## 1991

# January

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**Date**: Jan 01, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### **BANGLADESH**

India-Bangladesh Cooperation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 15, 1991 on India-Bangladesh Cooperation:

India and Bangladesh have signed a contract agreement for provision of modern facilities for training in Railway operations in Bangladesh. The agreement was signed on January 14, 1991 at Dhaka by Shri M. D. Khattar, Managing Director, Indian Railway Construction Company (IRCON) and Mr. Nurul Momin Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Communications, People's Republic of Bangladesh. Shri S. Paul, acting High Commissioner of India and other senior officials of the Indian High Commission were present on the occasion.

In line with the growing trends of regional cooperation between India and Bangladesh a sophisticated Railway Working Model Facility will be provided to the Bangladesh Railway by the Government of India in furtherance of the training of their Railway personnel. This facility will be installed entirely with

Indian expertise with working train models incorporating a variety of signalling systems existing in the Bangladesh Railways. The Railway Model Room to be established in the Train Academy at Chittagong will be provided by Indian Railway Construction Company Ltd. (IRCON), a Public Sector Undertaking of the Ministry of Railways which has taken up a turn-key project involving the Design, Fabrication, Installation and commissioning of the equipments.

The Project with an overall cost of Rs. 65 lakhs is being rendered as a Gift to the Bangladesh Railway as a goodwill gesture to the people of Bangladesh. This training facility being provided as a measure of technology transfer will help supplement the training of Railway personnel with the necessary practical training in safe and efficient train operations using working models. The signalling system to be incorporated will comprise the conventional mechanical signalling as well as the state of art Route Relay Interlocking System.

NGLADESH INDIA USA

**Date**: Jan 15, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### **JAPAN**

Japanese Grant Assistance to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 22, 1991 on the Japanese assistance to India:

Japan will extend grant assistance of Yen 1,356 million (about Rs. 18.3 crore) to India for the year 1990-91. Notes to this effect were exchanged here today between Finance Secretary, Shri S. P. Shukla and the Ambassador of Japan to India Mr. Shunji Kobayashi. Out of the total grant assistance Rs. 13.2 crores will be for the

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Mass Communication Research Centre at Jamia Millia Islamia Central University and remaining amount of nearly Rs. 5 crore to MATSYAFED, Kerala.

The grant of Rs. 13.2 crore will be utilised for providing programme production equipment for Mass Communication Research Centre in Jamia. Millia Islamia Central University. The grant covers the purchase of equipments and services necessary for the

installation of the equipments.

Rs. 5 crore grant aid to MATSYAFED Kerala will be used for execution of the expansion of Net-making machines project to be implemented through Kerala State Cooperative Federation for Fisheries Development (MATSYAFED).

#### PAN INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

**Date**: Jan 22, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### **JAPAN**

### Indo-japanese Rafting Expedition

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 23, 1991 on the Indo-Japanese rafting expedition:

The Indo-Japanese Bhramputra Rafting Expedition has successfully completed the difficult first phase of rafting down river Bhramputra from Gelling to Passighat, according to information reaching here today.

The expedition, a maiden rafting venture in river Bhramputra, covered deep gorge of Siang on raft for the first time and many difficult grade 5 and 6 rapids before reaching Passighat. In a major rafting accident ten of the twelve members got thrown out of the raft with high waves but were rescued successfully without any major injuries.

In the second phase the expedition will raft down flat water section of Bhramputra river from Passighat to Dhubri near Bangladesh border.

Led by Shri S. P. Chamoli, the expedition was flagged off from Gelling on January 6, 1991.

PAN INDIA BANGLADESH

**Date**: Jan 23, 1991

# **Volume No**

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Gulf

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 04, 1991 on Gulf:

The Iraqi Special Envoy had seperate meetings with the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister. The prime thrust of the meeting was to express our deep concern as well as universal anxiety about the developments in the region and our sincere desire that the Americans and the Iraqis meet as soon as possible. The meeting has vital significance, because as External Affairs Minister put it, there was a risk that the crisis reach a point of no return.

External Affairs Minister also stressed that we were interested in a peaceful solu-

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tion and in that context, we expressed the hope that a discussion between the Americans and the Iraqis would assist in the process. We have always been in favour of a peaceful solution. Both the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister have indicated in their discussions with the Iraqi Special Envoy that India would be glad to help if need be, in whatever capacity, we can serve, in bringing about a peaceful solution. We have not put forward any proposal for mediation nor has Iraq come forward with any proposal. We will be guided by Security Council Resolution 661 and its interpretations. Our adherence to that particular line of policy remains unchanged. We will stick to those resolutions.

We are to lift their oil in compensation for past dues. We have agreed to study these and other proposals carefully: joint ventures and certain other aspects of economic deliberations. We have stated that this proposal will be examined but strictly within the context of the UN Security Council Resolution 661 and the interpretations that have been made of this Resolution by the Sanctions Committee. No specific quantity of oil was offered. Last year when the crisis broke in September-October, they had also made this offer and we had declined due to the sanctions embargo.

The principal thrust was the urgent need for the two sides to talk, as External Affairs Minister put it, such a meeting is essential before the crisis reaches a point of no return. Prime

Minister and External Affairs Minister have indicated that India would be glad to be of help if need be, if there is any role to be played. Our views on withdrawal are very clear and have been reiterated.

Our position on the question of linkage (Iraqi issue and Palestinian issue) is that merely because. there has been no progress in resolving any one question does not mean that we should stall progress or moves towards finding a solution on the other question.

Iraq and India have a solid foundation for friendship based on cooperation - economic and political.

DIA IRAQ USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date**: Jan 04, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

GULF: HOM's Conference at New Delhi

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Gulf in New Delhi on Jan 11, 1991:

The Conference of Heads of Missions of the Gulf Region was inaugurated by the External Affairs Minister this morning.

This afternoon, the Deputy Minister of External Affairs, Shri Dig Vijay Singh also addressed the Conference. The Ministers were assisted by the Foreign Secretary, Additional Secretary (POL, Additional Secretary (ER), Joint Secretary (GD), Joint Secretary (AMS), Joint Secretary (EE) and Joint Secretary (Pers).

Those attending the Conference include Shri K. N. Bakshi (Ambassador in Iraq), Shri Hamid Ansari (Tehran), Shri Ishrat Aziz (Riyadh), Shri R. Muley (Damascus), Shri Ranjit Gupta (Muscat, Shri Santosh Kumar (Sanaa), Shri L. N. Nazreth (Cairo), Shri Arun Budhiraja (Kuwait), Shri N. R. Verma (Bahrain), Shri Ramesh Shukla (Doha) and Shri Ranjit Sethi (Abu Dhabi).

This is a two-day Conference.

The focus of the Conference is to evaluate perceptions on India's

policy on the Gulf Crisis to examine, likely scenarios and the unfolding of events in the coming -3>

weeks. Addressing the Conference, the Minister of External Affairs, Shri V. C. Shukla said that he hoped that the deliberations of the Heads of Missions would help clarify our own thinking, on a crisis, which was unprecedented, in its dimensions. He underlined the geo-political reality of the interlinkage between West Asia and South Asia, and said that there was no doubt about the serious effects that events in one region would inevitably have on the other. He called for a frank appraisal of the course of events up till now; and looking into the future he called for suggestions on possible courses of action that may be taken by us. He emphasised that India's interest in the region because of oil, other economic interests and the presence of nearly 1.2 million Indian nationals, was a serious one, and that we had to work out a framework to enable us to implement policies that were well thought out and consonant with our vital national interests.

The Deputy Minister said that this Conference was taking place at a crucial and decisive phase of the Gulf Crisis. He expressed the hope that the deliberations and conclusions of the Conference would help India to crystallise its views on methods not only to tackle the immediate and serious problems with which we, along with other developing countries are confronted but also to look into the future in order to grapple effectively with the posterisis scenarios that were likely to emerge.

In response to a question as to whether any plans to evacuate Indian nationals have been made, the Spokesman said that as of now, no plan of evacuation has been made. But we are taking into consideration the safety and security of our Missions. business and communication links. We have left it to the Heads of Missions to decide at present about evacuation, according to each one's individual judgement.

We have taken no additional measures for departure of individuals. Most flights coming out of Doha and other areas in the region, in the last 3-4 days, had considerable number of empty seats so it appears that there is no shortage of capacity in the existing structure for movement of people in and out of the area. The Airlines will continue the flights. There is no intimation of change of flight schedules.

The safety of our Missions and nationals will be discussed by the Conference later today.

DIA IRAN IRAQ SAUDI ARABIA SYRIA USA EGYPT OMAN BAHRAIN KUWAIT QATAR UNITED ARAB EMIRATES UNITED KINGDOM

**Date**: Jan 11, 1991

# **Volume No**

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#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Secretary (East) to Cambodia

The following is the text of a Press release issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of secretary (E) to Cambodia in New Delhi on Jan 11, 1991:

Secretary (East), Shri L. L. Mehrotra called on the Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen (in Phnom Penh) on 9.1.91. The discussions covered bilateral as well as regional issues of mutual concern. Secretary also presented a bronze bust of Mahatma Gandhi to the Cambodian Prime Minister. Cambodian Prime Minister said that they proposed to instal the Gandhi's bust in Cambodia-India Friendship Park next to the Buddhist stupa in a fitting ceremony in the near future.

Hun Sen appreciated India's concern for peace in Cambodia and mentioned that they would like to have close consultations with India with regard to the various provisions of the Paris document before going for the Coordination Committee or the PICC (Paris International Conference on Cambodia) which is likely to be convened in the near future. Hun Sen also

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thanked the Government of India for all the assistance given by the latter and stated that Secretary's visit had resulted in a better understanding between the two countries.

Later Secretary Mehrotra addressed a Press Conference. Replying to questions, Secretary said that within the bounds of UN Charter, UN role in Cambodia was indeed very welcome. When asked whether UN was imposing a solution on Cambodia, very clear, namely, there should be no imposition of an agreement on any country, either by UN or by anybody else. UN belonged to sovereign and equal nations. Obviously when the Coordination Committee Meeting is held in Paris in the near future, all parties will have to be heard and mutually acceptable solution found. India's view was that Cambodia should move swiftly from voluntary restraint to ceasefire and complete cessation of military assistance to warring factions. As soon as that situation obtained, electoral process should start. Reacting to another query, he stated that if Cambodia wished and if it was

decided at the Paris Conference, we would consider sending a peace keeping force to fulfil our obligations under the UN Charter. Secretary Mehrotra mentioned that India had tried to assist Cambodia in its task of reconstruction. Though our resources are not large we have still decided to give a credit of Rs. 15 million to purchase developmental goods from India and equal amount of outright grant for the same purpose. India is also helping Cambodia in restoration of Angkor Wat temples, a project on which Rs. 40 million have been spent so far since 1986.

#### MBODIA INDIA USA FRANCE

**Date**: Jan 11, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### **Gulf Situation**

The following is the text of a press release on the Gulf situation moved and adopted in both Houses of Parliament on Jan 11, 1991:

The crisis in West Asia is causing grave concern throughout the world. Perhaps at no time since the Second World War has humankind been so close to the brink of global disaster. War will cause incalculable human suffering and inflict irreversible environmental damage. War must be averted. Peaceful means must be pursued relentlessly.

Recalling that the Government of India, along with many other countries belonging to the Nonaligned Movement as well as outside the Movement, have repeatedly been urging that the Gulf crisis be resolved by peaceful means through dialogue. Noting that the deadline of 15th January 1991, set in the U N Security Council Resolution 678 is fast approaching.

Believing that the Nonaligned Movement has an important role to play in bringing about a dialogue among all the parties involved in the crisis.

Deeply conscious of the many historic, cultural, linguistic and other ties that bind India with the nations and peoples of the Gulf region and the long tradition of warm and friendly relations with them.

This House:

- I. Expresses its firm belief that war must be averted;
- II. Calls upon all sides to make further determined efforts in the coming days and weeks to prevent war and seek-5>

solution through peaceful means by dialogue under UN auspices or otherwise.

III. Wishes the Secretary General of UN every success in his last minute effort to resolve the issue peacefully.

A INDIA

**Date**: Jan 11, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Indo-British Official Talks

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on the Indo-British official talks in New Delhi on Jan 15, 1991:

Four days of talks between India & Britain, at the official level, ended yesterday. These were aimed at arriving at arrangements on tracing, freezing and confiscating the funds and proceeds of terrorist and non-terrorist criminal groups. The proceeds will also include those involving drug-trafficking.

Substantial progress has been made and both sides are hopeful of concluding a formal agreement soon, in view of the urgency that they attach to effective cooperation in these areas. It is expected that the agreement would be signed soon. This is the first time that Britain is negotiating a bilateral agreement, covering financial sources of terrorist activities with another country.

To further questions Spokesman said that the talks were held at the official level. This was the first round of a working group talks, which will continue next in London. To other question, Spokesman replied that the officials on both sides belonged to the External Affairs, Home and Finance Ministries.

#### DIA UNITED KINGDOM

**Date**: Jan 15, 1991

# **Volume No**

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#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Lithuania (USSR)

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on the Lithuania (USSR) in New Delhi on Jan 15, 1991:

When asked to comment about the recent internal developments in Lithuania, Spokesman said that it was an internal matter of the Soviet Union.

A INDIA

**Date**: Jan 15, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Gulf

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Gulf in New Delhi on Jan 01, 1991:

When questioned on reports about Prime Minister's letters to some Heads of State, on the Gulf situation, spokesman said that the Prime Minister had addressed messages to leaders of status and standing in the international community. Late last night, he had sent letters to three leaders, namely, President Bush, President Gorbachev and President Jovic (of the Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) - the last in Yugoslavia's

capacity as Chairman of the NAM which has a membership of more than 100 nations.

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In all these letters, Prime Minister has underlined:

Our appeal to explore every avenue on the road to a peaceful solution and our desire for peace. He referred to President Bush's willingness to go the extra mile for peace and appealed to the US President, precisely in the same spirit.

Prime Minister had underlined India's firm commitment to the UN Security Council Resolutions and India's full support to their implementation.

Prime Minister drew attention to the devastating consequences in terms of human suffering, irreversible environmental damage from oil spills, destruction of pipelines and oil wells, etc., and the rude shock that this would administer to economise in this part of the region. Many countries including India would be severely affected, even though they were not a party to the dispute.

Prime Minister also touched upon the fears in some quarters that this catastrophe would bring about regression in the positive gains that had been achieved as a result of the detente between the two superpowers. In this context, Prime Minister appealed to President Bush to give peace another chance and has urged the US, Soviet and Yugoslav Presidents to encourage and assist the UN Secretary General to continue and persevere in his efforts to find a peaceful solution.

When questioned about India's reaction to the latest French initiative (of 15.1.91), Spokesman said that the French Ambassador had called on the Foreign Secretary yesterday (15.1.91) to brief him about the initiatives. "We were happy to meet him because we welcome any initiative taken anywhere and by any country which could possibly lead to a peaceful solution of the crisis."

When questioned as to why no letter had gone from the Prime Minister to President Saddam Hussein, Spokesman said that our sentiments had been conveyed to Iraq at the highest level only recently - when the Iraqi Minister of State was here last week.

When questioned as to why Prime Minister's letter had not sought an extension of the UN deadline, spokesman said that this was implied, in his letters, since it is obvious that the Secretary-General cannot continue his peace moves unless the war-like efforts are headed off. Spokesman reiterated what he had said yesterday, namely, India would explore every possible avenue even at this late juncture when the prospects for peace were bleak, in view of the devastating consequences of a war.

When questioned about India's support for the latest French and British invitation at the Security Council, the Spokesman said that India had supported the French initiative at the Security Council. But as of now he was unable to say anything in India's reactive to the British initiative (16-1-91, 4.30 p.m.)

A YUGOSLAVIA INDIA IRAQ

**Date**: Jan 01, 1991

## **Volume No**

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#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Sri Lanka

The following is the text of a statement on Sri Lanka issued by the Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 17, 1991:

When questioned about the Government's reaction to the latest developments in Sri Lanka, spokesman said that the Government of India has expressed concern about the enormous civilian sufferings and casualties and the refugees' influx, resulting from hostilities since June last year; we would have wished that a ceasefire following LTTE's offer and Sri Lanka's -7>

positive response would have held and stabilised. We still hope that all efforts would be exerted in this direction and lead to meaningful and sustained negotiations with the participation of all concerned parties. We believe that only a negotiated political settlement within the framework of the unity and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka, which takes into account legitimate Tamil demands, can lead to a durable and lasting solution.

Spokesman also confirmed that EAM will be visiting Sri Lanka as scheduled from 29th to 31st January and added that during his visit he would have discussions on the entire range of relations between India and Sri Lanka.

I LANKA INDIA USA

**Date**: Jan 17, 1991

## **Volume No**

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#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Japanese Assistance for Projects in India

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on the Japanese assistance for projects in India in New Delhi on Jan 25, 1991:

Seven loan agreements totalling Yen 129.205 Billion (Approximately 1 Billion US Dollars) were signed on 23rd January, 1991, in Tokyo by Mr. Chikao Tsukuda, Senior Vice-President of the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund and the Indian Ambassador to Japan, Shri Asrani. Six of these agreements are for projects covered under the 104.8 Billion Yen loan package, of the Japanese ODA to India, for the fiscal year 1990. The projects are mainly for power, housing, afforestation, health and small-scale industries.

DIA JAPAN USA UNITED KINGDOM

**Date**: Jan 25, 1991

## **Volume No**

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#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Gulf: USAF Aircraft Refuelling at Bombay

The following is the text of a statement on USAF aircraft refuelling at Bombay issued by the Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 28, 1991:

When questioned about the Times of India front-page report today (28/1/91) that USAF aircraft had been permitted to refuel at Bombay, spokesman clarified, "In keeping with our friendly bilateral relations with the United States, we have allowed the transit of U.S. Air Force transport aircraft through Bombay. These facilities were granted after Government were satisfied that these transport aircraft would not be used for carrying lethal supplies but for evacuation of personnel on medical,

humanitarian and emergency grounds.

The U.S. Government has agreed to find replacement fuel for these supplies.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date**: Jan 28, 1991

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### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

### Indo-Namibian Cultural Agreement

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 25, 1991:

The Government of India and Namibia signed a Cultural Agreement today (25/1/91), in Windhoek. It was signed on the Namibian side by Mr. James Wentworth, Deputy Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport and on the Indian side by the High Commissioner, Shri S. S. Mukherjee.

Under this agreement, the two sides envisage cooperation in a variety of fields, including art, culture, health, mass-media and sport.

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### MIBIA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

**Date**: Jan 25, 1991

# Volume No

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### PAPUA NEW GUINEA

If high Commissioner of Papua New Guinea Presented Credentials

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi

on Jan 22, 1991 on presentation of credentials by the High Commissioner of Papua New Guinea:

The new High Commissioner of Papua New Guinea, His Excellency Mr. Anthony Haro Farapo has presented his credentials to the President Shri R. Venkataraman at a function held in Rashtrapati Bhavan today.

Welcoming the new High Commissioner of Papua New Guinea the President Shri R. Venkataraman said, "Both Papua New Guinea and India share many attributes and have been cooperating closely on the problems facing the countries of South in the on-going South-South dialogue."

Referring to the cooperation between Papua New Guinea and India, the President said. "The complementary nature of our two economies offers great potential for bilateral collaboration and cooperation in many fields including oil exploration. Both our countries need to pay closer attention to these possibilities so as to derive maximum advantage".

Earlier while presenting his credentials, the High Commissioner of Papua New Guinea H. E. Mr. Anthony Haro Farapo said, "There has been a steady growth in relations between our two countries since the start of diplomatic relations in 1976. There is scope for greater improvement in our bilateral relations. Papua New Guinea is interested to study Indian technical cooperation programmes relating to the exchange of personnel, training and trade which are important to our bilateral relations. We have found Indian to be a cooperative ally in pursuit of the needs of the developing world".

INEA PAPUA NEW GUINEA INDIA

**Date**: Jan 22, 1991

## **Volume No**

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### **ROMANIA**

### Indo-Romanian Trade

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 24, 1991 on Indo-Romanian trade:

India and Romania have agreed to continue the rupee payment system, which governs trade between the two countries, upto 31st

December, 1992 with a provision for extending it by another three years. This is indicated in the new Indo-Romanian Trade and Payments Agreement which was initiated at the official level here today. The existing Indo-Romanian Trade and Payments Agreement had expired on 31.12.1990 and pending finalisation of the new agreement rupee trade was provisionally extended. Besides the rupee trade agreement, the Indo-Romanian Trade Plan for 1991 was also finalised during the trade talks and the Protocol signed here -9>

today by Shri V. N. Kaul, Joint Secretary (East Europe), Ministry of Commerce and Mr. A. Pascale, Director, Ministry of Commerce and Tourism and leader of the visiting Romanian delegation.

The Trade Plan envisages a total trade turnover of Rs. 640 crores during 1991. The major imports from Romania are oil prospecting and drilling equipment, capital goods, machine tools, rolled steel products etc. On the export front, major items of export to Romania are coffee, extractions, soyabean meal, iron ore, iron ore pellets, and raw cotton etc.

Indo-Romanian trade turnover in 1991 is provisionally estimated at Rs. 140 crores, comprising imports from Romania at Rs. 53 crores and exports to Romania valued at Rs. 87 crores. It is hoped that during 1991 the trade turnover will increase substantially between the two countries. It was felt that the recent changes in Romania hold out new possibilities for Indo-Romanian Co-operation and particularly for India's exports to Romania.

AN ROMANIA INDIA

**Date**: Jan 24, 1991

## **Volume No**

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#### **SEYCHELLES**

Seychelles Education Minister Arrived in India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 30, 1991 on the visit of Seychelles Education Minister to India:

The Education Minister of Seychelles Mrs. Simone Testa arrived in New Delhi today on a 10-day visit to India at the invitation of

the Minister for Human Resource Development, Shri Rajmangal Pande. She was accompanied by Mr, Bernard Shamalye, Director School Education, Government of Seychelles. Mrs. Testa called on Shri Pande here his afternoon. Both recalled the close ties between the two countries and hoped that their cooperation in various fields including education would continue to grow. She also had a meeting with the Education Secretary Shri Anil Bordia and other officials of the Department of Education. Under the cultural exchange programme between the two countries for 1990-92 both sides have agreed to exchange delegations, to study the educational system and exchange of views to determine areas of collaboration between institutes of higher education. A three member delegation from Seychelles is scheduled to visit the University Grants Commission in March this year. The NCERT has identified material on educational system publications and audio visual material for school education which is likely to be sent to Seychelles shortly.

The education system in Seychelles comprises nine years' of primary education followed by two years' in National Youth Service and then 2-5 years' in polytechnic which is equivalent to pre-degree in India. At present Seychelles is looking for upgradation of their vocational studies and training aspects in education.

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YCHELLES INDIA USA

**Date**: Jan 30, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

### **SWEDEN**

Sweden Abolished Textile Quotas

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 28, 1991 on abolition of textile quota by Sweden:

Sweden has abolished all quotas for textiles and garments with effect from 1st August, 1991. This was indicated by Mr. Par Kettis, Swedish Ambassador in India, when he called on Dr. Subramanian Swamy, Minister of Commerce, here today. The aboition of quotas follows the Swedish Government's decision not to renew the multifibre arrangement (MFA) which governs the world trade in textiles through quotas, and which is due to expire on 31st July, 1991. This makes Sweden the first country to unilaterally abolish

quotas without waiting for the outcome of the Uruguay Round and signifies Sweden's commitment to liberalise its trade in general and the textile trade in particular. The abolition of quotas represents a major gain for India and other textile exporting countries as far as the Swedish market is concerned. Mr. Kettis also invited Dr. Swamy to visit Sweden.

India's exports of garments and clothing to Sweden in 1990 (Calendar year amounted to Rs, 68.52 crores as against Rs. 36.93 crores in 1989 indicating an increase of almost 90%. Total exports of Indian textiles to Sweden in 1990 were estimated at Rs. 85 crores. It is expected that the abolition of quotas will facilitate further expansion of India's exports to Sweden, which although a relatively small market, has played an important role in the quality upgradation and diversification of Indian textiles, especially household linen.

Total exports of cotton textiles and garments from India (excluding woollens etc.) were around Rs. 6009 crores in 1990. During 1991 it is projected to increase by around 25% to Rs. 7500 cnores, Quotas under MFA are administered on a calendar year basis.

EDEN INDIA USA URUGUAY

**Date**: Jan 28, 1991

# **Volume No**

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### UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Indo-Soviet Joint Ventures in Wind Energy Sector

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 10, 1991 on Indo-Soviet joint venture:

India and Soviet Union are likely to take up joint ventures in the wind energy sector in the country. This was indicated at the end of the first round of high level discussions held here today between the Indian and Soviet experts in this field.

The Indian delegation was led by Shri R. K. Sharma, Secretary, Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Ministry of Energy, and the Soviet team by Mr. Yury I. Novak, General Director, SPA Ventroen.

The discussions covered technical cooperation in wind power

development including R&D, sharing of test facilities, -11>

documentation production and project engineering. The possibilities of setting up joint ventures in India for production of wind electric generaton of 100 to 250 KW or higher capacity were also explored.

The Soviet team also met the Minister for Energy, Shri Kalyan Singh Kalvi. Shri Kalvi said that India could benefit from the Soviet experience in this field, particularly in the wind energy sector. Exploitation of new and renewable energy sources would not only contribute towards meeting rising energy requirements of the people, it would also be environment friendly. India had a vast potential for harnessing energy from these sources and they should be tapped fully, he said.

India's wind energy programmes include carrying out wind energy surveys, setting up of small size wind pumps for drinking water and minor irrigation and installation of wind farms for large scale power generation. The country has set up an aggregate capacity of 34 MW for power generation under the wind energy programme since it began in 1986. A 10 MW wind power project has been set up recently al Lamba in Gujarat, which is the largest of its kind in Asia.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC LATVIA

**Date**: Jan 10, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### **VIETNAM**

Closer Ties between India and Vietnam

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 17, 1991 on India-Vietnam ties:

Deputy Prime Ministen, Shri Devi Lal and Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap, Vice-Chairman of Vietnam have called for closer relations between India and Vietnam. The two leaders stressed the need for greater south-south cooperation in more areas of economic activity. Shri Devi Lal hosted a lunch for Gen. Giap who arrived here this morning from Calcutta.

The Deputy Prime Minister showed to distinguished guest the drip

irrigation technique which he has installed at his residence. Shri Devi Lal informed Gen. Giap that India was developing new technologies in agriculture and water conservation. The two sides discussed about cooperation in the field of animal husbandry and horticulture.

Earlier the Deputy Prime Minister received the distinguished guest at the Palam Airport on his arrival from Calcutta.
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ETNAM INDIA LATVIA USA

**Date**: Jan 17, 1991

# **February**

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**Date**: Feb 01, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

### **GERMANY**

Agreement on Extension of Indo-German Export PromotionProgramme

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 02, 1991 on signing of agreement between India and Germany on export promotion programme:

The Agreement on the Indo-German Export Promotion Project (IGEP) Phase II was signed here today by the Commerce Minister, Dr. Subramanian Swamy, on behalf of the Government of India and Mr. Carl Dieter Spranger, Minister for Economic Cooperation and Mrs. Seiler Albring, State Minister for Foreign Affairs on behalf of the German Government. The Agreement, coinciding with the visit of President Waizsaecker of Germany, covers a 3-year period (1990-1993) and entails a German grant of 11.2 million OM for the Indo-German Export Promotion Project and Government of India's contribution of Rs. 15 lakhs. The Project, jointly sponsored by the Indian and German Governments, was initially launched for a period of 2 years (1988-90), with a German grant of more than 5 million DM with counterpart funding on the Indian side to the tune of Rs. 10 lakhs. Today's agreement thus marks an extension of the previous programme with a substantially increased funding.

This Project was launched to increase India's exports to the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) and the European Community through assistance provided to Indian manufacturers and exporters in the field of product and quality improvement, fashion, design and marketing by German exports in India and abroad. During the first 2 years, IGEP which is executing the project through its New Delhi Office through its co-ordinator, Dr. Kebschull, has mainly covered leather products, jewellery, silk and engineering goods. This project has been beneficial in helping the entry of certain selected products in the German market and entry of Indian bicycles in the German market is counted as one of the success stories of this project.

India's exports to Germany, valued at Rs. 1777.79 crores in 1989-90 and growing at a rate of about 38% in rupee terms and 10% in DM terms, are expected to receive a significant boost with the implementation of the project.

RMANY INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA RUSSIA

Date: Feb 02, 1991

# Volume No

1995

**GERMANY** 

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 28, 1991 on Indo-German agreement on financial cooperation:

In inter-governmental agreement between India and the Federal Republic of Germany on Financial Cooperation was signed on February 28, 1991 by the Finance Minister of India, Shri Yashwant Sinha and the F.R.G. Minister for Economic Co-operation, Mr. Carl Dieter Spranger and Mrs. Ursula Seiler-Albring, Minister of State in the Federal Foreign Office. The Agreements were signed in the presence of Mr. Richard von Weizsaecker, President -13>

of Germany and Mr. R. Venkataraman, President of India in the Ashoka Hall of Rashtrapati Bhavan. The Agreement covers three loans totalling DM 174 million. The loans are as under:

- i) DM 100 million for import of fertilizer from FRG. Imports made between 14th December, 1990 and 31st December, 1991 are eligible for financing under this loan. Funds for this loan has been made available from existing unutilised FRG credits.
- ii) DM 60 million for meeting part of local costs of Dadri Gas Based Power Project. Local costs arising during 1991/1992 are eligible for financing under his credit. Funds for this loan has also been made available from existing unutilised FRG credits. FRG has already provided DM 424.9 million for the project as mixed credit, i.e., 50 per cent soft and 50 per cent export credit.
- iii) DM 14 million loan for import of capital goods from FRG. The funds for this have been made available as an advance allocation for the year 1991.

All the above loans are highly concessional and carry an interest rate of 0.75 per cent per annum repayable over a period of 40 years including a moratorium of 10 years.

Three loans agreements were also signed with the FW (which is the executing agency for German financial cooperation) to give effect to the above as also a Capital Goods credit of DM 65 million which had been committed earlier.

It will be recalled that India is the largest recipient of German bilateral economic assistance.

RMANY INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date**: Feb 28, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

#### Elimination of Child Labour

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 04, 1991 on elimination of child labour:

International Labour Organisation (ILO) is giving increased attention to the problem of child labour and has selected the elimination of child labour as a major theme of integrated and concentrated office-wide action for the next biennum, 1992-93. The Government of Germany was making a specal grant to help finance ILO's programme on child labour.

This was indicated at the Asian Regional Seminar on Child Labour: Education and Enforcement of Legislation' which began here today in which many countries of Asia and Pacific region are participating.

Inaugurating the seminar, the Labour Secretary, Shri V. P. Sawhney pointed out that there was an urgent need to build up infrastructure and institutional arrangement for the elimination of child labour. the environment under which child had been brought up also had greater impact on the child. Some had to send their child for work out of compulsions.

He felt that mere standard setting would no solve the problem but one

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had to go into the realities of the situation.

Mr. V. Morozov, Assistant Director-General for Conditions of Work and Social Security, ILO stated that education too was an important factor contributing to the elimination of child labour. The availability and quality of education act as a major constraint to the efficiency of national child labour legislation in many developing countries. He added that the campaign against child labour was difficult but if there was political will and solidarity, it could be easily won. The task could not be left to the Government alone but there should be involvement of employers and workers' organisations.

According to an ILO paper, the number of children in developing

countries engaged in work or employment was quite large, and much larger than was reflected in labour and employment statistics. School enrollment statistics show that as high as 24 per cent of children in developing countries under 12 years would be working in one form or another. The secondary school enrollment ratio in developing countries is about 40 per cent. The implication, therefore, is that the majority of the children between 12 and 15 in many developing countries may well be working.

All countries have adopted national laws and regulations incorporating the basic clauses of the international labour conventions on the subject, thereby establishing a minimum age of entry to employment, prohibiting the employment of children in work that endangers the safety, health or morale of children and specifying the condition and terms under which persones may work. Many have established mechanisms for enforcing these laws and regulations. However, sufficient and effective enforcement is often lacking.

DIA GERMANY USA

**Date**: Feb 04, 1991

### **Volume No**

1995

### **MALAYSIA**

India to Build Railway Bridges, Road over Bridges and Tunnelsin Malaysia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 26, 1991 on signing of two contracts between India and Malaysia:

India and Malaysia have signed two contracts for construction of Railway Bridges. Road Over Bridges and Tunnels Malaysia. One contract relates to Rawang to Kajang Railway Station and the second contacts from Kajang to Seremban Railway Station. The projects will cost Rs. 34 crores. India was represented by Shri M. D. Khattar, Managing Director, Indian Railway Construction Company (IRCON), a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Railways and Malaysia by Mr. Rahim Osman, General Manager, Malayan Railway Admnistraion. The signing ceremony was held at Kualalampur on February 25, 1991 and witnessed by the Malaysian Minister of Transport, His Excellency Datuk Seri Dr. Ling Liong Sik and the Indian High Commissioner, Shri R, S. Rathore in Malaysia. The new contracts envisages construction of 43 bridges and a 470 feet long tunnel.

IRCON is already executing two Railway Projects in Malaysia, the first for rehabilitation of Railway Track for a length of 327 Kms costing Rs. 123 crores and other for doubling of Railway Track bet-

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ween Rawang to Seremban at a cost of about Rs. 95 crores. These bridges form part of the doubling projects area. With these two contracts for bridges being awarded to IRCON, the company will be executing entire civil works connected with the Doubling Project between Rawang and Seremban.

These two coneracts were secured by IRCON amist stiff international competition.

Export-Import bank of India and the State Bank of India will provide the financial facilities to the IRCON for these contracts.

LAYSIA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

**Date**: Feb 26, 1991

### **Volume No**

1995

### MISC

Joint Press Statement Issued by the Government of Sri Lanka and the Government of India

The following is the text of joint press statement issued by the Government of Sri Lanka and the Government of India on the Jan 31, 1991:

- 1. His Excellency Mr. Vidya Charan Shukla, Minister of External Affairs of India visited Sri Lanka from 28-31 January 1991 at the invitation of Hon. Harold Herat, Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka.
- 2. The Minister of External Affairs of India called on His Excellency Rana-Singhe Premadasa, President of Sri Lanka.
- 3. During the visit, the Minister of External Affairs of India met Hon. D. B. Wijethnga, Prime Minister, Hon. M. H. Mohamed, Speaker of the Parliament, Hon. A.C.S. Hameed, Minister of Justice, Hon. Ranjan Wijeratne, Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of State for Defence. Hon. S. Thondaman, Minister of Tourism and Rural Industrial Development and Hon. A.R. Munsoor,

Minister of Trade and Commerce. The Minister of External Affairs also met President J. R. Jayawardene and Hon. Mrs. Sirimavo R.D. Bandaranaike, leader of the opposition.

- 4. The Minister of External Affairs of India and the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka discussed current global developments including the Gulf crisis. It was agreed that the ramifications of the crisis extended well beyond the region and seriously affected many developing countries including India and Sri Lanka. The two Ministers agreed to coordinate efforts to achieve a settlement of all related issues in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions and the principles of the Non-aligned Movement. The practical steps that could be taken to develop initiatives taken by India and Sri Lanka as well as other nonaligned countries were discussed in detail. The Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka briefed the Minister of External Affairs on the initiative by President Premadasa for the convening of the Ministerial Committee of the non-aligned countries to consider the Gulf situation. The Minister of External Affairs of India welcomed the initiative and briefed his counterpart on his recent discussions in Belgrade and India's proposals on the Gulf situation.
- 5. The two Ministers reviewed the progress in the implementation of SAARC

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programmes. They welcomed the decisions taken at the Fifth Summit in Male to streamline the working methods of the association. Increase its effectiveness and to make SAARC more responsive to the needs of the people of South Asia. They agreed to cooperate closely for the success of the Sixth Summit in Colombo.

- 6. The two Ministers agreed that in the framework of regional cooperation among SAARC countries in the field of trade. Manufactures and services. likely to emerge from the national studies on the subject. The two countries would cooperate to include in it the concept of a free trade area particularly for primary commodities. Simultaneously efforts should be made to promote trade at the bilateral level.
- 7. In a spirit of reciprocity, the two Ministers reiterated the commitment of their Governments to respect each others unity, Sovereignty and Territorial integrity. They further reiterated that their respective territories would not be used for any activity prejudicial to the security and national interest of the other country. In this context, the two Ministers agreed to intensify their efforts to prevent smuggling of contraband and arms between the two countries.
- 8. The two Ministers expressed their concern that terrorist and separatist activities are seriously threats to peace, security and development in their respective countries. They agreed to

coordinate necessary measures in the context of the convention on suppression of terrorism.

- 9. The Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka briefed the Minister of External Affairs of India on the situation in Sri Lanka and explained the constitutional, administrative and other measures taken by the government to restore peace and normalcy and to guarantee the safety and security of all communities, including providing opportunities for their economic and social development. The Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka also detailed the threats to this process posed by the LTTE which still remained unwilling to contribute peacefully to the strengthening of a free, united and democratic Sri Lanka. The Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka briefed the Minister of External Affairs of India on the negotiations other political parties were having with the government of Sri Lanka towards restoration of normalcy in the North and East of the country.
- 10. The External Affairs Minister of India expressed appreciation of measures taken by the Government of Sri Lanka to find a political solution to the problem. He stated that only a negotiated political settlement which takes into account the legitimate aspirations of the Tamil community would bring about a lasting solution. In this context, he reaffirmed his belief that there was need to pursue measures to bring the parties concerned to the negotiating table. He reiterated India's belief that the political framework created by Sri Lanka following the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement of 1987 provided a viable basis for a reasonable and enduring settlement of the North-East problem.
- 11. The Minister of External Affairs of India hoped that the Government of Sri Lanka would create the necessary conditions for the early return of refugees presently in India. The Government of Sri Lanka expressed its readiness to receive Sri Lankan returnees from India and explained the measures taken for the establishment of resettlement centres pending the rehabilitation of these returnees to their homes. The Government of India agreed to provide information necessary to facilitate the return of re--17>

fugees to their original places of residence. The External Affairs Minister of India stressed the voluntary character of this process and stated that it would be preferable for these refugees to return to their homes directly rather than through transit camps. He reaffirmed India's belief that in the ultimated analysis, the return of refugees would depend on the restoration of normalcy in the affected areas.

- 12. The Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka thanked the Government of India for its generous contribution to the UNHCR relief operations in Sri Lanka.
- 13. The Minister of External Affairs of India briefed the Foreign

Minister of Sri Lanka on the State of India's relations with her other neighbours.

- 14. The two Ministers discussed bilateral trade and economic relations. It has agreed that efforts should be directed at stimulating a more balanced growth through the liberalisation of barriers affecting certain products. The two Ministers agreed further that improved trade relations would serve to enhance cooperation between the two countries in other fields as well.
- 15. The two Ministers decided to take steps for the establishment of an Indo-Sri Lanka joint commission chaired by the respective Foreign Ministers on an alternating basis. The joint commission would initially incorporate two sub-committees at the level of secretaries devoted respectively to trade, finance and investment and to social, cultural and educational matters. It was agreed that a preparatory meeting at Foreign Secretary level would take place in New Delhi in the month of March. This meeting could determine dates for the joint commission meeting.
- 16. It was agreed that ONGC (vidhesh) limited and ceylon petroleum corporation will take steps towards finalising a contract for oil exploration in the gulf of manner and negotiations to finalise the contract will take place shortly.

I LANKA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA YUGOSLAVIA MALDIVES RUSSIA

**Date**: Jan 31, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Dalai Lama & Tibet

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 05, 1991:

When asked to explain India's position on Tibet and the Dalai Lama, in view of recent statements of the EAM on the subject, spokesman said "he did not know exactly what the Minister had said", but esssentially the Indian position on the Dalai Lama had not changed. India had always recognised Tibet as an autonomous region of China and the Dalai Lama as a respected religious and spiritual leader held in high esteem by the people of India and by the Bhuddist community through-out the world. India and Tibet

have old cultural ties.

"But our understanding is that the Dalai Lama is not expected to engage himself in any political activity while in India".
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When asked for a reaction to the report that Nepal had denied a visa to the Dalai Lama, spokesman said that he had no comment. "The issuing of visas is the prerogative of any sovereign country".

DIA USA CHINA NEPAL

**Date**: Feb 05, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Gulf

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Gulf on Feb 07, 1991 in New Delhi:

The special envoy of the Amir of Kuwait, Shiekh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, Dr. Abdul Rehman Abdullah Al-Awadhi had a meeting with the Deputy Minister (EA). He conveyed the good wishes to the Minister on behalf of the people and the Amir of Kuwait. He also conveyed appreciation for GOI's stand on the Gulf crisis and the views of the Government of Kuwait and the Amir of Kuwait on issues relating to the Gulf crisis. The special envoy said that it was their hope that the international community would stand firm in favour of full implementation of the Security Council Resolutions. He also expressed the hope that the Government of India would stand equally firm.

The Deputy Minister conveyed on behalf of the government and the people of India good wishes to the Amir and people of Kuwait. He referred to the long standing traditional friendship between India and Kuwait and reiterated India's commitment to the Security Council Resolution.

There was also a discussion on the reconstruction of Kuwait after the war and it was agreed that India would have an important role to play in this process of reconstruction. The special envoy conveyed the hope that when the time comes, India would come forward to contribute to the building of a new Kuwait.

When questioned about the veracity of a report in today's Business and Political Observer stating that Government had decided to stop the refuelling of the US transport aircraft, spokesman said that he was in a position to say that the report was without any foundation.

DIA KUWAIT USA

**Date**: Feb 07, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Kuwait

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 07, 1991:

The special Envoy of the Amir of Kuwait Dr. Abdul Rehman Abdullah Al-Awadhi called on the Prime Minister Shri Chandrashekhar this afternoon. He conveyed the warm greetings and good wishes of the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait to Shri Chandrashekhar.

Recalling that India had consistently stood for the independence and sovereign equality of all states and had always espoused the cause of liberation of the occupied territories, the Special Envoy expressed the hope that India would continue its efforts to bring the tragic conflict to an end in terms of UN Security Council Resolutions.

PM responded by saying that there had never been any doubt or ambiguity about India's stand on the question of the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait. He added that India had done its best to work for the promotion of a peaceful solution of the conflict and assured the special envoy that India would continue to do its utmost to bring about an end to the hostilities on the basis of the UN Security Council Resolutions.

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WAIT INDIA USA IRAQ

**Date**: Feb 07, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Gulf

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 08, 1991:

Part I

The Kuwaiti Special Envoy, Minister of State, H.E. Dr. Abdul Rehman Abdullah Al-Awadhi, called on the External Affairs Minister Mr. V. C. Shukla. He conveyed the greetings of the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister and said that the preliminary purpose of his visit was to convey the gratitude of the Government and the people of Kuwait for the strong support that India had lent to the cause of Kuwait. He expressed the hope that this support will continue. He cited age-old ties between the two countries, which he hoped will receive new impetus when Kuwait was liberated and expressed the hope that India will assist in the reconstruction of his country. The Ministers discussed in detail India's peace initiative and the prospects of this initiative at the Belgrade meeting on the 12th. They also had detailed discussions about other diplomatic moves in the direction of finding a peaceful solution to the conflict including moves made by other countries, such as Iran

The Kuwaiti Special Envoy had earlier called on Begum Nejma Heptullah, Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, who had earlier visited Riyad in December-January as a Special Envoy of our Prime Minister.

Part II

Mr. Akbar Ali Vellayati, the Iranian Foreign Minister telephoned our External Affairs Minister today and it was decided that they would both make every effort to meet at Belgrade at the earliest possible opportunity for further discussion on initiatives for a peaceful solution of the Gulf crisis.

DIA KUWAIT UNITED KINGDOM USA YUGOSLAVIA IRAN

Date: Feb 08, 1991

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#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Gulf

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Gulf on Feb 08, 1991 in New Delhi:

Government of India is deeply concerned over satements made recently by the parties engaged in the Gulf conflict, emanating from very high levels, regarding the possible use of nuclear and chemical weapons. The use of chemical weapons is regarded as inhuman and reprehensible by the entire world community and is prohibited by international law. The use of nuclear weapons can unleash death and devastation beyond the theatre of war. affecting both combatants and non-combatants alike. It constitutes a threat to the very survival of mankind. The use of nuclear weapons has been regarded by the UN General Assembly as a violation of the UN Charter and a crime against humanity. Moreover, the Security Council, while describing use of "necessary means" in its Resolution 678, could not have conceived the inclusion of nuclear weapons as falling within the term "necessary means". The Government of India calls upon all parties engaged in the conflict to strictly abjure the use of nuclear or chemical weapons or any other weapons of mass destruction. -20>

DIA USA

**Date**: Feb 08, 1991

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#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Afghan Foreign Minister

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official

Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Feb 08, 1991 in New Delhi:

The Afghan Foreign Minister Mr. Abdul Wakil met Mr. V. C. Shukla, External Affairs Minister today. This was followed by official level talks between the two delegations. Welcoming Mr. Wakil, Mr. Shukla said that there was a consensus amongst all political parties in India about the value of good relations with Afghanistan and assured him of Government's commitment to strengthen this long-standing cooperation and friendship, which are of mutual benefit and more importantly served the cause of peace and stability in the region. President Najib's visit to India last year provided a major impetus to our relations. The agreements signed during that vist along with decisions taken at the 9th Session of the Joint Commission in June last year, gave a new momentum to our cooperative arrangements. Mr. Shukla shared the Afghan Minister's views on the desire to extend and diversify our relationship. On their part, the Afghan delegation led by their Foreign Minister reciprocated the sentiments and said it was indeed gratifying that the friendship between the two countries had remained unchanged inspite of political changes in both countries. Both sides underlined the need for regular exchange of views in view of the rapid developments taking place in the region.

Our Minister expressed profound distress and concern at the outbreak of hostilities in the Gulf, despite the efforts of so many countries to prevent it and undelined the great danger it posed to peace and security and to mankind as a whole when we were hopeful of a new era of international peace and understanding.

External Affairs Minister described our efforts till the last movement to avert war. Even after the out-break of hostilities, India has been pressing for cessation of the fighting on the basis of Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of their sovereign legitimate Government. The External Affairs Minister paid special attention to the initiatives taken to activate the Non-aligned Movement in order to evolve an appropriate framework for finding a peaceful solution. He stressed the value of consultations with Afghanistan, on the Gulf, given our common commitment to international peace and our exceptionally close relations.

Mr. Abdual Wakil fully shared India's concern on this matter and conveyed his Government's appreciation for India's efforts to end the hostalities and promote a peaceful solution. He expressed the desire of Afghanistan to be associated with the NAM initiative.

Before the official talks, Mr. Wakil had called on the President, the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and other prominent leaders of political parties.

**Date**: Feb 08, 1991

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#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

### Visit of USSR Deputy Foreign Minister

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Feb 08, 1991 in New Delhi:

The Deputy Foreign Minister of Soviet Union Mr. Igor Rogachev, had meetings today with AS (POL) I. P. Khosla. He called on the External Affairs Minister and had wide ranging exchange of views with Foreign Secretary, Mr. M. Dubey and Secretary (Culture), Mr. Bhaskar Ghosh. He discussed cultural ties including finalisation of new Cultural Exchange Programme for the year 1991-92. In his discussions with the External Affairs Minis--21>

ter and Foreign Secretary, both sides reiterated their firm commitment to the further development of traditionally closed and friendly Indo-Soviet ties, which remained as important in today's context as they were in past. The two sides discussed the modalities for the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace and Friendship and Cooperation, which falls in August this year. There was an indepth exchange of views on Cambodia, Asia Pacific and the emerging world political and economic order. Both sides agreed to have regular exchanges, at different levels in the future.

On the Gulf, there was a close identity of views. Both sides expressed their anxiety about the high level of destruction, the enormous losses of human life and the will ensue from this tragic conflict. Both sides expressed their deep concern about wishing to ensure that the war did not spread. The Soviet Union appreciated India's efforts to find a peaceful political solution to the crisis and offered to cooperate in searching for ways inclusive of the initiative taken by the Non-aligned Movement - to end the conflict on the basis of the UN Security Council Resolutions.

A INDIA CAMBODIA

**Date**: Feb 08, 1991

### **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Gulf

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Feb 09, 1991 in New Delhi:

The Government of India has noted with deep concern that the destruction unleashed by the hostilities in the Gulf has not been confined to military targets. Many innocent lives have been lost. Civilian properties, including thousadns of dwelling houses, have been destroyed. Civilian traffic on the road from Baghdad to Amman has been hit, causing death and injuries to many civilians. Millions of civilians have been caught up in the violence, particularly in Kuwait, without shelter or protection against bombing. Their plight is compounded by the health hazard faced by them owing to the absence of electricity and increasing shortages of clean water. We would urge that internationally accepted methods of warfare be scrupulously adhered to and every possible precaution taken to protect the civilian population against the devastations and risks of the military operations.

"The UN Security Council Resolution 678 authorizes member-States cooperating with the Government of Kuwait, to use all necessary means to uphold and implement the Security Council Resolution 660. Even those who are participating in the Gulf war in pursuance of this resolution, have recognized that the objective is to liberate Kuwait and not to subdue Iraq or to dismantle its technological and physical infrastructure or to cripple its social and economic life. The UN Security Council must, at all times, ensure that the conduct of military operations is in conformity with the objective of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 678. For this purpose, it should meet urgently to review the present situation and thereafter, from time to time, to keep the matter under constant review".

DIA USA IRAO JORDAN KUWAIT

**Date**: Feb 09, 1991

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#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Statement made by External Affairs Minister

The following is the text of a statement issued by Shri Vidyacharan Shukla, Minister of External Affairs on Feb 14, 1991:

The Government of India have had occasion to express their deep concern at the targetting of civilian, industrial, economic and other non-military locations during the course of military operations against Iraq and Kuwait. We have urged that every possible precaution be taken to protect the civilian population against -22>

the devastation and risks of these military operations.

It is a matter of deep regret that despite the urging of a wide section of the international community in this regard, civilian centres in and around the cities of Iraq and civilian traffic on the roads, continue to be hit causing thousands of civilian casualties. There have been reports of attacks on schools and dwelling houses, community shelters and apartment buildings. We have seen with particularly grave concern the reports of the recent attack on a civilian bombing shelter in Baghdad causing deaths to hundreds of women and children. This is against all norms or accepted methods for the conduct of warfare. This latest incident, together with extensive earlier civilian casualties, clearly indicate that the operations have gone beyond the mandate given by the Security Council in Resolution No. 678 to member States to implement the relevant Security Council Resolution.

The Government of India would once again strongly urge all member States participating in the military operations "to ensure that the conduct of such operations" is in strict conformity with the objectives of the United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 678. Indeed it is necessary that the Security Council should meet more regularly to keep this matter under constant review.

ITED KINGDOM INDIA USA IRAQ KUWAIT

**Date**: Feb 14, 1991

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#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Gulf

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Feb 15, 1991 in New Delhi:

The Government of India welcome the announcement by Iraq of its readiness to withdraw from Kuwait. India has always held that full implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions would be the best means to ensure the restoration of peace in the Gulf. We believe that this announcement by Iraq should be accompanied by an immediate cessation of hostilities and military operations against Iraq and that Iraq should also announce a time frame for complete withdrawal. In our view the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the region should take place simultaneously with the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and such forces can be replaced by the deployment of a UN peace keeping force.

Other modalities such as guarantees of non-aggression should also be given by the UN Security Council and we must also look at complete withdrawal of sanctions against Iraq as the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait progresses.

This is not a time for retribution but a time to think of the future and of how best genuine peace and cooperation can be restored to this entire region. Therefore we appeal to President Bush and President Saddam Hussein to try and find areas of agreement and to bring about a pause in the war. There is not victor and no vanquished in such a war. Iraq should be given a chance to complete withdrawal honourably.

We are ready to contribute to the process of restoration of peace and establishment of durable stability in the region. -23>

DIA IRAQ KUWAIT USA

**Date**: Feb 15, 1991

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#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Sri Lanka

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Feb 16, 1991 in New Delhi:

We are distressed at a report of civilian casualities and damage to property due to the continuing aerial attacks in North Sri Lanka. During the EAM's visit to Colombo, we had reaffirmed the need to find a political solution to the problem.

This escalation of hostilities could renew the refugee influx and adversely affect the process towards a negotiated political settlement with the participation of all concerned parties.

I LANKA INDIA

**Date**: Feb 16, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Burma

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Feb 18, 1991 1991 in New Delhi:

When questioned about the reported press conference of Ms. Nu at Calcutta a few days ago wherein she had stated that the National League for Democracy would approach the Indian Government for assistance against the military regime in Burma, and about reports that the two Burmese high jackers now detained in India will seek asylum, Spokesman said that the highjackers were under trial and until the judicial process was complete, one would not be able to comment about their future status. Other Burmese nationals have been allowed to stay in India on compassionate grounds and when permission is given on such grounds, it is not taken to be interference in the internal affairs of another country, in this case Myanmar, as has been alleged by certain

elements in Myanmar. This, however, would not detract from the very natural sympathy that India has for the democratic aspirations of the people of Myanmar.

RMA INDIA USA

**Date**: Feb 18, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Gulf

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Feb 19, 1991 in New Delhi:

Sixteen Indian evacuees were scheduled to leave Amman for Delhi on 18.2.91 via Cairo and Karachi. They are expected to arrive in Delhi on 20 February, 1991. This would probably be the last batch of Indian evacuees from Baghdad through Amman.

DIA JORDAN EGYPT PAKISTAN IRAQ

**Date**: Feb 19, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Special Session of the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Feb 18, 1991 in New Delhi:

External Affairs Minister Mr. V. C. Shukla attended the meeting of the Commonwealth Committee of the Foreign Ministers for Southern Africa on 16th February at London. The Minister made a number of significant contributions to the deliberations at the

conference. This was widely appreciated by members, es-24>

pecially by the Chairman of the committee, Canada.

External Affairs Minister also had separate discussions with the Foreign Ministers of Canada, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

External Affairs Minister highlighted the fact that despite the Gulf war, the ministers had chosen to be away from their capitals to take part in this meeting and this underlined the importance they attached to the issue of South Africa. Referring to the February 1 proposals of President De Klerk, External Affairs Minister noted that these had several important gaps, and many vital obstacles still remained to be overcome. Although President De Klerk's proposals showed promise they delivered little, because they skirted around several vital issues such as universal franchise, etc.

External Affairs Minister recalled that India had imposed comprehensive sanctions against South Africa as far back as 1946. Since then, India's policy had remained unchanged and this continue until the process of the dismantlement of apartheid becomes irreversible. The CCFMSA had mandated to keep South Africa under constant review.

External Affairs Minister reiterated that apartheid had to be dismantled and it is the very essence of things that the Commonwealth should work together on the principle of unanimity and none in the Commonwealth should take unilateral action, that would jeopardise the organisation's capacity to influence this process.

External Affairs Minister urged that the Commonwealth should prepare the time-bound programme for the effective and fast dismantling of apartheid, more so to prevent anyone from seeking dilution or relaxation of sanctions. He stated that the ultimate objective of sanctions was to end apartheid, and to bring about a new era in South Africa, based on racial and social equality and democratic freedom. India welcomed the evolution of thinking in the South African Government in this direction, but firmly stated that the recent warning of Mr. Mandela to revive mass action in his country, in the event of any dilution of sanctions, should not

It was agreed that the next formal meeting of the CCFMSA would be held in Delhi after 30 April, 1991.

DIA UNITED KINGDOM CANADA USA ZAMBIA ZIMBABWE SOUTH AFRICA

**Date**: Feb 18, 1991

### **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Indo-Irish Talks

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Feb 20, 1991 in New Delhi:

The official level talks were held between the External Affairs Minister, Mr. V. C. Shukla and the visiting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ireland, Mr. Geard Collins today. The two ministers had a one-to-one meeting for 15 minutes before the delegations level talks, which lasted for an hour and a half.

The two sides discussed the state of bilateral relations and ways and means of strengthening economic and commercial cooperation. They also discussed the changes that would take place in the European Community after the unification of the Market and the consequent impact of Indo-EEC trade. On the Gulf, both sides expressed their hope for an early end to the war and for lasting peace and stability

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in the region. The External Affairs Minister mentioned the various initiatives that were being taken by the non-aligned movement in this context. Both delegations expressed satisfaction at the excellent political relations that exist between the two and the commonality of views that they share on many subjects of regional and international importance.

The visiting Minister also call on the Commerce and Finance Ministers this afternoon.

When questioned whether the subjects of the 'IRA' and 'terrorism' came up for discussion during the talks, the spokesman said that he had no information on that.

DIA UNITED KINGDOM IRELAND USA

**Date**: Feb 20, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Overflight of South Korean Aircraft

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Feb 21, 1991 in New Delhi:

When questioned about reports that India had denied overflight facilities to South Korea military aircraft, Spokesman said that "The guidelines for the grant of overflight facilities for military aircraft of foreign countries have been laid down by the Government of India many years ago. They were circulated to all diplomatic missions in Delhi in 1973 and thereafter again in 1983. Thus all foreign counries are fully aware of the conditions under which clearance for overflight or use of Indian airspace is given for military aircraft.

"We have received no complaint from the Government of the Republic of Korea in regard to this matter. India and the Republic of Korea have extremely warm and friendly relations and it is the aim of both countries to further strengthen these relations in the future."

REA INDIA USA

**Date**: Feb 21, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Gulf: Special Envoy from Saudi Arabia

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Feb 25, 1991 in New Delhi:

The special envoy of King Fahd Mr. Ebrahim Massud had a meeting today with President Venkataraman. Later he called on the Prime Minister. He had earlier had a meeting with Dr. Najma Haptullah, Vice-Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

Dr. Ebrahim gave our leaders his government's assessment of the latest developments in the Gulf. He also conveyed to them Saudi Arabia's appreciation for India's support to the UN body and in other international forums, in getting the UN Security Council Resolutions implemented. He also thanked the Indian Government for Indian efforts and initiatives in the non-aligned forum and its energetic efforts to find a peaceful solution through the implementation of the appropriate UN Resolutions.

The Saudi Envoy explained to our leaders that the Saudi Government had been most anxious to find an end to the military conflict and had exerted itself strenously in the league, in the OIC and in the UN to avert a violent conflict. He expressed the hope that even at this late stage the Iraqi leadership would accept full and complete implementation of the UN Resolutions. The Indian leaders in turn -26>

expressed the concern of the entire country at the continuing violence and assured the visiting Envoy of India's determination to press ahead vigorously with its efforts to find a solution through the non-aligned movement and through the UN.

UDI ARABIA INDIA USA IRAQ

**Date**: Feb 25, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Gulf

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Feb 28, 1991 in New Delhi:

The Government of India welcomes the announcement by the President of the USA, of the suspension of combat operations in the Gulf. The suspension is a most significant step of the restoration of peace in the area and the re-establishment of durable security and stability.

We accept that the UN Security Council will meet soon and convert this suspension into a full-fledged ceasefire monitored by the UN. Now that Iraq has formally and unconditionally accepted all the 12 Security Council Resolutions this should not prove to be a

difficult task. It has always been the view of the GOI that the Security Council has the primary responsibility for restoring peace and reestablishing security in this area in consultation with the parties concerned. Throughout these critical weeks, India has ceaselessly striven to bring the war to an end and to achieve a ceasefire on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions. Only last night, the Prime Minister Mr. Chandra Shekhar sent a message to the President of the Republic of Iraq, urging him to accept all the UN Security Resolutions, unconditionally, in order to facilitate a ceasefire and to spare further bloodshed and suffering.

We welcome the fact that the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kuwait have been restored. We also welcome the re-establishment of the legitimate government of Kuwait. The relations between the Governments and the peoples of India and Kuwait have through the years been warm and friendly. Through-out the months after the invasion and occupation of Kuwait, by Iraq, our exchanges with the Gofernment of the State of Kuwait continued to be characterised by this traditional warmth. We are taking urgent steps to re-establish our mission in Kuwait, and we are confident that the strengthening and diversification of relations at all levels will continue in the future.

This is not the time for retribution or recrimination. We believe that the international community should now seize the opportunity to heal the wounds of war and lay the foundation for cooperation among all the nations of the area, for the prosperity and wellbeing of their peoples. The international community has also to consider urgently the broader task of reconstruction in the region. India is willing to make contributions and to participate in this effort.

The most urgent task before the international community is to provide medical supplies and other humanitarian assistance to the people of Iraq and Kuwait. We have made contributions in this regard and will continue to do so.

QUESTION: What is the GOI doing to assist people to return to Kuwait?

ANSWER: The question of facilitating the return of Indians to Kuwait is under the active consideration of the Government. It may be recalled that almost 150,000 Indians have been repatriated largely through the government's efforts in a short span of six weeks, in the immediate aftermath of the occupation of Kuwait. This enormous task was completed at an approximate cost of Rs. 300 crores. Under Section 6 (2) (h) of the Passport Act there is a mandatory requirement on Govern-

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ment to reclaim the cost of repatriation, before fresh passports

could be issued. The government are examining ways and means of assisting the evacuees, while at the same time fulfilling the legal and financial obligations that are implicit in the relevant provisions of the Passport Act.

QUESTION: What is Government of India's opinion on sending UN troops to the Gulf region?

ANSWER: The fighting started under the UN mandate. The UN has the primary responsibility for the restoration of peace and stability in the area.

DIA USA IRAQ KUWAIT

**Date**: Feb 28, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Sri Lanka: Evacuation of Madhu Church Area

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Feb 28, 1991 in New Delhi:

QUESTION: What is the Government's reaction to the Sri Lankan move to evacuate 11,000 Tamil refugees out of the Madhu Church area in order to undertake an operation against the suspected ITTE hideout there?

ANSWER: We have urged the Sri Lankan Government to avoid civilian sufferings and casualties and are surprised at the present action. The movement of such large numbers of people out of Vavuniya and Mannar will compound the humanitarian dimension of the problem and further aggravate the situation in the area.

QUESTION: What is your comment on the reported proposal of the Indian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka for reconvening the Northeastern Council?

ANSWER: You may recall that when the former EAM, Shri V. C. Shukla had visited Sri Lanka in January last, among the many suggestions made was the proposal to the Sri Lankan Government, that they take some political initiative which would instil a degree of confidence, and give a sense of participation in the political process, to the Sri Lankan Tamils. The suggestions made

by the High Commissioner as reported in the press should be viewed in the context of these discussions.

#### I LANKA INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM

**Date**: Feb 28, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Pakistan's Nuclear Programme

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Feb 22, 1991 in New Delhi:

When Spokesman was asked to comment on reports in today's press, quoting the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission Chairman as saying that Pakistan is going ahead with its nuclear programme and is developing necessary knowhow for attaining greater self-reliance; but that his country did not possess atomic weapons and did not intend to produce them.

Spokesman said that the Government of India had noted that Mr. Munir Ahmed Khan, Chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission had said that his country did not possess atomic weapons and did not intend to produce them.

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KISTAN INDIA

**Date**: Feb 22, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

UK's Support to the Indian Stand on Kashmir

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official

Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 22, 1991:

When asked to commen about newspaper reports today quoting the British Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth affairs, condemning militant violence in J & K and voicing support for India's efforts to deal with the terrorism in the area, Spokesman said that the Government of India had noted the statement made by the Parliamentary Under Secretary Mr. Iennox-Boyd in the House of Commons debate on 21.2.91. Spokesman added that Government welcomed the fact that these remarks of Mr. Lennox-Boyd had recognised that the question covered by the relevant UN Resolutions in the late 1940s was one of accession of Kashmir to India and not independence. Spokesman also pointed out that Mr. Lennox-Boyd had observed that the fresh agreement, namely the Shimla Agreement of 1972, had superseded all earlier agreements on this issue. This endorsed the stand that India had always taken namely that the Shimla Agreement called for a bilateral statement of the issue as the appropriate method for resolving such differences between the two countries.

#### DIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

**Date**: Feb 22, 1991

### **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Bangladesh: Election of a New Government

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in Feb 28, 1991 in New Delhi:

We welcome the return of democracy in Bangladesh following the elections. We look forward to work with the new Government for the benefit of both our countries.

NGLADESH INDIA **Date**: Feb 28, 1991

### **Volume No**

1995

#### SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka Seeks India's Assistance in Milk Production

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 26, 1991:

Sri Lanka has sought India's assistance for increasing milk production and developing livestock in that country. Sri Lanka's request was conveyed by Mr. Mahindra S. Wijeratne, Sri Lanka's Minister for Livestock Development and Milk Production, when he called on the Deputy Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister, Shri Devi Lal, here today. Shri Devi Lal assured the visiting dignitary of India's willingness to help.

Shri Wijeratne apprised the Deputy Prime Minister of his visit to ANAND to see the functioning of the National Dairy Development Board. He said that Shri Lanka would be interested in getting NDDB to help them develop their dairy -29>

industry. He also showed interest in India's expertise in artificial insemination and embryo transplant technology.

India and Sri Lanka have to separate institutional arrangement for cooperation in the field of agriculture, but both the countries have been exchanging study visits and training programmes. During the past few years exchange of seed samples has been taking place with Sri Lanka on regular basis. ICAR recently agreed to supply the various varieties of sugarcane to Sri Lanka through the National Bureau of Plan Genetic Resources. -30>

I LANKA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date**: Feb 26, 1991

### March

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**Date**: Mar 01, 1991

### **Volume No**

1995

#### **BHUTAN**

#### Radio Station in Bhutan with Indian Assistance

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 15, 1991:

The first short wave broadcasting station at Thimpu in Bhutan has begun radiating programmes from today. It was inaugurated by Shri V. C. Khanna, Indian Ambassador to Bhutan. His Excellency Lyonpo Loctor T Obgyel, Minister for Communications and Social Services, Bhutan was the Chief Guest. Shri A. R. Shinde, Director General, All India Radio, was also present on the occasion.

The entire complex comprising studios, a 50-KW transmitter and other equipment, representing the State-of-the art technology has been installed by All India Radio within a short span of four years, nothwithstanding the difficult terrain and climatic conditions. India has provided to the Royal Government of Bhutan

both financial and technical assistance to the project which has cost Rs. 8.5 crores.

All India Radio on its part has not only trained in its Staff Training Institute some technical personnel from the Royal Government of Bhutan but is also providing on a continuing basis the service of its engineers for the upkeep and maintenance of the equipment installed including a FM link, ancilliary structures and an outdoor broadcasting van.

UTAN INDIA PERU

**Date**: Mar 15, 1991

### **Volume No**

1995

#### **CHINA**

India, China Sign Cultural Exchange Programme

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 12, 1991:

India and China have signed a Cultural Exchange Programme envisaging closer links between the two countries in the field of art and culture. It was signed here today by Shri Bhaskar Ghose, Secretary, Department of Culture on behalf of India and the Chinese Ambassador in India, Mr. Tu Gouwei on behalf of China.

The Minister for Human Resource Development, Shri Rajmangal Pande and the visiting Chinese Minister of Culture, Mr. He Jingzhi were present on the occasion. The Chinese Minister is currently on a twelve-day visit to India.

The Cultural Exchange Programme is for the period 1991-1993. It provides for exhibitions of art and handicraft, sculpture, paintings and murals in the two countries. It also envisages visits of -31>

writers and musicians and exchange of journalists, television delegations and performing troupes.

The exchange programme provides for award of scholarships, forging of linkages between the universities in the two countries and holding of film festivals. Text books, radio and TV programmes, sports teams and coaches will also be exchanged.

Joint seminars on subjects of mutual interest are proposed to be organised.

The exchange programme was earlier finalised at Beijing by teams from the two sides. This is the second programme of the type concluded by the two countries following a Cultural Agreement signed in May 1988.

Earlier the Chinese Minister for Culture, Mr. He Jingzhi called on the Minister for Human Resource Development, Shri Rajmangal Pande. Both recalled the age-old ties and emphasised the need for close cultural relations between the two countries.

Shri Pande said both countries faced identical problems of poverty and illiteracy. Describing culture as an unifying factor that cross all barriers he said cultural relations between the two countries must grow.

Mr. Jingzhi replied that culture played an important role in the relations between the two countries. He expressed satisfaction at the new Cultural Exchange Programme which provided for cooperation in the fields of art and literature, education and sports.

INA INDIA USA

**Date**: Mar 12, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### **CHINA**

Chinese Team Calls on Commerce Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 15, 1991:

India and China will explore the possibility of collaboration in reconstruction activitiles in the Gulf. This was agreed here today when the visiting Vice-Chairman of the Chinese Planning Commission, Mr. Gan Ziyu, called on the Commerce Minister, Dr. Subramanian Swamy. They exchanged views on bilateral trade and economic cooperation, particularly the scope for further expansion of mutual ties in various fields, including joint ventures. Mr. Ziyu invited Indian enterprises to set up joint ventures in China, and added that India's expertise in the field of engineering consultancy would be of particular interest to

China. He also mentioned that China had so far utilised about US \$ 20 billion in terms of direct foreign investment. At present, there are 19,000 joint ventures and whollyowned subsidaries registered in China of which nearly 10,000 big and small, are already in operation.

Dr. Swamy referred to the wide support for the India-China Protocol on Trade and Economic Cooperation which was signed in Beijing recently and hoped that both sides would work on specific agreements to give concrete shape to the proposals which were outlined in the Protocol. Opening of a MMTC office in Shanghai is already under way. Shri S. Kanengo, Special Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Shri G. Sundaram, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, were present at the meeting.

Mr. Ziyu also referred to the discussions he had with the members of the Planning Commission here yesterday.

INA INDIA USA

**Date**: Mar 15, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### **FRANCE**

Scientific Council of the Indo-French Centre Meets

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 19, 1991:

The next meeting of the Scientific Council of the Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research will be held in New Delhi on Thursday, March 28, 1991 to identify more collaborative research projects. The Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Centre (IFCPAR) was set up jointly by the Government of India and France as a sequel to the agreement reached in 1985. The principal objectives are promotion of cooperation in advanced areas of fundamental and Applied Scientific Research between India and France, organisation of training in various fields for scientists and researchers of both the countries and development of co-operation through identification of scientists and scientific institutions of the two countries

The Centre started functioning towards the end of 1987 and so far more than 20 collaborative research projects have been started in

important areas like Genetic Engineering, Catalysis, Chemistry of Natural Products, Mathematics, Theoretical Computers Science, Medical Sciences, Material Science etc. Several workshops/seminars on topics of interest and relevance to both sides were also organised.

The Governing Body and the Scientific Council of IFCPAR meet periodically to evaluate research proposals submitted to the Centre by Scientists from the two countries. The meetings take place alternatively in India and France. During the next joint meeting of the Governing Body and the Scientific Council in Delhi on March 28, the two side will take stock of the activities and chalk out the programme of action for the coming years.

ANCE INDIA USA **Date**: Mar 19, 1991

### **Volume No**

1995

#### **JAPAN**

Railway Minister Meets Japanese Delegation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 27, 1991:

Shri Janeshwar Mishra, Railway Minister hosted a lunch here today in honour of a visiting Japanese delegation. The 40 member delegation consisting of business leaders, educationists and religious leaders is headed by Shri T. Gomi, President of Global Rainbowship a Japanese voluntary organisation, and publisher and President of the Diet Times and Reverend Uchida, Director General Nihonji Temple and Managing Director, Global Rainbowship, who is the deputy leader of the delegation. The visit is part of an effort by Reverend Uchida's organisation to promote interest among Japanese businessmen in India's potential for investment. -33>

The Railway Minister's invitation was part of the ongoing process of familiarizing Japanese opinion makers and business leaders with Indian Railways both for promoting tourism and acquainting them with India's development potential in different areas.

Shri Mishra in his reply, welcomed the members of the delegation and stressed the long historical and cultural ties between India and Japan, The Minister lauded particularly Japan's contribution in preserving Buddhist ideals of peace and nonviolence, amidst industrialisation and modernisation. The Minister hoped that Japan, which had one of the fastest Railway system in the world and India which was amongst the largest Railway networks, would cooperate in the future.

The lunch was also attended by Shri Bhakta Charan Das, Minister of State for Railways, Chairman and senior officials of the Railway Board.

PAN INDIA USA

**Date**: Mar 27, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### **MAURITIUS**

India Extends Rs. Five Crore Credit to Mauritius

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 05, 1991:

India has extended a credit of Rs. five crore to Mauritius. An agreement to this effect was signed here today by Shri Narayan Valluri, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance on behalf of the Government of India while Mr. D. Manna, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Fiance on behalf of the Government of Mauritius. The credit will be available for financing export of capital goods from India. This new Government-to-Government credit is expected to go a long way in further strengthening the existing commercial and relations between the two countries.

This is the sixth Government-to-Government credit being extended to the Government of Mauritius. The earlier five credits totalling Rs. 30 crore were given in 1975, 1978, 1984, 1986 and 1989 and were fully utilised.

URITIUS USA INDIA

**Date**: Mar 05, 1991

## **Volume No**

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#### **MOROCCO**

#### Moroccan Trade Team Meets Commerce Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 07, 1991:

The visiting high-level Moroccan trade delegation, led by Mr. Hasan Abuyoub, Minister of External Trade of Morocco, had a meeting with the Commerce Minister, Dr. Subramanian Swamy here today, which was followed by official-level talks on trade and economic cooperation between the two delegations. During the discus-

sions, the Moroccan side expressed interest in the import of a wide range of items from India, including jute bags, raw jute, building hardware, pharmaceuticals and drugs, including raw materials and finished formulations, steel pipes, tubes and fittings and agricultural implements. Dr. Swamy urged upon the Moroccan leader the need to correct the imbalance in India's trade with Morocco by increasing as well as diversifying India's exports to that country. He expressed the hope that today's meeting would mark the beginning of a vastly expanded and diversified trade relations between the two countries.

Mr. Abuyoub said Morocco was keen to strengthen trade and economic ties with India. In this context, he suggested that India could set up a trade office in Casablanca to promote awareness of India's export capabilities in Morocco.

The meeting was attended by the Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Commerce Secretary, Shri S. Kanungo, Special Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Shri G. P. Rao, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce. The Moroccan delegation included representatives of their Departments of Agriculture, Energy, Textiles, Pharmaceuticals etc., besides Mr. Abuyoub, and Mr. Ahmed Bourzaim, Ambassador of Morocco in India.

India's total trade with Morocco in 1989-90 amounted to Rs. 204.15 crores. While India's exports to Morocco were valued at Rs. 18.17 crores, imports from Morocco were Rs. 185.98 crores consisting mostly of fertilisers and chemicals such as rock phosphate and phosphoric acid. The deficit in 1989-90 was thus of the order of Rs. 167.81 crores.

The trade talks are scheduled to conclude here tomorrow.

**Date**: Mar 07, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### **NEPAL**

Indo-Nepal Talks on Power

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 26, 1991

A high level Indian delegation lead by the Secretary, Department of Power, Shri S. Rajgopal, is leaving for Nepal today to attend the meeting of the Karnali Coordinating Committee. The meeting is a follow up of the Prime Minister Shri Chandra Shekhar's recent visit to Nepal when it was agreed that the Karnali Coordinating Committee would meet to decide on the future course of action.

