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**Date :** Jan 01, 1992

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CHINA

India and China to Reinforce Exchange and Cooperation in the Field of Audit

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi  
on Jan 15, 1992:

India and China today signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed  
at reinforcing the exchange and cooperation in the field of audit

between the two countries.

The heads of both the supreme Audit Institutions of India and China Shri C. G. Somiah and Mr. Lu Peijian signed the MOU at a brief function here today, on the conclusion of the week-long visit of the Chinese Audit Delegation to this country.

The MOU envisages exchange of information and literature on audit, bilateral seminars on audit theory and methodology in selected areas, participation in international training courses conducted by either side and, periodic exchange of visits and study tours by senior audit officials of the two countries.

Earlier in the day, both sides held discussions on their bilateral relations in audit.

INA INDIA USA

**Date :** 11, 1992

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FINLAND

Indo-Finnish Co-operation in Energy

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 23, 1992:

India and Finland have in principle agreed to set up a working group on energy under the auspices of the Indo-Finnish Joint Commission. The modalities would be finalised in the next meeting of the Joint Commission, scheduled to be held in Helsinki, Finland shortly.

This was decided here today when the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Trade H.E. Mr. Pertti Salolainen called on the Minister of State for Power and Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Shri Kalpnath Rai, here today. The Finnish leader, currently on a 4-day official visit to India, is accompanied by a large business delegation. The Indian side, led by Shri Rai, comprised Union Power Secretary, Shri S. Rajgopal, Union Secretary for Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Shri S. Venkatesan, senior ministry officials and representatives from the Central Electricity Authority and the National Power Transmission Corporation.

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The two sides discussed various areas of mutual interest in energy where cooperation was being considered. These included modernisation and rehabilitation of old power plants, mini hydro power projects, high voltage underground cable systems, development of reactive power control and diesel generation sets.

It was disclosed that negotiations were already under way between Finnish credit agencies and Power Finance Corporation and the Kerala State authorities for supply of diesel generating sets. The Finnish Deputy Prime Minister expressed interest in sharing with India Finland's expertise in energy plantation and reforestation. Welcoming the visitors Shri Rai expressed the hope that Indo-Finnish Cooperation in the field of energy would prove fruitful to both sides and continue to expand in the future.

NLAND INDIA USA

**Date :** Jan 23, 1992

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FINLAND

Trade Minister of Finland Meets Minister of State (Commerce)

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 23, 1992:

Mr. P. Salolainen, Minister of Foreign Trade and Deputy Prime Minister of Finland, met Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce, here today. Mr. Salolainen, who is on an official visit to India, is accompanied by a 15-member business delegation from Finland. The discussions between the Finnish Minister and Shri Chidambaram covered bilateral trade and economic relations as well as international trade.

The volume of trade between India and Finland in 1990-91 was of the order around Rs. 256 crores. The balance of trade with Finland has been adverse with India's exports to Finland not keeping pace with the imports. India's share in Finland's imports has been 0.1%. The need to rectify the imbalance in trade was stressed at today's meeting.

NLAND INDIA USA

**Date :** Jan 23, 1992

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HUNGARY

Indo Hungarian Trade

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 23, 1992:

Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce, has said that India and Hungary should strive to increase the volume of two-way trade. Inaugurating the 10th meeting of the Indo-Hungarian Joint Business Council (JBC) here today, the Minister indicated that the volume of trade between India and Hungary was only US \$ 150 million in 1990 and from the trends in the first 9 months, trade was likely to be at the same level in 1991. Since this level of trade was unsatisfactory, Shri Chidambaram urged the JBC to strive for enhancing trade. This, he said, could be done through exchange of trade delegations, buyer-seller meets and greater exposure to the export capabilities of each other. He said that complementarities of the two economies and similarity of the direction in which the two countries were moving should help in substantially raising the 2-way trade.

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Shri Chidambaram said that trade with Hungary under the scheme of Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), which was non-discriminatory and nonreciprocal, should continue as it was a mutually beneficial arrangement and was a clear signal that India and Hungary valued the trade and economic cooperation with each other. Hungary's imports from India under the GSP scheme amounted to US \$18 million, consisting of agricultural and industrial goods.

Referring to the major economic reform measures introduced in India, Shri Chidambaram said that trade was now free and the remaining controls on trade would go by March 31, 1992. He said that India subscribed to the GATT principle that trade should be free and non-tariff barriers should go.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Dr. K. M. Thiagarajan, Chairman, Indian section of Indo-Hungarian JBC, said that in the context of the division of the world into major trading blocs, the present JBC meeting has assumed significance. Hungary would become an associate member of the EEC in March 1992. Therefore, the time to

forge a strategic alliance with Hungary was now, he said. He highlighted the need to promote joint ventures and said that Hungary could become India's gateway to Europe.

Mr. Peter Sugar, Chairman of the Hungarian section of the JBC said that since Hungary was going to be an associate member of EEC this year and a full-fledged member by the end of this decade, India should not miss this opportunity. Investments in Hungary would give an opportunity to India to gain better market access to the EEC.

Mr. Andras Balogh, Ambassador of Hungary in India, pointed out the dramatic changes both in the political and economic systems and the opening up of market economy in that country. He said that development of a market economy in Hungary was inconceivable without the management, experience, production and market connections of foreign investors. He expressed confidence that Indian business community will provide all production experience marketing skill and investible capital.

Mr. Lojos Tolnay, President, Hungarian Chamber of Commerce, outlined the sweeping reform measures since the last Hungarian JBC in 1989 which marked the transition of Hungary to a market economy and said that this had opened up new avenues of business cooperation between India and Hungary.

HUNGARY INDIA USA

**Date :** Jan 23, 1992

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MAURITIUS

Indo-Mauritius Joint Venture on Shipping

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 10, 1992:

The visiting Minister for Shipping and Trade from Mauritius, Shri A. Baichoo called on the Minister for Surface Transport, Shri Jagdish Tytler today.

The two Ministers held discussions on cooperation in shipping between the two countries. Shri Jagdish Tytler agreed in

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principle to a proposal from the Mauritius Government for a joint venture between Shipping Corporation of India and the Government of Mauritius. Under this joint-venture, regular shipping services would be operated between India-Mauritius and other countries in the region. It was the feeling of both the delegations that trade would receive a big boost by the proposed venture.

URITIUS USA INDIA

**Date :** Jan 10, 1992

## Volume No

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### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Indo-Pak Agreement on Prohibition of Attack Against Nuclear Installations and Facilities

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 01, 1992 on Indo-Pak relations:

Pursuant to the Agreement on Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities, signed at Islamabad on 31st December, 1988, India and Pakistan today (1 January, 1992) exchanged the list of nuclear installations and facilities to be covered under this Agreement.

The exchange was carried out simultaneously at Islamabad and New Delhi. India's Foreign Secretary, Mr. J. N. Dixit handed over the Indian list to Pakistan's High Commissioner, while the list of Pakistani nuclear installations and facilities was handed over by Pakistan's Foreign Secretary, Mr. Shaharayar M. Khan, to India's Acting High Commissioner in Islamabad.

DIA PAKISTAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

**Date :** Jan 01, 1992

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### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 03, 1992 on the meeting between the British Home Secretary, Mr. Kenneth Baker and the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki:

Briefing newsmen, the Spokesman said that the British Home Secretary, Mr. Kenneth Baker, had a meeting with the Indian External Affairs Minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, this morning. The British Home Secretary was assisted by the High Commissioner of Britain in India, Mr. Nicholas Fenn. The External Affairs Minister was assisted by the Foreign Secretary, Mr. J. N. Dixit; Secretary (West), Mr. I. P. Khosla; High Commissioner of India to Britain, Mr. L. M. Singhvi; and other officials.

The Spokesman elaborated that the two Ministers had wide-ranging discussions covering the international situation, developments in the region, and bilateral issues. The principal focus of the discussion was on the dangers of terrorism, and the efforts being made by both countries to cooperate in this field.

Talking about the dangers inherent in the rising tide of religious fundamentalism, the External Affairs Minister said that such

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forces pose a particular threat to democratic societies, like India. The British Home Secretary reciprocated the apprehensions, expressed by the External Affairs Minister, and said that fundamentalism often took the form of State repression, and that this phenomenon led to the exodus of thousands of people from several countries seeking political asylum. The Spokesman affirmed that both Ministers agreed that fundamentalist forces, since they affect the youth of many countries, were a major problem and had to be tackled jointly by democratic countries like India and Britain.

The Spokesman further elaborated that the External Affairs Minister said that where fundamentalism was combined with terrorism, it posed an even greater menace to pluralistic societies like India. In this connection, the External Affairs Minister expressed warm appreciation for the many steps that the British Government had taken, and is continuing to take to cooperate with India, to combat the evil of terrorism. The British Home Secretary said that Britain had experienced the dangers of terrorism often tinged with fundamentalism, at first hand. There was, therefore, great understanding in Britain, of the problems that India was facing, in this regard. The British Home Secretary said that Britain would be happy to consider a new Extradition Treaty in order to bolster our joint efforts to

combat terrorism. The British Home Secretary further referred to the many legislative steps taken by Britain to prevent the illegal movement of money and the laundering of money, collected for ostensibly charitable purposes, but, used actually for questionable political objectives. The British Home Secretary expressed the hope that India would continue to cooperate with Britain in strengthening these measures.

The Spokesman said that, responding to External Affairs Minister's suggestion that India be associated with the Trevi Group in the European Community, the British Home Secretary assured that Britain would convey to its EEC partners that India was a genuine "victim state", and that India's experience in dealing with terrorism could be usefully used by the European Community.

The External Affairs Minister also gave a detailed and comprehensive exposition of Pakistani involvement in terrorism in India. He gave documentary evidence to the British Home Secretary, to prove the nexus between the elements in Pakistan, their mentors in other countries, including Britain, and the operatives in India.

The Spokesman elaborated that the External Affairs Minister referred to the blatant acknowledgement by the so-called Prime Minister of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, which has appeared in the local press, admitting that Pakistan was abetting terrorism in India. Responding to External Affairs Minister's remarks, the British Home Secretary assured that Britain deplores terrorism in all forms, but, particularly abhors State-supported terrorism. The British Home Secretary said that Pakistan had been told about Britain's views in this regard, in no uncertain terms, and on several occasions. He said that the Pakistanis had been told that it is not in the interest of any Government to support terrorism. The British Home Secretary said that this made it all the more imperative that India and Britain, and other like-minded countries in the world, must unite against terrorists and their operations, which had international dimensions. The British Home Secretary further said that terrorists, even though usually comprising small groups of people, are able to cause untold human misery, perpetrate indescribable violence, and create political instability.

The Spokesman elaborated that the two Ministers then discussed human rights related issues. The External Affairs Minister gave a detailed briefing to the British Home Secretary, and handed over written material showing how the rights

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of Indian citizens were adequately safeguarded by the open and democratic political system. The British Home Secretary expressed complete understanding for the very difficult situation that democracies like India and Britain find themselves in, on the

question of human rights. Our open societies enable our own citizens, and citizens of other countries, to scrutinize closely the work of our security forces. Our security forces had an extremely difficult job when faced with terrorist situations. He said that it was important that India continue to refute allegations made in certain quarters, about the alleged violation of human rights. He said that it was regrettable that many human rights groups rarely spoke of the violation of the human rights of the victims of terrorism. In this context, he spoke of the 70 people who had been victims of terrorism in a train near Ludhiana, "whose human rights had been terminated for ever".

DIA USA PAKISTAN

**Date :** Jan 03, 1992

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### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Meeting of British Home Secretary with Prime Minister of India

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, 1992 on the meeting of the British Home Secretary, Mr. Kenneth Baker, with Prime Minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao:

The Spokesman, while briefing newsmen, announced that the British Home Secretary, Mr. Kenneth Baker, had a cordial meeting with the Indian Prime Minister this morning, which lasted for 40-minutes. Mr. Baker recalled his most interesting meeting with the Prime Minister, when the latter was Human Resource Development Minister, and, Mr. Baker himself was Education Secretary. Mr. Baker said that he was happy to renew his acquaintance. The Spokesman further said that both leaders were agreed that the very warm and friendly relations between India and the UK should be further strengthen. One of the important areas in which India and UK are closely cooperating and where both sides are keen to intensify their cooperation, is in combatting terrorism. The Spokesman elaborated that the Prime Minister thanked Mr. Baker for the very effective cooperation India has been receiving from the UK in this regard. The proposed Extradition Treaty and the Agreement on the "Tracing, Restraint and Confiscation of the Proceeds of Crime and Terrorist Funds", on which discussions are under way, would make a substantial contribution in this regard. The Spokesman said, Mr. Baker referred to his most useful talks with the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Madhavsingh Solanki, and,

the Home Minister, Mr. S. B. Chavan, and reaffirmed the desire of the British Government to cooperate with India, to combat the challenge of terrorism.

The Spokesman further elaborated that the Prime Minister conveyed India's deep concern about the active support and encouragement that terrorism in India is receiving from across the border. Mr. Baker said that the British Government and the European Community have made representations to Pakistan, in this regard, and would continue to do so. All Governments, Mr. Baker said, must positively discourage such activity. Now that terrorism was a transnational phenomenon, where sophisticated weapons and methodologies were in use, it was imperative for Governments to find new methods to control this menace. As democracies, Britain and India must stand together.

The Spokesman said that the question of human rights also came up for discussion. The Indian Prime Minister said that India was an open society, with a free press and an independent judiciary; a vigilant Parliament and public opinion; a vibrant,

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active, functioning system; wherever lapses by our security forces on human rights come to the notice of the Government, these are promptly and thoroughly investigated. The Prime Minister said, however, that when people talk about human rights violation, they should not forget the violations of the human rights of the innocent victims of terrorist attack. Mr. Baker fully appreciated the point made by the Indian Prime Minister and acknowledged that India was one of the most open societies in the world. Mr. Baker reiterated the need for India to continue to put across its point of view.

Mr. Baker was very appreciative of the courageous manner in which Prime Minister and his Government had gone ahead with far-reaching economic reforms. Mr. Baker said that as the Indian economy changes, he was confident that tremendous opportunities would open up for more investment from UK into India. Mr. Baker further said that Britain greatly welcomed the reforms and would do everything to help in ensuring their success. The Prime Minister said that, notwithstanding the difficulties that lay ahead, we would persevere with the reforms, which were irreversible. Mr. Baker observed that the relationship between UK and India had perhaps never been as warm and as friendly as it was now, at any time in the recent past.

Responding to a question as to whether it could be taken that Mr. Baker had "accused Pakistan" of State sponsored terrorism, the Spokesman replied that it could fairly be concluded that Mr. Baker had accepted the evidence provided to him. He had not expressed any doubts about it. This, taken together with the evidence gathered from his own sources, since much of the terrorism has a basis in UK, had led to the kind of statements he

had made. It would be seen that he had little doubt that Pakistan is indulging in State sponsored terrorism. The Spokesman said that Mr. Baker expressed sentiments in public which were similar to those which he had articulated in his meetings with our leaders.

DIA UNITED KINGDOM USA PAKISTAN

**Date :** Jan 04, 1992

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### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting of US Senator Mr. Patrick Moynihan with the 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 04, 1992 on the meeting of the U.S. Senator, Mr. Patrick Moynihan, with the Prime Minister, Shri Narasimha Rao:

The former Ambassador, and Senator (Democrat), Mr. Patrick Moynihan had a meeting this morning with the Indian Prime Minister. Senator Moynihan handed over to the Prime Minister, a letter from President Bush, which conveyed to the Prime Minister the American Administration's satisfaction, at the manner in which our bilateral relations have been developing. President Bush, referring to the momentous changes which the world has witnessed in 1991, suggested that these changes should inspire our two great democracies to work together and deepen our bilateral ties.

The Spokesman elaborated that the Prime Minister and Senator Moynihan also discussed the international situation, with a special focus on the dramatic changes in the former Soviet Union. The Spokesman said that they agreed that the situation warranted close watching and the future course of events was difficult to predict.

The Prime Minister and Senator Moynihan also discussed the United Nations and its activities. Senator Moynihan said that he envisaged an active role in the coming days for the United Nations. As a former Permanent Representative of United States, Senator Moynihan paid tributes to the new Secretary General, and expressed the hope that Mr. Boutros Ghali would play a central role in strengthening the United Nations.

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The Indian Prime Minister spoke of his long and close association with Mr. Boutros Ghali during his tenure as EAM and said

that he was fully confident that Mr. Ghali would fulfil the high expectations that the world had of him.

A INDIA

**Date :** 04, 1992

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### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Meeting of Sri Lankan Foreign Minister with External Affairs Minister

The following is the text of a Statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 06, 1992 on the meeting of the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, Mr. Harold Herat, with the Indian External Affairs Minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman said that the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, Mr. Harold Herat, and the Indian Foreign Minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, led their respective delegations for the First Session of the Indo-Sri Lankan Joint Commission. The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister had earlier called on the Indian External Affairs Minister, and had discussions with him.

After welcoming the Sri Lankan delegation, the External Affairs Minister proposed that the delegations observe a two-minute silence in the memory of the late Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister readily agreed, and this was done. The External Affairs Minister said that the late Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, stood as an inspiration to us in our endeavours to promote regional and bilateral cooperation. His tragic assassination had deprived us of a farsighted leader who has the best interest of the people of our region at heart.

Responding to the sentiments expressed by the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Herat agreed that India and Sri Lanka had been deprived of a leader with vision who had made sincere efforts to promote close cooperation in all fields, specially those now being covered by the Joint Commission.

The External Affairs Minister said that it was India's intention to build and

develop bilateral relations in their widest sense and it was in this perspective that India welcomed the setting up of the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission at the Foreign Ministers level. India looked upon this forum as the starting point of a new and cooperative relationship between our two countries.

The External Affairs Minister said that India continues to stand for the unity and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka. He underlined the fact that the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement of 1987 took this as the starting premise. The External Affairs Minister reiterated India's commitment in this regard. He further expressed India's firm belief that the 13th Amendment and related legislation, based on the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement, and a negotiated solution with the participation of all concerned, was the only way of assuring a viable and lasting settlement of the ethnic problem; and of meeting the aspirations of the Tamil community. The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister gave the assurance that Sri Lanka was deeply committed to finding a political solution in the North and the East of Sri Lanka, and that it would pursue such an objective with utmost earnestness. The search for such a solution was currently being conducted through the All Party Conference and the Select Committee of Parliament. Mr. Herat said that it was in the interest of both our peoples that an early solution to the ethnic conflict be found.

The External Affairs Minister expressed satisfaction at the work done by the Sub-Commission on Trade, Investment and Finance. He said that it was important especially in the context of the expanding liberalisation of the Indian economy to

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further develop our trade ties with Sri Lanka. He welcomed the recent visit by high level FICCI delegation and expressed the hope that we would soon receive a high level delegation from the Sri Lankan Chamber of Commerce in India. The Sri Lanka Foreign Minister, responding to the External Affairs Minister's remark, said that it was hoped that the President of the Sri Lankan Chamber of Commerce would come to India in April 1992. Both Ministers agreed that such visits by businessmen were symptomatic of the growing importance of direct contact between the private sectors of both countries.

The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister underlined the potential that exists for greater collaboration between India and Sri Lanka in the following sectors: a) Railway wagons for movement of fuel; b) a Concrete Sleeper Manufacturing Plant; and, c) Collaboration in the field of Manufacture of CTC Teas. He also underlined the many possibilities that exist for collaboration between India and Sri Lanka, on Tea Councils and in the joint marketing of tea. A delegation from Tea Sector would be going to Sri Lanka at the end

of January; and, on the Railway side, a delegation had already gone there in December 1991.

There was a discussion on finding ways and means for expanding Tourism. In this context, both sides agreed that on Civil Aviation, it was important to build on the foundation of the successful talks of November last year and to finalise pooling arrangements. It was also hoped that the resumption of the ferry service between the two countries would improve tourism, and would also facilitate the movement of pilgrims, both ways.

The two sides reviewed the work of the Sub-Commission of Cultural, Educational and Social matters. They expressed satisfaction at the identification of possibilities of exchanges in the field of poverty alleviation, low cost housing, and cooperatives. The Cultural Exchange Programme of 1992-94 would greatly assist in intensifying people to people contact. Already it had been agreed that an Indian Dance Troupe would visit Sri Lanka in March; a Painting Exhibition would be held in November; and a Film Festival in June. There would also be exchange of journalists.

Both Foreign Ministers agreed that the work of the two Sub-Commissions has shown that, by giving the necessary encouragement, both Governments have enabled the people of both countries to express their enthusiasm and show their interest in generating further mutually beneficial and harmonious bilateral contacts.

The two Foreign Ministers also discussed the question of the return of refugees presently living in Tamil Nadu. The Spokesman elaborated that both the Foreign Ministers agreed on the importance of ensuring an early and voluntary return of refugees to Sri Lanka, and also on taking appropriate steps to facilitate the return of the refugees.

There was also a discussion on the problems faced by the Indian fishermen sailing in the vicinity of Kachattevu. The External Affairs Minister urged that cases of straying fishermen should be dealt within a legal and humane manner. The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister assured the Indian External Affairs Minister that appropriate steps had been taken to avoid recurrence of such incidents.

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I LANKA INDIA USA RUSSIA

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

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India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission Meeting (5-7 January 1992)

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The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 07, 1992 on the India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission Meeting (5-7 January 1992) Joint Press Statement:

His Excellency Harold Herat, Foreign Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka accompanied by Mr. B. P. Tilakaratna, Foreign Secretary, Mr. M. D. D. Pieris, Secretary, Education and Higher Education, Mr. R. A. P. Goonetilake, Secretary, Trade and Commerce and other officials visited Delhi from 5-7 January 1992 for the First Session of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Madhavsinh Solanki, External Affairs Minister and included Shri J. N. Dixit, Foreign Secretary and other officials. The Sri Lanka High Commissioner in India Mr. Neville Kanakarathne and the Indian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka Shri N. N. Jha also participated in the meeting.

During his visit, the Sri Lanka Foreign Minister called on Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao. He also met Shri S. B. Chavan, Home Minister.

The India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission met in pursuance of the Agreement signed by the two Ministers in July 1991, intended to develop bilateral relations in their widest sense, particularly in the commercial, economic, industrial, scientific, technical and cultural fields.

The deliberations of the Joint Commission were held in an atmosphere of utmost cordiality and friendship. Both sides paid tributes to the role of the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi in fostering bilateral and regional cooperation. The two delegations observed two minutes silence in his memory.

The Joint Commission reviewed the work of its Sub-Commissions on Trade,

Investment and Finance and on Cultural, Social and Educational matters which had met in Colombo in October 1991 and gave directions for their future work. The two sides also agreed to set up a third Sub-Commission on Science and Technology in order to give impetus to cooperation in this sector between the Governments and the scientific communities in the two countries.

Both sides were convinced that further liberalisation of trade and freezing and elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers

was essential for mutually beneficial commercial and economic cooperation. In view of the increasing liberalisation of both economies, both sides agreed on the necessity to associate trade and industry representatives with the work of this forum in order to give it the required momentum. It was agreed that a delegation from the Sri Lanka Federation of Commerce and Industry would visit India before April 1992 to follow up the contacts established during the visit of the FICCI delegation to Sri Lanka in July 1991.

Both sides agreed on the need to adopt measures to bring about a greater balance in bilateral trade. In this connection, both sides also discussed the modalities for the expeditious utilisation of the existing Line of Credit so as to enable consideration of a new Line of Credit.

They particularly noted the possibilities for joint efforts to evolve marketing strategies for tea and for furthering the proposal for a tea producers forum, so as to increase their relative competitive position in the world markets; and interest by Indian companies in the management of Government-owned tea estates in Sri Lanka. An Indian delegation will visit Sri Lanka for further discussions on these matters later this year.

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Both sides recognised the possibilities for industrial and economic cooperation identified by the Sub-Commission on Trade, Investment and Finance. In particular, the discussions centred on the prospects of Indian participation in Sri Lanka's programme for development of railways, telecommunications, petroleum and oil exploration, rural and small-scale industries, agriculture and livestock development. The Indian side conveyed its readiness to send a delegation from ONGC to Sri Lanka to hold talks with CPC.

The two sides noted that the Sub-Commission on Educational, Social and Cultural matters had concluded a Cultural Exchange Programme for 1992-94 and identified other areas for exchanges in fields like poverty alleviation programmes, child care, social work and cooperatives. Among the measures which would be implemented in the coming year were the reciprocal exchanges of dance troupes, visit of journalists and conference of eminent educationists and litterateurs. Both sides will also work out programmes covering archaeology, film and film festivals, Radio and TV. The Indian side also agreed to consider the request by the Sri Lanka side for increasing scholarships to Sri Lankan students in Indian universities.

The two sides also agreed to increase the level of cooperation in the field of tourism as a means of promoting people-to-people contact between the two countries. In this connection, they noted the successful discussions held recently between the Civil Aviation authorities of the two countries.

In addition to matters covered within the framework of the Joint Commission, separately the two Ministers also took the opportunity to exchange views on other matters of mutual interest.

Regarding the ethnic situation in Sri Lanka, both sides agreed that only a negotiated political settlement within the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka would bring a lasting solution to the ethnic problem. The Indian Minister reiterated that the political framework created by the 13th Amendment to the Sri Lanka Constitution following the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement remains a constructive point of reference for any future negotiations. The Sri Lanka Minister explained the steps being taken to arrive at a lasting political settlement which is just and fair to all communities through the All Party Conference and the Select Committee of the Sri Lanka Parliament, which encompass all shades of opinion, both within and outside Parliament.

The two Ministers agreed on the importance of ensuring an early and voluntary return to Sri Lanka of the refugees presently in India. Noting the desire of a number of refugees to return, the two sides agreed to take appropriate steps in this regard.

The Indian side referred to the problems faced by the Indian fishermen sailing in the vicinity of Kachchativu. While reiterating that there was no change in the position of the Government of India with regard to the Maritime Boundary between the two countries, the Indian side urged that cases of straying be dealt with in a humane manner and through the normal judicial process. The Sri Lanka side assured the Indian side that necessary steps had been taken in this regard to avoid a recurrence of such incidents in future.

The Sri Lanka Minister conveyed that in its capacity as Chairman, his Government had already initiated follow-up action on the decisions of the recently concluded Sixth SAARC Summit. The Indian Minister conveyed his appreciation of the steps taken so far and extended his Government's fullest cooperation in this regard.

The two Ministers reiterated the commitment of their Governments to strengthen and diversify bilateral cooperation through the India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission. It was agreed that the next session of the Joint Commission will be held in Colombo following the meetings of the Sub-Commissions at New Delhi at dates to be mutually agreed upon.

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DIA SRI LANKA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date :** 97, 1992

# Volume No

1995

## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

### Sri Lankan Foreign Minister's Call on the Indian 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 Jan 07, 1992 on Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, Mr. Harold Herat's call on the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao:

The Spokesman, while briefing newsmen, said that the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, Mr. Harold Herat, conveyed greetings of President Premadasa, to the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and said that the Sri Lankan side has already started implementing the decisions taken at the SAARC Summit. The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister said Sri Lanka attaches considerable importance to poverty alleviation, and has already set up a Poverty Alleviation Commission. The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister further said that President Premadasa felt that this programme has great relevance for the SAARC, and appealed to India for its support. The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister said that the Indian Prime Minister himself had mentioned in Colombo that we must move out of the Conference Hall and promote people to people contact. The Indian Prime Minister said that he fully supports this idea, and it was important that our scholars and artists get together.

The Spokesman elaborated that the Indian Prime Minister welcomed the return of refugees, the first batch of whom was expected to go back later this month. The

Prime Minister underlined that it was important for this process to start soon and to progress. He said that it would help ease the law and order situation in Tamil Nadu.

The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister said that all the arrangements, to receive the refugees, have been made in Trincomalee, and it was the expectation of the Sri Lankan Government that the movement would proceed smoothly.

The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister also mentioned that the effort to facilitate the movement of pilgrims was required since the number of people travelling to and fro had dropped considerably in the last year or so. The Indian Prime Minister said that he was confident that the number of pilgrims would increase in proportion, to the improvement in the situation on the ground.

The Prime Minister said that he was happy that the Joint Commission had met, and the meetings have been very productive. The subjects covered a wide spectrum of our bilateral relationship. He said that it was important that the Joint Commission should meet regularly. He further said that he was glad to learn from the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister that the Sri Lankan proposal for the setting up of a Third Sub-Commission, on Science & Technology, had been accepted by the Indian side.

DIA SRI LANKA USA MALDIVES

**Date :** Jan 07, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Financial Aid by India to the Government of the Russian Federation

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 08, 1992 on Financial Aid by India to the Government of the Russian Federation:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman said that attention of Government has

been drawn to the establishment of a Commission for Humanitarian and Technical Assistance by the Government of the Russian Federation. The Commission is to receive assistance from various sources, and then to channel such assistance to those sections of the population that have been adversely affected by the dislocation

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in the economic activities, following the recent political and economic changes in the former USSR.

The Spokesman elaborated that, keeping in view the traditionally warm, friendly and cooperative relationship, that has existed between India and the constituent members of the former USSR, Prime Minister has directed that the Government of India would make as a gesture of friendship, and in the tradition of mutual cooperation, a contribution to the Russian Commission for Humanitarian and Technical Assistance of the order of Rs. 150 million. Terms, governing this contribution, will be determined

in the near future. The amount would be used to supply urgently required items identified by the Commission, i.e., baby food, rice and standard medicines, including sulphur drugs and antibiotics. Details will be worked out in the very near future. Indications however, are that the Humanitarian Assistance would be utilised for distribution in the cities of Moscow, St. Petersburg and Sverde.

The Spokesman affirmed that Government of India are also aware of the fact that, difficulties similar to those presently being experienced in the Russian Federation, may also arise in the other Republics that constituted the former USSR. Following mutual consultations and discussions, Government of India intends to make appropriate contributions of humanitarian assistance to the other Republics as well, including those in the Central Asian region and the Ukraine.

The Spokesman said that this is India's hope that the proposed humanitarian assistance would, to some extent, alleviate difficulties, presently being faced by the peoples of the independent States that formerly constituted the USSR. Government's decision is indicative of the feeling of friendship of the people of India towards the peoples of the newly independent States of the former USSR.

SSIA INDIA USA UKRAINE UNITED KINGDOM

**Date :** Jan 08, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Senator Larry Pressler's Meeting with Indian Leaders

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 10, 1992 on Senator Larry Pressler's Meetings with Indian Leaders:

The Spokesman, while briefing newsmen, said that Mr. Larry Pressler, Senator for South Dakota, had a series of meetings today, including with the Prime Minister, the Defence Minister, the External Affairs Minister, the Foreign Secretary, and other officials.

The Spokesman said that India attached considerable importance to

the visit of Senator Pressler, which is taking place at a point of time that sees the significant convergence of several factors. In the first place, Senator Pressler is an activist on the issue of Nuclear Non Proliferation, and this is a time when accepted predications on which Nuclear Non Proliferation had been structured, have disintegrated, or are in the process of disintegration. There is a situation where the Republics of the former Soviet Union have still to come to grips, with the present realities and the future problems relating to proliferation. The Spokesman said that the visit has taken place at a time when Pakistan is engaged in strident projection of its nuclear capacity, and when it seeks, simultaneously, to link it artificially with India. This is a time when there are underway efforts to try and identify interim measures to control proliferation. This is also a time when, on the bilateral front, there is greater interaction across the entire spectrum of our relationship with the US. This is also a time when India is engaged in a bold experiment to launch new policies with regard to our industry, trade and economy. Senator Pressler is known as an American leader who is

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interested in Asia and the high level exposure that has been given to him by arranging meetings with Prime Minister, Raksha Mantri, External Affairs Minister, in one day, is a measure of his own interest in Asia, and in our country.

The Spokesman said that apart from discussions with the three leaders, Senator Pressler also had meetings with the Foreign Secretary, Mr. J. N. Dixit, and the Secretary, Economic Affairs, Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia.

The Spokesman elaborated that in meetings with the External Affairs Minister, and the Foreign Secretary, India took the opportunity of apprising Senator Pressler, in detail, about the situation in Jammu & Kashmir and in Punjab, and the direct and indirect involvement of Pakistan in the situation in these two Indian States. India also articulated, and this has been at all levels, her approach to the question of Nuclear Non Proliferation. Senator Pressler was informed that India is committed to Nuclear Non Proliferation as an imperative norm; what India objects to is the discriminatory aspects of nuclear Non Proliferation.

The Spokesman said that External Affairs Minister also briefed the Senator on India's track record on not acquiring nuclear weapons inspite of our proven technological capacities in that direction.

The Spokesman said that External Affairs Minister and Foreign Secretary informed the Senator about India's willingness to move forward meaningfully to identify the measures to ensure the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear

weapons. External Affairs Minister informed the Senator of India's willingness to continue to take active part in International Conventions on Chemical and Biological weapons. External Affairs Minister also briefed Mr. Pressler on the success of our efforts to keep Indo-Pakistan relations on an even keel, and about the fact that we were engaged in a series of discussions, which are continuing, on confidence building measures.

The Spokesman said that India also apprised Senator Pressler, of the inner contradictions in the Pakistani political structure which relates in their being tempted to adopt an interfering attitude with regard to India. It was suggested to Senator Pressler that, as an eminent and influential personality, he could advise Pakistan to take a less interfering and more positive attitude towards India.

Senator Pressler desired to have India's views on the possible impact of the extension of the 'Pressler Amendment' to India. India conveyed to Senator Pressler that there was no need to consider any extension of this Amendment as India was not a Nuclear Weapons State. To attempt any extension would be to presume judgement (it was not warranted by the facts) that the Amendment was only relevant to nuclear weapons powers, or those who wish to acquire nuclear weapons. India did not fall in either of these two categories.

DIA PAKISTAN USA

**Date :** Jan 10, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting of the Maltese Foreign Minister with the Minister of State for External Affairs

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 14, 1992 on the meeting of the Maltese Foreign Minister, Prof. Guido De Marco, with the Indian Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman said that the Maltese Foreign Minister, Prof. Guido de Marco, had detailed dis-

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cussions with the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro. After meeting Mr. Faleiro for about half-an-hour, on his own, the two Foreign Ministers were joined by their respective delegations. On the Indian side, Minister of State was assisted by Secretary (East), Mr. L. L. Mehrotra; Joint Secretary (UN), Mr. T. P. Sreenivasan; Joint Secretary (EW), Mr. Rajiv Sikri; Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce, Mr. G. S. Gill; and, Joint Secretary in the Department of Culture, Mrs. Komal Anand.

The Spokesman elaborated that the two Ministers had detailed discussions about the United Nations, and the continuing role that countries such as Malta and India could play in UN affairs. (The Maltese Foreign Minister, Prof. Guido de Marco, was the President of the UN General Assembly, last year). Both Foreign Ministers agreed that NAM was the voice of the third world, and that NAM had a purpose and a mission. The Maltese Foreign Minister said that even more importantly, NAM had a responsibility towards the developing countries.

The Spokesman said that both leaders agreed that UN structures must be made more effective and that the UN must be made more than a mere "podium", but, should develop into a forum where actual business can be done.

Both Ministers agreed that the future of UN lay particularly in the areas of economic development and cooperation. The Indian Minister of State said that it was gratifying that both India and Malta shared a common perception of the new international order; while both countries welcomed it, they had the duty to ensure that peace and prosperity is also accompanied by the involvement of countries, both big and small. While applauding the fact that India and Malta see the world from similar perspectives, the Maltese

Foreign Minister said that both countries should facilitate greater interaction amongst their economic institutions and businessmen. Both Ministers welcomed the fact that the Maltese businessmen accompanying the President, were engaged in useful meetings in Delhi.

The Maltese Foreign Minister said that India could accelerate the use of Maltese free port and dry dock facilities, which were amongst the best in the world. Likewise, Malta's associate status with the European Community could be utilised by India to export more of its goods via Malta, to the EC. Similarly, triangular trade arrangements between India, Malta Russia and Ukraine, could be entered into. Malta already had bilateral arrangements with Russia and Ukraine. The India Minister of State informed the Maltese Foreign Minister that India presently had a team of senior officials, in Moscow, which was trying to re-establish our old and close economic links, in the light of the changed structures in the former Soviet Union.

The Indian Minister of State agreed that utilising Maltese close relations with Russia and Ukraine, India could profitably consider triangular trade arrangements. The two Ministers had a detailed discussion on the emerging situation in East Europe, and in the Commonwealth of Independent States. They discussed security issues in Europe, and the prospects for greater economic integration.

On the cultural side, the two Ministers agreed that there would be greater exchanges between the Mediterrean Academy in Malta and the Indian Foreign Service Training Institute. With its 400 year old University, Malta also wished to benefit from the high level of science and technology in India. The two Ministers also signed a Cultural Agreement.

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DIA USA MALTA RUSSIA UKRAINE UNITED KINGDOM

**Date :** Jan 14, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### External Affairs Minister's Visit to Japan

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 20, 1992 on External Affairs Minister's visit to Japan:

External Affairs Minister Solanki, today (20th January, 1992), held official talks with Deputy Prime Minister-cum-Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, in Tokyo. He also met with Finance Minister Hata and the Chairman of Japan Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Dr. Ishikawa.

In over three hours of talks spread over two sessions, the two Foreign Ministers discussed recent changes in the international situation, India-Japan relations and the region. Both the Foreign Ministers also discussed measures to mark the 40th anniversary of the formal establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Japan, which falls during 1992.

The subjects discussed included developments in the erstwhile Soviet Union. The Japanese Foreign Minister indicated that Japan will be extending humanitarian assistance to the CIS although the

most important issue for Japan remained the issue of the Northern Territories. External Affairs Minister briefed Mr. Watanabe about the steps taken by India to build its relations with the new republics. Mr. Watanabe expressed the view that the United Nations should be strengthened for the cause of the promotion of peace and security. This view was also shared by Sri Solanki. External Affairs Minister briefed Mr. Watanabe about improvements in India-China relations.

In his meeting with Finance Minister Hata, External Affairs Minister discussed economic cooperation between the two countries and expressed gratitude for the prompt Japanese assistance to help India in tiding over her balance of payment difficulties last year. The Japanese Finance Minister recalled the historic friendship with India with warmth. He said that the request for increased Japanese assistance to India in the next financial year would be considered and also indicated that this assistance would have a significant fast disbursing component. The internal Japanese process to consider the precise quantum etc. of assistance is now beginning.

While meeting with Dr. R. Ishikawa, the Chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce & Industry, External Affairs Minister Solanki stressed the new economic policy measures which India has taken for the structural adjustment of its economy, integrating into the global economy. Dr. Ishikawa will be leading a high-level Japanese economic mission consisting of over 100 representatives of leading Japanese companies. External Affairs Minister stressed that we looked forward to Japanese trade and investments and technical collaborations in the new environment.

External Affairs Minister also met with former Prime Minister Nakasone whose visit in 1984 provided positive momentum to India-Japan relation. External Affairs Minister and Mr. Nakasone surveyed India-Japan relations and changes in the world. Mr. Nakasone recalled warmly his personal rapport with Indian leaders, particularly former Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi.

External Affairs Minister will be meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Miyazawa, Lower House Speaker Sakuruchi and former Prime Minister Takeshita on January 21.

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PAN INDIA USA CHINA

**Date :** Jan 20, 1992

**Volume No**

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

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British Foreign Secretary's Meeting with Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister

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The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 17, 1992 on British Foreign Secretary's meetings with Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman said that the British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Douglas Hurd, had meetings with the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister.

The Spokesman said that in the meeting with Prime Minister, the two leaders had an extensive exchange of views on matters of mutual concern, including bilateral and regional issues. They had an extensive discussion on the international situation.

During the talks, the phenomenon of international terrorism was covered. Both the Prime Minister and the British Foreign Secretary emphasised the need for closer international cooperation to deal with this problem. In this context, the Prime Minister expressed appreciation for the cooperation that has been extended by the United Kingdom to India, in curbing anti-Indian terrorist activities emanating from the United Kingdom.

Both the Prime Minister and the British Foreign Secretary expressed satisfaction at the excellent state of relations between India and Britain.

In the meeting with the External Affairs Ministers, Mr. Douglas Hurd was welcomed as a leader of the country with which India shared the values of democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights and human dignity. External Affairs Minister paid tributes to Mr. Hurd's leadership and said that India lauded Mr. Hurd's principled stand, based on shared values. External Affairs Minister expressed gratitude to the British Foreign Secretary for his personal assistance, both as Home Secretary, and, now, as Foreign Secretary, in strengthening collaboration on fighting terrorism.

The Spokesman said that responding to External Affairs Minister's remarks, the British Foreign Secretary said that he agreed that the bilateral relationship between India and Britain had expanded and diversified. President Venkataraman's visit to the United Kingdom marked a welcome development in Indo-British relations, which showed great maturity and mutual understanding of each country's special concerns and special requirements.

Referring to the recent visit of Mr. Kenneth Baker, External

Affairs Minister said that we were clear in our minds that democracies of the world should unite to fight forces which try to undermine the secular and democratic framework of our society.

External Affairs Minister drew special attention to the fact that there was a close nexus between terrorism, drug trafficking, smuggling gun-running, and other such criminal activities. External Affairs Minister also underlined the growing menace of religious fundamentalism. He said that if obscurantist forces are not checked firmly and in a determined fashion, the world could see unfortunate examples of violent disintegration.

External Affairs Minister expressed appreciation for the British Government's cooperation in the matter of finalising an Extradition Treaty, and also an Agreement for Tracing, Restraining and Confiscating the Proceeds and Instruments of Crime and Terrorist Funds.

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The British Foreign Secretary said that he was fully aware of the dangers of religious fundamentalism, especially where these fundamentalist forces had terrorist connections, with international dimensions. He said that utmost vigilance would be necessary on the part of all democratic societies in order to protect the institutions which they cherish and which are an inherent part of the democratic way of life.

External Affairs Minister, in this context, referred to the interference in India's internal affairs by Pakistan, and said that it was essential for all democratic countries to understand that India, as a democracy, was being burdened with a costly battle against State supported terrorism.

The British Foreign Secretary said that the British Government had the fullest understanding of the Indian position on the question of terrorism and outside interference.

The Spokesman said that the two leaders also discussed India's evolving relationship with the European Community. External Affairs Minister described the Community as being the world's largest economic entity, and India as being the largest democracy. External Affairs Minister expressed the hope that India would enjoy a closer relationship with the Community, which is already our largest trading and economic partner.

The British Foreign Secretary said that India could count on the support of the United Kingdom in assistance to fulfil India's aspirations to forge closer links with the Community (Britain is the Chairman of the Community from July).

The External Affairs Minister said that in these times of uncertainty, established and stable societies need to stand together as stabilizers. External Affairs Minister welcomed the

British Foreign Secretary's proposal to institutionalise a regular Indo-UK bilateral dialogue, as being a significant step forward in strengthening the process of bilateral and multilateral consultations.

DIA USA PAKISTAN UNITED KINGDOM

**Date :** Jan 17, 1992

## Volume No

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### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Meeting of Palestinian President with Prime Minister and Minister of State for External Affairs

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 20, 1992 on the meeting of the Palestinian President with the Indian Prime Minister and the Minister of State for External Affairs:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman said that President Arafat was welcomed by Prime Minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, this evening, as an old friend. President Arafat, in his turn, recalled with pleasure Prime Minister's visit to Beirut many years ago, when his (President Arafat's) headquarters were there. Both leaders recalled with satisfaction the close relationship between Indian and the Palestinian people, and the fact that this relationship was continuing.

The Spokesman said that the Prime Minister reiterated India's consistent and unequivocal support for the Palestinian people and the restoration of their inalienable rights, including their right to self-determination. The Prime Minister also underlined India's continuing support to the PLO.

Prime Minister also said that India welcomed the initiation of the peace process in the Middle East. He said that India is hopeful that the peace process would be a suitable means of achieving the aims and objectives of the Palestinian

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people as well as the means of restoring stability to the Middle East so that the people of the region can enjoy the fruits of economic progress. As a neighbouring region of India, this country had a vital interest in the success of this process, as the security and stability of the region impinged directly on our

own security environment.

The Spokesman elaborated that President Arafat gave the Prime Minister his assessment of the Peace Conference and said that while only a shortwhile ago, the Palestinians had not been very hopeful about the outcome of the peace process; they now had some cause for optimism. Palestine was now at the centre stage of the negotiating process. The Palestinian delegation at the Conference maintains close contact with the PLO. This was a convincing recognition of the fact that without the Palestinians, no progress could be hoped to be achieved in the peace process. At the same time, the Palestinians had no illusions that the process would take time, and the ultimate achievement of their objectives lay in the future.

The Palestinian President said that the third phase of the peace negotiations are scheduled to take place in Moscow, on the 28th and 29th of this month. The Palestinian President expressed his firm conviction that India's participation in the peace process was necessary.

The Prime Minister responded by reiterating that India's policy had always been to offer whatever help and support it could give, in whatever way possible, in order to achieve the twin objectives of restoring peace and helping our Palestinian friends.

There was a brief discussion on the question of the influence of fanaticism in the world today. There was a meeting of minds between both leaders on the imperative need to oppose the influence of fanaticism and fundamentalism, on religion.

Earlier, the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, had a meeting with Palestinian President. The Palestinian President recalled with warmth MOS's meeting with him in Tunis recently. He briefed the MOS on the continuing expansion and establishment of new settlements in the occupied territories. The Palestinian President said that the continuation of this activity would vitiate the peace process. MOS emphasised that India had consistently expressed its firm opposition to the building or expansion of settlements in the occupied territories.

The Palestinian President also discussed with MOS, the details of the methodology by which the Palestinians had succeeded in ensuring that their approach to the negotiations had been adopted. Elaborating this, the Palestinian President said that it was the Palestinian view that the peace process should consist of a 2-track approach, one track dealing with the Israeli and Palestinian question, and the other with the Israeli and the other Arab questions.

Both leaders said that it was a matter of satisfaction that the Peace Conference had accepted this Palestinian approach.

**Date :** Jan 20, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Meeting of Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister with Various Indian Leaders

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 23, 1992 on the call by the Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran, Mr. Manuchahr Mottaki, on various Indian leaders:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman said that the Iranian Deputy Foreign

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Minister, Mr. Manuchahr Mottaki called on the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro. Mr. Mottaki also called on Dr. Najma Heptullah, Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. He had discussions with the Foreign Secretary, which focussed briefly on bilateral matters, particularly follow up action decisions taken at the 5th Session of the Indo-Iranian Joint Commission, which held its meeting in Tehran in November last year. Mr. Mottaki invited Foreign Secretary, Mr. J. N. Dixit, to visit Tehran in order to continue process of bilateral consultations. The invitation was accepted by the Foreign Secretary.

The Spokesman said that Mr. Mottaki and his delegation had detailed discussions with Ministry of External Affairs delegation led by Mr. C. Dasgupta, Additional Secretary In-Charge of International Organisations. These discussions focussed chiefly on international organisations, including the restructuring of the UN Security Council, human rights, affairs related to Non-Aligned Movement and the environment.

The Spokesman elaborated that Mr. Mottaki has conveyed to the Indian side, his deep satisfaction at the manner in which the discussions with his Indian counterpart have proceeded, particularly on multi-lateral issues. It is expected that contacts of the similar nature between India and Iran would continue at future dates which are mutually convenient.

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### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Repatriation of Sri Lankan Refugees from India

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 27, 1992 on the repatriation of Sri Lankan refugees from India:

The Spokesman, while briefing newsmen, said that the outbreak of the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka has led to an influx of Tamil refugees to India, who presently number over two lakhs. The Government of India have continued to urge the Government of Sri Lanka to create the necessary conditions for their early and voluntary return. The Government have also reaffirmed their belief that in the ultimate analysis, a political negotiated solution to the ethnic conflict, will alone bring about peace and normalcy in North-East Sri Lanka.

During the visit of the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister to New Delhi from the 5th to 7th January, 1992, the Sri Lankan Government had conveyed that it was in a position to take back Tamil refugees presently in India. The Government of India stressed the voluntary character of this process. It was decided to commence the reverse flow of refugees to North East Sri Lanka from amongst those resident in the camps in India, who had indicated their willingness to return. The Sri Lankan Government authorities gave assurances about the security and safety of the returnees and about having in place, adequate arrangements for the rehabilitation and resettlement of such refugees, preferably in their original places of habitation. Of the approximately 1,10,000 refugees who are in camps, 30,000 have conveyed their willingness to return.

In consultation and agreement with the Sri Lankan authorities, the reverse movement of refugees commenced from the 20th of January out of Madras. 614 refugees, mainly from the Trincomalee area, reached Trincomalee on the M. V. Akbar on the 22nd January, 1992. It is expected that these sailings would be continued on a weekly basis. For information of the newsmen, the Spokesman said that M. V. Akbar left today on its

second sailing at 1340 hrs. from Madras; this time there are 659 refugees on board and the ship is expected to dock in Trincomalee on the 29th of January.

The Government of India emphasises the voluntary nature of this movement of people on the basis of assurances, which we have received from the Sri Lankan Government, regarding the safety, security and the existence of appropriate arrangements for rehabilitation of the returnees, which we have received from the Sri Lankan Government.

DIA SRI LANKA MALDIVES

**Date :** Jan 27, 1992

## Volume No

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### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Myanmar

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 28, 1992 on Myanmar:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman announced that in the first week of January, a few clashes had taken place between Myanmar troops and insurgents belonging to the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang Group) in Myanmar. Following the clashes as well as harsh actions reportedly taken by NSCN (K) insurgents against the people of Myanmar villages in question, a large number of villagers had crossed over into Nagaland. The villages in question are Ponyu and Tsawlaw-Tsaplaw. According to available information, over 950 villagers, as of January the 19th, are now present on our side of the border. They are staying in two districts of Nagaland, namely Mon and Tuensang.

The Spokesman said that these refugees from Myanmar have been provided temporary shelter and food on humanitarian considerations. Efforts are underway to prevail upon them to return to their villages in Myanmar.

The Spokesman elaborated that India has made appropriate demarches through the Myanmar Charge d'Affaires in Delhi, and our Ambassador in Yangon. The Government of Myanmar has been urged strongly to take immediate steps to enable the villagers to

return to their homes in Myanmar, as well as to ensure that such an exodus does not recur in future. The Foreign Minister of Myanmar whom our Ambassador met in Yangon yesterday has acknowledged that an exodus has taken place, and has assured us of the fullest cooperation in facilitating an early return of the villagers. Our authorities will be making appropriate arrangements shortly.

DIA BURMA USA

**Date :** Jan 28, 1992

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1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Cambodia

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 30, 1992 on Cambodia:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman said that the Cambodian Head of State, Prince Sihanouk has addressed letters to the President and the Prime Minister of India, expressing great appreciation for India's active role in bringing about a settlement of the Cambodian conflict. Prince Sihanouk has also expressed the hope that India's support would continue to be available for Cambodia and that India would take a leading part in the reconstruction of Cambodia.

The Spokesman said that Prince Sihanouk has also underlined that the relations between the two countries will get a clear boost with the appointment of a new Ambassador to the Supreme National Council of Cambodia.

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The Spokesman recalled that Indian Mission in Phnom Penh was upgraded to the level of Ambassador when Shri C. M. Bhandari presented his credentials to Prince Sihanouk; and that the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, had visited Cambodia in December when he had met Prince Sihanouk and Prime Minister Hun Sen.

MBODIA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

**Date :** Jan 30, 1992

## Volume No

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### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Meeting of Staff Major Jalloud with Indian 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 Jan 22, 1992 on the meeting of Staff Major Jalloud with Indian Prime Minister Mr. Narasimha Rao:

The Spokesman, while briefing newsmen, announced that the Staff Major, Mr. Jalloud, of Libya, paid a transit visit to Delhi this morning. He had discussions with the Prime Minister, and was hosted to lunch by Prime Minister.

The Spokesman said that referring to the Libyan Memorandum submitted to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), in which a reference to J&K had been included, Major Jalloud emphatically said that there was no question that Libya fully supported the territorial integrity of India. He explained that the only intention behind the Government of Libya's move to include a reference to J&K was their awareness that terrorist attacks were being launched against India in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. They were also conscious of the fact that such terrorist attacks were aimed at weakening. It was with a view to bringing about a secession of such terrorist attacks that the reference to J&K was made in the resolution brought for the UNGA. However, since the motivation behind this inclusion has been misunderstood, and, as soon as the Libyan Government realised that the Indian Government did not wish to have such an inclusion on J&K, in the said resolution, the Libyan Government took prompt and immediate steps to withdraw it. Major Jalloud said that there should never be any doubt; that it is not Libya's intention that J&K should be discussed in international forums. It is their firm view that this matter is to be discussed on bilaterally between India and Pakistan.

The Spokesman said that the Prime Minister and Mr. Jalloud also had a wide ranging review of the international situation in the context of the end of the cold war. They underlined the need for nonaligned countries to get together and to cooperate with each other. They also reaffirmed their belief that the Non-Aligned Movement had a continuing relevance. They agreed that even before the Jakarta Summit convenes in September this year, the non-

aligned countries should take concerted action to further the course of unity among the non-aligned countries. They agreed that the Non-aligned Movement represents the poorer and the weaker nations of the world, who collectively represent a large chunk of humanity. They said that it was the duty of the Nonaligned Movement to play its traditional role in world affairs.

There was a discussion on the role of the United Nations. There was general agreement that steps to democratise the functioning of the United Nations were necessary. In this context, the forthcoming Summit, at the level of Heads of Government of the Members of the Security Council, came up for discussion. The Prime Minister said that he was likely to travel to New York, and that questions relating to the democratisation of the functioning of the UN were likely to be taken up.

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Major Jalloud gave a detailed account of the bombing of PAN AM 103 and the UTA flight. He said that Libya was against all forms of terrorism, but Libya was opposed to the UN Security Council resolution. In Libya's view, the resolution was not acceptable because it was unjust as it related to a judicial question in which the UN Security Council had no role.

The Prime Minister informed Major Jalloud that the original resolution, introduced in Security Council, had been couched in language which was quite harsh. India had worked with other members of the Security Council, specially the Non-aligned members of the Council, to formulate the resolution, which, in our view, would offer a better prospect of an amicable settlement.

The Prime Minister particularly emphasised that a paragraph has been added to the Resolution, by virtue of which the UN Secretary General had been given a role in the resolution of this matter. The Prime Minister suggested that the Government of Libya would be best advised to work through the Secretary General; his having been given a role is a positive development; effective collaboration with the Secretary General of the UN could lead to an early and amicable solution. The Prime Minister said that we were working in close consultation with other Non-aligned members of the Security Council, to ensure that whatever justice required was done.

There was also a general review of India's relations with the Arab world. Both leaders underlined the closeness of such relations and the many cultural similarities that exist. They also agreed that there was need to strengthen existing economic and trade ties between India and Arab countries.

There was also a brief review of bilateral relations.

**Date :** Jan 22, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

#### President's Republic Day Eve Broadcast

Following is the text of the President, Shri R. Venkataraman's broadcast to the Nation on Jan 25, 1992 on the eve of the 43rd Republic Day:

"On the eve of our 43rd Republic Day, I have great pleasure in conveying to all fellow citizens, living in India and abroad, my cordial felicitations and greetings.

This is a cherished anniversary for us. It was on this day in 1950 that our country was welded into a Sovereign Democratic Republic and the people acquired fundamental rights to liberty, equality and fraternity. We remember today the sagacious Dr. Rajendra Prasad our first President of the Republic, our beloved first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru - the architect of modern India - and the indomitable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel who brought the diverse princely authorities under the unified control of the new Republic. The national tricolour, which had inspired us during the struggle for freedom went up on that historic day with a flutter of confidence and expectation. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan in an address to the Constituent Assembly on the day the

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Flag was officially adopted said (and I quote):

The Flag tells us 'Be ever alert, be ever on the move, go forward; work for a free, flexible, compassionate, decent, democratic society in which Christians, Sikhs, Moslems, Hindus, Buddhists will all find a safe shelter'.  
(Unquote)

Every word of that passage from our philosopher-statesman is vital for the Republic: Flexibility, compassion, decency; Tolerance of other views and restraint in the expression of one's own; Patience in the face of provocation; Empathy for fellow human beings in distress. These are the hallmarks of civilised behaviour. Democracy cannot be sustained except on the solid foundation of civilised behaviour.

The framers of the Constitution knew that if our freedom and our democracy were to ring true, our society must exhibit a readiness to tolerate and assimilate diversities of outlook.

Adult franchise and universal suffrage also ensured that the diverse facets of national opinion would articulate themselves at the hustings, with ease and effectiveness. The institution of Parliamentary Democracy with several parties presenting their programmes of action through election manifestos afforded citizens a freedom in the choice of party and Government. The kaleidoscope of public opinion has been turned ten times by us in as many general elections. Parties have been returned to power overwhelmingly, rejected equally decisively. With each election, the nation has matured and marched forward in the path of democracy.

Long before the Constitution was framed Mahatma Gandhi, addressing the Second Round Table Conference said and I quote:

I shall work for an India, in which the poorest shall feel that it is their country in whose making they have an effective voice; an India in which there shall be no high class or low class of people; and an India in which all communities shall live in perfect harmony. There can be no room in such an India for the curse of untouchability or the curse of intoxicating drinks and drugs. Women shall enjoy the same rights as men...

(Unquote)

Various Articles of the Constitution have declared discrimination by the State as between citizen and citizen on the ground of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth, illegal. By throwing open all public places to all citizens, by abolishing untouchability, by offering equality of opportunity in matters relating to employment and by guaranteeing equality before the Law and equal protection of the laws, it has secured for all of us the principles of Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity as envisaged in the Preamble to the Constitution.

Furthermore, the system of Parliamentary Democracy has ensured that the State shall be accountable to the people for every one of its actions. Through interpellations, motions and debates, the executive is called upon to convince the people that their measures subserve national interests and the welfare of the people. Unless the institution of Parliament is appropriately utilised, it will not fulfill the role for which it has been created.

If Mother India has been served well by the institutions of Parliamentary Democracy, it has also been benefited by the instrument of Planned Economic Development.

Over the last four decades and more, our farmers who constituted 70% of the electorate have also demonstrated amazing skill in

adopting new farm-practices. As a result, our granaries are full. Our industrial infrastructure has, simultaneously, acquired sinews strong enough to place us  
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in the frontline among manufacturers of basic industrial goods. Indian industry has shown an extraordinary capacity to produce goods of great variety and sophistication. We have achieved modest success in not only meeting the internal demand but external markets as well.

India's journey along the road of scientific and technological advance proceeds apace, with marked achievements in the realms of telecommunications, biotechnology, oceanography and space research. Our programme for the peaceful uses of atomic energy continues to give us satisfying results.

Our impressive gains in GDP would normally have given us a much higher standard of life had it not been neutralised by the stupendous growth in our population. It is becoming increasingly difficult to provide our present and ever expanding population with a reasonable standard of living. Recent initiatives taken to spread literacy among our adult population, especially our women, have come not a day too soon. But much more needs to be done in this direction. It is time a strategy was devised to reach India's rural women with a simple and efficacious programme in order to save them the burden of an unmanageable family.

If our efforts at economic development and poverty alleviation have had to reckon with the rock of over-population, our efforts at creating a national ethos meet with challenges of a deeper kind. I refer to the impediments being placed on our path by three negative forces which are unremittingly at work. These are the cult of terrorism, the virus of communal hatred and an invisible but most corrosive phenomenon: a pervasive slackening in national discipline.

Bullets and bombs have no place in a democracy where avenues for constitutional redressal exist. And yet public servants on duty, political figures, journalists, and innocent men, women and children have been - and are being - killed and taken hostage in many parts of the country on almost a daily basis. Punjab, the Valley of Kashmir, Assam, several parts of the North East and certain areas in South and Central India have been witness to cold, calculated and bizarre acts of terrorism. Our Security Forces and our Army, wherever deployed, have shown tremendous grit and patience. I would like to take this opportunity to compliment them on their courage and valour.

But it is necessary now to go beyond weeding out terrorism's toxic plants. We must ensure that the causes and conditions which breed terrorism are eliminated. This would call for a more vigorous implementation of land reforms, of wastelands

development, of reduction of disparities and provision of adequate employment opportunities for our youth.

We must not assume that the cash nexus is sufficient to fulfil human aspirations. Cultural and regional identities need to be assured and re-assured that they are safe in a democratic polity such as ours. We must simultaneously offer the constitutional and democratic path for the ventilation of grievances and for the realisation of local aspirations.

The new Government's initiatives to bring a healing touch to some of the nation's deep pains are therefore a matter of great satisfaction. Consultation, conciliation and concord are time-tested remedies.

It is a matter of shame and sorrow that we have not been able to prevent communal and caste violence in different parts of the country. Innocent religious processions or festivals end up in a violent eruption. Very often, the cause for the clash is absurdly trivial and yet it leaves a trail of death and destruction in which, more often not, women and children are the most unfortunate sufferers. All restraint, all civility,  
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seems to evaporate when frenzy overtakes even sensible men. Such instances of violences are a blot on our cultural heritage and our national image as a non-violent and peaceful people.

This brings me to the third negative factor I mentioned, namely, increasing indiscipline and the palpable erosion of faith in the Rule of Law. Individuals, political organizations, professional groups, trade unions take all too quickly to the path of agitation and obstruction. The result is a breakdown in public order. One of the most distinguished framers of our Constitutions, Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar said as long back as 1947:

The recent happenings in different parts of the country have convinced me more than ever, that all the fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution must be subject to public order, security and safety...

The exercise of one's rights is always subject to non-infringement of the rights of others. There is a story, that an Englishman walked along swimming his walking stick and it struck the nose of another person. When the injured person objected, the wielder of the stick said that England had ensured freedom to all people and that in swinging his stick he was only exercising his right. The objector then replied "Sir, your freedom ends where my nose begins".

It is truism that while in a dictatorship, laws are enforced, in a democracy, laws are voluntarily observed. The Rule of Law in a

democracy must be maintained by inner restraints, by self-discipline. But maintained, it must be. Without discipline, democracy loses its meaning. Gandhiji had once said that Swaraj means two things self-rule and self-restraint. We in India have the former, namely, self-rule. We also have, in a large measure, self-reliance as well. But of self-restraint we seem to be in short-supply.

The history of civilisation is the history of human endeavour to replace a chaotic society by an orderly one where people live in peace and harmony, avoid conflicts and settle differences by discussions or by judicial processes. Early man settled differences by force but the civilised man resorted to peaceful measures for resolving differences. Unless the country accepts this basic principle, there can be no peace, harmony or progress. Principles of natural justice to provide for correction of errors of the machinery for settlement of differences and should be resorted to in case of need. The tendency to take unwelcome conclusions to the streets spells disaster to the future of the nation.

The nation is undergoing acute economic and financial crises and it is the duty of every citizen to contribute his mite for the recovery and rehabilitation of the economy. There is urgent need to maximise production and ensure its equitable distribution so that the weaker sections are not left to fend for themselves. Nothing that militates against fullest utilisation of all existing capacities in agriculture, industry, trade, commerce, communications and banking should be tolerated or encouraged. If we are to emerge from the crisis, a moratorium should be declared voluntarily at the national level for at least two years on all bandhs, strikes and lockouts or any other activity such as 'go-slow' and 'work-to-rule' which impedes economic development. This is a duty which we owe to our own children and progeny.

Friends, the bipolar division of the world is now virtually a thing of the past; the cold war has ended. International relations are moving towards a re-definition, with old juxtapositions becoming obsolete. India's role in a world that is no longer bipolar will continue to be important. We can not assume that the new emerging world order will be free of strains. Conflagrations can occur even in the changed scenario and the exploitation of weak nations can acquire new forms. The principles underlying our policy of non-alignment and panchashil will therefore continue to be relevant to the world.

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The recent visits to India by the Prime Ministers of Nepal and China gave us an opportunity to continue our dialogue with these two ancient neighbours. It is our hope that a solution to the differences between India and China will be found soon. It is equally our desire to normalise relations with Pakistan. But the active encouragement and assistance rendered to militants in

Punjab and in Kashmir from across the border, stands in the way of normalisation. India wants and will work for peace; but India will not compromise on its territorial integrity and sovereignty.

I have great pleasure in once again offering Republic Day greetings to the sons and daughters of India; to our kisans and mazdoors; to our village artisans; to our entrepreneurs; scientists and technologists; to our administrators; creative artistes; professionals; teachers and students. It gives me special pleasure, as Supreme Commander, to extend my greetings to all our Defence Forces and commend their valour in guarding our borders under extreme conditions.

More than 2000 years ago, the Tamil Saint Tiruvalluvar said (and I quote):

"That is a great nation which is not divided into warring sects, which is free from murderous anarchists and which has no traitors within its bosom to ruin it."

Let us build that India, through discipline in thought, word and deed, through unity among all classes of people and through selfless service to the nation.

Jai Hind".

DIA USA RUSSIA NEPAL CHINA MALI PAKISTAN

**Date :** Jan 25, 1992

## Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECHES

79th Indian Science Congress - Prime Minister's Address

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on the 79th Indian Science Congress:

Addressing the 79th session of the Indian Science Congress Association, the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao said at Vadodara on Jan 03, 1992:

"I am delighted to participate in this 79th Session of the Indian Science Congress. This Congress boasts of a rich tradition dating back to the early years of the 20th century. The Congress was a product of the cultural movement that emerged during the

Independence movement. Its stupendous growth is a manifestation of the unceasing urge of the Indian psyche to be involved in science and to promote it. The rich and close association of Panditji with the Congress has largely contributed to making its annual sessions the most important and largest Science and Technology event in the country year after year.

Since Independence the country's development Plans have placed enormous faith in the Indian Scientists and Technologists. And, in a large measure, they have come up to our aspirations. Over the last three decades, India has had an impressive real growth rate in national income of 3.5%, with a growth rate of 2.3% in agriculture, and of 5 to 6% in industry. Food grains production, which hovered around

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50 million tonnes in the early fifties has now crossed the figure of 170 million tonnes. At the time of Independence, we had only a very small industry, restricted to textiles and certain extractive sectors. Today, most of the things we need are made in the country, though not all in adequate quantities. We have emerged as one of the major industrial nations in the world. In the last forty years, the death rate has been brought down from over 27 per thousand to 12.5. During this period, life expectancy has gone up from 32 years to 56.5 years. These achievements are clearly of the country as a whole and have involved research and development, the opening up of new innovative approaches, extension work, and the application of existing knowledge.

We have also had considerable success in the creation of a scientific and technological infrastructure covering a very broad spectrum of disciplines and capabilities. The growth of scientific activities in the fields of Atomic Energy and Space reflects the approach of self-reliance and indigenous development that has progressively permeated other scientific and technological fields. Industrial research has been enlarged through the setting up and expansion of a chain of laboratories. Thus, the post-independence era has demonstrated the capability of the scientific community to convert the potential of a given area of research into a full fledged programme for national development.

There has been greater emphasis on undertaking research activities relevant to national needs in food production and health care system for the society. Introduction of high yielding varieties and propagation of agricultural extension programmes has been a major factor in the successful growth of our agricultural production in the country. In the field of medical research, eradication of small pox, reduction of infant mortality rates, and reduction in the incidence of dreaded diseases like cholera, and diarrhoea, have greatly contributed to improvements in the quality of life.

And yet, in spite of these significant advances, is it not true that the gap between India and the advanced countries has widened due to a much faster rate of growth in those countries? Rapid strides are being made in areas like micro-electronics and biotechnology and it will prove very difficult for us to catch up unless we take extraordinary steps. To my mind, the basic structural weakness is that the required integration between the science and technology infrastructure and its capabilities on the one hand, and the production system on the other, just does not exist. This has led to an inadequate appreciation by industry of the capabilities in the Universities, national laboratories, and scientific agencies, and, therefore, their insufficient use.

There is also a growing feeling among some sections that our scientific establishments have become somewhat bureaucratic and are not providing an entirely conducive environment for innovation and creativity. We may not have readymade solutions to these problems but there has to be some fundamental rethinking in the way we approach Science and Technology issues as a nation. I would like to share some thoughts on what I feel we should attempt to do, but let me first dwell a bit more directly on the focal theme of this year's Congress.

One major area of concern in the implementation of our development Plans has been our failure to bring down the birth rate significantly which has led to high population growth. This is one of the foremost pressing problems facing the country today and I commend the organisers for focusing attention on this issue. This reflects the growing concern and desire of our scientific community to contribute in tackling this problem without which it is not possible to have any meaningful socioeconomic development of the country. We are today faced with a relentless 2% population growth rate per annum, and at this rate, we would be a country of 100 crore people by the turn of

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this century and worse the population may double to 170 crores by 2024 A.D. These are really frightening figures. Such growth would undermine all our efforts to bring about rapid economic development and to improve the quality of life of our people. When we say we are adding one Australia every year, the statement seems to have become out of date already because the population of Australia is not increasing.

For effective limiting of population, it is imperative to adopt a holistic approach. Population control programmes need to be inter-linked with the total development process. Socioeconomic factors, such as women's literacy, age of marriage of girls, employment of women in the organised sector, and general economic development have a crucial bearing on the issue of population growth. Now, Dr. Gowariker seems to have just quoted a book which has come recently, which seems to contradict all these hypotheses. But until the contradiction is confirmed we had

better stick to what we already have been saying. The experience of other countries has shown that education and over-all economic development are the two most critical factors which determine the size of the family. Population policies thus need to be integrated with our educational strategies and other developmental plans, especially at the grass-root level.

Family planning efforts require a great deal of conscientization and community mobilization to shake off past prejudices, complacency and apathy. In recent times, the need and urgency for an effective population control programme has been expressed at several public platforms. At the recently convened NDC meeting also, State Chief Ministers voiced serious concern over this issue and promptly, as Chairman of the NDC, I promised to set up a sub-committee on population headed by one of the Chief Ministers so that they could tell us what they would do and also what the Government of India should do. This is how we are now getting the Chief Ministers into the deliberative part of our development. They were only recipients so far but I think they will have to say and do at the same time from now on. Yet, the consciousness and concern about the problem which exists at the national level is somehow not getting translated into concern at the individual or family level. You go to a village a poor man will say what do I have to loose; I have more hands to earn, why should I limit my progeny? You just have no answer to that because he does not have any property. A propertied man may say his property would yet fragmented his sons, daughters etc. will get less and less if he has more and more of progeny. But for a person who has only a family, a poor family whose entire property consists in the hands of the members of the family, he does not have to loose and it is very difficult to convince him that he should take to family planning, unless you switch to the aspect of his wife's health, of his children's education. So, this is something a little remote from his understanding and you will have to switch the emphasis from one aspect to another. This takes time and this takes a lot of talking to him. And I am glad that where this has been done successfully the response has been marvellous anywhere in this country. This has been the experience. Whatever you tell him, tell him in his language, not in scientific language, he will understand, she will understand and you find that the results come perhaps sooner than you expect, perhaps better than you expect. This situation has to change. Family Planning is really a private affair. This I have been saying ever since I was Health Minister twenty years ago. Family planning is really a private, indeed a very private decision making process, and awareness, active awareness, must be most effective at that level. This decision making between couples has to be facilitated through a process of close, person to person contact programmes. This would necessitate massive yet innovative, communication and population education efforts by the Government as well as by all segments of society, par-

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ticularly the voluntary organisations which I am sure even better fitted to do this task. But they have to train themselves, they have to orient themselves to what they are supposed to do. Our strategy must specially encourage women to take decisions, and keep in view the Indian psyche in discussions of this kind. Perhaps our village level institutions will have to be given the major responsibility. It is the village level leadership which knows the people best and unless we get their willing cooperation our family welfare programmes will not succeed.

This responsibility has to be particularly shared by our academic and scientific community. You are important opinion makers and have considerable influence I hope because again this transmission of influence from the laboratory to the field is a difficult exercise. I have seen many cases where scientists have done excellent research but it has not gone out of the compound of their laboratories. Why is it so? Maybe we are lacking in the capability of taking it across, putting it across to the people or they are lacking in the capabilities of explaining their innovations, their researches even to those who can understand. They are so much cloistered within the walls of their own institutions that they hardly come out. Not many of them come out and explain and when questions are asked sometimes they get irritated. Scientists have a tendency and perhaps a right to get irritated sometimes. I am sure all of you gathered here will wholeheartedly address yourselves to this urgent problem and contribute significantly in mobilising public opinion in this regard.

In this context, I may also add that any one who wants to communicate has to become a guru whatever his age, whatever his position. He has to become a guru and he has to be able to transmit it to the 'shishya' and between the guru and the shishya, the relation is a very special one. The relation is condensed in those three wonderful words 'Pranipatenah, Pariprashnenah, Savyahi'. First you start with respect. The shishya makes obeisance to the guru but then he does not spare him, then pariprashnenah starts. He cross-examines him and it is then that the Guru sometimes can get irritated. If he can go on explaining to the shishya who goes on questioning - much of our literature, ancient literature has been a compendium of questions and answer as you know - then he will be able to serve savayah. If this chain is broken anywhere, then it never progresses and the results don't come. In this context, a major challenge before us, and specially before our scientific community, relates to research and development activities for population control programmes. Global research on new contraceptives has unfortunately not kept pace with the emerging needs. We must take greater initiative in improving our research activities in this area. I am aware that our scientists can hold their own with the best in the world and are capable of delivering the goods. The discovery of non-steroidal weekly oral pill is a major breakthrough. But much more needs to be done in this field -

specially in anti-fertility vaccines, and other reversible contraceptive methods. Greater attention also needs to be paid to research in the Indian Systems of Medicine, specially herbal medicines, which offer a great untapped potential for population control. As mother and child care has a crucial bearing on population growth, other key areas for scientific research are vaccines for vaccine preventable diseases. Research in these areas would contribute to our goal of reducing infant mortality, thereby creating conditions for fertility decline. The decade of the nineties would be decisive in determining whether we as a Nation are able to meet this challenge of explosive population growth. The scientific community must respond adequately to this challenge. We must harness our native genius and develop 'home-grown' technologies acceptable to our people. I attach the greatest importance to this aspect because ultimately what is acceptable to the people is that works and nothing else.

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To my mind, along with population control the central task is to develop the latent potential of our population to convert it into productive resource. It is the area of human resource development and growth that is the real challenge to the scientific community. I see in our population a potential waiting to be harnessed. A nation with a large population, that has educated, healthy well trained and equipped people could become one of the strongest in the world. It is not beyond us. Science can provide us many answers. The point I would like to stress is that population is not necessarily to be looked upon as anti-thesis to national development or a hindrance to it. Our population is young. While labour productivity in certain front-end industries and hi-tech areas may demand more automation, there are several other innovative technologies that can absorb our huge young population in productive work creating more wealth for the country as a whole. This again is one of the challenges we will try to address in the Eighth Five Year Plan and the Eighth Five Year plan takes this as one of the key areas in which a breakthrough is expected during the Plan apart from population.

One of the crucial elements in massive employment generation is development of skills. We require a massive on-the-job training in an innovative way. Now, our society, the Indian society, is a beautiful example of on-the-job training in every home. We have abandoned it for other reasons. The carpenter's son need not be a carpenter, he can be a Collector; but he can also be a coolie. Now that much mobility we have brought. But, what about the on-the-job training? What was available to the weaver's son, or the carpenter's son or the blacksmith's son right at home; he was spoiling things perhaps and getting a few slaps from his father in the process. But he was learning. We are not able to substitute that. Let us understand, let us face this reality. Abandoning it is good because you can not really make the society static. But at the same time the dynamism that you have to impart to the society without abandoning the virtue of a system which

trains the child as he grows. That virtue you can not abandon. Unless you substitute it with something else. Countries like Japan and Germany have apprentice training programmes involving a few million annually. I have visited some of these institutions particularly in Germany - where I was amazed. But in the final analysis what they are adopting today I think could be derived from what the Indian society had through the ages. Now, this may sound far-fetched, but it is not. You can see the link if you look for it a little more carefully.

We need to continually professionalise the skill levels of our people, who have consistently demonstrated that whenever they have been provided the opportunity, they are second to none. Training in the latest technological skills will open many avenues of self-employment and increased productivity in several sectors of our economy. Improvement in agricultural practices, adaptation of newer technology and skills in our traditional handloom, khadi and village industries, and further utilisation of the potential existing in hitech labour intensive industries like electronics, especially soft-ware development, provide large possibilities of absorbing our labour force.

There is a talk of high technologies. In some areas like atomic energy, space and defence research we have achieved excellent standards. We need to be able to make a breakthrough in other areas. The point I must stress is that we should choose areas where we can make the maximum impact, both nationally and internationally. But the choices have to be made carefully. We may import some technologies to build upon them. And we cannot afford repeated imports. This is important. We have now removed many fetters that impeded the growth of industries and foreign trade. In this process Indian industries are being exposed to increased domestic competition as well as

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competition from the outside world. The decisions regarding the choices of technology, the growth path, etc. are now primarily within the industries except in a few areas. Given the past trends, there are some worries whether the industries will go in for more and more import of technologies. Unless we learn to inject sustained, large inputs of home-grown technologies into the imported technologies and also generate massively our own technologies reflecting our own native genius and resource endowment, we will be left behind and we will be left constantly behind. At any point of time if you do not have innovation within the country, if you do not have research and development of your own if you do not have technology of your own - it may not be 100 per cent your own but then something which has been improved upon and Indianised - unless you do that, at any given point of time you will be lagging behind in technology and you will be only imitating the others, importing from the others and still be at second hand. This is what we will be condemned to if we do not have our own expansion of the R&D base within our own

limitations, maybe to start with but if funds are needed, if attention is needed, resources are needed, it is on this area that the resources have to be given first.

I have in mind, for example, the large scale use of rhizobium culture and blue green algae as partial substitutes for chemical fertilizers. This is extremely important because in our area wherever chemical fertilisers have been used for the last 25 years - it is not a century; mind it, it is not even half century; go to any coastal area; perhaps go to Punjab, Balramji will bear me out, chemical fertilizers have started yielding diminishing returns and you have to put one and a half bag of Ammonium Sulphate when you had only one bag last year; I mean it is going up and the humous of the soil is getting completely destroyed; water-logging is taking place, soil texture is getting very badly deteriorated and all kinds of things and I could cite any number of consequences of the excessive use of chemical fertilizers - you are really killing the soil. We cannot afford to kill the soil in this country. China and India have maintained their agricultural production for 5000 years without allowing it to deteriorate because we have farmed the soil, we have not mined the soil. We have started mining the soil in agriculture when we started with chemical fertilizers. Now I am the Minister for Chemical Fertilizers, so I should not run down the fertilizers too much. But I must say that these fertilizers have to be supplemented at the earliest - supplemented, not necessarily eliminated. We cannot eliminate them possibly but we have to supplement them. The compulsions of the Green Revolution brought chemical fertilizers to the fore. And they came in excessively because we wanted quick results. Now we have stabilised, atleast in food production, so we will have to think of other methods. As a farmer I think this is common sense. A common sense is not so easy when it comes to thinking in the Governmental echelons. So we have to take recourse to some farmers. I hope Balramji will knock some sense into this whole situation.

I would like to pose this issue a bit differently. We have to address the issue of increased technology generation in industry in the context of the global competition and our foreign exchange constraints. It is not enough to target to wipe out trade imbalances which is important in itself. Our problems with the balance of payments will vanish only when we become a net exporter of technologies. And this is what I would like to pose as the challenge before the Indian Scientific community. Can we as a nation set ourselves the target of becoming a net exporter of technologies by the 21st century? Now, we have to become because we have fixed responsibilities among the developing nations already. In the G-15 meeting for instance which we had in Caracas recently, India has taken upon itself the task of developing solar energy. Now, solar energy happen to be something like a poor relation in the Ministry of

Power in the Government of India: I don't know what the position is in the States, maybe worse. Now, I have to lift that poor relation to the place of centrality in the scheme of things. I promised myself that I will do it in 8th Plan. So help me God! And this is what I would like to pose as the challenge before the Indian scientific community. I would like a plan of action drawn up and some active steps taken jointly by industry and the scientific institutions on technology generation very soon and particularly on these two areas which we have taken - solar energy and Gene Banks. In fact, I would never be able to do anything without the full cooperation and involvement of the scientific community. So, I have taken up a challenge there only with the intention of passing it on to you. I don't propose to do anything myself but I will only be the conduit and this challenge is before you. In the next two or three years if you do not have a breakthrough then India will lose her position among the developing countries, leave alone the developed. So, I think we have a very high stake, in developing technology in India.

In the context of providing productive employment to our large numbers we must keep in view the hard fact that most of our people will continue to be in rural areas and live on agriculture. How to improve their productivity should be the concern of the newer technological research. Our investments in R & D in improving crop yields have still a long way to go. Pulses, oil-seeds, paddy and sugarcane are obvious areas for more intensive research. In fact, the scope of agricultural research should go beyond land resource management to preservation, packaging, and transportation of produce. Everywhere you go our fruitgrowers are crying. They say they don't get an adequate price. By the time the season ends, the production also comes to a close, everything is exhausted, they end up in the lowest possible prices and they remain poor because the cost of cultivation, cost of fruitgrowing is going up. Now this is a peculiar situation where we have done something but did not supplement what else needs to be done in the wake of that something. This is a continuous battle the farmer is waging in this country and we have to be continuously helping him. Tax him if necessary but don't leave him half way. No farmer is averse to paying five rupees more for something which he needs; but if he doesn't get it in time then he is the most miserable person. There is a saying in my language that when you are sowing the seed there is a difference in productivity in the yield between the seed that is in your hand and the seed that has already fallen in the soil. I mean it is so urgent you cannot really measure anything matching this kind of urgency. The season is an urgent thing for the farmer which very few people seem to realise. Our forefathers realised it. So much of literature has been created, written, if you don't have rains in Brughahsila, then your yield goes down by half. This is what everybody believes in my area. And we calculate the yields by whether I had the first showers between the 1st and 7th of June or 1st and 7th of July. If it is 1st and 7th of July, all Kharif operations are

delayed by one month which means the yields have gone down by 40 to 50 per cent. So these are things which are known. These scientific truths are known. India's great yield from land is one of the highest in the world. I was once upon a time a grape grower and I am telling you this from personal experience. But much of it cannot reach export markets because we cannot process, package, preserve and transport it. You only have to come to Hyderabad in the season of Anab-e-Shahl. You will know piles and piles almost mountains of Anabashahi, beautiful grapes but within one month you don't get anything, everything is exhausted because it is sold that cheap.

A major difficulty is that the present day technologies and processing techniques are biased in favour of centralised and usually urban processing of produce from  
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the rural areas. This has led to economic imbalances. We must consciously and deliberately develop innovative and cost-effective techniques and technologies for storage, processing and value addition in the decentralised rural sector, for example in storage and processing of fruits, vegetables that I was just talking to you about.

I have so far talked about the role of Science and Technology in fostering economic growth of the country. While this is a vital necessity, there is also another - and equally important contribution - that I expect from the scientific community. This is its contribution in improving the quality of life of our people. Of course, we started with the most important aspect of population limitation. We must, to take a simple example, ensure a more healthy population. Now, some of the methods we have adopted have again started yielding diminishing returns. Your DDT spraying, for instance, I don't know what happens to our mosquitoes; they seem to be thriving on DDT. Every Municipal Chairman will be able to tell you this. Now, there is something to be done which is much more innovative, much more original, than this. Go on spraying, spraying more, much more, stronger and stronger and the mosquito becomes stronger and stronger. This is our experience. Go to Kerala or Pondicherry. One area they have taken, they have not used a drop of DDT and still controlled Malaria, eliminated mosquitoes only by environmental sanitation. It should be a showpiece for the whole world but no one knows about it, no one has visited. It was just the commonsense of the villagers. They were told a few things and they said if we can eliminate, we can stop the breeding of the mosquito, that means everything and they did it. I don't see why it cannot be done anywhere else. But it is not done because we believe in certain things which maybe we have learnt from books or we are too lazy to attempt new things and that is where innovation which has been the basis of the Indian society for thousands of years has to be revived.

Clearly, we have to re-define "development". Its meaning in India should be rather different from what perhaps it implies in Western understanding. Gandhiji once said that if the British - to sustain their life style - needed such a vast empire, how many worlds would India need if we adopted the life-style of the British. Just multiply and see that it is just impossible, you just cannot imitate the Western society in its life-style. It is the basic truth each one of us has to understand including the scientific community. The consumption-oriented model of the purely market-led economies today poses a major challenge to the survival of mankind, leave alone India. The problems of global-warming and of ozone depletion have been caused, in large part - this is all what the scientists have told us - by the profligacy of consumption that places acquisitiveness and individual gratification above societal good and collective needs. Neither in terms of natural resources, nor human values is such a development model desirable. Even the advanced countries are now realising this. But they do not quite know what to do. So, they take the easiest course; they seem to be devising methods to limit the development of developing countries in the name of preserving the environment. They say we have done enough damage, now you don't do and stop your development. That is the advice that we get from the developed countries. Now, we have to say sorry, how can we stop our development, how can we atone for the sins committed by you. It is that simple. We cannot. But then we cannot imitate them in the same methods by which they have ruined the environment. So, we have to have a new technology. We have to have a technology which is more relevant to our needs and our genius. Now, this is where, the whole lifestyle, the philosophy of developing countries have to be different from the philosophy of those who have already developed - developed, because they could by force of arms, by empires and things like that - we cannot do the same and therefore the entire philosophy of life of the develop-

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ing countries has to be different. This of course is not acceptable that we should stop our development. Yet, the fact remains that developing countries have to invent a new model, more suited to their needs, their culture and their values, one which recognises what Gandhiji said: "The world has enough for everyman's need, but not for everyman's greed."

Before concluding, Madam Chancellor, I would like to make an offer to the scientific community, not just the scientific community but everyone of us. And, I have a concrete offer or a suggestion to scientists, to Chief Ministers of all the States of India, to representatives of the people everywhere in India, to the administrators from the Cabinet Secretary down to the last village level worker or Anganwadi worker, to all of us; Let us go and sit in a village, let me see what the scientific community has to show me in that village in which they can claim their contribution. I would beg of the Chief Ministers to start this,

go and sit in a village, I am prepared to come, let us have the inauguration done by me and all of you; in fact, I was telling Chimanbhai just now while we were driving here; there are so many good things for Chief Ministers to see in States that are not their own. The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister has to come to Gujarat; the Gujarat Chief Minister has to go to Uttar Pradesh. Now, maybe you will be able to learn some positive things and some negative things also. You will also learn what not to do. It is a great experience, I tell you, because if you go to the real beneficiary which is the village, we are talking in terms of the village, in the name of the villagers all the time, what have we given to the village? When I enter my village and see the old bullock cart which I knew from my childhood, maybe from my grandfather's childhood, the same bullock cart, with no innovation in the bullock cart, what do I feel? I feel that it is an example of stagnation. Now, I would like to ask the scientific community. This question I have been posing for I think decades now. What have you done for the bullocks of India - at least belonging to a party whose election symbol were the bullocks some time ago. I have some duty to plead on behalf of the bullocks of India. Now, if you cannot reduce the burden on the bullock, what happens to the life of the bullocks - the productivity of the bullocks. If you load too much and the cart is so bad and the lanes in the village and the fields are bad already and there is no way of having a road in a paddy field. Paddy field will remain a paddy field. Therefore, the innovation has to start from a bullock cart. Gandhiji accepted this. The old Takli when compared to the 8-Spindle Charkha of today, there is an enormous improvement, technological improvement, innovation, everything. It is almost a mill. But it is not a mill in the sense that it doesn't displace too many people; it increases daily wages, earnings and this is the kind of technology that we have to try to develop. It should not be labour saving in the sense that you get everybody out into the street, throw them out of their jobs and at the same time it cannot be the drudgery of yesterday continuing for all times. So, this is the balance that we have to do. So, let us really start from the typical Indian village and see how much Indian science has given to that village.

I would like to make, particularly in the context of the family planning programme, the Anganwadi worker as the nucleus of the programme, as the primary inspirer of the programme. I know that the community development programme flourished because of the Village Level Worker, the VLW, the Gram Sewak. Credit might have been taken by many others but ultimately a village which had a good Village Level Worker had a good programme of community development and if he was lousy the programme was lousy. So, in this programme the Anganwadi worker who looks after children, who looks after babies, looks after mothers, should also look after family planning. I am told that their working conditions are

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none too good; we will have to look into them but at the same

time the whole process being an integrated process we will have to have a worker of that type looking after the whole process. We would like to see if this can be woven into the 8th Five Year Plan because this is how in this holistic manner we have to go ahead and try to solve our problems. I am making this suggestion in all earnestness because until you apply this to the village where it has to be applied, you will never know where you stand.

Now, to conclude, in our effort to evolve a new model of development, one that combines growth, including balanced population growth with equity and social justice, I look upto you, scientists and technologists, to play a major role. After all, technology is not concerned only with more efficient exploitation of resources. It is and should be equally concerned with sustainability, with evolving technologies and process of re-cycling, and with developing technologies of special relevances to the dis-advantaged and the poor.

Go to any village, a housewife will show you what is re-cycling. If the saree gets torn, she will make two or three pieces out of it, use each piece for something else. This kind of thrift, this kind of economy, this kind of sensible approach to problems, if only the nation could adopt this, could imbibe this, nation as a whole, we will have nothing to bother. There is so much of individual wisdom available here. India is a place, is a country where individual brilliance contains with collective pragmatism and these are the two things, if the combination is available then the country will never falter anywhere.

I am very happy to be with you today. I am sorry I may have taken a little more time but I thought that it is necessary to talk to the scientific community in the language of an unscientific politician.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AUSTRIA AUSTRALIA GERMANY JAPAN CHINA  
VENEZUELA ECUADOR

**Date :** Jan 03, 1992

## Volume No

1995

TURKEY

India, Turkey Sign Cultural Pact

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 29, 1992:

India and Turkey today signed a cultural exchange programme for 1992-94. Signed here by Smt. Komal Anand, Joint Secretary, Department of Culture and Mr. Selcuk Incesu, Dy Director General of Bilateral Cultural Relations, Turkey, it envisages cooperation in education, art, culture, youth affairs, sports and Information and Broadcasting.

Exchange of professors, social scientists, historians, publications and documentation in the field of formal and non-formal education besides organisation of seminars on archaeological science have been proposed under the cultural exchange programme. It will also facilitate exchange of cassettes and photographs, slides on performing art, handicraft exhibition and organisation of film weeks.

A chair of Turkish studies in an Indian University will be set up. This programme also provides for Indian participation in the Fourth International Asian European Art Biennale in Ankara and a Turkish Art Exhibition in India.

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RKEY INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

**Date :** Jan 29, 1992

## Volume No

1995

TURKEY

Indo-Turkish Joint Commission

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 27, 1992:

The Indo-Turkish Joint Commission was held on 6th and 7th January, 1992 at Ankara. Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce, was the Co-Chairman from the Indian side and his counterpart was Mr. Ekrem Ceyhun, Minister of State. The Indian delegation, in addition to officials, also included prominent businessmen with interests in diverse fields.

During the meeting, various issues of mutual interest were discussed. The Joint Economic Commission took note of the relatively low level of trade and investment on both sides. It identified steps which could be taken to increase the scope of trade on either side. In this context, both sides exchanged lists

of commodities of export interest. It was agreed that these lists would be circulated to Trade Associations and State Sector Companies in both the countries for their initial response which would be within a period of three months. In addition, the following areas of mutual interest were focussed upon:

- \* The successful implementation of Eskisehir-Sincan Electrification Project taken up through joint cooperation between IRCON and TCDD was noted with satisfaction.
- \* A Turkish delegation would visit Indian Export Processing Zones (EPZs) in the middle of 1992 to explore the possibility of cooperation between Free Trade Zones/EPZs of the two countries.
- \* In the area of projects and contracts exports, it was noted that a delegation from the Overseas Construction Council of India had concluded a successful visit to Turkey recently.
- \* A Turkish delegation would visit India in May or June, 1992 to continue the discussion on the agreement of Avoidance of Double Taxation.
- \* Noting that the Air Services Agreement between India and Turkey was yet to be fully implemented, it was agreed that a Turkish delegation would visit India before February 15, 1992 to discuss the modalities of Air India's reciprocal services and to negotiate royalty rates.
- \* In the area of telecommunication, Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) on the Indian side and the Turkish P.T.T. on the other would get together by June, 1992 with a view to see how best additional lines could be set up to improve communication between the two countries.
- \* Exports of buffalo meat would be resumed soon. A group of Turkish experts will visit India for an on-the-spot assessment of the health of the livestock and facilities for processing.
- \* It was agreed that expansion in trade between the two countries would be possible through greater contact between their business communities. A joint Business Committee has been set up between the two countries to facilitate greater interaction of businessmen from both sides.

In the course of his visit to Turkey, Shri P. Chidambaram, called on Mr. Turgut Ozal, President of Turkey, Mr. Suleyman Demirel, Prime Minister, Mr. Sumer Oral, Minister of Finance and Customs and Mr. Yaser Topcu, Minister of Transportation and Communication. He had wide ranging discussions with his counterpart Mr. Ekrem Ceyhun. The

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Minister and his delegation also met the Association of Turkish

Businessmen and Industrialists as also the Turkish Chamber of Commerce. The Minister highlighted the recent changes in the Policy and invited the Turkish businessmen to come to India to avail of the new business opportunities.

RKEY INDIA USA

**Date :** Jan 27, 1992

## Volume No

1995

UNITED KINGDOM

British Foreign Secretary Calls on President

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 16, 1992:

The Rt. Honourable Douglas Hurd, British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, today called on the President, Shri R. Venkataraman at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The talks lasting about half an hour, were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere and touched upon a wide range of subjects including bilateral relations.

Welcoming Mr. Hurd, the President Shri Venkataraman said that a number of visits of senior leaders between the two countries, besides exchange of views had helped in better understanding. He said that India looked forward to the forthcoming visit of Prince Charles scheduled for next month.

Mr. Hurd informed Shri Venkataraman that his country welcomed the liberalised economic policy of India and said that it was encouraging for British investments. Shri Venkataraman expressed the hope that Britain, as usual, will take greater initiative in India's economic development. He said that India had all along traditionally received British investments in its economic programmes.

The two leaders also discussed the situation in Europe particularly the developments in USSR and its effect on other countries. Shri Venkataraman apprised the British Secretary about India's relations with its neighbours and stressed the need to preserve secular forces against fundamentalists. Touching upon the Centre-State relations in India, Shri Venkataraman said that the Indian Government was pursuing a policy of decentralising power and in maintaining unity and integrity of the country.

At the talks, Shri Venkataraman was assisted by his Secretary, Shri P. Murari, Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri L. L. Mehrotra, Joint Secretary in Ministry of External Affairs Shri Rajiv Sikri. Mr. Douglas was assisted by the British High Commissioner in India H.E. Sir Nicholas Fenn.

DIA USA

**Date :** Jan 16, 1992

## Volume No

1995

UNITED KINGDOM

United Kingdom Secretary of State Calls on Union Home Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 16, 1992:

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of U. K. Mr. Douglas Hurd called on Union Home Minister, Shri S. B. Chavan here this morning. The two leaders were together for 40 minutes. India's High Commissioner to U. K., Dr. L. M. Singhvi; Home Secretary, Dr. Madhav Godbole and Special  
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Secretary in the Home Ministry, Shri V. K. Jain were present.

There was a broad agreement with regard to the ex-tradition treaty and the confiscation of the properties of people involved in terrorism. Accordingly an Indian delegation will shortly leave for England to work out the details and finalise the arrangements on the lines of the points raised during the U.K. Home Secretary, Mr. Baker's visit to this country earlier this month. Mr. Baker during his visit had assured that arrangements can be finalised within a stipulated time-frame.

Mr. Hurd extended full cooperation of his country in combating terrorism and in sharing information on drug-control and terrorist activities. He appreciated India's strong system for checking human rights violations and said that this was an ongoing concern of both the countries.

DIA UNITED KINGDOM

**Date :** Jan 16, 1992

## Volume No

1995

UNEP

India Re-Elected to UNEP Governing Council

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 28, 1992:

The Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Shri Kamal Nath is leaving for Dubai tonight on way to Nairobi to lead the Indian delegation at the Third Session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The other members of the delegation include the Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Shri Samar Singh.

India has been re-elected as a Member of the Governing Council of the UNEP for a further period of three years. The three day session of the Governing Council is going to be an important milestone for the preparation of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) to be held in June this year.

At Dubai, Shri Kamal Nath is scheduled to inaugurate a Seminar organised by the Dubai Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.

It has been decided to prepare a comprehensive statement about India's concerns on the entire question of environment and development, as a backdrop to the overall approach India would take at the UNCED. The paper would bring out the environment and development challenge facing India, our socioeconomic and cultural ethos, policy and institutional framework and the kinds of activities undertaken by the Government, NGOs and the people.

This exercise is being conducted in two phases. The first phase would be a 40-50 pages summary of the entire paper, to be presented in the next and final Preparatory Committee Meeting (PREPCOM) of the UNCED to be held at New York in March-April, 1992. A full length country paper is to be presented during UNCED in June.

The Centre for Environment Education (CEE), Ahmedabad has been assigned the responsibility of drafting this paper, in consultation with this Ministry and a very wide range of experts and NGOs from all over the country.

The CEE have prepared a framework in which the two papers would be prepared. A presentation on these was made before a select group of invitees on January 27, 1992. Later on a similar presentation would be made before an Inter-Ministerial Group and various non-governmental organisations. The critical comments received during these presentations would help this Ministry to finalise the comments of the paper.

DIA KENYA USA

**Date :** Jan 28, 1992

## Volume No

1995

UNITED NATIONS

Statement by Prime Minister at Security Council Summit

The following is the text of the statement by the Prime Minister, P. V. Narasimha Rao, at the United Nations Security Council summit on Jan 31, 1992, in New York:

We appreciate the initiative you have taken to convene this meeting. Its deliberations can show us a direction, which is indeed important at this juncture. It is good of you, Sir, to have helped us make a beginning.

I should also wish to pay tribute to a personal friend and colleague of distinction and eminence, whom the United Nations has rightly chosen as its Secretary General. To my brother Boutros Boutros Ghali, our heartiest greeting. May I also, Mr. President recall with gratitude and appreciation the services of Mr. Perez de Cuellar, which have left so distinctive a mark on this Organisation.

We miss, today, the presence of a distinguished member of this fraternity, President Mugabe. We grieve with him in his personal bereavement and convey to him, through his delegation, our deepest condolences. To the President of Hungary, our good wishes for a speedy recovery from his indisposition.

Mr. President, we are living in a time of change, palpable change. Until very recently, the Security Council's effectiveness was inhibited by the Cold War. We have since witnessed an upsurge of democratic sentiment all over the world. We have been touched

by the desire in diverse countries that the values of liberty, economic justice and the dignity of man, should govern the conduct of world affairs. These are trends of which our discussions must take cognizance.

The United Nations and the Security Council have played the role required of them in recent months because the Permanent members of the Council adopted a harmonious, cohesive and firm stance in dealing with the threats to the cherished values of man.

India's support to the United Nations has been complete and consistent. It has had no fluctuations. Today, we welcome this fresh effective role of the Security Council and shall continue our support. In visualising its future role, it is essential that we take note of the emerging forces, the socio-political undercurrents that result in unrest, instability and in the recurrence of violence across the globe.

Lasting peace and security necessarily requires comparable levels of human happiness across the globe. It is impossible to think of a United Nations functioning usefully or harmoniously while humankind continues to be riddled with ever increasing disparities and while the world's natural

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resources, that are really humanity's common heritage - land, water and air - are getting fast depleted by thoughtless acts of over-exploitation and environmental degradation. This is the single simple truth which this organisation has to take note of. All else falls in place, although the overall task remains extremely complicated, even with the best will in the world.

The role of the United Nations must naturally rest on the Charter which incorporates the vital framework for action for maintenance of international peace and security. But the Charter is only as legitimate and secure as its underpinning by the collective will of the international community. At every step, the interpretation of the charter as well as the actions by the Security Council must flow from that collective will and not from the views or predilections of a few. A general consensus must always prevail. What is right and just must become transparent. It is as simple as that. Members of the Security Council, whether permanent or elected, should insist on this consensus, scrupulously avoiding the temptation to dictate for quick results. Besides, while prescribing norms and standards for national or international conduct, the Security Council must scrupulously accept those norms for itself.

As the composition of the General Assembly has trebled since its inception, the size of the Security Council cannot remain constant any longer. Wider representation in the Security Council is a must, if it is to ensure its moral sanction and political effectiveness.

While implementing its resolutions in good faith, it is incumbent on the Security Council to anticipate all the consequences of its decisions. Some consequences may be unintended, but they can affect those whom they are least intended to affect. For instance, economic sanctions against one country can have a major impact on its trading partners. For developing countries, this impact can be catastrophic. If the Security Council's actions are to continue to command adherence and support, it must take speedy and parallel action to address problems arising in third country from the implementation of its resolutions. Besides, it must act decisively and in time to alleviate human suffering in the country in question, once the primary purpose of imposing economic sanctions has been fulfilled.

Mr. President, I have profound respect for those who are crusading for the protection and preservation of human rights. A country with a history of over five thousand years, with a record of non-invasion and non-annexation of alien territories, with the shining example of a powerful monarch like Ashoka turning into an apostle of non violence, another powerful heir apparent becoming the one and only Buddha, with a contemporary political system modelled on the best traditions of human rights and liberties - Sir, such is my country. Indian culture and human rights in their loftiest form, are almost synonymous. However, having stated this, we cannot countenance a situation where all human rights are reserved only for the practitioners of terrorism, while governments dealing with this menace are arraigned day and night on grounds of violation of human rights - real or imaginary, mostly the latter.

I am fully conscious of the obligations of the State in preserving human rights, as contrasted with terrorist and secessionist elements killing innocent citizens with impunity. What should really be suggested at this meeting, is perhaps, to delineate the parameters that harmonise the defence of national integrity with respect for human rights. In this view, India is ever willing to discuss and contribute to the endeavour.

It is also important to note that the content and nature of human rights are conditioned by the social, traditional and cultural forces that inform different societies. While the endeavour of the UN, as being intimated in this meeting, is to gradually move towards creating uniform international norms for human rights, such norms should not be unilaterally defined

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and set up as absolute preconditions for interaction between States and societies in the political or economic spheres. Our endeavour should be to work towards a just and fair world economic order and to encourage countries to move towards universal norms of human rights.

We fully share the concerns expressed by several leaders on the threat posed to international peace and security by the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Another dimension of international security today, is that of the possible loss of control over nuclear arsenals. What we are faced with is no longer the possible acquisition of such weapons by a handful of threshold states but an uncontrolled spread of ready made nuclear weapons across the globe, by a variety of means and methods. The proliferation issue has thus assumed a qualitatively and frighteningly new dimension.

While sharing these concerns, we wish to underline, however, that measures of preventive or punitive action on a selective basis will not achieve the results we are aiming at. The sense of disquiet and urgency that pervades the discussion of this issue is precisely because it has now become a global problem and not one of a few potential nuclear weapon states. In this imponderable yet terrible scenario, technical fixes or regional arrangements can no longer suffice. The difficulties of monitoring and policing activities in a large number of states, several of them not even accurately identified at any given time, preclude effective results. The Secretary General can not, I submit, be expected to be inspecting basements and searching for bombs. This can hardly succeed, as any one can see. There must be some other way.

What, then is the answer to this difficult dilemma? In our view, the only logical route available to us is to pursue a global approach, based on a new international consensus on non-proliferation. To be effective, this global non-proliferation regime must be universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory and linked to the goal of complete nuclear disarmament.

At the 3rd Special Session of the UN Devoted to Disarmament held in 1988, the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India had put forward a specific Action Plan for Disarmament, which would eliminate all weapons of mass destruction in stages, eventually leading to a nuclear-weapon free and non-violent world. The plan contained all the key elements of a new international consensus on nuclear non-proliferation. First, it called for the conclusion of an International Convention on the Prohibition of the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons. Second, it advocated a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Third, threshold states would undertake obligations not to cross the threshold and this would be linked to corresponding obligations by nuclear weapon states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals latest by the year 2010.

Mr. President, at the time this Action Plan was put forward, some nuclear weapon states expressed expressed difficulty in accepting these ideas in view of their adherence to the so-called doctrine of nuclear deterrence. This doctrine was anchored in the specific context of East-West confrontation and the Cold War. The Cold war is now over, the nuclear stand-off is a thing of the past. The

doctrine of nuclear deterrence is no longer relevant. We are now offered a historic opportunity to exercise statesmanship and move to quickly eliminate nuclear weapons altogether from the face of the earth. In particular, the ideas India put forward in its Action Plan or any alteration thereof, such as a universal pledge to abjure the use of nuclear weapons, conclude a comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and to evolve a new, universal and non-discriminatory approach to non-proliferation, acquire compelling relevance. It is only within the framework of such a consensus, and through no other means, that the Security Council can deal effectively with the threats to peace emanating from

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the proliferation of nuclear weapons in its current global dimension. If our meeting today can make a declaration on these lines, we would have made a truly historic contribution to the promotion of lasting peace and security. In fact, Mr. President, I would venture to suggest that even going beyond India's Action Plan, the target date for a nuclear weapon free world should now be advanced to the end of the present century. It would be a hopeful note on which to enter the 21st century.

Mr. President, the statement that you will be reading out on behalf of the members of the Council at the end of today's meeting has been the subject of intensive productive discussions. We were happy to be part of the exercise and to have made our contribution to it. We consider it an important statement. However, I find that the statement does not reflect one or two of India's crucial concerns. These I have clearly mentioned in my intervention just now. This, of course, does not detract from the significance of the statement you are about to make and from India's co-operation. Indeed, I trust that today's meeting will spur our common efforts to co-operate to mutual benefit and in the interest of all, in accordance with the provision of the Charter.

A HUNGARY INDIA

**Date :** Jan 31, 1992

## Volume No

1995

UZBEKISTAN

Trade Protocol with Uzbekistan Concluded

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

on Jan 28, 1992:

In pursuance of the Trade Agreement signed between India and Uzbekistan in Tashkent in October 1991 a Trade Protocol for 1992 providing for a balanced trade turnover target of about US \$75 million has been concluded. The items of export from Uzbekistan include long and extra long staple cotton, urea, copper wire bars and liquid ammonia. Exports from India include tea, cardamom and other spices, cashew, medicines, tooth paste, metal kitchenware, pesticides, artificial leather, cotton fabrics, other consumer items and small cement plants etc. The Uzbekistan team was led by Mr. P. Nasirov, Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Economy and the Indian team by Shri B. P. Misra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce.

Detailed discussions were also held by representatives of the Reserve Bank of India and the State Bank of India with the Uzbek National Bank for Foreign Economic Activity. Steps to establish formal correspondent relations between the State Bank of India and the Uzbek Bank have been initiated. Banking arrangements to facilitate bilateral trade have also been put in place with the establishment of an ESCROW Account of the Uzbek State Committee for Foreign Trade with the State Bank of India.

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BEKISTAN INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date :** Jan 28, 1992

## Volume No

1995

WORLD BANK

World Bank Vice President Holds Discussions with Finance Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 10, 1992:

The Vice President, South Asia Region of the World Bank, Mr. D. Joseph Wood called on the Union Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh here today. Mr. Joseph Wood has recently taken charge of this, new assignment from Mr. Attila Karaosmen Oglu and by virtue of this would also be presiding over the meeting of the Aid India Consortium.

During the course of the discussions with the Finance Minister, the overall lending operations of the World Bank were discussed

including modalities for fast disbursing assistance to meet the exceptional financing gap for 1992-93 and speeding up the pace of disbursements for ongoing projects. Since its inception, the World Bank has committed 142 loans from its normal lending operations and 180 development credits from IDA sources amounting to total US \$ 19.4 Billion and US \$ 17.9 Billion respectively.

Until this year, the lending operations of the Bank of India were primarily confined to project lending. However, in order to meet our exceptional financing gap, fast disbursement lending operations in the nature of Structural Adjustment Loan of US \$ 500 million and the Oil and Gas Sector lending of \$ 150 million were initiated by the Bank during the current year.

During his discussions, the Finance Minister suggested that in a period of fiscal adjustment where the fiscal deficit of the Government is being reduced to 6.5 per cent of GDP during this year with further reduction in 1992-93, it was necessary to explore new modalities for meeting the needs of rupee funding as has been done in the case of some other countries and which would greatly accelerate the pace of credit utilisation. The World Bank responded to the idea positively and would interact with other donors to work out modalities which could meet the local cost for enabling faster absorptions of external assistance during the period of fiscal transition.

