Bhattacharjee, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs headquarters, was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Tajikistan in succession to Amar Sinha.

In the following months, Asith Bhattacharjee presented his credentials as India's Ambassador to Tajikistan to His Excellency Mr. Emomali Rahmon, President of the Republic of

Tajikistan. In his meeting with President Rahmon, Ambassador Bhattacharjee informed that the Government of India will provide US\$ 200,000 humanitarian assistance for the victims of the flash floods in Khatlon region. He also said that 3 million doses of oral polio vaccine will be provided to Tajik Ministry of Health. His Excellency President Rahmon and Ambassador Bhattacharjee discussed strengthening of bilateral relations between Tajikistan and India.

In September, 2010 Tajikistan's Minister of Economic Development and Trade Farrukh Hamraliyev met with Bhattacharjee. Both sides discussed broad range of issues related to state and prospects of further expansion of trade and economic cooperation between Tajikistan and India.

The major topics at the talks were bilateral cooperation between the

two countries in trade and agrarian sector as well as support for development of private entrepreneurship in Tajikistan.

As of November 18, 2010 the Tajik Speaker of the lower house of parliament, Shukurjon Zuhurov and Asith Kumar Bhattacharjee met to discuss increasing economic cooperation between the two countries. According to the ambassador, in the past six months, Tajik-Indian trade has amounted to more than \$20 million "This fact indicates that the development is dynamic between the two countries". The two officials also agreed that the Dushanbe-New Delhi flight path would resume



air travel.

Kumar commented on India's plans to provide Tajik youth with an English-language training center in the country, while also offering India's assistance on developing the country's private sector. India can also provide help in developing hospitals, the coal production, hydropower engineering, pharmaceutical and leather-processing sectors of the economy.

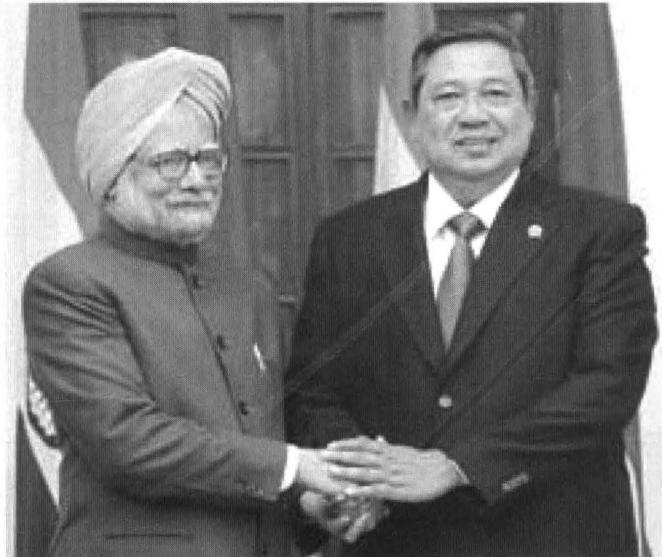


Asith Bhattacharjee

Indonesian President Yudhoyono as Republic Day Chief Guest

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh welcomed the President of Indonesia SusiloBambangYudhoyono on three-day state visit to India from January 24th to 26th and also as the Chief Guest on the occasion of India's Republic Day.

The two leaders held talks on bilateral, regional and global issues of shared concern on January 25th and recalled the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries six decades earlier and decided to mark the year 2011 as the celebration for that. They reiterated their common wish for accelerating the implementation of cooperation in these areas and monitoring such



cooperation through the mechanism of Action Plan on Implementing the New Strategic Partnership drawn up during the Indonesia-India Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) in June 2007.

They also sought implementation of work plan for period of 2009-2013 in the area of

agriculture development, joint research in agriculture science, technology development on post harvest and processing, agriculture marketing system and export, joint research on Animal Diseases and capacity building.

The two leaders agreed to have summit level meetings on the sidelines of multilateral events.

Both the sides recognised the importance of the biennial Joint Commission Meetings (JCM) at the level of the Foreign Ministers and agreed that the next JCM should be held in the first half of 2011. With a view to developing a 'Vision Statement 2025' for

the Indonesia-India strategic partnership, the President of Indonesia and the Prime Minister announced the establishment of an Eminent Persons' Group (EPG).

The two sides welcomed the entry into force of the India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in Goods on October 1st, 2010 and expected the utilisation of the agreement would increase in the following years.

Both leaders were pleased to announce the commencement of negotiation on Indonesia-India Comprehensive Economic Co-operation Agreement (II-CECA), building on what has already been achieved under the India-ASEAN FTA.

In order to strengthen and reinforce consular cooperation and traditional friendly relations between India and Indonesia, the Prime Minister announced the establishment of a Consulate General of India in the Province of Bali, which was warmly welcomed by the President of Indonesia.

Singapore Sling: Karen Tan new Singapore envoy to India

Singapore has appointed career diplomat Karen Tan, High Commissioner to India.

Ms. Tan, who joined the Singapore Foreign Service in 1985, will take charge of her new post on February 14, 2010 the Foreign Affairs Ministry

said. She was Ambassador to Laos from February 2004 to August 2007 and she served as Permanent Representative to the World Trade Organisation and to the World Intellectual Property Organisation from September 2007 to December 2010.

Ministry of External Affairs Technological Advances

Launch Of MEA And PD Division Websites

Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao formally launched the re-designed the Ministry of External Affairs's (MEA) website and the Public Diplomacy website.

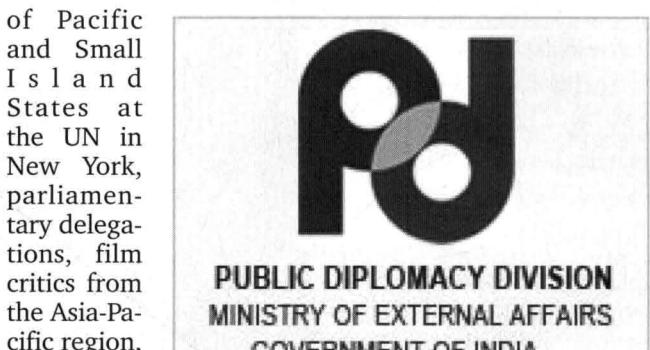
The Ministry of External Affairs website needed a complete re-do, both in terms of its look and feel, as well as, content. Even though it is still work in progress, the new website, which was launched recently, has met those criteria to a large extent.

It aims to make available comprehensive and speedy information, on India's foreign relation activities, as well as, Ministry's views on salient Foreign Policy issues. Besides the media, academia, Indian and international governmental agencies, businesses and travellers, the new website is also meant to be a resource for youth and students. Encouraged by the response, that the website is currently receiving close to 300,000 hits daily, which is twice as much as the earlier website, they have started work on an more ambitious integrated MEA Portal. It is meant to introduce uniformity in the look, feel, content and navigational ease for all the websites of the Ministry and its Missions/Posts abroad.