The Karnali Project, located in Western Nepal on the Karnali river, known as Ghagra in India, would have an installed capacity of 10,800 MW, the second largest in the world. The Project envisages the construction of the 270 mt. high Rockfill dam, the third highest in the world.

The delegation also comprises Shri V. B. Patel, Chairman, Central Water Commission and Dr. H. R. Sharma, Member, Central Electricity Authority.

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PAL INDIA

**Date**: Feb 6@, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

**Indo-Bangladesh Relations** 

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official

Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 07, 1991:

When called upon to comment on a report in the Indian Express, datelined Dhaka, quoting diplomatic observers to say, that the relationship between the next Bangladesh Government and India is expected to be "correct but cool", Spokesman said "we have enjoyed the friendliest of relations with our neighbour Bangladesh. We have no reason to expect any change in the quality of the State relationship between our two countries, nor indeed have we any reason to apprehend any diminution in the mutual regard and affection, in which the peoples of the two countries hold each other. Any government in Bangladesh as much as any government in India, realises the importance of good relations between the two neighbours. We had welcomed the return of democracy, when the results of the elections were announced a few days ago, and expressed our hope that intention to work with Bangladesh, to strengthen our bilateral relations, based on our mutual national interests" (Official sources: Government has under consideration certain proposals which would seek to reinforce and enhance the quality of our friendly relations with Bangladesh).

NGLADESH INDIA **Date**: Mar 07, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Call on Prime Minister by Chinese CCP Politburo Member

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 07, 1991:

Mr. Ii Xi Ming, Politburo member of the Chinese Communist Party and Secretary to the Beijing Municipal Committee, met the Prime Minister this afternoon. He along with some other members of the International Liaison Department of the CCP are in India presently at the invitation of the Congress Party. Mr. Ii conveyed to the Prime Minister the greetings of the Chinese Prime Minister Ii Pend, and said that the Chinese Prime Minister deeply appreciated the highly positive attitude of the Government of India and of Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar personally towards building and strengthening of India-China relations.

Mr. Ii Xi Ming said that during visits to different parts of the country he had been deeply impressed by the friendly sntiments expressed by the people of India towards the people of China. He had also noted with admiration the many great achievements of India in various fields. Mr. Ii said that the Chinese felt that the strengthening of relations between the two countries would not only be advantageous to India and China, but would also further the cause of world peace and serve to strengthen the unity of the Third World.

On the question of international relations, he said that the world today was witnessing the crumbling of the old order, and while this process was taking place, we have not been able to discern the emerging contours of a new world order. It was imperative, that when such a new order takes shape, it would have to be based on the 'Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence' which had been espoused and clearly enunciated by the leaders of our two countries as the basis of coope -36>

ration between India and China. He added that this assumed more importance in the context of the rapidly changing international environment. Cooperation between the two countries would make a significant contribution to the efforts of the developing countries, to prevent the emergence or the setting up, of a new international order, which is dominated by power politics group politics and hegemonism.

Responding to the message from Chinese Prime Minister Ii Peng, our Prime Minister also gave his own assessment of the current world situation and the state of India-China relations, He desired that his own warm appreciation be conveyed to his Chinese counterpart, along with his hope and the hope of the people of India, for an early visit to India, by the Chinese Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister expressed the hope that Mr. Li Peng's visit would mark a major milestone in the history of our relations, and would give a new momentum to the process, which both countries are working together to achieve. In the current world situation, the Prime Minister said that India and China as the two largest countries in Asia and in the world, and could play an important role in international affairs. It was but natural that because of their size and influence, all developing nations had several hopes and expectations from India and China. It was, therefore, the special responsibility of both countries, to ensure that the developing countries are not coerced, by those seeking to establish a new hegemony. India and China must therefore, work together not only for the sake of their own peoples but also for the cause of world peace.

**Date**: Mar 07, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Union of Soviet Socialist Republic

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 07, 1991:

When asked to comment on a report in today's Patriot that Professor Ivbulis of the University of Latvia had called for close ties between Latvia and India, Spokesman replied "we have seen reports regarding the visit of noted Indologist and member of the Presidium of the USSR Oriental Association, Professor Victor Ivbulis. We have had a cultural exchange programme with the Soviet Union for over several years. During his recent visit to India, we had occasion to discuss with the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, Igor Rogachev, details of the working of the C E P, as part of these discussions, the possibility of establishing contacts directly with the Constituent republics of the Soviet Union was envisaged. Such contacts would be within the framework of the Soviet Constitution and extant rules and regulations. In response to another question as to whether Prof. Ivbulis was trying to seek support for the movement in Latvia, the Spokesman responded, "we stand for a strong and stable Soviet Union. We bear goodwill for all the people of Soviet Union and all the Constituent republics. The manner in which the relationship between the Constituent republics and the Central government is conducted, is a matter for the people of the USSR to determine."

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DIA LATVIA USA

**Date**: Mar 07, 1991

# **Volume No**

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### India does not Possess Chemical Weapons

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 11, 1991:

When asked to comment about reports in Indian newspapers citing a US navy intelligence report stating that India probably possess chemical weapons, Spokesman said that the US report had no foundation on fact. India does not possess chemical weapons.

DIA USA

**Date**: Mar 11, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Tibet

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 11, 1991:

The Government of India does not support any activity on Indian soil that contravenes the understanding on the basis of which Tibetan refugees were permitted to stay in India after the events of 1959. Government regard Tibet as an autonomous region of China.

His Holiness, the Dalai Lama is respected in India as a religious and spiritual leader. We do not interfere in his affairs or that of the Tibetan community in India in so far as they pertain to his status as a spiritual leader. However, we have consistantly sought to impress on his advisers that no action should be taken or statements made that would be contrary to the above mentioned understandings.

We feel that matters concerning Tibet are best settled beween the Chinese authoritis, on the one hand, and the Tibetans in the Tibet autonomous region as well as those outside, on the other, through peaceful dialogue.

#### DIA USA CHINA

**Date**: Mar 11, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Fiji

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 12, 1991:

When asked for a reaction on the State Department's report criticising the discrimination against Indians in Fiji, Spokesman said that India had always made it plain that the constitutional set-up in Fiji was by no means ideal, and had an inherent element of discrimination. India is appreciative of the fact that democracies like the US have taken note of the discrimination practised in Fiji. He hoped that other democracies in the region would also follow this example and take note of the discrimination practised in Fiji.

JI INDIA USA

**Date**: Mar 12, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Sri Lanka

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 14, 1991:

When asked to comment on the Sri Lankan Government's decision not to go ahead with the evacuation of the Madhu Church Area,

Spokesman recalled that even on the 22nd of February when India had been made aware of this proposed move by the Sri Lankan Government, he had commented that the movement of such large number of people would compound -38>

the humanitarian dimension of the problem and further aggravate the situation in the area. Spokesman added that at that time in February the Indian Government had urged the Sri Lankan Government to avoid civilian sufferings and casualties, had expressed surprise about the proposed action of the Sri Lankan Government and had hoped that better sense would prevail.

"If the reports that the Sri Lankan Government has decided to stop the evacuation operation are correct, we are happy because this would avoid unnecessary suffering and hardships to large segments of the population."

I LANKA INDIA USA **Date**: Mar 14, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Indo-Bhutan Economic Relations

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 16, 1991:

Indo-Bhutan economic relations are very close and extend to a large number of fields - hydroelectric projects, telecommunications, industrial plants, road construction, power transmission projects, agricultural and rural development projects etc. In fact since 1961, when Bhutan began its first Five Year Plan, India has been closely associated with Bhutan's economic development.

- 2. Several major bilateral projects have been executed in Bhutan by Indian agencies on a turnkey basis. One of the significant high profile projects undertaken by India has been the construction of a 50KW broadcasting station in Thimphu.
- 3. The Royal Government of Bhutan had requested India for setting up a broadcasting station. India readily agreed to their request

and decided to fund the project under its aid programme to Bhutan. The total cost had been estimated at Rs. 8.5 crores. All India Radio had taken it up as a turnkey project with overall charge of the project. They were to install the transmitter and the other equipment whereas the civil construction works were to be executed by project Dantak - an operational arm of the Border Roads Organisation.

- 4.The project, which was executed in a very short span of four years, was inaugurated today in Thimphu with the traditional ceremony associated with such occasions in Bhutan. The inauguration was done jointly by the Bhutanese Minister for Communications, Lyonpo. Dr. T. Tobgyel, and the Indian Ambassador to Bhutan, Shri V. C. Khanna.
- 5. In his message, the King of Bhutan, His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck, said that 'the commissioning of the new Indo-Bhutan friendship radio broadcasting station fulfils one of our long standing needs to have an efficient and well-equipped mass communication facility'. The King stressed the importance of radio communications for promoting education and development as well as national unity and integration. Mentioning that the BBS opens 'yet another important chapter in the history of close Indo-Bhutan cooperation', the King expressed his deep gratitude to the Government of India and the people of India for their generous assistance.
- 6. The Indian Ambassador in his speech referred to this station as 'yet another manifestation of India's firm commitment to the social and economic development of Bhutan along the path chosen by the people of Bhutan under the dynamic leadership of HM Jigme Singye Wangchuck.'
- 7. The new station has several unique features and the equipment provided are sophisticated and represent the state of art technology. A special feature is the provision of a custom built out-door broad-

casting (OB) van to help the broadcasters to go to the villages and interact with the masses.

8.India has also sent three engineers from AIR to Bhutan to supervise the maintenance and running of the equipment for a period of 18 months. These engineers would also impart 'on-the-job' training to the Bhutanese stab in the BBS. India would also be training 8 BBS staff at the AIR training centres in India.

UTAN INDIA USA

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**Date**: Mar 16, 1991

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#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Kuwait

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 19, 1991:

The Special Envoy of the Amir of Kuwait and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Dr. Abdul Rehman Al Awadhi, called on the Indian Prime Minister today. He conveyed the greetings and good wishes from the Prime Minister of Kuwait to our Prime Minister and gave an account of the destruction and human suffering caused during the occupation of Kuwait. On behalf of his Government, the Special Envoy expressed appreciation for India's consistent Gulf policy in support of UN Resolution on the subject and sought India's continued support, specially in the Security Council.

Prime Minister told the Special Envoy that India was gratified to see Kuwait liberated from the occupation. He expressed deep anguish at the extent of unimaginable suffering endured by the people of Kuwait, the enormous loss of life and tremendous destruction of property. Both sides emphasised that the traditional ties of friendship between India and Kuwait were based on string and durable foundations and that they would endure.

The Special Envoy also called on Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Shrimati Najma Haptullah. The exchanged views on the postwar situation in the Gulf, especially in regard to arrangements for regional security. In this context the Special Envoy gave some background information about the Damascus Declaration.

When questioned on the subject, Spokesman stated that the Envoy had indicated that Kuwait welcomed India's participation in its reconstruction.

WAIT INDIA USA SYRIA

**Date**: Mar 19, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Pakistan

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 20, 1991:

In an answer to a query about India's reaction to the Pakistani foreign office statement yesterday about human rights violation in Kashmir, Spokesman said: "during past several months efforts were being made by both Governments to reduce tension and enhance mutual confidence. The Pakistani Foreign Office statement is unfortunately contrary to this trend. The statement is not based on facts, but on distortions and misrepresentations. Allegations of atrocities by security forces, as we have mentioned several times before, is part of a disinformation campaign being carried out by terrorists and their patrons.

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"We sincerely hope that the Government of Pakistan will realise the necessity of building a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship between India and Pakistan, in accordance with the Simla Agreement."

KISTAN INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date**: Mar 20, 1991

### **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

### Kashmir

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 22, 1991:

When asked to comment on reports about the American Ambassador in Islamabad, referring to Kashmir as a "disputed territory" in his letter to the Kashmiri-American Council, Spokesman said "we had yet to see the authentic text of the Ambassador's reported

letter. We note that the US Government recognises the relevance of the Simla Agreement."

DIA PAKISTAN USA

**Date**: Mar 22, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Special Envoy of the Iraqi President Calls on the PrimeMinister

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 28, 1991:

Nizar Hamdoom, Permanent Under Secretary of State, Special Envoy, of the President of Iraq called on the Prime Minister for about half an hour, this morning. They had a friendly exchange of views on the emerging situation in the Gulf, after the end of the war. During their discussions, the Prime Minister and the Special Envoy emphasised the traditional warm relations that had always existed between the peoples of India and Iraq. Prime Minister and the Special Envoy expressed their desire that both countries would build further on these foundations. The question of the meeting of the emergency requirements of the people of Iraq with special focus on medicines and food was discussed. The Prime Minister offered to send a consignment of such emergency supplies. The offer was accepted with gratitude by the Iraqi Special Envoy. It is expected that such a special emergency consignment would be sent in the next few days.

The Special Envoy and the Prime Minister had a exchange of views on the on-going deliberations in the UN on the Gulf question.

The Prime Minister made enquiries about the health and welfare of Ayatollah Khoi. The Prime Minister offered to give assistance in terms of medical treatment, in consideration of his age and health. Prime Minister conveyed his hope that all necessary measures would be taken by the Government of Iraq to ensure the Ayatollah's health and welfare.

The Special Envoy will meet the Deputy Minister for External Affairs this afternoon and will also have talks with the Foreign Secretary later.

**Date**: Mar 28, 1991

# Volume No

1995

#### PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH

Prime Minister's Message to the Nation

The following is the text of the Prime Minister, Shri Chandra Shekhar's broadcast to the nation over Doordarshan and Akashvani tonight (Mar 07, 1991):

Just about four months back I requested you to join me in the endeavour to find solution of the difficult problems that the nation was facing at that time. There was the atmosphere of mutual distrust, discord, people were fighting each other. Our streets were the scene of everyday violence. There was an atmosphere of violence in Punjab. Kashmir was in the throes of agony. There were problems all over the country and people were fighting each other. At that time, I thought that the atmosphere was not conducive for the midterm poll and I took upon myself the responsibility to cool down the tempers.

I had no illusion about my capacity but I was sure of your cooperation. I was confident of your help and support and blessings. And, I thought that being given a correct approach the people will respond. I am glad to say that when the appeal was made to them, when we approached them in right earnest, the people responded. I solved. I don't claim that violence has been eliminated from our social life, but the tension has eased to a great extent. People were fighting at that time against each other, now people have come for a dialogue to understand the meaning of mutual discussion, that the solution of problems can be found out by debating issues around the table. This in itself is a great change in the climate and the people are feeling that change.

But, unfortunately, the basic problems remain. The problem of poverty, the problem of growing disparity, the problem of illiteracy, the problem of disease, the problem of regional imbalances, the problem of feeling of the people getting discriminated, is haunting the minds of our people. Our Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people feel that they have not been given the opportunity to lead a life of dignity. Our backward

class people feel that they are not getting their share from the society. Our minorities feel apprehensive. It is not only in this country, but all over the world minorities whether that of religion or of language or of ethnic considerations, they feel abrasive and they feel that they are being discriminated against.

This is why in our Constitution it was provided that we should give special facilities to our minorities but inspite of all our claims, and in spite of all our assurances, they are not feeling assured that they can lead a life of dignity and honour. It is our responsibility to give a feeling amongst the people who have been so far oppressed, exploited and downtrodden that the society will take care to fulfill their aspirations and urges. Because, if we don't change our attitude towards the aspirations and urges of the poorer sections of the society, the only other course open for us is to use the coercive power of the State to silence them. But it is in no way the method to be applied in a parliamentary democracy, and surely not in a country where Lord Budhdha and Mahatma Gandhi gave the message of peace and non-violence. Unfortunately, these sections are getting frustrated. Frustration leading to despair and the result is that from Tamil Nadu to Tripura, everywhere tribal belts are under unrest. In these situations, we tried to take some corrective measures because we are a society of scarce resources, we have to decide whether these resources will be -42>

spent for the benefit or for the glory or for the pleasure of the chosen few or these resources will be deployed for giving the basic minimum needs of our people. A country where more than 65 per cent people are illiterate, where more than 30 per cent people are below the poverty line, where millions of our youngmen and women are without jobs, they want to do something for the society to produce something and to lead a life of dignity; they are being denied this privilige in this society. Austerity is just not a slogan but it is a strategy to generate the will-power of the people.

Societies are changed, nations make progress not because using the bullet to coerce the people nor using the ballot to get power by hook or crook, but societies are built by generating the will power of the people. This will power cannot be generating the will power of the people. This will power cannot be generated unless and until we decide to invest in man and to spare our resources for meeting the basic minimum needs of our people.

Time and again I impressed upon people in this country and especially those who are privileged that they should understand the dire need of saving every penny in order to meet the basic needs of our people. But it is not an easy task. It is easy to talk about it but very difficult to implement. When certain policy orientations are made, people get panicky about it and sometimes they become aggressive.

When last December we took over the Government of this country, we were economically on the brink of disaster. In order to arrest the rot we had to take certain measures. Certain taxes were imposed, of course not on the poorer sections but on the people who are in a position to pay. But they did not take it easy, but I don't bother about all these agonies, of the privileged few, but I feel concerned that many of us who are the workers in the political field and many of us who claim to be the arbiter of the destiny of this nation, don't understand the implications of the policies that have been pursued for years in this country. We are responsible for bringing this country on the brink of disaster. I don't want to give you a message of despair I know the vitality of the Indian people. I know the resilience of our economy. This country cannot be destroyed by the follies and by the mistaken moves taken by the politicians in the past. We can correct the whole situation but for that we require a determined action, a dedicated attempt to see that we address ourselves to the problems of the poor and in that lies the future of this country.

All these steps were to be taken but what happens? That, we are diverting our attention to the minor problems. Whenever we take a position on one issue or the other, we try to give an impression to the people in this country and outside as if India is helpless, India is being pressurised by one or the other. These are the people who suffer from an inferiority complex. When we deal with the nations of the world, we deal with them on the basis of equality. We have taken a decision that we shall not try to pressurise any small nation but we shall not be pressurised by any big power in this world. This was the position taken by my Government when we were dealing with the difficult situation in the world. But some people raised hue and cry without any basis. The Government only followed the norms that had been adopted by this country for years altogether. There was no question of compromise on our basic principles. But the national interests were always to be taken into consideration. We cannot ignore the national interest just for giving high-sounding slogans without any meaning either effecting the international situation or doing any good to this country. But these matters can be debated. There can be differences of opinion. But one should always be ready to follow certain norms. In a parliamentary, democracy, we have to keep some restraint on ourself. I am sorry to say that during the last two three

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days what happened in the Parliament is shameful and for that I hold myself responsible because being the Prime Minister of this country, I cannot absolve myself. I depended upon the support and cooperation of certain friends who behave in a manner which in no way can be considered for the growth of healthy democratic traditions. What to talk of healthy, decent, democratic traditions, even it is not worthy of a civilised behaviour in any democracy.

But yesterday a situation was created. I shall not go into the details of the problem but on a triffle the party that was supporting the Government decided to keep out of the House and the only course open before me was to see that Motion of Thanks for the President's Address is not defeated on the floor of the House; You know the President is the custodian of our Constition. . . He discharges his Constitutional obligation by addressing the nation through the Joint Session of Parliament. It is obligatory on the part of the Government to see that the Motion of Thanks is passed. But a situation was created where it was not possible for me to get that motion passed in the House. Under those circumstances, I had no other option but to tell the Speaker that I am going to resign from the Prime Ministership of this country.

I know that a Constitution crisis has been created because of the irresponsible behaviour of certain people. For the last one week or so, I was discussing this with my colleagues. Many of my friends and colleagues were annoyed over it. But I said that it is not the question of self-respect of an individual, it is the question of respect of the whole nation, it is the question of dignity of the office of the President, it is the question of observing norms of the Constitution. So, we had no other option but to have self-restraint. And, under that self-restraint, we tolerated everything. But the situation became impossible because the Parliamentary democracy is the game of numbers. We could not have created numbers. Under these circumstances. I resigned from the Prime Ministership of this country.

The President is finding out the ways how to get over the Constitutional crisis that has been created because of the irresponsible behaviour of certain persons of certain political group in the Parliament.

Friends, but we should not get to despair and frustration. Situation is bad today but there is enough scope for changing the situation. And the ultimate decision is that of the people. This was the lesson given to us by Mahatma Gandhi. This was the message given to the young people by Lok Nayak Jaiprakash Narain when he said that the real power is with the people. Now, people have to decide what course the history will take in this country. If you have to give a new course to history, the people should make a determined bid. The young people should come forward to organise themselves because this nation does not belong to a few politicians who hold high office in this country. This nation does not belong to the Prime Minister or people who aspire to be Prime Minister. This nation belongs to 850 million people of this country.

And this is why I have come to you. I know that during the last four months, I have come to understand that we have a system which can tide over all the crises. We have a bureaucracy upon which we can depend. There has been a tendency among the people,

especially those who are the politicians, to pass on every responsibility upon the bureaucracy. During the last four months, it is my experience, without being contradicted or in any sense of exaggeration, I may say that these are one of the most patriotic sections of our population. They can give advice but politicians try to use bureaucracy; in order to fulfil their whims they get confused. If there is no confusion, if there is clarity of views, we can do a lot. Our economy has -44>

got enough resilience. I know our nation has been bestowed by the nature with enormous wealth. Our natural wealth is enormous. Our manpower is there. Our managers, our workers in the public sector and the private sector, our bureaucracy is par excellence. I think that if we mobilise all these resources with a determination that it is not the personal ambition that will come in our way but it is the good of the nation that is our goal, then I think we can retrieve the situation.

I hope and trust that people will not get to frustration. I assure friends that if there are problems, those problems can be sorted out. Problems can be sorted out by mutual discussion. This is why I made an appeal that discard the path of violence. Don't go for killing each other, come for mutual discussion, debate and I can claim with certain amount of satisfaction that during the last three-four months, the situation has changed, people are ready to talk, people are ready to discuss, people are ready to cooperate with each other to find solution of the difficult problems.

But this atmosphere has been vitiated by the irresponsible behaviour of certain people. Under the circumstances, I think there is no other choice but to come to you to get your help, and support in order to clear the confusion that has been created. I hope and trust that people will understand their responsibility and they will respond in order to find solution of this problem.

I assure you friends that I am quite confident about the future of this country. I am optimistic because the people of this country are the strength of today and they are also the hope of tomorrow. Upon their shoulders lies the future of tomorrow's India. Let us look forward for a brighter and glorious future. I hope and trust that in the coming few days, the President who is the custodian of our Constitution will find solution of the Constitutional problem and the people will be called upon to give their judgement on the present situation and will also give a message of hope and confidence and trust to the nation for the future.

I thank you all for the cordiality and thank you all for the affection that you have shown to me wherever I went in this country.

I wish you very best future. Thank you all.

Jai Hind.

### A PERU CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA

**Date**: Mar 07, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH

IVth International Conference on the Future of Asia PacificEconomies - Prime Minister's Inaugural Speech

Inaugurating the IVth International Conference on the Future of Asia Pacific Economies", the Prime Minister, Shri Chandra Shekhar said in New Delhi on Mar 11, 1991:

In the very beginning I apologise to you for being very late. It was beyond me; because of some pressing engagements I could not keep the time. I am sorry that I cannot remain with you for a longer time.

It is good of you that you have come together to consider the problems of this region, especially with a view to cooperate with each other for the economic development in this area.

The situation in the whole world is changing very fast. The year 1990 has been a year of fast changing world. In the very beginning, if you had seen, the people were going for reconciliation and trying -45>

to cooperate with each other with a view to have a steady progress in the world and we looked forward for happier days for the humanity to come. But all of a sudden in the last part of 1990 and in early 1991, again tensions came and not only tensions increased but we witnessed a very tragic war in the Gulf area.

The situation has changed in the Eastern Europe Relations between the European community has also changed. The developments in the Soviet Union have their far-reaching impact not only in the politics of the world but also on the economic relations between various countries and various nations of the world.

We must always keep in mind that a nation of India's size cannot depend always upon outside help. This point I have been

emphasising time and again - that, we want very close cooperation with our neighbours and also all other nations of the world - but, basically, India will have to solve her problems on its own. This is why, as Mr. Lall has just indicated, not because of doctrinaire approach but because from a practical point of view I emphasise all the time that we should learn to live within our means. It is no use trying to immitate the developed world today when we are having scarce resources in this country.

Fortunately, or unfortonately what you may say, we have a democratic system. In a democratic system, you cannot ignore the urges and aspirations of the common man. The common man who is suffering because he is not able to fulfil the basic minimum needs. A country where more than 35 per cent people, according to the Government statistics, are below the poverty line, where more than 65 per cent people are illiterate, where people are not getting elementary health services, where millions of our young men and women are not able to get jobs because we are not able to provide them the opportunity, this question becomes all the more difficult because we cannot keep these people satisfied for a longer time. You talked of the backward classes, you talked of the people who have been neglected so far; these people want to have their place in history, they want to get something from the society, they want to contribute to the society by working hard, but if they feel that their work does not bring any prosperity or happiness to them nor any hope for the coming generations of these sections, I don't think they are going to wait for a longer time. Poverty becomes unbearable and it is because of the tentions that are created by the relative poverty that revolutions take place of the societies suffer from instability, chaos, violence and all types of maladies which the world has been witnessing all the time.

This serious problem has to be addressed to ourselves. So, first we in India and all other countries who are developing countries or the poorer countries, will have to learn how to live within their means. It is true that in today's world we cannot ignore the cooperation and help from outside. Again when we come to this point of view, we should always try to think that we will have to depend upon our neighbours. This is why this Conference becomes more significant. Countries of the Western world are involved in their own problems. Europe is coming to a new type of understanding. This is happening that the Gulf countries are going to take a new shape; I don't snow what shape they will take, but again, the people from the West will like to invest more in the Gulf countries and European countries will like to look towards the problems of the Soviet Union and other areas of the COMECON countries.

In this situation, the cooperation between the Asian countries becomes all the more essential because if there are regions of economic cooperation, why should Asia be behind this, why should we not take steps in order to understand each other's problems and try to help each other? We are not that helpless. I don't understand that if we cooperate with each other, if we work in coordination and in a -46>

cohesive manner, we can not only contribute to solve each other's problems but we can play a meaningful role in the world economy and also in world politics.

This is why I feel that your deliberations this morning will be of far-reaching impact. We met in Male - the SAARC countries - and this point was debated at length and it was agreed that first this should begin for the cooperation within the SAARC countries. I know that nothing much could be achieved during the last two/three months, but a spirit was there, an indication was there, a tendenry, an intention was there, that we should know how to cooperate with each other. Countries of the Third World especially, I don't talk of Japan which is almost a developed country, but countries who are poorer cannot afford to have confrontation all the time.

This is why I have been talking all the time that we should know how to live in peace an dcordiality with each other. We cannot afford to quarrel, to struggle on every point. We have to develop the areas of agreement. And, when I talk of developing the areas of agneement, it is true in this country also. This is why, Mr. Lali, I told that we should not try to allienate any section of our population. There are urges which may not feel to be very substantial but people who feel apprehensive about their future, who feel that they have been neglected for a long time by the society, who feel that they are being discriminated whether because of the religious reasons on because of the caste system or because of the time-old traditions which are obsolete, some sections of our population feel that they are not getting the opportunity to lead a life of dignity; we have to assuage their feelings, You have to assure them that they are equal partners in the country for the development and they are going to be the beneficiaries of the fruits of development. This assurance we have to give in our own country. And simultaneously, we have to assure oun neighbours who are small, who are not as technologically developed, that we don't want to impose our will on them. They have to decide about their future. We have to cooperate with them. Similarly, we shall like to have the cooperation of other nations who are more developed or who are more fortunate. But this cooperation is essential if we want that humanity should live in peace, in prosperity, in progress and without any tension because tensions are bound to mount if there is discrimination, if there are imbalances whether within the country or outside the country.

If the developed countries of the world feel that they can impose their will upon the smaller nations - temporarily it may be possible because it is always possible for the stronger nations to impose their will on the poorer nations - but it will not give stability in the world, it will not create an atmosphere of cordiality, peace and progress. This is why I think that we should try to create an atmosphere of cooperation, of goodwill, of helping each other.

I hope and trust that all of you who are the leadens - by leaders I don't mean political leaders; leaders in the economic field, in the field of industry - you will consider the problems of humanity as a whole. In this country for ages we have been taught that it is not by segmenting the humanity but by trying to create human brotherhood that we can find the solution of the problems of the whole world.

I hope and trust that this Conference will be a beginning for understanding each other's problems, extending cooperation in the areas wherever it is possible. I assure you, friends, that we in India shall do everything possible to see that Asian countries come closer not only for helping each other economically, but that politically also we are able to play a meaningful role. This is the land of Lord Buddha, this is the land of Mahatma Gandhi, who have given the message of peace, of human brotherhood, of cooperation. Why should India and nations of Asia not be proud of -47>

their heritage and try to play the role again to give a new lead to the whole humanity for mutual cooperation, goodwill, peace and tranquility?

I thank you all for inviting me and for giving me this opportunity to come to you just to make an appeal to you. I have not come to give a sermon to you. As a political worker I have come to you that I look towards you with expectation and hope that perhaps with your endeavour, with your discussions, we can find a new ray of hope of mutual cooperation and better understanding. I thank you all for this cordiality and affection that you have extended.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC MALDIVES JAPAN

**Date**: Mar 11, 1991

# Volume No

1995

#### **SWITZERLAND**

Swiss Aid for Electronics in India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 07, 1991:

Switzerland has agreed to assist India in upgrading its manpower quality in the electronics and computer sector. An agreement to this effect was signed here today. Under this agreement Switzerland will extend assistance of Rs. 36 crores (Swiss Francs 25 Million) for a pilot project in India. This is part of a Rs. 55 crore (USD 30 Million) project for manpower development in the electronics industry, jointly funded by the Governments of India and Switzerland and the World Bank.

The agreement was signed, on behalf of Government of India, by Shri Deb Mukharji, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and by the Ambassador of Switzerland to India, Mr. Zehnder, on behalf of his Government.

This project covers a five year period, during which Swiss assistance would be used to develop the training infrastructure of 32 engineering institutions all over India, so that the training offered by them is attuned to the needs of the expanding electronics industry. Also included are state-of-the-art seminars conducted by leading experts and in-service training to professionals, giving industry personnel exposure to current industrial and management techniques and practices in the international market.

Technical support for the project will be provided by four resource centres to be set up in the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (jointly with NTTF Electronics Centre, Bangalore), IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi and Jadavpur University.

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ITZERLAND INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM

**Date**: Mar 07, 1991

### **April**

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**Date**: Apr 01, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### **AFGHANISTAN**

Telecom Links between India and Afghanistan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 12, 1991 on the telecom link between India and Afghanistan:

International telecommunication links and services between India and Afghanistan have been strengthened with the direct telegraph and telex circuits via satellite having become operational since 15 March, 1991. Two direct telex circuits have been commissioned by the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. providing automatic access for Indian subscribers. The Nigam has also commissioned the equipment (SDX) it had supplied free of charge to Afghanistan Telecom which has enabled transfer of the public telegram circuit from the HF radio systems between Delhi and Kabul to the satellite link available on 24 hour a day basis. This follows the initiative taken in the wake of the visit of the Commerce Minister, Dr. Subramanian Swamy, to Afghanistan earlier this year when it was agreed that telecommunication links between India and Afghanistan would be improved to support the developing trade and commercial relations between the two countries.

Steps have also been initiated to improve the telephone services between India and Afghanistan. Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL) is deputing an expert to Afghanistan to study their telecom problems and offer the services of TCIL for meeting their requirements as early as possible.

**GHANISTAN INDIA** 

**Date**: Apr 12, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### **AUSTRALIA**

### India and Australia Sign Agreement

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 19, 1991 on cooperation between India and Australia in the fields of science and technology:

India and Australia today signed a special agreement on Cooperation on Science & Technology. The agreement between India's Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Australia's Department of Industry, Technology and Commerce (DITAC), paves the way for information technology, biotechnology, increased collaboration in areas such as agriculture, marine science, energy and electronics, materiology and Coal utillration.

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A high level Australian delegation led by the Chief Science Adviser to DITAC, Professor Michael Pitman, and senior scientists from Australian Government and private sector research and development institutions, were also present at the signing ceremony.

The Australian delegation will visit a number of CSIR institutions such as the Centre for Cellular and Mollecular Biology in Hyderabad, the National Chemical Laboratory in Pune, the National Aeronautical Laboratory in Bangalore and the National Institute of Oceanography in Goa.

It will also visit other important scientific institutions including the Indian Institute of Technology in New Delhi, the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore, the Centre for Research on Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development, and the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Bombay. The delegation will seek to identify specific scientific collaboration projects with these institutions.

STRALIA USA INDIA

**Date**: Apr 19, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

### **COLOMBIA**

Ambassador of Colombia Presidents Credentials

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 03, 1991 on the presentation of credentials by Ambassador of Colombia:

The new Ambassador of Colombia H.E. Dr. David Sanchez-Juliao presented his credentials to the President Shri R. Venkataraman at a function held in Rashtrapati Bhavan today.

Welcoming the Ambassadon of Colombia the President Shri R. Venkataraman referred to the traditionally existing friendly ties between India and Colombia based on close cooperation and called for giving "a new direction to the Non-aligned movement in the context of the changing world scenario".

Earlier while presenting his credentials to the President the Ambassador of Colombia H.E. Dr. David Sanches-Juliao said, "Colombia has a profound feeling of admiration for India, for it s great culture. India has exposed to the world many valid cultural, scientific, philosophical and living together options". The Ambassador also referred to the "immense possibilities of commercial inter exchange between the two countries". -50>

LOMBIA INDIA

**Date** : Apr 03, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

### HUNGARY

Indo-Hungarian Cooperation in Coal

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 11, 1991 on Indo-Hungarian Cooperation in Coal:

A high level Hungarian delegation led by Dr. Istvan Major, Deputy Secretary of State, Ministry of International Economic Relations called on Shri R. C. Jain, Secretary, Department of Coal, Government of India, here today.

Welcoming the visitors, Shri Jain said there was tremendous scope for cooperation between the two countries in the energy sector particularly in the field of coal. He welcome the opportunity to further expand areas of cooperation between the two countries.

The meeting discussed the possibility of setting up a joint

committee on the energy sector. It also decided to explore the possibility of Hungarian association in power projects in Neyveli. Other areas of mutual interest were also discussed.

The delegation also included Mr. E. Rudas, Chief Commercial Counsellor, Hungarian Embassy and Mr. P. Szekely, Deputy Directon General, Trans-electro.

NGARY INDIA USA

**Date** : Apr 11, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

### HUNGARY

Indo-Hungarian Cooperation in Health and Family Welfare

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Dehli on Apr 11, 1991:

India and Hungary have agreed to cooperate in the fields of mutual interest relating to the organisation of health care, family welfare and family protection services; epidemiology, prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases; population and family policy; maternal and child health; traditional and natural medicine; medicines and medicinal herbs; physiotherapy and teaching traditional and natural medicine.

Under the agneement signed by Shri R. L. Mishra, Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Mr. Andras Balogh, Ambassador of the Republic of Hungary in India, both the countries will exchange information and experts and direct cooperation between the institutions on the basis of direct agreements concluded between the institutions concerned.

The agneement also envisages exchange of scientists, research workers, medical doctors, nurses, physiotherapists and social workers for exchange of experience, using an annual exchange quota of four months.

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NGARY INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

**Date** : Apr 11, 1991

### **Volume No**

1995

#### INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS - WORLD BANK

#### World Bank Aid

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 25, 1991 on World Bank aid:

The World Bank will provide assistance for upgradation of more polytechnics in India. This is part of the Central Government's Project to enable the State Governments with the World Bank assistance to improve the capacity and quality of polytechnics.

The first phase of the Project currently under implementation over a period of 1990-97 is covering the States of Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttan Pradesh. The total expenditure involved is about Rs. 832 crores. This includes the World Bank assistance of US \$ 260 million.

The second phase of the Project which has recently been approved by the World Bank will cover 264 polytechnics in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamilnadu and West Bengal and the Union Territory of Delhi. It will be implemented during 1991-1998 with an estimated cost of Rs. 825 crores. The World Bank has agreed to provide US \$ 307.1 million.

Under the Project it is proposed to modernize about 890 Laboratories and Workshops in the existing Polytechnics and establish nine new co-educational polytechnics. Introduction of 57 new diploma courses and 33 Post Diploma courses, establishment of Computer Centres continuing education centres and industry-institute interaction cells are also proposed with emphasis on courses in emerging technologies.

It is estimated that the existing annual intake capacity in the polytechnics covered in the second phase of the project will increase by more than 80 per cent. Special attention will be given to women's participation by creating opportunities in job oriented disciplines, establishment of 10 new polytechnics for women and recruitment and training of over 400 women teachers and provision of hostel facilities and scholarships.

As an expenimental measure multipoint entry and credit system will be introduced in 20 polytechnics. The curricula will be revised according to the changing needs. For rural areas at least

54 additional polytechnics will serve as community polytechnics.

There will be provision for hostels for 4625 boys, 6988 girls and 1840 stay quarters. 1900 additional faculty members are proposed to be appointed and about 5100 teachers will be given training.

The project is being implemented by the State Directorates of Technical Education under the overall guidance, support and monitoring by the Bureau of Technical Education in the Department of Education, Government of India. Under the second phase, during a 5 year period, Andhra Pradesh, plans to spend Rs. 80 crores, Assam Rs. 30 crores, Haryana Rs. 81 crores, Himachal Pradesh Rs. 20 crores, Maharashtra Rs. 123 crores, Punjab Rs. 79 crores, Tamilnadu Rs. 76 crores, West Bengal Rs. 86 crores and Delhi Rs. 24 crores.

It is expected that the project besides providing technicians of suitable quality,

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required by the industry in the country, will also enable the system to serve the rural and informal sectors and fully integrate women with modern sector employment and respond to the changing needs of the society.

DIA USA

**Date** : Apr 25, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### **ITALY**

Italy Extends Grant to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 24, 1991 on Italy's grant to India:

Italy will provide India a grant of Rs. 10 crore (It Lire 6.283 billion). A Memorandum of Understanding for the provision of the grant by the Government of Italy was signed here today between the Government of Italy and the Government of India. Dr. Gabriele Menegatti, the Ambassador of Italy and Mr. Deb Mukherji, Joint Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance signed the Memorandum of Understanding for their respective countries. The Italian assistance has been provided under the technical cooperation programme of the Indo-Italian

bilateral development cooperation programme.

The project envisages long term R&D Co-operation between Central Power Research Institute (CPRI) and Centre Electrotecnico Sperimental Italiano (CESI) in its IInd phase, spread over a period of three year. The first phase was financed by Italian assistance amounting to it. Lire 6.000 billion (approx. Rs. 10 crore).

The grant will be utilised for the realisation of R&D plan on the EHV/UHV AC/DC Power Systems in India at the Central Power Research Institute of Bangalore. The Italian contribution will cover the transfer of equipments deveoped under this programme, visits of experts from Italy to India, use of CESI laboratories and similar facilities such as computers, the research material required, documents and reports of the research findings realised under the programme and also for training of Indian personnel.

#### ALY INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

**Date**: Apr 24, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### **JAPAN**

Joint Committee for India-Japan Cooperation in Science & Technology

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 15, 1991:

The third meeting of the Joint Committee for India-Japan cooperation in Science and Technology began in New Delhi today. The Indian side is led by Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, Dr. Vasant Gowariker. The 11 member Japanese delegation is led by the -53>

Japanese Ambassador to India, Mr. Shunji Kobayashi.

In his opening remarks, the leader of the Indian delegation, Dr. Vasant Gowariker said that the time has come for strengthening scientfic cooperation between India and Japan. He said out of the 18 projects identified, both sides have consented to go ahead with 10 projects. The leader of the Japanese delegation, Mr. Kobayashi said that Science and Technology are the areas where both countries can have useful cooperation.

The first meeting of the Joint Committee for India-Japan cooperation in Science & Technology was held in New Delhi in 1986 as a sequel to the discussions held between the two countries after the Indian Prime Minister's visit to Japan in 1985. Initially 10 areas were identified. It was also decided that the Joint Committee meeting will be held alternately between India & Japan every two years. The second meeting was held in Tokyo in 1988 and 26 projects were identified, out of which, 18 were subsequently approved and eight other projects were sobject to finding appropriate personnel from the two countries. Subsequently detailed plans were submitted and some projects were also being implemented.

During the two-day meeting in New Delhi, the Indian side is submitting six proposals and the Japanese side is also submitting another six proposals for consideration of both the countries. Personnel who will be doing research work have also been identified.

Some of the areas identified are biotechnology, agriculture, polymers, electronics, telecommunications, medical sciences and ocean development, specially poly metallic nodules.

PAN INDIA USA

**Date** : Apr 15, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

### **JAPAN**

Indo-Japanese Agreement on Development of Sericulture Technology

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 16, 1991:

India and Japan have agreed to cooperate in implementing the bivoltine sericulture technology development project in India. An agreement to this effect was signed by Shri P. Shankar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles and Mr. K. Jono, Leader of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Implementation Mission here today, Japanese technical coopenation will be offered in the form of technology transfer and or technical advice through Japanese experts and training of Indian personnel in Japan.

The agreement stipulates development of practical technologies required for bivoltine sericulture in the Indian environment. The technologies developed under the project will be disseminated to the sericulturists by the Central Silk Board and the State Departments of Sericulture. The project is to be carried out at the Central Sericultural Research & Training Institute (CSR&TI) in Mysore as the main project site. The two sub-sites are the Silkworm Seed Technology Laboratory (SSTL) and the Seed Production Centre of the National Silkworm Seed Project (NSSP) is Bangalore. The project will include development of Silkworm breeding, disease control, rearing and seed production technologies, development, of Mulberry Breeding and Cultivation technology and silk reeling

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technology. It will be for a period of five years beginning June 1, 1991.

A Joint Committee under the Chairmanship of the Joint Secretary, in-charge of sericulture, Ministry of Textiles will be set up to oversee the successful implementation of the project. The Member Secretary of the Central Silk Board will be the Project Manager.

PAN INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date**: Apr 16, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

### MALE

Manpower Requirements for IGM Hospital, Male

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 15, 1991:

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between India and Maldives for manpower requirements of Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Male, here today.

H.E. Mr. I. H. Zaki, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Maldives, on behalf of Maldives and Shri Dasai Chowdhary, Deputy Minister of Health and Family Welfare, on behalf of India, signed the Memorandum of Understanding.

A gift from India to Maldives, Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Male, a 200 bedded hospital of the cost of about Rs. 18.67

crores, is being set up under the India Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme. The hospital envisaging a modern medical complex consisting of specialised facilities for the internal medicines, General Surgery, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Paediatrics, ENT and Ophthamology, will be commisioned by September, 1992,

Under the Memorandum of Understanding, the Government of India has committed itself to provide assistance to Government of Maldives for training of various categories of medical and paramedical personnel to enable them eventually take over the management and operate the hospital. During interim period, Government of India will depute the necessary medical and paramedical manpower to Maldives to operate the hospital. The hospital would be developed as a self reliant institution and would be an exemplary symbol of Indo-Maldives Bilateral Cooperation.

LDIVES INDIA USA

**Date**: Apr 15, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### **NEPAL**

Indo-Nepal Sub-commission on Water Resources

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 15, 1991:

The Second Meeting of the Indo-Nepal Sub-Commission on Water Resources began here today. The Indian delegation is being led by Dr. M. A. Chitale, Secretary, Water Resources, and Nepalese delegation by Shri B. K. Pradhan, Secretary, Water Resources, Government of Nepal.

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During the four day discussions, the meeting will discuss development of common water resources including that of taming of Kosi river and other mega projects like Karnali and Pancheshwar.

The progress of setting up of flood forecasting and warning system for better flood management will be reviewed. The extension of Indian embankments at the border on common rivers into the Nepalese terrieory for tieing them to high ground on to the embankments on the Nepalese side has already been agreed and

modalities for their implementation will be worked out. This will avoid spilling of rivers on the border and save large areas from inundation every year. A programme for survey and investigation for taking up jointly storage projects on Kamla, Bagmati and Babai rivers and hydro electric projects in Nepal is expected to be agreed. Way is also likely to be paved for preparing the soil conservation and watershed management plan in the Kosi basin in Nepal.

The Sub-Commission on Water Resources is one of three headed by Ministers of External Affairs of the two countries and was constituted in August 1988. The first meeting of the Sub-Commission was last held at Kathmandu in December, 1988.

The Prime Ministers of the two countries met last year in June in November and recently in February this year. The two leaders had declared their solemn intention to usher a new era of cooperation between the two countries for harnessing the waters of the common rivers for the benefit of the people and had taken wide ranging decisions for urgent follow up action by both the sides. The meeting is being viewed as that of great importance in this background and is expected to draw an action pan and time frame for different activities of mutual interest to both the countries.

PAL INDIA USA

**Date** : Apr 15, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

### Afghanistan

The following is the text of a statement issud by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 05, 1991:

We are concerned at reports of renewed fighting in Afghanistan and of involvement of external elements in these operations. We have always believed that military operations are not in accordance with the Geneva Accords and the relevant UN Resolutions. We sincerely hope that these developments do not cause a setback to the process of finding a political settlement to resolve the Afghan problem.

India is convinced that the only way of resolving the impasse in Afghanistan is through a political settlement which takes into account the legitimate interests of all concerned, is based on existing realities and is arrived at by the Afghans themselves without external interference of any kind.

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#### GHANISTAN INDIA SWITZERLAND USA

**Date**: Apr 05, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting between Foreign Secretaries of Pakistan and India

The following is the text of a joint press statement issued in New Delhi on Apr 07, 1991 on the meeting between Foreign Secretaries of Pakistan and India:

The Fourth Round of talks between the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, Mr. Shaharyar Khan and Foreign Secretary of India, Mr. Muchkund Dubey took place in New Delhi from the 4th to 6th April, 1991.

During his stay in Delhi the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan called on Prime Minister Shri Chandra Shekhar.

The talks were held in a cordial and frank atmosphere. The two sides covered the entire range of bilateral issues. They also exchanged views on international issues of mutual interest.

At the end of the talks, the two Foreign Secretaries signed Agreements on:

- (i) Advance Notice on Military Exercises, Manoeuvres and Troop Movements and
- (ii) Prevention of Air Space Violation and for Permitting Overflight and Landings of Military Aircraft.

In this connection, the two sides expressed satisfaction at the outcome of the meeting of military experts held in New Delhi from 1-4 April, 1991.

During the talks, the Foreign Secretaries reached agreement on

the following schedule of meetings:

- (i) Tulbal Navigation Project Wullar Barrage -- July, 1991.
- (ii) India-Pakistan Committee to Combat Drug Trafficking and Smuggling -- July, 1991.
- (iii) Delimitation of the Boundary in Sir Creek area at the Secretaries level -- early August, 1991.

The two Foreign Secretaries also agreed in principle on the resumption of the dialogue on Siachen at the appropriate time.

There is already an agreement in principle to convene the Sub-Commissions of the Joint Commission. These will meet on mutually convenient dates.

The Foreign Secretaries agreed to hold their next round of discussions at Islamabad towards the end of August -- early September, 1991.

DIA PAKISTAN USA

**Date**: Apr 07, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Indo-Hungary Talks

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 10, 1991 on India-Hungary talks:

Composition of Hungarian and Indian officials participated in the talks, the Hungarian side: Mr. Arpad Goncz, President of Hungary, Mr. Bertalam Andra falvy, the Minister for Cultural and Public Education, Mr. S. Madl, Minister without portfolio, Mr. K. Szunyagh, Head of the President's office, Deputy State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr. D. Tomaj, Dy. State Secretary for International Economic relations, Mr. I. Major, and the Hungarian Ambassador in Delhi Mr. Andras Balogh.

The Indian side: The Prime Minister, Shri Chandrashekhar, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Digvijay Singh, Secretary

(East) Shri L. Mehrotra, Secretary (Industries), Shri Suresh Mathur; Secretary (West) Shri I, P. Khosla, Secretary (Health) Shri R. L. Mishra; Additional Secretary (Culture), Shri Sitakant Mahapatra; DG(AIR) Shri A. R. Shinde, Commerce Secretary Shri Montek Singh Aluwalia; Ambassador in Hungary Shri S. L. Malik; Shri Ronen Sen and Shri Shyam Saran.

The talks lasted an hour and a half. There was a brief one-to-one session followed by a plenary. The Hungarian President gave a lucid account of the dramatic developments that have taken place in the Hungarian economy. He said that in the last few months, as many as 800 large enterprises have been privatised and over 5.000 foreign collaborations exist today in Hungary, which accounts for more than half of the foreign investment in Central and Eastern Europe. He explanined that the liberatlisation of the Hungarian economy, especially the liberalisation of foreign trade has made the Hungarian economy, rather forced the Hungarian economy to become competitive and to develop technology which will enable it to stand on its own, in world markets. He said that in this overall context, Indo-Hungarian economic relations were in excellent shape, that our two-way trade had reached 200 million dollars and that it was his intention to try and double trade. This would be done not by reducing the present surplus, which is in their favour, but by creating opportunities for larger purchases of commodities from India. The President and the Prime Minister agreed that they would ask experts to examine certain specific areas which the two sides identified as being potential growth areas for economic cooperation. The Hungarians expressed keenness to participate in the development of power plants in India, supply of electronic systems and equipment for power plants they also spoke of collaborating in food processing, communications, encouraging the export and import of machinery and installations for the mining industry. The Hungarian side expressed the desire to enhance purchase of Indian iron ore and to enter into joint production between Indian and Hungarian companies, for raw materials for the oil and rubber industries. Cooperation in irrigation planning, tourism and any other form of cooperation that will be of mutual benefit to both countries, was also discussed. The Indian side, said that India would do everything to make Hungarian offers materialise and that the Commerce Minister would have discussions later today. The Indian side said that the identification of passenger cars, as a major export item to Hungary, had been noted with satisfaction, and that this was an item which had great potential for further exports. Our Prime Minister said that apart from those experts who were present, India would be happy to invite any other visitors from Hungary, connected with trade and culture and he underlined India's desire to benefit from Hungary's scientific research and from the great strides that Hungary had made in the development of science and technology. The Hungarian President said that he looked forward to the visit of our External Affairs Minister and the Prime Minister at a time that is considered suitable.

He wanted the Joint Economic Commission to be held in Budapest by September. He spoke in warm and glowing terms about the recent visit of Shri Rabi Ray, Speaker of the Indian Lok Sabha and said that this was the first contact between an Indian dignitary and the new Government in Hungary. He expressed the hope that the connection between the two Parliaments would be strengthened. He pointed

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out that in his own Parliament, an Indo-Hungarian Friendship Group was already in existence. The Prime Minister said that India and in fact, the whole world was keenly watching the courageous experiments that Hungary was undertaking with regard to its polity and its economy. At a time when there were many threats to world peace and when the future of many regions in the world was uncertain, India attached special importance to the role that Hungary had played in contributing to the maintenance of peace in its area, and to the maintenance thereby, of peace in the world. The Prime Minister assured the Hungarian President that the latter's efforts towards easing tension and maintenance of harmonious relations in an area which is critical for peace, would receive the fullest support and cooperation from India.

After the talks, the President and the Prime Minister witnessed the signing or three agreements between Health Secretary R. L. Mishra, Additional Secretary (Culture) Sitakant Mahapatra; DG(AIR) respectively from the Indian side and the Ambassador to Hungary, from the Hungarian side. The first agreement was a Work Plan for Cooperation in Health, the second was a cultural exchange programme and the third was an agreement on cooperation between Magyar Radio and AIR.

NGARY INDIA USA MALI LATVIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date** : Apr 10, 1991

### **Volume No**

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission

The following is the text of a joint press release issued in New Delhi on the meeting of India-Sri Lanka joint commission on Apr 8-10, 1991:

A delegation led by Mr. Bernard Tilakaratna, Foreign Secretary of Sri Lanka and comprising senior officials of the Government of Sri Lanka visited New Delhi from April 8 to April 10, 1991 for official level talks to prepare for the first meeting of the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission.

- 2. They had meetings with the Indian delegation led by Shri M. Dubey, Foreign Secretary and comprising senior officials of the Government of India. The delegation also called on the Deputy Minister of External Affairs, Shri Digvijay Singh.
- 3. Both sides agreed on the need to strengthen bilateral relations in their widest sense and expand future areas of cooperation in keeping with their common heritage and traditional ties.
- 4. Both sides reviewed the present level of bilateral cooperation and identified areas for future work in preparation for the meetings of the Joint Commission and Sub-Commissions.
- 5. Pursuant to the decisions taken by the Foreign Ministers of both countries, the two sides finalised the draft Agreement for the establishment of the Joint Commission. The concurrence of the respective governments to the draft text would be notified through diplomatic channels. The document would be signed at the First Session of the Joint Commission.
- 6. It was agreed that the two governments would work towards the holding of the First Session of the Joint Commission before the end 1991 in New Delhi. It is expected that the Sub-Commission on Trade, Investment and Finance and the Sub-Commission on Culture, Social and Educational matters would meet in Colombo well before the meeting of the

Joint Commission. Dates would be settled through diplomatic channels.

- 7. In the area of trade, both sides emphasised the need for stimulating balanced growth through identification of new products for export, trade promotion measures, exchange of delegations from trade and industry and the liberalisation of trade barriers. In this context, both sides agreed to support studies to prepare operational programmes covering areas of potential cooperation in trade, manufactures and services.
- 8. A delegation from Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) would visit Colombo in May with a view to intensifying the contacts between trade and industry in the two countries.
- 9. Both sides discussed the possibilities of bilateral cooperation in marketing, promotion and export of tea on the

basis of mutual benefit for the maximisation of net foreign exchange earnings of both countries. It was also agreed that the Sri Lankan side would submit detailed proposals in this regard to the Sub Commission on Trade, Investment and Finance.

- 10. Both sides noted with satisfaction the operation of a number of joint ventures in Sri Lanka. The two sides discussed potential areas for new joint venture and collaboration arrangements. The Sri Lankan side explained the new industrialisation strategy of their government and the incentive package offered to foreign investors. It was agreed that an investment promotion delegation from Sri Lanka will visit India.
- 11. Both sides agreed that there were promising possibilities of cooperation by Indian consultancy organisations in railway and dairy development projects. The Sri Lankan side would provide details in this regard.
- 12. The two sides reviewed the progress made in the utilisation of the Indian line of credit of Rs. 25 crores extended in 1987. It was agreed that all efforts would be made to fully utilise the credit at an early date.
- 13. It was agreed that immediate steps would be taken for the conclusion of a Cultural Exchange Programme for the period 1991-93. A draft text would be exchanged through diplomatic channels. The Sri Lankan side noted the proposal for the establishment of an Indian Cultural Centre in Colombo.
- 14. The Sri Lankan side indicated that they woold like the continuance of various schemes under which scholarships are offered by India. Both sides will make efforts to ensure fuller utilisation of these scholarships.
- 15. It was noted that ONGC (Videsh) Limited had submitted a proposal for oil exploration in the Gulf of Manner for evaluation by CPC. Following evaluation, the two sides would enter into negotiations. Referring to the decision of the Fourth Session of the Joint Economic Commission (1987), the Indian side reiterated their continued interest in the joint venture project for rehabilitation of the Trincomalee Oil Tank Farm. The Sri Lankan side took note of this.
- 16. There was consensus on both sides to cooperate in the field of Civil Aviation and explore ways and means of promoting air services between the two countries. It was agreed that official level bilateral talks will be held early to consider all relevant issues
- 17. Both sides also reviewed the progress made and the current status in the areas of science and technology, commu--60>

nications and tourism and agreed that their concerned authorities would follow-up specific proposals to be submitted for consideration by the Joint Commission.

- 18. It was agreed that the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries would meet by mutual agreement once a year or more often, if necessary, to discuss matters of mutual interest, including matters pertaining to the work of the Joint Commission.
- 19. The talks were held in an atmosphere of utmost cordiality and friendship.
- 20. The Sri Lankan side expressed their deep appreciation of the warm hospitality extended during their visit.

### I LANKA INDIA USA RUSSIA MALDIVES

**Date** : Apr 8-, 1991

## Volume No

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Indo-Sri Lankan Talks

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 10, 1991:

The Spokesman said that the talks were held in an atmosphere of utmost cordiality. Political issues were discussed. India reiterated to the Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary the need to avoid civilian casualties in the fighting currently taking place in the Northern part of the island, and emphasized to him the imperative need to find a political settlement, which in our opinion was the best option for achieving a lasting peace.

I LANKA INDIA USA

**Date**: Apr 10, 1991

# Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Pakistan

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 10, 1991:

In answer to queries on Pakistan Foreign Secretary's remarks about India's so-called interference in Sind, the Spokesman said to the best of my knowledge, Sind was not raised during the talks here at all. It was for this reason that we find it strange that the Pakistan Foreign Secretary should have chosen to raise this issue on his return to Pakistan.

KISTAN INDIA

**Date**: Apr 10, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Korea

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 11, 1991:

When questioned about reports that the Commerce Minister when in Seoul recently, had assured support of India for Korea's entry into the UN, the Spokesman said, "the minister's statement is in line with our general approach of support to the people of Korea in their legitimate wish to enter the United Nations on the -61>

principle of universality. We have felt encouraged by the talks taking place between the North and the South Korea to resolve their differences on the issue. We continue to hope that they will be able to resolve their differences and reach an understanding on the question of entry to the United nations as soon as possible.

REA INDIA

**Date** : Apr 11, 1991

# Volume No

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Gulf

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 15, 1991:

The Kuwaiti Foreign Minister in a letter to our former External Affairs Minister has commended with full appreciation the principled position of our country on the Gulf crisis, specially with reference to the voting of Resolution 687. He added that his government looked forward to further enhancing and developing Indo-Kuwaiti relations for the benefit of both countries and people.

DIA KUWAIT

**Date**: Apr 15, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Fiji

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 23, 1991:

In response to a query about India's reaction to the third postponement of elections in Fiji, the Spokesman said, "we have already held the view that the constitutional arrangements that have been worked out in Fiji are racially discriminatory and are not democratic. The repeated postponement of the election process in Fiji shows clearly the democratic credentials of the set-up in

JI INDIA

**Date** : Apr 23, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Kashmir

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 25, 1991:

When asked to comment about the reported statement of a POK leader that the Kashmir issue will be raised in the U.N., by Pakistan and the reported statement of the Pakistan Prime Minister that Pakistan will give all round support to Kashmiri militants, the Spokesman said, "we have noted both these reports. The question of raising this issue at the U.N. is tantamount to internationalising, what is a bilateral matter, and is contrary to the letter and spirit of the Simla Agreement. We have also noted reports about the Pakistani Prime Minister's statement reiterating support to elements in the Indian State of Jammu & Kashmir. We would like to clarify that such declarations of intent by Pakistani leaders, do not change the facts on the grounds. J&K remains an integral part of India.

DIA PAKISTAN

**Date**: Apr 25, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Listing of India under Special 301

The following is the text of a Statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 28, 1991 on the listing of India under Special 301:

In response to a question, the Spokesman made the following statement:

"It is unfortunate that the US has taken this decision especially at a time when these very issues are under negotiation in the multilateral forum of the Uruugay Round. There are certain differences between some aspects of our position on intellectual property and the position taken by the US. However, these should have been discussed in the Uruguay Round negotiations where we are participating constructively to evolve a multilaterally acceptable framework."

DIA USA URUGUAY

**Date**: Apr 28, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### **PAKISTAN**

General Shamim Alam Khan Calls on Defence Secretary

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 01, 1991:

A high level Pakistani delegation arrived in New Delhi yesterday for discussions on mutual confidence building measures with their Indian counterparts, which began today and shall continue till April 3, 1991.

Before commencement of the bilateral discussions, Lt. Gen. Shamim Alam Khan, leader of the Pakistani delegation, called on the Defence Secretary, Shri N.N. Vohra, this morning and held an informal exchange of views. Gen. Khan is the Chief of General Staff of the Pakistan Army.

Gen Khan's delegation includes senior officers of the Pakistan Army, Navy and Air Force, Additional Secretary of Pakistan Defence Ministry and the Director General (South Asia) of the Pakistan Foreign Office. The Indian side is led by Lt. Gen. S, Nambiar, Director General, Military Operations, Army Hqrs., and has officers from the Navy, Air Force and Ministries of Defence

and External Affairs. -63>

KISTAN INDIA USA

**Date**: Apr 01, 1991

### **Volume No**

1995

#### PRESIDENT'S SPEECHES

President's Speech at the Banquet in Honour of President of Hungary

Speaking at the banquet hosted, in New Delhi on Apr 10, 1991 in honour of the President of Hungary, H.E. Mr. Arpad Gonez, the President Shri R. Venkataraman said:

Mr. Presidena, Madame Gonez, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a matter of immense pleasure for me personally, and for the Government and people of India, to extend a warm welcome to you, Mr. President, and the distinguished members of your delegation to our country. We welcome you, Mr. President, not only as the Head of State of a new democratic Hungary, but also as a leading intellectual and a man of letters, an architect of a new order in Europe committed to the values of liberalism, humanism and cooperation, an activist for the cause of freedom and dignity, and above all, a true friend of India. We are indeed proud and happy to have such an honoured guest with us.

The excellence achieved by the Hungarian people in various fields, whether intellectual, artistic or scientific, is renowned. While civilization itself has been the greatest beneficiary, we in India are gratified that one, of the areas of Hungarian endeavour has been Indological studies where names like Alexander Csoma de Korosi, Jozef Schmidt, Charles Fabri and others have, become legendary. India is deeply indebted to them. Their studies were the embodiment of a larger spiritual guest that has traditionally linked India and Hungary. India and Hungary are also linked by the creative artists such as Rabindranath Tagore who visited Hungary in 1926, that talented and legendary Indian painter, Amrita Shergil and Sas Brunner. We are fortunte to have in our midst today, her talented daughter Madame Elizabeth Brunner. Hungary's deep and abiding interest in India has been sustained, nurtured and developed over the years.

Mr. President, major changes have taken place in the domestic situation in Hungary in recent months. It is clear that these

changes go beyond a change of Government or regime. They signify a fundamental transformation of your society, towards greater integration of your country with the world community. The radical changes of values and institutions involved in these events are truly path breaking and the people all over the world are following them with great interest. We pay tribute to the Hungarian people for their maturity and forbearance in coping with these far-reaching changes. Our people, Mr. President, are with you in your historic endeavour to create a new society and wish you every success. This has added a powerful new element that will raise the quaity and level of our traditionally warm and friendly relations.

The economic transformation of Hungary also opens up new opportunities for building up and strengthening our bilateral ties. The privatisation programme that you have embarked upon in your country will undoubtedly bring a greater dynamism to your economy and add to the prosperity of the people of Hungary.

Mr. President, Hungary is already one of our important economic partners in the region. It is a matter of satisfaction to us that in our efforts to change the profile of our foreign trade we find in Hungary a willing and active partner. Severa pioneering ventures in the field of automobiles, other manufactured products and the hotel industry have been successfully started. We are confident that your businessmen and industrialists too will find in India

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opportunities for mutually beneficial ventures.

We have fruitful cooperation in the field of culture, media, health and science and technology. Many of our bilateral agreements will not only be renewed during the visit but new areas of cooperation and interaction will be explored and identified.

Mr. President, in this context the prospect of a new integrated Europe widen'ing its area of partnership, holds great interest for us. The developing world needs understanding and support from the world's more fortunate sections. It is our confidence that this will be forthcoming. It is our earnest hope that the world community will accord high priority to the creation of a just and equitable world order. But more than anything else, the developing nations of the world need an environment of global peace.

In the years immediately after our independence, our commitment to peace found expression in the philosophy of Panchsheel and the Bandung principles. These later emerged as the policy of nonalignment.

We have, quite naturally welcomed the decline in global tensions

caused by the East-West divide. We are happy that the idea of bloc politics and the era of the Cold War have yielded place to a new spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation. India sincerely hopes that there will be no re-emergence of the bloc approach in the aftermath of the tragic war in the Gulf. The United Nations Organisation has played a useful role in creating an awareness of the need for a new and just international order. It needs to be further strengthened so that the integrity and sovereignty of all nations, may be protected and preserved.

Disarmament and development conti-nue to receive India's priority as the twin instrurents for world peace and prosperity. It is a matter of great satisfaction to us that India and Hungary have shared identical or similar approaches to the major issues of our time.

In our own region, Mr. President, it has been our endeavour to strive for a climate of mutual trust, cooperation and peace with all our neighbours. India has always looked upon countries in the region, large or small, as deserving of equal respect. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation or SAARC as it is popularly called, serves as an effective forum for the realisation of our regional aspirations.

Before I conclude, I would like to reiterate once again that your visit, Mr. President, will be a landmark event in our relations that will further cement our multi-faceted ties. We applaud your personal contribution in reinvigorating our relations, and renewing the traditional interest in Hungary towards Indian culture through your translations of contemporary literature on India and by Indian authors. I am confident that through this encounter you will discover the dynamic, progressive and composite face of India which is, at once at ancient civilisation and a modernntion.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I now invite you to join me in a toast:

- -- to the health and happiness of His Excellency, the President, Dr. Arpad Gonez and Madame Gonez;
- -- to the prosperity and success of the friendly people of hungary;
- -- to the further development of Indo-Hungarian friendship and cooperation.

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NGARY INDIA USA RUSSIA INDONESIA PERU

**Date**: Apr 10, 1991

### **Volume No**

1995

#### PRESIDENT'S SPEECHES

President's Speech at the Banquet at Hanoi

The following is the text of the address of the President, Shri,R. Venkataraman at the State Banquet hosted by the State Council of Socialist Republic of Vietnam, His Excellency Mr. Vo Chi Cong at Hanoi on Apr 24, 1991:

Members of my delegation and I deem it a great privilege to be in this ancient land with which India has a very close and warm relationship. Our friendship goes back several centuries, and the great monuments here bear witness to our ancient relationship.

Vietnam is not just a great nation; it has become a timeless symbol and synonym of sacrifice, determination and human dignity. Your heroic struggle for freedom against entrenched forces constitutes a legend for all time, while your leader, Ho Chi Minh, has gone into the annals of world history as a figure of epic proportions. And so to be in Vietnam is, for us, to walk on hallowed ground. I would like to express my sincerest thanks for the exceptionally warm welcome extended to me, my wife and to the members of my delegation.

I have long cherished a desire to visit this great land of heroic people who by their sacrifices and determination have given pride to every Asian. I feel doubly happy that this visit takes place at so auspicious a time as the celebration of the birth cenetenary of the immortal Ho Chi Minh. May I take this opportunity to extend to the people and leadership of Vietnam the cordial greetings of the people and government of India on this happy anniversary. It is our confidence that the life-work of Ho Chi Minh will shine as a becon light of self-confidence and pride, for the deprived and struggling peoples of the world. Vietnam and India have been indeed fortunate, in having two of the noblest and most far-sighted leaders of this era: Ho Chi Minh and Mahatma Gandhi whom we regard as the fathers of our respected nations. Both these leaders have left behind an indelible mark not only in their own nations but in the history of modem civilization

Our two nations have shared the sufferings of colonialism. It was after a long and difficult struggle that our peoples won their, freedom. As a nation that attained independence earlier. India watched your struggle for freedom with active concern, remaining a staunch friend of Vietnam during this difficult period in her

history. India rejoiced in Vietnam's liberation and eventual reunification.

Our first Prime Minister and the architect of Modem Jndia, Jawaharlal Nehru was among the first Heads of Government to visit Vietnam after your glorious victory at Dien Bien Phu. He came, in 1954, as a pilgrim to pay tribute to the Vietnam of Ho Chi Minh. The two great leaders had developed a close bond of friendship and deep regard for each other during the years of their separate, yet similar, struggle against foreign domination. The creative genius of these two leaders could not be confined within the walls that had incarcerated them. As Ho Chi Minh himself wrote in his Prison Diary:

"The body is in jail But the spirit, never; For the great cause to prevail, Let the spirit rise for ever!"

Around the same time, and, in similar circumstances, in Ahmednagar Jail, Nehru was dwelling on the spirit of his country as he wrote his Discovery of India.

Ever since then, Indo-Vietnamese friendship has continued to further con -66>

solidate itself through the exchange of high level visits.

It is a matter of great happiness 'that all-round progress marks our relations in diverse fields. The recent agreement in the field of Science and Technology will add to the benefits of cooperation in the fields of Agriculture & Animal Husbandry, Atomic Energy, Oil Exploration and Culture. Additional facilities have been provided for an increased number of Vietnamese scholars under Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme. The signing of a Trade Protocol in September 1990 was a major landmark in our bilateral relations.

In order to sustain and further strengthen our close friendship, it is essential that we ensure full implementation of this Trade Protocol and develop commercial and economic relations to their full potential commensurate with our political ties.

Excellency, important changes have taken place in recent times in India's immediate neighbourhood. We welcome the formation of representative governments in Bangladesh and Nepal and hope to further develop friendly relations with these impertant neighbours of ours.

In respect of Sri Lanka, India has time and again stressed the need for a peaceful political settlement which meets the legitimate aspirations of all sections of the Sri Lankan population within the framework of Sri Lanka's unity and integrity.

Unfortunately, peace has not yet been restored in Afghanistan. We are convinced that conditions should be created to enable the Afghan people themselves to find a political solution which would ensure Afghanistan's status as a sovereign, independent and non-aligned country.

We have continued our efforts to improve our ties with Pakistan in spite of their interference in our internal affairs by extending support to terrorists and to secessionist activities in the Indian States of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. We sincerely hope that the Government of Pakistan would realise the necessity to abide by the Simla Agreement.

The recent exchange of visits between India and China have helped better understanding between these two large Asian nations. Our bilateral cooperation has grown and the climate appears to be conducive to steady improvement in our relations.

Excellency, the world witnessed some momentous changes in the recent past. The era of confrontation between Super Powers has yielded place to cooperation and the Cold War has been replaced by dialogue and discussions. These had given new hope of peace and prosperity for the world. It is unfortunate that these hopes have received a setback with the outbreak of hostilities in the Gulf . This is not the time for recrimination or retribution but for reconciliation and constructive cooperation. Peace and stability in the Gulf region can be ensured only through the return of unity and amity. India believes that there can be no lasting peace in West Asia, till the Palestinian people's aspirations for 'homelnd' are realised and their freedom ensured.

Further afield, encouraging changes are taking place in Southern Africa. While we welcome these changes, we also recognise that a great deal remains to be done. Unfortunately, while apartheid is nearing its end in South Africa, it is raising its ugly head nearer our homes. For instance, racialism in Fiji has to be fought nationally and internationally with the same vigour. The struggles for upholding human dignity have to be carried, on relentlessly if we wish to leave a better world for posterity.

We have witnessed steady progress in the efforts to find a peaceful solution to -67>

the tragic conflict in Cambodia. The withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia in September 1989 was a significant and positive step in this direction. We have welcomed the efforts of the Permanent Five. Under the auspices of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, India will try to achieve a peaceful settlement which will ensure the sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and non-aligned status of Cambodia. The people of Cambodia must be allowed to decide their own future

unfettered by threats, coercion or fear. We also hope that once peace is restored, the Cambodian people would receive generous support for the reconstruction of their beautiful land.

Excellency, the biggest problem facing the world today is the problem of poverty and hunger. We think that there can be no durable peace, if the world continues to be divided between haves and have-nots. North-South dialogue and multilateral economic cooperation unfortunately remain blocked because of hesitation on the part of some of the major industrialised countries. We hope that the trading blocs and economic groupings will not turn into rich men's clubs and perpetuate the existing econon-Ac order creating new tensions and inequalities. We believe that the only reliable way to counteract such tendencies is through a further expansion of South-South cooperation.

Ho Chi Minh said: "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom". These words have eternal relevance. India and Vietnam were partners in their struggle for political independence. I am confident that, in the future, we will have an even closer partnership in our endeavours for economic and social reconstruction so that our people may enter a millenium of peace and prosperity.

May I request Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen to raise your glasses in a toast:

- -- To the good health and happiness of His Excellency Mr. Vo Chi Cong, President of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.
- -- To the continued progress and prosperity of the people of Vietnam; and
- -- To the steady strengthening and enrichment of Indo-Vietnamese friendship and cooperation.

ETNAM INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC BANGLADESH NEPAL SRI LANKA AFGHANISTAN PAKISTAN CHINA PERU SOUTH AFRICA FIJI CAMBODIA FRANCE

**Date** : Apr 24, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## PRESIDENT'S SPEECHES

President's Address at the Civic Reception in Honour of the President in Hanoi

The following is the text of the address of the President, Shri R. Venkataraman, at the Civic Reception at Ba Dinh Hall in Hanoi on Apr 25, 1991:

It is my privilege to bring to you, the residents of Hanoi, and to the people of Vietnam, the fraternal greetings of the 850 million people of India. I bring to the land of Ho Chi Minh, the salutations of the land of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru. From country -- India -- that struggled for nearly a century to cast off the colonial yoke, I bring felicitations to a country -- Vietnam -- that has become synonymous with courage, fortitude, and spirit of highest sacrifices for human dignity. For us, the members of my delegation from India, a visit to your country is pilgrimage to a place of relentless struggle for human freedom.

It is a great honour for us to be in this Ba Dinh Hall. It was here, in this very venue, that Ho Chi Minh read his Declaration of Independence on 2nd September 1945. It is here, in the Mausoleum opposite this Hall, that the -68>

man who became a legend in his lifetime, lies in-State. From these hallowed precincts .1 pay my homage to Ho Chi Minh and to the heroes of this great nation and the countless men, women and children, who laid down their lives for the cause of freedom and dignity.

Mere coincidence does not explain the fact that India and Vietnam attained freedom within a few years of each other. Mahatma Gandhi and Ho Chi Minh had so inspired their countrymen that freedom became a passion with our people which no colonial power could suppress. As President Ho Chi Minh once said:

"Nothing can prevent the sun from rising, nobody can run counter to the will of the people".

By galvanising the will of the people, these two epic personalities of our century, brought down two of the mightiest empires of our times. While India was privileged to achieve her goal through a non-violent mass struggle, you had to wage a bitter war against imperialism. As Jawaharlal Nehru explained, the victory in the battlefield of Dien Bien Phu symbolised the ultimate triumph over colonialism.

A hundred and one years ago, when Ho Chi Minh was born, the Vietnamese people were living in abject misery, humiliated and crushed by the cruel forces of imperialism and colonialism. This was also the time when India was experiencing similar torment under her colonial masters. The shared cultural traditions and links between Vietnam and India, which go back to centuries, were reinforced by the common experience of colonial rule in the two countries, Despite the disruptive influence of colonialism when

our natural affiliations and contacts came to be interrupted, our nationalist leaders maintained contact with each other and were inspired by their respective efforts to bring the dawn of freedom to the black night of political thraldom.

In a poem written to Jawaharlal Nehru during the struggle, Ho Chi Minh, who was then in jail said:

"....thousand miles apart, we have not met, we communicate, without words; shared ideas link you and me".