Apart from this, the issues relating to lending operations of the Bank in the Hydro-Carbon Sector, the Financial Sector Adjustment Loan, the urgency for setting up a Social Safety Net Programme by way of the National Renewal Fund and future lending operations in the Power Sector were also discussed.

The World Bank recognised that exceptional financing support India's balance of payments would have to continue in 1992-93 and 1993-94 and modalities for Fast Disbursing Programme and Sectoral assistance would be suggested in consultation with other major donor countries. Mr. Joseph Wood, during the course of his visit, has also had discussions with the Chief Minister, Maharashtra and Chief Minister Rajasthan and Senior officers of these two State Governments. A discussion has been fixed with Chief Minister, West Bengal at Calcutta tomorrow as well as with Senior officials of the West Bengal Government. Mr. Wood has also met senior officers of the Government of India including Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, Cabinet Secretary, Finance Secretary, Secretary (Economic Affairs), Secretary of Environment, Education, Petroleum and Health.

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The Finance Minister was assisted in the discussions by Dr. M. S. Ahluwalia, Secretary (Economic Affairs) and Shri N. K. Singh, Joint Secretary (Fund Bank). Mr. D. Joseph Wood was assisted by Mr. Heinz Virgin, Director, in Charge of India in the Bank and Mr. Oktay Yenal Chief Representative of the World Bank in Delhi.

A INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date :** Jan 10, 1992

## February

### Volume No

1995

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ALGERIA MOROCCO KAZAKHSTAN BRAZIL OMAN ROMANIA UNITED KINGDOM

**Date :** Feb 01, 1992

## Volume No

1995

AUSTRALIA

Indo-Australian Joint Commission Meeting

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 25, 1992:

The Indo-Australian Joint Ministerial Commission meeting is scheduled to begin here tomorrow. The Indian delegation at the 2-day meeting will be led by Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce and the Australian delegation by Mr. John Kerin, Minister for Overseas Trade and Development of Australia. The agenda for discussions will include bilateral trade and investment including future prospects, sectoral issues in goods and services and the international economic outlook. The Joint Commission is preceded by the meeting of the Indo-Australian Joint Trade Committee which was held here at the official level on 24th February, 1992.

The last meeting of the Joint Ministerial Commission was held in Australia in July, 1989.

There has been a steady growth of bilateral trade between the two countries. The 2-way trade which was of the order of Rs. 239 crores in 1983-84 has risen to Rs. 1785 crores in 1990-91 with Indian exports at Rs. 321 crores and imports from Australia at Rs. 1464 crores. The deficit has been mainly on account of bulk imports of coal and wool from Australia.

STRALIA USA INDIA

**Date :** Feb 25, 1992

## Volume No

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1995

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AUSTRALIA

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Indo-Australian Joint Commission Meeting

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The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on 26, 1992:

The second meeting of the Indo-Australian Joint Ministerial Commission meeting began here today, with both sides calling for greater trade and economic cooperation between India and Australia. Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce, is leading the Indian delegation at the 2-day meeting, while the Australian delegation is led by Mr. John Kerin, Minister for Overseas Trade and Development of Australia.

Addressing the opening plenary session, Shri Chidambaram, underlined the need for stepping up Indian exports to Australia so as to ensure a balanced growth of bilateral trade. Two-way trade between India and Australia in 1990-91 was of the order of Rs. 1785 crores with the balance being adverse for India. He suggested that items of export on both sides could be identified to facilitate expansion of trade. Referring to Australian investment in India which at around Rs. 2.62 crores had so far remained very marginal, the Minister said that the new trade and investment policies with the fast track clearance mechanism provided new opportunities for joint ventures and investment by Australia, particularly in areas like deep sea fishing. It was also suggested that long-term supply of coal by Australia to SAIL be matched by counter-trade arrangements with MMTC and other organisations to augment trade.

Mr. Kerin said that there was a renewed interest in India in the Australian government and business circles in the wake of the new policies which should contribute to the strengthening of trade and investment cooperation between the two countries. He said that India and Australia could learn a lot from each other as

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they had shared experiences and perceptions in several areas.

The world economy, international trade scenario and recent changes having a bearing on these aspects such as structural changes in the erstwhile USSR, emergence of a single European market and multilateral negotiations will come up for review at the meeting, besides Indo-Australian bilateral cooperation in areas such as coal, coke, wool, mines etc. and review of bilateral trade with a view to identifying steps required for diversifying and increasing bilateral trade. The meeting of the Joint Commission was preceded by talks the official level in the

form of a Joint Trade Committee, which met on 24th February, 1992. The Agreed Minutes of the Joint Commission will be signed tomorrow.

STRALIA USA INDIA

**Date :** 26, 1992

## Volume No

1995

AZERBAIJAN

High Level Team to Azerbaijan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 24, 1992:

Shri Kamaluddin Ahmed, the Minister of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution will lead a high level inter-ministerial team to Republic of Azerbaijan, from February 26 to March 1, 1992.

During six-day stay in Azerbaijan, the team will discuss matters of mutual interests in various sector and scope of trade and commerce between two countries.

The team consists of senior officials of Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Petroleum, Indian Oil Corporation and the Ministry of External Affairs.

ERBAIJAN INDIA USA

**Date :** Feb 24, 1992

## Volume No

1995

CHINA

India-China Joint Business Council Meeting

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

on Feb 17, 1992:

The India-China Joint Business Council Meeting was inaugurated here today by Shri Salman Khurshid, Deputy Minister of Commerce. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Khurshid called for forging closer trade and economic ties between India and China by harnessing the strengths inherent in the complementarities of the two economies for their mutual benefit. The challenge before both India and China was to have a sustained economic and industrial base and ensure their rightful place in the changing global arena as two of Asia's largest economies. In this context, he said that the two countries must understand each other's strengths and look for areas where they could specialise and complement each other's efforts, including joint ventures and trading activities in third countries. Shri Khurshid also underlined the need for raising the volume of bilateral

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trade, which was far below its potential at present.

Emphasising the structural changes taking place in the Indian economy, Shri Khurshid reiterated that government's commitment to promote an efficient and liberal regime for the growth of trade and industry free from unnecessary controls was irreversible.

Mr. Liu Fugui, Vice-Chairman, China Council for Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) and Chairman of the Indian Committee, CCPIT, who is leading the 10-member Chinese team, said that Premier Li Peng's visit to India last year had enhanced mutual understanding and trust and the Joint Business Council meeting was another concrete step in this direction. Stating that knowing each other was the first step towards furthering bilateral ties, Mr. Fugui said the CCPIT was willing to join hands with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and other agencies to do its utmost in promoting bilateral trade and economic ties. The purpose of the visit of the Chinese delegation was to interact with Indian trade and industry and strive for a mutual understanding, which, he said, was the fundamental basis for furtherance of trade.

Shri Govind Hari Singhania, Chairman, Indian Section, India-China JBC, in his welcome address, said that there was an urgent need for diversification of trade as India-China trade was less than half percent of China's global trade, which was due to the fact that bilateral trade so far had depended only a few items. To a large extent, trade between the two countries was also hindered by lack of direct banking relations, poor transportation network and patchy communication facilities. Therefore, existing service needed to be improved to tap the potential. While the India-China Trade Protocol for 1992 had identified the items for trade, the JBC could explore the possibility of adding new items in our trade basket, he said. Since India and China had initiated several measures to liberalise their economies and merge with the

global economic trends, he suggested that the 2 countries could take a closer look at each other's capabilities in the area of industrial cooperation. In this context, he said that technologies could be exchanged in metallurgy, chemicals, petrochemicals, land farming, high-yielding sugarcane varieties, food processing, sericulture and agricultural machinery. Similarly, joint ventures in the engineering sector could be explored. India and China could also bid for joint ventures in third countries, he added.

INA INDIA USA

**Date :** Feb 17, 1992

## Volume No

1995

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

European Community Delegation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 18, 1992:

A 4-Member team led by Dr. I. S. Dustan from the European Community who is on a visit to India for evolving a National Accreditation Scheme for conformity assessment of products, systems, test laboratories and personnel, called on the Minister of State for Industry, Prof. P. J. Kurien, here today.

During the discussion Prof. Kurien assured the Government's commitment in achieving the standards of product systems, testing institutions and personnel, and also impressed the enthusiasm of the Indian industries to participate in the process. He desired that the team should help in utilising the political commitment and the enthusiasm of the participants and study the existing structure of testings and standards and give an orientation for establish-

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ing the national accreditation system which is recognised by the European countries.

Dr. Dustan expressed the hope that his team would be in a position to suggest the best possible course and that he would be able to present the final report by the end of first week of April.

Prof. Kurien also informed the delegation of the commitment of the Government on the new Industrial Policy and wanted them to use their good offices with the Industry in European Community Countries for investing in India.

DIA USA

**Date :** Feb 18, 1992

## Volume No

1995

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION

Conference for Asia and Pacific - Prime Minister's Inaugural Address

The following is the text of a press release of the speech of the Prime Minister Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, inaugurating the 21st FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific in New Delhi on Feb 10, 1992:

It gives me great pleasure to inaugurate the 21st Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of you. I hope during your stay you will also be able to see a little bit of our country and its agricultural development.

The countries of the Asia and the Pacific Region share many common bonds and have similar aspirations to improve the welfare of their people, and to enhance the quality of life. For most of us a strong agricultural base is vital to meeting these challenges. Experience in many parts of the world has shown that regional and international cooperation has a very important role to play in this regard.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations symbolises the spirit of international cooperation and humanity's common desire to once and for all time, rid the world of hunger and famine. It has for over 40 years played a vital role in helping the developing countries to improve their agricultural policies and planning. FAO Regional Conference provide the Member-States an excellent opportunity to deliberate problems of world agriculture and of rural communities, and to devise appropriate strategies. I am therefore very happy that this Session of Regional Conference is being held in India, at a time when we, nationally, are engaged in reorienting agricultural policies to meet the challenges of the 1990s and beyond.

The application of the fruits of research in agricultural sciences and technology in India, from the mid 60s, enabled us to improve productivity of several crops very significantly. Despite having reached a plateau in terms of net sown area it was possible to sustain the growth rate in production due to enhancement of productivity. In the 80s with the country having reached a measure of stability in the vital foodgrains production sector, increasing attention focussed on improving productivity in areas where the growth rate was relatively slow compared to the well-endowed areas. Here too, a measure of success has been achieved, though we have still a long way to go. Our challenge now is on improving agricultural production through adoption of farming systems approach in difficult areas such as the rainfed tracts, and the hilly regions. We also have to devote greater attention to productivity increases in non-cereal areas

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like oilseeds, cotton and horticultural produce.

Future increases in foodgrains production will have to come from better and more effective utilisation of infrastructure already created, as well as from rainfed areas, and those without assured irrigation, which constitute 70% of our cultivated areas. Prevention of soil erosion and moisture conservation on watershed basis and optimum use of available resources and technologies therefore become extremely important. The gains, however, are likely to be manifold, without requiring the same order of capital investment.

Agriculture has been at the forefront of national planning and economic development in India. Agriculture planning in the future will in addition to raising production, increasingly need to focus on enhancing the farmers well-being in a more holistic sense. This includes provision of non-farm needs as well as a remunerative income commensurate with their investments and risk.

Like most other countries in our region, India is reaching limits of horizontal expansion in agricultural development. With the increasing demands being made on the land and water resources and technological changes, the need to harmonise agricultural development and environmental sustainability is becoming increasingly important. The challenge before the society is to promote a model of agricultural development designed to ensure sustainability and ecological regeneration in the degraded areas. These patterns cannot be imposed from above and have to gradually evolve and be consciously nurtured. In addressing such issues, there is also need for greater equity and accommodation at the international level. The structures of global production and trade must be conducive to more rational and equitable management of the earth's resources. We need to evolve a global consensus and common understanding. In this context, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED being held in Rio in June 1992, can play a very important role.

Closely linked to the issue of sustainable agricultural development is the question relating to plant genetic resources. With rapid developments in bio-technology, the question of conservation of our genetic endowment and access of the farmers to these resources has required critical importance. A network of modern Gene Banks needs to be established to conserve these most valuable resources. Effective action under the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, and any other international instruments to be evolved, should ensure germplasm conservation and equitable utilisation of this vital resource.

In order to benefit from advances made in frontier technologies in the field of agriculture, developing countries must also establish their own research facilities in basic as well as applied sciences particularly in areas of genetic engineering, tissue-culture, embryo transfer, biological control of pests and diseases, bio-fertilizers etc. Developed countries and international organisations like Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and FAO need to come forward with resources and long-term scientific and technical support to such research facilities in the developing countries so that farmers in the developing world are able to fully benefit from the forthcoming 'Gene Revolution'. Hunger has been recognised by the international community as a global challenge and needs to be met through global cooperation.

Modern economic development also entails relieving pressure from land and agriculture. Over the past few decades, with the limited land resources, the rapid growth in rural labour force and the relatively slow growth of rural off-farm sector the problems of small land holder farmers as also the landless labourers have

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become particularly serious. It needs to be realised that a lasting solution to rural poverty in the developing countries can not be found only within the farm sector. Effective policies are also required to promote non-farm activities. Although agricultural growth is essential for the food security in the developing countries, the problems of rural unemployment and under-employment is also of low incomes of small farmers need to be solved by simultaneously developing the non-farm sector in the rural areas.

I am happy after reading the agenda of your Conference that this subject is being discussed-probably tomorrow or the day after - and I hope that something viable, something effective, will emerge. We find that this is one of the most important problems; Plan after Plan we have been thinking about this we have been doing something about it. But I am sure that an expert body like this meeting and discussing this matter, which I am sure is

common to all the Asian countries, East-Asian countries and the Pacific countries, will bring about some results which are really going to be helpful to the farmers and generally to the population of these countries.

Agricultural diversification as also agro-processing supported by appropriate pricing policies and market infrastructure, besides increasing land and labour productivity, would also lead to higher farmer incomes which would generate better standards of living for the people in the rural areas. It would also generate the much needed investments for the agricultural sector. Such diversification would also usher in a shift towards production of commodities such as animal and marine products, fruits, vegetables and flowers which have bigger demands in high incomes countries. Increasing share of the agricultural commodities marketed and consumed in processed form will also result in expansion of employment and enhancement of incomes and greater household food security in the rural areas.

Ensuring household food security and nutrition also require long-term interventions aimed at promoting overall economic and social growth. The world today has over 500 million people throughout the developing countries who are not consuming enough food to lead active and healthy lives and are living in unsanitary environment with inadequate access to clean water and social services. The national development plans would therefore need to be supplemented by adequate social safety nets and income transfer measures which ensure priority targetting of benefits to the malnourished and food insecure households. This must be an integral part of our efforts to implement the overall two-pronged approach to food security, namely, increasing food production and improved access to food. In this context, I commend the Food and Agriculture Organisation and the World Health Organisation for convening the International Conference on Nutrition in Rome in December 1992, and I am sure it will make an important contribution in these areas.

This again is a felt need of the developing countries. We have seen that on an average or on an aggregate what we produce is a large quantity by any standards but the levels of nutrition, levels of consumption happen to be quite low. And, if we take what is the desirable consumption level for any individual in these countries, perhaps we have to come to the conclusion that the Green Revolution that we have been proud of, and justifiably proud of, will still fall short of what is needed for the whole country. So, it is not only a question of increasing production but also some arrangement by which internally the country is able to look after itself both in the production of food and also in providing sufficient nutrition to all its inhabitants. This is a complicated matter. The planning will have to vary from country to country but since this Conference is concerned with a particular region, I have reason to believe that conditions are generally similar-not necessarily identical but generally similar

in all the over-populated countries of Asia and probably you will find that it is possible

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to some extent to come up with common prescriptions and common remedies.

A number of developing countries undergoing economic reforms and restructuring are experiencing difficulties aggravated by heavy indebtedness, mounting inflation, deteriorating terms of trade, low agricultural growth rates and adverse demographic trends. The need for direct intervention measures by way of providing increased food aid from external sources, strengthening of national public distribution systems, increased income transfers and social investments acquires greater relevance and importance for these countries to alleviate short term problems associated with such adjustments. We are going through this phase right now in India and I must admit that we are coming up against a bewildering variety of problems from day to day. I am sure we will be able to get over them but the fact remains that the problems are really complicated and it needs a lot of hard work and micro-planning going right down to the village level, right down to the family level, right down to the individual level, in order to solve most of these problems. To reduce the economic and social costs the adjustment process should be fully supported by the inter-national community.

I am not sure to what extent we will succeed. But if this Conference with its influence can clearly state what the problems of these countries are and how different they are from the problems of agriculture itself in the Western countries, countries advanced in agriculture, it will be a great service to the people of these countries because the distinctive nature of these problems and the complicated nature of the question coming up here has to be taken note of and I hope at this Conference at least some effort will be made to take note of this because I don't see any other way of solving these problems except by invoking the international community to do whatever is necessary in order to alleviate the sufferings of the people here and also to fill the gap which is sure to be created as a result of the restructuring programme that we have undertaken in this country and perhaps the similar programmes undertaken in other countries of Region.

Structural adjustment is a dynamic process which aims at establishing conditions for a viable growth process within the economy and in the relationship between the domestic and international economy. The policies followed by some developed countries especially in the field of trade in agriculture and commodities, undermines the potential for agricultural development in the developing countries. Many Asian developing countries are restricted from deriving the full benefit from global economic opportunities on account of trade barriers in

developed countries and the massive amounts spent in protecting their agriculture. It is hoped that the Uruguay Round of Multilateral trade negotiations would address these issues in a balanced manner, taking into account the development dimension of agriculture in the developing countries.

The need for strengthening South-South Cooperation in seeking solutions to our common problems needs to be pursued with greater vigour. I feel economic and technical cooperations among developing countries (ECDC and TCDC) is an ideal vehicle for mutual help and transfer of technology. For example, Asian countries account for more than 90% of the world's paddy production. There are striking differences with reference to production and productivity of rice in various countries of the region who can work together to improve productivity in all the countries.

The agricultural sector is particularly suited for learning from each other and helping each other in increasing productivity and production of various crops. The success of the TCDC Programming Exercise in Agriculture Sector held in New Delhi in October 1991 is a pointer to the potential that exists for collaborative action for fostering mutual technical cooperation and building up of confidence in each

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other's technical capabilities and enhancing the quality of international cooperation. Another convenient feature of this exercise is that conditions are similar, the climatic and other conditions are similar in these countries, and perhaps the problems of agriculture, when you go deep into the details, would be found more or less similar and, therefore, it is possible again in this field to do something which is common to all the countries.

Your participation in the deliberations of the Conference during this week would enrich the FAO's ability to deal with intractable problems of hunger, malnutrition and environmental degradation. All the three are inter-related and all the three would have to be addressed. No sectoral approach will do. Hunger, malnutrition and environmental degradation this is the triangle you will have to tackle and I am sure you will be able to find ways of tackling it successfully and effectively. I wish the Conference all success.

I have great pleasure in inaugurating your Conference.

DIA USA LATVIA ITALY URUGUAY PERU

**Date :** Feb 10, 1992

# Volume No

1995

GERMANY

German Economic Delegation Meets Finance Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 04, 1992:

The Union Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh informed the visiting German Economic Delegation that the Government was determined to enlarge the scope of facilities to encourage Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the country. He made this statement when the German Economic Delegation led by Mr. Heinrich Weiss, President of German Industries called on the Finance Minister here today.

Dr. Manmohan Singh apprised the delegation about the steps taken by the Government to encourage Foreign Direct Investment. He said the role of public sector in the economy has been reduced. Even in sectors like the Oil Exploration and Development, local and international private investment is being encouraged. The Finance Minister further said that the restrictions on private sector investment have been substantially removed. Even in those sectors where licensing is still required it is being ensured that red tapism and bureaucratic hurdles do not come in the way of expeditious decision-making. Dr. Manmohan Singh expressed the hope that even these restrictions would be gradually done away with. He was hopeful of bringing the tariff rates to the level comparable with the rates in other developing countries.

Talking about the Foreign Direct Investment, Dr. Singh said that in large areas foreign equity participation has been allowed upto 51 per cent and in certain areas even 100 per cent equity participation could be considered on the merits of the investment proposals. He further said that this would have to be subject to the capital investment being covered by equity participation and in case of dividend repatriation, it should be balanced by exports. He indicated that as soon as BoP situation becomes comfortable, even these restrictions would also be removed.

The Finance Minister thanked the German Government for extending help to India at a time when the country help to economic crisis.

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The leader of the German Delegation Mr. Heinrich Weiss expressed appreciation of the economic reforms initiated by the Government and assured the Finance Minister that the quantum of the German

investment in India would not be affected by developments in the East European countries. Mr. Weiss also wanted the Indian entrepreneurs to invest in Germany. The Finance Minister assured Mr. Weiss that Government would do everything possible to facilitate Indian entrepreneurs to invest abroad.

RMANY INDIA USA

**Date :** Feb 04, 1992

## Volume No

1995

GERMANY

German Parliamentary Delegation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 24, 1992:

The Agriculture Minister, Dr. Balram Jakhar, has said that India has developed the necessary technology for combating problems of soil erosion and land degradation. By the end of the Five Year Plan an area of 34.06 million ha. land has been treated with various soil conservation packages with an investment of Rs. 2190 crores. The programme is being pursued in the Central and State sectors. Dr. Jakhar was talking to the 8-member delegation of the Committee on Environment, Nature Protection and Reactor Safety of the German Parliament, who called on him here today.

Dr. Jakhar enlightened the delegation on major thrust areas and steps being taken by the Government for prevention of land degradation and improving land resource management. He said that two German assisted projects: Indo-German Cow Project and Indo-FRG Bilateral Programme on Hydrological Monitoring Network for Small Watersheds are being implemented by National Dairy Development Board and Soil and Water Conservation Division of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation respectively.

The delegation, under the leadership of Dr. (Mrs.) Liesel Hartenstein, Member of Bundestag, will visit various places in India during its 7 day stay. The delegation has evinced keen interest in issues like soil erosion, deforestation, flood problem water disposal in big cities as well as reactor safety. Their study aims at collecting information for the UN Conference of Environment and Development, 1992 in Rio de Janerio. The Secretary, Agriculture and Cooperation Shri R. C. Kapila and Senior Officers of the Ministry were present at the meeting.

RMANY INDIA USA

**Date :** Feb 24, 1992

## Volume No

1995

GERMANY

German Parliamentary Committee on Environment

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 25, 1992:

The Minister for Water Resources, Shri Vidyacharan Shukla, said that even a landless family willing to move to Gujarat will be allotted two hectares of land from the benefitted zone in the Sardar Sarovar Project by the Government of Gujarat. The Minister was speaking while explaining the Government's re settlement Programmes to a delegation of German Parliament Committee on Environment, Nature Conservation and Reactor Safety, which called on the Minister. The Minister further told the delegation that the Government's policy in this regard is to give equivalent land to the oustees in the command areas of the project. If the land is not available, it will be purchased from elsewhere.

On being inquired about the procedures being followed by the Government towards clearance of the projects, the  
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Minister explained that the clearances from the Ministry of Welfare and Ministry of Environment and Forests have been interwoven into basic scheme of approval. He also informed the delegation that the priority has been given to drinking water in the National Water Policy and the drinking water requirements for large cities like Delhi are being met by large storages under construction.

When the German Delegation enquired about the steps being taken by the Government towards checking the problems of land salinity, Shri Shukla informed that the drainage has been provided as an internal component of every irrigation project for avoiding the adverse effects on land from salination process. The Government ensures that such a provision exists in every project if it is to be approved, the Minister added. He further told the delegates that all medium and major projects require the approval of Government of India. Only small projects can be taken up by the

States themselves.

Reiterating the importance of external assistance in financing large projects for their speedy implementation, the Minister said that the Government does not foresee any difficulty in getting continued external assistance from agencies like World Bank as the Project Plans and implementation are fully taking care of environment and resettlement requirements.

RMANY INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA LATVIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date :** Feb 25, 1992

## Volume No

1995

HUNGARY

Indo-Hungarian Cultural Exchange Programme

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 20, 1992:

Cultural Exchange Programme between India and Hungary for 1991-93 was reviewed at a joint meeting here. The meeting was co-chaired by Prof. Elemer Biszterszky, State Secretary in the Ministry of Culture and Education, Hungary and Shri Bhaskar Ghose, Secretary Department of Culture, Ministry of Human Resource Development.

The implementation of the Cultural Exchange Programme was considered in depth. The two sides expressed satisfaction that the implementation had been substantial although it was signed less than a year ago. It was decided that prompt and greater efforts would be made to improve the implementation further. The two sides also agreed that the birth and the death anniversaries of Hungarian Indo-logists and of Rabindra Nath Tagore and Amrita Shergil would be observed in a befitting manner. Days of Indian Culture would be organised in Hungary.

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NGARY INDIA

**Date :** 20, 1992

## Volume No

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1995

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ITALY

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Indo-Italian Joint Panel Meet

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The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 05, 1992:

In order to give an impetus to possibilities of industrial cooperation, India and Italy have agreed to set up a Joint Group initially for a period of six months to identify specific initiatives. A high level meeting of leading industrialists of the two countries would also be convened in 1992 to discuss concrete proposals in this regard. This was decided at the Indo-Italian Joint Commission which met in Rome on 29th January, 1992. Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce, was the Co-Chairman of the Indian side while his counter-part was Dr. Vito Lattanzio, Minister of Foreign Trade, Government of Italy. During the meeting, various issues of mutual interest were discussed. The Joint Commission expressed satisfaction at the steady growth of trade between the two countries and reviewed the steps needed to be taken to consolidate and develop it further.

Appreciation was expressed of Italy's role in providing grants, soft and mixed credit for different projects involving Indo-Italian cooperation. A Protocol extending 60 billion lira by way of grants and 180 billion lira in soft loans was signed in March last year. It was noted that export credit to the extent of \$ 400 million was extended in 1985, but the line of credit had expired in 1988. During discussions in the Joint Commission it was agreed that the line of credit would be renewed and letters to that effect were exchanged between the two Ministers. The Indian delegation in addition to officials also included prominent businessmen with interest in diverse fields.

Both sides noted that Italian investment in India was significant, but at the same time observed that there was greater potential in this area, keeping in view the complementarities in the economies of both the countries and the policy changes recently effected in India.

In addition, the following areas of mutual interest were focussed upon:

-- Both parties agreed that more active participation of Italian firms in Indian Trade Fairs would be conducive to increased trade between the two countries.

-- Italian side took note of the Indian request to overcome procedural difficulties in the recognition of Indian

companies undertaking export of marine products specially in the IQF\* sector. It was agreed that the attention of the Health Authorities of the country would be drawn to the need for inspection of processing plants in India.

-- An invitation was extended to the representatives of Italian monopoly which effects imports of tobacco into that country to visit India with a view to obtaining first hand knowledge of the export potential of Indian tobacco.

-- Both sides took note of the agreement reached at official level for avoidance of double taxation and agreed that further steps would be taken to finalise and put the agreement into effect.

-- It was noted that the Unido Project had prepared the ground work for cooperation between small and medium sized enterprises in the two countries. It was agreed that institutional arrangements need to be established between the two countries with a view to imparting fresh momentum to this initiative.

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During the course of his visit to Italy, Shri Chidambaram called upon Dr. Giulio Andreotti, the Prime Minister of Italy and also had wide ranging discussions with his counter-part, Dr. Vito Lattanzio, Minister of Foreign Trade. The Commerce Minister and his delegation also met the Association of Italian businessmen and industrialists in Milan where recent changes of policy were highlighted and Italian businessmen invited to avail of the new business opportunities in India.

ALY INDIA USA

**Date :** Feb 05, 1992

## Volume No

1995

KUWAIT

India-Kuwait M.O.U. on Telecom

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 20, 1992:

India and Kuwait have agreed to promote co-operation in the field of Telecommunications. This will cover operational, technical,

economic and scientific aspects of Telecom. A Memorandum of Understanding to this effect was signed by Shri Rajesh Pilot, Minister for Communications and H.E. Mr. Habib Johar Hayatt, Minister of Communications, Kuwait here last evening.

The MOU provides for mutual visits of experts, deputation of personnel for services, holding of joint studies, forums and seminars, exchange of experts and training staff for training programmes, exchange of information and publications, and joint R & D activities. The MOU shall be valid for a period of five years.

The two countries will cooperate in setting up Telecom Services between them for rapid and reliable transmission of Telephone, Telegraph and Data Communications. They will also utilise the Telecom facilities and the technical means of each other for the transmission of its own telecom traffic to third countries.

The MOU also provides for admitting all optional categories of Telegram and Telex services. In the Telegraph traffic, the two countries shall admit all categories of Telephone services provided for in the International Telephone Regulations. In addition, optional services like urgent calls, personal calls and Information Service shall be admitted for Operator assisted calls.

WAIT INDIA

**Date** : Feb 20, 1992

## Volume No

1995

INDIRA GANDHI PEACE PRIZE

Prime Minister's Address

The following is the text of the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao's address on the occasion of presentation of Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development to His Excellency Sam Nujoma, President of the Republic of Namibia in New Delhi on Feb 25, 1992:

History beckons only to a few of its favoured sons whose destiny it is to rise against the forces of oppression and to

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successfully lead their people to freedom and a new life. We are

honoured to have one such in our midst today, President Sam Nujoma of Namibia.

We have had the privilege of welcoming you, Mr. President, to India on many earlier occasions. We count on you as an old and trusted friend but what an added pleasure it is to have you with us as the leader of a sovereign nation, a symbol of free Namibia. The road to freedom is never easy, much more so if the oppressor is intransigent and commands vastly superior forces and resources. Mahatma Gandhi taught us that eventually the moral force of the freedom fighter must inevitably overcome the brute strength of the oppressor. We have been through a similar struggle and know what boundless sacrifice, pain, indomitable courage and force of conviction are called for on the part of the countless comrades involved in the struggle. We are aware also of the tremendous leadership qualities which persons who spearhead struggle must possess, the qualities that count no sacrifice too great, no pain too severe, no setback too disheartening in their march towards liberty. It is these qualities that mark the men of destiny and it is these qualities that set you apart Mr. President as the leader of the Namibian people's long and difficult struggle. In you they found renewed hope and renewed courage and under your inspiration and SWAPO's guidance they first shook off the shackles of despair and finally the shackles of colonial domination.

Thirty years in exile can be an unbearably long time. Thirty years of ceaseless endeavour against overwhelming odds, barred from setting foot in one's motherland, cut off from the wellsprings of one's existence, that has been your lot. But you, your comrades in exile and the whole people of Namibia were not cowed down or browbeaten. The independence of Namibia is your crowning glory and now you have been summoned to even a greater task to lead your nation on the path of reconciliation and reconstruction.

All through the decades of struggle, India was proud to have been in the forefront of those supporting SWAPO and through it the people of Namibia. Indeed, the legacy of our freedom movement would expect us to do no less. The leaders of our national movement inspired by the vision of Jawaharlal Nehru would always regard our own freedom as incomplete if other countries remained in subjugation. Support for the liberation movements was, therefore, an article of faith for us but the movement for the independence of Namibia and against apartheid in South Africa had an added emotional underpinning to the national consensus on these matters. This was the affront to human dignity imposed by the racial discrimination practiced in South Africa and Namibia.

Your presence here today brings back poignant memories of Indira Gandhi in whose name this Award is instituted. Indira Gandhi was first and foremost a champion of the oppressed. She was also a leader who saw clearly that liberty is the pre-requisite for

peace in the world. A gallant and tireless battle for the independence of Namibia and the struggle against apartheid is wellknown. She provided moral, political and material support to the liberation movements in Namibia and South Africa to the limits of India's ability. She consistently raised her voice on these issues throughout the world community.

With Rajiv Gandhi, India's support and solidarity with the struggle continued unabated. In addition to whatever India could do nationally he sought to galvanise practical support from the Non-Aligned Movement and the wider international community through the launching of the Africa Fund, one of the most successful examples of functioning solidarity among the Non Aligned and developing countries. I know how proud and happy Rajivji would have been to see you receive this Award today as a token of our affection and esteem.

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Today Namibia has been free for almost two years. We have watched with admiration the wisdom that has characterised the Namibian Governments approach under your guidance. Namibia today is firmly embarked on the path of national reconstruction. You are working to remove the deep divisions, suspicions and bitterness that had been generated through decades of apartheid and colonialism. The magnanimity and farsightedness you have shown augur a great future for the people of Namibia.

I wish to assure you Mr. President that we are as firmly committed now in our support for the task of nation-building in independent Namibia as we were during the days of the struggle. You have a formidable task ahead of you since our independence India too has learnt a good deal and gathered a degree of experience and knowledge particularly relevant for developing countries. We are still learning but what we have learnt is available for Namibia to draw upon now and for ever in the future

MIBIA INDIA USA SOUTH AFRICA

**Date :** Feb 25, 1992

## Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

MOS (EA)'S Participation in TROIKA'S Meeting

The following is text of press release issued by the Spokesman

of the Ministry of External Affairs on Feb 03, 1992 on MOS (EA)'S participation in TROIKA:

Minister of State Shri Eduardo Faleiro participated in the Seventh Meeting of the Steering Committee (known widely as the TROIKA) of the Summit Level Group of developing countries (G-15) on 31.1.92. The primary purpose of the TROIKA meeting was consideration of the preliminary draft position paper being prepared on behalf of the G-15 on "The New World Order", as mandated by the Heads of State Government of the G-15 at the Caracas Summit held in November, 1991. It was decided to add a few more ideas to this preliminary text and to remit it to the ministerial-level meeting of the G-15 scheduled to be held in Geneva on the 6th February. The TROIKA also exchanged views on the possible shape of the G-15 Secretariat, known as the Technical Support Facility, the nucleus of which is located in Geneva. The next meeting of the TROIKA is expected to be held in Dakar, Senegal around mid-March 1992. Besides Shri Faleiro, the Foreign Minister of Venezuela and Senegal participated in the TROIKA meeting in New York.

In his intervention during the course of the TROIKA meeting, Shri Faleiro emphasised the need to accord the issue of development due Priority in an effort to make it the central concern of multilateral action. He stressed that peace and prosperity were indivisible and the great strides made in securing international peace could not be sustained in the medium and long-term if the grave economic problems afflicting developing countries continued to persist. Other members of the TROIKA readily agreed that this idea was required to be reflected while elaborating the elements of the New World Order. It was also decided to explicitly spell out the trend towards the marginalization of the South in the paper on the New World Order. India's ideas on the subject, briefly spelt out by Shri Faleiro during the course of the TROIKA meeting are included in the Non-Paper which is attached herewith.

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#### NON-PAPER BY INDIA

The international situation has undergone a profound transformation. The post Second War political order, marked by ideological and military confrontation between the East and the West, has withered away. There is an increasing trend of dialogue replacing confrontation, trust replacing suspicion, and above all, of peace and cooperation replacing strife and discord. These indeed are hopeful signs. However, the dramatic developments in the international situation have brought but little tangible benefit to most developing countries. There has been no matching effort to address urgent issues of social and economic development, particularly in the developing countries. On the contrary, there has been a marked trend towards the progressive marginalisation of the South and a disinclination to address

meaningfully these issues in multilateral fora.

The important structural changes in the global economy include greater inter-penetration of national economies multipolarity a significant technological revolution that has affected patterns of production, consumption, trade, growth and markets the relentless drive by transnational cooperations for greater economic space. These have led to a closer integration of financial and other markets at the global level. Simultaneously, the imbalance and uncertainties in the management of the global economic system, with consequential strains on the world trade and payment systems, have acquired an endemic character. The coordinates of the post-Second World War international economic system no longer hold. There is therefore need for launching a cooperative search for a new consensus for the harmonious and equitable reconstruction of international economic relations.

The broad vision of the summit level group of developing countries for the New World Order in an integrated world in which there would not be one part developed, dominating the other that would be under-developed and poor. Concepts of the balance of power as also of special rights and privileges for a select group of countries are outmoded and out of step with the democratic temper of our times. There is need to grasp the realities of inter-dependence and to fashion a global consensus centered on sustained economic growth with development and employment as the central objectives of the cooperative interaction among sovereign States. It is now imperative to energise this process since developing countries simply cannot afford another decade of stagnation and decline.

NTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC VENEZUELA SWITZERLAND USA SENEGAL INDIA

**Date :** Feb 03, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Deputy Minister for External Relations of Mongolia to India

The following is the text of a press release issued by the Spokesman on Feb 03, 1992 on the visit of the Deputy Minister for External Relations of Mongolia H.E. Mr. R. Doljintseren:

H.E. Mr. R. Doljintseren, Deputy Minister for External Relations of Mongolia visited New Delhi from the 31st January to 1st

February, 1992, at the invitation of Shri L. L. Mehrotra, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs. Mr. Doljintseren called on the Vice President of India, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma. He reiterated the invitation extended by the Mongolian Vice President, H.E. Mr. Gonchigdorj to the Vice President to visit Mongolia. The invitation was accepted in principle.

2. Mr. Doljintseren held detailed discussions with Shri L. L. Mehrotra, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs. These discussions covered a wide range of bilateral and international issues  
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of mutual concern and interest. Both sides have expressed their deep resolve to expand cooperation in the economic field, including in the area of technical cooperation, vocational studies and feasibility studies for the development of small-scale and medium-scale industries. The Mongolian Minister of External Relations has been invited to visit India by the Minister of External Affairs. Officials of the two sides are working out mutually convenient dates for the visit.

NGOLIA INDIA USA

**Date :** Feb 03, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Visit of Secretary General of League of Arab States to India

The following is the text of the statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 05, 1992 on the visit of the Secretary General of the League of Arab States, Dr. Esmet Abdez Meguid, to India:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman said that the Secretary General of the League of Arab States, Dr. Esmet Abdel Meguid, accompanied by his wife, is visiting India at the invitation of External Affairs Minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, from 6th to 9th February, 1992. The visit comes in the context of India's long standing and close friendship with the Arab world, which has been reflected in the cordial relations that India has maintained with the Arab League which itself has an office in India since 1965.

The Spokesman said that the visit of the Secretary General to India comes at a time when important developments are taking place in West Asia. The Arab League has a significant role in restoring Arab solidarity and forging unified Arab positions on the many items on the international agenda which are of direct relevance to Arab countries.

The visit of Secretary General, Dr. Esmet Meguid will provide an opportunity for an exchange of views on regional developments. India will also use this occasion for discussion of further intensifying and diversifying cooperation between India and the Arab world.

During his stay in India, in addition to discussion with External Affairs Minister, the Secretary General will also call on the President, the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Minister of State for External Affairs, and the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. He will also be addressing a public function at the India International Centre, where he will speak on "India and the Arab World".

DIA USA

**Date :** Feb 05, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Prime Minister's Message to Venezuelan President

The following is the text of statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 05, 1992 on Prime Minister's message to Venezuelan President:

The Prime Minister has sent a message to His Excellency, Mr. Carlos Andres Perez, President of Venezuela, in which he has expressed his relief that President Perez has resumed full control after the criminal attempt to depose the democratically elected President. The Prime Minister has extended his best wishes for the successful and vibrant functioning of democracy in Venezuela.

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**Date :** Feb 05, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### India's Stand Explained

The following is text of a response by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Feb 07, 1992 on the Kashmir issue:

In response to a query as to whether India is trying to internationalise the issue of JKLF call to cross Line of Control bordering India, the Spokesman clarified that there is no change whatsoever in Government's position. It would be inaccurate to interpret, as a section of the Press has done, Foreign Secretary's meetings with the Ambassadors of friendly countries as an attempt to invoke the assistance of the third party or seek a role for the UN. There is no change in Government's position. Foreign Secretary's continuing meetings with Envoys of friendly countries are with a view to apprising them of the various acts of commission and omission by the POK authorities and the Government of Pakistan, which are tantamount to blatant interference in our internal affairs and which only serve to inflame passions, to incite people to acts of violence, and to raise tensions in the region in general, and between India and Pakistan in particular. The Foreign Secretary's continuing meetings are also designed to remove or allay any misapprehension, about India's determination to seek a peaceful solution to all pending issues with Pakistan, in the spirit of the Simla Agreement notwithstanding all

provocations, and, equally, India's determination to resist with all appropriate firmness, any effort to infringe the country's sovereignty or to violate its borders.

The Spokesman further stated that the Ambassadors of the EEC Troika -Portugal, Netherlands', Britain, and EEC Ambassador herself, called on Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, the Minister of State for External Affairs this afternoon. They handed over to MOS a memorandum which states the following:

a) The European Community and its Member States express concern over the proposed march by the JKLF on the 11th of February in attempt to cross the Line of Control. The concern of the 'Twelve'

has already been adequately expressed in Islamabad:

b) The Troika of the European Community call on the Pakistani authorities to take necessary steps to ensure that the Line of Control is not crossed by demonstrators; and

c) The European Community and its Member States urge the Government of India to ensure that the utmost restraint is exercised and that no disproportionate force is used against demonstrators by security forces patrolling the Line of Control.

DIA USA PAKISTAN PORTUGAL

**Date :** Feb 07, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Statement of Minister of External Affairs

The following is text of Statement by External Affairs Minister on Feb 08, 1992 on India's stand regarding recent developments relating to JKLF call for mass crossings of LOC on 11 February:

Government of India's concern at the call given by the JKLF leader Amanullah Khan for mass crossings of the Line of Control on 11 February by ostensibly unarmed persons, has been conveyed to the Government of Pakistan on a number of occasions, both in Islamabad and in New Delhi. India's concern was reiterated by our Prime Minister during his meeting with his counterpart at Davos on 2nd February. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's decision to call for a nation-wide hartal yet again on February 5, on the issue of Kashmir and

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the strident remarks that lie subsequently made during speeches, have contributed to heightening of tension. In particular, Prime Minister Nawaz; Sharif's statement at Muzaffarabad on February 5 in which he, inter alia, stated that Pakistan would not disappoint the people of J&K, that occupied Kashmir would be liberated from "the clutches of India" and would accede to Pakistan and that the Governments of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir were working to materialise the dreams of the Kashmiri people" have been taken note of by the Government of India. We have also very carefully noted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's

characterisation of these developments as being "for the completion of Pakistan". The resolution passed by the Pakistan National Assembly on 6th February, expressing "solidarity with the people of J&K in their struggle for self-determination" Provides still further evidence of these developments being sponsored, if not orchestrated, by the Government of Pakistan.

The Government of India's response to these developments and our position on these issues is clear. India shall not compromise on its territorial integrity. We shall also not tolerate any interference in our internal affairs from any quarter. India's commitment to seek a peaceful resolution of problems bilaterally through peaceful means and in the spirit of the Simla Agreement, requires no reiteration.

Any attempt to cross the Line of Control will be met with firmness and will invite decisive retaliation.

Our commitment to peaceful resolution of problems remains unshaken. Despite the Government of Pakistan's formal disassociation with the JKLF's proposed crossing of the Line of Control, certain other allied developments point towards an attempt at destabilisation of the situation along the border and an exacerbation of an already tense situation. It is for this reason that we sought to mobilise international opinion by contacting diplomatic representatives of influential countries and for no other reason. Our desire to brief friendly countries, including those in the neighbourhood is motivated not by any wish to internationalise the situation or in any manner encourage mediation by the UN or any third party or parties but with a view to informing world opinion about the underlying danger and the emerging pattern of developments.

DIA PAKISTAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date :** Feb 08, 1992

## Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Statement by External Affairs Minister in Davos

The following is the text of a Statement made by the External Affairs Minister on Feb 08, 1992 on the meeting of World Economic Forum in Davos:

I was deputed by the Prime Minister to attend the initial meetings of the World Economic Forum in Davos from January 31 to February 2. I also participated in the NAM Ministerial Committee meeting in Cyprus on 3rd and 4th February 1992, and in the Ministerial level meeting of the Group of 15 in Geneva on 6th February.

At Davos I had an opportunity to interact with political and business leaders representing a large number of countries. One session of the World Economic Brain-storming at the World Economic 31st January was devoted entirely to India and I was able to place in clear perspective our new economic policies, approach to foreign investment, the long term viability of the liberalization measures and our increasing integration with the global economy reflected inter alia by the recent visit of the Japanese Economic Mission to India, the acceptance of India as sectoral dialogue partner by ASEAN etc.

The NAM Methodology Committee Meeting in Cyprus addressed the issues of setting up NAM, the possibility of a "backup" system. to strengthen the office of Chairman NAM, and the question of seek-

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ing technical support from the G15 for NAM.

On the question of coordination mechanism, various ideas were suggested. Our own suggestion was for an expanded executive body (upto 10 members) with equal representation from NAM and G77 on a geographical basis. It was agreed that further consultations were necessary. On the question of backup system, further discussions would be necessary. Our own proposal was for a Steering Committee consisting of all previous Chairmen. A significant development at the meeting was a proposal from Yugoslavia to closely involve the Chairmancelect, Indonesia in the activities of the Movement. The offer was accepted by Indonesia.

The G15 Foreign Ministers meeting in Geneva was called primarily to consider a preliminary draft paper on the New World order, in line with the mandate given to it by the G15 Heads of State or Government during the meeting at Caracas in November 1991. The Geneva meeting revealed a great degree of consensus among the countries present regarding the elements of the New World Order. I underlined that development must be the focus of such an order; that there was a need to restructure the UN so as to democratize decisionmaking and appropriately reflect membership; that security should not be seen purely on military terms; that the New World order required strengthening of an open, multilateral and rulebased international trading system; that there was need for stable, nondiscriminatory access to technologies critical to growth and development; that solutions to environmental problems should be integrated with development concerns, especially in areas of technology transfer and provision of new and additional

financial resources; and that democracy, human rights and development must be addressed in an integrated manner. The G15 is also seeking a dialogue with the G7 on the New World order based on the recognition that economic, social and political stability of the world is a matter of shared responsibility among all States.

It was decided that the preliminary draft would be revised to take into account the observations made during the course of the Ministerial level meeting. In order to ensure that the G15 document, as finally adopted, would achieve the maximum possible impact, I suggested full and thorough consideration of the revised paper before submitting it to the Heads of State or Government for final approval. I also suggested that the views expressed at the meeting should be circulated along with the revised draft to all the G15 countries. We hope that during the course of this year, this paper will be finalized and adopted by the G15 Heads of State or Government.

PRUS USA SWITZERLAND INDIA JAPAN YUGOSLAVIA INDONESIA CENTRAL AFRICAN  
REPUBLIC VENEZUELA

**Date :** Feb 08, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Visit of Secretary General of League of Arab States

The following is the text of the statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 07, 1992 on the visit of Dr. Esmet Abdei Meguid, Secretary General of League of Arab States:

The Spokesman, while briefing newsmen, said that the Secretary General of the League of Arab States, called on the Prime Minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao this afternoon. In the context of the long standing relations and close friendship with the Arab world, the Secretary General conveyed to the Prime Minister that the Arab League had great hopes that India would raise its voice in world fora to articulate the concerns of Arab countries. The Arab League was making every effort to restore Arab solidarity and forge unified Arab positions on issues of international importance. In the context of India's historic and pioneering role in the Security Council, the Arab League was confident that the support of India to Arab causes

would be of great significance and assistance.

The Prime Minister reciprocated the sentiments expressed by the Secretary General and agreed that India's relations with the Arabs went back into history. He assured the Secretary General that India had every intention of intensifying and diversifying cooperation between India and the Arab world. The Prime Minister said that India would do whatever it could to ensure a successful outcome of the Middle-East peace talks.

Earlier, the Secretary General had called on the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro. The two leaders discussed issues concerning regional matters and international situation. The Secretary General expressed the hope to Mr. Faleiro that India would use the Arab League as a vehicle to forge closer links and enhance cooperation with Arab countries.

DIA USA

**Date :** Feb 07, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Joint Meeting of Indo-US Sub-Commission on Education and Culture

The following is the text of a press release issued by the Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Feb 10, 1992:

A joint meeting of the Indo-US Sub Commission on Education and Culture was held at the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Azad Bhavan, New Delhi, from 3-5 February, 1992. The two Co-Chairman of the Sub-Commission, Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha and Mr. Charles Biltzor, Director of the Woodrow Willson Centre for International Scholars at the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, signed the minutes, Mr. Biltzor emphasized that the activities of the Sub-Commission served to strengthen the bonds between the World's two largest democracies.

The activities of the Sub-Commission have covered specific programmes in media, the arts, museum exchanges, education and sports. After a review of its various activities, the Sub-Commission agreed to build upon the programmes of the past 18

years by focussing its activities in the coming 2-3 years on a major series of programmes entitled "Information 2000 +".

The objective, under the umbrella of "Information 2000 +", is to cover thrusts in the area of information technology, and its adaptations to the arts, to science, to media, education, and sports. This proposal transcends the activities of any one Sub-Committee or project, yet unifies in its ambit the results of previous programmes and directs them towards the need of today and the coming decades. "Information 2000 +" is designed to bring together the latest developments in the area of technology and its humanistic applications in a wide spectrum of disciplines.

The focus of "Information 2000 +" will address itself to issues relating to the following:

I) Educational Technology - where communication satellites would be used for instructional programmes in rural areas and for distance education.

II) Information Technology - where the activities would assess the new values of knowledge and information.

III) Programme for storage, retrieval and the dissemination of information in libraries, museums, archives etc.

IV) Literacy Technology Programmes.

V) Copyright Law and the Protection of intellectual property.

VI) New Developments in television and the Communications Industry.

VII Radio.

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VIII) Collaborative programmes between major newspapers in India and the USA, including in the area of science writing.

IX) Sports - where advanced technology would be used in the study and enhancement of athletic performance, movement, performance and behaviour, as part of an inter-disciplinary approach to the study of sports.

X) Technology and the Arts

At the meeting, Indian side also announced the considerable liberalisation in the process for granting visas to American students coming to India for research. Under the Indo-American Fellowship Programme, and others, all students coming for research on non-controversial subjects, will be granted visas within two weeks. The American participants welcomed this as a

positive development.

A INDIA

**Date :** Feb 10, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Financial Assistance to Indian Students in Former USSR

The following is the text of the statement issued by the official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 13, 1992 on financial assistance to Indian students in the former USSR:

Responding to a report in a local daily that Indian students in the former USSR were in financial difficulties, the Spokesman clarified that two decisions had been taken with regard to the students who are already studying in the erstwhile Soviet Union. The two decisions were:

- i) Each student would be allowed US dollars 501- per month against a deposit by his parents in India of an equivalent amount in rupees.
- ii) Parents could send PTA through Air India, to their children abroad by payment in India in rupees.

These decisions have been taken earlier and communicated to the Society for Welfare of Indian Students in the former USSR. The Reserve Bank of India clearance has been received and the necessary public notification would be issued.

DIA USA

**Date :** Feb 13, 1992

## Volume No

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30th Anniversary of Establishment of Diplomatic Relations Between India and Algeria

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The following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 14, 1992.

1992 is being observed as thirtieth anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Algeria. Commemoration activities, commenced in Algiers on 8 February with inauguration of two exhibitions and a music recital. The exhibitions will be on display till 24 February. The two exhibitions inaugurated were:

i) Mugal Miniature Paintings: Sixty one miniature paintings covering a period 1550 - 1850 AD, from the collection of the National Museum, New Delhi were sent, courtesy the National Museum and Department of Culture. Deputy Keeper of National Museum, Dr. Daljeet had accompanied the exhibits and will remain in Algeria till the exhibition is over.

ii) Handicrafts Exhibition: Sixty nine items depicting rich variety of Indian handicrafts from different parts of the country have been sent, courtesy ICCR.

Music recital was by Ustad Jaffar Hussain Khan and his Qawali troupe.

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The exhibitions are being held in the Palais de la Culture. The events were held under the patronage of the Foreign Minister of Algeria H.E. Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi and the joint hosts were the Minister of Culture H.E. Mr. Larbi Demaghatrous and the Ambassador of India. The function was well attended. The hall where the exhibition is being held and the auditorium where music recital took place were both filled to capacity.

In his opening remarks on the occasion, Minister of Culture thanked Government of India for sending these priceless paintings to Algeria. These paintings and Qawali music depicted rich cultural heritage of India. He hoped that large numbers of Algerians will be able to see the exhibition and hear the music and thereby understand Indian culture and civilisation better. He hoped that there would be other similar events which will bring India and Algeria closer together.

GERIA INDIA USA

**Date :** Feb 14, 1992

# Volume No

1995

## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Consultative Committee of Parliament attached with Ministry of External Affairs

The following is the text of the statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 13, 1992:

The Consultative Committee of Parliament attached with the Ministry of External Affairs had a meeting yesterday. It was chaired by External Affairs Minister who was assisted by Minister of State and Foreign Secretary. The following members were present: S/Shri, G. G. Swell, S. R. Chawdhury, Yashwant Sinha, A. B. Vajpayee, Mohd. Yunus, Madan Bhatia, C. P. Thakur, Kapil Verma, Russi Karanjia, B. N. Pandey, P. Shiv Shankar, Chitta Basu, Tridip Chowdhury, Ramjethamalani. The meeting lasted for 3 hours.

The focus of the meeting was on Nuclear Non-Proliferation. In this context, and in the context of the situation in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, and the threatened march by JKLF, there was a lengthy discussion on Pakistan's attitudes on Non-Proliferation in particular, and towards India in general.

There was also a brief discussion on the role of the UN, and the unprecedented focus by certain countries on the peace keeping and preventive diplomacy aspects of the UN's functioning. In this context, Prime Minister's address to the Summit of the Security Council Members, on the 31st of January, which, inter-alia, also dealt with our concerns on Non-Proliferation, also came up for discussion.

External Affairs Minister informed the members that on the NPT, India has consistently maintained that we cannot accept for ever, an unnatural and perpetual division of the world between nuclear haves and have-nots; he referred to Prime Minister's appeal to recognise that Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's plan for a time-bound programme of eliminating all nuclear weapons was the only logical framework for tackling the question of horizontal proliferation. There was a clear consensus at the Committee meeting that our stand on the NPT and proliferation was "reasonable, rational and logical." Members urged the Government to safeguard India's status as a Nuclear Weapon "Technology State", where India has an option to build nuclear weapons as long as other countries continue to possess them. They said that India's record on nuclear technology was praiseworthy. India has never stealthily given out nuclear

technology to other countries. It must continue to convince other countries that our position is one based on a national consensus. Members cautioned the Government that there would be increasing pressure, from several quarters, on India, to accept the NPT. India would have to

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exercise dexterous diplomacy to convince the world that our stand is not unreasonable but that it is based on our perception of our national interest. They said that our foreign policy objectives should not necessarily be designed to "seek popularity", but should be fashioned in order to protect our national interests. There was no reason for India to deviate from its stance and India would have to persevere in its efforts to portray that we are determined to retain our status as a peaceful Nuclear State with the option to build weapons in accordance with our threat perceptions.

While discussing NPT, members praised Prime Minister's speech at the UN Security Council Summit on the 31st of January, which put across our position on the NPT correctly, precisely, succinctly, and in a convincing manner."

Some members expressed concern that British Prime Minister, Mr. John Major's statement appeared to give the impression that all members, including India, had accepted his views including those on Non-Proliferation. External Affairs Minister, Minister of State and Foreign Secretary clarified that Prime Minister himself, in his intervention, pointed out that Mr. Major's statement did not adequately reflect our "crucial concerns" including our views on Non-Proliferation. External Affairs Minister, Minister of State, Foreign Secretary explained that Mr. Major's statement was just "his" statement and not a consensus document. Our views on NPT were reiterated in a persuasive and logical manner. We articulated our view that our objections were not just based on principles but on practical difficulties that we envisaged, in the way of achieving disarmament in a "discriminatory" fashion. Our approach at the UN was never negative nor obstructive.

There was also a brief discussion on whether India accepted the idea of a 5 Power Conference to discuss the question of Nuclear Weapons Free Zones. It was explained that we have conveyed to the promoters of this idea that we find it difficult to accept such a 5-Power Conference. The idea was originally mooted by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on June 6, 1991, during his speech at the National Defence College. We had, at that time, reacted and indicated that we could not discuss proliferation in vacuum. We repeated this when Mr. Barholmew came to India. We asked him to explain to us the terms of references within which such an idea could be discussed. Even in the bilateral meeting between President Bush and Prime Minister Mr. Narasimha Rao, President Bush said that he was aware of our reservations on NPT. Prime

Minister explained that our reservations were now even stronger because one of the guarantor States, i.e. Soviet Union, had gone, and nuclear-weapons possessing Republics, such as Kazhakastan and Ukraine were not willing to accept the discipline of Moscow or anyone else. All members of the Committee agreed that Prime Minister's stance and India's position on the 5-Power Conference was a perfectly valid one. They said that in the, light of attempts by Pakistan to use uranium from Tazhakistan and to try and get the scientists from the erstwhile Soviet Union, and establish collaboration with Kazhakistan, it was all the more important for India to insist that discussions on proliferation must be held in a context which was acceptable to India. They urged the Government to have the "moral courage" to defend our position on proliferation and to "mobilise world opinion" to see that our position is correct and that it should be pursued.

External Affairs Minister assured the members that India would not shy away from talking about any proposals made to it, but would be firm and reasonable in expressing our view that our present stance reflected our national interest and had support throughout the country.

There was a discussion on the situation in J & K in the context of Pakistan's attempts to internationalise the issue. Ex-  
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ternal Affairs Minister said that India was fully alive to the geo-political implications of Pakistan's activities in Central Asia her attempts to involve the UN and other international organisations, and her announcement at this particular point of time that she has the where-with-al to manufacture a nuclear device. External Affairs Minister said that this announcement did not come to us as a surprise, but, had to be seen as a part of an effort to build Pakistan's image in certain quarters and to obtain support from these quarters. It has also to be seen as an attempt to gain leverage with the US and to seek that country's intercession in the situation in Kashmir. External Affairs Minister said that the All Party Conference recently convened by the Prime Minister showed that there was unanimous and overwhelming support to the Government. The forceful resolution conveyed the message that the nation stands united on this issue. All members agreed with External Affairs Minister that the country stood fully behind the Government in its pursuit of our interests. The country would not be found wanting in its determination and resolve to defend its sovereignty.

During the discussion on the activities of Pakistan, a clarification was sought as to certain press reports which gave the impression that India had sought UN intervention. It was clarified in clear and unmistakable terms that the reason why Ambassadors had to be called in groups was because of the paucity of time. India had only two days between the 6th and the 8th of February in which to convey its concerns to foreign Governments.

Intelligence reports had indicated that the situation would be exacerbated by Pakistan after the 8th of February. It was made perfectly clear to all Ambassadors who had been called in, that they were being briefed not in terms of their "collective institutional capacities" but as representatives of "individual countries." Those of the ASEAN were called in one group, the SAARC in another, the P-5 in the third, and countries like Japan and Germany were also briefed. Simultaneously, our Permanent Representative at the UN was instructed to brief his colleagues from other countries, and to explain to them and the Secretary General, that India had absolutely no intention of seeking a UN role in resolving the Kashmir issue.

Members assured the Minister that they were fully aware of Pakistan's game plan and that the propaganda offensive and the stage-managed and orchestrated activities of the Pakistan Government, were all designed with a view to internationalising the Kashmir issue. Members congratulated the Government for not falling into Pakistan's trap and for conveying clearly that Pakistan's attempts to portray India's contacts with all countries, including the P-5, as an attempt to invoke the UN assistance would prove fruitless. They said that such futile attempts by Pakistan merely attracted the ridicule of the world community. No one was taken in by Pakistan's theatricalities and hysterical antics.

DIA USA PAKISTAN TOTO RUSSIA UKRAINE UNITED KINGDOM JAPAN GERMANY

**Date :** Feb 13, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

MOS (EA)'s Address at "Role of India & China in the Emerging World and UN

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 14, 1992 of the address by Shri Eduardo Faleiro, Minister of State for External Affairs at the India International Centre on February 14, 1992 at the Symposium on "Role of India and China in the Emerging World and the United Nations" organised by the Indian Federation of UN Associations (IFUNA):

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have great pleasure to be amidst you today. This seminar is not only topical, but extremely important at a time

when the world is undergoing momentous changes. The major changes are by now well known. The end of the Cold War and the confrontation, the beginning of the reduction of nuclear arsenals by the Super Powers and the reduction of tensions and conflicts in many parts of the world hold out the promise for a new era of global peace. The UN itself has come centre stage, so to speak, in all this. The recent meeting of the UN Security Council at the Heads of Government level is a testimony not only to a changing world, but a changing UN as well. Standing as we are, on the brink of these momentous changes, it is worthwhile to take stock of the situation; to look back for a moment at some of the ideals and to identify the new challenges in the road ahead. I do believe that this seminar can serve that objective.

Looking at the past, the ending of the Second World War and the consequent changes in the fortunes of the colonial powers coincided with the yearning among many nations for national independence. Decolonisation was a major objective in the fifties and the sixties. Country after country in Asia and Africa fought and attained independence - some like our own country through non-violence, and some others through a bloody struggle. What was sought, and what eventually came to be achieved was the goal of the people becoming the masters of their own destiny, free from the shackles of colonial bondage. This process of self-determination has now been completed in many parts of the world. Though pockets continue where for the struggle for true freedom and independence are still being waged, on a global scale we have seen the triumph of national aspirations. Today, the United Nations has over 160 countries as its full members.

While we rejoice in this fact of independence, today we should not only note but also extend our support to those peoples who are still fighting for their full freedom. In the last few years, there have been dramatic and positive changes in South Africa. The legislative pillars of the Apartheid have been dismantled. Negotiations are being held for bringing about a truly non-racial and democratic South Africa. When that day dawns, true independence would have been achieved in one of the last areas of struggle. In the Middle East the Palestinian people are yet to regain their inalienable rights. Here again negotiations are continuing and on this occasion it should be our collective hope that these talks will culminate in a comprehensive and lasting peace.

In the forties and fifties even as the goal of independence was being realised in many parts of the world, humanity had to come under the shadow of the Cold War. Two conflicting systems, two rival ideologies and an international landscape dominated by power blocs, military alliances and theories of destruction and deterrence made the possibility of peace, a distant dream. For decades the world lived under the threat of nuclear annihilation.

While this was the major feature of the international relations, many other conflicts and wars were waged. Often these got accentuated due to the cold war politics. All issues were seen in East-West terms. Today we must take note that during this long period, the Non-aligned Movement was a voice of sanity. The movement tried to steer itself without entanglement with the bloc politics, adjured confrontation and conflict and stood for independence of action and for peace and disarmament. The contribution by the movement to the cause of world peace has been seminal.

Let us look specifically at the role and the achievements of the UN in this context.

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-determina-

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tion 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.

The historic events of the recent past have thrown up new challenges, new opportunities and new pressures on the UN System. and its success in the years to come will depend on its ability not only to respond to these developments but also to address the evolving needs and aspirations and its members.

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, some times imaginatively and innovatively interpreted, enabled the main organs of the UN to deal with a multiplicity of situations. For instance, an unprecedented set of new activities is being envisaged 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 UN 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 UN has to take into account 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 principal organs of the UN, particularly the Security Council is imperative to reflect the new realities. The UN 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. The current efforts at reform of the United Nations should include measures to make the decision-making process more democratic and transparent. Our Prime Minister and other world leaders stressed this aspect, in their speeches in the recent Summit. In this context, the UN 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 UN 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 UN and have supported, in whatever way we can, the activities of the UN and its specialised agencies. Our defence personnel are presently deployed in a number of UN peace-keeping operations in different parts of the world. We have been the beneficiaries of development activities of UN agencies in India.

Friends,

It is a changing world and it is only right that the UN is changing too. Semi-  
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nars such as this should focus on these changes and could come out with ideas and suggestions which are essential in the making of the New World Order, which is just equitable and beneficial for the whole of mankind.

I wish you success.

INA INDIA USA SOUTH AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date :** Feb 14, 1992

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## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Address by MOS (EA) to All India Passport Officers in Akbar Bhavan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 14, 1992 on the valedictory address by Shri Eduardo Faleiro, Minister of State to the All India Passport Officer's Conference at Sheesh Mahal, Akbar Bhavan:

Dear Friends, During the last two days you have deliberated upon prospects of further simplification of passport procedures with a view to increase productivity within given manpower and budgetary constraints. As you are aware, you are the flag-bearers of this Ministry and come in day-to-day contact with thousands of our citizens in rendering them passport services. People naturally get annoyed due to uncertainty in our delivery schedule. I would like all of you to ensure and render atleast renewal and miscellaneous services within one week.

2. I am glad that your Conference has emphasised the need to increase productivity by making further internal simplification so as to release more manpower which could be deployed in the passport writing section. Your recommendation to seek self-addressed envelopes affixed with postal stamps will help you to despatch prepared passports to applicants expeditiously. Your recommendation to simplify procedure for giving Ministry of External Affairs recognition to travel agents is a good recommendation.

3. I understand that many of the decisions taken on 25th October 1991 conference held under my chairmanship have been put into effect, viz. requirement of attestation of photographs by Gazetted Officers has been dispensed with. Application forms are being accepted at passport offices even from persons other than applicants, passport officers are accepting a copy of letter of employment from the reputed employers towards proof of stay of an applicant within the jurisdiction of that passport office. Decisions taken to introduce limited departmental examination for passport officials, advance annual increments to deserving officials should be implemented expeditiously so that officers and staff of Central Passport Organisation get properly motivated to further increase their productivity. Despite your good and laudable work, there are some cases of complaints against passport offices. I am glad that your conference has recognised

the need of improving internal discipline and monitoring of performance of each employee more minutely through various administrative means. Action against officials found involved in corrupt or dubious activities should be immediately taken and cases should be registered against them with police or the Central Bureau of Investigation.

You have been delegated Powers to issue passports on out of turn basis in certain cases like death, sickness or returning Indians whose visa was likely to expire shortly. You should exercise these in deserving cases. I would like you to be more sympathetic in giving expeditious services to Gulf evacuees so that they could quickly return to the Gulf which is a very competitive market for employment. You could help reduce much of the inconvenience and irritation to general public by your polite, courteous and considerate dealings. Special watch should be kept on the behavioural pattern of the officials detailed at passport counters. If anyone is found to be rude or impolite, he should be immediately removed from public counter so that each

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passport applicant carries a good impression.

5. I am conscious of the genuine needs of Passport Offices. This has now assumed real urgency with unprecedented increase of around 45 % in input applications. . Our proposal to raise the Cadre strength of the Central Passport Organisation is presently under active consideration. Another problem, though short term, faced by you, I understand is shortage of funds. We are trying to help you in this matter.

6. I exhort all of you to rise to the occasion and keep up the good work already being done by you. I am convinced that you are capable of doing still better with your experience and approach to problems of passport applicants.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date :** 14, 1992

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Statement by EAM on His Return From Kuwait

The following is the text of the External Affairs Minister's

statement on Feb 17, 1992 on meeting with Press on his return from Kuwait:

I have come back this morning, fully satisfied, after a 2-day visit to the State of Kuwait, the first visit by India's External Affairs Minister to liberated Kuwait. My delegation and I were accorded a warm and friendly welcome reflective of the close and cordial relations existing between the two countries and the historic ties that bind them.

On the first day of my visit (February 15, 1992), the Kuwaiti government arranged for me to take an extended tour of the city of Kuwait as well as the neighbouring Burgan oil fields where I saw oil lakes, a relic of the destruction caused during the occupation. At the same time, I witnessed the determined, disciplined and dedicated manner in which the people and the government of Kuwait were engaged in restoring what was destroyed and I should say that they have already accomplished a great deal in this difficult and demanding task.

I called on His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir, on the second day of my visit; I conveyed greetings from the President, the Prime Minister, the government and the people of India; after referring to the close and cordial relations which have traditionally existed between Kuwait and India, I said that given the evolving structure of the post-war world, it was desirable and even necessary for the developing countries to act together in their own interests and that, in that context, given the historic bonds of amity and friendship between Kuwait and India, the two countries should strengthen and deepen their relations not only at the government level but also at the people to people level. His Highness, the Amir, responded by saying that he entirely agreed with my position. The Amir recalled his meeting with the late Prime Minister of India, Smt. Indira Gandhi during the VII Non-aligned Summit in New Delhi and the important role India has played in the Movement ever since its foundation.

I extended an invitation on behalf of the President and the Prime Minister to His Highness the Amir, who graciously accepted it.

I had also the occasion to meet His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Shaikh Saad, who was gracious enough to receive me even though briefly despite a bereavement in the family.

I had two long sessions with His Excellency Sheikh Salem Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. We exchanged views on the evolving international situation in the wake of the end of the cold war, the dissolution of the Soviet Union and other changes. He gave me an account of the current situation in the Gulf region and articulated

Kuwait's concerns over the delay on the part of Iraq in the release of POWs and the return of the Kuwaiti property; he also emphasized Kuwait's keen desire to conclude the work on the boundary and to obtain compensation from Iraq. I told my Kuwaiti counterpart that India has consistently extended due support to Kuwait in the Security Council and elsewhere on these issues for which the Deputy Prime Minister expressed his appreciation. On my part, I gave an account of the current state of India's relations with her neighbours. I also dwelt on the current situation in regard to relations with Pakistan and its support to terrorism directed against India in J & K. Sheikh Salem told me that Kuwait fully supported the settlement of the differences between the two neighbours peacefully and bilaterally under the Shimla Agreement.

We also signed a Co-operation Agreement between the two governments which establishes a ministerial level Joint Commission to promote co-operation between the two countries on a wide-ranging basis. The Co-operation Agreement has provided us with a useful institutional framework. As regards trade, both Sheikh Salem and I have agreed that, primarily, it is for the private sector in the two countries to interact with each other.

A good beginning was made with the meetings which the 7-member business delegation which accompanied me, had with their Kuwaiti counterparts. Further, the Kuwaiti side proposed a visit to India by a team of experts from Kuwait representing ministries including Finance, Commerce, Oil etc., and we agreed to this proposal. I explained at some length our new economic policies which, I emphasized, were irreversible based as they were on national consensus. There were indications that Kuwait will be interested in availing of the investment opportunities in India.

As you know, we have an Indian community, growing in number, at present over 75,000 in Kuwait. I was able to meet and discuss matters with the leaders of the various associations, apart from a number of meetings I had with individuals.

In short, mine was a goodwill visit meant to strengthen further the close and cordial bilateral relations. Judging from the welcome which was accorded to my delegation and the discussions and decisions taken in Kuwait, I have reason to believe that we succeeded in what we had wished to achieve.

WAIT INDIA USA IRAQ PAKISTAN

**Date :** 17, 1992

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## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

### Advisory Notice to Indian Students Seeking Admission in Former Soviet Union

The following is the text of a Press Release issued by the Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 17, 1992:

Following the dissolution of the former USSR, changes are taking place in the educational policies of the independent Republics of the former Soviet Union, insofar as foreign students are concerned. In view of this, the Ministry of External Affairs would not at this stage, and till such time as the policies of these countries vis-a-vis foreign students are clarified, advise Indian students to directly seek admission in the educational institutions of the former USSR on self-financing or non-governmental sponsored basis. Students who seek admission would be doing so at their own risk, as the governmental liability does not arise when students seek admission on self-financing and nongovernmental sponsorship basis.

Government of India is regularly monitoring the situation and will issue further advisory notice once the policies in the above-mentioned countries crystallise and government have taken a view thereon.

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**Date :** Feb 17, 1992

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## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

### External Affairs Minister's Meeting with Moroccan Foreign Minister

The following is the text of the statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Feb 18, 1992 on the talks between the Moroccan Foreign Minister, Dr. Abdei-Iatif Filali, and the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that the Moroccan Foreign Minister, Dr. Abdel-Iatif Filali had discussions this

afternoon with External Affairs Minister, Mr. Madhavsingh Solanki. Dr. Filali was assisted by Mr. Abdel Malik Chekaoui, Director General, International Cooperation in their Foreign Ministry and the Ambassador of Morocco in India, Mr. Ahmed Bourzain. The External Affairs Minister was assisted by Mr. L.L. Mehrotra, Secretary (East), Mr. A. V. Ganesan, Commerce Secretary, and other officials.

The two Ministers had wide ranging discussions covering NAM, the UN - with special focus on the Security Council - and bilateral matters. They also availed this opportunity to brief each other on the situation in their respective regions. There was also a discussion on the ongoing Middle East Peace talks, last round of which was held in Moscow.

Both the Ministers agreed that in the rapidly changing international environment, the Non-aligned Movement remained an important vehicle for the expression of the aspirations of the developing world. The External Affairs Minister pointed out that it was significant that several important developed countries had shown an interest in the NAM. In this context, he referred to the status of Germany as a guest member of NAM, and also that of Holland which shared a similar status. Apart from developed countries, certain developing countries like China had sought status of a guest country. External Affairs Minister said that in his discussions with world leaders of both developed and NAM countries, he had a very clear perception that these leaders felt that NAM which is the second largest organisation in the world after the UN with 103 members is an important forum for creating, moulding world opinions. Both Foreign Ministers agreed that in the context of their current membership of the Security Council and in the background of the traditionally excellent relationship that both countries had enjoyed, it was important for them to maintain and intensify their bilateral dialogue both within the precincts of the Security Council and outside it.

While discussing the Middle East issue, the External Affairs Minister availed the opportunity to reiterate India's principled and historical commitment to the Palestinian cause including their right to have a Home Land. The External Affairs Minister underlined the fact that even on the occasion of upgradation of our diplomatic relations with Israel, we had once again impressed on the Israelis that our stand on the question of illegally occupied Arab lands remain the same.

The Moroccan Foreign Minister, while appreciating India's correct and principled approach to this vexed issue, said that Morocco viewed the Middle East Peace talks in a most positive light. He said that Morocco had never adopted radical stand on any of these issues and that it has always been Morocco's approach to encourage dialogue in all their contacts with the Arab parties and with Israel. They had urged the adoption of a realistic approach in which all countries right to exist in peace and good

neighbourliness was recognised.

Bilaterally, the External Affairs Minister said, it was important that we keep each other fully informed of developments which are of concern. He said that it was India's wish that a greater degree of balance in our economic and commercial relationship with Morocco be imparted.

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The Moroccan Foreign Minister reciprocated the sentiments and said that talks over the last two years gave considerable room for hope and that possibilities for joint ventures and for bilateral cooperation had significantly improved. In response to a request that a meeting of the Joint Trade Committee be arranged, the Moroccan Foreign Minister assured the Indian side that it would be possible to have such a meeting by June this year. He said that it was important that both sides undertake an intensive review of their current commercial arrangements and the various possibilities so that full and adequate preparations are made before the June meeting. The Moroccan Foreign Minister highlighted the fact that because of Morocco's very special and wide ranging relations with the European Community, Indian businessmen could hope to profit from an intensification of economic cooperation with Morocco.

While discussing the regional situation, External Affairs Minister gave an account of the highly fruitful visit recently to India of the Chinese Prime Minister, Mr. Li Peng and said that we were looking forward to carry the momentum of the visit further. In this context, he mentioned the forthcoming meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) and the continuing contacts at various forums covering economic, business and cultural areas. Likewise, External Affairs Minister referred to his recent visits to Kuwait, Egypt and Iran and spoke of the excellent relations that we enjoy with all these countries.

While referring to the situation with Pakistan, External Affairs Minister said that India wished to have good relations with Pakistan, a point which had been made time and again at the highest levels over the last several years. He said it has always been India's earnest desire to see Pakistan develop and flourish. Regrettably, the perceptions on the other side were somewhat different. External Affairs Minister gave a detailed and historical analysis of the genesis of the current problems in Kashmir and explained that the onus for the current tensions lay squarely on the shoulders of those in position of high responsibility in Pakistan. He said that the current state of affairs had been created by three years of continuous pressure applied by Pakistan through support to acts of terrorism and subversion. Referring to the Prime Minister's recent meetings with Mr. Naut Sheriff, Prime Minister of Pakistan, at Harare, Colombo and Davos, External Affairs Minister said that within hours of meeting with Prime Minister in Davos, the Pakistani

Prime Minister gave a call for a nationwide strike and followed that up by a series of highly provocative acts. External Affairs Minister also made reference to the unfortunate tendency in certain world organisations including the OIC to adopt positions which were not commensurate with the otherwise excellent bilateral relations that individual members of such organisations, including the OIC, enjoy with India.

Responding to this, the Moroccan Foreign Minister said that there should be no doubt about Morocco's earnest desire to see India's current problems with Pakistan resolved peacefully and as desired by India, through a process of dialogue. He explained the special context in which certain resolutions including those at organisations such as the OIC got passed.

While discussing bilateral relations, both sides agreed to raise the level at which regular and permanent consultations between the two countries could take place. In this context, they both agreed to have a look at the modalities involved in the setting up of a Joint Commission at Ministerial level.

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ROCCO USA MALI INDIA RUSSIA GERMANY CHINA ISRAEL CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC  
EGYPT IRAN KUWAIT PAKISTAN ZIMBABWE SRI LANKA

**Date :** Feb 18, 1992

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### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Address of the President of India in Honour of President Nazarbaev

The following is the text of the address by the President of India at the Banquet in honour of President Nazarbaev on February Feb 21, 1992:

Your Excellency President Nursultan Nazarbaev, Madam Nazarbaeva, Distinguished guests from Kazakhstan, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, We have great pleasure in welcoming you, Mr. President, Madam Nazarbaeva, and the distinguished members of the delegation from Kazakhstan. We value this first visit of yours as the Head of State of independent Kazakhstan as it enables us not only to establish personal contact but also to lay the foundations of mutually beneficial relations between our two countries.

Excellency, we are aware that Kazakhstan was the second-largest republic in the erstwhile Soviet Union. In fact your State is 86% of India in area. Your State is extremely rich in minerals: coal, oil and natural gas, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, gold, silver, phosphorus, bauxite, etc. Your State has in recent years developed your agricultural production. A large part of the exports of the Soviet Union came from your part of the country. Coupled with a good infrastructure for industrial development, Kazakhstan has an important role in the newly emerging scenario of the world.

Excellency, your reputation as a dynamic leader committed to democracy and development has preceded you. We in India have followed with deep interest the events leading to the establishment of the commonwealth of Independent States and your own invaluable contribution to this process of peaceful and democratic evolution.

Relations between India and Kazakhstan go far back into history. Our peoples have been linked together culturally and economically through the Great Silk Route. In more recent times, there has been noticeable interaction between India and Kazakhstan within the framework of India's relations with the former Soviet Union. For example, our space programme has benefitted greatly from the use of the expertise and facilities available at the Bikanaur Space Centre.

The emergence of Kazakhstan as an independent country, rich in human and material resources, is an event of great significance which opens new opportunities for direct contact and closer cooperation in the political, economic, scientific, technological, cultural, educational and other fields. The important bilateral agreements which are due to be signed tomorrow would provide the necessary stimulus for this purpose.

Excellency, India and Kazakhstan share many common values and aspirations. We are living in a fast changing world. Old confrontations have yielded place to new consultations and cooperation. We both believe in democracy and the universal values of peace and non-violence.

Kazakhstan and India are multi-ethnic countries. You have a composite population of Kazakhs, Russians and Germans even as we have our own several denominations in our country. It is therefore imperative for us to adhere to secularism based on equal rights to minorities, protection of language, culture, etc. We understand that Kazakhstan has initiated several measures to promote secularism and ward off separatist tendencies. We hope that your wise, balanced and moderate policies will prove effective and fruitful.

Geographically, Kazakhstan is a bridge between the East and the West and is poised for developing friendly relations with all its

neighbours. It is our conviction that peace and stability should be  
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achieved by adhering to the five principles or Panchsheel. I am happy that both our countries are committed to this basic principle of International relations and we look forward to greater collaboration between our two countries in this area.

In the economic sphere, we in India are following with interest Your Excellency's efforts to replace the old command system by decentralised economic management methods. We are conscious that change over from one system of economy to another cannot be either easy or smooth and therefore your effort in this direction deserves support from all quarters. We have long experience in managing a diversified and dynamic mixed economy. We believe that this is an area where there could be fruitful interaction between our two countries. India stands ready to share with Kazakhstan its experiences in this regard and in other areas of mutually beneficial cooperation.

Excellency, we are convinced that your present visit to India marks the beginning of a long and fruitful relationship between our two countries.

May I now request you, Ladies and Gentlemen, to join me in a toast to the health and happiness of President and Madam Nazarbaeva, to the success and prosperity of the people of Kazakhstan, and to friendship and cooperation between India and Kazakhstan.

DIA KAZAKHSTAN USA RUSSIA

**Date** : Feb 21, 1992

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1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting of Prime Minister with Kazakhstan President

The following is the text of the statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on the meeting between the President of Kazakhstan, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbaev, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao on Feb 21, 1992:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that the Prime Minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao called on the President of Kazakhstan, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbaev today.

The visiting President underlined the fact that India was the first country that he was visiting after the declaration of independence in December last year.

The two leaders agreed on the symbolic importance of the choice of country for his first visit and said that it reflected the high significance that both attach to their bilateral relations.

The visiting President also mentioned that his visit coincided with raising of their flag at United Nations. He thanked the Indian Prime Minister for India's support in securing membership of the UN for his country.

Both leaders agreed that the visit of the Kazakhstan President would lay the foundations for a close and mutually beneficial relationship between India and Kazakhstan.

The visiting President gave Prime Minister a detailed briefing on the current situation within the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). He underlined his continuing efforts to strengthen the institutions of the Commonwealth including various bodies set up for coordination. Both leaders agreed that there was vast scope for strengthening cooperation in the field of trade, science & technology.

The visiting President said that India's experience in the field of managing a mixed economy lent greater significance to exchanges between India and Kazakhstan. He expressed the hope that India's experience would be made available to Kazakhstan and that Managers and Executives from his country would be able to visit India to gather ideas and enrich

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their experience. The Prime Minister pledged fullest support in this regard.

The President of Kazakhstan briefed the Prime Minister on the Agreements on Nuclear Energy that have been arrived at between the member States of the CIS on the one hand, and the four Republics of Russia, Byelorussia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan on the other, with regard to the control over strategic nuclear weapons. Both leaders agreed on the necessity for the complete elimination of all nuclear weapons.

Both leaders expressed satisfaction at the fact that important Agreements would be signed tomorrow (i.e. on 22/02/1992) at the end of the official talks. They were also confident that these Agreements would provide the basis for wide-ranging cooperation between the two countries.

**Date :** Feb 21, 1992

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1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Meeting of External Affairs Minister with Kazakhstan President

The following is the text of the statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 21, 1992 on the meeting between the President of Kazakhstan, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbaev and the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki:

The Spokesman, while briefing newsmen, stated that the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki called on the visiting President of Kazakhstan, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbaev today. He expressed happiness at the fact that after the formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in December last year, this was the first visit of a Head of State to India. He said that the high level of the delegation accompanying the President was truly reflective of the importance that Kazakhstan attaches to its relationship with India.

President Nazarbaev thanked the External Affairs Minister for India's recognition of Kazakhstan's independence. He said that India was one of the first countries to extend recognition. The visiting President expressed the hope that the existing foundations of relationship through the erstwhile Soviet Union would now be strengthened through a direct relationship.

The External Affairs Minister expressed admiration for the manner in which the Kazakhstan Government were trying to introduce features of a mixed economy inspite of several difficulties. He gave a detailed exposition of the manner in which India, under the leadership of Nehru from the early days of its independence, introduced a mixed economy. The Kazakhstan President said that India's present position vindicated the far-sighted-ness of Nehru, and said that had the former Soviet Union followed this example, the economic difficulties currently being faced might well have been avoided.

The External Affairs Minister also explained the other important facets of India's constitutional framework which have been

enshrined in the Constitution. He said that our secularism was the very basis of our existence and vital for proper functioning of our democracy. The Kazakhstan President expressed appreciation for the secular framework of India's polity and said that in his own country, he had passed a new law giving full freedom of religious worship to all citizens. The law clearly separated religion from the State. He briefed the External Affairs Minister on the various measures being taken to restore places of worship and to hand them back to those entrusted with their care. He said that it was vital for his country to ensure that there was no overdose of religious indoctrination and that his policy re-

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mains secular. In this context, he said India could play an important role. He underlined the importance of economic cooperation and cultural interaction with India, for this would act as a bulwark against the forces of fundamentalism.

The External Affairs Minister said that India would be happy to extend all possible cooperation in the cultural and educational fields and to engage in the training of students from Kazakhstan. It was agreed that students from both countries would visit the institutions in the other, under the system of educational exchange. The Kazakhstan President expressed special interest in students from his country visiting India to study its history, its culture, its economy, and its legal system. He said that people in Kazakhstan were fully aware of the immense scientific and technological base that India enjoys and that the two countries could fruitfully cooperate in the fields of ecology, physics, atomic energy, and space research.

The visiting President also expressed happiness that the foreign policies of both countries coincided on almost all major issues. It was, therefore, important that both countries extend the fullest cooperation to each other in all international fora including the United Nations.

The External Affairs Minister said that he was confident that the talks tomorrow (i.e. 22/02/1992) would proceed in the same spirit of understanding and friendliness that had marked the exchanges today (i.e. 21/02/1992), and expressed the fullest support for the various proposals and suggestions made by the visiting President.

ZAKHSTAN INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

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Joint Press Release - India-China Joint Working Group (JWG) Meeting

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The following is the text of the statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 21, 1992 on the meeting of the Joint Working Group of India-China:

The fourth meeting of the India-China Joint Working Group on the boundary question and the Foreign Secretary-Vice Foreign Minister level consultations were held in New Delhi from February 20 to 21, 1992. The Chinese delegation was led by Vice Foreign Minister, Mr. Xu Dunxin and the Indian delegation was led by the Foreign Secretary, Shri J. N. Dixit. The discussions were held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and were frank, positive and friendly. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the progress achieved in these talks.

During the meeting of the Joint Working Group, the two sides continued their discussions aimed at arriving at a mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question as well as discussions on measures for ensuring peace and tranquillity in the areas along the Line of Actual Control. They exchanged views on further developing bilateral relations and on International issues of mutual concern during the consultations that followed the JWG meeting.

The two sides agreed that the military personnel of the two sides would have regular meetings in June and October every year at Bumla Pass in the Eastern Sector and in the Spanggur Gap area in the Western Sector. They agreed to establish telephone communication links to facilitate easy contact between the border personnel on each side. The two sides will also hold meetings and establish contacts whenever the need arises, at the two designated points in the Eastern and Western Sectors, besides holding the regular, scheduled meetings at these points.

Views were exchanged on confidence-building measures in the areas along the Line of Actual Control, including prior intimation regarding military exercises, that

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would reflect the state of improved relations between the two countries. Both the Indian and Chinese delegations at the Joint Working Group meeting included representatives of the Ministries of Defence of the two countries for the first time. Discussions on these confidence-building measures and on the Boundary Question will be continued further during the next meeting of the

Joint Working Group which will be held at an early, mutually convenient date, in Beijing.

INA INDIA USA

**Date :** 21, 1992

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### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting of External Affairs Minister with Secretary General of SAARC Mr. Ibrahim Hussain Zaki

The following is the text of the statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on the Secretary General of SAARC, Mr. Ibrahim Hussain Zaki's call on the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki:

The Spokesman, while briefing newsmen, stated that the newly-appointed Secretary General of SAARC, Mr. Ibrahim Hussain Zaki, is on an official visit to India from Feb 20, 1992 to 22 in response to the invitation from the Indian Government. Mr. Zaki was formerly the Deputy Foreign Minister of Maldives.

Mr. Zaki called on External Affairs Minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki today. External Affairs Minister reiterated India's commitment to SAARC and urged the Regional Organisation, under the leadership of Mr. Zaki, to undertake concrete projects in core economic areas, including preferential trade arrangements in the region, which would have an immediate and positive impact on the lives of people in general. He warmly welcomed the proposal of the current Chairman of SAARC, President Premadasa of Sri Lanka, to convene a Conference of Parliamentarians of the SAARC countries which, he is confident, would strengthen people-to-people contact, and requested Mr. Zaki to complete all necessary formalities so that this proposal could be implemented soon.

Mr. Zaki assured the Minister of his own intention to make the SAARC more business-like and result-oriented during his two-year tenure. In this respect, he suggested that SAARC could learn from the examples of ASEAN and the G-15.

A INDIA MALDIVES MALI

**Date :** Feb 20, 1992

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## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting of Sir Michael, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council with EAM

The following is the text of the statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 21, 1992 on Sir Michael Marshall, President of Inter-Parliamentary Council's call on the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that Sir Michael Marshall, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council (of the Inter-Parliamentary Union) met External Affairs Minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki today. Sir Michael is visiting India at the invitation of the Indian Speaker. He is a member of the British Parliament and he was accompanied this morning, during this meeting, by the British High Commissioner to India, Sir Nicholas Fenn.

During the call various matters relating to IPU were discussed. The President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council spoke about the need for greater dialogue among Parliamentarians with a view to fostering democracy worldwide. He also expressed concern at threats posed to democracy by phenomenon like international terrorism. He underlined the fact that

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such dangers needed concerted action to be dealt with effectively.

The External Affairs Minister highlighted the threat posed by State sponsored terrorism of which India too was presently a victim. Terrorism in fact was the most pernicious violation of human rights. It was now being increasingly recognised that the human rights of the innocent victims of terrorism could not be overlooked. The External Affairs Minister also stressed the necessity of sorting out such differences between India and Pakistan on a bilateral basis within the framework of the Simla Agreement.

DIA USA PAKISTAN

**Date :** Feb 21, 1992

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## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

### Dr. Sam Nujoma's Meeting with Prime Minister

The following is the text of the statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 25, 1992:

The Spokesman informed that the Prime Minister had a meeting with President Sam Nujoma and welcomed him to India as an old friend and now in the capacity of President of Namibia. This is the first visit of Sam Nujoma as President. The Prime Minister referred to the extraordinary, warm and abiding relationship that India has enjoyed with Namibia and referred to the enormous admiration the people of India felt, for courage and the fortitude of the people of Namibia in their struggle for independence.

Dr. Nujoma reciprocating Prime Minister's sentiment said that it was Namibia's great good fortune that India achieved its independence first. No other country had adopted Namibia's struggle and made it its own struggle, in the manner in which the great people of India had done.

The two leaders had detailed discussions on the situation in South Africa. They agreed that rapidly moving events in this great region made the situation somewhat fluid. Dr. Nujoma informed the Prime Minister that it was paramount for developing countries to strengthen South-South Cooperation. In this context he referred to the over-arching position of the Non-aligned Movement which provided developing countries with the necessary resilience and gave them a position of advantage from which to negotiate critical questions with the rest of the world. The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction at the manner in which India had been able to render modest assistance to the liberation movement of Namibia and subsequently to the task of construction and development. He assured Dr. Nujoma that India's support and all possible assistance would always be available in the Namibian task of nation building.

DIA NAMIBIA USA SOUTH AFRICA

**Date :** Feb 25, 1992

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## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

### SAARC Scheme for Visa Facility

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 28, 1992 on SAARC scheme for Visa facility:

In terms of Colombo Declaration, issued at the end of the 6th SAARC Summit by Heads of State/Government of SAARC Member countries, Government of India will be launching from March 1, 1992, a scheme which will permit Members of National Parliament, Judges of the Supreme Court and Heads of centrally funded National Academic Institutions, to travel without visas within the SAARC region. This facility will also be extended to accompanying spouses and children below 18 years of the entitled persons.

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2. This Scheme has been worked out after a series of consultations at the Experts level between the SAARC Member countries. Instead of a visa, the entitled categories of persons benefiting from the scheme will obtain an endorsement (sticker) on their passports which will entitle them to this facility. Copies of the sticker prepared at Nasik Press, have already been sent to all Member States as per their requirement.

3. The scheme is expected to answer to some extent, the call for closer and frequent contacts among peoples of SAARC Member countries, expressed by the Heads of State/Government at Islamabad Summit in 1988.

4. While the need for visa will thus be removed, all other restrictions applicable under appropriate rules and Bilateral Agreements regarding entry into and stay in India, will continue to apply.

5. The question of expansion of the list of entitled persons, it was agreed in Colombo, would be considered once the scheme has been launched and its working observed over a period of time.

DIA SRI LANKA USA PAKISTAN

**Date :** Feb 28, 1992

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## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

### Procedure of Authentication of Documents for use Abroad

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi by the official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi:

The procedure of authentication of documents for use abroad has been reviewed owing to administrative difficulties faced in maintaining/updating a large number of specimen signatures. It has been decided that with effect from 15th February, 1992 only those documents will be accepted in the Ministry of External Affairs for authentication which have been attested by officers specifically designated to do so in the concerned State Governments/Union Territories. Broadly the following documents are required to be attested by the authorities mentioned against each category before these are presented for authentication:

(A) Academic degrees/Diplomas awarded by recognised Institutions/Universities

Shri Harish Chander Chhabra,  
Section Officer,  
Deptt of Education

Ministry of Human Resources  
Development  
Sector - I, West Block - II  
Wing No. 6, R. K. Puram  
New Delhi.  
(Tel: 603338)

(B) Commercial and Trade related documents

Recognised Chambers of Commerce.

(C) General Power of Attorney, affidavits, marriage/birth/death certificate, medical certificate and testimonials etc.

Designated officers of the State Government/U.T. concerned.

It is clarified that the succession certificates, legal heirship certificate, divorce decree & such declaratory orders of the court are already required to be attested giving authentication by the Ministry of by the State Government concerned before

A INDIA

**Date :** Feb 28, 1992

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### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Indo-Brazilian Talks

The following is the text of a statement issued by the official spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 21, 1992 on Indo-Brazilian Talks:

While briefing the journalists, the Spokesman stated that the Brazilian Secretary General for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Marcos Azambuja, and the Foreign Secretary, Mr. J. N. Dixit had 90-minute official talks today. Mr. Marcos Azambuja was assisted by Ambassador Mr. Octavio Rainho da Silva Neves, and Mr. Dixit was assisted by Secretary (East), Mr. L. L. Mehrotra, and Additional Secretary (LAC), Mr. D. C. Manners, in the Ministry of External Affairs.

The two sides also discussed the UN in their approach to a wide range of international questions and convergence of views on matters of crucial importance to us in the regional sphere. Both countries noted that they had not signed the NPT for broadly the same reasons and made it clear that the NPT was the "embodiment of discrimination" and thus not acceptable to them. Mr. Azambuja pointed out that despite its reservations about the NPT, Brazil had arrived at an agreement with Argentina to put each other's nuclear facilities under the fullscope safeguards of the IAEA. At the same time Brazil appreciated India's reservations about the Pakistani proposal for a NWFZ in South Asia in view of the geostrategic situation.

The two sides also discussed the GATT negotiations and expressed satisfaction at their continuing and meaningful cooperation and commonality of views that the two countries share on issues such as TRIPS, TRIMS, debt, and the intrusive and oppressive aspects of multilateral regimes that are sought to be established.

The talks covered the issue of democratisation of the UN on which the two sides shared the common approach that the UN Security

Council must be reflective of the present realities. They pledged to work together to ensure greater regional representation for Brazil and India in the world body.

The two sides also discussed the UN Conference on Environment and Development being hosted by Brazil in June this year. The two sides felt that Brazil, India, and China together had the necessary capacity to respond to environmental pressures and to the developmental needs of the developing countries. Foreign Secretary informed his counterpart the Prime Minister has agreed to attend the June Conference.

The talks covered bilateral matters. Both sides agreed that it was important to transform their multilateral cooperation into a more meaningful bilateral activity. To this end they stressed the need to maintain high level exchanges. The Brazilian President is scheduled to visit India by the end of the year and our External Affairs Minister is to visit Brazil during this year.

The Spokesman informed that at the end of the talks, the two countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding providing for mutual consultations on matters of common interest; this is the first such memorandum signed by India with any Latin American or Carribean country. It reflects the long felt need of the two Governments, who have closely cooperated in the past in various international fora like GATT, G-15, to institutionalise their exchange of views on issues of mutual interest in the context of the changing world scenario.

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AZIL INDIA USA ARGENTINA PAKISTAN CHINA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date :** Feb 21, 1992

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### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Memorandum of Understanding for Consultations on matters of Common Interest Between The Government of The Republic of Indiaand The Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil,

Recognizing the responsibility of both countries, as members of the international community, in the task of contributing toward the finding of just and lasting solutions for contemporary

international problems;

Aware of the convenience of considering together the developments in the international situation, in the ambit of global relations and of that which applies more directly to the interests of developing countries;

Convinced of the importance of establishing a flexible and active mechanism for top-level consultations on matters of common interest;

Have reached the following understandings:

1. Without adversely affecting the constant utilization of diplomatic channels, the two governments will hold top-level consultations, a principle every year, to review the international situation and overall relations between the two countries.
2. Delegation to the consultation meetings will normally be headed by the Foreign Ministers or other top functionaries.
3. Such consultations can alternately be held in India and Brazil, on dates and with agendas which may be fixed by common consent through diplomatic channels.
4. Study or work groups can be set up by mutual agreement, for examining specific questions. Each delegation can include other authorities, when appropriate, taking into consideration the agenda of the meetings.
5. This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the dates of its signing and shall remain in force for a period of five years and shall be automatically extended for a subsequent period of five years unless either party gives to the other a written notice six months in advance of its intention to terminate the Memorandum of Understanding.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned being duly authorised by their respective governments have hereto signed this Memorandum of Understanding and affixed thereto their seals.

Signed at New Delhi on this twenty-second day of February of the year One

Thousand Nine Hundred Ninetytwo in two originals, each in Hindi, Portuguese and English languages, all the texts being equally authentic. In case of doubt, the English text shall prevail.

On behalf of  
The Government of the  
Republic of India

On behalf of  
The Government of the  
Federative Republic of Brazil  
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DIA BRAZIL USA

**Date :** Feb 21, 1992

## Volume No

1995

ROMANIA

Trade Plan for 1992 with Romania

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 10, 1992:

The Indo-Romanian Trade Plan for the calendar year 1992 has been concluded at Bucharest. The trade plan was signed during the visit of Shri B. P. Misra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, to Bucharest on 20th and 21st January, 1992. The Indo-Romanian Trade Agreement for trade in non-convertible Indian Rupees on a balanced basis is valid upto December, 1992.

The Trade Plan signed provides for a total turnover of Rs. 510 crores (Rs. 5100 million). Imports from Romania are targetted at Rs. 270 crores (Rs. 2700 million) and exports to Romania by India of the order of Rs. 240 crores (Rs. 2400 million). The major items of imports from Romania are capital goods, machinery, machine tools, ball, rollers and taper bearings, rolled steel and steel products, casting, pipes, railway equipment, fertilisers, PVC, polythy-lene, etc., and the major items of exports to Romania by India are soya and other extractions, iron-ore and iron-ore pellets, manganese ore, engineering goods, etc. Another salient feature of the Trade Plan this year is that it includes some new items such as detergents and tooth-paste, cosmetics, kitchen ware, bathroom fittings, tiles, electric bulb & tubes and stationery items.

AN ROMANIA INDIA

**Date :** Feb 10, 1992

## Volume No

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UNITED KINGDOM

India and U.K. Discuss Cooperation on Environmental Issues

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 17, 1992:

The U.K. Minister of Oversea Development, Smt. Lynda Chaluker called on the Union Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Shri Kamal Nath, here today.

The two Ministers discussed the matters of mutual interest like the ongoing collaboration between the two countries on the global environmental issues like ozone depletion, Montreal Protocol and the UNCED Conference in Brazil.

Smt. Chaluker expressed interest in the forestry and environment projects being implemented in India with funds from the Overseas Development Agency of U.K.

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DIA UNITED KINGDOM USA BRAZIL

**Date :** Feb 17, 1992

## Volume No

1995

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Prime Minister's Address

The following is the text of the speech at the symposium on "Global Co-operation and Mega Competition" at Davos, Switzerland on Feb 03, 1992, by the Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao:

"It is a pleasure for me to be here this morning with such a distinguished audience. I would like to thank Prof. Klaus Schwab for this opportunity. I should like also to thank him for his warm words of welcome.

I confess that I am human enough to like good things being said about myself. There is even greater happiness when this is combined with good things being said about my country. I endorse your view that India is a great country. The tributes to me really belong to India, to the traditions and values India respects. Consensus is not my discovery. It is in fact the essence of Indian culture. If I am a Prime Minister of consensus, it is not necessarily due to force of circumstances or due to logic of numbers. What I am doing today is in line with our traditions. In fact, being a minority Government has come in very handy to me and has helped me go back to our tradition. Numbers do not count as far as this is concerned. Even if I had a majority I would still follow a path of consensus. This is no time to rule India by sheer majority. One can get a law passed or can get a vote, but if you can't win the hearts and minds of people, it is not worth while. If you have 45 opposing and 55 in favour, you still can't forget the 45.55 does not equal 100. The situation is complicated. There are so many shades of grey. One must have consensus to get the willing cooperation of people. Consensus is the essence of my tradition. What I am doing is really working back to my tradition.

I have come here not so much to make a speech, but to know and learn something at this Economic Mecca. I am told that just about everyone who is anyone in the world of business and industry is here. This is a sort of a pilgrimage for me. You don't go and lecture on a pilgrimage. I wish to absorb something instead, to gauge what you expect of India and the Indian Government. In turn, if you allow me, I will explain to you why any particular expectation is wrong or unrealistic. I am here for a dialogue. I will do what I consider right. If you point out any gaps or shortcomings and they are reasonable, I will admit it right here. I will be plain and straightforward with you. I have discovered that being plain and straightforward has certainly paid off as far as I am concerned.

The Summit Meeting of the Security Council, which I attended two days ago, enabled leaders from all parts of the world to take stock of the breath-taking changes that are taking place in the world around us. While we may have had differing perceptions about these changes and different ideas on what the new structure of international relations should be, we were united in our conviction that the challenges we face require much closer international cooperation than has been the case so far. We also agreed that the United Nations will have to play an enhanced role in the maintenance of international peace and security, which is another way of saying that there must be greater international co-operation.

The theme of this plenary meeting is 'Global Co-operation and Mega Competition'. I understand this to mean that in the world today there is greater economic competition, but also the need

for greater co-operation amongst nations.

In answer to the relevant issues raised by Prof. Klaus Schwab I will try and structure my presentation to firstly look at the evolving international situation in both its positive and negative aspects and then try and project to you how India sees its own role in this changing scenario. I will also

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deal with the economic reform process that India is currently engaged in and also consider the outlook for the future.

#### (1) International Situation:

There are both negative and positive aspects to these changes:

On the positive side:

(a) The acute threat of a nuclear holocaust as a result of mounting confrontation between two rival military alliances has receded;

(b) End of the Cold War has changed the situation wherein regional issues are no longer overlaid by compulsions of the East-West rivalry;

(c) The massive upsurge of popular will across the globe, has brought democracy and representative governments to the vast majority of peoples of the world. Democracy has thus attained compulsive and almost universal validity. Looking back over the decades, one can note that this has happened after a long time.

(d) A new and historic opportunity is now available to nations of the world to bring about a new structure of international relations, in a free and uninhibited atmosphere. They can now usher in a structure which is equitable, democratic and responsive to the needs of humanity as they are actually found on the ground. There is now an opportunity to put into place a genuine system of collective security based on a more active role of the United Nations.

On the negative side:

(a) Despite the end of the Cold War and of the confrontation between rival military alliances, nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction still remain in substantial numbers. There is an attempt to perpetuate these arsenals in the hands of a few countries who justify this on the basis of the need for "policing". The concept of policing is not quite fail safe and may become counter-productive in the long run. Besides, one must guard against East-West confrontation being transformed into a new type of North-South confrontation.

(b) The break-up of the erstwhile Soviet Union has led to the resurgence of nationalistic and sub-nationalistic trends in several parts of the world. This has happened mostly in areas where the safety valve of democracy was not so far available. This would perhaps indicate one aspect of the efficacy of Democracy in diffusing tensions arising out of plurality. What the world has scrupulously avoided, is the temptation to encourage tendencies that can lead to chaos and confusion, political instability and economic crises.

(c) There is a danger of a new ideological orthodoxy replacing the old, imposing on our minds and prescribing rigid predetermined models for vastly different situations. We accept the need for a much wider role for the "market" principle; there should be a congenial environment for entrepreneurship; and there should be fewer controls on economic activity. Nevertheless, for countries where poverty and destitution are pervasive, the state cannot absolve itself of the responsibility to involve itself in economic decision making. It has to accept the responsibility to ensure a minimal degree of social welfare to its people. There are also cultural differences among nations. In our society, for example, an individual is important, but at the same time there is a strong sense of community

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interest as well. In India, the cohesion of the family, the community and the village is an important value. This is often regarded as a characteristic of a backward kind of country, but this is not really so. The conditions are so different. It is, therefore, necessary to allow nations and societies to determine their own specific socio-political and economic system even while asserting the universal values of democracy and humanism and acknowledging the greater efficiency of the market principle in most forms of economic activity.

(d) We are concerned that the new wave of democracy that has triumphed in many parts of the world and the lessening of international tensions, will not be sustained if sufficient attention is not paid to development. Authoritarianism feeds on economic discontent; the foot soldiers of fascism are drawn from the ranks of the desperate and dispossessed. The democratic spirit is an universal value and aspiration, but strong and enduring political institutions are required to nurture and sustain this spirit. Economic crises and social tensions cannot provide the environment needed for such institution building. Development, therefore, becomes a precondition for sustaining democracy. It is in our own interest as democracies to keep development at the very centre of international concern and cooperation. It is not safe to assume that development will automatically follow democracy. This combination has to be consciously worked for and brought about.

How does India view these changes in the world and what does it

see as its own role in a changing international situation?

India is a self-confident democracy. The Indian mind is democratically oriented through and through. It has a combination of individualism and collective wisdom in action, which has been demonstrated for thousands of years. Whether it was a monarch or an Emperor at the top, the Indian society did not give up its democracy and harmony down the centuries. Social life was anonymous, at the same time autonomous. That has given us the assurance, manifested in our repeated demonstration of an ability to absorb shocks and crises and emerge with our political institutions and commitment to democracy, ever stronger. Ours is an evolving and dynamic society. Conflict and tensions are inevitable in the process of social and economic development. They are also the prime movers of change and adaptation. What is important is that our democratic institutions have been able to contain such conflicts and provide the means for their resolution through the political process.

India is also an economic success story, which is not perhaps generally realised. In the forty years of planned development, India has been able to develop its agriculture to the extent that it is not only self-sufficient in food for its fast growing population, but has a modest surplus in most years. When you consider that India has a population of 840 million people, that is no mean achievement, although highbrow economists may not acknowledge it and, in any event, success does not attract as much attention as failure. Planned development has also brought into existence a highly diversified industrial sector. The country now has an impressive corps of highly skilled and experienced scientific and technical manpower, some of whom are doing fine job for many of the companies represented here. Today the Indian economy has attained a degree of maturity and sophistication, which naturally makes it ready, willing and even eager to accept the challenge of the international market place.

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The economic reform process in India must be seen against this background. The economic liberalization process is the logical continuation of the strategy of development adopted by India. It is a process necessary to take India to a new and higher level of growth. The decisions we took were well-considered. The process will continue and is irreversible precisely because of the background I have explained. It is an evolution. The people of India have accepted these changes as necessary and the results of the Parliamentary by-elections in November last year, removed all doubts on that score.

An India which is a successful democracy, as well as a truly dynamic and outward looking economy, can play a significant role in this new and changing world order. With its vast and growing market, India can become a powerful engine for the growth of the Asian as well as the global economy. This is of great

significance at a time when growth in several developed economies appears to be decelerating and access to their markets is becoming more difficult. An economically dynamic and politically stable India, by itself, is an important message to the contemporary world.

What do I foresee as the challenges ahead for India? There are many. I have deep faith in the wisdom of our people and their passionate attachment to the unity of India as well as to democracy. The Indian polity does face challenges from terrorism, religious fundamentalism and separatist tendencies. However, these challenges have not overwhelmed the country and our political institutions have demonstrated sufficient flexibility and capacity for innovation to meet these challenges.

The economic reform programme will continue and in fact should accelerate. In the short run, of course, there will be constraints on account of an inadequate infrastructure, the continuing high rate of growth of population and slow progress in eradication of poverty, illiteracy and disease. The Government will undoubtedly shift its focus from direct economic activity to removing these major constraints on our growth. We are confident of success because India is politically stable, has rich resources and managerial and entrepreneurial skills comparable to the best in the world. I believe that your partnership with India in its march towards development would be mutually rewarding.

I thank you for your attention.

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ITZERLAND USA INDIA

**Date :** Feb 03, 1992

**March**

**Volume No**

1995

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YUGOSLAVIA ZIMBABWE

**Date :** Mar 01, 1992

## Volume No

1995

AFGHANISTAN

Afghan Parliamentary Delegation visit to India

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 25, 1998:

A Parliamentary delegation from Afghanistan led by Mr. Khalil Ahmed Abawi, President of the House of Representatives, called on External Affairs Minister today. The External Affairs Minister and the visiting delegates talked about Indo-Afghan bilateral relations which were excellent. They also compared views on the working of the Parliamentary system in the two countries.