The Public Diplomacy Division was set up four years back with a mandate to project India and its foreign policy, both within India and overseas. This was in addition to traditional areas

of work such as producing books and documentary films. In our globalized world foreign policy issues, such as terrorism, climate change and civilian uses of nuclear energy are often intertwined with domestic ones. With a view to fostering a more informed discourse, the ministry started the MEA Distinguished Lecture Series on India's Foreign Policy, this February, by some of the finest retired ambassadors. In the last 10 months, 22 lectures in universities and IIT campuses across India have been organised. The response has been truly outstanding. Seminars, workshops and conferences have been organised in places like Varanasi, Patna, Kolkata, Shillong and Kochi on foreign policy themes that are particularly relevant to those regions. The seminars in Varanasi and Patna, for instance, focused on Indo-Nepal relations. There is an organic relationship between Nepal and the governments and people of these states. A similar logic applied to the conference held in Shillong on India's Look East policy. Sitting in Meghalaya, the view of India's relationship with Bangladesh, Myanmar or even Thailand takes a dramatically different perspective.

The PD Division has also expanded its in-coming visitors programme with a view to providing key decision-makers with a better understanding of India. India's guests this year are a fairly eclectic lot, including representatives of think tanks, ambassadors and permanent representatives



of Pacific and Small Island States at the UN in New York, parliamentary delegations, film critics from the Asia-Pacific region, writers at a literature festival and even a group of journalists representing the Indian Diaspora in 16 separate countries.

In addition, the 'Indiandiplomacy' account on Twitter, started in July 2010, was the first by a Government of India department and has already gathered over 3500 followers. It was followed in quick succession by a Facebook page, a YouTube channel and a blogspot page - all under the 'Indiandiplomacy' title. Some two dozen documentary films have been converted into shorter, 6-8 minute versions so that they can be accessed on YouTube. Information about the upcoming lectures and other events is put out on Twitter and Facebook and the text of the lectures goes to the blogspot page for comment and discussion. With these initiatives, the ministry is hoping to have achieved their initial

objective of establishing a dynamic presence on the net. They also want to use this platform for at least three additional things:

i) Highlight the reach of India's soft power around the globe, manifest not just in the popularity of Indian cinema, music, dance, cuisine, yoga but also in the following enjoyed by Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore

ii) Bring out real stories about India's numerous development partnerships with countries in Africa, Southeast Asia, the Caribbean and elsewhere

iii) Talk about the diverse nature of activities of our diplomatic missions as they organize business conferences and cultural festivals, deliver public lectures, receive high-level delegations or engage with the Indian community.

The Indian Art Of Diplomacy:

Inebriation And Wife Battery

Anil Verma is a 1986 batch IAS officer of the West Bengal cadre and third ranked diplomat in the Indian High Commission. Verma is the minister (economic) at the high commission in London since August 17, 2009 and is the third senior-most diplomat in Britain after the high commissioner and the deputy high commissioner. He was also the ex-personal secretary to former foreign minister Pranab Mukherjee. That would roughly come to twenty-four years of knowledge and experience as a civil servant. One of the most important roles of an IAS officer is to develop security of one's own nation, encourage trade and commerce with neighbouring nations and the rest of the world.

On December 11th, 2010 Verma found himself in trouble when his wife covered in blood was found screaming by neighbours on December 11th. When the police arrived to their home in Golders Green (a north west suburb in London), 45-year-old Verma, because of his post as Minister in the Indian mission, claimed diplomatic immunity and escaped action. Even though the Scotland Yard questioned him for allegedly assaulting his wife he managed to avoid prosecution because of his diplomatic immunity.

The Indian foreign ministry is seemingly shocked at the allegations made against him and have had him transferred home



Anil Verma

with immediate effect. He is also likely to face action, which will be based on the findings of the probe into the allegations of assault against him

A British daily reported that Verma's wife, Paromita was found screaming with blood coming out of her nose. Her clothes were covered in blood and she had grabbed a tea towel to stem the flow. The 'Daily Mail' also reported that Paromita has gone into hiding with her five-year-old son, as she fears for her life. She left the home soon after the incident and has not returned since then. "Throughout their time over here, Anil would boast about his diplomatic immunity and he would tell Paromita that no one could touch him because of it. He

would goad her and say, 'Call the police as many times as you want. I've got diplomatic immunity'. 'He was shameless with it. He has been given so much power and he is abusing it. Paromita has gone into hiding and seriously fears that her safety and health are in jeopardy," a close family friend of the Vermas was quoted by the British newspaper as saying.

Paromita, who is working with Indian Railways and is on study leave, wants to remain in the UK on humanitarian grounds amid fears that she would be forcibly taken back to India. She has now sought extension of leave.

A few days after Mr. Verma has been brought home India's external affairs ministry encounters another embarrassing in-

cident.

Mr Alok Ranjan Jha was posted as First Secretary in the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in New York. He belongs to the 2002 batch of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS). Jha was on Air India's non-stop New Delhi-New York flight on January 7th. He succeeded in getting drunk and allegedly misbehaving with a crew member and a woman passenger.

The complaint against the errant officer was reported to authorities in New York's JFK airport.

"The Ministry is aware of the unfortunate incident. The matter was looked into immediately," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Vishnu Prakash said today in response to a query on the issue. "The officer since stands transferred back to headquarters. Necessary follow-up action will be taken once he is back in New Delhi," Mr Prakash added.

Headlines Today has been quoted saying that the embarrassed government has been forced to recall the official, who was barely in his first week on his posting at India's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York as a First Secretary. This incident comes as a major embarrassment at a time when India has recently got on board the UN Security Council and the diplomat was sent to New York as part of efforts to boost the Indian

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continued from pg 13
mission.

Both the diplomats who are currently in questioning by the Indian central government have not only brought global shame to India but have stripped India of its incredible shining. The two separate incidents occurred days after each other and at a time when India needs to maintain good relations with America and England more than ever. Although there is a debate against several uneducated politicians who hold powerful posts in the governance of our country as a sign of corruption and bureaucratic stagnancy. It is not education alone that will help India rise above its past shackles of poverty and caste dynamics.

The report of the India High Commission from London to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), based on which diplomat Anil Verma was recalled, finds the official guilty of domestic violence on December 11th. MEA also recalled Alok Jha for disciplinary action.

The IAS officers form a powerful lobby at the national level, and they will certainly resist any proposal that threatens their position, even when the objective is to make them more accountable to the public, especially by removing the constitutional protection given to them. The officers who fail in their mission of public service, the openly corrupt, the partisan, still enjoy the security of tenure guaranteed to them by



Paromita Verma

the Constitution, which makes their dismissal very difficult. The IAS officers who almost function as a bridge between the public and the government cannot

afford such malpractices, at any cost. However, the verdict will be only after an internal enquiry has been carried out. Watch this space.

NEW DELHI

January 18th, 2010

Peruvian Minister Pays India A Visit

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Anand Sharma, during his bilateral meeting with Dr Eduardo Ferreyros, Minister of Trade and tourism, Peru, here today said both the countries should actively work together for enhancing economic cooperation. "The most important sectors that can be tapped are minerals, hydrocarbons, engineering, IT, science & technology and other," he said.