Similar experiences of our two nations during the period of colonial rule led us to cooperate with each other in our common struggle against colonialism and imperialism. Stark adversity forged a lasting and strong friendship between India and Vietnam. The People of our two countries had great sympathy for each other's cause. Even before our own independence, two brave young men laid down their lives in police firing in Calcutta on a demonstration organised in support of the freedom struggle in Vietnam. Later on, in the fifties, and early sixties, the Bengali slogan "Amaar Nam, Tomaar Nam, Vietnam, Vietnam" ("My name, your name, Vietnam, Vietnam") rose in a resounding chorus from the streets of Calcutta till it became a rising crescendo reaching even remote parts of India.

Great Vietnamese leaders like Ho Chi Minh, Pham Van Dong and Gen. Giap, with great Indian personalities like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Rabindranath Tagore laid the firm foundations of a friendship which we have been fortunate to receive in legacy. It is natural, therefore ' that the late President Ho Chi Minh is remembered in India not only as a great nationalist and architect of Vietnamese independence, but as one, whose noble thoughts and ideas lit undying flames of freedom and independence in the hearts and minds of millions of oppressed people all over. His philosophical influence stretches far beyond the frontiers of Vietnam. More than two decades after his passage into history, President Ho remains a source of inspiration and guidance not only to the people of Asia, but for all -69>

mankind in its suest for justice, liberty and equality. He will continue to live for ever and ever in the 'hearts of peace loving people of the world.

That is so because, Uncle Ho, as he was fondly known to his countrymen, never viewed Vietnam's freedom struggle as isolated from what was happening else-where in Asia. He worked tirelessly to link it and bring it into the mainstream of the global struggle against colonialism and oppression everywhere. The simplicity and humility which guided his personal life, have few, if any, parallels. Like our own great Mahatma, Uncle Ho dressed just like his people -- in humble khaki bush coat, rubber sandals and simple trousers. He personified in himself the simple folk or

Vietnam and their hopes and aspirations.

The ties between our two countries and our two peoples have existed from time immemorial and are revealed in the writings and records of travellers of bygone ages. They are also eloquently expressed through the architectural and cultural artefacts of ancient times. These links of the past were established in peaceful ways by artists, monks, scholars, traders alike, who travelled far and wide in search of truth, wisdom and wealth as part of mankind's common heritage.

These ties between our great leaders and our people were revived in our minds -- in all their strength and vigour --during the celebrations we have had in both countries recently for the centenaries of Jawaharlal Nehru and Ho Chi Minh, who were born within a year of each other.

Friends, as I stand here, I am aware that the challenging task of reconstructing peaceful and prosperous societies in the decolonised world in general and specifically in Vietnam and India is far from complete. To this end it is necessary that we closely continue our fraternal cooperation, not only to ensure rapid development with social justice, but also to ensure that the forces of neo-colonialism and economic exploitation do not rob our hard won independence of its meaning. I am confident that the people of our two great countries will continue to march tirelessly and ceaselessly on the path shown to us by Ho Chi Minh, Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru. It is our responsibility; indeed, it is our sacred trust, to rebuild our countries and make them many times more beautiful and bountiful, as Ho Chi Minh put it in his will and testament.

In this task of nation building, there must be cooperation between our two countries even more closely than in the past. There is great potential in their country, not the least because our people possess an abundance of skill. There may be great poverty amongst us; illiteracy and many forms of backwardness left behind by the departing colonialists. But our talents, our capacity for hard work and our endurance remain with us. The people are a most precious possession. It is for this reason that we are extremely happy to have been of assistance in helping Vietnam to develop its manpower and skills. Through our bilateral relations it would be possible for us to overcome the limitations of of material and financial resources. I would like to assure you on this occasion, of India's continuing commitment to the goal of a prosperous and self-reliant Vietnam.

We must now turn to new areas of cooperation between our two countries. Since independence, India has developed and established industries which produce everything from handicrafts to spacecrafts. Indian industry has made our country self-reliant in most sectors of the economy. The experience and expertise that India has gained will be unreservedly placed at the disposal of

Vietnam and its great people.

Friends, the international scene today extremely complex. The world has shrunk through rapid growth in technology and communications and we must learn to co
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operate and live together on this planet. We have to take urgent steps to strengthen the international system so that justice and equity may prevail, and nations, big and small may thrive in, peace and harmony with each other. It is imperative that the goods, commodities and services are shared equitably so that the divide between the haves and have nots does not widen any further. It is also necessary to prevent formation of trading blocs shifting the entry of goods from the developing countries into affluent markets.

In this background, it is our duty as ancient civilisations to contribute in such a way that a harmonious balance between the material and spiritual development of mankind is ensured. Humanity today, is at a major crossroads, with the Possibility of utilising modern technology either wisely for human development and social justice or irresponsibly leading towards new inequalities and greater tensions.

I am reminded today of the stirring words of the immortal poet of Ixidia, Rabindranath Tagore (and I quote):

WHERE the mind is without fear and the head is held high;

Where knowlenge is free;

Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls;

Where words come out from the depth of truth;

Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection;

Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit;

Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-widening thought and action --

Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake. (Unquote).

Inspired by the legacy of Ho, Gandhi and Nehru, let India and Vietnam march shoulder to shoulder together to forge a better future for themselves and for a new world order in which peace, prosperity and justice will prevail.

Long live Vietnam! Long live India! Lonk live India-Vietnam friendship!"

ETNAM INDIA USA

**Date**: Apr 25, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## PRESIDENT'S SPEECHES

President's Address at the Banquet in Honour of the Presidentin Manila

The following is the text of the address of the President, Shri R. Venkatararnan, at the State Banquet hosted by the President of Phillipines, Her Excellency Mrs. Corazon C. Aquino in Manila on Apr 29, 1991:

Your Excellency President Corazon C. Aquino, Hon'ble Ministers of the Government of the Phillippines, Your Excellencies, and Distinguished Guests:

From the very moment of our arrival in this magnificient city of Manila, we have been touched by the warmth and graciousness of the welcome accorded to us and the thoughtful care and consideration which has gone into the making of our itinerary. This delightful banquet bears testimony to Filipino hospitality which is legendary, both for scale and distinctiveness. Permit me, therefore, Madame President, to express on behalf of my wife, myself and the members of my delegation, our most sincere thanks for the countries extended to us and the cordiality with which we have been received.

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The Philippines conjures up images of picturesque beauty, grace and charm. Your national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal referred to the Philippines, most appositely, as the "Pearl of the Orient Sea." The location of the Philippines in the lap of the seas has posed both challenges and opportunities. Volcanoes rumble and erupt, tornados cut a swathe of angry destruction over your Islarids. And yet, the industrious people of the Philippines, have gone ahead to make the best use of their natural endowments, and through their determination, have carved a distinctive niche for themselves in the comity of Asian nations.

Your Excellency has spoken many kind words about India and Indo-Philippine relations. India and the Philippines have indeed much in common and our ties go back to antiquity. India's multilingual and multi-religious character is similar to that of the Philippines'. We are both parts of the great Asian continent which has been the fount of human civilisation. Both our countries were unfortunate enough to be caught by the dragnets of imperialism and colonialism. And yet, despite the fact that the colonisers were strong and mighty, our people struggled hard to achieve their rightful freedom. We in India watched with keen interest the struggle of our Filipino friends for freedom, democracy and socio-economic development. The struggle of the Filipino people for independence was seen by us as an inspiring saga of courage and sacrifice, with Dr. Jose Rizal and Emilio Aginaldo being hailed as Asian statesmen of exceptional stature. Your country won its freedom in 1946 and ours in 1947. Both our nations have thereafter been engaged in the stupendous task of building up a strong, viable and self reliant economy.

The fact that we are in the same region of the world - Asia - has bound us together even more closely. As the architect of independent India's foreign policy, our first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru said: "We are of Asia and the people of Asia are nearer and closer to us than others".

It was, therefore, natural for independent India to take a number of steps beginning with the Asian Relations Conference of 1947 to seek to strengthen and expand our ties with all Asian countries. My official visit at Your Excellency's gracious invitation is a continuation of this process. It has also given me an opportunity to renew the personal contacts established between us in Tokyo in February 1989. We look forward to an exchange of views with a wide cross-section of the Filipino elite during this visit.

Our common commitment to freedom and democracy and the deep and abiding spirituality of our peoples have further cemented this friendship and understanding. There is immense scope for meaningful cooperation between our two countries, especially in the economic and commercial spheres.

Since independence, India, like the Philippines, has been engaged in the gigantic task of national reconstruction, overcoming the legacy of colonial exploitation. The task of developing India into a modern, pluralistic and self-reliant nation, while preserving its age-old traditions, has been a challenging one. The people of India are proud to have developed a vibrant and successful democratic structure. We have built a thriving, diverse and steadily expading economic and industrial - infrastructure, which is intrinsically self-reliant and indigenous in character, yet is fruitfully interactive with world economies. Our economic growth has gone hand-inhand with massive educational, health, family planning, rural reconstruction -- programmes designed particularly to bring home the benefits of development to the most needy. While much has been achieved, we do recognise that we still have a great distance to traverse.

Your Excelleney's crusade for restoration of democracy in the Philippines,

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through non-violent people's power, has been a source of inspiration not only to your own countrymen but the world at large. Indeed, the worldwide surge of democracy in the past years owes not a little to the path shown by Your Excellency at the EDSA Revolution.

We regard your EDSA Revolution based on non-violence and persuation as an echo of our age-old tradition of ahimsa or non-violence, a reflection of truth and Righteousness embodied in the teachings of the Buddha, and an adaptation of our non-violent struggle for freedom under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi - the Father of our Nation.

The relevance of what Gandhiji preached and practised and what the EDSA revolution highlighted once again, namely, the linkage between ends and means and the necessity to eschew violence and hatred is all the more valid today. For what we see before us is a fractious human fraternity, succumbing more and more to a climate of terror and a cult of might.

Madame President, the international scene also does not present a happy picture. People at large, had hoped that the end or cold war would yield a peace divided, which would substantially reduce poverty and exploitation of under-privileged sections of mankind but these hopes have so far largely remained unrealised. The recent Gulf crisis, created by a blatant disregard for well established norms of international behaviour and conduct, the continuing strife in Afghanistan and in Cambodia, and the unresolved Palestine question remain potential flash points for wider conflagration. The old ideas of aggression and conquest, seemingly continue to guide many a nation. The destructive power unleashed by the rapid advances in science and technology clearly warns nations

against indulgence in any misadventure involving aggression and violence.

India has followed a policy of peace and cooperation with all nations. Guided by Panchsheel or the five principles or peaceful co-existence, we have sought to promote a climate of peace and cooperation world-wide, and more specifically in our own neighbourhood. India has also noted with interest the progress made by the countries of South East Asia, including the Philippines, to steadily intensify and expand their efforts to promote regionwide peace, friendship and cooperation through the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Given the many commonalities that so happily link our two peoples

together and given the shared commitment to democratic ideals, nothing would give us greater happiness in India than to further intensify the exchanges between our two countries. This would help transform Indo-Philippine relations into an exemplary model or South-South cooperation. I am confident that such intensified cooperation between our two countries will be mutually beneficial to our peoples. It would prove to be a major support in our respective endeavours to march into the 21st century as progressive and prosperous nations.

May I now request Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen to raise your glasses and drink a toast:

- To the good health, happiness and personal welfare of President Corazon C. Aquino;
- To the continued progress and prosperity of the people of the Philippines; and
- To the steady strengthening and enrichment of Indo-Philippine friendship and cooperation.

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ILIPPINES USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA JAPAN PERU AFGHANISTAN CAMBODIA

**Date**: Apr 29, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECHES

Fifth Indira Gandhi Memorial Lecture

Presiding at the fifth Indira Gandhi Memorial Lecture the Prime Minister, Shri Chandra Shekhar said in New Delhi on Apr 11, 1991:

I have been deeply moved by your words. They have brought us closer to the stirring changes taking place in Hungary and other European countries. We are reminded of our own efforts at nation building in the early years of our independence. Those were the years of awakening and exploration; of a people working to find their own destiny.

Excellency, we are indeed fortunate, that the Indira Gandhi Memorial Lecture this year should be delivered by a respected leader of your stature, who shares a commitment to the ideals of ntional dignity and freedom which Indira Gandhi held dear. She had a special affection for Hungary and its people and made a valuable contribution to the development of closer ties between our countries and peoples.

Excellency, your visit to India is of special significance. Yours is the first state visit by a leader from one of the countries of Central Europe after the historic, democratic revolutions which have transformed Europe recently. We welcome you as a true friend of India with whom we have shared very close ties of solidarity and support for over three decades. We admire your courage of conviction and your broad humanist outlook. Your life and work represent the rare synthesis between the courage and daring of a man of action and sensitivity and perceptiveness of a man of letters.

We share in the joy of the Hungarian people at the fulfillment of their democratic aspirations. We admire the peaceful,

constructive and consensual manner in which these changes have been effected in Hungary. We also welcome the improvements in the international situation and the progress in East-West relations which have facilitated this process.

For the first time, since the Second World War, there is hope that the fractured continent of Europe will be able to overcome its cold war divisions and move towards the vision of a common European home. These events have vindicated the basic tenets of Non-alignment and the principles of Panchsheel espoused by Jawaharlal Nehru and other Indian leaders. These principles continue to guide us even today. We stand unequivocally committed to the principle of the sovereignty of all nations. We remain firmy convinced of the imperatives of peaceful coexistence. We are opposed to the use of force in settling international disputes. We firmly believe that the people must be the paramount force in deciding the destiny of their nation.

There is a close bond of friendship between India and Hungary. The contacts between our two peoples through the ages have been mutually enriching and have left a lasting impact. Csoma de Korosl journeyed on foot from Hungary to India in the early years of the 19th century and spent 20 years here. His works are of great significance even today for Sanskrit and Buddhist studies. Rabindranath Tagore was overwhelmed by the affection and warmth of the Hungarian people. Planting a linden tree in 1926 near lake Balaton, he wrote:

"I am planting this tree in remembrance of my stay here; for nowhere else was I given what I received here. It was more than hospitality. It was the -74>

awakening of the feelings of kinship. I sense that I have come to

the land of a nation which is emotionally akin to India."

Our links with Hungarian revolutionaries and reformists have been an additional factor bringing our people closer. Excellency, with your visit, our bonds of friendship are renewed and I am sure, will gain in strength still further.

Today, the traditional empathy between us has grown stronger through our shared contemporary ideals of peaceful co-existence and mutually beneficial cooperation. I am confident that our relations will acquire a new dynamism in the coming years. The emergence of multi-party democracy in Hungary provides a strong new bond between our two peoples. The social changes underway and the increasing emphasis on a mixed market economy in Hungary open new possibilities for enhancing our economic and technical interaction. This also affords greater opportunities for exchanges between our people.

We are, today, at a turning point in history. The cold war has abated. The developments in Central and Eastern Europe have strengthened democracy the world over. Integrationist trends in several parts of the world have underlined the essential oneness of our world, and the interdependence of its parts. Technology is expanding and developing at a remarkable pace, transcending national frontiers. Yet, at the same time, the problems of poverty and underdevelopment remain acute. This is the challenge we must meet together. This is the challenge to which we must address ourselves as one human family. We believe that all countries should strive to consolidate the positive trends in the world, to forge a common front to deal with the common problems of mankind. We believe that we must cooperate to build a better future for all our peoples. India and Hungary must work together in this task.

I thank you once again, Excellency, for sharing with us your experiences and insights. They have given us a deeper understanding of the exciting changes taking place in Europe; changes which have radically transformed the world situation today and will have a lasting impact on the future.

Mr. President, I welcome you in this country as a leader of the resistence movement because it is the protest movement that brings prosperity and glory to the human civilisation. At every hour of gloom and darkness there stands a man who says 'NO' against the powers that are there at the time. When the humanity is suffering from oppression, exploitation and injustice, there should be a person to say 'NO' and this protest movement is the essence of progress.

At a crucial time of history in Europe, you learnt how to say 'NO', whether you believe in one ideology or the other; ideological grounds are not going to give us any help if we are not expressing the urges and aspirations of the people. Whether a

Chaucesco or a Marcos, the destiny is the same if you don't represent the aspirations and urges of the people of your country.

You are leading a movement in a part of the world which is uniting today and I hope that a united Europe will not only represent the aspirations and urges of the people of that area, but you as the leader of a resistence movement will also understand the aspirations and urges of the developing world. I look towards you to be the leader of that movement. Let us hope that a united Europe will not create a new society for themselves alone, but will also consider the aspirations and urges of the developing world. And, I hope that you will take a leading part in that movement.

I salute you as a leader of the resistence movement and I have great expec-

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tation from you as you symbolise the aspirations and urges of the whole humanity which is oppressed and exploited today.

I thank you again for coming to this country and to deliver this Lecture.

I thank you, Mr. President.

DIA USA HUNGARY

**Date**: Apr 11, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

**SAARC** 

Action Plan for Children 1991-2000

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 09, 1991:

Ms. Mira Seth, Secretary Women & Child Development has been appointed as the Chairman of Panel of Experts to Draft Guidelines for Plan of Action for children for the Decade 1991-2000 for SAARC countries. The other members of the Expert Group are from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

These Experts will hold a two-day meeting here from tomorrow to

review the status of Children in SAARC countries and prepare a set of draft guidelines for incorporation in the Plan of Action of SAARC countries for implementation. The draft guidelines will cover convention on the Rights of the Child, Programmes relating to Health and Family Welfare, Education, Safe drinking water & Sanitation and Women.

The Group will also go into the details of the recommendations contained in the declaration made in the world Summit of the Children held in September, 1990 at New York.

The Heads of State or Government of the member countries of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation met at the Fifth Summit held at male on 21-23 November, 1990. They reviewed the status of Children in South Asian and noted that the recent World Summit for Children had imparted a new impetus to the ongoing efforts in this field. They believed that relevant recommendations of the World Summit could be usefully incorporated into a Plan of Action in the South Asia context and its implementation should be reviewed annually. They authorised Secretary General of SAARC Secretariat to appoint a Panel of Experts to prepare the guidelines which would be subsequently examined by the Technical Committee on Health and Population Activities.

DIA BANGLADESH BHUTAN MALDIVES NEPAL PAKISTAN SRI LANKA USA

**Date** : Apr 09, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

SAARC

SAARC Workshop on Distance Education

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 11, 1991:

A three-day SAARC Workshop on Distance Education and Open Learning

System at School Level began here today. Representatives of all the seven SAARC countries are participating in it. It is being hosted in India for the first time. It has been organised by the National Open School, an autonomous organisation under -76>

the Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Inaugurating the Workshop the Minister for Human Resource Development, Shri Rajmangal Pande called for increased cooperation among the SAARC countries in Distance Education. Such interactions would strengthen the existing bonds among them, he said. Shri Pande expressed the hope that the Workshop would help in creating awareness in the region about the vital role of Distance Education and Open Learning System. It would also go a long way towards removal of difficulties being faced by the children of the region the Minister added.

Presiding over the inaugural function the Union Education Secretary Shri Anil Bordia emphasised the crucial role of Distance Education for achieving the cherished goal of life long learning. While India has crossed the threshold of 50 per cent literacy, in the SAARC region the

figure would be between 40 and 45 per cent. Open Learning could enhance primary education and complement literacy. Shri Bordia noted that alternative systems of learning were available in the SAARC countries. He stressed the need for availability of media time for the success of Distance Education.

Shri Bordia described the current Workshop as an important event for SAARC in the sphere of education. There has been complete unanimity of approach among the SAARC countries regarding education, he said.

The Workshop will identify thrust areas in Distance Education and possibilities for future cooperation among SAARC countries. It will aso emphasise on making use of Distance Education to provide continuing basic education as one of the strategies for achieving the goal of education for all.

DIA USA

**Date**: Apr 11, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

**SAARC** 

Plan for the Child Health for SAARC Countries

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi

on Apr 11, 1991:

The Panel of Experts from SAARC countries formulated guidelines for a regional plan in the areas of Child Health, Maternal Health, Nutrition of Child and Mother, Water Supply and Sanitation, Basic Education, Children in difficult circumstances, Girl Child, Environment and Women.

The Panel of Experts from the SAARC Countries headed by Miss Mira Seth, Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development, Government of India concluded the deliberations here today. The experts from Bhutan, Maldives and Nepal participated. Besides SAARC Secretary General Shri K.K. Bhargava, Shri Q. A.

M.A. Rahim, Director, SAARC Secretariat also participated in the meeting.

Reviewing the major objectives and sectoral targets, and keeping in view the recommendations of the World Summit for Children 1990, the Panel felt that in order to implement the Plan of Action, it was necessary to mobilise the voluntary organisations local bodies, religious institutions and political parties.

The Panel thought People's participation as one of the most powerful instrument for successful implementation of programmes for children. The Panel recommended that due emphasis may be given on regional cooperation with regard to collaborative programmes. Member Countries who had not already become party to the

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Convention on the Rights of the Child were called upon to consider doing so as early as possible and aim at implementing all its provisions.

These guidelines will be submitted to the Technical Committee on Health and Population Activities for approval in a meeting to be held in Dhaka shortly.

DIA BHUTAN MALDIVES NEPAL USA BANGLADESH

**Date** : Apr 11, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

SRI LANKA

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 04, 1991:

The new High Commissioner of Sri Lanka His Excellency Mr. Neville Kanakaratne presented his credentials to the President Sri R. Venkataraman at a function held in Rashtrapati Bhavan on April 4, 1991.

Welcoming the new High Commissioner of Sri Lnka, the President referred to the centuries-old relationship between Sri Lanka and India and said, "We believe that the need to harness the diversity of our cultures, religion and beliefs for promoting the upliftment and well-being of our peoples remain paramount".

The President expressed a hope that the forthcoming SAARC Summit in Colombo would give a meaningful direction to our joint efforts for combating the economic hardship placed by recent changes in the world economic outlook. Welcoming the recent decision to set up a Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission to re-juvenate and upgrade bilateral relations, the President said, "It now devolves on us to ensure that this forum becomes an important instrument to achieve our objectives."

The President also referred in his reply to the continuing and tragic spiral of violence in North-East Sri Lanka and said "we hope that efforts will continue to be directed towards finding a negotiated political settlement to bring about a peaceful and lasting solution to this long-standing problems".

Earlier while presenting his credentials to the President Sri R. Venkataraman, the new High Commissioner of Sri Lanka referred to the long-standing relations between the two countries based on shared objectives and said, "I am sure, your country and mine will continue our joint efforts to achieve a more equitable international economic order in the world which will truly reflect its inter-dependent nature in modern times".

Sri Lanka looks forward to India for cooperation wherever possible, for the mutual benefit of both the countries, who are developing, said the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka H.E. Mr. Neville Kanakaratne and also added that "the differences that have arisen between various segments of our Society in Sri Lanka will be eventually settled to the satisfaction of all concerned through consultation, compromise and consensus".

I LANKA INDIA USA **Date**: Apr 04, 1991

1995

#### UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

## Indo-Soviet Cooperation in Power

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 01, 1991:

The first Plenary Session of the Indo-Soviet Working Group on Power begins here today. The Soviet delegation, is led by Mr. A. P. Poddubsky, Deputy Minister of Power and Electrification, USSR and the Indian side by Shri S. Rajgopal, Secretary, Department of Power.

The Working Group will review the status of the Soviet assisted thermal power projects in India such as Vindhyachal, Kahalgaon, Kayamkulam and Maithon. The Group will also review progress in other areas of cooperation in the scientific and technical fields, repairs, maintenance and modernisation of Soviet made equipment installed at various power stations in India. The meeting will also take stock of the status of other Soviet assisted projects like Mangalore, Bakreshwar, Neyveli III, Tehri and Kol Dam Hydroelectric projects.

### **BACKGROUND**

Cooperation between the Soviet Union and India in the power sector began more than three decades ago, when, in 1957 an agreement was concluded in regard to the setting up of the Neyveli Lignite Thermal Power Station in Tamil Nadu. Over the years, power generating units of USSR manufacture and design have been installed at various thermal and hydro power stations in India. Valuable assistance has also been rendered by Soviet agencies in the design and engineering of power stations.

The Working Group of Power was set up in January 1981, within the framework of the Inter-governmental Indo-Soviet Joint Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation to further develop bilateral cooperation in the power sector.

DIA USA RUSSIA

**Date**: Apr 01, 1991

1995

#### UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Indo-Soviet Protocol on Cooperation in Railways

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 10, 1991:

India and Soviet Union signed here today a Protocol to extend further cooperation between USSR Railways and the Indian Railways. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Y. P. Anand, Member Engineering, Railway Board in the Ministry of Railways and the Six-member Soviet delegation was led by Mr. B. N. Butko, Deputy Minister for Railway Transport, USSR. The Indo-Soviet Working Groups which met here between 8th-10th April, 1991 reviewed the progress made in regard

to areas of cooperation identified earlier, relating to the supply of track laying and the rail welding machines, electric locomotives and research, designs and technology upgradation. During their discussions, the Working Groups identified new areas of activity where Soviet Railways could provide useful technology to the Indian Railways, particularly in the field of heavy freight operations. Cooperation between the two railways systems is likely to grow considerably in the coming years.

India and the Soviet Union have a unique record of technical and economic

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cooperation since 1955. There had, however, been no significant interaction between the two countries in the railway sector except in the Calcutta Metro Railway Project. These meetings held here were

the fourth in the series between the two countries. The meetings of the Indo-Soviet Working Groups are designed to expand further cooperation in the Railway sector between the two countries. -80>

DIA USA

**Date**: Apr 10, 1991

1995

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**Date**: May 01, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

### **AFRICA**

RITES Bags Consultancy in Mozambique and Nigeria

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 10, 1991:

The Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited (RITES), a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Railways has bagged a prestigious World Bank financed road consultancy contracts in Mozambique and Nigeria. This has come close on the heels of similar contract in Ghana.

In Mozambique, RITES has secured a contract for a feasibility study of rehabilitation and upgradation of Quelimane and Mamacurra Road. This involves a study of economic feasibility of the road and engineering design for the proposed upgradation. Another project for the RITES secured in Mozambique relates to provision of supervisory consulting engineers in the areas of rehabilitation of Xai Xai cable stayed Bridge.

In Nigeria, RITES has been awarded a contract of detailed engineering of asphalt overlay design of Calabar-Mfamosing Oban road (60 Kms) in hilly terrain.

In the country, RITES has bagged the World Bank financed Pavement Management Study of Gujarat Road Network covering traffic studies, maintenance management systems, etc. In the port sector, RITES has bagged recently a contract relating to the development management information system for Bombay Port Trust. This project is Asian Bank funded and secured amidst tough international competition.

The RITES has provided successful technical and management support services to Mozambique Railways since 1982.

ZAMBIQUE NIGER NIGERIA INDIA USA GHANA PERU

**Date**: May 10, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## **BANGLADESH**

Ed.CIL to Set Up Open University in Bangladesh

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 10, 1991:

The Educational Consultant India (Ed.CIL) has been entrusted with preparation of a detailed project report for setting up an Open University in Bangladesh. The project was awarded to ED.CIL by the Asian Development Bank against stiff international competition from organisation like Open University UK, -81>

UNESCO, France and Department of Education, Australia.

Ed.CIL is a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Human

Resource development offering consultancy and technical services in different fields of education and human resource development both within the country and abroad. During the last three years its expertise has been sought by about 30 countries of South East Asia, SAARC Countries and Africa resulting in about 70 per cent of its earning in foreign exchange.

#### NGLADESH INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM AUSTRALIA FRANCE

**Date**: May 10, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### **CANADA**

President Calls for Indo-Canadian Cooperation in DistanceEducation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 13, 1991:

The President, Shri R. Venkataraman has called for closer association of India and Canada in the field of distance education in the years to come. He was inaugurating the new building of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute here today. Distance education is an important area where India and Canada can benefit from the knowledge and experience of each other, he said.

Pointing out that a mass programme of adult literacy has peen undertaken in the country the President said our universities could benefit from the expertise of Canadian universities in the field of adult education. In this respect the Shastri Institute can play an important role in arranging for exchange of experts in adult education.

The President recalled the achievements of the Shastri Institute in promoting understanding of India through studies in humanities and social sciences in Canadian universities. The Institute has also been undertaking a variety of programmes to inculcate greater awareness about Canada and Canadian studies among Indian scholars. He expressed the hope that the Shastri Institute will serve to integrate the world.

The Shastri Institute was founded in 1968 by an agreement between the Governments of India and Canada for promotion of mutual understanding and cooperation. the new building constructed with support from the two Governments will house the administrative offices of the Institute and a Canadian studies library. Those present of the occasion of the inauguration included the Canadian High Commissoner to India, Mr. John L. Paynter and the UGC Chairman, Dr. Manmohan Singh.

NADA INDIA USA

**Date**: May 13, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## **DPRK**

Indian Parliamentary Delegation in Pyongyang

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 02, 1991:

An Indian Parliamentary Delegation, comprising Shri B. A. Masodkar, Dr. R. K. Poddar, M.Ps and Shri K. C. Rastogi, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Secretary to the Delegation is currently attending the 85th IPU Conference in Pyongyang (Democratic People's Republi of Korea).

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Participating in the discussion on Nuclear Non-Proliferation, the Indian delegates supported the position that an immediate halt should be called to the arms race, not only for atomic weapons but also for chemical and biologial ones. They emphasised India's Action Plan put forth at the United Nations in 1988 and also stressed that no country should take upon itself the role of guardian of the world and dictate to others. The Indian delegation called upon the International community to negotiate a binding commitment to general and complete disarmament, a commitment which should be total and without reservation.

DIA NORTH KOREA KOREA USA

**Date**: May 02, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## **JAPAN**

Japanese Commodity loan of US \$ 150 Million to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 29, 1991:

Japan will provide India an amount of Yen 20.3 Billion equivalent to US \$150 million for the energy sector for 1991-92. Notes to this effect were exchanged here today between Shri S. P. Shukla, Finance Secretary and Mr. S. Kobayashi, Ambassador of Japan to India on behalf of their respective countries.

This loan follows India's request to Japan for special assistance to cope with the negative impact of the Gulf crisis. This assistance is in the nature of financing imports of diesel by way of co-financing assistance of an equal amount extended by the Asian Development Bank.

The loan being extended through the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan has a payment period of 25 years including a grace period of seven years and carries an interest rate of 2.6 per cent per annum. An additional feature of this loan is that it would be made available to cover payments already made and/or to be made from August 2, 1990, the day on which the Gulf developments erupted.

These features will provide India with adequate flexibility in financing of imports and provide the much needed balance of payments support.

PAN INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date**: May 29, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

Vice President's Speech at the Dinner hosted in Honour of theNorth Korean Vice President

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 08, 1991:

The Vice President, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma hosted a dinner in honour of H.E. Mr. Li Jong Ok, Vice President of the Democratic

People's Republic of Korea, here tonight.

Speaking on the occasion Dr. Sharma said:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you. Mr. Vice President, and the dis-

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tinguished members of your delegation on behalf of the Government and people of India and on my own behalf. You have come to us bearing the friendship and goodwill of your countrymen and we are proud to have you as our honoured guest here today.

The history of the interaction between our two peoples is an ageold one and our two civilisations have mutually enriched each other. While we established consuiar relations in 1962 and diplomatic relations in 1973, the ties that bind our people go back more than two millenia when scholars and missionaries from our respective nations traversed the continent of Asia. Most of all, our common Asian heritage brings us together and is a source of strength and inspiration in a changing world.

We have many other ties that bind us in fellowship and friendship. We are fellow members of the Non-aligned movement. We are also two developing nations. These several strands of commonality that bind us together also require us to work through dialogue and cooperation for a just and equitable new world order in a changing international situation. As two developing nations striving to improve the lot of their peoples and realize the goals of all round development and modernisation we must ensure the creation of an international climate that enables the safeguarding of our vital interests and promotes peace and development.

We must therefore intesify our dialogue so that through harmonious cooperation between our two countries we can enlarge the areas of peace and goodwill in our region and the world. It is only through such joint efforts that we can realise what Mahatma Gandhi referred to as the 'essential unity of man'. We should encourage the exchange of our know-how, information and experience for mutual benefit. The essence of South-South Cooperation can basically be realised through the creation of such a model of mutually beneficial exchange between our two countries. We could bring our expert together for exchange of ideas and experiences and look for solutions to common problems. The strength we derive from this would improve the lives of both our peoples.

My country was one of the founders of the five principles of Peaceful Coexistence and we believe that these principles continue to be of crucial relevance in India's changing world. Similarly, there is the spirit of the Non-aligned movement to which both our countries adhere as members. The relevance and validity of the principles of the Non-aligned movement must be preserved in the changed international situation of today. We must focus with more intensity than ever before on the issues that confront the developing world and ensure an equitable dialogue between the developed and dveloping and the creation of a new world order that provides an equal place for all nation.

India as a true friend of Korea looks forward to the day when the divided peninsula will be peacefully re-united. We are conscious of the fact that the process can be realised only through patience effort and constructive dialogue. We in India have always desired the maintenance of enduring peace and stability in the peninsula. India has also always advocated peaceful dialogue between the two sides: it has advocated that such dialogue should take place directly and with no outside interference. It is in this spirit that we welcome the recent initiative which has enabled the Prime Ministers of the North and the South to meet and held discussions which we hope will contribute to the easing of tensions in the peninsula. We firmly believe that the Korean people have the determination and the spirit to achieve a peaceful reunification of their country.

We are also conscious of the keen desire of the Korean people to be represented at the United Nations and we support the -84>

aspirations of the Korean people in this regard. We sincerely hope that the representatives of the two sides will address this question in a spirit of trust and confidence and arrive, as quickly as possible, at a solution that is mutually acceptable.

I am happy to note that in the sphere of bilateral relations our ties have grown consistently in diverse fields. We have just concluded an agreement for cooperation in the field of Science and Technology and the Cultural Exchange Programme. We have a regular exchange of visits at various levels, political, parliamentary and cultural and the trade and economic fields.

Your visit, Mr. Vice President, is the highest ever from your country and we are conscious of its importance. We believe that it will make a significant contribution to the enhancement of understanding and friendship between our two countries. We are fully aware of the progress achieved by your country under the distinguished leadership of your President, His Excellency Mr. Kim II Sung. I am grateful for the good wishes that you have conveyed to me from President Kim II Sung. The Government and people of India sincerely reciprocate these sentiments of friendship and cooperation.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I now invite you to join me in a toast to:

- the health and happiness of President Kim II Sung.

- the health and happiness of Vice President Li Jong Ok.
- the prosperity and success of the friendly Korean people and to the further development of friendship and cooperation between our two countries.

## A KOREA NORTH KOREA INDIA PERU

**Date**: May 08, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

### **NIGERIA**

High Commissioner of Nigeria Presents Credentials

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 14, 1991:

The new High Commissioner of Nigeria H.E. Mr. E. Ola Adefemiwa presented his credentials to the President Sri R. Venkataraman at a function held in Rashtrapati Bhavan today.

Welcoming the High Commissioner of Nigeria, the President Shri R. Venkataraman referred to the close and friendly bilateral relations between Nigeria and India and to the considerable economic and commercial exchanges and said "Sharing of experiences between developing countries assumes greater significance. India is always ready to share its experience with friendly developing countries and increase the role of greater South-South cooperation.

The President has called for increased joint efforts on the part of developing countries like India and Nigeria to focus world's attention on pressing economic problems like growing indebtedness and chronic foreign exchange shortages facing the third world countries.

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Earlier while presenting his credentials to the President, the new High Commissioner of Nigeria H.E. Mr. E. Ola Adefemiwa called for further strengthening the already existing traditional bonds of friendship and fruitful initiation between India and Nigeria.

Paying tributes to India's contribution to the Non-Aligned Movement, the High Commissioner of Nigeria said, "the solidarity of purpose which was the hall-mark of the non-aligned movement must now be channelled to deal with the economic problems facing the third world.

GER NIGERIA INDIA USA

**Date**: May 14, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Indian Parliamentary Delegation to Pyongyang

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on May 03, 1991 on Indian Parliamentary Delegation to Pyongyang:

Indian Parliamentary delegation attending 85th IPU conference in Pyongyang delivered a speech on 30.4.91 on nuclear non-proliferation and supported the position that an immediate halt should be called to the arms race, not only for atomic weapons but also chemical and biological ones. They emphasised India's action plan put forth at UN in 1988 and also stressed that no country can take upon itself the role of guardian of the world and dictate to others. The speech was well received.

Extracts from speech:

"We call upon the international community to negotiate a binding commitment to general and complete disarmament, a commitment which should be total and without reservation."

"International community has to take up an agenda of utmost importance and to initiate efforts to build up an atmosphere of mutual trust and dispels threats of war of acts of aggression. Important it is that suitable confidence building measures are undertaken that would facilitate the implementation of agreed measures and negotiation of new measures towards eleminating the fear-frame built up by nuclear as well as, conventional arms race".

DIA NORTH KOREA USA

**Date**: May 03, 1991

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

S & T Agreement between Government of India and the Government of Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The, following is the text of a statement issued by the official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on May 09, 1991 on S & T Agreement between Government of India and the Government of Democratic People's Republic of Korea:

An Agreement on cooperation in science and technology was signed in New Delhi between the Government of the Republic of India and Government of the Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK), during the visit of the Vice-President of DPRK to India, on May 8, 1991.

The S & T Agreement was signed by DR. P. RAMA RAO, Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Science and Technology and H.E. MR. CHO GYU -86>

IL, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs. Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Agreement envisages cooperation in the fields of science and technology between the two countries on the basis of equality and mutual advantage and its promotion through identification, by mutual consent, of various areas in which such cooperation is desirable, taking into account the experience of scientists and specialists of the two countries and the possibilities available.

Cooperation will be affected through exchange visits of scientists and research workers, exchange of scientific and technical information and documentation, through the organisation of bilateral

scientific and technical seminars, identification of scientific and technical problems and joint formulation and implementation of research programmes.

The Agreement shall be subject to approval by the Contracting Parties in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures and shall come into force upon exchange of Notes concerning such approval.

The S & T Agreement shall remain in force for a period of five years and shall be automatically extended for a further period of five years, unless one of the Contracting parties gives notice to

the other Party of it's intention to terminate the Agreement twelve months before the expiry of the said period.

DIA KOREA USA

**Date**: May 09, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Foreign Dignitaries following Assassination of FormerPrime Minister Rajiv Gandhi

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on May 25, 1991 on the visit of Foreign Dignitaries following assassination of Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi:

The last two and a half days have witnessed an unprecedented influx of visits from high dignitaries from all parts of the world. Members of the royal families, Heads of State, Heads of Government, Vice-Presidents, Foreign Ministers, Members of Parliament and political leaders, representing all shades of opinion, have journeyed to India to pay tributes to the late Rajiv Gandhi. (Some diplomatic observers here and in the capitals have noted that the world has not seen such out-pouring of respect and affection for a person, who no longer held office, since 1945). The high level of representation at Shri Rajiv Gandhi's funeral ceremony is symbolic of the enormous reputation that he had built across the world in the short space of a little over five years that he remained India's Prime Minister. From

the meetings that these high dignitaries have been having with our own leaders, and from the tributes that have been coming in from around the world, the special and highly personal rapport that the late Prime Minister had with world leaders becomes quite evident. It also shows that he had aquired the stature as a world leader and a highly respected member of the international community. In all these meetings with our President, Vice-President and Prime Minister, the very special role played by Rajiv Gandhi in organisations such as the Commonwealth. NAM, on the critical issues of Disarmament, Decolonisation of Africa and in freedom movements around the world, was highlighted.

US Vice-President called on the Prime Minister. The meeting was held in an an extremely warm and cordial atmosphere. On behalf of President Bush, who had earlier called Smt. Sonia Gandhi, on his

own behalf and on behalf of the American people, he conveyed the heartfelt condolences of the American people.
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He was effusive in his description of the stellar role played by Rajiv Gandhi in the development of Indo-US relations. He said that the growing maturity and the close cooperation between the two countries was due, in considerable measure to Rajiv Gandhi's vital contributions. The Vice President and the Prime Minister also discussed the international situation and developmeents in the region and the Vice President expressed America's confidence that India would face this national tragedy with the calm and fortitude which had marked Indian civilisation over the centuries.

#### SOVIET VICE PRESIDENT

On behalf of President Gorbachev, the Soviet leadership and the Soviet people who had a very special affection, regard and respect for Rajiv Gandhi, the Soviet Vice President said that his presence in India was but "a small tribute" to this great son of India. Rajiv Gandhi had made signal contributions to Indo-Soviet relations and their high level of development was due, in very large measure, to his personal contributions. He emphasized that irrespective of current changes taking place in the USSR, he had come to underline and emphasize that the USSR regarded Indo-Soviet relations as a constant factor and that they attached the highest priority to the development of these relations in accordance with the Delhi Declaration of November '86 signed by Gorbachev and Rajiv Gandhi. As part of a general discussion on the international situation and regional developments, the Vice President said that his country was committed to the unity and integrity of India and that not only the Soviet Union but the world at large had an important stake in India's integrity.

## **GERMANY**

German Foreign Minister spoke in warm and laudatory terms of Rajiv Gandhi's contributions to the development of the historical and traditional friendship between India and Germany. He said that

his loss was a tragedy of deep dimensions and been deeply felt all over his country. He said that Germany's preoccupation in the last year with unification and with the development of East Europe did not detract from his country's abiding commitment and responsibility towards other parts of the world and with regard to India.

The Dutch and Iuxembourg Representatives called together, on PM. They had earlier called on the President. Holland is to become the next Chairman of the EC. The Dutch Prince said that Rajiv Gandhi had many personal friends in his family as well as at all

levels of the Dutch Government where he was held in the highest esteem. The leaders said that their visit to India was with a view to expressing their fullest solidarity with this important country as well as their confidence that the largest democracy in the world would continue to prosper and develop further. They also discussed bilateral matters and matters concerning the European community.

#### **IRAN**

First Vice-President of Iran mentioned that he had had the pleasure of looking after Rajiv Gandhi when the latter had visited Iran in January in an effort to find the solution of the Gulf crisis. He described Rajiv Gandhi's loss as one which would be felt not only by India but specially in the Gulf and the region as a whole. It was decided after his talks with PM that the Joint Commission should meet soon after the elections and that economic, commercial and cultural relations would be further strengthened. It was agreed that political consultations, specially on the developments in the region should be continued.

#### **BRITAIN**

The high-level strength and composite character of the British delegation is symbolic of the very special ties that bind the two countries. Apart from Prince Charles, Secretary of State, Douglas Hurd,

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former Prime Minister Edward Heath, Head of Labour Party Mr. Neil Kinnock and Head of Liberal Party, Mr. David Steel. There were a large number of other Members of Parliament. Prince Charles and the Secretary of State met the President, where they discussed the threat posed by the terrorists to democracy. Neil Kinnock had separate meetings with both the President and the Prime Minister where detailed discussions were held. These were warm, friendly and constructive. Neil Kinnock displayed a positive attitude and full understanding in his talks with the Prime Minister. He recognised the importance of sustaining secularism and upholding the principle of non-interference in the affairs of other States. He underlined the fact that the labour Party had been a friend of India's, before and after 1947, and that it would continue to regard India as a friend. There had been no change in the policy of the Labour Party towards India. The Party was conscious of the importance of the integrity of India and treated this as an accepted fact. The British leaders also expressed feelings of confidence in the strength and resilience of Indian democracy. They all highlighted Rajiv Gandhi's own significant and historic contribution to this Indian democratic tradition.

#### **CHINA**

Vice-Premier referred to Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China of

Deecember 1988, which he called a turning point in the history of the relations between the two countries. He recalled the positive efforts that Rajiv Gandhi had made both before and after that visit, to promote bilateral relations. China regarded with satisfaction the gradual forward involvement that had been made in the recent past on the border issue. There was a consensus in both countries on the need for developing closer relations as the two largest countries of the world, their cooperation was a factor in favour of stability not only in Asia, but in the world at large. Both leaders agreed that in the establishment of a new political order, the foundations

of the new structure would have to be predicated on the Five Principles, which had been jointly propounded by the leaders of India and China. Both leaders expressed satisfaction at their growing cooperation in international affairs, as was evident recently during the Gulf crisis. PM expressed the hope that Li Peng would visit India soon. The Chinese Vice Premier said that the Chinese Prime Minister was looking forward to coming to India at a time that was mutually convenient.

#### ARAFAT

The Palestinian people and Arafat personally would never forget the great personal contribution made by Rajiv Gandhi to the cause of the oppressed Palestinians. He said, that the Palestinian people would continue to look towards India for safeguarding their rights, and that India must play an important role in this regard in the Security Council. Prime Minister reassured Arafat that India's consistent and principled policy on the need for Palestinians to have a home land and on the recognition of their legitimate rights had not changed.

## **BANGLADESH**

The Prime Minister thanked the Bangladesh Prime Minister for coming to India to express sympathy on the tragic loss of one of its great leaders, even at a time when Bangladesh itself was facing enormous difficulties because of the natural calamity that had befallen it. The Bangladesh Prime Minister said that India and Bangladesh were amongst the closest neighbours in the world and that it was only appropriate that they should remain in touch with each other and share each other's joys and sorrows. The Prime Minister made enquiries about the progress of relief work presently under way in Bangladesh and reiterated India's firm commitment to assisting Bangladesh in whatever way required. -89>

#### **JAPAN**

The Japanese former Prime Minister said that Rajiv Gandhi was held in the highest esteem in Japan, where his assassination had created a profound sense of sorrow. He said that Rajiv Gandhi's brief but highly successful tenure as Prime Minister, had seen a significant improvement in relations between the two countries. He said that the people of Japan recalled with much affection, the three visits that Rajiv Gandhi paid to Japan. He said that he was confident that the excellent relations between the two countries would grow in the economic and cultural spheres and that political consultations on important matters of bilateral and international interest would also continue. Japan would do everything possible to develop its relations with India and would send a high level economic delegation soon and also take certain other measures.

#### ZAMBIA

The Zambian Prime Minister said that the sense of shock in Zambia was palpable, because Kenneth Kaunda was a close personal friend of the late Prime Minister. He said that Kenneth Kaunda had expressed the deepest regret that he could not be present in India himself, as the country was in the final stages of drafting a new Constitution. The Prime Minister made warm references to Rajiv Gandhi and said that not only Zambia, but all the Frontline States of Africa owe him a deep debt of gratitude. (The success of the Harare NAM Summit was due largely due to Rajiv Gandhi's efforts). Rajiv Gandhi's influence in and the love and affection in which he was held, extended all over Africa. His contribution to African causes was something, which will go down in history. His fight against apartheid and his help in the struggle for Namibia's independence, will never be forgotten. It was Rajiv Gandhi who had taken the initiative to fund the Africa Fund and it was he, who in the Non-aligned Movement and in the Commonwealth kept aloft the banner of African causes.

#### **NIGERIA**

Similar sentiments were expressed by Nigerian leader, who recalled that Rajiv Gandhi's efforts in the area of decolonisation were without parallel.

#### **MAURITIUS**

Mauritius PM called on President, Vice-President and PM. He said that Rajiv Gandhi was remembered for the special attention that he paid to Mauritius. He extolled the enormous interest that Rajiv Gandhi took in African problems.

## U.A.E.

Dy. Prime Minister recalled Rajiv Gandhi's great contribution to the historical and deep-rooted relations between the two countries. He said it was very important that the tradition of close consultations that had been established by Rajiv Gandhi should continue in the interest of regional peace and stability. He expressed the hope that the close cooperation that had been witnessed between U.A.E. and India during the recent Gulf crisis, would mark the further strengthening of bilateral ties.

#### **AUSTRIA**

President of the Federal Council called on Najma Heptullah.

#### SRI LANKA

The Sri Lankan PM called on our PM. He offered condolences and said that a Joint Commission should be convened early and they were looking forward to the next SAARC Summit in Colombo.

#### **PAKISTAN**

The two Prime Ministers reiterated their resolve to carry forward the dialogue already started, at various levels, and work towards reduction of tensions, and improve bilateral relations in all spheres.

Mrs. Najma Heptullah saw off all the dignitaries at the airport from Saturday evening to Sunday, 26th May, 1991. -90>

DIA USA GERMANY IRAN CHINA BANGLADESH JAPAN ZAMBIA ZIMBABWE NAMIBIA NIGER NIGERIA MAURITIUS UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AUSTRIA SRI LANKA PAKISTAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date**: May 25, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

## OAS Accept India as Permanent Observer

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on May 29, 1991:

The 35 member Organisation of American States (OAS) whose headquarters are located in Washington D.C., granted recently Permanent Observer status to India. Almost all the countries in the Western hemisphere are represented in the OAS. Sixteen of them are non-aligned members.

2. Relations between India and the countries of the American

continent have traditionally been friendly and there has generally been great coincidence in the pattern of voting at the United Nations between

India and the majority of Latin American and Caribbean countries.

- 3. The decision to grant India Permanent Observer status at the OAS demonstrates the interest of the countries in that region to interact with India for mutual benefit and intensification of relations in the economic and commercial fields.
- 4.Permanent Observers comprising status outside the American continent, participate in developmental activities by providing experts, assistance in training and financial contributions. India will be the 27th Permanent Observer.
- 5.The Ambassador of India in Washington has been accredited to the OAS as India's Permanent Observer.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date**: May 29, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## TANZANIA

RITES Bags a World Bank Railway Project in Tanzania

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 21, 1991:

The Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES), a public undertaking under the Ministry of Railways has bagged a World Bank funded railway restructuring contract in Tanzania amidst stiff international competition. This is a major break through for RITES in Tanzania. Earlier, RITES had been associated with imparting training to the Tanzanian railway personnel in India.

The Tanzanian Railway Corporation (TRC) intends to take-up a major restructuring exercise during 1990-95 to make Tanzanian Railways a viable, self-sustaining efficient and economical transport system. RITES will provide organisational specialists to conduct studies on operations, improvement and restructuring of the management. This is designed to ensure effective utilisation of railway assets, both existing and those expected to be added during the course of the project. RITES will also

help TRC design Operations Information Systems (OIS) for smooth and efficient communications and information transmission facilities and track maintenance.

-91>

This contract marks the beginning of a new phase in RITES business, with emphasis shifting towards management

studies. The RITES bagged two similar projects in Mozambique and Nigeria in the highway sector recently.

NZANIA INDIA USA MOZAMBIQUE NIGER NIGERIA

**Date**: May 21, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### UNICEF

India and UNICEF Signed Agreement of Cooperation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 30, 1991:

India and United Nations Children's (Emergency) Fund today signed an agreement of cooperation for providing about US \$ 465 million for various programmes for the five-year period 1991-95. The Master Plan of Operations was signed by Ms Miera Seth, Secretary in the Department of Women and Child Development and Dr. Eimi Watanabe, UNICEF's representative in India here today.

UNICEF cooperation with India began in 1949 and the present agreement opens the fifth decade of partnership.

A two-pronged approach is planned to address the agreed goals. Programmes providing basic services to children and

women including ICDS, DWCRA, urban basic services and MCH, will be supported on a nation-wide scale. In education, water supply, sanitation, nutrition emphasis will be mainly on the development of system approaches, communication and training.

In 1989, India gave UNICEF Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarament and Development for her global services to children.

The Programme of cooperation, besides helping in reduction of mortality rate among children, seeks to improve opportunities of basic education for all children and women, to reduce proportion of early marriage of girls from the current 37 per cent and to enhance the nutritional wellbeing of children, adolescent girls and women.

DIA USA

**Date**: May 30, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

India and USSR to Cooperate in Field of Medical Sciences and Public Health

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 07, 1991:

A Protocol for the plan of cooperation in the field of medical sciences and public

health was signed between the Government of India ann the Government of USSR here today.

H.E. Dr. A. I. Kondroussey, Deputy Health Minister of USSR and Shri R. L. -92>.

Misra, Union Health Secretary, signed the Protocol. The Protocol was signed under the aegis of the agreement entered into between the two countries in March, 1979.

Cooperation in the field of Malaria, Viral Hepatitis, Arbo Viral Infection, Diarrhoeal diseases, AIDS, Oncology, Cardiology, Cardiac Surgery, Neurophysiology, Aero Space Medicine, Liver Cell Transfusion Therapy, Bonemarrow transfusion therapy, Orthopaedics, Diabetes Mellitus, Ophthalmology, Medical Biotechnology and Yoga through exchange of information, literature, and visit of scientists of both the cointries has been finalised. A few areas had been identified where efforts should be made by both the countries to explore the possibilities of cooperation through diplomatic channels in future.

**Date**: May 07, 1991

## June

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**Date**: Jun 01, 1991

# **Volume No**

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#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Pakistan

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 07. 1991:

When asked for Government of India's reaction to a reported proposal made by the Pak. PM about a 5-nation multilateral consultation on nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia, the Spokesman responded that, "our attention has been drawn to reports on the suggestions made by Mr. Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister of Pakistan on the question of nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia. We find nothing new in these suggestions. They are a rehash of the well-worded Pakistani posture adopted by them for the past several years.

The Pakistan Prime Minister has specifically suggested that USA, the Soviet Union and China should consult and meet with India and Pakistan to arrive at an agreement for keeping the South Asian region free of nuclear weapons. Pakistan has been moving a resolution on Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone in South Asia for the past several year while at the same time relentlessly pursuing its clandestine nuclear weapons programme. Now that there is overwhelming evidence regarding the true nature of Pakistan's nuclear programme, merely repeating the proposal at this stage must be viewed as a propaganda exercise and a tactic by Pakistan for diverting international pressure to give up its nuclear weapons programme.

India's views on the creation of regional Nuclear Weapons-Free Zones are well-known. Given the global reach of nuclear weapons, it is illusory to seek security through regional arrangements, particularly where the security interests of all the concerned states are not taken into account in defining the region. That is why India has proposed an Action Plan for the Ushering in of a Nuclear Weapons Free World. India has always been and is prepared to enter into consultations with Pakistan or any other country to work for the implementation of our phased programme for the elimination of nuclear weapons in a time-bound framework, which includes commitments to be given by nuclear capable countries, not to cross the threshold.

### KISTAN INDIA USA CHINA

**Date**: Jun 07, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

## Friendship Bridge in Bhutan

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 07, 1991 on the Friendship Bridge in Bhutan:

Her Royal Highness Ashi Sonam Wangchuck, sister of the King of Bhutan inaugurated today the Friendship Bridge built near Thimpu by 'Project Dantak', of the Border Roads Organisation of the Government of India and M/s M. B. Gharpuray of Pune. The bridge is built at the point where the Thimpu Chu and Paro Chu rivers meet to form the Wangchu and connects the three valleys of Thimpu, Paro and Ha.

Speaking on the occasion, the Indian Ambassador, Shri V. C. Khanna described the bridge as a striking symbol of India's deep and abiding commitment to its friendship with Bhutan. -95>

UTAN INDIA

**Date**: Jun 07, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Pressler Amendment

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 14, 1991 on Pressler Amendment:

In response to questions on US House of Representatives action on the Pressler Amendment, the Spokesman said on, 14.6.91, that:

We have heard reports that during discussions of the Foreign Aid Authorisation Bill 1992-93, the US House of Representatives has passed an amendment extending the coverage of the Pressler Amendment to include India.

We are disappointed at the tenor and content of the debate in which there is a tendency to gloss over the main issue: in that while India has followed a consistent policy of not acquiring nuclear weapons, Pakistan has single-mindedly pursued a clandestine nuclear weapons programme by willful violation of US laws. Attempts to equate India with Pakistan in this manner therefore seem misplaced. We hope that US Congressmen will see this aspect in proper perspective in future debates on this issue.

India's nuclear policy is founded on twin objectives: that nuclear weapons are abhorrent and must be eliminated and that credible security can only be provided if this issue is addressed globally. It goes without saying that the presence of nuclear weapons in our neighbourhood is a matter of vital security concern.

DIA USA PAKISTAN

**Date**: Jun 14, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Sale of Chinese Missiles to Pakistan

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 18, 1991 on Sale of Chinese Missiles to Pakistan:

When asked to comment on today's reports that China has confirmed the sale of short-range missiles to Pakistan, the Spokesman said "we have seen reports that China has confirmed that it has sold "short-range missiles" to Pakistan. We have, in our discussions with the Chinese Government, emphasised that the supply of sophisticated arms and missiles to Pakistan beyond its legitimate requirements of defence, poses a threat to India's security and is not conducive to the maintenance of peace, security and stability in South Asia.

We have made sincere efforts to improve our relations with China, our largest neighbour. In recent years we have engaged in frank and constructive dialogue with that country on various issues of mutual concern. We have stressed the need for avoidance of actions that do not build mutual confidence and understanding between India and China.

KISTAN INDIA CHINA USA

**Date**: Jun 18, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

House of Representatives Amendment Imposing Human Rights Conditionalities on the IMET Programme

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 24, 1991 on house of representatives amendment imposing human rights conditionalities on the IMET programme:

We have noted the amendment passed by the U.S. House of Representatives as -96>

part of the Foreign Aid Authorization Bill for FY 92-93 which calls upon the President to ensure that "the International Military Education and Training Programme for India instills

programme participants with an enhanced understanding and appreciation of, and ability to apply, internationally recognised human rights and humanitarian standards.

The IMET programme (amounting to \$ 345,000 for FY 92-93) is an exchange programme which facilitates professional contacts and specialised training between the Armed Forces of the two countries. Training slots are identified by the two Government annually. On the basis of reciprocity, the Government of India also provides some slots for US Armed Forces personnel in courses held at the National Defence College and the Staff College at Wellington.

There is no question of the Government of India accepting any conditionalities for such exchanges. In any case these programmes are intended for mutual benefit and India is not the sole beneficiary.

The amendment by implication casts an unwarranted slur on our Armed Forces who in the face of sustained and widespread terrorist violence and extreme provocations, have been acting bravely and with utmost restraint. They are operating against terrorists who are being infiltrated from across the border after being trained and heavily armed and who seek shelter behind innocent civilians.

Our Armed Forces are renowned as a thoroughly trained and highly disciplined force. They need no lesson from others in compassion, morality or application of human rights and humanitarian standards.

A INDIA NEW ZEALAND

**Date**: Jun 24, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Kuwait

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 25, 1991 on Kuwait:

When asked to comment on a report in the Economic Times of 24.6.91 implying that India was neglecting the resumption of its

relations with Kuwait, the Spokesman responded:

We value our relations with Kuwait and we have every desire intention to strengthen the traditionally friendly ties that we have enjoyed with Kuwait. We fully agree with the point (made in the article) that the new Kuwaiti Ambassador Mr. Razak Razooqi is an experienced and highly competent diplomat, and we greatly welcome his presence in India. We would also like to clarify that our own Ambassador who has been selected to serve in Kuwait is also one of our senior diplomats who has considerable experience in this area. We hope that he will be in position in his new appointment in the next few weeks.

WAIT INDIA

**Date**: Jun 25, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

## AFRICA Fund

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 26, 1991 on AFRICA Fund:

At a short ceremony, on 21.6.91 the High Commissioner of India, Dar-es-Salaam presented four Mahindra jeeps to the Tanzanian Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Mr. B. Mkapa. These jeeps have been gifted out of India's contribution to AFRICA Fund, for use by the Tanzanian News Agency, SHIHATA.

On behalf of the Government and the people of Tanzania, Minister Mkapa conveyed his sincere thanks to Indian Government for this liberation oriented assistance that will go further in cementing existing good relations between the two countries. The Minister also commended India's role in the success of the Fund which he attributed to the diligent canvassing and skilful management by the successive Indian governments.

DIA TANZANIA USA

**Date**: Jun 26, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Installation of Statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Phnom Penh

The following is the text of a Statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 27, 1991 on the installation of Statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Phnom Penh, Cambodia:

The bust of Mahatma Gandhi presented by Shri Lakhan Mehrotra, Secretary in Ministry of External Affairs on behalf of the Government of India to the State of Cambodia was formally installed on 20th June at the Cambodia-India Friendship park in Phnom Penh. An important adjoining avenue was also named after the Father of the Indian nation. This was done in a well attended ceremony. The Friendship park which also contains the ancient Buddha relics and the holy Bodhi tree brought from India has now acquired an added focus with the installation of the bust of Mahatma Gandhi. The park is located in centre of Phnom Penh.

An offer by the local office of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi to build a musical foundation in the park was also received with gratitude by the Phnom Penh municipality and would provide the added attraction in the park. The bust was formally inaugurated by Mr. Simka, Politburo member and secretary of the Phnom Penh Party Committee. Both Mr. Simka and Shri Wangdi, the Indian Cd'A emphasised the great relevance of Mahatma Gandhi in today's modern day life, specially in the context of Cambodian peace process. They hoped that teaching and wisdom of Mahatma Gandhi would prove to be a beacon of hope and example for the Cambodians who are yearning for early internal peace and prosperity.

MBODIA INDIA USA **Date**: Jun 27, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Pakistan

The following is the text of a Statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 27, 1991 on Pakistan:

When asked to comment about reports appearing in today's papers that the Pakistani army was taking over the training camps of militants in Pakistan, Spokesman responded that the ISI was very much a part of the army, since it was the intelligence wing of the army and whether the camps came under the control of the ISI or the army, it qualitatively made little difference to the fact that Pakistan was training and sending militants across the border.

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#### KISTAN INDIA

**Date**: Jun 27, 1991

# Volume No

1995

## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Yugoslavia

The following is the text of a Statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 27, 1991 on Yugoslavia:

When asked to comment on the developments in Yugoslavia, the Spokesman said, "India's stand for the unity of Yugoslavia within a mutually accepted re-structured federal framework. It is our hope that a peaceful, democratic solution would be found to this problem through a process of negotiation and we trust that the republics of Yugoslavia realize the value of maintaining beneficial links in a mutually accepted structure. We believe that all avenues for a negotiated and peaceful settlement have not yet been exhausted and the parties concerned would successfully reach a negotiated, peaceful settlement on their own."

GOSLAVIA INDIA USA

**Date**: Jun 27, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Kidnapping of Israeli Tourists in Srinagar

The following is the text of a Statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 27, 1991 on the kidnapping of Israeli tourists in Srinagar:

When asked for information on this incident which occurred yesterday, the Spokesman said that he had no more information than what had been reported by the news agencies. A group of 8 Israelies including two women, in a houseboat, were attacked by militants. Two of the Israelies had been kidnapped. One militant and one Israeli tourist had been killed in a scuffle.

The Spokesman was unable to confirm whether the Israelis were of Indian origin.

He said that according to his information no advisory has so far gone out from the Central Government asking foreigners to stay away from J & K. In this matter the Central Government is guided by the State Government.

RAEL INDIA USA **Date**: Jun 27, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

UN Sanctions Against Iraq

The following is the text of a Statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 27, 1991 on UN Sanctions against Iraq:

When questioned about India's response to the Kuwaiti

Ambassador's call to India to help raise the UN sanctions against Iraq, the Spokesman said that the question of sanctions had been determined by the UN Security Council by consensus. India is aware of Iraqi needs and so are all the other members. The question of lifting sanctions as in the case of imposing them, will again have to be agreed to, by consensus, and by other members of the Security Council. Also there are other factors which need consideration.

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AQ INDIA KUWAIT USA

**Date**: Jun 27, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### **PAKISTAN**

Railway Delegation from Pakistan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 29, 1991:

A high level railway delegation from Pakistan headed by the Chairman, Railway Board and Secretary, Ministry of Railways, Mr. S. R. Poonegar alongwith Mr. Zahoor Ahmad, Member Traffic and Mr. S. M. Wahiduddin, Member Mechanical, Pak Railway Board will visit India on a nine-day official tour from June 30, 1991 to July 8, 1991. During their visit, the Pakistani Railway Delegation will hold inter-Ministerial meeting with the Chairman and Members of the Indian Railway Board to review, revalidate and extend the Indo-Pakistan Railway Agreement which expires on June 30, 1991. In addition, the measures for higher levels of export by railway between the two countries are also likely to be discussed alongwith other allied matters to ensure a smooth flow of traffic between the two countries. At present, on an average about 200 to 250 freight wagons are interchanged every month between India and Pakistan. From India main commodities being exported are electrodes, vegetable seeds, clutch-blocks, amla, ginger, soyabean meal, deoiled cake etc. The traffic in soyabean meal and deoiled cake, moving in block rakes, constitutes about 80 per cent of the total exports to Pakistan. From Pakistan, mainly rock salt, steel scrap, zinc etc. are imported.

The Pak Railway delegation will also visit Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Chittaranjan and Diesal Locomotive Works, Varanasi.

The Broad Gauge rail links between India and Pakistan on Punjab border connecting Amritsar and Lahore via Atari in India and Wagha in Pakistan, snapped on September 6, 1965, was restored on September 16, 1976 following an agreement on rail travel with Pakistan. As a result, a daily passenger train Indo-Pakistan (IP) Express catering only to international passenger has been running between Amritsar and Lahore and back via Atari and Wagha. The average number of passengers is about 500 per day.

KISTAN INDIA USA

**Date**: Jun 29, 1991

# Volume No

1995

#### PRIME MINISTER'S ADDRESS

Prime Minister's Address to the Nation

The following is the text of Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao's address to the Nation broadcast over All India Radio and Doordarshan in New Delhi on Jun 22, 1991:

I address you at a difficult time. Rajiv Gandhi's assassination brought home to us in a brutal manner the grave danger to the stability and integrity of the nation. A barbaric act snatched away from us a great leader in his prime. But his vision of India will live on and will continue to inspire and guide future generations.

In their hour of crisis the people of India have stood as one. They have given -100>

a befitting reply to the forces which seek to destabilise the country and subvert democracy. The electoral process just completed has yet again demonstrated the strength and vitality of Indian democracy. It has once again demonstrated the unity of the Indian people beyond challenge.

The dangers posed to the country by problems in Punjab, Kashmir and Assam are very real. The general law and order situation is a matter of alarm, as is the communal situation. Government will address itself to those problems with determination and single-mindedness. We will ensure that the unity and integrity of the country are safeguarded. While genuine grievances of the people

will be redressed, terrorism and other fissiparous tendencies will be dealt with firmly. I am certain in my mind that we shall succeed in this endeavour for we draw our strength from our people who have behind them a long tradition of amity, cooperation and togetherness and deep love for their motherland.

The economy is in a crisis. The balance of payments situation is exceedingly difficult. Inflationary pressures on the price level are considerable. There is no time to lose. The Government and the country cannot keep living beyond their means and there are no soft options left. We must tighten our belt and be prepared to make the necessary sacrifices to preserve our economic independence, which is an integral part of our vision for a strong nation.

In the pursuit of this objective, my Government attaches the highest priority to restoration of the health of the economy. In the past, we have faced such crises, overcome them. The economy has the strength and the resilience. The people have the resolve. Together, we shall overcome. This is a national endeavour, in the pursuit of which we should rise above sectional interests and partisan politics. In this task, we seek the cooperation of all.

We are determined to address the problems of the economy in a decisive manner. The postponed Union Budget will be presented in a month. India shall maintain its unblemished and perfect record in meeting its international obligations. The dialogue with the multinational financial institutions, in particular the IMF, would be continued. Fiscal discipline must be observed. Hard decisions would have to be implemented to manage the balance of payments situation and to curb inflation. At the same time, we will ensure that the process of adjustment is managed in such a manner that it protects the poor and sustains the momentum of growth.

This Government is committed to removing the cobwebs that come in the way of rapid industrialisation. We will work towards making India internationally competitive, taking full advantage of modern science and technology and opportunity offered by the evolving global economy. Utmost efficiency will be fostered. We cannot tolerate waste, inefficiency and indifference to quality, in the public or any other sector. We also welcome foreign direct investment, so as to accelerate the tempo of development, upgrade our technologies and to promote our exports. Obstacles that come in the way of allocating foreign investment on a sizeable scale will be removed. A time bound programme will be worked out to streamline our industrial policies and programmes to achieve the goal of a vibrant economy that rewards creativity, enterprise and innovativeness. I see a very special role for non-resident Indians to play in this process. We shall make investment in India a rewarding experience.

Agriculture will receive the Government's close attention. The

progress made so far should be consolidated and conditions created for greater and diversified progress. Close attention will be paid to expanding irrigation and the development of dry land agriculture. Extension services
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will be strengthened and modern technology brought to the doorsteps of our farmers. A fair price for farmers will be ensured.

It will be our endeavour to improve the quality of life of millions of our people who are living in want and deprivation. Their betterment of the rural poor will receive the Government's closest attention. It will be our endeavour to develop appropriate linkages so that the pressure of land on rural areas is eased and more employment opportunities are generated with a view to tackling the problems of unemployment, underemployment and low incomes. Administration will be made more responsive and it will be ensured that every rupee spent on development reaches the intended beneficiaries. Existing policies on financial assistance will be expanded for rural housing. Close attention will be paid to the improvement of the primary health and infrastructure of Primary Health, particularly in rural areas.

The strengthening of the Public Distribution System will receive the Government's immediate attention. The Public Distribution System would be expanded not only to cover the rural areas but would also sharply target the poor. The Public Distribution System would be made an important instrument in our fight against rural poverty and in improving the quality of life of our people. We have to evolve a strategy that at once combines policy initiatives with the full enforcement of the laws of the land.

We are committed to protect the constitutional and legal rights and the legitimate interests of the religious, linguistic and ethnic minorities. We shall set up Special Courts, infact more Special Courts to try communal offences. A composite Rapid Action force will be constituted to quell communal riots. The Minorities Commission will be provided statutory status with a view to enhancing its effectiveness.

It is unfortunate that at the very juncture when India needed to give a lead in this historic endeavour, its international prestige suffered setbacks and relations with friends and neighbours were neglected. It will be the endeavoure of my Government to restore India to its place of honour in the comity of nations and ensure that India's voice is once against heard with respect and attention in the world fora. Our relations with neighbours will enjoy the prority they deserve so that our region becomes an area of peace, prosperity and stability.

I have formed a broad-based weaker section-oriented Council of Ministers. This is only the beginning, the beginning of a programme to reach out to the men and women of India in every nook and corner. My team understands the heartbeat of the people.

Our vision is to create employment, eradicat poverty and reduce inequality. We want social harmony and communal amity. We want a more humane society. As the twentieth century draws to a close, we cannot live with poverty and destitution among large sections of our population. Gandhiji said that it was his ambition to wipe every tear from every eye. That is the vision which will inspire the work of my Government.

Jai Hind. -102>

DIA USA LATVIA

**Date**: Jun 22, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### **SWITZERLAND**

Rs. 140 Crores Swiss Credit to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 24, 1991:

An agreement for a mixed credit line of S.Fr. 100 million (roughly Rs. 140 crores) was signed here today by Mr. Deb Mukharji, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Mr. Jean-Pierra Zehnder, Ambassador of Switzerland in India.

The mixed credit is the successor to a similar line allocated in 1983 and will be used to finance imports of capital goods and services of Swiss origin required for the execution of high priority development projects. The funds are available for both the private and public sectors. There is considerable scope for the utilisation of these funds as imports from Switzerland have in the recent past amounted to about Rs. 640 crores annually. The mixed credit is very concessional, with 40 per cent as a grant (from the Swiss government) and 60 per cent as export credit (financed by a consortium of Swiss banks led by the Union Bank of Switzerland).

The introduction of a pure grant portion in a mixed credit line to India for capital goods is a unique feature of Swiss credit.

Another concessional element introduced by the Swiss Government

in the new mixed credit line is coverage of 100 per cent of the import value as opposed to 85 per cent coverage under the old 1983 line. This ensures zero outflow of free foreign exchange on imports covered under Swiss capital goods credit, while the soft term of the credit reduces the overall outflow of foreign exchange and assists our balance-of-payments position.

Switzerland considers India to be its most important partner in development cooperation. Apart from the mixed credit facility, Switzerland also offers about Rs. 50 crores of grant funds every year for local cost development activities in areas like Watershed development, Sericulture, Animal Husbandry, Electronics and Rural credit. Recently, Rs. 22 crores was transferred to NABARD to assist its non-farm sector lending activities under a Rs. 45 crore Indo-Swiss Agreement signed in May 1991.

#### ITZERLAND INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

**Date**: Jun 24, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

#### U S A Extends to India Grant Assistance of \$ 20 Million

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 29, 1991:

The United States of America, through the Agency for International Development ("A.I.D.") has committed to provide Grant assistance of US \$ 20 million to Government of India for the Energy Management Consultation and Training Project (EMCAT). A Project Grant Agreement to this effect was signed by Shri S. Varadachary, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, and Mr. Walter Bollin--103>

ger, Director, USAID. The agreement was co-signed by the Chairman and Managing Director of the Power Finance Corporation, Shri R. Venkatanarayanan, and by the Chairman and Managing Director of the Industrial Development Bank of India, Shri S.S. Nadkarni.

The major objective of the Project is to improve the efficiency of energy supply and its use by industry and other sectors of the Indian economy. It will assist the PFC to effectively improve the operational and financial performance of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) so that they can supply power on a more efficient, reliable and sustainable basis to industry and other sectors. For the Energy End-use Component, EMCAT through the IDBI will assist private industrial and other enterprises to obtain energy services and equipment to improve their management and instal new systems to reduce their energy consumption.

The total cost of the project is US \$ 26.666 million. While USAID will extend assistance of US \$ 20 million, PFC and IDBI will contribute US \$ 4.666 and US \$ 2.0 million in rupees respectively. The project is expected to complete by March 31, 1997.

A INDIA

**Date**: Jun 29, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### WORLD BANK

World Bank Extends Credit for Sardar Sarovar Project

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 28, 1991:

The World Bank has decided to extend the credit closing date of the Sarovar Water Delivery & Drainage Project by one year that is till July 1, 1992. This decision was taken after a mission from the World Bank reviewed implementation of resettlement and rehabilitation aspects connected with the Sardar Sarovar Project. The review mission after extensive field tours and discussions with both State and Government of India officials was satisfied with the measures taken by the participating States on all aspects of resettlement and rehabilitation.

The World Bank has committed assistance to the tune of \$450 million for the Sardar Sarovar Water Delivery & Drainage Project and the Dam and Power project. A second phase of assistance for the canal project on a Water Delivery and Drainage System of SSP is under process for external assistance.

The World Bank mission evaluated the progress made by the project on finalisation of (i) revised list of project affected persons by Gujarat; (ii) allotment of agricultural land and house plots to all outstanding Maharashtra Project affected persons willing to settle in Gujarat; (iii) schedule for the completion of a

detailed R&R plans for the 15 villages to be affected in Maharashtra in 1992-94.

The World Bank has also extended the credit closing date of Maharashtra Composite Irrigation Project-III to June 30, 1992. This project is being reformulated by inorporating five subprojects of the erstwhile Maharashtra Composite Irrigation Project-II so as to enable full utilisation of assistance extended by World Bank. This project was negotiated with the World Bank in 1985 and the Bank has committed IDA soft credit to the extent of SDR 166.4 million.

DIA USA LATVIA

**Date**: Jun 28, 1991

# July

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NGLADESH INDIA BULGARIA CHINA USA FRANCE IRAQ JAPAN SRI LANKA ISRAEL PAKISTAN AUSTRALIA JORDAN

**Date**: Jul 01, 1991

# Volume No

1995

#### BANGLADESH

India and Bangladesh Sign Science Agreement

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 31, 1991:

India and Bangladesh today signed an agreeement on cooperation in Science & Technology. Under the agreement both the countries will have co-operation in various fields including alternate energy sources, food sciences, technology transfer and immunology diagnostic kits. Other areas of co-operation identified include medicinal plants, development of drugs, food technology and photovoltaics.