The visiting delegation briefed the External Affairs Minister on peace efforts currently under way under the auspices of the UN. They highlighted the efforts being made by President Najib at achieving national reconciliation, including his recent offer to step down from office.

The External Affairs Minister said that India was keen to see a strong, friendly, prosperous, sovereign and democratic Afghanistan.

The External Affairs Minister also availed the opportunity to brief the Afghan delegation on India's policy in the region and India's concerted efforts to forge friendly and cooperative links with its neighbours. External Affairs Minister regretted the fact that the only aberration in this pattern of friendly relations was Pakistan, which continued to indulge in unfriendly activity by supporting terrorist activity from across the border.

GHANISTAN INDIA USA PAKISTAN

**Date :** Mar 25, 1998

## Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

Statement on Tin Bigha

The following is the text of the Suo Moto statement by Shri Madhavsinh Solanki, Minister of External Affairs in Lok Sabha and by Shri Eduardo Faleiro, Minister of State for External Affairs in Rajya Sagha on Tin Bigha:

Through an Exchange of Letters today, Mar 26, 1992 the Government of India and the Government of Bangladesh have reached an understanding regarding modalities for the implementation of

terms of lease providing for right of passage for Bangladesh through the Tin Bigha Area. The arrangements will come into effect from June 26, 1992. Hon'ble Members would recall that the said terms had been worked out through the Exchange of -93>

Letters between the Foreign Ministers of the two countries on October 7, 1982.

The Indo-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement signed in 1974 had provided for leasing by India to Bangladesh an area of 178 meters x 85 meters near 'Tin Bigha' in order to enable Bangladesh to have access to Dahagram and Angarpota. This was part of a package which allowed India to retain the southern half of South Berubari Union No. 12 and adjacent enclaves; and which allowed Bangladesh to retain the Dahagram and Angarpota enclaves. The Agreement of 1982 referred to above clearly stipulated that sovereignty over the leased area would continue to vest in India. The recent understanding between the two Governments has been worked out within this and other parameters of the 1982 Agreement.

Before finalising the modalities relating to the Tin Bigha Area, Government consulted the Government of West Bengal on several occasions and has kept in constant touch with them. Leaders of political parties were also consulted. We have taken into account the concerns and apprehensions expressed in certain quarters regarding the implementation of 1982 Agreement. Honourable Members will note, while going through the text of Letters exchanged (which are being placed in the Parliament Library), that full care has been taken to safeguard our interests.

I may further add that we remain committed to the full implementation of 1974 Agreement. Necessary steps to expedite progress in this regard are under way.

In putting into effect the Tin Bigha lease, India is fulfilling an international commitment. The lease is being implemented after all due processes of law have been completed in India. Government are confident that the steps and safeguards taken for the implementation of the lease will dispel all doubts misgivings and that it will receive full and unstinted cooperation of all concerned.

The resolution of the Tin Bigha question symbolises, above all, the will of the people of India to live together with Bangladesh in amity and good neighbourliness. Given time and goodwill, the Tin Bigha corridor which unfortunately generated much controversy and tension in the past will turn into a crossroads of friendship between India and Bangladesh.

INDIA BANGLADESH CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date :** Mar 26, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

#### Support of Russian Republics on the Issue of Kashmir

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 09, 1992:

India has recently accorded recognition to the newly independent Republics of the former USSR and is in the process of establishing diplomatic relations with all of them. Nevertheless, every opportunity is being utilised to apprise the Governments and the peoples of these Republics of the Kashmir situation in its totality. The response received so far are positive.

This information was given to the Rajya Sabha today by Shri Madhavsinh  
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Solanki, Minister of External Affairs in reply to a question by Shri Bekal Utsahi and Shri Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhan dare.

The Russian Federation have conveyed that their position on Kashmir remains the same as that of the former USSR, Shri Solanki told.

SSIA USA INDIA

**Date :** Mar 09, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

#### Trade Relations with CIS

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 10, 1992:

The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) has been established consisting of Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Armenia, Moldavia, Azerbaijan, Kirghiztan, Kazakhstan, Tadjikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, Georgia is not presently a member of the Commonwealth. India has signed Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreements with Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. The Agreement has been initiated with the Russian Federatitn and is likely to be signed shortly. Discussion have been held on concluding Trade Agreement with the Governments of Belarus, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Kirghiztan. This was stated by Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today.

DIA RUSSIA UKRAINE ARMENIA MOLDAVIA UNITED KINGDOM USA AZERBAIJAN  
KAZAKHSTAN TURKMENISTAN GEORGIA UZBEKISTAN

**Date :** Mar 10, 1992

## Volume No

1995

CHINA

Chinese Delegation Calls on Shri Lanka

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 30, 1992:

A high level Chinese Delegation headed by Mr. Li Xiaoshi, Vice Minister, State Science and Techonology Commission called on the Union Minister of State for Agriculture, Shri K. C. Lenka, here today and discussed the scope of cooperation in the field of agriculture and technology.

Shri Lenka said that India and China are the most populous countries of the world and have many problems in common in the field of agriculture. India wants to develop its traditional agriculture packages in line with China so that rural farming families will be benefitted. Though India has achieved a breakthrough in agriculture, there is no room for complacency in view of the fast growing population.

He informed the delegation that there is scope of cooperation between the two countris in the fields of mixed farming, organic waste re-cycling, pond microbiology, fish processing, fish genetich and marine fish stock assessment etc.

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INA INDIA USA

**Date :** Mar 30, 1992

## Volume No

1995

CYPRUS

Dr. Jakhar Signs a Programme of Cooperation with Cyprus

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 26, 1992:

A Programme of Ctoperation in the field of Agriculture between India and Cyprus was signed here today. The Agriculture Minister, Dr. Balram Jakhar, and the Minister for Agriculture and Natural resources for Cyurus, H.E. Mr. Andreas Gavrielides, signed the document.

According to the Programme of Cooperation (POC), both sides will promote wide range of scientific and technical cooperation in the field of agriculture and irrigation. Special efforts will be made to encourage cooperation in the fields of hosticulture including floriculture and vitriculture, field crops, soil fertility, fertiliser use and development projects and irrigation system. Other important areas are land reclamation and erosion control, water conservation, agriculture research, rainfed farming, animal husbandry, livestock development and extension education.

An official level discussion will follow to frame the proposals for inclusion in the work plan for the next two years.

PRUS USA INDIA LATVIA

**Date :** Mar 26, 1992

## Volume No

1995

DENMARK

Indo-Denmark Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Power

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 13, 1992:

India and Denmark will set up a permanent Indian-Danish Working Group within the field of Power and Non-conventional Energy in order to ensure an efficient implementation of the provisions of this Agreement. The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy of the Kingdom of Denmark from the Danish side and the Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Power from the Indian side shall be the Co-Chairman of the Working Group.

This Agreement was signed here today between Shri Kalpnath Rai, Minister of State for Power and Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Government of India and Anne Birgitte Lundholt, Minister for Energy, Kingdom of Denmark and will be in force for a period of five years.

The two parties shall continue to develop and intensify the cooperation between the two countries within the fields of power, non-conventional energy sources and energy conservation, and shall undertake all arrangements which are necessary in this context.

The two parties shall define the fields in which they consider the broadening of cooperation to be useful. Areas of particular interest are transfer of knowledge and technology within the fields of power and non-conventional energy sources, education and training within the fields of power and non-conventional energy sources, environmentally sound utilisation of

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power production, including flue gas cleaning and other combustion techniques reducing harmful emissions, improving productive efficiency of existing capacities in generation, transmission and distribution of electricity, utility participation in energy conservation, exploitation and commercialization of new and renewable energy sources such as wind and other fields of interest may be mutually agreed upon between the two parties.

The two parties will endeavour to encourage and facilitate cooperation between interested enterprises, institutions, associations and organisations in the two countries i.e. strengthening the contacts between scientific institutions, energy companies, energy consultancy firms and experts, exchange of specialists and arrangement of training courses and exchange of technical documentation and information. The parties will also encourage increased participation of small and medium sized enterprises, firms and organisations in such cooperation.

NMARK INDIA USA

**Date :** Mar 13, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### ECONOMY AND TRADE

#### Evolving Concepts of International Cooperation for Development

The following is the text of valedictory address delivered by the External Affairs Minister, Shri Madhavsinh Solanki at the International Conference on "Evolving Concepts of International Cooperation for Development" which concluded in New Delhi on Mar 07, 1992:

May I at the outset say how honoured I am to be here this evening in the presence of such a distinguished gathering. May I also take this opportunity to thank the Secretary General of the Club of Rome for having so kindly invited me to address the closing session of this International Conference on "Evolving Concepts of International Cooperation for Development". I consider it a privilege to come in your midst and speak on a theme which is both important and of immediate relevance, particularly for a developing country such as India.

Since its inception twenty-four years ago, the Club of Rome has been attracting considerable attention. The objectives of the Club of Rome - to foster understanding of the varied but interdependent components that make up the global system, to guide policy makers and to promote new policy initiatives and action - are well known. Its small but cohesive member ship, which comprises eminent people from all walks of life in various countries, has enabled it to pursue its objectives with vigour. I believe that over the years, the Club of Rome has indeed performed a very useful role. Its many publications have invariably added a new dimension to the consideration of issues which are of concern to all of us. I am given to understand that this Conference, which is about to conclude, has been equally successful in coming up with ideas which will impart freshness and vigour to the ongoing debate on the parameters of a New World Order, especially in delineating the contours of international cooperation for development.

Change is a fact of life. It is perhaps true to say that each era believes it has seen momentous changes. This perception notwithstanding, I should like to say that what we have witnessed these last few years has been truly dramatic and has occurred in a breath-taking manner. It

was not possible for any of us, even a couple of years ago, to anticipate them, let alone take appropriate measures to adjust to them. These changes have transformed the very parameters of international relations as we had known of since the Second World War. The post-War political order, marked by ideological and military confrontation between two powerful military blocs, has withered away. Democratic movements have swept across Eastern Europe, leading to the collapse of political and social structures that had existed for over four decades. An upsurge of democratic spirit and a new spirit of accommodation and conflict-resolution among countries is now apparent. There is an increasing trend of dialogue replacing confrontation, trust replacing suspicion, and above all, of peace and cooperation replacing strife and discord.

In the economic sphere, there is a clearly discernible trend towards globalisation of the international economy and an increasing emphasis being placed on market orientation and privatisation. Perhaps for the first time in our history we have a truly global economy in which decisions concerning production, distribution, capital and technology flows are taken not on a national basis but on a global basis. Economies across the globe are becoming increasingly enmeshed and inter-dependent. At the same time, new centres of economic power have emerged. The regional and sub-regional groupings that have existed for some time, have reinforced their respective intra-regional cooperation, while newer groupings have emerged. The overall trend is towards a greater diffusion of political and economic power.

Reductions in East-West tensions have not, unfortunately, been accompanied by concomitant moves to meaningfully address North-South issues. As a result, the development prospects of developing countries continue to be inhibited by an adverse external economic environment. If the gap between the rich and poor between developed and developing countries widens, detente and easing of tensions may well be adversely affected and the consolidation of democracy and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms jeopardised.

With growing interdependence among nations, there is naturally a curtailment of autonomous decision making. All nations - developed and developing - have to recognise this fact. However, a certain asymmetry in the interdependence among the various nations is also all too obvious. Developed countries, which have well-diversified economies and a greater weight in international economic interactions are better placed to manage their economies. On the other hand the vulnerability of developing countries has been further accentuated by the increasing interdependence. Their limited ability to affect decisions in the macro-economic management of the economy has put them at a

certain disadvantage. Against this background, a resurrection of development cooperation has assumed a new meaning for the developing countries.

The globalisation of the international economy, the increasing interdependence among nations, elimination of East-West tensions, as also the negative trend towards a sharp deterioration in the external economic environment of developing countries, have led to a situation in which there is a greater need for development cooperation. Perhaps there exists also a greater potential for this in today's world. The challenges we face now require much closer international cooperation than has been the case so far. Our task in this common endeavour has perhaps been made easier by the deideologisation of international relations and the increasing recognition that market forces should be properly harnessed for social and economic development. We have both a challenge and an opportunity before us to bring about a new structure of economic relations which is equitable, democratic and responsive to the needs of humanity.

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Despite their growing vulnerability and the attendant difficulties, many developing countries, including India, are making strenuous efforts to carry out structural changes, including liberalisation and deregulation, in order to meet these challenges. For our part, we have quite unequivocally demonstrated India's desire to integrate more effectively into the global economy. Since the present Government came to power last summer, we have introduced far reaching changes in our industrial, trade, monetary and fiscal policies. Our aim is to realise the full potential of the entrepreneurship of our people so that their quality of life is improved. The entire process of planned development during the past four decades has brought us now to a stage of self-sufficiency in food production, the creation of a strong and well-diversified industry and a highly skilled workforce. The long-term structural reforms are, therefore, a natural outcome of our internal development process. We have removed many controls and licensing procedures, greatly expanded the role of the private sector in the economy and taken other steps to provide greater incentives for industrialists and businessmen, and created more attractive conditions for foreign investors. This process is a continuing one and irreversible.

At a time when developing countries are liberalising and undertaking painful adjustments, the overall international context within which they are operating has become even more difficult. Many developing countries today are facing acute economic difficulties due to this sharp deterioration in their external environment involving worsening terms of trade, the collapse in the commodity prices, which in real terms have reached their lowest levels in many decades, increasing problems in accessing technology, protectionist pressures and reductions in the resources available for development. The last decade has,

in fact, seen a record fall in financial flows to the developing countries and an unprecedented reversal of net resources transfers to developing countries. The maintenance of a favourable external economic environment is, therefore, a fundamental pre-requisite for ensuring the success of the structural reforms being carried out by developing countries.

Moreover, in this inter-dependent world, prospects for the industrialised countries are inevitably going to be influenced by what is happening in the developing world. The sharp reductions in imports and slow-down in development suffered by many developing countries have eroded a major source of support for world economic growth. This has strengthened the recessionary forces, contributed to the relatively slower growth of world trade and aggravated the debt burden. There has, however, been a tragic failure on the part of the global community to take measures commensurate with the scale of the present crises of development, which has not been the case in the political domain.

An international consensus on development should in our view be the central concern for international cooperation today. I would like to flag some of the critical elements of this paradigm from our perspective. These are:

- An integrated world in which there would not be one part developed, dominating the other that is underdeveloped and poor. Concepts of the balance of power, of spheres of influence and of special rights and privileges for a select group of countries are unacceptable anachronisms, and out of step with the democratic temper of our times.

- Recognition of and respect for diversity among nations. Pursuit of developmental goals must also take account of the levels of development as well as the historical and social conditions in a country and must not ignore the socially weaker sections of society who fall outside the market process.

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- Inter-dependence makes for a symbiotic relationship between developments in the South and stability and growth in the North. Keeping this in view, devise a rule-based international economic system which is equitable and nondiscriminatory and strengthen international cooperation in a structure that is comprehensive, its components supportive to each other and participation in it universal.

- Effect a substantial increase in the net transfer of resources to developing countries to revitalise the development process and to free the developing countries from the overhang of the rising debt burden.

- Ensure greater transparency in the management of the world monetary, financial and trading systems.

- Recognize the need for developing countries to have the freest possible access to technological development on fair and reasonable terms.

- The burden of meeting the challenge of sustainable development must be borne by all countries equitably, and in relation to their capacities and resources.

Development is not an abstract concept. It is quintessentially about people. In its essence, development has to do with with an improvement in the human condition. The imperatives of development require an exercise in political will by all nations who have manifestly to show a desire to cooperate with each other in a mutually beneficial manner. A little over two years ago, some of us in the developing world launched a Summit Level Group on South-South Consultation and Cooperation, also known as the G-15, with a view to enhancing cooperation among developing countries and to engage the industrialised countries in a constructive dialogue. Within the aegis of the G-15, we are currently engaged, inter-alia, in evolving modalities of international cooperation for development. We do not accept as inevitable the existence of the paradox of high unemployment and under-utilisation of capacity in many industrialised countries, while deep poverty and deprivation continue to afflict much of the developing world.

I hope, and I am sure this hope is shared by most of you, that a wider initiative, cutting across the traditional divide between the North and the South can be initiated to revitalise the development dialogue.

DIA ITALY USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC VANUATU

**Date :** Mar 07, 1992

## Volume No

1995

INDO-EC BUSINESS FORUM

"Indo-EC Business Forum"

The following is the text of the speech of Mrs. Francine Henrich, Head of the Delegation of the Commission of European Communities at the inauguration of the Indo-EC Business Forum in New Delhi on Mar 04, 1992:

Hon'ble Minister, Mr. Solanki, Hon'ble Minister, Mr. Chidambaram, Mr. Commissioner Matutes, Excellencies and Distinguished guests from Europe and India.

I am particularly honoured and pleased to welcome here today such an eminent gathering of senior officials and leading businessmen. The launching of this Indo-EEC Business Forum, which coincides with the visit of Commissioner for

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North South Relations, Mr. Abel Matutes, could not be more timely.

1992 is a milestone in the history for Europe as for India. Both are at a crossroads. For the European community 1992 is no longer a target but a benchmark. It is the culmination of an inspiring adventure the European Economic Community and the beginning of a new era, the age of Maastricht, the dawning of European union. The community has honoured its promises on 1992. It must still meet its destiny. These words pronounced by President Delors in front of the European Parliament a few days ago could be applied to India as well. India is awakening. India has decided to be no longer a closed subcontinent but open to the world, keen to participate and to benefit from the globalisation of the economy. The reform process which has been initiated with a lot of courage by the Indian Government has been continuing at an impressive pace. The budget session which is currently taking place at the Lok Sabha will offer an occasion to take stock of the efforts which have been made so far. A larger consensus than expected is being reached on what appears already to be an exemplary budget paving the way for further reforms necessary for having a modern dynamic economy.

India has to strive for achieving in the world a position commensurate with the size of its population and its glorious history. India is realising that things have changed and will continue to change. To those who are afraid of the open door policy - and there are some among business people - we can say that the European community experience has demonstrated that, as barriers to trade created by Governments came down, competition was and remains the main force in integrating previously isolated national markets. Competition has stimulated investment, research and development and has been the main contributory factor to the unprecedented growth in GDP and jobs we have experienced in the community since the past 30 years.

In consonance with the new economic policy business leaders of India and the European community are, through this business forum, offered an unique opportunity to know each other, reflect on each other's problems, and jointly suggest courses of actions to the European Community and Indian authorities.

Let me here insist on the essence of this forum:

- The forum must be at the service of the business communities of both sides, it must be driven by them and it must be useful for them. It should be a pragmatic and open-ended body in its composition and its approach. It should be able to provide important information inputs and advices to policy makers in Government as well as in business on key developments, trends and opportunities of interests to the business community.

Our role and, if you permit me, Mr. Ministers, the common role of both European community and Indian authorities is only to be a catalytic agent in this new set-up. We must limit ourselves to providing the necessary Secretariat structure and the resource inputs, in the form of appropriate consultancy, if and when needed. That is exactly in the line with the Government policy to back the private sector by creating the appropriate environment. The credibility of the forum and its recommendations will depend primarily on the quality of the individual members on each side, and it will be up to the businessmen to agree among themselves on the composition of their respective delegations.

The objective of this forum are broadly speaking the following ones:  
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- To encourage and intensify the promotion and facilitation of investment, joint ventures and technological collaboration;
- To review and identify areas for expanding and diversifying trade and investment between India and the European community.

This business forum will not be another Joint Business Council. The forum will work "off the beaten track" of the existing and quite successful institutions such as the bilateral-joint commissions chambers.

Businessmen of the European and Indian "core groups" - about 15 to 20 on each side - would tackle among themselves in depth, a small number of themes of common interest at their own pace and, if required, with the input of outside consultancy services, of which, I am glad to say, the European Community will be paying a fair share; the substance of these discussions and of the business recommendations could be presented every 5 or 6 months to a panel of senior Indian and European Community officials in Delhi, with a formal meeting of the forum once a year, probably at a higher official level with possibly European top managers who will discover a greater interest to make business with India. The concept of this forum, is therefore quite unique because it clubs together businessmen and officials of both sides in a process of "reflection-cum-action".

It is my conviction that the Indo-European Community Business Forum is bound to play, in the present context of the

transformation of the Indian and world economy, a major role in the betterment of Indo-European Community business relations, and that, through a two-way balanced dialogue.

I am sure that Commissioner Matutes, whom it is now my honour and privilege to introduce to you, will share these views, since he has himself been a very successful businessman, before joining the Commission in 1986. Abel Matutes is presently responsible for relations with Asia, Latin-America and Mediterranean countries, as well as for North-South dialogue.

Commissioner Matutes is of course a very successful politician: he was mayor of his home town of Ibiza at the age of 29, Senator then member of the Spanish Chamber of Deputies from till 1985. He is the National Vice-president of the Popular Party since 1979 and Chairman of the Economic Affairs Committee of his Party, a post he holds with some justification, because he has promoted prosperous enterprises in the sectors of banking, aviation, tourism and applied biotechnology.

In recognition of his business talents, Mr. Matutes was given responsibility for credit and investment, financial engineering and small and medium enterprises in the first Delors Commission when Spain acceded to the community; his mandate was renewed in 1989.

Mr. Matutes is not the type of Minister, dependent for advice on aides who have no first hand knowledge of business and industry themselves. He speaks your language - the language of business - and has his feet firmly on the ground. But this does not limit his political vision. He is the architect of the new mediterranean policy among other things - and has definite ideas on how European industry should be encouraged and, as Commissioner for relations with the developing countries, he has always supported the idea that SMEs particularly present the ideal combination of flexibility and dynamism and that a country can do no better than to create an environment in which the initiative of its industrial leaders is supported and nurtured.

But I do not want to anticipate what Commissioner Matutes will say. Thank you for your attention.

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A INDIA SPAIN

**Date :** Mar 04, 1992

**Volume No**

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1995

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Economic Dimensions of India's Foreign Policy

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The following is the text of the address by Shri Madhavsinh Solanki, Minister of External Affairs, at the orientation-cum-briefing programme of FSTI for Heads of Missions and Posts on "Economic Dimensions of India's Foreign Policy in a changing world" in New Delhi on Mar 30, 1992:

Assembled Heads of Missions, Dean, FSTI & Officers

I am happy to be here today, at the inaugural of the training programme, to address you, Heads of some of our most important Missions and Posts, on the "Economic Dimensions of India's Foreign Policy in a Changing World.

You are no doubt aware, that you have been invited to Delhi, for a very special event. When Prime Minister was meeting a delegation of Indian industrialists, and businessmen, who had accompanied him to Caracas Venezuela, for the G-15 Summit in November last year, he had remarked, that there was an urgent need, to change the training programme of our Foreign Service Officers, in order to better project our economic policies and interests. He had then said vividly, and I quote: "The days of formality, of "Your" Excellencies, and "my" Excellencies, are no longer relevant. We have to deal with the substance of matters in our foreign policy". This substance, in today's context, is economic and commercial work. FSTI has done well, in losing no time, in organising a course, especially tailored to our present requirements. This is the first ever training programme, organised for officers of your level, to provide an orientation, on the new economic and commercial policies, being pursued by Government. I am confident, that this will help impart greater dynamism, to your efforts in the countries of your accreditation, to secure the implementation of these policies abroad.

Historic and fundamental changes have taken place in the recent past, in the world economic, political and strategic situation. These changes are not only dramatic in themselves, but are taking place with unprecedented rapidity. It was not possible for any of us, even a couple of years ago, to anticipate them, let alone take appropriate measures, to adjust to them. These changes have transformed the very parameters, of international relations as we had known since the Second World War. The post-War political order, marked by ideological and military confrontation, between two powerful military blocs, has withered away. Democratic movements have swept across Eastern Europe, leading to the collapse of political and social structures, that had existed for over four decades.

In the economic sphere, there is a clearly discernible trend, towards globalisation of the international economy, and an increasing emphasis being placed, on market orientation and privatisation. Perhaps for the first time in our history, we have a truly global economy, in which, decisions concerning production, distribution, capital and technology flows, are taken not on a national, but on a global basis.

Some of the principal features, that characterise the structural transformation of the world economy, are:

(a) Economies across the globe, are becoming increasingly enmeshed, and inter-dependent. At the same time, new centres of economic power have

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emerged. Contrary to conventional wisdom, the world is far from being unipolar, with USA at its centre. Japan, and an increasingly integrated Europe Community, with a resurgent Germany as its dominant underpinning, are emerging as two new centres of economic and financial power. The overall trend is towards a greater diffusion, of political and economic power.

(b) While commodity, financial and money markets, are tending towards globalisation, there is a parallel tendency, towards regionalisation. The regional and sub-regional groupings, that have existed for some time, have reinforced their respective intera-regional cooperation, while newer groupings have emerged.

(c) The principles of open, multilateral and relatively free trade, with special privileges for developing countries, are now under pressure. The concepts of reciprocal market access, and managed trade, are gaining ground.

(d) While the major economic powers, are competing fiercely among themselves, they are, at the same time, cooperating closely for maintaining, and strengthening the international order, which is very much shaped, after their image, and which is intended, to ensure their continuing prosperity and economic domination.

(e) There has been an overall deterioration, in the external economic environment, from the standpoint of developing countries, involving worsening terms of trade, the collapse of commodity prices, which in real terms, have reached their lowest levels in many decades, increasing problems in accessing technology, protectionist pressures, and reductions in the resources, available for development. The last decade has, in fact, seen a record fall, in financial flows to the developing countries. Even these resources that are being tied, to non-economic conditionalities.

(f) Developing countries are also adversely affected, by measures pursued by the major economic and political powers, such as the

attempt to freeze the level and pattern of development of the developing countries, in the name of safeguarding the environment, and creation of ad-hoc regimes, restricting the exports of dual-purpose substances, equipment and technologies, in the name of non-proliferation. In addition, the existing monetary, financial and trading systems, are being utilized, as instruments to control the policy options of developing countries.

In such a rapidly changing external economic environment, India needs a carefully crafted strategy, to safeguard and promote its economic and

commercial interests. We need to take an integrated and realistic view, of our interests in the world, and be flexible, in responding to the rapid and dramatic changes, taking place in the international economic and political scene. It is no longer possible, to view our foreign political and economic relations, separately; nor can we afford to permit compartmentalisation in the initiatives we may require to take, at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels. We have, therefore, to bring about adjustments in our foreign policy, not so much, in its basic principles and objectives, as in terms of re-ordering of priorities, shift of emphasis, and changes in approach and methods. These changes are necessary, if we are to meet effectively, the changes of, and the opportunities offered by, the recent changes in the international situation.

It is against this background, that the Ministry of External Affairs, has tried to give special attention to the economic di-  
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mension of our foreign policy. An Economic Coordination Unit, has been set up within the Ministry, to monitor external economic developments, examine their impact on us, and propose coordinated and integrated responses, on behalf of the Government of India. Advancement of our economic interests should in fact, be the predominant consideration, in the conduct of our foreign policy. Relations in the political, cultural and other fields should be developed, and strengthened, mainly with a view, to reinforcing our position and efforts in economic and commercial fields.

In fact, our new economic policies, provide us greater manoeuvrability, in the conduct of our foreign policy. The opening up of investment opportunities in India, provides large corporations in the industrialised countries, a stake in the stability and strength of our economy. As the level, of our interaction with the global economy grows, we should utilize, the not inconsiderable clout of the business lobbies and corporations in their home countries, to promote our own interests, both economic and political.

Since the present Government came to power last summer, we have

introduced far-reaching changes in our economy, in order to realise, the full potential of the entrepreneurship of our people, and bring about an improvement in their quality of life. Government lost no time, in recognising the real dimension of the problems facing the country.

It soon demonstrated, that it would not flinch from taking all the necessary measures - howsoever difficult, unpopular or unconventional they might be, to deal with the situation.

We have, since then made far-reaching changes in our industrial, trade, monetary and fiscal policies. As you know, the exchange rate of the Rupee, was adjusted to more realistic levels, and it has now been made partially convertible. Concomitant changes, of a structural nature have been made in the trade policy, involving the scrapping of virtually all import licences, and elimination of almost all export subsidies. Equally far-reaching and related changes, in the industrial, fiscal, and other macro-economic policies of the Government, have been instituted, and more changes are on the way. The Budget for the fiscal year 1992-93, continues the process of reforms, and further liberalisation, to facilitate direct foreign investments in India, are in the offing.

Our new industrial policy, has been designed to deregulate our industry, and enable it to forge more dynamic relationships with foreign investors and partners, than has been possible in the past. The new policy has resulted in the abolition of all industrial licensing, irrespective of the level of investment, except in certain industries, relating to our security and social and environmental concerns. Some industries, earlier reserved for the public sector, including heavy machinery, telecommunications, and air transportation, have been opened to the private sector. Foreign investment is welcome, and for a number of high technology and high investment is welcome, and for a number of high technology and high investment priority areas, covering a wide range of industrial activity, no permission is required, for equity participation upto 51 percent. Higher levels of foreign equity participation, even upto 100 percent in priority sectors, can be considered on merit.

The process of long-term internal structural reform, is firmly under way, and is being further consolidated and strengthened. The measures undertaken, are not of an ad-hoc or partial nature. They constitute inter-related components, of a well thought-out strategy, for the basic restructuring of the economy, in order to make it internationally competitive, and integrate it, with the mainstream of the global economy.

The long-term structural reforms, are a natural outcome of our internal develop

ment process. At the time of our independence, we had inherited an extremely vulnerable economy. We had little trained manpower, a narrow industrial base, and we interacted with the outside world, as a colony. Over the past four decades, through the process of planned development, we have attained a degree of self-sufficiency in food production, and created strong and well diversified industry, and strong work force. Whether in agriculture or industry, we have the required structures of production, transportation, marketing and financial management. These need to be strengthened, and made more efficient and productive. But the underpinning already there. Our reform process is, therefore, intended, to build on our very significant achievement. It is because of this, that the irreversibility, of the present economic policies followed by Government, is ensured.

That the new procedures we have introduced, are working, is proved by the fact, that in the six months following the announcement of the new policy, on the basis of memorandum filed by entrepreneurs, we find, that there has been a doubling of investment intentions, as compared to the same period for the preceding year. The stock market has remained extremely buoyant, reflecting the high degree of investor confidence in the country. A similar trend is visible as far as foreign investment is concerned. Since July last year, foreign equity proposals, totalling more than US \$ 600 million, have been cleared. This is over fourteen times, the amount of investment in the corresponding period of the previous year. The investing companies include IBM, General Motors, General Electric, Du Pont, BMW and Suzuki, among others.

As Heads of Missions, your paramount task, is to keep in tune with the changes, which are taking place at a fast pace. Foreign media has, of late been better, oriented towards us, but we cannot base our own projections, on the reports filed by foreign correspondents. You should dispel all doubt about the pace and direction of changes, first in your own minds, and, thereafter, effectively project to others, what we are trying to accomplish in India.

There has been some criticism, that the reform process in India has been slow. We should, however, remember, that India is a democratic country and such changes have inevitably to go hand in hand, with building a consensus, to ensure the longevity the reform process. In spite of differences on details, there is a broad consensus in the country, cutting across the entire spectrum of political and intellectual opinion, on taking urgent steps, for restoring macro-economic balance, removing constraints, to growth and competitiveness, and putting the economy on a path of self-reliance and independence of a really durable nature. You must, therefore, convey forcefully and unequivocally, to the top-level, influential economic decision makers, business and industry representatives, potential investors, and the local NRI community, the message, that the

problems of the economy are being tackled firmly and comprehensively, and that the steps already taken indicate a definitive turn around in our macro-economic policies.

While we have achieved modest success, so far in our efforts to make the economy strong, efficient and competitive, the real success of these measures, to a large extent, will depend upon our ability to fulfil the underlying assumptions, of raising export levels, attracting foreign investment, and upgrading the technological level of our industry. Your role, as Heads of our Mission in some of the most important countries of the world, in accomplishing the tasks outlined, will be very vital indeed.

We have been very clear about our expectations from you, in the messages that we have sent from the Ministry in the last nine months. You are well aware of the steps, taken to re-orient the functioning of our Missions, to better reflect the new  
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priorities of Government. It is our endeavour to take an integrated view of our foreign economic policy, so that the synergies of our economic and political linkages can be enhanced, and the economic content of our foreign policy progressively increased. In the new context, it will not suffice for the Mission, to act as a trade enquiry office alone. The work of each Mission will have to be separately mapped out, on the basis of an action plan, so that its role in increasing exports and attracting foreign investment and technology to India, is substantially enhanced. We have already identified major OECD countries such as the USA, Germany, UK, France, Italy and Japan, as some of the thrust areas for attracting investment and technology flows. ASEAN countries and the Gulf, have also been included within the ambit of special initiatives.

We have ensured, that you are immediately and regularly kept informed, of the changes in our domestic and foreign economic policies. We expect you to effect the widest possible dissemination, in Government and in trade and industry circles, of the steps we have taken, to liberalise our economy. You could also take the initiative, of organising, whenever possible, and even on a modest scale, seminars and meetings with business and industry leaders, who are in-charge of planning the long-term corporate strategies of their firms. The high-level official visits, and visits by private trade and industry delegations, particularly the apex associations, provide an opportunity, for arranging such promotional events.

Many of you, have sent in your responses, on the basis of which, both the Ministry and Missions can function as effective catalysts for further India's economic interests, which have an inevitable bearing on our larger political and strategic interests. We require a substantial improvement, in the efficiency and output of our Missions, and change in outmoded

attitudes and old ways and methods of dealing with a new and dynamic situation, both in the Indian and global economics. Many of you, have also reported, on the efforts put in by you, for optimizing staff strength and structure, for the purpose of using diplomacy to further our economic and commercial interests. We are making every effort, to upgrade the facilities available to our Missions for this purpose. It is, how ever, important to bear in mind, that given our resource crunch, we may have to reallocate and more effectively utilise, the personnel and infrastructure that is already available with us. We will have to achieve these objectives, with whatever resources are available.

I would like to compliment the FSTI, for having organised this orientation programme. The objectives that we have now set for ourselves, are not easy. Achieving them, will require all our ingenuity and creativity. I have no doubt, this programme will contribute, to preparing you better, to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

I thank you.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC VENEZUELA MALI JAPAN GERMANY UNITED KINGDOM  
FRANCE ITALY

**Date :** Mar 30, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT

#### Steps to Improve Trade with EEC

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 27, 1992:

The emergence of the Single European Market and its likely effects are constantly monitored. Some steps taken to improve

the economic relationship include, the decision to establish a technical working group for exploring possibilities of upgrading economic and technical cooperation; signing of the Indo-EEC International Partners Scheme to provide for EC assis-  
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tance in establishing Indo-EEC Joint Ventures in India; providing for EC financial and technical assistance for trade promotion programmes in selected sectors, besides support in upgradation of standards and establishment of the Indo-EEC Business Forum. This

information was given by Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce, in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today.

DIA USA

**Date :** Mar 27, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT

#### EC Troika's Delegation Visit

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 03, 1992:

The "Troika had meetings today with External Affairs Minister, Finance Minister and the Minister of State for Commerce. They also called on Prime Minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao. The "Troika' exchanged views with our leaders on the momentous global changes that have taken place, particularly in Europe. The Indian leaders conveyed to the "Troika' Ministers, in detailed expositions, the economic reforms that have been put into place by India, the far-reaching de-regulation of the economy, and the other radical changes that have been instituted. The Indian leaders explained that these reforms are predicated on a solid foundation of far-sighted economic policies pursued by the country since independence. These changes are, in several senses, a logical continuation of our efforts to bring development and progress to every segment of our society. The Indian leaders conveyed to the "Troika' their firm conviction that the reforms now instituted were not only irreversible but that they would be accelerated in the months to come. The Indian leaders said they were hopeful that the reforms would actually help to increase our trade with the EC which India regarded as one of its most important trading partners.

The "Troika' expressed their appreciation for the reforms that India has carried out and said these would create an appropriate climate for increasing quantities of foreign investment, especially enhanced flows from the European Community.

The Indian leaders discussed with the 'Troika' the philosophical underpinnings of the new European architecture which is in the process of emerging after Maastericht. They discussed ways and means of how India and the EC could cooperate in this next context, in the fields of environmental conservation, science and technology, non-conventional energy resources, free flow of

citizens of the EC to India and vice-versa.

Both sides agreed that there should be an intensified dialogue to discuss the modalities for increasing cooperation across the board. In this context, the 'Troika' welcomed the launching of the Business Forum yesterday (i.e. 04/03/1992) in the presence of the External Affairs Minister and the Minister of State for Commerce.

The Indian leaders expressed appreciation for the help that the EC had given to India during the Uruguay rounds of discussion and sought the continuing sympathy and assistance of the EC in the coming months of negotiations, which would be crucial.

It was conveyed to the 'Troika' that certain concessions under the GSP (Generalised Scheme of Preferences) had been extended to Latin American countries and expressed the hope that similar facilities would be extended to India.

There was also a discussion on the anti-dumping laws that are being discussed presently in Europe. The Indian leaders opined that such laws would not be conducive to increasing trade and expressed the hope that such laws would not be applied to trade emanating from India.

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DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PERU URUGUAY

**Date :** Mar 03, 1992

## Volume No

1995

FRANCE

Steps to Facilitate Indo-French Trade and Investment

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 04, 1992:

Within the general framework of the recent policy initiatives announced by the Government of India to promote foreign investment, India and France have agreed to set up nodal points to be headed by the French and Indian Ambassadors to facilitate early decisions on investment proposals as well as on Indo-French cooperation projects. In terms of the signed minutes of the Indo-French joint committee for economic cooperation, which had met in Paris in November, 1991, important areas have been identified in which there is scope for enhanced Indian exports to France.

France would organise visits of trade and industry delegations to India to familiarise French importers about the quality of Indian goods and their suitability for French and European markets. These visits would also explore the possibility of industrial collaboration specially in some identified sectors such as computer software, food processing, tele-communications, pollution control, informatics, energy, chemicals and super-conductivity. Marine products has also been seen as one area where there are immediate possibility of Indo-French collaboration to exploit the potential available in the Indian waters. It was agreed that an appropriate institutional mechanism would be set up to promote collaboration in this sector.

Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce, was the co-Chairman of the Joint Committee of the Indian side, while his counter-part was Mr. Jean Noel Jeanneney, French Secretray of State for Foreign Affairs. The Indian delegation had also included prominent industrialists and businessmen with interest in diversified fields besides officials in the Ministry of Finance and Industry.

A proposal to develop a satellite communication link between Indian companies engaged in developing computer software and their French clients had been under consideration for sometime. It was agreed that France would support the establishment of this high speed communication link up for which financial assistance would be made available.

The Joint Committee had reviewed all aspects of co-operation and agreed that fresh impetus needs to be given to realise the full potential of bilateral trade and economic relations. The new Economic and Industrial Policy adopted by India to promote foreign investment was appreciated and it was hoped that this should serve as a basis for further promoting bilateral relations.

It may be recalled that two financial protocols for French Franc (FF) 299.4 million were signed with France on 13th December, 1991 - one for FF 149.4 million to be utilised for financing the purchase of French goods and services, for implementation of the projects in the mining and water management sectors and CESIA project for a direct satellite link between India and France and the other protocol for FF 150 million would be used to finance the purchase in France of French goods and services mutually agreed upon.

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ANCE INDIA USA

**Date :** Mar 04, 1992

## Volume No

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KUWAIT

Exports to Kuwait Picking up

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 17, 1992:

Ban on trade with Kuwait was lifted on 14th March, 1991 after her sovereignty was restored. Since then exports to Kuwait have been gradually picking up. Due to continued economic sanctions against Iraq, Normal trade relations with that country cannot be restored till such time the economic sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council against Iraq are lifted. However, export of foodstuffs, medicines and items of essential civilians needs to Iraq, is permissible within the parameters of the UN Security Council resolutions in this regard.

As a result of the economic sanctions, exports to Iraq and Kuwait of items like engineering goods, food products, textiles, gem & jewellery etc. came down to Rs. 117.18 crores during 1990-91 (provisional) as against Rs. 323.63 crores during 1989-90 (provisional). Project exports to Iraq have also been affected. This was stated by Shri S. Iman Khurshid, Deputy Minister of Commerce, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today.

WAIT INDIA IRAQ

**Date :** Mar 17, 1992

## Volume No

1995

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

External Affairs Minister's Talk With Republic of Korea's Foreign Minister

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 17, 1992:

External Affairs Minister held detailed talks with Republic of Korea Foreign Minister Lee Sang Ock this morning. The talks

covered global, regional and bilateral issues. In his opening remarks, External Affairs Minister referred to the most cordial and friendly relations existing between the two countries and to India's positive approach in promoting friendship with the Republic of Korea. He recalled that we had welcomed the entry of the Republic of Korea and the DPRK into UN.

2. Speaking of India's foreign policy in the changing world situation, External Affairs Minister referred to the continuing relevance of Non-Alignment and the consensus among Non Aligned Movement

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members that the movement continued to be relevant in the context of the dialogue between developed and developing countries and that NAM has grown in importance as an effective platform to voice the aspirations of the third world countries. Mr. Solanki briefed his counterpart about India's relations with its neighbours and also on cooperation within SAARC.

3. The External Affairs Minister spoke on Government's new economic policies and stressed the fact that a new climate has been created for foreign investment and flow of technology from abroad. He referred to the focus being given to improvement of our relations with East Asian countries and briefed the South Korean side about recent developments in our relations between China and Japan. He spoke of India's interest in close association with ASEAN and our interest in closer association with the APEC.

During the discussion on bilateral issues, External Affairs Minister reiterated our President's invitation to the President of the Republic of Korea to visit India. The Republic of Korea Government has also invited our Prime Minister to visit Republic of Korea. The two sides also agreed to hold regular consultations between the officials of the two Foreign Ministers so as to facilitate closer cooperation and interaction between the two Ministries. These talks would be held at the Secretary-Vice Minister level.

5. The South Korean Foreign Minister briefed Mr. Solanki about the recent held by his country with the DPRK including the agreement reached on Reconciliation, Non-Aggression, Exchanges and Cooperation and the Declaration on the De-nuclearisation of the Peninsula. He appreciated the role played by India in coordinating and sponsoring the UN Resolution for the simultaneous admission of the two Koreans into the UN. He referred to the fact that the trade between the two countries had recorded a volume of USD one billion last year and underlined that there was enormous potential for further expanding trade and economic relations between the two countries. He expressed the belief that our new economic policies would help further exchanges between the two countries in the field of business and

the economy.

6. At the end of the talks, the two Foreign Ministers signed a Civil Aviation Agreement. The Agreement provides for the establishment of air links between the two countries and is designed to further strengthen interaction and business and tourism opportunities. The points of destination for the designated airline of India in ROK will be Seoul and Pusan while the points of the designated airline for ROK in India would be New Delhi and Bombay. The Agreement also provides for flight operation to beyond points in third countries. The Agreement enters into force with immediate effect.

7. The External Affairs Minister was assisted in today's talks by Shri L. L. Mehrotra, Secretary (East) Ministry of External Affairs, Shri L. T. Pudiate, Ambassador of India in Seoul and Smt. Nirupama Rao, Joint Secretary (East Asia), Ministry of External Affairs.

8. Later this afternoon, Mr. Solanki addressed a luncheon meeting hosted by Federation of Korean Industries, on the subject of India's new economic reforms and our policy of economic liberalisation. The meeting was attended by leading Korean industrialists. Mr. Yoo Chang-Soon, Chairman of the PKI stated that the Korean industry was deeply encouraged by the programme of economic liberalisation launched by the Government and expressed his optimism that the programme would not only be instrumental in helping India to maximise its potential but would also contribute to the strengthening the economic ties between India and ROK. It was desirable, he said that the two countries extended their economic partnership though increased exchange of trade relations, technological cooperation,  
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foreign investment and trade. He said that External Affairs Minister's visit would serve as important impetus in reinforcing the economic ties between the two countries and that his visit was both "Opportune" and "Significant". According to Mr. Yoo, the time has come for the two countries to "earnestly find ways to combine India's limitless potential with Korea's development experience".

In his address, the External Affairs Minister explained various policy measures introduced by the Government in bringing about structural reforms in the Indian economy aimed at improving the efficiency, productivity and international competitiveness of the Indian industry. He emphasised that we saw foreign investment as an important instrument for upgrading technological levels, bringing in non-debt resources and hastening our integration with the global economy. Foreign investors in India would find the experience rewarding and profitable in the light of these policy initiatives. He highlighted the positive factors in the Indian market that should make India an important destination for

foreign direct investment viz. our large middle class, and our large pool of trained manpower and the tradition and reputation for entrepreneurship that India has always enjoyed. He stressed that as a result of various initiatives taken by the Government our balance of payment situation had improved considerably. The present Government was stable and the reform policy had the support of the people of the business community and the broad backing of major political parties. He emphasised our irrevocable commitment to and the irreversible nature of the reforms.

Later today, the External Affairs Minister called on the Prime Minister of Republic of Korea H.E. Chung Won Shik and the Finance Minister Mr. Yong Man Rhee. Tonight Foreign Minister Lee Sang Ock will host a banquet in honour of Mr. Solanki.

The two sides have also discussed the extension of credit by the Korean EXIM Bank for the purchase of five ships by the SCI from Korean Shipyard and purchase of oilwell platform by the ONGC. The Korean side stated that it is giving full consideration to this matter and is working for an early solution keeping in mind the vast and growing possibilities for economic cooperation between the two countries.

REA INDIA USA PERU CHINA JAPAN

**Date :** Mar 17, 1992

## Volume No

1995

KYRGHYZSTAN

President Hosts Banquet in Honour of Mr. Akaev

The President, Shri R. Venkataraman, hosted a banquet in honour of the President of the Republic of Kyrghyzstan, Mr. Askar Akaev in New Delhi on Mar 17, 1992. The following is the speech of Shri Venkataraman on the occasion:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you Mr. President and Madame Akaeva, to our country. Your visit adds another link to the age-old chain that connects India with Kyrghyzstan and the Central Asian region.

Excellency, your reputation as an eminent scientist, a humanist and a democrat precedes you. We in India have been following the reforms that you have initiated in your country with close attention. We have also taken note of your belief in the

viability of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the need for proper implementation of the agreements already signed within the CIS framework. We wish you success in your endeavours.

India's relations with the Central Asian region of the former USSR have both a historic and contemporary dimension. Our peoples have been linked together culturally and economically. We are convinced that the links that exist between our two peoples would be further strengthened by your visit to India.

We welcome Kyrgyzstan into the World Community of Nations and look forward to close cooperation in several areas of mutual interest. The important agreements that are to be signed tomorrow would provide the foundation for this and it would be our endeavour to build a strong edifice on these foundations.

Excellency, India and Kyrgyzstan share many common values and aspirations. Both our countries believe in democracy and the universal values of peace and non-violence. We are both multiethnic countries committed to pursue secular policies. We further share the belief that international relations should be based on the time-tested principles of Panchsheel.

Your Excellency's activities are focussed on building a modern and democratic state in Central Asia. We are conscious of the difficulties that such an effort entails but under your wise and statesman-like leadership, we have no doubt that you would succeed in overcoming them.

We have recently embarked on a programme of further economic liberalisation. We also have extensive experience in managing a diverse and dynamic mixed economy. We would be happy to share our experience with the friendly people of Kyrgyzstan in this and other areas of mutual interest.

Excellency, Kyrgyzstan is now a full member of the United Nations. We were happy to support Kyrgyzstan entry into the world body and we look forward to close cooperation between our two countries in the international arena in general and on issues of mutual concern such as disarmament, development, maintenance of international peace and security and the establishment of a just and equitable international order.

We look upon your visit to India as a first step in building new bridges and strengthening of cooperation that have existed between our two countries. Our relationship would no doubt develop to mutual benefit and in the interest of peace and security in our region.

May I now request you Ladies and Gentlemen to join me in a toast to the health and happiness of President and Madame Akkaeva; and

to cooperation and friendship between India and Kyrgyzstan.

DIA USA

**Date :** Mar 17, 1992

## Volume No

1995

KYRGHYZSTAN

Mr. Askar Akaev's Speech at the Banquet Hosted in His Honour by Shri R. Venkataraman

Speaking at the banquet hosted in his honour by the President Shri R. Venkataraman in New Delhi on Mar 17, 1992 the President of Kyrgyzstan Mr. Askar Akaev, said:

I feel that I should begin my speech expressing my deep satisfaction by achieved agreements. Singing of the Declaration on principles of state relations between Republic of India and Republic of Kyrgyzstan, of the protocol on establishment of diplomatic relations between our countries, of the Agreements on trade and economic, scientific and technical cooperation on mutual deliveries, on collaboration in the sphere of cultural education and sports will serve for sine as a solid base, starting point  
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for many future achievements of India and Kyrgyzstan, for our common victories.

A wise man was absolutely eight when he said: "What you wouldn't like to have tomorrow give away today, but what you would like to acquire tomorrow take today."

I want to remind in this respect the words of Rabindranath Tagore: "One is always one and nothing more. Two create the beginning of something new and great.

I always thought that state symbols express with surprising image the soul of the country, it's ideals and values, it's spiritual mentality. India in this respect is one of the patterns of symbolic, rich of surprising history and unique civilization.

It is known that National Constitutional symbols of India are: state flag, state emblem, state anthem, national song, national calendar, national animal, national bird.

There is a wheel of dark blue colour on the state flag of India (charkha). "The wheel is the symbol of movement - said ex-President of India Dr. S. Radhakrishnan - India mustn't reject changes, it must move ahead. The wheel is reminding us of the dynamics of peaceful reforms."

The state emblem of India symbolizes its adherence to the ancient principles of peace and goodwill. The slogan "Satyameva Jayate" written on the emblem means "The truth wins".

When Jawaharlal Nehru suggested to proclaim the song of Rabindranath Tagore "Soul of the people" as an anthem of the Republic of India, he emphasized first of all the idea of unity of all people of India inspite of their religious, language, national belonging.

It is known that "Bande Mataram" the song written by another great Indian poet Bankinichandra chatterji is the national song of India. That song was source of inspiration for Indian people during their struggle for freedom.

The noble tiger and Indian peafowl symbolizing the ideals of beauty, are among the most beautiful animals on the earth.

We express our deepest respect to the national symbols of India, we salute them. The independent Republic of Kyrgyzstan is very young. We are only now working our own state symbolics.

Recently our parliament adopted the state flag of the Republic. The red colour of the flag was the colour of the flag of legendary military and state leader Manas. It symbolizes our adherence to freedom. Bright Kyrgyz sun is depicted on the flag. It's bright beams enlighten our way to bright and so desired future. Tiundiuk the top of the yurt in which Kyrgyz were born lived and died is in the centre of the flag. Through tiundiuk our ancestors looked into the deep of universe, through tiundiuk the stars of hope shone to them. Tiundiuk on the flag is a window into the modern world, window, through which we look with hope to our neighbours on earth, hoping to find a friend in each of them.

I believe, that richness of the state symbolics in certain way promote formation of peoples' healthy morals.

I would be very glad if my short passage on state symbols of India and Kyrgyzstan drew us nearer to each other.

Here in India I've already spoken about priorities to which Republic of Kyrgyzstan adhere in its domestic and foreign policies. Now I'd like to speak briefly on two moments, which I haven't mentioned yet. We categorically reject extremism of any kind, in any sphere of policy or ideology. Let it be neither extremism of communist type nor of religious fanatics. Islam for us is first of all and mainly concentration of high moral

principles, goodwill and morally pure rules. There are beautiful words said by Gandhi in this  
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respect: "Islam is a peaceful religion, as christianity, buddhism, Hinduism. No doubt, there are differences in intensity with which this principle is being fulfilled, but the aim of these religions is one-peace."

Also I want to mention one thing. The only acceptable model of foreign political relations for Kyrghyzstan is the model of permanent neutrality. We are seeking to achieve such international and juridical status according to which Kyrghyzstan will not be a member of any kind of military unions and blocs. Firmly and persistently we are intended to achieve international and juridical fulfilment of our aim, using experience of such countries as Switzerland, Austria, Sweden, Finland and others.

Let me finish my speech by traditional and cordial appeal.

DIA USA UNITED KINGDOM AUSTRIA FINLAND SWEDEN SWITZERLAND

**Date :** Mar 17, 1992

## Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

Prime Minister's Visit to Mauritius

The following is the text of a Press Release issued in New Delhi on Mar 10, 1992:

The Prime Minister of India, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao shall be visiting Mauritius from March 11-12, 1992, as the chief guest for their Republic Day celebrations on March 12. The occasion this year assumes special importance as on this day Mauritius accedes to the status of Republic (it also coincides with their 24th Independence Anniversary). 12th of March is a date of special significance in the history of Indian freedom movement also. It commemorates the anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi Salt March, which launched the Satyagraha Movement. The Father of the Mauritian nation, Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam, chose the 12th March as Mauritius Independence Day as a special tribute to Mahatma Gandhi.

The Prime Minister shall be accompanied by Minister of State for

External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Feleiro, three Members of Parliament. Shri R. Jethmalani, Shri K. R. Narayanan and Mrs. Krishna Sahi, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, Mr. A. N. Verma, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. L. L. Mehrotra, and other senior officials.

Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao visited Mauritius earlier in 1987, as Minister for Human Resources Development. Other high level visits are - Prime Minister Jugnauth of Mauritius visited India in July (23-26), 1991. He was also Chief Guest at our Republic Day celebrations in January 1990. He also attended late Shri Rajiv Gandhi's funeral in May, 1991. Our Vice-President visited Mauritius as the Chief Guest for the Independence Anniversary celebrations in March, 1991, followed by External Affairs Minister's visit for the sixth session of the Indo-Mauritius Joint Commission in August, 1991. The last Indian Prime-Ministerial visit to Mauritius was by Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi in 1986.

Besides participating in the Republic day celebrations, the Prime Minister shall be, during his visit, having meetings with the Governor-General of Mauritius, Sir Veeraswamy Ringadoo, Prime Minister of Mauritius, Sir Anerood Jugnauth and the Mauritian External Affairs Minister, Mr. Paul Berenger. The Prime Minister will be laying the foundation stone of the Apravasi Ghat National Monument, the landing site of Indian indentured labourers in early 1800. There will also be a civic reception for the Prime Minister at the Mahatma

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Gandhi Institute. The Prime Minister shall also be having a meeting with the Indian community in Mauritius.

India enjoys traditional close and friendly relations with Mauritius. Mauritius is the only country outside our Sub-continent governed by people of Indian origin. Over 70% of its population is of Indian origin (51% Hindus, 17% Muslims and 3% Christians). It is strategically located in South West Indian Ocean. Indo-Mauritius relations are developing well.

Indian exports to Mauritius did very well in 1990-91, reaching Rs. 90.7 crores, a sizeable gain over the previous year's Rs. 42 crores. Mauritian exports to India are under Rs. 1 crore, mainly because of their limited export basket. Our emphasis is now on projects (Telecom, Construction) and Consultancy services (water resources, informatics, agriculture, port etc.). India is the second largest aid giver to Mauritius. The economic growth in Mauritius has however shifted the focus of our assistance from outright grants to manpower development, joint ventures and technology transfer. Total credits extended to Mauritius so far have been Rs. 55 crores (Rs. 35 crores by GOI and Rs. 20 crores by EXIM/IDBI). Total assistance extended to Mauritius, mainly under Joint Commissions, so far has been Rs. 100 crores,

including grants for projects and equipments, scholarships and training and deputation of ITEC experts. FICCI has set up a Joint Business Council with the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry, its third session was held in January, 1992. Mauritius Export Development and Investment Authority (MEDIA) actively pursues Indian investments and has opened an office in Bombay. MEDIA, on behalf of Government of Mauritius has invited representatives from various business establishments in India connected with Mauritius, for participation in the Republic Day celebrations. The business establishments chosen are CII, M/S B.G. SHIRKE & Co., OBEROI HOTELS Ltd., MIDEAST (INDIA) Ltd., APPLE INDUSTRIES Ltd., TCS, BANK OF BARODA, ALL INDIA MANUFACTURERS ORGANISATION (AIMO) etc.

Culture, religion and language are three pillars of our bond with Indo-Mauritians. Within and outside Cultural, Exchange Programmes, intensive exchange of cultural activities is carried out. Promotion of Hindi, assistance to Tamil, Telugu, Marathi and Urdu are also pursued. Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture (IGCIC) commenced functioning in rented premises in early 1989; construction of its Rs. 9 crore building is to be initiated shortly. Mahatama Gandhi Institute was set up in 1975 with Indian assistance.

MAURITIUS USA INDIA RUSSIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date :** Mar 10, 1992

## Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

Prime Minister's Speech on Arrival at Mauritius

The following is the text of the speech of the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, on his arrival at Mauritius on Mar 11, 1992:

I come to Mauritius as an old friend and admirer. May I thank you, Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, for your kind invitation and for the warm and friendly reception you have accorded me. Mauritius is on the threshold of a historic day when it will declare itself a Republic. That is the logical culmination of the process of Independence, which was simultaneously launched, in our countries, by the great visionaries of our national movements. I bring the fraternal greetings and the warm good wishes of the Government and the people of India to the new Republic. May the

Mauritian Republic shine forth ever brighter as the Star of the Indian Ocean.

There are very few countries in the world separated by a vast ocean as India and Mauritius are, which nevertheless have so much in common - ties of blood and  
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kinship, a shared heritage of culture, religion and language, and a tradition of close interaction during our independence struggle. These are our enduring assets, the solid foundation of our abiding friendship. Our joint endeavour has been to build on this foundation, an edifice of multi-faceted cooperation.

In a world that is witness to radical transformation, our shared values serve as constants. These include our common cultural springs, our democratic systems of governance and cooperation for international peace and prosperity. I particularly look forward to our exchange of views on international affairs and on developmental and environmental issues.

Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and Lady Jugnauth, friends, May I once again express my deep gratitude for the warmth and generosity of your welcome, and reiterate how much I look forward to this visit to renew our bonds.

URITIUS USA INDIA

**Date :** Mar 11, 1992

## Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

Banquet Given in Honour of the Prime Minister - Prime Minister's Speech

The following is the text of the speech of the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, at a banquet hosted in his honour by the President of the Republic of Mauritius and Lady Ringadoo in Port Louis on Mar 12, 1992:

It is a matter of great honour and privilege for me and my delegation to join the people of Mauritius in celebrating this momentous occasion in the life of their nation. On behalf of the Government and the people of India and on my own behalf, I wish to convey warm congratulations and greetings to the President of the Republic, to the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and his government,

and to the friendly people of Mauritius. May Mauritius continue to forge ahead, in its quest for peace and prosperity for its people. I would also like to express our deep gratitude for the generous and spontaneous hospitality accorded to each one of us by the government and the people of Mauritius.

I have returned to your beautiful Island after almost five years. The rapid all round progress Mauritius has made is all visible everywhere. An efficient sugar industry, long the dominant economic assets, has been joined by the dynamic export processing zone and the tourism industry, to constitute a veritable troika of growth. The resulting "economic miracle" has been matched by outstanding social progress, reflected by the indicators of low infant mortality, high life expectancy and nearuniversal literacy.

Much credit for all this goes to Prime Minister Jugnauth who has inspired and guided the talent of Mauritius people for the past several years. It gives me great pleasure to congratulate him, a few months ahead of the date, on the approaching 10th anniversary of his prime-ministership, and to wish him many more years of leadership and service to the nation.

Mauritius is a vibrant democracy. We applaud this because it conforms to our own ideals. In both our countries, the principles of self-governance, rule of law, fundamental freedoms and human rights, are enshrined in our constitutions. These principles are also practised daily in our legislative, executive and judicial organs and all our institutions under the watchful eye of a free press and an alert public opinion. Both our countries find in democracy a system which gives the fullest expression to our multi-lingual, multi-ethnic and multi-religious personalities. We exemplify unity in diversity.

The special Indo-Mauritian relationship is founded on our shared ethnicity, and our linkages of culture, religion and language. Recent years have seen a rich flowering of our bilateral exchanges. Fre-

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quent high-level consultations and dialogue have become a tradition.

Right Honourable Prime Minister, we recall with warmth your short official visit to Delhi in July last year, and your participation in our Republic Day celebrations in 1990 as our honoured Chief Guest.

In spheres of trade, investments, and technology, Mauritius is an increasingly important partner for India in the Indian Ocean region. In the area of education and manpower development, we offer privileged access to Mauritius for university level scholarships and mid-career training fellowships. In sectors such

as sports, culture, scientific research and medicine we have established active cooperation. Our Joint Commission, at ministerial level serves as the fulcrum for developmental cooperation. These programmes, and many more, receive the full support of our people and our institutions, and I would like to reaffirm our commitment to maintain and strengthen them. Today, the 12th of March is a date of special significance in the history of our freedom movement also. It commemorates the anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's Salt March at Dandi, which launched the Satyagraha Movement and marked a decisive turning point in bringing colonialism to an end. The Father of Mauritian nation Sir Seewoosagar P. Amgoolam chose the 12th March as your Independence Day as a special tribute to Mahatma Gandhi. As an Indian, I am moved and honoured by this gesture and it leaves a deep imprint on our psyche as a nation.

Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, ladies and gentlemen, we are witness to extraordinary transformation in the world. Its range and velocity confirms the adage: "Change is the only Constant". Today the winds of democracy blow stronger everywhere. We welcome this, but as developing countries confronting a gamut of socio-economic challenges, we affirm that equitable development is the precondition to sustaining democracy. The international economic environment remains unfavourable. An under-privileged South, limited in its access to resources and technology, co-exist with an affluent, but increasingly preoccupied North. Thus it is imperative that developing countries help each other in the promotion of their economic interests and seek complementarity with developed countries on terms of human dignity and equality. In this fast shrinking world prosperity is as indivisible as peace and freedom.

Right honourable Prime Minister, friends, we live in an increasingly interdependent world. Regional cooperation is a high priority in our age. In South Asia, we have made some progress with SAARC, but have yet to move ahead on the central issue of economic cooperation. Mauritius has been an active member of the Indian Ocean Commission. We have offered to cooperate with the Commission, and look forward to its concretization.

The Non-Aligned Movement was a continuation of the struggle of newly emergent nations for independence. It remains valid as long as it brings together nations sharing common perspectives and a common interest on issues of peace and security, disarmament, economic development and global environment. In this, as on many other issues, India and Mauritius are together.

I take this opportunity to reaffirm our support for the sovereignty of Mauritius over the Chagos Archipelago. We have followed closely the positive developments that have taken place in South Africa, and have supported the calibrated response of the Commonwealth, in terms of lifting restrictions on people-to-people exchanges. Apartheid is now on its legs. It must

go, finally and forever.

Mr. Prime Minister, friends, if I am permitted a little reminiscence, today, 12th March has a personal significance for me. It was thirty years ago today that I joined  
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the Council of Ministers in my home state, Andhra Pradesh. This was my induction into the duties of Government. Looking back today, the vast and undulating stretch of success and failure, acclaim and attack, flits across my mind's eye, leaving a sense of humility and, on the whole, fulfilment. (Democracy in developing societies is not merely a game of numbers, it is the essence of existence. Parties may come and go, but problems simply do not go away). The years have enhanced the aspirations and yearnings of our people and placed upon these whom they elevate to governmental power an awesome mandate and responsibility, which only cooperation, communication and consensus among nations, and within nations, can help fulfil.

May I reiterate once again how profoundly happy I feel in sharing in your joy and pride on this festive occasion, the 24th anniversary of your Independence when you also celebrate the Birth of your Republic. May success greet you at every step.

Finally, may I invite all present to join me in drinking a toast:

- to the health and well-being of President of the Republic of Mauritius and Lady Ringadoo,
- to the health and well-being of the Prime Minister and Lady Jugnauth,
- to the prosperity and success of Mauritius and all its people,
- and to ever-lasting friendship between our two countries.

URITIUS USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SOUTH AFRICA

**Date :** Mar 12, 1992

## Volume No

1995

MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique's Transport and Communications Minister Discuss Bilateral Cooperation With Mr. Faleiro

The following is the text of a Press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 17, 1992:

The Vice-Minister of Transports and Communications of Mozambique, H.E. Mr. Rui Jorge Gomes Lousa, called on the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Eduardo Faleiro in New Delhi on March 17. He was accompanied by Mr. Rui Fernandes, Director General, Telecommunications of Mozambique and Mr. Yunus Esmail, Director (Satellite). Mr. Y. L. Agarwal, Chairman and Managing Director of Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. was also present. The Mozambican Vice Minister is on an official visit to India at the invitation of our Minister of Telecommunications. During his stay in India from 11th to 18th March, 1992, he visited our various Telecommunication Centres at Delhi, Bombay, Bangalore and Bhopal.

The Ministers reviewed bilateral relations as well as exchanged views on the international scene. India and Mozambique have traditionally enjoyed cordial relations. Both the Ministers expressed the hope for greater cooperation between India and Mozambique in the political, economic and commercial fields. There are already a number of Indian experts working in Telecommunications, Railways, Agriculture, Education and Financial sectors in Mozambique. Minister of State referred to the relevance of Indian technology to the needs of Mozambique and offered to share our expertise with them.

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ZAMBIQUE USA INDIA

**Date :** Mar 17, 1992

## Volume No

1995

MOZAMBIQUE

Indo-Mozambique Telecom Cooperation

The following is the text of a Press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 18, 1992:

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL) and Telecommunicacoes De, Mozambique (TDM) for increased cooperation between the two Government Companies. The increased co-operation will cover Indian know-how for rural technologies, software packages for management of telecommunication services, rehabilitation of Mozambique network and training of Mozambique

personnel in India and Mozambique and also supply of some equipments and materials from India. With the signing of MOU, greater co-operation is expected between India and Mozambique.

ZAMBIQUE INDIA

**Date :** Mar 18, 1992

## Volume No

1995

MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambiquan Vice Minister Visit

The following is the text of a Press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 09, 1992:

The Vice-Minister of Transport and Communications of Mozambique, His Excellency Mr. Rui Lousa, will be arriving in the Capital on March 11, 1992 on a week's visit to the country.

H.E. Mr. Lousa will call on Shri Rajesh Pilot, Minister for Communications, and Shri P. V. Rangayya Naidu, Deputy Minister for Communications. He will meet members of the Telecom Commission, and the Chairman and Managing Director of TCIL.

During his stay, the Vice Minister will visit the Advanced Level Telecom Training Centre at Ghaziabad. He will visit the C-DoT installations at Bangalore and Telecom installations at New Delhi. He will also visit TCIL-Bell South Ltd. (TBIL), a joint ventures of TCIL in New Delhi and OPTEL factory at Bhopal.

ZAMBIQUE INDIA USA

**Date :** Mar 09, 1992

## Volume No

1995

NEPAL

Indo-Nepalese Coliebration in Water Sector

The following is the text of a Press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 20, 1992:

India and Nepal have agreed to finalise expeditiously the project parameters for the Karnali multipurpose project and to prepare detailed project report for Pancheshwar multipurpose project jointly. Their construction will depend upon the agreement to be concluded by the two countries.

Efforts will be made by Nepal to make the scheme for setting up flood forecasting and warning system in Nepal fully operational by 1992 monsoon. It has also been agreed to finalise schemes for extension of river embankments at Indo-Nepal border jointly for immediate implementation.

This information was given by the Union Minister for Water Resources, Shri Vidyacharan Shukla in written reply to a question in Lok Sabha here today.

PAL INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM

**Date :** Mar 20, 1992

## Volume No

1995

NETHERLANDS

Indo-Dutch Cooperation in Environment

The following is the text of a Press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 09, 1992:

The Netherlands Minister of Development Cooperation, Shri J. P. Pronk held a meeting with the Union Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Shri Kamal Nath and discussed matters of mutual interest.

The two Ministers discussed the coordination between the two countries on global environmental issues and the matters before the coming United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

The implementation of the Ganga Action Plan in which the Netherlands is a major funding country was reviewed and projects

for funding in future were discussed. These include the National River Action Plan being launched during the Eighth Plan.

DIA THE NETHERLANDS USA

**Date :** Mar 09, 1992

## Volume No

1995

NETHERLANDS

Netherlands Minister for Development Cooperation holds Discussions with the Finance Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 09, 1992:

The Netherlands Minister for Development Cooperation, Mr. Jan Pronk called on the Union Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh here today. During the talks, Mr. Pronk congratulated the Finance Minister for the Government's measures which had led to an increase in international confidence in the future of the Indian economy. The Visiting Minister reaffirmed continued support of Netherlands to India.

Referring to the enlightened aid policy of the Netherlands Government, Dr. Singh expressed his appreciation for Netherlands assistance as also support for the country's reform policies. The visiting Minister was informed of the measures, which the Indian Government have been undertaking for revitalising the economy.  
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A INDIA THE NETHERLANDS

**Date :** Mar 09, 1992

## Volume No

1995

NETHERLANDS

Indo Netherlands Collaboration in the Water Resources Sector

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 12, 1992:

The Union Minister for Water Resources, Shri Vidyacharan Shukla stressed the necessity of extending Indo Netherlands Collaboration in the field of drainage. Location specific pilot projects making Water and Land Management Institutes (WALMI) as base should be accorded high priority in Indo Netherlands Collaboration programmes, Shri Shukla added. The Minister said this while talking to a five member Netherlands delegation headed by Mr. J. P. Pronk, Netherlands Minister for Development & Cooperation, which called on the Minister.

The need for a long term stable arrangements of collaborative working between India and Netherlands in the field of Water Resources was discussed at the meeting. The Minister said that now that we have a chain of Water and Land Management Institutes (WALMI) all over the country, scope of collaboration between these institutes and universities having Water Resources Development programmes can be enhanced.

In the Water Resources Sector, Government of Netherlands have made available grant assistance of 90 million Dutch Guilders for the Indo-Dutch Tubewells Project in Uttar Pradesh. The Project estimated to cost Rs. 108.50 crores has made good progress. It is expected that total Dutch assistance for this Project during the current financial year would be of the order of Rs. 40 crores.

A number of other projects have been posed for assistance to Netherlands and are under various stages of processing. The Andhra Pradesh Ground Water Minor Irrigation Project estimated to cost about Rs. 50 crores and the Kerala Community Irrigation Project estimated to cost Rs. 14.45 crores are at an advanced stage of processing. The Dutch formulation Missions have already visited these projects. In addition, a project aimed at salinity ingress prevention in Gujarat and a Surface Water lift Irrigation Project in Andhra Pradesh are also in pipeline for Dutch assistance.

DIA UNITED KINGDOM USA LATVIA

**Date :** Mar 12, 1992

**Volume No**

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 03, 1992:

The second session of the Indo-Maldives Joint Commission for Economic and Technical Cooperation was held in New Delhi on March 2-3, 1992. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, External Affairs Minister and included Mr. J. N. Dixit, Foreign Secretary and other officials. The Maldivian delegation was led by Mr. Fathulla Jameel, Foreign Minister and included Foreign Secretary, Mr. Salah Shihab.

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During his visit, Foreign Minister Mr. Jameel called on Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao.

The Foreign Minister, Mr. Jameel also met Mr. Sharad Pawar, Minister of Defence, Mr. P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce and Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, Minister of State for External Affairs.

The External Affairs Minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, and the Foreign Minister, Mr. Jameel, exchanged views on international issues of mutual interest. The Foreign Minister Mr. Jameel, reiterated his Government's stand that the Kashmir Issue has no religious dimension. They expressed reservations about the utility of the passing of resolutions by UN or the OIC. The two ministers also exchanged views on the issues coming up before SAARC following the recent Summit in Colombo.

The Indo-Maldives Joint Commission was set up in 1986 during the visit of Prime Minister Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. Indian assistance in foiling the mercenary attack on Maldives in November 1988 marked a watershed in bilateral relations. Indo-Maldives bilateral cooperation now extends in the area of infrastructure projects, man-power resources development, communications and health. The 30-crore Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital project, currently under construction, is expected to make a signal contribution to the health services in Maldives. The project is due for completion by March 1993.

At the second session of the Joint Commission, the two sides have agreed to step up commercial and economic exchange and cultural contacts. In order to promote Indian exports to Maldives, an Indian trade exhibition organised by FICCI will be held in Male in 1992. Possibilities for Indo-Maldives joint ventures have been identified for deep-sea fishing, hotel and tourism and other export-oriented units for third markets.

The two Ministers signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the setting up of a Vocational Training Centre by HMT in Male.

A Cultural Exchange Programme for 1992-93 is expected to be finalised shortly with the aim of promoting people-to-people contacts.

The third session of the Joint Commission will be held in Male before 1993 at dates to be mutually decided through diplomatic channels.

LDIVES INDIA USA SRI LANKA

**Date :** Mar 03, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Indo-EC Troika Talks

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 03, 1992:

A 17-member delegation from EC Troika is arriving tomorrow (i.e. 04/03/1992). The delegation is led by the Portuguese Foreign Minister, Mr. Joao De Deus Rogado Salvador Pinheiro and includes Mr. Hans Van Den Broek, the Foreign Minister of Netherlands, and Mr. Marx Lennox Boyd, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of United Kingdom (equivalent to the rank of Minister of State). They are being joined by Mr. Abel Matutes, Commissioner for North-South Relations, in the European Commission, who is also looking after South Asia, Mediterranean and Latin America.

This is the sixth meeting of the Indo-EC Troika talks. The fifth meeting was held in Brussels in March 1990 when the then External Affairs Minister, Mr. I. K. Gujral, had gone there. The Indo-EC Troika talks are an annual exercise. These

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could not be held in 1991 because of the Gulf war. The EC Troika has a dialogue at this level with only few countries and India is one of them. At the talks a wide range of multilateral and bilateral issues will be discussed.

The delegation is scheduled to call on the Prime Minister, the External Affairs Minister, the Finance Minister, and the Union

Home Minister.

Mr. Matutes will have separate programme in which he would inaugurate Indo-EC Business Forum at Taj Palace tomorrow. He would also call on the Minister of State for Commerce. The Business Forum will facilitate regular exchange of views and information on transfer of technology and investment opportunities. Secretarial support will be given to the Forum on the Indian side by the CII and on the European side by the Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederation of Europe. The European Community is our largest trading partner accounting for 34 percent of our total imports and 25 per cent of our exports. We rank 24th amongst global suppliers to the EC and 15th as an global suppliers to the EC and 15th as an importer from the European Community.

India was one of the first developing countries to establish diplomatic relations with the EEC as early as 1962. India institutionalised political dialogue with the European Community in 1984. In January 1993, European Community will emerge as the single largest market in the world and the largest economic entity with a population of 340 million.

DIA USA BELGIUM

**Date :** Mar 03, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Indo-EC Talks on Trade

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 04, 1992:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that there was a detailed discussion between the two delegations on the new developments taking place within the European Community, consequent upon the Maastricht Agreement. Mr. Matutes and the other three members of the "Troika" explained in great detail the new opportunities that would present themselves to developing countries like India, consequent upon the removal of barriers within the European Community regarding de-regularisation, de-bureaucratisation, and opening up of the economies of the 'twelve', and also that as a result of single standards being

adopted, developing countries like India which hitherto have had access to the market of any one country, would automatically gain wider access to the markets of the other member countries of the Community as a whole. Now, that standards within the European Community would be mutually recognised with the exception of some areas such as those concerning environment, the members of the 'Troika' expressed confidence, that India would be able to take advantage and increase its cooperation with the European Community. They informed the Indian delegation that as the biggest recipient of European Community aid, India was well poised to acquire a reasonable slice of the aid budget which has been increased by 80 percent over the next five years period.

The Indian delegation took this opportunity to express its concerns about the new developments within the European Community and expressed the hope that there would be no shutting out of countries like India, that there would be attempts to educate its exporters about the new developments specially with regard to common standards and to make sure that these new trading blocs would not create obstacles for India. It discussed the ongoing Uruguay round of discussions especially with regard to the Dunkel text and thanked the Community for their consistent support

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in the Uruguay round of talks and requested that similar support be forthcoming in the next two months when matters of fundamental and vital concern to India would be taken up for discussion. Mentioned in this context, were the problems of multi-lateral concern relating to agricultural products and those of textiles (25 percent of India's exports to European Community are textiles), and Intellectual Property Rights, both TRIPS and TRIMS. The Indian delegation expressed to the 'Troika' its firm conviction that fair and equitable multi-lateral trading arrangements, consistent with GATT principles, were the best way of improving economic cooperation all-round and ensuring that the economic reforms that India had inaugurated were strengthened and widened.

The European Community 'Troika' underlined the fact that the next two months were vital, that they were aware that the Dunkel Draft though not an ideal document, contained many positive elements and that all countries should work together to reach the widest area of agreement. The 'Troika' highlighted the fact that this was especially because the European Community and countries like India in particular, and developing countries in general, were inter-dependent. The European Community was fully aware of the fact that it had to open up its markets to the third world in a non-discriminatory fashion. They wanted to allay the apprehensions that 1992 might witness 'Fortress Europe'. On the contrary, they were at pains to explain that the philosophy that underlay the Maastricht Agreement, reaffirms that the European Community was committed to an outward looking approach to the economic problems of the world. In this context, the 'Troika'

paid tribute to the revolutionary economic reforms introduced by India including the latest budget, which also was evidence that India shares the outward looking philosophy which motivated economic policies within the Community. They said that they were confident that India would benefit from the ongoing dialogue with the European Community.

The External Affairs Minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, said that India viewed the dialogue with the European Community as an extremely important occasion to articulate our concerns, our requirements and as an opportunity to inform the 'Troika' about the radical changes in our economy, which were designed to make it more responsive to the global economy. The External Affairs Minister also sought suggestions from the 'Troika' as to how India and the European Community could overcome the limitations and the obstacles and the other difficulties, in the way of reaching mutually beneficially multi-lateral trading arrangements.

The 'Troika' assured the External Affairs Minister that the European Community would do nothing which would disturb an important trading partner of the European Community like India and which might distort its economic priorities. The Indian delegation told the 'Troika' that at a time when momentous changes are taking place in Europe, India is aware that the forces of cohesion would make Europe a collective entity of great significance. It suggested to the 'Troika' that there was need to recognise the relevance of upgrading the Indo-EC relationship. The terms of reference, for example, governing the Joint Commission in 1981, needed to be expanded to cover a lot of new areas and there was a need to establish 'institutional catalysts' which could give a new impetus to the relationship.

The 'Troika' and the Indian delegation spoke also about their common commitment to the values of democracy and human rights and the need to combat the evils of extremism, of both the religious and political variety, and the most abhor at manifestation of such extremism in the form of international terrorism. The 'Troika' assured the Indian delegation that they were fully sensitive to India's concerns on this score, and, therefore, on matters relating to grant of visas or grant of political asylum they were careful to ensure that the doctrines regulating entry

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did nothing to offend Indian susceptibilities. They also agreed to the External Affairs Minister's suggestions to upgrade the level of relationship between EC and India and said that the 'Troika' would report the matter to the 'Twelve' and seek a favourable decision in the matter.

There was a discussion on human rights, on which the 'Troika' said that they were fully aware that they spoke to a partner who, like them, was a full fledged democracy. They said that European

Parliament in particular, and the Community in general, were increasingly concerned about human rights questions and requested Indian understanding that they spoke as partners and not, in any sense, with a desire to patronise, to lecture or to appear (intrusive) into the legitimate concerns of a sovereign Government.

The External Affairs Minister gave a detailed exposition on India's human rights record and the framework within the country, including the press and judiciary which exists, to take care of allegations of human rights violations as and when they occur. He explained to the 'Troika' the context within which such rare occurrences take place. He said that it was important for the Community to understand that India lagged behind no one, in expressing its fullest faith in supporting and maintaining a human rights regime, which could bear the closest scrutiny by any democratic country in the world. However, it was important to remember that India was dealing with an extremely difficult situation of insurgency in two border States, where a neighbouring country was giving the fullest material and moral support to highly trained and heavily armed terrorists. He referred to recent meetings with world leaders including Mr. Kenneth Baker, Mr. Douglas Hurd, and Mr. Larry Pressler, in which these points had been made and appreciated.

There was a discussion on non-proliferation. The 'Troika' requested a briefing on India's views on this subject and enquired whether in the changed context ... the end of the cold war, there was a possibility of India acceding to the NPT. The External Affairs Minister made a forceful presentation, informing the 'Troika' that India's attitude made a very clear distinction between non-proliferation as an ideal and the NPT has an operational mechanism. As far as non-proliferation is concerned India had in the early days of its independence, through the Non Aligned Movement, and in the United Nations, spoken out vociferously in favour of universal disarmament. India has always been in favour of non-proliferation and had unilaterally in 1974 instituted a system whereby there was no proliferation of nuclear technology in any form whatsoever. He said that India's record in this sphere was impeccable. The External Affairs Minister said that India's objections to the NPT stem from the fact that it is discriminatory. India's stand, while valid in the past, has acquired greater urgency and relevance now, since the sources of proliferation and multiplied and such proliferation, as had already taken place, was fully known to nuclear weapons States. The External Affairs Minister said that this was an ideal time to work for the laudable objective of complete and total disarmament on the lines enunciated by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi at the SSOD in 1988.

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DIA USA URUGUAY CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

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### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### EAM's Visit to 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 Mar 12, 1992:

The External Affairs Minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, will be paying an official visit to the Republic of Korea from 15-18 March, 1992. He is going there at the invitation of their Foreign Minister Mr. Lee Sang Ock.

During his stay in Seoul, External Affairs Minister will hold discussions with Mr. Ock on matters of bilateral, regional, multi-lateral interest. External Affairs Minister will receive from the Republic of Korea Foreign Minister, briefing on the recent development in Korean Peninsula. The External Affairs Minister will be calling on President Roh Tae Woo. He will be meeting a cross-section of Korea's business and industry representatives. There has been a considerable interest shown by these circles in the recent economic reforms announced by India. The representatives of Korean business and industry are likely to meet Mr. Solanki and seek clarification on our liberalisation policies. External Affairs Minister will also be visiting Industrial Complexes in Seoul. He will also meet the representatives of the India-Korea Friendship Societies.

India's relations with the Republic of Korea are developing. Trade which was Rs. 22.7 crores in 1976-77 has reached Rs. 976 crores in 1990-91. In the first half of 1991-92 it has already registered Rs. 639 crores. The visit comes at a time of great interest to both countries particularly in the field of expanding trade and business relations.

REA INDIA USA

**Date :** Mar 12, 1992

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

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Meeting between the Kyrghyz, President Mr. Askar Akaev and Prime Minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao

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The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 17, 1992:

The President of Kyrghyzstan, Mr. Askar Akaev, had a meeting with the Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao. The Prime Minister while welcoming President Akaev, said that he was confident that the visit would be of great importance in terms of our relationship in the future. The Prime Minister said that this was evident from the fact that as many as six agreements were scheduled to be signed at the end of this visit. Both leaders agreed that these agreements would lay the foundation for our future cooperation and that they would provide an excellent beginning for working together in the coming years. Both leaders agreed that as multi-ethnic and secular countries, we share common values. They also agreed that both countries could cooperate in dealing with the kind of challenges which multi-religious and pluralistic societies like ours are often required to face.

President Akaev gave the Prime Minister a detailed briefing on the situation within his country and in the region. He told Prime Minister that his Government is in the midst of carrying out a programme of radical economic reforms. It was going ahead with a process of privatisation which, to a great extent, had already been achieved in trade, services, transportation and especially in agriculture. President Akaev told Prime Minister that in carrying out these reforms, Kyrghyzstan had made a close study of the Indian experience in both the green and the white revolutions. He said that in terms of structuring the overall economic system, India was an example for

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his country. He said that the objective of his Government was to move in the direction of a social market economy. Elaborating, he said that a series of legislative measures have been adopted to lay the foundations for a market economy and to provide incentive to foreign investment. In this, and other respects, tremendous scope he said, existed for further cooperation between India and Kyrghyzstan, since our strategies appeared to be similarly oriented. For example, the Indian Banking System and the Indian experience of running it, was most suitable for Kyrghyz requirements. Bank officials from his country were already in India undergoing training and experts from India in the fields of banking and agriculture would soon be going to Kyrghyzstan to

undertake training programmes there.

The Kyrgyz President also said that mining was another area, which provided considerable scope for collaboration: that his country had rich deposits of a wide range of minerals and that his Government was willing to avail of Indian technology to exploit these mineral resources on terms which were mutually beneficial.

The Kyrgyz President briefed us on the socio-political system prevalent in Kyrgyzstan. He explained that consequent upon the taking of various important measures there was peace and stability in his country. His Government attached the greatest importance to the maintenance of accord and harmony between the different nationalities residents in Kyrgyzia. Kyrgyzstan Parliament has passed laws guaranteeing freedom of conscience and prohibiting the formation of any political party based on religion. While acknowledging that there had been a certain renewal of interest in matters religious, and this applied to Islam, Christianity and Buddhism, his Government was decisively opposed to any form of extremism. He emphasised that the Kyrgyz people have inherited a tradition of tolerance, and for centuries have lived in peace and harmony with each other.

The Kyrgyzstan President also underlined the interest of his country in maintaining close and cooperative relations with the other States in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

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### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Foreign Secretary - Level Talks between Turkey and India

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 17, 1992:

The Indian Foreign Secretary and his Turkish counterpart, Mr. Ozdem Sanberk, assisted by their respective delegations, had two hours of talks this morning. The talks are part of a regular exchange at the level of Foreign Secretaries and had been taking place since 1987, when Mr. K. P. S. Menon went to Ankara.

The two sides had an indepth review of bilateral relations. They agreed that it was in the interests of both countries to build stronger bilateral ties. The two sides also agreed that there was considerable scope for improvement in the quality of our bilateral relationship, especially on the economic front and in terms of cultural relations, which had strong historical roots.

In the context of our bilateral relations both sides expressed satisfaction that the Joint Economic Commission had met in January 1992.

The Turkish Foreign Secretary is scheduled to call on Minister of State for Commerce, Mr. P. Chidambaram, and Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro.

During the talks today, the Turkish side gave us an account of their developing  
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relations with the Western countries in general, and with the European Community in particular. They also gave us their perceptions of the developing situation in the Gulf.

The Turkish side gave us a detailed analysis of the situation in their region. They briefed us on the Black Sea Cooperation Zone comprising Romania, Bulgaria, Maldova, Russia, Georgia, and also cooperation in the Caucasus.

The two sides reiterated their commitment to the principles of secularism and democracy and said that these fundamental links were an important binding factor in our bilateral relations. The Turkish side shared with us their perception of the developments in the former Republics of the Soviet Union in general, and with particular reference to the ECO. They highlighted the fact that their primary interest was in keeping the economic dimensions of their cooperation within this organisation in the forefront of their focus. They emphasised that they were keen to help in the process of integration of these new Central Asian Republics into the international mainstream and to encourage in these Republics the forces of secularism, democracy and free enterprise. Both Indian and the Turkish sides agreed that there was scope for both countries to cooperate together in this region in the pursuit of these objectives.

The Indian Foreign Secretary gave the Turkish delegation a briefing on India's role in the Security Council in the context of the recent developments in the UN and efforts to democratise that organisation.

We also gave the Turkish side an account of our developing relations with the Western countries, with China, and with Pakistan.

On Kashmir, we conveyed our concern over Pakistan's interference in Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir, and indicated to the Turkish side that their stand in the OIC had, perhaps, not taken all relevant details into account. We expressed the hope that the Turks in the future would take a more objective and realistic view of the real situation on the ground. The Turkish side took note of the view expressed by India.

Further, the Indian and Turkish sides expressed their concern at the growing menace of terrorism in various parts of the world, and shared the view that terrorism denies human beings the most fundamental right to live. They deplored tendencies in certain quarters, to be concerned generally with the human rights of the perpetrators of terrorist acts, rather than those of the victims of such acts. Both sides felt that such interference in the internal affairs of concerned countries, even for the ostensible purpose of defending human rights, could have the effect of encouraging terrorism and further aggravating the situation in their countries.

In the context of developments in their respective regions, both sides stressed that differences between States should be resolved peacefully, on the basis of the principles of non-interference in each other's internal affairs, respect for territorial integrity, and the inviolability of established frontiers.

DIA TURKEY USA BULGARIA RUSSIA GEORGIA OMAN ROMANIA CHINA PAKISTAN

**Date :** Mar 17, 1992

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### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### The Referendum Results in South Africa

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, 1992.

Giving background information on the messages sent by President/Prime Minister on the all-white referendum held in South Africa, the Spokesman stated that we were the first country to withdraw our High Commissioner from South Africa in 1946. Our High Commission closed down in 1954. India severed trade relations with Pretoria in 1946. We imposed a complete boycott

of South Africa by 1954 in all fields - diplomatic, commercial, cultural, and sports. We were the first country to inscribe the issue of apartheid on the UN Agenda, and it was India which worked vigorously for the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa. Since that time, we have given a great deal of material, moral and political support to the anti-apartheid movement as a whole, and in particular to the ANC. The visit of Dr. Nelson Mandela to India in 1990 was the culmination of the four-decade long struggle with which we have been closely associated.

The Spokesman further stated that India welcomed the changes instituted by President de Klerk, especially the release of all prominent political prisoners, unbanning of the ANC and other anti-apartheid organisations, and certain other positive measures. These positive measures enabled the Commonwealth Heads of Government, at their meeting at Harare in

October 1991, to agree to a phased programme of lifting of sanctions depending on the real progress made towards ending apartheid. Being a party to the Commonwealth decision, we have already implemented the lifting of "people-to-people" sanctions against South Africa. The possibility of direct Air India flights -to South Africa is also being actively explored.

The recent electoral defeat of the National Party in the Potchestroom byelection had forced President de Klerk for calling the referendum. President, Mr. R. Venkataraman and Prime Minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao have already reacted to it. We hope that this development will hasten the process of establishment of a nonracial, democratic and undivided South Africa. We hope that an interim Government in which the black majority and other communities will be fully represented will be formed soon. We believe that this is a movement in the right direction, and hope that the reform process will be accelerated.

UTH AFRICA INDIA USA ZIMBABWE

**Date :** Mar 20, 1992

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Mr. Moshe Yegar

The following was the response of the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs to questions regarding the visit of the Deputy Director General in the Israeli Foreign Office to India:

Responding to a question on Mar 20, 1992, the Spokesman said that Mr. Moshe Yegar, Deputy Director General, In-Charge of Asia in the Foreign Office in Israel, accompanied by other senior officials will be visiting India from 23-25 March, 1992. Mr. Moshe Yegar will be meeting Mr. I. P. Khosla, Secretary (West) in Ministry of External Affairs, primarily for discussions with Indian authorities on various logistical questions relating to the opening of Israeli Embassy.

While in Delhi, Mr. Yegar will avail of the opportunity to have bilateral discussions with his Indian counterparts. He will call on the External Affairs Minister, Minister of State for External Affairs, the Agriculture Minister, and the Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister.

The Spokesman further stated that with the normalisation of our relations with Israel, we expect increased cooperation in all fields including the question of the opening of Indian Embassy in Israel.

Replying to another question the Spokesman stated that we have not yet fixed a return visit, but, it is very probable that discussions on the possibility of an Indian delegation visiting Israel will come up during the bilateral discussions.

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RAEL INDIA USA MALI

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### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Talks between Mr. Moshe Yegar and Indian Officials

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 23, 1992:

The Deputy Director General, Mr. Moshe Yegar, of Israel, had the

first ever official talks with Indian officials today, since diplomatic relations between India and Israel were raised to the Ambassadorial level. Mr. Yegar's counterpart in India is Mr. I. P. Khosla, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs. Both sides viewed the talks as being a good beginning in the bilateral relationship between India and Israel. They both recognised that in the fast changing situation in West Asia, both India and Israel would stand to benefit from an improved bilateral relationship. They both outlined the great potential for greater cooperation that exists in several fields, particularly in the fields of culture, where they spoke of increasing the number of visits of leading cultural personalities from Israel to India and vice-versa.

In the context of the fact that both India and Israel are ancient civilisations with a rich historical tradition, they saw that there was great scope for undertaking work of translation of classics in Hebrew and Sanskrit and other ancient Indian languages. We were informed that the Israeli side would like to work towards reviving the Chair which used to exist in Israel.

We discussed the possibilities of collaboration in the field of agriculture. Arid zones and dryland farms were the two areas which were identified for exchange of information and techniques. Likewise, in the field of Science & Technology, we discussed ways and means of promoting contact between institutions of excellence in India and their counterpart in Israel. In particular, in the field of medicine, we talked about the possibility of a premier medical institution in this country forging links with the Hadasa Medical Centre in Israel.

Mr. Yegar outlined the enormous potential that exists in every walk of life for enhanced cooperation between our two countries. He availed of the opportunity of his first contact with Indian officials in Ministry of External Affairs today, to thank them for the great cooperation extended to him when he came at a very short notice in June last year, on a humanitarian mission, to assist in securing the release of some of Israeli nationals, who had been involved in an incident of terrorism in Srinagar.

Mr. Yegar will be meeting the Foreign Secretary and officials in Ministries of Tourism and Agriculture. He will also be meeting the Minister of State for External Affairs.

DIA ISRAEL USA

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

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Talks between Mr. Moshe Yegar, Deputy Director General of Israel and Indian Foreign Secretary

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The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 24, 1992:

The Deputy Director General of Israel, Mr. Moshe Yegar, had discussions with the Foreign Secretary, Mr. J. N. Dixit today. The visit, and the discussions can be seen as part of the process of normalisation of India's relations with Israel. The talks were held with a view to defining methodologies of giving further impetus and substance to our bilateral relationship.

The visiting Deputy Director General gave Foreign Secretary a detailed briefing on the ongoing Middle-East peace process.  
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He sought Foreign Secretary's views on the current round of negotiations. The two officials discussed various possibilities which might enable India to participate in the peace process. The objective of India's participation would be to assist the ongoing negotiations.

There was also a brief discussion on various logistical arrangements which are in the process of being tied up for the opening of a new Mission in Delhi.

During Mr. Yegar's visit, discussions on follow-up visits by Indian officials to Israel have also taken place.

A number of questions were addressed to the Spokesman asking whether the talks had covered matters pertaining to internal security, collaboration on some action on the Kahuta installation, and other defence related matters. In response, the Spokesman clarified that the wide ranging discussions with the Israeli side have looked at the possibilities for cooperation that exist in the field of defence. However, there were no specific proposals under consideration at present.

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

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Kachchativu bland

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The following was the response of the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs to queries regarding Kachchativu Island on Mar 24, 1992:

Responding to queries regarding the letter written by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Prime Minister about taking back the Kachchativu Island from Sri Lanka, the Spokesman clarified that there has, been no change in our position on the maritime boundary. The Prime Minister has said, in his reply to the Chief Minister, that her suggestions have important policy implications. He has, therefore, asked the Ministry of External Affairs to examine her suggestions with the greatest possible care and attention.

Giving background information, the Spokesman stated that the agreements on the maritime boundary date to 1974 and

1976 (the 1974 agreement related to Palk Straits: and the 1976 agreement related to the Gulf of Mannar and Bay of Bengal). As a result of these two agreements, the maritime boundary, with regard to the Palk Straits on the one hand and Gulf of Mannar and Bay Bengal on the other, was fully demarcated. The Kachchativu Island fell on the Sri Lankan side. However, the agreements also allowed Indian fishermen to use the Island for the purposes of resting, drying their nets, and also to attend the festival of St. Antony as and when it was held. However, St. Antony's festival has not been held since 1983 because of ethnic conflicts.

The Prime Minister has given an assurance to the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu that her suggestions will be given utmost care.

I LANKA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA USA

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The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 24, 1992:

The Fifth Session of the Indo-Vietnam Joint Commission opened today. It is being co-Chaired by External Affairs Minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, and the Foreign Minister of Vietnam, Mr. Nguyen Manh Cam. The last Session was held in Hanoi April 1990.  
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Before the meeting, the visiting Foreign Minister called on the External Affairs Minister, and they had a discussion on regional and international issues including NAM and the potential role of the United Nations. They also talked about ways of expanding and intensifying economic, cultural and scientific cooperation. Both the Foreign Ministers noted with satisfaction the close bilateral ties. The Vietnamese Foreign Minister expressed his gratitude for India's consistent support during the struggle for independence, reunification, and now reconstruction. Even in the new context where both countries are in the process of liberalising their respective economies, they realise the importance that each has for the other. The two sides declared their intention to continue to stand by each other and maintain new coordination in the conduct of their foreign affairs. The close identity of views on the international situation, and the role of the United Nations was reflected in the talks between the two Foreign Ministers.

Regarding specific issues and bilateral economic cooperation, External Affairs Minister suggested in order to redress the trade balance, we should take a fresh look to counter-trade or barter trade. He said that it is a matter of satisfaction for India that a large number of business delegations have been going to Vietnam, and many Indian firms participated in a Trade Fair last year. The State Bank is going to open an office in Vietnam shortly. ITEC programme is going on satisfactorily. Work is proceeding on a Rs. 10 million industrial estate, that was agreed upon during President Mr. R. Venkataraman's visit to Vietnam last year. New areas for cooperation, which have been identified, include exploration of natural gas, mining, rock phosphate, rubber, cotton development, cashew nuts, tea production and processing, maritime transport, and remote sensing, etc.

The visiting Foreign Minister also called on the President and the Prime Minister.

ETNAM INDIA USA

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## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

### Mr. Solanki Calls on President Kravchuk of Ukraine

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 26, 1992:

The Minister of External Affairs, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, accompanied by the Indian Ambassador in Moscow, Mr. Gonsalves, the Ambassador-designate to Ukraine Mr. Sudhir Devare, and the Joint Secretary (East Europe) Mr. Nalin Surie, called on President Kravchuk this afternoon. President Kravchuk was assisted by his Foreign Minister, his Vice-Premier and adviser to the Presidium.

The Ukraine President said that India and Ukraine had all the necessary preconditions to build a qualitively new relationship, the foundation of which will be laid tomorrow when the Treaty of Cooperation and Friendship is to be signed.

The External Affairs Minister reciprocating the sentiments expressed by the Ukraine President said that the relations between India and Ukraine were inextricably interwoven over the last 40 years. Even when Ukraine was a part of the former Soviet Union, a very considerable part of India's cooperation in the field of technical training, defence, steel, heavy industries and the oil industry was concentrated in the Ukraine.

The Ukraine President said that he was fully conscious of this deep foundation of our bilateral relationship and was confident that the strengthening of this relationship would serve our mutual interests. He said that his meetings this morning with the President, Vice-President and the Minister of State for Commerce had confirmed his assessment that there was  
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great scope for forward movement in our bilateral relationship.

The External Affairs Minister gave a detailed exposition to the visiting President on the basic foundations of our political and economic policies. He laid special emphasis on the radical changes introduced in the last eight months, which had led to over 1000 offers by different foreign investors.

Talking about the position of the Nonalignment Movement in the

changed historical context in the post-cold war period, the External Affairs Minister underlined its continuing relevance, for the vital objectives of achieving nuclear disarmament and equitable economic development. Both these objectives constituted a core element of the movement and informed the thinking of the founding fathers. The External Affairs Minister said most countries of the world accepted the relevance of NAM, now the second largest world organisation after the U.N. with 103 members. This clearly was manifested in the observer status sought by and granted to Germany and Holland. He said that it was significant that China also had made an application for being granted observer status.

The Ukraine President expressed total agreement with the External Affairs Minister on the question of Non-alignment and said that it was Ukraine's declared policy to be a neutral and non-nuclear State. Ukraine shares the values of the NAM and did not wish to have any links with military pacts. It was determined to be a working partner of all progressive elements in the world community. He was confident that such a firm and clear stand taken by Ukraine would have a significant influence in European affairs. He said that Belarus and to a slightly lesser degree

Kazakhstan, share the policy objectives of Ukraine. He said that his country was hopeful that despite some adverse effects of the disintegration of USSR, which was in essence, the last colonial empire, the basic effects of these events would be positive.

The External Affairs Minister gave the visiting Ukraine President a detailed account of India's foreign policy towards its neighbours, highlighting the difficulties being faced with regard to Pakistan and its abetment of terrorism. He explained the entire Kashmir problem in its historical perspective, and said that the Indian leadership was convinced that only a peaceful solution within the framework of the Simla Agreement was viable.

The Ukraine President expressed his strong opposition to terrorist activity wherever it occurs and whoever indulges in it. He said that Ukraine was quite clear that problems could not be resolved in that way. As far as Kashmir was concerned, the Ukraine position was clear. This problem had to be resolved peacefully through mutual negotiations. The Ukraine President said that the Republics of the former Soviet Union could appreciate the difficulties that India was facing, as they themselves were confronted with similar problem in one or two Republics. In this age where issues of one country were closely inter-connected with the problems of others, troubles in one area travelled quickly to the others. Thus, territorial disputes in certain Republics in the former Soviet Union, had because of this interconnection, taken on the dimensions of global problems. He said that Ukraine would spare no efforts to help bring out peace in this region, which is one of the most heavily populated and important in the world.

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### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Amnesty International Report's Comments Rebutted

The following is the response of the official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs to queries on Mar 26, 1992:

Responding to queries, the Spokesman made some observations on the Amnesty International report. In the first place he said we wish to express deep regret at the unfortunate manner in which the Amnesty International dealt with our most reasonable request for three weeks time to give our comments before publication of the report so that our comments could be published alongwith the report. Their letter of 28th February, was received in our High Commission in London on the 4th of March. It was received by us here on the 6th of March. On the 11th of March, we asked for three weeks time in which to examine the many instances of alleged, abuse of human rights, which have been brought out in the report, so that our responses could be published simultaneously with the report itself. This perfectly legitimate and reasonable request was turned down.

We would have brought to their attention some very glaring and stark facts about the extraordinary increase in terrorist activity over the last year and a half, which has made the functioning of our security forces much more difficult than was the case even two years ago. For example, in Punjab, we have seen concerted and targeted attacks on policemen. A total of 973 policemen were killed in 1990-91 and what is particularly obnoxious and evil in the designs of the terrorists, is that as many as 133 family members of policemen in the year 1991 have been killed. What is worse, that in Jammu and Kashmir, there were more than 2000 attacks on the security forces during 1990-91; 1150 people were killed, of which more than 320 were security personnel.

We would have also brought to the attention of Amnesty International another dimension of the terrorists refusal to countenance any expression of dissent; and that included; dictats

as to what children should wear in school; what food or drink should be consumed and where; the high profile intimidation of the courts and judicial officers; and bludgeoning of bank officials and dictating to them what their credit policy should be etc. etc.

We would like to underline that certain important terrorist leaders like Dr. Sohan Singh, Wasant Singh Zafarwal, Gurbachan Singh Manochahal, Sukhdev Singh Babbar and others are resident in, and assisted by elements in Pakistan, and are actively directing operations from across the border. We would like to bring to their attention the complex system of remote controlled explosives and other devices which are master minded from across the border.

The Amnesty International report also totally ignores the fact, that when it was sought to give an opportunity to the people of Punjab to exercise their democratic right of voting, it was the Pakistani controlled terrorists (June 91 Elections) who killed as many as 3 candidates for Parliamentary seats, and 24 for the State Legislature, resulting in the counterminding of the elections in these constituencies.

With this background, we are somewhat amazed to observe the lukewarm, mild and inappropriate manner in which the problems of terrorism faced by India have been tackled.

There are also any number of generalisations in the report and it would appear that the Amnesty International has fallen prey to an international propaganda campaign in favour of terrorists, which is fed on stories inspired by the terrorists themselves, and one or two stray incidents where security personnel have over-stepped the limits prescribed for their activities.

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You would recall that the Press Council of India had investigated some of the allegations made and found one particular incident to have been a massive hoax. We would also bring to Amnesty International's attention in fact totally missed in their report: that over 76 criminal cases have been registered against members of the security forces; two Army Officers have been dismissed and they have been sentenced to 10 years and 11 years respectively; 23 CRPF and 10 BSF personnel have been suspended in J & K. In Punjab, 89 police officers of various ranks have been dismissed; 68 prematurely retired. With this background, it is a verdict given by the Supreme Court and on magisterial enquiries merely because the courts have not "upheld the allegations of excesses". They have ignored the fact that we have public interests litigation and that any citizen in this country can initiate proceedings for violation of human rights.

Amnesty has talks about confessions attracted under police custody but they have not mentioned that under Section

25 & 26 of the Indian Evidence Act, such evidence is inadmissible.

They have made no mention of the special courts that India has and special commissions for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

They have shown far less sensitivity to the problems of multi-lingual and multiethnic society than to the so-called abuse of human rights of terrorists.

While it is not India's claim that we have achieved the ultimate system for the preservation of our human rights, and while we fully acknowledge that there are discernible deficiencies in our system, as they are in every other system in any other country. We regret that the report makes absolutely no mention whatsoever of the commitment of Indian society at large and of the Indian Government in particular, to uphold a value system which protects human rights, which strives continuously for its improvement.

ITED KINGDOM USA PAKISTAN INDIA

**Date :** Mar 26, 1992

## Volume No

1995

PORTUGAL

Portuguese Scholarships

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 12, 1992:

The Government of Portugal is offering to Indian nationals living in India ten scholarships in Portuguese language and culture for 1992-93. Of these six are for pursuing annual course in Portuguese language and culture which are meant for students who are enrolled for these courses in Indian Universities and are for ten months. Four will be research scholarships in Portuguese languages and culture meant for candidates who have done M.A., M. Phil or Ph.D. These will be for not exceeding 12 months. Both scholarships will commence from November 1, 1992 for which the last date of receipt of applications with relevant documents is April 6, 1992.

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RTUGAL INDIA

**Date :** Mar 12, 1992

## Volume No

1995

PORTUGAL

Initiatives to Upgrade Indo-EEC Trade and Economic Relationship

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 13, 1992:

During the visit of the President of Portugal to India, the European Community's willingness to further strengthen economic relations with India was reiterated. The EC is at present the largest market for Indian exports and the most important source of foreign investment.

Some initiatives taken recently to upgrade the Indo-EEC relationship includes the decision to establish a technical working group for exploring possibilities of upgrading economic and technical cooperation; signing of the Indo-EEC International Partners Scheme to provide for EC assistance in establishing Indo-EEC Joint Venture in India; the decision to hold negotiations for concluding a comprehensive Indo-EEC Fisheries Agreement and providing for EC financial and technical assistance for trade promotion programmes in selected sectors, besides support in upgradation of standards. This information was given by Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce, in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today.

RTUGAL INDIA

**Date :** Mar 13, 1992

## Volume No

1995

SINGAPORE

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## Singapore Deputy Prime Minister holds Talks with Finance Minister

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The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 23, 1992:

A high-powered business delegation led by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry of Singapore, Brigadier General (Res) Lee Hsien Loong called on the Union Finance Minister Dr. ManMohan Singh here today.

During the talks, Dr. Singh expressed confidence that India's becoming a sectoral dialogue partner of ASEAN should help forge greater cooperation between the two countries, which would benefit the region as a whole.

The Finance Minister expressed the hope that the delegation, which includes MD, Economic Development Board and Chairman, Trade Development Board of Singapore would hold talks with their counterparts to consider ways of increasing investment in India and setting up more joint ventures. Dr. Singh invited Singapore's investment in our capital market, for which procedures have been liberalised.

The Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore said his country would be happy to cooperate with India in these matters. He also expressed happiness over India's becoming a sectoral partner of ASEAN and hailed the recent economic reforms initiated by the Government.

Earlier, the Finance Minister apprised the visiting dignitary about the country's attempts to integrate India's economy with the global economy. Dr. Singh mentioned

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the partial convertibility of rupee, reduction in customs tariffs and tax reforms in this regard. The Finance Minister also reiterated Government's determination to contain fiscal deficit and control Government expenditure.

The Singapore Deputy Prime Minister is leading a High Powered Business Delegation, which would interact with the Indian Business Delegation for fostering greater economic cooperation between the two countries.

PUBLIC OF SINGAPORE INDIA USA LATVIA

**Date :** Mar 23, 1992

**Volume No**

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1995

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SRILANKA

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Indo-Sri Lankan Cooperation in Industries

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The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 10, 1992:

The Minister of State for industry, Prof. P. J. Kurien has suggested joint ventures with Sri Lanka in the field of food-processing industries and rubber based and Agro-chemical industries. This suggestion was made by Prof. Kurien when a high-powered business delegation from Sri Lanka, led by Mr. W. Granville Perera called on him here today.