Sharma mentioned that realising the importance of the Latin America and Caribbean, Indian Government had initiated a programme called



Anand Sharma & Eduardo Ferreyros

"FOCUS: LAC" which provides a number of incentives and financial assistance for supporting

major partner.

Interacting with the visiting Minister, the Minister said Peru is currently India's eighth largest trading partners in the Latin America. The total bilateral trade between the two countries in 2009-10 was approx US \$ 411 million, while its exports to Peru were US \$ 274.28 million and imports were US \$ 136.62 million. He informed that although India's trade with Peru is on the lower side, the total trade has increased by approximately 283 per cent from US \$ 107.32 million in 2005-06 to US \$ 411 million in 2009-10.

PAKISTAN

Davis in Dire Straits

America's espionage gets into a sticky situation in Pakistan



The Plot

On 27th January, Raymond Davis, a burly 36-year-old CIA agent with a shock of grey hair, who later identified himself as Raymond Davis, a technical advisor at the US Consulate, Lahore, was winding through the chaotic Lahore traffic when he stopped at a red light. A motorbike carrying two men, coming from the opposite direction, swerved in front of his Honda Civic. The pillion passenger was carrying a gun. Davis, a former special forces soldier, whipped out his 9mm semi-automatic Glock pistol and, still behind the wheel, opened fire. Five shots sliced through the windscreen. Muhammad Faheem, a 19-year-old street criminal, fell dead.

Davis got out of the car and took aim at the motorbike driver, Faizan Haider, who had started running. Another five shots rang out and Haider fell to the ground, having run 30ft; a postmortem indicated he was hit three times in the front and twice in the back.

He called the US Consulate for back up, calmly photographed the bodies with his cell phone but panicked when he saw the crowd turning hostile and fled in his car, losing his way in the downtown area.

The American rescue squad consisted of a

Toyota Land Cruiser, probably manned by fellow CIA agents, that charged through the streets towards Davis. Nearing Mozang Chowk, where the shooting took place, the driver saw the road jammed with onlookers and traffic so he ramped the vehicle over the central reservation and continued at great speed against the flow of vehicles. He hit and killed a trader riding his motorcycle, Ibadur Rehman, then pressed on. But Davis had left the scene so he took a U-turn and sped away.

Apparently nervous by a hostile crowd, Davis had already taken off towards central Lahore, ignoring police who tried to wave him down. At Mozang Chowk, a warden tried to stop the Land Cruiser. Witnesses later told police that one American swung open his door, brandished a rifle and threatened to fire on anyone who got in his way. The Toyota retreated to the US consulate, jettisoning a number of items along the way including

100 bullets, knives, gloves, a blindfold and, oddly, a piece of cloth with an American flag.

The police soon caught up with Davis in a crowded area Old Anarkali, took him into custody along with his belongings and his car, which was found to be locally rented.

Items recovered from Davis's car included, in addition to the unlicensed Beretta he was holding, a loaded Glock handgun along with a bucket load of bullets for both guns, three full magazines, a load of M16 shells, GPS tracker, several mobile phones, a satellite phone, wireless sets, a survival kit small telescope, mask, military-grade knives, a wire cutter, a collection of batteries and a mutually exclusive array of business cards. One of these cards listed him as working out of the Peshawar Consulate, another listed him as a defense department contractor and yet another as an employee of a (unregistered and nonexistent) security company called

Hyperion-Protective Consultants LLC, with its address as 5100 North Lane, Orlando, Florida. Later, upon inquiry this premise was found to be a closed clothing store in a rundown mall that has been vacant for several months and whose telephone numbers did not respond.

The Immediate Aftermath

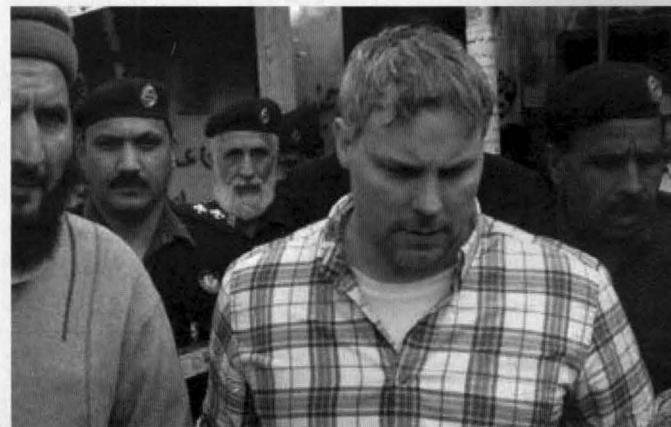
Davis awaits his fate inside the sprawling Kot-Lakhpur jail. He is refusing to answer questions, but shortly after his arrest he gave police a written statement in which he explained his actions. He had opened fire, he said, in self-defence against robbers who may have seen him coming from an ATM. He opened fire when he saw Faheem, on the back of the bike, cock his pistol.

Police have corroborated some of this. Both men had records for petty crime – "Robberies, small-time muggings, that sort of thing," said a senior official – and a warrant had been issued for Faheem's arrest.

Five mobile phones were found on their bodies, two of which had been stolen. Both men were carrying unlicensed weapons; the photos taken by Davis showed Faheem had indeed drawn his gun.

But then other facts emerged that caused Pakistani prosecutors to pause. They questioned

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Raymond Davis

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why Davis needed to fire on his assailants 10 times, and why he leapt from his car to shoot one of them, apparently as he fled.

Then, the police say, they discovered that Faheem's gun contained no bullet in the chamber – meaning it could not have been cocked.

Davis has been charged with two counts of murder and one of illegal weapon possession. "He used force that was not commensurate with the threat, that much is clear," said a senior police official.

Diplomatic Immunity: To Give Or Not To Give

How Pakistan's foreign minister lost his job.

America claimed

Diplomatic Immunity for Davis with Congress even threatening to withdraw millions in aid unless he is handed over to American authorities.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs, Philip J Crowley, said: 'This Thursday, February 17, the higher court in Lahore will examine several petitions and the issue of diplomatic immunity...Unfortunately, the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations clearly states that this not a matter for local courts to decide. And we continue to insist that Pakistan certify his diplomatic immunity and

release him.'

The United States government demanded Davis' immediate release, claiming that he was a member of the US Embassy's technical and administrative staff, and as such, was entitled to diplomatic immunity from felony prosecution. It likewise claimed that the occupants of the SUV were immune from prosecution.

The US demand is where Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister, got involved into the story. All he had to do was sign off on Washington's contention that Raymond Davis had diplomatic immunity.

The Foreign Minister had a problem, though. He knew that his office had never accorded Raymond Davis diplomatic status. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, Qureshi said the foreign office had briefed him on January 31 that Davis did not enjoy the blanket immunity that the US was claiming for him.