The agreement was signed on behalf of India by the Secretary, Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, Dr. S. K. Joshi who is also Director-General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. Dr. Habibur Rahman, Additional Secretary Incharge, Science & Technology Division, Bangladesh signed on behalf of that country.

A science delegation led by Dr. Habibur Rahman which is at present in Delhi, will be visiting CSIR Laboratories located in Delhi, Calcutta and Lucknow to identify the future areas of cooperation including the study of science; management and organisation; setting up of new research facilities and fellowships to the scientists and researchers from Bangladesh for working in Indian Research Institutes.

Soon after signing the agreement, Dr. S. K. Joshi said that agreement will go a long way in strengthening the relations of both the countries particularly in the fields of Science & Technology. Dr. Habibur Rahman said that the agreement will give more opportunities for scientists of both the countrise to interact. Bangladesh will be specially benefited by the reservoir scientific talent available with CSIR in India, Dr. Rahman said.

**Date**: Jul 31, 1991

# Volume No

1995

## **BULGARIA**

Bulgarian Ambassador Calls on Agriculture Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 31, 1991:

The Indo-Bulgarian Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Co-operation will meet in Sophia by the end of this year. This was decided when the Bulgarian Ambassador Dr. E. V. Savov called on the Agriculture Minister, Shri Balram Jakhar, here today.

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The two sides agreed that the level of the two way trade, though satisfactory, was not commensurate with the potential that existed. Both sides agreed to encourage new forms of cooperation line joint ventures, production cooperation and cooperation in service sectors.

Shri Balram Jakhar said that there was scope for importing Bulgarian technology specially in the field of agro-processing. The possibility of third country cooperation was also explored.

The Agriculture Ministry is the nodal Ministry for the Indo-Bulgarian Joint Commission which is headed by the Agriculture Minister on the Indian side. The Joint Commission meets once in two years alternately in Bulgaria and India. The last meeting of the Joint Commission was held in New Delhi in November, 1988.

LGARIA INDIA

**Date**: Jul 31, 1991

# **Volume No**

#### **CHINA**

#### India and China Sign Sports Protocol

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 18, 1991:

The Second Sports Protocol for the year 1991 between India and China was signed here today. It was signed on behalf of India by the Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs and Sports, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Shri M M. Rajendran and on behalf of China by its Ambassador in India Mr. Tu Guowei.

Under the Protocol Chinese coaches in Table Tennis, Badminton, Swimming, Diving, Rythmic, Gymnastics and Artistic Gymnastics will come to India to train our teams and for teaching at the Patiala National Institute of Sports. A Chinese Women's Hockey Team will also visit India to participate in the fourth Indira Gandhi International Gold Cup Tournament.

From Indian side eight experts and teachers will go to study sports activities in primary and middle schools of China. Besides three specialists from India will visit the Dope Control Laboratory of National Research Institute of Sports Medicine in China.

The New Protocol is expected to further develop and strengthen cooperation in the field of sports and physical culture between the countries.

The first Sports protocol between India and China for the year 1990 was signed in Beijing in February last year.
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INA INDIA

**Date**: Jul 18, 1991

# Volume No

1995

## DOMESTIC

New Industrial Policy 1991

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi

#### on Jul 24, 1991:

The new industrial policy announced by the government in Parliament on 24.7.91 proposes a series of measures designed to unshackle Indian industry from the myriad administrative and legal controls which have become unnecessary in the changed national and global economic environment. The policy statement reiterates the objectives of employment generation, reduction of socio-economic disparities, removal of poverty and attainment of self reliance.

The highlights of the policy measures are a substantial reduction in the number of industries requiring compulsory licensing, promotion of foreign investment in India, automatic approval of foreign technology agreements, public sector reform and amendments to the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act. While allowing greater play to private enterpreneurship, the Government would retain necessary control in key areas of industry in keeping with the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956. A package for the small and tiny sectors of the industry is being announced separately.

It has been decided to do away with industrial licensing for all industries except those 18 industries specified in Annexure-II, irrespective of levels of investment. The industries where industrial licensing will be necessary include areas like coal, petroleum, sugar, cigarettes, motor cars, hazardous chemicals drugs and pharmaceuticals and some luxury items. Compulsory licensing in these areas has been considered necessary for security and strategic considerations, safety reasons and over riding environmental concerns and the need to regulate production of articles of elitist consumptions.

Barring these the entrepreneurs will be allowed to freely develop their industries become more competitive nationally and internationally, more efficient and modern.

The theme of the policy is continuity with change. While freedom has been given to the major industries to grow, reservation of items for the small scale will continue so as to promote the industrial and agro-industrial employment base.

While proposing major change in licensing policy the pre-eminent place of the public sector in 8 core areas will be continued. These include areas like arms and ammunition, atomic energy, mineral oils, rail transport and mining of coal and minerals.

#### IMPORT OF CAPITAL GOODS

The policy envisages automatic clearance for import of capital goods provided the foreign exchange requirement for such imports is ensured through foreign equity. In addition with effect from April, 1992 when the foreign exchange position is likely to be

better such automatic approval will be given if the c.i.f. value of the capital goods to be imported is less than 25% of the total value of plant and machinery and subject to a maximum limit of Rs. 2 crores.

#### **BROAD-BANDING**

Existing and new industrial units will be provided with a broad-banding facility to enable them to produce any article so -107>

long as no additional investment in plant and machinery is involved. Further, exemption from licensing will apply to all substantial expansions of existing units.

#### **CONVERTIBILITY**

The mandatory convertibility clause which enables financial institutions to convert loans into equity will no longer be applicable for term loans extended by financial institutions for new projects.

#### FOREIGN INVESTMENT

Direct foreign investment has always been preferred to loans and other forms of assistance. Keeping this in view, the new policy welcomes foreign investment with its attendent advantages of technology transfer, marketing expertise, introduction of modern managerial techniques in the country and export promotion.

Now onwards approval will be given for direct investment upto 51% equity in high priority industries which include 34 broad areas like metallurgy, electrical equipment, transportation, food processing, hotel and tourism industry.

There shall be no bottlenecks of any kind in this clearance of proopsals for foreign equity participation. Such clearance will be available if foreign equity covers the foreign exchange requirement for imported capital goods. Consequential amendments to the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (1973) shall be carried out. In other cases, normal clearance procedures will apply.

Dividends to be expatriated by companies with foreign equity will have to be met through export earnings over a period of time.

Foreign equity proposals need not necessarity be accompanied by foreign technology agreements.

### FOREIGN TRADING HOUSES

Companies with foreign equity upto 51% will be encouraged to act as trading houses primarily engaged in export activities. This will generate greater passage of Indian goods to export markets.

#### EMPOWERED BOARD

A Special Empowered Board would be constituted to negotiate with a number of large international firms and approve direct foreign investment in selected areas. This would be a special programme to attract substantial investment that would provide access to high technology and world markets. The investment programmes of such firms would be considered in totality, free from predetermined parameters or procedures.

#### FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT

In this area the Government proposes to combine the need for updating technology in high priority areas with incentives for domestic sales and export promotion. The policy proposes automatic permission for foreign technology argeements in high priority industries upto a lumpsum payment of Rs. 1 crore, 5% royalty for domestic sales and 8% for exports, subject to total payment of 8% of sales over a 10 year period from date of agreement or 7 years from the commencement of production.

The prescribed royalty rates are net of taxes and will be calculated according to a standard procedures. Further, in respect of industries other those in high priority areas automatic permission will be given subject to the same guidelines if no free foreign exchange is required for any payments.

All other proposals will need specific approval under the general procedures in force.
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As regards hiring foreign technicians or foreign testing of indigenously developed products no permission will be necessary. Payments may be made from blanket permits or free foreign exchange according to RBI guidelines.

#### PUBLIC SECTOR

While public sector would continue to play its rightful role in the economy the government will ensure that it is run on sound commercial lines and continues to innovate and maintain its dominant role in strategic areas. Towards this end, public sector investments would need to be reviewed. While some reservation of industries for the public sector will be retained, there will be no bar for such areas to be opened up to the private sector selectively. Similarly, the public sector will also be allowed entry in areas not reserved for it.

In order to raise resources and encourage wider public participation, a part of the government's shareholding in the public sector would be offered to mutual funds, financial institutions, the general public and workers.

Public enterprises which are chronically sick and which are unlikely to be turned around will, for the formulation of revival or rehabilitation schemes, be referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), or other similar high level institutions created for the purpose. A social security mechanism will be created to protect the interests of workers likely to be affected by such rehabilitation packages.

#### LABOUR

The government reiterates its commitment to make the labour force an equal partner in progress and prosperity. The new package provides full protection to the interests of the labour, enhancement of their welfare and upgradation of their skills to equip them to deal with the inevitable technological change. Workers participation in management will be promoted and workers cooperatives will be encouraged to participate in the efforts to make sick units healthy.

#### MRTP ACT

The MRTP Act will be amended to remove the threshold limits of assets in respect of MRTP companies and dominant undertakings.

Emphasis will be placed on controlling and regulating monopolistic, restrictive and unfair trade practices. The newly empowered MRTP Commission will be authorised to initiate investigations suo moto or on complaints received from individual consumers or classes of consumers in regard to monopolistic, restrictive and unfair trade practices. The amendment of the MRTP Act would eliminate the requirement of prior approval of Central Government for establishment of new undertakings, expansions of undertakings, mergers, amalgamations, and takeovers and appointment of Directors under certain circumstances.

A INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date**: Jul 24, 1991

Vol	ume	No
4		

1995

**FRANCE** 

France's Highest Civilian Award for Indian Scientist

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 22, 1991:

The French Government has conferred the highest civilian award, the honour of "Officier de la Legion d'Honneur" upon the Indian Scientist Prof. G. P. Talwar. It is rarely bestowed on foreign nationals. Prof. G. P. Talwar currently the Director of the National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi, becomes the first Indian scientist to have been chosen for this honour.

Besides several contributions of a basic nature on the mechanism of action of hormones, Prof. Talwar can be credited with laying a strong foundation of immunology in India. Prominent among his research contributions, are the development of three indigenous vaccines. The antileprosy vaccine currently in therapeutic trials in two major hospitals of Delhi as well as in Kanpur Dehat amongst a community of 3,62,000 (with a high prevalence rate of leprosy), has demonstrated that as an adjunct to multi-drug therapy, the vaccine can accelerate recovery from the disease and can also upgrade the immunological responses of the patient. A special feature of the vacine is the cure that it brings about in patients who are resistant to drugs. Another injectible developed by Prof. Talwar, can sterilize male mammals without affecting their virility. This vaccine can arrest the proliferation of scrub animals. Bulls sterilized by the vaccine, named TALSUR, can help identify the female in estrus, without being able to impregnate her. Detection of estrus at the right time is crucial to the success of artificial insemination. Prof. Talwar has also pioneered the development of a human birth control vaccine for use in women. The Vaccine neutralizes the pregnancy hormone - the human chorionic gonadotropin (HCG) - crucial for the sustenance of pregnancy. The safety of the vaccine has been established in several trials around the globe. This vaccine is the first in the world to have entered Phase II clinical trials in women. These trials started in three centres in India, last year. Prof. Talwar alongwith his colleagues has also developed simple and highly accurate diagnostic kits. Kits for the detection of pregnancy, typhoid, amoebiasis and blood group screening have aleady been licensed for large-scale production to well-known Indian companies. TALSUR has been licensed for commercial production to M/s. Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Ltd., a public sector undertaking.

ANCE INDIA USA MALDIVES

**Date**: Jul 22, 1991

## **Volume No**

## **IRAQ**

## Agricultural Exchange Programme with Iraq

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 29, 1991:

Ambassador of Iraq His Excellency Abdul Wadood Shekhly called on the Minister of State for Agriculture Shri K. C. Lenka here today and apprised him of the agricultural development of Iraq. His Excellency expressed that the government of Iraq have been fascinated by the achievements of India in agricultural sector and -110>

its scientific and technological research developments. He said that the government of Iraq was interested in entering into agricultural exchange programmes with Government of India in the area of research in Arid zones and research and development in other agricultural programmes.

Shri Lenka has assured His Excellency of necessary technical advisory and consultancy support for development of agriculture in Iraq. The officers of the Department of Agriculture Research and Education and President of Federation of Indian Farmers Association were also present at the meeting.

AQ INDIA

**Date**: Jul 29, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### **JAPAN**

## Japanese Business Delegation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 25, 1991:

A 6-member high level Japanese delegation, led by Mr. Eme Yamashita, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the India-Japan Business Cooperation Committee, called on the Commerce Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram here today. Mr. Yamashita said that Japanese investors would welcome the new trade and industrial policy initiatives taken by the Government of India, particularly the liberalisation of policies relating to foreign investment and easing of licensing procedures.

Shri Chidambaram underlined the significance of the new trade policy, which had practically abolished all licensing in the area of exports and imports and linked imports to exports through the mechanism of Exim Scrips. This, together with the industrial policy announced yesterday, would generate a very favourable environment for foreign investment particularly in activities related to exports, he added.

The Japanese delegation is currently here in connection with the 14th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the India-Japan Business Cooperation Committee. Besides Mr. Yamashita, other members of the delegation who called on Shri Chidambaram were: Mr. Takashi Matsuda, Chairman, Toyo Engineering Corporation; Mr. Eiichi Matsumoto, Vice-Chairman, The Bank of Tokyo, Ltd.; Mr. Reishi Teshima, Special Adviser, The Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Standing Advisor, Kajima Corporation; Mr. Toshio Yamanouchi, Senior Advisor, Okura & Co., Ltd. and Director, Indo-Japanese Association; Mr. Toshio ODA, Managing Director, Nissho-Iwai Corporation; Mr. Yasushi HOTTA, Executive Director, Mitsubishi Corporation and Mr. Yasushiko SAKAMOTO, Director, Sumitomo Corporation.

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PAN USA INDIA

**Date**: Jul 25, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Setting up a VOA Transmitter in Sri Lanka

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jul 07, 1991 on setting up a VOA Transmitter in Sri Lanka:

When asked to comment on the reports in the newspapers of 1.7.91 on the setting up of a VOA transmitter in Sri Lanka, the Spokesman responded:

The Foreign Secretary did not take up the question of the VOA transmitter while transitting through Colombo on way to Male.

This matter had been taken up at the Indo-Sri Lankan Joint Commission Meeting that took place in April this year. It was also taken up later in the third week of last month by our High Commissioner to Sri Lanka with Sri Lankan authorities. Sri Lankan authorities had assured that the setting up of the VOA transmitter would in no way be inimical to the Indian interests and all details would be furnished to Indian authorities.

I LANKA INDIA MALDIVES

**Date**: Jul 07, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

## Release of The Israeli Hostage

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jul 04, 1991 on the release of the Israeli hostage:

Responding to questions on the release of the Israeli tourist held hostage in J&K the Official Spokesman stated:

We are relieved and happy that the Israeli hostage has been released unharmed. Government of India's position is clear in all aspects of matters pertaining to the State of J&K, the UN has no role in it.

RAEL INDIA

**Date**: Jul 04, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Signing of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official

Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jul 04, 1991 on Signing of Nuclear Non-Proiferation Treaty:

Responding to questions on press reports alleging US pressure on India to sign the NPT before release of the IMF loan, the Official Spokesman stated:

There is no authenticity in these press reports. The US attitude, when we approached the IMF for a stand by credit facility earlier this year, was very understanding and helpful. The US attitude continues to be helpful. No linkages have been established with any matter, as suggested in the news report.

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DIA USA

**Date**: Jul 04, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Indo-Pak Talks

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jul 04, 1991 on Indo-Pak talks:

Responding to questions on reports of External Affairs Minister's statement on upgrading the level of Indo-Pak talks, the Official Spokesman stated.

India's Foreign Secretary met the Pak Foreign Secretary Mr. Shehryar Khan for about an hour. One of the things discussed was the schedule of bilateral meetings between now and the beginning of September because they expect the fifth round of FS level talks in July/August. They also agreed to hold meetings on the land boundary which is the terminal point near the sea and thereafter on the maritime boundary. Pakistan has also agreed to discuss the Tulbal Navigation Project (which Pakistan calls the Wullar Barrage).

They also discussed the prevention of drug trafficking and briefly the question of non-attack on nuclear facilities. Discussions on the latter subject could not be meaningful as Pakistan has still to give a list of nuclear facilities, without which the agreement could not come into full force.

India's Foreign Secretary also took up Pakistan's propaganda on the Kashmir issue and its efforts to internationalise it and the fact that at every possible forum Kashmir issue is being brought up. Foreign Secretary expressed concern that even though discussions about normalisation of relations are taking place, Pakistan's assistance to terrorism continues unabated. This assistance and abetment of terrorism and the large scale propaganda offensive on Kashmir cannot be re-conciled with Pakistan's publicly declared objective of normalisation of relations.

DIA USA PAKISTAN MALI

**Date**: Jul 04, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

J & K

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jul 04, 1991 on J & K:

Responding to questions on the UK Labour Leader George Kaufmann's statement on the Commonwealth bringing about talks between India and Pakistan on J&K, the Official Spokesman stated:

There have been other efforts by organisations such as the OIC to try and promote the use of their good offices to deal with the situation in J&K. Government of India's position is consistent and quite clear. The J&K problem is outside the purview of mediators and international organisations. The question is to be settled only through bilateral discussions.

DIA UNITED KINGDOM PAKISTAN USA

**Date**: Jul 04, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Siachen

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jul 05, 1991 on Siachen:

In response to a question on press reports regarding India's Defence Minister's statement on Indo-Pak talks on Siachen, the Official Spokesman stated:

When the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan last met in April it had been agreed that the dialogue on Siachen should in principle be renewed. When the dialogue will resume we cannot say.

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DIA PAKISTAN

**Date**: Jul 05, 1991

# **Volume No**

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## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

## Antarctica

The following is the text of a Statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jul 08, 1991 on Antarctica:

The Government of India is pleased that, with the announcement of agreement by the United States, a Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty on Environmental Protection has been finalised The Protocol contains a comprehensive environmental protection regime for Antarctica, declaring the Continent "a natural reserve devoted to peace and science". Mining will be prohibited for at least 50 years after which a review is possible only if a majority of all Antarctic Treaty Parties including three-quarters of the 26 current Antarctic Consultative Parties indicate agreement.

As an Antarctic Treaty Consultative Party with scientific interests on the continent, India has consistently advocated the adoption of a strict environmental regime for Antarctica. The

prohibition of mining for a specified period with the possibility of review in the event of safe technology being available for mining, is an idea India had advocated during the negotiations. The adoption of the formula is a matter of satisfaction.

DIA

**Date**: Jul 08, 1991

# **Volume No**

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## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

## Pakistan's Nuclear Programme

The following is the text of a Statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jul 08, 1991 on the Pakistan's Nuclear programme:

In response to a question in connection with the supply of equipment by private Norwegian parties, the Spokesman stated "We have never had any doubt about the clandestine nature operation of Pakistan's nuclear programme. The manner in which these sales have repeatedly been affected substantiates the nature of our doubt. We regret any action which assists Pakistan in carrying forward any action in its clandestine nuclear weapons programme."

KISTAN INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date**: Jul 08, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister's Visit to India

The following is the text of a Statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jul 25, 1991 on Sri Lankan Foreign Minister's visit to India:

The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Mr. Harold Herath will be visiting India from 27th to 30th July '91. He will have discussion with External Affairs Minister on the 29th and the 30th. One of the principal objectives of this visit is to sign an agreement on the setting up of the Indo-Sri Lankan Joint Commission. You would recall that a decision to set up this Joint Commission had been taken during the visit of the former External Affairs Minister Mr. V. C. Shukla in January this year. The present visit is in pursuance of that decision. Apart from signing of this agerement, the two sides will avail of this opportunity to discuss the entire range of bilateral relations between the two countries including present developments of the ethnic question. The two sides will also discuss regional issues and especially, those

which are likely to figure at the next SAARC summit, which is scheduled to take place in Colombo in November '91. The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, during his visit will call on the Minister of State for Commerce, the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister. He will be accompanied by the Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary.

DIA SRI LANKA USA UNITED KINGDOM

**Date**: Jul 25, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Drug Traffic

The following is the text of a Statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jul 25, 1991 on Drug Traffic:

Our High Commissioner Mr. J. N. Dixit in Islamabad had a detailed meeting with Rana Chander Singh, the Federal Minister for Narcotics Control in Pakistan yesterday. They talked about matters of common interest in the fields of drug control and methods of countering illegal traffic in drugs. Present, along with Rana Chander Singh were the Secretary in the Ministry. Mr. Abdul Qayyum and the Chairman, Drug Control, Mr. N. A. Malik. The primary purpose of Dixit's meeting with Rana Chander Singh was to prepare the ground for the 4th round of bilateral discussions between India and Pakistan scheduled to be held in Islamabad on

the 30th of this month for two days. The meeting will look at drug control and smuggling. The Indian delegation would be led by Director General (Narcotics Board of India) Mr. C. Chakraborty and will include representatives of the External Affairs Ministry, Finance Ministry and the Home Ministry. Mr. Dixit, in preparing the ground for this meeting, made some important points to the Minister, Mr. Rana Chander Singh. There was need for more vigorous and purposeful cooperation between the two countries. There was need to evolve suitable strategies to contain the bulk nature of trans-border drug flows; to take concertive action against border crossers; and lastly the need for both India and Pakistan to exchange ideas on new methods, new technologies to control drug trafficking, to identify areas of illicit cultivation and illegal drug processing at clandestine laboratories.

DIA PAKISTAN MALI USA

**Date**: Jul 25, 1991

# **Volume No**

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## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Japanese Trade Delegation

The follwing is the text of a Statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jul 25, 1991 on the visit of Japanese Trade Delegation:

A 12-member Japanese trade delegation called on the External Affairs Minister today. The delegation was led by Mr. E. Yamashita, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee (JIBCC). The Indian counterpart is Mr. M. H. Modi. Yesterday, this joint JIBCC had a session. It was the 14th session under the joint Chairmanship of namashita and Modi. Yamashita briefed the External Affairs Minister about the outcome of this joint meeting, as also about his extensive meetings with the Finance Minister, Minister of State for Industries. While welcoming the Japanese guest, the External Affairs Minister underlined the significance of the new industrial policy and the major reform package that has been announced over the last few weeks. The External Affairs Minister pointed out that there was great potential for further cooperation in the field of trade and industries between India and Japan, which had not been exploited fully. He emphasized India's continuing interest in greater transfer of technology

from Japan and for heightened flow of investment from Japan to India. He said it was most encouraging that the visit of the Japanese delegation had come at this point of time, when India was about to embark upon a major series of bold, innovative, -115>

liberal and outward looking reforms, which would have a lasting and positive impact on the country's economy. He expressed India's determination to ensure the speediest and fullest implementation of these momentous changes. He urged the visiting Japanese captains of industry and trade to sit with their Indian counterparts and to engage in purposeful and detailed discussions, in order to ensure that the deliberations of the Standing Committee are implemented in the shortest possible time.

PAN INDIA USA

**Date**: Jul 25, 1991

# **Volume No**

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## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

India-Australia Agreement on Double Taxation

The following is the text of a Statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jul 29, 1991 on India-Australia Agreement on Double Taxation:

India and Australia entered into an agreement for avoidance of double taxation, at a brief ceremony on 27th July at Parliament House in Canberra. The agreement was signed by the Treasurer on behalf of the Australian Government and the Indian High Commissioner to Australia, Akbar Khaleeli, on behalf of the Government of India. Both said that there was good potential for commercial exchange between the two countries. It was expected that the signing of the agreement would be taken advantage of by both public and the private organisations.

STRALIA INDIA USA **Date**: Jul 29, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

## Indo-Jordanian Agreement

The following is the text of a Statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jul 09, 1991 on Indo-Jordanian Agreement:

In Amman yesterday an Indo-Jordanian cultural agreement programme was signed by Indian Ambassador Gajendra Singh from the Indian side and Secretary General (Planning) from the Jordanian side. The agreement is for the period 1991-93. It will cover the field of education, information, sports, exchange of academicians, sports teams or materials and participation in international festivals. India will offer five sholarships every year to pursue courses in India at graduate level.

**RDAN INDIA** 

**Date**: Jul 09, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## PRIME MINISTER'S ADDRESS

## Prime Minister Talks to the People

The following is text of the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao's talk to the people, broadcast over All India Radio and Doordarshan on Jul 09, 1991:

When I spoke to you last, I promised quick and bold measures to restore our sick economy to health.

We have taken the first step to fulfil that promise.

This is just the beginning. A further set of far-reahcing changes and reforms is on the way.

For the last 18 months there had been paralysis on the economic front. The last

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two governments postponed taking vital decisions. The fiscal position was allowed to deteriorate. The balance of payments crisis became unmanageable. Non-resident Indian and foreign lenders became more and more reluctant to lend money to India.

Consequently, India's external reserves declined steeply and we have no foreign exchange to import even such essential commodities as diesel, kerosene, edible oil and fertiliser. The net result was that when we came to power we found the financial position of the country in a terrible mess.

Desperate maladies call for drastic remedies. And that is what we have done. And that is what we will continue to do.

The Reserve Bank changed the exchange rate of the rupee. This was done so that we can export more. More garments, more leather products, more gems and jewellery, more agricultural products made in India will now be sold abroad. This will not only earn us foreign exchange but also create new employment at home.

And why do we need to earn foreign exchange so badly? Not to import luxury items but to buy commodities like kerosene and diesel, fertilisers, edible oil and steel. We produce these commodities, but what we produce is not enough. We are stepping up our production, but for sometime we have to import.

The adjustment in the exchange rate will discourage the import of non-essential goods and will therefore save foreign exchange for import of essential goods of mass consumption. It will also end uncertainty about the future of our currency and will encourage non-resident Indians to send more money to be deposited in their accounts in India.

After changing the value of the rupee we undertook a major overhaul of the trade policy. Our message was simple -you cannot import if you do not export. We cut down on export licenses so that our exporters do not face hurdles. We eliminated subsidies so that the money saved could be better deployed in welfare and employment programmes.

My objective is to make India truly self-reliant. Self-reliance is not a mere slogan for me. It means the ability to pay for our imports through exports. My motto is - trade, not aid. Aid is a crutch. Trade builds pride. And India has been trading for thousands of years.

Friends, Rajiv Gandhi came to power in 1984. He first understood the need for India to change her traditional way of thinking and doing things. He realised that if India is to survive and prosper, fundamental economic reforms must be carried out. He did that. What we have done is a continuation of the policies initiated by him.

In my first address to you I had outlined the agenda of my government. We stand committed to that agenda. The Budget which will be presented on July 24 will clearly articulate the social and economic philosophy of my government, the broad outlines of which are evident in our actions.

#### What is this outline?

We believe that a bulk of government regulations and controls on economic activity have outlived their utility. They are stiffling the creativity and innovativeness of our people. Excessive controls have also bred corruption. Indeed, they have come in the way of achieving our objectives of expanding employment opportunities, reducing rural urban disparities and ensuring greater social justice.

We believe that the Nation, as well as the Government, must learn to live within its means. Normally a family borrows money to buy an asset and not to meet daily expenditure. So it is with government. There is much fat in Government expenditure. This can and will be cut.

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We believe that Government concessions must be for the poor and the really needy. Over the past few years, expenditure on this has increased substantially and in many instances the concessions are being enjoyed by people who are not in dire need of them. This must change.

We believe that India has much to learn from what is happening elsewhere in the world. Many countries are bringing in far reaching changes. We find major economic transformation sweeping large countries like the Soviet Union and China, as well as small countries in Eastern Europe. There is a change in outlook, a change in mindset everywhere. India too cannot lag behind if she has to survive, as she must, in the new environment.

Our commitment to work for the uplift of the poor, the underprivileged and the disadvantaged is firm and irrevocable. We believe that this is best achieved if Government concentrates on providing drinking water, on expanding education, on fighting social discrimination, on creating jobs, on establishing infrastructure. Our measures will reflect this ideology.

I wish to assure you that while we are restructuring the economy to make it more productive and efficient, price will be kept under the strictest control. We will ensure adequate availability and supply of essential commodities.

Friends, it will be dishonest for me to pretend that the job of repairing our economy will be easy, quick or smooth. Each one of us will be called upon to make sacrifices. This is no time for

partisan politics. I need the cooperation of each and every one of you. I need your support, your understanding.

Together, we will succeed.

Jaihind.

## DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CHINA

**Date**: Jul 09, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## SRI LANKA

External Affairs Minister Hosts Dinner in Honour of the SriLankan Foreign Minister

The Minister of External Affairs, Shri Madhavsinh Solanki, hosted a dinner in New Delhi on Jul 30, 1991 in honour of the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, Mr. Herold Herat, who is currently on a visit to India. Speaking on the occasion Shri Solanki said:

Let me again welcome you in our midst. Your Excellency is no stranger to India. Your visit once again demonstrates, the close and friendly ties that exist between our countries and peoples. India and Sri Lanka are bound by geography, culture and religion. These links go back to several thousand years. It is our sincere desire to build on our common heritage and culture, and to forge stronger and lasting bonds of friendship and cooperation.

Excellency, your visit is an important landmark in Indo-Sri Lanka relations. This evening, we signed the Agreement setting up the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission. It represents our common desire to develop bilateral relations in their widest sense and restore these relations to their traditional levels of cordiality. The Agreement provides an institutional framework for cooperation in different areas of activity. It is now upto us to ensure that it does not remain on paper, but is translated into projects and activities for the mutual benefit of our peoples. We count on the -118>

full cooperation of our friends from Sri Lanka to make the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission a success and a model for cooperation for SAARCC countries. In this context, I have no doubt that High Commissioner Kanakaratne's long and varied experience will stand us in good stead. Both India and Sri Lanka are confronted with severe economic challenges. A great contributing factor for meeting these challenges will be for us to come together and find new and innovative methods of economic and commercial interaction. Failure to do so would impose unwarranted costs on our economies, reeling as they are under massive debt burden and an incraesingly hostile international trading environment.

The need for close cultural ties between our countries cannot be over-emphasised. Very few countries in the world are as closely tied culturally and have as much to offer each other as India and Sri Lanka. Strong cultural relations often sustain and reinforce friendship between nations. In this context, expeditious finalisation of a Cultural Exchange Programme could prove immensely helpful.

Excellency, the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka has caused enormous, unending misery and suffering to the population in the North-East. We firmly believe that a politically negotiated settlement of the problem is the only way out. In this context, the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord continues to provide a viable basis for an enduring and reasonable solution to the ethnic issue. There is need for political initiatives to break the current impasse and to put an end to this problem that has resulted in so much destruction of life and property.

India has not, and cannot, remain insulated from the consequences of the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. The continuing presence of over 200,000 refugees on our soil is a matter of great concern to us. It is necessary to create conditions for the voluntary return of these refugees back to their original places of residence. We are ready to assist in any way you wish in this crucial task.

A strong, stable and united Sri Lanka is in India's interest. And, therefore, I would like to reiterate our assurance that Indian soil will not be allowed for activities hostile to Sri Lanka. Recent events in both countries, particularly the dastardly assassinations of Rajiv Gandhi and of Minister Ranjan Wijeratne, have demonstrated the disastrous consequences of terrorism. It is extremely difficult to eradicate the virus of terrorism once it enters the body politic of a stable and peaceful society. It is therefore unnecessary to maintain utmost vigilance in this regard and take effective and adequate actions before it is too late.

Excellency, it is significant that you are the first Foreign Minister to visit us on an official bilateral visit after our Government assumed office. It is indeed a good augury. I am confident that we can look forward to stable and mutually beneficial relationship in the future.

I once again welcome Your Excellency and the members of your delegation to India.

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I now request you to join me in a toast to the prosperity and well-being of the people of Sri Lanka and; Indo-Sri Lanka friendship and coopration.

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I LANKA INDIA USA

Date: Jul 30, 1001

# **Volume No**

1995

## **UNESCO**

UNESCO to Shape International Order in Education and Culture:Shri Arjun Singh

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 22, 1991:

The Minister for Human Resource Development, Shri Arjun Singh has said that activities of UNESCO in the current decade would contribute in shaping the international order in the next century in the fields of education, culture, science and communications. He was inaugurating the 21st Session of Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO here today.

Shri Arjun Singh noted that in UNESCO's programmes absolute priority has been given to the basic education. The World Conference on Education for all organised at Jomtien last year at the initiative of UNESCO lays down the blue print of action for meeting the basic learning needs. Shri Arjun Singh pointed out that well before the attention of the international community focussed on human resource development and eradication of illiteracy, the late Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi had recognised the prime importance of literacy and had launched the National Literacy Mission. The International Literacy Year in 1990 gave a forceful push to universalisation of education.

The Minister welcomed the proposal to establish an international commission on education for the 21st century. The report of the first international commission "Learning To Be" was widely disseminated by the Indian National Commission. Twenty years have elapsed since then. There is need to assess our successes and failures to chalk out the course for the future, he said.

The Minister described UNESCO as an international forum for a global exchange of ideas, experiences and thought in which India

has very much to offer. Our cultural contribution to the countries of our continent has been significant. We are making outstanding contribution towards the renovation of Angkor Wat Temple in Kampuchea.

The Minister emphasised the need for science and technology in a developing society like ours. Protection of environment and eonomic development in harmony with echological balance is one of major challenges of the day. He expressed satisfaction that the programme "Science for Progress and the Environmental has a strong component of environmental studies. Pointing out the rapid advances in communication technology, Shri Arjun Singh said that UNESCO needs to devote some attention to the impact of modern means of communications on educational and cultural values of the contemporary society.

The Minister said as a founder member India has actively participated in UNESCO's multi-farious activities. Eminent Indian personalities have served on the Executive Board of UNESCO continuously since its inception. These include former President, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan and Dr. Zakir Hussain and the late Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi.

The Education Secretary, Shri Anil Bordia, who is also Secretary General of the Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO told the meeting that India is particularly keen to participate in the project on combating illiteracy. UNESCO needs to follow-up strongly the World Declaration on Education for all adopted at Jomtiaen last year, he said.

Shri N. Krishnan, Member Executive Board of UNESCO told the meeting

that while UNESCO is passing through a critical phase, India's approach has been constructive - contributing towards a consensus approach and supporting reforms and rationalisation. He called for strengthening of the National Commission as well as cooperation among various National Commissions.

India's Ambassador to UNESCO, Ms. S. Kunadi pointed out that some reform measures have already been introduced.

Established in 1949 the Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO is a national appex body which performs advisory and executive functions. Its members include eminent educationists, scientists and distinguished persons from the fields of social sciences, humanities, culture and communication. The Minister for Human Resource Development is the President of the Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO. The 21st session of the Commission has geen convened to consider UNESCO's draft programme and budget for the next two years and the recommendations of its five Sub-Commissions on Education, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Culture and

Communication.

DIA USA

**Date**: Jul 22, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

#### Indo-US Educational Ties

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 13, 1991:

India and the United States have expressed desire to foster their relations in the field of education and culture. The US Ambassador in India Mr. William Clarke who called on the Minister for Human Resource Development, Shri Arjun Singh here today said that there is a great deal of potential for this. He said a large number of Indian students and scholars are studying in the United States and pointed out that more American scholars wish to come to India for study.

Reciprocating the sentiments, Shri Arjun Singh noted that there is fruitful cooperation between the two countries. He expressed the hope that the relations between the two countries in the field of education and culture would be further strengthened.

A INDIA

**Date**: Jul 13, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

Trade with Soviet Union

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 16, 1991:

The Government is taking a number of steps to ensure that a new dynamism is

imparted to bilateral trade in view of the reforms being undertaken in the Soviet Union. These steps include: (a) Greater marketing thrust in the changed economic environmnt including more effective participation in trade fairs, exhibitions, and -121>

buyer-seller meets; (b) Promotion of direct contacts at the commercial enterprise level including increased interaction between the business chambers of the two countries; (c) Diversification and expansion of the structure of trade by adding new items and increasing the volume of trade; (d) Greater emphasis on new forms of economic cooperation like Joint Ventures; and (e) As imports generate rupee funds for financing exports in the balanced trading system with the USSR equal emphasis is being to exports from the Soviet Union to India.

This information given by the Commerce Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today.

In reply to another question, Shri Chidambaram said that the East European countries which no longer trade with India under the rupee payment terms are Yugoslavia, Hungary, Bulgaria and Poland. While trade turnover fluctuates from year to year, there has generally been an upward trend in trade with Yugoslavia and Hungary whereas in the case of Bulgaria, there was no significant increase. It is too early to discern the changed pattern, if any, of trade with Poland, he added.

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DIA USA BULGARIA HUNGARY POLAND YUGOSLAVIA

**Date**: Jul 16, 1991

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**Date**: Aug 01, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## **COLUMBIA**

India, Columbia Sign Cultural Pact

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 07, 1991:

India and Columbia have signed a Cultural Exchange Agreement for 1991-93 covering education, art, culture, youth Affairs, sports information & broadcasting. The first ever Cultural Pact between the two countries was signed here today by Smt. Komal Anand, Joint Secretary, Department of Culture, Ministry of Human Resource Development on behalf of India and the Ambassador of Columbia, Mr. David Sanchez-Juliao on behalf of his country.

The Cultural Exchange Programme envisages exchange of academics and information on the educational system. It provides for publication of non-commercial books of mutual interest, art exhibitions and art works between the two countries and coloured reproduction of paintings from the museums of the two countries.

The Pact further provides for exchange of writers and editors, Radio programmes on various facets of life in both countries, exchange of Radio and Television teams and observance of each other's national days through respective Radio organisations.

DIA USA

**Date**: Aug 07, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## **KOREA**

Conference on Industrial Cooperation between India and Korea

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 31, 1991:

Shri Salman Khursheed, Deputy Commerce Minister will inaugurate the twoday Conference on industrial cooperation and inevestment promotion between Korea and India here on September 4, 1991. The Conference is being jointly organised by Trade Development Authority of India (TDA) and the Korean Trade Promotion Agency (KOTRA). The co-sponsors from the Indian side are the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Industry, Exim Bank and the Indian Investment Centre (IIC).

The co-sponsors from Korean side are Ministry of Trade & Industry, Korea, Exim Bank, Korea, Korea Association of Machinery Industry and Korea Institute of Economy and Technology.

Over 30 Korean Companies including leading Companies such as Hyundai and Samsung and 250 Indian companies will participate in the conference, which will also include business meetings between the two sides. It will also focus on joint venture prospects in the fields of electricals, electronics, engineering goods, chemicals etc.

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## REA INDIA USA

**Date**: Aug 31, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## **KUWAIT**

## Role for India in Reconstruction of Kuwait

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 01, 1991:

Bilateral relationship between India and Kuwait is on the threshold of a new phase of relationship. This was stated by the Minister of State of Industry Prof. P. J. Kurian while a delegation from Kuwait led by the Ambassador of Kuwait H.E. Mr. Dharar Abdul Razzaq Al-Razzooqi, called on him today. Kuwaiti Ambassador was apprised of the new industrial environments in India, in the wake of sweeping economic reforms. Kuwaiti side, during the discussions, expressed the view that India should play more active role in the reconstruction and rehabilitation programme to be launched in Kuwait shortly.

It may be recalled that as many as 25,000 non-resident Indians who had come back from Kuwait following the Gulf War have already gone back. Several Indian public sector undertakings, like Tele-Communication Consultants India Ltd., Engineers India Ltd, Overseas Construction Corporation have already started exploring ways and means for the expansion of their role in Kuwait in the near future. According to an estimate the overall quantum of reconstruction work in Kuwait would range between 15 to 20 billion dollars. A substantial amount would also be spent on reconstruction of 800 damaged hotels and 20 thousand houses which were seriously affected during the Gulf War.

**Date**: Aug 01, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## **MALAYSIA**

IRCON Bags Rs. 130 Crore Railway Project in Malaysia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 19, 1991:

The Indian Railway Construction Company Limited (IRCON), a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Railways, has been awarded a Rs. 130 crore contract for construction of new second track and upgradation of existing line between Port Klang and Kuala Lumpur by the Malaysian Railways. Port Klang is the main port of Malaysia and Kuala Lumpur the capital and the main business centre. The contract includes design and construction of new railway bridges, earth works, station buildings and laying of new railway line covering a distance of about 42 kms. The contract also provides for rehabilitation of the existing line. IRCON has secured this contract amidst stiff international competition.

The Export and Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) and the State Bank of India will provide the financial facilities to IRCON for the contract.

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IRCON is already executing four Railway Projects in Malaysia, the first for rehabilitation of track for a length of 327 kms costing Rs. 168 crores, second for doubling of railway track between Rawang and Seremban for a length of 100 kms at a cost of Rs. 130 crores and two contracts for the construction of bridges and tunnel in the same stretch at a cost of Rs. 46 crores. With the award of the latest contract the company will be executing all the doubling projects being implemented by Malaysian Railways.

LAYSIA INDIA USA

**Date**: Aug 19, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## **MONGOLIA**

India to help Mongolia in Oilseeds Development

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 28, 1991:

India has assured Mongolia of assistance in developing that country's pro gramme of Oilseeds Research and Production.

Agriculture Minister, Shri Balram Jakhar informed the Mongolian Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Dashdavaagiin Chuluundorj who called on him here today, that India could make technology as well as experts available to help Mongolia in its programme.

Shri Jakhar invited Mongolian participation in the conference of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) which India is hosting in October this year.

The Mongolian Ambassador sought India's help in sending experts to Mongolia as well as training Mongolian scientists in Indian Research Institutions.

A protocol of cooperation between Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Government of Mongolia was signed in 1982. Under this protocol, three biennial work plans have been implemented. The work plan for 1991-92 covers inter-alia genetic engineering and biotechnology; exchange of seeds samples of cerals, fodder, crops, fruits, vegetables etc. exchange of scientific and technical information and training in specialised fields.

NGOLIA INDIA

**Date**: Aug 28, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Prime Minister's Message to President Bush

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 02, 1991:

The conclusion of the treaty on strategic arms reduction, signed yesterday by yourself and president Gorbachev, is a historic development for which I send you my warmest congratulation. Start provides for the first ever reduction in strategic nuclear arsenals of the United States and the Soviet Union. The vision and statesmanship that you both have displayed in such an abundant measure has no doubt been responsible for this achieve -125>

ment that the world has been long waiting for.

Start will make an invaluable contribution in promoting trust and confidence and in consolidating the climate of peace. It demonstrates that even the most complex issues can be resolved, given the necessary political will.

Start has underscored, as indeed the 1987 agreement on the elimination of land based intermediate range nuclear missiles had done, that it is possible to halt and reverse the nuclear arms race and achieve nuclear disarmament. We hope that the treaty will be followed by even more farreaching measures for nuclear arms reduction, not only between the United States and the Soviet Union but also among other nuclear weapon states, so that in a not too distant future we can achieve a world free from nuclear weapons.

A INDIA PERU

**Date**: Aug 02, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Prime Minister's Message to President Gorbachev

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DIA USA PERU

**Date**: Aug 02, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Extension of the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 08, 1991 on the extension of the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation:

At midnight tonight i.e. 8/9.8.91 India and the Soviet Union will take a momentuous and historic step forward in deepening and strengthening the traditional ties of friendship which has stood the test of time for four decades. As a symbol of reaffirmation and friendship between the peoples of the Soviet Union and India both countries have decided that the historic Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation signed in New Delhi on 9.8.71 will be -126>

extended for a further period of 20 years. This decision has been taken as indicated in a joint Declaration by both countries because the "Treaty meets the fundamental interests of the peoples of both countries and has become a reliable basis for the steady development of multi-faceted ties. The Treaty is one of

the most important factors of peace and security in Asia and worldwide". To mark this historic occasion of the renewal of the Treaty, which provides a viable and dynamic framework for carrying our relations from strength to strength and well into the 21st century, the leadership in both countries have exchanged warm messages of greetings. The President of India has noted that India "is convinced that the restructured USSR that is emerging shall be a stable, vibrant and dynamic nation, which will contribute positively and constructively to the attainment of international peace, security, cooperation and establishment of a just and equitable international order." The Prime Minister in his message has said that while commemorating the fulfilment of "20 years of multifaceted cooperation", we pay "tribute to the vision and efforts of all those who contribute towards estabishing the comprehensive framework of relations between our two countries." The fact of its enduring validity is, indeed, reflected in the decision of our two Governments to extend the validity of the Treaty for another 20 years." "It would, therefore, play an important role in our country's continuing efforts to attain even higher levels of mutully beneficial cooperation". The External Affairs Minister in his message said that the Treaty has stood "the test of time through two turbulent decades." "It symbolises the mutual interests of both countries and peoples and is not directed against any third country."

The Treaty articulates the world view of both our countries including our common view of a non-violent world free of nuclear weapons." President Gorbachev in his message to our President and Prime Minister said that the "Treaty became a legal base and one of the solid foundations for a steady development of the Soviet-Indian relations, which especially in the last five years, reached a new level of confidence accord and real interaction." The linkage of the Treaty with the Delhi Declaration of 1986, the outstanding document of our time, is quite evident." "It reflects political, humanitarian, spiritual essence of the relations between our two great peoples." Foreign Minister A. Bessmertnykh in his message to our External Affairs Minister said that the Treaty "exercises a remarkable stabilising influence on the international situation in Asia and in the whole world." "It gave the world the historic Delhi Declaration on the principles for a nuclear weapon free and non-violent world."

In order to give maximum publicity and to generate maximum interest among the peoples of India and the Soviet Union on the historic occasion of the extension of the Indo-Soviet Treaty, the leadership of India and the Soviet Union have decided on a number of steps to be undertaken by both sides:

- (a) Both sides have agreed to undertake a project for joint publication of Indo-Soviet documents of historical research value since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1947.
- (b) A programme of exchange of cultural delegations to mark the

occasion has also been agreed.

(i) On the Indian side a 86-member cultural troupe is to visit USSR from 1-20 October, 1991.

There shall be an exhibition of Royal Indian costumes. Dates are being finalised.

A Chhau group shall visit the USSR after the visit of 86-member group referred to above. -127>

- (ii) From the Soviet side the following delegations are expected:
- (a) Gardeev Ballette of 51 persons from 1-20 September. (Two full ballets Giselle & Don Qixote).
- (b) The Leontievi Group of 20 singers in October.
- (c) The Soviet circus in December.
- (d) Soviet exhibition of 19th century classical Russian Art.
- (iii) To mark the occasion; tonight a Soviet ship 'Spiridinov' shall visit India (Bombay) from 8-12 August, 1991.
- (iv) Goodwill delegations:

Delegations from ISCUS headed by its Secretary-General Shri Raj Kumar, and from FSU led by Shri Bali Ram Bhagat which includes Shri K. Murlidharan, MP, are proceeding to USSR for joint celebrations of our Independence Day and the Anniversary of the Treaty.

(v) From the Soviet Union side, the Indo-Soviet Friendship Society is sending a delegation to India headed by its Vice-President, Cosmonaut Klimuk and includes President of the Tadjik branch.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC RUSSIA UNITED KINGDOM

**Date**: Aug 08, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## NPT

Spokesman response to a question regarding NPT made on Aug 13, 1991:Spokesman drew attention of correspondents to what Prime Ministerhad stated earlier "that India's view on NPT has not changed."There is no

pressure on us to sign the Treaty or to link the signing of the treaty with any other matter. India still believes that it is a discriminatory treaty since it gives undue advantageto nuclear countries against non-nuclear countries. Spokesmanalso said that the reported announcement by China that they are ready to sign the NPT, does not change our view or stand. India's objections to NPT remain.

Suo Moto Statement by the External Affairs Minister in LokSabha on the Political Situation in the Soviet Union

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 20, 1991:

Government has seen the statement signed by Mr. G. I. Yanaev, the Acting Soviet President, Prime Minister Pavlov, and First Deputy Chairman of the Soviet Defence Council Baklanov, that in accordance with Article 127.7 of the Soviet Constitution, the authority of the President of USSR has been transferred from Mr. M. S. Gorbachev to the Vice-President Mr. G. I. Yanaev. The Government has also received the Appeal issued by Mr. G. I. Yanaev to the Heads of State/Government of all countries and to the Secretary General of the United Nations informing that with effect from the 19th August, 1991, in accordance with the Constitution and the Laws of the Soviet Union, an emergency is being introduced for six months during which period all powers and authority is to -128>

be exercised by the State Committee on the Emergency Situation in the Soviet Union

India attaches great importance to its relations with USSR which are based on the universally accepted principles of conducting inter-State relations and are reflected in the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation. It was because of the importance that both the countries attached to the Treaty, that very recently they jointly announced their intention to extend it by a further period of twenty years. The above events in the Soviet Union are, thus, of vital interest to us and, indeed, to the whole wohld. The Government of India is, therefore, constantly and carefully monitoring the situation there since receiving reports of the announcements and is maintaining close touch with the situation in this regard.

DIA USA CHINA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date**: Aug 20, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

NPT

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 23, 1991:

Hon'ble Members will recall that on the 20th August, 1991, I had informed this august House of the developments that had taken place in the USSR on 19th August, 1991. Since then, events in the Soviet Union have moved at a very fast pace. On 21st August, the Soviet Parliament's Steering Presidium formally declared the ouster of President Gorbachev illegal and reinstated him as President. President returned to Moscow in the early hours of 22nd August. He has since resumed his duties as President of Moscow.

Yesterday, our Prime Minister sent a message to President Gorbachev, expressing his relief and happiness at his and his family's well-being and expressing the satisfaction of the Government and the people of India at his resumption of duties as the President of the U.S.S.R. Prime Minister has also sent a message to Mr. Boris Yeltsin, President of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republics (RSFSR) appreciating his role in the restoration of constitutional order in the U.S.S.R.

What has happened in the Soviet Union is a reassertion of democratic values and a triumph of the will of the people. These are the values to which we ourselves are deeply committed and on which our polity is based.

Hon'ble Members are aware, of the unique role of President Gorbachev in initiating the process of glasnost and perestroika and a vision of a world based on disarmament, peace and cooperation - a vision which we share and which has been reflected in the Delhi Declaration on Principles for a Nuclear Weapon-Free and Non-Violent World, signed by the former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi and President Gorbachev on 27th November, 1986.

President Gorbachev has also played a stellar role in adding new dimensions to the time-tested, warm and friendly Indo-Soviet relations based on mutual interest and trust. The Government of India is convinced that these relations will grow from strength to strength.

I am sure that the House will join me in conveying our best wishes to President Gorbachev and to the friendly people of the Soviet Union, for their success in the challenging tasks that lie ahead of them.

**Date**: Aug 23, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

NPT

Suo Moto Statement by the External Affairs Minister in LokSabha on Pakistan's interview to the Newsweek Magazine

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 19, 1991:

Several Members had expressed concern at the reported interview of the Pakistan Prime Minister published in the Newsweek magazine of the 19th August, 1991, stating that the Kashmir issue is increasing tension between India and Pakistan and has the "potential to be the cause, God forbid, of yet another war between India and Pakistan".

As the Hon'ble Members are aware, a Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of Pakistan visited India from August 18 to 21, 1991. He brought the message from his Prime Minister to our Prime Minister, that the Government of Pakistan was sincerely interested in resolving all bilateral problems through serious and constructive dialogue for normalising relations between the two countries. This was reiterated in his meetings with the External Affairs Minister and Defence Minister. The Special Envoy was informed that the Government of India had consistently worked for the establishment of tension-free and good-neighbourly relations between India and Pakistan on the basis of the Simla Agreement. We believe this to be in the interest of the peoples of our two countries and of peace and stability in the region.

Through the Special Envoy, we sought clarifications on the apparent discrepancy between the message which the Prime Minister of Pakistan sought to convey and the impression created by his remarks in the interview to the Newsweek magazine. The Special Envoy clarified to us that the interview, as reported in the Newsweek magazine, did not fully convey what the Prime Minister of Pakistan had really intended, particularly his desire for a peaceful resolution of all differences between India and Pakistan.

As the Hon'ble Members are aware, the current tensions in Indo-Pak relations have been caused by Pakistan's support to terrorism and subversion in the Indian States of Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir, its concerted campaign to internationalise the Kashmir issue and its hostile propaganda directed against India in violation of the Simla Agreement and universally accepted norms of conducting inter-State relations. For a meaningful and sustained improvement in Indo-Pak relations, this must stop. The frequent incidents of border violations and shelling along the border by Pakistan in an attempt to provide cover for the infiltration of terrorists and arms across the border, have added greatly to the tension along the border in recent months. Instead of frequent references to war to meet their extraneous propaganda purposes, Pakistani leaders should address themselves to these activities which constitute the root cause of the present tensions in our relationship.

We sincerely hope that in the coming months, the message conveyed by the Prime Minister of Pakistan for normalising relations with India will be translated into concrete action. The situation on the ground will provide the real test.

I would like to assure the Hon'ble Members that we are watching the situation very closely. While we shall respond in full measure to any action taken by Pakistan on the ground for improving relations with India, let it be fully understood that the State of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of India and that there will be no compromise with the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of India.

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KISTAN INDIA USA MALI

**Date**: Aug 19, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

NPT

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 23, 19911:

Mr. Victor F. Isakov, the Soviet Ambassador, called on Prime Minister today. The Ambassador gave a detailed briefing to the Prime Minister on the current situation in the Soviet Union. In giving this assessment, he informed the Prime Minister that

President Gorbachev was back in Moscow and that he was fully in command of the situation. The Ambassador said that constitutional order in the Soviet Union had been restored and that the State is functioning normally in all respects. The Ambassador said that Mr. Gorbachev would soon be calling a meeting of the leaders of the nine Republics, who had earlier agreed to sign the Union Treaty. He said that while there had been a slight postponement in the signing of the Union Treaty, it was expected that after the scheduled meeting, a decision would be taken to complete this important process soon. The Ambassador also informed the Prime Minister that troops had been ordered back to their barracks and that this operation was also moving smoothly.

The Prime Minister conveyed to the Soviet Ambassador the concern felt by his government over the past three fateful days. The Prime Minister said that he was greatly relieved and happy not only that President Gorbachev was back in Moscow, but that he had resumed immediately his normal schedule of work.

The Prime Minister expressed his deep admiration for the courage, wisdom and the universality of outlook of President Gorbachev. He said that these qualities were visible not only in terms of the enlightened policies pursued by President Gorbachev at home, but also in the field of foreign policy. The Prime Minister said that it was India's hope that in the coming years, President Gorbachev would have the opportunity to complete the tasks that he had undertaken. The Prime Minister said that in these endeavours of President Gorbachev, India would be ready and willing to work closely with the Soviet Union.

The Prime Minister recalled that much of the closeness, warmth and depth of relationship between India and the Soviet Union, is linked to the persons of President Gorbachev on the one hand and the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on the other. The Prime Minister said that he was committed to making this relationship closer and deeper. The Prime Minister emphasized that the commitment of both countries to improve upon and foster this friendship was also evident in the decision taken by both of them to extend the Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation for another 20 years.

The Prime Minister while wishing President Gorbachev all success and good health, noted that Gorbachev's contributions to the cause of the disarmament, peace and detente will not be forgotten by history.

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DIA RUSSIA USA

**Date**: Aug 23, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### NPT

#### Bangladesh

The following is the text of a statement issued by the official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 27, 1991:

Your Excellency and Mrs. Rahman,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you and the Members of your Delegation to Delhi. I recall with fondness our recent meeting in Male where I had the pleasure of making my first acquaintence with you.

Your visit to India is more in the nature of a family re-union rather than the visit by a foreign dignitary. Yours is the first high-level visit from Bangladesh after. your country's acclaimed return to Parliamentary democracy. The people of India have a special affinity with Bangladesh for reasons of history, geography and culture. In the hour of trial and tribulation of the Bangladesh people in 1971, the Government and people of India were unflinching in their support for the cause of justice and freedom and for the struggle for independence of your great country.

Excellency, our two countries share a rich heritage of music, poetry, folklore and literature. The works of Kavi Guru Rabindranath Tagore and the rebel poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, are sources of eternal inspiration for our peoples. The National Anthems of our two countries flowed from the pen of the same poet. We share with you the deeply devotional songs of Lalan Fakir, the ballads of Mymensingh, the captivating music of Bhatiali, and the modern poetry of Shamsur Rahman.

The last few months have seen momentous changes within our two countries. In Bangladesh, we have witnessed the establishment of multi-party democracy. We have noted the attention your Government has focussed in addressing problems of economic development. Within a month of forming the Government, you had to endure the most devastating cyclone in living memory. Our hearts went out to you in your hour of distress. We are happy to have participated in our small way in helping you surmount the crisis.

We have had a useful and constructive exchange of views this morning. As we discovered, we have a reat deal in common in the

way we look at the world. Our common commitment to the U. N. Charter and Nonalignment, the opposition to apartheid in South Africa, our support for the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people, and our joint commitment to SAARC, are noteworthy. The idea of SAARC, first mooted by your leader the late President Zia-ur-Rahman, has now become a powerful forum for promoting regional cooperation and understanding. We sincerely hope that the shared vision of a friendly and mutually supportive sub-continent, will materialise in the near future.

Excellency, we are committed to strengthening our bilateral relations with Bangladesh, and are convinced that this would benefit the peoples of both our countries. In today's world, when economic imperatives are altering political perceptions, we too must enhance our economic interaction. As developing countries, we must conserve our energies and address bilateral issues on the basis of mutual respect, trust and confidence. I am confident that your Visit will lead to greater understanding and open new avenues for mutually beneficial cooperation.

May I conclude by extending the best wishes of the President and the Prime minister of India to His Excellency the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ah--132>

med and Her Excellency the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I invite you to join me in a toast to the health and

happiness of H.E. the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh and Mrs. Rahman; to the prosperity and progress of the friendly people of Bangladesh; and to increased cooperation between India and Bangladesh.

NGLADESH INDIA MALDIVES USA

**Date**: Aug 27, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

NPT

External Affairs Minister's Speech at the Inauguration of theRound TableConference on "The Role and Relevance of Non-Aligned Movement in the Changing World Situation'

The following is the text of a Statement issued by the Official

Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 27, 1991:

Mr. Chairman and Friends, I am honoured to be among you to inaugurate this Round Table discussion on "The Role and Relevance of the Nonaligned Movement in the changing world situation". This is certainly, a timely initiative. Events the world over are moving at a rapid pace. The Non-aligned Movement will be reviewing these developments at a Ministerial Meeting in Accra shortly.

The Indian Institute for Nonaligned Studies has done good work in promoting the objectives of the Nonaligned Movement and deserves our gratitude for arranging this Round Table. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Institute for having secured Guest status in the Nonaligned Movement. The decision taken in this regard by the Nonaligned Coordinating Bureau in New York recently, is testimony to the contribution that the Institute has made to the cause of nonalignment.

The world has changed significantly since the leaders of the Nonaligned countries first met in Belgrade in 1961. Three decades ago, the Cold War was at its height. The effort to polarise the nations of the world around opposing, miiltary and ideological, blocs, had brought the world to the edge of a catastrophic conflict. In that situation, the Movement of the Nonaligned countries had brought a healing touch to an embittered world, creating and

widening the area of peace. In many ways, the events of the recent past - the thaw in relations between the East and the West, the crumbling of military blocs and the far-reaching politico-economic changes in East Europe - have vindicated the Movement's energetic championship of a world without confrontation between the two power blocs.

It is indeed ironic that this very tangible achievement has created the impression that NAM has fulfilled its purpose and has, therefore, outlived its utility. The ending of the Cold War, the increased dialogue and collaboration between the world's Great Powers, have raised the question, within the Movement, about the relevance and role of Nonalignment. To some extent, this debate was fuelled by the way the Movement has functioned over the last three decades.

With a membership of over 102, which represents a wide crosssection of interests from all corners of the globe, the Nonaligned Movement has functioned on the basis of consensus. Compromise and accommodation on several issues has led to a proliferation of repetitive declarations and communiques. Some people believe that the Movement's preoccupation with consensus and the need to preserve its unity, has blunted its edge in seeking effective solutions either in the political or economic arena. This has been compounded by the proliferation of disputes involving NAM member-countries and the Movement's -133>

perceived passivity in taking effective and timely action to deescalate and find viable solutions.

Some of these issues, particularly the need to review the methodology and functioning of NAM, have already been addressed at the NAM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Nicosia and later at the 9th Summit in Belgrade. Efforts are underway to streamline the functioning of the Movement, to ensure that documentation is concise and non-repetitive and to enhance the effectiveness of cooperation among Nonaligned countries in international fora.

However, although the Movement has been receptive to suggestions for change and improvement, the relevance of the Nonaligned Movement itself has never been in doubt. Historically, the raison d'etre of the Movement lay as much in the desire of the emerging decolonised world to remain "unaligned", as in their deep-rooted desire to preserve their freedom of judgement and indpendence of action in the international sphere. It was this desire that found expression in the loose association termed NAM. As Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said, once "foreign relations go out of your hands into the charge of somebody else, to that extent and that measure, you are not independent .... So our policy will continue to be not only to keep aloof from alignments, but try to make friendly cooperation possible. We approach the whole world on a friendly basis". Shrimati Indira Gandhi stated at the NAM Summit in Delhi: "It was natural for these nonaligned countries to come together, not to form another bloc, but to raise the voice of the exploited millions through a moral and political movement".

In the changing international configuration, this logic remains even more valid than ever before, for although the Cold War has receded, there is little to suggest that in whatever order that emerges, NAM States can take their independence of action for granted. Since its inception, NAM has served to provide a measure of collective strength for the articulation of concerns which, if voiced individually, might have gone unheard. Far from imposing or demanding homogeneity of interests or action, NAM's strength has arisen from its diversity. From the beginning, NAM's agenda has been broad-based, embracing global concerns for peace, disarmament, decolonisation elimination of apartheid, and achievement of an equitable world economic order. In essence, NAM has served as a global conscience creating and sensitising world opinion on issues of general yet vital concerns.

Time and changing world events have neither eroded the goals nor the relevance of the Movement. With the emergence of new priorities on the international agenda, the Nonaligned Movement at Belgrade had drawn up a 6 point plan of action prioritising NAM concerns in the future. These include (a) Peace and Disarmament, (b) Diaogue for an Equitable Economic Order, (c) Decolonisation, (d) Sustain. able and Environmentally sound development, (e) Promotion of Human Rights (incuding civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and (f) Democratisation of the UN.

Against the backdrop of continuing changes in the international environment, it is imperative for NAM to avoid the pitfalls of embracing issues which are potentially divisive for the Movement. It should focus instead on a range of issues such as the Belgrade priorities, on which a consensus can be forged. Equally, there is much to be said for retaining and preserving the character of NAM as it is, since it faithfully reflects the concerns of the majority of the international community. Certainly, its achievements in the spheres of decolonisation and in enlarging the area of peace between the erstwhile rival blocs bear this out.

The heterogeneity and consensus approach that characterise NAM, far from inhibiting its effectiveness, reflect the diverse world in which every State enjoys equality and independence of action. In its present shape, the Movement is well poised to play an important role in the international community by keeping the Belgrade Priorities at the forefront of the international agenda. As long as it is able to safeguard the freedom of judgement and independence of action of its members against the diverse pressures that face them, the Non-aligned Movement will have a

role to play in any international configuration.

The Accra Ministerial Meeting is barely one week away. Our Ghanian hosts have encapsulated in the draft declaration the principles, objectives and experience of the Movement over the last thirty years. An attempt has been made by them to state our position clearly in a non-polemical but effective manner. We would consider the Meeting a success if it is able to give a clear direction to the Movement by removing the current doubts and apprehensions about its role and relevance. Our delegation to the Accra Meeting shall make every effort to make a substaneial contribution to the deliberations at Accra. I have no doubt that your discussions today and tomorrow will provide new insights to our delegation.

Thank you.

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DIA USA GHANA YUGOSLAVIA CYPRUS

**Date**: Aug 27, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

NPT

## Cambodia

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 29, 1991:

The Government of India welcomes recent positive developments in negotiations for a resolution of the Cambodian conflict especially the decisions taken by the Supreme Nation Council, at its meeting in Thailand, the informal meeting in China and the ongoing meeting in Pattaya.

We had earlier conveyed our happiness on the election of Prince Sihanouk as President of the Supreme National Council. Shri L. L. Mehrotra, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs who is in Pattaya, met His Excellency Prince Sihanouk, Chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia today (29-8.91) and conveyed the decision of the Government of India to accredit a Representative to the Supreme National Council. Prince Sihanouk expressed his happiness at this decision of the Government of India which he regarded as a major event. The decision would be conveyed to the Supreme National Council by Prince Sinanouk.

Secretary (East) told Prince Sihanouk that Government of India sincerely hopes that the Supreme National Council will make further progress in its ongoing meeting towards achieving a settlement. Prince Sihanouk said that all issues on the agenda of the Supreme National Council for this meeting have been happily resolved. Only one issue remains, viz the electoral system under which elections will be held in Cambodia under the aegis of the UN. The Prince indicated that the choice was between proportional representation and the single constituency system based on one-man-one-vote. The Prince complimented India for its own electoral system and said that, while he was neutral in the matter as the Chairman of the Supreme National Council, he fully understood the merits of the system for Cambodia.

MBODIA INDIA CHINA THAILAND UNITED KINGDOM

**Date**: Aug 29, 1991

# **Volume No**

## PRESEDENT'S SPEECHES

President's Independence Day Eve Broadcast to the Nation

The following is the text of the President, Shri R. Venkataraman's message to the Nation broadcast over All India Radio and Doordarshan in New Delhi on Aug 14, 1991:

Tomorrow will herald the forty-fourth anniversary of our independence. On the eve of this auspicious occasion, I have great pleasure in conveying to all fellow citizens residing in India and abroad, my greetings and good wishes. To our kisans and mazdoors, whose strenuous labour has sustained the progress of our country, I would like to offer my sincere thanks. To our valiant jawans, sailors and airmen whose unremitting vigil protects our frontiers, I take pride in extending my warmest appreciation. And, to the women of India, who have cradled our civilization for millenia and have achieved parity with men in every respect, I offer a brother's blessings.

Our thoughts turn in deep gratitude today to the great pageant of our freedom struggle which commenced in the magical year of 1857. The torch that was lit by Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi, Tatya Tope and Bahadur Shah Zafar, was held aloft decade after decade by our brave people who made the most heroic sacrifices to free India from bondage. We remember today, in particular, Mahatma Gandhi who came as a beacon of light to lead us out of the darkness of political thraldom. The world had seen many a great revolutionary before, but here was one who sought to revolutionize revolution itself. Talented and courageous leaders from all corners of the country flocked under his banner. To the great leaders and to all the countless foot-soldiers in the battle for liberaton we offer, this day, our respeceful salutations.

But we cannot stop with the paying of tributes. That would be altogether inadequate and even unworthy. The architects of our freedom had no interest in winning applause. Their aim was larger to win swaraj not as an end in itself but as a means for building a new society based on social justice. We must, therefore, take pause to introspect and ask ourselves if that object has been realised. Has swaraj translated itself into the desired suraaj or not?

If we examine the brief record of independent India, we cannot but derive satisfaction from the fact that, thanks to the path of planned economic development ushered in by our first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, the pre-1947 dormancy was replaced by a comprehensive dynamism. Indian agriculture has, as a result, achieved a desirable level of self-sufficiency. Indian industry

and entrepreneurship has boomed and we are now placed among the first fifteen of the industrialized countries of the world. We have reached a stage of self-reliance in items like heavy machine tools and equipments, in the generation of energy - both atomic and conventional - and in an array of consumer durables.

India has made great strides in fields like computers, oceanography, space research, genetic engineering and biotechnology. We are also one of a handful of countries which can maintain the full nuclear fuel cycle - from the refining of the ore to the reprocessing of the waste.

And thanks to the creative pragmatism of several Chief Ministers the quality of life for the common man has registered a marked improvement. Life expectancy which was barely 32 years at the time of -136>

our independence has gone up to 60 years. Literacy has spread impressively, with Kerala doing all of us proud by its cent per cent achievement. And although much remains to be done to improve their lot, the scheduled castes and tribes have come into their own all over the country.

Having said this, we will nonetheless have to admit that within the profile of progress, the expression on India's face is not one of satisfaction. The sharp contrast between India's haves and the havenots, the rich urbanite and the slumdweller, the employed and the jobless, the sheltered child and the street-child is a matter of deep regret. A third of the population of India lives at what is termed the subsistence level. Swaraj has meant little to the deprived and unprivileged.

A major reason is, without doubt, the disconcerting rise in our population which dilutes if not nullfies the progress we make. A national plan of action for stabilising our population needs the highest priority. Higher percentage of literacy synchronises with a lower rate of population growth as is evidenced in Kerala. Implementation of the Directive Principle of compulsory primary education may serve the dual purposes of advancing literacy and containing the population explosion.

Living beyond one's means is not only dangerous to a person but to the nation as well. In a country with our limited resources, non-productive and non-developmental expenditure is not just wrong; it is immoral. For far too long have public funds been looked upon as departmental dowry, not as a trust. This has got to change.

But at a more fundamental level another failure on our part as a people needs to be acknowledged. It is the failure to think of India as one family and work unitedly towards the common goal of a prosperous and equitable social order.

We are living in a world that is racing ahead on the wings of science and technology. We missed the industrial revolution because, as a colony, the initiative did not lie with us. It does, now. We must not miss the opportunities for rapid advancement. If we do, posterity will not forgive us. We must make common cause and work with a sense of creative mutuality, each individual, group and sector making its own contribution to the whole.

It would be instructive to remind ourselves that during the freedom movement everyone wanted to give, never to take. People gave of their own time, talents and financial resources generously. The nation came first, the self was always the last. The spirit of sacrifice that animated our freedom fighters has completely disappeared from the lexicon of their progeny. We have to recapture the spirit of dedicated service to the nation whatever be the walk of life we may be engaged in.

#### We must remind ourselves:

Neither rituals; nor progeny; nor wealth But only renunciation brings true happiness

A country which has preached the concept of the performance of duties without counting the fruits thereof should not fail to practice it for the welfare of its people.

With the transfer of power, this sequence seems to have changed. Competition has replaced cooperation, antagonism has displaced accord. Provincial, linguistic and class animosities have come to be added to the odious divides of religion and caste. Citizenship is now folded-up into a hundred parts such as north-south, majority-minority, rural-urban, forward-backward, backward-scheduled, insider-outsider. The list is endless. This multiplicity

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of its denominational folds has robbed Indian citizenship of its basic identity. It has made each segment sharply insecure and intolerant. One community snaps at the other, one caste snarls at another. Gandhiji was fond of the hymn which says. He is the true Vaishnava who knows the peeda - pain - of others. All of us remain absorbed in our own peeda, not in that of others or that of the nation as a whole.

I would like to take the opportunity provided by this national anniversary to make a plea for the adoption by all Indians of a truly national perspective as against a compartmentalised one. Management and labour, landowners and cultivators, manufacturers and consumers, should make common cause with one another and strengthen the sinews of the nation. This is essential if we are to meet the many challenges that face us.

Apart from the economic questions we are confronted with several issues of immediate and vital import. Kashmir, Punjab and Assam have been witness to tragic violence. Terrorists are a small fraction of the population and yet because of the strength of the weapons they wield they have become a force to contend with. Sophisticated and lethal weapons are used by militants to strike terror among the people. The barbaric practice of kidnapping innocent persons and holding them as hostages has become a great menace. When a private citizen or a civilian on duty is abducted, much more is involved than the loss of an individual's freedom. When innocents are shot or killed in explosions the agony goes well beyond that of the victims. The attack is on India's spirit and soul as a free, sovereign and peaceloving democracy. Government is determined to meet the challenge, whatever be the odds. Government is aware that the ranks of the militants oftentimes include misguided youths who are exploited by antinational forces. We would like to help such misguided persons to abandon their dangerous and mistaken paths. Government will be happy to hold negotiations with those who eschew violence and accept the framework of the Constitution. I would appeal to all my fellowcitizens to continue to support the efforts of the Government, in this regard.

Despite the encouragement to terrorists in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir from across the borders our efforts towards normalisation and improvement of relationship with the countries in our region will continue with unabated vigour. India has played and will continue to play a creative role in world affairs. The wisdom of our policy of panchashila and non-alignment has been amply borne out by the recent historic changes in the world. We will continue to strive for peace and disarmament and for global cooperation to reduce poverty and improve living standards in the developing nations.

To be able to fulfil our destiny both internally and as a responsible member of the Comity of Nations, we must recapture the trans-continental and trans-denominational solidarity that marked our freedom struggle. Let us proceed towards the goal of a prosperous India with the sense of participation and partnership which the Hindi poet Maithilisaran Gupt captured in the lines:

May there be in every heart, A thirst for human empathy; May a care for me on your part, Match my care for your prosperity.

Jai Hind. -138>

DIA USA RUSSIA MALI CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date**: Aug 14, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECHES

Seminar on Reforms for Women: Future Options Prime Minister's Address

Delivering the valedictory address at the Seminar on 'Reform for Women: Future Options', the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, said in New Delhi on Aug 21, 1991:

Thank you very much for calling me after a very tiresome journey. It was a pretty distressing sight to see dozens of villages marooned, surrounded by floodwaters, not being able to land anywhere, just imagining their plight from 2000 or 3000 feet, being able to just make an aerial survey and come back. When there is a natural calamity, nothing that man can do can compensate fully for the affects of the calamity.

From that, straight to this meeting is a change. yes, I agree. But here, also, I find that there is an articulated and unarticulated distress for centuries, maybe for millenia, wherein one-half of humanity has been subordinated to the other half, the better half to the worse half, and I really do not know why this should have happened. Najmaji, you have already made me feel like a student about to write his examination.

But I would like to say that this is the eternal question, the question of why there should be so much disparity between one part of God's creation and another part, both parts being completely interdependent, both parts being supplementary and complementary to each other, and both parts being such that neither part can become the whole in the absence of the other. It is just one of those inexplicable atrocities that mankind has inflicted on itself over the centuries. When in the old texts, it is said: Yatra Nariyastu Pujant, ramante tatra Devata, what happened to those text. Were the words in those texts a piece of hypocracy to start or conceived them not just one Shloka or with? Was it that those who wrote them one line but long texts you find of people who could articulate these things from the bottom of their hearts; there was no diplomacy about it; there was no dikhawa about it, no onstentation, nothing to show. They wrote what they felt. These writings pertain to an age of wonderment, an age where man just expressed himself the way he felt. There were not many Alankara Shastras in those days and one wonders why something coming straight from the heart of the person who is responsible to write these things or maybe articulate these

things suddenly disappeared, the spirit disappeared, the letter disappeared. Maybe not so suddenly but in course of time, it disappeared and finally we come to a stage where it is said that one half of humanity is definitely inferior to the other.

To treat the other half as inferior is one thing. But to assert that it is inferior, therefore, we treat it, is something which is incorrigible and one may comit a mistake by mistake but when the mistake is asserted as the right thing to do, then it is something very hard to break and this is the stage to which the opinions about women on the part of men have come in all countries, as Najmaji just said. Why is this so and why should it be so and how long is it going to be so? These are the questions you are addressing yourself, everybody is addressing.