Prof. Kurien said that Sri Lanka would be benefitted by Indian technology and consultancy services. The Sri Lankan delegation welcomed setting up of joint ventures and suggested that their country would appreciate investment in joint ventures or with 100 per cent equity participation with full dividend repatriation benefits. They said that Sri Lanka had liberalized their economy and industrial policy much earlier and it was paying rich dividends. Following the liberalized policy, the balance of payment position had improved and the employment opportunities increased. They also appreciated the present liberalized economic and industrial policies now followed in India.

The delegation informed the Minister that their country was organising an industrial exhibition this year and wanted India to participate in it. Prof. Kurien welcomed the suggestion and assured the delegation all support.

I LANKA USA INDIA

**Date :** Mar 10, 1992

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## Volume No

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1995

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TURKEY

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India and Turkey to make Special Efforts to Expand Trade and Economic Cooperation

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The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 17, 1992:

The Turkish Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ozdem Sanberk, called on the Minister of

State for External Affairs, Shri Eduardo Falerio, today. Mr. Sanberk stressed Turkey's political will to expand and strengthen cooperation between India and Turkey in various fields and this objective was reciprocated by the Minister of State  
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for External Affairs. The principles of secularism and democracy, it was noted, constituted an enduring bond between the two countries. It was agreed that both sides should make special efforts to expand their trade and economic cooperation both bilaterally and through joint ventures in third countries including in the Central Asian Republics.

Shri Faleiro gave an overview of Indian foreign policy with particular emphasis on India's desire to improve its relations with all its neighbours including Pakistan. He adverted to Turkey's stand on Jammu & Kashmir in various international fora and expressed the hope that Turkey would adopt a more balanced and objective approach on this matter in future taking into consideration the realities on the ground.

Mr. Sanberk briefly reviewed Turkey's foreign policy priorities in the changed global situation.

RKEY INDIA USA PAKISTAN

**Date :** Mar 17, 1992

## Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Special 301 of U.S. Trade Legislation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 03, 1992:

On 26th February, 1992 the United States Trade Representative (USTR) announced the decision to terminate the investigation against India under Section Special 301 of the US trade legislation.

On 26th April, 1991, the United States Trade Representative

designated India as a priority foreign country under the Special 301 provisions of the US Trade legislation on grounds of perceived deficiencies in India's patent law, trade mark and copyright regimes and the enforcement of intellectual property law. The United States also represented that access for US motion pictures was restricted through quotas, fees and other barriers.

In January, 1992, the USTR issued a notice inviting written comments from the public by 24th February, 1992, as to whether acts, policies and practices of the Government of India concerning the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights and market access for motion pictures are unreasonable and burden or restrict US commerce, and if so, what responsive action, if any, should be taken by the United States.

The Government are satisfied that our laws relating to trademarks and copyright, together with some amendments proposed to the Copyright Act, are adequate. A decision has also been taken to improve market access for motion pictures and videos. As far as the issue of patents is concerned, attention of the United States has been drawn to the fact that this is the subject of multilateral negotiations, which have yet to be concluded. This information was given by Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce, in a written statement in reply to an unstarred question by Shri Krishna Kumar Birla in the Rajya Sabha today.  
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A INDIA

**Date :** Mar 03, 1992

## Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Increase in Export Quota, for Textiles by USA

The following is the text Of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 13, 1992:

Following negotiations between representatives of the Government of India and United States of America, an understanding was reached on the access levels for export of textile and clothing products in the US market for 1992. According to this, there are increases. in the quotas for certain products. In respect of some products, certain additional flexibilities will be available which will result in increased export opportunities. It is

expected that, as a result of these changes, there will be a significant increase in the exports to US market during 1992. This information was given by Shri Ashok Gehlot, Minister of State for Textiles, in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today.

A INDIA

**Date :** Mar 13, 1992

## Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Suo Moto Statement by Shri Edaurdo Faleiro, Minister of Statefor External Affairs in the Rajya Sabha Lok Sabha on ForeignSecretary's Visit to USA

The following is the text of the statement issuea by Shri Eduardo Faleiro, Minister of State for External Affairs, in the Lok Sabha\Rajya Sabha on Mar 16, 1992 on Foreign Secretary's recent visit to USA:

I rise to make a statement on the recent visit of the Foreign Secretary to the USA and other related issues which have been raised during Zero Hour in the past few days.

Foreign Secretary visited Washington, March 9-11, for talks on matters of mutual interest. Indo-US consultlations a: the Foreign Secretary's level are a regular feature in our bilateral relations and generally cover the whole gamut of IndoUS ties.

Honourable Members have in the past few days raised a number of pertinent issues relating to Indo-US relations. I would now like to address some of them specifically.

PENTAGON PAPER

Honourable Members made reference to the so-called Pentagon Paper, extracts of which appeared in the US press on March 8, 1992. The paper is actually a draft which outlines USA's perceptions and strategies in relation to the entire world. The report is not a specific position paper on India or Pakistan. However, the paragraphs of particular concern to India, as they appeared in newspapers in the United States are the following:

"We will seek to prevent the further development of a nuclear arms race on the Indian subcontinent. In this regard, we should work to have both countries, India and Pakistan, adhere to the

Nuclear NonProliferation Treaty and to place their nuclear energy facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards. We should discourage Indian hegemonic aspirations over the other states in South Asia and on the Indian ocean. With regard to Pakistan, a constructive US-Pakistani military relationship will be an important element in our strategy to promote stable security conditions in Southwest Asia and Central Asia. We should therefore endeavour to rebuild our military relationship given acceptable resolution of our nuclear concerns".

"The US may be faced with the question of whether to take military steps to Prevent the development or use of weapons of mass destruction....."

Foreign Secretary was instructed to immediately take up these negative references to India. In his meetings Foreign Secretary conveyed our serious concerns on the above. He was informed that this document was a draft paper prepared by middle level Pentagon officials and would be subject to review and modification.

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India's concerns have been noted by the US and modifications would be made to take them into account. Foreign Secretary was categorically told that there was no perception at US policy-making levels which reflected the negative references to India contained in the Pentagon paper, Officials of both the State Department and the National Security Council with whom Foreign Secretary raised India's concerns. Informed him that the paper does not reflect the position of the US on various issues dealt with and that it is subject to further review.

On the reported Pentagon advocacy for a continued substantial US military relationship with Pakistan, Foreign Secretary strongly conveyed our views that while it was a bilateral matter between the United States and Pakistan, this would naturally have consequences in terms of Indian assessments and policy orientation.

#### INDIA'S POSITION ON NPT AND 5-POWER CONFERENCE

I would now like to take up the issue of India's position regarding the Non-Proliferation Treaty. There have been some misleading reports that have appeared in the press that India would sign the NPT. Some Honourable Members had raised this specifically in Parliament. I would like to categorically state that there is no change in India's position with regard to the NPT. In Washington, the Foreign Secretary reaffirmed our position that India would not sign the NPT since it considered the treaty to be discriminatory. The Foreign Secretary unambiguously put forward India's views in this regard.

I would like to make a clear distinction between India's position on the NPT and her position on nuclear non-proliferation. India

has always been against the proliferation of nuclear weapons and her record in this regard is second to none. Speaking at the Security Council on January 31, 1992, Prime Minister had set out India's views in this regard. He recalled the Action Plan for Disarmament put forward at the Third Special Session on Disarmament in 1988 by the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi which sought to eliminate all weapons of mass destruction in stages, eventually leading to a nuclear-weapon-free and non-violent world. Prime Minister said and I quote:

"The Plan contained all the key elements of a new international consensus on nuclear non-proliferation. First, it called for the conclusion of an international convention on the prohibition of the use of threat of use of nuclear weapons. Second, it advocated a comprehensive test-ban treaty. Third, threshold states would undertake obligations not to cross the threshold, and this would be linked to corresponding obligations by nuclear-weapon states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals by the year 2010 at the latest".

Prime Minister in fact advocated advancing this time-frame to the year 2000. The House is aware that on the issue of signing the NPT, India has been under pressure for several years past, including pressure from the erstwhile Soviet Union. We have consistently taken a principled stand to the effect that while the treaty is discriminatory, what is needed is total and complete nuclear disarmament, brought about by balanced, simultaneous, comprehensive and time-bound measures on the lines advocated by India's Action Plan presented at the Third Special session of the UN on Disarmament in 1988. The copies of which are available in the Parliament Library. The Prime Minister has elaborated India's stand on all occasions when the matter was raised both in multilateral meetings and bilateral talks.

Honourable Members had also referred to the 5-Power Conference proposal put forward by the United States to discuss security issues, including nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia. During his meeting with president Bush in New York on January 31, 1992, Prime Minister detailed Government's position on this. The Prime Minister told President Bush that India was concerned about uncontrolled proliferation of nuclear weapons and did not

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see how this new phenomenon could be stopped merely by measures of policing. Proliferation had taken on a global dimension and required a global approach. India was prepared to talk to the US on non-proliferation but given the practical situation and ground realities, India had to consider on how to deal with the problem. This reality could hardly be dealt with in a meeting of 5 states as such a meeting could become only an exercise in acrimony.

In Washington, Foreign Secretary reiterated India's stand on the

above lines in regard to talking bilaterally with the US on the latter's concerns on nuclear non-proliferation.

#### INDO-US NAVAL EXERCISES

Some Honourable Members had referred to the proposal for Indo-US joint naval exercises. India has defence cooperation with several friendly countries, including the United States. Indo-US defence cooperation is focussed on exchange of professional information, high level visits and training. In this context, joint training exercises will be undertaken by the Indian and US Navies. It is the Government's view that these training exercises would be professionally useful to our Navy. No agreement has been signed in this regard. I wish to state that the Indian Navy has recently conducted an exercise with the Australian Navy.

India remains committed to the Indian Ocean being an area without conflict. India would like to see the maintenance of peace and stability in all areas of the Indian Ocean, free from intimidation or rivalry in the context of the objectives outlined in the 1971 Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

#### INDIA'S POSITION ON SPECIAL 301

Honourable Members are aware that the Special 301 investigation against India on the issue of Intellectual Property Rights has been terminated. The United States Trade Representative had, however, announced on 26 February, 1992 that an Inter-Agency Committee will be mandated to develop options for possible implementation and action if the facts so warrant. Honourable Members know that trade-related IPR issues are being discussed and negotiated in the GATT under the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. It is in this context that Foreign Secretary has conveyed that Indo-US consultations could continue at the Uruguay Round to narrow down differences wherever possible.

#### CONCLUSION

The talks that Foreign Secretary conducted with US officials were in a spirit of mutual understanding and friendliness. These talks will continue.

A INDIA PAKISTAN AUSTRALIA URUGUAY

**Date :** Mar 16, 1992

**Volume No**

1995

## UKRAINE

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### Trade with the Republics

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The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 03, 1992:

The Russian Federation and Ukraine have agreed, in principle, to the continuance of rupee payment for purchases made by India in the fields of defence, power, coal and steel.

The financial issues relating to rupeerouble parity and liquidation of technical  
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credit are due for further discussion between Russia and India shortly.

Meanwhile, arrangements are being worked out for continuing trade with the republics which formed part of the erstwhile USSR. The new trading arrangements would permit trade in convertible currencies also, besides trade in rupee, barter, counter trade and the like. This information was given by Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce in a written reply in Rajya Sabha today.

RAINE UNITED KINGDOM INDIA RUSSIA USA

**Date :** Mar 03, 1992

## Volume No

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1995

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## UZBEKISTAN

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### India and Uzbekistan to Operate Air Services

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The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi an Mar 20, 1992:

India and Uzbekistan have finalised an Air Services Agreement providing that their designated airlines shall be entitled to operate two weekly frequencies between the two countries. This was agreed to during discussions held here recently between the official delegations of India and Uzbekistan.

This agreement is expected to promote civil aviation relations

between the two countries.

BEKISTAN INDIA USA

**Date :** Mar 20, 1992

## Volume No

1995

VIETNAM

Indo-Vietnam Joint Commission Meeting

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 25, 1992:

The fifth session of the Indo-Vietnam Joint Economic, Scientific and Technical Commission was held in New Delhi on 24-25 March, 1992. The meeting was cochaired by the Minister for External Affairs, Shri Madhavsingh Solanki, and the Vietnamese Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Nguyen Manh Cam. At the official level, the deliberations were led by Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri L. L. Mehrotra and the ViceChairman of the Vietnamese State Planning Committee, Mr. Tran Khai.

The Joint Commission meeting reviewed existing bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade and commerce including prospects for counter-trade or barter-trade; oil exploration; science and technology; training and assistance under the Technical Cooperation Programme; and culture. New areas for cooperation were identified including apatite mining; rock phosphate; rubber plantation and related industries; cotton development! cashew and tea plantation and processing; transport sector;

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exploration for natural gas; maritime transport, remote sensing; sugar mills; and mini cement plants, among others. India is to assist Vietnam in setting up an industrial estate in Hanoi. The National Small Scale Industries Corporation will shortly send a team to Vietnam for this purpose.

The Cultural Exchange Programme for the period 1992-94 was signed during the meeting, providing for enhanced cultural cooperation. The number of scholarships extended to Vietnam under the Cultural Exchange Programme was increased to 14 from the existing 10. India also agreed to examine possibilities for assisting Vietnam with restoration of the Cham monuments in Central and Southern

Vietnam, which are symbols of India's cultural interaction with Vietnam.

Vietnam appreciated India's consistent support and assistance during its struggle for independence, reunification and reconstruction. Even in the context of profound changes in the international situation where both countries are engaged in liberalising their economic structure and policies and fostering relations of cooperation with all countries, they attached great importance to Indo-Vietnamese relations as a constant in the changing world.

Foreign Minister Cam called on the Prime Minister, Vice-President and President to convey greetings from the Vietnamese leadership and to stress Vietnam's continued interest at the highest level in consolidation and expansion of Indo-Vietnamese friendship. External Affairs Minister Shri Solanki had a detailed tete-a-tete with Foreign Minister Cam covering the whole range of regional and international issues of bilateral concern. In particular, Shri Solanki explained India's consistent efforts to improve relations with all our neighbours despite the problems posed by Pakistan's interference in our internal affairs through assistance to terrorism in J&K and Punjab. Vietnamese Foreign Minister fully appreciated India's position on Kashmir and conveyed Vietnam's consistent support for our stand. The Joint Commission meeting and the visit of the Vietnamese Foreign Minister have given a boost to the Indo-Vietnamese relations leading to enhancement of bilateral cooperation in many areas, especially in the field of trade and commerce.

ETNAM INDIA USA PAKISTAN

**Date :** Mar 25, 1992

## Volume No

1995

YUGOSLAVIA

Export of Vehicles to Yugoslavia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi  
On Mar 26, 1992:

The Maruti Udyog Limited (MUL) expects to export around 5160 vehicles to Yugoslavia by end of March 1992. 5526 vehicles have been exported till March 21, 1992.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Industry, Shri P. K. Thungon in the Rajya Sabha today in a written reply to a question by Shri Viren J. Shah.

Shri Thungon informed the House that during 1991-92, MUL expects to export around 22,700 vehicles.

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GOSLAVIA INDIA USA

**Date :** Mar 26, 1992

## Volume No

1995

ZIMBABWE

Technical Assistance to Zimbabwe

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 13, 1992:

The Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited (RITES) have signed a contract with the National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) on December 17, 1991, to provide technical assistance to strengthen the maintenance and operations of the NRZ system for the calendar year, 1992.

The NRZ is being provided aid by the World Bank for the project. RITES envisages deputing 38 persons, including computer specialists, engineers, supervisors and technicians from India to undertake the work.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Railways Shri Mallikarjun in a written reply to a question from Shri Ram Badan in the Lok Sabha today.

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ZIMBABWE INDIA

**Date :** Mar 13, 1992

**April**

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1995

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UNITED KINGDOM

**Date :** Apr 01, 1992

## Volume No

1995

ALGERIA

### Indo-Algerian Joint Railway Working Group Identify Areas of Cooperation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 22, 1992:

India and Algeria have agreed to continue and deepen their collaboration in the Railway sector within a mutually advantageous framework. This was decided on the conclusion of their meeting of Indo-Algerian Joint Working Group on Railways here last evening. The Minutes of the meeting were signed by Dr. Y. Y. P. Anand, Chairman, Railway Board on behalf of India and Mr. D. E. Boulkedid, Director General of Algerian Railways Authority on behalf of Algeria.

The two parties evaluating their decade old cooperation, identified the directions which would be the objective of mutual collaboration in future. They exchanged information and expressed mutual satisfaction on the progress of the cooperation between the two countries in this field.

Among the areas of cooperation identified, the Algerian side informed the Indian side that the Indian Railway Construction Company Limited (IRCON), a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Railways would be invited to submit its bid within the time fixed for the renewal of the project of ANNABA RAMDENE DJAMEL Section. The Algerian side also informed the Indian side that IRCON and Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited (RITES), have been prequalified for participation in the tender

for the construction and supervision of El Achir Tunnel.

In addition, the Algerian side made a note of the experience acquired by the Indian Railways in the areas of gauge conversion and the ambitious programme in this field. It expressed its desire to start a programme of collaboration with Indian Railways for enabling it to decide about the feasibility and the opportunity of proceeding to the standard gauge from existing narrow gauge lines. In this connection, Algeria would send some experts to familiarise themselves with the works in progress in Indian Railways. The Algerian side also agreed to the exchange of technical information with IRCON on the design and manufacture of dual gauge concrete sleepers.

The Algerian side showed keen interest in further extension of computerised operations simulation system already supplied by RITES and identified areas requiring priority including conversion of electrification from the existing 3000 Volts DC to 25 KV AC System of its Railway line and further extend it to main railway line. The Algerian side expressed interest in information regarding possible supplies of raw material from India for production of Siemens relays being produced by a Government Undertaking in Algeria.

The Algerian side also expressed its desire to collaborate with Indian firms for manufacturing International Standards Organisation (ISO) containers in Algeria for which the Container Corporation of India (CONCOR), a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Railways will coordinate with the Indian firms in this regard. The Algerian side also noted the

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interest of IRCON to participate in the construction of the East-West highway.

The next meeting of the Joint Working Group will be held in Algeria in October-November 1992 this year.

The Algerian delegation expressed their thanks to the Indian side for the warm welcome extended to them during their stay in India. India and Algeria are traditionally good friends.

GERIA INDIA USA RUSSIA

**Date :** Apr 22, 1992

**Volume No**

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1995

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## BHUTAN

### Indo-Bhutanese Cooperation in Cement Production

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 28, 1992:

India has reiterated its commitment of cooperation in setting up of the Dumgsum cement plant in Bhutan. This assurance was given by the Minister of State for Industry Prof. P. S. Kurien when the Minister for Trade and Industry of Bhutan, H.E. Mr. Lyoapo Om Pradhan called on him here today.

Prof. Kurien proposed to the Bhutanese dignitary that keeping in view the new liberalised industrial policy and the increasing capital cost, it would be desirable to set up the plant in the joint sector involving the private Indian companies. He said that there were a number of Indian companies having the requisite managerial and technological expertise in this regard.

During the meeting Prof. Kurien told the visiting Minister that India would not go back from its commitment regarding the cement plant and its setting up would not be delayed. Both the Ministers explored the possibilities of cooperation in strengthening industrial and economic relations between the two countries. Prof. Kurien said that India would extend all possible assistance in the industrial development of Bhutan.

UTAN INDIA USA

**Date :** Apr 28, 1992

## Volume No

1995

## CHINA

### Annual Session of ESCAP in Beijing - Salman Khurshid to Participate

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 10, 1992:

The 48th Annual Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is scheduled to be held in Beijing from 14 to 23 April, 1992. The Indian delegation to the Session will be led by Shri Salman Khurshid, Deputy Minister of Commerce. He will participate in the plenary session the first two days, 14

and, 15 April, and make a plenary statement on 15 April.  
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The main topic of discussion of the Session will be regional economic cooperation in the ESCAP region and revision of the inter-governmental structure of the Commission. Apart from this, the Session will discuss the policies and perspectives for the economic and social development of the ESCAP region as well as regional responses and initiatives in various fields. The Session will also review matters relating to different fields of activity of the ESCAP region and its regional institutions.

ESCAP is the UN's nodal intergovernmental body for the region for the promotion of cooperation in the fields of economic and social development. It has more than 40 members/associate members, with the region representing a major share of the world population. India is a founder member of ESCAP. While the ESCAP region has been showing a vigorous growth performance in recent years, there is considerable diversity in the economic performance of different sub-regions with substantial growth rates being achieved in the East Asian and South-East Asian regions. The developing countries of the ESCAP region showed an overall growth rate of 5.4% in 1990.

INA INDIA USA

**Date :** Apr 10, 1992

## Volume No

1995

COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

Export of Tea to Commonwealth of Independent States

The following is the text of a Press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 10, 1992:

The export of tea to erstwhile USSR from India during 1991 was estimated at 104.5 million Kgs. with an export earnings of Rs. 546.85 crores, compared to the export of 128.6 Million Kgs. valued at Rs. 670-72 crores in 1990 indicating a decline of 24.1 million kgs. in respect of volumes and Rs. 123.87 crores in respect of export earnings.

Trade provision for exports of tea from India to Russian Federation during 1992 is fixed at 60 million kgs. on rupee payment basis. Similarly in respect of Uzbekistan a protocol for

export of 3 million kgs. of tea with a value of Rs. \$ 6.10 million has been signed. In respect Kazakistan 15000 tonnes of tea has been agreed for export from India. This information was given by Shri Salman Khurshid, Deputy Minister of Commerce in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today.

DIA USA RUSSIA UZBEKISTAN

**Date :** Apr 10, 1992

## Volume No

1995

COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

India Despatch Humanitarian Supplies to Russia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 15, 1992:

India despatched the first batch of humanitarian supplies today to the friendly people of the Russian Federation, through the Russian Commission for humanitarian and technical assistance. These supplies were sent by a Special aircraft. The Government of India as a gesture of friendship in a spirit of mutual cooperation, had decided a few weeks ago to contribute Rs. 150 million worth of humanitarian supplies to the Russian Commission in the form of medicines, baby food, and rice to overcome some temporary shortages of these items in Russia.  
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The first shipment contains medicines and specified bandages worth about Rs. 31 millions. The medical supplies had been specifically identified by the Russian Commission. Arrangements are also being made to despatch separately baby food and rice by sea worth approximately Rs. 25 million each.

SSIA INDIA USA

**Date :** Apr 15, 1992

## Volume No

1995

Russia Urged to Buy More Tobacco

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The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 28, 1992:

Major buyers of Indian tobacco including the Russian have been approached to step up their purchases. In a written reply in Rajya Sabha today, Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce, said that there had been since 13.4.1992 some resentment among the growers on account of fall in prices of tobacco, as compared to the last year. At 15 out of 23 platforms auctions have remained suspended. Taking note of the resentment of the tobacco growers, the Government advised the Tobacco Board to immediately hold an emergency meeting of the Board to take stock of the situation and to take remedial steps. The Chairman of the Tobacco Board had impressed upon the traders including the exporters and the manufacturers of cigarettes the need for offering remunerative prices to the farmers in the overall interest of the industry.

In reply to another question,, Shri Chidambaram said the Protocol between the Government of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on the trade turnover and payment in 1992 was signed on 22nd February, 1992, envisaging export of 25,000 tonnes of tobacco and 3 billion pieces of cigarettes to Russia. The Russian buyers have contracted for 15,000 tonnes of tobacco and 3 billion pieces of cigarettes so far. The Russians can contract for the remaining quantity of 10,000 Mts. of tobacco within the calendar year 1992 in terms of the Protocol.

SSIA USA INDIA

**Date :** Apr 28, 1992

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## Volume No

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1995

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India, Turkmenistan Sign Agreement on Trade, Economic Cooperation

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The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 20, 1992:

India and Turkmenistan have signed an Agreement on Trade and

Economic Cooperation which provides for according to each other most favoured nation treatment in all matters of trade and commercial cooperation. and promotion of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries on a long-term and stable basis. The Agreement was signed here today by Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce, on behalf of the Government of India and by his counterpart from Turkmenistan, Mr. Kuliev.

Under the Agreement, all payments of a commercial non-commercial nature between India and Turkmenistan shall be made in freely convertible international currencies, unless otherwise specifically agreed upon between the two sides. "National and juridical persons of either country shall also be free to import or export goods and services from each other on the basis of counter-trade, compensation arrangements, leasing and buy-back arrangements or any other internationally recognised form of business cooperation in accordance with the laws and regulations of the two countries."

Both sides have agreed to encourage investment and technological cooperation  
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with each other, among other things, through the establishment of joint ventures in their territories, for their domestic markets as well as the markets of third countries. Both sides will also promote cooperation in science and technology, ecology, transport, tourism and communications etc.

The Agreement will be valid for a period of five years, effective from the date of its signing.

RKMNISTAN INDIA USA

**Date** : Apr 20, 1992

## Volume No

1995

COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

India and Turkmenistan Sign Six Agreements

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 20, 1992:

H.E. Mr. S. A. Niyazov, President of Turkmenistan and the Prime

Minister of India, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao signed an agreement on Declaration of Principles and Direction of Cooperation at a special function held today at the Rashtrapati Bhawan.

Other agreements signed today between India and Turkmenistan are as under:

Agreement on Cooperation in the sphere of culture, arts, education, science, tourism, sports and mass media signed by Human Resources Development Minister, Shri Arjun Singh and Turkmenistan Minister for Culture, Mr. Mamiliev;

Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation signed by Minister for Commerce, Mr. P. Chidambaram and Mr. CH T.Kuliev Chairman State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations;

Protocol on Establishment of Diplomatic Relations and Consular Relations signed by Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Feleiro and Turkmenistan Foreign Minister, Mr. A. Kuliev;

Agreement on Technical and Economic Cooperation signed by Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Feleiro and Deputy Head of the Government, Mr. A Chariyev.

RKMENISTAN INDIA

**Date :** Apr 20, 1992

## Volume No

1995

HOLLAND

Indo-Dutch Seminar on Environmental concerns in Development Process

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 02, 1992:

The Planning Commission Member, Dr. S. Z. Qasim has said, the day is not far when there won't be any resources to live on the Earth if the rate at which Earth's resources are being utilised is not checked. He said the developed countries have overutilised the resources for achieving and maintaining their high living standards.

Dr. Qasim was inaugurating the Indo-Dutch Policy Seminar on Internalisation of Environmental Concerns in Development Process, here today. The Seminar was third in the series under the Indo-

Dutch cooperation on environmental issues organised by the Ministry of Environment and Forests with Netherlands collaboration.

Dr. Qasim advocated the maximisation of production by utilising less material, less energy and other resources to achieve the sustainable development according to  
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the carrying capacity of the Earth. He said the development has to be without destruction though there would always be some stress on the environment due to the development process.

The others who addressed the Seminar included the Ambassador Royal Government of the Netherlands, H.E. H.S. Sarwas, and planning and environmental experts from India and Netherlands. The invitees to the Seminar included all the Secretaries to the Government of India, Chief Secretaries of all the States, Vice Chancellors and representatives of the public sector organisations.

Presentations were made on "Planning for Sustainable Development - A Carrying Capacity Based Planning Approach", 'Bio-diversity Conservation', 'Health Impacts of Pollutants' and 'Green House Gases - National and Global Issues'.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC THE NETHERLANDS

**Date :** Apr 02, 1992

## Volume No

1995

NEPAL

Indo-Nepal Joint Committee on Sapta Kosi Project

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 06, 1992:

An Indo-Nepal Joint Committee of Experts has been constituted to finalise the modalities of the Investigations and the method of assessment of benefits from Sapta Kosi multi purpose project in Nepal. The first meeting of the Joint Committee of Experts was held in Kathmandu from February 13-14, 1992. No agreements have however been reached for the construction of dams.

During the last visit of Prime Minister of Nepal to India in

December, 1991, it was agreed to carry out joint studies/investigations as are necessary to finalise the parameters of Kosi Multi-Purpose Dam expeditiously. In case of Kamla and Bagmati it was agreed that Nepal will carry out needed investigations and prepare the feasibility report by 1993.

This information was given by Union Minister for Water Resources, Shri Vidyacharan Shukla, in written reply to a question in Lok Sabha here today.

PAL INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA UNITED KINGDOM

**Date :** Apr 06, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Mr. L. L. Mehrotra's Visit to Tokyo

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 31, 1992:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that India has highlighted one or two aspects in the recently concluded Tokyo Preparatory Meeting for the Ministerial Conference on Rehabilitation and construction of Cambodia.

India was one of the first countries to Provide Support to Cambodia over the last  
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two decades and this included professional training, medical and hospital supplies, services of doctors, diesel pumpsets and humanitarian assistance like providing of rice, cloth, yarn, sewing machines, etc. This assistance totals nearly 10 million US dollars.

At the request of UN Secretary General, we have offered the services of Indian infantry troops, engineers, mining experts, medical units, civil, police, and officials for conducting elections there.

During this two day session, the relevance of India's experience in areas of irrigation, forestry, agriculture, non-conventional sources of energy, railways and other infrastructural facilities was underlined. India was Chairman of all the three International

Control Commissions which were set up under the 1964 Geneva Accords.

PAN INDIA CAMBODIA USA LATVIA SWITZERLAND

**Date :** Mar 31, 1992

## Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Parliamentarians for Global Action

The following is the text of a press release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on Apr 02, 1992:

A delegation of the Parliamentarians For Global Action (PGA) comprising Ms. Sylvia Hernandez, Senator from Mexico, Dr. Olafur Grimsson, former Finance Minister of Iceland, and Mr. Kennedy Graham, Member of Parliament from New Zealand, accompanied by Shri Murli Deora, MP and Asia President of the PGA, called on Shri Eduardo Faleiro, Minister of State for External Affairs, this evening. The delegation put forward certain proposals relating to reform of the UN and Nuclear Disarmament.

The Minister agreed to consider the interesting proposals put forward by the PGA and to enter into a dialogue with the organisation.

The India Chapter of the PGA is scheduled to be inaugurated tomorrow at 1500 hrs by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri Shivraj Patil, at Parliament House.

XICO ICELAND NEW ZEALAND INDIA USA

**Date :** Apr 02, 1992

## Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

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## Visit of Crown Prince of Thailand

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The following is the briefing of the Official Spokesman on the visit of the Crown Prince of Thailand, His Royal Highness Maha Vajiralongkorn, to India:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that the Crown Prince of Thailand, His Royal Highness Maha Vajiralongkorn is visiting India, with a 20-member delegation, from Apr 7-, 1992@@@ He will be the guest of the Vice President. This is the first visit to India by the Crown Prince and the second by a member of the Thai Royal Family - the first visit was that of His Royal Highness Princess Mahachakri Sirindhorn to India in March 1987.

The Indian links with Thailand are very old. Cultural and religious ties bind both the countries.

On the political front, there were three major visits in the last few years -the first ever by an Indian Prime Minister, when former Prime Minister, late Shri Rajiv Gandhi went to Thailand in October 1986, the second when His Royal Highness Crown Princess Mahachakri Sirindhorn came to India in March 1987, and the third when the Thai Prime Minister, Gen. Chati-chai Choonhavan visited India in April 1989.

There exists a Joint Commission between the two countries on Economic,  
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Scientific and Technical Cooperation, cochaired by the two Foreign Ministers, the first meeting of which was held in Bangkok in May 1989. Bilateral trade has grown more than five-fold from US dollars 108 million in 1986 to US dollars 621 million in 1990. For the period January to November 1991, the trade turnover has already reached the figure of US dollars 1 billion mark. Major items of export from India to Thailand are cut and polished stones, organic chemicals, engineering goods, iron and steel products, fabrics, etc: while our imports from Thailand are pulses, rubber and rubber articles, electrical, machinery and parts, machinery and mechanical equipment, pearls and precious stones, etc.

Fifteen-Joint Ventures re functioning in Thailand in different fields. ONGC has got a consultancy project for a study of off-shore natural gas area in the Gulf of Thailand. An Electronic Design Laboratory has been set up in Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok with Government of India's assistance.

Apart from his meeting with the President and the Prime Minister, the Crown Prince will be visiting religious places like Varanasi, Sarnath, Bodh Gaya, Nalanda, etc.

AILAND INDIA USA

**Date :** Apr 7-, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### India-Japan Consultative Talks

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 07, 1992:

The India-Japan Annual Bilateral Consultative talks will be held in Tokyo on 14th April, 1992. Foreign Secretary, Shri J. N. Dixit, will be leading the Indian side to the talks. The Japanese side will be led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Kunihiko Saito. The last round of India-Japan Annual Bilateral Consultative Talks was held in February, 1991 in New Delhi.

The two sides will exchange views on matters of mutual interest in the bilateral, regional and international spheres. Our dialogue with Japan is being deepened and intensified. Our foreign policy concerns in a changed world situation and our interest in promoting closer interaction with Japan will form the subject of discussions during Foreign Secretary's visit. The visit is also expected to be useful in terms of preparations for the forthcoming visit of the Prime Minister to Japan.

The Foreign Secretary will also have discussions with members of the South Asia Forum, a group of eminent Japanese drawn from academia, business, and industry, which has been set up by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Also slated to be discussed will be the events to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Japan and the signing of a Peace Treaty between India and Japan.

DIA JAPAN USA

**Date :** Apr 07, 1992

## Volume No

1995

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State Visit of Vice President of India to the DPRK and Mongolia

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The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on the State visit of the Vice President of India, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma and Smt. Vimla Sharma to the DPRK and Mongolia:

The Vice President of India, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma accompanied by Smt Vimala Sharma and a delegation of Members of Parliament and senior officials will be visiting the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from the 14th to 17th April, 1992 and Mongolia from Apr 17, 1992 to 20th April, 1992.

The Vice President of India is visiting the DPRK at the invitation of the Vice President of the DPRK, Mr. Li Jong Ok, -154>

who visited India in May, 1991. The Vice President and the delegation will be present in Pyongyang on the occasion of the 80th birthday celebrations of President Kim II Sung. This will be the first ever visit by the, vice President of India to the DPRK.

Relations between India and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have been warm and cordial. Consular relations established in 1962 were upgraded to diplomatic level in 1973. Trade between India and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is in the range of Rs. 100 crores. with the balance in India's favour. Iron ore other ores, basic chemicals, cotton yarn and leather have been the main items of export to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, while our imports comprise of iron and steel, electrical machinery, transport equipment, artificial resins and plastic materials.

The Vice President will be visiting Mongolia at the invitation of the Mongolian Vice President, Mr. R. Gonchigdorj of Mongolia. During his stay in Mongolia, the Vice President will hold talks with Vice President Gonchigdorj on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern. He is scheduled to address the State Baga Hural (Mongolian Parliament), He will also meet the leaders of various political parties. During his stay in Mongolia the Vice President will also call on the President, Mr. P. ochirbat. The Vice President and the delegation are scheduled to visit Karakoram, the ancient capital of Mongolia, the Erdenzuu monastery and the Gandan monastery.

Our relations with Mongolia are timehonoured and rooted in a shared cultural heritage. These ties have been reinforced in modern times by our bilateral cooperation and friendly dialogue on various issues of mutual interest and concern. Mongolia opted for democratic reforms and a free market economy in 1990. A new

Constitution has been adopted and elections are expected in June, 1992. Other high level visits in the past include that of Vice President, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan in 1957 and President R. Venkataraman in July 1988. From Mongolia Prime Minister You Tsendenbal visited India in 1973 while President J Batmunkh visited India in March, 1989.

DIA MONGOLIA KOREA NORTH KOREA USA

**Date :** Apr 17, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Investments in India

The following is the briefing by the Additional Secretary Economic Relations on Apr 03, 1992 on the forthcoming seminars in Los Angeles and San Francisco on "Business Opportunities & Investments" in India:

While briefing newsmen, Additional Secretary (Economic Relations), stated that we have received an offer from Messrs. Arthur Anderson and Bank of America to host a Investment Promotion Seminar, targeting the West Coast. Our attempt is really to raise the awareness that India is a good place to do business, good for them and good for us.

Our Consulate General in San Francisco has teamed up with four sponsors -the Government on one side represented by Consul General in San Francisco, the "Los Angeles Times", Messrs. Arthur Anderson; and the Bank of America. Together, the four have arranged for a Seminar which is being held on the 8th of April. The Indian delegation is being led by Mr. P Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce. He will be taking with him a smallish official delegation and a largish business delegation. The Secretary for Industry and representatives from the Department of Power, Electronics will be on the list of official delegation. The business delegation will comprise 20-25 members and will include representatives which were selected on the basis of the sectors that have been identified. It will include Mr. Dave of UTI, Mr. Sodhi of RBI, Mr. Kalyan

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Bannerjee, Chairman of EXIM Bank, Mr. V. N. Dutt, President of FICCI, Mr. U. C. Rai, President of Usha Rectifier, Mr. Ashok

Pratap, Chairman of Indo-American Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Noorani of Zodiac International Informatics, Mr. H. Mehta, and representatives from the Financial Institutions. Some people will come from Chicago and COMTEX.

The areas that have been targetted, apart from Power and Agro Industries, are Packaging, Medical and Scientific Instruments, etc. The Seminar will include representatives from Oxydental Petroleum, Dolefood life Entertainment, BPL International Links, Northrop, Hughes, Pacific Enterprises, etc. Some of them are very well known in the international arena.

The idea is really to raise the awareness of India being a "business destination". We would not only welcome the delegates but would tell them to look at India and see if they can do business here.

The Editor of the 'Los Angeles Times' will be opening the Seminar. The Minister of State for Commerce will make his presentation. The other sponsorers - the Bank of America and Mis. Arthur Anderson - have been helpful. The CoChairman of the Bank of America will also be making a presentation. After the Seminar a question-answer session will be arranged.

On 9th the Minister of State for Commerce will be going to San Francisco where he will be meeting the representatives of the Electrical Power Research (EPRI), the largest consultancy organisation in the West Coast. They are going to make a presentation for us as to what they can do for us and what we can do. There is also a meeting at Stanford University where 10 company representatives will meet Mr. Chidambaram. The Dean of the Faculty has been invited to an interaction with the Minister. There will be an interaction with the CEOs in a much closer way. In the evening of 9th, we are meeting the members of the Silicon Valley Indian Professional Association.

Responding to a query that our new economic and industrial policy is not enough to attract foreign businessmen and the business houses, and our attitude remains the same as it was earlier, i.e. to bring the middlemen to conduct business, like in this case the EPRI, AS(ER) clarified that first of all our policy is not like that. EPRI is a consultancy organisation which is different from a consultant. EPRI is inviting different companies. They are inviting members of EPRI's Power Sector not to act as a middlemen but to tell them to invest in India.

Speaking about the global climate today, AS (ER) said that capital is not chasing the market, it is market chasing capital. China, Indonesia, Thailand, Pakistan, former USSR, East European countries and Mexico - all are looking for foreign investment; India is a newcomer. By changing our policy we want to tell them that we are a part of the emerging world market. At present, most of the investment is going to developed countries and very

little is coming to developing countries.

Replying to another question as to whether Power is the only sector that we have identified, AS(ER) clarified that certainly Power is a sector in which we are targetting the foreign investments. We have targetted in the Eighth Plan 32 thousand megawatt while our demand is 48 thousand megawatt. We do not have money to invest up to 48 thousand megawatt and for that we need more private money. Apart from Power we will be stressing on packaging, medical and scientific instruments, etc.

Responding to another question as to what would be the thrust of this Seminar, AS(ER) clarified that we have several advantages - we are highlighting the fact that we have a large market, we have a large pool of manpower knowing and speaking English fairly and widely which will help interacting with them.

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DIA USA PERU CHINA INDONESIA PAKISTAN THAILAND MEXICO

**Date :** Apr 03, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Commerce Minister's Visit to USA

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 10, 1992 on the visit of the Minister of State for Commerce, Shri P. Chidambaram, to Los Angeles for Seminar on business opportunities in India:

A Seminar on Business Opportunities in India organised by the Government of India in co-sponsorship with the Bank of America, was held at the premises of 'Los Angeles Times' in Los Angeles on April 8, 1992. The Indian delegation was led by Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce. The Seminar was attended by senior representatives of various US corporations and companies.

Speakers at the Seminar lauded the new economic reforms of the Government of India and felt that these would lead to a further strengthening of relations between USA and India. Minister of State for Commerce, Shri P. Chidambaram, emphasised the irreversible nature of the economic reforms and the process of liberalisation undertaken by the Government of India. He

enumerated the various measures taken by the Government in this regard in the past eight months, and invited US investors to take advantage of India's large domestic market and its reservoir of skilled engineers and scientists, as well as the dynamic Indian capital market, and pool of entrepreneurial talent.

Earlier, Minister of State for Commerce attended the inaugural ceremony of the COMDEX I Spring 1992 Show at Chicago on April 6, where India is participating as the first 'Feature Country'. Twenty Indian leading companies dealing in software have set up stalls in the Indian Pavilion. Addressing an audience of approximately 1000 persons belonging to the software industry in the United States and 16 other countries, Shri P. Chidambaram emphasised that both developing and developed countries had an equal stake in the field of information technology. On this occasion also, the Indian Minister of State for Commerce enumerated the various economic reforms initiated by the Government of India emphasising that trade could flourish only in regime of freedom. He invited companies from developed countries to enter into partnership with Indian companies in the field of information technology.

A INDIA

**Date :** Apr 10, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### UN Sanctions on Libya

The following were the replies on Apr 16, 1992 of the Official Spokesman to questions on UN sanctions on Libya:

Responding to a question as to what will be the affect on India of UN sanctions on Libya, the Spokesman clarified that the question of sanctions will be reviewed after a perion of 120 days. As far as India is concerned, we have no direct flights with Libya, so this aspect of the sanctions is not an immediate concern to us. We are not selling any weapons to Libya, so on that account as well we are not immediately affected. Our principal concern is the safety and welfare of our nationals who number between 12000 to 13000. Our Mission is functioning there and there is no sign of any exodus from Libya. Some dependents have moved out on their own. We do not see any rush or panic at the moment. In any case, as a measure of abundant caution, we

have drawn up plans, should the situation so warrant, to facilitate the  
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departure from Libya of these Indian nationals who may choose to leave.

Responding to another question regarding the strength of diplomatic staff, the Spokesman clarified that the question of the strength of our Mission in Libya and the Libyan Mission in India is still under consideration, and no decision has been taken as yet.

BYA INDIA USA

**Date :** Apr 16, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Mr. Niazov

The following briefing of the Official Spokesman on Apr 16, 1992 on the visit of H. E. Mr. Saparmurad Niazov, President of Turkmenistan, to India from 18-20 April:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that the President of Turkmenistan, Mr. Saparmurad Niazov, accompanied by a high level delegation consisting of his Deputy Head of Government (who is also the Vice President), Foreign Minister, Minister of Health, Minister of Culture, Minister of Economic Relations, and the Minister-in-Charge of Trade Unions, will be paying a State visit to India from 18-20 April, 1992.

During his stay in India, President Niazov will hold discussions with the President, Mr. R. Venkataraman, the Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, and amongst others, with the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, the Agriculture Minister, Mr. Balram Jharkhar, and the Minister of State for Industry, Mr. Thungon. President Niazov's programme includes a short visit to Agra.

It is expected that several agreements, on establishment of diplomatic relations, economic and trade relations, science & technology, and culture will be signed during President Niazov's stay in India.

**Date :** Apr 16, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Talks with Mr. Faleiro

The following is the briefing on Apr 18, 1992 of the Official Spokesman's on the meeting between Mr. Saparmurad Niazov, President of Turkmenistan, and Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, Minister of State for External Affairs in New Delhi:

There was a detailed discussion on the developments in Afghanistan between the President of Turkmenistan and the Indian Minister of State for External Affairs. The Turkmen President explained that in meetings with the Afghan leadership and with the Iranian leadership, they had conveyed their firm determination not to interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. This was significant in the context of the existence of 2 million Turkmens residing within the borders of Afghanistan.

The Turkmenian President assured the Indian Minister of State for External

Affairs that with regard to Turkmen groups based in Afghanistan, as also with pro-Iranian groups based in that country, the Turkmenian Government had conveyed its inability to provide support which had been sought. He said that it was the constant endeavour of the Turkmenian Government to maintain peace and tranquility along the Turkmen-Afghan border. The Turkmen President re-affirmed Turkmenistan's desired to have close economic cooperation with Afghanistan which would not be at the expense of any third country. Turkmenia also was firmly behind the UN efforts for bringing about a peaceful political solution to the Afghan problem.

There was also a lengthy disussion on religion, politics and fundamentalism. The Turkmenian President said that there was a strong tradition of tolerance and strong foundations for political stability in their

country. Further, the Turkmenian Government had taken certain definite steps in order to ensure that religion remains separate from politics. Amongst these measures, he mentioned that there is a constitutional provision which prohibits the mixing of religion with politics. This has been reinforced by agreements with religious leaders within Turkmenistan which will prevent the latter from interfering in political affairs or from taking action which has a political character. He explained that in the context of meetings with the Iranian leadership and the Saudi leadership, it had been agreed that there would be no encouragement given to the spread of religious propaganda material and no attempts would be made to promote the imposition of religious principles, or considerations in political matters.

The Indian Minister of State for External Affairs said that the principles enunciated by the Turkmenistan President bore extraordinary similarity to the essential foundations of India's eclectic, tolerance and secular outlook. This convergence of views on matters of vital importance to the politics and the societies of the two countries, provided an ideal structural framework for the building of meaningful and mutually beneficial bilateral relations. The Minister of State for External Affairs was confident that the visit of the Turkmen President would bring about a qualitative and quantitative change in our bilateral relationship.

The Turkmen President gave a detailed briefing on the manner in which his country has set about strengthening and reinforcing political and economic structures with its neighbouring countries in particular and with all constituents of the former Soviet Union in general.

In response to a question, the Spokesman clarified that on the Ukraine-Turkmen tussle, the Turkmen President said that this has an economic foundation because the Ukraine does not wish to pay a remunerative world price for Turkmenian raw materials, principally, oil, fertiliser, cotton, and most importantly natural gas. Of the 76 billion cubic meters annual production of natural gas, as many as 11 billion cubic meters were exported to the Ukraine in previous years. He explained that while they have stopped trade with Ukraine on account of this tussle (on account of remunerative prices), they have excellent political relations and they were confident that through a process of give-and-take they would be able to arrive at a mutually acceptable compromise.

RKMENISTAN INDIA USA AFGHANISTAN IRAN UKRAINE UNITED KINGDOM

**Date :** Apr 18, 1992

**Volume No**

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

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Transfer of Technology

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The following were the replies of the Official Spokesman on Apr 19, 1992 to questions on an agency report that Russia had suspended transfer of rocket technology to India:

Reacting to an agency report that Russia had suspended transfer of rocket technology to India, the Spokesman said that the deal referred to in the report was under negotiation and there have been no indications from Russia of its pulling out from the transfer of rocket technology to India. The issue relates to the cryogenic engine, a secondary stage booster rocket which gives the secondary push to put the satellite in geo-stationary orbit. The negotiations for this were being finalized when political changes came about in Moscow.

The Spokesman stated that, in January this year, when an Indian official delegation comprising Foreign Secretary, Defence Secretary, Power Secretary and Commerce Secretary, went to Moscow, they were assured that as the successor State of the Soviet Union, Russia will fulfil Soviet agreements and all supplies will continue. They also said that Russia was going through political uncertainties and organi  
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sational problems, affecting distribution, and delays should not be interpreted as unwillingness on their part. In re-affirmation of this, a high level team came to New Delhi in February 1992 to discuss, finalise and settle the 1992 Trade Protocol. Three delegations from Russia have since been to India: at present an advance team is in Delhi discussing commercial and fiscal relations: a senior political leader from Russia will be visiting in first half of May. The mutual desire to maintain continuity of relations in all tangible aspects is evident.

The Spokesman further stated that the Russian Ambassador in New Delhi met the Foreign Secretary on 17th of April, 1992, and re-affirmed that the collaboration between Russia Space Agency and Indian Space Research Organisation will continue and said that there will have to be more detailed technical discussions before firming up the agreement, as Russia was now more in tune with the mainstream of international thinking on transfer of technology. He also said that he would like both countries to adopt a practical approach for the cooperation to continue and requested that the Indian delegation should come early for technical discussions. At no time did the Russian Ambassador indicate that transfer of technology on space research rocketry was likely to

be discontinued. The Spokesman further said that the ISRO Chief received similar messages from the Russian Space Agency requesting for an early visit so that arrangement could be worked out. An ISRO delegation has since left for Moscow.

In response to a query, the Spokesman said that there have been no signals on the lines stipulated in a Russian Youth Daily about withdrawing of the collaboration agreement, rather, new cooperative arrangements and continuity has been indicated.

Responding to another query, the Spokesman said that there is no evidence of American pressure on the Russians. He explained that the advanced countries do want to control the spread of their technology whether it is nuclear, military use of space or underwater defence. These subjects were being actively discussed and pushed bilaterally and in the Conference on Disarmament.

SSIA USA INDIA

**Date :** Apr 19, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### U.N. Secretary-General's Visit

The following is the briefing of the Official Spokesman on Apr 22, 1992 on the meeting between the UN Secretary General, Mr. Boutros Ghali, and Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro:

The Spokesman, while briefing newsmen, stated that the UN Secretary General, Mr. Boutros Ghali, had a meeting with Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, Minister of State for External Affairs. During this meeting, Minister of State for External Affairs and the UN Secretary General had a discussion on the impact of the Summit meeting of Heads of State Government of the Security Council members, held on the 31st of January this year and on the follow up action that has been taken on the recommendations made by the Summit. The Secretary General said that he was hopeful that concrete achievements would flow from the decisions taken by the Heads at that Meeting.

The Minister of State for External Affairs informed the Secretary General that there was a consensus within India, which cuts across the entire political spectrum, on the usefulness and the

vital importance of the UN in the context of current developments in international relations. He said that there was also a consensus, which had been most recently expressed during the current debate on the 'Demand for Grants', for Ministry of -160>

External Affairs, on the need to democratise UN structures.

The two leaders also had discussions on the Peace Keeping Operations of the United Nations, in Yugoslavia and Cambodia. The UN Secretary General referred to the high costs involved in UN Peace Keeping Operations which had a military dimension and that the principal task before him is to arrange funds for these operations from donor countries. He also spoke of the significance of regional organisations in bringing about reconciliation in the conflict situations.

There was also a discussion between the two leaders on the ongoing Middle-East Peace Conferenc. The UN Secretary General said that the world body will be willing to help in whatever way was necessary to bring these negotiations to a successful conclusion. The UN Secretary General also discussed the role of UN in the newly independent Republics of the Baltics and in Central Asia, and said that there was a great need for technical assis. tance in a wide range of fields in these newly independent Republics.

The Minister of State for External Affairs assured the UN Secretary General that India would extend the fullest cooperation to the UN in matters pertaining to training or other areas where we had the necessary pool of human resources.

There was also a discussion on the role that the UN plays in economic development and the continuing importance that is attached to the work undertaken by the United Nations' specialised agencies.

A INDIA CAMBODIA YUGOSLAVIA

**Date** : Apr 22, 1992

## Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting with Foreign Secretary

The following is the briefing of the Official Spokesman on Apr 22, 1992 on the meeting between the UN Secretary General, Mr. Boutros Ghali, and the Foreign Secretary, Mr. J. N. Dixit:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that the Foreign Secretary, Mr. J. N. Dixit had a meeting with the UN Secretary General, Mr. Boutros Ghali. During this meeting, the Foreign Secretary expressed the gratification of the Government and the people of India at the elevation of Dr. Boutros Ghali to the post of Secretary General. He said that it was a matter of deep satisfaction that an international jurist and a statesman of standing from our region had been appointed to this high office.

The Foreign Secretary and the UN Secretary General discussed matters arising from the Prime Minister's intervention at the Summit of January 31, 1992, in particular the strengthening of the UN system. The Foreign Secretary assured the UN

Secretary General that India would be fully supportive of any efforts to strengthen the role of the Secretary General's office, specially in matters relating to Peace Keeping Operations. The Foreign Secretary said that it was important to recognise that the institutional strength was a vital catalyst for peace.

There was a detailed discussion on economic development and the role being played by the UN. The UN Secretary General said that much good work had been done by non-Governmental organisations working with UN assistance in countries like Cambodia. He stressed the importance of recognising that the United Nations' role in Cambodia was not restricted to that of mere peace keeping, but, focussed to a considerable extent on rehabilitation and reconsideration.

There was also a discussion on environment. Both, Foreign Secretary and the UN Secretary General, agreed that in the -161>

context of the forthcoming Conference in Rio, it was important that the UN continues to play a role in this vital field.

The UN Secretary General and the Foreign Secretary exchanged views on the recent developments in Afghanistan.

Replying to a question as to whether Libya came up during the discussions, the Spokesman stated that the UN Secretary General explained the strenuous efforts that he made to bring about a diplomatic solution, before further steps were taken by the UN Security Council.

DIA USA CAMBODIA AFGHANISTAN LIBYA

**Date :** Apr 22, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### U. R. Rao's Discussions in Moscow

The following was the response of the official Spokesman,s to a query on Apr 27, 1992 regarding an agency report about Prof. u. R. Rao's discussions in Moscow: Responidng to a query regarding an agency report that Prof. U. R. Rao was "disappointed" about his talks in Russia in connection with the transfer of Russian missile technology to India, the Spokesman clarified that according to the information available, what Prof. Rao said was that he could not give too many details because of the highly sensitive nature of his discussions in Moscow. However, he had detailed and extensive high level discussions, both on the technical plane and with regard to the political dimensions of IndoRussia cooperation in the field of space exploration. Prof. Rao was fully briefed by the Russians on their own continuing dialogue and their technical discussions with the Americans, on the supply of Cryogenic engines and other areas of cooperation. The assessment that we have got, based on the information given by Prof. Rao, is that cooperation in the field of space exploration, which was an important facet of cooperation between India and the former Soviet Union, will continue with the Russian Federation, at an even pace. In fact, Prof. Rao came back with the general assurance that previous agreements will remain in effect and will continue to be implemented, even if some adjustments become necessary because of the changed international situation.

SSIA USA INDIA

**Date** : Apr 27, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Visit of President of U.A.E.

The following is the briefing of the official Spokesman on Apr 27, 1992 on the visit of His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahayan, President of the UAE:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahayan, President of the United Arab Emirates, will be paying a State visit to India from 28th to 30th April, 1992.

The Spokesman stated that India attaches great importance to this landmark visit - the first by a Head of State from the Gulf countries in recent years. The historic ties between our two countries add significance to Sheikh Zayed's visit. Sheikh Zayed is acknowledged to be the architect of modern Abu Dhabi. It was his vision that launched the Federation of the UAE in 1971. Sheikh Zayed's last bilateral visit to India was in 1975. He also came to India for the Non-aligned Summit of 1983. (Former Prime Minister, Late Mrs. Indira Gandhi visited UAE in 1981). Sheikh Zayed, who is highly admired for his wise statesmanship and far-sighted policies, has encouraged the presence in the UAE, of a large Indian community working in all walks of life. The community, numbering several hundred thousands, lives in peace and harmony with the people of UAE, and

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contributes to the stability of the Federation.

The economic relations between the two countries are substantive. India's exports to UAE are more than to all other GCC countries combined. In the last two years, India's exports were about 450 million dollars per year. Main items of exports from India are textiles, yarns, garments, foodstuffs, engineering goods, gems and jewellery. India's exports, in the first 8 months of 1991-92 (April '91 to December '91), were Rs. 1200 crores. India imports substantial quantities of oil, and refined products from UAE. We buy between 1 to 2 million of Abu Dhabi crude oil per annum.

The remittances from the Indian population are approximately Rs. 1000 crores. In addition, subscriptions in UAE to State Bank of India Bonds, India Development Bonds, FCNRs, and Amnesty Scheme Deposits have been proportionately amongst the highest in the world.

It is also important to note that when India faced difficulties in the import of its crude oil requirements in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis, the UAE stepped in by arranging Government to Government sales, as well as assisting in the spot purchase of oil.

The delegation accompanying Sheikh Zayed includes the Finance and Industry Minister, the Foreign Minister, the Interior Minister, and the Information and Culture Minister.

Sheikh Zayed is renowned in the world for his decisive role in political issues, and the leading role he played in the formation of the GCC. He has always worked for the settlement of disputes in an amicable fashion.

As part of our talks, the ongoing Middle East peace negotiations will come

up for discussions; as will the question of Gulf security, in particular, the current status on the Damascus Declaration of 1991. (In this context, it is significant that Amre Mousa, the Foreign Minister of Egypt, and President Hafid Al Assad, of Syria had recently been in Abu Dhabi). Changes in the former Soviet Union, the situation in our region, and the new orientation of NAM, will be the subjects of discussion during his talks with our leaders. As far as the region is concerned, it is significant that in all OIC meetings, the position of UAE has been remarkably restrained in matters relating to Kashmir.

The visit is also taking place at a time when there are distinct possibilities of Abu Dhabi participating in the new economic world which has opened up in India, in the fresh climate conducive to investments and joint ventures. It is expected that several important issues will be discussed, including the creation of a Joint Investment Company and participation in refineries, which would bring together Abu Dhabi oil and the Indian market for refined products. As far as financial ventures and banking are concerned, there is a possibility of UAE citizens making investments in fields like hospitals and hotels.

Overall, the visit at this juncture by Sheikh Zayed is an acknowledgement that, regardless of occasional differences in the realm of politics, there, is a strong undercurrent that shows that India has a degree of relevance in matters pertaining to the Gulf.

During his stay here, the UAE President will have official talks with our Prime Minister. Our Vice President will call on him, as will the Minister of State for External Affairs. The UAE President will also have a meeting with the Arab Heads of Missions, during his stay here.

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ITED ARAB EMIRATES INDIA USA SYRIA EGYPT PERU

**Date :** Apr 27, 1992

**Volume No**

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1995

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

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Spokesman to a Query on the Situation in Myanmar

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The following is the response on Apr 29, 1992 of the official Spokesman to a query on the situation in Myanmar:

In response to a question on recent developments in Myanmar, the Spokesman stated that we have noted that following the recent replacement of Senior General Saw Maung by General Than Shwe as Chairman, SLORC, some developments have taken place in Myanmar in the past few days. The decision to convene, within six months, a National Convention to initiate drafting of a new Constitution responds to a widely and repeatedly expressed interest in a specific time frame for early transition to democratic governance. Happily, the Government have released former Prime Minister U Nu from house arrest as well as a few other political leaders and activists.

India has consistently, forcefully and as a matter of principle called upon Government of Myanmar on more than one occasion to take necessary steps for the restoration of multi-party democracy and the return to a civilian rule in conformity with the people's wishes as expressed in May 1990 elections. We have also strongly urged them to show respect for basic human rights and to release political prisoners. From this perspective, the recent developments have evoked some interest. However, we hope that the authorities would now work with greater vigour and purpose towards bringing about democracy in a speedy manner.

As a sequel to the release of some political prisoners, we strongly renew our appeal to release, immediately and without condition, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the recipient of Nobel Peace Prize and a distinguished leader and to permit facility to her family to visit her without further delay.

A INDIA

**Date :** Apr 29, 1992

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**Volume No**

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PHILIPPINES

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## Dr. Jakhar Leaves for Manila

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The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 21, 1992:

The Agriculture Minister, Dr. Balram Jakhar, is leaving for Manila today to sign the work plan on bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture. The Minister is leading the delegation for first meeting of Joint Agricultural Working Group (JAWG) set up to provide guidance, review the progress of activities and to facilitate cooperation between India and

Phillipines. The JAWG will meet every two years alternatively in both the countries. Dr. Jakhar is scheduled to return on April 28, 1992.

India and Phillipines signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on cooperation in the Field of Agricultural Science and Technology on April 9, 1991. It covers joint activities in the areas of interest to both the countries. A workplan has been prepared under the MOU to be signed during the JAWG meeting.

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Other members of the Delegation are Shri Satis Chandra, Ambassador of India to Phillipines, Dr. R. S. Paroda, DDG, Crop

Sciences, ICAR, Shri R. C. A. Jain, Joint Secretary and Shri R. C. Dwivedy, OSD to Agriculture Minister.

ILIPPINES INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date :** Apr 21, 1992

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## Volume No

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1995

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SAUDI ARABIA

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India and Saudi Arabia to Cooperate for Balanced InformationFlow

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The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 08, 1992:

India and Saudi Arabia today held talks for bilateral cooperation in the field of information and broadcasting. The discussions were led by Shri Mahesh Prasad, Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and H.E. Dr. Fouad Abdul Salam Al-Farsy, the Deputy Minister for Information of Saudi Arabia.

The two countries agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation for a balanced flow of information between India and Saudi Arabia. During the discussions, it was decided that direct media links should be established between the two countries for this purpose. Correspondents of news agencies of the two countries could be stationed in Saudi Arabia and India respectively to facilitate a balanced information flow.

The two countries agreed to organise an exchange of media persons through regular visits. This would help both countries to learn from each other's developmental efforts and experiences. Exchanges of television and radio programmes between the two countries was also suggested.

India has offered to Saudi Arabia training facilities available in the country in print media and film and television areas.

Dr. Fouad Abdul Salam Al-Farsy, called on the Deputy Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Dr. Girija Vyas this morning. Dr. Fouad Abdul Salam AlFarsy arrived here last evening on a three day official visit. During his stay he will visit the Indian Institute of Mass Communication and the Central Production Centre of Doordarshan.

UDI ARABIA INDIA USA

**Date :** Apr 08, 1992

## Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

CAG of India Meets His Sri Lanka Counterpart

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 10, 1992:

A Sri Lankan Audit team led by ShriW. Gamini Epa, Auditor General met Shri

C. G. Somiah, CAG of India and the senior officers of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department, here today and discussed matters of mutual interest. The Sri Lankan team is currently on a visit to the country

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at the invitation of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

Welcoming the delegation, Shri Somiah traced the common heritage and the later developments in audit in the two countries. Shri Epa stressed the importance of periodical meetings and exchanges in improving the audit methodologies and practices suited to the development needs of the respective countries. He extended an invitation to an Indian audit delegation led by Shri Somiah to Sri Lanka.

There was also a presentation on the 'Indian Audit Organisation and Systems'. It was followed by discussions which, among other things, covered administrative response to audit findings; powers of the audit institutions; audit of financial institutions, particularly of the Central Bank; specialist support to audit and closer cooperation in the field of audit in the SAARC region.

I LANKA INDIA USA

**Date :** Apr 10, 1992

## Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka exempts Indian fruits from quarantine requirements

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 23, 1992:

The Government of Sri Lanka has decided to exempt the import of apples, grapes and oranges from India from quarantine requirements. This was so far an obstacle to improving exports of these items to Sri Lanka. With this freedom from a major constraint exports of fruits to Sri Lanka will improve substantially.

I LANKA INDIA

**Date :** Apr 23, 1992

## Volume No

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1995

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TANZANIA

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Tanzanian Parliamentary Delegation Calls on Dr. Jakhar

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The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 07, 1992:

A six member Tanzanian Parliamentary Delegation led by H.E. Mr. Adam Sapi Mkwawa, Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania, called on the Union Agriculture Minister, Dr. Balram Jakhar, here today, to discuss the scope of cooperation in the field of agriculture between the two countries.

Tanzania participated in the recently held TCDC programming exercise in New Delhi and have developed 35 project proposals for cooperation in the field of agriculture with India. It covers the areas of fisheries, crop improvement technology, dairy farming, bio-technology, farm machinery, pest control and foodgrain storage, genetic resource conservation, soil conservation, frozen semen technology, training in extension, horticulture, animal breeding, aquaculture and oilseed production.

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NZANIA INDIA USA

**Date :** Apr 07, 1992

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## Volume No

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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

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Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement Signed by India and UAE

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The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 29, 1992:

India and the United Arab Emirates have signed an Agreement for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and on capital. The Agreement was signed here today by the Union Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, on behalf of India and H. H. Sheik Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Minister of Finance and Industry, on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates.

The Agreement provides for total exemption of shipping profits in the country of source and seeks to reduce the rate of taxation on investment incomes in order to encourage flow of capital, technology and technical services from one country to the other to their mutual advantage and benefit. It also provides for concessional treatment to students, teachers, artistes and athletes. This Agreement will stimulate to a large extent the promotion of mutual economic relations.

The Agreement provides for taxation of enterprise of one of the States in the other State only if it maintains a permanent establishment or fixed base. The permanent establishment principle frees from taxation in the source country casual business transactions which do not involve the presence of the enterprise for a considerable period of time.

Speaking on the occasion, the Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, said signing of the agreement represents a significant milestone in the development of bilateral relations between the two countries. This Agreement will not only ensure greater certainty in respect of taxation provisions but will also offer a package of taxation benefits for the residents of the two countries. He said the agreement coupled with the measures to liberalise the economic policies will provide a more attractive investment and business climate in India for the businessmen of the United Arab Emirates. Dr. Singh invited the business community and the financial community of the UAE to take full advantage of the new liberal climate for foreign investment in India.

Sharing the sentiments expressed by Dr. Singh, the Minister of Finance and Industry of UAE said that signing of the Agreement will open new opportunities for cooperation as it grants a package of bilateral Taxation benefits and reliefs for the private and public sectors in both countries.

The Agreement will come into force on the notification by both countries of the completion of the proceedings required by respective laws for this purpose.

This Agreement supplements an earlier agreement between the two States for the avoidance of double taxation of income from international air transport signed in 1989.

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ITED ARAB EMIRATES INDIA USA PERU

**Date :** Apr 29, 1992

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UNITED KINGDOM

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U.K. Comptroller and Auditor General to Visit India

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The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 09, 1992:

A four member UK Audit Delegation led by Sir John Bourn KCB, Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of the UK is arriving in Delhi on 12 April, 1992 at the invitation of Shri C. G. Somiah, CAG of India. During its nine day stay in the country, the delegation will also visit Simla and Agra.

Sir John Bourn is currently heading the National Audit office (NAO). Among other things he has statutory authority to report to Parliament on the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which departments and other bodies use their resources. He and the NAO are totally independent of the Government of the UK.

Sir John Bourn will hold discussions in Delhi with Shri Somiah, and other senior officers of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department on audit organisation; approach to financial, performance and computer audits; relationship with Parliament; and bilateral issues. He will also address the officers of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IAAS). Other official engagements of his delegation include a visit to the Accountant General's office and the National Academy of Audit and Accounts at Shimla and an address to the IAAS Probationers at the Academy.

DIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

**Date :** Apr 09, 1992

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## Volume No

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1995

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UNITED NATIONS

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UN Secretary General to Visit India from April 21

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The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 20, 1992:

H.E. Dr. Boutros Ghali, the U.N. Secretary General and Mrs. Lea Boutros Ghali will pay an official visit to India from April 21 to 24, 1992.

During his stay in India, Dr. Ghali will have meetings with the President, Shri R. Venkataraman; Vice-President, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma and the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, besides Defence Minister, Shri Sharad Pawar, and Minister of State for External Affairs. Shri Eduardo Faleiro.

Dr. Ghali will also visit the samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi and lay wreath beside planting a sapling at Rajghat. The Indian Federation of U.N. Associations will accord him a reception. Besides addressing the Press Conference (at UNDP Centre, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi, Dr. Ghali will also be meeting the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Dr. Najma Heptullah.

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DIA

**Date** : Apr 20, 1992

## Volume No

1995

UNITED NATIONS

Dr. Ghali Meets Vice-President

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 23, 1992:

The U.N. Secretary General, Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and Mrs. Lea Boutros-Ghali called on the Vice-President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma and Mrs. Vimala Sharma at their residence in New Delhi today.

The two leaders discussed issues concerning establishment of peace and maintenance of security following the recent developments in Afghanistan. They also exchanged views on other subjects of multi lateral interest.

Dr. Ghali accepted an invitation to deliver the next Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Memorial Lecture which is organised annually by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations. The invitation was extended to him by Dr. Sharma in his capacity as the President of the ICCR. The President, Shri R. Venkataraman, is scheduled to deliver the this year's lecture on May 7, 1992.

DIA USA AFGHANISTAN

**Date :** Apr 23, 1992

## Volume No

1995

UNITED NATIONS

Dr. Boutros Ghali Honoured

The following is the speech by Shri Eduardo Faleiro, Minister of State for External Affairs, at a function in honour of Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali:

Your Excellency, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Mrs. Ghali, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome once again, Dr. Boutros Boutros Ghali to India and to our midst. Excellency, you are no stranger to India. You have a wide circle of admirers and friends here. Some of them are here, but there are scores of others, who would have liked to be here. We have had the pleasure and honour of receiving you in Delhi, in the past.

But this is a very special visit and a special occasion. For, you come here, this time in your first visit as the Secretary General of the United Nations: as the highest and the honoured official of the most important organisation that the international community has designed and sustained, in which so much of our hopes and aspirations are vested.

Excellency, we in India rejoiced when you assumed your high office a little over three months ago. We knew of your erudition, of your many talents and skills, of your long and distinguished experience, and of your qualities of head and heart that make you eminently suited to hold the important and prestigious office. We have watched with admiration, how you in this short period have already steered the Organisation in its many tasks and challenges in a turbulent and eventful period. We are delighted that we have this opportunity of being able to exchange views on many important issues.

The United Nations today has come centrestage, as it were, in a world which has witnessed fundamental changes. The UN, no doubt has benefited from the end of confrontation and cold war and from

the renewed confidence that countries have responded in it. At the same time, it is equally true that the UN itself has contributed to the relaxation of tensions and resolution of conflicts in many parts of the world and has thus earned the confidence that it has come to enjoy. The UN that you head today, Excellency, has unparalleled opportunities as well as major challenges. There are many opportunities for peace keeping and we see these activities being undertaken in different parts of the world. The UN represents our hopes for a better and safer tomorrow.

The UN faces challenges too. Above all, there is the challenge of development, as the majority of the countries and, indeed, the majority of mankind, grapple with the task of development. Cooperation to promote development must be a central concern of the international community.

The UN structure and system itself may undergo changes, in the years to come, responsive to the new realities. Some changes in the Secretariat structure have already been initiated by you. Others may follow. There is also the need for UN decision-making processes to be more transparent and domestic, so that it truly reflects the will of the international community.

Excellency, we in India are fully confident that under your able leadership, the UN will rise to these challenges and seize the opportunities. We, on our part, pledge ourselves to extending our full support to you and to the UN in these endeavours.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I propose a toast to the health and happiness of His Excellency Dr. Boutros Boutros Ghali and Mrs. Ghali and to the success, of the United Nations and advancement of the U.N. organisation.

DIA USA  
**Date** : Apr 23, 1992

DIA USA  
**Date** : Apr 23, 1992

## Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Chief of Staff US Army on a Visit to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 30, 1992:

General Gordon R. Sullivan, Chief of Staff US Army, who is on a four-day visit to India today called on the Defence Minister, Shri Sharad Pawar, and Chairman, Chief of Staff Committee, Gen SF Rodrigues, and held talks on matters of mutual interest.

On arrival at South Block, General Gordon R. Sullivan was presented a ceremonial guard of Honour by a contingent of the Madras Regiment. Earlier he laid a wreath of the Amar Jawan Jyoti India Gate.

General Gordon R. Sullivan also called on Admiral L. Ramdas, Chief of Naval Staff, Air Chief Marshal N. C. Suri, Chief of the Air Staff, Shri N. N. Vohra, Defence Secretary and Shri J. N. Dixit, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.  
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A INDIA

**Date :** Apr 30, 1992

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ARABIA SWEDEN

**Date :** May 01, 1992

## Volume No

1995

AFGHANISTAN

Developments in Kabul

The following is the text of a statement on Afghanistan issued in New Delhi:

The Government of India welcome the announcement of a ceasefire in Afghanistan. A Mujahideen Council has also taken office in Kabul. We officially acknowledge that this Council is functioning as the interim Government of Afghanistan. Our Ambassador in Kabul has been in touch with members of the Council and has been received by President Sibghatullah Mujaddidi.

These developments raise the prospects of peace and restoration of normalcy in Afghanistan.

India has always supported a political settlement in Afghanistan based on the aspirations of the Afghan people, worked out by the Afghans themselves. We hope that the authorities in Kabul will reflect the aspirations of the different segments of Afghan society and opinion. We wish the President and members of the Mujahideen Council every success in their endeavours in promoting national reconciliation and harmony, resolving all ethnic and other differences and maintaining Afghanistan's stability, unity and territorial integrity. India on its part will do whatever it can to contribute towards achievement of these objectives. We have always stood for a sovereign, independent, nonaligned and united Afghanistan, and remain firm in this commitment.

The people of Afghanistan have undergone incalculable hardships and deprivation during the long years of violent conflict. The new authorities in Kabul are faced with the daunting challenge of alleviating human suffering and undertaking the arduous task of reconstruction, rehabilitation and development. The Government of India, which has traditionally been involved in programmes for the betterment of the Afghan people, is ready to assist the Afghan Government in these endeavours.

Our close and friendly relations with Afghanistan are deeply

rooted in history and tradition and we have an abiding interest in sustaining and nurturing friendship and cooperation with Afghanistan. We look forward to a continuous, constructive and fruitful dialogue with the new authorities in Kabul.

GHANISTAN INDIA USA

**Date :** May 01, 1992

## Volume No

1995

ALGERIA

India and Algeria to Strengthen Economic Ties

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 01, 1992:

India and Algeria have expressed a desire to strengthen economic relations between the two countries. This was expressed when the Algerian Minister for Transport, Dr. Noureddine Nait Djoudi called on the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, here last evening.

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This was the first visit of any Minister from Algeria since the taking over of a new Government in that country in January this year.

Mr. Faleiro welcomed the Algerian Minister and said that India and Algeria share common views and perceptions on many issues. The existing political relationship should now lead to furthering of economic ties, he said.

The two leaders exchanged views on matters of mutual interest, developments in the region, non-alignment and further promotion of bilateral ties between India and Algeria.

GERIA INDIA

**Date :** May 01, 1992

## Volume No

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1995

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ASIAN CLEARING UNION

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Benefits for Exports to ACU Countries

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The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 08, 1992:

A number of representations have been received in the Commerce Ministry regarding exports made by Indian exporters to member countries of the Asian Clearing Union (ACU). In this connection paragraph 3 of the Reserve Bank of India Exchange Control Department circular No. 25 dated 2nd April 1992 is reproduced below:

"In terms of paragraph 7 of A.D. (M. A. Series) Circular No. 11 dated 29th February 1992, the rates of exchange for transactions with countries belonging to Asian Clearing Union (except Nepal) would be fixed as hitherto pending discussions with the participants of the ACU to bring the arrangement in alignment of Liberalised Exchange Rate Management System (LERMS). In order to continue to promote trade between the ACU countries, it has been decided to permit settlement of Current Account transactions with such countries also outside the ACU mechanism. Accordingly the compulsion of routing all such transactions with A C U countries through the ACU mechanism (of paragraph 5.6 of the Exchange Control Manual) stands withdrawn for the time being, pending discussions in this regard with ACU countries of ACU. In cases where the transactions with ACU countries, expressed in permitted currencies, are settled outside the ACU mechanism, the provisions of the Liberalised Exchange Rate Management System would apply. If, however, the transactions, though designated in permitted currencies, are settled through ACU mechanism, the rate of exchange will be fixed as hitherto."

Thus, in respect of exports made outside the ACU mechanism, the Indian exporter would be entitled to partial convertibility in the proportion 60:40 under the Liberalised Exchange Rate Management System (LERMS). In respect of exports made within the ACU mechanism, the facility of LERMS will not apply. However, in view of the abolition of Exim Scrips, it has been decided to grant Special Import Licences to such exporters. This will apply in respect of exports made on or after 1.3.1992 and until further orders. Details of the Special Import Licence scheme for such exports will be announced separately.

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DIA NEPAL USA

**Date :** May 08, 1992

## Volume No

1995

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

ADB's Total Outlay for India in 1992 to Exceed \$ One Billion

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 26, 1992:

Mr. W. R. Thomson, Vice President, Asian Development Bank, Manila now on a five day visit to India met Dr. Manmohan Singh, Finance Minister here last evening. During discussions, Mr. Thomson mentioned that ADB's total outlay for India in 1992 would exceed \$ 1 billion including loans, private sector investment and guarantees. He praised the progress of the financial reforms in India and stated that ADB would also be providing some assistance in that area. Mr. Thomson added that ADB was exploring the possibility of cofinancing in the petroleum sector so as to increase the participation of commercial banks. The Finance Minister thanked ADB for their support and welcomed the decision to open a regional office in New Delhi. The meeting lasted about half an hour.

DIA PHILIPPINES USA

**Date :** May 26, 1992

## Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

Banquet in Honour of Bangladesh Premier - Prime Minister's Speech

The Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, made the following speech at the banquet on May 26, 1992 hosted in honour of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh:

It gives me immense pleasure to extend you a warm and friendly welcome, Madam Prime Minister, on behalf of the Government and people of India and on my own behalf. Your visit to our country

is of historic importance because we receive you today as the leader of a democratic Bangladesh. Our two countries are closely linked together by myriad ties of shared history and cultural affinity. Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam provide us inspiration; the melodies of Fakir Lalan Shah move us equally; the folk songs of Jasimuddin evoke in us nostalgia for the rural simplicity of Bengal.

Rarely in history has a nation paid so heavily in blood and tears as you did in attaining your cherished goal of Independence. We in India were truly moved to witness the outpouring of warm appreciation and vivid memories of our own association with your struggle for freedom when you recently celebrated the 20th anniversary of Victory Day.

Excellency, we meet at a time when the nature and contours of international relations have been undergoing a rapid change. These changes do not, in our considered opinion, question the fundamental relevance of our approach to the world, of the basic principles and values which have served as the basis of our foreign policy. My Government continues to accord priority to the improvement and consolidation of relations with our neighbours. In this context, we recall with deep appreciation the pioneering role played by your late husband, President Ziaur Rahman in promoting the idea of regional cooperation which has already emerged as a con-

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crete reality in the shape of SAARC today. It has become a powerful medium for promoting understanding, cooperation and friendship amongst South Asian countries.

We are all conscious of the fact that though it has not yet fully developed, SAARC possesses immense potential for future growth and expansion as democratic Governments consciously work to promote the welfare of their peoples, and secure a more purposeful and effective harmonisation of their common interests. SAARC will complete its first cycle of summits this year and we shall once again return to your beautiful capital city of Dhaka for the Seventh Summit.

Like all neighbouring countries with a legacy of close social, political and cultural interaction, besides extensive borders, Bangladesh and India inevitably face certain bilateral problems, many of which have been inherited from a common colonial past. We should take a clear and dispassionate look at these issues and try to resolve them to our mutual satisfaction. Both our countries are committed to the Parliamentary form of Government and have to act keeping our accountability to Parliament and the people in view. Indeed, we have to carry them with us in our quest for acceptable solutions. Given political will and a clear understanding of each other's perceptions and sensitivities we shall certainly succeed in devising a common approach to overcome

such difficulties as there may be.

I would like to assure you, Excellency, that we are keen to work out an equitable, long-term and comprehensive sharing of major common rivers in a manner whereby the optimum development of available water resources for our two countries is assured. We must diversify our relations in the fields of trade and economy as well as industrial, technological and agricultural cooperation. We are ready to suggest and to respond constructively to specific proposals to attain the objective of a significantly increased level of bilateral cooperation.

For this cooperative endeavour to succeed, however, there must, first and foremost, be an atmosphere of cordiality, trust and understanding between us. Once such an atmosphere is created, the resolution of most, if not all, our bilateral problems should become easier. We hope and trust that this approach of ours will be reciprocated in full measure.

I would like to conclude by extending our best wishes to you, Excellency, for a very successful visit to our country. I hope that you will return with pleasant memories of your stay with us.

I now request all those present here to rise and join me in a toast to

- the health and well-being of our honoured guest Her Excellency Begum Khaleda Zia, Prime Minister of Bangladesh.
- the health and happiness of His Excellency Mr. Abdur Rahman Biswas, President of Bangladesh.
- the prosperity and progress of the people of Bangladesh and
- the lasting and mutually beneficial friendship between India and Bangladesh.

INDIA BANGLADESH USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date :** May 26, 1992

## Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

India-Bangladesh Joint Communique

The following is the text of the Joint Communique issued in New Delhi on May 28, 1992 on the conclusion of the three day State

visit to India by the Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia:

At the invitation of His Excellency Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao,  
Prime Minister

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of the Republic of India, Her Excellency Begum Khaleda Zia, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh paid a state visit to India from May 26-28, 1992.

2. During her visit, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh called on His Excellency Shri R. Venkataraman, President of India, and His Excellency Dr. S. D. Sharma, Vice-President.

3. The Prime Ministers held comprehensive and wide ranging discussions covering international, regional and bilateral issues in an atmosphere of friendship, harmony and cordiality.

4. Reviewing the recent momentous and unprecedented changes in the international situation, they expressed satisfaction at the more positive developments and expressed the hope that these would be built upon in the interest of the international community as a whole. The end of the cold war, dissolution of sharp ideological cleavages and a renewed emphasis on resolution of differences through peaceful means, would hopefully result in a world order based on equity, justice and cooperation. They called for a simultaneous democratisation of international relations and a greater thrust on alleviation of poverty. The decisionmaking organs of the U.N., which were sought to be invested with greater active responsibility, must enjoy wider representation and reflect the collective opinion of its membership.

The Non-aligned Movement, based on its abiding principles of independence of judgement and freedom of action, and its emphasis on equitable international economic development, has come to acquire a renewed relevance in the light of these developments.

The two Prime Ministers reiterated their belief that SAARC represents the faith and aspiration of the countries of South Asia to enhance regional cooperation in the interest of greater understanding and well-being of the peoples of the region. Towards this end, they felt that a further momentum should be given to SAARC activities in the core areas of economic cooperation. The two leaders felt that the Seventh SAARC Summit to be held in Dhaka at the end of this year assumes special significance as the beginning of the second cycle of SAARC Summits and expressed the hope that it would not only lead to the consolidation of the past achievements and would also identify new meaningful avenues to achieve its objectives.

The two leaders expressed their determination to further

consolidate the friendly, harmonious and good neighbourly relations between Bangladesh and India, in the larger interest of the peoples of the two countries and of peace and stability in the region. A significant opportunity was now available for the purpose based on the mandate of the people.

Both sides noted with satisfaction the recent Exchange of Letters regarding the modalities for implementation of the terms providing for right of passage for Bangladesh citizens through Tin Bigha area which will become effective from June 26, 1992.

Based on this understanding, it was agreed that efforts should be intensified to resolve the other outstanding issues emanating from the India-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement of 1974. It was also agreed that discussions on delimitation of the Maritime Boundary would be resumed at an early date. Moreover, they noted the need for discussions in due course concerning the question of New Moore South Talpatti Island for an in-depth examination on the basis of all relevant facts and principles.

The two Prime Ministers noted that due to growing need for waters, the flows available in the Ganga Ganges and Teesta would fall short of the requirements of the two countries particularly during the lean season. They agreed that an equitable, long-term and comprehensive arrangement

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for sharing the flows of these and other major rivers evolved through mutual discussions would serve the best interest of the people of the two countries. They directed their Ministers concerned to make renewed endeavours for achieving an acceptable settlement including the interim arrangements for sharing the dry season flows on the Ganga Ganges in the meanwhile. The Prime Minister of India assured that every possible effort will be made to avoid undue hardships to Bangladesh by sharing the flows in Ganga Ganges at Farakka on an equitable basis. The concerned Ministers of the two sides will meet for this purpose on an urgent basis. In the meanwhile, joint monitoring of releases at Farakka and the Teesta barrage, and observations on the flows of the major rivers into Bangladesh will be revived and undertaken immediately.

Taking into account the problems being caused due to large-scale illegal immigration of people across their borders, they expressed their determination to stop illegal movement of people across the border by all possible means including the strengthening of existing arrangements and mutual cooperation in this regard.

Both sides resolved to take effective measures in order to maintain peace and tranquillity all along the border and to refrain from unfriendly activity.

The two Prime Ministers agreed to arrange speedy repatriation of all Chakma refugees to Bangladesh in full safety and security. In this context, the Bangladesh side agreed to set up a representative political-level Committee that would encourage the refugees to return. The Indian side assured that its authorities would cooperate fully in the process of repatriation.

The two Prime Ministers directed that special focus should be placed on increasing and diversifying trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. They agreed that the authorities concerned would meet at an early date, preferably August-September 1992, to hold Trade Review Talks with a view to renewing the existing Trade Agreement. They agreed that the Joint Economic Commission between the two countries should meet in October 1992. Existing cooperation in the fields of Culture, Education, Information and Defence could also be expanded.

The Prime Minister of Bangladesh expressed her appreciation to the Prime Minister, the Government and the people of India for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to her and the members of her delegation during their stay in India.

The Prime Minister of Bangladesh extended an invitation to the Prime Minister of India to visit Bangladesh. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

INDIA BANGLADESH USA

**Date :** May 28, 1992

## Volume No

1995

BENIN

TCIL Bags Rs. Ten Crore Turnkey Contract in Benin

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 29, 1992:

Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL), a Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Communications, has signed a contract with Ministry of Communications, Republic of Benin in the West Africa for Design and Implementation of the Cable Networks in their main city

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Porto-Novo in Benin. This project is funded by the African

Development Bank and the duration of the contract is 18 months and valued around Rs. 10 crore.

This is TCIL's maiden success in bagging a turnkey contract in a Francophone country of West Africa. The contract has been won against stiff international competition.

DIA

**Date :** May 29, 1992

## Volume No

1995

CYPRUS

Indo-Cyprus Joint Panel Meeting

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 25, 1992:

The scope for increasing trade and economic cooperation between India and Cyprus was stressed at the first session of the Indo-Cyprus Joint Committee meeting which was held in Nicosia on 13-15 May, 1992. According to the Protocol signed at the conclusion of the meeting in the presence of Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce and his counterpart, Mr. Takis Nemitsas on 15 May, 1992, besides exchanging lists of products with export potential to either country, the two sides noted that there were opportunities to be tapped in using Cyprus as a base for third country exports, especially to the EEC. In this context, it was noted that an earlier proposal mooted for establishing a warehouse in Cyprus for the purpose of storing and promoting sales of Indian goods in the region was being implmentea through the efforts of a local entrepreneur and an Indian company. The potential for industrial cooperation was also discussed and certain sectors such as computer hardware and software, information technology, biotechnology, electric motors, internal combustion engines, plant engineering fabrication of leather goods and shoe making, cotton and silk fabrics and agro processing were identified for this purpose.

Possibilities of cooperation in the field of science and technology, management training, banking and tourism were also discussed. The need for finalising certain framework agreements in the field of air and sea transport and for the Avoidance of Double Taxation was highlighted and it was agreed that further discussions in this respect would be held.

Shri Chidambaram, during his visit to Cyprus on 14-16 May, 1992, also called on Dr. George Vassiliou, President of Cyprus, Mr. Takis Nemitsas, Commerce and Industry and Mr. George Syrimis, Minister of Finance. He also met the Minister of Agriculture as well as Directors-General of the Planning Bureau and the Foreign Office of Cyprus. During the discussions, the Minister highlighted the liberalisation policies in India and emphasised the measures to be introduced shortly for opening up infrastructure projects such as roads and bridges to private investment. He also visited the Dhekelia Power Station in Cyprus where BHEL is installing 2 turbine generators at a cost of US \$ 34 million.

Some salient points that emerged from the Minister's visit and discussions with the Cyprus President and Ministers are:

a) Cyprus Development Bank will send delegations shortly to work out arrangements for cooperation with an Indian company providing consultancy services, especially in computer software. It was -177>

Further indicated that the offer of the same company for computerisation of land information system in Cyprus would receive positive consideration.

b) Subject to Parliamentary approval of funds, Cyprus Ports Authority is likely to place orders for a tug boat in addition to the two already purchased from an Indian Shipyard.

c) Positive consideration will be given to future offers of equipment by

BHEL which has now, and is implementing, the contract for Power Station 'B' at Dhekelia.

d) Cyprus construction companies have indicated interest in India and it was agreed that a delegation of such companies would visit India for this purpose, and explore the possibilities for tie-ups with Indian firms.

PRUS USA INDIA

**Date** : May 25, 1992

**Volume No**

1995

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

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## Indo-Czech Cooperation in Health

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The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 19, 1992:

India and Czechoslovakia today signed an agreement to expand cooperation in the field of health and medical sciences for 1992-94. The agreement was signed by Shri J. Vasudevan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and H.E. Dr. Jan Lisuch, Ambassador of

Czech and Slovak Federal Republic of India.

Under the agreement the two countries will develop cooperation and provide mutual assistance in the fields of therapeutic and preventive care, sanitary services and measures for preventing outbreak of epidemics and health education and tropical medicine. The agreement will also provide for exchange of information, documents, reports and health personnel.

RWAY SLOVAKIA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date :** May 19, 1992

## Volume No

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1995

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ECONOMY, TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

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National Development Council Meeting: Prime Minister's Speech

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The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 22, 1992 of the address to the 44th meeting of the National Development Council by the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao:

I have great pleasure in welcoming you all to the 44th meeting of the National

Development Council. The Council met a few months ago, in December, 1991, and gave its approval to the Directional Paper on the Eighth Plan. This set in motion the process of detailed formulation of the Plan. I am happy to say that we are now at the final stage of this process. The Eighth Five Year Plan has been prepared

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on the basis of extensive discussions which the Planning Commission has had with Central Ministries, State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The Plan is now before this august body for its consideration.

Momentous changes are taking place around us in the economic, social and political spheres. A philosophy of growth guided by market forces and liberal policies is emerging. In this context, the role and even the relevance of planning is being questioned. But, the emerging global economic and political changes do not mean a reduction of responsibility on the part of Government and the Planning Commission; rather these changes only serve to reinforce their roles. In my address to the last NDC I had emphasised that planning has a critical role in the social, human and economic development of our people. It has a particularly crucial role in the creation of social infrastructure and in the sphere of human development.

Our past experience with the Public Sector and the experience of several countries of the world, has shown that under some conditions the market can serve as a device for promoting efficiency. We must all recognise this role of the market. But the growth and development of this country can not be left entirely to the market mechanism. We can not rely on the market to fulfill the minimum needs of our people. We cannot provide education and health for all through the market. The market alone can not ensure employment and a living wage to all our rural poor. These limitations of the market as the sole vehicle of development have to be recognised and the limitations are all known to us. Therefore, we have to supplement these limitations by some other way and that other way would only be the way of the State Intervention.

Planning will therefore continue to have a crucial role to play in a number of areas, particularly, in macro-economic management, in the creation of social infrastructure and in the sphere of human development, including taking care of the poor. The market mechanism may be able to bring about an "equilibrium" between "demand" -- backed by purchasing power -- and "supply" in this sphere too, but it will not be able to bring about a balance between "need" and "supply".

Planning is necessary to take care of the poor and the down-trodden, who are for the most part, outside the market system and have little asset endowment to benefit from the natural growth of the economic activity. Development of backward, hill and remote areas and their integration with the mainstream of economic activities in the country also cannot be completely left to the market, and will, therefore, have to be undertaken as a planned effort. Markets cannot play the required role in the areas like protection of the environment, forests and ecology; and in guiding the use of scarce resources like rare minerals,

land and water. A long term perspective, and hence planning, is called for in these areas.

Strengthening of physical infrastructure, like energy, transport, communications and irrigation, which support the growth process on a sustainable basis, is another area where the role of planning is crucial. The expected increasing participation of the private sector in investments in these sectors does not in any way detract from the criticality or the need for planning. In the emerging context, therefore, planning and the market mechanism should be so dovetailed as to be complementary to each other.

Planning for public investment has to be detailed, somewhat like corporate planning. For the rest of the system, it has to be indicative, outlining the broad directions in which the economy should be moving. It will provide a vision of the future along with medium term projections for the entire economy, appropriate information systems, an indication of areas of strengths and weaknesses and appro-

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priate policies to meet the desired goals. It will also seek to ensure a degree of consensus in the system through a meaningful dialogue between "social partners" in development, namely, government, farmers, trade unions, business, etc.

To my mind the question is not of a choice between the market mechanism on the one hand and planning on the other or an either-or basis. The crucial question is how to strengthen a decentralised structure from the grassroot-level up and how to truly involve the people in that development process. The real challenge for the Government, both at the Centre and the States, is to play an integrative role in developing a holistic approach to policy formulation, especially in critical and intersectoral areas of human and economic development. The State Governments and the Panchayati Raj institutions have to address this question in a through - going manner.

Let me illustrate what I have in mind, with reference to two critical areas: literacy and family welfare. Adult education programmes had till recently been viewed only as government's responsibility. It is only the recent successes of the areaspecific and time-bound mass campaigns for total literacy launched first in Kerala, and now even in the more backward regions of the country, that has given confidence and hope for eradication of illiteracy during the Eighth Plan. These campaigns enlist the active support of all members of society, volunteer, activists, students, teachers, NGO, and the local community. Similarly volunteer the Eighth Plan strategy for family welfare and population control squarely places the major role in the planning, implementation and administration of the programme on Panchayat level institutions, and places very great reliance on the involvement on the people.

In this connection, I would like to make a special reference to the need to involve Members of Parliament in the development programmes in their constituencies. I have been receiving persistent complaints in this regard. Considering the responsibility we owe to the Parliament and also in view of the fact that as representatives of the people, the Members of Parliament are entitled to take interest in their constituencies, a uniform pattern of their involvement in the various development processes in the country is essential. I request the Chief Ministers to kindly take note of this because the persistency with which Members of Parliament have been complaining leaves me no option but to make this appeal at this juncture.

It is in this manner that the Eighth Five Year Plan seeks to meet the challenge confronting the Nation at the present juncture. There is a heavy backlog in the provision of social consumption needs of the people; poverty and deprivation levels, though reduced, are still unacceptably high. Illiteracy, especially among women, continues to be abysmal. The high incidence of infant mortality and the acute unemployment situation, are matters of anxiety. The increasing fiscal and budgetary deficits, the critical balance of payments situation, inflation, as well as the urgent need to restructure the economy to make it vibrant and internationally competitive, also require our immediate attention.

The Eighth Plan, therefore, accords priority to generation of adequate employment to achieve near-full employment by the turn of the century. Towards this end wage-employment programmes will be a major thrust area. The other priority areas will be the control of population growth, universalisation of elementary education and eradication of illiteracy, provision of safe drinking water and primary health facilities for the entire population, growth and diversification of agriculture to achieve self-sufficiency in foodgrains and generate surpluses for exports and strengthening of infrastructure to support the growth process on a sustainable basis.

The Deputy Chairman has just made a reference to wage employment in the villages. Naturally this would be our first

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priority so far as the rural areas are concerned. But I would like to point out at this point that this is going to be only a temporary measure. With universalisation of primary education, with more and more high schools etc. coming in the rural areas, wage employment cannot be continued beyond a point. A time will come when the young people will say they are not for wages, they are not ready to go for wages, they need a different kind of employment. So, in the next five years, I am not talking of today, I am not talking of the generation which is the wage earner generation of today, this generation will continue to earn

their wages and we will have to cater to them. But please remember that while this generation is being phased out, the next generation will not be content only with earning wages as their fathers have been, as their mothers have been. They will ask for a different kind of employment.

For that you have to be ready which means that the kind of development which we are envisaging, like, roads and tanks and small things, this will have to change and a more sophisticated form of development which is probably not yet ready but which will have to be studied and formulated that kind of employment will have to be introduced may be in the next five years. I don't think we can wait much longer than that. So, this is one point which strikes me as important because if we are not conscious of this and if we are not dealing with this right now, the very programme of universalisation of primary education, elementary education, the very programme of having more and more secondary schools etc. opened in the rural areas will create a stalemate where we will not be able to cater to their needs. So we have to be thinking of that from now on.

I think the Ninth Plan would have to take care of what I have just stated. The 8th Plan is safe so far as wage earning is concerned, that generation will continue.

But in, order to cater to the age group of 15 to 20, let us say, and prevent them from going into the towns, prevent the largescale urbanisation that is taking place today, we have to think in the Ninth Plan of something which keeps these semieducated or educated boys and girls within the village by providing the employment which really befits them, which they consider it worth their while and not below their dignity. I mean this is a social as well as an economic problem and one will have to go into greater detail about it.

The Plan envisages an average annual rate of growth of 5.6% in GDP - the rate of growth approved by the Council in December last. It involves a total investment of Rs. 798,000 crores. Most of this is to be financed from domestic resources. Public sector investment is placed at Rs. 361,000 crores and outlay of Rs. 434,100 crores. The size of the States Plan is projected to be Rs. 179,985 crores. The declining trend in the share of the States in the Public Sector Plan is sought to be reversed in the Eighth Plan: the share is expected to be 41% against the realised level of 39% in the Seventh Plan.

The Plan proposes a significant shift in investment in favour of agriculture and allied sectors. Investment in agriculture had been declining over the years, although agricultural growth is crucial for maintaining food security and for generating employment. The relative share of the infrastructure sector is proposed to be maintained to strength the foundations of the growth in the future.

The private sector will be given a larger share than before in a number of economic activities - electricity, communications, oil and coal, petro-chemicals, heavy capital goods industries and organised commercial services, to name a few. I expect the private sector to rise to the occasion and contribute substantially to the development of these sectors of the economy.

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The realisation of the projected level of investment and, therefore, of the objectives set for the Plan, call for a well conceived set of macro-economic policies and the utmost financial discipline on the part of all concerned - the Central and State Governments, public and private enterprises and the financial institutions. The plan is a programme for the development of the Nation and it is our joint responsibility to successfully implement it.

Before I conclude, I would specifically like to draw the attention of the Council to certain issues. The Central Government has already taken a number of steps, like reduction in the size of the Government machinery and reducing Government expenditure with a view to reversing the sharply deteriorating trend in Government savings. The restructuring of the Central Public sector enterprises is also under active consideration so that they may contribute to internal resource generation needs of the Public Sector Plan. I would request the Chief Ministers to initiate similar action in the States, if it has not already been done. The tendency in smaller States, and even smaller districts in bigger states, to develop administrative structures similar to larger ones needs to be checked. In general, State Public Sector enterprises currently make a negative contribution to the Government kitty. It is necessary to make them contribute substantially to the resource needs of the Plan by imparting operational efficiency to them and by appropriate pricing of the utilities so as to make them viable. In other areas like the Public Distribution System, we should go in for sharper targeting of beneficiaries to ensure avoidance of leakages and to channel scarce resources to those sections of the people who need and deserve the benefits most.

The policy changes initiated recently on the economic, trade and financial fronts represent a good beginning. These need to be carried further and the pace of reforms sustained, to reap their full benefits to ensure successful implementation of the Eighth Plan. The reforms have to be accompanied by fiscal and monetary policies aimed at maintaining a reasonable price stability and a sustainable balance of payments. The last two budgets of the Central Government were steps in this direction. I request the Chief Ministers to take similar steps in their States in regard to fiscal discipline and price stability.

I am sure that the Central and State Governments, the private

sector and all sections of society would contribute fully to the successful implementation of the Plan. Expenditure alone does not help in achieving targets. What would help is a reorientation in our approach to handling the problems, and the reorientation in the way of our implementing the programmes through a much higher degree of involvement of the people.

I commend the Eight Five Year Plan for the consideration of the Council.

Thank you.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC LATVIA

**Date :** May 22, 1992

## Volume No

1995

INDONESIA

Cooperation in Railways with Indonesia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 01, 1992: A high level railway delegation from Indonesia headed by Dr. Anwar Suprijadi, Director General of Indonesian Railways met the Chairman, Railway Board, Dr. Y. P. Anand and discussed with him the matters of mutual cooperation here last evening. Dr. Suprijadi appreciated assis-

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tance provided by Indian Railways in upgrading Indonesian railways and identified areas wherein India and Indonesia could further cooperate.

Earlier in the day, the delegation visited the office of Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited (RTTES) where 45 trainees from the Indonesian Railways are undergoing training under a World Bank funded programme in the field of investment planning inventory management, maintenance of diesel locomotives, bridges, freight cars and passenger coaches.

The delegatin appreciated the assistance by Indian Railways in training their personnel through RITES and evinced keen interest in the training institutes available in India for railway personnel. Since its inception in 1974, RITES has assisted 35 countries in South East Asia, Middle East, Africa and Latin America for optimising their transportation system.

The Indonesian delegation also visited the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) and computerised reservation centre at New Delhi and were impressed by the technological advances made by Indian Railways in informatics and improved customer service.

DONESIA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date :** May 01, 1992

## Volume No

1995

IRAN

BHEL Assured of Iranian Contract

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 11, 1992: The visiting Iranian Deputy Minister of Energy Mr. M. Malaeki has assured Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) of a contract for the construction, erection and generation of 4x210 MW Kerman Thermal Power Station in Iran. This assurance was given by the Iranian Minister, when he called on the Minister of State for Industry, Shri P. K. Thungon, here today.

During the meeting both the Ministers discussed bilateral relations and particularly cooperation in the power sector between the two countries. Mr. Malaeki has also evinced keen interest in the transmission system of India.

A Memorandum of Understanding had already been signed between BHEL and the Governor General of Kerman State in March, 1992 for the construction of the Thermal Power Station.

A high powered Iranian Delegation led by Mr. M. Malaeki is currently in India visiting various manufacturing units of BHEL.  
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AN INDIA USA RUSSIA

**Date :** May 11, 1992

## Volume No

1995

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Joint Meeting of India-Japan Study Committee-- Prime Minister's Message

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The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 11, 1992:

The Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao has said that he was confident that the Joint Meeting of the India-Japan Study Committee and its deliberations would contribute to the further strengthening of cooperation between the two countries in every field.

The following is the text of the Prime Minister's message:  
"I wish to extend my greetings to the distinguished members of the India-Japan Study Committee who are holding their 21st Joint Session in the city of Bangalore on May 11 and 12, 1992.

The Joint Committee has among its members, eminent and distinguished personalities from India and Japan. Over the past three decades, the Committee has made a significant contribution in promoting awareness and understanding between our people as also in fostering bilateral economic and cultural cooperation.

The 21st meeting will take place at an important juncture in our relations when India has embarked on a programme of thorough-going economic reform and is determined to integrate its economy with the global economy. The stage is thus set for giving a major impetus to economic cooperation between our two countries and in particular, for promoting Japanese investment in India.

The recent visits of the Finance Minister and the External Affairs Minister to Japan were evidence of the growing interaction at a high level between our two countries. I look forward to my forthcoming visit to Japan and to the opportunity to exchange views with Prime Minister Miyazawa, whom I also met briefly in New York, and other Japanese leaders on matters of mutual interest. I attach considerable significance to the fact that we are celebrating the Fortieth Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations and signing of a Treaty of Peace and Amity this year. It is historic anniversary which also marks a renewed and increased tempo in our relations.

I am confident that the Joint meeting of the India-Japan Study Committee and its deliberations will contribute to the further strengthening of cooperation between our two countries in every field.

I wish the meeting all success.

PAN INDIA USA

**Date :** May 11, 1992

## Volume No

1995

KOREA

Indo-Korean Cooperation in Automobile Sector

The following is the text of a Press release issued in New Delhi on May 20, 1992:

India and South Korea have agreed to cooperate in automobile sector. It was revealed when an eight-member delegation led by Mr. Nak-Yong Chang, Senior Executive Vice-President of Hundai Motor Company (HMC of South Korea called on the Minister of State for Industry, Prof. P. J. Kurien, here last evening.  
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Prof. Kurien assured the delegation that any proposal of passenger car or any other item in the automobile sector would be cleared by the Government of India at the earliest. He told the visiting delegation that the government would permit 50 percent equity participation for proposals of setting up of units in automobile sector. He said that proposals were also welcome for setting up of 100 per cent Export Oriented Units which were permitted upto 25 per cent sale in domestic tariff areas as per policy.

Prof. Kurien highlighted that the procedure for approval of foreign investments and licensing had been simplified and he urged them to invest in India and assured of all possible help. The delegation apprised the Minister of high tariff structure prevailing in the automobile industry and desired that the duty should be brought down from the existing levels for which Prof. Kurien assured them that he would take up the matter with the Finance Ministry.

REA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date :** May 20, 1992

## Volume No

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1995

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MAURITIUS

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President of Mauritius is Visiting India

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The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 25, 1992:

The President of the Republic of Mauritius, Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo and Lady Ringadoo, are visiting India from 27th May to 5th June 1992. Sir Ringadoo will begin his visit from Bombay where he will reach on 27th May. He will reach Delhi on 28th May. He will also visit Trivandrum, Bangalore, Mysore, Madras and Tirupati during his stay in India.

His important engagements in Delhi are as under :

THURSDAY, 28TH MAY 1992: 1720 Hrs. Arri. Delhi (Air Force Station, Palam); 1745 Hrs. Ceremonial Reception (Rashtrapati Bhavan); 1845 Hrs. Call on the President and Smt. Janaki Venkataraman (Rashtrapati Bhavan); 2000 Hrs. Banquet by the President and Smt. Janaki Venkataraman. (Rashtrapati Bhavan).

FRIDAY, 29TH MAY 1992: 0840 Hrs. Visit Rajghat (Wreath laying at the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi, Watering of plant planted during previous visit); 0930 Hrs. Call by Minister of State for External Affairs (Rashtrapati Bhavan); 1700 Hrs. Call by the Vice-President and Smt. Vimla Sharma (Rashtrapati Bhavan); 1730 Hrs. Call by the Prime Minister (Rashtrapati Bhavan); 1815 Hrs. Call on Smt. Sonia Gandhi (10, Janpath); 2000 Hrs. Dinner by the Prime Minister (Hyderabad House).

SATURDAY, 30TH MAY 1992: 0930 Hrs. Ceremonial Departure (Rashtrapati Bhavan); 1005 Hrs. Emplane for Tiruvanthapuram.  
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MAURITIUS USA INDIA

**Date :** May 25, 1992

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## Volume No

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1995

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MAULANA AZAD MEMORIAL LECTURE

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## President's Speech

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The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 07, 1992:

The following is the text of the Maulana Azad Memorial Lecture delivered by the President, Shri R. Venkataraman here today.

I deem it a privilege to be asked to deliver the Maulana Azad Memorial Lecture. I would like at the outset to convey my thanks to Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma who, as President of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, has extended this invitation to me. I am conscious of the fact that by accepting it, I am joining a distinguished company of scholars and thinkers from India and abroad who have delivered these commemorative lectures.

Maulana Azad was a legend in his time. His contribution to the cause of national liberation is an indelible chapter in our national history. Our struggle for liberation was a magnetic field which drew diverse people into its orbit. Each brought his or her own perspective and talent to the cause. If one came with great organising ability, another brought intellectual sharpness, while yet another the quality of total dedication. Maulana Saheb was unique in that he brought with him a rare combination of qualities of head and heart. He thereby became an inspiration that was at once intellectual and emotional. His dedication proceeded simultaneously from the reflexes of the mind as well as the vibration of the heart.

But more than all this - and this is where he was matchless - Maulana Saheb brought to the national movement the message of India's pluralist richness and of the unity underlying our diverse languages, religions, customs and practices. As a tribute to this historical vision of Maulana Saheb I propose to devote my address to the theme: Maulana Azad and the Unity of India.

This gathering is well aware of the course of Maulana Saheb's life. Indeed, some members of the audience have studied, researched and interpreted that remarkable career. For anyone to dwell on that life's details before an audience such as this would therefore be both superfluous and presumptuous. But I would like to delineate that vital impetus in Maulana Saheb's life which, in my opinion, determined its direction and exercised a decisive influence on our sub-continent's history.

Young Mohiuddin, the Maulana-to-be, was born in a home where religion had a strong presence. Tradition, in their abode in Mecca was strict. Khairuddin Dihlawi, his father, was a man of considerable erudition renowned for a passionate devotion to the Prophet as well as a mystic piety, which brought him several disciples. Young Mohiuddin was not quite a 'disciple' and he did not share his father's implacable opposition to European education, but even as a child in Mecca the future Maulana had

learned the Quran, mastering several suras and acquiring the fundamentals of Arabic.

He had assimilated by the age of 15 the body of Islamic education which is normally received at about the age of 20. He was soon to gain the additional knowledge of Persian which, together with his fluency in Urdu, marked him out for an assured future in the world of scholarship. This multilinguality naturally opened several doors and windows in his mind and, to adapt th Mahatma's phrase, winds from different climes and shores flowed in without disturbing his firm anchorage in the tenets of Islam. Of these, one predominant-

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ed the others: the gentle zephyr of our sufitrade. Mohiuddin was both relaxed and refreshed by it; he was becalmed and stirred by it.

It was at about this time that another determining influence reached him; that of Sir Sayyid Ahmed Khan. Reports of Sir Sayyid's educational initiatives captivated the intellectually awakened Mohiuddin who had already taken to writing Urdu and Persian verse under the pen name of Azad meaning 'unfettered' or 'free'. This exposure to sufism on the one hand and to the modern vision of Sir Sayyid had two immediate and direct implications. First, Azad rejected the belief that scriptural authority as handed down by orthodox interpreters should be accepted without reflection.