In due course, he received a call from Secretary of State Clinton, who said that Davis was being held illegally in violation of the 1961 Vienna Convention. Qureshi said that after studying the Vienna Conventions of 1961 and 1963 and Pakistan's Diplomatic Law of 1972, one could conclude that "the blanket immunity as being demanded by the US embassy was not valid". The Diplomatic and Consular

Privileges Act of 1972, which trumps the Vienna Convention in Pakistani law, gives the government of Pakistan the final say over who does and does not have diplomatic immunity. He explained the situation and said that he felt it was an issue to be determined by the courts.

Next, Ambassador Cameron Munter called Qureshi and told them that he'd been instructed to tell him that unless he signed a paper giving Davis diplomatic immunity (ex post facto), Clinton would not meet with him in Munich. Qureshi refused and cancelled his trip to Munich.

He had informed the Core Committee of the Pakistan People's Party of his view on the subject. He said that in an inter-ministerial meeting he had also endorsed this point of view. In the ensuing Cabinet reshuffle Qureshi ceased to be foreign Minister.

What Happens Now

Pakistan insists that the courts would decide Davis' fate. "The President has already stated that the matter is in the court and we will wait for the court decision in

this case," Farhatullah Babar, a spokesman for President Asif Ali Zardari told the press.

Asked during a conference call with reporters about a link between Davis and the CIA, State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said: "We will not comment on his particular activity in Pakistan other than to say he is a member of the administrative and technical staff of the embassy and has diplomatic immunity."

"From that point ... he enjoyed privileges and immunities against local criminal law, including inviolability of person, inviolability from arrest and detention, and immunity from criminal jurisdiction," another senior U.S. official said.

The official said the United States was trying to work out a diplomatic solution to the disagreement but noted it could take the matter to the International Court of Justice.

Crowley said the United States was not considering curtailing economic or military assistance to Pakistan to show its displeasure over Davis' treatment.



Credit: Kittikorn Atsawintarang Kul & Simon Howden

THIMPU

February 6th - 7th, 2011

SAARC: 16th Summit at Thimpu



Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao praised the positive role played by the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in promoting greater cohesion between countries of the region. At the same time she drew attention to the "considerable" scope to do more.

Ms. Rao's opening observations came at the SAARC Foreign Secretaries' conclave to evolve a Periodical Analytical Report for the consideration of their Foreign Ministers, who were to meet later.

Ms. Rao lauded the progress in cooperation in areas such as environment, energy, agriculture, rural development and trade, but wanted SAARC to devote more energy to ensure the early ratification of the Agreement on Trade in Services signed at the previous summit here in April last.

India has already submitted its sector-specific request list of services to various members and hopes that the 'request-offer process' can soon gather pace at the meeting of the Expert Group

scheduled for the end of March.

Both Ms. Rao and Pakistan Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir dwelt on developing substantive cooperation with observers including other regional organisations and extra-regional states that have showed interest in SAARC. At the same time, Ms. Rao felt that SAARC must not lose sight of fundamental principles of cooperation that should continue to be based on mutual self respect of each other's identity.

"Such engagements need to be rooted in SAARC's charter and its objectives and priorities, and be based on concrete assessed regional developmental needs in mutually agreed areas," she said. "Having just completed 25 years of SAARC, we can say that

the process is maturing and we are now gradually focusing on providing more services for the economic and development needs of our people."

Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes laid stress on greater connectivity, economic integration and cooperation in security.

Mr. Bashir also emphasised cooperation in the areas outlined by Ms. Rao. He identified the priority sectors as environment and climate change, energy and food security, and promoting project-based cooperation. Pakistan fully supported trans-regional economic, energy and development cooperation, he added.

"South Asia today is witnessing vibrant democracies at work. The formulation of the SAARC

Democracy Charter was an important achievement," Mr. Bashir said. The charter is an initiative of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and is being piloted at a time when all SAARC members happen to be democracies.

"The signing of the Saarc Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS) in Thimphu last year was a big step forward in broadening the scope of trade in Saarc from goods to also include services," External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna said here in his opening remarks at Saarc Council of Ministers meeting.

He said four countries have already ratified the agreement, and he would urge the "member-states that have not yet done

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Nirupama Rao and Salman Bashir

SAARC: 16th Summit...

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so to take steps to do so soon".

Krishna noted that while trade under the South Asia Free Trade Agreement (Safta) had crossed \$1.2 billion, it was still much below potential.

"India is taking steps to reduce its sensitive lists, especially for LDCs (least developed countries), and I hope this will encourage others to respond too," he said.

He added that a demonstration container train is being planned between Bangladesh, India and Nepal, which will "hopefully show the potential for reducing freight costs in the region and give an impetus to trade."

The minister said two draft agreements on motor vehicles and railways

for enhancing regional connectivity are still pending. "I hope progress can



be made with regard to these two agreements," he said.

NEW DELHI

January 4th, 2011

UNSC Opens Doors For India After 19 Years

India, which has joined the UN Security Council after a gap of 19 years, is most likely to be given a key responsibility by this powerful 15-membered body in fight against terrorism thus acknowledging New Delhi's prominent role in the global war against terror. Diplomatic sources privy to the discussions at the United Nations headquarters in New York said talks are in advance stage to request India to head one of its two key counter-terrorism committees. Before joining the Council, India had made its intentions clear that it wants to make the fight against terrorism a priority area during its two-year term as the non-permanent member of the council. Almost all the members of the UN Security Council, especially its five permanent members, believe

that not only just being a victim of terrorism; but also as a country which has successfully and patiently tackled the menace of terrorism for the past several decades, New Delhi is best positioned to lead the counter-terrorism initiatives for the next two years.

The Security Council currently has two key committees related to its fight against terrorism. On October 15th, 1999, the UN Security Council via its resolution number 1267 had established the "al Qaeda and Taliban Sanctions Committee" which is the form to slap sanctions on terrorist outfits and its leaders; that is implemented by its member States. "We would naturally want to take a very keen interest in the 1267 committee, which deals with listing of entities like al Qaeda and Taliban and there are entities

of interest to us, which we would want to be pursued through the 1267 committee," Indian Ambassador to the UN Hardeep Singh Puri said. There is currently one seat vacant in this committee; which has been vacated by Austria. Guided by Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005), the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee works to bolster the ability of United Nations member states to prevent terrorist acts both within their borders and across regions. It was established in the wake of the 9/11 attacks in the US.

The two-year term of this Committee's chairman Ertugrul Apakan, Ambas-



sador and Permanent Representative of Turkey, expired on December 31, 2010. Informed sources familiar with the discussions said India could be offered this chairmanship. As a crucial round of inter-governmental negotiations on UN Security Council reforms begins in March, India is backing a 'modest expansion' of the powerful body and is looking at 10 new members in both the permanent and non-permanent categories.

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UNSC Opens Doors For India...

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'What we want is a modest expansion of the council. We are looking at an around 20-25-strong council,' diplomatic sources said.

India, currently a non-permanent member of

the council, wants an expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories.