I have been Minister for HRD and I have actually Put together all the factors, all the ingredients of HRD and fashioned it as a Ministry. 'Kahin ki eent, kahin ka roda, bhanumati ne kunba joda', that kind of kunba I have put together, but I think -139>

there is some coherence about it by now. It has come into that kunba, it is no longer a conglomeration of Secretaries who don't mix activities which do not jell, it is not like that. It is one activity in which all aspects of the human being are wholitically take care of and that is what Rajivji wanted to do. When he first told me about it, I was not clear what he meant and to say that he had a very ready model before him, even that was not true. He said I have a feeling that all these Ministries and Departments are going at crosspurposes sometimes and in any case is going of at a tangent and the resultant is not as it ought to be. Is it not possible for us for anyone to bring all these under one umbrella, into one Ministry. Suddenly, it occured to me that it is possible and what he was saying is correct.

When a child is sick and the teacher wants to drag him to school, the mother won't allow him. But the teacher says I am education department, I don't know about the health of the child, that is the health department, so I will take him anyway. Then you know what the mother will greet hm with. So, health and education have to go together in respect of the child. Just one example will convince anyone because it is the mother who looks after both the health and the education of the child. The education department may not, the health department may not. So, the mother combines in himself all the departments connected with the child. In the same way, the Human Resource Development is like a mother and that is how Rajivji conceived it and we put it together. I hope it is flourishing under Arjun Singhji because that is the spirit.

Now, if you have to have a holistic approach to the problem of the child, it is a problem of the child, not son or daughter, so it is the common problem of the child; yes, when it comes to the daughter, if you say she shall not go to school, if it comes to the son he has to go to school, then you are not holistic at all in your approach and

so the New Education Policy has said that to the extent of the backlog that exists in respect of education, schooling of the girl child, we will have to make it up, we will have to make some special effort until the disparity disappears and. we have a uniformly equal educational opportunity given to the child. Maybe both will be only ten per cent, I don't mind, but I would not like a situation where one is 60 per cent and the society as a whole deteriorates into these two camps where one camp wants to dominate the other.

So, I have a feeling, after considering all the problems more or less the women are faced with, that if you start with equal education to the child, girl or boy, probably most of these problems could be solved. I don't say all will be solved. There may be some inherent problems, but to the extent humanbeings can solve the problems, these will be solved. So, we are laying special emphasis on the education of the girl child, literacy to start with, then educational opportunities. If you take care of this, then you don't have to do lot of things which you are doing now, your organisations, your institutions, your bodies, you are looking after something which should have been looked after 35 years ago, 40 years ago. So, to that extent you are doing something of a belated exercise. If your child today doesn't suffer from discrimination in respect of sex, then your daughters-in-law-tomorrow need not bother because they start with a near-equal situation. You are working on a very unequal situation. So, in the interest of the women themselves and also in the interest of the whole country and the society, I am definitely of the view that whatever the expense, whatever the trouble, whatever the persuasion needed, we will have to see that educational opportunity is equalised in the case of children, all children irrespective of sex.

So, I would like you to concentrate on this. I am not asking you to go and teach.

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What I am saying is since you are working in a society where all these disparities have shown in psychological terms the parent doesn't want to send his daughter to school, now because he thinks that his wife did not get any schooling, so his daugheer need not get a schooling or she might think that she did not therefore her daughter need not. So, these are ingrained in the thinking of the people, in the thinking of the society and that is where you have to apply the corrective as social reformers, as persons working in the women's field.

So, we are taking up these problems. I am sure that if education is taken care of, law will be taken care of the legal rights of women can be taken care of. In fact, they will not have to fight

for their rights. Who fights for rights if rights are given? Why should we fight? I don't think women are so prone to fight all the time unless there is a reason and there is provocation and there is a deprevation. So, if they fight, it is good that they fight for something which they must have. But if they don't have it and still don't fight for it, that is not a good situation. And I am sure this fight will not be very long. In fact, I am not quite sure that vis-a-vis women, men are very brave. I don't think so. They will give in at some point, maybe sooner than later, sooner than you realise. So, please start with education. All the other things are important in themselves but so far they are important only for those who have grown as illiterate. uneducaten. Those will be taken care of by all your other efforts. If you take care of education, you don't have to take care of anything else. Practically, everything will be taken care of.

Now, we have a lot of old, ingrained faiths, let us say wrong beliefs, beliefs which do not belong to this country in any case, like Sati and like so many other very injurious practices, uncivilised practices in the society, where the women become victims, unwilling, unwitting, unintended victims but still the society is so harsh and it is ingrained in the beliefs of the people. Now, it is not as if all cases of Sati are forced, many are, but it is also a fact as far as I have collected some information from the areas concerned that the society itself has come to look upon this very henious, abominable practice as something respectable. Now, if that respectability goes, then no one will fall a prey to this. So, it is again a psychological treatment that you have to give. Suppose, something happens in a family and people tell her, yes this women did not comit Sati, therefore this has happened. So, a bad practice combined with a bad superstition, this is the real problem. If there is no superstition, the bad practice will end very soon because no one wants to give her life for nothing unless there is some compelling reason, some psychologically compelling reason. So, again it is psychological and it depends on how much the women knows. In these cases, she doesn't know much except the superstition she believes the superstition hundred per cent and that is why she does it. Without knowing what is happening, she lavs down her life.

In the same way, we have the practice of child marriage. Now, 44 years after Independence, one has to admit with a sense of shame that in this country we do have what they call cradle marriages even now. I know of such cases. Now, what barbarity is this? How can you have a cradle marriage? How can you have a marriage at the tender age of 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and ruin the lives of thousands of such victims. We may not even know where this is happening.

Then, there is the other equally atrocious practice of Devdasis. Now, lot of literature you find being written, having been written, but the fact remains that it is prostitution in the name of God. Now, if God could articulate what he feels about what we have done to him, he would -141>

be the greatest protestor today. We have done such things in the name of God, this society has exploited God to such an extent that no other section of society has been exploited so much as God and man has been the worst exploiter of God. I don't know why God doesn't protest. He should be the first to raise his voice but still he is silent and we go on with exploitation. What are we finding today in the politics of today, the year of grace, 1991, 1989-90, except the exploitation of God to the worst possible extent, in the most naked and unrepentent, unabashed manner. This is exploitation of God, nothing else. Now, when do we stop? When are we going to stop this? Maybe God gives us all kinds of calamities but we don't seem to learn. If someone says, if you are good to God, don't exploit God, then everything will be alright; if you exploit God, you will have a flood and atleast people start believing it, then perhaps they will not exploit God, but that is not possible. Even the superstitions today which we have developed are so injurious that they result in bad beliefs, in wrong beliefs, in injurious beliefs, disastrous beliefs and not in good beliefs. I can understand, alright man requires something to believe in, belief is good, but the believes that we have gathered in our own minds today are the worst you can imagine. So, where are we? Where is our godliness? Where is our society which is supposed to be Godfearing? Where is the society which is supposed to be 5000 years old and based on what they call Rita. We are against, ur-rita. We are for Rita but where is the Rita. Is this Rita? This is exactly the opposite of it, abnegation of Rita.

So, I have to tell you and I know that I don't require to tell anything which women in this country already know, I mean this is something which should be quite evident to you ladies, that what has happened in this country is the distortion of faith itself. This is what has happened. I am not against faith. Man has to have faith. The humanbeing has to go by faith. Much goes by faith in every society in the world. But number one, faith is not superstition. Number two, the perversion of faith that has taken place in this country, I can't speak about other countries with the same authority but since we are all in this country, we are part of this society, one can say that the perversion of faith in this country is horrendous. And something has to be done to remove this perversion. This can come again with knowledge, again with education, again with enlightment. There can be no enlightement without knowledge. There can be no knowledge without education. Now, these are cencentric circles. You may have education and still not have enlightenment. You may have knowledge and still not have enlightenment. You may have enlightenment and still not be useful to society. You may go to the Himalayas and leave this society. You are enlightened but what is it for. It is not useful to society. Therefore, these are

concentric circles. The smaller circle is contained in the bigger one and the bigger still in the bigger one but not the other way round. So, you start with education, go to an enlightened society, the enlightened society takes care of its own problems and you will not have any of these disparities which have grown over the centuries. I am sure they have grown over the centuries. It is not the duoing of one man or one day. Now, if that is the basis on which women's rights experts or exponents want to fight, that would be the wrong basis. You have to understand that this has happened over several centuries. There was a reason why we have come down to this. There was a historical reason, if you go into history you will find, it was a wrong reason I agree, but wrong reason according to us, but in the 16th century or 17th century they did not consider it a wrong reason. So, they were wrongly led to consider a wrong reason as the right reason and it went on like that. So, it is time that we reverse all these things. The basis for -142>

reversal is independence. We are free to do what we like, what we consider right, and this is the springboard of the entire action of a society. In a free society you can make this as a starting point for whatever you want to do. If you are not free then you cannot do it. So, we have been free for 44 years, now the rest should be upto us to see what we have done, to go into details of the past only in order to gather courage, gather the enlightenment that is needed for shaping the future.

So, this is what I would like to say. I will not go into each detail. Najmaji has already promised that you have been working in several commissions or several groups. I am sure that you will come up with recommendations that will be feasible and we can certainly make use of the law as a weapon.

Now, in a civilised society, we don't fight with guns, we don't fight with swords - Barchchi, bhala, all that is useless - we fight with law. That is the weapon. That is why legislation is extremely important. If legislation is lousy and the lawyers get a goldmine out of every fullstop and a semi colon, then you are using a weapon which is totally useless. And this being the only weapon in a civilised society, if your legislation is bad, the concept of your legislation is the implementation of your legislation is rendered inadequate, is rendered fraught with difficulties, then it means that you have lost the race even before you started running for it.

So, please tell us what you want, what you think should be done. We sit together, we will find the proper legislation for it because that is not only a tool, I call it a weapon always. I have always called legislation a weapon. Now, that weapon should be effective and it should be implementable and the rest should be supplied by social force. The social force can take several forms. It can be education. It can be public exhortation. It can

be organisation of the concerned people for demanding a thing. It can also be the education of the people. If fact, it should be the education of the people before they are organised for an agitation. So, all these stages will have to be passed through. But education is the most important. We will come up with legislation and we will see that whatever problems we are faced with, to the extent it is humanly possibly through legislation, through the Governmental agencies, we will try to solve them. But I must warn you that this is only part of the story. The rest will have to come from the concerned sections of the people, namely the women themselves.

We are here absolutely ready to listen to you, to respond to the urges of the time but you must show us how and we will respond.

### DIA USA TURKEY TOTO CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date**: Aug 21, 1991

### **Volume No**

1995

### PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECHES

Address of Prime Minister while Releasing the Book on Rajiv Gandhi's Selected Speeches and Thoughts

Releasing the book on Rajiv Gandhi's Selected Speeches and Selected Thoughts, published by the Publication Division, the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, said in New Delhi on Aug 22, 1991:

I am glad to be associated with this function. I have some personal attachment to the book and its contents because the ideas evolved over the years and there ideas were Rajivji's own but he didn't just adumbrate them as if he was saying something final. He was always in the habit of discussing. Sometimes he would call a few friends just for a chat. Those who were invited did not know what he was -143>

driving at, why they were called. He wanted to know their spontaneous views, spontaneous reactions to somethings which he said. And, he put it quite provocatively when he started the dialogue. Later on, we came to know that this was a process which he was developing within himself-- of digesting ideas from all quarters, from friends, from experts; I am sure he was having these meetings with different groups of people, different sections of people in small groups and he was constantly evolving

these ideas after consultations. That is why you find an amount of maturity in the ideas which is hardly matched anywhere else.

His ideas on education, for instance, culture, panchayati Raj, now on these we had many many brain-storming sittings and I am sure that these are not the only sittings, he had sittings with several other people, those who had different ideas for instance. And, he tried to assimilate these ideas from wherever they came. Right from the Vedas, the tradition in this country is to welcome ideas from wherever they come. We always welcome them we try to assimilate them. If there is something which needs to be rejected, we don't hesitate to reject them, but whatever is assimilable we certainly assimilate them and make them our own. So, the Indian culture has come to contain so many ideas which may have come from outside. which may have evolved within the country on the basis of the amalgum that got created over the centuries.

On cultural matters, Rajivji was very forthright. I have seen very few people who were so closely and completely attached to the distinctive feature of Indian culture. In fact, he used to talk about this topic many times and quite at length. I wonder how he got the time to do all that, but he did find the time and we found the discussions very very useful.

Now, this I say is a collection of permanent value. This could, perhaps, be a representative collection of all that a Prime Minister with his multifarious activities and distractions could still put together as something to be passed on to posterity, as something to be presented on behalf of India to the whole world. Only I am not sure that if you really want to present to the book, the ideas, the publication as I see it may not be the ideal one, it will have to be done all over again to be made acceptable and come to the standards of publications in other countries. But the ideas are there and it is always possible to improve on the quality of publication. So, we are in that process of improvement all the time. It is the part of development that we have to imbibe.

He had a very clear idea on some of the most momentous topics of the day. It is hardly realised that he started a new path in international thinking, in international living, in international ideology -ideology of existence. He adumbrated for the first time alongwith President Gorbachev the idea of a non-violent world. For the first time, I am saying because after Mahatma Gandhi, the idea had somehow got lost in the sands of time in the sands of modern life, and probably no one or very few who are in active politics, who are heads of state, heads of government, had taken it seriously thereafter. For the first time in 1986, what I call the most momentous, most important chapter in modern history of the world where non-violence was accepted as an important, perhaps an inevitable, ingredient of the whole outlook on life. This was adumbrated for the first time and I think this will have

to be the springboard for many many international ideals to be spelt out hereafter - the Disarmament process, the basis of co-existence, the basis of development - all these are the natural corrolaries of that one idea that we do not want violence in this world. Nuclear free, everyone says, but that component of nonviolence was brought for the first time and from that emenate all the other ideas

which we all know. But it is hardly realised how epochmaking that one Delhi Declaration was.

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So, he has given us something which India can be proud of, which the coming generations have to work on, which we in our own humble way have to elaborate, imbibe, understand and maybe present it to others. If it is accepted, particularly at the level of the younger generations whose comprehension needs to be properly oriented to the idea of non-violence, we see that this is becoming more and more compelling. It is becoming compelling but we are no really feeling the impact of it as we ought to.

So, I would say that if there is one thing which India can work on assiduously without looking back and that is the idea of a non-violent world from which we have been drawing inspiration. So, I would say that we should really imbibe this and I am certainly confident that it will be possible for us to do so in our own way. You cannot possibly make such epoch-making statements everyday, but it is not necessary. One epoch-making statement is good for an epoch because it is epoch-making, we don't have to repeat it everyday or match it everyday with other statements. What is needed is how to work on it. And, that is what I think should be our endeayour hereafter.

He has expressed his ideas on almost every important aspect of human life. I am sure these volumes will become a body of guidance, a body of thinking, which will inspire all of us and the younger generations.

I congratulate the I & B Ministry for having brought out this publication. I only wish that we improve on the quality of the publication so that we could make presentation volumes of this after we have an improved version and I am sure this will be a regular feature which we can make in the Government of India and it will adoren the libraries of the greatest men and women in the world hereafter.

Thank you once again for having attended this meeting. I am really not able to go on with what is happening outside. So, I once again congratulate the Ministry and hope that this book will be found useful by young and old alike, by everyone in this country, who is interested in knowing the great ideas, knowing something about Rajivji's ideas in getting inspiration from them.

**Date**: Aug 22, 1991

### **Volume No**

1995

#### PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECHES

Prime Minister's Independence Day Address

The following is the free rendering in English of the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao's address from the ramparts of the Red Fort in New Delhi on Aug 15, 1991:

I offer my hearty greetings to you on the auspicious occasion of the 44th anniversary of the Independence Day of our country. It is a tribute to democracy that an ordinary worker like me, born in a small village is able to address you from the ramparts of this historic Red Fort. It is due to your blessings and my good fortune. You are aware that numerous people made sacrifices for this freedom and nurtured it with their blood. The great chariot of democracy has been moving forward steadily and shall keep going ahead.

During the last 44 years elections were held for the Lok Sabha ten times. The latest 10th General Elections were held only recently. During these elections your anger as well as your appreciation have found expression. We have accepted with humility the mandate given by you. We belong to you, we are from amongst you and will con--145>

tinue to be a part of you. These are our credentials, and we do not need any other identity.

The elections for 10th Lok Sabha were held in the shadow of a tragedy. Rajiv Gandhi's brutal assassination had stunned the country. The sudden disappearance of a young man, who was perceived to have solved the problem of leadership of our country for the next 20 to 25 years, plunged us all into darkness. But what can ie done. We know that everyone who is born is destined to die one day. If the death occurs after a full life, we accept it, but an untimely death causes distress. We will implement the agenda that Rajivji had prepared for the future of the country. And I stand before you with the resolve to follow the path shown by him.

I want to apprise you of the critical phase that the country is passing through today. This Government has completed 55 days in office. During this period we have taken certain decisions and avoided certain pitfalls. The people gave us the mandate to form the Government but it was short of the necessary majority. We accepted the mandate of the people and formed the Government. We will not spare any effort to ensure that the country marches ahead towards progress. The co-operation extended to us by other political parties has made the situation optimistic. It is my firm belief that there is no reason to entertain any doubt about the stability of this Government.

Very briefly I want to place before you the situation inherited by this Government. We inherited a situation, which was vitiated by fundamentalism, hatred among castes and social unrest.

The economy was in the grip of a serious crisis that was unprecedented in the history of free India. Our financial credibility had touched the nadir. In a week or two, we would have been unable to repay our loans. I assumed the office in such a situation. Many of the problems were there for a long time, but during the last two years they grew in their complexity. This was part of our legacy Things appeared to go out of hand. There was no scope for delay, and procrastination would have been suicidal. Therefore, we had to undertake certain prompt measures. We took decisions. We have been able to arrest the deterioration which was creeping. A lot more has got to be done, but certainly we have arrested the situation from deteriorating further.

You are all aware that we produce so many things in the country for our requirements. Bu there are some items that we still have to import. There are some commodities which we produce, but the quantity we produce is not enough to meet our requirements. Therefore, we have to import commodities like kerosene oil, diesel, edible oil, fertilizers and chemical fertilizers, etc. To import these we need foreign exchange as the Rupee is not convertible abroad. Our foreign exchange reserves have been woefully depleted. Even today we are not in a comfortable position and therefore we will have to boost our exports.

Therefore, we have to boost our exports, The goods that we produce will be exported and we will get foreign exchange in return. Therefore, first of all, we have done away with the system of licences, permits etc. as this complex system created many obstables for the people. Now we have broken this vicious circle, and liberated those who were stuck in it.

We have paved the way for increasing our exports by slightly changing the foreign exchange rate. We trust that in the coming days our exports would get a boost and we would be able to earn enough foreign exchange. We have presented our new budget in which we have formulated a number of schemes for public welfare, -146>

especially keeping in view the needs of our rural population.

I want to give a brief account of some of these programmes. We have done a lot but I would like to discuss a few of them as there is not enough time for a detailed presentation. As you know, we have prepared an extensive programme in the memory of Rajivji which aims at providing drinking water to village in the country. We know that drinking water has been provided to a number of villages during the last forty years. Yet there are a few farflung villages where there is a scarcity of drinking water. Therefore we are taking up 80,000 such villages in which drinking water will be made available under the programme named after Rajivji.

We have to improve the lot of our backward classes. To help them we are setting up a Corporation. We know that occasionally communal riots occur in our country. In these riots many people are killed and some crippled and many children are rendered orphans with none to look after them. For these children we have set a National Fund. This fund would be utilised to educate and bring up such children so that they get all opportunities to grow as worthy citizens of this country.

In our country, at times, the workers lose their jobs. Once they become jobless, none care for them. We have formulated a plan to help them and rehabilitate them in another vacation by giving them training so that they do not suffer for want of employment.

You know that our villages have got gifted craftsmen. They are second to none in their skills but their tools are outmoded. There are nearly 5.5 lakh villages in this country. Now you can imagine how many craftsmen are there in every village working with outmoded tools. We have prepard a schome to provide modern tools for all such craftsen so that they do not migrate from villages to cities. By using better tools they can earn much more in the villages. Such migration created problems in the cities. Therefore, once better tools are made available to them the craftsmen will have no compulsion to rush towards cities and they can enhance their income in the villages.

The most important thing is our Public Distribution System under which we have fair price shops, which now are largely concentrated in cities. The Public Distribution System has not yet reached the villages. We have decided to take up 1500 blocks in far-flung tribal, desert and very backward areas to provide atleast one fair price shop in each village. In these shops people can get the commodities of their daily consumption at a reasonable rate. This would be a big boon for the people living our villages. You must also be aware that there are frequent land disputes and often they assume such violent proportions that the real issues are pushed into the background and there is a lot of litigation which continues for years, ruining the people. The

source of these conflicts are the land records which are not kept properly. The only method to avoid this is to keep our land records in the villages properly so that people know about their ownership and propritary rights. We want to launch this campaign thoughtout the country so that in every village proper land records are made available.

Rajivji had given us Indira Mahila Yojna but during the last two years, there has been no implementation of this scheme. We will revive and implement it. You know that the Panchayati Raj Bill was not allowed to take the shape of law. We will now have it passed and implement it.

I want to impress upon our non-resident Indian brothers that we want to we-come them here. We want to offer them many facilities here. We are ready to offer whatever facilities they require for making investments and set up industries.

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We want to strengthen the age-old bonds. We are proud of them. Lakhs of Indans have gone abroad. They have become prosperous. Even today they are determined to serve their country. Once again I extend them a very cordial welcome.

Now I want to speak to you about certain burning problems before the country. As I mentioned earlier the feeling of hatred is rampant. There is a spate of violence. We have to change this in this country, which is the abode of non-violence. There is no place for violence. India, which believes in world peace will have no right to talk about it, unless there is peace in the country. There are then the problems of Punjab and Kashmri. In these states violence, separatism and terrorism are prevalent. I want to make it clear that none is going to gain out of terrorism. The only result is bloodshed and loss of lives. Those who are indulging in such activities will never be able to achieve their aims. We should return to the path of peace and I appeal to them that they should co-operate with us in evolving a solution to the problems of this country, problems of Punjab and problems of Kashmir. Together we can find the solutions. There is no problem. which is insurmountable.

We surely want elections in Punjab, but we would not tolerate the use of elections to promote separatism. We will ensure that elections are held within the parameters of the Constitutions.

About Kashmir I want to assert we are confident of facing the situation there. We will contain terrorism. As far as Kashmir is concerned there is the Shimla Agreement between India and Pakistan, and we will try to resolve the problems according to that agreement. This has been our endeavour so far and the same holds good for the future. We do not require any mediation. We are neighbouring countries and we will solve our problems among ourselves. All the problems can be solved. If there is

understanding on the other side and if the activities abetting and aiding violence are stopped from that side.

During the last two or three years a strange dispute has cropped up of the mosque and the temple. The foundation of our country is secularism. It is neither anti-religion nor fanning communalism in the name of religion. We wish to remain secular. Religion is a personal affair. The Government, its policies and programmes have got nothing to do whether someone visits the temple or someone else goes to the mosque. We are not going to give up secularism. We may need the help of others for running the Government, but we cannot take this country ahead if we give up the basic principles. This country will disintegrate the day we give up secularism. Therefore, we must stick to it. Religion binds people. It generates spiritual thinking and improves our material and spiritual well being. The use of religion in politics to secure votes in elections is certainly not desirable. I hope people will understand this and will not allow such designs to succeed.

By secularism we also believe that minorities should be given full protection and therefore we are going to give legal status to the Minorities Commission. There is no danger to any religon here. I want to tell that the slogans about this or that religion being in danger are absolutely bogus. In this country there has never been any threat to any religion nor will there ever be. We want to guarantee this. It is the firm resolve of this Government that there should be no threat to any religion; and if a threat was ever there, we would eliminate it. This danger will never be there. We have to guard against such slogans.

We then have the issues of Mandal Commission which relates to our people belonging to the backward castes and backward classes. We certainly want social justice. We have undertaken several programmes to achieve this. In many -148>

States these programmes are continuing but we do not want social disintegration to attain social justice. We do not want the achievement of social justice by violence or by creating mutual confrontation. This cannot happen. It would lead to many other afflictions. We have faith that we can solve this problems peacefully and by consensus. I have discussed this with many people. I feel that on this issue, there is consensus to a large extent. Though it is not yet complete, a broad consensus can be arrived at. I wish that this issue should be resolved on the basis of a national consensus. Our efforts in this direction will continue.

Our farmers give us food and for them an extensive programme is before us. The farmers produce foodgrains but the production of several commodities will have to be stepped up so that we can export them to earn foreign exchange. I invite our farmers who have provided food for us to now come forward to produce for export, to make this country prosperous.

I would like to tell our armed forces that the Government is always alive to their interests and their welfare and there are several schemes before us. For want of time I cannot outline them but I want to assure them that we are preparing many schemes for them and we shall always be ready to look after their interests.

Friends, today, the main problem before the country is economic. We have to increase our production as well as the wealth of this country. If the wealth does not increase there will be nothing to distribute and it is not prudent to distribute poverty.

Therefore, the need of the hour is that we should add to our wealth and ensure its just distribution. For this we have formulated a programme and the Government is keeping both these aspects in view. We have to generate employment and for increasing employment opportunities industrialisation is needed. The industry cannot remain outdated. A new environment has got to be created. We are engaged in this. If the capacity of industry does not develop it will lag behind and we shall not be able to compete in the world market. Therefore the capacity of the industry has got to be developed.

Besides economic policy, we have also to ensure that there is no disintegration in the country. Social unrest should not be there and people should not waste their energy and time fighting each other. I want to impress upon you that this has got to be stopped at any cost. Social unity and national unity are not separate from each other. Both are two sides of the same coin and therefore we have to take care of both of them.

I think that it is our foremost duty to uphold national unity, social unity and maintain social equilibrium so that there is no setback to social harmony. For this we will continue our all our efforts and, as I have said, this is the duty of all of us and we should perform this sincerely.

There are many things that I wanted to discuss with you but there is not enough time. From time to time I will keep on informing you about the various programmes and the steps that we propose to take. Today I would only like to say that the country is at a very precarious juncture and there are many dangers both internal and external, looming large on the horizon. To face them we need unity.

Once again I offer my greetings to you on this auspicious occasion. I offer my best wishes for a very happy year of India's Independence to all of you. May this country scale new heights of progress in the coming year. I am grateful to all of you for giving me a patient hearing and I hope that you will fulfil your duties and will help the Government in performing its duties. You and me are not separate. We have to work together. Let us march

ahead hand in hand.

JAI HIND. -149>

### DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PAKISTAN

**Date**: Aug 15, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

### PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECHES

Prime Minister's Message to President Gorbachev

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 22, 1991:

The Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao has sent the following message to President, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev:

"It is a matter of great satisfaction personally to me and to the Government and the people of India that the ordeal which the Soviet people underwent during the last 72 hours is now over. We are particularly relieved and happy to learn of your and your family's physical well-being and safe return to Moscow.

Your Excellency is aware of the keen interest which India has always shown in the success of perestroika in the USSR and the strengthening of the Soviet Union as a world power. The events which unfolded on the morning of 19th August in your country caused great anxiety and concern to my Government. The final denouncement has demonstrated the maturity of the people of the Soviet Union and the essential validity and strength of the spirit of perestroika and glasnost initiated by you, and ultimately, the triumph of the will of the great Soviet people.

Our relations with the Soviet Union have been deep, abiding and time-tested. Under your leadership these relations have been put on an even more enduring basis and have acquired a qualitatively new character. The recent extension of the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation reflects the resolve of the people of both the countries to continue and develop our multifaceted and friendly ties.

I send you, Mr. President, my best wishes for your good health, happiness and success in the tasks ahead of you and for the peace

and prosperity of the friendly people of the Soviet Union."

### DIA RUSSIA USA

**Date**: Aug 22, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

### ROMANIA

### Rupee Trade Agreement with Romania

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 02, 1991:

India and Romania have signed a new Trade and Payments Agreement which provides for the continuation of the Rupee Trading Arrangement between the two countries for a period of two years i.e. upto 31st December, 1992. It is further extendable by another three years. The Agreement was signed by the Indian Ambassador, Shri J. F. Rebeiro on 25.7.1991 in Bucharest on behalf of the Government of India and Dr. Napoleon Pop, the Secretary of State in the Ministry of Commerce, on behalf of the Romanian Government. This Agreement is already in force w.e.f. 1st January, 1991.

The Indo-Romanian Trade and Payments Agreement which was signed on 26th December, 1985, for trading in non-convertible Indian Rupees expired on 31st -150>

December, 1990. In accordance with the provisions of the Agreement, it was extended for a period of six months by which time it was anticipated that the new Agreement would be signed. It may be recalled that a Romanian delegation led by Mr. A. Pascale, Director, Ministry of Commerce and Tourism visited India in January, 1991, for finalising the future trading arrangement between the two countries. The new Agreement was finalised during this visit.

AN ROMANIA INDIA **Date**: Aug 02, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

**SPAIN** 

Spanish Ambassador Calls on Agriculture Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 14, 1991:

India and Spain have discussed the possibility of bilateral cooperation in the fisheries sector. The Spanish Ambassador H.E. Mr. Santiago Salas who called on the Agriculture Minister, Shri Balram Jakhar here today said that the two sides could gain from each other's expertise and potential. The possibility of cooperation in the horticultural sector was also discussed.

The Spanish Ambassador invited Shri Jakhar to attend a Fisheries Conference which is taking place in Madrid in September 1991. -151>

AIN INDIA USA CHILE

**Date**: Aug 14, 1991

# September

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### STRALIA USA CANADA INDIA GHANA KOREA PAKISTAN

**Date**: Sep 01, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

### **AUSTRALIA**

Indo-Australian Joint Business Council

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 03, 1991:

The Commerce Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram has said that India and Australia should forge strategic alliances in specific areas to raise the volume of bilateral trade and industrial cooperation between the two countries. Inaugurating the 5th Meeting of the India-Australia Joint Business Council (JBC) here today, Shri Chidambaram asked the JBC to identify the areas and said that such alliances would be to the mutual advantage of both the countries by facilitating production not only for India and Australia but also for the world market. The Minister stressed that there was vast scope for increasing the two-way trade considering the diversity of Indian industry and the great potential of the Australian market as also the size of the Indian market and sophistication of the Australian industry. Indo-Australian trade had so far been limited only to a few commodities. In 1990-91, two-way trade between India and Australia was around Rs. 1788 crores, of which imports from Australia amounted to Rs. 1467 crores and India's exports to Australia only around Rs. 321 crores, leaving a large deficit tilted in Australia's favour.

Shri Chidambaram said that in the last 9 weeks the Government had rewritten the rules of economic activity in the country because "we wish to integrate with the world economy and we wish to globalise," although the ends remained the same, namely, removal of poverty and unemployment, creation of more jobs and increasing India's share of the world trade. Referring to the new trade policy which aimed freeing trade from bureaucratic controls and linking imports to exports, Shri Chidambaram said he hoped that in 3 to 5 years all imports would be fully financed by exports and the rupee would become convertible. Under the new industrial policy all but 18 industries has been freed from licensing,

foreign equity was being welcomed particularly in 34 high-tech areas and automatic clearance was being given to all proposals with equity upto 51% while the rest would also be cleared on the fast track. These measures had created an environment conducive to exports and industrial cooperation, especially with trading partners like Australia.

Mr. C. W. Ward, Chairman, India Australia JBC, announced that the Australian Government had recently sanctioned US \$ 3 million to create a India Australia Council to focus attention on India. He said this was similar to the Councils set up for China and Korea and would coordinate activities of various bodies inrluding the JBC from the Australian side to prevent overlap and build bridges of friendship with India. "The region is our future and your future too," Mr. Ward said.

Shri Chidambaram also strongly urged the JBC to pursue the proposal for seeting up a coal-fired power plant at Madras in Tamil Nadu. He said this symbolised an area of cooperation on the basis of comparative strengths of the two sides, namely, Australia's capacity to supply coal and India's proven capacity in the field of -153>

power generation. The project would also go a long way in solving the problem of acute power shortage in Tamil Nadu. The proposal estimates a project cost of around Rs. 300 crores. The Minister suggested to the JBC that the possibility of funding the same through a package of foreign equity and collaboration would be explored.

Referring to the emergence of trading blocs, the Minister underlined that India did not wish to the marginalised in any way and expressed the hope that deliberations of the JBC would help raise Indo-Australian trade to new heights and new volumes.

Shri M. V. Murugan, Chairman, and Dr. N. A. Kalyani, Co-Chairman, India Australia JBC, also addressed the meeting. Shri Murugan said the 2-day deliberations would focus on ways to improve trade between the two countries. He said it was meeting at a most opportune time in view of the recent liberalisation measures in India and significant happenings world wide.

Australia is one of the leading trade partners of India in the East Asia region. The India Australia JBC was formed following the visit to Australia of the former Prime Minister, late Shri Rajiv Gandhi in October, 1986. Formal relations between India and Australia are covered by a Trade Agreement signed in 1976 which aims at facilitating, diversifying and strengthening trade ties between the two countries.

**Date** : Sep 03, 1991

### **Volume No**

1995

### **CANADA**

#### India-Canada Joint Ventures

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 24, 1991:

India has suggested setting up joint ventures in third world countries with Canadian technology and Indian manpower. There has been a marked increase in investment enquiries especially from countries like United States, West Germany and Japan. This was stated by the Minister of State for Industry, Prof. P. J. Kurien, when Canadian High Commissioner in India Mr. John L. Paynter called on him here today.

The Minister apprised him of the response of the industry to the new industrial policy. He said that the earlier regulatory role of the Goernment has been changed to promotional role by the new industrial policy. The Minister said that industry is supposed to invest liberally in the proposed National Renewal Fund, which is going to be the nucleus of national reconstruction.

Mr. John L. Paynter informed the Minister that Canada-India Business Council, in collaboration with the Confederation of Engineering Industries (CEI) is planning to organise trips for Indian businessmen to Canada and vice-versa. Mr. Paynter welcomed Minister's suggestion of increasing the Canadian investment in India and promised that in future there are ample -154>

possibilities of setting up Indo-Canadian joint ventures in the field of Food Processing Industries, agriculture and energy.

Financial investment by Canada in India has increased from Rs. 35 lakhs in 1984 to Rs. 247 lakhs in 1985 and it came down to Rs. 66 lakhs in 1990.

NADA INDIA GERMANY JAPAN USA

**Date** : Sep 24, 1991

### **Volume No**

1995

### **GHANA**

Joint Ventures in Ghana

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 23, 1991:

There is vast scope for joint ventures to be established by Indian entrepreneurs in Ghana in the wake of new sectors of the economy being opened up in that country for foreign investors. India has also offered its services to Ghana in the consultancy sector for transport and communication. This was conveyed by Shri Salman Khurshid, Deputy Minister of Commerce when Mr. Ato Ahwoi, Ghana's Minister for Energy, called on him here today. Small scale industry, energy, transport and communication especially in railways and roadways projects and rehabilitation of existing facilities, machine tools, agricultural implements, pesticides, prospecting and mining and unexploited potential areas for diamonds and consultancy services in various sectors are some of the areas where India would offer its services and cooperation to Ghana, Shri Khurshid said.

The volume of trade between India and Ghana has so far been negligible. While exports to Ghana increased from Rs. 14.01 crores in 1989-90 to Rs. 15.64 crores in 90-91, imports went up from Rs. 5.27 crores in 1989-90 to Rs. 8.02 crores in 1990-91. The percentage increase in exports in 1990-91 was 11.63 over the previous year.

ANA INDIA USA

**Date**: Sep 23, 1991

### **Volume No**

1995

### **KOREA**

Conference on Industrial Cooperation and Investment Promotionbetween Korea & India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi

on Sep 04, 1991:

India and Korea must join together as trading partners to reach commanding heights in the world economy. Both the countries have great potential for growth and investment and their cultural links date back to the ancient times. The global economic changes offer tremendous oportunities to both the countries which they -155>

should exploit to the mutual benefit of each other. This was stated here today by Shri Salman Khursheed, Deputy Minister of Commerce while inaugurating a conference on Industrial Cooperation and Investment Promotion between Korea and India here today.

The Minister said that India today stood on a sound agricultural and industrial base and offered a good proposition to those countries which wished to find new markets, new products and new investment opportunities. Korea had a very high place on the list of priority countries with which India wished to have strong trading links. The colossal changes in the trade, industrial and fiscal policies effected by the Government offered greater opportunities for a place in the new economic system emerging in the world, he said. The conference being held now can be a great rectifying and modifying element in Indo-Korean Cooperation, he emphasised.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Shri K. Kipgen, Executive Director, Trade Development Authority of India (TDA) said that this conference on industrial cooperation and investment promotion between Korea and India was the first of its kind being organised by the Korea Trade Promotion Corporation (KOTRA) and TDA. Korea had a high sense of business acumen and great potential for industrial and economic growth. The liberalised trade policy regime, innovative industrial policy and attractive foreign investment schemes etc. in India offered greater opportunities for both the countries to work together and find a place in world economy, he said.

India's exports to Korea include iron ore, minerals, textiles, chemicals, leather while imports from Korea are electronic items, electrical components, engineering goods, iron & steel products, industrial plant and machinery etc. About 32 companies of Korea are participating in the two-day conference. Besides KOTRA, the other sponsors from the Korean side are the Korean Association of machinery industry and the export-import Bank of Korea (Exim Bank).

REA USA INDIA

**Date**: Sep 04, 1991

### **Volume No**

1995

### **KOREA**

New Ambassador of Republic of Korea Presents Credentials

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 24, 1991:

The new Ambassador designate of the Republic of Korea H.E. Mr. Lee Joung Binn presented his Credentials to the President, Shri R. Venkataraman at Rashtrapati Bhavan, today.

Welcoming the new Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, the President Shri R. Venkataraman referred to the close and cordial relations that have existed between the two countries since ancient times. He said that the message and good will of Lord Buddha had served as an enduring link between India and Korea.

Shri Venkataraman welcomed the admission of the Republic of Korea to full Membership of the United Nations and hoped that the ensuing round of dialogue with the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, will be a further step forward in the process of reunification and contribute to the reduction of tensions in the Korean Peninsula.

On economic ties between the two countries, Shri Venkataraman said that full potential remained untapped though the trade had increased several times. The scope and potential, he said, was indeed vast in areas like transfer of technology, joint collaborations, turnkey projects in -156>

third countries and utilization of trained manpower resources.

Shri Venkataraman stated that cooperation between the two countries will help the economic development of each other following economic reforms initiated by India. He also said that India was looking forward to the visit of the President of the Republic of Korea, His Excellency Mr. Roh Tae Woo, which will further strengthen relations between the two countries.

Earlier, presenting his Credentials, the new Ambassador of the Republic of Korea H.E. Mr. Lee Joung Binn said that the Korean people from all walks of life including the Businessman, have high hopes of stronger Indo-Korean relations in economic, trade and cultural fields. He said that the interaction between the two countries will stimulate economic development in the coming Asia

pacific era. The Ambassador designate said that his Government was anxiously waiting for the reciprocal visit of the India's Minister of External Affairs, and the Minister of State for Commerce to Korea in this regard.

He also conveyed to Shri Venkataraman the personal message of greetings and goodwill from His Excellency the President Roh Tae Woo. Shri R. Venkataraman reciprocated warm sentiments in full measure.

REA INDIA USA

**Date** : Sep 24, 1991

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Non Applicability of Pressler Amendment to India

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 19, 1991:

In response to a question the spokesmen confirmed the non applicability of the Pressler Amendment on India's nuclear programme in the subject of foreign aid to India. The spokesmen said that we have all along maintained that the Indian nuclear programme is an entirely programme is clandestine one which have nuclear proliferation. It is, therefore, a matter of satisfaction that efforts to equate between India and Pakistan have been removed. The US Senate decided to delete the Legomarsino Amendment which has sought to make US assistance to India on the same basis of Pakistan. The Senate accepted the Glenn-Lugar amendment proposed by the Senate with some modification. Before according to the modification Lagomarsino was persuaded by our Embassy to change its position. Deletion was also obtained in case of attempts to object India's aid requirements on the basis of its human right records situation. An amendment to this effect took place in the form of the Feighan-Solarz substitute in place of the original Burton Amendment which made some critical references to India's human rights records. This Amendment also condemned gross abuses by the militants in Kashmir and Punjab. Also refer to credible reports of militants receiving arms and training from Pakistan.

**Date** : Sep 19, 1991

### **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

### G-15 Meeting

The following is the text of a Statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on the G-15 meeting:

At their first Summit held in Kaula Lumpur in June 1990, Heads of State Government of G-15 member-countries had mandated India to develop projects on the Establishment of a Gene Bank for medicinal plants and herbs in developing countries and Solar Energy Applications for fabrication of Small Refrigerators. The Summit had also directed that details of these projects be further elaborated for implementation by Expert Groups. The two projects proposal formulated by the Government of India were circulated to G-15 member countries in November, 1990.

- 2. A meeting of the Group of Experts from G-15 member countries was convened by the Government of India in New Delhi from Sep 23 to 25, 1991. This meeting was convened to refine and finalise these projects so that these can be presented to Heads of State Government at their Second Summit, scheduled to take place in Caracas from November 25 to 27, 1991.
- 3. The meeting was attended by Experts Senior Officials from Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, India, Mexico, Malaysia, Nigeria, Peru, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe. In addition, the meeting had received written comments from Jamaica.
- 4. Participants were welcomed by Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri I. P. Khosla who underlined the importance that India attaches to South-South Cooperation in general and the framework of cooperation embodied in the G-15 in particular. The meeting was anaugurated by Dr. Vasant Gowarikes, Adviser to the Prime Minister of India on Science and Technology.
- 5. Highlights of the meeting are given in the Annexure.

ANNEXURE

# ESTABLISHMENT OF GENE BANKS FOR MEDICINAL PLANTS AND HERBS IN DE/ELOPING COUNTRIES

Recognising that the G-15 countries are very rich in genetic resources which offer enormous potential for mankind in the form of healthcare and other benefits, these need to be conserved on a priority basis. Extinction of many valuable plant species is taking place very rapidly leading to genetic erosion and environmental damage. The G-15 countries expressed their utmost concern to check this erosion and adopt a conservation strategy.

- 2. The following are the main recommendations made by the experts:
- i) A network approach should be adopted and each country should identify and designate a focal point.
- ii) A Scientific Advisory Committee would be formed comprising eminent scientists and technologists as members;
- iii It was agreed that amongst G-15 countries, responsibility for coordination would be assumed regionwise. Brazil was recommended to perform a coordination role for Latin America, Egypt for Africa and India for Asia. The group reequsted India to continue to perform an interregional coordination role.

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- iv) It was agreed that a seed money "Trust Fund" be created to finance the activities identified for cooperation under the project.
- v) The scope of the project be expanded to include aromatic plants.

### Solar Energy Applications:

- 3. The discussion on the project included scope and relevence of solar energy programmes, applications and social relevance vis-avis availability of conventional energy, such as supply of drinking water, vaccine preservative, lighting, solar drying, food preparation and refrigeration systems in remote areas. It also encompassed market potential and economies of scale and allocation of funds for these activities.
- 4. Given the diversity of requirements in member countries, Experts felt that it would be necessary to enlarge the scope of the project to include other applications in addition to solar refrigeration.

For the purpose of coordination within the G-15 Group, each member country should designate a nodal agency with the initial responsibility of a set of minimum specifications on products of interest. These will be exchanged with a view to seeking the

involvement of prospective manufacturers by March, 1992. The Group recommended that India should compile the information provided by national nodal points and disseminate common information.

- 6. The following activities were recommended initially:
- i) Technical workshops on follow-up of the project.
- ii) Exchange of solar systems for field trials and testing.
- iii) Training and exchange of technical manpower.
- 7. Experts recommended that the Government of India revise the two projects to incorporate the above recommendations and submit it to Heads of State Government at their Second Summit in Caracas in November 1991 for approval

DIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC VENEZUELA ALGERIA ARGENTINA BRAZIL EGYPT INDONESIA MEXICO MALAYSIA NIGER NIGERIA PERU YUGOSLAVIA ZIMBABWE JAMAICA USA RUSSIA

**Date**: Sep 23, 1991

### **Volume No**

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

### Delegation to Pakistan

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 27, 1991:

A defence delegation from India led by Lt. Gen. Satish Nambiar, DGMO, visited Pakistan from 24 to 27 September 1991.

- 2. During its stay in Pakistan, the delegation called on Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Chairman-designate JCSC, Chief of Army Staff, Chief of Air Staff, Vice-Chief of Naval Staff, Foreign Secretary and Defence Secretary of the Government of Pakistan.
- 3. The delegation level talks between the two sides were held on 26 September, 1991. The Pakistan delegation was led by Lt. Gen. Pir Dad Khan, Director General, Staff Headquarters while the Indian delegation was led by Lt. Gen. Satish Nambiar, Director

General Military Operations.

4. Both the sides discussed matters of mutual concern and interest to them. The incidents of firing along the Line of Control were also taken up and measures to prevent their recurrence and to improve the situation in a meaningful manner was discussed. Both sides also agreed to establish further arrangements for contacts between specified sector commanders of the

armed forces of the two countries. Agreement was reached in principle on some other confidence boilding measures. These are expected to be discussed further and finalised during the forthcoming meeting of the Foreign Secretaries.

- 5. The talks were held in an atmosphere of cordiality and frankness.
- 6. It was agreed that exchange of military delegations between the two countries was in itself a useful confidence building measure. It was also felt that such exchange should continue as they constituted an important contributive factor to the overall efforts being undertaken by Governments of Pakistan and India, to defuse tension and to establish good neighbourly relations between the two countries.

KISTAN INDIA USA

**Date**: Sep 27, 1991

### **Volume No**

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### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

President Bush's Announcement of Measures on NucleahDisarmament

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 30, 1991:

The Government of India welcomes the announcement made by President Bush for the unilateral elimination by USA of another entire category of nuclear weapons, namely the ground-launched, short range nuclear weapons. We have also noted the proposals for further cuts in the strategic nuclear arsenals of USA and the Soviet Union. These along with the decision of the US Government

to withdraw all the sea-based nuclear cruise missiles and to lower the state of alert of its strategic nuclear forces, are steps towards reducing the danger of nuclear war. It may be recalled that the elimination of short range nuclear weapons constituted an important element of the Action Plan proposed by India in June, 1988 in the Third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament, as a step towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. We are therefore, encouraged to believe that these measures will accelerate the movement towards a nuclear-free world.

A INDIA

**Date** : Sep 30, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECHES

Inaugural Address at International Permit Meet 91

Inaugurating the International Permit Meet 1991, the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao said in New Delhi on Sep 04, 1991:

I am indeed very happy to be associated with this inaugural ceremony of the 5th International Permit Meet. I am very happy because I have been Minister for Sports for a number of years during which our late Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi literally gave a shot at the arms to sports in this country after a long time. It was he who insisted on making sports a part of the educational process, not merely on an optional basis but he insisted that it should be made compulsory.

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In sports, the basic sport as I said and as Mr. Kalmadi just now mentioned has not received the attention it deserves in India so far. It is high time that we make up for the lost time and we give full attention to atheletics. I am sure that India will in the near future take its rightful place among the sporting nations in the world.

I wish Mr. Kalmadi, his friends, organisers and of course the participants in the Meet all success. We are looking forward to the exciting programme that we have before us. God bless you all. I congratulate those who are participating in this event. I welcome on behalf of the Government of India, those of our

friends who have come from abroad to participate in the meet.

I now declare the 5th International Permit Meet 1990-91 open.

DIA USA

**Date** : Sep 04, 1991

### **Volume No**

1995

#### PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECHES

37th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference

Addressing the 37th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, said in New Delhi on Sep 23, 1991:

India is honoured to play host to the 37th Commonwealth Parliamentary conference which has brought together in its capital, distinguished Parliamentarians and Legislators from different countries belonging to the Commonwealth family. This is not the first time that India has been chosen as the venue of this august gathering. We have happy memories of previous Conferences held in New Delhi in 1957 and 1975 respectively. Let me extend to you, distinguished delegates, a very warm welcome to India: I wish you every success in your deliberations.

A Commonwealth gathering is always a remarkable event. It is like a family reunion of diverse nation, cultures and races spread across several continents. What we share and what brings us together are the noble ideals of freedom, justice and equality and common commitment to democracy and its implied values of tolerance and political accommodation. The Institution of Parliamentary democracy is another common legacy we all share and cherish.

Here in India, the institutions of Parliamentary democracy are both firm and deep-rooted. We have had ten General Elections to our national Parliament and several more to our State legislatures. The present Parliament is the 10th that has been constituted. We have witnessed several changes in Government and Governments being formed by different political parties, both at the Centre and in our States. We have been through turbulent times. We have had our share of national tragedies, including the recent tragic assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. The path that we have traversed since our independence has not been easy. I am

proud to say, however, that we have traversed that path with unwavering faith in democratic ideals and firm adherence to constitutional process. The verdict of the people has always been respected and as a result, the country has seen not only peaceful changes in Government but also proved that democracy provides a resilient mechanism for absorbing and overcoming even the most difficult crisis.

At this conference, therefore, we participate not only as the world's most populous democracy but as a people with a long and well-established tradition of a func--161>

tioning and tested Parliamentary democracy.

The 37th commonwealth Parliamentary Conference takes place at a time of profound international change. The old order has vanished. There are new stirrings of hope and optimism. We should welcome the many positive features in international relations. The confrontation between rival military alliances is now a thing of the past. The danger of a catastrophic nuclear war as a result of East-West conflict has now subsided. We have seen the beginnings towards reduction in stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction and a positive trend towards the resolution of conflicts in many parts of the world.

The motive force for these dramatic changes lies in the remarkable upsurge of the human spirit which, in country after country, has been demanding and achieving freedom, openness and democracy. For the Commonwealth family, this is a cause for celebration.

At the same time, there is need to pause and reflect upon the new international order that we want to bring into existence. Should it not also be based on the same principles of democracy that we uphold so zealously within our own countries? As Parliamentarians and Legislators we instinctively appreciate the need to accommodate the inherent plurality and complexity in our societies. The same applies to international relations as well.

The wide-ranging issues that concern us today, such as environment, control of drug trafficking, elimination of terrorism and the pervasive problem of poverty, all these demand global solutions. Such solutions will only be effective if they are based on genuine international cooperation; and international cooperation in today's world demands precisely that we respect pluralities of approaches and solutions. Multinational fora such as the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference provide opportunities for deliberations on these issues which affect all of us and call for collective responses.

This Conference will deliberate on many important issues. It has a large and varied agenda, ranging from the situation in South

Africa to the problems of Refugees to collective security under the UN system. Social issues such as enhancing health care, the menace of drugs and offences against women and children, will come under your focus. Environmental concerns will be debated. The exchange of ideas and experiences among distinguished delegates from so many countries will undoubtedly have a positive impact. It will not only lead to enhanced awareness but will also influence legislation for the collective good in many of our countries. There can be no doubt that the comulative effect will be to benefit not only the commonwealth Community but the wider international community as well.

May your deliberations be crowned with success.

### DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date** : Sep 23, 1991

### **Volume No**

1995

### PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECHES

Inauguration Address at Golden Jubilee Celebrations of CSIR

Inaugurating the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (C.S.I.R.), the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao said in New Delhi on Sep 26, 1991:

I am happy to be here today to celebrate the fiftieth birthday of CSIR. It is a happy occasion to reflect proudly on our achievements, an occasion to thank the myraid people, both high and low, who have contributed to make the CSIR one of the largest R&D organisations in the world. Equally, this is an occasion to look back and think whether CSIR has accomplished what its mandate had asked it to do and -162>

examine how CSIR can serve the nation better.

On this day, we pay tribute to Sir Ramaswamy Mudaliar and of course the great Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru who established and nurtured the CSIR during its early and formative years. Panditji was very clear in his mind on what the objectives of the CSIR and other research laboratories ought to be. While laying the foundation of this Institute in January 1947 - where we have assembled today - he succintly defined the objective of not only

the NPL (National Physical Laboratory) but in a sense CSIR laboratories when he said, "The Primary purpose of this Institute that rise on this site will be the removal of poverty of India's millions". It sounds so familiar. We have been saying this ever since he said this for the first time long ago. It is fortunate that in the initial years of its development, CSIR had a man of Panditji's vision and the preeminent Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, Director of the CSIR at the helm of its affairs. The credit for the expeditious and systematic establishment of a chain of laboratories for scientific and industrial research covering diverse areas mainly goes to these two giants.

Over the past fifty years, CSIR has succeeded in ushering in a culture of scientific research. CSIR has pioneered R&D in several new areas such as solar and wind energy, oceanography and molecular biology. Both on the scientific and technological sides, CSIR has an impressive record of achievements. It has also served as a training ground for many of the talented scientists and technologists now engaged in research and development.

Friends, here I venture to make a departure from the speech that I am supposed to deliver it is becoming increasingly difficult to do so. I was quite free some time back. I have to speak out my mind but I am becoming prisoner of

written speeches. But old habits die hard and I would like to make use of this opportunity at this point to say something which has been trampling in my mind, troubling me on science and technology.

In a country like India, where it is absolutely necessary but where it is very very costly sometimes, what do we do about it? I must tell you my credentials about talking of CSIR. I belong to one of the first batch of CSIR Districts. Way back in 1954-55 - I don't remember the year -there was a proposal. Collector of my district told us in one of our meetings that there is a proposal to adopt some districts in the country by the CSIR and, therefore, I am recommending this to the State Government in regard to our district, that it should be included. No one knew what the CSIR was and no one really cared when he told us. Then I came to know that this is a prestigious institution and a lot of benefits would come to the district, that is all we were interested in. So, I rushed to Hyderabad, got a little bit of pairavi done, and got that district included in the first list of CSIR districts. Then after a few years, I thought the district must have really been transformed as it was adopted by the CSIR. When I went there I didn't find anything like a transformation. I thought what has the CSIR been doing all these years.

I would like on this occasion to stick to the practice of releasing prisoners on auspicious days - was it Jewish; well, let us make it ours now - I would like to release the scientists from here, from the prisons of laboratories. Please go to the CSIR

Districts, let met have a report on how the districts are looking now - whether they are looking any better, worse, different from the next district. If the scheme is still in force because we have an uncanny method of changing schemes midway, if the scheme is still there, if my district still happens to be one of the districts adopted by CSIR, what has happened, For -163>

quite some time, except me and the collector, no one in the district, no third person in the district ever knew about the district having been adopted by the CSIR, so much for our public relations, so much for our contact with the people. Now, this is the most important aspect. Panditji told us that this is meant for the poor millions of India. So, where do we really relate, with whom do we really relate while doing the work of the CSIR?

Years and years I tried to understand how the district is being taken care of, what are the mechanics through which the people of the district are contacted, if ever; who takes care to see that their problems are understood first, who goes back to the field to tell them how a particular problem has been addressed, has been solved, has been tackled. None of these links seemed to exist. I really don't know what the position is now. I am talking about, say, twelve or fifteen years ago. I have been following up on this in relation to that particular district and I find, yet lots of improvements have come, lot of development has come and whatever other factors or the concomitant of development have also come, but I don't see the stamp of the CSIR in that district. That is my complaint.

It means that while we are doing a lot of research in the CSIR, the work, the research does not necessarily relate to the problems of the poorest of the poor in this country. This is the turn which the CSIR would be well-advised to take on this very auspicious occasion.

We have made great strides in technology, scientific research, there are no two opinions about that. I admire the work done, the hours of toil put in by our scientists. But I must say that they should reach the people and they should relate to the problems of the people.

We have been talking about vaccines. This is one of the standing demands I make on the scientific community. You have vaccines in this country, some being imported, some being made here. By the time this vaccine reaches the village, it looses its effect. It becomes water or I don't know what kind of liquid it becomes but it is no longer the vaccine. You have to have a cold chain starting from the State headquarters down to the last village in a tribal area where it has to be administered. This cold chain is broken through various causes which I don't have to describe. Why should this vaccine deteriorate with temperature? Now, that is my question to the scientific community. Don't tell me that I must

build a whole chain, the cold chain, and don't tell me if it looses its effect it is because of cold chain that has failed, I can't afford the cold chain right down to that village.

My ancestors, our ancestors, maybe 1000 years ago, 2000 years ago, prepared medicines which did not loose their efficacy with time, older the better. Why is it that we can't prepare vaccines like that in Ayurveda. If it is 200 years old medicine, it is considered more efficacious, it costs more, it is not available, it is available only in a very few places, with very few families with a long tradition, hereditory tradition of medicine. We think that an Ayurvedic pill if it is available for the same purpose would be much more acceptable and convenient to the people than a whole chain being constructed just to transmit from one point to another a small vial of vaccine. We just cannot afford it.

So, your technology, your scientific research should not only be relevant, it should also be affordable. If it is not affordable, I can't go on getting money from the IMF or the World Bank only to afford medicines, medicines that are not really suitable to my conditions. They may be good if I can afford them. If I can't, then what do I do? I can't remain backward.

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And, therefore, the challenge before our scientists, if anything, is different, is more formidable. It is not a question of getting something from outside, doing the reverse technology or reverse engineering and preparing something of your own, labelling it with something and selling it in India because it is a huge market here. This is something totally different.

We will have to redefine the goals of our research, the goals of our technology, what kind of technology is good for India.

I have been talking about tractors. We have Massey Ferguson, we have international, we have all the known tractors, but we don't have a tractor which can run or which can work in a two Acre piece. We need 200 acres for a tractor. We need 500 acres for a tractor. A tractor can plough 15 to 20 acres a day. If I don't have 15 to 20 acres what do I do with a tractor? So, I will have to go on with the plough. Is our small farmer going to be condemned to using the plough? Let us decide that. Make it a policy that the plough is going to be used for the next 100 years in this country. We don't do that. We do go in for tractorisation. It is available to those who own large tracts of land. We talk of land reforms. Now if people who want to keep land, get it written in the names of cats and dogs, why blame them. You produce a tractor for a two-acre-wallah, five-acrewallah, there will be no difficulty at all, he will be able to afford it, the banks will come to his rescue, but it should work. He can't go and hire a tractor from the town to plough his 2 acre land. So, he goes on with the traditional implements. I am talking of the tractor as representing the whole lot of

implements, not tractor alone. So, what is the economy, what is the scale, what is the kind of research and what are the kind of tools we want in this country. So, that is where thinking has to start in the field of scientific research.

Take solar energy. That is why I said it is very difficult, becoming increasingly difficult for me to speak out my mind. But when I am among the scientists I don't see how I can restrain myself. Every industrial exhibition will give you what has been done on solar energy. The models I have been seeing for the last fifteen years ... the same models or similar models come. Of course if it breaks then they have to make another, it can't be helped. If there is one field in which any amount of money can be put and it will be well-spent, that is solar energy. Anything done but in alternative sources of energy which is renewable, it will be a great boon for this country. I would thank that scientists on behalf of the coming generations, number of generations of India because they are serving something for them. You exhaust your goal, you exhaust your other sources and finally what are you left with the coming generations will be left with nothing. You go to nuclear energy. So, however does commendable work, not just the work which is being done by the other countries, asking for a factory of chips or something, the factory to be established here costing 2 thousand crores or something, then the Planning Commission saying, yes yes it should be run, the Finance Ministry saying no money. This is the rigmorale we are going through. It is here that the scientists has to make a breakthrough and give me something which makes use of the solar energy, that is something inexhaustable in this country. While we are making lot of profits on manufacturing airconditions and so on, to save yourself from the heat. For once can you not use this heat for something good. I think that is one area where massive investments could be made, provided there is a breakthrough. You give me the breakthrough, I will cut expenditure else-where - right, left and centre and put it in the Eighth Plan This is a deal with the scientists today I am making.

I have a village, I belong to a village, there is a small tank, ayucut is just 200\250 acres. If there is excess of rain, -165>

the tank is overflowing all the time three months four months. The seepage is so much that within two months, three months, the tank becomes half empty. So, for four months, I have excess water, I don't know what to do with it. For the next eight months, I have no water. Don't ask me to construct a dam, another Nagarjuna Sagar by the side of my village. I can't afford it, I can't do it, there is no space there. Tell me what I could do to use this water when it is available in excess, and what are the crops I can raise with scanty water during at least five of the next eight months. I am not asking for the whole year. I have been asking this question for 25 years now, I haven't got the answer. What are your cropping patterns? It varies from village

to village. I am talking scientifically now, I am not just talking as a farmer because this is the scientific need of the farmer. The village next to mine has a different soil, all black cotton soil, if you give the same prescription to him they will go broke. So, science, technology, research has to be needbased and that need for Heaven's sake can vary from individual to individual, village to village, taluga to taluga. So, it is that kind of a microplanning that is needed, microstudy that is needed, even for planning technology and scientific research. The big ones, yes, whatever has been done, hats off. I am one of the admirers. We will do everything to support whatever is being done, no question about that. But on the 50th year, I think I should give you a little homework for the next 50 years. Maybe, this breakthrough is necessary. It has to be Indian Research suited to Indian conditions taking into account the Indian problems, taking up Indian challenges and bringing about Indian solutions.

I thank you very much for having given me this opportunity. I have great pleasure in formally declaring the inauguration of the CSIR's Golden Jubilee celebrations.

A INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC RUSSIA

**Date**: Sep 26, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

**SAARC** 

SAARC Workshop on "Technology Information Linkages"

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 24, 1991:

A 2-day SAARC Workshop on "Technology Information and its Linkages" began here today. Besdes India, it is being attended by delegates from Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan. They are discussing among other things, plans, policies and perspectives, initiatives undertaken in Science & Technology Information, Biotechnology Information System and Information Networks.

The SAARC Workshop is being held as a sequel to the decision taken by the Standing Committee of SAARC.

SAARC has identified so far 12 (Twelve) sectors of cooperation. These are: Agriculture, Health and Population Activities,

Meteorology, Postal Services, Prevention of Drug Trafficking and Drug Abuse, Rural Development, Science and Technology, Sports, Arts and Culture, Telecommunication, Transport, Women in Development and Education.

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Separate Study Groups were formed for the formulation and coordination of cooperative activities in each sector within the region.

The First Meeting of the Study Group on Science and Technology which took place in Islamabad during June 16-19, 1982 identified and recommended 14 (Fourteen) possible areas of cooperation. These are:

Science Policy, Energy, Food Technology, Transfer and Adaptation of Appropriate Technology, Survey of Natural Resource and Remote Sensing, Forestry Development and Erosion Control, Mining and Ore Beneficiation, Micro-electronics, Marine Sciences, Instrumentation (including repair and maintenance), Solar Technology, Genetic Engineering, Environment (with special reference to pollution control) and Informatics.

The recommendations were ratified in the Third Meeting of the Foreign Secretaries held in August 1982 in Islamabad. In this Meeting, the Study Groups were renamed as Working Groups which were entrusted with the responsibility of formulating and implementing the regional programmes on the identified areas.

The First Meeting of the Working Group on Science and Technology was held in Islamabad during November 22-24, 1982. The Meeting discussed immediate and long-term cooperation programmes on the 14 identified areas in the form of:

Exchange of experts, training, scholarships, seminars and workshops, and joint projects of regional nature.

During the period of eight years of its existence, the Committee has been able to implement with variable degree of success a good number of activities on some of the 14 identified areas formulated in its previous seven Meetings. The activities were in the form of:

A Regional Directory of S&T Activities, Seminars/Workshops, Joint Research Projects, Training, and State-of-the-art Reports.

DIA BANGLADESH NEPAL PAKISTAN USA

**Date**: Sep 24, 1991

### **Volume No**

1995

#### SAARC

Tenth Meeting of SAARC Technical Committee on Rural Development

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 27, 1991:

Time bound and well identified target oriented programmes were recommended at the tenth meeting of the SAARC Technical Committee on Rural Development held here on 25th-26th September. Poverty alleviation, employment, human resource development, organisation of rural poor, women in development, sustainable rural development, environment and technology transfer were identified as priority areas. Based on these priority items, members of the committee could formulate specific programmes for the nineties.

In order to activate the SAARC Youth Volunteers Programme (SYVOP), it was decided that every member country would come out with a clear programme of SYVOP during next meeting of the Technical Committee on Rural Development, for the year 1993 in their respective country. India has volunteered to take up a SAARC Youth Volunteer Programme during 1992.

Recommendations of a calendar of activities for implementation during 1992 were also made. These will be finalised by the Standing Committee scheduled to meet in Colombo in November 1991. -167>

DIA USA SRI LANKA

**Date** : Sep 27, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### SAARC

SAARC Meeting on Trends in Bio-Technology

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 12, 1991:

A 3-Day meeting of Experts from SAARC countries began in New

Delhi today. They are discussing among other things, co-operation in Science & Technology among SAARC countries and also trends in Biotechnology. During the 3-day deliberations subjects like agriculture bio-technology, biological pest control, biofertilizers, environmental biotechnology, animal husbandry and medical biotechnology will be discussed. Experts from SAARC countries will also visit some of the research institutes in India to acquaint themselves with the latest developments.

In the opening remarks, the Adviser, Department of Biotechnology, Dr. Manju

Sharma said that biotechnology applications became important to tackle the problems of developing countries. The purpose of the meeting of experts from SAARC countries is to identify areas of co-operation in the fields of agriculture biotechnology, aquaculture, waste-recycling etc.

In a message to the SAARC Expert Group meeting, the Secretary - General SAARC, Shri K. K. Bhargava said that the Fifth SAARC Summit held in Male last November had noted the vital importance of biotechnology for the long-term food security of developing countries as well as medicinal purposes and had decided that there should be co-operation in these fields among SAARC countries.

DIA USA MALDIVES

**Date** : Sep 12, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

SAARC

UNESCO Literacy Award for West Bengal

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 03, 1991:

UNESCO has decided to award International Literacy Prize for the year 1991 to the State Government of West Bengal. The nomination of the State Government was recommended by the Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO keeping in view the significant initiative taken in a number of districts in the State to launch mass campaigns for total literacy and particularly the achievements made in Burdwan and Midnapore districts.

The Prizes will be awarded to a representative of the State Government by Director General, UNESCO at a ceremony in Paris on September 9, 1991. The prizes worth \$ 10,000 is entitled NOMA Prize and is one of the five prizes instituted by UNESCO under the International Literacy Award, which are given annually in recognition of the services of institutions, organisations or individuals displaying out-standing merit and achieving special success in contributing to the fight against illiteracy. Last year UNESCO awarded KING SEJONG literacy prize worth \$30,000 to the Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad, Trivandrum on the recommendations of the Indian National Commission for cooperation with UNESCO.

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#### DIA FRANCE

**Date** : Sep 03, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### VICE PRESIDENT'S SPEECHES

#### Conference of Members from Small Countries

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 21, 1991:

The Vice President, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma inaugurated the 11th Conference of the Members from Small Countries, which is a prelude to the forthcoming Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentarians in New Delhi.

In his inaugural address, the Vice President said:

"I am delighted to be among friends from the Commonwealth family gathered here in New Delhi. The small countries constitute a significant section of the Commonwealth group of nations. It is true that they have to face several problems that are peculiar to them. The common constraints that hinder their development and make them particularly vulnerable can only be minimised by mutual sharing of views and collective efforts. I am sure that the deliberations of this Conference will be purposeful exercise in this regard.

It is indeed difficult to define smallness, yet over the years, factors like geographical size, accessibility, economic resources, market size and degree of political development have

come to influence one's perception about smallness. Today, a cutoff level of a population of one million is generally accepted as
a working definition for studying the problems of small states.
Friends, an under-developed political system, a fragile and
vulnerable economic infrastructure and a staggering society
struggling hard for its indentity, are some of the traits that
immediately come to one's mind while thinking about small
countries of the world. Today, when a small portion of the
world's population is enjoying the fruits of democracy,
industrialization and the most advanced scientific knowhow, it is
indeed ironic that the majority of the nations are struggling to
retain their identity.

Friends, it is well-known that about ninety per cent of the small countries still rely mainly on the export of their primary products to sustain their economies. The prices of primary commodity in the international market being very low, these countries find it extremely difficult to meet their development targets. Again, the majority of the small countries also suffer from an unfavourably ratio between their populations on the one hand and their capital and natural resources on the other, resulting in a low standard of living and extensive unemployment or under-employment. There is a growing need for external aid to build the infrastructure of these countries.

Some of the small states have also to contend with threats to their territorial integrity and sovereignty. It is a matter of satisfaction that the Commonwealth is playing a pioneering role in drawing attention of the small countries to their special needs. It is, therefore, a major task requiring imaginative approaches and a continuing process of innovation.

The Consultative Group of Common-wealth Parliamentary Association, since its inception in 1984, has been providing us with a detailed study of the position of small states in global socety and has come up with valuable suggestions for their betterment. You may recall that Commonwealth Heads of Government at their meeting in Melbourne in 1981 had noted with -169>

concern the particularly difficult economic and trading situation faced by small and poor countries and urged the member Governments and Commonwealth Secretariat to strengthen their economies by providing needed assistance to them. The Commonwealth Secretariat accordingly began new ventures in small developing countries, some in collaboration with individual member countries, while strengthening some others.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting held in New Delhi in 1983 also discussed the problems of small states extensively. The Goa Declaration on International Security, adopted at the conclusion of the New Delhi Summit said:

"We are particularly concerned at the vulnerability of small states to external attack and interference in their affairs. These countries are members of the international community which must respect their independence and, at the very least, have a moral obligation to provide effectively for their territorial intergity. We have separately agreed on an urgent study of these issues. Additionally, however, we will play our part in helping the international community to make an appropriate response to the UN Secretary General's call for strengthening of collective security in keeping with the Charter."

In an effort to impement the ideals imbibed in the Goa Declaration, Commonwealth Secretariat has undertaken study of the special needs of the small countries in consonance with their right to sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Friends, a variety of parliamentary systems operate in Commonwealth nations, each one of us having adopted a system to suit our own needs. I am of the opinion that a political system which is not responsive to the needs of the people and which falls to maintain a regular dialogue with the people, can never be stable or strong enough to face internal as well as external challenges. The issue of national security is thus inextricably linked with the political health of a nation. There is, therefore, a need for small countries to strengthen their parliamentary systems in order to face the threats to national security effectively.

One of the major threats to any democratic system comes from economic inequality and under-development. Absence of a sound economic base weakens the very foundations of a society. Almost all developing countries in general and small countries in particular share the basic problem of restricted domestic markets, which makes them vulnerable to international economic influences. I am sure that if all the small developing states come together on a common platform, they can go a long way in dealing with these problems. Developing countries, therefore, should work together to gain reciprocal trade benefits from the industrialised world.

Another impediment to the development of small states is that long-term low-interest finance is often not forthcoming. Past experience has shown that raising of the finances at high interest rates, adds to strains on weak economies. The suggestion to create a Commonwealth Development Fund, to which all members might, according to their capacity, contribute for the benefit of small developing countries to encourage local production and to reduce small countries' dependence on limited export products and markets, is a laudble one.

The Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation devotes more than half of its resources to the support of our small brethren. It has also given extensive technical assistance to regional

organisations like the Carribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States,
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the South Pacific Commission and the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Cooperation. Over two-thirds of the industrial projects assisted by the Commonwealth Secretariat's Industrial Development Unit have been in small states.

Benefits of cooperation can never be over emphasised. Members of Common-wealth can pool their resources to handle many more problems like spread of education, population control, educating the

masses on drug abuse and other social evils. The Commonwealth has, indeed, assumed a leading role in articulating and addressing the problems of small states.

I am happy to inaugurate this Conference and am confident that it will prove to be another milestone in our joint efforts of cooperation for building a better future for the people of our country and indeed of the whole world."

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DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date**: Sep 21, 1991

## **October**

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**Date**: Oct 01, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### **CYPRUS**

Defence Minister of Cyprus Visits India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 31, 1991:

Defence Minister of Cyprus, H.E. Andreas Aloneftis who is on a brief visit to India called on the Defence Minister, Shri Sharad Pawar here today. The two leaders exchanged views on a variety of subjects. Shri Pawar expressed the hope that the visit will pave the way for increased inter-action and cooperation between the two countries.

Mr. Aloneftis subsequently held detailed discussions with a team of Government of India officers led by the Minister of State for Defence, Shri S. Krishna Kumar.

Mr. Aloneftis also laid a wreath at the samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi and at Amar Jawan Jyoti. During their stay, the visiting delegation would visit a few defence installations besides places of tourist interest. The team is leaving India on November 5, 1991.

PRUS USA INDIA

**Date**: Oct 31, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER'S SPEECHES

Speech made by External Affairs Minister at the Dinner in Honour of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania

The following is the text of speech by External Affairs Minister at the dinner in honour of His Excellency Mr. Adrian Nastase, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania on Oct 30, 1991 in New Delhi:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome the Foreign Minister of Romania and his delegation to India. Mr. Nastase's visit is significant in more than one respect. It is the first visit to India of the Foreign Minister of Romania since the dramatic events in that country in December 1989 and the establishment thereafter of a democratic polity in Romania.

Mr. Liviu Radu, the Deputy Chief of Mission in the Romanian Embassy in Delhi, is not unfortunately present here today. It is a matter of great regret for us. May I once again take this opportunity of reassuring the people and Government of Romania that the Government of India is taking all conceivable measures

to ensure his safe and early release. I am certain that justice will prevail and those responsible for the dastardly kidnapping -173>

will, recognising the inhuman nature of their act, release Mr. Radu at the earliest.

Your Excellency's visit has enabled us to have an extensive exchange of views on recent developments in international relations, the prospects for the evolution of international relations and issues of bilateral cooperation. You have also had the opportunity of calling on our President, Prime Minister, and several of my Cabinet colleagues.

Excellency, your visit has given a new impetus to our bilateral cooperation. A new Cultural Exchange Programme with Romania is expected to be signed in the near future. Our Joint Commission would also be meeting shortly. We thus expect a new dynamism to enter our relations.

Excellency, there is much that we can share in our efforts at improving the quality of life of our peoples. We share a commitment to democratic principles and to economic modernisation. In India, we have undertaken sweeping changes to re-structure and further liberalise our economy. We are removing controls, lifting protestionist barriers, and opening the way for gainful foreign investment. Transfer of technology and enhanced interaction with the world economy are major priorities for us today. We are convinced that, given our manpower base, our natural resources, a sizeable market, and a sound industrial infra-structure, we can in the next few years greatly enhance our economic growth and become a significant economic entity in Asia and indeed in the world.

I trust your stay in India has been comfortable. We would have liked you to stay with us a little longer so that you could have a better view of the diversity, vibrancy and progress in India. But, I am sure, there will surely be other opportunities for that in the future.

Excellency, may I once again welcome you to India, and wish you a happy stay in our country. Friends, may I request you to join me in a toast:

- to the health and happiness of H.E. the Foreign Minister of Romania, and
- for the further enhancement of Indo-Romanian cooperation and friendship.

AN ROMANIA INDIA USA

**Date**: Oct 30, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

#### **EEC Ambassador Presents Credentials**

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 01, 1991:

The first Ambassador-designate of the Delegation of European Economic Community (EEC) to India, H.E. Mrs. Francine Henrich presented her Credentials to the President, Shri R. Venkataraman at Rashtrapati Bhavan today.