Second, Azad now stood on the threshold of modern knowledge.

Not many among non-historians are perhaps aware that it was under Sir Sayyid's influence tht Azad began to learn English and soon after he had done so, studied the English Bible, alongside Urdu and Persian translations. Today, some ninety years later, this may not seem extraordinary but it needs to be realized that in the beginning of our century it was virtually unthinkable that someone in Azad's place could engage himself in study and discussions with those of different religions - Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Parsi, Bahai and also with those who professed atheism. But Azad did.

Here I would like to invite attention to an essay that Azad wrote in 1910. It was on the extraordinary 17th century mystic Sarmad, who had been executed by Aurangzeb's orders, shortly after the brutal killing of the broad-minded Prince Dara Shukoh. Azad's essay, which has recently been re-issued in English translation by the ICCR, contains this striking passage of Azad's on Dara Shukoh: (quote)

"During the last days of Emperor Shahjehan, Dara Shikoh was heir-appa-

rent... From his early years Dara displayed the attributes of a Dervish. He always kept company with philosophers and sufis .. The humility with which Dara met the Muslim divines was matched by the devotion with which he bowed his head before the Hindu saints and sadhus. Who can deny the purity of this principle? Because in this exalted state of mind, if one can still distinguish between Kufr and Islam then what is the difference between blindness and vision?" (Unquote)

Thought and action are twins. Azad had been present in Dhaka in 1906 when the Muslim League was founded. But the League's faithfulness to the Raj was unacceptable to him. Even as Azad's mind turned increasingly towards eclecticism, the arc of his public activities began to interset with those of some of the leading revolutionaries of the 'Bengal School' of the time, across religious divides.

He turned, therefore, to the Bengal revolutionaries who happened to be, mostly, Hindu. He was admitted to their innercouncils as a brave and wise entrant. In 1912, Azad's new role flowered in the shape of the newspaper Al-Hilal which Azad started in Calcutta, "demolishing" as an observer said, "the barriers between journalism and creative literature". Written with courage and brilliance, the paper also demolished intellectual barriers between Hindus and Muslims although, for reasons of language, the paper had few Hindu readers. Azad's writings in Al Hilal articulated the eclectic nationalist spirit of the day in its sublimest form. He sought to enlist dedicated Muslims and through an agreement with Hindus, launch a joint struggle against the British. Predictably enough, the paper was prosecuted and had two deposits forfeited and was forced to close down in November 1914.

Azad stated, significantly, that the road to Hindu-Muslim partnership was shown by an event in the life of the Prophet (and I quote):  
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When the Prophet Muhammad migrated to Medina he prepared a covenant between the Muslims and the Jews of Medina. In the covenant it was mentioned that ultimately the Muslims and non-Muslims would become one nation. Thus if I say that the Muslims of India cannot perform their duty unless they are united with the Hindus, it is in accordance with the tradition of the Prophet who himself wanted to make a nation of Muslims and non-Muslims ... (Unquote)

Here one can see a parallel between the Mahatma's approach to religious understanding and the Maulana's. Both of them sought that understanding not by weakening or diluting their own religious convictions; rather, they were impelled by their perception of their own faiths to seek concord with those of others. The Mahatma said:

"...Hinduism is not an exclusive religion. In it there is room for the worship of all the prophets in the world. It is not a missionary religion in the ordinary sense of the term. It has no doubt absorbed many tribes in its fold, but this absorption has been of an evolutionary, imperceptible character. Hinduism tells every one to worship God according to his own faith or Dharma and so it lives at peace with all the religions. " (unquote)

In the Bhagavad Gita, the Lord enunciates

"yo-yo yam-yam tanum bhaktah sraddhaya 'rcitum ichhati tasya-tasya' calam sraddham tam eva vidadhamy aham".

(Whatever form any devotee with faith wishes to worship, I make that faith of his steady). Both Gandhiji and Maulana Saheb gave the widest, most inclusive, interpretations to their respective faiths. Great minds think alike.

But, to return to the sequence of Azad's life. After the enforced closure of Al-Hilal, Azad was asked to leave Calcutta and was interned in Ranchi until January 1, 1920. It was in this interval that he wrote his famous translation of the Quran - the Tarjuman in an exercise reminiscent of Tilak who while incarcerated in Mandalay, wrote his commentary on the Gita.

In his translation and commentary of 18 of the Quran's 30 chapters he expressed his conviction that the Quran was (in his own words) "comprehensive enough to include all forms of monotheism". Azad highlighted in the Tarjuman what he regarded as a vital Quranic passage regarding the different paths to the one God and I give Azad's own rendering of that passage:

We have set for each (group) of you a particular code and path. Had God so willed, he could have made you one people, but He tests you by the separate regulations which He has made for you .... So (do not lose yourself in these differences but) endeavour to surpass each other through your good deeds. (Quotation ends)

Gandhiji had, similarly, cautioned Hindus against the rigidities which narrow interpretations of the Shastras had imposed on Hindu society. Doing the same, Azad brought into sharp focus the existence of two clearly discernible streams in India's Islamic consciousness - that represented by the learned theologians or the ulama with their emphasis on textual fidelity on the one hand, and that represented by the sufis or mystics, on the other. Azad spontaneously and irrevocably, dipped the cup of his life in the self-renewing waters from which Akbar and Kabir had drawn their spiritual nourishment. And if Dara Shukoh had found a mystic guide in Sarmad, Azad found Mahatma Gandhi.

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Within days of his release Azad was in Delhi and met the Mahatma. The nation's outrage over the Rowlatt Act and Jallianwala Bagh

had merged with the Khilafat issue in a sangam of kinetic energy. Without a moment's hesitation Azad accepted the Mahatma's proposal for non-violent non-cooperation. The editor of Al Hilal and the translator of the Quran saw in Gandhiji's plan the very joint Hindu-Muslim struggle which he had long envisioned. With Azad, the desire to see united action between Muslims and Hindus was not a matter of tactics; it was the most natural aspiration of one who felt that to be the truest purest position for a pious Muslim to take. For Azad the Quranic injunction was clear: those who have done the quiam violence, viz, the the British, must be opposed. And it followed that solidarity between the victims of the violence was not only good and proper, but the only right course. Azad's prioritization was clear.

In 1923 Azad was asked to preside over the Congress, a rare honour to someone so young and a tribute as much to the breadth of his vision as to his political ability. To the insidious arguments from short-sighted people on both sides of our ethnic configuration, he provided a stirring refutation in these words:

If an angel descends from the heavens today and proclaims from the Qutb Minnar that India can attain Swaraj within 24 hours provided I relinquish my demand for Hindu-Muslim unity, I shall retort to it: "No my friend, I shall give up Swaraj, but not Hindu-Muslim unity, for if Swaraj is delayed, it will be a loss for India, but if Hindu-Muslim unity is lost, it will be a loss for the whole of mankind. (Unquote)

The events leading up to and following the Government of India Act of 1935, the elections of 1937 and the formation of Popular governments in the provinces have been the subject of historians' research and analysis. For those studies, Maulana Saheb's views on those events are of great significance. As you are all aware, the

Muslim League did relatively well in the elections held in U.P. It was the general expectation that after the elections the Congress and the League would work together. Maulana Saheb visited U.P. and held discussions with the two leading Leaguers - Chaudhari Khaliquezzaman and Mirza Ismail Khan who assured Maulana Saheb of total cooperation with the Congress. Maulana Saheb took note of this and of the expectation of these two gentlemen that they should be taken into the Ministry. Maulana Saheb was even given a signed note of this effect and the stage seemed set for a joint ministry with these two League leaders in it. Later however, they were informed by the Congress that only one of them could be taken into the ministry. Maulana Saheb writes:

This was a most unfortunate development. If the League's offer of cooperation had been accepted, the Muslim League party would for all practical purposes merge with the Congress .... All students of Indian politics know that it was from the UP that the League

was reorganised. Mr. Jinnah took full advantage of the situation and started an offensive which ultimately led to Pakistan.  
(Unquote)

History will judge as to whether Maulana Saheb's assessment is right. But in any event, the episode shows how genuine was Maulana Saheb's wish to forge LeagueCongress links in the interests of Indian unity and how generous he was even in the hour of Congress's triumph at the polls.

Maulana Saheb's breadth of vision complete freedom from communal bias and sense of fairplay can, similarly, be gleaned from his observations on the exclusion of Nariman of Bombay and Dr. Syed Mahmud of Bihar from the offices of Premier in those Provinces. He was in favour of choosing the leader of the Party untrammelled by considerations of caste, religion or  
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local sentiment. I had the privilege of close association with Nariman as a member of the panel of lawyers who went to Malaya and Singapore to defend the Indian nationals in 1946. I was a young hopeful Congressman and he, a bitter critic of the Congress. He felt that the Congress had betrayed its basic commitment to secularism. Nariman was all praise for the Maulana whom he regarded as a truly national leader. One cannot say whether these two incidents really tarnished the image of the Congress in the minds of the minorities or made them lose faith in the organisation.

Congress met in Ramgarh in Bihar in March 1940, with Maulana Saheb presiding, once again. His presidential address revealed love of Islam and of liberty; his confidence that the Islam qaum would be secure in a free India, as well as his faith in India's oneness. Maulana Saheb's address contained some extraordinary passages. I will quote but one piece thereof:

It was India's historic destiny that many human races and cultures and religions should flow to her, and that many a caravan should find rest here... One of the last of these caravans was that of the followers of Islam. This came here and settled here for good. We brought our treasures with us, and India too was full of the riches of her own precious heritage. We gave her what she needed most, the precious of gifts from Islam's treasury, the message of human equality. Full eleven centuries have passed by since then. Islam has now as great a claim on the soil of India as Hinduism."

That passage represents not just a political stand that was relevant in that particular phase of the struggle, but a social philosophy that we will do well to remember always.

Maulana Saheb's contributions to the struggle and to national unity in the Congress Working Committee and in the various

informal negotiations that took place during the advance to freedom continued to be decisive. In the Congress's negotiations with Sir Stafford Cripps, his values and commitment shone with particular resplendence. Cripps had offered dominion status after the war and an immediate induction of Congress and League members in Government but with the right of every province to secede from the Union. Along with Gandhiji and Jawaharlal Nehru, Azad opposed the Cripps proposals as "a severe blow to the conception of Indian unity". Under Azad's stewardship, the Congress Working Committee formally rejected the Cripps offer.

Quit India! became the new mantra. Bombay in August, 1942, was an ocean of humanity. Indeed, of revolutionary humanity. 'Do or Die' was the slogan on everyone's thoughts, everyone's lips. The image of Maulana Azad standing on the rostrum at Gowalia Tank, Bombay, on August 8, 1942, is indelibly etched in our psyche. He looked and was a tribune, a sentinel and a herald - not just of India's freedom but of India's unity, not just of the yet-to-be-born nation that is Bharat, but the ageless civilization that is Hindustan.

Gandhiji was arrested after the historic Quit India resolution and taken to Poona; Maulana Saheb, the Congress President and the entire Working Committee were arrested and confined in Ahmednagar Fort. There, in the darkness of his cell, the fire of his revolutionary ardour once again yielded place to the lamp of his scholarship. Maulana Saheb read and wrote prodigiously during that term of imprisonment.

In the meantime, Maulana Saheb's wife, the brave Zuleikha, fell grievously ill. One day, his jail superintendent handed Maulana Saheb a telegram. It informed him that his life-partner had passed away. "Though my determination did not desert me", he has written, "it seemed as if my feet had no strength left on them".

It is  
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another of those coincidences that during his incarceration during the same time, the Mahatma has lost his life-companion, Kasturba. I believe that the deaths of Zuleikha and Kasturba during the Quit India incarcerations of their husbands constituted an incontrovertible indictment of British rule in India and more: it put the stamp of sacrifice on Indian womanhood, in both its Islamic and its Vaishnavite aspects.

During this historic incarceration of Congress leaders, the Two-Nation Theory of the Muslim League came to be vigorously enunciated by Jinnah. Maulana Saheb was implacably opposed to it and viewed the demand for Partitions of India as an unnatural distortion and an admission of failure of the cherished concept of Indian nationhood. Since the Muslim League had made a big issue of opposing any non-League Muslim both in the parleys at Simla and in the coalition government, Maulana Saheb made a

personal sacrifice by giving up the Congress Presidentship. He wanted the progress towards independence to be smooth and desired to avert partition at any cost. He would have even preferred the Postponement of the Independence of the country to its vivisection and he said as much at the meeting of the Congress Working Committee on June 14, 1947, which voted in favour of Partition. If this Political defeat had to be accepted, Maulana Saheb said (and I quote) "we should at the same time try to ensure that our culture is not divided."(Unquote).

It is clear that Maulana Azad was not only this century's most articulate votary of Hindu-Muslim unity but also the only one who claimed Quranic sanction for his faith in that unity. This was his singular contribution.

Anthropologists tell us that the origin of the present multiracial people of India can be traced to eight racial types. It is beyond the scope of this talk to deal with such issues. Suffice it for me to say that from the beginning of human history, there has been a unparalleled assimilative and absorptive faculty in the general populace of this land. Vincent Smith, in his Oxford History of India say (and I quote):

India, beyond all doubt, possesses a deep underlying fundamental unity, far more profound than that produced either by geographical isolation or by political suzerainty. (Unquote)

The divide and rule policy of the British, as we all know, was successful to the extent that the nation had finally to be divided. But, in a very essential sense, the tactic failed because the reins of free India passed into the hands of a sagacious leadership which rose above religion, creed or class and established a secular democracy based on social justice.

This leadership envisaged a federal government for India, with a strong centre, distributing legislative power between the union and the States, so as to meet the needs of local aspiration and national integrity.

The militant movements in Kashmir, Punjab, Assam and some north-eastern States seen against the backdrop of events in the former USSR and Yugoslavia have raised doubts in certain minds as to whether India will be able to maintain its unity and integrity for long. Gibbons, in his monumental work The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire said that every nation has birth, growth, resplendency, degeneracy and decay. History has shown that City States transform themselves into nation States, then march on to become empires, thereafter degenerate and disintegrate. These are generalisations and are not applicable to every case. Looking back at the history of India from prehistoric to modern times, a diligent observer will notice that the cultural unity of India has continued throughout its long history despite several onslaughts from divisive forces. Whether they be

the sacred shrines or holy rivers, a religio-cultural grid unites India. Likewise Mosques and Gurudwaras of renown and respect are scattered all over the country and the pious think in terms of their homogeneity.

On the secular plane, the people of India since independence have enjoyed the privilege of partaking in the mineral and material wealth distributed all over the country without let or hindrance. India is, in extent, equal to the whole of Europe barring Russia. We see the struggle these countries have had to undergo in order to create a common market, a common currency, free travel and so on. Thanks to our underlying unity, India is already the biggest common market with abundant rights vesting in each part to participate in and benefit from developments in every other part of the country. All right-thinking people are convinced that a single India will help the people to enjoy a higher standard of life than what an India split into warring units could ever hope to do. During the four decades of Planning, balanced regional development has helped backward states to march forward even though regional imbalances still continue to plague the economy. With all these considerations ringing in their conscience it is inconceivable that the divisive forces will ever succeed in India.

At the same time it is prudent to take note of the changing moods of the people in India as elsewhere. Man's urge for freedom reflects itself in several facts such as political institutions, economic regimen and social status. The urge for a greater say manifests itself increasingly these days, be it in the Panchayat institutions, or the State's affairs; be it in economic, social or other activities. Hence the growing demand for greater devolution of power and authority by the States has to be taken note of and accommodated, if we are to hold in check the divisive forces in Society. The Constitution of a country has to grow with the changing needs of Society and absorb progressive trends so as to reflect the will of the people. I am sure the Central authority in India will respond to the wishes of the people and act betimes.

I once again thank the Indian Council for Cultural Relations for giving me the chance to share my thoughts with you today on the subject of Indian unity. I regard it a privilege that I have been able to do so in the hallowed memory of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC UNITED KINGDOM BANGLADESH PAKISTAN OMAN YUGOSLAVIA RUSSIA

**Date :** May 07, 1992

# Volume No

1995

## MAULANA AZAD MEMORIAL LECTURE

### Maulana Aazd - A Symbol of National Integration - Vice-President

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 07, 1992:

The Vice-President, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, today described Maulana Abul Kalam Azad as a symbol of national integration and the values of Secularism, Democracy and Social Justice. He was a brilliant Islamic scholar with a profound understanding of comparative religion and a man of vision in temporal affairs.

While welcoming the President Shri R. Venkataraman who delivered the 1991 -Maulana Azad Memorial Lecture here today, the Vice-President said that even amidst the dust and din of momentous political events, Maulana Azad could clearly perceive and articulate the characteristics of the situation in the Indian sub-continent as would emerge after decades. The Lecture is organised annually by the ICCR of which Dr. Sharma is the President.

At the time of Partition, Maulana Saheb had almost prophetically warned people intending to migrate to our neighbourhood as to what their lot would be there. He was pained that his call went largely unheeded. He had an unshakeable faith in India's heritage as providing a natural environment for national integration, Dr. Shrama said.

The Vice-President said that by his life and work, Maulana Azad manifested that India would remain the natural home of a pluralistic atmosphere - where a sense of brotherhood, peace and humanism would prevail, and, equally, that the outlook of universal humanism represents as optimal approach to all major issues con-

cerning the people in the Indian sub-continent.

The message of Maulana Azad's life, which indeed is India's message, is Peace, Goodwill, Friendship and Mutual Cooperation, and faith in the oneness of humanity Dr. Sharma said.

DIA USA

**Date :** May 07, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Visit of Mr. Burbulis to India

The following is the briefing on May 01, 1992 of the Official Spokesman on the visit of the State Secretary of Russia, Mr. G. E. Burbulis, to India from 3-5 May, 1992:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that the State Secretary of Russia, Mr. G. E. Burbulis, accompanied by Minister of Foreign Economic Relations, Mr. P. O. Aven, Minister of Economy, Mr. A. A. Netchaev, Minister of Fuel and Industry, Mr. V. Lopoukhine, State Counsellor for conversion of the defence industry, Mr. M. D. Malei, and other senior officials, is paying an official visit to India from 3-5 May, 1992.

Mr. Burbulis will be calling on the President, the Vice President and the Prime Minister.

Mr. Burbulis, and his delegation, will also have extensive discussions with the Finance Minister, Raksha Mantri, and Ministers of State for External Affairs, Commerce and Power.

It is expected that during Mr. Burbulis's stay, some inter-Governmental Agreements between India and Russia would be signed.

The visit of Mr. Burbulis and his delegation can be seen as a part of the process of high-level political contact that has traditionally characterised relations between the two countries.

Giving background information, the Spokesman said that former External Affairs Minister, Mr. Madhavsingh Solanki went to Russia in November 1991. The Prime Minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao and Mr. Boris Yeltsin met each other in January 1991, in New York. The Foreign Secretary, Mr. J. N. Dixit led a delegation of other Secretaries to Russia, for discussions also in January this year.

DIA RUSSIA USA UNITED KINGDOM MALDIVES

**Date :** May 01, 1992

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

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Meeting With Mr. Faleiro

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The following is the statement of the Official Spokesman on May 04, 1992 regarding the call by Dr. G. E. Burbulis, Secretary of State of the Russian Federation, on Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that the Secretary of State  
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of the Russian Federation, Dr. G. E. Burbulis, and the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, had an hour long discussion today. They both expressed gratification that the visit had a positive impact and has had a positive influence on bilateral relationship between the two countries.

Dr. Burbulis said that he was satisfied that the principal goal of the visit had been achieved since it had given an appropriate impetus to the multi-faceted relationship between our two States. He spoke of the necessity of democratising the emerging new world order. Dr. Burbulis said that Russia was committed to moving from a system of hegemonistic states trying to dominate the world, to an international system where there were no small or big powers.

While agreeing with him, Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro said that since the United Nations was the main international forum, it would be appropriate for the democratisation of the new world order to begin with the democratisation of the UN. Mr. Faleiro amplified by saying that a democratised UN, including the expanded Security Council, must be committed to non-arbitrary, non-selective treatment of all nations.

The two leaders also spoke about NAM. MOS said that the relevance of NAM today lay in its commitment to ensure, that the East-West confrontation which marked the years of the cold war does not give place to a North-South confrontation where the developed and the developing worlds work at cross purposes. The Russian Secretary of State agreed that NAM had every right to exist in the changing world context and that Russia agreed that the Movement had relevance in today's world.

The two leaders spoke, in general terms, about the changes in the erstwhile Soviet Union with special reference to the situation in the Central Asian Republics. Dr. Burbulis said that in this area, the geo-political axis of Russia and India shared common goals

and faced common dangers. In this context, he singled out the dangers arising from religious fundamentalism. He agreed that India and Russia could usefully consult and remain in contact on this important subject.

Responding to his remarks, the Minister of State for External Affairs agreed that religious fundamentalism and extremism of any sort was alien to India, and, that, regrettably, India was victim of terrorism which had religious and fundamentalist dimensions. It was terrorism, supported and financed by our neighbour to the west. He said that this was the principal reason for the aberration in the pattern of India's relations with her neighbouring countries, which were otherwise, with the exception of Pakistan, excellent. The Minister of State underlined India's desire for normal and cooperative relations with Pakistan, based on the framework provided by the Simla Agreement.

Dr. Burbulis responded by saying that Russia was in favour of a bilateral solution to the Kashmir problem and that Russia detested and decried the practice of terrorism in any part of the world.

As far as bilateral relations are concerned, Dr. Burbulis said that as a result of his visit, he and his colleagues, working with their Indian partners have strived for and been able to establish better parameters for bilateral relationship. He said that it was important to achieve regional and world security, while continuing our important cooperation in the field of defence. He explained that in the restructuring of the Soviet Economy, where they were supplementing a military-oriented infrastructure with greater emphasis on civilian industry, it was important to remember that none of these changes would be made in a manner, which would

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be detrimental to the security of Russia or to the security of Russia's partners.

Dr. Burbulis also said that while Russia was building a Foreign Policy which eschewed the granting of special preference to regions or countries, it would never build its relations with another country on foundations which did not fully take into account the dignity of the Russian State, and total exclusion of dependence on third countries. He said that he wished to underline this fact, since there was some anxiety expressed in India about Russia's relations with third countries.

It was important to continue to work on the legal basis for our bilateral relationship and to take into account the obligations that Russia had inherited from the erstwhile Soviet Union, as well as to take into account the present realities, whereby all aspects of our past relationship which were worthy of preservation were fully preserved and were cherished.

Mr. Faleiro said that while India has taken a number of unilateral steps to try and alleviate the difficulties that have been experienced by Indian students, numbering 2000, he expressed the hope that the Russian authorities would do something to help these young people. Dr. Burbulis assured the Minister of State for External Affairs that a special decree had been prepared for looking after the interests of the foreign students, and the Russian Foreign Office and the Dean of the Foreign Diplomatic Corps in Moscow have been in close touch with the Russian Foreign Office. Russia will do all that is possible to alleviate the difficulties not only of Indian students, but of students from other foreign countries as well.

Responding to a question regarding India's attitudes towards Russia, the Spokesman stated that we appreciate that Russia's Foreign Policy had been undergoing a change; we understand the context of the recent changes, but, we feel that this visit of the Russian Secretary of State has helped to remove many of the difficulties that had cropped up, as a result of those changes.

SSIA USA INDIA PAKISTAN

**Date :** May 04, 1992

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### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Call by Dr. G. E. Burbulis, Secretary of State of the Russian Federation on the Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman on May 04, 1992 regarding call by Dr. G. E. Burbulis, Secretary of State of the Russian Federation, on the Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that the Secretary of State of the Russian Federation, Dr. G. E. Burbulis called on the Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, this morning. The meeting lasted about an hour.

The Prime Minister, while referring to his meeting with President Boris Yeltsin, on 31st January, 1992, in New York, said that President Yeltsin had told him that he would be sending his Secretary of State first, and that thereafter, the President himself would pay a visit to India. The Prime Minister remarked

that the visit was timely and of importance, and he was confident that the visit would prove to be useful. The Prime Minister noted with satisfaction that the Russian Secretary of State, Dr. Burbulis had constructive talks with the Finance Minister, and with other leaders and officials. The Prime Minister underlined the fact that relations between India and Russia were strong and close. He said that this strength and closeness of our relationship was based on shared perceptions. The Prime Minister said that he was greatly looking forward to the visit of President Yeltsin to India.

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In response to a request made by the Prime Minister, the Russian Secretary of State, Dr. Burbulis offered a detailed review of the situation in Russia, including the relations of the Russian Federation with the other constituent Republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The Russian Secretary of State also shared with the Prime Minister his perceptions of the international situation.

As part of his analysis, the Russian Secretary of State remarked that Russia was going through a process of reform, which was both difficult and risky. He emphasised that this process had become irreversible. He said that Russia was committed to working out close and cooperative relationships with all the other Republics in the erstwhile Soviet Union. He emphasised that this policy was dictated by the realities of long standing economic linkages that had been in existence between the former constituent Republics of the CIS. Dr. Burbulis acknowledged that there were differences amongst the constituent Republics on key issues; but, at the same time, expressed confidence that the forthcoming Summit of the Heads of State in the CIS scheduled to be held in Tashkent (on the 15th of this month), would seek solutions to such differences on key issues.

Regarding his talks with Indian leaders and officials, the Russian Secretary of State said that outstanding problems between Russia and India had been identified. He expressed the conviction that as a result of these talks, mutually advantageous solutions could be found. He said that both countries were going through a process of economic reforms. Russia, he said, was fully aware of the importance of India. He said that close relations between the two countries were predicted not only on geopolitical considerations, but, also existed because both countries were engaged in a thorough-going and wide-ranging process of economic reforms.

The Russian Secretary of State, Dr. Burbulis, also handed over a message to the Prime Minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, from President Yeltsin, and conveyed President Yeltsin's greetings. Dr. Burbulis said that President Yeltsin was greatly looking forward to his forthcoming visit to India.

**Date :** May 04, 1992

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### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Africa Fund Committee

The following is the statement of the official Spokesman on May 06, 1992 on the tenth meeting of senior officials of the Africa Fund Committee, in Cairo:

The Spokesman, while briefing newsmen, stated that the Tenth Meeting of the Senior Officials of the AFRICA Fund Committee began in Cairo on 3rd May. The Meeting was officially inaugurated by the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Mr. Amre Moussa, on 4th May. The Meeting is being attended by the 8 of the 10 Committee Member countries of the AFRICA Fund Committee, 6 observers from Southern Africa and 45 of the 62 special invitees from donor countries and international organisations.

India's representative in the Meeting is Secretary (East), Mr. L. L. Mehrotra, who is the Chairman of, and the Special Envoy of the Prime Minister, for AFRICA Fund. In this meeting, due attention was given to the fast changing scenario in South Africa. The Chairman said that there were no positive responses to appeals for additional funds, and he urged the Committee members to give pragmatic and critical consideration for the future of the Fund. The deliberations of the Committee would be submitted to the NAM Conference in Indonesia. Both the NAM Ministerial Committee later this month. and the NAM Summit, expected to receive a visualisation of its future structure from the AFRICA Fund Committee.

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Apart from the Prime Minister, the other Heads who have sent messages to the Meeting include Presidents of Egypt, Algeria, Nigeria, Namibia, Zimbabwe, ANC, etc. In these messages, a general appreciation and satisfaction was expressed on the commendable performance of the AFRICA Fund in the fulfilment of the mission assigned to it by the NAM Harare Summit.

**Date :** May 06, 1992

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### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Positive Developments in South Africa

The following is the statement of the Official Spokesman on May 08, 1992 on the tenth meeting of the Africa Fund Committee in Cairo:

The Spokesman, while briefing newsmen, stated that the tenth Meeting of the Senior Officials of the AFRICA Fund has concluded in Cairo. They have come to some conclusions after the review undertaken of the AFRICA Fund.

They have concluded that the AFRICA Fund has undergone a considerable transformation since its inception;

b) That it is the manifestation and concrete expression of the participatory role of NAM in the struggle against apartheid. It has been instrumental in increasing awareness and heightening international pressure on South Africa. Its existence and its activities have given encouragement to the liberation movements, and to the Frontline States in their fight against the South African Regime.

c) The Fund's resources are completely exhausted and the efforts to mobilise additional funds have not met with much success. Significantly, the initial commitment to this collective endeavour has been replaced, in many cases, by bilateral arrangements and programmes, in view of the positive developments that have taken place in South Africa.

d) The mandate of the AFRICA Fund is upto the 10th NAM Summit, scheduled for Jakarta in September this year. The Senior Officials have concluded that there is still an imperative need for the Nonaligned Movement to support liberation movements in South Africa, and they have expressed the hope that the Tenth Summit will carry on the process of applying pressure through fresh expressions of political support and through concrete material and human resource development cooperation.

UTH AFRICA EGYPT USA INDONESIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date :** May 08, 1992

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### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### President's Visit to China

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman on May 08, 1992 on the visit of the President, Shri R. Venkataraman, to China:

The President, Shri R. Venkataraman, will visit China from the 18th to 23rd May, 1992, at the invitation of the President of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Yang Shangkun. The President will be accompanied by Smt. Venkataraman. Mr. Kumaramangalam, Minister of State of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, and Parliamentary Affairs, will accompany the President as Minister in waiting. A high level official delegation which includes Secretary to the President and the Foreign Secretary, will assist the President during the visit. This will be the first ever visit by an Indian President to China. In recent years the high level political dialogue between India and China has gathered momentum. The process was initiated with the visit to China in December 1988 by the then Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Premier Li Peng of China visited India at the invitation of our Prime Minister, -197>

Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao in December 1991.

Besides holding discussions with President Yang Shangkun, during his stay in China, the President will also meet General Secretary Jiang Zemin of the Chinese Communist Party and Premier Li Peng. He will also meet Chinese scholars and intellectuals and Indian nationals in Beijing.

The President will travel to the ancient Chinese capital of Xian from where the famous pilgrim Xuan Zang set out on his journey to India in the 7th century A.D. From Xian, the President and his delegation will travel to Hangzhou in Zhejiang Province and to Shanghai. He will return to New Delhi from Shanghai on the 23rd May.

INA USA INDIA

**Date :** May 08, 1992

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### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### U.S. Decision Against ISRO Regretted

The following is the Official Spokesman's response to queries on May 12, 1992 regarding the US decision relating to sanctions against ISRO:

The Spokesman, while responding to questions, stated that India received the official information, regarding the decision taken by the US Government in connection with sanctions against ISRO, a short while ago. He stated that the Minister of State for Public Grievances and Pensions, Mrs. Margaret Alva, made an announcement in Parliament, in this regard, and said that India was examining the full implications of this decision. As far as the policy framework, governing our space technology, is concerned, this has been made amply clear by the Prime Minister, in the course of a detailed statement made in Parliament, a few weeks ago, in which he had given the entire background of this particular negotiations. He has also indicated to the House India's commitment to develop indigenous capabilities. He also elaborated on these ideas during the meeting, held last week, of the Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry of External Affairs, which he chaired.

In response to a further question regarding the impact of the US decision, the Spokesman clarified that the decision, certainly, has generated misunderstanding in Parliament, and elsewhere, about US policy perceptions, and to that extent, it is an avoidable irritant in our bilateral relationship with USA. This is so because our Missile policy and the technological developments, made in this regard, have been perfectly transparent, are peaceful in their orientation with the clear objective of being used for civilian purposes.

A INDIA

**Date :** May 12, 1992

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

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India for Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy

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The following was the response of the Official Spokesman to a query on May 14, 1992 on Mr. Robert Gates' remark that India and Pakistan are models for behaviour of other Proliferation countries:

Responding to a question, the Spokesman stated that, the judgement that India is a model for other countries with nuclear ambitions, is entirely Mr. Robert Gates' perception. It does not necessarily imply that such a perception is correct. India's nuclear programme has always been predicated on the firm commitment about its peaceful uses. Our track record, in this regard, is perfectly clear, and absolutely impeccable, and has been so acknowledged by international experts. India's principled position in this matter has been reiterated in unequivocal terms on several occasions in the past, and at various forums. Most recently, our commitment to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and our concerns about proliferation, had been expressed at the highest level, by the Prime Minister on  
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the 31st of January, 1992, when he was addressing a Summit meeting of the Members of the Security Council, in New York.

Mr. Gates' assertion that India has sought, or is trying to acquire chemical weapons is also not correct.

DIA USA PAKISTAN

**Date :** May 14, 1992

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

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M O U with China

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The following is the response of the Official Spokesman to a query on May 15, 1992, on seeking assistance from China in space programme:

Responding to a question regarding news reports that India may seek China's assistance in space programme, the Spokesman clarified that during Prime Minister Mr. Li Peng's visit to India in December 1991, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Aerospace Industry of the Peoples' Republic of China and the Department of Space of India, on Cooperation in the "peaceful application of outer space, science & technology".

INA INDIA USA

**Date :** May 15, 1992

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### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Indo-Bangladesh Official-Level Talks

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman on May 15, 1992 while briefing on the Indo-Bangladesh Foreign Secretary-level talks on May 15, 1992:

The Spokesman, while briefing newsmen, stated that the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, Mr. Riaz Rahman, accompanied by his Additional Secretary, Mr. Mahmoud Ali, and the new High Commissioner, Mr. Farook Sobhan, had a meeting with the Foreign Secretary, Mr. J. N. Dixit. Mr. Dixit was assisted by Shri Rajiv Bhatia, Joint Secretary (BM), and other officials.

The primary objective of these talks was to prepare for the forthcoming visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister, Begum Khaleeda Zia. These discussions could also be seen in continuation of the visit of the Special Envoy of the Prime Minister, who was here a few days ago.

Apart from discussing the details of the programme, the agenda for the discussion was finalised; there will be no structured agenda, all issues affecting our bilateral relationships will be discussed.

This will be the first visit by an elected Prime Minister from Bangladesh, after late Mr. Mujib-ur-Rehman. The visit will also be utilised to discuss the changed international situation, with particular reference to the implications for countries like India and Bangladesh. As is known, the next SAARC Summit is going

to be held in Dhaka; she will become the next SAARC Chairman. The programmes under the aegis of SAARC, as also matters relating to SAARC viz-a-viz other regional groupings will also be discussed.

Responding to a question as to whether the question of water dispute was discussed during the Foreign Secretary level talks, the Spokesman clarified that as far as the water issue is concerned, we are going to move forward on this issue, and will be working towards achieving a practical compromise, taking into account each other's concerns. This is going to be a slow and gradual process.

NGLADESH USA INDIA

**Date :** May 15, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Visit of Foreign Minister of Slovenia

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman on May 18, 1992 regarding call by Dr. D. Rupel, Foreign Minister of Slovenia, on the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro:

The Spokesman, while briefing newsmen, stated that the Foreign Minister of  
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Slovenia, Dr. D. Rupel, had a meeting with Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, this morning. The Minister of State, while welcoming Mr. Rupel, remarked that the relations with Slovenia as an important part of the erstwhile Yugoslavia, had been excellent in the past, and with this visit it was expected that relations would get far better.

Thanking the Minister for India's recognition of Slovenia, and for this opportunity to meet the Indian personalities, the Slovenian Foreign Minister said that recognition by India was received with great enthusiasm in his country because India was a major political factor and represented a major political authority. In this context, he thanked India for the help given along with other friendly countries like Egypt, to establish a guest status for Slovenia within the NAM. He said that the desire to establish such a link with NAM. He said that the desire to

establish such a link with NAM was based less on ideological considerations and more on the fact that NAM represented the majority of people in the world. He expressed some disappointment, that the NAM Ministerial Council has not found it possible to arrive at a decision, and requested for India's continuing support in this regard. The Slovenian Minister also thanked the Minister of State, for India's support extended to Slovenia in obtaining entry into the UN and urged India to continue its support in this matter. The Minister of State assured that with regard to UN and also with regard to NAM, Slovenia would receive India's wholehearted support.

Bilaterally, it was recognised by both Ministers that Slovenia was responsible for a major portion of the economic and trade exchanges with India as its GNP was 25% of the former State of Yugoslavia. It was agreed that in Slovenia's drive to find new markets, and develop fresh areas of foreign trade, India would be an obvious place to begin any such expansion plans.

There was a discussion on the question of establishing diplomatic relations, and an agreement on the establishment of diplomatic and consular relations was signed. We were informed that 75 sovereign States recognised Slovenia of which 40 have already established diplomatic relations.

The Slovenian Foreign Minister gave the Minister of State a detailed briefing on the deteriorating situation in Bosnia. He expressed anguish at the continuing exodus of refugees from Bosnia into neighbouring Croatia and Slovenia. As many as 1000 refugees were leaving Bosnia for Slovenia on a daily basis. He urged India to lend support to the European Community to ensure that Sarajevo remains a zone of safety, that the legitimate Government of Bosnia was preserved, and that efforts were undertaken to stem the tide of a refugee inflow from Bosnia to neighbouring countries.

The Minister of State for External Affairs said that India shared the concern about the situation in several parts of the former territory of Yugoslavia. He explained that it was for this reason that India had not taken a view on the question of a successor State. It had been left to the component parts of the erstwhile Republic to arrive at their own arrangements. We have not recognised any single State as a successor State.

The Slovenian Foreign Minister will be coming on the Prime Minister, tomorrow and will also be having discussions with other Government leaders and businessmen.

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OVENIA YUGOSLAVIA INDIA USA EGYPT CROATIA

**Date :** May 18, 1992

# Volume No

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## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

### Visit of Iranian Foreign Minister

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman on May 19, 1992 on the visit of the Iranian Foreign Minister, Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, to India:

The Spokesman, while briefing newsmen, stated that the Foreign Minister of Iran, Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, paid an official visit to India from 18-19 May, 1992. He was accompanied by a delegation, that included Mr. Parvaresh, member of the Iranian Majlis, and a number of high ranking officials from the Iranian Foreign Office. Bilateral talks were held on 18th May, 1992, between the Iranian Foreign Minister, Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, and the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro. The Iranian Foreign Minister called on the Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, today. He also received the Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs, Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia. A visit to Rajghat was included in the programme of Dr. Velayati.

Wide-ranging discussions were held with Dr. Velayati on bilateral, regional, and global issues which are of mutual interest. On the bilateral side, talks were aimed at further intensifying exchanges and building-up on the momentum generated since the convening of the Indo-Iranian Joint Commission in November 1991. It was agreed, in this context, that a multi disciplinary team from India would visit Iran in early July, to discuss specific projects which can be taken up by the Indian companies in several sectors which already stand identified. It was further agreed that the Indo-Iranian Joint Commission would have its next meeting in New Delhi in November 1992.

Discussions were held on the recently concluded NAM Ministerial Conference in Bali. It was agreed that our Minister of State for External Affairs would visit Tehran by the end of June, for consultations prior to the NAM Summit.

Detailed discussion were held on developments in the region, with the focus on Afghanistan and the Central Asian Republics. It was agreed to maintain close consultations on issues of common concern, in the interest of regional peace and security.

Responding to a question as to whether we were giving technology

for a nuclear reactor in Iran, or whether discussions on this subject were held during this visit, the Spokesman stated that on this issue the position remains the same as it was several months ago, namely, that preliminary discussions have been held but no decision has been taken.

Replying to another query as to the issues of 'common concern' in Afghanistan, the Spokesman stated that both Iran and India had a common interest in the ending of bloodshed, cessation of violence, and restoration of peace and normalcy, so as to enable the people of Afghanistan, with whom India has had a long standing tradition of friendship, to get on with the task of rehabilitation and reconstruction, after 10 years of strife and conflict.

Replying to another question regarding Iran's views on India's relations with the Central Asian Republics, the Spokesman stated that the developments in the Central Asian Republics were discussed in general terms. But, Dr. Velayati gave every indication that Iran would welcome an Indian presence, and Indian participation in the economic development of these Republics.

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AN INDIA USA AFGHANISTAN

**Date :** May 19, 1992

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### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Visit of Begum Khaleda Zia of Bangladesh

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman on May 22, 1992 on the visit of the Bangladesh Prime Minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, to India from 26-28, May, 1992:

The Spokesman, while briefing newsmen, stated that Begum Khaleda Zia will be in India on a State visit from 26-28 May, 1992. This would be the first State visit after six years: the last bilateral visit being that of President Ershad in 1986. This would also be the first State visit by Begum Khaleda Zia to any SAARC country since she became Prime Minister.

The two Prime Ministers, Begum Khaleda Zia and Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, met at the Commonwealth Conference in Harare in October 1991, and also in Colombo in December 1991 during the

SAARC Summit.

We particularly welcome this State visit by a democratically elected Prime Minister of Bangladesh. We see this as a goodwill visit, which will give the leaders of both countries an occasion to exchange views on a wide range of international, regional and bilateral issues. We recognise the importance of the State visit which will open a new chapter in Indo-Bangladesh relations marked by a fresh outlook based on mutual trust and confidence. This visit will enable the two leaders to further develop their understanding and help them evolve a joint approach to the common problems being faced by both countries. The visit would thus provide an opportunity to the two leaders to review the relations between the two countries and to formulate plans for their future developments. While engaging in discussions on a wide canvas, the two leaders will benefit from each other's perceptions on developments of international, regional and bilateral importance, and also to seek to evolve a common understanding on how to react to these developments. The dialogue between the two sides on all issues of concern to them, will impart a fresh momentum to our relations.

Announcing the visit on May 12, the Bangladesh State News Agency described it as "expecting to make a significant contribution towards strengthening friendly relations between two close neighbouring countries." We share the confidence expressed in that announcement.

During her visit, the Bangladesh Prime Minister will have two rounds of discussions with the Prime Minister, along with their respective delegations. Begum Zia will be meeting other Ministers and leaders of political parties.

Replying to a question on Tin Bigha and water dispute, the Spokesman stated that as far as Tin Bigha is concerned, we are committed to the implementation of this Agreement; and, as far as the water dispute is concerned, we will be discussing all issues with Bangladesh Prime Minister. We are going to move forward on this issue and will be working towards achieving a practical compromise through a process of dialogue.

INDIA BANGLADESH ZIMBABWE SRI LANKA USA

**Date :** May 22, 1992

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Abduction of Indian Diplomat in Pakistan

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The following is the Official Spokesmans statement and response to questions on May 25, 1992 on the incident relating to Mr. Rajesh Mittal, and expulsion of two Pakistani diplomats:

The Spokesman, while birefing newsmen, stated that the incident of forcible abduction of a senior diplomat in Islamabad outside his residence, is viewed by the Government of India with the utmost seriousness and concern. We find it extraordinary that such crude attempts have indulged in, by way of what may be a response to the Indian authorities, having ap-  
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prehended about eight weeks ago, several Pakistani Intelligence operatives in Delhi and Punjab. These operatives were caught red-handed. We find it a curious coincidence that such patently unacceptable behaviour which seeks to create an incident, takes place with uncanny regularity, just before meaningful dialogues are scheduled to be held, on matters of bilateral interest and concern.

In the face of the unthinkable violent, inhuman and brutal treatment meted out to a senior Indian diplomat, we have, this afternoon, summoned the Pakistani Acting High Commissioner, Mr. Shahid Malik, and have told him that we have identified two Pakistani Counsellors, who have been acting in violation of the accepted norms of diplomatic functioning, and who have been indulging in activities which are clearly prejudicial to the security of India.

While lodging a strong protest about these two individuals, we have asked that they be withdrawn from India within 48hours as they have been declared persona non grata. These two Pakistani Counsellors are Syed Fayaz Mahmud Endrabi and Zafr-ul-Hassan.

In response to a question as to whether India had also "interrogated" the Pakistani diplomats in a manner similar to the handling of Mr. Rajesh Mittal, the Spokesman replied that India believed in abiding by the stipulations of the Vienna Convention and did not believe in stopping to the levels of others.

Replying to a question as to whether the Foreign Secretary level talks would be held as scheduled even after this incident or if there is any change in the schedule, the Spokesman stated that as far as the schedule of the Foreign Secretary level talks is concerned, we have no information about any change in the programme. The Spokesman added that we have conveyed to the Pakistanis that such incidents are not conducive to building an atmosphere where constructive dialogue can take place, and that

they do not help towards building a friendly environment.

Responding to another question as to whether India had not indulged in the behaviour similar to the Pakistanis, in the past, contrary to the Vienna Convention, the Spokesman stated that we have invariably abided by the Vienna Convention, and we have never stopped to the levels of others.

Replying to another query as to whether the question of treatment of diplomats is not discussed during the Foreign Secretary level talks, the Spokesman stated that the question of treatment to each other's diplomats is discussed. But, there is a basic asymmetry. In India, the Pakistani diplomats are treated like diplomats of any other country; while in Pakistan, Indian diplomats are treated differently from other diplomats. There is a total asymmetry in the way the diplomats are treated between the two countries.

Responding to another question as to whether Mr. Mittal was a member of the Indian Intelligence Service, the Spokesman stated that all members of Indian Missions are a part of the Ministry of External Affairs establishment. We do not differentiate between members of the IFS or of any other service; military or civilian they are all members of the Ministry of External Affairs establishment.

In response to another question as to whether India has sought the punishment of the persons responsible for torturing Mr. Mittal, the Spokesman stated that we have demanded yesterday, in our demarche to the Pakistanis, and we have told the Pakistani CDA yesterday, that we would expect that the criminals who conducted this operation would be punished in order to deter their peers from repeating such violent and inhuman behaviour.

In response to a question as to why the two Pakistani diplomats who indulged in these activities were not expelled earlier, the Spokesman stated that these decisions are taken by the Government and we have no comments on this matter.

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DIA PAKISTAN USA MALI AUSTRIA

**Date :** May 25, 1992

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

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## Postponement of Official Talks with Pakistan

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The following is the Official Spokesman's statement on May 26, 1992 regarding Government of India's decision to postpone Indo-Pak Foreign Secretary level talks which were scheduled for 1-3 June, 1992:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that the Government of India have decided to call for a postponement of the Foreign Secretary level talks with Pakistan, which were scheduled from 1-3 of June, 1992. He said that we had waited for over 36-hours to see if there was any rational reaction to the blatant violation of international law and diplomatic conduct that has taken place in Islamabad. Regrettably, the statements emanating from various sources in the Pakistan Government show no sense of regret nor any remorse for the brutal treatment meted out to a senior Indian diplomat; on the contrary, the Pakistan Government have continued to indulge in the making of wild and unfounded allegations about the conduct of a senior member of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad. In these circumstances, the Government of India could not but take into account the unreasonable attitude of the Pakistan Government which betrayed no desire to move forward, in building our bilateral relationship in a meaningful manner. We also had to respect outraged public sentiment in India. This unfortunate incident has vitiated the atmosphere. We hope to be able to reschedule the talks when the climate improves and some semblance of normalcy is restored.

We have been monitoring the medical reports coming in from Islamabad about the condition of our senior Indian diplomat who was tortured and brutally treated by the authorities in Islamabad, ever since he returned home from the police station. We are concerned that Mr. Mittal's condition remains serious. Government of India have, therefore, decided to make special arrangements to evacuate our official from Islamabad. The special arrangements included a special aircraft with a full medical team on board including a Cardiologist and a Physiotherapist. As a step towards finalising these arrangements, we have asked, through our Mission in Islamabad, for special flight clearance for this aircraft.

KISTAN INDIA USA PERU CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date :** May 26, 1992

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Prime Minister's Talks with Begum Khaleda Zia

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The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman on May 26, 1992 regarding the first round of discussions between the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Begum Khaleda Zia, and the Indian Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, on May 26, 1992:

The Spokesman, while briefing newsmen, stated that the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Begum Khaleda Zia had her first round of discussions with Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao. Begum Zia was assisted by the Foreign Minister, Mr. Mustafizur Rahman, Foreign Secretary, Mr. Reaz Rahman, and the new High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India, Mr. Farooq Sobhan. Two Bangladesh MPs, namely, Mrs. Rezi Kebir and Mr. Akbar Hussain, were also present. On the Indian side, Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao was assisted by Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Eduardo Faleiro, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, Shri A. N. Varma, Foreign Secretary, Shri J. N. Dixit, Secretary Water Resources, Shri M. A. Chitale, Commerce Secretary, Shri A. V. Ganesan, Special Secretary (CS) of Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri P. P. Shrivastav, and our High Commissioner in Bangladesh, Shri K. Raghunath.

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The Spokesman stated that the talks were held in an extremely warm and frank atmosphere. The Indian Prime Minister welcomed Begum Khaleda Zia as a democratically elected leader of Bangladesh. He said that while we had a record of friendly relations with Bangladesh, the democratic complexion of her leadership had added a new dimension to our relationship. The Prime Minister said that India was confident that hereafter the dialogue would be of a qualitatively different level. He said that decisions taken now with the present Government of Bangladesh would have a more lasting impact and would enjoy a greater degree of support from the peoples of the two countries. The Prime Minister said that it was a privilege that Begum Khaleda Zia's visit heralded this significant, qualitative change in our bilateral relationship.

The two leaders discussed SAARC also Begum Khaleda Zia, referring to the forthcoming Summit of SAARC scheduled to be held in November this year, said that she greatly look forward to this event and to benefitting from the Prime Minister's vast experience, and hoped that his guidance will be available to all participants. The two leaders discussed the many possibilities of cooperation amongst SAARC members including in the vital field of environment and environmental protection. They expressed the hope that such cooperation would take new directions and help to solve the burning issues of the region.

The two leaders had a detailed discussion on the question of sharing waters between India and Bangladesh. It was agreed that due emphasis would have to be placed on working out a comprehensive and permanent plan for sharing of water resources. It was agreed that such discussions ought to take place within a stipulated time-frame. In the interim, the Indian Prime Minister held out an assurance to the Bangladesh Prime Minister that some arrangements would be made to ensure that the people of Bangladesh are not put to hardship.

The Spokesman gave some background information on the water resource sharing issue. He recalled that the adhoc sharing arrangements, for the Ganga water, in 1977 expired in May 1988. Despite the absence of any agreement, India had unilaterally agreed to release specified amounts of water during the lean season in 1989, 1990 and 1991. He also mentioned that during the visit of the then Foreign Minister, Shri I. K. Gujral, to Bangladesh in November 1990, it was agreed that the Joint Rivers Commission, at the Ministerial level, be reactivated. The Commission has had two meetings in 1990. There have been subsequent Secretary level meetings on several occasions at which the prospects of arriving at a long term comprehensive solution have been discussed. There was some forward movement in these discussions during the talks held between the Water Resource Minister of the two countries, Mr. Mozharul Huq and Mr. V. C. Shukla, in April 1992.

On the Chakma issue, the Indian Prime Minister gave a very categorical and unequivocal assurance to the Bangladesh Prime Minister today in which he said that he wanted not a single Chakma refugee should remain on Indian soil. He said that there should not be any lingering or lurking doubts in the minds of anybody, that India did not wish to solve this problem. He said categorically that India wished that all Chakma refugees, who number a little over 50,000, should leave India. He has agreed that India would allow Bangladeshi officials to visit the refugee camps to discuss repatriation arrangements. He said that the officials should work out arrangements which were humanitarian and logistically feasible for Bangladesh, and India.

On the question of Tin Bigha, the two leaders agreed that this long pending issue which has acted as an impediment, and sometimes as an irritant, in our bilateral relationship, was now nearing a final solution. The Prime Minister expressed the hope that the Agreement reached in March this year will be put back in place within

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the stipulated period, i.e. 26th June, 1992.

Summing up the first round of discussions, the two Prime Ministers agreed that it was important to evolve a mechanism for

frequent and rapid contact at the level of Foreign Secretary, Foreign Minister, and the Prime Ministerial level. They felt that it was necessary for our region and our two countries that our senior officials and leaders should be able to meet at a short notice and to deal with problems that come up, with friendly informality, so that there is no delay in solving the problems.

The Prime Minister of India concluded the discussions by saying that it is a welcome development that we are approaching our problems differently, with mutual trust and with determination. He said that he was confident that with this fresh direction, there would be a world of difference in the quality of our bilateral relationship. The Bangladesh Prime Minister reciprocated the sentiments expressed by the Indian Prime Minister, and said that 'differences occurred in every family, but, there were no differences which could not be resolved through dialogue'.

Responding to a question as to whether Bangladeshi support to ULFA and the question of illegal immigration from Bangladesh to India were discussed, the Spokesman stated that these questions were discussed at the Foreign Secretary level.

A BANGLADESH INDIA UNITED KINGDOM MALI

**Date :** May 26, 1992

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### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Indo-Bangladesh Final Round of Discussions

The following is the statement made by the Official Spokesman on May 27, 1992 on the final round of discussions between Bangladesh Prime Minister, Begum Khaleda Zia and the Indian Prime Minister, P. V. Narasimha Rao; meeting between Bangladesh Foreign Minister, Mr. Mustafizur Rahman, and Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro; and replies to queries relating to Indo-Bangladesh talks:

The Spokesman, while briefing newsmen, stated that the bilateral talks between Bangladesh delegation and the Indian delegation, led by Begum Khaleda Zia and Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, respectively, concluded today. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the friendly and constructive manner in which the talks had been conducted. They were glad that their respective delegations

had been able to agree on three specific agreements. The first agreement related to cultural and academic exchange, which has been renewed today for a period of three years. It will become effective from January 1993 and will run till the end of December 1995. This agreement was formally signed today in the presence of the two Prime Ministers, by Shri Bhaskar Ghosh, Secretary (Culture), on the Indian side, and by Mr. Farooq Sobhan, High Commissioner of Bangladesh, for the Bangladeshi side. The first Cultural Exchange Agreement was signed with Bangladesh in 1972, soon after that country became independent. It is hoped that in view of the close cultural, linguistic and ethnicities between the peoples of the two countries, there will be meaningful and mutually beneficial interaction in these areas. In addition to the earlier fields of education, art, sports, media, etc, in the current Cultural Exchange Programme, a special effort has been made to make the programme more focussed, effective and people oriented. We have agreed to organise, in 1994/95, before the lapse of the current agreement, a Festival of Bangladesh in India.

In addition to this agreement, there was exchange of instruments of ratification

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for the agreement on avoidance of double taxation. A Convention for avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion was signed in August 1991. The Convention has three important features firstly, it provides for non-taxation of the profits of each other's business enterprises, unless the latter maintains a permanent establishment in the other country; secondly, full mutual exemption of aircraft profits; and, thirdly, partial reduction in taxes on shipping profits granted by the source country. The instruments of ratification for the Convention were signed by Shri G. C. Goel, Member Central Board of Direct Taxes, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of India, and Mr. A. H. Mahmood Ali, Additional Foreign Secretary, on behalf of Bangladesh. The Convention, it is hoped and expected, will promote investment and exports, and also encourage the flow of new technology into important areas.

We also signed a Memorandum of Understanding on exchange of plots for the construction of Chancery and residential buildings. This was signed by Shri J. N. Dixit, Foreign Secretary, on behalf of India, and Mr. Reaz Rahman, Foreign Secretary, on behalf of Bangladesh. The plots are located in the Diplomatic Enclaves of Chanakyapuri in our case, and Baridhara in Bangladesh. Acquisition of these two properties would be of financial benefit to both countries as it would enable our Chanceries and residential premises to move into areas owned by them, thereby saving the two Governments spiralling rents in Delhi and Dhaka. We have both agreed to provide the fullest facilities to each other, to help complete the construction in the shortest possible time in our respective diplomatic premises.

The Spokesman further stated that the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Eduardo Faleiro, had a meeting with his Bangladeshi counterpart, Mr. Mustafizur Rahman, Minister for Foreign Affairs. They discussed in detail the question of repatriation of Chakma refugees, now located in Tripura, and the general question of illegal immigration, which has assumed sizeable proportions in recent years. The two Ministers had agreed on a mechanism whereby the question of refugees and illegal immigration can be resolved. It has been decided by the two Ministers, and approved by the two Governments, to set up a Task Force, headed by the Home Secretaries of the two countries and comprising other senior officials of relevant agencies, to work out the operational details in tackling these two problems.

The two Ministers also discussed the possibilities of greater cultural exchange between the two countries, and it was agreed that at the SAARC Festival being organised in Delhi in October this year, Bangladesh will participate in a substantial manner.

Replying to repeated queries as to whether there is any legal document agreement relating to the illegal immigration, Spokesman clarified that there was a broad agreement that there is a problem we are facing, and both Ministers have agreed to set up a task force headed by the Home Secretaries of the two countries and comprising senior officials of the other relevant agencies, so that the process of identifying the nationality of these immigrants could be worked out jointly.

Replying to another question as to whether Bangladesh has agreed that ULFA members are being trained there and getting support from them, the Spokesman stated that "both sides have been most responsive to the concerns expressed by each other".

Responding to repeated queries to indicate at which level subjects such as aid to ULFA, etc, were discussed, the Spokesman reiterated that all aspects which are of concern to both countries, to our security, or economic wellbeing, and the overall political relationship between the two countries have been discussed.

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BNGLADESH USA INDIA

**Date :** May 27, 1992

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Visit of Minister to Gulf Region

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The following is the statement of the Official Spokesman on May 28, 1992 briefing regarding the forthcoming visit of the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Eduardo Faleiro, to Bahrain, Oman and Qatar

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman announced that the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Eduardo Faeliro, will be paying official visits to Bahrain, Oman and Qatar. During his visit, Mr. Faleiro will call on the Heads of States concerned.

The three countries to be visited are among those with whom India has both traditional and cordial relations. In addition, there are a large number of Indian nationals working in those countries; their contribution to those countries has been appreciated by the leadership of the nations concerned, and it has been recognised that their presence has helped both in the development of those countries as well as in fostering better relations between India and those countries.

During his visit to these countries, the Minister of State will undertake a review of our bilateral relationship with the leadership of the countries concerned; he will also take the opportunity to meet members of the Indian community. He will be discussing economic cooperation, in general terms, and with reference to specific projects. In doing this, he will be consolidating the ties forged by the high level visits exchanged, in recent times with those countries.

Giving background information to the newsmen, the Spokesman stated that there are about 1,00,000 Indians in Bahrain, 2,30,000 in Oman, and 80,000 in Qatar. We have had the Commerce and Agriculture Minister, and the Minister of Industries, both from Bahrain, in 1988; the Deputy Prime Minister for Security and Defence, and Agriculture Minister, both from Oman, in 1989; and, the Minister of Industry and Public Works of Qatar, earlier this year.

During his discussions, Mr. Faleiro is expected to cover developments in the Gulf, the Middle East Peace Process, and India's relations with its neighbours, including Pakistan, China and Afghanistan.

The visit can be seen as part of India's efforts to forge closer ties, and to consolidate relationship with this region.

HRAIN OMAN QATAR INDIA USA CHINA PAKISTAN AFGHANISTAN

**Date :** May 28, 1992

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1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Visit of Israeli Delegation

The following is the Official Spokesman's response to a query on May 28, 1992 on the recent visit of an Israeli defence delegation to India:

Responding to a query as to what was the purpose of the Israeli delegation which visited India recently, number of days of their stay in India, and whom they met during their stay in India, the Spokesman clarified that the Israeli delegation was here at the invitation of the Ministry of Defence; the delegation comprising six members was here, and their visit ended on the 25th of May. The delegation met senior officials in the Ministry of Defence and Defence Production and Supplies. The discussions they held are a part of our normal exchanges, in our effort to find new areas of cooperation with Israel.

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RAEL INDIA USA

**Date :** May 28, 1992

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### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Visit of Najma Heptullah to Saudi Arabia

The following is the statement made by Official Spokesman on May 28, 1992 regarding the recent visit of Dr. Mrs. Najma Heptullah, to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:

The Spokesman, while briefing newsmen, announced that Dr. (Mrs.) Najma Heptullah, the Deputy Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha, who is currently on an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, has taken a letter from the Prime Minister addressed to the

Custodians of the two Holy Mosques. She has meet the Saudi Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister, Prince Sultan ibn Abdel Aziz. She also met the Saudi Minister of Industry and Electricity Abdul Aziz Al Zamil, who led the Saudi delegation at the Third Indo-Saudi Joint Commission, to India in November last year.

Giving background information, the Spokesman stated that the Housing Development Finance Corporation has entered into an agreement with the local group there, The Dallah Al Baraka Group, with which HDFC had an equity participation of US dollars 25 million. The Tatas have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Saudi Advanced Industries Corporation.

Mrs. Heptullah has also had discussions with the Saudi Minister of Finance, Abha Al Khail, on the possibilities of joint collaboration between our two countries, in the Central Asian Republics.

Mrs. Heptullah has met the Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Mr. Hisham Nazer. Saudi Arabia is one of the largest suppliers of crude oil to India: and supplying about 5 million metric tonnes to India, at present. The two leaders also exchanged views on environmental issues in the context of the forthcoming Earth Summit in Rio.

Mrs. Heptullah also had a meeting with the Minister of Health, Faizal Al Hujeilan, to discuss arrangements for the 40,000 Hajis from India, who are expected to visit the place in June this year.

The visit can be seen as part of India's efforts to forge closer ties, and to consolidate relationship with this region.

UDI ARABIA USA INDIA

**Date :** May 28, 1992

## Volume No

1995

SAARC

Liberalisation of Trade

The following is the text of a Press release issued on May 06, 1992 in New Delhi:

As mandated by the Colombo Summit, the first meeting of an Inter

Governmental Group under SAARC to formulate a framework under which specific measures for trade liberalisation can be pursued among SAARC countries met in New Delhi on May 4 to 5. Delegates to this meeting came from all the SAARC Member states.

The meeting was inaugurated by Minister of State for Commerce, Shri P. Chidambaram.

After due deliberations over two days the Inter Governmental Group has agreed  
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on the objectives and proposed a framework as required for the consideration of the Committee on Economic Cooperation of SAARC which will in its turn, meet in Colombo in June. It was agreed that:

-- the objective to be pursued under SAARC should be the establishment of a Preferential Trading Arrangement within three years as a stepping stone to higher levels of trade and economic cooperation in the region;

-- that initial liberalisation measures would need to follow a product-by-product approach in respect of reduction of tariffs (although subsequently, across-the-board tariff reduction and tariff reduction on a sectoral basis could be considered)

-- that liberalisation of non-tariff barriers, or a stand-still of non-tariff barriers, could only be on a Most Favoured Nation basis;

-- that the framework for the Preferential Trading Arrangement should provide for special and more favourable treatment for the Least Developed Countries who are members of SAARC; and

-- that a Committee of participants could be established and meet periodically to review the operation of the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement.

In addition to the above framework the Inter Governmental Group also proposed that trade facilitation measures such as exchange of trade fairs and delegations, buyer-seller meets, exchange of economic and business publications etc. should be undertaken simultaneously as they will help in promoting intra-regional trade.

DIA SRI LANKA USA

**Date :** May 06, 1992

**Volume No**

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SAARC

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South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation

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The following is the text of a Press release issued in New Delhi on May 26, 1992:

One of the more important decisions of the Sixth SAARC Summit at Colombo in December last year was to constitute an Independent South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation consisting of eminent persons from each SAARC member State to conduct an in-depth study of diverse experiences of the seven countries on Poverty Alleviation and to report to the Seventh Summit their recommendations on the Alleviation of Poverty in South Asia.

The above decision was taken in recognition of the fact that a great majority of the South Asian people remained below the poverty line and can be mobilised for economic growth only through a "basic needs" approach which assures them of their minimum requirements of food, education, health, shelter etc. The South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation is expected to make recommendations, based on significant success cases in each South Asian country in their approach to poverty alleviation, on how these basic needs can be satisfied, the poor empowered and irreversibly linked to the mainstream of development.

The first meeting of the Commission took place from March 31 to April 4 in Colombo and drew up a framework for its study. A second meeting is to take place in New Delhi from tomorrow (May 27 to 29). Prime Minister is expected to hold a discussion with the Commissioners during their 2-day meeting. A visit to a project in Jaipur (Rajasthan), which is concerned with a programme of women's development is planned for the Commissioners, on May 30th.

The Chairman of the Commission is the ex-Prime Minister of Nepal, Dr. K. P. Bhattarai. Two Commissioners from each member State of SAARC have been nomi-

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nated by their respective Heads of State Government on this important body. Their names are enclosed.

Members of the Poverty Alleviation Commission:

Bangladesh:

1. Dr. Sheikh Maqsood Ali,
2. Mr. Fazle Hasan Abed;

Bhutan:

3. Mr. Sangay Ngedup,
4. Dr. Jigmi Singye;

India:

5. Dr. B. S. Minhas,
6. Shri K. R. Venugopal;

Maldives:

7. Mr. Hassan Sobir,
8. Mr. Abdul Sattar Moosa Didi;

Nepal:

9. Mr. Madhukar S. J. B. Rana,
10. Mr. Shree Krishna Upadhyay;

Pakistan:

11. Mr. Safdar Hussain Kazmi,
12. Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan;

Sri Lanka:

13. Dr. Warnasena Rasaputram,
14. Dr. Poona Wignaraja.

DIA SRI LANKA USA NEPAL BANGLADESH BHUTAN MALDIVES UNITED KINGDOM PAKISTAN

**Date :** May 26, 1992

## Volume No

1995

SOUTH ASIA

Changing World Order

The following is the inaugural address by Shri Eduardo Faleiro, Minister of State for External Affairs at the International Seminar on "South Asia in the Changing World Order", India International Centre, New Delhi May 6-9, 1992:

I congratulate the Indian Council for South Asian Cooperation for

their timely initiative in organising seminar on the important subject of "South Asia in the Changing World Order". I am particularly happy to know that scholars from practically all the countries from the South Asian Region are participating in this Seminar.

The political situation in the South Asian region and the relations of South Asian countries with the outside world are naturally influenced by domestic factors, national interests, inter-se-relations of South Asian countries and increasingly by cross-currents resulting from the interplay of regional, extra-regional and global political and economic factors.

This Seminar will focus on the situation and role of South Asia in the Changing World Order. What we are witnessing today in the post cold war era is a Changing World Order where the pace of change is itself very rapid. For instance, not only has the ideological warfare between capitalism and communism ended, there is also the phenomenon of integration of 15 republics of the former Soviet Union in the world economy with their joining the  
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ternational Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The collapse of North-South dialogue, together with the competition for scarce finance has compounded the problems of developing countries. South Asia has not received its due share of development assistance and financial flows considering the fact that practically all countries in the region are low-income countries. We did witness power projection at the time of Gulf War but the real battle field of the future is going to be the market place and in that context the economic strength of Japan, Germany and the European Community are important factors.

We already see the tendency towards greater regionalisation of development activities. All over the world, the break down of ideology is accompanied by advancement of democracy and spread of free enterprise. Our South Asian region is no exception to this trend. We are also witnessing what one could perhaps characterise as reasianisation of Japan and the significant strengthening of the economies of South Asia and East Asian countries which our neighbours. There is increasing realisation, and this was confirmed at the recent Summit meeting of the Heads of State Government of the Members of the Security Council, that peace and prosperity are indivisible and lasting peace and stability require effective international cooperation for eradication of poverty, and the promotion of better life for all in larger freedom.

We in the South Asian region are ourselves acutely aware of the need to follow appropriate poverty alleviation strategies as is evident by the decision taken at the last SAARC Summit to set up an Independent South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation.

Finally, we are mute witnesses to the vicious nexus that is developing in our region between poverty reproduction and environmental degradation.

What does all this portend for South Asia? All of us would agree that external factors continue to impinge upon the South Asian region in the even more powerful ways thereby aggravating the conflicts and distress within the region. Nearer to our region, the developments in Afghanistan, Myanmar, Iran and in the Central Asian Republics need to be studied very carefully. Should our region not think of building up strong relationship with our neighbours in the wider South Asian region and the Central Asian region? Significantly, cooperative efforts that culminated in the formation of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation have its genesis and evolution in internal compulsions. Today, as we all face a phalanx of problems arising from factors extraneous to our region, dialogue and cooperation among ourselves is called for all the more. We all realise that we can no longer develop efficiently and progress rapidly by partitioning ourselves from one another.

Regional cooperation is now gaining ground practically in all parts of the world and is the wave of the future. We have to face the harsh reality that if our region does not make an effort and fails to be relevant to rest of the world, then it could be by-passed marginalised and relegated to the periphery for decades to come.

I trust that during this Seminar, the causes for the present dismal state of affairs prevailing in our region will be analysed carefully and conclusions will be drawn as to how we can substantially improve the chances of improving economic growth by bringing about improvements in the political climate in the region and also by forging regional cooperation in the core areas of economic cooperation.

South Asia and specially SAARC region has an enormous potential for selfcorrection and self-improvement. In terms of our human resources, our ancient traditions and modern institutional structures, we have every possibility to turn this region into a dynamic partner for rest of the world.

Though we have now in our region democratic structures, we need to educate  
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the masses on issues of national development and regional cooperation in the light of contemporary happenings. In this connection, we welcome the recent move to have a meeting of the Speakers of Parliaments of member countries of SAARC which may pave the way for the formation of Association of SAARC Parliamentarians.

The recent economic liberalisation measures that have been carried out in practically all South Asian countries call for an increasing role of the private sector nationally as well as regionally. Happily, recent developments in regard to the private sectors in our South Asian countries coming together under the umbrella of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce show that the private sector in South Asia is conscious of its public responsibility and is willing to take this up. We have also witnessed professional organisations in our countries coming together and forging links. All this needs to be supported and encouraged.

In South Asia, SAARC does represent a non-military confidence building measure. It is a useful instrumentality that helps its Member States to search for new measures of stability and cooperation with neighbours. This Seminar may also wish to address itself to the important questions as to how SAARC can achieve real and substantial progress by ensuring that measures taken in its framework or under its aegis are concrete and specific, and how it should set objectives that are practical and realistic in the context of a broad set of political understandings that can be reached among Member States.

In a world that is rapidly changing, ideally, we would need a new regional order in South Asia that has economic, ecological, political and other dimensions which are relevant to the well-being and security of the peoples of our region. Our region has been marginalised and largely left to itself. We have the historic opportunity as well as a common responsibility to determine the future of South Asia in these circumstances. Knowing what was wrong in South Asia was relatively easy. Knowing what will be right will prove to be difficult. Still more importantly, we need to weigh carefully the gains that may accrue to the peoples of South Asia if we are to follow the path of regional cooperation as against the losses that they would suffer from if past prejudices are not shed. We should cease to address ourselves to the structure of regional cooperation in a piecemeal fashion. What is required is a coherent regional strategy that pre-supposes more intensified levels of cooperation and ultimately economic integration. Hardly anyone will disagree with the belief that traditional antagonisms in South Asia may get subdued if we can ensure that overall socio-economic benefits of regional cooperation are substantial enough.

In conclusion, may I suggest that this distinguished group may consider setting up of a task force that will analyse strategic and economic development issues that may impinge on South Asian countries in a broadly similar manner as a result of the changing world order. The task force can also recommend effective measures to deal with these issues. It can make recommendations in regard to a regional programme for the remaining period of this decade. The task force may also recommend measures in regard to the possible content and modalities of dialogue between scholars of our region and that of other neighbouring countries and regions

in the context of the emerging order.

We are all naturally concerned with the centrality of economic order which has to be kept uppermost in mind. But the vision of a new order in South Asia is to be based as much on economic cooperation as political co-existence and cultural pluralism. Could we not agree to fortify South Asian regionalism through bold innovative steps in the context of the changes that have already taken place in the international scene and those that are in the offing? Above all, let us try to understand regional cooperation as personified in SAARC as

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a symbol of the past and a signpost to the future.

In this connection, let me quote the words of our Prime Minister who said at the Colombo Summit: "It is time to undertake new programmes of joint action with vigour and with imagination, programmes that strengthen us because they promote our wellbeing India is ready to respond to this need. To the extent that our talents and resources can benefit SAARC, we place them unreservedly at its disposal. Let us prove to the world and more importantly to ourselves that we are inheritors of a great past, but that we can be heirs to a greater future".

With these words, I have great pleasure in inaugurating this Seminar.

I wish the participants all success in their tasks ahead.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC GERMANY JAPAN AFGHANISTAN IRAN PERU ITALY SRI LANKA

**Date :** May 6-, 1992

## Volume No

1995

SOUTH ASIA

South Asia as a Dynamic Partner

The following was the inaugural address by Shri Eduardo Faleiro, Minister of State for External Affairs at the International conference on "South Asia as a Dynamic Partners Prospects for the future", on May 25, 1992, in New Delhi:

I commend the Indian Council for Research in International

Economic Relations, the Institute for Economic Development and Policy, and International Centre for Economic Growth for arranging this conference. The new economic policies which the Government and several others in the region have introduced are now having their impact felt. We therefore welcome the timing of this conference which seeks to disseminate important conclusions drawn as a result of the multicountry, multi-institutional joint policy research work carried out over a two year period. These conclusions will constitute important inputs for the ongoing work of national Governments in South Asia, Corporate bodies and regional and international organisations which are interested in Macro-economic management in South Asia. The presence in this conference of the Vice President of Asian Development Bank is an eloquent testimony of bank's vocation to stimulate, promote and support policies designed for dynamic participation of economies of South Asian countries in the current Asian resurgence.

The Asia-Pacific region has now acquired a distinct economic importance. The developments in South Asia and the great divergences in economic performance of countries in this region compared to others need to be examined against the backdrop of several factors which distinguish it from the rest of Asia-Pacific region. The elements constituting this crisis are well known i.e., deep-seated poverty, unsatisfactory human development, environmental degradation, sluggish private sector etc. Unfortunately, South Asia has suffered from comparatively lower level of economic development in the initial stage, and a long spell of colonial exploitation experienced by it. The South Asian region is disaster -- prone and has not received any favourable Assistance or in respect of private flows of foreign direct investment in spite of the fact that all countries of this region are low income countries. Frequently non-economic factors tend to destabilise pre-requisite political conditions for economic growth and at times the region is subject to external shocks as was the case during oil crises of seventies and more recently the Gulf crisis. Unfortunately, we also find that in South Asia unresolved bilateral problems continue to bedevil the region. The pernicious nexus between poverty and environmental degradation on the one hand and unsatisfactory state of human development and low income growth on the other poses almost insuperable challenges. All these factors have compounded the difficulties in formulating and following the

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right kinds of economic strategies and policies.

And yet, the record of last 25 years shows that in comparison to the average rate of growth of GDP which is 6.5 percent for the entire Asia-Pacific region, the average for South Asia was 4.6 percent which is slightly higher than the average of 4.5 percent for developing countries worldwide. In 1990, growth in GDP for South Asia was 5.5 percent as against 5.8 percent for the Asian region as a whole in 1991. Future projects show that South Asia's

rate of growth may only lag slightly behind that projected for the Asia-Pacific region as a totality. In fact, we witness to day considerable dynamism in India in the wake of our economic reforms and liberalisation of policies. We find that there is now full understanding about the benefits of regional cooperation for economic growth and well being of the peoples of South Asia.

India is conscious of the rapid changes that are taking place in the Asia-Pacific region. The Government and people of India are now in the worlds of the first President of the Asian Development Bank Mr. Watanabe "rolling up sleeves and preparing to cultivate a new era of self-discipline" by adopting farsighted measures and reforms aimed at stabilising the macro economic situation and leading towards economic recovery and growth. There is increasing stress on people-centred development This has already unleashed the energy of the masses and hopefully India will soon be poised to become a dynamic partner for the rest of the world and particularly for the Asia-Pacific region.

Many leading scholars, both in and outside our region, hold the view that the moment is now propitious for imparting to South Asia the same kind of dynamism as happened in the case of most of the countries of South-East Asia and East Asia. The elements that have been identified by them in this regard are domestic policy reforms, regional cooperation in South Asia and supportive international assistance which largely correspond to our own current priorities for action on the economic front.

We believe that the domestic economic reforms being undertaken by us will facilitate increased flow of foreign direct investment. The trade policy reforms recently announced by us would promote exports and facilitate imports and capital goods. We in India are confident that the reforms and adjustments carried out by us will act synergistically and that economic recovery will soon be followed by buoyant growth. Thus, India in particular, and South Asian countries in general, can be expected to function as dynamic partners particularly for the Asia-Pacific region which is expected to rely increasingly on domestic demand and intra-regional trade in order to sustain its present growth rate.

We in South Asia are also conscious of the need to undertake earnestly parallel efforts through national and regional level programmes in regard to alleviation of poverty and human resource development. At the Sixth SAARC Summit we decided to set up an Independent Commission on Poverty Alleviation in South Asia. The Commission is now actively engaged in formulating its recommendations and will hold its Second Session day-after-tomorrow this time in Delhi. Our countries are conscious of the need to make substantial investments in human capacity building before we can hope to reap equal benefits by succeeding as equal partners in world economy. SAARC is currently considering setting up of a Regional Human Resource Development Centre. Massive investments are needed for building up social and physical

infrastructure. Our countries are engaged in formulating and implementing measures at national and regional levels for preservation and protection of environment and for disaster management. The SAARC Committee on Environment is seized of these tasks.

Analytical and empirical analyses which have been used in preparing the papers that would be presented in this  
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conference indicate growing complementarities in the economies of the South Asian region, the ASEAN sub-region and some other countries of the Asia-Pacific region. The process of economic reforms currently at work in most of the South Asian countries must also inevitably help in accelerating the process of promoting regional economic cooperation between countries of South Asia on the one hand and countries of the South-East Asia and West Asia on the other.

Similarly, intensified regional cooperation in the framework of SAARC will also help its member countries in creating and fostering a propitious climate for drawing its member countries into the mainstream of the current dynamism of the Asia-Pacific region. For attaining this objective, South Asian countries must themselves demonstrate their political will by forging regional economic cooperation in the core areas of trade, production and services. The concomitant requirement for this is that they must make bold efforts to shed the burden of the past inherited by them, to strengthen participative institutions in the development process, to avoid social unrest and to eschew conflicts that result in diversion of scarce resources to non-productive uses. The consequences of such an exercise of political will on the part of all member States of SAARC in a cooperative fashion will have a salutary effects which will be felt in the entire AsiaPacific region.

The present level of cooperation between member States of SAARC and those of ASEAN is rather low. SAARC has also now initiated some regional economic cooperation programmes. India itself provides a huge market opportunity to countries in the Asia-Pacific region. India is the largest of the SAARC countries and has also recently become a sectoral dialogue partner of ASEAN. All this will point to the need for greater cooperation between the countries of South Asia and those in rest of the Asia-Pacific region. Greater cooperation between industrialists, entrepreneurs and Chambers of Commerce and Industry in the region is called for. The private sector in the SAARC region, in the ASEAN region etc. should be interested in benefitting from freer access to each others expanded markets on a reciprocal basis. Greater inter-se exchanges of information and experiences will help countries in the area to formulate appropriate cooperative strategies. This conference may wish to recommend modalities in this regard.

We believe in multilateral economic cooperation providing harmonious and cohesive framework for dealing with problems of global inter-dependence and economic growth world wide. We will do everything possible to promote such cooperation and prevent the erosion of the multilateral system. At the same time, a long term vision of South Asia should take into account factors such as its location in regard to land and sea routes linking West Asia and Europe to South-East Asia and East Asia, strong cultural and historical links that bind South Asia to these regions and the growing complementarity between its economies and those of other economies in the Asia-Pacific region. South Asian nations will do well to explore the advantages of geographical proximity for promoting intra-regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region and to participate in the Great Asian Resurgence that has now reached their door-steps.

The challenges that South Asia has to face and successfully overcome before it can become a dynamic partner in future are immense. But they are exciting and they invite dedicated efforts and determined commitment on the part of all concerned i.e. national governments, multilateral financial institutions, donor countries, corporate bodies, academic institutions etc. The national governments in South Asia must persevere in their economic reforms. The multilateral financial institutions will have an increasingly important role to play in view of the fact that the share of multilateral flows in total financial flows is rising.

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The role of the Asian Development Bank will be crucial in order to ensure the due share of South Asia in multilateral lending. In this connection, I feel confident that Vice-President Thomson will be able to convey to the Asian Development Bank leadership his impressions of the important deliberations of this conference. Political dialogue and economic co-operation between South Asian nations and SAARC and the rest of Asia-Pacific region should be intensified by all possible means. At the same time concrete and feasible programmes should be chalkd out at enterprise to enterprise level based on a realistic assessment of the emerging prospects as a result of current liberalisation policies and rapid developments that are taking place in the global economy.

The donor countries, particularly Japan will also play an important role to ensure that the economic resurgence in the Asia-Pacific region has an expanded geographic coverage and that it gets intensified. Japan is well placed for playing its catalytic role in the region through judicious combination of measures in the fields of trade and investment. Finally, I am sure that this conference will motivate interested academic institutions to extend their collaborative efforts that will help in the implementation of the recommendations that will emerge

from this important conference. A combination of the above mentioned actions at various levels will ensure that South-Asia finds its rightful place in resurgent Asia and its potential as a dynamic partner for the world and particularly for the rest of the Asia-Pacific region is fully harnessed.

I wish the deliberations of this conference all success.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC FRANCE PERU JAPAN

**Date :** May 25, 1992

## Volume No

1995

SWEDEN

Prof. Kurien Urges Swedish Industrialists to Invest in India

The following is the text of a Press release issued in New Delhi on May 27, 1992:

The Minister of State for Industry, Prof. P. J. Kurien appealed to the Swedish industrialists to increase and deepen their presence in India in the wake of the new investment climate following the new industrial policy. Prof. Kurien, who is on a three-day official visit to Sweden to attend the 10th Session of the Indo-Swedish Joint Commission Meeting in Stockholm made the appeal during his address to the Swedish industrialists at a meeting organised by the International Council of Swedish Industry in Stockholm.

The meeting was attended by the acknowledged market leaders of Swedish Industry such as ABB, Ericsson, FLAKT, ICL, ELECTROLUX, PHARMACIA, ASTRA, SANUVIK, ALFA-LAVAL, SKF, and many others.

The Swedish industrialists felt that Prof. Kurien's interaction with them was refreshing and his personal awareness about the safety of foreign investment in India, the attractiveness of the Indian market and the possibility of India becoming a platform for third-country exports through Indo-Swedish joint ventures was revealing. The Swedish industry, which already has a presence in India, some of

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them for the past 50 years, was convinced about the reorientation in the Indian economy in the recent months, and felt that their interest in the Indian market would be sustained. Prof. Kurien

was well received as he is the first high ranking dignitary from India visiting Sweden after four years.

Earlier one day, Prof. Kurien inaugurated the Joint Commission. The Swedish side welcomed the resumption of the Joint Commission meeting after a break of 4 years when it could not meet due to political changes and other preoccupations on both sides. Prof. Kurien reviewed the entire gamut of Indo-Swedish bilateral relationship, particularly in the areas of trade, industry and economic cooperation. Both Prof. Kurien and Mr. Ulf Dinkelspiel, Minister of European Affairs and Foreign Trade of Sweden, were convinced that the new economic reforms in India opens-up possibilities for an accelerated integration of Indian economy into the world economy.

Both the Ministers were pleased that the surge in Swedish investment in India, particularly in the last six months, is testimony to the prospects of increased Swedish investment and interest in India. On multilateral issues Prof. Kurien expressed India's commitment to an early successful conclusion of the current round of Uruguay Round GATT negotiations. His feelings was shared by Mr. Ulf Uinkelspiel.

The Swedish Minister further felt that the immediate prospectus of Sweden becoming a member of the European Community would enhance the competitiveness of the Swedish industry,,and this would lead to greater opportunities for expansion of India's trade with Sweden and European Community. The Swedish Minister reassured the Indianside that they would advocate favourable policies towards developing countries with regard to issues such as trade in textiles, GSP, etc. within the European Community.

Prof. Kurien reiterated that India's welcomes Sweden's membership of the EC, and hoped that emergence of single European market should not lead the EC to adopt protectionist's attitude. He emphasised that an open trade regime in the EC is of great relevance to India,s as EC is the largest destination of India's exports. Mr. Ulf Dinkelspiel assured the Indian side that although Sweden's current priority is to work towards joining the European Community, Sweden's interest in India would not become less. In confirmation of this, he said that Sweden's aid to developing countries would continue to be one per cent of the GNP.

During his meeting with Swdsh industrialists and the Swedish officials, Prof. Kurien emphasised the irreversibility or India's reforms which is built round a consensus.

The visit of Prof. Kurien has generated a lot of interest amongst Swedish industrialists. He is accompanied by an official delegation headed by Shri Suresh Kumar, Secretary, Department of Industrial Development, Ministry of Industry and a number of Indian industrialists.

**Date :** May 27, 1992

## Volume No

1995

SWEDEN

### Indo-Swedish Protocol to Strengthen Economic Relations Signed

The following is the text of a Press release issued in New Delhi on May 28, 1992:

India and Sweden have agreed to further strengthen their economic relations. Both the countries agreed that Joint Business Council (JBC) between India and Sweden should appoint a working group for the purpose of stimulating joint ventures between the two countries. A protocol to this effect was signed yesterday in Stockholm after the conclusion of 10th Session of Indo-Swedish Joint Commission for economic, industrial, technical and scientific cooperation. The protocol was  
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signed by Prof. P. J. Kurien, Minister of State for Industry on behalf of India and H.E. Mr. Ulf Dinkelspiel, Minister for European and Foreign Trade on behalf of Sweden.

In his inaugural speech, Prof. Kurien informed the Swedish delegation about recent developments in the Indian economy, his Government's economic policy and India's far-reaching reform programmes. The policy of economic liberalisation and the deregulations pursued by the Indian Government were emphasised. India's position and active work in multilateral fora as well as the positive development of bilateral relations with Sweden were brought into focus.

Mr. Dinkelspiel welcome the economic liberalisation and extensive reform process pursued by India. He informed the Indian delegation of the recent economic developments in Sweden and Sweden's intention to become a member of the European Community by 1995. The Indian delegation welcomed Sweden's application for membership of the EC and expressed the hope that Sweden would continue to pursue its open trade regime.

Prof. Kurien and Mr. Dinkelspiel had wide-ranging discussions on matters relating to the economic development in India and Sweden.

Various multilateral issues of mutual interest (the Uruguay Round, world trade, regional trade) as well as the development of bilateral relations in trade, investments and industrial, technical, scientific and development cooperation were discussed by the Ministers.

In his inaugural speech Mr. Dinkelspiel welcomed the Indian Chairman and his delegation to Sweden. The close relationship in various fields between the two countries was underlined by the Ministers. They expressed satisfaction over the progress made in increasing and widening the bilateral contacts and expressed the common desire of the two Governments to give further impetus to bilateral cooperation.

The Working Group also discussed measures to further expand and intensify bilateral relations in these areas as well as to find various means to solve existing problems in their relations. The Working Group was led by Joint Secretary Shri S. Behura and Ambassador Curt Wiik.

Both the Ministers expressed concern over the delayed negotiations in the Uruguay Round and hoped for an early conclusion of the current GATT negotiations. Both the Ministers also expressed their satisfaction with the recent positive development within UNCTAD.

The Ministers commented briefly on the positive development of bilateral relations between India and Sweden in the area of trade. They underlined the need for expansion and diversification of bilateral trade. In this connection, Prof. Kurien stressed India's interest in increasing the exports of computer software and marine products of Sweden.

Mr. Dinkelspiel referred to a problem, which could have implications for Sweden's confidence in Indian guarantees for payments. He recalled that the High Court of Orissa had issued an order of injunction at the request of the Indian Charge Chrome Ltd., preventing the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) from honouring its unconditional and irrevocable guarantees for payments to a number of Swedish banks. Mr. Dinkelspiel expressed the wish that the IDBI should become more active in solving the problem, which was now before the Supreme Court.

Prof. Kurien recalled that India has always honoured its international obligations, and in this context, he assured his government's wish to overcome such difficulties wherever they may arise. In this particular case, within the constraint of the matter being subjudice, the Government would do the best it can.

The deliberations of the Joint Commission were held in an atmosphere of friendship and cordiality.

**Date :** May 28, 1992

## Volume No

1995

SWEDEN

Prof. Kurien's Visit Evinces Business Interest in Sweden

The following is the text of a Press release issued in New Delhi on May 28, 1992:

Prof. Kurien's visit to Sweden has generated a lot of business interest there. The industrialists evinced keen interest to come forward and invest in India, when Prof. P. J. Kurien, Minister of State for Industry, participating in a seminar, explained to them the salient and attractive features of the liberalised industrial policy.

The Minister who is in Sweden in connection with the 10th Meeting of the Indo-Swedish Joint Commission, delivered the keynote address on the theme of the Seminar 'India - A land of opportunities'. The Seminar was attended by high ranking officials from the Department of Trade of the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, besides an Indian Business Delegation. The high point of Seminar was the presence of a large number of top executives from Swedish industry representing renowned companies such as ABB, ASTRA, ELECTROLUX, ERICSSON, ESAB, PHARMACIA, SAAB, VOLVO, and a host of other companies.

Though the Swedish industry has been keenly following the economic reforms process in India, they had come to the seminar in such a large number to interest with Prof. Kurien as, to the Swedish industry, this was the first major and visible confirmation of Indian economy coming of age, and also to bridge the gap in information that geographical distance often breeds.

The seminar had covered discussions on Swedish trade policy Indo-Swedish bilateral trade, industrial cooperation joint ventures, investment, and economic cooperation. In his key-note address, Prof. Kurien informed the Swedish. Industry of the extraordinary climate of change that is sweeping India's economic landscape.

Prof. Kurien martialled facts and statics assiduously to emphasise the reorientation India's economic policies, which envisages deregularisation, provatisation and globalisation.

Prof. Kurien further stated that Indian Government's determined efforts to open-up the country's economy, to remove all bureaucratic hurdles and investment control, and to allow for market forces to play their role unhindered, shall lead India to become one of the most attractive and international investment market in Asia.

The Minister further stated that these substantial reforms in industrial policy and foreign investment procedures have already yielded very encouraging results. Between August 1991 and March of this year, which is the end of the fiscal year, almost 5000 investment intentions were filed with the Ministry of Industry. This compared with an average 3000 such intentions filed annually, for licensing and registration purposes. Similarly, foreign investment approvals for almost US \$ 500 million have been given in this short period of time after the new policy announcement last July, he stated. Accordingly the annual approval of foreign investments in the previous five years had been US \$ 200 million or less. Large international firms such as IBM, General Motors, BMW, Kellogg's, General Electric, Coca-Cola, Motorola, Suzuki, Lucky Gold Star etc. have already expressed their intentions to invest in a substantial fashion in India and have already received approvals from Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB).

Prof. Kurien also stated that India's quest for technology development is also bearing fruit. Between July 1991 and end of March, 1992 over 1000 foreign technology agreements have already been filed. Of these, about 400 came through the automatic route and as many as 650

through the Ministry of Industry. This shows that the implementation of the policy is being accomplished with alacrity.

During the question-answer session, Prof. Kurien responded to a large number of questions raised by the Swedish industrialists on a variety of issues relating to reduction of customs duties, dividend repatriation, FERA, capital markets etc. In a sense, Prof. Kurien's rapport with the Swedish Industry was unmistakable. Prof. Kurien's assertion that the reform process in India has the approval of the people of India, has consensus amongst political parties in India, and also endorsement of the Parliament. India struck a responsive chord amongst the industrialists present in the Seminar.

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EDEN USA INDIA PERU UNITED KINGDOM

**Date :** May 28, 1992

# June

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**Date :** Jun 01, 1992

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1995

BULGARIA

India and Bulgaria Sign Air Services Agreement

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 18, 1992:

India and Bulgaria have signed an Air-Services Agreement permitting inauguration of air services between the two countries.

The Agreement was signed by Shri Ravindra Gupta, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation on behalf of Government of India and Mr. Kiril Sadonkov, the First Deputy Minister of Transport of the Republic of Bulgaria.

The Agreement provides for operation of bi-weekly services each by Air India and Balkan Bulgarian Airlines on the specified routes.

LGARIA INDIA

**Date :** Jun 18, 1992

## Volume No

1995

ISRAEL

Visit of Secretary, Deptt. of Tourism to Israel

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 24, 1992:

An official delegation led by Shri Manish Bahl, Secretary Department of Tourism, visited Israel from June 15-18, 1992 at the invitation of Mr. Abraham Rosental, Director-General, Israeli Ministry of Tourism. The two sides held wide-ranging discussions on the promotion of bilateral tourism and joint promotion of tourism from third countries. Both sides agreed to exchange information on statistics, research, planning, manpower, training, etc. and cooperate within the framework of international tourism organisations. They also agreed to support cooperation between tourism and travel enterprises in the private sector. A further follow-up meeting is expected to take place in New Delhi in the near future when the possibility of signing a tourism agreement will also be discussed.

RAEL INDIA USA

**Date :** Jun 24, 1992

## Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Rs. 38.3 Crore Japanese Grant Assistance to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 22, 1992:

Japan has agreed to extend grant assistance of Yen 1.9 billion equivalent to Rs. 38.3 crore to India. This includes grant of Yen 992 million for the import of simulators, an amount of yen 600 million for increasing food production and Yen 315.6 million as Dept Release Grant Aid.

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Notes to this effect were exchanged here today between Mr. S. Varadachary, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs and Mr. Z. Kaminaga, Charge d' Affairs ad interim of Japan to India.

The assistance for the import of simulators will be used to upgrade and modernise the training equipment for Nautical and Marine Engineering education in the Lal Bahadur Shastri Nautical and Engineering College at Bombay. The project envisages the import of 3 simulators in two phases. In the first phase, funds will be utilised for the import of one ship manoeuvring simulator.

The grant aid for increasing food production has been given every year from 1978-79 for the import of fertilizers of agricultural machinery. This year it will be used to import fertilizers.

The debt relief grant is extended to alleviate the financial burden of interest payments incurred on past loans from the Government of Japan in accordance with the UNCTAD Resolution of 1978. This is expected to contribute to the improvement of India's balance of payments. The amount will be utilised for the import of rolls, steel and alloys etc. from Japan.

PAN INDIA USA

**Date :** Jun 22, 1992

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JAPAN

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### Indo-Japan Diplomatic Relations

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Following is the text of a message from Prime Minister to Prime Minister Miyazawa of Japan on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Japan:

On the historic occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Japan, I would like to extend to the Government and people of Japan, and to you personally, our sincere greetings and good wishes.

A number of commemorative events have been planned to celebrate this anniversary both in India and Japan. These events will foster greater awareness and interest among the peoples of our two countries in intensifying their mutual understanding and interaction. This, in turn, will contribute to peace and stability in our region.

India and Japan enjoy a relationship that goes back many centuries in history. Our peoples are linked together through sustained cultural and philosophical interaction through the ages. There has been shared awareness of our Asian identity and a mutual affinity born out of our common adherence to democratic values.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Japan forty years ago, there has been all-round development in our relations. I am particularly happy that in the past few years, there has been a significant expansion in our political, economic and cultural ties. Japan has contributed generously to India's development and is our major trade partner today. At a time when India is embarked on an ambitious and far-reaching programme of economic restructuring and reform, the opportunities for enhanced cooperation in terms of investment, trade and technology transfer have increased significantly. I am confident that the anniversary we are celebrating will mark the inauguration of a mutually rewarding economic partnership between our two great countries of Asia.

India has welcomed the increase in high level political exchanges between our two countries during the past few years. It is in this context that I look forward to

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my forthcoming visit to your country later this month. I come with the conviction that our on-going discussions will contribute

to enhanced cooperation between our two countries, both in the bilateral field as well as on issues of regional and international concern. It is our firm belief that close and cooperative ties between India and Japan will not only contribute to peace and prosperity in our region but also strengthen the foundations of a just and equitable world order in a rapidly changing international environment.

I take this opportunity to convey my best wishes for the welfare and prosperity of the friendly people of Japan and for the deepening of the close and cordial ties between our two countries.

PAN INDIA USA

**Date :** Jun 22, 1992

## Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Japan-India Relations

The following is text Message of His Excellency Mr. Kichi Miyazawa, Prime Minister of Japan on the 40th Anniversary of Japan-India Relations:

I would like to extend my heartfelt greetings to the Government and people of India and to you personally on the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Japan-India Peace Treaty. Over the past 40 years our two countries fostered a warm and cordial relationship, which is now gaining in breadth and depth.

Our bilateral relations were marked by the interese on Japan's part in India, since India not only represented the cause of newly independent states, but was also one of the countries which accepted Japan into the international community with open arms. India, for her part, cordially responded to Japan's friendly feelings. A symbolic example of our mutual friendship was a baby elephant donated by then Prime Minister Nehru to the Tokyo zoo in 1949, which soon became a favourite of Japanese children. It gave hope to the war-ravaged nation.

It was in the mid-80s, when high-level visits between our two countries began to take place one after another. For example, Prime Minister Nakasone visited India twice in 1984 and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi visited Japan in 1985, 1987 and 1988. Their

visits were followed by Prime Minister Kaifu's visit to India in 1990 and President Venkataraman's visit to Japan in 1989 and 1990. Our cultural exchange was also very active, as evidenced by the Festival of India in 1988. To commemorate the 40th anniversary, various cultural programmes are now under way both in Japan and India.

The expansion of our bilateral relationship is not only limited to the political and cultural spheres. As the present Indian Government pursues a drastic economic liberalization policy in earnest, including considerable reductions of restrictions on the introduction of foreign capital, business interest in India is on the rise in Japan. It was most eloquently represented by the size and diversity of the members of the Economic Mission dispatched by my Government to India in January this year, headed by Dr. Rokuro Ishikawa, Chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Now more and more Japanese firms are looking to India for new trade and investment opportunities.

It will be a great honour and pleasure for me to welcome, in these happy circumstances, Your Excellency as an official guest of the Government at the end of this month. I am looking forward to having friendly and fruitful talks with you in Japan. Our agenda will cover not only bilateral matters but international matters  
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of common concern. The world has undergone enormous changes over the past few years. Freedom and democracy are gaining ground in every corner of the world. Japan and India, as two democratic countries in Asia have to work closely together to help shape a new international order for global peace.

I am certain that your visit will open a new chapter of our bilateral relationship.

In concluding my message, I wish to extend to Your Excellency my best wishes for the continued progress and prosperity of the people of India.

PAN INDIA USA

**Date :** Jun 22, 1992

**Volume No**

1995

NEW ZEALAND

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## Visit of New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister to India

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The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 04, 1992:

The New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Don Mckinnon called on the Prime Minister this morning and reaffirmed New Zealand's interest in continuing to build closer relations with India. Rt. Hon. Don Mckinnon is in Delhi to inaugurate the newly-built New Zealand Embassy. Prime Minister explained the on-going process of economic liberalisation in India.

This was followed by official delegation level talks between Rt. Hon. Don Mckinnon and Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Eduardo Faleiro. The talks covered the entire range of issues of mutual concern both regional and global. The Minister of State for External Affairs briefed his interlocutor on India's efforts to establish, as No. 1 foreign policy priority, good relations with the neighbours and the success achieved in this process during the past year with Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bhutan. India also attached great importance to SAARC. The only aberration was Pakistan and India remain committed to resolve all problems with that country through peaceful dialogue. However, Pakistan's support to terrorism and subversion in India has been the principal obstacle in this process. Minister of State also explained that the recent abduction and brutal assault on a senior Indian diplomat in Islamabad had caused an unprecedented escalation. Minister of State also sent to Rt. Hon. Don Mckinnon a set of documents about the situation in the border with Pakistan.

W ZEALAND INDIA BANGLADESH NEPAL SRI LANKA BHUTAN PAKISTAN USA

**Date :** Jun 04, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

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#### Visit of Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand to India

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The following is the briefing by Official Spokesman on Jun 04, 1992 on the visit of New Zealand's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of External Relations and Trade, the Rt. Hon. Don McKinnon, to India:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman announced that New Zealand's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of External Relations and Trade, the Rt. Hon. Don McKinnon will be visiting India from 5-9 June, 1992. This is the first bilateral visit between India and New Zealand, since the visit of former Prime Minister, late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, in the year 1985. During his visit, the Rt. Hon. Don McKinnon will

have meeting with the Vice President, Prime Minister, Minister of State for External Affairs, Finance Minister and the Minister of State for Commerce. All aspects of international, regional and bilateral concern will be discussed during the talks.

The Rt. Hon. Don McKinnon will be formally opening the new building of the New Zealand High Commission at New Delhi.

The New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister will be accompanied by a business delegation which will hold talks with the Indian business community. The 3rd meeting of the Indo-New Zealand Joint Business Council will be held on 6th June. This meeting is being coordinated by Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). A meeting of the Joint Trade Committee at the official level will also be held after the visit. The Joint Business Council and Joint Trade Committee meetings are expected to discuss measures to promote bilateral, commercial and economic relations between India and New Zealand.

DIA NEW ZEALAND USA

**Date :** Jun 04, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Secretary General of Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to India

The following is briefing by Official Spokesman on visit of the Secretary General of Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Panayiotis Economou, to India:

The Spokesman, while briefing newsmen, announced that the Secretary General of the Greek Foreign Ministry, Mr. Panayiotis Economou, will be visiting India from 4-9 June, 1992, in connection with the Foreign Secretary level talks. The Indian

side will be led by Shri J. N. Dixit, Foreign Secretary, who will be assisted by Shri K. Srinivasan, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs. It is expected that the discussions will cover the situation in the Balkans and the East Europe. India will use this opportunity to brief the visiting Foreign Secretary regarding our relations with countries in our neighbourhood.

DIA USA

**Date :** Jun 04, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Visit of Acting Foreign Secretary of Austria to India

The following is the briefing by Official Spokesman on Jun 04, 1992 on the visit of Dr. H. Gleissner, Acting Foreign Secretary of Austria:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that the Acting Foreign Secretary of Austria, Dr. H. Gliessner, will be visiting India from 5-9 June, 1992. His predecessor, the previous Foreign Secretary, has been recently elected President of Austria.

Dr. Gleissner is carrying a letter from the Austrian Foreign Minister, addressed to the Indian Prime Minister in his capacity as External Affairs Minister, requesting India's support for setting up Vienna as the headquarters of the Chemical Weapons Directorate. The Convention on prohibition of chemical weapons is expected to be agreed upon by August this year in Geneva in the Conference on Disarmament, of which India is a member.

Dr. Gleissner will call on Shri Eduardo Faleiro, Minister of State for External Affairs, and will also have discussions with Shri K. Srinivasan, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs. The topics expected to be covered in the discussions, apart from the Chemical Weapons Convention, will be regional and bilateral matters of mutual interest. India will use this opportunity to brief the visiting Foreign Secretary regarding our relations with countries in our neighbourhood.

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STRIA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SWITZERLAND

**Date :** Jun 04, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### UN Security Council Resolution Against Yugoslavia

The following is the response to queries on Jun 04, 1992 by Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs on UN Security Council Resolution against Yugoslavia.

Responding to a question as to what are India's views on the report of the UN Secretary General on the Security Council Resolution against Yugoslavia, the Spokesman stated that the UN Security Council resolution reflects the general consensus of the international community. It demonstrates the concern and anxiety of the world community, and call for efforts to end the tragic violence and bloodshed that is taking place in the erstwhile Yugoslavia and to bring about a peaceful solution of the conflict.

In response to another question as to what would be India's stand on UN Security Council Resolution, the Spokesman stated that India will go by decisions that are taken by the UN Security Council resolution, as we are a party to it. It is hoped that a peaceful solution would be found.

Replying to another question, the Spokesman stated that any move that brings peace in that territory will be welcome to India.

GOSLAVIA INDIA USA

**Date :** Jun 04, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Visit of Acting Foreign Secretary of Austria to India

The following is the briefing by Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Jun 09, 1992 on the visit of Dr. H. Gleissner, Acting Foreign Secretary of Austria, to India:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that the Austrian Acting Foreign Secretary, Dr. H. Gleissner, called on Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, on the first day (i.e. 5th June), of his visit to India, giving him a letter from the Austrian Foreign Secretary, seeking India's support for locating headquarters of the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, in Vienna. The Convention is being finalised in the month of August this year, and it is expected that by that time a consensus would be achieved in the Conference on Disarmament, in Geneva.

The Spokesman further stated that India welcomed this opportunity for a high level interaction amongst the officials of the two countries. The Austrian side gave us a detailed account of the priority which they attach to the joining of the EEC, and also of the review that is being undertaken by them of their policy of neutrality, in the context of the conclusion of the cold war. The Austrian side also briefed us on the situation in Yugoslavia as seen by them.

The Indian side was headed by Shri K. Srinivasan, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs. We gave a detailed exposition of our point of view on questions of non-proliferation and on human rights. We gave a detailed account, along with documentary evidence, of Pakistan's interference in J & K and Punjab. We also spoke about our developing relations with Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, the Gulf region, and our views on the Middle East peace process.

Both the Indian and the Austrian side expressed mutual appreciation for cooperation between the two countries in the Security Council.

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STRIA INDIA USA SWITZERLAND YUGOSLAVIA PAKISTAN AFGHANISTAN BANGLADESH  
CAMBODIA

**Date :** Jun 09, 1992

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1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

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## UN Convention on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Brazil.

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The following is the briefing by Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Jun 10, 1992 on UN Convention on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Brazil:

The Spokesman, while briefing newsmen, stated that the UN Convention on Environment and Development (UNCED) is being held in Brazil from 3-14 June, 1992. The Conference is to address the twin issues of environment and development. The wide range of issues to be discussed at UNCED are global warming and climate change, biodiversity, ozone depletion, deforestation, regional seas, water pollution etc. The UNCED will also address issues like transfer of technology, financial resources and funding mechanism.

We expect that UNCED will produce the following:

- 1) A Declaration on Environment and Development embodying principles, that, we believe, should govern the economic and environmental behaviour of nations and the people of different nations.
- 2) Agenda-21 - a programme for action in all major areas affecting the relationship between environment and development into the 21st century.
- 3) We are expecting that there will be a Framework Convention on Climate Change, and also a Convention on Biological Diversity (i.e. Biodiversity). Both these Conventions have already accepted the principle that the developed countries should pay (i.e. the pollutor pays principle); India being amongst them. The Framework Convention on Climate Change has been signed by 18 countries; and the Convention on Biological Diversity has been signed by 29 countries.
- 4) We also expect that a statement of principles on forestry will be issued (developing countries, including India, are not in favour of adoption of a legally binding instrument on forestry).
- 5) We want an institutional framework for implementation. Agreement has been reached on a Commission on Sustainable Development as a subsidiary body of the UN Economic and Social Council.

There are no indications of substantial funding commitments or pledges; but, in this area, India, Brazil and China are working together in giving a lead to the developing countries, in their efforts to secure new and additional sources of funding as well as in their efforts to arrange for favourable and concessional terms for the transfer of technology.

The Prime Minister will be the first speaker in the Summit level debate on 12th June. He will be participating in the discussions, along with other Heads of State Government, where they will discuss all the unresolved issues. Our delegation will work with other groups to try and resolve the matter.

The Spokesman further stated that Minister of State for Environment, Shri Kamal Nath had bilateral meetings with Ministers of several countries including China, Sweden, Germany, Finland, Malaysia, Pakistan, USA, UK, Netherlands and Australia.  
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AZIL INDIA PERU USA CHINA GERMANY SWEDEN AUSTRALIA FINLAND MALAYSIA PAKISTAN UNITED KINGDOM

**Date :** Jun 10, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Visit of Secretary General of Greek Foreign Ministry to India

The following is the briefing by Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs, on Jun 11, 1992 on the visit of the Secretary General of the Greek Foreign Ministry, Mr. P. Economou, to India:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that the Secretary General of the Greek Foreign Ministry, Mr. P. Economou held talks with the representatives of the Government of India, from 8-10 June, in New Delhi.

The Secretary General of the Greek Foreign Ministry called on Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, and the Foreign Secretary, Mr. J. N. Dixit. He also called on the Commerce Secretary, the Culture Secretary and the Urban Development Secretary. He held three rounds of discussions at the delegation level, with the Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. K. Srinivasan.

The Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, expressed, at length, our concern over Pakistan's instigation of terrorism in Kashmir and the rise of fundamentalism of all kinds.

At the delegation level, the topics discussed included the developing situation in the Balkans and Cyprus; bilateral

relations between Greece and Turkey; and the recent developments in the Central Asian Republics. There was also discussions on the future of the Non-aligned Movement, the situation in Kashmir, issues relating to human rights including Amnesty International Report, as well as prospects of forging closer relationship with the European Economic Community.

At the bilateral level, it was agreed that both countries (India and Greece), would make efforts to strengthen cooperation in the areas of trade and culture; it was also agreed that they would cooperate in the common struggle against international crime and terrorism which both countries regard as a common struggle. It was further agreed that frequent consultations be held between the Foreign Offices of both the countries.