India's support for a modest expansion enjoys wide support, including from the powerful P5 countries, especially the US, who

have reservations about an unwieldy reformed council that could diminish its effectiveness.

Some countries have proposed over 30-member council, which is considered impractical and a delaying tactic by some

members.

The UN Security Council is currently a 15-member body, with five permanent members who have veto rights, and 10 members elected for two-year terms on a regional basis.

A Retrospect of MEA in 2010

Scripting a landmark year in Indian diplomacy

2010 was an eventful year for Indian diplomacy, which witnessed a qualitative expansion of strategic relations with key partner countries and a robust engagement with India's neighbours. In a year of unprecedented diplomatic engagements, the Government of India hosted 24 Heads of States/Governments and 30 Foreign Minister level visitors. In the same period, the Indian President, Vice President and Prime Minister visited 5, 6 and 11 countries respectively for various multilateral/bilateral engagements. The External Affairs Minister, Shri S.M. Krishna, visited 18 countries, in which most of India's diplomatic engagement naturally focused on the neighbourhood.

India's active engagement with its neighbours saw the visits to India of Presidents of Nepal, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, the King & also the Prime Minister of Bhutan, Prime Minister of Bangladesh and Head of State from Myanmar. The State visit of

President Pratibha Devi singh Patil to China in May and of Premier Wen

Jiabao to India in December, respectively, marked the 60th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and China.

The External Affairs Minister paid official visits to Kathmandu, Beijing, Thimphu, Tehran, Islamabad, Kabul, Yangon and Colombo. He inaugurated the Consulates General of India in Jaffna and Hambantota in Sri Lanka. President Pratibha Devi singh Patil also paid State visits to Laos, Cambodia, United Arab Emirates and Syria, where she was received with great warmth and affection.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to Saudi Arabia resulted in upgradation of the bilateral relationship to a level of Strategic Partnership. In furtherance of the 'Look East Policy', Prime Minister visited Japan, Malaysia and Vietnam. Bilateral understandings were reached on Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements with Japan and Malaysia. The India - ASEAN FTA in goods became operational on 1st January boosting trade ties. Both sides are currently negotiating an FTA in services and

investments.

India was privileged to host the Presidents of Seychelles, South Africa, Mozambique and Malawi. EAM travelled to Mozambique, Mauritius and Seychelles to underline India's growing multi-faceted engagement with Africa.

In the second half of 2010, India hosted Heads of State/Government of all the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, covering visits of Prime Minister of UK (July), President of the USA (November), President of France (December), Premier of China (December), and President of Russia (December). This is widely seen as a visible acknowledgment of India's growing regional and global profile. At the Toronto and Seoul G-20 Summits, Prime Minister deliberated with fellow leaders, on steadyng the global financial ship, which had barely emerged from turbulent waters.

Prime Minister also participated at the Nuclear Security Summit (Washington), BRIC and IBSA meetings (Brasilia), EAS and ASEAN Summit meetings (Hanoi). The year also

saw India's election as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2011 and 2012 with the unprecedented support of UN member nations (187 votes out of 190 valid votes). Four of the five P-5 members have expressed support for India's membership as permanent member of an expanded UNSC.

India's quest for ensuring its energy security was acknowledged, including India's pursuit of civil nuclear energy cooperation which has become an important area of strategic partnership with several countries. India's decision to open a Global Center for Nuclear Energy Partnership was well appreciated. India's diplomatic interaction covered the entire spectrum of areas ranging from high technology trade, civil nuclear energy cooperation, space, defence, strengthening counter terrorism initiatives, bilateral trade, investments, cultural exchanges and promoting people to people contacts. All these have added substance and quality to our engagement with friends and partners around the world.

CHECKLIST OF HEADS OF STATE / GOVERNMENT VISITORS, 2010

| S. No | Dignitary | Dates |
|--------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. | H E Mrs Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh | January 10-14 |
| 2. | H E Dr. Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, President of Iceland | January 11-17 |
| 3. | H E Dato Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia | January 19-23 |
| 4. | H E Mr. Lee Myung-bak, President of Republic of Korea | January 24-27 |
| 5 | H.E. Mr. Horst Kohler, President of Germany | February 1-7 |
| 6 | H.E. Mr. Abdullah Gul, President of Turkey | February 7-12 |
| 7 | H.E. Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, President of Nepal | February 15-18 |
| 8 | H.E. Mr. Vladimir Putin, Prime Minister of Russian Federation | March 12 |
| 9 | HE Mr. Hamid Karzai, President of Afghanistan | April 26-30 |
| 10 | H.E. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, President of Turkmenistan | May 24-26 |
| 11 | H.E. Mr. James Alix Michel, President of Republic of Seychelles | June 1-3 |
| 12 | H.E. Dr. Jacob Zuma, President of South Africa | June 2-4 |
| 13 | H.E. Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka | June 8-11 |
| 14 | H.E. Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman State Peace & Development Council, Union of Myanmar (State) | July 25-29 |
| 15 | Rt. Hon. David Cameron MP, Prime Minister of United Kingdom (State) | July 27-29 |
| 16 | H.E Mr Donald Tusk, Prime Minister of Poland (State) | September 6-8 |
| 17 | H. E. Mr. Armando Emilio Guebuza, President of the Republic of Mozambique (State visit) | 29 September – 4 October, 2010 |
| 18 | His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel | 5 – 7 October, |

CHECKLIST OF HEADS OF STATE / GOVERNMENT VISITORS, 2010

| S. No | Dignitary | Dates |
|--------------|---|--------------------------|
| | Wangchuck, King of Bhutan | |
| 19 | His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, King of Bhutan | 20 – 29 October |
| 20 | H.E. Lyonchhen Jigmi Y Thinley, Prime Minister of Bhutan | 30 October 3 November |
| 21 | H E Ngwazi Prof. Bingu Wa Mutharika, President of Malawi (State) | November 2-8 |
| 22 | The Honorable Barack Obama, President of United States of America (State) | November 6-9 |
| 23 | H E Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy, President of France | December 4-7 |
| 24 | H E Mr. Wen Jiabao, Premier of China (State) | December 15-17 |
| 25 | H E Mr. Dmitry A Medvedev, President of Russian Federation | December 21-22 |

CHECKLIST OF OUTGOING VISITS BY PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER IN 2010

| S. No | Dignitary | Dates |
|--------------|--|-------------------|
| 1 | Vice President to Zambia, Malawi and Botswana | 5-11 January |
| 2 | Prime Minister to Saudi Arabia | Feb 27 to March 1 |
| 3 | Prime Minister to US and Brazil | April 10-16 |
| 4 | Prime Minister to Bhutan for SAARC | April 28-30 |
| 5 | President to the People's Republic of China | May 26-31 |
| 6. | Vice President to Czech Republic and Croatia Secretary of State (Technical halt at Delhi) | June 6- 11 |
| 7 | Prime Minister to Canada for G-20 Summit | June 25-29 |
| 8 | President of India to Laos and Cambodia | September 9-18 |
| 9 | Vice President to Belgium for 8th ASEM Summit | October 3-6 |
| 10 | Prime Minister of India to Japan, Malaysia and Vietnam | October 24 - 30 |
| 11 | Prime Minister to the Republic of Korea for G-20 Summit | November 10-12 |
| 12 | President to United Arab Emirates and Syria | November 21-29 |
| 13 | Prime Minister to Belgium and Germany | December 9-12 |

Diplomatic Quotes

“India, with the best of intentions, we want energy, nuclear energy.”