Welcoming the new Ambassador of the EEC, the President Shri R. Venkataraman said that both India and EEC have -174>

similar foundations and share common values. They subscribe to the principles of democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights and free enterprise. He said that India and EEC are examples of unity in diversity and work for a peaceful, stable and equitable work.

Shri Venkataraman said that India was watching with great interest the evolution of EEC and lauded its proposals for evolving a monetary and political union as also a common foreign policy.

Shri Venkataraman appreciated the generous assistance given by the EEC to India in agriculture, dairy development, environment and rural development. He also mentioned the bilateral cooperation extended to new areas like industry, electronics, telecommunications, tourism and fisheries, Shri Venkataraman hoped that it will be extended to areas in science and technology where India and EEC have many complementaries.

#### TRADE

The President expressed his satisfaction over the steady increase in trade of India with the EEC. In fact, EEC, he said, was the largest trading partner of India. He was confident that it will pick up further particularly after the emergence of a single market system after December 1992.

Earlier, H.E. Mrs. Francine Henrich, the new Ambassador designate

said that the community enjoyed excellent relations with India and its members had a long fruitful partnership. She added that the EEC had now enhanced and given an extra dimension to the existing traditional partnership.

She informed Shri Venkataraman that one third of India's imports were from the EEC. She reiterated that India was the largest single recipient of the Community's assistance and the largest Communityaided project in the world related to Operation Flood Programme.

Mrs. Francine Henrich stated that besides cooperation in many fields, Micro Projects through non-governmental organisations were also active in the social field, In fact, the commercial cooperation agreement of 1973 enlarged in 1981, served as a model for commercial and economic cooperation of EEC with a number of other countries.

She highlighted the programmes to upgrade standards, improve energy efficiency, working together in High-Techelectronics and Telecommunication Projects, sharing expertise in management education and improving export prospects in promising sectors. She mentioned in particular the scheme of Fellowships and Projects in scientific fields, which was rewarding.

The EEC Ambassador said, that Europe was facing great changes with many challenges. She noticed that India had grappled with these changes and challenges with profound vigour.

DIA USA

Date : Oct 01, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### **EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY**

Indo-EEC Technical Workshop on Processed Food Industry

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 28, 1991:

Shri B. K. Goswami, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution has said that India's share of the US \$ 396 billion spent by the Unified EEC on imports is only 0.8% of the amount. India has a major deficit in its trade with the community, the ratio of its export to import being 0.6. He,

therefore, emphasised the need not only to protect our share but also to increase it significantly
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to bridge the trade gap. Delivering the presidential address at the Indo-EEC Technical Workshop on Processed Food Industry here today, he also stressed upon the need to upgrade quality of Indian products as there was fierce competition amongst the developing countries to capture a share of the huge market of the community.

Inaugurating the Workshop, Shri N. R. Krishnan, Addl. Secretary, Department of Industrial Development, Ministry of Industry pointed out that food was one of the major items being exported to EEC countries, the chief areas amongst these being tea, coffee, marine products, tobacco, fresh and dry fruits, fresh and processed vegetables, spices and some amount of basmati rice, oilseeds and meat. However, scope still existed for augmenting exports, especially in the areas of fresh and processed fruits and vegetables, rice and cereal based processed food items. To meet these challenges, Shri Krishnan stated that our strategies included strengthening of the standardization and quality culture in the Indian industry, besides improving the technology and infra-structural facilities. Upgrading quality of our inspection and testing centres to obtain accreditation of our laboratories and recognition of our test reports by EEC Industrial Cooperation would go a long way in improving our capabilities in various areas to meet the European as well as world market needs, he added.

In his keynote address Mr. Luis GONZALEZ VAQUE, Principal Administrator, Food Products Division, Commission of the European Communities, DG III. (Internal Market and Industrial Affairs) Brussels, pointed out that for achieving a common market for the food sector, the Commission's strategies essentially consisted in combining the adoption of harmonized rules at EEC level, which are applicable to all food stuffs marketed in the European Community, with the pprinciple of mutual recognition of national regulations and standards for metals which do not require the adoption of Community legislative measures. Horeover, he added that the EC Commission intends to promote a policy of product quality at the EC level. In this context it is necessary to provide for a community frame work for prescribing approval procedures and mutual recognition of quality levels and of claims permitting the recognition of quality products and products of characteristics or traditional origin or manufacture, he said.

The two-day Technical Workshop on processed Food Sector under the Indo-EEC Cooperation Programme jointly being organized by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the European Economic Commission is being attended by top management personnel from the industry, testing laboratories, certification and inspection organizations and Government departments involved in regulatory

and policy planning functions. A similar Workshop will be held at Cochin on 31 October and 1 November 1991.
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#### A INDIA BELGIUM RUSSIA

**Date**: Oct 28, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATIONS

FAO Conference on Jute

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 22, 1991:

Shri Ashok Gehlot, Minister of State for Textiles, today urged the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and other such international organisations to provide increased assistance for the development of the jute sector. Presiding over the 27th Session of the Intergovernmental Group of the Committee on Commodity Problems of the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), which opened here today, Shri Gehlot said that the steps taken by such organisations would help increase the consumption of jute which in turn would directly result in increasing the well being of the jute-growing farmers, jute mill workers and artisans of the handloom and handicraft sectors who were dependent on jute for their livelihood.

Referring to the difficult times that the jute sector had gone through in the last few years, Shri Gehlot recalled that the then Prime Minister, Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had adopted a 3-pronged strategy for the evitalisation of the jute sector, by making the packaging of foodgrains and other products in jute to be mandatory, by establishing a Fund for the modernisation requirements of the jute industry and by giving special encouragement for the development and marketing of diversified jute products. Shri Gehlot stressed that these three strategies were equally vital even today for the revival and rejuvenation of the jute sector. The difficulties experienced by the jute sector were confined not only to India but held good in the other jute producing countries as well and hence, the need for increased assistance from FAO and others, he added.

Shri Gehlot assured that the government was taking all possible steps for the all-round development of the jute sectors and significant progress had been achieved in this regard in the last few years. Diversification programmes, in particular, had not only given a new lease of life to the jute industry but also added to its earnings.

The Minister, however, made it clear that the future of jute lay in increasing its consumption for which he sought the cooperation of bodies like the FAO. "If the jute producing countries are able to secure the latest technology then they can not only make the production of traditional jute goods more cost effective but would also be able to manufacture new diversified jute products. This would not only help revive the jute industry but would also increase the demand for new jute resulting in more remunerative prices to the jute farmers," he said.

In this context, Shri Gehlot said he was confident that the holding of the Annual Session of the Intergovernmental Group of FAO on jute and allied fibres would help in formulating a concrete Action Plan for the development of the jute sector, with special emphasis on increasing the consumption of jute.

Earlier, inaugurating the session, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, said that the recent changes in the trade, industrial and fiscal policies of the Government are likely to have far reaching effects on the Indian economy and he was sure that the jute industry will take full advantage of these reforms. The Textile Secretary, Shri K. N. Ardhanareeswaran asked the Jute Community to invest adequate funds for re -177>

search and development in exploring avenues to increase the diversified end uses of jute. This would not only maintain the present level of consumption of jute but would also increase earnings due to increased value addition on production of diversified jute goods. A comprehensive campaign needs to be launched to dispel the notion that synthetic materials are less costly than jute by propagating the fact that jute is a renewable source of raw material, that far less energy is utilised in its production and that jute can be reused which together make it less expensive than synthetics, he said. About 90 delegates from 30 countries are participating in the Conference.

DIA USA RUSSIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date: Oct 22, 1991

# **Volume No**

#### FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATIONS

#### FAO Study on Trade in Jute

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 28, 1991:

Jute exporting countries should closely monitor the emerging scenario in East Europe and the USSR in order to devise alternative strategies to adapt to changing situations in the region. This is among the main conclusions of a Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) study on Trade in Jute and Recent Policy Changes in East European countries and the USSR, circulated here at the current 27th session of the FAO Intergovernmental group on Jute and Allied Fibres. The study says that if the present barter trade agreements for jute trade are not extended after the expiry of their present terms, the volume of trade would most probably decline as foreign exchange availability of these countries could continue to be scarce for some time to come. However, the mutual complementarity of interests between some of the major jute markets of East Europe including the USSR and jute exporting countries might encourage the continuity of the present barter trade arrangements, particularly since modifications in packaging tchnology entail far reaching changes in distribution techniques and infrastructure, for which a relatively lengthy implementation period is required.

In addition, it says that some scope might exist for establishing jute processing industries in the major markets of East Europe and the USSR on a joint venture basis. In the short run, jute exporting countries should also consider the possibility of implementing programmes to highlight the technical and environmental merits of jute products and promote the use of non-traditional products, such as geo jute, jute carpets and jute fashion goods.

Eastern Europe and the USSR accounted for about 17 per cent of world imports of jute products in 1989. Among the developed regions, these countries represented the second largest import market after Western Europe.

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DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date**: Oct 28, 1991

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Seminar on Population Policy for Asia and Pacific Region

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 28, 1991:

The thrust of our new population policy would be to evolve the programme as a multi-sectoral programme with special focus on improvement of female literacy, increasing the share of women in non-agricultural employment, increasing the age of marriage of females, provision of social security mechanism, developing linkages with other socio-economic development plans of the country and improvement of quality of reach of family planning services in rural areas and urban slums", said Smt. D. K. Thara Devi Siddhartha, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare. She was inaugurating RAPID III Seminar on "New Approaches to Population Policy and Family Planning Analysis" for the Asia and Pacific Region here today.

The Minister lauded the significant success of an integrated maternal and child health care programme including the universal immunisation programme. As a result, infant mortality rate has declined from 146 per thousand live births in 1951 to just 91 per thousand in 1989. Total fertility rate has declined from 5.97 in 1950-55 to 4.0 in 1988, crude birth rate has declined from 41.7 in 1951-61 to 30.6 in 1989. The percentage of eligible couples now practising contraceptives has risen from 10.4 per cent in 1970-71 to 44.1 per cent in 1991.

The Minister revealed that comprehensive reviews in consultation with the expert bodies and the State Governments conducted with a view to imparting a new dynamism to the population control efforts in the country. She also asked for the participation of the non-governmental organisations to make the population control programme a success as at present the primary responsibility of implementing the programme is with the State Governments in India.

Smt. Siddhartha emphasised the need to develop systems at the grass root level to enable interaction between the bureaucratic system and the people, for educating the people, to get their wholehearted support, cooperation and participation in the programme. She also asked to explore the possibilities to bring closer bureaucracy and the people so that the family planning programme may be converted into the programme of the people for achieving the desired results.

To meet the challenge of population explosion, it is intended to

evolve high level bodies at national and State levels for better inter-sectoral coordination, involvement of voluntary sector and greater community participation. The strategies would also include vigorous promotion of spacing methods and popularise contraception to cover younger couples with higher fertility potential.

Mr. Thomas Goliber, Director, RAPID III Project, in his introductory remarks appreciated the efforts and political will of India to tackle the problem of growing population. Dr. James Kocher of Research Triangle Institute also spoke on the occasion.

The experts from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan,

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Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand are participating in this conference. The six-day conference from October 28 to November 2, 1991 will deliberate on the new approaches to population policy and also review and discuss the contribution of fertility decline to socioeconomic development in the region.

A INDIA MALDIVES CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC BANGLADESH INDONESIA NEPAL PAKISTAN GUINEA PAPUA NEW GUINEA PHILIPPINES SRI LANKA THAILAND

**Date**: Oct 28, 1991

# Volume No

1995

#### MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SPEECHES

Inaugural Speech made to Mark the 46th Anniversary Celebrations of the UN

The following is the text of the Inaugural speech made bp Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Eduardo Faleiro to mark the 46th anniversary celebrations on the United Nations on Oct 24, 1991 at New Delhi:

The achievements of the United Nations during the last 46 years have been widely acknowledged. In less than half a century, the UN has emerged as the conscience of mankind. Millions of people who were under alien and colonial domination at the time of the founding of the UN secured their right to self-determination because of the efforts of the organisation. The newly independent nations which joined the UN in large numbers depended on it to safeguard their freedom and national sovereignty. The oppressed

masses of the world found a ready response from the General Assembly to their anguished appeals. Over the years, the UN established standards and norms of international conduct, seeking to highlight if not eradicate, injustice in the international arena. The UN has not been able to prevent all wars, but it has certainly helped to prevent a global conflagration by providing a forum to discussions and negotiations. To a large measure, it has served its fundamental purpose of safeguarding international peace and security.

In the new era of cooperation, the UN has been particularly successful in its efforts at peace-making and peace-keeping. The unanimity among the Permanent Members of the Security Council, further strengthened by the virtual agreement of all the Members of the Council on several issues, has enabled the UN to take decisive action as in the case of the Gulf crisis. There is greater possibility now than ever before for the UN to judge international issues on merits rather than on considerations of individual national interest. Progress has been made in the resolution of a number of crisis situations. In Central America, Nicaragua and El Salvador have ceased to be arena of conflict nd tenson. Peace has dawned in Angola with the signing of an accord between the parties concerned. In Cambodia, one of the largest UN operations with multi-dimensional functions, is about to be launched. Cyprus and Afghanistan also seem to be moving towards a peaceful settlement. In Western Sahara, a UN organised referendum is about to take place. There have been welcome developments even in the case of the intractable question of Palestine. The UN has indeed been the catalyst of positive movement in all these areas.

Of equal significance, particularly from the point of view of the developing world, the UN has established the close linkage between peace and prosperity. The various specialised agencies of the UN have made a significant contribution to the economic and social development of deve--180>

loping countries. The impact of programmes as diverse as providing drinking water to remote villages in Asia or Africa or the immunisation of children in Latin America is less spectacular than that of prevention of war or reversal of aggression, but its long-term effect in promoting human development should not be underestimated. Poverty and under-development cause as much human misery and suffering as war and in the decades to come, it is to be hoped that the international community will strengthen the capabilities of the UN system in promoting a just and equitable international order.

These are the days of reform everywhere in the world and the UN is no exception. Indeed, reform proposals involving a review of the UN Charter have been in the air for many years. The very fact that the UN Charter has stood the test of time with minimum amendments is testimony to the basic strength and resilience of

the Charter. The provisions of the Charter, sometimes imaginatively and innovatively interpreted, have enabled the main organs of the UN to deal with a multiplicity of situations. For instance, an unprecedented set of new activities is being envsaged by the UN to deal with the aftermath of the Gulf War. As long as the necessary checks and balances are applied and the national sovereignty of member countries is safeguarded, the organisation can deal with new situations in new ways without fundamental changes in the Charter. Enthusiasm for reform should not result in curtailing sovereignty or intrusive interference in the internal affairs of States.

Considerable reform has been attempted recently in the economic and social spheres. Care should be taken not to dismantle U. N. structures in these fields which have served useful functions in the past. These structures were created for certain purposes with specific mandates. Our effort should be to strengthen these structures with a view to enabling them to perform functions more effectively.

At the same time, the U.N. has to take into account the fundamental changes in the power structure of the world and the phenomenal growth in the membership of the organisation. A review of the membership of the organisation. A review of the membership of the principal organs of the U.N., particularly the Security Council, is imperative to reflect the new realities. The U.N. should be truly representative of the interests and aspirations of all its members and it should be a forum for cooperative action of all nations and peoples. As the Nonaligned Movement has recently reiterated at Accra, the current efforts at reform of the United Nations should include measures to make the decision-making process more democratic and transparent. In this context, the U.N. should examine the proposals before it for an expansion of the Security Council.

India has been steadfast in its commitment to multilateralism and to the U.N. as the only universal multilateral framework dedicated to peace, disarmament, decolonisation and development. We have consistently played an active role in the various bodies of the U.N. and have supported, in whatever way we can, the activities of the U.N. and its specialised agencies. Our defence personnel are presently deployed in a number of U.N. Peace-keeping operations in different parts of the world. We have been the beneficiaries of development activities of U.N. agencies in India. This very month, India has the privilege of presiding over the Security Council at a time when important issues such as the elections of the new Secretary General of the U.N. are under consideration.

On this occasion, I would like to pay a special tribute to the outgoing Secretary General of the U.N., H.E. Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar and the entire international

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civil service for their untiring efforts to faciliate into action the decisions taken by the various bodies of the U.N. system. I would also like to place on record our appreciation of the work of the various U.N. agencies in India. We should rejoice on the occasion of this happy anniversary of the United Nations and pledge to work together for strengthening the organisation further in the service of mankind.

Thank you.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC EL SALVADOR NICARAGUA ANGOLA CAMBODIA AFGHANISTAN CYPRUS GHANA

**Date**: Oct 24, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SPEECHES

Inaugural Speech at the inauguration of Round Table on "Indiaandthe developing Countries"

The following is the text of the speech made by Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Eduardo Faleiro, at the inauguration of Round Table on "India and the Developing Countries" conducted by KPS Menon Memorial Society - on Oct 21, 1991 in New Delhi:

India's identification with the Developing World today is more an article of faith than a mere discription of the current state of our economic development. The Developing World consists of countries which are at varying degrees of agricultural, industrial and scientific development, embracing in its fold the Least Developed Countries, micro states with little natural resources, medium countries struggling for survival and major countries like India with their size, population and economic potential which stand in a separate category altogether. One of the ten most industrialised countries with the third largest reservoir of trained manpower in the world, India's problems and concerns are not the same as those of the smaller and less developed countries. But, having committed ourselves to the concept of the indivisibility of prosperity, India has identified itself with the problems of the poorest of the poor nations and struggled to voice their aspirations in the world for through the Movement of Nonaligned Countries and the Group of 77. In our view, world development and prosperity would become meaningful only if all nations, big and small, are enabled to realise their full potentials.

The international situation has undergone a profound transformation. The Postwar political order, marked by ideological and military confrontation between the two powerful blocs, has dramatically altered. Democratic movements have swept across Eastern Europe leading to the collapse of political and social structures that had existed for over four decades. Germany has been reunited and the European continent itself is progressing towards economic integration which would not have seemed possible just 5 years back. The vast expanse of the Soviet Union is in the throes of such political and economic restructuring, that totally new approaches are necessitated to deal with this unprecedented development.

The cold war between the East and West has ended and there is an increasing trend towards dialogue replacing confrontation, trust replacing suspicion and above all peace and cooperation replacing strife and discord. There is also an increasing tendency towards the creation and strengthening of regional economic groupings, particularly among developed countries. The rapid emergence of Europe 92, with the possibility of the 12 European Free Trade Area (EFTA) nations and East European countries joning it at some stage to create an economic groupings encompassing all of Europe; the increased economic cooperation among the countries of South-East Asia (Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Newly Industrialised Countries and Japan -182>

in the Forum of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Conference; and the creation of the North America Free Trade Area (NAFTA) (US, Canada and by end 1992 Mexico) as a significant regional grouping straddling both Americas, are pointers towards the increased regionalisation in global economies. This new international order, therefore, entails pressures on the developing countries. India and the developing countries must bear in mind that in this increasingly interdependent world, the cherished ideals of peace, freedom, social justice and economic well being are best attained by fostering good understanding, good neighbourliness and meaningful cooperation amongst themselves.

The present international situation presents a complex and uncertain environment for the developing countries where there will be new opportunities but also increased vulnerabilities arising out of the vast inequalities which continues to plague our planet. Development is the most important challenge facing the human race. Development concerns must address themselves to the removal of economic disparities; and to evolving a new and more equitable economic order; proposals for financial and monetary reforms, North South Negotiations, South-South Cooperation and considered plans of action for the removal of global want and poverty. At the CHOGM in Harare, Prime Minister Narasimha Rao emphasised that the economic development of the

needy nations must not be overlooked.

As I said before, the world today has become much more interdependant than before and a country would be ill advised to act alone.

This interdependence is becoming increasingly more palpable in the sphere of global economics. The major decisions concerning production and distribution, capital and technological flows today are taken not on a national but on a global basis. However, greater world wide economic integration should not penalise or marginalise those developing countries which are not yet part of the process.

While it is acknowledged that every country must undertake those essential changes to provide a favourable climate for economic growth, it must be conceded that the vigorous effort by the developing countries should be complemented by their more developed partners. As far as we in India are concerned, our Government has initiated fundamental reforms in our economic, industrial and trade policies with a view to stimulate production, encourage foreign investment and trade, reduce fiscal and other imbalances and give a fillip to private enterprises. However, such efforts of the developing countries are vitally dependent on the external economic environment.

The developing countries are becoming increasingly vulnerable with inadequate financial and resource flows, worsening terms of trade, problems in access to advanced technologies and continued protectionism and discriminatory trade policies. Thus it is imperative that the developing countries show solidarity to bring about the promotion of their economic interests. It is important that India and the developing countries evolve clear and consistent position on issues of common concern. If the G-77 is to perform a useful function as a common platform of developing countries, it must be based not on confrontationist postures but through articulation of commonality of interests and constructive and meaningful proposals for negotiations with the industrialised North. We in the Group need to take into account the far-reaching changes taking place in the world economy and to constructively put forward ideas for restoring growth and development in the world economy as a whole.

The G-77's continued relevance and importance for pursuit of common interests

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will need to be based on a realistic assessment of the rapid changes that are taking place in the global economy. There would also have to be flexibility in terms of specific groups of countries and regions pursuing their own interests viz-a-viz the North. The Group should attempt to reach a development concensus which recognises the importance of an expanding world economy

around which the international system in areas of money, finance and trade will need to be reformed and reshaped to serve the interests of economic growth and the development of the developing countries. The dialogue of the future cannot be predicted as in the past only on wresting concessions from the industrialised countries. It will have to focus on how the proper treatment of North-South issues can impart new strength and dynamism to the global economy as a whole. Developed countries must realise that enhanced investments in the South would help to regenerate their own economies thus with the South acting as an engine of growth for the North.

The Summit Level Group on South-South Cooperation and North-South Consultation (G-15), established at the initiative of the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, has been trying to develop a common perception of the major economic issues as well as common strategies on behalf of the developing countries for adoption in international forums. The G-15 was born of the need for a more compact and effective body to deal with issues vital to the developing countries was recognised. The G-15 has already formulated 12 concrete schemes for South-South Cooperaton. India has the responsibility and coordination for three of these projects.

At the forthcoming Caracas Summit of the G-15, India will once again take an active and constructive part in the promotion of South-South Cooperation and the preparation of a strategy for North-South Dialogue.

India has always advocated self-reliance as well as the need for developing countries to help each other. I may add that through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme we have taken effective measures for furthering South-South Cooperation. Our experience in developmental issues and evaluation of solutions based on emperical response has been found to be both relevant and useful to other developing countries. This experience has also been found relevant as the socio-economic problems faced by this country are broadly similar to those of other developing nations. The ITEC and SCAAP (Special Commonwealth African Assistance Plan) have, in fact, helped to further the cause of South-South Cooperation and promotion of self-reliance among developing countries.

A trend in the economic field is the attempt to link bilateral economic cooperation to non-economic conditionalities such as good governance, observance of human rights, environment, military expenditure, etc. The Indian polity is firmly anchored to political pluralism and individual freedom and firm adherence to human rights. Our position on these issues has been strongly reiterated by our Prime Minister at the CHOGM at Harare.

Environment is another field in which India and other developing countries need to harmonise their position to meet the new challenges. India is actively participating in the preparatory process underway for the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) to be held in Brazil, in June 1992. It is our expectation that this Conference will devote due attention to the particular issues relating to environment and development which are of special concern to the developing world e.g. poverty eradication, deforestation, desertification and soil erosion, and the creation of a clean, safe and healthy environment for all. The developing countries would accordingly -184>

like to see that at UNCED 1992, the twin issues of environment and development are handled in their totality and in a balanced manner.

I now come to another crucial aspect namely trade and investment policy on which India and the developing countries need to have a common approach at the various international fora and particularly at GATT, e.g. the failure to integrate MFA into GATT, barriers to trade in agricultural products, multilateral framework of trade services. An agreement on trade related aspects of intellectual property rights should facilitate access to technology and pursurance of public policy and social objectives.

In our own neighbourhood, there is a need, besides according the highest priority to strengthening our relations with our neighbours in South Asia on a bilateral basis for furthering regional cooperation. India attaches great importance to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). India remains committed to make SAARC an effective and full-fledged venture of regional cooperation. Cooperation among the SAARC countries is essential for accelerating their economic development, for building individual and collective self reliance and for enhancing our bargaining strength in multilateral negotiations. India has actively pursued adoption of measures for increasing people-to-people contacts, increasing cooperation in trade, industry money and finance. The 9th Session of the Council of Ministers of SAARC in Male endorsed in principle to study on Trade, manufacturers and Services and decided to set up a highlevel Committee on Economic Cooperation, which would examine the recommendations of the Study, identify measures for immediate action and oversee their implementation. These developments foresee a healthy future for SAARC through the introduction, for tthe first time, in its agenda, of cooperation in hardcore economic areas. We have also made progress in the field of regional cooperation through Integrated Programme of Agriculture, Education, Health, Postal Services.

Metereology, Prevention of Drug Trafficking and Drug Abuse, Rural Development, Science and Technology, Sports, Arts and Culture, Telecommunications, Transport and Women Development. We have also decided to expand cooperation in the field of Biotechnology and Tourism. At the forthcoming Colombo Summit we intend pursuing all

these objectives with renewed vigour. We feel that SAARC can develop into an effective vehicle for achieving collective self-reliance in the region.

Last but not least we intend to pursue the aforementioned objectives in the enlarged forum of NAM. India is continuing its positive contribution to the ongoing exercises of re-orientating the role of NAM. The changing global environment specially in the context of the current developments calls for a crucial assessment and valuation of its functioning and its present agenda. In this context the September 1991 meeting of the NAM Foreign Ministers was crucial. This meeting reaffirmed the role and relevance of the movement in the changed international situation as a political forum of the developing world. Further emphasis was given to the need for North-South Cooperation, disarmament, threat to the global environment and economic issues. It sharpened its focus on efforts to eradicate poverty, hunger, malnutrition and illiteracy. While retaining its political thrust as a Movement of countries that seek to preserve this independence of judgement and freedom of action, the Movement decided to accord greater priority to economic issues and to achieve greater coordination between NAM and G-77.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasise that in the new international situation, the requirements of the developing coun-185>

tries must be met. The relaxation of political tensions should not result in an accentuation of the North-South divide. There is no doubt that many developing countries have to reform their systems in order to attain greater economic development. Internal liberalisation, however, should be accompanied by the creation of a conducive external environment which only the advanced countries can generate. On our part, India will continue to articulate the concerns of the developing world and, at the same time, seek to build a cooperative relationship with the developed countries as only an economic system that recognises interdependence can lead to a just and equitable world order.

DIA USA GERMANY JAPAN CANADA MEXICO ZIMBABWE PERU CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC VENEZUELA BRAZIL MALDIVES RUSSIA SRI LANKA

**Date**: Oct 21, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

**NAMIBIA** 

#### Indian Trade Exhibition in Harare

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 18, 1991:

The Indian Trade Exhibition, which opened at Windhoek in Namibia on September 15, 1991 provides a window on India's industry and economy and will stimulate vigorous interaction between commercial operators of the two countries for the mutual benefit of both. Dr. Sam Nujoma, President of Namibia, while inaugurating the Exhibition organised by the Trade Fair Authority of India (TFAI) paid rich tributes to the Indian leaders and expressed gratitude to India for its consistant political support and material assistance in Namibia's freedom struggle. He particularly recalled his meeting with late Smt. Indira Gandhi in New Delhi and meetings with late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Referring to the need of economic cooperation among the third world countries, he expressed the hope that this exhibition will serve as a forerunner for co-operation in many fields. The Indian Deputy Minister for Commerce Shri Salman Khurshid in his speech expressed similar sentiments and the need for economic cooperation between the two countries. The Deputy Minister also paid tribute to President Nujoma's leadership of the independence struggle for Namibia and it was in recognition of this that India had conferred on him the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for 1990, he recalled

The Chairman of the TFAI, Shri Moosa Raza also spoke on the occasion and gave a brief account of the role of TFAI in India and an overview of the Exhibition and the comprehensive range of products on display. Shri Raza said that the aim of this exhibition is not to make a quick buck but to establish long term trade and commercial relationship between both the countries. President Nujoma visited every stall and showed keen interest in the displays of the Indian goods. The Indian High Commissioner, Shrie Shiv Mukharjee referred to the old friendship and ties between the two countries and the India's consistent role in the freedom of Namibia. Over 300 distinguished guests comprising of cabinet Ministers, Chief Justice, Senior Officials of the Namibian Government, Heads of diplomatic corps, and the Indian community attended the function.

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MIBIA INDIA ZIMBABWE USA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Oct 18, 1991

## **Volume No**

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Cambodian Prime Minister's Visit to India

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 03, 1991 on Cambodian Prime Minister's visit to India:

The Cambodian Prime Minister accompanied by the Deputy Minister of the Cabinet of the council of Ministers Mr. Cham Prasidh and his Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Sok An and other officials had an hour and a half meeting with our Prime Minister. Our Prime Minister was assisted by Secretary (East) Mr. Lakhan Mehrotra and the Additional Secretary in-charge of the International, Organisation - Mr. Chandra Shekhar Das Gupta and other officials. The Cambodian Prime Minister gave a detailed assessment of the on-going process of consultations that have been under way for the last several months, under the framework of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia. He underlined the strong traditions that have existed for close consultation between India and Cambodia in this lengthy process of negotiations. He thanked India for the unstinted cooperation that his country has enjoyed during the difficult negotiations, and made a plea for India's continuing support and help in the coming Conference scheduled for the end of this month at which Agreements, ending 20 years of conflict are expected to be signed. He also thanked India warmly, and especially the role played by Secretary(E) Mr. Lakhan Mehrotra, in the efforts to reconcile differences between the warring Cambodian factions, with a view to bringing about an atmosphere, where varying perceptions could be narrowed down and where compromise could be achieved. In particular, he said that India's role in bringing about a meeting between his Government and Prince Sihanouk had been a most crucial one. The Cambodian Prime Minister also made a request for India's continuing cooperation and close involvement in the consequential measures that will have to be undertaken after the Peace Agreements are signed towards the end of this month. In particular, he expressed the hope that India would be associated with the United Nations Transitional Authority for Cambodia (UNTAC) in all its aspects including the military component, the Civilian and the Police component. He also requested India's help in the conduct of elections that will have to be held in the near future. He also made a request for assistance for the victims of recent floods and some food assistance by way of rice.

Prime Minister Narasimha Rao welcomed the Cambodian Prime Minister by saying that the latter was no stranger to this country. He also underlined the fact that he and the Cambodian Prime Minister had personally worked together over the last so many years. He said that India was fully aware of the difficult years that Hun Sen had been through, during which he had fought single handedly to bring about a solution of the country's problems. Prime Minister expressed great admiration for the courage and farsightedness of Hun Sen, in facing enemies who were far stronger and said that in spite of this, Hun Sen had been able to maintain his principled stand. The Indian Prime Minister expressed India's happiness at the outcome of the negotiating process, and said that it was a matter of great satisfaction for India to have been associated with it. He assured the Cambodian Prime Minister that India would continue to play its role along with other countries until the sovereignty of Cambodia had been ensured. He said that now that the efforts -187>

of Hun Sen had been crowned with success and that there was every hope that 20 years of conflict had been put well behind us, he wished Cambodia well.

As regards the UNTAC, the Prime Minister said that if this proposal was accepted, India would do its best to ensure that this mechanism functioned effectively and in the interests of the Cambodian people. He said that India had considerable experience in the past in similar UN sponsored Peace Keeping Operations and would be glad to share this with Cambodia. As far as the elections were concerned, the Prime Minister said that we had acquired a good deal of experience, especially in all the ancillary activities connected with elections. He drew attention to the fact that the elections in 1991 had been conducted in extremely difficult circumstances, following the assassination of our leader Rajiv Gandhi. He said that India would be happy to extend whatever help it could in this field. While expressing his sympathy for the loss suffered on account of the recent floods in Cambodia, the Prime Minister assured Mr. Hun Sen that India would do whatever is possible within its means. He also said that he would see to it that, as was done last year, some rice would be sent to Cambodia. He said that as agreed last year, a certain quantity of medicines and pharmaceuticals would be sent by way of grant to Cambodia. The Indian Prime Minister assured the Cambodian leader that India would stand by his country and that both countries would work together to secure a better world tomorrow.

MBODIA INDIA FRANCE UNITED KINGDOM USA

**Date**: Oct 03, 1991

## **Volume No**

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister's visit to India

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 04, 1991 on the visit of Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran to India:

Mr. Alauddin Broujerdi, Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran paid an official visit to India from 1st to 4th of October. The Indian delegation during these talks was led by Mr. Muchkund Dubey, Foreign Secretary. Two rounds of extensive talks focussing on bilateral, regional and international issues have been held so far. Both sides have agreed to give a fresh impetus to their relations. In this spirit it has been agreed that the Indo-Iranian Joint Commission will be convened in the second week of November, which is due in Iran. Before the Indo-Iranian Joint Commission, there would be preparatory meetings at the official and technical levels and it has also been agreed that there would be exchanges at the Foreign office level. The Foreign Office meetings are with a view to ensuring follow up of decisions taken on bilateral and international issues of mutual concern. The current talks on international issues have revealed a convergence of perception in several areas. The two sides have agreed to intensify the economic and commercial exchanges between them; thus, for example, it is agreed that India could play a role in Iran's reconstruction programme and that this contribution would assist greatly in the strengthening of our relations. We identified several areas where we could fruitfully collaborate in communications, railways, construction, engineering, textiles, cement, petro-chemicals, steels, fisheries. Broujerdi called on Prime Minister and conveyed to him a message from Mr. Hashmi Rafsanjani. President of the Republic. He also met the Finance Minister Dr. Man Mohan Singh and Minister of State for External Affairs, as well as Shri Salman Khurshid, Deputy Minister for Commerce.

In response to a question, on Kashmir the Spokesman said that there is not necessarily a complete convergence of views with the DFM of Iran but broadly, there was a convergence of perception.

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DIA IRAN USA

**Date**: Oct 04, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Swiss Foreign Minister to India

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 07, 1991 on the visit of Swiss Foreign Minister to India:

Swiss Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Rene Felber and his delegation had official talks with External Affairs Minister and his delegation.

Later Mr. Rene Felber called on Prime Minister during which both leaders expressed satisfaction that Indo-Swiss relations were free of bilateral problems and there was a great scope for further improvement. The Swiss Foreign Minister informed Prime Minister that there was a great interest in Switzerland with regard to India's new economic policy and that major multi nationals such as Brown Boveri, Nestle and Sandoz were formulating new ideas to respond positively to the incentives that India is now providing to foreign investors. The Swiss Foreign Minister also said that Switzerland is a country with small and medium firms and therefore this fact should be reflected in our bilateral cooperation.

Prime Minister remarked that India was watching carefully the rapidly evolving situation in Europe and the keen interest being taken by West Europe in Eastern Europe. He expressed the hope that these changes would not have any adverse impact on developing countries like India.

The Swiss Foreign Minister assured Prime Minister that the needs of Europe would be met by the developed countries of Europe but not at the cost of the requirements of developing countries like India.

Earlier External Affairs Minister said that just as Swiss Foreign policy had as a bedrock in "permanent neutrality', nonalignment has been the cornerstone of India's foreign policy. This accounted for a degree of similarity in our individual percepetions of foreign policies. This has also given rise to Switzerland interest in NAM.

External Affairs Minister spoke about irrevocably altered global political, economic and social environment. India's attempt to restructure its economy to face the new global realities. He also

spoke about the abiding relevance of NAM and gave a detailed assessment of India's peaceful relations particularly with its neighbors. External Affairs Minister gave detailed briefing on the visit of Pakistan's Special Envoy Shariyar Khan and said India was waiting patiently for evidence on the ground.

External Affairs Minister referred to the role played by India in disarmament. Like Switzerland, India is for the total and global banning of all non-conventional weapons. India fully supports the Chemical Weapons Convention and the recent proposals of President Bush. Regarding NPT the discriminatory aspect of the treaty is not acceptable to India.

On democratization of UN: The Security Council was last time expanded only in 1963. With the expansion of the membership of the UN there is a need for expanding the Security Council.

External Affairs Minister expressed appreciation for the interest displayed by firms like Brown Boveri, Nestle and Sandoz. He expressed hope that the Indo-Swiss joint commission will meet in 1992 to discuss about more collaboration and investment.

Responding to External Affairs Minister, the Swiss Foreign Minister said that Switzerland's interest in Europe would in no way jeopardize its cooperation with the -189>

rest of the forld. He pointed out that India is a very important country from the point of view of Switzerland's investment. He expressed the hope that an agreement on avoidance of double taxation would enhance the scope for more investment. He said that the Joint Commission would be expected to meet in May, 1992 where the Swiss Government would put forward proposals to actively support direct investment by Switzerland in India.

On India's policies towards its neighbours the Swiss Foreign Minister agreed that India and Switzerland being believers in secularism, tolerance and the fundamental importance of pluralism, Switzerland and India cannot but be concerned with the rise of religious fundamentalism in various parts of the world. He expressed concern and a degree of fear regarding the rise of fundamentalism in the Mediterranean, the Middle East and beyond. He said that countries like India and Switzerland must do everything possible to combat the symptoms of fundamentalism and try to convince people who are 'susceptible', not to fall into the fundamentalist trap.

DIA SWITZERLAND CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA PAKISTAN

**Date**: Oct 07, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Measures of Nuclear Disarmament Announced by the Soviet Union

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 08, 1991 on the measures of nuclear disarmament announced by Soviet Union:

The Government of India is happy to note the comprehensive Soviet response to the announcement made by the US President on measures of nuclear disarmament last week. We welcome President Gorbachev's statement about the steps being taken on tactical nuclear weapons by the Soviet Union, his reciprocal proposals seeking the elimination of these weapons from land and sea, his appeal to the other nuclear weapon powers to join the USA and Soviet Union in these measures, and his readiness to negotiate further radical cuts in strategic nuclear weapons. We feel encouraged by the prospect of deep and substantial reductions and quantative restraints in long-range strategic nuclear weapons and the overall relaxation in the battle alert of the US-Soviet nuclear forces.

It is our earnest hope that the one-year Soviet moratorium on nuclear testing will be reciprocated by all other nuclear weapon States and facilitate negotiations for a comprehensive test ban treaty. We have also noted the Soviet intention to reach an agreement with the US on a controlled cessation of the production of all fissionable materials for weapons. It is a matter of some satisfaction for India that the set of measures and proposals announced by the USA and the Soviet Union can almost accomplish the stage one of the Action Plan tabled by India for ushering in a nuclear weapon free world.

DIA USA

**Date**: Oct 08, 1991

# **Volume No**

## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

## Official Level Meeting on River Water Sharing between India and Bangladesh

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 13, 1991 on official level meeting on river water sharing between India and Bangladesh:

The 5th Secretary level meeting on River Water sharing between India and -190>

Bangladsh was held in New Delhi from 10-11, October 1991. The Bangladesh delegation was led by Mr. M. A. Malik, Secretary, Ministry of Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control and the Indian delegation by Dr. M. A. Chitale, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources.

- 2. In pursuance of the agreement reached in the previous meeting at Dhaka in April 1991, the Bangladesh side presented a draft operational plan for the Teesta River which the Indian side agreed to examine. It was also agreed that a Joint Observation Station would be established on the Indian side near the international border to monitor the flows of the Teesta River. The question of evolving a sharing agreement for the Ganga/Ganges was also considered. The two sides decided to continue discussions on the subject in the coming months.
- 3. The Indian side presented the possibilities of formulating a comprehensive arrangement for sharing of river waters based on a long-term perspective. This would aim at harnessing of the available water resources in the region so as to facilitate planned development on a sound basis. Bangladesh side agreed to examine these suggestions further.
- 4. The Bangladesh delegation called on Shri V. C. Shukla, Minister for Water Resources on October 10.10.91. Shri Shukla suggested an early convening in Delhi a meeting of the Joint Rivers Commission co-Chaired by him and his Bangladesh counterpart. The delegation also called on Shri M. Dubey, Foreign Secretary.

DIA BANGLADESH MALI LATVIA USA UNITED KINGDOM

**Date**: Oct 13, 1991

**Volume No** 

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## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

## Middle-East Peace Conference

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 21, 1991 on the Middle-East peace conference:

The Government of India welcomes the joint US-Soviet announcement rgarding the convening of a Middle-East peace conference at the end of the month in which all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli dispute will participate. We hope that the process of negotiations initiated by this meeting will culminate in the achievement of a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle-East problem and the Palestinian issue and will usher in an era of regional amity, peace and cooperation. We extend our best wishes for the success of the conference.

DIA USA ISRAEL

**Date**: Oct 21, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

## Official Level Talks between India and Pakistan

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 28, 1991 on the official level talks between India and Pakistan:

The first round of Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan on the demarcation of the land boundary in the Sir Creek area and delimitation of the maritime boundary was held in Rawalpindi on 27-28 October, 1991. Earlier, three rounds of talks had been held at the level of Surveyors General of the two countries.

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The Indian delegation led by Mr. I. P. Khosla, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, comprised :

- 1. V. K. Nagar, Surveyor General of India.
- 2. Rear Admiral Nandi, Chief Naval Hydrographer.
- 3. A. K. Singh, Deputy Secretary, MEA.
- 4. P. S. Chopra, Survey of India.

The Pakistan delegation led by S. A. Jilani, Defence Secretary comprised the following:

- 1. Raja Mohd. Iqbal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Defence.
- 2. Rear Admiral Syed Iqtidar Hussain, Additional Secretary, MOD.
- 3. Maj. Gen. Arshad Malik, Surveyor General of Pakistan.
- 4. Jamshed Hamid, Legal Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- 5. M. S. Bhatti, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- 6. Capt. M. A. Khalid, Naval Hydrographer.

The talks were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. There was a general consensus on the basic principle to resolve the issue, to the mutual satisfaction of both the countries in accordance with conventions and international law.

During the discussions, both sides were assisted by their technical experts.

The two countries agreed to meet again to further discuss the specifics of the land and maritime boundaries at New Delhi at a mutually convenient date.

DIA PAKISTAN USA MALI

**Date**: Oct 28, 1991

# Volume No

1995

## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of the Vice-President of the European Community to India

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official

Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 29, 1991 on the visit of the Vice President of the European Community to India:

The Vice President of the European Community Mr. Andriessen, who is also the Commissioner in-charge of External Relations called on External Affairs Minister Shri Madhavsinh Solanki at 1630 hours today. External Affairs Minister extended warm welcome to Mr. Andriessen and expressed the hope that apart from useful discussions on matters of mutual interest including the Uruguay-Round that he would hold with concerned Ministers, his visit would lead to strengthening of Indo-EEC relations. Mr. Andriessen gave the External Affairs Minister his perceptions of developments relating to European integration and allied developments such as the establishment of the European economic area. Specific issues of mutual interest in the bilateral relationship between EEC and India and global developments were also discussed.

The High Commissioner of India in Colombo Shri N. N. Jha called on the Prime Minister this morning. He briefed him on matters relating to India's bilateral relations with Sri Lanka and on the forthcoming SAARC Summit scheduled to be held in Colombo next month.

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DIA USA URUGUAY SRI LANKA

**Date**: Oct 29, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of the Foreign Secretary to Islamabad

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 30, 1991 on the visit of the Foreign Secretary to Islamabad:

Today Foreign Secretary called on Mohd. Siddique, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. He also had discussions with Foreign Secretary, Mr. Sheharyar Khan, followed by a call on Tanvir Ahmed Khan, Secretary, Information and Broadcasting. Discussion with Tanvir Ahmed revolved largely on orientation of Press coverage on matters relating to our bilateral relations. In the afternoon the

Secretary level talks took place. Now, he is in a meeting with Akram Zaki, Secretary General in Foreign Office. At 6.00 PM, he is calling on Prime Minister, Mr. Nawaz Sherif.

KISTAN INDIA USA **Date**: Oct 30, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Romanian Foreign Minister to India

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 30, 1991 on the visit of Romanian Foreign Minister, Adrian Nastase to India:

The Romanian Foreign Minister, Mr. Adrian Nastase, and his delegation today had talks with the External Affairs Minister, Shri Madhavsinh Solanki, and his delegation. The Romanian Foreign Minister was accompanied by the Ambassador, Mr. Nelu Ionescu, the Romanian Spokesman in their Foreign Office, and the Director of the Foreign Office, in-Charge of India, and other officials. EAM was assisted by Secretary (West), Shri I. P. Khosla, Director General (ICCR), Smt. Veena Sikri, Joint Secretary (EE), Shri Nalin Surie, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, in-Charge of East Europe, and Joint Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs, Shri Deb Mukherjee.

After welcoming the Romanian Foreign Minister, EAM made a reference to the kidnapping of Mr. Radu, saying that it has been a cause of great concern and anxiety not only for the Romanian Government and its people but also for our Government and our people. EAM strongly deplored this action by misguided elements, who have violated the well laid down traditions of Indian hospitality by this dastardly act. EAM assured Mr. Nastase that Government of India is sparing no effort to ensure the safe and early release of Mr. Radu. EAM also requested Mr. Nastase to convey his concern and best wishes to Mr. Radu's family and the people and Government of Romania on this matter. EAM also said that all possible resources are being mobilised in this matter. Both Governments are constantly keeping in touch with each other.

EAM said that the Romanian Foreign Minister is also aware of the hands of elements outside India in the committing of this

unpardonable crime. EAM called upon the world community to draw appropriate lessons and to ensure that all those Governments who directly aid terrorism face both opprobrium and isolation.

Later, in the discussion, EAM said that inspite of our best efforts and the public stance of reasonableness of the Government of Pakistan, we find that in reality there is a vast chasm between the public pronouncements of Pakistan and its -193>

actions. EAM again said the Romanian Foreign Minister was aware of the aid and abetment to terrorism in Kashmir and Punjab by Pakistan.

In his discussions, EAM also referred to some positive trends in the international situation like the developments in Angola, Mozambique and Cambodia. He also referred to the situation in South Africa which has given rise to hope and optimism. On the negative aspect, EAM pointed to the tendency to project the promotion of human rights in a manner that militates against national sovereignty. Likewise, linking financial aid for development with disarmament and other conditions, could lead to situations which are discriminatory, contradictory and inappropriate.

In his discussion on Europe, the Romanian Foreign Minister gave a detailed account of the international situation as seen from the Romanian side. The situation on Yugoslavia, both as seen by Romania and India, saw a close convergence of views. Both felt that a solution could not be imposed from outside and that Yugoslavia would have to find its own solution. The Romanian Foreign Minister gave his assessment of the situation in Soviet Union which he has just visited on his way to India. Special attention was given to the Republic of Moldava which has been recognised by Romania since it is populated with a very large number of people of Romanian origin. Romanian Foreign Minister appealed for sympathetic consideration in case of Moldava as the case was parallel to that of the three Baltic States.

Regarding bilateral relations, the Romanian Foreign Minister expressed the gratitude of the Government and the people of Romania for the efforts made by the Government of India in the Radu's kidnapping case. While there was a cause for concern, he was confident that a peaceful and positive solution could be found to the problem.

Both Ministers discussed the forthcoming Joint Commission Meeting to be headed by the Tourism Minister from the Romanian side and Commerce Minister from our side, which is expected to be held in the middle of December 1991 in Bucharest. They both agreed that in this Meeting the question of clearing arrangements could be discussed in detail. The question of raising commercial credit would also be discussed. It was agreed that the level of

interaction would be improved at the Foreign Office level, at the level of Parliamentarians, the NGOs and others. Mr. Nastase also invited External Affairs Minister to visit Romania. It was also agreed that early steps would be taken to sign the treaty on Air transport which has already been initialed. Air India has already sign a Memorandum with TAROM. The Romanian side has also made a request to our side to train their young diplomats in Indian languages which was duly agreed.

On Culture, the Romanians participated in the International Puppetry Festival held in India in September 1990. An exhibition of Madhubani Paintings was also organised in Romania in September 1990. Two Sanskrit scholars from India visited Romania in August 1990. A Dance Troupe from Romania visited India in December 1990. Both Ministers agreed on the need to intensify such exchanges. -194>

DIA OMAN ROMANIA UNITED KINGDOM USA PAKISTAN ANGOLA CAMBODIA MOZAMBIQUE SOUTH AFRICA YUGOSLAVIA

**Date**: Oct 30, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECHES

Inaugural Speech at the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of FIEO

Inaugurating the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations, the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, said in New Delhi on Oct 07, 1991:

"I am indeed vary happy to be associated with this function on the auspicious occasion of the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the FIEO. I congratulate all of you and all those who made this possible over the last twenty five years. I wish you a bright future, bright future for the exporters, bright future for the exports and, therefore, an equally bright future for the economy of the country.

This is indeed a happy occasion and on such occasions we generally talk of good things, things that please us, not things other than those which please us. So, I will confine myself only to such things. There is an occasion for everything; maybe when we meet on some other occasion, you come to me or I come to you, we will have to go into details, maybe we will have to face facts as they are and also do a little heart-searching.

Friends, we have taken the plunge. Once you take the plunge, you don't go back. That is not our way. Having taken the plunge, there can be no half-way house and while taking the plunge, you have to take a full-flooded plunge, not a half-hearted plunge. Now, you will find that in the programme of reforms that the new Government has introduced, all these factors have been taken care of. There is no halfheartedness, there is no indecision, there is no hesitation and we are prepared to defend these changes to the hilt. And, what is most important in all this is that we have the consensus of the Parliament and the people. Now, what is there for us to be afraid of? The sky is the limit. We don't have to have any inhibition except the inhibition created by our own incompetence, of which there is no dearth. I am afraid to say. So, please go ahead. You have a very good advocate in Mr. Chidambaram. It is only a very fortunate client that can get a free advocate of his calibre. Now, I want an advocate of the same calibre; maybe I will have to engage him on some other occasion to defend me, to defend the Government.

If you have to be competitive, if you have to live in the new world, in the changed world with the new agenda, the new agenda of integrating Indian economy into the world economy, then there is hardly any choice for you. If you had built some wall, some notional ideological wall, it has to be dismantled, it has to be demolished. It stands demolished by the new policies. It is not something copied from others, let me say this even at the first instance. Let no one get the impression that we are copying other countries in bringing about these changes. No. We have deeply reflected on these changes as being necessary today in India's conditions. We have not done it in a hurry. We have not done it in a repentent mood. We did not first conclude that what we did for the last forty years was totally wrong and, therefore, we are putting it right. No. What we did earlier was right and what we are about to do now, what we have decided to do now is again right. The circumstances have changed. The world has changed. India has changed.

Sometimes, I can't believe the change that has come over India. We have been growing with this change. We can see -195>

the change so clearly, sometimes it baffles us. I go to my village every two years, every three years, every year if you wish; the kind of change that I see there is quite baffling. And, when I go to places which I visited ten or fifteen years ago, I am just not able to recognise which is what, which building is where, which house is where. This is the kind of change that has come. So, we have to get integrated into a world if we are talking of one world. We have the ideal of the world being one family, so it is nothing new to us. In the Indian concept of looking at things, what we are about to do is just natural, there is nothing new in it. But we are entering into a new environment

with which we were not hundred per cent familiar, not that we were completely unfamiliar. That was the boon of the great Jawahar Lal Nehru's mixed economy. He did not shut India out of the world. At the same time, he did not throw India to the turbulence of the world before India was ready to integrate. Now, we are ready to integrate and, therefore, we are integrating. So, he protected the Indian economy, he protected India as a mother protects a child. The mother doesn't carry a child all his life; carries the child for some time, then leaves the child to play in the courtyard but doesn't allow the child to go out of the courtyard and eventually he goes to school, he goes to the playground and also gets a few black-eyes here and there. The mother no longer bothers. Today, we don't have to bother any longer how many black eyes our exporters are going to get, or kicks. Both will happen. So, I am satisfied, I am convinced that this is the time to change and this is the methodology of change. So, let it be understood that this is a considered decision and that is why we got such a consensus. Ten years ago, we would not have been able to get this consensus. Anyone would know. Manubhai would know if he had introduced these things when he was the Commerce Minister, he would have been stoned, it would not have been possible. Today it is possible because we have come of age, Indian economy has come of age. So let us make the best out of this.

We know that quality, competitiveness in price and timely supplies and so on are some of the wellknown ingredients of a successful export policy. Now, can we honestly say that we hold a near monopoly in any particular area of exports? I am not sure. I am not an economist. I am not an exporter nor am I an importer. But I can say with certain amount of common sense and common knowledge that there is not one item in which everyone looks to India and if India is not able to export then there is some disarray somewhere. That kind of a thing doesn't exist. The most successful of our exports seem to be brain. That is what we seem to be exporting year in and year out. Our engineers, our doctors, our scientists, our computer experts, seem to be the most sought after export from India. I wish we had some other things to export. These were not the real things to export. But anyhow what has happened has happened.

We will have to see that this excellence and the capacity of our exporters, manufacturers, is fostered. I am prepared to go to any extent. I have no inhibitions as I said. Of course, once we take the plunge, we take. So, I can assure you that this is the line, this line is a relentless line, this will not stop. But the rest is naturally on you - on the exporters, on the manufacturers, on those who are the captains of the Indian industry and Indian finance. It is not on the Government any more. We were looking to the Government, we were pointing fingers towards the Government for everything that went wrong. Now, there is no one there at whom you could point a finger. Now, you will have to point the finger at yourselves. So, this is the difference between

yesterday and today.

India is a very large country. If you want to export, you cannot forget the domestic market. We had a bitter expe--196>

rience about ten, fourteen or fifteen years ago when a bright idea occured to one of our State Governments to export vegetables to the Gulf countries. very good vegetables they used to grow. After three or four plane-loads went, they came back with very good price of course, but vegetables became so costly in that city that all the housewives gheraod the Chief Minister's residence. I am just giving you a simple example where enthusiasm can sometimes be misplaced and the needs of the domestic population, domestic market clash with the needs of export. Now, this clash should not be allowed to occur because then we will neither be able to satisfy our people here nor do successful exports. So, all these questions have to be gone into. I am quite determined that if you all cooperate, in fact I cooperate with you, now the operation is in your hands, it is not the otherway round any more. This has to be taken care of. So, whatever you think is to be done by the Government, we can always have very close liasion. I would like that to continue. And, I would like to give you policy support on all matters that are reasonable, urgent and necessary for the exports of the country to grow.

There has to be lot of diversification in our exports. I have been speaking on this theme quite often these days because I find that in the agricultural sector, we have not done all that can be done by way of promoting exports. This is an area which I commend to some of you who are interested to study more deeply and come up with ideas. It is possible. It is possible to mount a campaign of exports of agricultural products, at the same time coupling it with greater production and greater facilities for production. Likewise, there may be some other, many other areas in which you could diversify. Please identify those areas. Let us not keep all our eggs in one basket because the changes are coming so rapidly everywhere that what is needed today from India may not be needed tomorrow from India and it may be substituted by some other substance, someother commodity or some other thing, and we may become superfluous. Therefore, the diversification and also the need of other countries, importing whatever commodities they do, whatever things they do from India, those needs, the changing needs of those countries and the markets of those countries have to be constantly under watch and review and only then the export tempo of the country, the overall export tempo of the country can be maintained.

Now these are the areas which you very well know. I don't have to expatiate on this point. But this watch is necessary and I am sure that with an experienced organisation such as yours, you will be able to maintain this watch successfully.

I have nothing more to add. We are in the midst of changes. All the consequestial changes that need to be brought in are being brought expeditiously - as Mr. Chidambaram said so much change within so short a time. Almost breathtaking and sometimes many friends tell me they were taking it easy because they did not expect the Government would be so fast. I have had occasions when I was called to meetings and I had to appologise for going there in time. That is what has happened here and you will find that this tempo we would like to maintain. Yet, what Chidambaram says, it is true, there should be no complacency. There is hardly any room for complacency. Nothing has happened actually. What has happened is on paper. What has happened is in the psychology. What has happened is in the understanding of the people concerned about the changes. But that is only a part of the story. If people have to come, if industries have to come, if investments have to come, all this takes time. But what we had to do from our side, we have been able to do in time and in the manner in which it was expected. So, we do not want to be complacent and I am sure we will be doing the follow-up, the watch and whatever else needs to be done to tie-up the looseends will continue to be done.

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There is a lot of talk about why the public sector in India has not come up to our expectations on the whole. Now, this is something which we have to go into. It is a totally different subject. But it is intimately connected with your job - job of exports. We will do this review very shortly and we will come up with all the necessary tie-ups where export, import, indigenous production, indigenisation, all these things which are different facets of the same activity would have to be properly integrated in the new context. They were integrated in a different way until yesterday. They have to be re-integrated in a different way without running down any of these facets, without giving undue importance to any one facet. We have to again produce a harmonious whole and we can't jettison anything that we have built so far. That is clear. But at the same time, it has to be much more useful, it has to be working as a member of the team, as a link in the chain and we cannot allow anything to go waste. So, all this has to be done imaginatively. We are engaged in that exercise. It will take a little more time. But that is not really immediately connected with exports, so that could wait. We would be consulting you on those aspects also in due course.

I don't want to take much time. This is a very auspicious occasion. Once again, I would like to congratulate you and wish you well in your future endeavours over the next 25 years.

I have great pleasure in inaugurating your Silver Jubilee Celebrations.

**Date**: Oct 07, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECHES

Inaugural Address at the Chief Ministers' Conference

Addressing the Meeting of the Chief Ministers the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, said in New Delhi on Oct 04, 1991:

This meeting has been called at very short notice and I am sure you have come here at considerable inconvenience to yourself, but I thought this is necessary. Certain incidents that have erupted in this country in several States in the past few months have necessitated this meeting. The meeting as I see it is not going to be the ritualistic kind of a gathering which somehow we have had several times before, but we will have to come to very hard decisions. I have no illusion, I have no hesitation in saying that the decisions that will be required of this meeting, both at the Central and the States level, are going to be hard and there is no denying the fact that once these decisions are taken we will have to monitor the implimentation of the decisions and we will have to insist on every decision being implemented to the hilt.

Now, this, therefore, I consider a meeting with a difference and I welcome you for having made it convenient to come as I said at such a short notice.

In recent months the country has witnessed a spate of atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. These incidents of atrocities against the weaker sections of society remind us that we have not yet succeeded in creating an atmosphere of security for them in this country. The nature of the atrocities has also been a matter of grave concern to me and to all of us of course. I also know that often the efforts of the Government to help these oppressed and disadvantaged sections by providing them with assets like land and implementing the laws for protecting their interests, themselves, have resulted in enhanced attacks on them by those who are opposed to these measures. It is important for us to realise that these incidents stem from the very circumstances of deprivation faced by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. A large

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section among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are employed as agricultural labourers, many of whom are not paid even the minimum wages prescribed by law. The majority of bonded labourers are also from these deprived classes. A substantial number among the Scheduled Castes lead a subsistence living as sharecroppers or small and marginal farmers. Many of the atrocities that take place can be traced to conflicts over the possession, ownership and cultivation of lands by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Even in non-agricultural jobs, such occupations as are shunned by members of other castes are almost entirely left to be performed by the Scheduled Castes. Attempts by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to break away from this syndrome of deprivation and improve their lot and to claim what is theirs rightfully, are often the principal cause of the atrocities that are perpetrated against them.

All this happens despite there being a plethora of Constitutional provisions and special enactments to protect the rights of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and for the removal of disabilities and discrimination they suffer from. The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 have been on the statute book and detailed guidelines have also been issued by Government to prevent atrocities against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. We have worked out special strategies like the Special Component Plan for the Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub-Plan for the Scheduled Tribes for their development through the planning mechanism. We have evolved special schemes for the educational development, economic support and employment promotion of these classes. Despite all these, their lot remains a great deal to be desired and in all the rural areas their lives often lack a basic sense of security. They will continue to be badly exploited and the change in their social circumstances, they are still in a very very pitiable state.

So, something needs to be done; something effective, absolutely effective needs to be done. So, this meeting as I see it is a meeting to put an end to all similar meetings in future. There should be no need for us to come again to Delhi and consider this as if this problem is being discovered for the first time. We know everything about it. Now is the time to devise ways and means of implementing it, taking final, firm decisions, going back and proceeding to implement the decisions. This is how I would like to treat this meeting and that is how I would like the Honourable Chief Ministers to look at this meeting.

For the majority of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who live in rural areas, access to the law and order machinery for redress of their grievances just does not exist. This problem has often been compounded by a lack of sensitivity on the part of the police and the district administration.

The long history of this system and its deep political roots in

the Indian social psyche, calls for action which should cut across party lines. This is why we are meeting here today, and that is why I would like to stress the non-party nature of this problem. In the Parliament and in the State legislatures we witness a very very common spectacle which doesn't do any credit to any political party in India. When it is the Central Government run by one party, members of the other parties raise this question as if it is only one party that is responsible for it. If it is another party in the State, suddenly something is said which is exactly the opposite of what I just said. So, it means that we are playing or we are tending to play politics in this rather than addressing the problem. I have seen to my amazement in Parliament, something happened in a particular -199>

State, members belonging to that party say that it is a State subject. The same thing happens in another State and the Parliament is supposed to take cognizance of it according to them. Now, this double standard will not do. We will have to decide here, because all the parties are represented here - either it is a State Subject or it is a subject which the Parliament has to take cognizance of. There can't be a third way; there can't be a halfway-house; there can't be a convenient switch from one argument to another whenever we find that it suits one party and doesn't suit another party. This will not do and I am raising this deliberately because this is the assembly, this is the gathering, this is the forum where this matter needs to be raised and needs to be answered.

Immediate action in this matter is called for in States which record recurring incidence of atrocities. There are also States where there has been a steady rise in incidents over the past five years. This trend needs to be immediately arrested and reversed. I would urged each State to formulate a strategy for the prevention of atrocities against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Necessary legislation as the Home Minister just said and institutional infrastruction is already in place. I know that very often it is easier to pass a law than to implement it. Yet, in a matter like this implementation is of the very essence. Some determined steps in this behalf are needed urgently, if the law as the expressed will of the people is to have any meaning. The law enforcers themselves, in many cases, fail to act promptly or collude with the other side. In such cases we should not hesitate to subject them to the process of Law. All that is required is the will to implement the requisite measures at all level down to the village level. Let us discuss this matter dispassionately threadbare and in this Conference, let us show the will that we will not hesitate to translate whatever decisions we take into action. The goal that we should strive for is the total integration of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as in indistinguishable part of the mainstream of our society. That should be our aim.

I am coming next to the subject which we are going to discuss at this conference. On Independence Day, I had drawn attention to the close link between peace in rural India and the maintenance of land records. Frequently, land disputes assume violent proportions and take on the character of inter-caste conflicts; but the real cause of these conflicts can be traced to improper maintenance of land records. Maintaining proper village land records, therefore, is of the utmost importance so that people know about their ownership and proprietary rights. This again is nothing new. This has been discussed, discussed ad nauseum for years and years but I am not sure that anything effective has been devised all over the country. I remember when I was Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. I had in 1972 written a long letter to the then Finance Minister of the Government of India, Mr. Y. B. Chavan, saying please give us a little money, we will have a crash programme to correct all these records, just a little money. I am sure the situation may be the same in many other States. Well, we have been able to do something but much fore needs to be done. This is a high priority and it has some linkage with the weaker sections of society. If a strongman is there in a village, it doesn't matter whether his name is written in the records or not, he knows how to defend himself, threfore it doesn't matter to him. But for a poor person, for the small person, for the weak person, a land record is a weapon. It is not just a record, It is not just a piece of paper or not one entry tucked away somewhere in the Tehsil Office, but it is a weapon to him. You are giving a weapon in his hands. If he has no weapon, he has no way of fighting the more influential sections of society who may always want or sometimes want to deprive -200>

him of his rights. Therefore, giving him land should also be followed or accompanied by giving him the right in the shape of a record and again making him viable economically.

So, there is the actual action of giving land to him; number two; the legal action of making him the legally valid owner of the land and the economic action of making him live on the land so that he becomes a viable part of the society and doesn't part with the land in sheer distress if he doesn't have bullocks, if he doesn't have money, if he doesn't have capital, then it is only a question of time before he sells the land away to someone next door and becomes landless again. Now, these are our experiences, these are our very common experiences. I am telling you nothing new. In one of these three links between indigence on the one hand and viability on the other, these three links exist. One of the important link is land records which alone can give him the legal right to assert whatever is his and ward off any attack on him from the legal point of view. So, this we will have to look into tomorrow. Maybe, you will have to depute your Revenue Ministers who will have to go into it, they will have to have a small committee of Revenue Ministers plus some one from the Government of India, give them about three or four months'

time to come back and maybe after that we will have to meet again to see that the land record system in this country is modernised. We have the convenience of Computers these days. You can have billions and billions of records, if you wish is available, it will be a pity if we don't take advantage of all this and in Government records if we still continue to have so many errors that every error can lead to blood-shed, I think it will be a great pity. We will have to go into it in greater details, we have got the Electronics Departments, we have got the other people working on these things, they are adept in keeping very, large, huge data bases whenever necessary and at the tough of a button you can get whatever you want. So, that should be our aim.

The other thing as the Home Minister just said, about the Cooperatives. This again is one of the age old problems. We pride ourselves on the fact that the cooperative movement is more than hundred years old but all the irregularities are also hundred years old alongwith the movement. So, we will have to do something about it. We will have to go into it in greater detail. I am not reading that part of the speech because it is hardly necessary.

Another thing which perhaps you will have to consider tomorrow -I am making this a kind of a hostage meeting because once you are here I do not wish to let you go so easily, until all the matters which are weighing on my mind and your mind are at least discussed in part; it doesn't matter whether we do or we do not take final decisions, but it is important. What I am going to tell you just now is important from the States point of view. I have realised the importance of this matter when I was in the State. This is about the mounting expenditure on the Non-Plan side. Now, there are several State Governments, I do not want to name them but I used to know some which always cut their education department whenever there was a cut necessary. The first axe fell on the Education Department, alongwith that on Social Welfare. Now, those people - on the teachers, the student - can't really raise their voices, so whenever there is a cut needed, cut the Education Department, cut the Social Welfare department, afterall the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, they will just whimper a little and may be quiet. Now, this approach will not do. I am not prepared to accept any cuts where the humanbeing is concerned, the welfare and the development of the humanbeing is concerned, no cut should be countenanced. I am trying to impress this on the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission has been good enough to respond. We had -201>

the first meeting of the full Planning Commission in which I think there has been a consensus on this. At the same time we can't divert plan funds to non-plan expenditure and go on having this spending spree for all time to come. I think the time has come when we have to cry a halt to this.

In this particular matter, there is one aspect of our DA increases. Now in the State Governments, I know, every Chief Minister is unhappy whenever there is a DA increase at the Central level. There was a time when we did not follow the Central pattern about 22 years ago; we said, no we will not follow the Central pattern because conditions are different. because the standard of living may be different, the cost of living may be different, why should we follow. But now almost every State is following the Central pattern because this is how they buy peace in their own States. There was no way of buying peace otherwise. So, there would be a strike about a week before the General Election. I had a strike notice to deal with in my cabinet in Andhra Pradesh just about six-seven days before the filing of nominations was to start in the 1972 elections. What do I do? I had to agree. I had to sign on dotted lines. This is what happened. Now, this may have been a very great victory for the employees but what the result of that victory is, what the consequences of that victory is on the lives of the people when you have to cut sometimes from the Plan itself. Now you can easily imagine. So, we will have to come to some conclusion on this. If there is to be sacrifice, if the country is passing through a difficult phase, we all know that it is passing through a difficult phase, let us apportion sacrifice, let us all be prepared to postpone our demands to a later date. On all sides, we will have to decide about this. Otherwise, if you want only one section of people to sacrifice and others not to sacrifice, then this is not going to work. So, on this also the Central Government and the State Governments would have to come to some understanding on what is to be done with the non-plan expenditure, what is to be done with the DA increase which is due according to the rule, according to the practice that is being followed it becomes due on a date, whether it is to be automatically raised and in which case where is the money to come from. This also we have to consider. I am not opposing any demand. I am only placing before you the fact of life which has come to our notice which we have to face in the coming months. The Finance Minister has told you, told the country what the situation of our finances is and therefore, there should be no further arguement, no need for any further arguement on how we are going to cope with this situation.

The last matter but not the least important which we will have to discuss at least for a little time and perhaps more intensively is the question of prices. Now, in this country we have the very easy way out that one party blames another party for the prices - the State Government blames the Central Government for the prices, the Central Government blames the State Governments. I think this Volleyball should stop.

We will have to come to a conclusion on what is our part, what is your part in controlling the prices of bringing them down or not allow them to go up. I am sure that we will be able to do it if we wish to. Let us not again play politics in the matter of

prices. If prices are going up, why are they going up? Is it the laxity on the part of the Central Government, is it laxity on the part of the State Government, is it laxity on the part of the administration or the international compulsions to which all of us are subject. What is it that has brought about this situation. I am told that there is a little improvement in the price situation during the last one week or so. But I do not consider that as a very big matter of satisfaction. We will have to go into it, if not at this meeting thoroughly, atleast we will have to have -202>

several meetings on which we must have a consensus, we must have a understanding on what needs to be done and some discipline - fiscal and other - which needs to be brought about no matter which party runs a State Government, no matter which which party runs the Central Government, this of course if it is being run by the Governors it is all the better from this point of view because they will have to have no difficulty in coming to the same conclusion or giving us whatever opinion they hold. So, it should be possible to come to a consensus about the arresting of prices, how to deal with the inflationary pressures that we are experiencing day in and day out.

So, this is one of the important matters which I would like to consult you. In fact, it is not myself consulting you, it is a consultation alround - you are consulting me, I am consulting you, you are consulting amongst yourselves and we are consulting - because this is a matter again which is bound-up between States and the Centre and there is no question of apportioning responsibility - the State being in the dock or the Centre being in the dock and the other State being the prosecutor. This is not the relationship between the States and the Centre - one of prosecutor and the accused. We are all responsible for it and we will have to go into it and find solutions to this and we will have to stick to those solutions. If we have to cut somewhere, let us find out where to cut. If we have to bring down the expenditure, let us find out where to bring the expenditure down and how. If we have to go in for debt, I am not sure you will be getting much of assistance from outside, you will have to go into debt even that may or may not be forthcoming if oil prices are rising, if fertiliser prices are rising, where does it come from. All this will have to be thrashed out between us.

So, this is the kind of agenda, may be a new kind of a agenda I am placing before you. The agenda may be old but the decisions are new and they will have to be taken with certain amount of determination which alone will save the situation in the country hereafter.

Thank you very much for having made it convenient to come here. (I now want to throw the floor open for discussions and I would be waiting for your suggestions. Thank you very much.

**Date**: Oct 04, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

## **SAARC**

## SAARC Workshop on Population Policy

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 07, 1991:

Inaugurating a four-day SAARC Workshop on Population Policy here today Shri K. K. Mathur, Secretary, Family Welfare, expressed concern on the growing population in most of the SAARC countries. The representatives of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India are participating in this workshop being held here from October 7 to October 10, 1991.

While emphasising the need for holistic approach to tackle the population growth problem, Shri Mathur informed that an action plan has been prepared and is being put up for national consensus. He -203>

expressed the hope that the programme would be seen above party politics.

The Secretary dwelt at length on the implications of the growing population and emphasised that unless speedy solution is not found, the country's socio-economic development would suffer. Shri Mathur also hoped that more and more voluntary organisations will come forward to make this programme a success. He disclosed that various schemes for mother and child health care are being launched and a new look is being given to the package of incentives and disincentives for the population control. The Government's efforts will be to bring in fold young couples, improve quality of contraceptives and strengthen the inter-State coordination for promotion of the family welfare programmes.

The experts from the SAARC countries during the workshop will discuss the problems of child survival, family planning and population growth. The other subjects are population stabilisation strategies in organised sector and communication strategies for population stabilisation in the SAARC countries.

The representatives will also present the papers relating to family welfare programmes in their respective counteris in this workshop also.

DIA BANGLADESH BHUTAN MALDIVES NEPAL PAKISTAN SRI LANKA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date**: Oct 07, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### **VIETNAM**

Vietnam may Supply Crude to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 29, 1991:

Vietnam is keen to have an oil refinery with the help of India. It may also supply crude to India by adding pour point depresant in Vietnamese crude. This was disclosed by Mr. Tren Lum, Minister of Heavy Industry of Vietnam to Shri B. Shankaranand, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas in Hanoi. Shri Shankaranand is presently on a tour to Vietnam to discuss bilateral cooperation.

Welcoming the Indian delegation in Vietnam, Mr. Tran Lum said that Vietnam recognise the cooperation with India in the field of oil and gas as an important hall-mark in bilateral cooperation. He expressed the hope that the current tour of Indian Petroleum Minister would further promote the cooperation between Vietnamese and Indian companies in the sphere of Petroleum and Gas.

Expressing satisfaction over the growing and expanding relations in diverse fields, Shri Shankaranand said that there was great potential to expand the cooperation in the field of oil and natural gas. The Minister held the discussions with Vietnamese counterpart on various bilateral issues. The status of utilisation of natural gas in India was explained. Indian interest in the gas project in Vietnam was also conveyed. Indian side explained the capabilities of India in the field of providing services from preparation of feasibility study upto project supervision and commissioning of the pipe line system.

Shri Shankaranand also met General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and had a discussion on issues of mutual interest for both countries.

#### ETNAM INDIA TURKEY USA

**Date**: Oct 29, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## **UNESCO**

#### India Elected to UNESCO Bodies

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 31, 1991:

At the 26th General Conference of UNESCO India has been elected to all the three inter-governmental commissions for which it contested. The Conference is currently on in Paris.

India has been elected to the International Coordinating Council of the Programme on Man and Biosphere securing 76 votes, which was the highest. Pakistan which had contested against India in this got 35 votes and was defeated. India also won its place in the Inter-governmental Committee of the World Decade for Cultural Development (WDCD) with 83 votes and in the Inter-governmental Council of the General Information Programme with 93 votes out of 130 valid votes cast.

DIA FRANCE PAKISTAN

**Date**: Oct 31, 1991

# Volume No

1995

## UNESCO

## **UNESCO** Experts Meet

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 21, 1991:

A 4-day meeting of UNESCO Member Countries of South and South East Asian Region begins at India International Centre here tomorrow. Organised by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts it will discuss networking of specialised information system on cultural heritage. Representatives from 12 countries including Australia, Bhutan, Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand, the United Kingdom and host India will participate.

The meeting will focus on the need for bringing together experts on archives, computers and communications, librarians, and scholars for evolving standards for compatibility, on specalised information system for networking of art and cultural heritage. While there is a common heritage in arts and culture in South East Asian region it is necessary that the valuable cultural resources are suitably indexed, documented and preserved. The predominent communication technologies of today being video, computers and telecommunication networks, the exchange of information for resource sharing through network technology is rapidly growing. The meeting will also pay adequate attention to the multi-lingual, multi-media, multi-national and multi-religious cultural resources information status of the region.