India welcomed this opportunity for high level official contact with the Foreign Ministry of Greece. It provided a useful opportunity to have a first hand account of the situation in the Balkans. It enabled India to express its viewpoint on several questions under discussion by the EC. The Greek side expressed understanding of the Indian viewpoint on its territorial integrity, democratic institutions, and human rights, and informed the Indian side that matters affecting India are regarded sympathetically by them. The Greek side thanked India for its understanding and sympathetic approach on the questions of Cyprus and Macedonia.

DIA USA PAKISTAN CYPRUS GREECE TURKEY MACEDONIA

**Date :** Jun 11, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Alleged Illicit Import of Arms by India

The following is the response to a question on Jun 15, 1992 by Official Spokesman, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on newspaper report regarding illicit imports of arms by India:

Responding to a question relating to a story in Sunday Times, London, regarding a 'secret sale' of equipment by a firm named GEC-Marconi, for India's missile programme, the Spokesman stated that the story is inaccurate, clearly motivated, misleading, mischievous and malacious. As far as the alleged 'secret sale' of missile components is concerned, the Spokesman said that India

firmly denied any insinuation that any clandestine transactions  
in  
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this area have taken place. In fact, the negotiations commenced with the British Company as far back as in 1986, to supply this particular part (i.e. MO Valves). These negotiations were undertaken after prior and full clearance was obtained from the Government. All the necessary Government approvals were obtained.

This particular component which is used to manufacture magnetrons to our own designed specifications, is intended for use in short-range surface-to-air missiles. These are not only indigenously designed, but are developed and produced indigenously. They are not for use in long-range ballistic missiles. Further, it is to be noted that these short-range missiles do not attract the provisions of the MTCR, (which itself is a set of guidelines followed by a group of countries, unilaterally, since April 1987.

This applies equally to the allegation made in the story about our nuclear energy programme, which is a multi-faceted one, and which is strictly for peaceful purposes. Here again, we entered into commercial transactions with several countries with all appropriate export clearances. As regards the specific allegation of a deal with GEC-Marioni is concerned, in the recent past, BARC has had no commercial dealings with them; further, the copper vapour lasers are manufactured at our Centre for Advanced Technology, Indore, which is a Research Institute working under the Department of Atomic Energy.

The wild allegations about BARC are clearly intended to bring into disrepute, India's atomic energy establishments, and to draw attention away from the central fact that India is the only developing country which has a major programme of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, manifested in the large number of our operative power plants, and also clearly demonstrated by the number of research facilities which engage in applications of nuclear energy for agriculture, industry and health, amongst others.

India's nuclear energy programme, which includes fast breeder reactors, requires plutonium as fuel and India has the indigenous capability for going ahead with this programme. It also has the necessary expertise to develop it comprehensively and with self-reliance.

DIA UNITED KINGDOM USA RUSSIA

**Date :** Jun 15, 1992

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1995

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#### LTTE

The following is reply of Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs New Delhi to queries relating to LTTE on Jun 15, 1992: In response to a question regarding publication of advertisements in the Sri Lankan newspapers relating to LTTE, and the permission to SIT to visit Sri Lanka in connection with further investigations in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, the Spokesman stated that on the 27th of May, our High Commission in Colombo sought formal concurrence of the Sri Lankan Foreign Office for publication of the Gazette Notification in Newspapers in Sri Lanka declaring the LTTE an unlawful association. Our High Commission also sought concurrence of the Sri Lankan Government for serving the Notification on the LTTE office in Jaffna. On June 3, we were told by the Sri Lankan Government that because of the disturbed conditions in Jaffna, it would not be possible to serve the Notification in Jaffna, but, that the High Commission could publish the Gazette Notification in Sri Lankan papers. Accordingly, our High Commission approached the Government-controlled Lake House Group of Newspapers (which had earlier carried the Proclamations of the Designated Court regarding Prabhakaran and Pottu Omman), for publication of the Notification. They promised to publish the Notification in the Tamil Daily 'Thinakaran', and their English Daily 'Daily News', on the 6th and 23rd-28th June, respectively. Subsequently, the Lake House Group informed our High Commission that they were not in a position to publish this Notification, without giving any reasons. The Spokesman stated that although the Notification has since been published in other newspapers, it is a matter of regret that the Lake House Group of Newspapers had to go back on their assurances given to our High Commission. As regards the second part of the question relating to assistance of the Sri Lankan Government in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, the Spokesman stated that we have been receiving ample cooperation of the Sri Lankan Government in matters relating to the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. We hope that this will continue in the spirit of friendly and cooperative relations that exist between our two countries, especially in the context of our shared commitment to counter the scourge of terrorism. As regards the permission to a Special Investigation Team to visit Sri Lanka, the Spokesman stated that as part of the cooperation extended by the Sri Lankan Government, to the Indian agencies investigating into the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, the Government of Sri Lanka has been giving expeditious clearance to the visits of officials to Sri Lanka. The Spokesman stated that India did not anticipate any change in the cooperative attitude of the Government of Sri Lanka in this matter.

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#### Indo-US Talks Regarding US Sanctions Against India

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The following is the response of the Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi to queries on Jun 17, 1992 on the Commerce department's announcement imposing sanctions against India and the forthcoming Indo-US talks:

Responding to a question about the reported stories regarding the announcement made by the Commerce Department of the United States imposing sanctions against India, the Spokesman stated that these announcements are not a matter of surprise for us at all; we had anticipated these. We would like to avail of this occasion to re-assert and to re-affirm our determination to continue to pursue research and development for peaceful purposes, in areas which we deem are of importance to us. We cannot be subjected to unreasonable pressure of the kind and type exemplified in the most recent US decision.

In response to another question, the Spokesman stated that the US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Ms. Teresita, Schaffer, will be holding talks with the Indian delegation, which will be led by

Shri Chandrashekhar Dasgupta, Additional Secretary (IO) in the Ministry of External Affairs, on the 18th and 19th of June.

Replying to another question, the Spokesman stated that the talks will cover the entire range of matters of mutual interest to the two sides.

Responding to another question as to whether India had prepared a response to US proposals on NPT, 5-nation Conference etc., the Spokesman stated that matters concerning regional and global security are under the active consideration of the concerned Divisions of the Ministry of External Affairs, and the other concerned agencies of the Government of India. We are always keeping abreast with the latest developing situation in such areas which are vital to our national interest. We have already outlined the parameters of a system which will enable the world to work meaningfully towards a viable framework of global disarmament. It is our belief, as reiterated by our Prime Minister in January 1992 at the UN Security Council, that we must look at this problem

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in its widest perspective and tackle it on a global basis, in a non-discriminatory manner, and in a way which takes into account the existing ground realities.

Concluding the Spokesman added that India was always willing to engage in a constructive dialogue with friendly countries.

DIA SRI LANKA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date :** Jun 17, 1992

## Volume No

1995

LTTE

Ministerial Conference on Cambodia

The following is the briefing of Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Jun 17, 1992 on the Ministerial Conference to be held in Japan from 20-22 June:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that Japan will be the venue of a Ministerial Conference on Cambodia from 20-22 June, 1992. The Indian delegation to this Conference will be led by Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri L.

L. Mehrotra, who will take part in the Senior Officials Meeting, scheduled for the 20th of June.

The primary theme of this meeting will be the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia. The Co-Chairman of this Conference will be UNDP and Japan. Thirty nations, who are closely involved in the peace process in Cambodia, and in the reconstruction of that country, as well as a dozen major international organisations will be taking part.

The Senior Officials Meeting will be followed by the Ministerial Conference on June 22. This is a particularly critical juncture for the ongoing peace process, as all factions represented in the Supreme National Council have to extend their cooperation in order to ensure success of the UN peace plan. The Conference is expected to adopt three documents, namely, Tokyo Declaration on Cambodian Peace Process, Tokyo Declaration on Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Cambodia, and another one "International Committee on Reconstruction of Cambodia".

MBODIA INDIA JAPAN

**Date :** Jun 17, 1992

## Volume No

1995

LTTE

Visit of Prime Minister to Japan

The following is the briefing of the Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Jun 19, 1992 on the forthcoming visit of the Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, to Japan:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that the Prime Minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, will be visiting Japan from 22-26 June, at the invitation of Prime Minister, Mr. K. Miyazawa. The last Indian Prime Minister who visited Japan was the late Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, in 1985; he transitted through Tokyo in 1987, and in April 1988 he inaugurated the Festival of India. From the Japanese side, the then Prime Minister, Mr. Y. Nakasone, paid a visit here in May 1984. This was the first visit by a Japanese Prime Minister after a gap of 23 years. Subsequently, he attended Mrs. Indira Gandhi's funeral in November 1984.

The Indian Prime Minister's visit to Japan takes place at a time

when the international situation is witnessing far reaching changes, and when Japan itself is redefining new parameters for political and economic dialogue in our region.

Former Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. T. Kaifu, had given a fresh impetus to this trend by setting up a South-Asia forum with a view to promote political and economic dialogue, extend developmental assistance, and enhance cultural exchanges. We expect to see a considerable intensification of our relationship with Japan as a result of these developments.

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On the economic side, our reforms have been assessed in Japan in an objective and favourable manner. They have been appreciated principally because of the irreversible determination with which they are being pursued.

Japan is India's largest bilateral donor. This position it has maintained consistently for the last 5 years, and the present level of aid is 823.6 million dollars. The bulk of this is by way of soft loans for projects in the infrastructure sectors like power, fertilizers, telecommunication and irrigation. Recently, they have, after negotiations with us, included environment, health, urban development and agriculture. The Japanese pledge for aid is expected to be announced for the current year, at the Aid India Consortium meeting at Paris in June. We are hopeful that there will be an increase in the ODA. Also Japan extends a grant aid every year between 2-3 billion Yen. We have signed an MoU with Japan for an Industrial Model Town. Feasibility studies are to be undertaken. We hope to benefit from Japan's experience in the areas of investment, banking and technology.

Our trade with Japan has increased steadily over the year. It amounted to slightly under 4 billion dollars in 1991 (both ways), and the balance of trade is in our favour. Shrimps, diamond and Iron Ore are our primary exports to Japan. Our imports are mainly plant and machinery.

The Spokesman stated that 1992 is a significant year in our bilateral relationship as it marked the 40th year of establishment of our diplomatic relations with Japan. We are confident that with the Prime Minister's visit, our political and economic dialogue with Japan will be given a new momentum, and that in this rapidly evolving world situation, both countries will find many areas of promise for mutually beneficial cooperation.

Responding to a question on a reported Japanese threat to link aid with India's stand on NPT, the Spokesman stated that the news stories do not seem to have been based on any authoritative sources either in Delhi or in Japan. The fact was that Japan has been engaged in a dialogue with us on matters relating to NPT and the Nuclear Weapons Free Zone. But, these discussions have taken

place in the context of our overall exchanges on the international and regional situation. These discussions have not taken place within the framework of our economic cooperation with Japan. As far as the NPT and NWFZ are concerned, we have explained to the Japanese that there are shortcomings and imbalances in the NPT, and that there is a need to devise non-discriminatory arrangements. We have also conveyed to them our firm commitment to both horizontal and vertical non-proliferation and our desire to see the global elimination of nuclear weapons.

PAN INDIA USA LATVIA FRANCE

**Date :** Jun 19, 1992

## Volume No

1995

LTTE

### Implementation of Tin Bigh Lease Agreement

The following is the briefing of the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Jun 26, 1992 on the implementation of Tin Bigha Lease Agreement:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that the arrangements agreed between Government of India and Government of Bangladesh on leasing of Tin Bigha corridor (by the former to the latter) came into effect today. The first group of Bangladesh nationals passed through the Corridor at 1030 hrs this morning. Bangladesh side will continue to have access through the corridor on alternate hours during the daylight period, subject to mutually Agreed Modalities.

While implementing Tin Bigha Agreement, Government have ensured, to their full satisfaction, that the interests of local residents are adequately protected. The historic and legal right to movement of  
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Indian nationals will remain unaffected, except to the extent indicated by the requirements of traffic safety. Kuchlibari area will continue to remain fully linked with Mekhliganj as heretofore. The Tin Bigha corridor remains an integral part of India where India's sovereignty and applicability of its laws and the reach of its administration remain unchanged. Government have further taken all necessary measure to ensure safety and security of our people.

In implementing the Tin Bigh agreement, India has fulfilled an international commitment. The resolution of this longstanding issue has won widespread support in India (as illustrated, for example, by the all-party Resolution adopted by the West Bengal Legislative Assembly on June 9) as well as in Bangladesh.

With the Tin Bigha question resolved, Indo-Bangladesh relations enter a new phase. Government of India are committed to strengthening and consolidation of these relations and the resolution of outstanding issues through a process of closer interaction and dialogue.

DIA BANGLADESH USA

**Date :** Jun 26, 1992

## Volume No

1995

LTTE

Prime Minister's Speech in a Meeting of National Integration Council

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 18, 1992:

Inaugurating the third meeting of the reconstituted National Integration Council, the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, said here today:

"I extend a warm welcome to all of you to this meeting of the National Integration Council.

You would recall that in the wake of the controversy following the acquisition of land in the Ram Janma Bhumi-Babri Masjid complex by the state government in October last, a meeting of the National Integration Council was called on 2nd November, 1991 to deliberate over this sensitive issue and help diffuse the situation. The Council had noted with concern that this dispute and the happenings in Ayodhya were one of the main factors responsible for the build-up of communal tension. They had called upon all concerned to act with restraint and desist from works or deeds that are likely to inflame communal passions or give encouragement to disruptive forces. We had appealed for the creation of an atmosphere conducive to a satisfactory settlement of the dispute. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh had assured us all that efforts would be made to find an amicable solution to

the Ram Janma Bhumi- Babri Masjid dispute and that the Government of Uttar Pradesh will hold itself fully responsible for the protection of the Ram Janma Bhumi-Babri Masjid structure. He had assured us that orders of the court in regard to the land acquisition proceedings will be fully implemented and that the judgment of the Allahabad High Court in the cases pending before it will not be violated. The Chief Minister had invited the Council to visit Ayodhya on any date and we had welcomed this gesture. We had hoped that the meeting of the NIC would lead to an improvement in the atmosphere.

Unfortunately, subsequent developments kept alive the passions surrounding this dispute and diluted the consensus of the NIC to some extent. Recent developments at Ayodhya have further increased the anxiety over this issue. Large scale demolitions have been undertaken by the state authorities which include some temples standing in the complex.

I think I do not have to repeat what the Honourable Home Minister has just told you about the facts leading to the present situation. I would only say that  
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during the last three or four days we have been under very great pressure and tension - all of us; all sections of the community have been equally under pressure. And, this meeting of the National Integration Council has not come a day too soon. In fact, if we had had it a couple of days earlier, maybe it would have been better. But this was the earliest that we could have it and that is how we are all here.

Now, I would like a full and complete discussion of the issues involved the aspects which need to be gone into and I am glad that Chief Ministers are here, specially to advise on a matter like this because the responsibility of the state government comes clearly into focus in this matter as it stands today. So, without repeating what Chavan Sahib has already said, I think we could start a discussion on this. As you know the dispute has been subject of several legal cases and the courts and the orders - there has been a long history, a long background - and I am sure this is known to all of us, all the members here. I would, therefore, request the Council to deliberate on all these issues. I am sure that our deliberations will be fruitful and they will bring us to a useful and harmonious solution and line of action.

DIA USA

**Date** : Jun 18, 1992

**Volume No**

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1995

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THAILAND

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Thai Ambassador Calls on Dr. Balram Jakhar

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The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 24, 1992:

The Agriculture Minister, Dr. Balram Jakhar told His Excellency Dr. Praphol Narinhrangura, the Ambassador of Thailand who called on him here today that both the countries had many things in common and India was interested in having bilateral cooperation in agriculture with Thailand.

Cooperation in the field of foodcrops, fisheries, horticulture, floriculture etc were discussed and it was felt that an umbrella of agreement providing for agricultural development of both the countries should be drawn up.

Thailand was one of the countries which participated in the T.C.D.C. Programming Exercise in New Delhi in October, 1991. Under this Exercise, proposals were received from the Thai side for training, expertise relating to germplasm exchange (citrus), brackishwater fishing, prawn aquaculture farming, duck farming etc from India.

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AILAND INDIA USA

**Date :** Jun 24, 1992

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STRALIA USA BURUNDI CHINA INDIA INDONESIA IRAN BANGLADESH KUWAIT SRI LANKA  
UZBEKISTAN ZIMBABWE

**Date :** Jul 01, 1992

## Volume No

1995

AUSTRALIA

Indo-Australian Cooperation in Power Sector

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 07, 1992:

The Private Sector participation in Power Development, renovation and modernisation of existing power stations, upgradation of urban distribution, consultancy, training and joint venture were some of the areas identified for Indo-Australian Corporation at the first meeting of the Joint Working Group.

The agreed minutes were signed by Shri S. Rajgopal, Secretary, Ministry of Power for the Government of India and Mr. Charles Jamieson, Special Trade Development Advisor, Australian Trade Commission.

While considering various proposals, it was suggested that Australian industry was also keen to consider projects in the upgrading of urban distribution systems which include high voltage transmission, distribution equipment using state-of-the-art Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems.

Indian side explained that a programme of distribution systems improvement in 500 urban centres having populations of above 50,000 had been drawn up. About Rs. 4,000 crore would be required in the next five years for improving urban distribution systems.

They also discussed about the expertise available in India which would be used for setting up of projects in third countries. It was felt that the advantage of a joint venture would be that they could present their position more forcefully in the country where they proposed to set up a joint venture. The Australian side agreed to study the proposal in consultation with the private companies.

The setting up of a Consultative Committee involving representatives of the Australian High Commission and Indian power officials to consider projects for collaboration was proposed.

Both sides agreed that the periodicity of the meetings of the Joint Working Group could be once in six months to enable proper monitoring of progress made in the cooperation between the two sides.

STRALIA USA INDIA

**Date :** Jul 07, 1992

## Volume No

1995

BURUNDI

Congratulatory Message from President of Burundi to President Dr. S. D. Sharma

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 30, 1992:

Following congratulatory message have been received from H.E. Major Pierre Buyoya, President of Burundi to our President.

His Excellency Shankar Dayal Sharma President of the Republic of India.

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On the occasion of your election as the President of the Republic of India, I wish to express, on behalf of the people of Burundi, its Government and myself, my warm congratulations.

I take this happy opportunity to assure you of the firm determination of the Government of Burundi to work for strengthening our ties of friendship and cooperation which so happily exist between our two countries in the mutual interest of our respective people.

I wish happiness and prosperity to Your Excellency and to the friendly people of India.

Highest consideration.

Pierre Buyoya

Major

RUNDI INDIA

**Date :** Jul 30, 1992

## Volume No

1995

CHINA

Border Trade with China Resumes

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 17, 1992:

After a gap of 30 years, Border trade between India and China resumed from the 15th July, 1992 by the opening of trade from Gunji in Pithoragarh District of Uttar Pradesh to Pulan in the Tibet autonomous region of China. A Customs Land Station, a State Bank of India branch and Police immigration check post have start functioning in this connection at Gunji. Special travel passes are being issued to traders for proceeding to Pulan in China for trading activities. This Border Trade through the Lipulekh Pass will be opened each year between June and September.

INA INDIA USA

**Date :** Jul 17, 1992

## Volume No

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1995

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CHINA

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Exhibition of South Indian Handicrafts

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The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 02, 1992:

The exhibition of South Indian handicrafts was inaugurated on June 26, 1992 jointly by the Chinese Vice Minister for Culture Mr. Chen Changbin and India's Ambassador to China, Mr. S. Haider. The inaugural ceremony was attended by over hundred people including important Government officials, diplomatic community, Chinese Traditional Artisans, Scholars from Art Research Institutes and representatives of the media. The inauguration comprised of cutting of ribbons followed by lighting of an oil lamp as per Indian traditions. Following the ceremony the three master craftsmen who have come from India demonstrated their skills to the guests attending the function.

The opening ceremony as well as the demonstrations by the craftsmen was well received by the audience. Local television and radio stations reported the event very prominently on the same day evening itself. The Xinhua News Agency as well as other leading newspapers of China also have carried reports of the function and the exhibition. An average of 500-600 people have been visiting the exhibition everyday since its opening.  
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INA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date :** Jul 02, 1992

## Volume No

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1995

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FORMER SOVIET UNION

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Trade Between India and Erstwhile Soviet Union

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The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 17, 1992:

The value of imports and exports for the last three years between

India and the former USSR before its disintegration is as under:

(Rs./crores)

	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
Exports	4462.97	5254.79	3967.31
Imports	2038.19	2548.12	1780.26

As on 31st March, 1992, the total outstanding debt on Government account of the erstwhile USSR was Roubles 939.695 million equivalent to approximately Rs. 2987.05 crores converted at the exchange rate of Rouble 1 equal to Rs. 31.7874.

On account payments against debt service are being made into the Central Account of the Bank of Foreign Economic Affairs, USSR with tie RBI. These payments are being adjusted against the technical credit granted to the former USSR. The division of the assets and liabilities of the former USSR is a matter to be settled by the successor States themselves.

The Rupee-Rouble exchange rate was fixed in terms of the protocol of 25th November, 1978 between India and the former USSR. Several rounds of negotiations have been held for the revision of the 1978 Protocol. The negotiations have been inconclusive so far.

This was stated in a written reply by Shri Sallman Khurshid, Deputy Minister of Commerce, in the Lok Sabha today.

DIA USA

**Date :** Jul 17, 1992

## Volume No

1995

N A M

Ministry of External Affairs Workshop on The Tenth NAM Summit

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 13, 1992:

A workshop on the Non Aligned Movement was held on 11-12 July 1992 in preparation for the Tenth NAM Summit scheduled to be held in Jakarta in September 1992. The Workshop was held in separate sessions over two days. The focus of discussions on the first day was the relevance of the Movement in the context of the recent

developments in the international situation. The second day's proceedings concentrated on drawing up a plan of action for the Movement in the light of new parities and developments in international affairs. The entire workshop was a result of the Prime Minister's initiative in seeking a broadbased intellectual consensus before finalising India's responses from the non  
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aligned forum to the changing global environment.

The Workshop was designed to garner available expertise from leading academicians, journalists and Government officials both former and present in order to provide a well rounded intellectual focus based on India's interests for an important plank of India's foreign policy. The proceedings were chaired by Shri Eduardo Faleiro, Minister of State for External Affairs and also present were the Foreign Secretary, Shri J. N. Dixit, Shri L. L. Mehrotra, Secretary (East, Shri K. Srinivasan, Secretary (West), Shri C. Dasgupta, Additional Secretary (IO) and several other Joint Secretaries and other officials from the Ministry of External Affairs.

The participants also included former Ministers like Shri Dinesh Singh, Shri Hari Kishore Singh, Shri L. K. Gujral, Shri M. Solanki, Shri N. D. Tiwari and Shri K. Natwar Singh. A galaxy of academicians included Professors from the Jawaharlal Nehru University (Prof. K. P. Mishra, Prof. M. S. Rajan, Shri Kalim Bahadur, Shri Sushil Kumar), Delhi University (Prof. V. P. Dutt) and Jadhavpur University (Prof. Bandopadhyaya, Prof. Arun Banerjee). There were representatives from think tanks like the Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis (Dr. Jasjit Singh, Shri Raja Mohan), Research and Information System for the Nonaligned and other Developing Countries (Dr. V. R. Panchmukhi), Centre for Policy Research (Dr. Bhabani Sengupta) and NAM Centre for Science and Technology (Dr. K. N. Johari). Shri K. Subramaniam from the Business and Political Observer was present along with other leading journalists like Kuldip Nayar, Inder Malhotra, Ved Pratap Vaidik. An array of former diplomats included Shri A. Madhavan, Shri A. K. Damodaran, Shri A. P. Venkateswaran, Shri Braajesh Mishra, Shri C. S. Jha, Shri M. Dubey, Shri N. Krishnan, Shri R. Bhandari, Shri S. K. Singh, Shri J. S. Mehta.

By and large the consensus at the end of the first day's proceedings was that the NAM had been vindicated by the end of the cold war when cooperation was taking the place of confrontation and all the principles for which the Nonaligned Movement had fought so steadfastly over the years were being reinforced with international endorsement. The Movement was seen as increasing, not declining, in relevance in a post cold-war world where there were still pockets of colonialism, presence of apartheid and areas of conflagrations and ethnic hostilities which called for further enhancement of the Nonaligned role.

A discussion on a possible action plan for the Movement highlighted the need for clear position by the movement on various emerging issues of grave importance especially the concept of sovereign equality and the extent of compromise possible on this in the interests of international inter-dependence. The need for democratisation of and broadbasing of the UN was also perceived as important, as was the importance of keeping the Movement cohesive and well knit. The latter was important given the possibilities of national interests diluting the thrust of the Movement. There was almost near unanimity in the need for India to continue spearheading the Movement and take appropriate initiatives to deal with the new emerging international situation.

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DIA INDONESIA USA UNITED KINGDOM

**Date :** Jul 13, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### NEW PRESIDENT OF INDIA

Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma to be Sworn in on July 25, 1992

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 22, 1992:

The President-elect, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma, will be sworn in at 11.15 a.m. on Saturday, July 25, 1992 in the Central Hall of Parliament House, New Delhi. The Oath of office will be administered by Mr. Justice M. H. Kania, Chief Justice of India.

The Ceremony of assumption of Office by the 9th President of India will be attended by a distinguished gathering which will include the Prime Minister of India and other Members of the Council of Ministers, the Chief Justice of India, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Heads of Diplomatic Missions, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha and Principal Civil and Military Officers of the Government of India among others.

The President and the President-elect will arrive in the Central Hall in a procession. After the President-elect takes the Oath of Office in the presence of the Chief Justice of India, a 21-gun salute will be fired. The President will then deliver an address. On the conclusion of the Ceremony in Central Hall, the President will leave for Rashtrapati Bhavan where an inter-services Guard

of Honour will be given to him in the forecourt.

The outgoing President will be extended normal courtesies.

DIA USA

**Date :** Jul 22, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Indo-Afghan Relations

The following is text of statement issued by Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Jul 01, 1992 on Indo-Afghan relations:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that the new Afghan President, Burhanuddin Rabbani received the Indian Ambassador, Mr. Vijay Nambiar, on 30th June. At the meeting, the Afghan President expressed the hope that bilateral relations which were deep-rooted would be developed and intensified in various fields. The Afghan President expressed gratitude for Indian humanitarian assistance and food aid. He also raised some specific points related to bilateral cooperation between the two countries.  
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DIA USA

**Date :** Jul 01, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Launching of Australia-India Council

The following is text of statement issued by Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Jul 03, 1992 on Launching of Australia-Indo Council:

The Spokesman, while briefing newsmen, stated the Australia-India Council, which is an Apex Body including Government and private sector, with a view to coordinating and encouraging commercial, economic, academic and cultural interaction, had been announced. It was launched last week during the visit to Australia of the Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Mr. Shivraj Patil.

The Council will be chaired by Mr. Graham Feakes, former Australian High Commissioner to India.

STRALIA INDIA USA

**Date :** Jul 03, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting of Indonesian Foreign Minister with Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Eduardo Faleiro

The following is text of statement issued by Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Jul 06, 1992 on the meeting between the Foreign Minister of Indonesia, Mr. Ali Alatas, and the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro:

The Spokesman, while briefing newsmen, stated that the Foreign Minister of Indonesia, Mr. Ali Alatas, accompanied by Mr. Ida Bagus Mantra, held discussions with Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, who was assisted by Mr. C.S. Dasgupta, Additional Secretary (IO), and Mr. T. P. Srinivasan, Joint Secretary (UN).

While welcoming the foreign guests, Minister of State said that it was auspicious that the next Summit of the NAM was being held in Jakarta, in view of the fact that the Movement traced its origins to the Bandung Conference in 1955. He recalled the meeting between President Suharto and the Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, in Rio, and reiterated India's willingness to lend the fullest support to the forthcoming Summit and to the preparations that will be undertaken. The two delegations discussed ways and means of arranging for a smooth transfer of the Chairmanship of the organisation in consonance with the traditions of NAM, which called for decisions on the basis of consensus. They also talked about the approaches that have been made for new membership by a number of countries including

Brunei, Uzbekistan, Croatia, Slovenia, and possibly other Republics of Central Asia. The two delegations also discussed the revised draft document which will be adopted at Jakarta after further discussions. India responded to the Indonesian request for support and assistance in obtaining the widest possible consensus on the document. They agreed that there was an imperative need for the Nonaligned Movement to adhere to time-tested principles on issues like nuclear disarmament and self-determination. They also agreed that in the coming years, there would be need for NAM to address itself, with sharper focus and continuing vigour, to issues such as the expansion and the democratisation of the United Nations, international terrorism, the question of the validity of sovereignty of independent and individual States, co-existing with the UN's mediatory role, the desirability of not linking human rights with developmental aid, and a number of other such central issues. They had a detailed discussion on certain organisational matters relating to the work of the forthcoming Summit. They both agreed that there was a need to arrange for a better coordination between the Nonaligned Movement and G-77.

On bilateral matters, both sides expressed satisfaction at the improvements, especially on the economic front, that have been witnessed in the last few months. The  
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Indonesian side said that they were following India's new economic policies with great interest and sympathy, and that in this context they believed that there was a far greater scope for economic interaction between the two countries.

Responding to a question as to what was India's response to the proposal of new membership, the Spokesman stated that India is in favour of the expansion of NAM and would support those who meet the membership criteria.

DONESIA INDIA USA BRUNEI UZBEKISTAN CROATIA SLOVENIA

**Date :** Jul 06, 1992

## Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Maltreatment of Indian Nationals in Tehran

The following is text of statement issued in New Delhi on

Jul 06, 1992 by Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs on maltreatment of Indian nationals in Tehran:

Responding to a question about a news story regarding torture and maltreatment of Indian nationals in Tehran and the allegation that Government of India had failed to take any action on this incident, the Spokesman clarified that the allegation that Government of India had dithered in any way or failed to take action, is totally incorrect. In fact when these incidents were brought to our notice, we took up the matter strongly with the Iranian Embassy in Delhi and also at the highest levels of the Foreign Office in Tehran.

DIA IRAN

**Date :** Jul 06, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Anti-India Propaganda in Bangladesh

The following is text of statement issued in New Delhi on Jul 06, 1992 by Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs on the Anti-India propaganda in Bangladesh:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that the Indian High Commission in Dhaka has taken up strongly with the Bangladesh Government, the need to take measures to end anti-India propaganda, indulged in by certain sections of the local press. This is in the context of baseless allegations appearing in certain Bangladesh papers on July 4, attributing involvement by India in an attack by mob on the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka. This is one in a series of instances of certain newspapers publishing baseless reports directed against India.

BNGLADESH INDIA

**Date :** Jul 06, 1992

## Volume No

1995

## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

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### Ram Janambnoomi - Babri Masjid Issue

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The following is text of statement issued by the Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jul 16, 1992 on Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid issue:

Responding to a question regarding the Pakistan Foreign Office Spokesman's statement about Ramjanambhoomi-Babri Masjid issue, the Spokesman stated that we find the gratuitous remarks of the Pakistan's Foreign Office Spokesman quite extraordinary. We construe these remarks as being intrusive, and as interference in our internal affairs. Government of India is fully aware of its constitutional obligations towards its citizens as also towards its priceless historical heritage, which it is determined to preserve. The Pakistan Government, and the OIC, have no locus standi whatsoever in such matters, and, consequently, their observations, in this regard, are totally unacceptable.

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DIA PAKISTAN USA

**Date :** Jul 16, 1992

## Volume No

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1995

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## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

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### Indo-Afghan Relations

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The following is text of statement issued in New Delhi on Jul 24, 1992 by Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs on Indo-Afghan relations:

Responding to a question as to what is Government of India's reaction to the statement of the Afghan Charge d'Affaires in Delhi, the Spokesman stated that we view the Afghan Charge d'Affaires remarks and observations on our bilateral relationship as being reflective of a positive and objective approach to relations with India. There had been some reports in sections of the Press to the effect that the attitude of the Afghan Government had, in some way, undergone a perceptible change on matters relating to our bilateral relations.

The views expressed by the Afghan Charge d'Affaires, at his recently held Press Conference in Delhi, will help in putting to rest any doubts that may have been created by those earlier reports.

Replying to further questions, the Spokesman stated that the Afghan Charge d'Affaires had made references to several issues; he had said that Ayodhya issue is an internal Affair of India; that J & K problem is a bilateral one and should be resolved according to Simla Agreement bilaterally. About the maltreatment of Afghan national of Indian origin, the Afghan Charge d'Affaires said that the bad phase in the law and order situationo had passed now, and that Afghanistan wished to invite those who had left Afghanistan, to return.

DIA AFGHANISTAN

**Date** : Jul 24, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Arrest of Indian Nationals in Sharjah

The following is text of statement issued in New Delhi on Jul 24, 1992 by Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs on arrest of Indian nationals in Sharjah:

While replying to a question regarding the arrest of Indian nationals in Sharjah, the Spokesman clarified that it was an unwitting thing. Our Embassy in Abu Dhabi, as also the Indian Consulate in Dubai, have taken up the matter with the local authorities with the request to treat the arrested Indian nationals with leniency and clemency.

DIA UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

**Date** : Jul 24, 1992

## Volume No

1995

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Meeting of Kuwaiti Minister of Information with Minister of State for External Affairs Shri R. L. Bhatia

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The following is text of Statement issued in New Delhi on Jul 27, 1992 by Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs on the meeting between the Kuwaiti Minister of Information, Dr. Bader Al Yaqoub, and Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. R. L. Bhatia:

The Spokesman, while briefing newsmen, stated that the Kuwaiti Minister of Information, Dr. Bader Al-Yaqoub, who is on a three day visit to India, as a Special Emissary of the Emir of Kuwait, had a meeting with the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. R. L. Bhatia, this morning. Dr. Bader Al-yaqoub thanked India for its support to Kuwait, which is based on long and historical ties between the two countries, and requested MOS to ensure that India's support would continue to be forthcoming in an effort to get Iraq to comply with the Security Council Resolutions. In particular, the Kuwaiti Minister sought India's assistance in persuading Iraq to comply with the resolution concerning the settlement of the border dispute between Iraq and Kuwait. Dr. Bader Al-Yaqoub also wanted India's help in  
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obtaining the return of the Kuwaiti Prisoners-of-War, numbering about 850, who are still being held in Iraq.

The Special Emissary of the Emir of Kuwait, Dr. Bader Al-Yaqoub, conveyed to the Minister of State that Iraq apprehended that Iraq still has aggressive intentions. He appealed to the Minister for India's support and assistance in meeting these threats. He conveyed to MOS the warm wishes of the Emir of Kuwait, and said that the Emir has desired to visit India at a later date, which will be settled through diplomatic channels.

Dr. Bader Al-Yaqoub will be calling on Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting, Mr. Ajit Kumar Panja. He will also be calling on the Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, later this evening.

WAIT INDIA IRAQ

**Date :** Jul 27, 1992

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**Volume No**

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1995

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## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

### Spokesman's Response to Queries on Kuwait

The following is the text of Statement issued in New Delhi on Jul 29, 1992 by Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs on his response to queries on Kuwait:

Responding to a question regarding a news story which appeared in "The Hindu" titled "Kuwait Unhappy with India's stand", the Spokesman stated that the suggestion which has been made that there was a letter from the Emir of Kuwait to the Prime Minister is incorrect; the suggestion that India was asked to mediate is also incorrect. There was no question of mediation. Most importantly, the report suggests that Kuwait has not appreciated India's stand. The Spokesman said that it was incorrect. He referred to one of his earlier briefings in which he had stated that the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. R. L. Bhatia, had said to the Special Envoy of the Emir of Kuwait that India believes firmly in the sanctity of UN Resolutions. The Spokesman said it would be recalled that the Special Envoy of the Emir of Kuwait had sought India's assistance and continued support for compliance by Iraq with the UN Security Council Resolutions. The Prime Minister, when the Special Envoy called on him, stated in unequivocal terms that India subscribed fully to the UN Security Council Resolutions, that India had invariably adhered to and strictly complied with such resolutions, and that as it had done in the past, it would be India's endeavour to do everything possible in the Security Council, to ensure that these resolutions are fully implemented.

Replying to another question, the Spokesman stated that the impression is that the Kuwait Special Envoy was fully satisfied with his discussions in India.

WAIT INDIA IRAQ USA

**Date :** Jul 29, 1992

## Volume No

1995

## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

### Spokesman's Response to Queries on Sri Lanka

The following is the text of Statement issued in New Delhi on

Jul 29, 1992 by Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs on his response to queries on Sri Lanka:

In response to a query regarding the repatriation of refugees to Sri Lanka, the Spokesman stated that there has been an informal understanding with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) under which we have agreed to the UNHCR's request that it be associated with the voluntary repatriation of Sri Lankan refugees from India. This understanding is based on our firm commitment to the principles and values of the United Nations and our consistent cooperation with its various organs and activities.

Replying to a question as to whether any agreement was signed, the Spokesman  
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stated that there has been an exchange of letters between our Permanent Representative and the UNHCR Representative, in Geneva.

Responding to another query as to what type of assistance Government of India is likely to render to the UNHCR, the Spokesman stated that the UNHCR may make sample, random checks of the lists and satisfy themselves that the people concerned are going back voluntarily.

Replying to a further question the Spokesman stated that we are in touch with the Government of Sri Lanka, and the decision to accede to the UNHCR's request to be associated with the process of voluntary repatriation, has been taken with a view to facilitating that process.

I LANKA INDIA USA SWITZERLAND

**Date :** Jul 29, 1992

## Volume No

1995

UZBEKISTAN

Congratulatory Message from President of Republic of Uzbekistanto President Dr. S. D. Sharma

Following is text of message from President of Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov, addressed to Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma on the occasion of his election as President of India:

His Excellency Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, President of Republic of

India.

It was with a feeling of great happiness that we received the news of your election as President of the Republic of India.

I am confident that your fruitful activity in the post of Head of State will enable further development of friendship and cooperation between our peoples and countries, in the cause of peace and security at the regional and international levels.

I wish, your Excellency, good health and happiness and your country and the friendly Indian people prosperity and progress.

With regards,

ISLAM KARIMOV  
PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

TASHKENT  
22 July 1992

BEKISTAN INDIA USA

**Date :** Jul 29, 1992

## Volume No

1995

ZIMBABWE

Indian Drought Relief Assistance to Zimbabwe

The following is text of press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 28, 1992:

High Commissioner of India to Zimbabwe on 27th July presented to Vice President Simon Muzenda, who is also Chairman of the National Drought Relief Committee, 4000 kgs of drought relief on behalf of Government of India, to Zimbabwe. The humanitarian aid included medicines, milk

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powder, baby food and biscuits. Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, John Nkomo, Deputy Minister for Health and Child Welfare, Tsungirayi Hungwe, and Deputy Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Florence Chitauro, and Senior Government Officials attended the function.

Handing over the consignment, the High Commissioner said that India had been witnessing with great concern the adverse effects of the unprecedented drought, worst in living memory, currently affecting Zimbabwe. He said the consignment was a modest donation symbolising the strong bonds of friendship between the two countries and a gesture of solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe.

Accepting the consignment, Vice President Muzenda said that the relief supplies would go a long way in assisting to alleviate the sufferings of the people of Zimbabwe caused by the current drought. He added that he was taking this occasion to "thank the Government and the people of India for their unstinted assistance during our struggle for national independence. After independence, your Government also gave us fortitude through the NAM Africa Fund".

The consignment was then passed on by the Vice President to Minister John Nkomo, who is also the Chairman of the National Supplementary Feeding Programme, and Minister Nkommo in turn handed them over to Deputy Minister of Health and Child Welfare, Tsungirayi Hungwe, who is In-Charge of the Children Supplementary Feeding Programme.

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MBABWE INDIA USA

**Date :** Jul 28, 1992

**August**

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1995

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MAURITIUS CYPRUS NAMIBIA AFGHANISTAN UZBEKISTAN GHANA PAKISTAN UNITED KINGDOM  
SWEDEN

**Date :** Aug 01, 1992

## Volume No

1995

CHINA

China Cultural Festival in India

The following is text of press release issued in New Delhi on  
Aug 21, 1992:

The China Cultural Festival in India will be held in December,  
1992. The Festival will be for six weeks and its various events  
will travel to New Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and some other  
cities.

A delegation from the Chinese Ministry of Culture, led by Mr. Wu  
Chunde, Director General of the Bureau of External Cultural  
Relations is currently visiting India. According to a protocol  
signed recently between the Chinese Ministry of Culture and the  
Department of Culture, Ministry of Human Resource Development, a  
Beijing Opera Troupe, an acrobatic and a puppet group will  
perform during the Festival.

Exhibitions of Chinese handicrafts, contemporary art, traditional  
paintings and calligraphy and photographs will also be organised  
at the time. It is expected that some Chinese scholars will visit  
India to deliver talks in conjunction with these exhibitions to  
introduce Chinese art and culture. A retrospective of the films  
of the well-known Chinese Director Xie Jin will also be held,  
with the Director leading a delegation to India on the occasion.  
Some Chinese telefilms will also be telecast in India during the  
Chinese Festival. An academic symposium on the theme of India and  
China poised to face the 21st century will also be organised. A  
highlight of the Festival would be a Chinese Food Festival.

It may be recalled that a Festival of India in China and a  
Festival of China in India were announced in the Sino-Indian

joint communique signed by the Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao and the visiting Chinese Premier Li Peng in December, 1991.

INA INDIA USA

**Date :** Aug 21, 1992

## Volume No

1995

CHINA

Border Trade between India and China

The following is text of press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 04, 1992:

India and China have recently signed a protocol on the entry and exist procedures for border trade between the two countries.

For entry and exist of persons, commodities and means of transport engaged in border trade, exchange of commodities and means of transport, Lipulikh (Qing la) pass will be the border pass. Gunji at Pithoragarh in Uttar Pradesh and Pulan in Tibet Autonomous Region of China has been designated as market sites for the trade. These sites will be open for trade during the period 1st June to 30th September every year.  
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Travel pass will be issued to citizens on either side intending to engage in border trade. Persons commodities and means of transport of either party will be issued valid papers for entry and exist.

Parties to the agreement have set up checking and inspection agencies in order to exercise proper control over the entry and exist of persons, commodities and means of transportation.

This was stated by Shri Salman Khurshid, Deputy Minister of Commerce, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today.

INA INDIA USA

**Date :** Aug 04, 1992

# Volume No

1995

FINLAND

India Gifts Gir Lions to Finland

The following is text of press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 31, 1992:

The Government of India has gifted three Gir Lions to the Helsinki Zoo (Finland), to help start a project on the captive breeding of this endangered species.

The Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Shri Kamal Nath, who is on a three day visit to Finland, presented a scroll as a token of the gift to the Lord Mayor of Helsinki, Mr. Rah Kamo at an impressive function at the Helsinki Zoo, yesterday. The Minister also presented some books on Indian wildlife to the zoo authorities.

One lion, Vijay and two lionesses, Kirtida and Leslie, bred in the Junagarh zoo, will arrive in Finland later. The Helsinki zoo already has a proven track record in the captive breeding of large cats, having played a pioneering role in the effort to save the snow leopard, another endangered species also found in the Ladakh region of India.

During his visit, Shri Kamal Nath will be holding wide ranging discussions on bilateral cooperation on forestry matters with the Finnish Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, Mr. Martti Pura. Multilateral and global environmental issues are likely to figure in a meeting with the Finnish Minister for Environment, Ms Sirpa Pietikainen. Shri Kamal Nath will also hold talks with the Minister for Foreign Trade of Finland, Mr. Pertti Salolainen, who earlier this year had visited India.

Shri Kamal Nath will also be outlining the measures taken for conservation of the Environment and Rehabilitation of displaced persons of the Narmada Sagar project. The Minister will be visiting Savonlinna to study forest management techniques.

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NLAND INDIA USA

**Date :** Aug 31, 1992

## Volume No

1995

GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL (GPC)

Trade Between India and The Gulf to be Stepped up Joint Ventures Identified as An Area of Cooperation

The following is the text of press Release issued in New Delhi on Aug 13, 1992:

Dr. Abdullah Bishara, Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), called on Shri P. J. Kurien, Minister of State for Commerce, here last evening and exchanged views on promotion of trade between India and GCC countries. It was decided that trade relations should be further strengthened to be commensurate with the strong political relations that exist between India Gulf countries. It was agreed that a modus operandi should be devised to step up the trade between India and GCC countries. Prof. Kurien while explaining the liberalised economic, fiscal and trade policies of India, expressed the hope that Gulf countries would take advantage of these policies and make large investments in India. Joint ventures were identified as a major area of co-operation. It was agreed that GCC's surplus capital and energy and India's technological strength can be combined for mutual advantage. The GCC comprises 6 countries viz, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE and Oman.

It was also agreed that there should be exchange of businessmen between India and GCC countries and that there should be regular meetings between GCC Chamber of Commerce and the Indian Chamber of Commerce. It was proposed that more exhibitions should be held by India in the Gulf region. Shri G. P. Rao, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, was also present.

Mr. Bishara assured Prof. Kurien about resumption and revival of purchase of basmati rice by GCC. While Indian exports to GCC constitute 2% of imports by GCC, 3.7% of exports from GCC are made to India. India has an adverse balance of trade with GCC, with its exports at Rs. 3218 crores and imports at Rs. 8786 crores during 1991-92.

DIA USA KUWAIT BAHRAIN OMAN QATAR UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

**Date :** Aug 13, 1992

## Volume No

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1995

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GERMANY

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Festival of India in Germany Concludes

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The following is the text of Press Release issued in New Delhi on Aug 13, 1992:

The Festival of India in Germany, which concluded recently, has been rated a great success by the organisers, the House of World Cultures, Berlin. The objective of making the German people conscious and aware of India and her culture was achieved judging by the popularity of the Festival events even when Germany was passing through a critical stage in its history.

The Festival was the first of its kind in Germany's bilateral cultural exchange programmes. It created in Germany an interest in India. About 8,50,000 Germans visited over 1000 Festival of India events held at 85 locations. About a third of the events were organised by the German Indian Societies which recorded a 50% increase in membership during the Festival. Two new Indo-German Societies were formed in Dresden and Rostock. The Society in Darmstadt is planning to set up an institute to further cultural links with India. The Government of India tourist office in Frankfurt has reported a 20% increase in tourist traffic to India with the office in Frankfurt has reported a 20% increase in its going up even further.

More than 400 Indian artists, scientists and authors visited Germany during the Festival which opened on September 7, 1991 and ended on June 28, 1992. Exhibitions, seminars, retrospective of 48 Indian films and 390 concerts of Indian classical, traditional and folk music and dance were the features of the Festival. A German production of Gihish Karnad's 'Nagamandala' directed by Vijaya Mehta was staged.

One of the important achievements of the Festival has been establishment of contacts with local units all over Germany following efforts by the House of World Cultures, Berlin and the Indian Embassy in Bonn. This became necessary because of decentralised structure in Germany where states, cities and local communities decide what they wish to do in cultural field.

GERMANY INDIA USA

**Date :** Aug 13, 1992

## Volume No

1995

JAPAN

50 Million Yen Japanese Aid to India

The following is the text of Press Release issued in New Delhi on Aug 27, 1992:

Japan will extend to India cultural grant assistance of Yen 50 million. Notes to this effect were exchanged here this morning between Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Secretary, Economic Affairs and Mr. Shunji Kobayashi, Japanese Ambassador to India.

The grant aid is to be used for import of a Planetarium instrument system for Astronomy and Space Science Education Centre at Burdwan University, West Bengal. The Government of Japan provides Cultural Grant Aid upto Yen 50 million each year to India. Last year, Cultural Grant Aid of Yen 45 million was given to Jawaharlal Nehru University, which was utilised for import of Japanese language software.

PAN INDIA USA

**Date :** Aug 27, 1992

## Volume No

1995

MALAYSIA

Malaysian Trade Delegation Calls on Shri Kamaluddin Ahmed

The following is the text of Press Release issued in New Delhi on Aug 13, 1992:

A trade delegation from Malaysia led by Mr. Dato Sere Lim Keng, Minister of Primary Industries of Malaysia called on the Minister of State for Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, Shri Kamaluddin Ahmed, here today.

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During the meeting both the side discussed various matters of mutual interest including the import of palmolin from Malaysia. Both the side expressed satisfaction on ongoing cooperation and hoped that it would be strengthen for mutual benefit of both the countries in future.

LAYSIA INDIA USA

**Date :** Aug 13, 1992

## Volume No

1995

MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique Seeks India's Cooperation in Transport Sector

The following is the text of Press Release issued in New Delhi on Aug 26, 1992:

The Minister of State for Surface Transport, Shri Jagdish Tytler, discussed areas of bilateral interest with visiting Foreign Minister of Mozambique, H.E. Dr. Pascal Manuel Mocumbi, here today. Dr. Mocumbi evinced keen interest especially in construction of bridges and roads damaged by 15 years civil war in his country. The two Ministers ex-changed views on the mutual cooperation in the fields of ship-building and ship repairs, development of ports and waterways. Dr. Mocumbi said that Indian experts and business firms in Mozambique are making a major contribution in his country's economy.

Shri Tytler assured that India would be happy to extend her help in any area that Mozambique required to rebuild its economy. He said India is also ready to build ships upto 90,000 tonnes for Mozambique. He said, the Mozambiquen manpower can also be trained in India in the repair of ships. Shri Tytler told the visiting delegation that India conducts training courses in maritime, port management and highway engineering technology and welcomed officers from Mozambique to benefit from such programmes.

Shri Tytler said he has invited Mozambique Minister for Construction and Water Works to discuss further issues of bilateral interest in the field of construction of roads and bridges and development of waterways.

The Transport Secretary, Shri P. M. Abraham and Shri R. P. Sikka, Additional Director General (Roads) also participated in the

discussions.

ZAMBIQUE INDIA USA

**Date :** Aug 26, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting between Bangladesh Minister of Commerce Mr. M. K. Anwar and Minister of State for External Affairs Shri R. L. Bhatia

The following is text of statement issued by Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 04, 1992 on the meeting between Minister of Commerce of Bangladesh, Mr. M. K. Anwar, and the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. R. L. Bhatia:

In response to a query as to what topics were discussed during the meeting  
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between the Bangladesh Minister of Commerce and the Indian Minister of State for External Affairs, the Spokesman stated that the Minister of Commerce of Bangladesh, Mr. M. K. Anwar, had a meeting with the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. R. L. Bhatia. The Bangladeshi Minister expressed deep appreciation of the Government of Bangladesh for resolving the long standing issue of Tin Bigha. He said that this resolution had created a favourable climate for the further development of our bilateral relationship.

The two Ministers touched upon other issues in the course of their discussions, such as river water sharing, the repatriation of Chakma refugees and border trade and transit facilities for Indian goods to Bangladesh territories. These matters will be discussed in further detail when the Bangladesh Finance Minister comes to India, as we expect, in the early next month; and also during the possible visit of Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. R. L. Bhatia's visit to Dhaka, during October this year.

The expected visits of Bangladesh Finance Minister to India, and the Indian Minister of State for External Affairs visit to Dhaka, are in conformity with the decision taken during Bangladesh Prime, Minister, Begum Khaleda Zia's visit to India, to increase

the exchange of high level visits.

NGLADESH INDIA USA PERU

**Date :** Aug 04, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting between the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Russia Mr.R. Khasbulatov, and Minister of State for External Affairs ShriR. L. Bhatia

The following is text of statement issued by Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Aug 04, 1992 on the meeting between the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Russia Mr. R. Khasbulatov, and the Indian Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. R. L. Bhatia:

The Spokesman, while briefing newsmen, stated that the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Russia, Mr. R. Khasbulatov had discussions this afternoon with the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. R. L. Bhatia. Mr. Khasbulatov was accompanied by the Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. K. Pastukhov. The Indian Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. R. L. Bhatia, was assisted by Mr. Nalin Surie, Joint Secretary, Incharge of East Europe.

The visiting Chairman underlined the fact that India and Russia were natural and very serious partners. It was most significant that the cooperation between India and Russia, which were two friendly relations could extent from the parliamentary sphere, which he hoped to discuss in great detail, to cooperation in the economic and defence spheres. He said that India and Russia had every reason to be proud of their collective experience of the last four decades. He said that it was the duty of the leadership on both sides to strengthen and develop this positive experience in order to enrich it. There was no need to be deflected by random statements and opinions, which might be expressed in Russia and which were contrary to this firm belief. Nobody had any right to subject this accumulated wealth of experience in the bilateral relationship to fresh scrutiny, or to hinder the development of our joint heritage.

Welcoming the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Russia, the Indian Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. R. L. Bhatia, said that this visit came at a time where the world arena and the

Indian economic scene were both undergoing great changes. He expressed confidence that the Chairman's visit would cement relation's between the two countries. The Minister said that India's resilient, multi-party democracy which functioned in a multi-religious and multi-lingual framework, where the supremacy of Parliament is a para  
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mount principle, was facing some difficulties, which the Government was confident, would soon be overcome.

The Russian Chairman of the Supreme Soviet said that he shared the Minister's opinion, and said that the history of the last four decades had shown, that India had successfully surmounted various crisis, and that the decision that India had taken several years ago, to allow an equal share to the public and private sectors, was a right one, and one from which Russia had much to learn.

The Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Russia and the Indian Minister of State for External Affairs discussed, in considerable detail, the role of the Supreme Soviet, in the ushering in of wide ranging reforms in Russia's political and legal institutional structure.

SSIA USA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

**Date :** Aug 04, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting Between Minister for External Affairs of Mauritius and Minister of State for External Affairs Mr. Eduardo Faleiro

The following is text of statement issued by Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Aug 05, 1992 on the meeting between the External Affairs Minister of Mauritius, Mr. Paul Raymond Berenger, and Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that the External Affairs Minister of Mauritius, Mr. Paul Raymond Berenger, called on the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, today. The two Ministers had a discussion on the state of our bilateral relations and reviewed the progress that has

been made in problems of trade and commercial cooperations. The question of Air and Shipping services between the two countries was discussed with the specific objective of examining the possibilities of expanding these services. These issues will be discussed in further detail at the delegation level talks, scheduled for tomorrow, i.e. 6th August, where the focus is expected to be on matters of common concern, specially with regard to international situation, regional developments and issues of multilateral concern.

The Mauritius Foreign Minister recalled the visit of Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, to Mauritius in March this year, and said that, that visit was regarded with great significance by both the Government and the people of Mauritius. He assured the Indian Minister that during his tenure as Foreign Minister, it would be his endeavour to raise the level of our bilateral relationship to new heights.

MAURITIUS USA INDIA

**Date :** Aug 05, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting between External Affairs Minister of Mauritius and Minister of State for External Affairs Mr. Eduardo Faleiro

The following is text of statement issued by Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Aug 06, 1992 on the meeting between External Affairs Minister of Mauritius Mr. Paul Raymond Berenger, and Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro:

The Spokesman, while briefing newsmen, stated that the External Affairs Minister of Mauritius, Mr. Paul Raymond Berenger, has had discussions with Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, along with their respective delegations. They covered a wide range of topics including the situation in India's neighbourhood. Minister of State briefed the visiting Foreign Minister of India's developing relations with the Commonwealth of Independent States. They also discussed the Middle-East Peace Process, South Africa and Disarmament.

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On Disarmament, Minister of State underlined that India believes

that nuclear proliferation constitutes a common threat to mankind. And, while not adhering to the NPT because of its discriminatory nature, India has scrupulously avoided any action which could further proliferation. Minister of State reiterated India's stand that we require an integrated global approach since nuclear weapons transcend geographical regions or sub-regions.

The two Ministers also discussed the Non-Aligned Movement in the context of the forthcoming Summit. They agreed that the philosophy of the Non-Aligned Movement is as relevant as ever and its underlying tenets remained unchanged.

On the economic side, it was noted that the recent visit of the Deputy Minister of Commerce of India, Mr. Salman Khursheed to Mauritius, helped in putting into operation the Rs. 20 crores Revolving Fund, which Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, had announced during his visit to Mauritius in March this year. The Bank of Baroda will be operating this Fund in Mauritius to assist Indian entrepreneurs for equity participation in joint ventures in Mauritius, and also as a facility for the joint ventures for import of capital goods from India or from third countries. The Ministers noted that the Mauritius Export Development and Investment Authority (MEDIA) has opened its office in Bombay, and we are looking forward to participating in the Indian Trade Exhibition planned for later this year in Mauritius. We are now exporting, in 1991-92, Rs 130 crores worth of goods to Mauritius.

On Science & Technology, the visiting Minister expressed satisfaction that the Joint Radio Telescope project is scheduled to become functional in Mauritius either next month or in October. Our space activities make good use of the Satellite Tracking Station in Mauritius. India also offered to make available our experience for Mauritius in the field of Oceanography.

The Indian Minister said that he was gratified to note that the Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture (IGCIC) for Indian culture has commenced its activities.

MAURITIUS USA INDIA SOUTH AFRICA

**Date :** Aug 06, 1992

**Volume No**

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

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Smt. Aruna Asaf Ali gets Jawahar Lal Nehru Award for International Understanding for Year 1991

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The following is text of statement issued by Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Aug 07, 1992 on the conferring of Jawaharlal Nehru Award for the International Understanding for the year 1991 on Smt. Aruna Asaf Ali:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that after careful consideration of the numerous nominations received from all over the world, the jury for the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding has decided that the Award for the year 1991 be given to Smt. Aruna Asaf Ali. The Award carries a Citation and an amount of Rs. 15 lakhs in cash. An independent jury meets to make the selection each year. The jury consists of seven eminent Indians and is chaired by the Vice President of India. In the case of Smt. Aruna Asaf Ali, the members of the jury were Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, President of India; Shri Justice M. H. Kania, Chief Justice of India; Justice (Smt) Leila Seth, Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court; Shri P. N. Haksar, Shri N. G. Goray, Shri Nikhil Chakravarty, Prof. M. S. Agwani, Vice Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Smt. Veena Sikri, Director General, ICCR.

The Award was instituted after the death of Pandit Nehru in May 1964 by the Government of India for the promotion of International Understanding, Goodwill and Friendship among peoples of the world. Smt. Aruna Asaf Ali has played a major role on the international scene in post  
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independent India in developing people to people contacts, in promoting understanding among peoples, which is the very basis of international understanding and friendship. She was a member of the Indian delegation led by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan to the UNESCO session in Mexico in 1948. She has been one of the leading members of the Indo-Soviet Cultural Society. She has held high offices in the Afro-Asian Solidarity Movement and in the All India Peace Council. She was the President of the National Federation of Indian Women.

Presently, she is Chief Patron of the National Federation of Indian Women. She is one of the founder Chairpersons of the Link news magazine and the Delhi newspaper 'Patriot'. She is the winner of Lenin Peace Prize for 1965; the Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration in 1987 and the Padma Vibhushan Award in 1992.

By conferring the 1991 Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding on Smt. Aruna Asaf Ali.

**Date :** Aug 07, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Secretary General of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Dr. Abdullah Bishara to India

The following is text of statement issued by Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Aug 11, 1992 on visit of Secretary General of Gulf Cooperation Council Dr. Abdullah Bishara to India:

The Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Dr. Abdullah Bishara is on an official visit to India starting from today till the 15th of August '92. The GCC was set up in 1981 and comprises six States: Saudi Arabia (the Headquarters are Riyadh), Bahrain, Kuwait, UAE, Oman and Qattar. The combined population of the six States is 20 million, with a GDP of 134 billion dollars. The per capita income is over 7,000 dollars. Geographically, this is an area larger than West Europe. In this strategic geographical area, estimated oil reserves are 370 billion barrels and 15% of the world's known natural gas reserves. Total imports of the GCC are 40 billion dollars per year. Oil production is 12 million barrels per day (average last year). Dr. Bishara, formerly a Kuwait diplomat, has a three-year term and has been Secretary General since its inception. This is the first high-level visit by the GCC to India and adds a new dimension to India's friendly relations with the Gulf States. It is our hope that it will introduce a regular dialogue between ourselves and the GCC. Contacts between us and them are expected to be fruitful, since the aim of the GCC is to achieve cooperation and integration between its member-States in economic, financial, commerce, cultural and social affairs. Closer relations between ourselves and the GCC will, in turn, strengthen our links with each of the individual member-States of the GCC.

DIA USA SAUDI ARABIA BAHRAIN KUWAIT OMAN UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

**Date :** Aug 11, 1992

## Volume No

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

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Guidelines and Procedures for Granting Recognition to Regional Apex Bodies of SAARC

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The following is text of statement issued by Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Aug 11, 1992 on meeting of Council of Ministers of SAARC held in Colombo:

Briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that at the XI-Session of the Council of Ministers of SAARC, which recently concluded in Colombo, several guidelines and procedures for granting recognition to Regional Apex Bodies were approved by the Ministerial Council. It was agreed that while approving these guidelines and procedures, that member States should give due publicity at the national level, to them,

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so as to ensure that unauthorised entities do not use the SAARC logo. Only those who qualify for these criteria will be permitted to use the SAARC logo. They also agreed to review biennially the progress achieved by Regional Apex Organisations and see how far such organisations are promoting the SAARC ideals and principles of the SAARC Charter etc.

(Guidelines sheet enclosed)

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE CONTACT IN SAARC COUNTRIES

55. The Sixth SAARC Summit called upon the Standing Committee to expedite the formulation of guidelines for extending recognition to such groups and bodies as business organisations/professional bodies, scholars, academics, national cultural councils, and other such organisations.

The Committee recommended the following:

a) that the guidelines indicated below be adopted by the Council of Ministers:

i) the organisation seeking recognition shall consist exclusively of nationals of member countries and be based in the region. It should be a regional apex body with a minimum of four constituent units at the national level. These units should be of recognised national standing and be endorsed by the Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs of the Governments of their respective countries;

ii) the organisation should be non-political and secular in character;

iii) the organisation shall be concerned with matters relevant to the process of promoting social, economic and cultural development of the region as envisaged in the SAARC Charter;

iv) the aims and purposes of the organisation shall be in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the SAARC Charter;

v) the organisation shall undertake to support the work of SAARC and to promote knowledge of its principles and activities;

vi) the organisation shall have an established Headquarters with an Executive Officer. It shall have a constitution or similar constituent instrument, a copy of which shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of SAARC;

b) that the procedures for recognition indicated below be adopted:

i) The organisation shall submit an application for recognition to the Secretary-General through the Ministry of Foreign/External Affairs of the country in which the headquarters of the organization is located. Such an application should be supported by the constitution or similar constituent instrument of the organisation. The Secretary-General shall circulate the same to all member states together with his recommendations whether the criteria set out in the guidelines have been met;

ii) The Committee after consideration of the applications shall take decisions thereon and report these decisions to the next meeting of the Council of Ministers for its information.

56. Once recognition is accorded to the organisation, it would be authorised to use the SAARC nomenclature and the logo. They may be permitted to present oral or written representations at appropriate levels of SAARC, upon prior arrangement with the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the meeting concerned.

57. Recognition shall be accorded only to one apex organisation, in respect of each profession/discipline or activity.

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58. The Committee shall review biennially the progress achieved by the regional apex organisations in promoting the ideals of the SAARC Charter, and shall make appropriate recommendations to the Council, including the question of continued recognition in respect of a particular organisation.

DIA SRI LANKA USA

**Date** : Aug 11, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Secretary (East) Mr. L. L. Mehrotra to Nicosia

The following is text of Statement issued by Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Aug 13, 1992 on the visit of Shri Lakhan Mehrotra, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs, and Special Envoy of the Prime Minister for Africa Fund, to Nigeria:

Shri Lakhan Mehrotra, Secretary (East), who is currently touring Africa, as Special Envoy of Prime Minister for Africa Fund, has had meetings with the Nigerian Foreign Minister Mr. Nwachukwu, Director General of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Olu Adeniji and other senior officials in the Foreign Office. In these meetings, bilateral and international matters came up for discussions. Both sides felt that NAM had developed a new thrust in entirely changed circumstances and that it had to place the greatest emphasis on South-South cooperation. In this context, both sides noted that bilateral relations between India Nigeria, have progressed satisfactorily. It was noted that Nigeria is the largest trading partner for India in Africa, with bilateral trade exceeding US \$ 125 million dollar in 1991-92. Both sides felt that as members of UN, NAM, Commonwealth and G-77, and as they both also subscribed to the principles of secularism in multi-ethnic and multireligious societies, there were vast areas for cooperation and collaboration.

PRUS INDIA NIGER NIGERIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

**Date :** Aug 13, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting of Secretary General of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)Dr. Abdullah Bishara with Various Indian Leaders

The following is the text of statement of Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Aug 13, 1992 on the meeting of the Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Dr. Abdullah Bishara, with various Indian leaders:

The Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Dr. Abdullah Bishara has had a series of meetings in the last two days. Yesterday, he met Minister of State Shri R. L. Bhatia and discussed regional developments in South East and West Asia. It was felt that India under GCC should construct a permanent, consolidated, well-established and strongly founded framework of relations based on principles and shared history. The Secretary General expressed the view that Iraq must comply with the UN Resolutions and sought India's help to achieve this objective. He also sought our support and understanding on building an international consensus to accept the report of the Boundary Commission. The Secretary General expressed the view that the Non-aligned Movement must reaffirm the sovereignty and integrity of Kuwait. He also expressed the hope that in the coming years, the Non-aligned Movement will concentrate on economic development and management, disarmament and narcotics control. He assured our Minister that the GCC would encourage contact between Chambers of Commerce in India and the member-countries of the GCC. He said the GCC will also encourage exchange of media personnel and promote a regular dialogue with India at a multi-dimensional level.

Dr. Bishara also had a luncheon meeting with Dr. (Mrs.) Najma Heptullah and had an opportunity to meet a large number  
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of Ministers, Members of Parliament of all parties, Government officials and Arab diplomats.

Then Dr. Bishara met Prof. P. J. Kurien, Minister of State for Industry and Commerce and later in the afternoon, he met Shri K. Shankaranand, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas. These meetings acquire special significance in the light of the fact that the oil trade is the mainstay of bilateral economic activity. They talked about the possibility of GCC investments in India in downstream and upstream petroleum projects.

Today, Dr. Bishara had a meeting with the Finance Minister. He expressed a keen interest in strengthening economic relations between the GCC and ourselves. Dr. Bishara expressed the view that the Private Sector was the best means for the purpose. The Finance Minister explained the details of the steps taken towards globalisation of the Indian economy. He and Dr. Bishara discussed in depth the implications of the new economic policy. Dr. Bishara expressed particular interest in the convertibility of the rupee and assured the Finance Minister that he and his colleagues would take steps to give adequate publicity to India's economic

policies and to project the idea that the recent economic liberalisation made India an attractive partner for joint ventures and investments from GCC.

Dr. Bishara is speaking to FICCI at a dinner in his honour tonight. It will be a working dinner, in which the two sides are expected to discuss active measures to bring their private sectors together. In particular, the question of Indian entrepreneurs' participating in trade exhibitions in the GCC countries and the formation of an Indo-GCC Business Council are likely to come up for discussion.

Dr. Bishara is meeting the Prime Minister later today.

DIA USA IRAQ KUWAIT TURKEY

**Date :** Aug 13, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Drought Relief Assistance by India to Namibia

The following is text of statement issued by Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Aug 13, 1992 on the drought relief assistance by India to Namibia:

At a ceremony organised in the Ministry of Health and Social Services of Namibia, our High Commissioner Mr. Shiv Mukherjee gave two and a half tons of drought relief goods to Dr. Nicky Iyambo, Minister for Health and Social Services. The Minister said that India was a tried and tested friend of long standing, and that India's commitment to the struggle for Namibia's independence had, perhaps, been ahead of all others in the world, and this donation demonstrated India's continuing commitment towards helping its brothers and sisters in Namibia. The Minister thanked the High Commissioner for India's prompt and timely response. The goods donated included milk powder, baby food, medicines, oral rehydration tablets biscuits and water purification tablets.

DIA NAMIBIA UNITED KINGDOM

**Date :** Aug 13, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Developments in Kabul

The following is text of statement issued by Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Aug 14, 1992 on developments in Kabul:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that India view with deep anguish the outbreak of large-scale and intensive fighting within Afghanistan. The conflict has already resulted in extensive loss of life and property. We earnestly hope that the people of Afghanistan will resolve their differences through peaceful means  
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without any external interference of any kind.

In this situation, w are naturally concerned for the safety and welfare of the personnel of the Indian Mission and Indian nationals in Kabul. The Government of Afghanistan has assured us repeatedly in this regard. We expect that all concerned Afghan groups will duly respect international conventions and ensure safety and security of our Embassy personnel and nationals in Afghanistan.

GHANISTAN INDIA USA

**Date :** Aug 14, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting Between the Special Envoy of Col. Gaddafi, Mr. OmarMustafa Muntasser, and Minister of State for External Affairs,Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, and the Special Envoy's Call on the PrimeMinister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao

The following is text of statement issued in New Delhi on Aug 14, 1992 by Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs on the meeting between the Special Envoy of Col Gaddafi, Mr. Omar

Mustafa Muntasser, and Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, and the Special Envoy's call on the Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao:

The Spokesman, while briefing newsmen, stated that Mr. Omar Mustafa Muntasser, Minister for Economic Planning, and Special Envoy of Col. Gaddafi, called on the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, today. He said that Libya was against terrorism; and that Libya had proposed that UN Security Council should set up a Commission to define terrorism. He also said that accusations regarding the existence of training camps in Libya were unfounded; as such camps which existed for the purpose of liberation movements have closed down long ago.

On the Lockerbie issue, he said that Libya had informed the UN as well as the Arab League that it was prepared to hand over the suspects for a fair trial in any country other than USA, UK and France.

Responding to the Special Envoy's request for India's assistance to resolve this issue, Minister of State said that India had made efforts to ensure objective and fair decisions by the UN Security Council. He reiterated India's commitment and determination to continue to play a balanced role. He also expressed the hope that Libya would cooperate with the UN.

The Spokesman said that earlier in the morning the Special Envoy had called on the Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao. The Special Envoy conveyed to the Prime Minister, on behalf of the Government and people of Libya, their appreciation for what India had done regarding the recent problems being faced by his country, in the Security Council. While conveying the best wishes of the Libyan Government, he informed the Prime Minister that Libya was determined to fight terrorism, and to restore its relations with the United States. He also informed the Prime Minister that Libya was willing to hand over the Lockerbie suspects to the UN or to the Arab League or to any other country with the exception of the US, the UK and France. With this objective in view, Libya has invited the UN Secretary General to send a team for an inspection so that it would satisfy itself that Libya was not in any way assisting terrorism. Nevertheless, the Security Council had extended sanctions for another four months. The Special Envoy expressed the hope that India would help to see that justice was done.

The Prime Minister assured the Special Envoy that India has invariably adopted a principled stand on the matter. India's approach to the problem would continue to be based on these principles. The Prime Minister observed that there was little to be gained from the policy of confrontation. He said that all parties to the dispute

should work together for the solution taking into account each other's concerns. Prime Minister said that he was glad to learn of Libya's expression of its firm opposition to terrorism and of its determination to see that the guilty would be punished. In view of this clear enunciation of Libya's position, Prime Minister felt that there were only procedural problems that remained to be resolved. Prime Minister said that he was conscious of the fact that this might take a little time.

A INDIA LIBYA UNITED KINGDOM FRANCE

**Date :** Aug 14, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Speaker of House of Representatives of Japan and President of Indo-Japanese Association to India

The following is text of statement issued in New Delhi by Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Aug 07, 1992 regarding Speaker of the House of Representatives of Japan and President of Indo-Japanese Association, Mr. Yoshio Sakurachi's call on Mr. Shivraj Patil, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao and Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that Mr. Yoshio Sakurachi Speaker of the House of Representatives of Japan and President of the Indo-Japanese Association called on the Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha, Mr. Shivraj Patil, this morning. He also called on the Prime Minister, the Finance Minister.

Both Speakers agreed that there was a great significance attached to the exchange of Parliamentarians between the two countries, and that this would contribute to the development of mutual understanding and friendship.

Speaker Sakurachi spoke of the significance of South Asia, of which India is the centre, in the post cold war international situation.

With the Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, and the Finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Speaker Sakurachi, who is also the President of the Indo-Japanese Association, spoke about the economic reforms that the Indian Government has launched. Prime

Minister said that all reform processes tended to take time, and that in India, these processes have taken firm root. He acknowledged that there were small problems, but, assured Speaker Sakurachi that there were no major problems acting as impediments to the implementation of the reform processes.

Speaker Sakurachi's visit comes in the context of the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations with Japan and the 90th Anniversary of the establishment of Indo-Japanese Association.

PAN USA INDIA

**Date :** Aug 07, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Indo-Pak Secretary Level Talks

The following is text of statement issued by Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Aug 07, 1992 on the first day of the sixth round of Foreign Secretary level discussions between India and Pakistan, in New Delhi and Pakistan Foreign Secretary, Mr. Shahryar Khan's call on Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao:

The Spokesman, while briefing newsmen, stated that the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, Mr. Shahryar Khan, called on the Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, this morning. He had earlier called on the Foreign Secretary, Mr. J. N. Dixit. Thereafter, the two delegations had their first round of discussions.

The Spokesman said that the Pakistan Foreign Secretary, during his call on the Prime Minister, handed over a letter to him from the Pakistan Prime Minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif. One of the principle points

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made in the Pakistan Prime Minister's letter was to suggest that talks between India and Pakistan, on Jammu & Kashmir, should be resumed under Article Six of the Simla Agreement. Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao indicated that the suggestion would be considered, and that an appropriate response will be conveyed.

During the delegation level talks, the Indian side conveyed that

in the first place, discussions under the aegis of the Simla Agreement implied an exclusive commitment to bilateralism, and equally a commitment to eschewing efforts to inter-nationalise questions of bilateral interest. The Indian side also conveyed that it was not possible to isolate individual articles of the Simla Agreement, and that the Agreement had to be reviewed in its totality, as being a document which has its objective, the creation of the necessary atmosphere, in which problems could be discussed and issues tackled.

The Pakistan Foreign Secretary, during his call on the Prime Minister, and also during the delegation level talks, underlined that Pakistan's commitment to the Simla Agreement did not mean any dilution of its adherence to UN Resolutions. He said that while Pakistan would abide by the Simla Agreement, it did not mean that it would not invoke UN Resolutions. He asserted that the two (UN Resolutions on the one hand and Simla Agreement on the other) were not mutually exclusive. This clarification must be seen in the light of certain agency reports which have tended to over-interpret the remarks of the Pakistan Foreign Secretary, made at the airport yesterday. What the Pakistan Foreign Secretary said was conveyed in measured terms. He said that the Simla Agreement provided a framework for the mechanics of a dialogue with India. It is important to clarify this, so that there is no misunderstanding later, and no unnecessary accusations later of anyone having misinterpreted such sensitive issues. In view of this clarification offered by the Pakistan Foreign Secretary, it is all the more important, that the letter from the Pakistan Prime Minister be seen in its appropriate context, in order to ascertain if purposive discussions can be held, in order to resolve this matter.

Having said all this, the Spokesman said that it is again underlined, that Prime Minister, Mr. U. V. Narasimha Rao, has said that we would consider the ideas contained in Prime Minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif's letter, and would convey our response as to how this issue can be discussed.

During the delegation level talks, all other bilateral matters came up for initial discussion, like Sir Creek border issue, Tulbul, confidence building measures and other pending issues.

The Pakistan Foreign Secretary will call on the President, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, tomorrow, and there will be another round of official Foreign Secretary level talks tomorrow.

The Pakistan Foreign Secretary also called on Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. R. L. Bhatia.

Responding to a query as to whether it is true that after the signing of the Simla Agreement there has been no exclusive discussion between the two countries for the last 20 years to

resolve the matter of Jammu & Kashmir as is mentioned in Article Six of the Simla Agreement, the Spokesman said that it is true that there has been no exclusive discussion.

Replying to another question as to whether Article six of the Simla Agreement creates any problem in resolving the issue and what objection India has on this Article, the Spokesman clarified that there is no problem about abiding by any of the articles of the Agreement. But, what we have said is that we have to abide by them all. We have no objection to it; it is an initial response, it is an initial observation on a suggestion that has been made.  
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Replying to repeated queries as to why India was not responding and not discussing the issue as per Article Six of the Simla Agreement as has been proposed by the Pakistan Foreign Secretary, the Spokesman said that we believe there is no possibility of isolating one article from the other, and that the Simla Agreement should be viewed in its totality.

DIA PAKISTAN USA

**Date** : Aug 07, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Visit of Uzbekistan Parliamentary Delegation to India

The following is the text of statement issued by Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Aug 18, 1992 on the call by Uzbekistan Parliamentary Delegation, led by Mr. Shafqat Uldashev, on the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. R. L. Bhatia:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that the visiting Parliamentary delegation from Uzbekistan, led by the President of the Supreme Council, Mr. Shafaqat Yuldashev accompanied by his delegation, called on the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. R. L. Bhatia. The Uzbek leader said that Uzbekistan was deeply appreciative of the training facilities being offered to Uzbek trainees in the wide range of fields including diplomats of their Foreign Service.

Minister of State said that the number of diplomats India is presently training could be increased. He said that the Head of

our Economic Division, Mr. P. S. Haer, which handles India's ITEC programme, would be visiting Uzbekistan next month to explore ways of increasing opportunities for the training of Uzbeks.

The Uzbek Parliamentary delegation leader thanked India for being one of the first few countries to have recognised a sovereign independent Uzbekistan.

Minister of State highlighting the age old traditional ties and affinity, said that he was of the opinion that India and Uzbekistan could play a constructive role in the Comity of Nations in matters concerning world peace.

The Uzbek leader later called on the President, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, and is scheduled to call on the Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao.

BEKISTAN INDIA

**Date :** Aug 18, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Indo-Pak Secretary Level Talks

The following is the text of statement issued by Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Aug 18, 1992 on Indo-Pak Foreign Secretary Level Talks, held in New Delhi:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that the Indian and the Pakistan Foreign Secretaries, along with their respective delegations, had a further round of talks today. The two delegations discussed draft Meroranda of Understanding on Chemical Weapons and on a Code of Conduct for the treatment of diplomats in both countries. The two Foreign Secretaries also reviewed the progress that has been achieved on separate discussions that have been held recently, on other bilateral issues such as the Tulbul Navigation Project and the delimitation of the Sir Creek maritime boundary. In the context of the forthcoming SAARC Summit, the two delegations exchanged views on various matters relating to SAARC, and discussed the possibilities of increasing cooperation within that framework. Likewise, in the context of the Summit at Jakarta next month, a number of issues of concern to the Nonaligned Movement came up

for discussion. They also had a wide ranging exchange of views on regional developments including the situation in Afghanistan and -264>

in the Central Asian Republics. The last round of discussions is scheduled for tomorrow, when it is expected that agreements on the matters currently under negotiations will be finalised.

Responding to a question as to whether India expressed any views on the activities of Hekmatyar who is known to be a creation of the ISI, the Spokesman said that the discussions on Afghanistan were extremely frank and useful, and they indicated that Pakistan is equally concerned about the kind of violence that can be generated by extremist elements. Our discussions with the Pakistani delegation revealed a convergence of views on the need to preserve the territorial integrity of Afghanistan and its character as a sovereign and independent State.

Replying to a further question, the Spokesman stated that the two delegations expressed anxiety about the manner in which extremist elements and their activities can perpetrate and encourage violence.

Responding to repeated questions on Afghanistan, the Spokesman clarified that the deleterious effects and the adverse consequences of violence sponsored by extremist elements was a cause for concern to both countries.

Responding to another query as to whether the question of Pakistan's involvement in terrorist activities on Indian soil was discussed during the talks, the Spokesman said that it is obvious that a matter which is of such vital concern to this country and which effects peace, law and order in two of our States would inevitably have come up in our discussions with the Pakistani delegation.

While replying to another question as to whether the discussions were deadlocked, the Spokesman denied categorically that the word 'deadlock' can be applied for the very cordial, friendly and useful discussions that have taken place over the last two days. It would be highly inaccurate to use this word.

DIA PAKISTAN USA INDONESIA AFGHANISTAN

**Date** : Aug 18, 1992

**Volume No**

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Visit of Secretary (East) Mr. L. L. Mehrotra to Ghana

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The following is text of statement issued by Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Aug 18, 1992 on the visit of Mr. L. L. Mehrotra, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs and Special Envoy of of the Prime Minister for Africa Fund to Ghana:

The Spokesman, while briefing newsmen, stated that the Special Envoy of the Prime Minister for Africa Fund, Mr. L. L. Mehrotra, has returned from Accra, where he met President Rawlings, Prime Minister Obeng and Foreign Minister, Dr. Abed Assamoah. The Ghanaian leadership expressed their deep appreciation to the Prime Minister of India for having arranged for these consultations on the eve of the Non-Aligned Summit in Jakarta, and expressed the hope that India, and Prime Minister personally, would continue to play a leadership role in the Movement. They endorsed Prime Minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao's suggestion that certain countries in the Non-Aligned Movement should establish what could be termed as model of relations between them. They expressed the firm belief that India and Ghana could establish such a model relationship.

Bilaterally, the Ghanaian leaders expressed to the Special Envoy their desire for cooperation in the field of transport, water resource development, mining, telecommunications and human resource development. They expressed their deep appreciation for a large number of Ghanaian professionals and armed forces personnel, who are receiving training in India.

The Ghanaian Foreign Minister said that his country was particularly looking forward to the visit of India's Deputy

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Minister of Commerce for the first ever meeting of the Joint Trade Committee between India and Ghana, and said that the Ghanaian leadership hoped that this meeting would mark a breakthrough in our economic and commercial relations. They said that they were particularly happy that Deputy Minister, Mr. Salman Khurshid, would be accompanied by leading industrialists and businessmen from India.

ANA INDIA INDONESIA USA

**Date :** Aug 18, 1992

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

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Indo-Pak Secretary Level Talks

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The following is text of statement issued by Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, on Aug 19, 1992 on the Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan in New Delhi:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that the two sides (India and Pakistan) have signed a Joint Declaration on the Complete Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Code of Conduct for Treatment of Diplomatic /Consular Personnel in the two countries. The two delegations also reached an agreement on the schedule of timings for special meetings between them.

Both the signing of the agreements and the decision to indicate firm dates on which specific meetings have been scheduled to deal with other outstanding questions, represent a measured and gradual approach to stabilise India's relations with Pakistan. In addition to the two Declarations on Chemical Weapons and Code of Conduct, it will be observed that the two Foreign Secretaries agreed on specific dates for discussions on Sir Creek maritime boundary issue, and the India-Pakistan Committee to combat Drug Trafficking and Smuggling, which may be seen as important confidence building measures.

The two sides also agreed to discuss additional confidence building measures.

The signing of the Chemical Weapons Agreement, binds both sides never to use, develop, possess or produce chemical weapons; not, in any way, to be responsible for the encouragement to any entity to stockpile chemical weapons.

The Agreement on Code of Conduct Specifies that both countries re-affirm their commitment to the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. They both agreed, in the context of their adherence to these international Conventions, to respect the dignity and personal inviolability of their diplomatic and consular staff, to eschew all oppressive and aggressive surveillance, to ensure the safety of staff and their families, to respect the right of diplomats to receive visitors without the visitors being harassed, to respect the inviolability of official vehicles, certain detailed agreements have been agreed upon regarding the activities of diplomats which may not be acceptable to the receiving State, and how such activity or behaviour should be

handled; also with regard to the grant of visas to officials, their families, staff members of airlines, media representatives; also if the diplomats want to visit any city other than the place of his work, the arrangements for that should be based on strict reciprocity.

Responding to a query as to whether the talks could be characterised as more constructive than previous rounds special with regard to unresolved problems, including long standing disputes like Jammu & Kashmir, the Spokesman reiterated that the talks should be viewed as a measured and gradual approach to the stabilisation of our relations. The talks have contributed to the process of stabilisation of our relations.

In response to another question as to why India was not ready to discuss the Kashmir problem under Article Six of the Simla Agreement as was suggested by  
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Pakistan, the Spokesman stated that we have never fought shy of discussing any aspect of our relations with Pakistan, we have merely tried to convey to them that in order to discuss meaningfully, issues on which there are differing perceptions, we must build an atmosphere free of tension, which is conducive to the resolution of long pending issues.

Replying to a question as to whether the result of the talks could be viewed with optimism or pessimism, the Spokesman stated that we do not wish to convey an impression of pessimism at all. In fact it would be best to avoid labels of optimism or pessimism. It would be best to be realistic in our assessment of the talks.

Responding to another question as to whether Kashmir was the main focus or whether other topics were discussed during the three day talks, the Spokesman stated that the talks covered a very wide range of subjects. They have covered the entire gamut of our bilateral relationship; there were detailed discussions on SAARC, and on the upcoming NAM Summit in Jakarta, the issues which are of concern to both of us there, the situation in Central Asia, the situation in Afghanistan which effects us both. The discussions on Kashmir must be viewed in this overall context.

Replying to a query as to when the Government of India would convey its response to Pakistan's proposal conveyed in Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's letter, the Spokesman stated that the matter was under consideration and our views will be conveyed soon.

Responding to a question on Tulbul Project, the Spokesman stated that all technical problems have been resolved on the Tulbul Project at the Water Resource Development level. There are some political problems on thhe Pakistan side, but, none on ours.

On a question on extremist activities by Afghanistan, the Spokesman stated that Pakistan was equally concerned about the adverse impact that activities by extremist elements can have, on the law and order situation in Afghanistan and the state of peace in the region.

Responding to a further question about the welfare of Indian nationals in Afghanistan, the Spokesman stated that the Indian Embassy is functioning and the total number of Indian nationals is around 30, including Embassy staff, some airline staff and other Indian nationals.

Replying to a repeated queries as to how India would characterise the talks, the Spokesman reiterated that the talks were constructive and useful.

DIA PAKISTAN USA AUSTRIA INDONESIA AFGHANISTAN

**Date :** Aug 19, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting of Chairman of the DCC of Euro Parliament with various Indian Leaders Officials

The following is the text of statement issued by Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Aug 20, 1992 on the meeting between the Chairman of the D.C.C. of Euro-Parliament and Dr. Manmohan Singh, Finance Minister and Mr. Saby's meetings with MOS (EA), Mr. R. L. Bhatia, Foreign Secretary, Mr. J. N. Dixit, the Lok Sabha Speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil and Water Resource Secretary, Mr. M. A. Chitale:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that Mr. Henri Saby, Chairman of the Development Cooperation Committee of the Euro-Parliament had met today the Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh; Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. R. L. Bhatia; Foreign Secretary, Mr. J. N. Dixit, the Hon'ble Speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil and Water Resources Secretary, Mr. M. A. Chitale.

Chairman Saby visited Maddras in connection with the EC funded Tank Irrigation project. He went to Anand where EC is closely involved with regard to Operation Flood He described Anand as a

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unique example of 'development with a human face'.

With the Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Mr. Henri Saby had a detailed exchange of views on a variety of monetary issues, from which it emerged that the Chairman's views bore considerable similarity to our own. They are as concerned as we are about reverse capital flows, and about the need to create a greater balance in global capital flows. Like India, they were equally concerned that economic organisations like GATT were heavily weighted against the interest of developing countries.

On human rights, he said that 'we feel that human dignity, democracy and development are inextricably linked'. He said that it was hardly possible for Western nations to preach to countries like India about merits of democracy and human rights when organisations like UN and GATT were unable to practice complete and proper democracy themselves.

He made some positive remarks about the pace of economic reforms, and spoke about the danger of 'savage' liberalisation, which has been witnessed in certain other countries, where the pendulum has swung from one extreme to the other.

With the Foreign Secretary, Mr. J. N. Dixit, and Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. R. L. Bhatia, Mr. Saby had a detained discussion about India's relations with its neighbours. Foreign Secretary gave a detailed briefing about the improvement in our relations with Bangladesh, Nepal and China, and said that despite problems with Pakistan, India was making every efforts to identify areas where cooperation may be possible.

A INDIA LATVIA BANGLADESH CHINA NEPAL PAKISTAN

**Date :** Aug 20, 1992

## Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Pakistani Delegation meets Shri Shukla

The following is text of Press Release issued in New Delhi on Aug 07, 1992:

A 6-Member delegation led by Mr. S. R. Poonogar, Secretary, Water and Power, Government of Pakistan called on the Union Minister of Water Resources, Shri Vidyacharan Shukla here today. The

delegation is in India for the 8th round of talks on Tulbul Navigation Project on the River Jhelum Downstream Wullar Lake. Taking to the delegation the Minister stressed upon the necessity of an early and amicable settlement regarding the issues associated with the Project for mutual benefit of both the countries.

Shri Shukla suggested that in addition to the issues associated with INDUS Waters Treaty, India and Pakistan should work jointly on issues like drainage, canal lining and other matters of technical expertise so that both countries can benefit extensively from each other's experiences Collaboration could also be established between technical research stations of two countries, the Minister further advised. The leader of the Pakistani delegation Mr. S. R. Poonogar assured the Minister that talks between the two sides will continue and efforts will be made to find out a mutually beneficial solution to the problem.  
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KISTAN UNITED KINGDOM INDIA USA

**Date :** Aug 07, 1992

## Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH

50th Anniversary of Quit India Movement Homage to Martyrs of Freedom Movement

The following is the text of the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao's speech at the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Quit India Movement, in Parliament on Aug 08, 1992:

As I rise to speak on this momentous occasion, echoes of those great calls for unity and sacrifice to "Do or Die" for freedom still reverberate in my mind. Many of those voices have been hushed by the passage of time, but the call that unleashed the great forces of nationalism and brought an end to a mighty empire is still distinct and clear to those who will heed it. Those calls for freedom are as relevant to us today as they were in those eventful August days 50 years ago.

It is impossible to describe in words the immense debt of gratitude which the nation owes to those great sons and daughters of India whose daring sacrifice resulted in our freedom. If we could emulate but a fraction of their great deeds today, an in

all sincerity truly accept the noble ideas and vision of India that these great immortals perceived, we would have paid a fitting tribute to their memory. In the spirit of 'patram, pushpam, phalam, thoyam', Smt. Indira Gandhi as Prime Minister began the process of honouring them in a humble way. We would continue the process indeed improve it to the best of our ability.

If those days of 1942 needed the unified force of our people to overcome the domination of an imperial power, the present times need the same strength of unity of purpose to defeat the evils of communalism, sectarianism and terrorism which are sapping the nation's energy. Just as the imperial power attempted to divide us and to prolong its rule, so also these evils do their worst to divide the nation and divert it from its march to its destiny. To all these forces I have but one answer. Do not underestimate the wisdom and strength of our people. There is no adversity that they cannot overcome. They will not be misled twice.

A number of critical and major problems are confronting the nation - in the social, political and economic fields today. The need of the hour is for the nation to utilise the great strengths it possesses towards fulfilling our common objectives. If we could revitalise those energies, I am sure we will be able to find solutions to our problems - all problems.

The Quit India Movement was not a movement of a few. It succeeded because it had the strength and force of the whole nation behind it. People from all walks of life and from all corners of the country, political leaders, students, workers, peasants and even children and housewives took part. From village and town alike, freedom fighters came out and joined the movement. There is need for such a response from every home of our country today. It is that spirit that needs to be re-kindled today, particularly in the younger generation of our citizens. They must once again be in the vanguard of the movement for the nation's unity and prosperity.

The call had once gone out to every freedom fighter urging him on the "long hard road where there is no resting place" and which ultimately led to the independence of India. Let us pay homage today to those great leaders, by ourselves responding to the nation's call on this momentous occasion. The road to a truly prosperous India is still long and hard, but following in the hallowed footsteps of the stalwarts, we will succeed.

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DIA USA

**Date :** Aug 08, 1992

## Volume No

1995

RUSSIA

India willing to Offer More Technical Credit to Russia forPurchase of Tobacco

The following is text of Press Release issued in New Delhi on Aug 04, 1992:

A delegation of some exporters met the Prime Minister in the first week of June, 1992 to mainly represent amongst other things that there had been delay in opening the letters of credit (LOs) for 15,000 tonnes of tobacco by the Russian authorities, and they were faced with funds constraint and needed financial accommodation by their banks.

The matter was promptly taken up with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the banks concerned and the banks responded by providing necessary credit facilities in all cases of genuine need. Besides the first tranche of technical credit has been advanced to Russians at their specific request to enable them to buy, amongst several commodities, tobacco. Letters of credit have since been opened by Russia for a portion of the contracted amount. Government would favourably consider a further Russian request for technical credit if it is utilised for exports of the balance quantities of tobacco mentioned above. This was stated by Shri Salman Khurshid, Deputy Minister of Commerce, in a written reply to an Unstarred Question by Dr. Yelamanchili Sivaji, in the Rajya Sabha today.

The Government have been impressing upon the Russians to fulfil their export targets to India, so that adequate funds are generated for fulfilling the targets of Indian exports in the trade protocol.

SSIA USA INDIA

**Date :** Aug 04, 1992

## Volume No

1995

SWEDEN

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## Indo-Swedish Agreement on Tree Growers Cooperatives

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The following is text of Press Release issued in New Delhi on Aug 19, 1992:

An agreement has been signed with the Government of Sweden for obtaining financial assistance to implement the Rs. 24.47 crore Tree Growers' Cooperatives Project in Rajasthan, Orissa and Tamil Nadu. The assistance will be in form of Palmolein oil which will be received and monetized by the National Dairy Development Board and the funds so generated will be placed at the disposal of the National Tree Growers' Cooperatives Federation Limited, which is the implementing agency.

This was stated in the Rajya Sabha today by the Minister of State for Environment and Forests Shri Kamal Nath in a written reply to Shri Ramdas Agarwal.

The Swedish contribution to the five year project will be about 75 per cent. Under the project, 100 tree growers' cooperative societies will be set up in each State. An area comprising 4430 hectares of private land and 5250 hectares of common land is proposed to be covered under the project.

The appraised project document (APD) provides for the allocation of  
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Rs. 21 lakh each to Rajasthan, Orissa and Tamil Nadu for setting up tree growers cooperatives in the first year of implementation. However, the agreement having been signed only on 30th July, 1992, the final allocation is still to be decided.

Shri Kamal Nath said that negotiations are also in process with the Canadian Government for their providing external assistance to set up Tree Growers Cooperatives in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Gujarat. The tentative cost of the project, under which it is proposed to set up 100 Tree Growers Cooperatives in each State, is about Rs. 44 crores.  
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EDEN INDIA

**Date :** Aug 19, 1992

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INA INDIA FRANCE JAPAN MAURITIUS USA BRUNEI YUGOSLAVIA PAKISTAN SRI LANKA  
VIETNAM

**Date :** Sep 01, 1992

## Volume No

1995

BRITAIN

British Under Secretary of State Meets Jacob

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 23, 1992 on British Parliamentary Under Secretary's meeting with Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri M. M. Jacob:

Mr. Charles Werdle, Great Britain's Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Home called on the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri M. M. Jacob this morning. During the discussion he welcomed the Prime Ministe's announcement to set up a National Human Rights Commission. He also appreciated the Home Minister's invitation extended to the Amnesty International to visit India. Both Mr. Jacob and the visiting dignitory agreed that various Human Rights Organisations should also condemn the sufferings perpetrated by terrorists on innocent people.

Shri Jacob also briefed him about Pakistan's continuous attempts to arm militants in Punjab and Kashmir with sophisticated weapons. The British Under Secretary pointed out that his Government had always condemned such activities across the border. He appreciated Shri Jacob's stand that in a democracy there could be no other solution than elections, and like Punjab democratic process would also take place in Kashmir.

DIA USA PAKISTAN

**Date** : Sep 23, 1992

## Volume No

1995

CHINA

India and China to Strengthen Cooperation in Science & Technology

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 10, 1992 on cooperation between India and China in the field of Science & Technology:

India and China have generally agreed to further strengthen cooperation in the fields of Science & Technology. A bread understanding to this effect was reached during the discussions between the Minister of State for Science & Technology and a high level technical delegation from China led by Mr. MU Bangguo. The discussions lasted nearly an hour. The Chinese side showed keen interest to have joint research and development ventures in the software technology and also in biotechnology particularly biopesticides, horticulture, crops, bio-engineering etc. Shri Kumaramanglam assured the Chinese side that India will reciprocate equally to set up joint research and development

projects with China. He also assured the Chinese side that India would like to strengthen cooperation in other fields of Science & Technology like  
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Bio-Technology, electronics etc. The Minister was assisted during the discussions by the senior officials and scientists of different departments of the Ministry of Science & Technology. The Minister also gave away presents to the Chinese delegation.

INA INDIA USA

**Date** : Sep 10, 1992

## Volume No

1995

FRANCE

Shri Kamal Nath Calls for Indo-French Cooperation in Environment

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 25, 1992 on Indo-French Cooperation in Environment:

The Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Shri Kamal Nath has called for greater cooperation between India and France in the field of environment. He said India would welcome French assistance in minimising industrial pollution by adopting the technology to the Indian conditions. He said the two countries had been closely cooperating on the global environmental issues.

Shri Kamal Nath was inaugurating a seminar on "Environmental Pollution and Control", here today, organised by the Indo-French Technical Association. The seminar is being attended by scientists, experts, officials, technologists and industrialists from India and France.

Shri Kamal Nath asked the scientists and technologists to find India-specific solutions to India's problems. He said, our large number of small scale industrial units cannot afford the pollution control technology available in the developed nations and we will have to modify it to suit our needs.

The Minister impressed upon the industry to adopt environmental audit which involves on independent assessment of how an organisation's activities affect the environment. He said, the real objective of the environmental audit is that it should tender advice which leads to positive changes benefiting the

environment.

ANCE INDIA USA

**Date :** Sep 25, 1992

## Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION (ICAO)

India Elected to Council of ICAO

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 30, 1992 on election of India to Council of International Civil Aviation Organisation:

India has been elected to the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) maintaining her position as a major provider of services to global civil aviation.

India secured the second highest number of votes in a stiffly contested election in Montreal at the 29th Session of the ICAO Assembly securing 132 out of total of 139 votes cast.  
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DIA

**Date :** Sep 30, 1992

## Volume No

1995

JAPAN

SPARC Bags IYSH Memorial Prize

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 18, 1992 on grant of IYSH Yasuda Kasai Prize:

Japan Housing Association have selected the Society for Promotion of Area Resource Centres (SPARC), Bombay for the 5th IYSH Yasuda Kasai Prize for the year 1992. The Prize carries an award money

of one Million Yen. The award will be presented in the commendation ceremony to be held in Tokyo on 5th October, 1992.

SPARC, Bombay is a non Governmental Organisation working for the upliftment of slum dwellers and pavement dwellers in Bombay by innovative methods of community participation. This award is being bestowed for its outstanding contributions for solving the housing problems of the pavement dwellers in Bombay. The SPARC has pledged the award money to its Pavement dwellers' Rehabilitation Fund. HUDCO has assisted a housing project promoted by SPARC.

The IYSH Memorial Prize is being awarded every year since 1988 for outstanding performance for solving housing problems in developing nations.

PAN INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date :** Sep 18, 1992

## Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

Joint Ventures in Mauritius Provide Market Access to EEC Inauguration of New Indian Joint Venture in Mauritius

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 17, 1992 on Indo Joint Venture in Mauritius:

As a result of several steps taken by the Government of India and Mauritius and the series of visits from both sides, considerable interest has been generated in setting up of joint ventures in Mauritius and further strengthening of bilateral economic relations. Inaugurating an Indian Joint Venture for the manufacture of tyre retread material in Mauritius, Prof. P. J. Kurien, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, said that Mauritius had emerged as an alternative location for setting up of Indian joint venture manufacturing units because, apart from various local advantages and the benefits for setting up such units, Mauritius offered good market potential for its products in the EEC and the PTA (Preferential Trade Area) region by virtue of its privileged access to these markets. The partners in this new joint venture in Mauritius are Ms Elgi Tyres and Retread Ltd. of Coimbatore and Ms Catterie De Curepipe of Mauritius and the plant and machinery installed in the project have been manufactured in India.

Prof. Kurien said that, besides joint ventures, India and Mauritius could also think in terms of further growth in trade and other economic spheres. He stressed that India could supply at most competitive rates transport equipment, drugs and -275>

pharmaceuticals, dyes, agro-chemicals, telecom equipments, apart from traditional supplies like yarn, fabrics, garments, leather, fruits and vegetables etc. Since Indian exports to Mauritius constituted not more than 4% of its total imports, there was scope for increasing the two-way flow on both sides, he added.

URITIUS USA INDIA RUSSIA

**Date :** Sep 17, 1992

## Volume No

1995

NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM)

Shabana Azmi gets best Actress Award at the 3rd International Film Festival of the NAM

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 14, 1992 on grant of Best Actress Award to Shabana Azmi by 3rd International Film Festival of the NAM:

Shabana Azmi has been given the best actress award for her role in the Hindi Film "LIBAAS" at the 3rd International Film Festival of the NAM and other Developing countries which concluded in Pyongyang, North Korea on 13th September, 1992.

The documentary film "LOLAAB" was awarded the special July prize for "Best Documentary Film".

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Minister for Information and Broadcasting Dr. Girija Vyas stressed the need for further cooperation between North Korea and India in areas of culture, media and the film. She extended all cooperation of the people and the Government of India in this regard.

DIA KOREA NORTH KOREA

**Date :** Sep 14, 1992

# Volume No

1995

## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

ITEC

The following is the text of statement issued by Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Sep 14, 1992 on celebration of ITEC Day:

While briefing the newsmen, the Spokesman stated that tomorrow we celebrate the Annual ITEC Day. This is a major programme which has various facets to it. Most importantly, are the projects that we have undertaken in the building up the infrastructure of various developing countries. Of this, the Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health in Kabul is in operation since 1972 and it was expanded in 1982 at the cost of Rs. 7 crores. There is the Industrial Estate project in Kabul which was initiated in 1974. Then there is the Angkor Vat Restoration project in Cambodia. This is a Rs. 4 crore project with an expert team of 15 personnel from the Archaeological Survey of India executing its job right now. There is the Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital in Mauritius. We have supplied medical equipment of Indian origin costing Rs. 1.5 crores. For the Rice Re-

search Institute and Buffalo and Forage Research Centre in Vietnam, we have supplied equipment worth Rs. 30 lakhs. For the Industrial Estate project in Vietnam, our contribution in the form of expertise and material and equipment is expected to be over Rs. 1 crore.

The second facet is training of foreign nationals. Under this programme, about 1200 foreign nominees annually are attending various institutions in India, which include telecommunications, aircraft maintenance, agro industries, water resource management. This third facet is the deputation of experts. On an average 50 experts go out every year in medicine, agriculture, banking, management etc.

The ITEC and the Special Commonwealth African Assistance Plan (SCAAP) were initiated in 1964 and 1960 respectively. They are a product of our commitment to South-South Cooperation. They have expanded scope both geographically and in intensity in the 30 years that they have been in operation. Under these two programmes, we are making technical and economic assistance to 91 countries of Asia, Africa, East Europe and Latin America. In the financial year 1991-92, we have spent Rs. 17.41 crores.

**Date** : Sep 14, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Brunei

The following is the text of statement issued on Sep 17, 1992 by Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs:

Briefing newsmen on the Sultan of Brunei, the Spokesman stated that H.H. the Sultan of Brunei met the President on 15 September after his arrival here. President also hosted a Banquet in his honour. The Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, and Shri Eduardo Faleiro, Minister of State called on him today. During his stay in Delhi, the Vice President, the Raksha Mantri and Minister of State (Finance) will also call on him. During his meetings with Prime Minister, it was decided that India and Brunei will exchange High Commissions. India will soon send a delegation to Brunei to set up our Mission there. The delegation will also identify areas of cooperation between the two countries. Thereafter, a delegation of experts from Brunei will visit India to follow up on our visit, to identify mutually beneficial areas of cooperation.

The talks regarding bilateral cooperation took place in the context of Prime Minister's apprising the Sultan on the new climate of economic liberalisation in India where he emphasised a wide range of incentives and opportunities available to investors which had generated a lot of enthusiasm. The Sultan observed that his visit would provide a new impetus to further build up on the excellent bilateral relations between the two countries. The Sultan of Brunei was very pleased with the visit to India and with the opportunity that it has afforded him to forge personal contacts with Indian leaders. He placed considerable emphasis on personal contacts.

Asked if there were any concrete offers of investment, the Spokesman stated that the exchange of visits at the expert level were an indication of the desire of both sides substantially intensify their bilateral ties by giving it a deeper economic content, and the positive atmosphere in which the discussions took place. However, until the exchange of visits at the expert

level, it would be premature to talk of concrete projects. As Brunei is an important member of ASEAN we look forward to further strengthening our cooperation with ASEAN countries with the commencement of the sectoral dialogue with them.

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UNEI INDIA PERU USA

**Date :** Sep 17, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Chemical Weapons

The following is Official Spokesman's briefing on Sep 22, 1992 on the news report in New York Times entitled 'US Accuses India on Chemical Arms':

We have seen the news report which appeared in 'The New York Times' on 21 September 1992 entitled "US accuses India on Chemical Weapons" and other reports in the U.S. and Indian Press on the subject.

India's commitment to curbing proliferation of chemical weapons is unequivocal and is reflected in our export control regime. While India will continue to exercise effective control on such exports, we are confident that coming into effect of the Chemical Weapons Convention will be a positive step forward, for only a universal and Non-Discriminatory Agreement can provide the most effective means to tackle the problem of proliferation. The US and India have also held bilateral discussions apart from the multilateral discussions. Specific cases that have been brought by US to our attention have been examined and investigated by us. The specific case of Ms United Phosphorus Ltd., exporting TMP, a dual purpose chemical, in violation of our regulations to Syria, is being looked into. TMP is included in the list of chemicals whose export require prior clearance by the Government of India. In this case, Government of India's clearance was not obtained. This violation of Government of India's import and export regulations has been brought to the notice of Customs authority for instituting necessary action.

A INDIA SYRIA

**Date :** Sep 22, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Yugoslavia

The following is Official Spokesman's briefing on Sep 23, 1992 on events in Yugoslavia and India's stand on this issue at the UN:

The Government and the people of India are grieved at the events taking place in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, a friendly and independent country. We condemn the criminal attacks upon innocent civilians which have caused the death of several thousand men, women and children. It is inconceivable that the phenomenon of "ethnic cleansing" can be practised at this day and age.

India has supported UN Security Council's efforts to restore peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina. This includes India's support to UN Security Council Resolution 757 which imposed wide-ranging sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro. India has applied all the measures included in this Resolution.

India supports all measures to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Bosnia-Herzegovina including the use of force under UN control and supervision.

India abstained on UNSCR 770 as the Resolution envisaged use of force, to facilitate delivery of humanitarian assistance "in coordination with the UN". India was of the view that the use of force being a grave matter should be under the control and supervision of the UN and not merely in coordination with the UN. India also abstained on Security Council Resolution 776 since it authorises in implementation of para 2 of Resolution 770, the enlargement of UNPROFOR mandate and strength in Bosnia-Herzegovina, recommended by the UN Secretary-General. India welcomed the concerned report of the Secretary-General and had no hesitation in supporting it as also all its recommendations.

Insofar as the status of Yugoslavia at the UN is concerned, India abstained on Security Council Resolution 777. Our abstention was based on two concerns, one substantive and one constitutional. We are

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concerned about the impact of the decision of the kind contained in SCR 777 on the functioning and fate of UNPROFOR may not be helpful, especially since UNPROFOR Hqs. is in Belgrade.

Insofar as the constitutional aspect is concerned Resolution 777 does not conform either to Article 5 or Article 6 of the Charter, the only two Articles which deal with Membership. The Security Council under the Charter is competent to recommend either suspension or expulsion of a State. Nowhere in the Charter has the Council been given the authority to recommend to the General Assembly that a country's participation in the General Assembly be withdrawn or suspended, That authority belongs to the General Assembly which does not need any recommendation to that effect from the Security Council.

GOSLAVIA INDIA USA

**Date** : Sep 23, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Chief Ministers' Conference on Human Rights Prime Minister's Address

The following is the text of address of Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao at inauguration of Chief Ministers' Conference on Sep 14, 1992:

Inaugurating the Chief Ministers' Conference, on Human Rights, the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, said here today:

I am happy to be with you today at this conference on Human Rights. Since issues relating to Human Rights have been engaging considerable attention both within the country and abroad, discussions in such a forum on this important subject are not only timely but also reflect our concern and sensitivity in this regard.

Indian culture and human rights are almost synonymous. India is a signatory to the universal declaration of Human Rights and also to the two International Covenants on this subject. Our respect for the rights of the individual and for human dignity is a cornerstone of our Constitution which provides the basis of our democratic polity and the framework of governance in our country.