SM KRISHNA, External Affairs Minister, on his visit to Australia; noting the country's uranium wealth and having already struck nuclear technology agreements with the U.S., France, Canada and Argentina.

“Regarding the export of uranium to India, the policy of the Australian government is clear — we will only supply uranium to countries that are signatories to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and have signed a bilateral pact with Australia.”

MARTIN FERGUSON, Australian Energy minister, on his response to India's request for Uranium sales.

“If our diplomats are in another country, then they are not subject to that country's local prosecution. We respect it with respect to diplomats who are here. We expect Pakistan, that's a signatory should recognise Davis as a diplomat, to abide by the same convention.”

Barack Obama, President of the United States of America in respect to the US diplomat, Raymond Davis currently in a jail in Pakistan.

“I reiterate my unstinted loyalty and commitment to my country, the people of Pakistan and the Pakistan People's Party and its policies, with or without a ministerial post.”

SHAH MEHMOOD QURESHI, Pakistan's Foreign Minister who lost his job in the cabinet reshuffle ensuing after he refused Washington's demand to grant Davis diplomatic immunity after he was caught killing two men in the streets of Lahore.

Perspectives on Foreign Policy...

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period of transition where the rapidly resurgent economies outside the traditional circles of global economic dominance are setting a new pace and direction in regional and international growth and development is an absolute truth.

At the global level, India has worked with our international partners to address the complex challenges to revive the global economy. The 2008 global economic and financial crisis triggered the further evolution of the G20, of which India is a key constituent. At the Pittsburgh Summit,

the G-20 was designated as the premier forum for international economic cooperation. We see the G-20 process as a move towards a more representative mechanism to manage global economic and financial issues. The Group has taken some positive steps in this direction, for instance by committing a shift in IMF quota share to dynamic emerging markets and developing countries. Simultaneously, the new global realities require that we revisit and reorganize existing governance models which were put in place over six decades ago. In this regard, a dynamic global

political and security order requires the urgent reform of the UN Security Council as well. We see our case for permanent membership of the Security Council as valid and legitimate.

India's growth in the four years preceding the onset of the global financial crisis was around 9%. In 2008, with the advent of the global financial crisis, India's growth slowed down to 6.7%. Forecasts for the current year are for a growth rate of 7.75%. Today, India has emerged as the third largest economy in Asia. It is a trillion dollar economy and has joined the ranks of the top ten economies of the world.

In a knowledge- and technology-driven world, India has demonstrated certain unique strengths – our IT exports for the current year are poised to touch the \$50 billion figure; the December 2009 index of industrial production surged month-on-month by a record 16.8%. Cumulative industrial growth is pegged at around 9%. The most noticeable feature of India's economic growth is that it is driven primarily by domestic demand.

Yet, we also need to acknowledge that while average growth of around 7% over the past few

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 years has resulted in material difference for India this has not been enough. To abolish poverty in India and to meet our development needs, we need to keep our economy growing at 8-10% every year for the next 20 years. As the literacy levels of our largely young population go up, we will have to ensure that their employment needs are also met which means that we require a rapidly expanding economy and the infrastructural growth of our cities and manufacturing sectors, so that we can reap the advantage of this demographic dividend for our economic growth. This also means that nation building or socio-economic transformation in India would continue to be primary concern of our foreign policy and this is accordingly reflected in our positions on issues such as global trade and climate change.

I will now turn to the three specific issues that are a part of your deliberations. In doing so, I do not in any way wish to influence or set the tone for your discussions. Instead, I will merely share India's perspective on these issues.

Climate change

Climate change is one of the most important global challenges facing us. For India, it is not merely an environmental issue, but is intrinsically linked with the growth

prospects and developmental aspirations of our people. Its impact on the pace of our development is a very clear and continuing concern.

Our developmental imperatives project a general trend of growth in energy consumption in India. We expect that fossil fuels will remain an important element of our commercial energy mix. The emerging paradigm of global action on climate change must, therefore, acknowledge every human's claim to global carbon space and take account of our differential capacities. Despite 17% of the global population, our own GHG emissions today are currently only 4% of the global total. Even with 8-9% growth per annum, our energy use has been growing at less than 4% per annum. We are concerned that the developed countries tend towards ignoring, implicitly, the huge adaptation challenge that we face with climate change. Today we spend 2% to 2.5% of our GDP on meeting adaptation needs. There is need for stable and predictable financing from the developed countries, and this we believe should not rely on market mechanisms but, rather, on assessed contributions. There is also need for a global mechanism whereby climate friendly technologies can be disseminated to the developing countries.

As a country vulnerable to and already suffering from the impacts of climate change, India has an important stake in the

success of the on-going multilateral negotiations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. We are aware of our responsibilities as citizens of the globe and have participated in the negotiations in a constructive manner. It is in this spirit that we conveyed our voluntary mitigation obligations to the UNFCCC in January this year. We were of course disappointed that an agreed programme of action mandated by the Bali Roadmap could not be achieved at Copenhagen. The Copenhagen Accord was perhaps the best that could be managed under the circumstances. It is a political document that can serve the purpose of contributing to the negotiations on the Kyoto Protocol and on Long Term Cooperation. It can complement these core international agreements but cannot be a substitute for them. Our collective effort should now be to bring the significant points of convergence reflected in the Accord into the larger multilateral process under the UNFCCC in order to ensure a balanced, comprehensive and above all, an equitable outcome, at the Mexico Conference by end-2010.

Nationally, we have adopted an ambitious Action Plan on Climate Change, which is not merely mitigation oriented, but is located within a larger perspective of sustainable development. Prime Minister has set up a high level Council on Climate Change

to coordinate national action for assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change. Our announcement of the voluntary domestic target of reducing the energy intensity of our GDP growth, excluding emissions from the Agricultural sector, by 20-25% by 2020 in comparison to the level achieved in 2005 reflects India's seriousness in addressing the issue of climate change with commitment and focus, even as it seeks to meet the challenges of economic and social development and poverty eradication.

Till date, the global energy market has been susceptible to non-market considerations which give energy issues an unpredictable and strategic edge. We believe that these vulnerabilities are best addressed through a participatory global energy model and by pursuing a truly open, transparent, competitive and globally integrated energy market. The reality as we know is quite the reverse. Therefore, we visualise that, as a developing country, an emissions reduction strategy to be comprehensive has to embrace both conservation and efficiency. With a large and rising demand for energy, we assess nuclear technologies to be a viable long-term solution in helping us correct the skew in our energy mix. The underlying determinants

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nant in this calculus is the environmental dimension and the associated costs of large-scale deployment of traditional carbon fuels, particularly coal. In this regard, nuclear power generation, despite its high entry level costs, provides a way out, particularly in relation to the wider issues of global warming and climate change.