DIA USA AUSTRALIA BANGLADESH BHUTAN CHINA INDONESIA IRAN NEPAL PAKISTAN PHILIPPINES THAILAND

**Date**: Oct 21, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

US Trade Representative Calls on Finance Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 07, 1991:

The Union Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and the US Trade Representative Mrs. Carla Hills at a meeting here today agreed that the success of the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations was vital for the growth of world trade and prosperity. They had an extremely useful exchange of views on outstanding trade issues and it was agreed that the dialogue between the two countries on issues such as Intellectual Property Rights should continue to as to find a mutually satisfactory solution which would protect India's essential concerns and national objectives.

Calling on the Union Finance Minister here this morning, Mrs. Carla Hills now on a visit to India said the countries having liberalised trade and industrial policies have made faster economic growth and achieved rapid development and gave the example of Mexico and other countries.

The Finance Minister apprised Mrs. Hills about India's Trade and Industrial policy reforms and the fiscal stabilization efforts being made by the Government. He appreciated the support extended to India by the Government. He appreciated the support extended to India by the US Government in multilateral financial fora such as the IMF. He went on to add that enlarged access to the markets of developed countries would create a favourable international environment for the success of our structural reforms. Mrs. Hills appreciated the economic reforms introduced by the Government of India in recent months. The meeting lasted nearly an hour.

A INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC URUGUAY MEXICO

**Date**: Oct 07, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION

India Elected Chairman of the South Asia Commission of the World Tourism Organisation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 04, 1991:

India has been elected Chairman of the South Asia Commission of the World Tourism Organisation. The Election was held during the Ninth Session of the General Assembly of the WTO, now under way in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The other members of the Commission are Afghanisthan, Pakistan, Iran, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Maldives. The out going Chairman is Pakistan. India is already a member of the important executive council of WTO.

Addressing the General Assembly, the leader of the Indian Delegation, Shri Manish Bahl, Secretary (Tourism) has called upon the WTO to play a purposeful role by initiating development projects in developing countries and arrange for financial assistance. He referred to the emphasis sand importance to development of tourism being given by the Indian government through the recently announced new industrial and trade policies.

Referring to the new measures to attract foreign investments in hotel projects and tourism related industry, Shri Bahl invited foreign investment in tourism sector in India, in a big way. -207>

## DIA ARGENTINA BANGLADESH IRAN NEPAL PAKISTAN SRI LANKA MALDIVES USA

**Date**: Oct 04, 1991

## **November**

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**Date**: Nov 01, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

#### Indo-EEC Workshop on Processed Foods

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 04, 1991:

Indian exporters have been urged to gear up the quality control mechanism in order to meet the new European Economic Community (EEC) quality standards, especially in the agro, sector. Presiding over a, Technical Workshop on Processed Food Sector under the Indo-EEC Cooperation Programme in Cochin recently, Shri Venkataraman, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce, said that the industry should now prepare itself and opt for the quality Systems Certification as per the ISO 9000 or IS 14000 series, as only then would the Indian industry be able to find a firm foothold in the quality-conscious European as well as the world markets. The new quality standards certification procedures for various products are not only very stringent but also they lay great emphasis on hygienic conditions, pesticide residue limits, microbiological standard and informative labelling.

The one-day Workshop was organised by the Bureau of Indian Standards.

The EEC spends about US \$ 396 billion on imports but India's share in these imports is a meagre 0.8%. India has a sizeable deficit in its trade with the Community and with considerable increase in the buying powers of the new EEC after 1992, it is anticipated that there will be pressure on even the present market share, which makes it vital for India to ensure the highest quality standard.

Shri Venkataraman mentioned that India had already entered into an Industrial Cooperation Agreement with the EEC covering the area of quality control.

He said that the Government was keen to promote the processed food industry, particularly in view of its vast export potential. He said that with the announcement of changes in the trade and industrial policies and identification of extreme focus sectors, agro exports had a much brighter future than ever before.

According to estimates, only 1 to 5% of raw food is processed into food products in India, while in countries like the US the percentage is as high as 60 to 70 %. This is despite the fact

that India is the world's second largest producer of vegetables, after China and the third largest grower of fruits, next to Brazil and USA. The value of the total production of fruits and vegetables that goes waste is around Rs. 3000 to Rs. 4000 crores annually, the Workshop noted.

DIA USA CHINA BRAZIL

**Date**: Nov 04, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### **EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY**

## Indo-EEC Joint Commission Meeting

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 13, 1991:

The seventh meeting of the Indo-EEC Joint Commission began here today. The inaugural session was addressed by Shri A. V. Ganesan, Commerce Secretary and leader of the Indian delegation and by Mr. Juan Prat, Director General, EEC for External Affairs and North-South Relations, who is leading the EEC delegation. -209>

In his opening remarks, Shri Ganesan said that the meeting was taking place in a very crucial phase of India's economic development. EEC has emerged as India's largest trading partner. More than 30% of India's exports and 38% of its imports are to and from EEC, he said. He noted that India's share of exports to EEC was only 1% of EEC's global imports. Shri Ganesan underlined the need to go into specifies of anti-dumping investigations which were affecting the small and medium enterprises in India, in turn affecting our exports. He suggested the formulation of a. national scheme for quality control land standards which would get immediate international recognition. This was important in the context of EC'92, he said.

Shri Ganesan hoped that Uruguay Round of multi-lateral Trade Negotiations would produce balanced results. India was keen that a rule-based multi-lateral trading system should merge which would be beneficial to the developing countries. The dismantling of barriers like MFA should be done immediately. He said that India had deep political, social and economic concerns with regard to patent rights in pharmaceuticals, food and chemicals.

Mr. Juan Prat, in his address, said that Indo-EEC relations were broad based and EEC's thrust was to enhance this relationship. He clarified that EEC's operations to support Central and East European countries for switching over from socialist to market economies would not, in any way, affect EEC's interests in Asia and Latin America. The Indo-EEC's trade figures clearly demonstrated EEC's commitment, he said. Mr. Prat was appreciative of the dynamism of Indian businessmen and wanted strangthening of relations between EEC and Indian private sectors. There was a need for institutionalised high level interaction between Indian and EEC businessmen where they could put forward proposals to the Government and not the other way round, he suggested.

The 2-day meeting will deliberate on various issues relating to Indo-EEC trade, particularly the issue of market access for Indian goods covering Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), Multi-fibre arrangement (MFA) and anti-dumping, trade promotion programmes and new perspectives in cooperation, including industrial cooperation. Shri G. Sundaram and Shri A. Hoda, Additional Secretaries in the Ministry of Commerce also participated in the meeting.

DIA URUGUAY USA **Date**: Nov 13, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### **FRANCE**

Indo-French Joint Panel Meeting

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 07, 1991,

The eighth meeting of the Indo-French Joint Committee is scheduled to be held in Paris on 7th and 8th November, 1991. The Indian delegation to the meeting is being led by Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce. Besides the Minister, the Indian delegation comprises -210>

Shri J. S. Gill, Joint Secretary (West Europe Division), Ministry of Commerce and one representative each of the Departments of Economic Affairs, Power, Electronics and Industry.

The main issues likely to be discussed by the Joint Committee

would relate to bilateral trade, industrial and financial cooperation and other sectors of interest to both sides.

ANCE INDIA USA **Date**: Nov 07, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## **GERMANY**

## Indo-FRG Joint Commission Meeting

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 19, 1991:

The IXth session of the Indo-FRG Joint Commission for Industrial and Economic Cooperation was held in New Delhi on November 19, 1991. The Indian delegation to the Joint Commission was led by Dr. Manmohan Singh, Finance Minister while the German delegation was led by Mr. Juargon W. Moollefann, Federal Minister for Economics. Apart from senior officials of the two Governments, the delegation included leading German and Indian industrialists, bankers and representatives of major trading houses.

A joint statement was signed by the two ministers at the end of the Joint Commission meeting.

The Joint Commission took note of the recent steps taken by India to promote growth and investment and to integrate fully with the world economy. The German delegation appreciated the need to accelerate the flow of capital and investment from developed countries to India to assist in the task of stepping up the growth momentum and integrating itself more fully with the World Economy. The German delegation reiterated their country's commitment to support India bilaterally as well as in International fora in India's efforts to revitalise it's economy. Several important issues in bilateral economic relations, particularly pertaining to trade and investment were discussed during the meeting of the Joint Commission.

The two delegations also discussed the progress of the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations and way and means of resolving the pending stumbling blocks to successful conclusion of the negotiations. Urgent need to create conditions within the framework of GATT conducive to expansion of exports of the developing countries was recognised.

Initiative was taken by the two countries to constitute two working groups on trade and investment within the Joint Commission framework which met on November 18, prior to the full meeting of the Joint Commission. Senior officials of the two Governments, leading industrialists, bankers from both sides took part in the deliberations.

Extensive discussions were also held between Indian and German industrialists under the auspices of the business associations. Finance Minister and German Minister for Economics were also present during the discussions.

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RMANY INDIA USA URUGUAY

**Date**: Nov 19, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

## **GERMANY**

## German Parliamentary Delegation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 20, 1991:

An 8-member delegation of the Committee for Women and Youth of the German Parliament led by Dr. Edith Nieh is called on the Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Kum Mamata Banerjee here today. The visitors evinced keen interest in the programme for women and youth in India. They also wanted to know the steps being taken in the country to improve the status of women. Kum Banerjee informed them of the various programmes being carried out by the Government for the promotion of welfare of women and child and the youth. These included leadership training programme for the youth, the world's largest nutrition programmeintegrated child development services (ICDS) and the newly introduced programme for adolescent girls to make them self reliant and confident. The visitors were also informed that the Indian Constitution enshrines equal rights for women. Both sides felt that the two countries have a great deal of understanding and it will grow further in the future. The Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs and Sports Shri M. M. Rajendran and the Secretary, Dept. of Women and Child Development, Kum Mira Seth were among those present on the occasion.

#### RMANY INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date**: Nov 20, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

## **SAARC Summit**

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 06, 1991 on SAARC Summit:

Prime Minister has received a message from President Gayoom of the Maldives this afternoon. President Gayoom, who is the Chairman of the SAARC, has informed Prime Minister that the SAARC Summit at Colombo cannot be held as scheduled.

President Gayoom. has come to this conclusion after extensive consultations among SAARC member countries occasioned by the inability of the King of Bhutan to attend the Summit due to domestic preoccupations.

The SAARC Chairman will hold further consultations on fresh dates for the postponed Summit.

The Prime Minister will, therefore, no longer be travelling to Colombo.

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## DIA MALDIVES SRI LANKA USA BHUTAN

**Date**: Nov 06, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

**SAARC Summit** 

The following is the record of response of the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 07, 1991 on the questions relating to SAARC Summit:

In response to a question regarding Colombo press reports that the postponement became necessary because of India's insistence on attendance by Bhutan, the Spokesman said, we have insisted on nothing. We were guided by the advice of the Chairman, who was in consultation with all the members of the SAARC. It is an international conference, which is run according to certain rules and certain charters. If one or to Heads of State decides that they cannot go, then the Chairman has the responsibility to check whether the Summit can be held on or not. He had this checked and reached the conclusion.

In response to another question as to whether the King could have been represented by some plenipotentiary just as Premadasa was represented by his P.M. at Male, the Spokesman said, every sovereign country has a right to interpret its Constitution in its own light, by virtue of its own perception of what the Constitution states. So, when a sovereign Head of a particular State decides that he will go, that is his decision, and if another Head decides that he will be represented by his P.M., that is his sovereign decision. I am in no position to comment on what Colombo is saying. We are guided by the communication that we have received from the Chairman, and that communication says very clearly that because Bhutan is unable to attend the Summit, it cannot be held.

In response to a question as to which countries India had been in touch with, the Spokesman said, we have been in touch only with the Maldives, which is the Organiser, as well as the Chairman; the communication of the consensus that he has arrived at after his consultations with all the member-countries.

In response to another question as to whether PM was reluctant to go, the Spokesman said we have never been reluctant to attend the Summit. There were various press speculations. We have said only two days ago that PM had every intention to travel to Colombo as scheduled.

In response to a question as to whether India instigated Bhutan not to attend, the Spokesman said: "Every country takes its own sovereign decision in the light of its perception of its own national interest. To suggest that it has been moved or persuaded by any other extraneous considerations is totally unwarranted".

DIA SRI LANKA USA BHUTAN MALDIVES

**Date**: Nov 07, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

## Visit of EC Parliamentary Delegation

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 07, 1991 on the visit of E.C. Parliamentary Delegation:

A delegation led by Mr, George Stevenson of the European Parliament has been in India for the last couple of days. They have already met the Finance and Home Ministers, as well as the Speaker of the Parliament Mr. Shivraj Patil. They had a two-hour meeting this morning with our External Affairs Minister Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki. During the course of this meeting, the leader of the delegation and its members roundly condemned terrorist activities. They said that "we are very clear in our condemnation of terrorism and of those who support it." When some of the -213>

members of the delegation made a reference, in the context of a discussion on the situation in Jammu & Kashmir, to certain UN Resolutions, the External Affairs Minister said that these Resolutions had been superseded by the Simla Agreement of 1972 and that this was the position, that was now widely recognised by Governments round the world, including the British Government. In the present context, the UN Resolutions had no applicability. There was no question of re-opening the Jammu & Kashmir issue. There was one pending matter to discuss and that was the method by which Pakistan should peacefully vacate those portions of the State, which they had forcefully and illegally occupied. The onus was on Pakistan to create an appropriate atmosphere free from overt support to terrorists, so that peaceful discussions on this single pending issue could take place.

The discussions also covered economic cooperation between India and the European Community. The delegation expressed happiness that radical measures had been undertakes, which would place India on the path to peace and progress. They requested the government to create regulations which were transparent in matters relating to direct foreign investment, in order to maximise the possibility of expanding trade with all member-countries. The EC had meaningful agreements with organisations such as the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and that they would like to consolidate on similar lines, their trade arrangements with India. The External Affairs Minister assured the delegation that their suggestions would be taken note of, and

told them that India had every intention of continuing on its new path and that while some reforms had already been implemented, others were still in the process of being worked out.

While discussing the international situation, both the EC delegation and the External Affairs Minister welcomed the end of the cold war and increasing detente between all countries in Europe. The External Affairs Minister briefed the delegation about India's time-tested relations with the Soviet Union and of the expanding relationship with the United States. He told them that India would continue to diversify its ties with the United States without, in any way, jeopardising its relations with the Soviet Union, as an entity and also with its constituent Republics, with whom meaningful contacts had already been established.

The External Affairs Minister briefed the EC delegation about our relations with members of SAARC region, including the circumstances leading to the current postponement of the SAARC Summit. While discussing India's relations with Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bhutan, the External Affairs Ministed spent a considerable amount of time explaining how the relationship with Pakistan had shown no tangible forward movement, inspite of agreement on several confidence-building measures, Agreement on non-attack of Nuclear Installations, frequent talks at the level of Directors-General of Military Operations and five-rounds of talks at the Foreign Secretary-level, the last of which had concluded only 10 days ago. The reason for this unfortunate. position was the lack of abatement in Pakistani support to terrorists. He told the E.C. delegation that we have evidence that a large number of trained terrorists are waiting across the border and that efforts would be made to push such terrorists across the border before the high-mountain passes are closed in by snow.

In their half an hour meeting with the Prime Minister, the leader of the EC delegation, Mr. George Stevenson said that the delegation were very satisfied with their earlier meetings with the Vice-President, Home Minister, the External Affairs Minister, Finance Minister and the Speaker of the Parliament. They expressed gratitude for the excellent account that they had been given, of the economic reforms that had been initiated and said that this would open up many opportunities for cooperation -214>

with the Community. The Prime Minister expressed his own satisfaction at the excellent state of relations that India enjoys individually with the European countries, as well as collectively with the Community. He urged the members of the delegation to make every effort to understand India and its institutions, political and otherwise. He underlined that such an understanding could only be achieved if they stayed longer and travelled more extensively in the country. The leader said that

he personally was disappointed at being unable to travel to Jammu & Kashmir. Prime Minister assured him that India had nothing to hide. All manners of persons were visiting Kashmir, including tourists, journalists etc. but there had been a slight worsening of the security situation in the recent past, which led the authorities to the conclusion that this was not the most opportune time for a visit by the delegation. The Prime Minister added that he would, personally wish to invite the members of the delegation to visit Jammu & Kashmir whenever the situation permits. One of the leaders of the Socialist Group from Spain, Mr. J. V. Fouz said that he was very satisfied with the visit and the arrangements that had been made. The delegation had met the entire top leadership of the country including the Prime Minister. The delegation could not expect more as guests of India. All members were afforded all possible courtesy. He emphasized that the delegation had not come to India to advise the government how to run its affairs or how to resolve its problems. He added that he, like other members of his delegation, was most impressed by these substantial measures undertaken to open up the economy. He was confident that these measures will pave the way for greater cooperation with the European Community.

In response to question on whether the delegation had been permitted to visit J & K, the Spokesman said:

We have told the European delegation that because of the tense situation currently prevailing in J&K, where their security is entirely our responsibility, we would not be in a position to risk the possibility of any harm coming to them during a visit to the State of J&K.

DIA USA PAKISTAN BANGLADESH BHUTAN NEPAL SRI LANKA SPAIN

**Date**: Nov 07, 1991

## Volume No

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Indo Saudi Joint Commission

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 11, 1991 on Indo-Saudi Joint Commission:

Mr. Abdulaziz Abdullah Al Zamil, Minister of Industry and Electricity, is coming here to take part in the Indo-Saudi Joint

Commission discussions which will be held from November 13-15, 1991.

The Indo Saudi Joint Commission was established through an economic and technical cooperation agreement between the two governments, signed as far back as in April 1981, when the present Prime Minister, Shri Narasimha Rao, was the External Affairs Minister, and the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, Prince Saud Al Faisal, was visiting India. The Joint Commission met twice before in 1983 (New Delhi) and in 1986 (Riyadh).

Mr, Abdullah will be accompanied by a 36-member Saudi delegation of which more than 15 are Saudi businessman, and the rest are officials. They will have an inaugural session and then they would break-up into sub-committees to consider issues in depth.

The policy planners of India and Saudi Arabia would meet against the backdrop of a varied and mutually beneficial economic relationship between India and Saudi -215>

Arabia. Both delegations would need to try and find a greater balance in their trade, which is considerably in Saudi Arabia's favour. We also need to remove structural impediments by promoting mutual awareness of the enormous potential that exists, for further expansion of our trade.

In response to a question as to name some structural impediments, the Spokesman said that in any trading pattern between any two countries, there are always impediments, some structural and some otherwise. The two sides will identify these impediments, they would try and overcome them: like shipping and transport. It is the job of the Joint Commission and commercial delegation to identify such impediments and try and remove them.

Going by the preparations that have been made by the Saudi Arabia and the Indian side, it is clear that both the countries are approaching the discussions with full determination to take advantage of the geographical proximity between our two countries and the considerable complimentarity between the two economies.

Bilateral relations between India and Saudi Arabia have shown steady improvements over the years. We had Special Envoy of the Saudi King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, who was here in January 1991, named Sheikh Muhammed Ibrahim Massoud. Then, Dr. Najma Heptullah, Deputy Chairman (Rajya Sabha), had been there, a month earlier, in December 1990. We have had an exchange of Defence delegations between the two countries. The Saudi Staff College team came from there in 1989 and National Defence College, Delhi, team returned the visit in 1990.

During their stay here the delegation, led by Mr. Al Zamil, will call on the President and the Finance Minister.

Trade imbalance and major investment figures (in Crore Rs):

Year	Indian Exports	Indian
Imports		
1986-87	213.56	862.33
1990-91	418.42	2897.73

The ratio is going up from 1:4 to 1:7, in their favour. Our exports are primarily rice, engineering goods, tea, tobacco, oil meals, cotton and fabrics. And our imports are petroleum and petroleum products, chemicals and sulphur.

In response to a question as to the areas in which we could increase our exports, the Spokesman said that tremendous developmental work is taking place in Saudi Arabia; certainly, on the engineering goods side, and machinery, and so on, we could get a much larger share of the market.

In response to another question, the Spokesman said that during the war, when our traditional supplies from the Gulf and Iraq were dried up, it was the Saudi Arabia to whom we turned and they promptly came to our help and provided the additional supplies of oil.

#### DIA USA SAUDI ARABIA IRAQ

**Date**: Nov 11, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of External Affairs Minister to Tehran

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on the visit of External Affairs Minister to Tehran:

Shri Madhavsinh Solanki, Minister for External Affairs visited Tehran from Nov 09, 1991 to 12th November, 1991 for the 5th session of the Joint Commission.

2. During his visit, he held a number of high level meetings with Iranian leaders. External Affairs Minister was received by His Excellency Hashemi Rafsanjani, Presi--216>

dent of the Islamic Republic of Iran on 11th November in the morning.

- 3. He held two sessions of talks with his counterpart Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati and also held talks with the Iranian Minister of construction crusade (Jehad-E-Sazendgi) and commerce.
- 4. During these talks, both sides underlined their firm desire to move comprehensively forward in expanding areas of bilateral cooperation and exchanges for mutual benefit. Views were also exchanged on major regional and international issues. Discussions revealed a broad identity of view on all these areas of common concern. Closer cooperation in the context of NAM and the need for more frequent high-level contacts was underlined by the two sides.
- 5. A wide-ranging agenda of bilateral cooperation in the field of cultural, consular., scientific and technical, trade and industry was discussed during the joint commission meetings and substantial progress was made in opening a new chapter of more intense and fruitful exchanges.
- 6. A number of significant agreements were concluded during the joint commission session. These included a new executive programme of cultural, scientific cooperation for the years 1992-93-94, A MOU on consular matters facilitating travel by businessmen and nationals of the two countries, and a MOU on cooperation in the fields of agriculture.
- 7. Bilateral political exchanges, trade and economic relations are to expand rapidly as a result of the joint commission meeting. An action programme was agreed which involves a series of visits to expand relations. The Iranian side welcomed the participation of Indian companies in Iran's reconstruction programme and major projects in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

AN INDIA USA

**Date**: Nov 09, 1991

# Volume No

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

**SAARC Summit** 

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 13, 1991 on SAARC Summit:

Government have seen with surprise, press reports on the statement made by the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister on the SAARC Summit. The reported statement does not correctly reflect the developments leading to the postponement of the Summit. It is regrettable that as was the case in 1989, a needlessly acrimonious note has been introduced by the Government of Sri Lanka in matters concerning SAARC.

The extensive consultations undertaken by the SAARC Chairman, the President of Maldives, with other Heads of State and Government occasioned by the inability of the King of Bhutan to attend the Summit led him to conclude that the Sixth Summit could not be held as scheduled. And further that there was no unanimity among the Heads of State for holding informal discussions among SAARC leaders.

India's position that it would not have been proper or correct for the Summit to be held unless all the Heads of State Government were present, is more than a matter of procedure or convenience Apart from the discourtesy that it would have implied to His Majesty The King of Bhutan, the readiness to accept substitutes would have had far reaching conclusions for our Association (SAARC). There has been a careful, a deliberate mandate, made abundantly clear, in the very first Summit held in Dhaka in 1985 wherein Para 3 of the Dhaka Declaration says the Heads have been asked to arrive at unanimous decisions and to meet periodically at their

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level because such meetings amongst the Heads of State Government are necessary to promote trust and mutual confidence amongst them. We conveyed this position as soon as we were consulted. India remains committed to furthering the objectives of SAARC and looks forward to participating in the Summit as and when fresh dates have been worked out.

In response to a question regarding certain details mentioned in the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister's statement in the Sri Lankan Parliament, the Spokesman said: "I am not going into a detailed analysis of the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister's statement; nor am I going to quibble about days and dates. We are talking about certain principles underlying regional cooperation and the Charter of SAARC. As far as Prime Minister's travel plans are concerned, I have been sharing these with you during my briefings for the last two week, in fact on a daily basis. I do not think, there is any room for ambiguity left on that account."

In response to another question as to whether the Charter could not be amended as desired by Pakistan and Sri Lanka, the Spokesman said that certainly it was open to the Heads to amend any portion of the Charter. However, in order to do that they had to meet and decide unanimously. That was the crux of the matter.

In response to another question as to how India had accepted the attendance, at previous Summits of Prime Minister Junejo and Prime Minister Premadasa as he was then, the Spokesman said: "As I told you a few days ago, the interpretation of a country's Constitution is the sole and sovereign prerogative of that country and its Head of State Government. It is not for us for any other country to interpret the interpretations of another country's Constitution. In response to another question as to why India did not try and generate unanimity on the question of Colombo Summit, the Spokesman replied that it is not the responsibility of India alone to generate unanimity on any subject. In fact on this question, the responsibility devolves upon the Chairman, namely Maldives, and the Chairman fulfilled his obligations in this regard."

In response to another question as to how India was represented at Male by a Foreign Secretary at the Foreign Ministers' meeting, the Spokesman replied that we are not discussing senior officials meetings or indeed, Foreign Ministers level meetings. What we are dealing with here is the Summit level meetings and for this, the Charter leaves no room for doubt that representation must be at the Head of State Government level.

In response to another question as to whether the King of Bhutan at any stage said that he would not send a representative to attend the Summit, the Spokesman said: "I would not like to speak on behalf of the King of Bhutan".

In response to another question as to what the attitude of the Nepalese Prime Minister was, the Spokesman said that he could not equally speak on behalf of the Nepalese Prime Minister.

DIA SRI LANKA USA MALDIVES BHUTAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC BANGLADESH PAKISTAN NEPAL

**Date**: Nov 13, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Saudi Minister of Industry and Electricity

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 13, 1991 on the visit of the Saudi Minister of Industry & Electricity His Excellency Mr. Abdulaziz Abdullah Al Zamil:

The Saudi Minister of Industry and Electricity had a meeting yesterday, -218>

12-11-1991, with the Petroleum Minister, Mr. Shankaranand, and he also had a useful meeting with members of FICCI. This morning, 13-11-1991, he had a meeting with our Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, in which they had wide ranging discussions on India's economic relations with Saudi Arabia in a number of fields.

After a gap of 5 years the Joint Commission has met again. This signals a rejuvenation of Indo-Saudi relations and is evidence that both Governments have the political will to carry the bilateral relationship forward. Evidence of the determination of both Governments to move in a concrete and practical manner to strengthen our relations can be seen in the fact that the Saudis have brought a list of 50 projects in the fields of engineering, plastic, food processing, steel plants. This is part of their Five Year Plan envisaging an investment of 120 billion dollars of which about 50-60 billion dollars are yet to be spent. They have invited us to participate in the remaining part of the Five Year Plan and utilise the 50 billion dollars that are available. All these projects have been licensed and are ready to be implemented.

We, in our turn, have given a list of 12 projects for which we have proposed to them to earmark Rs. 250 crore, which will be part financing of these 12 projects. Our interest is in hospitals equipment and a variety of other fields.

The Saudis have said that they will facilitate the issue of visas to Indians, especially the businessmen, and they wish this visit to be treated as an open invitation to Indian businessmen to come and participate in the development of Saudi Arabia.

A little known fact to emerge from this meeting is that the Saudis are not only self-sufficient in food grains, but that they export 2 million tonnes of food grains annually. We both have a lot to learn from each other.

During their discussions, both Ministers expressed satisfaction at strengthening of bilateral relations, discussed ways and means of widening of areas of cooperation, specially in the field of finance, such as the possibility of having an agreement on the avoidance of double taxation. during discussions with the Petroleum Minister and the Finance Minister, they talked about joint ventures specially in the field of petro-chemicals, both in

India and in Saudi Arabia, including the participation of ONGC in Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi delegation showed keen interest in the economic reforms that are currently in the process of being introduced in India. They felt these reforms would facilitate the entry of Saudi investment into India. The Saudi Minister said the Indians in Saudi Arabia number over 6,00,000. They range from the unskilled to the highly skilled, including Presidents of companies; all these Indians, in their own ways, have contributed to the development of Saudi Arabia. Indians in Saudi Arabia, because of the key jobs they hold, are in a position to facilitate economic exchanges between the two countries.

Following upon the meetings with Finance Minister, the Joint Commission met. There were about 38 members in Saudi delegation, of which 17 were businessmen. Immediately, the Joint Commission broke-up into four working grodps which will cover the following four areas: i) economic and financial cooperation ii) cooperation in the field of trade and industry; iii) cooperation in science and technology and services; and iv) cooperation among businessmen which means essentially through Chambers of Commerce and FICCI and other organisations.

A INDIA TURKEY SAUDI ARABIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date**: Nov 13, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of the President of Zimbabwe

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 13, 1991 on the visit of the President of Zimbabwe, H.E. Mr. Robert G. Mugabe:

President Mugabe is getting the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding tomorrow in recognition of his personal contribution to the anti-colonial struggle and for the cause of apartheid. He has been to India in 1981, twice in 1983 for CHOGM and for NAM and again in January 1987 for a meeting of the Africa Fund Meeting. Rajiv Gandhi, as Prime Minister, went to Zimbabwe twice in 1986, and President R. Venkataraman went there

on a State visit in June 1989. More recently, of course, Prime Minister was there during the Harare meeting. Our trade and economic and technical cooperation agreement was signed in May 1981. We have 500 railway technicians sent by RITES and a variety of other engineers and technicians sent by Telecommunication Consultants. Our exports have risen from Rs. 7.70 crores in 1988-89 to Rs. 18.38 crores in 1990-91. Imports in the same years were Rs. 14.03 crores and Rs. 24.48 crores. We are exporting tractors, diesel engines, sewing machines, compressors, hand tools, etc. Our main imports are asbestoes, rough emralds, phospheric acid, nickel and copper.

During his stay in Delhi, President Mugabe will call on the President, Vice President, Prime Minister and Minister of State for External Affairs, Eduardo Faleiro. He will visit Bangalore, the Bharat Electronic Limited and Hindustan Machine Tools.

MBABWE INDIA USA **Date**: Nov 3@, 1991

# Volume No

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Official Delegation from Australia

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 18, 1991 on the visit of official delegation from Australia:

A high-level official delegation from Australia, led by Mr. Paul Barratt, Deputy Secretary in Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is currently visiting India. The delegation had wide-ranging discussions today with the Indian delegation, led by Shri L. L. Mehrotra, Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs. The two sides exchanged views on the international political scene, the Uruguay Round of talks, role of international financial institutions including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and Asian Development Bank and international environmental issues. Both India and Australia attach very high priority to the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of talks on which there was a broad similarity of views.

There was also extensive discussion of the ongoing bilateral

cooperation between India and Australia and prospects for future growth. The implications of the new economic and industrial policies of India were explained to the Australian delegation and it was emphasised that all obstacles to foreign direct investment in India were being removed. Secretary (East) stated that India attaches very high importance to the strengthening of relations with Australia and looks forward to increasing interaction with it in the context of the globalisation of India's economy and as a neighbour in the Asia-Pacific region. Mr. Paul Barratt stated that India would be one of the major economies in the 21st century. The Indian -220>

side sought the assistance of the Government of Australia in encouraging Australian business to invest in India. The possibility of enhancing Indo-Australian cooperation by setting up a new joint working group in the power sector was discussed. Ongoing developments in the Australia-India Joint Ministerial Commission, the Joint Business Council and the Joint Trade Committee were also reviewed.

The talks will continue tomorrow. The Australian delegation will be returning on November 20, 1991.

STRALIA USA INDIA URUGUAY

**Date**: Nov 18, 1991

## Volume No

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Prime Minister's Message to PLO Chairman

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 19, 1991 on Prime Minister's message to PLO Chairman on International Day of Solidarity:

The Prime Minister in a message to Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO, on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people on 29-11-1991, has reiterated and reaffirmed India's unequivocal commitment and continuous and unstinted support for the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people. Prime Minister expressed gratification that the centrality of the Palestinian issue to the Middle-East problem has, at last, received the attention and recognition of

all concerned. He has expressed the hope that the process of dialogue now initiated will culminate in the restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinians and an equitable resolution of the cause for which they have struggled hard and long.

DIA USA

**Date**: Nov 19, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Labour Minister of Mongolian People's Republic

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 22, 1991 on the visit of Labour Minister of Mongolian People's Republic:

Mr. Ts. Tsolomon, Minister of Labour of the Mongolian People's Republic called on Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Eduardo Faleiro, on 22nd November, 1991. The two Ministers reviewed bilateral relations between India and Mongolia which have traditionally been friendly and cordial.

The Mongolian Labour Minister also briefed MOS (EA) on the major changes that have taken place in Mongolia with the advent of democracy in 1990. He also sought India's assistance in the economic field and for training of Mongolian in various fields particularly technical training. Minister of State (EA) assured the visiting Mongolian Minister of all cooperation and assistance by India to Mongolia.

The Mongolian Minister will also call on Minister of State (Industry), Shri P. K. Thungon. Shri L. L. Mehrotra, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs also called on the visiting Mongolian Minister.

Mr. Tsolomon is in India on a 4-day visit at the invitation of CIMMCO International.

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NGOLIA INDIA USA

**Date**: Nov 22, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Consultative Committee Meeting

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 23, 1991 on consultative committee meting:

The Consultative Committee attached to our Ministry had a meeting last night which lasted about two and a half hours. It was chaired by Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, External Affairs Minister, who was assisted by Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr Eduardo Faleiro, Foreign Secretary, Muchkund Dubey, and his successor, Mr. J. N. Dixit.

The basic issue under discussion at last night's meeting was the Soviet Union. The members of the Committee raised a number of questions. They, in the first place, sought information on the technical issue of the timing of the Foreign Minister's visit: they wanted to know why this particular time was chosen; whether there was any particular hurry; whether it was at our own initiative; whether the Kashmir issue had been raised in the Soviet Union; whether on that particular issue, there was a substantive change in the Soviet position. Others wanted to know the reasons behind the decision of the United Nations General Assembly on a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in South Asia; whether there is still a convergence of views between the Soviet Union and ourselves on matters relating to our bilateral relations and world issues. Two other matters came up briefly for discussion. One was the postponement of the SAARC and the other was our relations with Israel

On the Soviet Union, the External Affairs Minister, and his Deputy, and the Foreign Secretary, underlined that the objective of making this visit, at this particular time, was to better understand the rapid developments taking place there and to establish political contacts with the leaders of the Russian Republic. They explained that the visit took place in the framework of our friendly and tradition of high-level dialogue that we enjoyed. Also, in order to obtain a degree of clarity in our ideas, so that we could find mutually beneficial solutions which were acceptable to both sides, on various difficulties which have cropped up in our multifaceted, multidimensional

relationship with the Soviet Union: such as trading patterns with them, defence supplies from the Soviet Union and setting up of infrastructural facilities, especially in the power sector and so on. The Minister shared his assessment with the Committee that the visit was an ertremely productive one and could be said to be successful. He said that both President Gorbachev and President Yelstin, with whom he spent an hour and two hours respecively, were fully briefed upon the entire gamut of our bilateral relationship and the nature of problems we were facing. In the dialogue, they came up with concrete suggestions and ideas, based upon which we could find solutions to our problems. External Affairs Minister said that he also had discussions with Mr. Ivan Silayev, Chairman of the Inter-Republic Economic Committee.

The Minister told the Committee that the attitude of both the sides, the Soviet and the Russian, was uniformally positive in all fields. He came away with the impression that our concerns have been fully appreciated, and with an impression that there is a genuine desire to find solutions to all outstanding problems, at the level of the Union and the Russian Republic. Also heartening was the fact that President Yelstin assured the Minister, as indeed did the leaders of the Union, that there will be a total adherence to all commitments made to India at the Union level and the Russian Republic. It was announced to the Committee members that a multi-disciplinary, high level official team will be in Moscow next month, to sort out the difficulties that

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have been faced in the various sectors of our bilateral relationship.

Both, President Gorbachev and President Yelstin, have agreed to visit India next year. Mr. Silayev, Chairman, IREC, has also accepted our invitation to visit India. Mr. Pankin had also agreed to come early next year, and we hope that his successor, Mr. Shevardnadze, will adhere to this time schedule.

In the discussion that the Minister had, the Russian and the Union leaders explained that the difficulties that have come in the way of our trade, and in other supplies, is because of the rapid changes taking place in the Soviet Union and not because of any conscious policy decision, or any political determination that our relations required to be changed in any manner. The Minister also gave a detailed assessment to the members of the Committee of the internal changes taking place in the Soviet Union and how India would have to keep these changes constantly under review and adjust its relationship with both the Union and the individual Republics.

In response to a question on the Soviet vote on the Pakistani proposal on Nuclear Weapons Free Zone, the Spokesman said that they gave reasons for this change and stated that this did not detract in any way from the priority attached by the Soviet Union to their relations with India.

On SAARC, the Minister of State explained to the members that India did not know, in advance, that Bhutan was not going to attend. When we learned this from the Chairman, it was clear that in accordance with the Charter a Summit could not take place, in view of the fact that we feel that SAARC is meant to promote interaction at the highest level. The Prime Minister, had indicated his plans to extend his stay from a day to one-and-a-half days at the Summit. We sent helicopters in advance. We look forward to a revised date for the Summit. The Chairman was engaged in consultations and we hope that a decision will come up soon.

On the question of relations with Israel, it was explained that we have recognised Israel as far back as in May 1947: we had a consistent policy on our diplomatic relations with that country. But, any further movement on this front will be contingent upon genuine progress towards a Middle-East peace settlement. The present attitude of the Israeli Government is intransingent and somewhat inflexible. There appears to be little justification for any shift in India's policy.

DIA USA ISRAEL RUSSIA PAKISTAN BHUTAN

**Date**: Nov 23, 1991

## Volume No

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of US Under Secretary of State for International Security

The following is the record of response by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 23, 1991 relating to questions on the visit of the US Under Secretary of State for International Security, Mr. Reginold Bortholomew:

In response to a question on the US Under Secretary's visit, the Spokesman said that there were three rounds of discussions with the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey. He called on External Affairs Minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, and spent 45 minutes with him. He also called on the Defence Minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, the Defence Secretary, Mr. N. N. Vohra, the Scientific Adviser to the Raksha Mantri, Dr. Arunachalam and the Army Chief, Gen Rodrigues.

The visit of the Under Secretary took place within the broader framework of India's relationship with America. The discussions under lined our mutual recognition of the importance of this trend towards a wide and more meaningful relationship between the two countries.

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The discussions were extremely frank, on all issues, including those on which we need not necessarily agree. The American Under Secretary gave an account of Secretary of State, Mr. James Baker's recent visit to China. We gave him a briefing on our relations with China and the trend towards improvement in our relations that have been noticed for the last two and a half years, since the visit of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in December 1988.

The American Under Secretary expressed happiness and satisfaction at this improvement and expressed the hope that the forthcoming visit of Chinese Premier Li Peng to India, would present both countries with another opportunity to carry this relationship strongly forward.

There was a discussion also on the Convention on chemical weapons, which is currently under way in Geneva. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the manner in which our delegations have been cooperating with each other. We gave them a briefing on our discussions with Pakistan on this particular issue, at the last round of Foreign Secretary level discussions, which took place in Islamabad. We told them that we would be happy to have a bilateral declaration or even a Treaty with them, even before the World Convention is finalised. We were prepared for a joint declaration as a confidence building measure, if necessary, bilaterally, with them. This was mentioned at the end of the talks by Foreign Secretary in his talk with journalists in Islamabad.

There was also a discussion on the NPT and on the proposal on a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone. The Americans expressed their point of view on this and their keenness to see forward movement on this issue. We explained our position and expressed our reservations on both matters. There was also a discussion on Pakistan and on Kashmir.

Iran came up very briefly. They expressed their apprehensions about sales of nuclear technology to Iran; we said that the discussions were still in a preliminary stage, as far as the nuclear power station was concerned.

There was a discussion on Mr. Bartholomew's visit to Pakistan, where he said that he had listened to the Pakistanis on the question of J & K. He emphasised that he wished to underline that the American position on that, was that the matter should be

resolved bilaterally in the context of the Simla Agreement. Our Minister Mr. Solanki, gave him an account of the recent visit here of the Special Envoy of the Pakistan Prime Minister, i.e. Mr. Shaharyar Khan. He said that we had both agreed, at that time, that it was desirable for India and Pakistan to scale down their defence expenditure. We had explained to the Pakistani side that continuing support to terrorist activities was not conducive to the building of an atmosphere for making cuts in defence expenditure. The Minister also told the American Under Secretary that Mr. Shaharyar Khan had given us an assurance that we would soon see a significant change in the situation on the ground in J & K. We were still waiting to see that. The American Under Secretary said that he had done some very direct and deliberate talking to Pakistan on this issue and urged them not to be tempted to provide aid and sustenance to terrorists. He said that he fully appreciated that such abetment of terrorists did lead to hightened tensions between the two countries and did have a major impact on the security situation in this region. And he again urged us to engage in a bilateral dialogue with Pakistan on this issue.

QUESTION: Was it made clear to the American side that negotiations with Iran are still going on, despite American objection?

ANSWER: They expressed their reservations and concern about sales of nuclear technology to Iran and said that they had -224>

taken it up with a number of other countries including China.

QUESTION: In response to a question as to whether India will review its talks with Iran on the sale of the reactor, the Spokesman said that the Atomic Energy establishments of the two countries have been in touch with each other. The matter did not come up during our Foreign Minister's visit to Tehran. The negotiations are at a preliminary stage.

QUESTION: Will India be reviewing its position on the NPT in the light of the objections of America?

ANSWER: In these talks we stated our position on disarmament and nuclear weapons in plain terms; as the Under Secretary said, he was deeply gratified that these were totally non-rhetorical discussions, where we both stated our points of view, shorn of embellishment and rhetoric.

A INDIA TOTO CHINA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SWITZERLAND PAKISTAN IRAN

**Date**: Nov 23, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting of Prime Minister with the French President

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 26, 1991 on the meeting of Prime Minister with the French President in Paris:

Prime Minister met President Mitterrand for 55 minutes. President Mitterrand welcomed this opportunity as a starting point for resuming the tradition of high level dialogue on the international situation and it will give an impetus to continuing cooperation in all fields. He suggested the continuation of high-level dialogue and in this connection, referred to Foreign Minister Dumas forthcoming visit to India. He welcomed the return of political stability to India and welcomed new economic policies of liberalisation. Prime Minister said that he benefited from exchange of views on the internatonal situation and regional situation in Europe and in Asia.

In the morning, Prime Minister met former Foreign Minister Mr. Claude Cheysson over breakfast. Prime Minister has since left for Caracas.

DIA FRANCE USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC VENEZUELA

**Date**: Nov 26, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Nepalese Prime Minister

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 29, 1991 on the visit of the Nepalese Prime Minister, Mr. G. P. Koirala:

The Nepalese Prme Minister, Mr. G. P. Koirala, will be paying a State visit to India from 5-10 December. The official talks will be held in Delhi on the 5th and 6th of December. Thereafter, the Prime Minster will visit Banaras and Patna. He is getting an Honorary Degree which will be conferred on him when he will be in Banaras. This will be on the 7th. Then, he will go to Patna and in Patna, on the 9th, he will take part in the foundation laying ceremony of the statue of G. P. Koirala. The Prime Ministerial visit will be preceded by a Joint Commission meeting, the second session of the Indo-Nepal Joint Commission. This will happen on the 4th of December. It is at the level of the Foreign Minister. Representing the Nepalese side will be Mr. Maheshwar Prasad Singh. He is Minister for General Administration, because Koirala himself holds the Foreign Affairs portfolio. The Joint Commission itself was set up in June -225>

1987 by Shri Narasimha Rao and Shri S. K. Upadhyay who was then Minister for Foreign Affairs. The purpose of the Joint Commission is to focus on cooperation in trade, industry, transit, multiple use of water resources and other agreed matters.

The visit of Mr. Koirala takes place with the backdrop of the momentous events of the last 18 months in Nepal. The last year in fact saw the success of the movement for multiparty democracy, which has added yet another dimension to the traditionally strong ties between India and Nepal. Immediately, following this event, as you would recall, was Prime Minister K. P. Bhattarai's visit to India in June 1990, and as a result of that visit, relations with Nepal, which had come under strain, were brought to their traditional level of warmth and friendship. The Joint Communique which was issued on 10th June focussed on intensifying bilateral coordination on the following areas: in the first place, trade, the number of obstacles that were standing in the way of resumption of trade will be removed; likewise transit. All points were restored and likewise with regard to Indian nationals living in Nepal. In all these areas, the Joint Communique issued at the end of the Bhattarai visit, enabled the relationship between the two countries to come to normalcy.

Now, one of the important events, thereafter, was the visit of Prime Minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, to Nepal in February 1991. One of the crucial decisions taken during his visit was setting up the High Level Task Force, chaired on our side by the Cabinet Secretary, and on the Nepalese side by the Chief Secretary, The other members, as you know, are the Finance, Commerce and Foreign Secretaries. This was the unique mechanism agreed by both sides. It has never been done, in the past, between the two countries, because this enabled a most comprehensive tackling of all major issues. For your information, in fact the Cabinet Secretary never goes abroad normally for any such negotiations. When I say unique, it is unique in that sense. It is quite unique that Cabinet Secretary should chair a delegation of this type. It is

evidence of the commitment of both Governments to ensure that there should be no hurdles of any kind in ironing out obstacles in the way of enhanced cooperation. Because of the General Elections in May and June 1991, respectively, the first meeting of the Task Force was held in Kathmandu in August 1991 and this was followed in very quick succession by the second and the third meetings of the Task Force in Delhi and Kathmandu, respectively, in September and October. All issues of mutual interest were discussed and the High Level Task Force has prepared a set of recommendations covering industry and human resource development; secondly, trade, transit and cooperation in controlling smuggling; thirdly, cooperation in agriculture, education, civil aviation and tourism; and fourthly and most importantly in the key areas of water resource development. These four sets of recommendations of the High Level Task Force will be submitted to the Joint Commission when it convenes on the 4th of December.

Both India and Nepal are confident that the State visit of the Nepalese Prime Minister will help set the tone for future cooperation and will usher in a new era in which both countries can work together with determined dedication to improve the standard of living and the well-being of the people of both countries.

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PAL INDIA USA

**Date**: Nov 29, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Palestine Solidarity Day

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 29, 1991 on Palestine Solidarity Day:

At a function today organised by the ICCR to mark Palestine Solidarity Day, India is represented by Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro. India will pledge friendship and unity with the Palestinian people and will reiterate our unequivocal commitment to the Palestinian cause. The celebration today comes at a momentous time as through the joint US-Soviet initiative, the Middle-East peace process has been re-activated bringing about new hope for the resolution of

this problem. Indo-Arab friendship will be underlined at the function. It goes back into history; our support for the Palestinians cause goes back to long before we achieved our own independence. It has remained an abiding national commitment. We have firmly believed that the settlement of the Palestinian issue is the key to peace and stability in the region. The Minister of State conveyed these sentiments also to President Arafat whom he met in October and will reiterate these basic principles at the function today. Prime Minister has also sent a message of felicitations on this function.

DIA USA

**Date**: Nov 29, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Minister meets Commerce Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 13, 1991:

Mr. Abdul Aziz Abdullah Al-Zamil, Industries and Electricity Minister of Saudi Arabia, called on Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce, here today. They discussed commercial and economic relations between the two countries and the scope for further enhancing bilateral trade ties, including joint ventures. India's share of the Saudi Arabian market continues to be small, with the major items of India's exports to Saudi Arabia being spices, textiles, tea etc. Oil is the major item of import by India. Other items imported are Sulphur, urea and petrochemical products.

In 1990-91, India, trade with Saudi Arabia amounted to Rs. 3316.15 crores. Of this, imports from Saudi Arabia were valued at Rs. 2897.73 crores and exports to Saudi Arabia, at Rs. 418.42 crores.

Mr. Al-Zamil is currently in India as leader of the Saudi delegation to the third meeting of the Indo-Saudi Joint Commission, which opened here today.

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**Date**: Nov 13, 1991

# Volume No

1995

#### **THAILAND**

#### Indo-Thai Joint Trade Panel Meeting

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 22, 1991:

India and Thailand have agreed to expand and diversify the volume of bilateral trade. The two-way trade between India and Thailand had increased considerably in 1990 and 1991 and the target of US \$ one billion set for 1992 could well be achieved. This is indicated in the agreed minutes of the 5th meeting of the Indo-Thai Joint Trade Committee, which concluded here today. The Indian delegation at the 2-day meeting (21-22 November, 1991) was led by Shri Ashok Jha, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and the Thai delegation was led by Mr. Charae Chutharatkul, Director General, Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, Royal Government of Thailand. The agreed minutes were signed by the leaders of the 2 delegations.

There has been rapid growth in the trade between India and Thailand in the last 3 years. The bilatleral trade had grown upto Rs. 558.48 crores in 1990-91 from Rs. 145.50 crores in 1987-88. Major items of export to Thailand have been gems and jewellery, engineering goods, basic chemicals, cotton yarn fabrics, made ups etc., oil meals and project goods etc. The major items of imports from Thailand had been crude rubber, pulses, machinery pulp and waste paper.

Both sides stressed the potential for increasing trade as the share of bilateral trade in the global trade of both the countries remained small. The need for diversifying trade was also stressed since trade was confined to a limited range of products.

The two sides exchanged list of items of export interest to each other in the meeting. Both the delegations felt that there is great potential for further increasing the cooperation in the fishery sector. The Indian delegation expressed interest in projects in Thailand in the fields of petrochemical complexes, Railways, Roads, Hydro-power plant projects and Consultancy in the fields of Petroleum Refineries.

**Date**: Nov 22, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Indo-US Bilateral Textile Agreement for 1992

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 26, 1991:

The new bilateral textile agreement between India and the United States for 1992 has been finalised. The agreement provides for substantial increase in quotas for India's textile exports to USA and flexibilities for utilisation of quotas as compared to the 1991 quotas. Though the agreement is for a period of one year from 1st January to 31st December, 1992, it has a provision for extension by another year -228>

subject to the conditions in which Multi Fibre Arrangement (MFA) may get extended beyond 31st December, 1992. The agreement also has a stipulation that it would cease to operate when the results of Uruguay round of negotiations on textiles become effective.

The major improvements in the agreement for 1992 are as follows:

- i) A swing of 10 % of the Group II levels into Group II from the specific limits in Group I has been incorporated.
- ii) For products covered in Group II, if any new restraints are introduced through consultation mechanism, the minimum level at which restraints can be introduced would be annual exports in the past plus 20%. In the current agreement, such uplift is allowed only by 15.5.%
- iii) Restraint levels in cotton products and man-made fibre products have been merged together for the following items: Jackets, Gents Shirts and Skirts.

The merged categories will be in Group I. In the case of category 340\640, the combined category will have a growth rate of 5 %.

iv) Categories 641 (man-made fibre blouses) and 647\648 (man-made fibre trousers) have been shifted from Group II to Group I.

- v) The levels for made-ups including handlooms made-ups under category 369 have been significantly increased.
- vi) The specific limits on categories 237 (Playsuits), 338\339 (Cotton T. Shirts), 351\651 (Pyjamas) and Nightwears) 359 (C)\659 (c) (Coveralls and Overalls) and 300\301 (Yarn) have been withdrawn. All these categories will now be under Group II without any specific limits.
- vii) The carryover and carryforward facilities available to Group II limit has been increased from 5% each to 11% carryover and 6% carry forward.
- viii) Special shifts of quantities among various categories have been provided as follows: 10% between all fabric specific limits excepts into category 219; 5% of the specific limit in category 341 (cotton blouses) can be shifted from category 641 (man made fibre blouses; 20 % of the limit in category 641 (man made fibre blouses) can be shifted from category 341 (cotton blouse). (This facility has been made effective from 1991 so that the embargo that has been declared by US authorities on category 641 can be lifted immediately); 10% of the levels can be shifted from categories 347\348 and 647\648; and a new specific limit has been shifted from Group II to Group I. This category will have a growth rate of 7%.

With the shifting of categories 635, 640, 641, 642, 647\648 and 345 from Group II to Group I, there will be considerable room for expansion of exports against the new Group II limit. The Group II limit has been marginally reduced and fixed at 110 MSME.

A delegation headed by Shri S. Narayanan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles had visited USA for negotiating a bilateral textile agreement for 1992 between India and USA. The delegation also included Shri M. M. Ratnam, Executive Director, Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL) and Shri D. K. Nair, Director, Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC). Smt. Meera Shankar, Minister (Commerce and and Shri Neeraj Sri -229>

vastava) First Secretary (Commerce) joined the delegation from the Embassy of India in Washington. The consultations were scheduled for 18th, 19th and 20th but got extended and concluded on the 22nd of November, 1991.

A INDIA URUGUAY CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date**: Nov 26, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### **ZIMBABWE**

India, Zimbabwe Sign Cultural Pact

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 12, 1991:

The Second Cultural Exchange Programme between India and Zimbabwe for the years 1992-94 was signed here today. It was signed on behalf of India by Shri Bhaskar Ghose, Secretary, Department of Culture and on behalf of Zimbabwe by Mr. G. Machinga, Deputy Minister for Education and Culture. The Cultural Exchange Programme is in pursuage of the cultural agreement signed between the two countries earlier this year.

The exchange programme covers cooperation in education, arts and culture, mass media and information, and tourism. Some of the important activities envisaged under the programme include the study of educational systems and collaboration between institutions of higher learning in each others country. Exchange of exhibitions of arts and crafts, organisation of book exhibitions and cooperation in the field of mass media and information and tourism are some of the other areas covered under the Cultural Exchange Programme.

MBABWE INDIA

**Date**: Nov 12, 1991

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**Date**: Dec 01, 1991

# Volume No

1995

#### BANGLADESH

Indo-Bangladesh Telecom Meet

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 02, 1991:

The Sixth Indo-Bangladesh Telecommunication Operational Coordination meeting was inaugurated here today by Shri G.T.

Narayan, Advisor (Operations), Telecom Commission. The delegaion from Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board is being led by Mr.

M. M. Rahman Khan, General Manager (Transmission), Dacca Region. Shri D. B. Sehgal, Deputy Director General (ML), Department of Telecom, New Delhi is the leader of the Indian Delegation.

Speaking on the occasion Shri G.T. Narayan said that communication plays a vital role in bringing the people closer and in promoting healthier neighbourly relations. He hoped that Bangladesh will be modernizing their rural network on similar lines to that of India. He offered to share India's experience in this regard with Bangladesh Telecom Administration. He also proposed that in keeping with the trend world over, the Indo-Bangladesh Microwave link should be upgraded to a digital system.

Earliar, Shri D. B. Sehgal, DDG(ML) stressed the need for restoring the freequency of this meeting to atleast once a year for amicable expeditious settlement of outstanding issdes. He requested that the two delegations should examine the possibility of provision of communication on trans border routes at cheaper tariff.

Mr. M. M. Rahman Khan, in his address appreciated the need for closer co-operation. He added that due to some financial difficulties and administration problems the meeting could not take place at stipulated intervals. He assured that every effort would be made to restore the safe. He hoped for a fruitful delebrations in the coming two days.

The meeting will discuss steps for augmentation of circuits based on traffic growth for the past three years, settlement of accounts between the two countries and opening up a new alternate digital route for better reliability and service quality.

NGLADESH INDIA USA

**Date**: Dec 02, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

**CHINA** 

#### Chinese Vice Minister calls on Minister of State for Communications

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 12, 1991:

The Chinese Vice Minister for Aerospace Industries, Mr. Lie Juan, called on the Minister of State for Communications, Shri Rajesh Pilot, here today. Mr. Juan said that there should be mutual cooperation in the field of communications between the Asian countries. The Communications Ministries of both countries should -231>

try to bring peoples of both countries closer. During the talks, the Chinese Minister also expressed the desire to share the Indian experience of rural telecommunications.

Mr. Liu Juan extended an invitation from the Chinese Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, H.E. Mr. Yang Taifang to Shri Pilot to visit the People's Republic of China.

It may be recalled that an Indian delegation comprising Shri Y. L. Agarwal, CMD, Telecommunications Consultants India, Ltd. (TCIL) and Shri B. D. Pradhan, Executive Director of C-DOT visited China recently to discuss further cooperation in the field of rural exchanges, electronic components and software for management of telecom.

INA INDIA USA

**Date**: Dec 12, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### **CHINA**

India-China Trade Protocol for 1992

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 13, 1991:

The Trade Protocol between India and China for the calendar year 1992 was signed here today, providing for further expansion and diversification of trade between the two countries on the basis of mutual benefit. The Protocol was signed by Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce, on behalf of the Government of India and by Mr. Li Lanqing, Minister of Foreign

Economic Relations and Trade, on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China.

Under the Protocol, China will import from India a number of items, including iron ore and chrome ore, tea, tobacco, chemicals, engineering products, jewels and processed diamonds and synthetic fibre and yarn. India is expected to import from China newsprint, raw silk and silk yarn, some agricultural products, metals and minerals including cooking coal, chemicals and petroleum products etc. The importation of specific items and capabilities and values will be decided in accordance with the needs and capabilities of the two sides.

Both sides have agreed that to the extent possible they will encourage direct trade between the two countries.

The two sides have also agreed to promote exchange of delegations in specific areas and to encourage their respective trade organisations and traders to explore the possibilities of promoting bilateral trade through various forms of trade and cooperation.

The Trade Protocol shall come into force on 1st January, 1992 and will remain valid for a period of one year.

The Memorandum between India and China on the resumption of border trade, which was also signed by the two Ministers here today, says that both sides have agreed to the resumption of border trade on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. The border trade referred to in the Memorandum includes overland trade and the exchange of commodities by the residents along the border between the Tibet Autonomous Region of China and the State of Uttar Pradesh of India as well as other areas as may be mutually agreed upon from time to time. According to the Memorandum, India and China have presently agreed to establish border trade at the following locations: (a) Pulan in the Tibet autonomous Region of China and (b) Gunji in the Pithoragarh district of Uttar Pradesh. The Memorandum shall come into force on the date of signing and shall remain in force for a period of two years. -232>

INA INDIA ITALY USA

**Date**: Dec 13, 1991

## **Volume No**

#### **CHINA**

#### India-China Space Co-operation Agreement

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 13, 1991:

India and China have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for bilateral Cooperation in the areas of Space Research, Space Technology and Space Application. The Agreement was signed by Prof. U. R. Rao, Chairman Space Commission, on behalf of Government of India and Mr. Liu Jiyuan, Vice Minister for Aerospace on behalf of China on December 13, 1991 at New Delhi in the presence of Prime Minister of India, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, and Mr. Li Peng, Prime Minister of China.

The agreement is based on successful completion of a number of high level discussions held between the Department of Space, India and Ministry of Aerospace, China. During the last week a high level delegation from China visited the ISRO Launch Vehicle Centres at Trivandrum, Satellite Centre and IRS Control Centre at Bangalore and National Remote Sensing Agency at Hyderabad and had elaborate discussions to arrive at some specific areas of cooperation between the two agencies.

China and India being two large developing nations stand to gain considerably by cooperation in a frontier technology like space in which both countries have made remarkable progress in the recent years.

INA INDIA USA

**Date**: Dec 13, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

**IRAN** 

Iranian Parliamentary Delegation Call on law Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 11, 1991:

A Parliamentary delegation headed by H.E. Mr. Abbas Ali Amid Zanjani, called on the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Shri Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy here today.

The visiting delegation evinced keen interest to know about the functioning of Indian judicial system. The team also explained the working of Iranian judicial system.

The Law Minister explained the working of Indian judicial system and the successful functioning of Lok Adalats and the Legal Aids programme.

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#### AN INDIA USA

**Date**: Dec 11, 1991

# Volume No

1995

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

India's Stand on Uruguay Round Issues

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 10, 1991:

Government's view-point on various multilateral trade issues is reflected in India's stand in the Uruguay Round negotiations. On Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), India's stand has been that sufficient flexibility must be provided in any multilateral agreement to take into account the developmental and technological needs and public policy objectives of developing countries. In the case of India, this is particularly relevant in the area of patents on account of our concerns regarding food security and access to medicines and health care at affordable prices.

On Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs), India has taken the stand that investment measures are used to harmonise the interests of foreign investors with public policy objectives and priorities and the ability of Government to employ such measures should not be curbed. India's approach in the Uruguay Round has, therefore, been only to permit interpretation and application of existing GATT rules to terms and not to allow any new disciplines to be developed.

In respect of trade in Services, India has made a conditional offer of market access in selected services sectors. The access will be subject to the applicable Indian laws, regulations and guidelines. The offer is conditional upon the entire outcome of

the negotiations on Services being acceptable to India and upon an adequate respose from other participants on requests made by India for market access in sectors of its interests, especially in respect of movement of personnel.

In trade in agriculture, it has been Government's stand that India will not commitments in respect of governmental assistance to agriculture, which are not consistent with India's present stage of development.

Government have clearly stated that India will not accept any changes in its national economic laws and policies which are not in the national interest.

This was indicated in a written statement in the Rajya Sabha today by Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce, in response to a question by Shri Yashwant Sinha, MP, regarding a Press Conference by some MPs on Uruguay Round issues and Patent laws held on 19th September, 1991. The statement issued to the Press by the MPs raised issues pertaining to the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, particularly in the areas of Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectul Property Rights, Trade-Related Investment Measures and Services. According to the statement, the industrialised countries were seeking major changes in the economic laws and policies of developing countries in respect of the agricultural, industrial and services sectors as well as on onerous patent regime. The statement expressed concern regarding proposals for the removal of trade barriers in goods and serivces. The statement urged Government not to compromise India's economic sovereignty on these issues or agree to any changes in economic laws and policies under pressure. -234>

A INDIA URUGUAY CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date**: Dec 10, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

NEPAL

Nepalese Delegation of Cooperators meets Union AgricultureMinister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 18, 1991:

A Nine Member Nepalese Delegation called on the Agriculture

Minister, Dr. Balram Jakhar, here today and discussed with him the promotion of cooperative movement in Nepal. The delegation is headed by Shri Deepak Prakash Banaskota, Chairman of the National Cooperative Board of Nepal. The delegation is here to familiarise itself with the cooperative ideology, policies, structure and organisation and to apply the acquired knowledge and the experieces to reform the cooperative sector in Nepal.

Dr. Jakhar apprised the delegation of the developments in the cooperative sector and what the Government was doing to strengthen and revitalise the cooperative movement.

The Delegation has studied various facets of cooperative movement by visiting the cooperative institutions in Gujarat and Maharashtra. They will also visit Women Mobilisation Project in Agra.

PAL INDIA USA

Date : Dec 18, 1991

# Volume No

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Indo-Nepal Joint Commission Meeting

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 03, 1991 on the Indo-Nepal joint commission meeting.

The Joint Commission of India and Nepal will have its meeting tomorrow. The agenda of the meeting will include discussions on water resources development; trade; transit; cooperation in controlling (preventing) unauthorised border trade; industrial and economic cooperation; cooperation in the field of agriculture and agro-based industries; cooperation in civil aviation and tourism; and any other mutual agreed matters. Our delegation will be led by External Affairs Minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, and will include Cabinet Secretary, Mr. Naresh Chandra; Foreign Secretary, Mr. J. N. Dixit; Finance & Revenue Secretary, Mr. K. P. Geethakrishnan; Commerce Secretary, Mr. A. V. Ganesan; Secretary, Water Resources, Mr. M. A. Chitale; Secretary, Power, Mr. S. Rajgopal; Secretary, Agriculture, Mr. R. C. Kapiln; our Ambassador, Prof. Bimal Prasad; Joint Secretary (North); and other officials. On the Nepalese side, the leader is Mr. Maheshwar Prasad Singh, Minister for General Administration; Mr. Chakra Prasad Bastola, Nepalese Ambassador; Mr. Damodar Prasad Gautam, Chief Secretary (who is the equivalent of Cabinet Secretary); Mr. Narendra Bikram Shah, Foreign Secretary; Mr. Shashi Narayan Shah, Finance Secre -235>

tary; Mr. Gauri Nath Rimal, Secretary, Water Resources; Mr. Bindeshwari Prasad Singh, Agriculture Secretary; Mr. Durga Prasad Pandey, Commerce Secretary; Mr. I. B. Shreshta, Secretary, Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs; and other officials.

The Joint Commission, as I had mentioned the other day, when I was announcing the visit of the Nepalese Prime Minister, was set up in accordance with an agreement arrived at between our two Foreign Ministers, Mr. Narasimha Rao and Mr. S. K. Upadhyay, in June 1987. This is the second meeting, the first was in August 1988. As a result of Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar's visit to Nepal, a High Level Task Force, comprising the Cabinet Secretary, Finance Secretary, Commerce Secretary and Foreign Secretary, and the equivalents on the Nepalese side, was set up and had three meetings in August, September and October. They have examined all the areas of cooperation, including trade; transit; and most importantly, water resources management. Their recommendations will be submitted to the Joint Commission when it meets tomorrow, and, in turn, these recommendations of the Joint Commission will be presented to the Prime Ministers and their delegations when they meet on 5th and 6th.

We are hopeful and confident that the State visit of the Nepalese Prime Minister, which follows immediately after the Joint Commission, will help set the tone for future cooperation and will usher in a new era in which both countries can work together with determination and dedication to improve the standard of living and the well-being of the people of both countries.

PAL INDIA USA

Date: Dec 03, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

External Affairs Minister's Speech at the Dinner in Honour of Nepalese Delegation

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on

#### Dec 04, 1991:

Your Excellency Mr. Maheshwar Prasad Singh, Minister for General Administration of His Majesty's Government of Nepal, distinguished members of the Nepalese delegation and friends,

It gives me great pleasure to have you with us here today. My colleagues and I welcome you in your individual capacity because of the respect we have for you; we specially welcome you as the representative of your Prime Minister, His Excellency Girija Prasad Koirala, for whom all of us have high esteem and special regard. You would permit me to add that our deliberations at the Joint Commission earlier today, have confirmed our faith in the valuable impetus that you are capable of giving to Indo-Nepalese relations.

The peoples of India and in Nepal, have always been conscious of the exceptionally close nature of our bilateral relationship.

These are ties that are truly age-old, rooted firmly in shared history, culture and custom, anchored by geography and strengthened by a shared civilization. In recent months, our bonds have been further strengthened when, in 1990, the people of Nepal secured for themselves a new political order based on their own political will and aspirations. Given India's abiding commitment to the values of democracy, these developments brought us closer to each other.

Today, the people of Nepal are poised at the beginning of a new journey down the path to progress and prosperity. As in the past, so too today, the Government and the people of India are ready to extend full support to our brothers adn sisters of Nepal. In this, we would be but maintain -236>

ing an old tradition, for since the 1950s, India had had the pleasure and the privilege of being associated with Nepal's economic and industrial development. But now, the future holds promise. Already, in June 1990, the Prime Ministers of Nepal and India had committed themselves to ushering in a new era in our bilateral cooperation for the benefit of our peoples. Their detailed interest in ensuring this, resulted in their identifying specific priority areas that would have the maximum potential and impact. What is needed is early movement towards implementation, and that in a focussed and comprehensive manner.

It is in this context that our present meeting assumes a special significance. The appropriate vehicle for such coordinated bilateral cooperation undoubtedly is the Indo-Nepal Joint Commission. The fact that it did not meet again after its inaugural meeting in August, 1988 is regrettable, its revival and activisation, you will agree, were overdue. That we are meeting here today, against the backdrop of the momentous political changes in Nepal, in the wake of several months of intensive

bilateral consultations on a wide variety of fields, and on the eve of the visit of your Prime Minister to India, endows our deliberations with added relevance and significance.

I would wish to thank you and your colleagues most warmly, Your Excellency, for having helped to make these deliberations productive. We have reason to be satisfied with the outcome of our labours, which will now be submitted to our two Prime Ministers. We have covered all the major areas of mutual interest -namely in trade, transit and cooperation in controlling unauthorised trade, in water resources development, the area with the maximum potential to benefit us both, in education and agriculture, in health and communications. The preparations and ground work for our deliberations were ably undertaken by the members of the Indo Nepal High Level Task Force. My special thanks are due to them, for having discussed every important aspect of our bilateral cooperation in detail and for having made precise, action-oriented recommendations.

This is indeed necessary, for it is time for us now to move to action, getting away from past, misunderstandings, suspicions and lost opportunities. I should like to emphasise. Excellency, that economic relations between Nepal and India are based not on dependence but on interdependence. I do not say this only in a philosophical or abstract sense, but in terms of structuring the substance of our relations. In fact, to work together is for us not a matter of choice. It is an imperative for the well-being of our peoples.

While moving on to action, we should also keep in mind the need to take each other's requirements, priorities and perceptions into account. Nor should we lose that which is feasible for the normative that might not be achievable.

I am confident that the future will see us working together, with mutual trust and confidence, to derive full benefit from the very substantial human, material and natural resources with which providence has endowed both our countries. Thus alone will we be fulfilling the aspirations of our peoples and imparting to our uniquely close relationship new and meaningful content. It is a goal well worth the effort.

Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, may I request you to join me in a toast:

to the health and happiness of His Majesty King Birendra Bikram Shah Dev and Her Majesty the Queen of Nepal,

for the prosperity, progress and happiness of the friendly people of Nepal,

to ever increasing friendship and cooperation between our countries, our Governments and our peoples, and

to the health and happiness of Your Excellency and the distinguished members of your delegation.

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PAL INDIA USA

**Date**: Dec 04, 1991

# **Volume No**

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#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Indo-Singapore Talks

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 06, 1991 on Indo-Singapore Talks:

The Singapore Foreign Minister, Wong Kan Seng, and our External Affairs Minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, had about an hour-anda-half discussion today. They were assisted by their respective delegations. On our side, there were Secretary (East), Mr. L. L. Mehrotra; Additional Secretary (Economic Relations), Ms. Arundhati Ghose; Joint Secretary (South), Mr. Sheel Kant Sharma; Joint Secretary (UN), Mr. T. P. Sreenivasan; and other officials. The Singapore Foreign Minister was assisted by their High Commissioner, Mr. Michael Cheok Po Chuon, Mr. Kasavpani, the Foreign Office In-Charge of this region; and other officials. The discussions, which were conducted in a very warm and constructive atmosphere, covered a wide range of issues of bilateral and regional interest. On the bilateral front, the Singapore Foreign Minister expressed great interest in the opening up of the Indian economy and the various measures for liberation that have been announced by the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister, in the last few months. He said that Singapore's economy depends almost entirely on world trade, and, for this reason, Singapore worked assiduously towards building up a peaceful, stable world which had free, open and fair access to markets. Given this basic ingredient in the Singapore economic pattern, the new situation in India was of special interest. Responding to Foreign Affairs Minister's remark that with an annual trade turnover of 1.5 billion US dollars, Singapore was India's largest trading partner in South-East Asia, the Singapore Foreign Minister said that this fact had been duly underlined at the Conference that had been arranged at the instance of the Singapore Prime Minister when Mr. Solanki called on him in August 1991. The October seminar was the result of the External Affairs Minister's with the Singapore Prime Minister.

Both the Foreign Ministers agreed that with a world trade turnover of 120 billion US dollars, which was three times the GDP of Singapore, the scope for further expansion in trade levels was enormous. Happily, our annual rate of growth in bilateral trade had been about 10%. There was every confidence that with increasing flows of investment, both ways, the trade levels would show a concomitant rise. In this connection, the two Foreign Ministers, and their delegations, had detailed discussions on the proposed Singapore corridors that could be set up in either Madras or Pondicherry. These would be exclusive industrial estates for Singapore investment where all facilities, infrastructural and otherwise, would be provided. The Singapore Foreign Minister said that he was strongly attracted to this proposal and that because of deep historic links between various segments of the Singapore population and India, he was certain that the proposed Singapore corridor would be equally attractive for Singapore businessmen. He assured Mr. Solanki that he would carry details of this proposal mooted at the meeting today, back to Singapore and would put it to the Singapore Trade Development Board, which was the nodal organisation for investment of Singapore industry in Singapore and outside. It was agreed by the two Foreign Ministers that when a delegation of the Singapore Trade Development Board visits India early next year, which we hope would be led by the Singapore Minister of Trade and Industry, concrete discussions on the setting up of the Singapore corridor could take place. In the other direction, since there were -238>

already 13 Indian joint ventures, and 37 Singapore ones in India, it was emphasised by the Singapore Foreign Minister, that the special estates being; set up in Singapore such as the one at Jurong, where all facilities including leasing of land; setting up of basic structures; and providing other infrastructural facilities, such as electricity, water, roads, etc, shall be utilised by Indian businessmen. The Singapore Foreign Minister hoped that these estates would be made use of by Indian industrialists seeking to expand their markets in the highly lucrative ASEAN region, which had been witnessing high growth rates over the last 15 years or more.

On the question of India's interest in sectoral dialogue with ASEAN, we expressed our deep appreciation of the support that has so far been given by Singapore, for India to become a dialogue partner with ASEAN. It was agreed that in this inter-dependent world, the establishment of a strong dialogue between India and ASEAN would reinforce the existing symbiosis between India and the region.

ASEAN could also utilise the vast pool of trained manpower and

scientific personnel as well as our huge and expanding markets.

The Foreign Ministers also discussed their respective policies towards countries in their neighbouring regions. The Indian Foreign Minister spoke of the evidence of our new policies towards our neighbours in the heightened levels of cooperation between Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka. He expressed the hope that our sincere efforts to engage in confidence building measures with Pakistan would also meet with success. In this context, he said that the onus lay on Pakistan to create an appropriate climate by desisting from support of terrorism, which was against all norms of inter-state relations. The Singapore Foreign Minister expressed appreciation for India's policies towards its neighbours and hoped that residual problems, including those with Pakistan, could be resolved through a continuing peaceful bilateral dialogue, and quiet diplomacy.

PUBLIC OF SINGAPORE INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC BANGLADESH BHUTAN MALDIVES NEPAL SRI LANKA PAKISTAN PERU

**Date**: Dec 06, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Sino-Indian Talks

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 12, 1991 on Sino-Indian Talks:

The two Prime Ministers and their respective delegations held talks for two hours covering a wide range of international and bilateral issues. Both Prime Ministers agreed that this visit of Mr. Li Peng, coming, as it does after a period of 31 years, which is a long period by any standards, will lead to a marked improvement in our relationship. They both agreed that the foundation for this improvement was laid during the historic visit of Late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi, to Beijing in December 1988. They agreed that as a result of that visit, and subsequent visits that have taken place, there has been a fruitful breakthrough on various fronts.

They both expressed appreciation that as part of this process of improvement, on this visit, three important agreements would be signed. While discussing the far-reaching changes that have taken

place in the world, both sides agreed that there was a serious imbalance of world forces which was making it increasingly difficult for developing countries, both on the political and the economic fronts, to overcome their problems. They both agreed that the new world order, as it emerges, must be based on the five principles of coexistence.

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They expressed their opposition to international oligarchies in any form and said that no country or countries could, or should, be permitted to manipulate world affairs and practice power politics.

Both sides agreed that India and China must see what they can do to work together in building a new world order where all countries, irrespective of size, have the right to formulate their own views and to decide their own destinies in the political and economic fields.

The two sides also agreed that the economic dimensions, of the growing gap between the North and the South, created further imbalances and that they must work together to prevent such imbalances from leading to regional conflicts.

They also agreed that apart from trying to build a consensus among themselves, that is India and China, in taking a common stand in their dialogue with the North, they should also discuss in bilateral, and in other forums, what the developing countries could do for themselves. The Indian Prime Minister said that the Group of 15 which had just had a Summit in Caracas, was an Organisation which was designed precisely to achieve this objective of self-reliance amongst the developing countries.