The chapter on Fundamental Rights in our Constitution encompasses the entire gamut of Civil and Political Rights, including the right to judicial enforceability. But our Constitution makers did not stop with the Fundamental Rights. A chapter on Directive Principles of State Policy was also included, requiring the State to promote and protect the rights of the most vulnerable sections of our society. These Directive Principles are meant to give a direction to the policy and actions of Government so as to progressively realise the objective of improvement in the standard of living and the quality of life of all sections of our society. The Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles taken together substantially capture the essence of human rights and the mode of their realisation, as started in the International Covenants on Human Rights.

Consistent with the constitutional provisions, the Central and State Governments have adapted and continued and enacted a number of laws to ensure the preservation and safeguard of basic human rights. Specific provisions towards this end exist in a number of important laws like the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Indian Penal Code and the Indian Evidence Act.

Government have also set up separate National Institutions for the promotion and protection of the interests of the most vulnerable sections of society. These are the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the National Commission for Women and the Minorities Commission. These Commissions are continuously reviewing the socio-economic conditions of these groups and related Government policies and enactments to

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ensure that their status in society can be progressively strengthened through developmental programmes and by strengthening and proper implementation of the safeguards provided for them under the law. The National Police Commission and the Law Commission have also made a large number of very valuable suggestions regarding the legal systems and operational matters pertaining to the protection of the rights and freedom of all citizens, particularly in the context of their interaction with the law enforcement agencies.

In furtherance of our commitment and respect for the rights of all sections of our society and for human dignity, Government have been continuously reviewing the various Statutes in so far as they relate to the rights of the individual. For example, to deal with offences against members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 was enacted. Among other provisions it also lays down that if a public servant wilfully neglects his duties under the Act he will be liable to prosecution and imprisonment. Similarly, provisions have been made in the IPC defining the offence of rape in custody and

introducing a presumption against the accused. A number of other special laws like the Civil Rights Act 1976, the Dowry Prohibition (Amendment) Act 1986, the Probation of Offenders Act and the Juvenile Justice Act have also been enacted to protect the rights of the most vulnerable sections. Deterrent punishment is provided for violation of these laws, particularly for those who are appointed in trust to protect such rights.

Our Judiciary has the Constitutional mandate to be the custodian of the Fundamental Rights of the individual and has consistently acted zealously to protect these Rights. Apart from the Constitutional and legal provisions under which it exercises this jurisdiction, the Indian Judiciary has evolved a unique legal process known as "Public Interest Litigation". It is no longer necessary for a victim of any excesses alone to initiate legal proceedings for redressal.

Any individual or group can bring to the attention of the Judiciary cases of violation of human rights, and the High Courts and the Supreme Court take cognisance of such cases and set into motion the judicial process to provide remedial measures. Parliament and the State Legislatures have also been conspicuously vigilant regarding violations of human rights. This has helped immensely in creating a public awareness on the subject, apart from ensuring that prompt action is taken against those who are guilty of committing such excesses. We also have an independent, vigilant and vigorous Press which has always acted as a watchdog for the protection of individual rights and freedom, particularly when they are seen to be violated by the acts of omission or commission on the part of governmental functionaries. Discussions on violations of human rights are primarily based on the pronouncements of the Judiciary, and reports in the Press. These public discussions are convincing proof of the strength and vitality of our institutions.

Having said all this, I would like to remind you that it is necessary to take note of the complex problems created by insurgency and terrorism and extremism in certain parts of the country. We cannot have a situation in which human rights are seen to be the preserve of the practitioners of terrorism and secessionism while those dealing with the menace courageously in extremely difficult circumstances are falsely condemned for violations of human rights. Of course, we are conscious of our obligations in this matter. Even while dealing with terrorists and secessionist elements who are bent on killing innocent citizens with impunity and indulging in wanton death and destruction, our attempts must be not to use excessive force or to take recourse to unlawful or illegal means. Strict instructions have been repeatedly given to mete out exemplary punishment to those who exceed their authority deliberately. Even in the terrorist and insurgency affected States of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, action, including imprisonment in a number of cases, has been taken

against over 230 officers and men of the security forces, and investigations and prosecution are in progress against several others. Statistics by themselves are most important. What is important is that we should all be convinced that the steps that have been taken reflect the commitment and sensitivity of the Government and of the society at large to human rights.

If, despite all this, there is a feeling within the country or abroad that Government is not serious about infringements of Human Rights then it is a matter of serious concern and needs to be dispelled with all the emphasis at our command. We have to identify where and why there are weaknesses. We have to identify the gaps between pronouncements and action, between legislation and its implementation, and re solve to act firmly to bridge these gaps. We must give a clear message that we do not tolerate violations of human rights.

In this context there is also a need to review the existing institutional arrangements and to see how they can be further strengthened. The establishment of a Human Rights Commission can be a step to bring into sharper focus the whole question of human rights. Such a Commission, independent of the Government and with transparency in its work, can go a long way in creating a sense of public confidence. Today we have before the Conference a proposal in this regard. I am sure this would receive your most serious consideration. As the agenda note has brought out, there are several issues involved in setting up such a Commission. A Human Rights Commission would cut across various other institutions established under the Constitution and the law. It would be concerned intimately with areas of activity which are within the jurisdiction of the State Governments. The Human Rights that could be brought within the ambit of the Commission and the modalities for dealing with them will have to be considered. The role and functions of the Commission will have to be clearly demarcated vis-a-vis the existing three National Commissions that I mentioned earlier. These and several other issues involved in the setting up of such an

institution at the National level. would need careful consideration. it would be important to arrive at a consensus on these matters as the strong and willing support of the State Governments will impart strength to the proposed Commission in addressing the tasks which are to be entrusted to it.

Apart from the Human Rights Commission, some other important issues have been posed for discussion in this Conference. Chavanji has already referred to them. The enactment of new Central legislation to deal with custodial crimes is particularly important. There can be nothing more revolting and reprehensible than the betrayal of custodial trust by the guardians of law and those appointed to protect the individual. We have to deal with

such cases with alacrity and in an exemplary manner and also ensure that the victims obtain positive and quick redress. Other areas of our policy and procedures may also need to be looked into. A number of suggestions have also been made for further streamlining of the system established to deal atrocities on the most vulnerable sections of the society. These will require detailed deliberations. There is an evident need for prison reforms, and for improvement in the working of the police, prison and correctional administration.

It is also of great importance and urgency that effective measures are taken to sensitise persons working at the cutting edge level of administration, on the importance of human rights. Carefully designed training and orientation programmes at various levels will, therefore, have to be devised and implemented.

I would also like to request the State Governments to review their existing arrangements for monitoring cases of alleged human rights violations. It is important that all such cases are looked into expeditiously and guilty persons are brought to book. It is only through prompt and exemplary action that public confidence can be created, and the earnestness of Government in safeguarding human rights recognised.

I would like to complement the Home Minister for placing a comprehensive  
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agenda for action before this Conference. I hope that your deliberations will serve as a catalyst for enhancing public awareness, which could help to promote greater respect for human rights among all sections of society and at all levels of administration. I also trust that the deliberations of the Conference will lead to the adoption of a time-bound programme of action to further underline our deep and abiding commitment to this cause.

A INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date :** Sep 14, 1992

## Volume No

1995

AFRICA

Report on Africa Fund Presented at NAM Summit - PrimeMinister's Statement

The following is the text of statement by the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, on Sep 01, 1992 who is the Chairman of the AFRICA Fund Committee while presenting the Report on the AFRICA Fund to the Tenth NAM Summit in Jakarta today:

On behalf of the AFRICA Fund Committee, I have the honour to present the Report on the work done by the Fund and the progress recorded in fulfilment of the responsibility bestowed on the Committee by the Nonaligned Movement at its Eighth Summit in Harare and the Ninth Summit in Belgrade. The Fund brings poignant memories of Rajiv Gandhi, who was honoured to be chosen as its first Chairman in 1986. When his term ended in 1989, the Movement decided that he should continue to serve in that capacity. He worked tirelessly and with purpose as Chairman, knowing that this was an initiative that transcended diplomacy and could make a palpable change in the lives of people deprived of many rights, freedoms and opportunities.

The objective set for realisation by the AFRICA Fund were indeed difficult and daunting. It will be recalled that Shri Rajiv Gandhi called a Mini Summit in January, 1987 in New Delhi which adopted the Plan of Action and procedures for the AFRICA Fund. An appeal was issued to the international community for generous pledges to the Fund. The response of the international community to the appeal was most heartening. As many as 61 countries pledged their contributions to the Fund and the total contributions made to the Fund came to nearly half a billion US Dollars in cash and kind. Contributions to the Fund included nations not only from the Nonaligned Movement but also from outside the Movement, such as Sweden, Norway, France, Italy, Netherlands and the erstwhile Soviet Union. It is indeed a matter of great satisfaction that the Fund had been able to raise resources of this magnitude in a world environment that was not altogether conducive to such an effort over these years.

Within the parameters set in the Plan of Action by the Mini Summit of January, 1987, the donor countries have been extending assistance to the Frontline States and Liberation Movements in various sectors. This has taken the form of supplying essential commodities and medical assistance, provision of drinking water, help for displaced women and children, supply of railway wagons and heavy-duty trucks to ease the transport bottlenecks created by the Pretoria regime, training large numbers of personnel from the Frontline States and liberation movements in various disciplines, and supply of boats for deep sea fishing. It was India's privilege to be associated with this gigantic effort, both as a contributor to the Fund and as its Chairman.

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Thanks to the cooperation received from countries round the globe, the AFRICA Fund was able to lend teeth to international sanctions against the minority White regime in South Africa. The AFRICA Fund Committee was encouraged by the recognition of this

role at the Summit in Belgrade and the renewal of the Funds mandate till the Tenth Summit being held in Jakarta. The Frontline States and liberation movements also have been appreciative of the contribution made by the Fund in lending their material and moral support.

Since 1986, significant changes have taken place in and around South Africa. Namibia is no longer under South African domination. The transborder destabilisation raids by the South African Defence Forces into the Frontline States have ceased. Thus two of the three elements that constituted the *raison d'être* for the AFRIC AFund, namely, "INVASION" and "COLONIALISM" no longer exist in the blatant form they did earlier. There have been significant developments in negotiations on the process of transition towards a non-racial and democratic South Africa through CODESA I and CODESA II in the wake of the Peace Agreement signed between the anti-apartheid groups and parties in South Africa and the apartheid regime there. However, the Boipatong Massacre has inevitably created a set-back to that process. It is hoped that the efforts of the OAU and the UN and the determination of international community to banish apartheid will set the peace process in motion again. We also venture to hope that the dialogue on necessary constitutional and institutional changes in South Africa to herald the dawn of a non-racial and democratic South Africa will be resumed.

While it is important that at this critical juncture we carry forward the struggle against apartheid with renewed vigour, the resource position of the Fund does not justify its further continuance. Repeated appeals made recently for additional resources for the Fund have not generated any significant contributions. On the other hand, there is marked preference in favour of channelling the pledges in kind directly through bilateral programmes.

In the light of these developments, Committee members of the Fund have been deliberating on its future. The committee which met at the Senior Officials' level in Cairo took note of the fact that the mandate of the AFRICA Fund ends at this Summit. It has expressed the hope that while it is so, the member-nations of the Movement will continue to support the liberation movement in South Africa till the goal is achieved. I fully endorse this recommendation.

May I also propose that the balance cash available with the Fund be utilised for humanitarian assistance to drought stricken countries of Southern Africa, for assistance to Liberation Movements in South Africa, for human resource development and for voter education in South Africa before the elections through SADC as recommended by the Ministerial Meeting of the AFRICA Fund Committee in Jakarta. Our hearts also go to the people of Somalia who are facing an acute crisis of unprecedented proportions and as a gesture from the AFRICA Fund, a part of the available sum

may also be disbursed for humanitarian relief in that afflicted land. I would suggest a sum of US Dollars 250,000/- for this purpose.  
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DONESIA YUGOSLAVIA ZIMBABWE INDIA USA FRANCE ITALY NORWAY SWEDEN SOUTH AFRICA NAMIBIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC EGYPT MALI SOMALIA

**Date :** Sep 01, 1992

## Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Indian Flood Relief Assistance to Pakistan

The following is text of press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 30, 1992 on Flood Relief Assistance to Pakistan:

Government of India has despatched medicines and medical supplies to Pakistan as flood relief assistance. These supplies totalling 7.5 tonnes, were airlifted today from Delhi to Islamabad. They were handed over to the Pakistani authorities at Islamabad by High Commissioner, Shri S. K. Lambah.

KISTAN INDIA

**Date :** Sep 30, 1992

## Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

India Regrets Pakistan's Reference to Kashmir Issue at NAM

The following is text of press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 01, 1992 on Pakistan's reference to Kashmir issue in NAM:

Indian Relegation to NAM Summit in Jakarta expressed regret at Pakistan's attempt to raise the extraneous issue of Kashmir at

the NAM Conference. The statement made on behalf of the Indian Delegation says that "it is our abiding perception and conviction that issues related to Kashmir can never be resolved by raising them in international forums".

The following is the text of the statement made by Shri Prabhakar Menon, Joint Secretary, on behalf of the Indian Delegation at the Summit, exercising right of reply at the plenary today in Jakarta:

"It is with very considerable regret that the Indian Delegation is constrained to take the floor at this stage of the proceedings. We are obliged to set the record straight, following the unfortunate references by the distinguished Prime Minister of Pakistan to an (purely) internal matter of India or, what is at most, a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan.

His references to the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir are unwarranted interference in the internal affairs of India. There should not be any doubt in anybody's mind that the State of Jammu and Kashmir is, and shall forever remain, an integral and inseparable part of the Republic of India.

If there are any issues related to this matter which Pakistan wishes to discuss with India, the framework for it is provided in the Simla Agreement - an agreement based on thoughtful and thorough deliberations between the Prime Ministers of the two countries, an agreement to which the Government of Pakistan has given commitments in solemn obligation.

Pakistan delegation's attempt to raise this extraneous issue in our forum was all the more regrettable in view of the pressing appeal from the Chairman of the Movement and host country of this SUMMIT meeting, at the Ministerial Meeting on 29th August, that all members should adhere to the original terms of reference and traditions of NAM Meetings and that they should refrain from referring to bilateral issues so that the Summit could concentrate on the more relevant and more important issues of common concern to all members of the Movement.

It is our abiding perception and conviction that issues related to Kashmir can never be resolved by raising them in international forums".

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KISTAN INDIA INDONESIA USA

**Date** : Sep 01, 1992

**Volume No**

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1995

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SRI LANKA

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Indian Film Festival in Colombo

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The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 22, 1992 on Indian Film Festival in Colombo:

A Festival of Indian Films began in Colmobo last evening. The Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Shri Kamal Nath who was in Sri Lanka to attend the meeting of the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme, inaugurated the Festival. The Festival is one of the many activities being organised under the Cultural Exchange Programme between Indian and Shri Lanka.

Shri Kamal Nath said, the Festival will help strengthen the age old ties of friendship and understanding between our peoples. He said, let this Festival be a meeting of minds and a meeting of hearts. It is a pleasurable way of understanding the neighbours through the medium of films and art, he said.

Shri Kamal Nath said that the universality of themes in films made in our countries with their underlining of a common culture, make communication through the medium of films easier. He said, during the Festival, the people of Sri Lanka would be able to see a small but representative cross section of our best films. They will also have an opportunity to see and judge the technical skills, the artistic quality and the abundant talent of film-makers in India.

I LANKA INDIA

**Date :** Sep 22, 1992

## Volume No

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1995

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SRI LANKA

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Indo-Sri Lanka Sub-Commission Meeting on Trade, Finance & Investment Opens

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The following is text of Press Release issued in New Delhi on Sep 07, 1992 on meeting of Indo-Sri Lanka on Trade, Finance and Investment:

The Second Meeting of the Indo-Sri Lanka Sub Commission on Trade, Finance and Investment commenced here today. Shri A. V. Ganesan, Commerce Secretary, is leading the Indian side at the 2-day Session while the Sri Lankan delegation is led by Mr. R. A. P. Goonatilleke, Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Commerce, Sri Lanka.

The Sub-Commission, which concludes tomorrow, is to review the decisions taken during the first meeting of the Commission held in Colombo on 7th and 8th October, 1991.

The agenda adopted for the second meeting includes review of Bilateral Trade, Joint ventures and enhancing economic cooperation in different fields including Technical Cooperation.

Indian exports to Sri Lanka during 1991-92 are provisionally placed at Rs. 429.08 crores against which the imports are Rs. 28.06 crores giving India a trade surplus of over Rs. 400 crores. -285>

I LANKA INDIA USA

**Date :** Sep 07, 1992

## Volume No

1995

VIETNAM

Vietnamese Trade Minister Meets Prof. Kurien

The following is text of Press Release issued in New Delhi on Sep 09, 1992 on meeting of Vietnamese Trade Minister with Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Prof. Kurien:

The visiting Minister of Commerce and Tourism of Vietnam, Mr. Le Van Triet, called on Prof. P. J. Kurien, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, here today. They exchanged views on bilateral trade and economic cooperation. Both the Ministers underlined the potential for enhancing trade between India and Vietnam from its present low level of around US \$ 51 million (1991-92). Recalling the traditional friendly ties between India and Vietnam, Prof. Kurien stressed the need for efforts on both sides to raise bilateral trade to a level of US \$ 100 million as envisaged in the Trade Protocol between India and Vietnam which was signed in Hanoi in 1990 and is valid till December 1993. He stressed India's capability to undertake projects in Vietnam and also for export of wide variety of goods. Shri A. V. Ganesan,

Commerce Secretary, was present at the meeting.

Exports to Vietnam include machinery and instruments, electronic goods, drugs and pharmaceuticals, cotton yarn and fabrics, while imports from Vietnam consist of silk, cashew rice and wood and wood products. In 1991-92, India's exports to Vietnam were of the order of US \$ 12.87 million and imports from Vietnam were US \$ 38.03 million.

ETNAM INDIA USA

**Date :** Sep 09, 1992

## Volume No

1995

VIETNAM

Indo-Vietnam Joint Statement

The following is text of Joint Communiqué issued on visit of General Secretary of Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam to India from Sep 8-13, 1992:

1. At the invitation of His Excellency Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, a high-level Delegation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, led by His Excellency Mr. Do Muoi, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, paid a friendly State visit to the Republic of India from 8th to 13th September 1992.
2. During his stay in India, General Secretary Do Muoi and the Vietnam's Delegation called on H.E. Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, President of India, and held a separate meeting with H.E. Shri K. R. Narayanan, Vice-President of India, paid floral homage to Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Smt. Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi; and visited a number of scientific-technological, cultural and economic establishments in the capital city of Delhi and in Maharashtra and West Bengal.
3. At all places where they visited, the General Secretary and the Delegation were accorded a warm and cordial welcome by the leaders and people from all walks of life in India reflecting the traditional friendship between the two countries.
4. Talks were held between the Vietnam's State Delegation headed by General Secretary H.E. Mr. Do Muoi and the Indian Delegation headed by Prime Minister H.E. Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao in an

atmosphere of friendship, cordiality, mutual understanding, sincerity and trust.

5. The lists of the Indian and Vietnamese delegation are attached.

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6. The two leaders apprised each other of the situation in their respective countries, reviewed the implementation of the agreements of cooperation between them and discussed measures for further promoting the many-sided cooperation between Vietnam and India. The two sides also exchanged views on the international and regional situation.

7. Prime Minister Narasimha Rao highly appreciated Vietnam's policy of renovation and all-round achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in recent years resulting in far-reaching changes in the country's life. The Prime Minister sincerely wished the Vietnamese people ever greater successes in their endeavour to build a prosperous and strong nation, thus making active contribution to peace, stability, cooperation and development in the region and the world.

8. General Secretary Do Muoi expressed his rejoice over the tremendous and all sided achievements scored by the Indian people especially those recorded in the process of comprehensive and far-reaching reforms in order to develop a dynamic and productive economy. He wished the Indian people new achievements in building a united and prosperous India, assuming a greater role as an important factor for peace and stability in the region and the world over.

9. General Secretary Do Muoi and Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao noted with satisfaction that the bonds of traditional friendship and multi-faceted cooperation between Vietnam and India have over the past years continued to be consolidated and developed. Along with the excellent political relations, the economic, trade, scientific and technological and cultural cooperation has been further expanded. The two sides are actively implementing the agreements reached at the Meetings of the Indo-Vietnamese Joint Commission, particularly those at the 5th Meeting in New Delhi in March 1992 and have attained some substantive results thus giving new impetus for further promoting their cooperation in the coming years.

10. The two leaders reaffirmed their determination to further strengthen and foster the relations of traditional friendship and all-sided cooperation between Vietnam and India. In the light of the new situation, both sides agreed to continue to intensify further their cooperation in keeping with the policy of "Doi Moi" (renewal) and economic reform and in accordance with the capability of each country, thus creating most favourable conditions for promoting their relationship and bringing it to a

new comprehensive and more effective stage commensurate with the excellent Indo-Vietnamese relations. This will meet the lasting interest of the two peoples and that of peace, cooperation and development in the region.

11. To achieve this objective, the two sides agreed to implement more effectively the existing agreements, to broaden the areas of cooperation and at the same time identify new areas and forms of cooperation with emphasis on joint ventures in the fields of oil exploration, exploiting and processing of minerals, small industry, agriculture and agro-based industries, hotel industry and marine products. For this purpose, the two parties have agreed to finalise as soon as possible an Air Services Agreement an Agreement on the Avoidance of Double-Taxation and a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in agricultural research and training.

12. General Secretary Do Muoi and Prime Minister Narasimha Rao held discussions on the recent changes in the world and were of the view that rapid and far-reaching developments continued to take place in the world and although the danger of World War had receded, the trend towards peace and cooperation prevailed. Nonetheless, a number of complex problems remained. The two leaders shared the view that a common endeavour by all forces of peace and social progress

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throughout the world is needed to formulate a new and healthy international relationship based on the principles of peaceful coexistence; equality of all nations; mutually beneficial cooperation among them for the development and prosperity of each country for peace, stability and friendship in the world; the principle of respect for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries; peaceful settlement of disputes; non-interference in internal affairs of countries and non-use of force or threat of force in their relations.

13. Both sides hold the view that it is necessary in the changed international situation to expedite operationalising the Action Plan tabled by India at the Third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament in 1988 aimed at building a nuclear-weapon-free-world by the year 2010. Both sides emphasised that only multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations linked to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a time bound framework can remove the threat that these weapons pose to the survival of humanity.

14. The two leaders shared the view that international economic relations are plagued by widening economic disparities and stressed that in the absence of economic development, particularly of the developing countries, there would be no prospect for genuine peace and stability in the world.

15. The Indian and Vietnamese leaders reaffirmed their faith in the pursuit of foreign policies characterised by transparency, love of peace and harmony and based on diversification and globalisation of economic relations. They expressed their desire to develop friendship and cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit with all other countries in the region and the world over.

16. The two sides welcomed the recent positive developments in the relations among the countries in Southeast Asia. India commended the formal signing by Vietnam of the Treaty of Amity and Friendship in Southeast Asia and becoming an observer of ASEAN and expressed the hope that this move would help in enhancing mutual trust among the countries of the region and offer bright prospects to build Southeast Asia into a region of peace, stability, cooperation and development. Similarly, Vietnam appreciated India's association with ASEAN as a sectoral dialogue partner.

17. Vietnam highly valued India's foreign policy of peace and non-alignment and her efforts aimed at improving and fortifying her ties with neighbouring countries, creating an atmosphere of mutual understanding and trust and for cooperation in South Asia. The Indian side drew attention to Pakistan's continued support to subversion and terrorism in parts of India such as Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir amounting to blatant interference in the internal affairs of India. Both sides held the view that all the differences between India and Pakistan should be settled through peaceful bilateral negotiations in accordance with the Simla Agreement.

18. The two sides expressed deep concern over the large scale and intensified armed conflicts within Afghanistan and hoped that the people of Afghanistan will resolve their differences through peaceful means without any external interference of any kind.

19. Vietnam hailed India's role and constructive contribution in consolidating peace, friendship, cooperation and development in South Asia, Southeast Asia and in the Asia-Pacific region.

20. India highly appreciated and welcomed the open foreign policy of Vietnam and her positive contribution to the maintenance and consolidation of peace, stability and cooperation in South East Asia and Asia-Pacific.

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21. The two sides reaffirmed their support for the declaration on the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and efforts by the Non-Aligned Movement and the international community to this end.

22. As signatories to the Paris Agreement on the comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian question, the two sides reaffirmed their commitment to continue together with all the

countries and parties concerned to make active contributions to facilitating a strict implementation of the Agreement, thus ensuring the emergence of a peaceful, independent, non-aligned and neutral Cambodia thriving in friendship with all countries. The two sides shared the concern of the international community over the actions of Khmer Rouge that hamper the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Cambodia. Both sides felt that in order to ensure peace and stability in Cambodia, it was necessary that all the Cambodian parties continue to work in the same spirit of national reconciliation, harmony and cooperation in which they had signed the Paris Agreements.

23. The two leaders highly appreciated the fruitful outcome and important results of the 10th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in Jakarta. They reaffirmed their conviction that in the changed international situation, the Non-Aligned Movement assumes increasing responsibility especially in the common struggle for a new world order based on national sovereignty, independence, peace, democracy, justice and equity and with due regard for the needs of developing countries, regardless of their size, economic conditions and socio-political system.

24. The two sides were of the view that the State visit of the high-level delegation of Vietnam led by H.E. Mr. Do Muoi, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam will constitute a new landmark in Indo-Vietnam relations opening up broad prospects for cementing the bonds of traditional friendship and multi-faceted cooperation between the two countries.

25. General Secretary Do Muoi and the Vietnamese Delegation expressed their sincere gratitude to the Government and fraternal people of India for their solemn and hearty reception and deep feelings reserved for the Delegation deeming that as a vivid manifestation of the close bond of friendship existing between India and Vietnam.

26. General Secretary Do Muoi extended the invitation to H.E. Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, President of India, H.E. Mr. K. R. Narayanan, Vice-President of India and H.E. Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, Prime Minister of India to pay friendly State visits to Vietnam. The Indian leaders thanked His Excellency Mr. Do Muoi, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam and accepted the invitation with pleasure.

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ETNAM INDIA USA PAKISTAN AFGHANISTAN FRANCE CAMBODIA INDONESIA

**Date :** Sep 8-, 1992

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**Date :** Oct 01, 1992

## Volume No

1995

AUSTRIA

Visit of Austrian Minister for Economic Affairs to India

The following is text of press release issued in New Delhi on  
Oct 16, 1992:

The visiting Austrian Minister for Economic Affairs Mr. Wolfgang Schuessel met Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Eduardo Faleiro on October 15 in New Delhi. Shri Faleiro welcomed the Austrian Minister noting that the visit will help revive bilateral dialogue between the two countries for enhancing cooperation. They discussed possibility of expanding bilateral trade and Austrian investment in India as well as setting up of Indo-Austrian joint ventures in East Europe. The two Ministers discussed international and regional issues of bilateral interest including Austria's forthcoming membership of the European Community.

STRIA USA INDIA

**Date :** Oct 16, 1992

## Volume No

1995

ASEAN

A Seminar on India-ASEAN Relations

The following is text of press release issued in New Delhi on

Oct 20, 1992:

A seminar on "India and ASEAN" was organised by the Ministry of External Affairs, on 20th October 1992. Chaired by Shri Eduardo Faleiro, Minister of State for External Affairs, the seminar was addressed by leading intellectuals, academicians, former diplomats, members of the Joint Consultative Committee of Parliament.

In his opening statement, Shri Eduardo Faleiro said that in the context of India having become a sectoral dialogue partner with ASEAN our relations with that region needs to be refocussed. ASEAN has been a dynamo of growth in the last 25 years since its birth. It has also been a model of peaceful co-existence and constructive cooperation among the member nations who are essentially of diverse sizes and level of economic development. It has been a success story whether due to the policies of the individual countries or due to the fact of its common grouping. The measure of ASEAN's success today lies in everybody wanting to be associated with it either as a member, observer or dialogue partner.

Shri Faleiro highlighted that traditionally the region has had very close cultural links with India, traces of which can be seen even today. Though we do not have cultural exchange programmes with these countries, there have been regular exchange of cultural troupes, films etc., which have mainly been left to the market forces to operate.

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Shri Faleiro also said that in the post-cold war period, South East Asia has been abuzz with apprehensions of a security vacuum, in the wake of the US decision to scale down its military presence in the region. There have been considerable uneasiness about regional powers such as China, Japan and India being tempted to fill the vacuum.

In the course of the Seminar, a lot of area was covered, with many of the participants urging that in the changed global environment, India should pay closer attention to its relations with its Asian neighbours. Despite our close traditional links and geographical proximity, we are still on the outskirts of the ASEAN process, a situation which needs to be remedied. One way of doing this would be by fostering closer dialogue at all levels including the unofficial level whether through the universities or research centres institutes. There was a felt need to supply more information to the establishments of these countries so that our point of view is put across effectively.

With India having become sectoral dialogue partner of ASEAN in areas of trade, tourism, technology and manpower at the time when we are vigorously involved in the process of liberalising our economy at

home, this is a good time to intensify our trade and economic links with South East Asia. At the moment, we have positive trade balance with 4 of the ASEAN countries and an equivalent negative balance with Malaysia and Singapore.

For ASEAN countries, prosperity is a common obsession. We have to get out of the strait jacket of commodity exports by diversifying our export structure, graduate into the services sector, trade generating ventures and encourage investments. ASEAN could also be used as a springboard to the global market.

On the security aspect, oil and narcotics are important factors in determining the security profiles of the region. With the prospect of dwindling oil reserves in the oil-producing South East Asian countries as in the rest of the world, access to potential oil reserves and sea lanes such as the South China Sea have come to increasingly determine the policy decisions of these countries.

DIA USA CHINA JAPAN MALAYSIA REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

**Date :** Oct 20, 1992

## Volume No

1995

CHINA

Meeting of India-China Joint Working Group on Boundary Question

The following is text of press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 30, 1992:

The fifth meeting of the India-China Joint Working Group on the boundary question and Foreign Secretary - Vice Minister level consultations were held in Beijing on October 28 and 29, 1992. The Indian delegation was led by the Foreign Secretary, Shri J. N. Dixit, and the Chinese delegation by Vice Foreign Minister, Mr. Xu Dunxin.

The Foreign Secretary, Shri J. N. Dixit, called on State Councillor and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Qian Qichen on 29th October, 1992. Shri Dixit conveyed an official invitation to Mr. Qian Qichen to visit India in 1993. The invitation was accepted in principle.

This is the first time that the JWG has met twice in the same year, reflecting the importance that both sides attach to the

work of the group. Discussions in the  
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working group were constructive, candid and held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. The discussions were marked by a certain progress and both sides agreed to sincerely work together to further this process.

During the fifth meeting, the two sides continued their discussions aimed at arriving at a mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question as well as discussions on measures to ensure peace and tranquillity in areas along the Line of Actual Control. The positive experience of implementing confidence building measures agreed at previous meetings of the JWG was reviewed and further steps to be considered were suggested by both sides.

There was a detailed exchange of views on all aspects of India-China bilateral relations. Both sides expressed gratification at the steady progress in bilateral relations. It was agreed in principle that further points would be opened to border trade, with details to be worked out in future consultations.

Views were exchanged on international issues of mutual interest in the consultations following the JWG meeting.

The next session of the JWG will be held in New Delhi at a mutually convenient date in the first half of 1993.

INA INDIA USA

**Date :** Oct 30, 1992

## Volume No

1995

COMMONWEALTH

Visit of Commonwealth Observer Mission to South Africa

The following is text of Press Release issued in New Delhi on Oct 16, 1992:

The Secretary General of the Commonwealth has in view of the prevailing situation and ongoing violence, decided to send a Commonwealth Observer Mission to South Africa. This initiative of the Commonwealth has special significance in the context of the recent developments in that country. In the past the Commonwealth

had undertaken similar initiatives on Rhodesia and Namibia.

The purpose of the Mission is to monitor violence and assist all concerned in arriving at an early and negotiated resolution of the conflict. It will work as per the mandate of the Resolution 772 of the U.N. Security Council.

The group will comprise of 12 eminent persons selected from various Commonwealth countries. Besides India, representatives of UK, Canada, Australia, Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Zambia are chosen for this initiative.

Mr. Anand Sharma, a former Member of the Indian Parliament and leading Anti Apartheid and Human Rights campaigner has been chosen by the Secretary General to join the Commonwealth initiative. Mr. Sharma is the Chairman of the Indian Anti Apartheid Movement and had recently visited South Africa as a Special Envoy of Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao. He also had the distinction of having been a Member of the commonwealth Eminent Persons group to Namibia in 1989.

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UTH AFRICA INDIA NAMIBIA USA AUSTRALIA CANADA NIGER NIGERIA UNITED KINGDOM  
ZAMBIA ZIMBABWE

**Date :** Oct 16, 1992

## Volume No

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CIS COUNTRIES

India Extended Its Training Facilities to Friendly Countries

The following is the text of Press Release issued in New Delhi on Oct 22, 1992:

India has extended an invitation to the people from friendly countries like the newly independent republics of the former USSR to take advantage of its various training facilities in the fields of diplomacy, finance, banking, mining, science and technology, film making etc. The invitation was given today by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia while addressing the participants of the First Eight Week Professional Training Course organised by the Foreign Service Training Institute for Foreign Diplomats here today.

About 13 young diplomats from the newly independent republics of

Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kirghizstan and Azerbaijan are participated in the programme.

Highlighting the traditional ties between India and the Central Asian countries, Shri Bhatia said that it is a matter of satisfaction that we are today standing at the threshold of a new and enriching friendship between India and the newly independent countries of Central Asia. There is much that is common between our countries notably a secular heritage, a modern and progressive outlook and a determination to take our places among the front-ranking nations of the world.

Shri Bhatia said that the training at the Foreign Service Institute will aim to equip the participants for fulfilling their responsibilities in the development of their respective countries. The effort will be to orient them to the needs, functions and requirements of a diplomatic service and to start the process of developing administrative and managerial skills necessary for running a foreign office. He hoped that as a result the participants will imbibe a sense of professionalism and a feeling of commitment to their new tasks.

The Course is being organised by the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs and financed by the Government of India under ITEC. The objective of the specially designed course is to orient the participants to the needs, functions and responsibilities of a diplomatic service. In their efforts to set up their diplomatic services, these newly independent countries had projected their requirements to the Institute. The training is being conducted by the in-house faculty of FSI, serving officers from the Ministry of External Affairs, and eminent persons from different fields.

The programme includes the study of diplomatic practice and protocol, international law, formulation and implementation of foreign policy, training in language, computer skills, effective communication and representational skills.

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DIA USA KAZAKHSTAN TAJIKISTAN TURKMENISTAN UZBEKISTAN AZERBAIJAN

**Date :** Oct 22, 1992

**Volume No**

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FRANCE

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## Indo-French Cultural Pact Signed

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The following is the text of Press Release issued in New Delhi on Oct 16, 1992:

India and France have signed a Cultural Exchange Programme for 1993-95 envisaging greater interaction in art, literature, education, radio, TV and films. It was signed here today by the Secretary, Department of Culture, Shri Bhaskar Ghose and the Ambassador of France to India, Mr. Philippe Petit.

The new exchange programme visualises increased cooperation in conservation of cultural heritage, archaeology and museology besides exchange of exhibitions and cultural performances, scholarships and training. Development of inter-university cooperation, teaching of French in Indian schools and colleges, exchange of university teachers and continuing cooperation in Indology, Sanskrit studies have been envisaged. Provision has been made for exchange of writers, scholars and literary experts. France is to examine the possibility of setting up a French library in Delhi.

The two sides will adopt measures for facilitating distribution of Indian films in France and French films in India. Cooperation between Radio and TV organisations in the two countries will be encouraged. The French side will provide training facilities for AIR and Doordarshan personnel.

Under the exchange programme, there will be cooperation in the welfare of the physically and the mentally handicapped, exchange of information on drug abuse, counselling, de-addiction and rehabilitation of drug addicts. There will be continued exchange in the field of public administration besides training facilities for Indian officials in French institutions.

The new Cultural Exchange Programme was finalised at the 12th session of the Indo-French Joint Commission for cooperation in Culture, Education and Science held here yesterday. The Joint Commission expressed satisfaction at the implementation of the present exchange programme.

ANCE INDIA USA

**Date :** Oct 16, 1992

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# Volume No

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1995

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## ITALY

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### Meeting of Italian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs with Minister of State for External Affairs Shri R. L. Bhatia

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The following is the text of Press Release issued in New Delhi on Oct 28, 1992:

Mr. Giuseppe Giocovazzo, Minister of State for Foreign, In-Charge of South Asia and Far East, Government of Italy, called on Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs, today. He wel-coined the economic liberalisation programme of the Government of India and said that Italian industry and business is keen to make use of the opportunities arising from the liberalisation. He mentioned that the Head of the International Division of FIAT would be visiting India shortly to explore possibilities for investment and collaboration.  
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The Italian Minister stressed the need for high level political exchanges between the two countries and said that the Government of Italy is inviting Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao to visit Italy.

Shri Bhatia briefed the Italian Minister about the Pakistani support of terrorism in India. The Italian Minister said that Italy was against terrorism anywhere in the world. He mentioned that Italy itself was a victim of terrorism.

The Italian Minister assured that the European Community will not be a 'fortress' Europe and that it will be open to the rest of the world.

ALY INDIA USA PAKISTAN

**Date :** Oct 28, 1992

## Volume No

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1995

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## JAPAN

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### Japanese Assitance to India

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The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 27, 1992:

Japan will provide Yen 111.908 billion equivalent to about Rs.

2250 crore as ODA Loan assistance to India during 1992-93 for aiding the country's economic development efforts. The current year's pledge represents an increase of 5 per cent over the last year's pledge of Yen 106.594 billion.

The aid package assistance will be earmarked for three on-going and two new projects in the Power Sector and a fast disbursing hydro carbon sector programme loan. The Yamuna Action Plan Project, being carried out in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi will get Yen 17.773 billion, while Srisailem HydroElectric project in Andhra Pradesh will receive Yen 3.806 billion and the Anpara B Thermal Power Project (IV) in Uttar Pradesh will get Yen 13.224 billion. In the case of Gandhar Gas Based Power Project (III) of NTPC in Gujarat, the assistance is of the order of Yen 19.538 billion, while Ammonia Plant Replacement Project at Cochin will get Yen 24.482 billion and Yen 33.085 billion has been earmarked for Hydro-Carbon Sector Programme Loan.

The aid package, in the form of a soft loan, is administered by the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), an autonomous agency of the Japanese Government. The loan carries interest of 2.6 per cent per annum with a 30 year-repayment period, including grace period of 10 years. The repayment period of the Hydro-Carbon Sector Programme will be 25 years including a grace period of 7 years.

Notes to this effect were exchanged here today between the Secretary, Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance, Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia and the Japanese Ambassador to India, Mr. S. Kobayashi.

The objective of the Yamuna Action Plan project is to reduce the pollution load on the river Yamuna and thereby improve the water quality. The total project cost is Yen 21.5 million. The project is spread over 15 towns in the States of Haryana, UP and the Union territory of Delhi. The project is expected to be completed by 1997-98.

The 'Udyogamandal Ammonia Plant of Fact' project envisages replacement of three old energy intensive ammonia plants by putting up a new ammonia plant of 900 TPD capacity. The total project cost was estimated at Yen 31.7 billion. The project will be completed by 1996-97. Of significance is the fact that OECF has resumed aid to the fertilizer sector after a gap of 3 years!

The Srisailem Hydro-Electric Project, Anpara B Thermal Power Project (IV) and Gandhar Gas Based Power Project (III) are ongoing projects and are currently being assisted by the OECF and are at various stages of completion.

The Srisailem Hydro-Electric Project, Anpara B Thermal Power Project (IV) and Gandhar Gas Based Power Project (III) are ongoing projects and are currently being assisted by the OECF and are at various stages of completion.

This Hydro Carbon Sector Programme Loan is to co-finance an equivalent amount of loan for the Hydrocarbon Sector Programme from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). OECF will disburse the first tranche immediately after loan effectuation and the second tranche after fulfilment of the ADB loan conditionalities.

Japan continues to be India's largest bilateral donor, a position it has maintained consistently over the last 6 years.

PAN INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

**Date :** Oct 27, 1992

## Volume No

1995

JAPAN

India, Japan to Expand and Diversify Bilateral Trade

The following is the text of Press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 01, 1992:

The 9th Round of Indo-Japan Trade Talks was held here on September 30 1st October, 1992. Shri A. V. Ganesan, Commerce Secretary, led the Indian side and the Japanese Delegation was led by Mr. Koiohro Matsuura, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan.

The two sides discussed international economy, its current trends and prospects, structural changes and exchanged views on multilateral negotiations such as Uruguay Round of talks etc. Bilateral trade and investments were reviewed and the steps required for enhancing and diversifying bilateral trade and expanding Japanese investments in India were discussed. Specific proposals on either side designed for achieving these goals were also discussed during the meeting. The discussions between the two sides were held in a very cordial manner and the two sides expressed satisfaction on the recent trends of bilateral trade and inflow of Japanese invest-

ments and were optimistic about substantial increases in these areas in the years to follow.

These talks are significant from India's point of view as Japan is one of the major trade partners of India and India looks forward to substantial increase in the Japanese investments in

India in the wake of recent liberalisations in India's economy particularly in the area of infrastructure and high-tech industry. Japan was also requested to use their good officers in G-7 meetings on India's behalf.

There has been a steady growth of bilateral trade over the years. From Rs. 3740 crores in 1987-88, bilateral trade has increased to Rs. 7418 crores in 1991-92. Indian exports have risen from Rs. 1614 crores to Rs. 4048 crores during this period while Japanese exports to India have increased from Rs. 2126 crores to Rs. 3370 crores. Gems and Jewellery, iron ore and marine products continue to dominate Indian exports and account for around two-thirds of Indian exports.

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PAN INDIA USA URUGUAY

**Date :** Oct 01, 1992

## Volume No

1995

KAZAKHSTAN

Visit of Minister of State for External Affairs Shri R. L. Bhatia to Kazakhstan

The following is the text of Press Release issued in New Delhi on Oct 19, 1992:

Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs paid a goodwill visit to Kazakhstan from 14-16 October. Minister of State's engagements included a lengthy call on President Nursultan Nazarbaev who had paid a State visit to India in February 92. Nazarbaev and Shri Bhatia emphasized the importance attached by both sides to developing bilateral cooperation in the political, economic and other fields. Nazarbaev praised India's peaceful foreign policy. Full support was expressed for India's position and concerns in the regional and global contexts including on Kashmir and Punjab and condemnation of fundamentalism, terrorism and separatism.

Minister of State had detailed meetings with Foreign Minister Mr. Sulaymenov, Vice-President of Supreme Economic Council of the Presidency Mr. Izteleouv, and Deputy Foreign Trade Ministers. Both sides agreed on steps for significant enhancement of economic relations and

technical exchanges between the two countries. Foreign Minister

hosted a banquet in honour of the visiting Indian Minister. Ambassador Kamalesh Sharma hosted a reception in honour of Shri Bhatia in which about hundred Kazakh leaders, officials, members of intelligensia, journalists and cultural figures participated. Shri Bhatia and Kazakh Foreign Minister held a joint press conference which reflected identity of views on regional and global issues.

During the visit, Minister of State and Kazakh Foreign Minister signed three agreements (i) On establishment of the Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation; (ii) On Technical Cooperation; and (iii) The Cultural Exchange Programme (1992-94). The first meeting of the Joint Commission would be held soon in New Delhi. It was also agreed that Shri Salman Khursheed, Deputy Minister of Commerce would be heading a large official and Business Delegation to Alma Ata in early November 1992.

ZAKHSTAN INDIA MALDIVES USA

**Date :** Oct 19, 1992

## Volume No

1995

KYRGHYZSTAN

Visit of Minister of State for External Affairs Shri R. L. Bhatia to Kyrgyzstan

The following is the text of Press Release issued in New Delhi on Oct 21, 1992:

Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs, paid a goodwill visit to Kyrgyzstan (Capital Bishkek) from October 13-14. Shri Bhatia had a one and a half hour meeting with President of Kyrgyzstan, Mr. Askar Akaev. He had detailed discussions with Foreign Trade

Minister Mr. Sarygulov, Minister for Culture Mr. Nazarbatov and Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Moiseev.

This visit was the first Ministerial level visit from India since the independence of Kyrgyzstan. Two agreements were signed by Shri Bhatia - agreement on the establishment of Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and

Technological Cooperation, and the Cultural Exchange Programme.

Discussions with the top Kyrghyz Leadership were marked by warmth and cordiality and reflected close similarity of views over various international issues pertaining to peace, disarmament and development. Both sides reiterated the determination to consolidate and diversify

bilateral cooperation in all fields. President Akaev welcomed the fact that our Ambassador in Kazakhstan (Shri Kamalesh Sharma) has been accredited to Kyrghyzstan.

Minister of State handed over eight tonnes of medicines for recent earth-quake victims of Kyrghyzstan.

DIA KYRGYZSTAN USA KAZAKHSTAN MALDIVES

**Date :** Oct 21, 1992

## Volume No

1995

KUWAIT

Submission of Compensation Claims Forms by Indian Nationals

The following is the text of Press Release issued in New Delhi on Oct 10, 1992:

All Indian nationals are informed by Special Kuwait Cell, Ministry of External Affairs that Form 'D' and Form 'E' of United Nations Compensation Commission are available with the State and Union

Territory Governments and nationalised banks.

2.All other Forms are also available with the banks.

3.Banks are guiding people for correctly filling their claims.

4. The last date for receiving the claims in the Ministry for all categories of claims has been extended upto December 1,1992.

WAIT INDIA

**Date :** Oct 10, 1992

# Volume No

1995

NEPAL

## Visit of the Prime Minister of India to Nepal

The following is the text of Joint Communiqué signed by the Foreign Secretaries of India-Nepal on Oct 21, 1992 at Kathmandu:

His Excellency Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, Prime Minister of India, is on an official goodwill visit to Nepal from October 19-21, 1992 at the invitation of the Rt. Hon'ble Girija Prasad Koirala, Prime Minister of Nepal. The Prime Minister of India is accompanied by His Excellency Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs, and senior officials of the Government of India. He is also accom-

panied by his daughter, Shrimati Vani Devi, and by three of his grandchildren.

2. During his visit, the Prime Minister of India was received in audience by His Majesty the King of Nepal. He visited the Martyrs' Memorial in Kathmandu and paid homage to their memory. He was also given a Civic Reception by the citizens of Kathmandu. He had meetings with His Excellency Prime Minister G. P. Koirala, and with the leaders of the delegations led by the two Prime Ministers met for detailed discussions on issues of common interest.

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3. The discussions were held in an atmosphere of warmth, friendship and sincerity, which mark the extremely close relationship between Nepal and India. In the course of these meetings, as also the earlier discussions at the official level that preceded the visit of the Prime Minister of India, a number of decisions were taken and steps finalised in order to further strengthen and expand bilateral cooperation. In the trade sector in particular, substantial improvements have been made in the access regime for Nepalese exports to India. These decisions were meant to build on the bilateral cooperation programme in a variety of fields worked out during the visit of His Excellency the Prime Minister of Nepal to India in December, 1991, and to help usher in a new era of such mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries.

Trade

4. On the basis of discussions held between His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the Government of India, it was agreed to improv and simplify the regime for export of Nepalese goods to India. These changes are listed below. They mark a watershed in the trade relations between Nepal and India, and should contribute significantly to enhancing Nepalese exports to India.

- The existing proforma clearance system will be abolished and will be replaced by a system of Certificate of Origin to be issued by HMGN.

- In determining the eligibility of a Nepalese product for access to the Indian market free of customs duties and quantitative restrictions, Nepalese labour content will also be included.

- If the total percentage of the three components, i.e. the Nepalese labour content, the Nepalese material content, and the Indian material content, exceeds 50 per cent, the product will have duty free and quota free access to the Indian Market.

5. The above provisions will cover all Nepalese exports to India, except for a small negative list of items, for which this facility will not be available. Both sides have agreed on procedures to ensure that the Certificate of Origin system is efficiently and properly implemented.

6. The number of other issues relating to Indo-Nepal trade have also been resolved, which would further facilitate Nepalese exports to India. These are listed below:

- Movement of Nepalese private commercial vehicles from the Nepalese border to Calcutta Haldia and back will be allowed on such vehicles being duly authorised by the Nepal Transit and Warehousing Company Ltd. or Nepal Transport Corporation or HMGN and the necessary undertaking being given by them to the Indian customs authorities.

- Nepal may import goods from India by payment in freely convertible currency, in addition to the existing system of payment in Indian Rupees, for the import of such goods as HMGN may choose. The Indian exporter will be entitled to all the export benefits made available by India for such exports in freely convertible currency.

- Nepal-to-Nepal movement of Nepalese vehicles and goods through India will be allowed without cash deposit or bond system upon the necessary undertaking given by the Nepalese customs authorities.

Stand-by Credit

7. Reflecting the Government of India's desire to be fully supportive of the economic development and well-being of the

people of Nepal, the Government of India have further agreed to enhance the revolving stand-by credit facility extended to Nepal from the level of (IC) Rs. 35 crores to Rs. 50 crores. The term of this agree-  
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ment will also be extended from one year to three years. The special, concessional interest rate of 7 per cent p.a. for this credit will also be maintained during this period.

#### Joint Ventures

8. The liberalised guidelines of the Government of India for investment in joint ventures abroad by Indian entrepreneurs would greatly simplify the procedures for setting up such ventures in Nepal. Together with the Certificate of Origin system, this will promote Nepalese exports to India as also the industrialisation of Nepal and local employment opportunities.

#### Water Resources Co-operation

9. Following up on the understandings reached and the decisions taken during the visit of His Excellency the Prime Minister of Nepal to India in December, 1991 on bilateral cooperation in this sector, both sides have agreed on a time frame for investigations, preparation of project reports etc. on the Karnali, Pancheswar, Sapta Koshi, Budhi-Gandaki, Kamala and Bagmati Projects, as also on the installation of flood forecasting and warning systems, the construction of flood protection embankments and on power exchange. The implementation of this detailed programme would prepare the ground for taking up some or all of these projects and to enter into required agreements. It was further agreed to explore the possibility of private sector participation in setting up of hydel projects. Both the governments agreed to give priority to undertake Pancheswar and Budhi-Gandaki projects. It was agreed to investigate and study the aspects of navigation through river Koshi. It was also agreed that the supply of water to Nepal under the Sharada Rarrane Agreement will be maintained.

#### Tanakpur Barrage

10. With reference to the decision taken at the Second Meeting of the IndoNepal Joint Commission in New Delhi on December 4-5, 1991 regarding the Tanak-

pur Barrage, the following clarifications were agreed upon:

- The site at Mahendranagar municipal area in the Jimuwa village which is made available for tying up of the left afflux bund (about 577 meters in length within an area of about 2.9 hectares) to the high ground in the Nepalese side at EL 250 and the Nepalese land lying on the west of the said site bund up to the

Nepal-India border including the natural resources endowment lying within that area remains under the continued sovereignty and control of Nepal and Nepal is free to exercise all attendant rights thereto.

- As referred to above, the Tanakpur Barrage Project does not make any consumptive use of water. No arrangement concerning the tying up of the afflux bund to the left of the Tanakpur Barrage to the high ground on the Nepalese shall be construed as depriving either country of its share in the storage projects envisaged at Pancheswar or similar other places on the Mahakall river upstream of the Tanakpur Barrage.

- The supply of up to 150 cusecs of water from the Tanakpur Barrage to irrigate between 4000-5000 hectares of land on the Nepalese side shall be made on a perennial-round the year basis as would be requested by Nepal. The construction of the portion of the canal up to the Nepal-India border for the supply of water shall be completed at the earliest.

- Regarding the supply of power to Nepal from the Tanakpur Nower Station, both sides agreed that 20 million units would be supplied annually, free of cost, to Nepal. The modalities for the supply of energy shall be worked out.

11. Further, as some pillars on the Nepal-India border in the Tanakpur Barrage area are missing or in dilapidated con-  
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dition, they would be put in place or renovated by May, 1993 under the auspices of the Joint Technical Level Nepal-India Boundary Committee, in consonance with the governing principles of territorial sovereignty and mutual respect.

#### Power Exchange

12. Recalling the decisions taken regarding power exchange during the visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal to India in December, 1991, the two sides agreed that the future quantum of exchange shall be considered by the High Level Task Force to be constituted.

#### B.P. Koirala Nepal-India Foundation

13. The Bishweshwar Prasad Koirala Nepal-India Foundation, set up to honour the memory of the great Nepalese patriot, freedom fighter and statesman, was inaugurated by the two Prime Ministers on October 21, 1992. The MOU for setting up this Foundation was signed during the visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal to India in December 1991. The Foundaation provides an institutional framework for promoting academic, cultural and technical exchanges and cooperation between India and Nepal, the specific thrust areas being agricultural research, science and technology,

health, technical training, developmental and area studies and women's studies. The focus of the Foundation, which will be funded by the income from a trust fund to which both governments have contributed (IC) Rs. 2 crores each is on higher studies, research, in-service training of teachers, research scholars, technocrats etc.

#### Indian Aid Projects in Nepal

14. Both sides noted with satisfaction that the various Indian aid projects being taken up in Nepal following the visit of His Excellency the Prime Minister of Nepal to India in December, 1991 were being implemented smoothly. These include the establishment of the B. P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences at Dharan, the setting up of a new wing of the Bir Hospital in

Kathmandu, the renovation of the Jayanagar-Janakpur-Bizalpur railway, the setting up of a telephone exchange at Rangeli and some new road projects like Biratnagar - Bhadrapur and Chatara - Birpur roads. Both sides will cooperate to ensure the successful completion of these projects.

15. In response to a request from HMGN, the Government of India will take up a new project, the construction of 17 bridges on the western sector of the Kohalpur-Mahakali section of Mahendra Rajmarg. These bridges will ensure that the road is fully operational even during the monsoon season, and will thus ease transport problems in the western and far-western regions of Nepal served by this highway.

16. An Indo-Nepal High Level Task Force will be set up which will, as part of its mandate, ensure the successful completion of the above projects as also look into any new Indian Aid Projects in Nepal that might be proposed, such as B. P. Koirala Ophthalmic Institute, and the proposal for linking the Kohalpur-Mahakali section of the Mahendra Rajmarg to the Tanakpur Barrage.

17. The Prime Minister of India conveyed an invitation to His Majesty the King of Nepal to visit India. The invitation was accepted with pleasure. The dates for the visit will be worked out through diplomatic channels. The Prime Minister of India also extended an invitation to His Excellency the Prime Minister of Nepal to visit India at his convenience. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

Sd-  
(Jyotindra Nath Dixit)  
Foreign Secretary  
Government of India

Sd-  
(Narendra Bikram Shah)  
Foreign Secretary

His Majesty's Government  
of Nepal  
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PAL INDIA USA LATVIA

**Date :** Oct 21, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Border Clashes between Qatar and Saudi Arabia

The following is the text of statement of the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on Oct 09, 1992 on border clashes between Qatar and Saudi Arabia:

We have viewed with concern the clashes incidents between Qatar and Saudi

Arabia, two countries friendly to India and both members of the Gulf Cooperation Council. India hopes that the boundary question will be settled through friendly dialogue between the two countries to the mutual satisfaction of both.

TAR SAUDI ARABIA INDIA

**Date :** Oct 09, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Call on Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao by SAARC Ministers

The following is the text of statement of the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on Oct 09, 1992 on call on the Prime Minister by SAARC Ministers:

While briefing the newsmen, the Spokesman stated that a

delegation of SAARC Ministers called on the Prime Minister today. Shri Eduardo Faleiro, Minister of State for External Affairs, was also present. These Ministers included Jahanara Begum, Minister of Culture Bangladesh; Mr. Tsering, Foreign Minister of Bhutan; Mr. Abdullah Hamid, Education Minister of Maldives; Mr. Syed Fakar Imam, Federal Minister of Education, Pakistan; Mr. W. J. M. Lokubandara, Culture Minister of Sri Lanka; Mr. Govind Raj Joshi, Education and Culture Minister

of Nepal; and the Secretary General of the SAARC Secretariat Mr. I. H. Zaki.

The Prime Minister was very happy to receive the delegation and said that this is a concrete manifestation of the SAARC spirit and hoped that this spirit should prevail during the Summit in Dhaka later this year. The Prime Minister also said that there are lot of commonalities in language, culture, etc. among the SAARC countries. There is a large fund of folk literature, music, which needs to be collated and preserved and to this end, cooperation amongst SAARC countries is necessary and useful. There was a suggestion from the delegation that there could also be an exhibition of books periodicals of SAARC countries. The Prime Minister also said that there should be more frequent interaction between artists and intellectuals of SAARC countries.

DIA BANGLADESH BHUTAN MALDIVES PAKISTAN SRI LANKA NEPAL USA

**Date :** Oct 09, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Minister of State for External Affairs Shri R. L. Bhatia to Uzbekistan

The following is the text of statement of the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs issued on Oct 13, 1992 in New Delhi on Visit of Minister of State for External Affairs Shri R. L. Bhatia to Uzbekistan:

While briefing the newsmen, the Spokesman stated that Minister of State

for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia's visit to the Republic of Uzbekistan is the first such high level visit from India following Uzbek independence in 1991. The Minister was received at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister Mr. M. Karabaev and

Acting Foreign Minister Mr. F.Teshabaev. He was the guest of honour at the opening ceremony of the 11th  
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Tashkent International Film Festival. The Minister conveyed appreciation to the Festival organisers at the organisation of the special retrospective of Raj Kapoor's films. On 9th October, the Minister called on Speaker of Uzbek Parliament Mr. Yuldashev. The two sides discussed the recent successful visit of the Uzbek Parliamentary delegation to India led by Speaker Mr. Yuldashev and assessed positively the momentum it had given to the relations between the two Parliaments of India and Uzbekistan. On the Kashmir issue, Mr. Yuldashev reiterated Uzbekistan's stand that Kashmir was an internal matter of India and that any dispute with Pakistan over Kashmir should be resolved bilaterally under the Simla Agreement. MOS addressed a special function organised by the prestigious Alberuni Institute of Oriental Studies in Tashkent. He conveyed India's deep interest in developing cultural and academic exchanges with Uzbekistan. He presented the Institute with a collection of books on India's rich cultural heritage. In his meeting with the Mayor of Tashkent MOS and the Mayor discussed concrete possibilities for Indian participation in the development of Tashkent. Interest was expressed by the Uzbek side in Indian assistance in construction of apartments, hospitals and schools. The Minister met Mr. M. Rasumlov, First Secretary of the Ruling Peoples Democratic Party of Uzbekistan. He was briefed on the democratic transformation underway in Uzbekistan. The Uzbek side also conveyed their keen interest in India's experience as a functioning secular multi party democracy. The Chairman of the Uzbek State Television Company expressed interest in receiving through satellite Indian television programmes. MOS paid a visit to Samarkand, which is the second largest city of Uzbekistan and was received by the Governor. Minister also visited Bukhara where he was shown the ancient trading house complex where Indian merchants who travelled along the Silk Route had established their settlements centuries ago. The Governor expressed keen interest in Indian business interaction with scale industries, opening of

commercial establishments and interaction in the field of tourism. In both Samarkand and Bokhara the Minister paid special visits to the construction sites of the Indian hotel projects which are nearing completion. The Minister called on the Minister of Foreign Economic Relations of the Republic of Uzbekistan Mr. U. Sultanov. They discussed the current position of Indo-Uzbek trade. The Uzbek side expressed the hope that Indo-Uzbek Trade Plan for 1992 would be realised by December 1992. The Plan projects two-way trade to total US \$ 70 million. Shri Bhatia offered the Uzbek Minister training slots for Uzbek specialists in foreign trade and banking under the ITEC programme. The offer was accepted with gratitude. It was agreed that concrete proposals for establishing joint ventures and transfer of technology would be discussed during the forthcoming visit of

Deputy Minister of Commerce Mr. Salman Khurshid to Tashkent. MOS met Uzbek Foreign Minister Mr. U. Abdurazzakov. Bilateral and regional issues were discussed in depth. Minister reiterated India's happiness at Uzbekistan's joining the NAM during the recent Jakarta summit. Both sides expressed concern at attempts by external forces to destabilise the region through flow of arms and funds to support terrorism. As States committed to the principles of democracy and secularism, India and Uzbekistan were committed to peace and stability in the region. India and Uzbekistan signed two major Agreements in Tashkent on 12th October. These were signed by Shri Bhatia and the Uzbek Foreign Minister Mr. U. Abdurazzakov. The Agreement on establishing a Joint Commission between India and Uzbekistan sets in place a mechanism to monitor and assist the development of Indo-Uzbek relations in the fields of trade, economy, science and technology. The Joint Commission is expected to meet at least once every two years alternatively in India and Uzbekistan. This Agreement was characterised by the Uzbek Foreign Minister as a historical document since this was the first Joint Commission established by Uzbekistan with any foreign country

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ever since it achieved independence in August 1991. The second major Agreement concerned technical and economic cooperation between the two countries. Under this Agreement, Government of India have offered to extend the ITEC programme to Uzbekistan. An Indo-Uzbek Protocol on cooperation in culture and arts for 1992-94 was signed by Uzbek Acting Minister of Culture. Mr. Hakimov and Smt. Komal Anand, Joint Secretary, Department of Culture. An Indo-Uzbek Protocol on cooperation in higher education for 1992-94 was signed by Uzbek Minister, of Higher Education Dr. Abdullaev and Smt. Komal Anand. An Indo-Uzbek Protocol on co-

operation in mass media was signed by the Chairman of the Uzbek State Television Company E. Haitbaev and Shri S. Lakshmi Narayanan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. An Indo-Uzbek Protocol on cooperation in sports for 1992-94 was signed by Chairman of the Uzbek State Committee of Sports Mr. S. Raziev and Smt. Komal Anand. The Minister visited the Lal Bahadur Shastri Hindi School in Tashkent. MOS Presented the school a set of books on this occasion. Hindi has been taught at the school since 1956 and a total of 1700 students are enrolled in it.

BEKISTAN INDIA USA PAKISTAN UNITED KINGDOM INDONESIA

**Date :** Oct 13, 1992

**Volume No**

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1995

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

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India's Gift of Trucks and Buses to Namibia

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The following is the text of statement of the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on Oct 15, 1992 on gift of Trucks and Buses of India to Namibia:

While briefing the newsmen, the Spokesman stated that India has gifted 45 trucks and buses to Namibia as part of its assistance to Namibia under the Africa

Fund. The Indian High Commissioner to Namibia, Shri Shiv Shankar Mukherjee, while handing over the gift on behalf of the Government of India recalled India's longstanding support for the liberation struggle of Namibia. This gift represents the continuing commitment of India towards independent Namibian Government's task of nation building.

DIA NAMIBIA USA UNITED KINGDOM

**Date :** Oct 15, 1992

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## Volume No

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1995

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

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India's Relief Supplies of Medicines and Baby Food for the People of Somalia

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The following is the text of statement of the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs issued on Oct 15, 1992 in New Delhi on India relief supplies of medicines etc. for the people of Somalia:

While briefing the newsmen, the Spokesman stated that on the various appeals from Government of Somalia, international organisations and in consonance with the policies of the Government of

India, it has been decided to donate relief supplies of medicines and baby food worth Rs. 20 lakhs to help alleviate the sufferings of the people of Somalia. These supplies will be handed over to the UN Operations for Somalia (UNOSOM) for distribution. UNOSOM

are currently handling all relief work relating to Somalia. These are anticipated to be personally handed over by Shri Eduardo Faleiro, MOS, during his forthcoming visit to Somalia next month.  
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DIA MALI SOMALIA USA

**Date :** Oct 15, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Setting up an Indian Cultural Centre in South Africa

The following is the text of statement of the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs issued on Oct 23, 1992 in New Delhi on setting up an Indian Culture Centre in South Africa:

The Spokesman stated that Shri L. L. Mehrotra, Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs had a meeting with the ANC's Chief Representative in India Mr. M. Mphele and views were exchanged on the situation in South Africa and the approach of Government of India in the evolving scenario.

2. Recalling the unstinted Indian support to the liberation movements in South Africa in the struggle against apartheid and white-minority rule, it was agreed that in view of the positive developments in South Africa relating to the progress towards the establishment of an all representative interim government of national unity, the time has now come to help the process towards a post-apartheid South Africa by establishing an Indian presence there.

3. India is heartened at the resumption of dialogue between the South African Government and the ANC. This has raised hopes of an early return to multi-party negotiations to bring about a non-racial, undivided and democratic South Africa.

4. In view of the above, India has now felt that the time has come to help the political process towards a post-apartheid South Africa from within by establishing an Indian presence there. It is, therefore, proposed to set-up an Indian Cultural Centre in South Africa to promote "people to-people" contacts with the power to perform Consular and Visa functions. This is also the demand of the Indian community there. It is also felt that, in anticipation of the lifting of trade and economic boycott of

South Africa in the event an agreement for the setting up of an all representative interim government is arrived at between the parties concerned, we must encourage exploratory visits by Indian trade delegations through organizations such as FICCI and ASSOCHAM to South Africa to prepare for trade and investment flows once the existing sanctions in this field are lifted. India had, earlier, in consonance with the decision of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting at Harare in October 1991, lifted the ban on people-to-people contacts including cultural, scientific and a selective sports boycott. The proposal to set-up direct air links is also being processed.

5. Mr. M. Mphela has confirmed to Secretary (East) that ANC would welcome these moves on India's part.

DIA SOUTH AFRICA USA ZIMBABWE

**Date :** Oct 23, 1992

## Volume No

1995

PERU

Purchase of Indian Buses by Federation of Transporters of Peru

The following is the text of Press Release issued in New Delhi on Oct 20, 1992:

The Federation of Transporters of Peru have signed a contract for the purchase of 900 Ashok Leyland "Viking" buses from India. The FoB value of the Indian export order is around US \$ 40 million, making it probably the largest ever in South America. A delegation from the Federation will visit Madras and Alwar -306>

at the beginning of November 1992 to finalize specifications. The shipment of the buses is to start from April 1993. The financing was tied up by Fiat of Italy, with whom Ashok Leyland has close business relations, through Italian Banks and US Insurers. The contract follows two years of efforts by the Indian Embassy in Peru with the Federation to buy commercial vehicles from India.

RU INDIA USA ITALY

**Date :** Oct 20, 1992

## Volume No

1995

SEYCHELLES

Indo-Seychelles Relations

The following is the text of Press Release issued in New Delhi on Oct 16, 1992:

H.E. Mr. James A. Michel, Chief of Staff of the Seychelles Peoples Defence Forces and Minister of Finance and Information of Seychelles called on Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Eduardo Faleiro on October 15, 1992 in New Delhi. Shri Faleiro noted the extremely close & friendly relations which exist between the two countries and congratulated the Government of Seychelles on the on-going smooth transition to multi party democracy. He expressed satisfaction at the expanding bilateral cooperation between the two countries in various fields and referred to the first meeting of the Indo-Seychelles Joint Commission held in New Delhi in September 1990. Government of India extended a credit of Rs. 25 million to Seychelles in November 1991. India's export to Seychelles amounted to Rs. 3.13 crores (1990-91) and Rs. 2.42 crores (1991-92). Shri Faleiro renewed offer of Indian assistance in the development of Seychelles. India is already extending assistance in the establishment of a defence training institute in Seychelles.

SEYCHELLES INDIA USA

**Date :** Oct 16, 1992

## Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Visit of Sri Lankan President, Shri Premadasa to India

The following is the text of Press Release issued in New Delhi on Oct 01, 1992:

Sri Lankan President Shri Ranasinghe Premadasa accompanied by Mrs. Hema Premadasa called on President and Mrs. Sharma today.

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia, and Foreign Secretary were present from the Indian side. The Sri Lankan President was accompanied by Foreign Secretary Mr. Bernard Tilakratne and his Advisor on International Affairs Mr. Bradman Weerakoon. They discussed age-old linkages between our two countries. Our President has been invited to visit Sri Lanka in June 1993 to be the Chief Guest at the forthcoming 2300th anniversary of the arrival of Buddhism in Sri Lanka. President -307>

Premadasa said that these visits would help continue to strengthen our bilateral relations.

The Vice-President and the Minister of State, Shri R. L. Bhatia also separately called on Sri Lankan President. They discussed matters relating to SAARC and bilateral relations, especially poverty alleviation programmes. President Premadasa has also invited Vice-President to visit Sri Lanka.

I LANKA INDIA USA

**Date :** Oct 01, 1992

## Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

India-Sri Lanka Joint Press Statement

The following is the text of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Press Statement issued here on Saturday, Oct 03, 1992:

"His Excellency Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, paid a State visit to India from 1-3 October 1992, in his capacity as Chairman of the Sixth Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). The President of Sri Lanka was accompanied by Mrs. Hema Premadasa and senior officials.

2. His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka called on His Excellency Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, President of India. The two Presidents reaffirmed the traditionally close and cordial relations between the two countries and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest. The President of Sri Lanka extended an invitation to the President of India to visit Sri Lanka in 1993 on the occasion of the 2300th Anniversary of the arrival of Arhat Mahinda in Mihintale with the message of Buddhism to Sri

Lanka. The President of India accepted the invitation with pleasure.

3. The Vice President of India, H. E. Shri K. R. Narayanan, called on H. E. the President of Sri Lanka. Recalling the strong links that have existed between India and Sri Lanka through centuries, the Vice President Of India expressed the hope that these relations would be further strengthened by the visit of the President of Sri Lanka. The President of Sri Lanka reciprocated these sentiments.

4. On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, on 2nd October 1992, the President of Sri Lanka and Mrs. Premadasa laid wreaths at Raj Ghat, the memorial dedicated to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi. Later, on the same day, the President of Sri Lanka and Mrs. Premadasa visited Bodh Gaya where the President of Sri Lanka installed a 'Ranweta' at the Bodh Gaya Temple.

5. The President of Sri Lanka and the Prime Minister of India held wide ranging discussions covering international, regional and bilateral issues in an atmosphere of friendship, goodwill and cordiality.

6. The two leaders noted with satisfaction the outcome of the recent NAM Summit at Jakarta and reaffirmed the continuing relevance of the Non-Aligned Movement in international affairs in terms of the new orientations which the Movement initiated there.

7. The Prime Minister of India expressed his warm appreciation of the impetus and direction provided by Sri Lanka, to further the cause of regional cooperation, during its Chairmanship of SAARC. The Prime Minister of India reiterated India's commitment to the strengthening of SAARC.

8. In particular, it was agreed that the expansion of trade, through the formalisation of a SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA), could provide a powerful stimulus to the development of the national economies of all member States by expanding investment and production,

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providing opportunities for higher employment and securing a better living standard for the people, especially of the least developed member States.

9. The two leaders affirmed the validity of SAARC as a forum for achieving social goals and developing the region's human resource potential, as this, apart from constituting an end in itself, is a vital pre-requisite for development in all other spheres. Keen interest was expressed in the report, currently under preparation, of the independent South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation. This report is expected to make important recommendations to the Heads of State/Government of SAARC

countries, at the 7th SAARC Summit, on alleviation of poverty in South Asia, based upon in-depth studies of diverse experiences of the seven countries in this regard.

10. They appreciated the spirit of the Resolution adopted recently by the Ministerial Conference on Children in South Asia held at Colombo. They expressed their conviction that the illustrative regional goals identified by the Ministers would catalyse and accelerate each country's endeavours to pursue its National Plans of Action on Children.

11. Recalling that the Male Declaration had proclaimed 1993 as the SAARC Year of Disabled Persons, the two sides affirmed their resolve to promote effective and compassionate policies for the welfare of such persons and to strive to bring them closer to the mainstream of regional development programmes.

12. The President of Sri Lanka and the Prime Minister of India noted that the feasibility study commissioned by SAARC to examine the possibilities of establishing a South Asian Development Fund will be completed in the near future for the consideration of the Association.

13. The two leaders welcomed recent steps taken under SAARC to institute and upgrade cooperation to combat terrorism at the regional level. These measures, they felt, could substantially improve the region's capacity to prevent terrorist activities through precautionary steps including regular consultations between concerned authorities and exchange of information, on a need-to-know basis.

14. The President of Sri Lanka expressed deep interest in and appreciation about India hosting the first South Asian Cultural Festival of SAARC countries from October 9 to 24, 1992 and assured the Prime Minister of India of his country's fullest cooperation in making it a success. While underlining the importance of such events to increase mutual understanding through people-to-people contacts, the two leaders expressed the hope that this Festival would be a precursor of similar events to be organised by rotation in all the member States of SAARC, leading eventually to spontaneous manifestations of cultural cooperation by the peoples themselves with a minimum of official support. The creation and consolidation of appropriate structures to institutionalise such cooperation was also, in their view, a highly desirable objective to aspire to.

15. The two Governments noted the guidelines finalised for the recognition by SAARC of apex bodies of national associations in South Asia in various fields of activity and hoped that they would lead to greater interaction among the people of South Asia.

16. The two leaders agreed on the usefulness of informal meetings between the Heads of State/Government of the SAARC region.

17. Briefing the Prime Minister of India on the ethnic question, the President of Sri Lanka stressed his Government's commitment to devise a peaceful, negotiated settlement involving all the parties concerned. In this context, he pointed out that operations by the security forces in the North, which were necessary for the

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protection of innocent civilians, would continue. The Prime Minister of India expressed the hope that a fair and equitable settlement to fulfil the legitimate aspirations of the Tamil Community within the framework of a united Sri Lanka would be achieved through the efforts of the Sri Lankan people themselves and by involving all those parties which have eschewed the path of violence.

18. The two leaders expressed satisfaction over the ongoing return of Sri Lankan refugees to their country. They noted that with the progressive movement towards normalcy and following their meeting in Colombo in December 1991, the return process had gained momentum since 20th January 1992. They agreed to continue cooperation to ensure an early and orderly return of Sri Lankan refugees from India.

19. The two leaders noted the satisfactory progress with regard to various proposals under the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission at the level of Foreign Ministers, which had its first meeting in New Delhi in January 1992. They agreed that both Governments would take measures to further increase bilateral cooperation under the auspices of the Joint Commission. They expressed satisfaction at the fruitful discussions during the second meeting of the Sub Commission on Trade, Finance and Investment which was held in New Delhi on 7-8 September 1992. They shared the view that with both countries following policies of economic liberalisation, new vistas of commercial and industrial cooperation would emerge. The two leaders expressed happiness at the increasing contacts between the business communities of the two countries, which, they hoped, would give further impetus to bilateral trade.

20. The President of Sri Lanka and the Prime Minister of India agreed that the meetings of the other two Sub Commissions, on Social, Cultural and Educational matters and on Science & Technology may be convened shortly in New Delhi. They also agreed that the next meeting of the Joint Commission may be held in Colombo in early 1993. The two leaders expressed their confidence that under the auspices of the first ever Cultural Exchange Programme (1992-94) between India and Sri Lanka which was signed in Colombo in October 1991, the traditionally strong cultural links between the two countries would be further strengthened.

21. The President of Sri Lanka expressed appreciation for the

training facilities extended by the Indian Government for technical and other personnel from Sri Lanka and also various schemes for Sri Lankan students. The two leaders emphasised the importance of interaction between professionals from the two countries in various areas.

22. Practical problems faced by fishermen from both countries straying into each other's waters were discussed. The two sides agreed that these cases should be dealt with in a spirit of mutual accommodation and understanding, and in accordance with the established legal procedures. The two leaders agreed that it would be useful to hold discussions on all relevant aspects of this issues, at the level of senior officials.

23. The President of Sri Lanka thanked the Government and people of India for the warm hospitality extended to him, Mrs. Premadasa and accompanying officials.  
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I LANKA INDIA USA INDONESIA MALI MALDIVES

**Date :** Oct 03, 1992

## Volume No

1995

UZBEKISTAN

Visit of Deputy Minister of Commerce, Shri Salman Khurshid to Uzbekistan

The following is the text of Press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 30, 1992:

Deputy Minister of Commerce, Shri Salman Khurshid arrived in Tashkent on 27 October 1992, leading a 22-member delegation comprising of senior representatives of Ministries of External Affairs, Commerce and Department of Mines and leading Indian public sector and private sector companies.

2. On 28 October, Deputy Minister of Commerce had an hour long meeting with his host, Uzbek First Deputy Minister for Foreign Economic Relations, Sadik Safaev. During discussions, both sides agreed on the need for formalising counter trade arrangements, the necessity for establishing a bank to encourage joint ventures, establishment of joint ventures for processing agricultural raw materials in Uzbekistan, including cotton, and establishment of medium and small scale industries with Indian assistance. Deputy Minister of Commerce extended an invitation to

the Government of Uzbekistan to send specialists for training in Foreign trade in the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade in New Delhi. The offer was accepted with gratitude by the Uzbek side. Deputy Minister conveyed the offer of Government of India to extend fresh credit to the Government of Uzbekistan to finance new projects and enhance bilateral trade. It was also agreed that the two sides would examine the possibility of opening trade representations soon.

3. Subsequently, both ministers addressed a plenary meeting of Indian and Uzbek businessmen in Tashkent. During the meeting, concrete negotiations were held by the two delegations on specific areas of cooperation. These discussions are continuing tomorrow as well.

4. Deputy Minister called on Uzbek First Deputy Foreign Minister, Fatah Teshabaev. The meeting lasted for an hour. Both sides assessed positively the current momentum of Indo-Uzbek relations and felt that the visit of the Indian delegation to Tashkent would concretise several areas where potential existed for mutually beneficial interation. The Uzbek Minister reiterated that Uzbekistan supported India's stand on Kashmir - that it was an internal affairs of India and that any dispute with Pakistan over Kashmir should be settled bilaterally and peacefully between the two countries in keeping with the Simla Agreement. Both sides also reiterated their common stand against external interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states and voiced their concern at the manifestation of state-sponsored terrorism which sought to undermine the unity and territorial integrity of countries in the region.

The Mayor Tashkent A. Fazilbekov met Deputy Minister prior to the plenary session of the meeting between the Indian and Uzbek delegations and conveyed his administration's interest and commitment in developing Indo-Uzbek trade and economic ties.

Deputy Minister called on the Uzbek Minister for construction materials Iskandarov. The Uzbek side requested for assistance in establishing joint ventures for construction and production of construction materials in Uzbekistan. These requests are being processed.

Deputy Minister was interviewed by the leading newspaper of central Asia Pravda Vostoka. Deputy Minister conveyed that exchange of information and interaction between Indian and Uzbek jour-

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lists would play a very significant role in furthering Indo-Uzbek trade and economic relations. The editor in chief of the newspaper R. Safarov, expressed his paper's commitment to develop business contacts between India and Uzbekistan.

Deputy Minister also gave interviews to Uzbek television to Uzbek radio. During the day, Deputy Minister visited the Uzbek Expo Centre where he was acquainted with the achievements of Uzbekistan's economy.

He was warmly welcomed by the Lal Bahadur Shastri Hindi School of Tashkent, where Uzbek children demonstrated their fluency in Hindi. Deputy Minister was requested by the school children to help them in exchanging correspondence with Indian school children, and also for exchanges between schools. Both requests were acceded to and are being processed. Minister paid his respects at the national memorial to the Uzbek poet-statesman Alisher Navoi.

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BEKISTAN INDIA USA MALI PAKISTAN

**Date :** Oct 30, 1992

## November

### Volume No

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SWEDEN UNITED KINGDOM

**Date :** Nov 01, 1992

## Volume No

1995

BENIN

Benin Communications Minister Calls on Shri Rajesh Pilot

The following is the text of a Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 30, 1992:

H.E. Mr. Paulin Hounfondji, Minister of Communications, Benin today called on the Minister for Communications, Shri Rajesh Pilot. The Benin Minister is accompanied by a high-level delegation of Telecom experts.

The Benin Minister sought India's help in improving the Telecom network especially the rural Telecom network in his country. Shri Pilot promised to help Benin in rural connectivity and also in supply of

terminal equipment from India. He also agreed to the request of the Benin Minister to train their personnel.

The Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL), a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Communications has already won a high-value contract in this Francofohe country and have deputed their experts to execute the project. A second contract is under negotiations.

During their stay in the country, the delegation will also visit C-DOT, advanced Level Telecom Training Centre, Gaziabad and Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore.

DIA USA

**Date :** Nov 30, 1992

## Volume No

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1995

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BHUTAN

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Indo-Bhutan Co-operation in Power Sector

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The following is the text of a Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 06, 1992:

Another important milestone in Indo-Bhutan relations was reached today when a Memorandum of Understanding for Bunakha Hydel Project in Bhutan was signed between the Government of India and the Royal Government of Bhutan. The MOU was signed by Shri Pushkar Johri, Ambassador of India to Bhutan and Lyonpo Om Pradhan, the Bhutanese Minister for Trade and Industry.

His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan graced the occasion by his presence. Speaking on the occasion, His Majesty the King of Bhutan expressed his deep appreciation for the financial and technical assistance being given by the Government of India and described the present MOU as an important milestone in the further development of Indo-Bhutanese economic and technical cooperation. He referred to the excellent progress made by the Chukha Hydel Authorities in the export of power to Eastern India and said that the

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Bunakha Hydel Project would enable a further increase in Bhutan's export of power to India. His Majesty added that cooperation in the power sector between the two countries was mutually beneficial and would promote further inter-dependence between the two economies providing a solid foundation for Indo-Bhutanese relations in the future.

Bunakha Hydel Project would have an installed capacity of 120 MW. It would be 2 Km upstream of the prestigious 336 MW Chukha Hydel Project which has been designed and built entirely by India. Because of the additional pondage the Bunakha Hydel scheme will create, the energy generation from Chukha I will also increase. The Detailed Project Report will be ready by end 1994. The Bunakha Hydel Project will increase government revenues and thus contribute to the welfare and economic development of the people of Bhutan.

Indo-Bhutan economic relations have traditionally been very close and extensive. An important area of cooperation has been

the power sector. A shining symbol is the 336 MW giant Chukha Hydel Project, which is the biggest project undertaken abroad by India. It was completed at a cost of Rs. 246 crores and was inaugurated in October, 1988 by the then President Shri R.

Venkataraman and the King of Bhutan HM Jigme Singye Wangchuk. Today it is owned by the Chukha Hydro Power Corporation of Bhutan and stands as a symbol of mutually beneficial cooperation between the two neighbouring countries.

The outstanding success of the Chukha Project has generated much interest in Bhutan for the development of her hydro power potential. In November, 1990, India and Bhutan had signed an agreement for two large hydroelectric projects on the river Wangchuk viz. Chukha Phase II (1000 MW) and Chukha Phase III (900 MW). The work on these is being done by M/s. Water and Power Consultancy Services Ltd., a Government of India Undertaking. The work is progressing smoothly and the Detailed Project Reports would be ready by December, 1993.

UTAN INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM

**Date :** Nov 06, 1992

## Volume No

1995

BRAZIL

Visit of Indian Parliamentary Delegation to Brasilia (Brazil)

The following is the text of a Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 27, 1992:

A four-member Indian Parliamentary delegation headed by Shri Jaswant Singh is presently in Brasilia to attend an Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Environment and Development from November 23-27, 1992. In the Plenary Meeting on the Inaugural Day, Shri Singh delivered a speech, on behalf of the Indian delegation, in which he underscored the importance of UNCED at Rio in June 1992 which high-

lighted the inextricable linkage between Environmental and Developmental issues. In this connection he also mentioned about the Conventions on Bio-diversity and climate change, and the Agenda 21 of the Rio Declaration.

In the context of sustainable development Shri Singh indicated that in the present day, world poverty was a great polluter which could be eliminated without transfer of resources. He mentioned that this fact was underlined by Mrs. Indira Gandhi during the Stockholm Conference

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on Environment. He also informed the fellow-delegates that successive Indian Governments have taken a number of initiatives to eradicate poverty, to check population growth and to improve the quality of life of Indian people.

The leader of the Indian delegation made the following three recommendations for consideration of the Conference :

- (i) IPU should encourage all efforts that recognise and attempt to establish a close linkage between Trade, Development and Environment;
- (ii) IPU should take a Special initiative regarding drinking water;
- (iii) In continuation of Yaounde to Rio and now from Rio and beyond, IPU should work for establishment of an independent international body outside the UN for Environment and Sustainable Development.

In addition to the above speech delivered by the leader of the Indian delegation the other notable development has been that India has been elected as one of the countries to be on the Drafting Committee of the Conference for preparation of the Final Document to be adopted by the Conference.

AZIL INDIA PERU USA SWEDEN CAMEROON

**Date :** Nov 27, 1992

## Volume No

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1995

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CHINA

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India, China Share Common Concerns about Peace

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The following is the text of a Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 09, 1992:

The Human Resource Development Minister, Shri Arjun Singh has said that as developing countries India and China share common concerns about peace and a just international order. Addressing a group of Chinese intellectuals at Beijing University in Beijing today, he said friendship between the two countries was conducive to peace and stability not only in Asia but in the whole world. He hoped that increasing cooperation in areas like

education and sports would build more bridges of friendship between the two countries. Shri Singh said the protocol on cooperation in education signed earlier this year provided a good framework for mutually beneficial sharing of experience. Under the protocol, Beijing university would have direct links with JNU and People's university in Beijing would have direct contacts with Delhi university. This would provide an opportunity for more intensive studies and research, the Minister said. He hoped for increasing cooperation between India and China in primary education, adult literacy and distance education.

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INA INDIA USA

**Date :** Nov 09, 1992

## Volume No

1995

DENMARK

India Demands Technology without Strings to Substitute CFCS

The following is the text of a Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 23, 1992:

India has impressed upon the developed countries that the technology to switch over to the substitutes of ozone depleting substances like Chloro-flouro-Carbons (CFCs), must be made available to the developing countries free of strings such as export inhibiting riders and conditionalities.

Addressing the 4th meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol at Copenhagen in Denmark, today, the Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Shri Kamal Nath said that mere availability of technology is not enough, but it should be backed by availability of financial resources. Availability must lead on to accessibility, and accessibility must flow into acceptability.

Shri Kamal Nath said that built into the Montreal Protocol is the principle that North will compensate the South as a matter of capability because it happens to have the money and technology; but it does not accept the principle of liability. Calling for a shift in the perception by accepting the principle of liability, reflecting the responsibility for the damage inflicted on the environment, Shri Kamal Nath said that this would result in the establishing of a path-breaking process, which alone would form

the model for future cooperation.

Registering India's strong opposition to re-examine the financial mechanism, Shri Kamal Nath said, the dedicated fund, is basic to the structure of the Protocol and certainly a premise upon which India

joined the Protocol and it assumed that it will be honoured and strengthened. To aim in any other direction would be to aim at weakening the Protocol itself, he said.

Shri Kamal Nath opposed any further compression of the time schedule for phasing out the CFCs and said, any revision of the time-schedules must therefore leave developing countries unaffected. He said, in India we have a large industrial infrastructure which cannot be scrapped overnight. With our accession to the Protocol we have already begun the process of planning and this too, contingent upon adequate financial resources and technology being made available. The phase-out should be governed by an overall quantitative approach, then it would be possible to leave the individual product adjustment to the government of each country, he said.

The Minister wanted that funds for research and development for alternatives for ozone depleting substances should be made available to countries like India. He said, the denial of funds for research would amount to protection of commercial, rather than environmental interests. He said, India has a vast reservoir of scientific and technical competence, backed by a fine institutional network. The financial mechanism under the Protocol must support R&D effort benefitting the entire global community.

Shri Kamal Nath said that of all the global environmental challenges that face us, the depletion of the ozone layer is the most alarming and in spite of reservations India has actively gone along with the  
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Protocol because we believe that it is important for the survival of humanity.

Calling for the cooperation on the basis of equity and justice,  
Shri Kamal

Nath said that it has eluded us but in it alone we have the greatest chance of success. We must stretch out and grasp it, be concluded.

NMARK INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

**Date :** Nov 23, 1992

## Volume No

1995

ETHIOPIA

Meeting between Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi and Minister of State of External Affairs Shri Eduardo Faleiro in Ethiopia

The following is the text of a Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 16, 1992:

Minister of State Eduardo Faleiro met with President Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia for one hour this afternoon. The President recalled with appreciation the contributions of Indian teachers in Ethiopia. The President himself and all his colleagues have been educated by Indian teachers.

The talks between President Meles and Shri Faleiro covered a wide range of multilateral and bilateral issues. The President expressed the hope that the traditionally warm and close ties existing between the two countries will be further enhanced in the immediate future during the visit of the Ethiopian Foreign Minister to India.

Minister Faleiro also had a meeting with the Education Minister for a discussion on cooperation in the field of education. Indian teachers have been working in Ethiopia for the last 40 years and the entire educated elite of Ethiopia has passed through the hands of Indian teachers.

At a colourful and widely attended function the Minister inaugurated the new premises of the Indian Community School in Addis Ababa. The school established on 26th January, 1976 for sixty Indian students today caters to over 600, almost all of whom are Ethiopians. The school prepares children for the CBSE. This enables Ethiopian students to get ready admission in the Indian universities. There are approximately 4,000 Ethiopian students at present studying in educational institutions in India.

HIOPIA INDIA USA

**Date :** Nov 16, 1992

Volume No

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1995

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ETHIOPIA

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Meeting between Ethiopian Foreign Minister Mr. Seyoum Mesfin and Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Eduardo Faleiro in Ethiopia

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The following is the text of a Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 16, 1992:

Shri Eduardo Faleiro, Minister of State of Foreign Affairs, presently in Ethiopia, had a one and a half hour talks with his counterpart Mr. Seyoum Mesfin, Foreign Minister of Ethiopia. The Ethiopian Foreign Minister paid high tributes to the age old relations between India and

Ethiopia that had withstood the changes of regimes in both the countries. He appreciated India's assistance in Ethiopia's economic development and sought for greater political and economic cooperation. The Transitional Government had initiated several bold steps in decentralisation of power and economic liberalisation and Ethiopia now look forward to friends such as India in accomplishing the goals which have been set by his government.

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Mr. Seyoum Mesfin, Ethiopian Foreign Minister, who was engaged in the liberation struggle against the dictatorial regime of former President Mengistu during the last 17 years, extensively briefed the Indian Minister on the political situation in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa as a whole. He said Ethiopia today presents a picture of stability as compared to all other countries in the region. He told that Ethiopia is organising a follow up of Humanitarian Conference in the Horn of Africa in the last week of November which will be followed by a National Reconciliation Conference on all Somali factions in Addis Ababa so that the decisions taken could be realised on the ground. The Ethiopian Foreign Minister warmly welcomed the initiatives taken by India and the interest it is taking in the Horn of Africa and Somalia in particular.

The discussions between the two Foreign Ministers demonstrated an identity of views on issues such as Southern Africa and the Middle East. Both India and Ethiopia are members of NAM and are wedded to the policy of non-interference into the policy of other countries. In this context the Ethiopian Foreign Minister expressed the hope that India and Pakistan would cooperate as good neighbours and that they would adhere to the international principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

Shri Eduardo Faleiro welcomed the Ethiopian Foreign Minister to pay a visit to India which is expected to take place next month. The Ethiopian Foreign Minister expressed the desire that his visit would result in concrete cooperation between the two countries.

HIOPIA INDIA MALI SOMALIA USA PAKISTAN

**Date :** Nov 16, 1992

## Volume No

1995

ETHIOPIA

Indo-Ethiopian Relations Get a Boost Following Faleiro's Visit

The following is the text of a Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 18, 1992:

The Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Eduardo Faleiro, returned this afternoon following an official visit to Ethiopia from 10-15 November 1992, followed by a visit to Somalia.

In Ethiopia Shri Faleiro met Mr. Meles Zenawi, President of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia, and Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, Secretary General of the OAU, apart from other Ministers, including the Foreign Minister.

One of the highlights of the visit was his handing over of medicine and baby food worth Rs. 20 lakhs from the Government of India towards drought and famine assistance to the State Relief Agency.

He also visited some of the war-ravaged regions and saw the devastation caused by the 30 year old civil war, which, fortunately, has now almost come to an end.

The Ethiopian President noted that this was the first high level delegation from India in 15 years. He invited Indian entrepreneurs to invest in Ethiopia - the second most populous country in Africa. Recalling the very substantial part that India played in Ethiopia's economic development, he particularly underlined the role played by Indian teachers - the Ethiopian President remarked that there was hardly any Ethiopian in the age group of 40-60 years who had not been taught by an Indian teacher; indeed, he himself had been taught by Indian teachers.

Shri Faleiro, during the talks with the President and the Foreign Minister, received an extensive briefing on the internal situation in Ethiopia. The situation was generally under control, although a few armed groups created some instability. The talks revealed a broad identity of views on issues such as Southern Africa, the Middle-East and the Non-aligned Movement.

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In his discussions with the Secretary General of the OAU Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, discussions focussed on the problem in Somalia in which the Secretary General emphasised a coordinated approach, involving the UN, NAM and the OAU.

On South Africa, the Secretary General mentioned that the OAU was still

worried about the situation inspite of some hopeful signs. He had been mandated, he said, to establish direct contacts with South African Government and would be going there in the near future.

The Foreign Minister of Ethiopia is scheduled to visit India in the month of December this year.

HIOPIA INDIA MALI SOMALIA USA SOUTH AFRICA

**Date :** Nov 18, 1992

## Volume No

1995

FRANCE

Indo-French Economic and Technical Co-operation

The following is the text of a Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 23, 1992:

A Financial Protocol between India and France for the financing of the visits of French Buyers Missions in 14 specified sectors to India was signed on 17th November 1992 by Shri C. V. Ranganathan, Ambassador of India to France and Mrs. Ariane Obolensky, Additional Secretary in the French Ministry of Economy and Finance. The total French Government grant for the Missions would involve a sum of French Francs Seven Million.

The object of financing the visits of French Buyers Missions is to promote Indian exports to France in keeping with a decision taken at the last meeting of the Indo-French Joint Committee for

Economic and Technical Cooperation held in November 1991. It was felt at the meeting that the bilateral trade imbalance in favour of France required to

be addressed and it was in this spirit that the French Government agreed to provide a grant-in-aid to enable French buyers and distributors prominent in each of the specified 14 areas to visit India to consider it as a source for their imports. The 14 areas are those identified by the Government of India as having the potential for significant export growth and are listed under the category of extreme focus areas. The Buyers Missions would consist of French importers and distributors of products such as granite, automobile components, electronic components, computer software etc. as identified under the financial protocol. The identified areas can subsequently be substituted by other areas if both sides feel the necessity to do so. The first Mission consisting of French Granite Importers is expected to visit India from 22 - 29 November 1992. They are scheduled to tour a number of granite producing centres in India as also attend the STONA' 92 exhibition on granite in Bangalore during this period. 1991. -319>

ANCE INDIA USA

**Date :** Nov 23, 1992

## Volume No

1995

FRANCE

French Assistance to India in Social Projects

The following is the text of a Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 26, 1992:

France has agreed to consider specific proposals of financial assistance in the field of certain social projects. They cover light rail transport in Hyderabad, equipment and other supplies for water supply, sewerage, waste water re-cycling and garbage disposal projects of Delhi Water Supply and Sewerage undertaking (DESU), City Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO), New Okhla Industrial Development Authority (NOIDA), Central Public Health and Environment Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO) and Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (ILFS).

The proposals will also cover manufacture of pre-fabricated building materials and the utilisation of flyash and

phosphosypsum, equipment for prefabricated components and implementation of social housing projects and extension of housing finance for HUDCO, HDFC etc. The mission agreed to expedite a decision on the financing of Delhi's Metro.

It has also been decided to consider technical assistance to HUDCO, BMPTC, CPHEEO, CPWD and other agencies by way of institutional collaboration, training and fellowships.

A seminar on housing finance and building materials to bring together French experts and companies and Indian agencies, and increase the prospects for Joint Indo-French ventures in construction materials and infrastructure is proposed to be organised shortly.

The Government has forwarded proposals in June 92 to the French Government for financial and technical assistance in the field of social housing, housing finance, water supply and sewerage, building materials and technology, mass transport, township development, training and institutional collaboration. Soon after Prime Minister's visit to France, the Union Minister for Urban Development had discussed these proposals with the French Housing Minister during her visit to France in October 92.

Consequent to the positive response by French Government to the Indian Minister's request, a French Mission headed by Mr. Bidaud visited India from November 15 to November 18 to identify specific areas of assistance and cooperation. The mission discussed specific proposals with the officials of the Ministry and various agencies including HUDCO and DDA, and also called on Smt. Sheila Kaul, Minister for Urban Development.

ANCE INDIA USA RUSSIA

**Date :** Nov 26, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Establishment of a Resident Office by Asian Development Bank

The following is the text of a Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 20, 1992:

An agreement was signed today between the Government of India and the

Asian Development Bank (ADB) regarding the establishment of a Resident Office by the bank in India. The agreement was signed on behalf of the Government of India by its authorized representative Mrs. Shyamala B. Cowsik, who is also the new  
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Indian Ambassador to the Philippines. Mr. Kimimasa Tarumizu, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Asian Development Bank signed on behalf of Bank. The signing ceremony took place in the afternoon at the headquarters of the Bank in Mandaluyong, Metro-Manila.

The resident office of the ADB is expected to be inaugurated early next month in New Delhi. The President of the ADB Mr. Tarumizu will be visiting India on the occasion of the inauguration.

The establishment of a resident office by the ADB in India coincides with a new phase in the economic development of that country. India has since mid 1991 adopted liberalized economic policies which are intended to bring about a structural transformation in the economy and make the country a full-fledged player in the global

market. Trade and industry have been deregulated and a liberalized environment has been created for foreign investment. The new economic policies together with India's inherent strengths of a high level of technical skills and a vast expanding market make it one of the most attractive investment destinations available today. This is in addition to the assets of a sound infrastructural base, a highly diversified industrial sector and self sufficiency in agriculture.

The Asian Development Bank commenced its lending programme to India in 1986. It is expected that the establishment of a Resident Office will lead to increasing the effectiveness of its operations in India and will also act as a catalyst for an overall increase in the capital flows into the country.

DIA PHILIPPINES USA

**Date :** Nov 20, 1992

**Volume No**

1995

IRAN

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## Official Level Meeting between India and Iran

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The following is the text of a Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 09, 1992:

The bilateral official level meeting between India and Iran, for preparing for the Indo-Iranian Joint Commission meeting tomorrow, was held today in New Delhi. The Iranian official team was led by their Deputy Minister, Mr. Abdol Rahim Gawahi, and the Indian side was led by the Foreign Secretary, Mr. J. N. Dixit.

The Joint Commission will include, on both sides, Deputy Ministers level representation, in a number of areas including Trade, Industry, Surface Transport, petroleum, Railways, Agriculture, etc. This is

the Sixth Session of the Joint Commission. The last one was held in Tehran in November 1991.

Apart from the Iranian side being headed by their Foreign Minister, Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, the inclusion of as many as three Deputy Ministers for Heavy Industry, Transport and Agriculture, for the first time, reflects the substantial interest on their side in developing bilateral co-operation with India in economic, commercial and technical fields.

The Joint Commission will also consider certain specific projects in road construction, power, etc. The Joint Commission meeting is thus expected to increase the

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content and scope of bilateral relations substantially.

The official level talks, after the plenary session, broke up into Five Working

Groups : i) Trade; ii) Industry; iii) Agriculture; iv) Transport & Communication; v) Cultural, Consular, Information and Science & Technology.

AN INDIA USA

**Date :** Nov 09, 1992

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**Volume No**

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1995

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Prof. Kurien Inaugurates Indo-Italian JBC Meeting

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The following is the text of a Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 02, 1992:

There has been spurt in foreign investment ever since reforms in the areas of trade and industrial policies were initiated in the country, Prof. P. J. Kurien, Minister of State for Commerce, said here today while inaugurating the 7th meeting of the Indo-Italian Joint Business Council (JBC). Prof. Kurien said that in 1990, the total number of foreign collaborations was 666, whereas in 1992 the figure so far had already doubled. In terms of equity involved, this was only Rs. 1.2 billion in 1990, while the corresponding figure upto September 1992 was Rs. 29.5 billion. "I have no doubt that the increased confidence exhibited by foreign investors in India is only the beginning and that we are poised on the threshold of much larger investments to come", the Minister said. In this context, he noted that Italy ranked 5th in the list of large investors in the country and expressed the hope that with the interest shown by the JBC members, the ranking would rise further.

In spite of recession in the developed world, the Minister said that the Indo-Italian trade had remained buoyant, with Italy now being the 4th largest importer of the Indian goods in the European com-

munity. He also informed that discussions between India and Italy for finalising an agreement for avoidance of double taxation were at an advance stage and the agreement was likely to be concluded shortly.

Prof. Kurien said that the 7th Indo-Italian JBC meeting was particularly significant as it was taking place at a time of great change both in Europe and in India. While the European Community was moving towards integration of the common market where fiscal financial and technical barriers to trade and economic activity were sought to be abolished, thereby creating a unified market of 324 million people, India too had embarked on a process of liberalisation of trade, industrial, fiscal and monetary policies. He said the overall objective of these policies had been to lower tariff barriers, de-bureaucratise economic activity and integrate India with the global economy. He stressed that a substantially higher level of investments in India was the real test of the efficacy of the reform process and pointed out that India welcomed foreign investments in infrastructural sectors such as power, oil & gas production, refining and marketing etc. Although India had an unblemished record on investment protection, it had become a signatory to the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) so as to provide

additional  
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measures of security to foreign investors in the country.

He expressed the hope that the meeting of the JBC would not only provide a useful forum of interaction between busi-

ness of India and Italy, but would also result in concrete business proposition including investment which would go a long way in strengthening commercial and economic ties between the two countries.

ALY INDIA USA

**Date :** Nov 02, 1992

## Volume No

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1995

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JAPAN

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Japanese Prince Presented with Cat Fish and Jungle Fowl

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The following is the text of a Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 19, 1992:

The visiting Crown Prince of Japan, Shri Akishino and Princess Akishino, planted saplings at the Rajiv Gandhi Smriti Van, here today. The Prince planted a Peepul sapling while the Princess planted Amaltas.

The Prince was also presented a pair of Grey Jungle Fowl and some specimens of Cat Fish by the Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Shri Kamal Nath.

There is a regular exchange of wild animals between Indian Zoos and Zoos in Japan which has helped the conservation of endangered species of wild fauna. The Prince and the Princess of Japan have shown keen interest in the conservation programme of India, including ex-situ conservation.

The Prince Akishino is himself a scientist and conservationist of international renown and is keenly interested in the Jungle Fowl and Cat Fish of this country.

PAN INDIA MALTA

**Date :** Nov 19, 1992

## Volume No

1995

KAZAKHSTAN

India Offers \$ 10 Million Credit to Kazakhstan SalmanKhurshid's Visit toCentral Asian Republics

The following is the text of a Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 04, 1992:

India has offered a credit of US \$ 10 million to the Republic of Kazakhstan. The offer was made by the Deputy Minister of Commerce, Shri Salman Khurshid to the First Deputy Foreign Minister for

Foreign Economic Relations of Kazakhstan Mr. Taizhanov in Alma Ata earlier this week. The Kazakh side welcomed the offer and said that this credit would act as a spur to the trade exchanges between the two countries which have a very large unexplored potential for collaboration as two of the largest countries of Asia.  
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Kazakhstan has been invited to send a team to Delhi at the earliest to discuss the mechanics and content of utilisation of credit.

The first meeting of the Indo-Kazakh Economic, Scientific and Technological Joint Commission, established during the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R.L. Bhatia's visit to Alma Ata, will be held in New Delhi. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has also decided to send an industrial mission of leaders of private industry in India to Kazakhstan in March 1993 as a follow up to the present business delegation.

The two countries have agreed that the momentum, gained by the present delegation's visit, should be maintained. The talks covered areas of financial cooperation, trading exchanges, investment and joint ventures as well as the extensive scope in technical cooperation.

ZAKHSTAN INDIA USA

**Date :** Nov 04, 1992

## Volume No

1995

KAZAKHSTAN

India-Kazakhstan to Promote Joint Ventures

The following is the text of a Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 05, 1992:

India and Kazakhstan have agreed to explore the prospects for establishment of a Joint Venture which could be established in the near future. This was agreed during the recent meetings held by Shri Salman Khurshid, Deputy Minister (Commerce) with the leadership in Kazakhstan. Special interest has been shown by the Kazakh side in the feasibility of establishing a Joint Venture Hotel in Kazakhstan with Indian participation. Similarly collaboration in the field of tourism and direct airlines between India and Kazakhstan as also possible trade routing between the two countries were discussed in depth.

During his visit to Kazakhstan, Shri Khurshid had meetings with Mr. B. Izteleouov, Vice Chairman of the Supreme Economic Council of the President of Kazakhstan, Mr. Turysov, Minister for Tourism, Mr. Sobotev, First Deputy Minister for Finance and Mr. Tokaev, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan. Representatives of Public and Private sector accompanying Shri Khurshid had separate meetings with their Kazakh counterparts.

In course of discussions, both sides reiterated the determination to upgrade and diversify bilateral economic, scientific and technological cooperation as also technical assistance from India. The Kazakh leaders expressed deep appreciation for India's decision to extend a credit of dollars 10 million, the terms and conditions of which would be worked out subsequently.

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ZAKHSTAN INDIA USA

**Date :** Nov 05, 1992

## Volume No

1995

## MAURITIUS

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### Issue of Visas for Travellers from Indian Sub Continent

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The following is the text of a Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 05, 1992:

The Government of Mauritius has decided to postpone the introduction of the issue of visas for travellers from the Indian sub continent from 1 November 1992 to 1 January 1993.

MAURITIUS USA INDIA

**Date :** Nov 05, 1992

## Volume No

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1995

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## MAURITIUS

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### India Offers to Train Scientists from Mauritius in Higher Technology

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The following is the text of a Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 06, 1992:

India has offered to train 20 Mauritian scientists every year in higher Science & Technology in India. The offer was made by the Minister of State for Science & Technology, Shri P. R. Kumarmanglam during his recent visit to Mauritius. The Minister visited Mauritius to witness the inauguration of the India Mauritius Radio Telescope Project at Port Louis.

The India Mauritius Radio Telescope Project was a joint venture between the scientific establishment of India and Mauritius. The joint project was developed through intensive discussions between the Scientists from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics & Raman Research Institute at Bangalore and University of Mauritius, Port Louis. The Radio Telescope Project is the unique low frequency instrument which will enable the astronomers and astrophysicists to study and gain an insight about the centre of our galaxy. It was built at a cost of Rs. 8 lakhs.

The galactic centre passes almost overhead Mauritius whereas the Radio Telescope in India is not well suited for observations of the galactic centre and the southern galactic plane. The fabrication of various components of the Telescope was started

during early 1989 at the Raman Research Institute, India. The University of Mauritius constructed the two-kilometre length base, observatory buildings and provided the other necessary infrastructure for the radio telescope.

The radio telescope consists of a fixed array of 1,024 helical antennas on a castwest base line of two kilometres. Thirty-two trolleys movable on a one-kilometre long rail track are used in the north-south arm. The radio signals collected by this antenna system will be processed using a highly sophisticated state of the art, digital signal processor and associated computers. The radio maps of the sky at 150 MHz containing more than one million pixels will be made using the telescope. This is the only low frequency telescope of its kind in the southern hemisphere and compares favourably with similar instruments in the northern hemisphere. A radio telescope basically consists of a huge antenna system connected to a very sensitive receiver system which works on the same principles of a "Transistor Radio".

The Prime Minister of Mauritius, Mr. Aneerudh Jugnauth opened the Radio Telescope and expressed his warmest thanks to Government of India for the donation of project. He also congratulated the Indian Scientists for the efficient services rendered. Shri Kumaramanglam also held discussions with the Mauritius Minister of Education and Science, Mr. Pasuraman.

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URITIUS USA INDIA TOTO

**Date :** Nov 06, 1992

## Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

Indo-Mauritian Joint Venture in Industry

The following is the text of a Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 16, 1992:

India and Mauritius have agreed to cooperate in establishing joint ventures in small and medium industrial sectors. This was decided at a meeting when the visiting Mauritius Industry Minister H.E. Mr. Jean Claude De L'Estrac called on the Minister of State for Industry Prof. P. J. Kurien, here today. During the meeting both the Ministers discussed bilateral matters on closer economic cooperation between India and Mauritius.

Prof. Kurien highlighted the traditional friendly relations between the two countries. The Mauritian Minister said that the joint ventures could promote export to third world countries because of the strategic location of Mauritius. He said, Mauritius has a free trade policy and as such it has access to the European Community countries. Prof. Kurien suggested that a high level committee of officials be constituted for the follow up actions.