Nuclear disarmament & non-proliferation

I am aware that concerns are voiced over the possible proliferation dimension in the use of nuclear energy. This should, however, not deter us from pursuing the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. India is fully cognizant of the safety and security implications arising from the expansion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We must instead work together with our partners to help reduce the risk of nuclear proliferation.

The challenges of nuclear terrorism and nuclear security have to be addressed. We have been affected by clandestine nuclear proliferation in our neighbourhood. We are naturally concerned about the possibility of nuclear terrorism. We have, therefore, taken the lead at the UN General Assembly on an effective law-based international response including on WMD terrorism. India

has joined the Russia-U.S. led Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. We believe that the Nuclear Security Summit in April 2010 hosted by President Obama will be an important milestone in our efforts to build international cooperation to prevent nuclear terrorism.

The constructive and forward-looking approach that was adopted towards India in September 2008 by the NSG has enabled full international civil nuclear cooperation with India as also our nuclear energy cooperation agreements with major partners including the United States, Russia, France and the UK. These constitute not only a long overdue recognition of India's standing as a country with advanced nuclear technology and responsible behaviour but have also opened up significant opportunities for technical collaboration. I believe that this change would also serve as an important step towards strengthening international partnerships to ensure that advanced nuclear technologies are only utilized for peaceful purposes.

You are well aware of India's long-standing commitment to global, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament. As early as 1988, our then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi presented one of the most comprehensive proposals to achieve a nuclear weapon free world to

the UN General Assembly. In 2006, India tabled a Working Paper on nuclear disarmament to the UNGA. We feel encouraged by some recent positive steps. President Obama's administration has signaled US willingness to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in its nuclear strategy and to work towards a nuclear weapon free world. The renewed debate underway on this issue harmonizes with our long held positions.

We have identified some initiatives that I believe could be explored further as building blocks of a new global, verifiable nuclear disarmament framework. These include: a global agreement on 'no-first-use' of nuclear-weapons and non-use against non-nuclear weapon states; measures to reduce nuclear danger through de-alerting, reducing salience of nuclear weapons in security doctrines and preventing unintentional or accidental use; a Nuclear Weapons Convention prohibiting development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction etc..

We hope that we can achieve progress in the Conference on Disarmament. We will support the emerging consensus in the CD to adopt a programme of work. Last year, we supported the work plan including commencement of negotiations on the multilateral FMCT. On this latter issue, which we see as an important non-pro-

liferation measure, India has had a consistent position – we are willing to negotiate a multilateral, non-discriminatory, effectively and internationally verifiable FMCT.

Terrorism

Terrorism poses an existential threat to the civilized world. It is a pivotal security challenge for India and in our neighbourhood. Terrorists have sought to undermine our sovereignty, security and economic progress, aided and abetted by forces beyond our borders. Our embassy in Kabul has faced vicious suicide bomb attacks twice, in 2008 and 2009. The Mumbai attacks of November 2008 and the more recent outrage in Pune, have once again demonstrated the barbaric face of terrorism. Terror groups implacably opposed to India continue to recruit, train and plot attacks from safe havens across our borders.

Open democratic societies such as India face particular challenges in combating the threat of terrorism. The United Kingdom is also familiar with this debate. We are acting nationally to address this through legal, institutional and administrative measures. We have recently amended the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967 to reinforce the legal and punitive provisions, including financing aspects of terrorism. The

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National Investigation Agency (NIA) has been established as a federal body for investigation and prosecution in respect of terrorist acts with all-India jurisdiction. Regional hubs have been created for the National Security Guards. The National Multi Agency Centre (MAC) has been strengthened and made functional round the clock.

At the same time, it is clear that the threat from terrorism cannot be dealt with through national efforts alone. Global outreach and linkages among terror networks are now quite evident and they are becoming more active. The global nature of the threat has been recognized widely. Global efforts to tackle the problem also need to be intensified. Terrorism needs to be countered collectively and expeditiously. It is time that the international community works towards early adoption of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism that was tabled at the UN over a decade ago in 1996. We must act jointly and with determination to meet the challenges posed by terrorism and to defend the values of pluralism, peaceful co-existence and the rule of law.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me turn to our neighbourhood. From India's perspective, the goal of ushering in a

peaceful, stable and prosperous neighbourhood is predicated on enabling each of our neighbors to pursue the shared objective of the development of our peoples. We do not see this as a zero sum game but as a cooperative endeavor, requiring collaboration rather than confrontation, so as to enable each of our neighbours to grow. We do not see this as a compulsion but as a natural choice voluntarily made; a corollary of the inter-dependent world we live in. We believe that our strengths place us in a unique position to actively support the socio-economic development in our region.

The greatest threat to peace and stability in our region emanates from the shelter terrorists find in the border of Afghanistan-Pakistan and in Pakistan itself. The recent international approaches to Afghanistan, in particular the London Conference last month, are focusing on security and reintegration, development, governance and regional and international cooperation. The issue of reintegration should be tackled with prudence, the benefit of hindsight, foresight and caution. We believe that any integration process in Afghanistan should be Afghan-led, and should include only those who abjure violence, give up armed struggle and terrorism and are willing to abide by the values of democracy, pluralism and human rights as enshrined in the Afghan

Constitution.

For the Afghan Government to take greater ownership of security, it is imperative that Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) are properly trained and equipped. Similarly, in order to strengthen governance and institution-building, priority should be accorded to building adequate capacity to deliver on developmental objectives. It is self-evident that for this process to be enduring, Afghan ownership should go hand in hand with Afghan leadership.

Afghanistan is centrally placed to emerge as a trade, transportation and energy hub connecting Central and South Asia. The international community must work together to realize this potential. Growing economic interdependence would complement efforts to promote peace and prosperity in the region.

India is an important neighbour of Afghanistan and we share undeniably close ties that have endured through the centuries into present times. Our focus there is on development activity with the aim to build indigenous Afghan capacities and institutions. This will enable an effective state system to improve the delivery of goods and services to Afghan people. Our assistance, now over US\$ 1.3 billion, is spread over a large number of provinces in Afghanistan. In addition to several small

and medium development projects, India has built the Zaranj-Delaram road and the power transmission line from Pul-e-Khumri to Kabul. We are also constructing Afghanistan's new Parliament building, a symbol of our common commitment to pluralism and democracy. At the recent London Conference, we have announced new initiatives in the agriculture sector and in institutional capacity building.

Our relationship with Pakistan is complex. Out of our desire for peaceful and good-neighbourly relations with Pakistan, we have repeatedly taken initiatives in the past to improve the relationship. You are aware that the dark forces of terrorism sought to erase the good that stemmed from such well-intentioned initiatives. We are now making another attempt of dialogue with Pakistan. However, calls of jihad, hostility and aggression continue to be made openly against India. This reflects the real and tangible difficulties that we face in dealing with Pakistan. If the process of normalization that we desire with Pakistan, is to be sustained and taken forward, effective action against such groups by the Government of Pakistan is an absolute must.