Both sides agreed that it was important to promote peace at home and peace abroad. This applied especially to their respective neighbours. The Chinese Prime Minister said that the misgivings that some neighbours of China in South-East Asia, and elsewhere, had harboured, were a thing of the past, because they had now realised that China would never use force or local communist parties to export their system. The Indian Prime Minister said that India also wanted nothing but peace with its neighbours and India had, in ideological terms, nothing to export, but goodwill.

While discussing respective policies to wards neighbours, the Indian Prime Minister expressed concern about the growing strength of fundamentalist forces in several regions in India's neighbourhood. He said that it was important that all efforts be made to arrest the growth of such fundamentalist forces, as their unchecked development would greatly hamper and hinder the developmental process. It was important for countries like China and India, which share somewhat similar views on the need to preserve secular and pluralistic societies to see what could be achieved by working together.

The two sides also reviewed the developments in the Soviet Union. They agreed that recent events had led to greater turbulence and greater instability. The situation in Yugoslavia made it even more difficult to predict the likely course of events.

On bilateral issues, both sides agreed that a good deal of more work could be done to promote cultural cooperation, which would be in keeping with the ancient and historic relationship between India and China.

Likewise, in the field of Science & Technology and Economic Cooperation, it was agreed that more work needed to be done to diversify the relationship in these areas.

Both sides agreed that the boundary question was not seen as an obstacle in the joint efforts to expand, strengthen and deepen the bilateral relationship.

The talks were conducted in an extremely friendly and cordial atmosphere and will continue tomorrow.

Responding to a question on the new world order, the Spokesman clarified that the two delegations were in total agreement, that both must predicate their relationship with all countries, especially with neighbours, on the strict understanding of non-interference in each other's internal affairs, in all its ramifications.

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Responding to another question as to whether there was any reference to Pakistan or Tibet, the Spokesman said that there was a reference to Tibet. The Chinese side expressed appreciation for the principled stand that India had consistently taken regarding Tibet, which is regarded as an autonomous region and the Dalai Lama is acknowledged as a spiritual leader and held in great esteem.

In reply to a question as to whether Kashmir or Pakistan were discussed, the Spokesman said that there was a brief reference.

The Chinese Prime Minister, while responding to the Indian Prime Minister's expressed desire to build friendly relations

with India's neighbours, said that it was the Chinese hope that India and Pakistan would find a just solution through peaceful negotiations.

In response to a question as to whether there was any disagreement on any point, the Spokesman said that there was no disagreement, whatsoever.

In response to a question as to whether India was considering the

deportation of Tibetan refugees, the Spokesman said that in its three thousand years of history, India had never sent out anyone who had sought refuge in this country. There was no indication that there was going to be any change in this historical tradition.

Sino-Indian Relations

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on December 13, 1991:

India and China have signed -

- i)Memorandum on the Resumption of Border Trade
- ii)Agreed Minutes of the Third Session of the India-China Joint Group on Economic Relations and Trade, Science & Technology
- iii)Trade Protocol between India and China for the calender year 1992.

These documents were signed by Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State (Commerce) on behalf of the Government of India and Mr. Li Langing, Minister for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade of China earlier today at New Delhi in the presence of the Prime Minister of India, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao and the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Li Peng.

- 2. The Memorandum between India and China on the Resumption of Border Trade states that both sides have agreed to resume border trade on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. The border trade referred to in the Memorandum includes overland trade and the exchange of commodities by the residents along the border between the Tibet Autonomous Region of China and the State of Uttar Pradesh of India as well as other areas as may be mutually agreed upon from time to time.
- 3. The Trade Protocol between the two countries for the calender year 1992 provides for further expansion and diversification of trade between the two countries. Under the Protocol, China will import from India a number of items, including ironore and chromeore, tea, tobacco, chemicals, engineering products and synthetic fibre and yarn. India is expected to import newsprint, raw silk and silk yarn, some agricultural products, metals and minerals, including coking coal, chemicals and petroleum products. Both sides have agreed to encourage direct trade between the two countries. They have also agreed to pro-241>

mote the exchange of delegations in specific areas and to encourage their respective trade organisations and traders to explore possibilities of promoting bilateral trade through vrious forms of trade and cooperation. The Trade Protocol shall come into force on 1st January, 1992 and will remain valid for a period of one year.

DIA CHINA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC VENEZUELA YUGOSLAVIA PAKISTAN ITALY

**Date**: Dec 12, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Sino-Indian Relations

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 13, 1991 on India-China Relations:

Earlier today, India and China signed an Agreement on the Reestablishment of Consulates General at Bombay and Shanghai. The Agreement was signed by External Affairs Minister, Shri Madhavsinh Solanki on behalf of the Government of India and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China. The signing took place in the presence of Prime Minister of India, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao and the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Li Peng.

- 2. The two Minister also signed an India-China Consular Convention.
- 3. The Agreement on the Re-establishment of Consulates General is based on the

successful completion of discussions between the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China. The Consulates General will be re-established at the earliest possible through mutual consultations. The Consulates will be re-established after a gap of 29 years.

- 4. The Consular Convention signed earlier today codifies the privileges and immunities to be enjoyed by the personnel working in the Consulates in each other's country.
- 5. These documents were negotiated between the two sides in preparation for Premier Li Peng's visit to India. The establishment of Consulates in the premier commercial and industrial centres of India and China will give a fillip to

economic and trade relations between the two countries.

#### DIA CHINA USA

**Date**: Dec 13, 1991

# **Volume No**

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#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Visit of the Chinese Prime Minister

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 13, 1991 on the visit of the Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng:

The Prime Ministers of India and China and their respective delegations had their second round of talks this morning. These lasted nearly two hours. The Prime Ministers dealt with the boundary question in their discussions this morning. They both expressed satisfaction at the manner in which the Joint Working Group, at the level of Foreign Secretaries, set up as a result of the late Prime Minister Rajiv

Gandhi's visit to Beijing in December 1988, had been fulfilling its responsibilities. They said that the Joint Working Group must redouble their efforts in order to find a solution which was "fair and reasonable." The Indian and the Chinese delegations agreed that the next meeting of the Joint Working Group should be held in early 1992, and that dates for this should be worked out through diplomatic channels. The two Prime Ministers expressed their resolve to work together in order to find a solution to the border question. The two Prime Ministers also expressed satisfaction at the maintenance of peace and tranquility in the border areas. They both recognised -242>

the importance of continuing to maintain such peace and tranquility. To achieve this objective, they decided that confidence building measures should be discussed within the framework of the Joint Working Group. They both agreed that the mechanism of periodic meetings of border personnel from both sides, which was already in place, could help to resolve problems at the local level.

The two Prime Ministers also discussed a wide range of

international economic issues, including GATT. It was agreed that the officials of both sides should remain in touch. The Chinese Prime Minister laid considerable emphasis on the need to expand trade and economic relations between the two countries. He said that China on its part, was committed to increasing our bilateral trade from the present level which is about \$ 250 million. He ascribed this low level of trade to the existence of an "information gap", because over the last 30 years, there had not been sufficient exchanges. In this context, he welcomed the opportunity given to him to interact with members of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Confederation of Engineering Industries. He said that this was a good practice which we should encourage and continue. He further indicated that in order to boost trade levels, China would buy enhanced quantities of iron-ore and tobacco. The Prime Minister of India fully reciprocated the sentiments and wishes in this regard expressed by the Chinese Prime Minister, and said that there was considerable potential for border trade between the two countries. In this context, he expressed satisfaction at the fact that an agreement on border trade had been finalised and signed.

The two Prime Ministers also discussed the question of human rights. The Indian Prime Minister said that we give central importance to the issue of development. He pointed out that India's system was fully transparent, open and democratic, with an independent judiciary. He said that it was not desirable to use the ques-

tion of human rights, as a condition for denying aid to developing countries.

The Indian Prime Minister said the visit of Mr. Li Peng had been a most useful one, as it not only continued the process begun by the epoch-making visit of Rajiv Gandhi in December 1988, but that it also give a significant impetus to our bilateral relationship, and would give it a new momentum. He assured the Chinese Prime Minister that India would work towards bringing cooperation with China to new levels. He further assured the Chinese Prime Minister, on behalf of the people and the Government of India that on our part, we would work with the utmost sincerity to continue to build our relationship in the spirit in which we started, in December 1988.

He expressed satisfaction that officials in the respective Space Departments had already had contacts and visits had already taken place to Trivendrum and Hyderabad. It was gratifying that the work of appraisal had begun.

The Chinese Prime Minister agreed that the two-day talks held with his Indian counterpart, had been most fruitful. He said that an in-depth exchange of views had taken place on many matters of common concern and in some issues, agreement had been reached. The Chinese Prime Minister also agreed with the Indian Prime

Minister that this visit, marked not only the consolidation of the process begun in December 1988, but was in a sense a much bigger development. He expressed happiness that both countries were engaged in removing differences that existed and were looking forward to the future. Towards achieving that common goal, he said, India and China had taken a major step in the right direction. The Chinese Prime Minister on behalf of the Chinese Government invited the Indian Prime Minister to visit China, saying that he was confident that such a visit would serve to further promote cooperation and friendship between the two countries. The Indian Prime Minis--243>

ter accepted the invitation and said that he looked forward with much pleasure to the possibility of undertaking a visit to China.

In response to a question on the Chinese reaction to the Indian view on human rights, the Spokesman said, the Chinese Prime Minister spoke of a White Paper that the Chinese Government have published and explained the Chinese view on this issue. When asked to elaborate on the content of the White Paper, the Spokesman said such questions should be addressed to the Chinese. When asked if there was any conformity in the views of India and China on human rights, the Spokesman replied that the answer was perfectly evident from his briefing.

In response to a question on the boundary issue, the Spokesman reiterated the two Prime Ministers said that the Joint Working Group (JWG) should redouble its efforts and move quickly towards finding a solution.

When asked if there was any reference of NPT, the Spokesman said he was not aware of any reference to the NPT in the discussions.

In response to a question on the Soviet Union, the Spokesman said the two Prime Ministers had a discussion on the Soviet Union yesterday. India spoke about its close relationship with Soviet Union and the Various Republics and was watching the situation there with concern. India hoped that soon things would find a level, so that it could strengthen its relationship with the various constituent Republics, which process had already begun.

In response to another question on the arms build-up on the border in the context of Pakistan, the Spokesman said Pakistan was not a subject for discussion.

In response to a question on the Nuclear-weapons free zone, the Spokesman said it was not discussed.

When a correspondent drew the attention of the Spokesman towards Indian Prime Minister's remarks making a reference to the transport political system, and his mention of the 'judiciary', the Spokesman elaborated saying the Prime Minister meant the

entire system including the 'Press', the resilience of the Indian press, which is a great factor in the preservation and protection of human rights in the general context of describing the Indian system. A free press and an independent judiciary and our own human rights organisations are quite capable of looking after the human rights of our own citizens and those living in this country. The Spokesman, in response to another question, said Prime Minister's reference to the judiciary had no connection with the Tibetans.

In response to a question as to what was meant by the redoubling of efforts by the Joint Working Group, the Spokesman elaborated saying that the way the JWG was functioning, the progress it had made, was quite satisfactory. The Prime Minister's had reviewed the work of the JWG and satisfaction was expressed at the pace and content of the progress achieved. The Spokesman added that the Prime Minister's had personally committed themselves to work together to resolve the issue.

When asked if it meant that the Prime Minister's would personally work towards finding a solution to the border problem, the Spokesman said that when the leaders of two countries committed themselves personally to the resolution of a problem, we should take the statement of their resolve at the face value. The Spokesman further clarified that the JWG would remain the principal forum for discussion on the boundary question.

On the question of whether Super 301 figured in the discussions, the Spokesman said when the two sides discussed the international economic question, the ques-244>

tion of Super 301 did come up. When questioned further, he said that our views had been stated several times and were known.

In response to a question as to why so much importance had been given by the two Prime Ministers to the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China, the Spokesman said that both sides, very genuinely and sincerely, believed that was a historic visit, which broke the ice, a freeze in the relationship was broken by that visit. It was genuinely accepted as a turning point and that is why the Spokesman kept reiterating it. The process of which this visit was a part, started with that courageous and historic visit by Rajiv Gandhi to Beijing.

On the question of the Chinese position on Kashmir, the Spokesman referred to his briefing on the previous day.

When asked about the Chinese reaction on India's stand on Tibet, the Spokesman reiterated that the Chinese have expressed their appreciation for the stand India has taken.

In response to a question as to whether India was not concerned

with the Chinese view on Kashmir, the Spokesman said India had no reason to be

The last question was a provocative one put by the New York Times correspondent. It was framed as follows:

What exactly India had achieved? It seemed that the Chinese have got away with an advantage on Tibet and India had got the worst part of the bargain, by getting nothing on Kashmir. It would appear that in this deal, the Indian Prime Minister has been manipulated; there had been no forward movement on the boundary question, nothing concrete had emerged; there was, of course, some rhetoric.

In reply, the Spokesman said the correspondent was adopting an excessively

narrow approach to the entire gamut of diplomatic intercourse and inter-state relations and to the historic visit of the Chinese Prime Minister to India. It was not possible to draw these kind of sharp lines in the relationship of two civilisations which are five thousand year old. The visit of Rajiv Gandhi three years ago and the present one must be seen as part of a process: diplomatic relations are a continuing process. The Spokesman said forward or backward movement must be measured by a different yardstick, from the one the correspondent had adopted. It would be highly simplistic on the part of any one, to suggest that any Indian leader or Indian Prime Minister would ever allow himself to be manipulated in any sense. The Spokesman said such insinuations did very little credit to the great wisdom and maturity that the Indian leadership under this Prime Minister has displayed. Further, it was a highly narrow and limited vision which would expect that a visit of such a historical nature as this one was. should lead to any trade-off or bargain. The Spokesman said we were not in the business of trade-offs and bargains. We were in the process of building a relationship between the two largest countries in the world; when we arrive at a meeting of minds, where we are able to review progress that has been made, when at the highest level, we are able to make each other aware about each other's concerns, anxieties, interests or problems, we are in the process of helping to build confidence between our two governments and our two peoples.

The same correspondent of the New York Times asked whether Li Peng would go back and announce that he had benefitted more after this visit. The Spokesman said he doubted very much whether Li Peng would go back and make a statement of this sort. The Spokesman reiterated the point made earlier in his briefing, where he had said that both Prime Ministers concluded on exactly the same note, that they both felt that the visit was highly successful and a highly fruitful one.

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Both India and China hoped to benefit from this visit, as, indeed, we hope to benefit from all other high-level visits.

As far as the rhetoric referred to by the correspondent was concerned, the Spokesman explained that the reference was to a concern that was genuinely felt by developing countries; that the world was an imbalanced one and that efforts on the part of some countries to delay the rectification of such imbalances as quickly and as speedily as the developing countries would like, was a matter of concern.

The Spokesman said it would be highly inaccurate to reach the conclusion that the visit achieved little Both Prime Ministers stressed forcefully the need to build a new

world order, on the basis of the five principles of co-existence laid down by our two Prime Ministers i.e. non-interference in each other's internal affairs, mutual respect for each other's respective sovereignties. The Spokesman said he would again reiterate that the visit has to be seen in the global and historical context: it is the building of relationship between two large and important neighbours. The world should welcome this development rather than try to find non-existent reasons why the visit was unsuccessful. It was a factor for stability and progress in the world, when the world's largest and most populous countries, two billion people were able to live in a spirit of friendship and cooperaration: Obviously, the entire world stands to benefit from this.

DIA CHINA USA PAKISTAN

**Date**: Dec 13, 1991

# Volume No

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Minister of State for External Affairs Visit to Cambodia

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 14, 1991 on Minister of State (EA)'s visit to Cambodia:

Minister of State for External Affairs Mr. Eduardo Fleiro on the first day of his three day visit to Cambodia met Cambodian Foreign Minister, Mr. Hor Namhong on 12.12.91 who also held a reception in honour of Mr. Faleiro. Reception was attended by

other Cabinet Ministers, local dignitaries and diplomatic corps. In his talks with Foreign Minister Mr. Hor Namhong, Mr. Faleiro got the Cambodian assessment of the implementation of Paris Accord for the success of which Government of India's best wishes and support was conveyed. Mr. Faleiro also introduced the new Indian Ambassador to Cambodia, Mr. C. M. Bhandari.

Mr. Faleiro visited the historic Angkor Wat temple on 13.12.91 accompanied by among others, the leader of the team from the Archaelogical Survey of India. He spent

several hours admiring the temple town, its architecture and sculpture and the zenith of artistic accomplishments that Angkor Wat symbolises, apart from the close identity of the Cambodian culture with ancient Indian tradition. Mr. Faleiro appreciated the work being done by Indian Archaeological experts of conservation and restoration in the Angkor Wat complex. The Cambodians too have expressed their deep sense of appreciation for India's work in the difficult conditions and against the rigours of weather, flora and fauna.

Mr. Faleiro is scheduled to meet Prince Sihanouk tomorrow who is holding a lunch and Prime Minister Hun Sen. He has already met SNC member Mr. Iong Moly who represents Son Sann's faction in the SNC. In a reception hosted by Ambassador Bhandari, Mr. Faleiro also met the Indian community based in Phnom Penh which consists of doctors working under bilateral co-operation arrangement and Indian member of the UN advance teams already in place in Cambodia.

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MBODIA INDIA FRANCE UNITED KINGDOM

**Date**: Dec 14, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Talks between Indian and Chinese Foreign Ministers

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 14, 1991 on the talks between the Indian and Chinese Foreign Ministers:

The talks between the two Foreign Ministers lasted almost two

hours, and were conducted in an extremely friendly and warm atmosphere. The two Foreign Ministers had met earlier, in September 1991, at the UN General Assembly, in New York. They both expressed their pleasure at being able to renew their dialogue and expressed happiness at the fruitful exchange that they had had, when they last met. Because of this old contact, and the friendly atmosphere, the discussions were quite candid. A wide ranging review of the international situation was undertaken by the two Foreign Ministers, including the situation in Soviet Union, Cambodia and Afghanistan. Bilaterally, they both welcomed another opportunity to exchange views and expressed the belief that this dialogue would add further substantive content to their relations.

The Indian External Affairs Minister underlined the fact that there was a general consensus in India on the question of developing and strengthening our relationship with China. Responding to these remarks, the Chinese Foreign Minister said that the two rounds of talks between the two Prime Ministers, had facilitated the task of the two Foreign Ministers. The Chinese Foreign Minister said that the establishment of constructive relations between India and China would contribute to the stability of the world, and was in the interest of the people of the two countries. He said that as a result of the three agreements which had been signed on the 13th December, 1991, both countries can expect an increasing number of exchanges and contacts in all fields of human endeavour.

The two Ministers also discussed the possibility of giving an impetus to the per-

ceptible improvement that has been witnessed in the field of our relationship in Trade, Science & Technology and the field of culture.

The Indian External Affairs Minister also suggested that looking to the future, we ought to stress the importance of high level exchanges. He said it would be a good idea to have an exchange of visits by Parliamentarians. In this context, he invited the Chairman of the National Peoples Congress to visit India, and in return, the Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament could visit China. Both Ministers agreed that the Speaker and Chairman would be requested to consider the matter further.

The two Foreign Ministers also agreed that because of the rapidly developing international situation, it will be useful to maintain a dialogue at the level of Foreign Ministers. It was recalled that the Chinese Foreign Minister had visited India in March 1990, and our External Affairs Minister went to China in January 1991. The present Foreign Ministers met each other in September this year in New York and they were meeting again now. It was agreed that such contacts should be maintained, and that such a dialogue would be in our mutual interest.

On the cultural front, there were a couple of suggestions. One was made by us, and that was that we undertake the joint translation of Buddhist scriptures, that are presently in China; and also joint studies for the preservation of relics.

Specially, we also suggested that we should work on the preservation and the building of the Xuan Zhuang Memorial in Nalanda. The Chinese Foreign Minister said that China fully shared India's desire to strengthen cultural contacts, which have been very active since ancient times. Work on the Xuan Zhuang Memorial in Nalanda would show that our bilateral relationship had been restored. He suggested that the -247>

Cultural Departments of both sides should get in touch with each other and should work on this proposal.

There was also a discussion on the need to activate the Aviation authorities on both sides to establish direct air links between India and China.

There was a review of various international organisations, such as NAM, G-15, UN and others.

There was a brief discussion on enhancing cooperation in the field of education, and on scholarships.

The Indian Foreign Minister made a detailed presentation on India's policies with our neighbours. He pointed to the generally improved atmosphere in our relations with all our neighbours. He referred to the recent visit of the Nepalese Prime Minister, which had led to wide ranging agreements in several areas, including hydel projects, industrial development and cultural cooperation. Likewise, on Bangladesh, External Affairs Minister gave an account of what had been achieved. As far as Pakistan was concerned, he said India had tried very hard, through mutual negotiations, to resolve its differences with Pakistan. He gave a detailed account of the historic and legal background to the Kashmir issue, including details like the Instrument of Accession, the Act of Independence, the conflicts of 1947, 1965, 1971, etc. He said that, regrettably, the 20 years of peace that had been ushered in, as a result of the signing of Simla Agreement in 1972, had been broken by Pakistan's change of attitude about three years ago, and its open and unending support to terrorists and subversives, trained and armed in camps in Pakistan, who were causing untold damage and disruption to the lives of ordinary people. He referred to the recent visit of the Special Envoy of the Pakistan Prime Minister and said that, regrettably, the assurances given on that occasion, regarding the possibility of a change of the situation on the ground, had not been fulfilled. The Chinese Foreign

Minister thanked the Indian External Affairs Minister for his lucid briefing on the situation with regard to Kashmir and, our relations with Pakistan. He expressed the hope that India would continue its efforts to resolve its differences with Pakistan, through peaceful negotiations; he hoped that peaceful, friendly consultations with Pakistan would continue.

The Indian External Affairs Minister also articulated India's position on the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and Nuclear Weapons Free Zones (NWFZ). He underlined the fact that proliferation was a global issue and could not be tackled on a regional basis. He referred to the detailed plans put forward by the late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi, at the IIIrd Special Session on Disarmament in June 1988, and said that this Action Plan had charted a detailed course, which India invited the world to appreciate and to try and adopt. Likewise on the NWFZ's, the Indian External Affairs Minister said that these do not coincide with the global reach of the problem and, therefore, India was not fully convinced about their efficacy. The External Affairs Minister also underlined the inherent danger, in the external inputs to Pakistan's nuclear weapons capacity and missile technology, specially in those areas which could affect our security and hasten an arms race in the region.

The Indian External Affairs Minister also conveyed our concern about the situation in Myanmar. He said that India stood for non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, but, supported democracy; in this context, India hoped that there would be a peaceful transfer of power to the elected representatives of the people of Myanmar and that we would also see the early release of the Burmese leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

In response to a question on China's views on the supply of missile technology, the Spokesman clarified that the Chinese Foreign Minister said that it was not their -248>

intention to affect the stability of any area of the world.

In response to another question as to whether any complaint was made or protests were lodged by India about the behaviour of Pakistan, the Spokesman. clarified that we were not in the business of complaining; occasions like this are not used for such purposes, certainly, not with countries like India and China. This dialogue was between the Foreign Ministers and the Prime Ministers of the largest countries in the world. It was not an occasion for making complaints and lodging protests, but hearing from each other, explanations of policies and the articulation of concerns. No one was out to get a particular 'deal' out of a particular conversation as had been suggested by the questioner; it was not a departmental store bargain, but a dialogue between the Foreign Ministers and Prime Ministers of India and China in the highest traditions of international

### diplomacy.

Responding to another question as to whether organisations such as NAM, G-15, GATT, and UN were discussed, the Spokesman clarified that both sides discussed the working of these different organisations, and it was agreed that at the official level, we would remain in touch with each other and work with each other's support.

In response to a question as to whether the words like "international oligarchies" and the "new world order", as were used by the Spokesman in his previous briefings, and the fact that such broad issues on the international situation, were discussed at the Prime Ministerial level, while specifics were talked about at the Foreign Minister's level, could be taken to imply that the discussions had been structured in this manner deliberately, the Spokesman clarified, that it would be incorrect to reach such a conclusion; all issues were dealt with at all levels. There was no attempt to use a rhetorical phrase; the attempt was to articulate what was a genuinely -- felt concern, by all developing countries, about the imbalanced world. It would be incorrect to say that Prime Ministers only discussed matters of global and international importance while regional matters came up only at the Foreign Ministers level. The Spokesman elaborated that there were varied emphasis, shades and nuances at respective levels; Prime Ministers have Prime Ministerial concerns and Prime Ministerial visions, and Foreign Ministers have their own horizons and compulsions. Obviously, there would be a difference in emphasis. As far as a division of subjects is concerned, there is no hard and fast rule for such discussions; there were no water tight compartments that the Prime Minister would deal only with certain areas, and the Foreign Ministers would deal with others. In any case, the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister were both directly involved in the making and formulating of foreign policy and in its conduct. They are perfectly at liberty to choose what subjects should be taken up at which level.

In response to a question on whether several western press reports about the so-called "ganging up of China and India against the new world order" were justified, the Spokesman asserted that these were totally unjustified. He added that the days of the "so-called ganging up" were well behind us. The Indian Prime Minister articulated this position very forcefully and very clearly at his address at Caracas, at the G-15 Summit Meeting recently, where he said quite clearly that the approach that India would adopt would be not a confrontational one but a cooperative one. The Spokesman clarified that the phrase used by both the Prime Ministers of India and China was that they must establish closer contact to carry forward their "dialogue" with the North. So, both countries were at one, in agreeing that what they wish to carry on was a 'dialogue', a friendly, cooperative, mutually beneficial dialogue with the North, based on certain

well-known and accepted principles, such as the five principles, that is non-interference, respect of each other's sovereigntis, etc.

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Responding to another query about whether the talks could be seen as an attempt by India to "wean" China away from Pakistan, the Spokesman clarified that inter-State relations could not be conducted with the use of the terminology of a kinder-garten or nursery. Certainly, countries of the size of India and China conduct their relations with each other with a sense of respect and an understanding of their respective size and respective importance in the world. The Chinese had their own dimensions in their relationship with Pakistan. So did India. Neither side had any desire or intention of building this cooperative relationship with the other, at the expense of relationships that either had with third countries.

DIA USA AFGHANISTAN CAMBODIA CHINA NEPAL BANGLADESH PAKISTAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC VENEZUELA

**Date**: Dec 14, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

India-China Joint Communique

The following is the text of a Statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 16, 1991:

- 1. At the invitation of Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, Mr. Li Peng, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, paid an official goodwill visit to the Republic of India from 11 to 16 December 1991. Premier Li Peng held talks with Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao. President Ramaswami Venkataraman and Vice President Shankar Dayal Sharma held separate meetings with Premier Li Peng. The talks and meetings proceeded in an atmosphere of sincerity, candour and mutual understanding.
- 2. During the visit, the two Governments signed the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Reestablishment of Consulates General in Shanghai and Bombay, the

Consular Convention between the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China the Memorandum between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Resumption of Border Trade, the Trade Protocol for 1992 between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Space of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Aerospace Industry of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in Peaceful Applications of Outer Space Sciences and Technology.

- 3. The leaders of the two countries had a wide-ranging exchange of views on bilateral relations and major international regional issues of mutual interest. The two sides expressed satisfaction that India-China relations had improved in recent years, especially since the 1988 visit to China by the late Prime Minister of India Shri Rajiv Gandhi, as a result of the concerted efforts by the two Government and peoples. The two sides reaffirmed their readiness to continue to develop friendly, good neighbourly and mutually beneficial relations on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence jointly initiated by India and China, for they believed that cooperation between India and China is in the fundamental and long term interests of the peoples of the two countries and is conducive to peace and stability in Asia and the world.
- 4. The two sides positively appraised the cooperation in the fields of trade, culture, science and technology. They particularly stressed the need for joint efforts for ensuring a dynamic increase and diversification of exchanges in the economic field, including trade. The two sides also agreed that border trade between the two countries, could be gradually extended to new areas as mutually agreed upon. Both countries would actively engage in cooperation in the fields of health, education, -250>

energy and agriculture. It was also agreed to hold a Festival of India in China and a Festival of China in India.

5. The leaders of the two countries reiterated that efforts would be made to arrive at an early and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question through friendly consultations. Both sides believed that the talks held so far by the India-China Joint Working Group on the boundary question had enhanced mutual understanding and agreed that the group should step up its work in search of an earliest possible solution to the boundary question. It was decided that that next meeting of the Joint Working Group would be held in New Delhi in early 1992 on a mutually convenient date. The two sides agreed to maintain peace and tranquillity in the area along the Line of Actual Control pending a final settlement of the boundary question. They also agreed that the periodic meetings between the military personnel in the border areas should be held on a regular basis.

- 6. The Chinese side expressed concern about the continued activities in India by some Tibetans against their motherland and reiterated that Tibet was an inalienable part of Chinese territory and that it was firmly opposed to any attempt and action aimed at splitting China and bringing about "independence of Tibet". The Indian side reiterated its long standing and consistent position that Tibet is an autonomous region of China and that it does not allow Tibetans to engage in anti-China political activities in India.
- 7. The two sides stated that the improvement and development of India-China relations was not directed against any third country, nor would it affect their existing friendly relations and cooperation with other countries. The two sides expressed their support for the peaceful settlement of all bilateral issues between countries in the region through friendly consultations. The Chinese side expressed their support for efforts by the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation for closer cooperation among its member states. Both sides believed that peace and stability in South Asia is in the interests of the peoples of the region and conducive to the preservation of world peace and stability.
- 8. The two sides extended welcome and support to the Agreement on a Comprehensive Political Settlement of the Cambodia Conflict signed at the Paris Conference on Cambodia on 23 October 1991, and expressed the hope that the Agreement would be fully implemented so as to create conditions for free and fair elections conducted and supervised by the United Nations, and to enable Cambodia to become an independent, sovereign, peaceful, neutral and nonaligned country.
- 9. The two sides stressed the importance of an early political settlement of the Afghan issue and expressed support for consultations and dialogue among the parties concerned for the establishment in Afghanistan of a broad-based coalition government acceptable to all parties, thereby restoring peace within the country and ensuring the independence, sovereignty, neutrality and non-aligned status of Afghanistan. Both sides are supportive of the United Nations Secretary General's statement on May 21 announcing a Five Point Programme for a political settlement of the Afghan issue, and hope that the United Nations will play an important role in this process.
- 10. The leaders of the two countries held that major changes had taken place in the international situation in recent years. While welcoming the trends towards relaxation of the international situation, they recognised that peace, security and development in the world are still faced with challenges. International economic relations are plagued by ever intensifying North-South contradictions and widening economic gaps. The two sides pointed out that in the absence of the economic development of

particularly the developing countries, there will be no genuine peace -251>

and stability in the world. The two sides reiterated their commitment to the cause of peace and development and held that the international community should continue to work for the maintenance of world peace and promotion of common progress of mankind.

11. The two sides believed that the international community should join efforts for the establishment of a new international political and economic order. The two sides stressed that the five principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit and peaceful co-existence, together with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, should comprise the essential norms for the conduct of international relations and form the basis upon which the new international order would be established.

The two sides believed that the following principles should govern the new international order:

- (1) Every country, big or small, strong or weak, rich or poor, is an equal member of the international community entitled to participate in the decision-making and settlement of international affairs. Each country shall have the sovereign right to formulate and implement its own strategies and policies for socioeconomic development best suited to its national conditions. The principle of noninterference in each other's internal affairs should be scrupulously observed in international relations. Differences and disputes among countries should be settled peacefully without resorting to force or threat of force.
- (2) Efforts should be made to check the arms race and realise effective disarmament. The current process of disarmament should lead to the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of all weapons of mass destruction including nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. Further progress should be made towards conventional disarmament.
- (3) Efforts should be made to address the growing economic gap between the North and the South, and achieve the settlement of global economic, social, demographic and environmental problems in a manner which would benefit all members of the world community. Regional cooperation should be furthered in order to expand channels for dialogue and promote common development. The developed countries are urged to address the questions of the mounting debt burdens of the developing countries, worsening terms of trade, inadequacy of financial flows and obstacles to technology transfers.

- (4) The principles of the UN Charter and the relevant international human rights instruments on the protection of human rights should be respected, and the universal realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms for the whole of mankind should be safeguarded and promoted. Human rights are indivisible. For the vast number of developing countries the right to subsistence and development is a basic human right.
- 12. The two sides believed that dialogue and exchange of visits between the leaders of the two countries were of major importance to greater mutual understanding and further development of bilateral friendship and cooperation in all fields. Premier Li Peng and his party thanked the Government and the people of the Republic of India for the warm and friendly hospitality accorded to them. Premier Li Peng invited Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao to visit China at his convenience and conveyed an invitation from Chinese President Yang Shangkun to President Venkataraman to visit China. The President and the Prime Minister accepted the invitations with pleasure. Dates for these visits will be decided through diplomatic channels. Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao in

vited General Secretary Jiang Zemin of the Chinese Communist Party to visit India at his convenience. Premier Li Peng agreed to convey this invitation with pleasure and thanked the Prime Miniseer for his invitation.

INA INDIA USA CAMBODIA FRANCE AFGHANISTAN

**Date**: Dec 16, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Minister of State for External Affairs Visit to Cambodia

The following is the text of a Statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 17, 1991 on the visit of Minister of State for External Affairs to Cambodia:

Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro on the last day of his three day visit to Cambodia, called, along with his delegation, on the President of the Supreme National Council (SNC) of Cambodia, Prince Norodom Sihanouk and had an hour long meeting with him. The Prince was accompanied by Prime Minister Hun Sen, Foreign Minister Hor Nahbong and Mr. Ieng Moly, SNC members from Son San faction. The Minister expressed solidarity of the Government and people of India with those of Cambodia and congratulated the Prince on his triumphant return to Cambodia following singing of the Paris peace accord in last October. Mr. Faleiro described Prince Sihanouk as a symbol of unity and reconciliation of Cambodia and its people, Prince Sihanouk paid rich tributes to the government and people of India for their support and nostalgically recalled his several visits to India and visit of Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru, whom he described as his "guru", to Cambodia in 1954. He said Nehru was the first head of government to visit Cambodia to congratulate them on their declaration of Independence. He appreciated the bilateral assistance India has been extending in several fields including food aid relief assistance, technical and medical assistance training facilities, scholarships and conservation and restoration work in the world famous Ankor Vat. He acknowledged the high skills, expertise and experience of the Archaeological Survey of India experts who have been working for the past five years on Ankor Vat.

Prince Sihanouk briefed the visiting Minister about progress on the implementation of peace accord and spoke of problems he was encountering in holding meetings of the Supreme National Council due to absence of Khmer Rouge representatives from Nhnom Penh.

Visiting Minister extended invitation on behalf of President and Prime Minister of India to Prince Sihanouk and Madam Sihanouk, if possible accompanied by Prime Minister Hun Sen, to visit India. The invitation was accepted with much pleasure and visit is likely to take place in autumn of 1992.

Following the hour long talks, Prince Sihanouk and madam Sihanok hosted a lunch in honour of the visiting Minister and his delegation which was attended among others by Prime Minister and Foreign Minister along with their wives and Mr. Iong Molly.

Earlier in the morning the Minister had called on Prime Minister Hun Sen and had an hour long indepth discussion on the process of implementation of the Paris peace accord on Cambodia. The visiting Minister once again expressed India's appreciation for the role Prime Minister Hun Sen has played and the cooperation he was extending to Prince Norodom Sihanouk in his capacity as President of the SNC towards full and faithful implementation of the peace accord. Prime Minister Hun Sen informed the visiting Minister of some problems relating to provision of infrastructure facilities like accommodation and transportation to the United Nations Transitional Authority for Cambodia (UNTAC) and Mr. Faleiro ex

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pressed the hope that these would be overcome through the process of mutual accommodation in the interest of peace and prosperity of the people of Cambodia. Prime Minister Hun Sen also requested bilateral assistance from India in some fields which were duly noted by the visiting Minister for consideration of the Indian Government.

Mr. Faleiro also addressed a press conference in the evening.

MBODIA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM FRANCE USA

**Date**: Dec 17, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Consultative Committee Meeting

The following is the text of a Statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 17, 1991 on the Consultative Committee Meeting:

The Consultative Committee meeting, which was held on 16th December, 1991, lasted for a little more than three hours. Among the honourable members present were - Prof. C. P. Thakur, S/Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, B. N. Pandey, P. Upendra, Kapil Verma, Inderjit, Madan Bhatia, Sharad Dighe, G. Swaminathan, A. Chaturvedi, Ram Jethamalani, Ms. S. Khatoon.

The discussions covered, broadly, Indo-Nepal relations, and Indo-China relations; though there was a brief discussion on the G-15 Summit, and also a brief discussion on Indo-Pak relations.

On Nepal, the sense of the Committee was uniformally positive. All MPs felt that Indo-Nepal relations were entering upon a qualitatively different era. They congratulated the External Affairs Minister for having conducted the talks successfully, and to have concluded five important agreements and treaties. They expressed great happiness and satisfaction that projects, which had remained dormant for 40 years, had, at last, been agreed upon. They said that what had been considered as intractable problems, had been resolved and the resolution of these would bring enormous economic benefits to people on both sides of the border. They said that they were happy that the misunderstandings and tensions, which had briefly marred our bilateral relationship, had been removed and the relations had been

restored to the former levels and in fact enhanced levels of confidence. They said that all steps were in the right direction and that our relations with Nepal were on the right track.

On China, a broad cross-section of the MPs congratulated the Minister and the Ministry of External Affairs, and the Government, for having furthered the process of normalisation of our relations with China. They said that the visit of Mr. Li Peng was a milestone of great significance, since it had succeeded in breaking the ice. They said that we should do everything to bring about an early settlement of the border question as this could enable India to reduce its defence expenditure, apart from the reduction of tension.

Several members spoke of the present mood of political parties, which should enable Government to evolve a consensus. Other members spoke with appreciation of the fact that the External Affairs Minister had taken up the question of Pakistan's support to terrorism at great length, and with great elegance and erudition. They also said that the agreement on border trade would greatly help in promoting the welfare of the inhabitants in the border areas. Other members expressed appreciation for the fact that Government had done well in identifying areas where both countries held a shared perception of problems facing the international community. They were glad that on questions relating to the new world order, and our efforts to democratise international institutions, like the UN; we have been able to ellicit China's support. They noted that -254>

in the on-going North-South dialogue, China's added weight would assist India and the rest of the developing world in their negotiations.

Some members wished to have clarifications on a number of points. In the first place, there were a number of questions as to whether issues relating to Myanmar; terrorism; Pakistani support to terrorism; Nuclear Weapons Free Zone; and fundamentalism; had come up during the Prime Minister's talks with Mr. Li Peng. Responding to these queries, the External Affairs Minister, and the Foreign Secretary, assured the members that all these subjects had been dealt with at great length, at all levels, during Mr. Li Peng's visit.

On terrorism, the External Affairs Minister referred to his own lengthy presentation to the Chinese Foreign Minister; and the latter's assurances that India's concern about Pakistan's support to terrorists operating in Indian territory would be conveyed to Pakistan at an appropriate opportunity. He also referred to Mr. Li Peng's remarks, made to the Raksha Mantri, when the Chinese Prime Minister categorically asserted that China was opposed to terrorism as it neither resolves issues, but, heightens tensions.

On the question of Myanmar, External Affairs Minister assured the members that our concern is for the democratic movement in that country; our desire is that power should be transferred to the elected representatives of the people; and our earnest wish is that the popular leader of Burma, Aung San Suu Kyi be released. We had conveyed our views in unmistakable terms.

On the question of Chinese arms supply to Myanmar, External Affairs Minister told the members that we have indicated to them that these weapons were finding their way into the hands of ULFA terrorists. The Chinese Foreign Minister, while taking due note of our concerns, had explained that China's relationship with Burma did not imply Chinese approval of the domestic situation in Myanmar. The Chinese Foreign Minister also explained that as compared to the past, the level of relationship between China and Myanmar had come down considerably. The number of visits at a high level had shown a marked drop in recent years. It was the necessity to curb drug smuggling in the border areas, and to maintain a regime of border trade in the interest of the inhabitants on both sides, that impelled China to deal with the SLORC regime.

On Kashmir, and relations with Pakistan in general, the External Affairs Minister said that the Prime Minister, in his one-to-one discussions with Mr. Li Peng, had made it perfectly clear that our views were conveyed to Pakistan, when Mr. Shaharyar Khan came here as Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's Special Envoy; that our response to Pakistani overtures would be predicated on the situation on the ground and not on the basis of general assurances given by the Special Envoy, or Foreign Minister, or other dignitaries of Pakistan.

On the Nuclear Weapons Free Zone, External Affairs Minister clarified that the Chinese had merely mentioned the proposal briefly during the discussions; but, India's opposition to such Zone, on the basis of well-known principles, had been conveyed. He told the Committee that neither did the Chinese press us about this proposal, nor did Mr. Bartholomew, US Under Secretary of State, who was here a few days back, press us about this proposal.

The External Affairs Minister, in his summing up of Mr. Li Peng's visit, said that the "chemistry" of the visit was important, and, at all levels, the exchanges had been extremely frank and non-polemical. Even on areas of difference, there had been an extremely sober interaction and a joint perception that issues would have to be looked at more objectively.

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DIA NEPAL USA CHINA MALI PAKISTAN BURMA TOTO

**Date**: Dec 17, 1991

# **Volume No**

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#### **SAARC**

The following is the text of a Statement issued by the OfficialSpokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi onDec 24, 1991 on SAARC:Briefing newsmen on the Sixth SAARC Summit, the Spokesman saidthat India was able to ensure that development remains at thecentre of international attention, while acknowledging and affirming that all Heads of State/Government were committed todemocracy, human rights, and rule of law. The Spokesman made areference to the Colombo Declaration, where it is said that Civiland Political Rights and Economic and Social Rights are inter-dependent, and of equal importance. On International Cooperation, the Spokesman said that India haveurged the SAARC will consider cooperation with other international/regional organisations, on its own terms, and interms of its own priorities. This is in order to ensure self-reliance in the region. The Sri Lankan proposal, with which India agreed, was to set up aPoverty Alleviation Commission for South Asia. India was able toget the Colombo Declaration, to highlight not only the need forbasic nutrition of diet for all people of the region, but also tohighlight the critical importance of primary education for allchildren between the ages of 6 and 14. The Spokesman elaborated that on Economic Cooperation, India's emphasis on the need to bring cooperation on trade, manufactures and services into the centre of SAARC activities, has been reflected in the Colombo Declaration. The Spokesman said that the Sri Lankan proposal, to establish a SAARC Preferential TrainingArrangement (SAPTA), by 1997, is going to be examined by anInter-Governmental Group, and India will host the first meeting of this Inter-Governmental Group. The Spokesman elaborated thatit was also agreed during the Summit that India will host thefirst meeting of the Regional Council for Development FinancingInstitutions (RCDFI), who will monitor the fund of 5 milliondollars, for identification and development of regional projects.On Environmental Cooperation, the Spokesman said that India hasoffered to host a Ministerial level meeting on EnvironmentalDevelopment, before the UN Conference takes place, so that viewswithin SAARC could be harmonised. In the context of the UNConference to be held in 1992, the Spokesman said that the SAARCSummit at Colombo had decided to set up a Committee for Environment, in order to articulate the national priorities andpostures of the SAARC member countries; and to bring about anidentity of views.

Visit of Mr. Kenneth Baker

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 30, 1991 on the visit of the Secretary of State for Home Department. Mr. Kenneth Baker:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman announced the forthcoming visit of Mr. Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Home Department, UK, from 2-7 January, 1992. The Spokesman elaborated that Mr. Baker will be having substantive discussions with the Minister for Home Affairs, Mr. S. B. Chavan; and will also be calling on the Prime Minister as well as the External Affairs Minister. Mr. Baker will be the Chief Speaker at a function at -256>

the India International Centre; where he will talk on Race Relations, Terrorism and Crime. Mr. Baker will also be visiting Bombay for two days, i.e. on 5th & 6th January, before he departs. The Spokesman clarified that the talks of the British Home Secretary with Indian leaders will be focussing on a number of issues, which are of importance to both Britain and India. The Spokesman further elaborated that there has been a most satisfactory cooperation between the two countries in tackling anti-Indian terrorism, launched by subversive and militant groups, based in the UK. It is a matter of satisfaction that in recent times, the British Government has taken stern action against terrorists by launching prosecution; and by taking other appropriate legal measures, including the issue of deportation. orders.

The British Government has reiterated at the highest level, its willingness to continue and to strengthen this cooperation to combat the "evil of terrorism". Both countries have agreed that terrorism is a global issue and needs to be tackled on an international basis, through the cooperation of like-minded countries. The British Government has also, on more than one occasion, advised Pakistan to stop any support to terrorists working against India's interests. Mr. Baker has himself been most supportive ever since he became Secretary of State, in November 1990. It is hoped that with Mr. Baker's continuing support and cooperation, India would be able to use his visit to move forward on the question of finalising the agreements for Confiscation of Terrorists Funds, and, of Drug Traffickers. The Spokesman made a reference to the visit of a British team in January 1991, to discuss these specific issues. The Spokesman elaborated that India hopes that after substantive discussions with Mr. Baker, an Indian team will travel to the United Kingdom in the early part of next year, and sign the agreements.

The Spokesman also made a reference of the British Government's introduction of a Charities Bill, which deals with the funding of charitable institutions, including Gurdwaras. It is hoped that this Bill, along with the other measures, mentioned earlier, would go a long way towards assisting both Governments, in their joint efforts to combat terrorism in its international dimensions.

The Spokesman elaborated that India will also be seeking the support of Mr. Baker; and through him, of the British Government, for enhanced cooperation between India and the European Community, in order to deal with terrorists based in some of the member countries of the Community.

DIA SRI LANKA RUSSIA UNITED KINGDOM USA PAKISTAN

**Date**: Dec 30, 1991

#### SAARC

#### Visit of Sri Lankan Foreign Minister

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 30, 1991 on the visit of the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, Mr. Harold Herat:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman said that Mr. Harold Herat, Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, will be visiting Delhi from 5-7 January, 1992, for the meeting of the First Session of the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission. Mr. Herat will be accompanied by Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary; Trade & Commerce Secretary, Mr. R. A. P. Goonatileke, and other senior officials. The Spokesman made a reference to Mr. Herat's visit to India in July 1991, when an agreement was arrived at to set up a Joint Commission. It was also decided, at that time, that the Joint Commission will be headed by the two Foreign Ministers; and also that there would be initially two Sub-Commis--257>

sions; one dealing with Trade, Investment and Finance; and the other with Cultural, Social and Educational matters. It was also decided, during the same meeting, that the Sub-Commissions would meet before the meeting of the Joint Commission and the Joint Commission itself would meet before the end of the year.

Both Sub-Commissions met in Colombo in October 1991. Sub-Commission on Trade has engaged in extensive discussions, on measures for liberalisation and expansion of Trade & Investment; whereas the Sub-Commission on Culture, Social and Educational matters has finalised a Cultural Exchange Programme between the two countries for the year 1992, 1993, 1994.

The Spokesman clarified that the dates for the forthcoming Joint Commission Meeting were proposed by us to the Sri Lankan side in November 1991 and India was informed earlier this month that the dates are acceptable.

The Spokesman elaborated that since this would be the first meeting of the Joint Commission it is expected that the Joint Commission will review all the work done by the Sub-Commissions; and will explore additional possibilities for strengthening bilateral ties in the field of Trade, Investment, Finance, Culture, Education, Tourism, and other sectors.

**Date**: Dec 30, 1991

## **Volume No**

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#### PRESIEDENT'S SPEECHES

Conference of Governors - President's Inaugural Address

Inaugurating the Conference of Governors, the President Shri R. Venkataraman, said in New Delhi on Dec 27, 1991:

"I have great pleasure in welcoming all of you to this Conference. Each of you brings to bear on the high office that you hold, a wealth of experience and distinction in public service. I am sure that your collective wisdom will be of immense help in meeting the challenges before the country.

I would like to offer a special world of welcome to our Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao and those of his colleagues in the new Council of Ministers who are present in this Conference. Shri Narasimha Rao is a scholar statesman with a long and distinguished record of service to the nation in diverse fields. He has assumed office at a juncture when our country is passing through critical times in the political and economic spheres. On behalf of Upa-Rashtrapatiji and all of you, I extend to him our best wishes for the unqualified success of his gallant efforts to bring peace and prosperity to the country and the people.

Since we met last, some Governors and Lt. Governors have demitted their office I would like to place on record my appreciation of the services rendered by them in their respective states. To the Governors and Lt. Governors who are attending the Conference of Governors for the first time. I extend a cordial welcome. During the year and a half since the last Governors Conference, the country has witnessed some quick changes in our political set up. The Government formed in December 1989 by Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, lost its majority on the floor of the Lok Sabha before it completed its first year in office. Its successor Government led by Shri Chandra Shekhar had an even -258>

shorter spell in office. This resulted in the unavoidable dissolution of the Lok Sabha and mid-term elections in June 1991. Midway through the polls came the tragic assassination of our former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, which anguished the whole nation across all political hues and divides. In his passing away the nation and the world lost an eminent and dynamic leader.

The new government led by Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao has assumed office against this background. Its conscious attempt to come to grips with the major problems facing the country and his method of consultations and conciliation, holds out promises of a healing touch to our nation's deep pains.

Our land mass is so large and variegated that some part of it or the other is always the scene of Nature's fury. The severe earthquake with its epicentre in Uttarkashi caused heavy loss of life and property, particularly in the Tehri-Garhwal region and shook large parts of Northern India. We share the agony of the victims of this natural disaster. There is need to ensure that steps are quickly and effectively taken to protect the immediate victims of the earthquake against the rigours of a Himalayan winter. I am sure Shri Satyanarayana Reddy will enlighten us on the steps taken in this regard.

Man-made travails are more difficult to contend with. All of us have, for quite some time now, been agonised by the unabated fury of terrorism. The bullet flies across several parts of our country bombs explode amongst unsuspecting innocents, traumatising out peaceable society. To the despicable vocabulary of terrorism has been added the cult of taking hostages, most of them public servants on duty. This represents a barbaric as well as cowardly mentality, since it plays havoc with the lives and psychologies of defenceless souls. Punjab, the valley of Kashmir, Assam, several parts of North-East and pockets of South and Central India have witnessed cold, calculated and dastardly attacks of terrorists.

It is a matter of relief that after the deployment of the army in Punjab there has been a marked decline in terrorist violence. The rising phenomenon of the killing of members of the families of security personnel with the intention of demoralising the security apparatus is causing us grave concern. I would like to take this opportunity to place on record my appreciation of the grit and fortitude displayed by the security agencies working in that State. As you are all aware, Government has announced its determination to hold elections in Punjab before February 15, 1992. It is our trust that security forces will be in a position to render the atmosphere conducive to the holding of free and fair elections in Punjab. I would also like to mention that the pressure on terrorists in Punjab has however been followed up by terrorist violence spilling over into neighbouring states such as Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. The situation in these states would need a close watch.

It is a matter for deep regret that the militants activities in Kashmir is maintained and fuelled by the supply of arms, ammunitions and training from across the border.

Our North-East has for a long time now been harassed by extremist

violence. Operation Rhino launched by our army in Assam has been successful in containing ULFA violence to a great extent. It is a matter of satisfaction that during the last few days, ULFA has freed hostages and announced a unilateral ceasefire. Other States in the North-East also, particularly Nagaland and Manipur continue to be riven by terrorist violence. We hope that these extremist organisations will see the error of their ways and accept constitutional and democratic processes for the ventilation of their grievances and the fulfilment of their hopes. I look forward to hearing the views of the Home Minister and the concerned Governors on these issues.

Left wing etxremists have been causing anxiety in parts of Andhra Pradesh, -259>

Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra as also in Bihar and Orissa. It has become necessary to adopt an integrated regional strategy to meet this form of extremist violence. Unless coordinated measures are taken by the concerned States, a solution may elude us. I am aware that Shri Subramaniam, the Governor of Maharashtra, has devoted some thought to this problem and I hope he will enlighten us with his ideas

Communalism has been an old malady with us. It is a slur on our ancient culture and heritage that we have been unable to prevent the recurrence of communal riots in different parts of the country. In July this year riots rocked Gujarat, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh during Muharram processions resulting in fatalities. Ganesh Chaturthi immersions coinciding with Milad-un-Nabi adversely affected communal harmony in different parts of the country, while the city of Cuttack was witness to communal frenzy during Dussehra festivities. More recently the riot at Varanasi during the observance of Kali Puja has caused us grief and concern.

Caste based clashes continue to mar our national image. Tsundur in the Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh is one of the more recent venues of caste clashes which have caused bloodshed and misery to the people of that area.

Certain organisations invariably tend to exploit caste, community and language for their own purposes of personal and political aggrandisement. I would like Governors to suggest ways and means of ensuring that this spurt of communal frenzy does not happen.

In recent days we have all been distressed by the disturbances and violence consequent to the Cauvery water dispute. Water is a scarce resource which has to be shared by the riparian states in an equitable manner. There is a well established mechanism to deal with inter-state river water disputes. We must on no count permit inter-state water disputes to acquire the proportions that they have. I invite Governors to offer suggestions for an

amicable settlement of such sensitive issues as inter-tate border and river water disputes.

This brings me to the shape and structure of our democratic edifice in the States. We have not failed to notice that in certain States, ministries have come to acquire enormous size. There are instances where almost every legislator of the ruling party has had to be placated by a ministership or a ministerial type of sinecure. Our body politic cannot carry so much adipose without detriment to the heart of democratic functioning. The absence of a limit to the size of the Ministry encourages hopes of office in a defector. It is well worth considering whether the size of the Ministry should not be limited to one tenth of the size of popularly elected legislature. Apart from discouraging defections, this will lead to an enormous saving in public expenditure and help channel resources to the welfare of the people.

It appears to me that the lure of office is the foremost infirmity in a politician and defections are its basest manifestation. It is for the consideration of the Government, politicians and public whether defector should not be debarred from any public office, elective or otherwise, for the duration of the legislature to which he had been returned by the electorate.

Another related matter that has caused controversy and, therefore, concern pertains to the interpretation of the antidefection law. Unfortunate and, in my view, avoidable instances of discord have arisen between the legislature and the judiciary over this matter. In matters pertaining to the Anti-Defection Law judicial directives are sometimes issues to the Governor, placing that office in a situation of delicacy. I would like to suggest that the Prime Minister and the Government give thought to insulating the office of the Governor from such piquant situations.

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Among the many far-reaching developments of recent times, are the series of new initiatives taken by this Government in the realm of economic reforms. We have started a process of moving away from a regime of controls towards a more flexible market based economy. Our distinguished Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh will doubtless apprise this Conference of the recent initiatives in economic policy and their implications for the future. It is a matter of gratification that the adverse balance of payments position has somewhat eased following the recent measures taken in that area. The price situation, especially in respect of essential commodities, continues to demand attention. The level of foodgrain stocks in the Central Pool is comfortable but I would like to urge Governors to advise State Governments to remain vigilant and administer the Essential Commodities Act firmly.

The burden on the poor and vulnerable sections of society continues to be great. Let us not take their patience for granted. It is customary for the Governors Conference to include the subject of welfare in the agenda and this Conference is no exception. Without anticipating our discussions I would like to suggest to Governors that they take a special interest in the exclusive schemes for our Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Our Constitution envisages a special role for Governors with regard to the administration of Scheduled Areas and Tribal Areas. Governors must ensure that meetings of the Tribes Advisory Councils take place regularly and that the Annual Reports of the concerned Governors are submitted in time.

All our efforts for economic development and poverty alleviation flounder on the rock of over population. Our performance on the economic front, particularly in Agriculture, Industry and Science and Technology has been very impressive but the immense growth in our GDP has been nullified by the population explosion during the last 40 years. I am afraid the country cannot maintain the present and growing population in any degree of reasonable comfort. May I call upon Governors and Lt. Governors to use their good offices to see that the action plans drawn up by the Department of Family Welfare at the Centre are implemented effectively in their States.

Friends, all of you are aware of the far-reaching changes that are taking place in the world. The bipolar juxtaposition with which we had lived ever since World War II has suddently thawed and we find international equations in a slurry of rapid change. The formation of the Commonwealth of some of the Soviet Union's former constituents and the resignation of President Gorbachev, German unification, the transfomation of East European countries into democratic polities and the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact have changed the political landscape of Europe and the world.

In this situation of change, India is called upon to redefine its points of reference and equations. Our fundamental commitments to the principles of nonalignment and to the concept of Panch Sheel will always be of relevance. Their creative application in today's context, however, needs to be more clearly spelt out.

But we cannot assume that the world is moving towards a new spirit of cooperation and understanding. The Gulf War has shown that even in a non-bipolar world, conflagrations can occur. We look forward to hearing from the Prime Minister and the Minister for External Affairs at tomorrow's session an insightful account of the present international situation.

I would, however, like to make a reference to two recent visits which have occasioned much happiness and optimism. I refer to the visit of the Nepalese Prime Minister, Shri G. P. Koirala and of the Chinese Prime Minister, Mr. Li Peng. Being the first such

Prime Minister after 31 years, it held special significance. I hope the encouraging dialogue started between the two Prime Ministers of India and China, will lead to the solution of the differences between the two countries and usher in an era of understanding and cooperation, not only for the mutual benefit of both our countries but for Asia and world peace.

During the period since the last Governors Conference I had the privilege of receiving the South African Statesman, Dr. Nelson Mandela. The conferment of the Bharat Ratna on him underlined our support to his struggle for freedom and the democratic rights of his people. Other dignitaries who visited our country included the Presidents of Afghanistan, Germany, Maldives and Zimbabwe and the King of Bhutan.

My two visits to Japan on the occasion of the funeral of Emperor Hirohito and of the installation of Emperor Akihito afforded an opportunity for strengthening our bilateral ties and for holding important talks with some world leaders. Later, I visited the friendly country -- Vietnam. This was the first visit by a Head of State from India after the unification of Vietnam. I held official discussions with the Vietnamese President Vo Chi Cong and other leaders. All these leaders expressed appreciation of India's success in attaining food self-sufficiency, industrial diversification and self-reliance and impressive progress in Science and Technology. They also gratefully acknowledged the assistance India has rendered from time to time, the credits they have extended and the training facilities offered to Vietnamese people.

I also visited the Philippines, where President Corazon Aquino, accorded a very warm welcome. This was the first visit by a President of India to the Philippines. President Aquino expressed a keen desire for economic cooperation between India and Philippines more particularly in agriculture, in small industries and in sharing Technology. Later, their Minister for Agriculture visited our Agricultural Research Institutions.

Keeping in view the foreign exchange crisis, I cancelled projected goodwill visits by me to Chile, Turkey and Italy.

I would like to take this opportunity to stress that we are in a situation where unproductive expenditure must be avoided scrupulously. I warmly welcome the package of economy and austerity measures announced by the Prime Minister at the conclusion of the National Development Council meeting earlier this week. Government activity and public expenditure can never come to a stop but we must learn to draw a distinction between avoidable and unavoidable expenditure. I am sure that this initiative will avoke an appropriate response from all quarters.

In previous conferences we have emphasized this need for circumspection in Government expenditure. I am happy to note that many Governors have undertaken an exercise to effect economies in their Raj Bhavan establishments. The drive for economy is not a one time measure but a constant and continuous one.

Certain provisions of the Governors' Allowances and Privileges Act and the Rules have been engaging the attention of the Governors. Under these provisions Governors' establishments could in certain circumstances be discussed in Parliament which I felt was not consistent with the dignity of the office. At the last Conference of Governors, I constituted a Committee consisting of the Governor of West Bengal as Convenor and the Governors of Maharashtra, Assam, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh as members, to go into this and to give me their recommendations. This Committee gave its report to me in July this year. I would like to thank and express my appreciation to Prof Nurul Hasan, and his colleagues in the Committee for the useful report. I have forwarded the -262>

report to the Home Minister for his examination.

It is widely and erroneously believed that the office of a Governor is but an ornamental institution, distanced from the hopes, trials and tribulations of the people of the State. Governors, in my view, are not the decorative roofing on a State's body-politic. They are, rather, like the roots running deep, providing stability and strength but doing so invisibly.

We have a heavy agenda before us and I look forward to obtaining Governors' valuable views on the Conference themes. I have already conveyed my view that it may not be necessary for the Governors and Lt. Governors to read out their prepared speeches. These will form part of the proceedings. Governors may like to confine their remarks to important points so as to allow more time for discussions.

I now invite Governors to offer their views and comments on all the items of the Agenda before us".

DIA USA ANGUILLA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC POLAND NEPAL CHINA SOUTH AFRICA AFGHANISTAN GERMANY MALDIVES ZIMBABWE BHUTAN JAPAN VIETNAM PHILIPPINES CHILE ITALY TURKEY

**Date**: Dec 27, 1991

## **Volume No**

#### PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECHES

On the Occasion of Unveiling of the Portrait of AnanthasayanamAyyangar

Speaking on the occasion of Unveiling of the portrait of Ananthasayanam Ayyangar in the Central Hall of Parliament House in New Delhi on Dec 09, 1991 the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao said:

Rashtrapatiji, Upa Rashtrapatiji, Mr. Speaker, Sir, Honourable Deputy Chairman, Members of Parliament and distinguished invitees, when I stand in the Central Hall of Parliament, I am filled with a feeling of awe and reverence; 'awe' because it is within these sacred portals that so much of our history had been made; 'reverence' because a very large share in the making of this history goes to our distinguished parliamentarians, many of whose portraits adorns this Chamber.

The vision of our great leaders and parliamentarians, their indefatigable labours, their passion to build India and the vision of those who gave up their best years of their lives so that we could be free, pervade this August Chamber; and, they give us the strength to go in our endeaevours to build a strong India, a just India, a prosperous India and India, where the benefits of progress go to all, particularly the weaker sections, and India firmly rooted in our individual freedom and human dignity plus collective endeavour. It is indeed befitting that the portrait of Shri Ananthasayanam Ayyangar should join the portraits of those whom the country owes so much.

A worthy successor to the legendary Dadasaheb Mavalankar, Shri Ananthasayanam Ayyangar added lustre to the Office of the Speaker and left an indelible imprint upon our parliamentary and national life. He brought with him to the Office of the Speaker a deep knowledge of parliamentary procedures, firm convictions and determination to uphold parliamentary norms, the truth and all that was normal in public life and also a tremendous senses of humour which not only enlivened parliamentary proceedings but also at times enables Shri Ayyangar to make a point more forcefully and what is more important more pleasantly. Even today, we can with profit delve into his pronouncements, -263>

interventions and rulings on subjects as diverse as adjournment motions, amendments, bills, the role of the Chair, parliamentary conventions, points of order and a whole host of other matters, and at the end of it emerge as better democrats, better patriots and better human beings. I remember reading an interesting anecdote about Shri Ayyangar. During his Central Legislative Assembly days, he was likened to a German linked to a German submarine which terrorised the British. The point of a comparison among other things, was his ability to speak at a tremendously fast pace. I understand that he spoke at almost 180 words per minute. In normal course, such a flurry of words should have been as daunting to the listener as to the speaker. But when words bring together wisdom and wit, they afford the listener a rare pleasure and posterity a chance to ponder on matters which are of crucial importance to the development of individual institutions, society and the nation.

Today, when we are in a critical juncture in our history we realise more than ever, the crucial role which Parliament is called upon to play in a time to crisis. Parliament's responsibility is onerous all the time but more so in times of difficulty. Nation, the people look to their representatives to give them the lead and show a way to a more securer and brighter future.

We are today faced with a fast changing and challenging global situation both within the country and internationally. It is, to say the least, quite daunting. At the same time, the expectations of the people are also on the rise. Even while we are engaged in the task of nation building, we are faced with secessionism and terrorism. The call of the hour is unity. We must stand together as one to meet the difficulties of the present and the uncertainities of the future. More than ever, we look to Parliament as a focal point of our singlemindedness of purpose; to contend with these challenges and give to our people a better future. Parliament must be the binding force to bring our people together and their resolve to build a stronger and more prosperous India.

I am reminded in this context of Shri Ayyangar's very perceptive words on the role of parliamentarians. In his inaugural address to the 25th conference of the Presiding Officers of Legislative bodies, he said:

"In my view, they (meaning the Members of Parliament) ought to function as a two-way channel of communication between the people and the Government. It is not enough for them merely to voice the interest and reactions of their constituencies. They have also to go back and interpret the policies and measures of the Government to the people so that they know that they know what is happening around them and feel a sense and partnership in the administration of the country."

However difficult be the time that we face today I have no doubt that we shall emerge successful.

I have great faith in our people and in our democratic institutions which have flourished due to perceptive maturity

which the people of India have in abundance, whether it is in the institution building, whether it is in the creative sphere, whether it is in the science or giving to the people a better quality of life, India will emerge successful and be in the front ranks of the comity of nations. We have a long and rich history. We have the wisdom of the sages. Our people have been endowed with an intellectual creativity, the envy of many. We must put all these to good use and work together as one for a purpose which transcends our individual selves for a larger purpose, the social purpose, the national purpose. Only -264>

if so transcend our mere individual selves and narrow petty ends, as distinct from their lofty ideals, we will be able to achieve the democratic purpose. Among these stalwarts, stalwarts who inspired the nation to these ideals was Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.

On a personal note, I must say I was a very junior to him. But, I was one of those who profited greatly from his wisdom and from his company occasionally. One very significant factor, significant incident, I would like to relate here which has left a permanent impress on my mind about his catholicity. You know he was a great Vishishtadwaita Scholar. In 1972, it so happened that we decided on behalf of the Congress Party, a candidate for the Tirupathi Assembly Constituency in the 1972 election. He was a very good candidate, young candidate and President of the Students Union of the University and we went by that. Suddenly, after everything was decided, it was discovered that he is a Christian. Now, you can imagine what consternation could have happened in the very citadel of the Vishishtadwaita when the Congress candidate happened to be a Christian? Everybody said he was going to be defeated. I went to Indiraji and told her. She said, you go to one person and he will help you and that is Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar. I promptly went to him and he said, 'On this has happened, I will help you'. I still remember the way he called the people from almost every village and, of course, from Tirupathi and harangued them. Other Vishishtadwaita scholars, his own colleagues, his disciples, may be some of them were even contemporaries to him as great scholars as he was, they came, they argued with him, they protested. But, he said, 'NO'. If I want you to vote for the Congress this time, it is because there is a Christian candidate here. This should be the reason. This should be the proof of your secularism and this secularism is ingrained in Vishishtadwaita. This is what he said. He linked Vishishtadwaita with secularism and he got this boy elected by fifteen thousand votes in the Assembly Constituency.

In fact, the most important issue before us today is whether we can mobilise all we have and work together as one in unity to move purposefully into the future and while we are doing this, while we are achieving this through the only Parliament that we have, the one and the only Parliament of which we are all proud,

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar comes to my mind again and again. I am happy to be able to speak on this occasion and to see that his portrait is being unveiled.

Thank you very much.

A INDIA FRANCE

Date : Dec 09, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

#### PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECHES

Speech at the Dinner in Honour of Nepalese Prime Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 05, 1991:

Your Excellency, distinguished members of the Nepalese delegation, ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure, Your Excellency, to welcome you and members of your delegation on this, your first, visit to India as Prime Minister of Nepal. We welcome you today not only as a close friend of longstanding, but as the democratically elected leader of a people with whom we share close ties of friendship. We feel honoured to receive you so soon after you have assumed your new and challenging responsibilities.

Much has already been said about the bonds that link us. They go back several centuries and are imbued by the sense of a shared destiny. We are linked by the 2500 year old message of the Prince of Peace, Gautama, the Buddha. The Nepalese -265>

genius for eclictic synthesis merged Hinduism and Buddhism, Shiva and Avalokiteshwara into a single image called Lokeswara. The Nepali Mahatmya says that to worship the Buddha is to worship Shiva. It is no accident that the Lord Pashupathinath, whose shrine attracts countless Indian pilgrims every year has five faces. Four of these symbolise the "chaturdham" in India, to visit which is the heart's desire of millions of Nepalese.

These are not links enshrined in word and stone alone. Our century has given them new vigour and strength. When Mahatma Gandhi led the struggle for India's independence there were courageous young men from Nepal who responded to his call, and adopted the cause of the Indian people as their own. Foremost among them was the legendary Bishweshwar Prasad Koirala. He was a satyagrahi, who pluged into our quest for independence with the same commitment and courage that he later directed towards the struggle for political reform and democracy in Nepal. He belongs, in the truest sense, to both our peoples, who are proud of his legacy. And your presence here today, Mr. Prime Minister, brings back many old memories of our long association in those eventful years. Ties that bind our peoples together cannot be easily shaken. Nor should they be taken for granted. We should further build upon this foundation, with imagination and vision, with pragmatism and purpose.

The renewed and deepened understanding between us, embodied in the Indo-Nepal Joint Communique of June 10, 1990 provides a comprehensive framework for our future cooperation. Today, with the unfortunate tensions of the past few years behind, us, we both know better than ever how important our traditional relationship has proved to be. Yet there have been areas where the stagnation of the past has deprived both our peoples of immense benefit.

The Nepal -- India High Level Task Force has taken us forward on this path. Its recommendations are wide-ranging, precise and action oriented. They cover a number of new projects in Nepal of direct and tangible gain to the people. Energetic, effective and speedy implementation of this programme can, and must, help transform our economies.

In fact, Mr. Prime Minister, we have made a good beginning. The new treaties of trade and of transit and the agreement on cooperation in controlling unauthorised trade are to be signed in a few hours. They will provide firm and long-term arrangements in these areas. In the trade sector, I am happy to announce further concessions regarding tariffs and a substantial relaxation of the access regime for Nepalese exports to the Indian market. The specially favourable access regime established for the products of approved joint ventures should act as a catalyst in this promising area.

We are confident that the entrepreneurial community in both our countries will fully take advantage of these new opportunities. Trade between our countries is not simply a matter of market adjustment of seasonal or local surpluses to meet intermittent demands. It is a serious and coherent economic activity which, given the open border and common consumer trends, can form the basis of mutually beneficial economic interaction. For a diligent and far-sighted Nepalese entrepreneur, an additional Indian market of 600 million is not beyond reach. India should be reviewed not only as a major destination for Nepalese exports, source of capital and investment but as a country committed to Nepal's industrialisation and economic growth. Our shared

prosperity will be our common asset.

In the sector of water resources development, the loss over the past two decades in terms of missed opportunity has been considerable. We have now agreed, Mr. Prime Minister, on various specific measures in this sector -- covering -266>

major as well as medium-sized projects, flood forecasting and warning systems and flood protection works. Their implementation will bring us both tremendous benefits; -- revenue for Nepal and power for India, plus flood protection and irrigation benefits. Our rivers, whose benediction has blessed our lands, must endure as a source of hope, of well-being and of promise for our peoples.

India has long had the privilege of being associated with the economic development of Nepal. I am glad to announce our decision today to take up a number of projects in Nepal on a priority basis.

Despite our two peoples being so intimately involved in agriculture, bilateral cooperation in this vital sector has so far been sporadic. Our proposed Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in this area will now lead to substantial work together with its inbuilt potential for promoting employment in our villages and for rural development as a whole.

Mr. Prime Minister, it is a matter of deep satisfaction that we have jointly decided to set up the Bishweshwar Prasad Koirala India and Nepal Foundation. This foundation will help promote exchanges in education as also in agriculture, public health, science and technology and in developmental studies. We are happy to announce India's modest contribution of 2 crore rupees to set up a Trust Fund for this Foundation. The B. P. Koirala Foundation will be eloquent tribute to a truly great man, whose life and achievements are a precious legacy common to our peoples.

We, for our part, understand that in assisting a neighbour, a nation only helps itself. Your happiness, your prosperity and your progress contribute to our prosperity and our welfare. Indeed, in our relationship, it is difficult to distinguish the "I" from the "You". We have decided to build up our relations in this new mould and I would like to assure you that India will maitain this spirit.

Distinguished guests and ladies and gentlemen, may I request you to join me in a toast to the health of His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev; to the health of His Excellency the Prime Minister of Nepal and his family; to the happiness and well-being of the people of Nepal; and to the trust and friendship that unites our peoples.

**Date**: Dec 05, 1991

## **Volume No**

1995

### SAARC

### Stamp on SAARC Year of Shelter

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 06, 1991:

The Department of Posts will be bringing out a special stamp to commemorate the "SAARC Year of Shelter" on December 7, 1991. This Rs. 4.00 stamp is being issued to focus attention on the efforts of the Government to provide housing to different income groups.

The SAARC Heads of States, in the fifth SAARC Summit held at Male in December, 1990 declared 1991 as "SAARC Year of Shelter" to focus attention on and to arrive at appropriate policies, programmes and projects, which would help -267>

to attain the goal of shelter for all by the year 2000.

The provision of appropriate and affordable shelter is a common problem being faced by member countries of SAARC. India has taken up a number of successful projects for cost effective and yet aesthetic housing through qualitative planning and design inputs and use of transfer mechanism for appropriate building materials and technologies through Building Centres. The Government of India is determined to implement vigorously the Draft National Housing Policy of 1988 and is taking a series of legal and other initiatives to create a congenial environment for housing eactivity. The Government of India assisting the State Governments in various ways to augment the housing stock for the poor, the significant schemes being night shelter for the homeless, liberation of scavengers and low cost sanitation in urban areas, Nehru Rozgar Yojana for the urban poor, Indira Awas Yojana for the rural landless and basic amenities for slum dwellers. Increased flow of housing finance is arranged through the National Housing Bank, HUDCO and a network of housing finance institutions. The Government has also announced a scheme for mobilising black money through the National Housing Bank for schemes of slum improvement and low income housing.

First Day Cover and Information Sheet will be available for sale at all Philatelic Bureau and other selected Post Offices.

#### DIA USA MALDIVES

**Date**: Dec 06, 1991

# **Volume No**

1995

### **VIETNAM**

India's Participation in International Trade Fair at Ho ChiMinh City

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 19, 1991:

Orders worth Rs. 3.67 crores have been booked by Indian companies at the Quang Trung International Fair held at Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, from 23rd November to 2nd December, 1991. According to reports furnished by the participants, additional business currently under negotiation amounts to Rs. 54.85 crores. Sixteen companies have identified or appointed agents for their products. Trade Fair Authority of India (TFAI) had organised India's participation in the fair, which was inaugurated by Mr. Tran Duc Luong, Deputy Prime Minister of Vietnam and was attended by Shri Salman Khurshid, Deputy Minister of Commerce.

The 10-day Fair is reported to have proved very successful in terms of negotiations for joint ventures, technology transfers, signing of MOUs and business transacted. Fifteen companies have reported negotiations for joint ventures, technology transfer and signing of Memorandum of understanding.

57 leading Indian companies displayed a wide range of machinery and technologies at the fair relating to agriculture, food processing, textiles, transportation, packaging etc. India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) had also organised an Indian Food Festival at the fair.

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ETNAM INDIA USA **Date**: Dec 19, 1991