URITIUS USA INDIA

**Date :** Nov 16, 1992

## Volume No

1995

MEXICO

Study Visit from Mexico Under ITEC Programme

The following is the text of a Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 18, 1992:

The Economic Division of the Ministry of External Affairs has been inviting high level official delegations from other developing countries to visit India with the aim of exposing them to India's economic and technical capabilities and giving them the opportunity to interact with representatives of Indian business and industry for developing mutually beneficial ties. These study visits which are funded under the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme envisage a stay in India for about two weeks. Study teams from Uganda, Indonesia, Mongolia, Botswana and Mauritius have visited India last year and have gained from India's experience in the sectors of agriculture, dairy development agro-industries, small and medium scale industries, pharmaceuticals and drugs, etc.

The study visits have generated considerable interest about Indian capabilities and awareness of its technological skills among other developing countries and have resulted in increased bilateral economic cooperation. These visits have also helped to dispel certain misconceptions about Indian products and machinery as the visitors are able to see for themselves the state-of-the-art technology used in the major manufacturing plants and the range of products available in India.

Under this scheme a three-member Mexican delegation of senior

officials/organisational chiefs representing National Association of Importers & Exporters, National Financing Development Corporation and EXIM Bank of Mexico is visiting India under the ITEC Programme of the Ministry of External Affairs from 19th November to 3rd December, 1992 to especially study India's capabilities in the field of small and medium scale industries. Apart from their meetings/discussions in Delhi with Secretary, Small Scale Industries and Food Processing, Chairman, NSIC, EIL, FICCI etc., the delegation

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shall visit National Dairy, Anand, IPCL, Vadodara and have useful interactions with Tata Exports, FIEO, EXIM and Amphray Laboratories at Bombay. The delegation's programme also includes visits to Telco, Bajaj Auto, Ispat Steel and Kirloskar at Pune.

The visit will be coordinated by the Economic Division of the Ministry of External Affairs who have taken care to coincide this visit with the holding of the India International Trade Fair in New Delhi. The visit to the fair would allow the delegates to see and interact with a cross-section of Indian businessmen and industrialists who would be displaying their products in the exhibition.

The visit assumes considerable importance since Mexico offers potential for increasing our bilateral economic and commercial relations. It is noteworthy that like India Mexico has recently announced important structural reforms which would have a direct positive bearing on small and medium scale enterprises including agroindustry. An added dimension of this visit could be viewed in the context of the emerging NAFTA, which on becoming operational would greatly enhanced the importance of Mexico as a major trading partner in that part of the world.

XICO INDIA USA INDONESIA UGANDA BOTSWANA MAURITIUS MONGOLIA RUSSIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date :** Nov 18, 1992

## Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Defence Secretary Level India-Pakistan Talks on the Sir Creek Issue

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on

Nov 06, 1992 on the fifth round of Indo-Pak talks on the Sir Creek Issue:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that the fifth round of Indo-Pak talks on the Sir Creek issue was held in New Delhi on November 5 and 6, 1992. Several technical details have to be tackled on the Sir Creek issue. The spokesman explained that this not only concerns the demarcation of a creek which keeps shifting, but all has implications for the maritime boundary between the two countries as creek is linked to the sea. "We have managed to have useful discussions on the basis of which we could move towards a possible solution. However, progress on this will be gradual because of the technical complexities and also because of certain complexes which exist between the two countries. Building trust is a difficult task.

DIA PAKISTAN USA

**Date :** Nov 06, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Defence Secretary Level India-Pakistan Talks on Siachen Issue

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Nov 06, 1992 on the sixth round of India and Pakistan talks on Siachen Issue:

In response to a query, on the apparently differing perceptions of India and Pakistan on the outcome of the Defence Secretary-level talks on the Siachen issue held in New Delhi from November 2 to 4, 1992, the Spokesman clarified that the Statement issued by the Government of India reflects the "clinical and factual position". There was a certain progress made in terms of the technical details of disengagement of troops. It was on this particular question the talks in 1989 had floun-  
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dered. On this occasion, however, the talks did not flounder on this point. The point is that when one talks of disengaging, one has to take note of the places to which we move, but the places from where we withdraw is also to be on record. The Pakistani side is still unable to see the full logic of this approach but we are trying to overcome this and are hopeful that we will move

forward in the next round.

DIA PAKISTAN

**Date :** Nov 06, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Indo-Bangladesh Talks

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Nov 13, 1992 on the talks between the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, Mr. A. S. M. Mostafizur Rahman, and the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, and the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. R. L. Bhatia:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, Mr. A. S. M. Mostafizur Rahman, handed over a letter of invitation of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Begum Khaleda Zia, to our Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao.

The Spokesman said that the talks between the Bangladesh Foreign Minister and our Prime Minister focussed on the SAARC Summit and the existing subjects which are already under discussion in SAARC such as agriculture, workshops on education, the SAARC Data Centre, etc. Some of the new subjects which were discussed were the question of entity of SAARC and how it should intract with other regional organisations. A Poverty Alleviation Commission had been set up and it has completed and submitted a report in which certain recommendations have been made. These will be discussed in the next Summit. There was also the new subject of SAARC Development Fund.

The Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, made the following points in response to the various issues. He said that India's attitude was one of cooperation in all areas regarding cooperation amongst SAARC nations. India strives to seek a consensus on various issues and to judge them on the basis of benefits emerging out of cooperation. He was fully supportive of all recommendations that have been made on poverty alleviation. He was also supportive of the initiative to set up SAPTA (South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement).

During the discussions between the Bangladesh Foreign Minister and Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. R. L. Bhatia, basically bilateral issues such as illegal immigration, bilateral trade, issue of Chakma refugees, water resources management, general demarcation of maritime boundary, were discussed.

The Bangladesh Foreign Minister is expected to meet the Home Minister. Mr. S. B. Chavan, and issues such as follow up on Tin Bigha, the question of illegal immigration and return of Chakma refugees are likely to come up.

BNGLADESH INDIA USA

**Date :** Nov 13, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Amnesty International

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Nov 17, 1992 on the visit of Amnesty International Delegation:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that an Amnesty International Delegation led by Dr. Ian Martin called on Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Shri K. Srinivasan and Director (UN), Ministry of External Affairs, Shri Ajai Malhotra today. India's accession to and compliance with various international instruments on human rights were discussed, as -328>

also visas for visits by Amnesty International to various parts of India, linkages between international and Indian human rights organizations, and the role of ICRC in various countries in the cause of human rights. Discussions also took place on the proposed UN sponsored World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993.

DIA USA AUSTRIA

**Date :** Nov 17, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Special Envoy of President of Guyana Visits India

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Nov 24, 1992 on the visit of Special Envoy of the President of Guyana:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that Mr. Vikram Oditt, Special Envoy to Dr. Cheddi Jagan, President of Guyana, called on Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Eduardo Faleiro. He handed over a letter from the Guyanese President to our Prime Minister. The Special Envoy expressed the new Government's keen desire to forge new links with India in trade, technology & cultural fields. By way of background, the Spokesman told the newsmen that Guyana has a large population of Indian origin and a fullfledged Cultural Centre is in operation in Guyana.

The Special Envoy has invited Indian businessmen and industrialists to invest in Guyana and set-up joint ventures. He also sought more technical & economic cooperation with India for rebuilding Guyana's economy. Some infrastructural priority areas included agriculture, health, manpower (i.e. Indian experts).

Prior to his meeting with Shri Faleiro, Mr. Oditt also held discussions with representatives of FICCI, FIEO, ASSOCHAM and PSUs (BHEL, PEC, IRCON and NSIC).

Mr. Oditt is on a week's visit during which he is also to visit the "TECHMART" - jointly sponsored by UNIDO - NSIC at the India International Trade Fair.

YANA INDIA USA

**Date :** Nov 24, 1992

## Volume No

1995

## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

### Afghan's Minister of State for External Affairs Visits India

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Nov 26, 1992 on the visit of Afghan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that Afghan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Najibullah Lafrai, arrived in New Delhi on November 23, 1992. He is on a three-day visit to India in connection with the first meeting of ESCAP Steering Group for Regional Economic Cooperation. The meeting commenced on November 24 and will conclude on November 27. Dr. Najibullah also called on Minister of State for External Affairs Shri R. L. Bhatia on November 25. The two leaders discussed bilateral issues, including the internal situation in Afghanistan.

Dr. Najibullah will be leaving tomorrow (27.11.92).  
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DIA USA AFGHANISTAN

**Date :** Nov 26, 1992

## Volume No

1995

## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

### India and Morocco Sign Memorandum of Understanding

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Nov 27, 1992 on the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between India and Morocco:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) and Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Casablanca (CCIC) at Rabat, the Capital of Morocco. From Indian side the MOU was signed by Shri D. M. Devarajan, Director General, FIEO and from Moroccan side by Mr. Abderrahim Noualdi, Director General, CCIC. Casablanca is the most important business centre of the Kingdom and the CCIC is the prime, most active and important Chamber of Commerce in Morocco. In the MOU, the two

sides have agreed to promote bilateral trade and exchange of information on export and import and related policies. Each side will also set up a special desk for the other country. This will make the flow of information on trade faster.

By way of background, the Spokesman told the newsmen that India is the largest buyer of Moroccan phosphate and phosphoric acid (about 65% of their total production). India is also the third largest tradepartner of Morocco. The MOU is expected to provide a concrete boost to bilateral, economic and commercial, relations between the two countries in general and exports from India to Morocco in particular. This is particularly of great significant keeping in view the fact that India has a content of negative trade balance against Morocco.

DIA MOROCCO USA

**Date** : Nov 27, 1992

## Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Indo-Pak Talks on Siachen Issue

The following is the text of Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 05, 1992.

The Sixth Round of Talks on the Siachen issue between the Defence Secretaries of India and Pakistan were held in New Delhi from November 2 to 4, 1992.

During his visit, Defence Secretary of Pakistan was received by Shri Sharad Pawar, Defence Minister of India.

The discussions, which were resumed after a gap of three years were cordial and constructive. Discussions were held on measures to carry forward the work done during the fifth round of talks between the two sides held in June 1989.

Proposals aimed at a comprehensive resolution of the Siachen issue were discussed. Both sides shall now report to their respective Governments.

It was agreed that the next round of talks will be held in Islamabad at an early date.

The Pakistan Delegation comprised H.E. Syed Salim Abbas Jilani, Defence Secretary; H.E. Riaz H. Khokhar, High Commissioner; Maj. Gen. (Retd) Raja Mohammad Iqbal, Additional Defence Secretary; Mr. Khalid Saleem, Additional Foreign Secretary; Maj. Gen. Ziaullah Khan, Joint Staff Headquarters; Mr. Shahid Malik, Deputy High Commissioner; Brig. Tauqir Zia, General Hqrs; Brig Jamshaid Gulzar, De-

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fence & Army Attache, Pakistan High Commission; Mr. Zamir Akram, Counsellor, Pakistan High Commission; Lt. Col. Mohammed Saeed Sharif, General Headquarters; and Ch. Khalid Naseem, Section Officer, Ministry of Defence.

The Indian Delegation comprised Shri N. N. Vohra, Defence Secretary; Shri S. K. Lambah, High Commissioner of India for Pakistan; Lt. Gen. V. R. Raghavan, UYSM, AVSM, Director General Military Operations, Army Headquarters; Shri D. Basu, Joint Secretary (G), Ministry of Defence; Shri M. K. Bhadrakumar, Joint Secretary (IPA), Ministry of External Affairs; Maj. Gen. V. M. Patil, Additional Director General Military Operations; Shri R. K. Singh, Director (G), Ministry of Defence; Brig. Shankar Prasad, Deputy Director General, Military Intelligence, Army Headquarters; Brig. G. K. Duggal, Defence Adviser, High Commission of India, Islamabad; and Shri A. K. Goyal, Under Secretary, Ministry of Defence.

KISTAN INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC MALI

**Date :** Nov 05, 1992

## Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Indo-Pak Talks on Sir Creek Issue

The following is the text of Joint Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 5-6, 1992:

The Fifth Round of India-Pakistan talks on the Sir Creek issue were held in New Delhi on November 5-6, 1992. The discussions were conducted in a cordial atmosphere. The two sides had a detailed and useful exchange of views on the various issues involved. They agreed that the discussions would be continued at Islamabad on a mutually convenient date.

2. The Pakistan delegation to the talks led by Mr. Khalid Saleem, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, included the following members:

- 1) Maj. Gen. Nazir Hussain, Surveyor General
- 2) Capt (PN) M. A. Khalid, Hydrographer, Naval Headquarters
- 3) Major (Retd.) S. H. Mehdi Jamal Survey of Pakistan.
- 4) Mr. Ghulam Rasul, Deputy Legal Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- 5) Capt. Asaf Humayun, Naval Attache, Pakistan High Commission.
- 6) Mr. Asif Durrani, Third Secretary, Pakistan High Commission.

3. The Indian delegation to the talks led by Shri Nareshwar Dayal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, included the following members:

- 1) Lt. Gen. C. B. Jhaldiyal, Surveyor General of India
- 2) Shri D. Basu, JS(G), Ministry of Defence
- 3) Shri M. K. Bhadrakumar, JS(IPA), MEA
- 4) Rear Adml. K. R. Menon, ACNS (ops), Naval Headquarters
- 5) Rear Adml. P. P. Nandi, Chief Hydrographer
- 6) Shri R. K. Singh, Director (G), Ministry of Defence
- 7) Dr. S. Rama Rao, Legal Officer (Gr. I), MEA
- 8) Shri P. S. Chopra, Superintending Surveyor, Survey of India
- 9) Shri Ajit Kumar, Deputy Secretary (AP), MEA
- 10) Shri Param Jit Mann, US(Pak), MEA.

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KISTAN INDIA USA

**Date :** Nov 5-, 1992

**Volume No**

1995

## PRESIDENT SPEECH

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### President Inaugurates Trade Fair

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The following is the text of Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 14, 1992:

I am very happy to associate myself with this function today for the inauguration of the India International Trade Fair 1992. I thank the organizers for their kind invitation to me to be present with you this morning.

I regard this occasion as being of special importance. Today, November 14, 1992, is the birth anniversary of a visionary leader, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, a statesman and thinker who dedicated himself to the well being of humankind, and whose contribution was made keeping in focus the needs of nations and peoples of the world for decades and generations ahead.

Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru gave tremendous impetus to the processes of growth and his consistent approach was to enhance the extent and level of international understanding, cooperation and friendship.

Each year, since 1981, an international trade fair is organized, to be opened on November 14, at Pragati Maidan, and the coming together of a large number of industrial, scientific and technological enterprises from different countries, exhibiting their very newest products is, in my view, of particular significance. I am happy to know that the India International Trade Fair 1992 has attracted the participation of almost 60 countries, representing the continents of Asia, Africa, the Americas and Europe.

I extend on behalf of India, my warm greetings and felicitations to all the participating countries and I hope that their individual and collective efforts would be rewarded by the best elements of international cooperation in the spheres of scientific, technological and economic transaction, and would accelerate the process of human understanding, between nation and nation, culture and culture, man and man.

The various sectors of the India International Trade Fair 1992 cover some of the most important areas of human concern which have a particular relevance to the fashioning of the future world economy. I am glad to see the emphasis placed, in the exhibition, on technologies concerning energy conservation and management, house building technology, the small scale industry and even on toys for children, apart from the focus on consumer products. All these sectors are crucial to the people of the Third World - as much as these are to the people of the First.

I feel it is important for us to appreciate the inter-dependence

between the North and the South in our global economy.

Promotion of a climate conducive to investment decisions, inter-transfer of technology, commercial and industrial exchange, qualitative and quantitative enhancement in production, and bilateral and multilateral cooperation, comprise activities of far-reaching significance on a global basis.

The acceptance of the concept of an inter-dependent world is of basic value to the growth of stable North-South economic relations, and in turn, of basic value to the evolution of a mutually beneficial and progressive world order.

The key perception that needs to be appreciated is that in our inter-dependent world, an increase in the production-base and in the production-range of the poorer countries will stimulate further growth in the richer countries. World markets will

be enlarged, a better international division of labour will be evolved and higher incomes will be the result - in the South as well as the North.

It is perhaps not adequately known that a considerable proportion of the exports of the developed countries go to Third World countries. These goods transfers are financed by Third World countries from their own export earnings. If as a result of protectionist policies, restrictions are evolved against Third World exports, among other effects of this could be the adverse impact on Third World capacity to buy from the developed countries. Protectionism in developed countries would therefore hurt the developed countries as much, if not more, than the Third World. Trends that negatively affect economies of the Third World, are bound to afflict the economies of the developed countries also which have so much to do with the Third World. Thus, policies based on recognition of real inter-dependence, of national economies the world over, would, quite apparently, be indispensable for sound global economic management.

There is a good example that could be cited here to illustrate the dynamics of inter-dependence, in world economic history. We know of the advantage to the U.S. economy from the Marshall Plan assistance given to Europe. Whilst enabling the post-War economic re-construction of European economies, Marshall Plan aid boosted employment and production in the U.S. itself and helped maintain a high growth rate at a time when defence production was being scaled down and defence personnel were looking for civil jobs.

At the time when problems of postwar reconstruction in Europe confronted the world, men of vision could recognise that the immediate re-vitalization of European economies which were in a warravaged condition, was of crucial importance to the U.S. economy also. Thus a symbiotic relationship of mutual advantage

could be evolved. European economies were not regarded as potential economic competitors which should be kept under heel.

Today, it is often wrongly assessed that the Third World seeks only a re-distribution of the world's wealth and, therefore, that tilting the existing balance in favour of the Third World would automatically mean an adverse change for the developed countries. Such a view would not merely be unfortunate; it would be mistaken. It would ignore the innate interdependence within the world's economy. It would miss the crucial perception that greater capability to generate wealth in Third World countries will actually raise aggregate world wealth and invigorate economies of the developed countries.

Although I am conscious that it is easier to confirm existing views than to press any revision of outlook, it is heartening that evolution of economic thought reflects the gradual adjustments made in response to the changing economic scenarios in various countries of the world.

The functioning of the international economic system has experienced, over the past centuries, the application of different approaches by different countries. To a significant extent, the world's economy has been influenced by economic thought that competition would be the best regulator of economic life. We are well-acquainted with Adam Smith's contention that an "invisible hand" guides human affairs in the right direction, and, further, that the 'economic man', left to himself, would pursue not only his self-interest but would also provide service to the community.

Measured in the aggregate, the laissezfaire philosophy certainly evoked a phenomenal increase in human wealth. Where it evoked increasing disappointment, however, was in the matter of sharing the wealth that was produced. These results have been subjected to intense, comprehensive economic analysis and, interestingly, different approaches have been adopted by different countries. Broadly speaking, in the

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countries which accepted the philosophy formulated by Karl Marx, the State itself became the owner of the instruments of production and controlled, overwhelmingly, all economic activity. But countries which continued, basically, to adhere to the thought initiated by Adam Smith, also began making departures from his doctrine on the wider, social considerations. Thus, legislation to prevent the growth of monopolies and cartels was undertaken: workers were given the right to form trade unions; and, when unemployment became politically intolerable, policies were adopted - following Kenyes - to stimulate aggregate demand and thus lead to the absorption of the unemployed in producing more goods to supply the increased demand. In countries primarily pursuing socialist models earlier, also, significant scope has

come to be provided for individual investment enterprise and garnering of surplus value. In essence, such measures have been in the nature of correctives, applied internally to mitigate and avoid socio-economic distortions and imbalances.

However, so far as the plane of the international economic system was concerned, none of these correctives came into operation. There was neither international socialism - in the sense of nations joining hands for exclusive ownership of certain instruments of production, nor were there measures to prevent the weaker countries being put to avoidable disadvantage.

The existing international economic order and the doctrines in vogue for some time past - have such genesis. Extrapolating existing trends would indicate that unless there is a fundamental change in the economic thought dominating the direction of the world's economy, the problem of world poverty would, inevitably, continue increasing and untold human suffering - eventually, most seriously affecting the developed nations themselves - would be unavoidable.

International cooperation, is obviously required for worldwide, inter-regional and intra-regional economic activity - if the problems of poverty, unemployment, inflation, pollution, depletion of non-renewable resources and food shortages are to be tackled efficiently. Apart from safeguarding the poorer nations, such an approach has the advantage of preventing the eventual engulfment of the richer nations themselves by problems created by the impact of imbalanced economic activity and skewed flow of wealth.

A central concern before humankind today is the development of Science and Technology, and the utilization thereof, with a view to achieving the prosperity, sense of well-being, and the happiness of people. Mere wealth, in monetary and material terms, does not predicate happiness. I am reminded of a resolution formulated by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru in 1964 which, in my view today has a continuing relevance. He had said: "Mere material prosperity alone will not make human life rich and meaningful. Therefore, along with economic development ethical and spiritual values will have to be fostered. This alone will lead to the full development of human resources and character. It is only on this basis that the present day acquisitive structure can be gradually changed into a society which ... provides adequate incentive for the full development of the individual and the community. This is the vision of a society ... wherein poverty, disease and ignorance shall be eliminated ... wherein all citizens have equal opportunities and wherein ethical and spiritual values contribute to the enrichment of the individual and the community life."

I therefore see the India International Trade Fair 1992 as an event with very high potential for the enhancement of the quality characteristics of the global economic system: quality

characteristics in terms of quantum increase in production, productivity, energy-efficiency, environment-friendliness of industrial activity, but more so in terms of the potential of a better ordered international economy for widening and increasing human happiness.

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From India's timeless past, perhaps fifty centuries ago, a hymn was composed by a great seer who had meditated upon the oneness of the human race on earth, and had defined values and ideals for the material, intellectual and spiritual progress of human beings. I would like to quote two verse composed by the author of the hymn to the Earth, the Rishi Atharvan:

(On this earth, with excellent urban and rural areas, producing diverse goods, may there be prosperity and happiness in all four directions on Earth.)

And, another verse, which keeps in mind the concept of conserving the ecology of the earth is:

(O' pure Earth, may that we utilise your resources well (for creative production) without causing you injury or harm and disturbing any vital element in you.)

This approach may be many thousands of years old, but has been a continuing element in the Indian ethos, in which a world view has been foremost in the outlook of our great leaders and in our culture.

It is such global thinking for human well-being that was immanent in the mind of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. In the very birth moments of Independent India, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru had said: "Peace has been said to be indivisible; so is freedom; so is prosperity now and so also is disaster in this One World which can no longer be split into isolated fragments."

Friends, I feel the climate of world opinion is now evolving towards such a view as being expeditious in terms of practical considerations of optimal policy, as much as from an appreciation of the ultimate object of human endeavour. We should strive to enlarge and strengthen the orientation of policy-makers and of those who have the power and the opportunity to influence the content and direction of economic activity, to see their work in this perspective.

With these words I have great pleasure in declaring the India International Trade Fair 1992 open. I extend my greetings and felicitations to all the participant - our honoured guests from overseas - and all others, young and old, who would come to view the exhibition.

May your efforts bear rich fruit and lead to positive and

wholesome change in the processes concerning global attainment of human happiness".

JAI HIND

DIA USA PERU CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date :** Nov 14, 1992

## Volume No

1995

PRESIDENT SPEECH

G-15 Summit at Dakar (Senegal) - Prime Minister's Address

The following is the text of Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 21, 1992:

Mr. President, Distinguished friends, on behalf of my colleagues from Asia, I convey to you, Mr. President, our deep appreciation for your welcome and gratitude for your hospitality. It was a British historian who wrote of Africa as "the meeting ground for contemporary cultures for centuries before its geography was 'discovered' by western explorers". It is particularly appropriate, therefore, that we gather here today.

Mr. President, the vastness of the Indian Ocean and the splendours of this diverse continent separate our nations, but do not divide them. The sand and surf that caress your shores bring vividly to mind the seascapes of Penang, Goa or Bali. Your tradition of the "griot", where epic poems of heroism and victory are narrated and performed, recollect vividly many similar oral and visual art forms all over  
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India which have flourished for centuries and still inspire millions. The "African Socialism" rooted in African realities, espoused by Leopold Senghor, evokes the memory of the founding fathers of our own nations who placed before us a future and ideal uniquely our own, and the dream of a destiny we could fashion with our own hands.

Mr. President, the world has changed enormously and rapidly within a few years. Our countries are emerging from the shadows of underdevelopment to establish those minimum standards of life through the engines of our development processes, powered by our own resources and energies. And this very self-reliance can

accelerate international cooperation for development.

Distinguished Friends, I am honoured by the confidence you have reposed in India in choosing it to host our next Summit meeting. The initiative of our gracious host President Abdou Dionf, and his industrious colleagues promises to make our meeting in Dakar a land-mark in the history of our group. We look forward to continuing this valuable exercise in New Delhi. This is a tradition of nations which may not be able to match the resources of the more prosperous, but nevertheless remain fully convinced of the need for all-round growth. This is a tradition that allows growth in developing countries to stimulate the economies of the developed world. This is the tradition of a global partnership for global growth.

In the ember years of the twentieth century, it is imperative to recognise that it is not open to any single species to imagine its own arbitrary need, and to proceed to fulfil it, unmindful of the needs of others. This truth is valid between nature and man, as well as between man and man himself. It demands a considered prioritisation of needs by the world as a whole and a collective resolve and means to address those needs, both human and non-human, with a well-balanced relative primacy between them. They should eschew arbitrary actions inconsistent with the tenets of civilised behaviour, such as the pursuit of conflict and war. They should seek, above all, to serve the common good materially and spiritually, promoting humanism, equality and harmony.

This is the ideal that man yearns for. To dream of this of G-15 are only manifestations of the spirit that informed its creation. We must reach to each other before we reach out to the world.

This, then, Mr. President, is our common inheritance, a sound basis for a common future forged in partnership and trust. In thanking you, today, Mr. President, and your colleagues for your kindness and hospitality, I wish you and your country all success in your efforts at fulfilling your objectives. And I invite all of you to New Delhi for our next Summit, where, with your cooperation, I look forward to further initiatives and achievements by our group of fifteen in the interest of peace and progress for all.

Thank you.

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NEGAL INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

**Date :** Nov 21, 1992

**Volume No**

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1995

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NATIONAL INTEGRATION COUNCIL

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National Integration Council Meeting Prime Minister's Address

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The following is the text of a Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 23, 1992:

Addressing the meeting of National Integration Council, the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao said here today:

This is the third meeting of the National Integration Council in a little more than a year on the Ram Janma Bhoomi Babri Masjid issue.

We last discussed this issue on the 18th of July this year. Useful discussions were held, but we did not succeed in passing any resolution, in view of opposition of some of our friends here. We took note of the construction that was going on in violation of the orders of the court, in particular, the order passed by the High Court, on 15th July, 1992. By this order of the 15th July, the High Court had restrained the parties from undertaking or continuing any construction activity on the 2.77 acres of land which had been notified by the Government of Uttar Pradesh for acquisition. The court had also directed that if it was necessary to do any construction on the land, prior permission from the court would be obtained. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh assured the National Integration Council that his Government was making sincere efforts to stop the construction.

Despite the assurance given by the Chief Minister, the construction activity did not stop. The situation was allowed to escalate to a point where the State Government expressed its inability to do anything, and requested that either the Home Minister or I should persuade the Sants and Mahants to stop the work. As you all know, I had a meeting with the religious leaders on the 23rd July. I am happy that they agreed to stop the Kar Seva. I promised that the process of negotiations which had been initiated by the previous Government would be resumed and attempts would be made to find an amicable solution to the dispute through negotiations. I also said that, if necessary, the litigation pending in various courts on this issue would be consolidated and referred to a single judicial authority. I indicated that Government could complete this exercise leading to the reference in about four months' time. I also made a detailed statement in Parliament on the 27th July covering these developments.

The first step in the resumption of negotiations was to examine

the record of the previous negotiations, which were started by the Government of Shri Chandra Shekhar in December, 1990, and which continued till February 1991. Before restarting the dialogue we wanted to be clear as to who had said what on which issue during those negotiations, what were the areas of agreements and disagreements and what kind of evidence had been presented by either side. We found that the evidence was quite voluminous. This evidence had to be studied, classified, analysed and authenticated. All this work was done by the Cell created in my office for Ayodhya affairs.

Another area which required a lot of painstaking effort related to the Court cases. The original dispute concerned five title suits which were consolidated and are being heard at Lucknow by a Special Bench of the Allahabad High Court. Then there were writ petitions challenging the acquisition of land by the Government of Uttar Pradesh in October 1991, petitions in the Supreme Court alleging violation of the court orders, apart from a large number of miscellaneous petitions covering various aspects of the controversy. The Central Government was not a party to either the

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civil suits or the contempt petitions. It had only been impleaded as a party in some of the petitions against the land acquisition, as the Land Acquisition Act is a Central Act, and the Constitutional validity of the Act was under challenge. Special arrangements had to be made at the High Court and the Supreme Court to obtain copies of orders and other papers in all these cases.

While this exercise was going on at the official level, I had been meeting a large number of individuals and delegations directly concerned with the dispute, as well as those who were interested in helping the two sides arrive at a negotiated solution. These consultations gave me valuable insights into the various facets of the controversy and the multitude of suggestions which had been thrown up for a possible solution.

Finally, at the end of September, we felt that we had done enough home work and now direct talks between the representatives of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and the All India Babri Masjid Action Committee (the two sides who had participated in the 1991 negotiations) could be fruitfully resumed. The first meeting was held on the 3rd October under the Chairmanship of the Home Minister. I am happy that our friends from the VHP as well as from the AIBMAC responded favourably to our invitation. My colleagues, Shri Sharad Pawar and Shri P. R. Kumaramangalam agreed to help in coordinating these discussions. We also requested Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Chief Minister of Rajasthan and Shri Subodh Kant Sahay, both of whom had played a central role in the earlier negotiations, to help in coordinating these talks. On the eve of the talks, I also wrote to the heads of all the recognised political parties seeking their help and

support to the resumed process of negotiations. I considered the step necessary as a problem like this require concerted efforts not only by the Government or by the parties directly involved in the dispute, but by all sections of society.

The meeting of the 3rd October was held in a cordial atmosphere. Fresh evidence and documents were given by both the sides. Useful discussions took place and the respective positions of the parties acquired greater clarity. The process was carried further in the next meeting on the 16th October. This meeting took an important step forward by agreeing on a outoff date for presentation of evidence as also for comments on the evidence. I am happy to say that these cut-off dates were fully respected by both the sides. In between, we were also able to settle a controversy, continuing from the previous round of negotiations, about certain archaeological excavations conducted by Prof. B. B. Lal, former Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India. The historians nominated by the AIBMAC wanted to see some material relating to these excavations. We were told that the normal practice in archaeology is not to make material available for inspection until the publication of the report. However, in deference to the sentiments of our friends, we decided to make a departure from this practice. The historians and archaeologists nominated by both the sides examined the material and gave their comments.

We had reached a stage where the work of presentation of evidence and offering comments on it was over. The positions of the two parties on the central issue had also been clarified in response to questionnaires addressed by them to each other. The negotiations appeared poised to enter a decisive phase and we had expected crucial decisions from the meeting scheduled for the 8th November, 1992. Unfortunately, in the meanwhile, a unilateral announcement of resumption of Kar Seva with effect from the 6th December was made. The announcement created an atmosphere in which carrying forward direct talks did not appear feasible. With a great deal of disappointment, a decision was taken in the meeting of 8th November, 1992 to postpone the talks.

Even after postponement of the direct talks, we continued our efforts to create an

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atmosphere so that the negotiations could be resumed. Several meetings were held at my level and at the level of my colleagues with leaders of the two sides. However, the sudden, utterly inexplicable and unilateral announcement of the Kar Seva programme from 6th December, had vitiated the atmosphere and we were unable to arrive at any understanding. Next, we tried to obtain agreement on a reference to the Supreme court. A number of alternatives regarding the issues to be considered by the Supreme Court were also discussed. We had hoped that this would be acceptable, because from time to time leaders of both the sides

had indicated that such a step would be looked upon favourably. Regrettably, however, even this failed to secure agreement.

The Supreme Court has been hearing certain contempt petitions with regard to the Ayodhya matter. The court has considered it necessary for the Union Government to indicate its stand so that the court may have the assistance of the Union Government in making such orders as would ensure enforcement of the earlier orders of the Supreme Court. Pursuant to this direction, the Solicitor General appeared in the Supreme Court today to make the necessary submissions as well as to give an assurance to the Court that the Union Government would take all necessary steps in furtherance of the directions of the Courts to have their earlier orders implemented. I just now understand that the Supreme Court has given time to the Government of Uttar Pradesh until day after tomorrow to spell out the concrete steps that they would like to take in this connection and that is where the matter rests.

This, then, is the background in which the present meeting of the National Integration Council has been called. We have before us the announcement of resumption of Kar Seva with effect from the 6th of the next month. Our efforts to persuade the organisers to withdraw this announcement have not yielded any result so far. We have reports that build-up for the Kar Seva in terms of recruitment of volunteers and movement of material has started and various plans are being announced.

I understand that the proceedings of the High Court in the land acquisition matter are in the final stage. Arguments have been concluded, only the order remains to be pronounced. Forcing the issue at this stage would be an open contravention of the directions of the High Court and the Supreme Court.

As regards the construction of the temple, we all agree that a grand Ram temple should be constructed in Ayodhya. I had said as much from the Red Fort on the Independence Day. I do not think that there is anyone here who would disagree with this basic proposition. The issue on which there are differences of opinion are the plan of construction, the safety of the existing structure and compliance with the court orders on the subject. With agreement on the basic issue of construction of a temple, it should not have been difficult to work out the remaining details given an attitude of mutual accommodation and respect for rule of law. Unfortunately, all our attempts have proved infructuous.

We have not still given up our attempts to try to find some workable solution. We would consider any possible option that respects the basic democratic values and constitutional principles. However, no violation of the law or of the orders of the court shall be countenanced. There can be no compromise on this.

Subject to this, I would request those who are organising the Kar

Seva on the acquired land on the 6th December to reconsider their decision and to desist from violating the law and the orders of the court.

Finally, I request members of the NIC to discuss the matter and I look forward to their valuable suggestions.

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DIA USA FRANCE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date :** Nov 23, 1992

## Volume No

1995

NATIONAL INTEGRATION COUNCIL

Prime Minister's Address at the Parliamentary Consultative Committee

The following is the text of the address of the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, at New Delhi, on Nov 05, 1992 at the Parliamentary Consultative Committee:

Summing up the discussion in the Parliamentary Consultative Committee Meeting for the Ministry of External Affairs held today, the Prime Minister emphasized the need to examine and go through the entire foreign policy of India in all its complexities so as to reaffirm and reiterate the impressive consensus that has always existed in India regarding foreign policy.

He said that India, for the last 40 odd years, had a consensus on foreign policy, but this must be reaffirmed in the new world context. New challenges have been thrown up, and more will be thrown up in the future. "One has to understand what India stands for". It was essential that to know what we are doing is right in the new context, an exercise to reaffirm this consensus is necessary lest we all take it for granted.

Parliament and Government must meet this need, he said. Underlining this, the Prime Minister gave specific examples of some of the existing foreign policy issues on which a consensus existed but on which the consensus should be reaffirmed and restated. He dwelt on current issues such as disarmament, the Non Proliferation Treaty, the Third World debt question, and the democratization of the UN, as examples of such issues.

DIA USA

**Date :** Nov 05, 1992

## Volume No

1995

NATIONAL INTEGRATION COUNCIL

Prime Minister's Congratulatory Message for Mr. Bill Clinton, President Elect of USA

The following is the text of a Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 04, 1992:

The following is the message of congratulations sent by the Prime Minister to Mr. Bill Clinton, President elect of the USA:  
(Message sent today)

"Please accept my warmest felicitations on your resounding victory in the Presidential election. Your campaign for the Presidency has been followed by millions in India with great enthusiasm and hope for the future of relations between our two nations.

Jawaharlal Nehru and John Kennedy shared a vision of forging closer ties between the two largest democracies in the world. The post-Cold War era provides an unprecedented opportunity to translate this vision into an enduring relationship based on mutual interests, trust and shared responsibility. We know you share this view.

Today, India has embarked on the road to greater economic liberalisation. The United States of America is India's largest trading partner and the foremost foreign investor. Yet, only a fraction of the enormous potential for bilateral economic collaboration has been realised. There is much we can do together.

When two large and vibrant democracies interact, it is realistic to expect differing perceptions on some issues of mutual concern. These do not undermine the many values the United States of America and India jointly cherish.

We share the goals of promoting the ideals of democracy, an equitable multilateral trading system and a more secure  
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world where strife and tension are minimised. I look forward to working with you in imparting fresh impulse and a new dynamism to

the long-standing friendship between our two nations.

With my personal regards and best wishes to you and Mrs. Clinton."

P. V. Narasimha Rao  
Prime Minister of India

A INDIA

**Date :** Nov 04, 1992

## Volume No

1995

SAARC

Trade Cooperation to Benefit all SAARC Countries

The following is the text of a Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 02, 1992:

Prof. P. J. Kurien, Minister of State for Commerce, inaugurated the third meeting of the SAARC Committee on Economic Cooperation, here today. The major item on the Agenda of the meeting is the SAARC Preferential Trading Agreement (SAPTA). Addressing the meeting, Prof. Kurien said the trade cooperation among the SAARC countries would benefit all the member countries equally and also help the region in integrating itself with the global economy. The Minister stressed that the countries of the region must not look upon SAPTA as an instrument for closing their doors to the world but as an open system which would enable the member countries with their combined strength to integrate the region with the world economy. He said the momentum for SAPTA had been built up and it should be considered whether to operationalise it in 1993 itself. India looks upon SAPTA as the chosen mode of closer economic cooperation in the region", he added.

Expressing his concern over the external economic environment particularly the growing protectionist trends, Prof. Kurien pointed out that the major industrialised economies were in the grip of recession and the rate of growth of world trade and output had recorded a fall in recent years. Though the SAARC countries did not account for a significant share of world trade, they were nevertheless critically dependent on trading. While the developing countries are adopting policies for integrating themselves with world economy, the industrialised countries seem to have lost interest in maintaining an open trading system. New

threats to a liberal trading order are emerging and instruments like anti-dumping were being increasingly used. Trade action based on the unilateral and extra territorial was unacceptable as it could become a protectionist tool and also set an example for taking trading action in pursuit of other social economic and political goals. Prof. Kurien pointed out that eradication of poverty had to be given a higher priority in poor countries. It was not possible to envisage a generalised policy structure applicable to all countries.

Prof. Kurien hoped that there would be a satisfactory conclusion to the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and the world would find its way out of its recession through a stable global trading regime which would help all countries expand their trade.

The Secretary-General of SAARC, Mr. I. H. Zaki said that there were compelling  
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reasons for promotion of intra-regional trade and hoped that this meeting would wholeheartedly endorse the SAARC Preferential Trading Agreement. The agreement provides for gradual expansion of intra-regional trade. Earlier, Shri A. V. Ganesan, Commerce Secretary welcomed delegates to the meeting.

DIA USA URUGUAY

**Date :** Nov 02, 1992

## Volume No

1995

SENEGAL

Foreign Secretary Delivers Key Note Address at G-15

The following is the text of a Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 18, 1992:

Foreign Secretary, Shri J. N. Dixit, delivered his key note address on 16th November, as the personal representative of Prime Minister of India at the G-15 Summit, at the inaugural session of the Business and Investment South Forum of G-15 countries being held at Dakar from 16-18 November on the eve of the G-15 Summit.

The theme of Shri Dixit's speech was "transfer of technology in developing countries". The speech was followed by a slide

presentation on Indian industry on behalf of the Indian business delegation, led by Dr. V. L. Datt, immediate past President of FICCI.

The lead given by India on the issue was significant because at the conclusion of the forthcoming G-15 Summit from 21-23 November, India will assume the Chairmanship of G-15 till the next Summit which will be held at New Delhi.

In his speech, Shri Dixit underlined that three quarters of humanity live in the developing countries and that the real significance of G-15 lies in getting beyond, in concrete terms, the rhetoric of the past.

The G-15 recognises the role of technology in the re-shaping of the international economy, especially because recent advances in technology, including communications and bio-technology, could be used to remove some of the most stubborn problems of mankind.

Mr. Dixit listed various areas in which technologies should be developed by the countries of the South to harness their natural resources - even small changes in these areas such as the use of bio-gas plants, solar energy, agro-based industries, herbal medicines, etc. could revolutionise the lives of our rural population.

Mr. Dixit also stressed that the need to promote such technological cooperation should not remain confined to the Government alone, but, should be addressed through the business communities of all the countries of the South, as most of these have a long history and tradition of trade and commerce.

He also referred to the projects on the Solar Energy and Gene Bank, which are being carried out by India.

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NEGAL INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date :** Nov 18, 1992

## Volume No

1995

SOMALIA

India Donates Relief Goods, Cash to Somalia

The following is the text of a Press Release issued in New Delhi

on Nov 18, 1992:

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Eduardo Faleiro, flew into war-torn Mogadishu on 16 November and handed over Rs. 20 lakhs worth of specially chosen medicines and baby food to Ambassador Kittani, the UN Secretary General's Special Representative in Somalia. He also handed over a cheque for US \$ 2,50,000 from the AFRICA Fund, which was set up under India's chairmanship in the NAM Summit in Harare.

This was Ambassador Kittani's first meeting with an Asian leader, as he had taken over just 10 days ago from the earlier Special Representative, Mr. Sahnun of Algeria, who had resigned in dramatic circumstances leading lack of support by the UN bureaucracy.

Shri Faleiro also met Mr. Mahdi and General Aideed, leaders of the two important factions in Somalia.

In a report to Headquarters on the phone India's High Commissioner in Kenya Shri Kiran Doshi, who accompanied Shri Faleiro along with Smt. Chokila Iyer, Head of the Africa Division, mentioned that the Minister was able to get a good impression of the prevailing security situation, following the extensive tour of Mogadishu. The situation was tense, especially outside the capital city, and basic facilities are virtually non-existent.

In their conversations with the Minister of State, there appeared to be a large gulf in the respective positions of the two Somali leaders, with differences also persisting over their perception of the UN role, although both factional leaders agreed on the need for peace and that the devastations caused by the 4 year old civil war should stop.

Both leaders, in their separate conversations, agreed that the National Conference on Reconciliation mooted by the OAU, was a good idea. Both stated that India could play an important role from the outside, keeping India's role in the NAM and its traditionally close links with Somalia.

Shri Faleiro is one of the very few political figures who have visited Somalia since the tragedy unfolded.

LI SOMALIA INDIA USA ZIMBABWE ALGERIA IRAN KENYA

**Date :** Nov 18, 1992

**Volume No**

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1995

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SWEDEN

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Swedish Delegation Calls on Smt. Sahi

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The following is the text of a Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 25, 1992:

A joint Swedish business delegation called on the Minister of State for Industrial Development, Smt. Krishna Sahi today. The minister exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and bilateral relations with the delegation.

During the meeting Smt. Sahi called for increased cooperation between Sweden  
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and India, particularly in the field of Industry. She appreciated the response of the Swedish business community to India's new economic reforms. Smt. Sahi expressed happiness over the seven-fold increase in Swedish investment in India during the current year over the last year.

The Swedish delegation appreciated the present conducive climate for investment in India following the announcement of the new industrial policy. It expressed its desire to cooperate in the area of power, telecommunications, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology sectors.

EDEN INDIA USA PERU

**Date :** Nov 25, 1992

## Volume No

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1995

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UNITED KINGDOM

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Visit of Sir John Coles, Deputy Under Secretary of British Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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The following is the text of a Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 05, 1992:

Sir John Coles, Deputy Under Secretary from the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, held discussions in New Delhi on

November 4 and 5, 1992 during which he called on Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State (EA), Foreign Secretary, Defence Secretary, Home Secretary and Secretary, Deptt. of Economic Affairs.

The visit of Sir John Coles follows the pattern of regular Foreign Office level consultations and dialogue introduced after the visit of the British Foreign Secretary Mr. Douglas Hurd earlier this year.

Sir John Coles held discussions in detail with Secretary (West), MEA, which covered the broad spectrum of bilateral relations between India and the United Kingdom, and various international issues of interest to both countries.

During these various discussions, among the subjects discussed were potential for growth in Indo-British commercial and economic relations and the favourable prospects for development of relations in many other diverse fields. International issues such as the developments in the European Community, the situation in former Yugoslavia, Cambodia, and relations between India and its neighbours were covered.

The two sides reviewed the on-going close cooperation to curb terrorism and hoped to complete soon the formal process of ratification of the Extradition Treaty and the Agreement on Confiscation of property related to Terrorism and Drug Trafficking.

It was noted that several high-level visits from United Kingdom would take place in 1993 including the visit of British Prime Minister John Major who would be the guest of honour on India's Republic Day. This feature of high-level visits from both countries to the other was welcomed.

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DIA USA CAMBODIA YUGOSLAVIA

**Date :** Nov 05, 1992

## Volume No

1995

UNITED KINGDOM

U.K. to give 20 million Pound Sterling Fast-Disbursing Assistance for Oil Imports

The following is the text of a Press Release issued in New Delhi

on Nov 26, 1992:

India and the United Kingdom today signed an agreement under which the British Government will reimburse payments made for oil imports of upto Pound Sterling 20 million (about Rs. 90 crore). This amount is being provided as a grant and will be disbursed by June 1993.

An agreement to this effect was signed here today by Mr. H. N. Gupta, Director (EEC) in the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Mr. J. M. Winton, First Secretary (Development) in the British High Commission.

The grant has been provided as part of Britain's support for India's economic reforms programme. The grant is in the nature of fast-disbursing assistance which is in addition to regular bilateral assistance being received from U.K.

India is the largest recipient of British aid which is disbursed in various sectors including environment, education, health and family welfare, energy, transport and mineral resources.

UNITED KINGDOM INDIA USA

**Date :** Nov 26, 1992

## Volume No

1995

UNITED NATIONS

Shri Kamal Nath Calls for Post Rio Activities to Focus on Core Elements Decided at Rio

The following is the text of Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 03, 1992:

The Union Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Shri Kamal Nath called for Post Rio activities at the International level to focus on the core elements decided at Rio and fulfill the development needs of the developing countries before environment can take precedence over other concerns. Developing countries can and will participate provided they are given the wherewithal for the extra effort required. Addressing the 47th General Assembly of the United Nations, the Minister further said that the globally sustainable development, a global partnership on a basis of equality with equity as a pre-requisite, is imperative.

Highlighting the necessity of sustainable development, Shri Kamal Nath said that it is only by the reconciliation of the development needs of mankind with the environmental compulsions we are confronted with, that we can hope to protect our planet. The implementation of Rio Conventions must not be attempted in a manner which imposes unnecessary burdens on developing countries or which seeks to regulate essential economic activities. This would not only be unjust and against the spirit of Rio, but also foolhardy and infructuous, the Minister added.

Addressing the delegates, the Minister announced that India will be placing on priority basis before the Commission on Sustainable Development a proposal to make the provision of safe and unpolluted

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drinking water available to every single human settlement on the face of the planet, however remote it may be. Discussing the role of Commission proposed to be set up by UNCED, the Minister said that it should focus primarily on cross-sectoral issues such as the flow of additional financial resources, the modalities for transfer of technology, the development of capabilities, removal of trade imbalances and so on. The work of the proposed Commission would not be meaningful, or even acceptable, if it strayed into areas which are essentially national concerns and are not relevant to international cooperation, Shri Kamal Nath further suggested.

Stressing the need to keep under constant review the realization of 0.7 per cent target for official development assistance, the Minister said that we do not ask for aid's sake; financial assistance is sought so as to catalyze our developmental effort and harmonise it with the broader environmental objectives we are all committed to achieve. We cannot lose sight of the fact that it is the developed countries who are chiefly responsible for global environmental degradation.

Talking about two conventions signed at Rio, Shri Kamal Nath said that the main elements of these are similar to core elements of the Rio agreement. These are complementary to each other and it is necessary to set into motion as quickly as possible, the processes envisaged by both the Conventions. It is to each country's advantage to join these Conventions, failure to do so will jeopardise the credibility of the commitment to conservation, the Minister stressed.

A INDIA

**Date :** Nov 03, 1992

**Volume No**

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1995

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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Visit of Congressional Delegation to India

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The following is the text of Press Release issued in New Delhi on Nov 18, 1992:

The visiting US Congressional delegation, comprising Senators Paul Simon and Howard Metzenbaum, called on the Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao yesterday evening.

The Prime Minister informed them about the process of economic liberalisation set in motion by his government since he took office, and the positive economic environment which had resulted from these policies.

On non-proliferation, the Prime Minister mentioned that talks were already going on between India and the US. He recalled that India had put forward the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan for disarmament in 1988, and India was prepared to discuss this plan, a part of this plan, or indeed any plan that aimed at global disarmament.

Senator Metzenbaum remarked that he was confident that the leader of the World's largest democracy could also take the lead in moving the world towards nuclear disarmament.

Senator Simon & Metzenbaum are both from the Democratic Party and members of the Foreign Relations Committee of the US Senate.  
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A INDIA

**Date :** Nov 18, 1992

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## Volume No

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1995

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REPUBLICS OF FORMER USSR

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Indian Students Advised not to Seek Direct Admission to Educational Institutions of Republics of Former USSR

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The following is the text of Press Release issued in New Delhi on

Nov 03, 1992:

Following the dissolution of the former USSR, changes are taking place in the educational policies of the independent Republics of the former Soviet Union, insofar as foreign students are concerned. In view of this, the Ministry of External Affairs would advise Indian students not to seek direct admission to the educational institutions of the former USSR on self-financing or non-governmental sponsorship basis for the next two years or till such time, as formal agreements have been entered into with the newly independent States that have emerged from the former Soviet Union.

Students who seek admission would be doing so at their own risk, as the government's liability does not arise when students seek admission on self-financing or non-governmental sponsorship basis. Those who go to Russia and other Republics of the former USSR, under the sponsorship of private parties/foundations, do so at their own responsibility and Government of India will not take any liability regarding this.

In the above context, attention is also invited to the Advisory notices issued by this Ministry on February 21, 1992 and July 27 and 28, 1992.

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A INDIA RUSSIA

**Date :** Nov 03, 1992

**December**

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**Date :** Dec 01, 1992

**Volume No**

1995

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ADB President Assures Continued Support

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The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 10, 1992 on ADB President's assurance for continued support:

The President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Mr. K. Taramizu has given a favourable response to the Indian suggestion that during India's period of transition, the Bank undertake a Social Safety Net Operation for enabling the more vulnerable sections of the society to be spared. In this connection the need for a softer blend of resources to support a programme of this nature was also considered. This was discussed when the President of ADB called on the Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh here today.

The President of the ADB also supported the suggestion from the Indian side that the Bank increase its exposure to over one billion US dollars a year from the Bank's next calendar year, including an annual US \$ 300 million fast balance support loan over the next three years.

The ADB has already supported a Hydro Carbon Adjustment Loan and the proposal for the Financial Sector Adjustment Loan is at an advanced stage. The ADB is examining fast disbursing operations in the field of capital markets, ports, coal and mining sector, telecommunications and the trade sector.

The projects in the pipeline for the ADB Loan Operations for the year 1993 are to the tune of US \$1,050.00 million. Gas Flaring Reduction US \$300 Million, Amguri Combined Cycle US \$250 million, Roads III US \$250 million and Trade Reform Programme US \$250 million.

The ADB has so far approved 3 loans for India worth US \$4.19 billion whose sectoral break-up is: Finance Sector US \$770 million, Infrastructure US \$1617 million and Energy US \$1804 million. Some of the notable projects financed by the ADB are the North Madras Thermal Power Project, Rayalseema Thermal Power Project, Gandhar Field Development, Port Development and Road Improvement.

The ADB President was assisted by Mr. B. Horayangura, Manager, Programmes Department (West), ADB, Mr. Paul M. Dickie, Manager, EIIM, ADB and Mr. Richard Wada, Chief, India Resident Office, ADB while the Finance Minister was assisted by Shri K. P. Geethakrishnan, Finance Secretary, Dr. M. S. Ahluwalia, Secretary (Economic Affairs), Shri P. K. Lahiri, Executive Director for India in ADB, Shri K. Venkatesan, Secretary (Expenditure) and Shri N. K. Singh, Joint Secretary (Fund-Bank).

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date :** Dec 10, 1992

## Volume No

1995

CHINA

Indo-China Cooperation on Space Programme

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 07, 1992 on Space Cooperation with China:

The Indian delegation led by Prof. U. R. Rao, Chairman Space Commission which visited China during the last week returned to India today after holding successful bilateral discussions in the area of co-operation with China in Space. The visit was in pursuance of the Memorandum of Understanding in Space signed between the two countries during the visit of Chinese Premier to India in December, last year.

The bilateral discussions with experts from Chinese Ministry of Aerospace led by its vice Minister Mr. Liu Jiyuan, led to identification of several cooperative projects of mutual benefit in the area of peaceful uses of Space technology and applications. A joint committee of experts from the two countries was also set up to pursue the co-operation on long term basis. The Indian delegation also visited some important Chinese Satellite and Launch Vehicle facilities around Beijing.

The Indian delegation also played a key role in initiating multilateral cooperation among the Asian pacific countries in the area of space technology and applications in a workshop held at Beijing during the same time. The workshop was attended by more than 70 participants from 15 countries in the region. It is expected that this will lay a strong foundation for forging significant cooperation in space among the Asia Pacific countries. Prof. Rao was one of the co-organisers and leading member of the workshop.

INA INDIA USA

**Date :** Dec 07, 1992

## Volume No

1995

CUBA

India Donates Food-Grains to Cuba

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 30, 1992 on the supply of food-grains to Cuba:

President Fidel Castro presided over the welcome ceremony of the arrival of 10,150 tonnes of food-grains from India which reached Havana this morning by a Cuban ship. Also present at the ceremony was an Indian delegation comprising: Sh. Harkishan Singh Surjeet, General Secretary, CPI(M); S Sh. M. A. Baby and Kedar Nath Singh, Members of Parliament, CPI(M) and Congress (I) respectively. The 3-Member Delegation arrived in Havana on Sunday, December 27 and will be leaving on Sunday January 3.

President Castro stated that this gesture from India is a profound symbol of third world solidarity and support and expressed his deepest gratitude for the donation.

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BA INDIA

**Date :** Dec 30, 1992

## Volume No

1995

E E C

Indo-EEC Agreement Underlines Positive Consequences of Economic Reforms

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 15, 1992 on Indo-EEC Agreement underlines Positive Consequences of Economic Reforms:

The new Cooperation Agreement between India and the European Community (EC) has recognised the positive consequences of the economic reform process in India and the need to support India's efforts towards economic development. The two sides have also acknowledged the value of consulting each other on international,

economic and commercial issues of mutual interest, an element which was missing from the existing Cooperation Agreement. This provision also brings India in line with the type of relations that the Community has with the industrialised countries. The new Cooperation Agreement between India and the EC, valid for 5 years, was initialled in Brussels on 11 December, 1992 by Dr. G. Sundaram, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, and Mr. Emiliano Fossati, Head of the Asia Directorate of the Commission of the European Community. The initialling is subject to the approval of the Government of India and the European Council.

While the first Agreement signed in 1973 dealt with trade and commercial cooperation and the scope of the second Agreement signed in 1981 was enlarged to cover both commercial and economic relations, the new Agreement broadens the scope of cooperation further to cover cooperation in a wider range of sector and includes provisions for development. This is also a landmark Agreement in that India is the first country to have a cooperation agreement with the Community on "Partnership and Development".

The objectives of the Agreement lay down that cooperation will focus inter-alia on building up of India's economic capability to interact more effectively with the Community and to accelerate the pace of India's economic development. The objectives also include that the two sides shall further develop and diversify trade and develop new forms of economic cooperation.

In the area of economic cooperation, the sectors have been vastly broadened to facilitate cooperation in sectors such as industry and services, energy including non-conventional and solar energy, telecommunications, electronics, information and satellite technologies, standards, investment, agriculture, horticulture, foodprocessing industries and fisheries, science and technology, information and culture, environment, human resource development and drug abuse control. By delineating specific areas of cooperation, the potential has been created for India to take advantage of the technological, scientific and economic resources of the Community for its own benefit in a more effective manner than would have been possible under the earlier Agreement.

Some of the new areas covered are of critical significance to India in the wake of the economic reforms as also the creation of a Single European Market with effect from 1 January, 1993. Promotion of investment and assistance from the Community for scientific and technological cooperation in areas of frontier technology

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including life sciences, bio-technology etc. will be critical in this regard.

The new Agreement also establishes cooperation in the area of

standards, which indicates that the Community shall provide technical assistance for institutional development to upgrade standards and quality certification organisations as well as for setting up of a national accreditation scheme for conformity assessment in India. This is crucial in view of the fact that new standards in the Single Market constitute one of the most important challenges to increasing India's exports to the EC. Since direct foreign investment will play an increasing role in India's industrial development and growth of its foreign trade, the new Agreement is likely to encourage such investment by highlighting India's receptiveness to this process through specific measures that it has undertaken.

As regards trade cooperation, even within the ambit of an MFN framework, India and the Community have agreed to improve market access to the highest possible degree in the interest of strengthening their relations in a dynamic and complementary way. In this context, they are committed to granting each other the highest degree of liberalisation of exports and imports which they generally apply to other countries. This would enable India to demand the same special treatment that the Community provides to certain groups of countries in similar stages of development.

Unlike the existing cooperation Agreement, India and the Community have undertaken to give consideration to exempting from duties and taxes, goods imported temporarily into their territories for subsequent re-export unaltered or goods that re-enter their territories after processing in the others territory. This would enable India and the Community to get involved in inward processing arrangements for third country markets, for instance, by value addition on India goods in the Community (e.g., by attaching high-quality accessories to textile or leather items, or components imported from India for export to third countries) and by encouraging European investment in India in export-oriented units. What is significant about the understanding reached in the Agreement to consult each other on any dispute related to trade is that while it is without prejudice to the Community's or India's rights and obligations under GATT, the need for a bilateral consultative mechanism has been underlined.

DIA USA BELGIUM

**Date :** Dec 15, 1992

**Volume No**

1995

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India's Exhibition of Solar Energy Applications at G-15 Summit in Dakar

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The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 01, 1992 on an Exhibition of Solar Energy applications:

At the recently concluded G-15 Summit, held in Dakar (November 19-21), India had put up an Exhibition of Solar Energy applications in the field of Solar Pumps for irrigation, Solar Street Lights, solar hot water equipment and Solar Cooking. This exhibition, jointly mounted by Central Electronics Limited (CEL) and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, was  
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inaugurated on 16th November 1992 by the Senegalese Minister of Industry, Commerce and Handicrafts Mr. Alassane Dialy Ndiaye in the presence of Foreign Secretary Shri J. N. Dixit who was in Dakar as the Personal Representative of Prime Minister of India for the G-15 meeting. Since its inauguration the exhibition has been frequented by a large number of people as it was timed with the Business and Investment Forum meeting held at the Exhibition ground in Dakar from 16th to 18th November 1992 and with the G-15 Summit meeting held from 21st to 23rd November 1992. Minister of State for External Affairs Shri R. L. Bhatia, who was in Dakar for the G-15 Summit, also visited the stall.

2. Foreign Secretary Shri J. N. Dixit had announced the decision of the Prime Minister of India to gift the solar energy equipment brought to Senegal for the display to the Senegalese side after the exhibition was over. At an impressive ceremony on 25th November 1992, Ambassador of India to Senegal Shri V. B. Soni handed over to the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Handicrafts, Mr. Alassane Dialy Ndiaye the solar energy exhibits as a gesture of goodwill in the true spirit of South-South Cooperation. A token solar panel was handed over to the Minister by Shri Soni for the purpose. The Senegalese Minister expressed profound thanks to the Prime Minister and the people of India.

3. Indian experts here for the exhibition have thoroughly trained their Senegalese counterparts. The latter would man the exhibition during the Dakar International Trade Fair scheduled to be held from November 26 to December 7, 1992. Advanced Indian technology in the field of solar energy which has been appreciated locally would get further exposed among wider section of the populace visiting the exhibition.

NEGAL INDIA LATVIA USA

**Date :** Dec 01, 1992

## Volume No

1995

HUNGARY

### India Concludes Agreement on Science & Technology with Hungary

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 09, 1992 on Agreement on Science & Technology with Hungary:

India and Hungary have concluded a new bilateral Agreement on Co-operation in Science & Technology. The Minister of State for Science & Technology, Shri P. R. Kumaramanglam signed the agreement here on behalf of India and Prof. Erno Pungor, Minister without portfolio and President of the Hungarian National Committee for Technological Development signed on behalf of his country. A concrete Programme of Cooperation in Science and Technology with Hungary for the period of 1993-94 was also concluded. It was signed by the Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, Dr. P. Rama Rao and the Vice-President of the National Committee of Technological Development of Hungary, Mr. Lajos Nyiri. The agreement was signed in the presence of high level scientific officials and dignitaries of both the countries including the Hungarian Ambassador, Mr. Laszlo Varkonyi. An Indo-Hungarian Joint Committee for Scientific & Technological Cooperation was also set up within the purview of this Agreement to plan, coordinate and review the progress of cooperation. The Department of Science & Technology and the Hungarian National Committee for Technological Development shall be the responsible bodies, for the co-ordination of the activities pertaining to the new programme, on the two sides.

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Speaking on the occasion the Minister of State for Science and Technology, Shri P. R. Kumaramangalam said that this agreement will further strengthen the relations between India and Hungary. The visiting Hungarian Minister, Dr. Pungor said that the agreement will lead to the development of new technologies for the benefit of the people of both the countries.

Under the present agreement and programme of cooperation it is envisaged to have joint research and development project and organisation of seminars, symposia and workshops between India and Hungary leading to economic benefit to both the countries. Some of the themes included in the present programme relate to Immunology, Neurosciences, Chemical Sciences, Metallurgy and

Materials Science, Transportation and Road-Research and Laser Science and Technology.

Earlier, the Hungarian delegation led by Prof. Pungor met the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia and discussed the topics of mutual interest with the officials and scientists of the Department of Science & Technology, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Indian National Science Academy and National Institute of Immunology.

The Hungarians have also desired to have cooperation with India on harmonisation of the adoption of international standards for consumer and other products; wherever available, for being put in the market in multilateral relation mode, or to mutually agreed standards, wherever international standards are not available, for facilitating bilateral trade. To discuss these issues the delegation visited the Bureau of Indian Standards and held useful discussions on bilateral cooperation in the field of standardisation, quality control and measurement (testing and calibration).

NGARY INDIA USA

**Date :** Dec 09, 1992

## Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Signing of Four Loan Agreements by India and Japan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 22, 1992 on signing of Four Loan Agreements by India and Japan:

Four Loan Agreements between India and Japan were signed by Mr. Prakash Shah, Indian Ambassador to Japan and Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) President Mr. A. Nishigaki in Tokyo on 21.12.1992.

The four Agreements were:

1. Yamuna Action Plan Yen 17.7 Billion (Rs. 3.8 Billion approx.)
2. Sirisailam Power Yen 3.8 Billion  
Transmission Project (Rs. 0.8 Billion approx.)

3. Gandhar Gas Based Yen 19.5 Billion  
Combined Cycle (Rs. 4.3 Billion  
Power Project-III approx.)

4. Udyogmandal Am- Yen 24.5 Billion  
monia Plan Replace- (Rs. 5.3 Billion  
ment Project approx.)

These four Projects Yen 65.5 Billion  
total (Rs. 14.3 Billion  
approx.)  
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The total commitment for the current financial year from Japan has been Yen 111.9 Billion (Rs. 23 Billion approx.). (Two Agreements already signed earlier in November 1992 in Delhi).

In his brief remarks after the ceremony Mr. Nishigaki said that Japan was happy to be the largest donor to India and the current year's commitment was the largest ever to India. He also said that Japan had positively assessed the directions of Indian Economic Policies of Prime Minister Rao since the advent of his Government and Japan hoped that these directions would be continued. He expressed confidence that India would be able to overcome its difficulties and emerge as a strong Economy in the future and further said that Japan shared the objectives of Indian development.

Mr. Nishigaki added that Japan was keen for quick and full utilisation of its ODA commitments to India and said that they would do everything on their part to secure fuller utilisation and hoped that Indian side's efforts for this would also be made including steps to have the validation and implementation quickly undertaken, so that these loans could be utilised quickly.

The Indian Ambassador thanked OECF and Japan for their assistance to India. While acknowledging Japan as the largest bilateral donor, he thanked them for the variety of sectors in which their loans have been offered. He specially drew attention to their help for our infrastructural development which had helped our economic process and in many ways allowed us to take bold economic steps in recent times. Reiterating Government's commitments to the direction of economic reforms Ambassador said that India was confidently proceeding on this path irrespective of some regrettable internal developments which had only a temporary effect on the long term economic policies.

PAN INDIA USA

**Date :** Dec 22, 1992

## Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Two Indian Films Win Awards at Environmental Film Festival inTokyo

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 21, 1992 on Film Festival in Tokyo:

Two Indian films have won prizes at the first ever Environmental Film Festival held in Tokyo recently. The two Indian films "Silent Valley" and "The Weeping Rice Bowl" were awarded a trophy and a cash prize of one million yen each (equivalent to Rs. 1.87 lakhs) at a ceremony last week in Tokyo.

The "Silent Valley" directed by Shekar Dattarri and R. Mukherjee, shows the mysterious and little known rain forests in India. It is said to be the first comprehensive documentary of the grassland wildlife and the forest ecosystem seen in the western ghat mountains. The film takes a close look at some of the most endangered species in India.

"The Weeping Rice Bowl" directed by K. Mohankumar, is about Kuttand, the so-called ricebowl of Kerala. The film narrates consequences of short-sighted development programmes which adversely affect the fragile ecosystem there lying below the sea-level.

An Environmental Film Festival which has been held for the first time here, will now be held every year.

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PAN INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

**Date :** Dec 21, 1992

## Volume No

1995

MALAYSIA

Import of Palm Oil From Malaysia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 17, 1992 on Import of Palm oil from Malaysia:

India have signed an agreement with Malaysia to buy three lakh tonnes of palm oil annually for two years.

The agreement was concluded in August, 1992 considering various factors including the possible gap between demand and supply, the need for maintaining adequate buffer stock for various contingencies, our desire to foster a close relationship, particularly in trade, with Malaysia and to reactivate the Evidence Account for award of projects to Indian parties in Malaysia. This was stated by Shri Salman Khurshid, Deputy Minister of Commerce, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today.

LAYSIA INDIA USA

**Date :** Dec 17, 1992

## Volume No

1995

MALDIVES

India and Maldives Sign the Cultural Exchange Programme

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 31, 1992 on signing of Cultural Exchange Programme between India and Maldives:

India and Maldives signed on December 24, 1992 the Cultural Exchange Programme for three years valid upto 1994.

The signing ceremony was held in the Maldives' Foreign Office. Mr. Pooran Chand, acting High Commissioner signed the CEP on behalf of India and Mr. Abdulla Rasheed, Director General, Department of Information and Broadcasting, signed on behalf of Government of the Republic of Maldives.

LDIVES INDIA

**Date :** Dec 31, 1992

## Volume No

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1995

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MISCELLANEOUS

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Restrictions on Foreign Nationals Entry to North-East Relaxed

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The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 03, 1992 on restrictions on Foreign Nationals Entry to North East relaxed:

A number of restrictions regarding the entry of foreign nationals in the Northern-Eastern States have recently been relaxed. This was stated by the Minister of State of Home Affairs in the Lok Sabha today. Replying to a question of Smt. Bibhu Kumari Devi, Shri Jacob said that no foreign national could enter or stay in certain areas in the North-Eastern region

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without obtaining necessary Area Permit from the authority. However some State Governments have been requesting the withdrawal or liberalisation of these restrictions. This was examined and a number of relaxations were made keeping in view the overall requirements of tourism promotion and national security.

A INDIA

**Date :** Dec 03, 1992

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## Volume No

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1995

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MISCELLANEOUS

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Formulation of a National Culture Policy

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The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 31, 1992 on jormulation of a national Culture Policy:

Deliberations on evolving a national culture policy dominated the cultural scene during 1992. The conclusion of the Festival of India in Germany and the beginning of the Festival of China in India were other major events. The observance of the golden jubilee of the Quit India movement and the centenary celebrations of Badsha Khan were significant events of the period. The year

closed with the Prime Minister launching the centenary celebrations of Swami Vivekananda's Bharat Parikrama and his famous Chicago address at a special function at Kanya Kumari on December 28.

The process of formulating a national culture policy covered a major part of the year. A draft policy was evolved following a meeting of culture Minister and Secretaries of State and Union Territories. The draft policy was circulated among Members of Parliament for their suggestions. It was also discussed threadbare at the consultative committee of MPs attached to the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Besides, the draft paper was sent to about five hundred persons of the creative community for their views and suggestions. Finally, a national colloquium was held in November where several aspects of culture were critically examined by working groups. The HRD Minister, Shri Arjun Singh, ruling out imposition of any culture policy, made it clear that a policy would be adopted only with the support of the creative community.

To celebrate the golden jubilee of the Quit India Movement, a national committee under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister was constituted. As part of the celebrations, the President addressed a joint session of Parliament on August 8 and, on August 9, the Prime Minister dedicated to the nation the Salimgarh Barracks in the Red Fort where the INA veterans were imprisoned by the British.

The centenary celebrations of Swami Vivekananda's Bharat Parikrama and his epoch-making address at the Parliament of Religions in Chicago were launched by the Prime Minister at a function at Kanya Kumari. A national committee under the chairmanship of Shri Arjun Singh was set up to chalk out suitable programmes projecting Swami Vivekananda's life, tenets and preachings. The Government also decided to observe the centenary year as 'Rashtra Chetna Varsh' the year of national awakening.

The Festival of China opened in New Delhi in December, 1992,- the first major Chinese cultural festival in any country. The six week long festival consists of performing arts including opera acrobatics and puppetry, exhibition of Chinese paintings and handicrafts and seminar.

The Festival of India in Germany concluded in June, 1992, after achieving the objective of making the German people conscious of Indian culture. Over 400 Indian artists, scientists and authors visited Germany during the Festival which consisted of exhibitions, seminars, film shows and concerts of classical and folk music and dance.

The national science centre under the Department of Culture was inaugurated by the Prime Minister. It has named after late

Shri Rajiv Gandhi in view of his inspiration to the scientific community.

For the first time, India hosted the international library conference. The 58th

General Conference of International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, inaugurated by Shri Arjun Singh in New Delhi, had as its theme, 'Library and Information Policy and Perspective'.

A INDIA CHINA GERMANY

**Date :** Dec 31, 1992

## Volume No

1995

MISCELLANEOUS

Foreign Investment in Food Processing Sector

The following is the text of Press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 17, 1992 on Foreign Investment in Food Processing:

Under the new Industrial Policy, a large number of food processing industries have been placed in the priority list and automatic approval for foreign collaboration upto 51 per cent equity have been allowed. Procedures for foreign technology agreements have been simplified. NRIs and Overseas Corporate Bodies have been permitted to invest upto 100 per cent of the equity in these industries. This was informed by Shri Giridhar Gomango, Minister of State for Food Processing Industries while replying to a written question in Lok Sabha today.

Shri Gomango said that the Government had also set up Foreign Investment Promotion Board to encourage international firms to invest in selected areas. Investment programmes of such firms are considered in totality, from pre-determined parameters of procedures.

The Minister informed that after the announcement of new Industrial Policy, a large number of proposals from foreign companies with foreign equity NRI participation had been approved in the areas of deep sea fishing, fish processing, snack foods, soft drink concentrates, poultry processing, milk products, processed fruits and vegetable products, integrated aquaculture

and fish processing, mineral water, chewing gum, food processing machinery, food packaging, etc.

A INDIA OMAN

**Date :** Dec 17, 1992

## Volume No

1995

NAMIBIA

Supply of Platform Trucks to Namibia

The following is the text of a Press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 03, 1992 on award of a tender to Tata Namibia Ltd. for supply of trucks to Namibia:

Tata Namibia Ltd. has been awarded a tender to supply 30 4 x 2 platform trucks to the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications of Namibia. The award is worth Rands 23,93,610 - which is roughly equal to Rs. 2.40 crores and was won in the face of stiff competition from major South African Assemblers of Nissan, Isuzu, Toyota, Mercedes Benz and other vehicles.

This is the second tender won by an Indian company to supply vehicles to Namibia in the last two months. The previous award was worth Rands 2,40,000 - or -358>

Rs. 0.24 crores. The vehicles to be supplied under these awards are to be partially manufactured in Namibia, thereby becoming the first vehicles to be produced locally in this country.

Tata vehicles are already quite well known in Namibia since 69 vehicles earlier gifted through the Africa Fund have proved reliable in the rugged terrain of this country.

MIBIA INDIA SOUTH AFRICA USA RUSSIA

**Date :** Dec 03, 1992

## Volume No

1995

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

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China - Meeting of Shri R. L. Bhatia MOS with the Chinese Parliamentary Delegation

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The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 01, 1992 on Minister of State Shri R. L. Bhatia's Meeting with Chinese Parliamentary Delegation led by NPC Vice-Chairman:

While briefing the newsmen the Spokesman stated that the visiting Chinese Parliamentary Delegation led by H.E. Mr. Liao Hansheng called on Minister of State for External Affairs Shri R. L. Bhatia at 9 O'clock today morning. Mr. Liao Hansheng is Vice Chairman of China's National People's Congress. Minister of State outlined the process of improvement in India's relations with all her neighbours except Pakistan and told that efforts were underway to improve relations with Pakistan also. The Chinese leader welcomed India's improving relations with her neighbours and expressed hope that India's problems with Pakistan would also be resolved on the basis of peaceful co-existence and mutual discussions. Both India and Pakistan are friendly neighbours of China and China hopes to see improvement of relations between India and Pakistan. Shri Bhatia and Mr. Liao also reviewed the improvement in Indo-China relations and expressed satisfaction at the progress achieved. The Chinese leader said that China was ready to join India in a joint effort to promote the economic development of both countries. He hoped that economic and trade relations will be commensurate with the size of the populations of both the countries. The Chinese Parliamentary delegation will meet President and Vice-President today evening. Tomorrow, they will call on the Prime Minister and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

INA INDIA PAKISTAN USA

**Date :** Dec 01, 1992

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**Volume No**

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

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Shri R. L. Bhatia, MOS for External Affairs' Address to the Central Asian Diplomats

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The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on

Dec 01, 1992 on Minister of State Shri R. L. Bhatia's address to the Central Asian Diplomats at the Valedictory function today:

While briefing newsmen the Spokesman stated that India had been training 13 diplomats from Central Asian countries at the Foreign Service Training Institute. This was the first ever professional course especially designed and organized by FSTI for diplomats. The course which concluded today commenced on September 30. Minister of State for External Affairs Shri R. L. Bhatia addressed at the valedictory function today and bid farewell to the diplomats. In his address, Shri Bhatia expressed the hope that the course would prove useful and added that they were not just trainees  
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but colleagues. He further expressed the view that they would go back as India's ambassadors to their respective countries. There was goodwill between India and their countries and a long history of trade relations, linguistic commonalities and cultural similarities.

Shri Bhatia said that India was prepared to extend assistance in training in fields as diverse as banking, customs, education, science and technology. India's strength lay in its democratic and secular traditions and values, Shri Bhatia added while congratulating the countries on their independence. He stated that many of their problems were similar to those faced by India when we gained independence.

The course was attended by 2 diplomats each from Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Khyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan and 3 diplomats from the Republic of Kazakhstan.

At the end of the function Shri Bhatia presented certificates and memento to each of the diplomats.

DIA USA TURKMENISTAN AZERBAIJAN TAJIKISTAN UZBEKISTAN

**Date :** Dec 01, 1992

## Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of British Parliamentary Delegation 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 Dec 01, 1992 on the visit of British Parliamentary Delegation to India:

While briefing the newsmen the Spokesman stated that a British Parliamentary Delegation, under the aegis of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), is currently visiting India. This is the first visit of such a delegation in the last 10 years. The delegation comprises of 8 members and is led by Mr. Jim Lester. It arrived in India on 28th November and will be here till the 9th of December. Yesterday the Parliamentarians met Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Shivraj Patil. They also called on President and the Vice President.

Their discussions were on a wide range of subjects including bilateral relations and international issues. There was considerable appreciation on both side on the happy state of relations prevailing at present and both sides welcomed signing of the Extradition Treaty and Confiscation Agreement, which was signed on 22nd September 1992. The process of ratification of this treaty is underway and it is hoped that this would be concluded soon. Yesterday, the Speaker of Lok Sabha hosted a banquet in honour of the visiting British Parliamentary Delegation.

The group also met Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Eduardo Faleiro today. Among the international issues discussed were situation in the Central Asian Republics, China, especially in regard to Hong Kong, Burma and Cambodia. India's role in the region and in international sphere also figured in the talks. On the bilateral side discussions focused on traditional, commercial and economic relations between India and the UK and the new focus on investment and transfer of technology. The question of Islamic fundamentalism was also discussed and the Minister of State underlined India's secular ethos and its opposition to all forms of fundamentalism.

DIA USA CHINA BURMA HONG KONG UNITED KINGDOM

**Date :** Dec 01, 1992

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1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Esplonage Activities of Pakistan High Commission in India

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 08, 1992 on espionage

activities of Pak High Commission official Mr. Mohd. Ashfaq:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that on December 5, 1992 at  
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approximately 1540 hrs. an official of the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi, Mr. Mohd. Ashfaq was apprehended at Brig. Hoshiyar Singh Road, New Delhi. Mr. Ashfaq was procuring certain highly sensitive documents from an Indian contact, Mr. Mustaq Ahmed. On queries about the Indian-contact Mr. Mustaq Ahmed, the Spokesman gave brief details about Mr. Mustaq Ahmed.

Ashfaq had collected these documents and was in the process of making a cash payment of Rs. 2000 - to the Indian-contact for providing the documents. On queries about the documents, the Spokesman added that one of the documents was handwritten while the other was typed-written photocopy containing details about the Army locations and movements in Northern and Western sectors.

The Delhi Police took Ashfaq and his Indian contact into custody. After duly checking the identity of Mr. Ashfaq from his Identity Card and Driving Licence, the Indian authorities contacted the High Commission of Pakistan in New Delhi at 1845 hours to take possession of Ashfaq. Subsequently, Mr. Ashfaq was handed over to the Head of Chancery of the Pakistani High Commission. The handing over was done in the presence of the officials of the Ministry of External Affairs.

Spokesman was further queried about the Indian contact. The Spokesman stated that Havildar Mustaq Ahmed belonged to

7 J&K Rifles and joined the Army in 1979. He first came in contact with Pak officials in 1981 but, preliminary interrogations revealed, he was being exploited by Pak Embassy officials from January 1989 onwards. The first handling official of Pak Embassy was Munsif Khan, After the transfer of Munsif Khan, he was handed over to Arshad Ali. Mustaq had 11 meetings with Munsif Khan and 10 meetings with Arshad Ali. On each meeting he passed on written and verbal intelligence about the Indian Army deployment for monetary consideration of Rs. 3000 -. Total number of meetings with Mohd. Ashfaq were about 6, including the one on December 5.

The newsmen raised a number of queries on the issue through out the briefing session. The newsmen were also shown a film on confessions of Mustaq Ahmed.

Government of India views this incident with profound regret.

Mohd. Ashfaq has violated the accepted norms of functioning of the personnel of Diplomatic Missions. The Government of India was constrained to lodge a strong protest with the High Commission of Pakistan and request that Mohd. Ashfaq be withdrawn forthwith from India in a week's time. The Spokesman added that Mr. Arshad Ali was earlier declared persona non grata in April 1992 for being involved in another espionage case.

DIA PAKISTAN USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date :** Dec 08, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Heads of Indian Missions

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 08, 1992 on briefing of Heads of Indian Missions on Ayodhya Issue:

It was mentioned in our briefing yesterday that Heads of Indian Missions who had gathered here for a briefing-cumorientation course, had been asked to return to their respective capitals, so as to be on the spot to carry out their task of keeping their host governments and other opinion makers informed about developments in India, in the wake of the events at Ayodhya.

Today, before their departure, a briefing was held for them on the Ayodhya issue. Ministers of State Shri Eduardo Faleiro and Shri R. L. Bhatia, as well as Shri Naresh Chandra, Adviser on Ayodhya  
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in the Prime Minister's office, briefed the Heads of Missions on the background of the overall dispute, recent events, and government's priorities following the situation created by the destruction of the Babri Masjid.

Among other things, it was pointed out that the government's reaction to this crisis has been swift, resolute and comprehensive. The crisis created by the failure of the State Government - which, in our federal polity, had the responsibility to maintain law and order - had been addressed squarely by government. The nation's total commitment to democracy,

secularism and the rights of all communities was underlined by government action in the dismissal of the State Government and arrest of leaders whose actions had contributed to the crisis. Charges of weak response by government stood countered by quick and effective action by government, including a declaration of total support and confidence for the Prime Minister from the Congress Parliamentary Party. A first set of measures has already been announced by government under which communal organisations will be banned, strongest possible action under the law will be taken to bring to book the culprits connected with the demolition of the masjid structure and disciplinary proceedings will be initiated against various authorities, who lapsed in the performance of their duty. It was also decided that the government will see to it that the demolished structure is rebuilt and appropriate steps will be taken regarding a new Ram temple after 11th December 1992, when the court judgment attracted in the matter will be issued.

While the matter is an internal one, and for India's sovereign government to deal with, it was necessary to counter the flood of speculation and disinformation in some quarters with the correct facts. India's total commitment to its secularism and democracy was dramatically underlined not only by the condemnation of the recent event in Ayodhya by every political party, but also by press opinion across the board.

DIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

**Date :** Dec 08, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Turkmenistau Team 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 Dec 09, 1992 on the visit of the Turkmenistan team to India:

This Ministry's attention has been drawn to the report appearing in The Pioneer of 9th December entitled "Turkmenistan team calls off visit' in which it has been mentioned that a high-powered team from Turkmenistan headed by their Deputy Prime Minister, has cancelled his visit to India in protest against the demolition of the Babri Masjid.

This report is baseless. On the afternoon of 7th November 1992, reports were received about civil disturbances that had occurred in Amedabad, Baroda, Bombay and Calcutta. All these places were on the delegation's itinerary because the members of the delegation were specially interested in seeing the petro-chemical complex in Baroda, a pharmaceutical factory in Ahmedabad, the ONGC facilities at Bombay High and certain fisheries projects in the areas adjoining Calcutta.

It was naturally felt that in view of the prevailing situation it would not be advisable for the delegation to visit these places at the present time and if these places were taken out of their itinerary, their visit would not serve a useful purpose. Much to the government's regret, it had no alternative but to ask our Charged' Affaires  
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and the Turkmen First Deputy Foreign Minister (who was in Delhi) to request the Deputy Prime Minister of Turkmenistan Mr. Dzhorakuli Babakuliev to postpone the visit of his delegation. The Deputy Prime Minister fully understood the reasons and was kind enough to agree to the Ministry's request.

DIA TURKMENISTAN USA AZERBAIJAN

**Date :** Dec 09, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

#### Communal Incidents Affecting Indians in Pakistan 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 Dec 15, 1992 on India's concern over communal incidents affecting Indians in Pakistan and Bangladesh:

Briefing the newsmen, the Spokesman said that, as they were already aware, the Government of India has taken firm and immediate steps in the wake of the developments in Ayodhya. These include assurance on restoration of the masjid structure, reiteration of determination to maintain the secular and democratic polity, banning of commercial organisations in respect of which legal action is already underway and arresting the leaders of the parties which violated the law. Further, a white

paper has been promised to provide full and objective information. The Government has also taken steps to restore peace, law and order. Normalcy has been restored. Other political parties believing in secularism and democracy have been called to join hands in resisting communalism and extremism.

There have been attempts in certain countries especially Pakistan and, to some extent, Bangladesh, to portray the demolition of the mosque as affecting the safety of minorities in India. This is wrong and motivated. The minorities enjoy Constitutional guarantees in India and the Government is committed to meet in full and effectively its constitutional obligations which include providing full protection to all minorities. The recent steps have been taken by the Government in the same spirit. The nation at large, including political parties and opinions of people as reflected in the press, has highlighted India's secular and democratic reality.

In contrast, in Pakistan inflammatory statements have been made by some of its leaders. In Pakistan, according to reports received by our missions there as well as their own media reports, upto December 12, 1992, 124 temples, 2 Gurdwaras and 1 church were destroyed. Similarly, in Bangladesh, 97 temples were destroyed and the Indian High Commission and the Indian Airlines office came under attack. 340 houses and 100 shops belonging to Indians were burnt. In previous briefings, details have already been provided of Governmental encouragement and participation by some of the Government leaders in the mob attacks. These events and actions can only result in a backlash from the extremist forces here instead of cooling the temperature down.

INDIA BANGLADESH INDIA PAKISTAN USA

**Date :** Dec 15, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

India's Accession to the UN Convention on Rights for the Child

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, 1992 on India's accession to the UN Convention on rights for the child:

Briefing the newsmen, Spokesman said that India has acceded to

the UN Convention on Rights for the Child. The instruments of accession was deposited with the UN Security General at New York on December 11, 1992. By way of background, he explained that the International Year of Child was celebrated in 1979, and that was the time when the idea for an International Convention on the Rights of the Child was  
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put forward. India had supported this initiative and we were very active in the working group which had drafted this Convention. On November 20, 1988, UN General

Assembly had unanimously adopted the text of the UN Convention, and the Convention entered into force on April 30, 1992.

DIA USA

**Date :** Dec 17, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Withdrawal of an Assistant from Pak High Commission in NewDelhi and Expulsion of 3 Indian Officials from Pakistan

The following is the text of a state ment issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 17, 1992 on withdrawal of an Assistant from the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi and expulsion of 3 Indin officials from Pakistan:

Briefing the newsmen, the Spokesman said that on 14th December the Deputy High Commissioner of the Pakistan High Commission was called to our Ministry by Mr. M. K. Bhadrakumar, JS(IPA) and the Deputy High Commissioner of Pakistan was requested to immediately withdraw from India Mohd. Salim Anjum, an Assistant in the Pakistani High Commission. This action follows the arrest and the confession by his Indian contact which provided convincing evidence of the Pakistani Official's unacceptable activities. The name of the Indian citizen concerned was Mohd. Maqbool Runga who normally resides in Sri Nagar. Their meetings were usually held in the Ashok Yatri Niwas Hotel in New Delhi. It is also learnt that Runga used to be paid Rs. 4,000 - for each rendezvous. He was being handled by the official in the Pakistan High Commission

since February 1988. In November 1988 Runga was taken to Pakistan for special training in intelligence gathering.

As regards, the expulsion by Pakistan of 3 of our officials (one from our Embassy in Islamabad and two from our Consulate General in Karachi), today, we regret this action on their part. Instead of desisting from carrying unacceptable activities which flout diplomatic norms, the action of the Pakistani Authorities in expelling our officials is something we reject as a propaganda ploy.

DIA PAKISTAN USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date :** Dec 17, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Reports of Pakistani National Assembly Discussing the Ayodhya issue

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 22, 1992 on reports of Pakistani National Assembly discussing the Ayodhya issue:

While briefing newsmen, the spokesman stated that the Government's attention has been drawn to reports that the Pakistani National Assembly convening today is going to spend two days discussing the Ayodhya incidents and related matters. The Government of India strongly objects to the Legislature of a foreign country discussing a matter lying entirely within domestic jurisdiction of India. The National Assembly of Pakistan or any other country has no locus standi to discuss or sit in judgement on Ayodhya or any other internal matter of India. This is a gross interference in India's internal affairs. That the Government of Pakistan is participating in this process confirms the impression that they are not interested in reducing tension or in normalizing relations with India, despite India's commitment to promote good neighbourly relations with Pakistan regardless of the ups and downs that may occur occasionally.

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KISTAN USA INDIA MALI

**Date :** Dec 22, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Speech by President of Pakistan in Pak- National Assembly on India

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 25, 1992 on a speech in the Pakistan National Assembly by the President of Pakistan:

We note with serious objection and concern that the President of Pakistan has, in the course of a speech in the Pakistan National Assembly on December 22, 1992 made completely unacceptable and negatively motivated remarks on India.

It has, indeed, been habitual for this President of Pakistan to indulge in vituperative rhetoric over India with total disregard of the norms and conventions of good-neighbourly relations. But in the speech in the National Assembly, he has crossed all previous limits.

We have stated, on numerous occasions in the past, that Kashmir is an integral part of India. The only unresolved issue remains to be the vacation by Pakistan of territories occupied by it through aggression.

The question of taking any note of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's remarks over Babri Masjid, which are highly provocative, malicious and intended to inflame public opinion, does not arise. We can certainly do without hectoring by President Ishaq Khan on the tenets of Hinduism, the essence of India's secularism and the working of its democratic system. He would do well to concentrate on the amelioration of the human rights situation in his own country, which has a lamentable record of treatment of its minorities, including coreligionists, rather than proffering unsolicited words of personal opinion on India's internal affairs.

KISTAN INDIA USA MALI

**Date :** Dec 25, 1992

Volume No

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1995

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

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The Government of India's Reaction to References to the Babri Masjid in the Joint Communique of the GCC Summit

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The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 24, 1992 on the Government of India's reaction to references to the Babri Masjid in the joint communique of the GCC Summit:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that Government has seen the paragraph in the Joint Communique of the Gulf Cooperation Council Summit in Abu Dhabi on December 23 pertaining to the Babri Masjid. The GOI is fully conscious of its responsibilities in the protection of holy places of all faiths as also the rights of all peoples in India irrespective of their ethnic, linguistic and religious backgrounds and convictions. It needs no re-emphasising and no appeals in this respect as is evidenced by the action already taken by the GOI to remedy the situation. These matters pertain to internal affairs of India and the concerns expressed from abroad in this context, however well meaning they may be, are not helpful in meeting the challenge posed by extremists communal elements.

DIA UNITED ARAB EMIRATES USA

**Date :** Dec 24, 1992

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## Volume No

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1995

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

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Briefing by Minister of State to Ambassadors of Countries of the OIC

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The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 24, 1992 on briefing by Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri

R. L. Bhatia to Ambassadors of countries belonging to the OIC:

While briefing the newsmen, the spokesman stated that Minister of State  
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for External Affairs Shri Bhatia met Ambassadors of countries belonging to the Organisation of Islamic Countries, except for the Ambassadors of the Gulf countries (whom he had met earlier). The meeting was at 2 PM today. Minister of State Bhatia informed the Ambassadors about the background to the Ayodhya incident and also the action taken by the government to tackle the situation. He underlined the fact that the Central Government's actions made it very clear that government was committed to meeting the challenge of communal elements, which were threatening secularism and even our judiciary and parliamentary system. He said that government was ready to meet this challenge.

Shri Bhatia mentioned that the law and order situation had been brought under control everywhere. However, for the peaceful situation to prevail, it was necessary to have a similarly peaceful situation in our neighbouring countries also. He noted that the outbreak of violence in Pakistan and Bangladesh resulting in the damaging and destruction of a large number of temples, gurudwaras and churches would not help the process of return to normalcy and, instead, would fuel communal feelings.

Shri Bhatia noted that while it was an internal problem of India, he looked to the international community to create a conducive atmosphere to enable the government to address its task of preserving and even strengthening India's secular and democratic polity. Where there were sweeping generalizations, abrasively critical formulations in resolutions passed in a forum such as the OIC, this would not only impinge on India's sovereignty but encourage reverse communalism.

Those of the Ambassadors who spoke at the meeting in response to Shri Bhatia's briefing, in general stated that while the incident itself had been condemned worldwide and throughout India itself, they appreciated the quick and strong action of the Indian government in remedying the situation.

DIA BANGLADESH PAKISTAN

**Date :** Dec 24, 1992

**Volume No**

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

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## Pakistan's Request to Reduce the Strength of the C.G.I. Karachi

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The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Dehli on Dec 29, 1992 on Pakistan's request to reduce the strength of the CGI in Karachi:

While briefing the newsmen the Spokesman stated that the Government of Pakistan has today conveyed request to the Government of India which expresses its unilateral decision to reduce the strength of the Consulate General of India in Karachi from the present strength of 64 (which includes 8 diplomats) to 20 (including 4 diplomats).

The Government of India has noted this request and is examining the implications. This move will primarily affect People to people contact especially between the families of the Mohajir Community in Pakistan and their muslim relatives in India. It is a measure that is really aimed against that Community. This is the culmination of a process of harassment aimed at the functioning of our Consulate General office over the past few years, reaching recently its most violent heights with the ransacking and destruction carried out at the residence of our Consulate General in Karachi Mr. Rajiv Dogra. It is now open to us to consider whatever response we feel is indicated in this situation.

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KISTAN INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date :** Dec 29, 1992

## Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

About Restriction on Visas to Indians for Visiting Malaysia

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, 1992 on press reports about restrictions on visas to Indians for visiting Malaysia:

In response to queries, the official spokesman denied that the news regarding visas for Malaysia has anything to do with the Ayodhya incident.

There is absolutely no connection as is clear from the fact that the new regulations apply not only to nationals of India but also to those of Pakistan, Bangladesh & Sri Lanka as well.

DIA MALAYSIA BANGLADESH PAKISTAN SRI LANKA

**Date :** Dec 30, 1992

## Volume No

1995

### OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting between India's Foreign Secretary and Pakistan's High Commissioner to New Delhi

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 31, 1992 on the meeting between India's Foreign Secretary and Pakistan's High Commissioner to New Delhi:

Briefing the newsmen, the official, spokesman stated that the Foreign Secretary Shri J. N. Dixit met Pakistan's High Commissioner Mr. Riyaz Khokhar today.

Foreign Secretary conveyed to the High Commissioner our reaction to Pakistan's decision to scale down the staff strength of the Indian Consulate in Karachi.

Foreign Secretary said that the Pakistani decision was not acceptable being unilateral and not in consonance with the spirit of the code of conduct regarding the functioning of the diplomatic establishments of the two countries, apart from being illogical given the heavy work-load handled by the Indian Consulate in Karachi, included the issue of around 700 visas per day. The spokesman added that 8000 visas had been issued by our Consulate in Karachi since the government of Pakistan issued travel advisory advising its citizens not to travel to India.

Foreign Secretary also referred to the recent statements emanating from Pakistan regarding the Babri Masjid Issue. He emphasized that such statements only serve to heighten tensions and generate extremist communal sentiments in both Pakistan and in India.

DIA PAKISTAN

**Date :** Dec 31, 1992

## Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Pakistan's Vilification Campaign over the Death of two of its Nationals

The following is the text of Press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 04, 1992 on Pakistan's vilification campaign over the death of two of its nationals:

We note with skepticism, based on solid information, that Pakistan is persisting with its vilification campaign over the death of two of its nationals, Intekhab Ahmed Zia and Habibullah, in an encounter with our security forces on October 15 in Jalandhar District.

2. The Indian authorities who are conducting further enquiries over the incident of 15th October have sought certain back-  
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ground information regarding Zia and Habibullah from the Pakistani-side. Pakistan authorities have yet to respond to this request and have instead taken recourse to aggressive propaganda.

3. No matter how much of obfuscation Pakistani side may attempt to distort the facts of this case, it is clear that the incident of October 15 provides incontrovertible proof of continued and active Pak support to terrorism and subversion directed against India. Pakistan government has officially, stated that Zia and Habluilah were "murdered" by Indian security agencies. What is the basis on which such a fallacious pronouncement is made in Pakistan?

4. Zia and Habibullah evidently formed a team. They jointly approached the Indian High Commission in Islamabad for visa; travelled together to India; their visa application forms and disembarkation cards at Delhi airport were filled in the same handwriting. They entered India on a transit visa for three days on May 21, went underground and were involved with terrorist activities till they died on October 15 in

the company of - confirmed - identified Sikh terrorists.

5. Zia's stated purpose of visit to India was "to visit relatives". Why is it that Pakistani authorities fight shy of

giving the Government of India information on Zia's relations - if he had any - in India?

6. Several Sikh militant leaders who were recently interrogated by Indian authorities have testified that they had known Intekhab Zia as a functionary of the Pakistani Intelligence. The association between Talwinder Singh Parmar, Chief of Azad Khahstan Babbar Khalsa, with whom the two Pakistani nationals were killed on October 15, and Intekhab Zia dated back to 1988.

7. We expect that instead of indulging in a futile campaign of mendacity against India, Pakistani authorities would respond without further delay to the repeated requests of the Indian authorities for full and detailed information on the antecedents of the two Pakistani extremists so that the investigations under way into this matter are not impeded.

KISTAN INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date :** Dec 04, 1992

## Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Pakistan's Advisory to its Citizens not to Visit India

The following is the text of Press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 03, 1992 on Pakistan's advisory to its citizens not to visit India:

In response to queries, the following is the comment of the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs issued today on Pakistan's advisory to its citizens not to visit India:

"We have seen these reports. We dismiss them as the usual Pakistani propa-

ganda. They are trying to obfuscate the main issue. The main issue is not travel but Pakistan's aiding and abetting of terrorists.

We have also checked with our Missions in Pakistan and find that people are still coming for visas. Their own people do not seem to be impressed by their propaganda".

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KISTAN INDIA USA

**Date :** Dec 03, 1992

## Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Ransacking and Burning of the Indian Consul General's Residence in Karachi.

The following is the text of Press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 09, 1992 on ransacking and burning of the Indian Consul General's residence in Karachi:

The Pakistani High Commissioner in Delhi Mr. Riaz Hussain Khokhar, was summoned to the Ministry of External Affairs today. Shri K. Srinivasan, Secretary in the Ministry lodged a strong protest with the High Commissioner at the ransacking and burning of the Indian Consul General's residence in Karachi and the lack of protection for our officials posted in Pakistan, which allowed this to happen.

The Pakistani High Commissioner expressed his regrets at the incidents. He mentioned that the case for compensation would be examined by his government. He also expressed his hope that there would be no repetition of any such incidents.

KISTAN INDIA USA

**Date :** Dec 09, 1992

## Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Acts of Terrorism and Arson Being inflicted on the Minority Communities in Pakistan.

The following is the text of Press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 16, 1992 on a statement issued by Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs regarding Acts of

terrorism and arson being inflicted on the minority communities in Pakistan:

It is with the greatest concern that we continue to hear about the acts of terrorism and arson being inflicted on the minority communities in Pakistan. In the course of the last week, reports, supported by accounts in the Press in Pakistan indicate that 124 Temples, 2 Gurudwaras and 5 Churches were destroyed in Pakistan.

I have already expressed our deep concern on this matter on December 7, where I also referred to the cowardly attack by a mob on our Consul General's residence in Karachi and acts of intimidation and violence against our diplomatic officials. I had hoped this would have some impact. But this hope has been belied.

The moral posturing by political and other leaders in Pakistan stands exposed through the acts of vandalism and sacrilege, recorded by their own media. While we on our part have moved swiftly to ban communal organisations, restore law and order, assuage the feelings of our people, arrested those who are inflaming communal passions and gone to the extent of dismissing all BJP-led governments in the States, the Government of Pakistan has not only taken no effective steps to protect the minority communities but continues to fan the flames of extremism by their words and actions.

This is a time for healing and not for re-opening of wounds, a time to act responsibly as we are doing and not for injecting more poison in people's minds, as Pakistan continues to do.

We condemn these acts of violence in Pakistan which are nothing but state terrorism unleashed on the minority communities. We expect the Government of Pakistan to provide full protection to all minorities and put an end to the killings, and the vandalism and desecration of holy shrines that are taking place.

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KISTAN INDIA

**Date** : Dec 16, 1992

## Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Pakistan Prime Minister Proposes to take the Ayodhya Issue to the OIC and United Nations

The following is the text of statements by Sarvashri Dinesh Singh and I. K. Gujral former Ministers of External Affairs:

We are surprised and distressed to read that the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, is proposing to take the Ayodhya Issue to the organisation of Islamic countries and the United Nations in utter violation of the bilateralism established in the Shimla Agreement.

In his statement the Pakistani Prime Minister has also expressed his "pain as an individual and the Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan" and said "that I could not compromise over the issue at all". Apparently these expressions are to conceal the state sponsored violence, arson and looting that took place in Pakistan against the helpless minorities whose places of worship, temples and churches, were systematically destroyed and their houses looted and put to torch resulting in considerable loss of life. Pakistan's own record of dealing with minorities, whom they have almost eliminated, does not entitle it to cast aspersion on the treatment of minorities in India, where the secular state has guaranteed them full equality and opportunity to participate in national life.

We are heartened that the saner elements in Pakistan, including the Leader of the Opposition, have condemned the action of the Government of Pakistan in their instigation to communal violence and failure to protect the lives and properties of the minorities.

It is shocking that Mr. Nawaz Sharif's conscience was not even slightly disturbed when all norms of diplomatic behaviour were brazenly trampled upon and the Indian Consul General's residence was invaded with obvious encouragement from his party while the police looked on.

The reaction of the Bangla Desh Prime Minister, Mrs. Khalida Zia, regarding the Ayodhya incidents is surprising as well. Bangla Government's own record of treatment of minorities does not justify it to point fingers at others. It is again heartening that the saner elements in Bangladesh particularly the Leader of the Opposition has spoken out against their governments involvement in communal violence and its inability to protect the minority and safeguard their property and places of worship.

The two Prime Ministers must have seen the reactions of the Indian public and media condemning the incident at Ayodhya and unequivocally denouncing the communalists and the vandals. The parties and groups that had perpetrated these crimes against our democratic and secular polity have been outlawed. Would these two high dignitaries take similar action against the parties that instigated atrocious behaviour in their countries?

Protection of the minorities and their places of worship is a

committed responsibility of our Nation State. All minorities in our country, more specifically the Muslims, appreciate that they have a guaranteed safe future only in secular and democratic India. And with the exception of the lunatic fringe vast majority or Indians have placed their faith in the secular democratic system. This shall be defended and safeguard by all of us irrespective of our religious or political affiliations. Pakistani outbursts and motivated sympathy for Muslims in India has its own purpose that Indian Muslims fully understand and do not require.  
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KISTAN USA INDIA BANGLADESH

**Date :** Dec 16, 1992

## Volume No

1995

PALESTINIANS

Call on MOS (EA) by the Ambassadors of the Arab League in NewDelhi

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 22, 1992 on the call of MOS (MEA) by Ambassadors of the Arab League:

The Ambassadors of the Arab League in New Delhi called on Shri Eduardo Faleiro, MOS (MEA) today at their request to brief the Ministry on the expulsions by Israel of about 400 Palestinians from the occupied territories to Lebanon. After hearing the briefing, Shri Faleiro stated that the expulsion of the Palestinians was a grave set back for the Middle East Peace Process, and expressed the hope that Israel will rescind the deportation and that all parties would create an environment in which the Middle East Peace talks could be resumed. He expressed apprehension that the action taken by Israel would only strengthen the forces of extremism in the region with dangerous consequences.

Shri Faleiro drew attention to the UN Security Council's Resolution (No. 799 dated 18 December 1992) which was unanimously supported by all Security Council members. The Resolution has strongly condemned the Israeli action and demanded that Israel ensures safe and immediate return of all those deported. India as President of the Council has pledged a leading part in the drafting and passage of the resolution in the Security Council.

DIA ISRAEL LEBANON USA

**Date :** Dec 22, 1992

## Volume No

1995

PORTUGAL

India-Portugal Signed on Agreement for Test (Deep Sea) Fishing in Indian Waters

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 14, 1992 on an Agreement for Test (Deep Sea Fishing) between India and Portugal:

An Agreement for Test (Deep Sea) Fishing in Indian Waters -- was signed by the President of the Portuguese firm M/s Sociedade de Pesca Miradouro in Lisbon today (December 10). The Agreement has already been signed by the Indian firms, M/s AV Thomas & Co. of Cochin. Present at the signing were Ambassador Shri Hardev Bhalla and the Director General of Portuguese Fisheries and others. The Agreement has now to be countersigned by the Chairman of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Cochin.

The Agreement, the first of its kind between an Indian and an Portuguese firm, is the result of a demarche by the Embassy of India, Lisbon, initiated in July 1991. It now has the formal approval of the Governments of India and Portugal as well as of the Commission of the European Community, which is granting a subsidy. A Portuguese vessel, the 'Horizonte', with 25 personnel on board, is scheduled to sail for India soon after Christmas. It is expected that after the first 3 months or so of Test Fishing, a joint venture between the two firms will be finalised. Other large Portuguese fishing fleet owners (Portugal has the second largest fishing fleet in Europe after Spain) are then expected to enter into similar joint ventures.

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RTUGAL INDIA SPAIN

**Date :** Dec 14, 1992

## Volume No

1995

## SOMALIA

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### India's participation to support the UN Effort in Somalia

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The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 17, 1992 on India's participation to support for the UN effort in Somalia:

The Government of India have decided to join the international effort being mounted in Somalia in pursuance of the UN Security Council Resolution No. 794 of December 3, 1992. India's contribution will consist of two Naval ships, one Corvette and one Landing Ship Tank (LST). In addition India will send a contingent of approximately one Brigade strength of the Indian Army which will include independent units of para-medical personnel. This was announced by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Eduardo Faleiro, in a Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs today.

Government's decision to participate in the UN effort has been prompted by the rapidly deteriorating situation in Somalia where the two year old civil war has devastated the country and condemned thousands of innocent civilians to imminent death from malnutrition, starvation and disease. Shri Faleiro personally visited the Somali capital Mogadishu last month and saw first hand the scale of human suffering and tragedy in this brotherly African country. Shri Faleiro also handed over to the UN Secretary General's Special Representative for Somalia, a cheque for US \$ 250,000 from the Africa Fund as well as India's contribution of food and medicines worth Rs. 20 lakhs. This was in pursuance of the initiative taken by the Prime Minister at the Non-aligned Summit at Jakarta.

The unfolding human tragedy in Somalia has become a matter of grave international concern. After the collapse of the Government of Somalia headed by General Siad Barre, warring factions have created a situation of total anarchy. The capital Mogadishu is torn into war zones controlled by different armed factions. There is a complete breakdown of infrastructural facilities. There is no electricity in Somalia, no sanitation and a hopeless water supply situation. Almost every second house has been destroyed. Others bear the scars of a ruthless and vicious civil war. The scale of this tragedy can be measured by the fact that over 300,000 innocent civilians have already perished and around 15 lakh Somalis are facing acute starvation and disease. Famine has stalked the land and there is virtually no domestic production of food.

The international humanitarian effort mounted to provide food to the starving millions has been seriously hampered by looting and pillage of relief supplies by armed gangs owing allegiance to the

two major warring factions. Only around 20% of the food supplies are reaching the affected population.

The continuing instability in Somalia is a matter of concern to India as it affects the entire region. India cannot remain indifferent to these developments. The OAU, NAM and G-15 have all expressed concern over Somalia. The UN Security Council passed a unanimous resolution No 794 on December 3, 1992 which authorised the UNSG and member states to use all necessary means to establish as soon as possible a secure environment for humanitarian relief operations in Somalia.

Government have decided to join the international effort under the UNSC resolution No 794 and contribute to its successful outcome.

India's participation in this effort is designed both to demonstrate full support for the UN effort in Somalia and to reaffirm India's continued commitment to assist brotherly developing countries in distress.

LI SOMALIA INDIA LATVIA USA INDONESIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Date :** Dec 17, 1992

## Volume No

1995

TURKMENISTAN

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Call on Deputy Minister of Commerce, Shri Salman Khurshid

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 03, 1992 on Turkmenistan Minister call on Shri Salman Khurshid, Deputy Minister of Commerce:

Mr. Shikhmuradov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, called on Shri Salman Khurshid, Deputy Minister of Commerce, here on December 3. They discussed matters on mutual interest, particularly in the context of Shri Khurshid's recent visit to Turkmenistan and other Central Asian Republics as also the forthcoming visit of a delegation from Turkmenistan, led by the Deputy Prime Minister of Turkmenistan who will be on a visit to India from 8th December, 1992.

India has already signed a Trade Agreement with Turkmenistan

earlier this year.

Among other subjects, Shri Khurshid and Mr. Shikhmuradov also considered the matter of direct possible transport routes for trade between the two countries. This was against the background of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) meeting in Islamabad recently when 5 Central Asian Republics joined the economic grouping. Mr. Shikhmuradov represented Turkmenistan at this meeting. The Minister of Turkmenistan is on an official visit to India from 1st December, 1992.

RKMENISTAN INDIA USA PAKISTAN

**Date :** Dec 03, 1992

## Volume No

1995

ZIMBABWE

Visa for Zimbabwe to all Indian Nationals

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 14, 1992 on visa for travelling to Zimbabwe:

With immediate effect all Indian nationals travelling to Zimbabwe holding ordinary/official and diplomatic passports must obtain a visa for Zimbabwe before undertaking the journey to Zimbabwe.  
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MBABWE INDIA USA

**Date :** Dec 14, 1992