Under pressure and faced with the threat
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of terrorism in its own country, Pakistan has initiated some steps to fight this scourge. But these steps are selective. Distinctions between Taliban, Al Qaeda and terrorist outfits such as LeT are now meaningless, since they are now in effect fused both operationally and ideologically. We have consistently maintained that Pakistan should bring the perpetrators of the Mumbai terrorist attack to justice expeditiously and in a transparent manner. It should act decisively to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism on its territory.

As I said previously, India is making another sincere attempt to initiate dialogue with Pakistan. I have invited my counterpart, the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan to Delhi for discussions later this week. We hope we can build, in a graduated manner, better communication and a serious and responsive dialogue to address issues of concern between our two countries.

With Sri Lanka our political relations are close, trade and investment have increased exponentially, and there is broad-based engagement across all sectors of bilateral cooperation. We view the conclusion of the military operations against the LTTE as providing an opportunity to finally achieve a lasting political settlement acceptable to all com-

munities, including the Tamils, within a united Sri Lanka.

Our relations with Bangladesh have acquired further substance and scope in recent months, particularly after the very successful visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India in January this year. Our security related cooperation has developed positively as also our cooperation in infrastructural development in Bangladesh, for which we have announced a US \$ 1 billion concessional Line of Credit.

It is a universally held truth that India's economic growth has a positive impact on our region. Today, with sustained high economic growth rates over the past decade, India is in a better position to offer a significant stake to our neighbours in our own prosperity and growth. We have made unilateral gestures and extended economic concessions such as the facility of duty free access to Indian market for imports from Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. We have put forward proposals multilaterally within the framework of the SAARC or the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation where we have assumed asymmetric responsibilities.

Turning to our extended neighbourhood, it is evident that with the rapid rise of China and India, the global and regional situation is being re-defined. There is much that is said about China's rise

and its implications for India. There is both competition and collaboration in the dynamic equilibrium of our relationship with China. Both our countries have always thought in civilizational time-frames. Even as we are discussing the unresolved boundary question, we have ensured that there is peace and tranquility in our border areas. China has emerged as India's largest trading partner. We are consulting each other on global issues such as multilateral trade negotiations, climate change, and in the G-20, etc.

In the decade ahead, India will have to, as one writer noted recently, provide itself with "the widest possible field of vision" when it comes to China. This will entail not only a multi-dimensional approach to developing relations with China but also creating our menu of strategic options to ensure that we are able to protect and promote our interests effectively in our region.

Key elements in the India-China relationship like imbalances in bilateral trade, the unresolved boundary question, our dialogue on water resources with regard to the trans-border rivers like

the Brahmaputra and the Sutlej point to the complex and evolving nature of our dialogue. The rapid growth of our economies has engendered a search for resources by both countries in third countries and regions across the globe. In some cases we have developed patterns of collaboration with the Chinese, in others, we have been in competition. This is the reality of the relationship. In our own region, which remains geo-politically unstable, China has an enduring strategic relationship with

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Pakistan, and a growing presence in other neighbouring countries. We are conscious of these leverages that China has developed in our region and realize fully that our relations with China cannot be uni-dimensional, or seen through a narrow prism. Our own relations with our South Asian neighbours acquire crucial importance in this scenario. Our economic strength and increased commitment to the economic development of our neighbourhood in South Asia, sustained dialogue at the leadership level, security-related dialogue especially as it relates to better border management, cooperation in health, education and environment-related sectors, and creating the infrastructure for better intra-regional connectivity and transportation, together with the attraction of India's soft power are all factors that can be, and are being, mobilized in this context.

With Japan, we are developing the foundations of "strategic global partnership" with a strong economic and strategic content. Recent years have seen a qualitative shift in relations with defence dialogue and security cooperation emerging as important aspects of our relations. Our relations with the United States are in a new and transformative phase, with convergences in foreign policy priorities, and shared approaches to some of the most complex regional and

global challenges of our times – from countering terrorism to working together for energy security, mitigating the impact of climate change to maritime security, nuclear security and safeguarding the global commons to name a few areas. With Russia, our strategic partnership has been continuously strengthened, and our multi-faceted relations span a number of sectors including defence, nuclear energy, space research, science and technology and hydrocarbons. Our ties with France have been further enhanced through regular summit-level meetings and the triad of cooperation in the civil nuclear, defence and space sectors.

The India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) and the Russia-India-China (RIC) cooperation forums have also helped us engage more closely with these countries in forging ties of dialogue and cooperation on economic and development-related issues.

India's engagement with the ASEAN has grown manifold over the past decade and half and is set to get a fillip with the conclusion of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement.

Myanmar is an ASEAN member country with which we share a border of more than 1640 kms. We have advocated engagement with Myanmar since it is a close neighbour of ours. It is important for India to ensure a peaceful periphery with Myanmar. We strongly believe that any political reform process in Myanmar should be

peaceful and not cause instability within that country or on our borders with it. We have urged the Government of Myanmar to take forward the process of national reconciliation and political reform and broad-base it to include all sections of society, including the more than 18 ethnic groups in the country.

On the security architecture for the region, there is a need to evolve a balanced, open and inclusive framework for Asian countries and major non-Asian players to interact and cooperate to address traditional and non-traditional security challenges.

The ASEAN Regional Forum has provided a useful model for such cooperation based on dialogue and consensus in diverse areas such as counter terrorism, trans-national crimes, maritime security, disaster relief, pandemics and nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. India is also a member of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA). We have also partnered with the international community in deploying an Indian naval presence for anti-piracy escort operations to ensure maritime security in the Gulf of Aden.

Before I finish, let me say a few words about our relations with the UK. The UK is an important interlocutor for us in the bilateral, EU, G8 and global contexts and our multi-faceted bilateral relationship has intensified specially since its upgradation to

strategic partnership in 2004. Our engagement is most wide-ranging including high-level visits, parliamentary and official-level exchanges, business interaction and cultural interchanges. President Pratibha Patil was on a State visit to the UK from 27-29 October 2009. There have been regular exchanges of visits at the Prime Minister-level.

Institutional linkages have continued through regular FOCs, JWG and India-UK Round Table. Our trade and investment partnerships are both-ways and expanding rapidly. India is the second largest source of students to UK with about 31,000 students. Science & technology is a focus area for our two countries. On 11 February 2010, we signed a Joint Declaration on civil nuclear cooperation which will give a new dimension to our already multi-dimensional and vibrant ties.

Once again I want to say how delighted I am to be with you this morning and to be given the privilege to be a part of your deliberations. I have no doubt that the MEA-IISS relationship will scale greater heights in times to come which is a tribute to your vision and long-term perspective about the need for the world to engage India more closely, to forge understandings, and to promote more inclusive dialogue with key stakeholders on both sides. I wish the deliberations of the seminar success.

