

SOME OF MY WRITINGS. OTHERS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM ME ON A PERSONAL BASIS. MANY OF THESE WRITINGS WERE WRITTEN DURING THE PERIOD WHEN THE IMPACT OF THE COLD WAR WAS STILL RELEVANT.

MY WRITINGS IN INTERNATIONALLY REPUTED
PUBLICATIONS.

Szent-Györgyi and vitamin C

SIR—The book review by Walter Gratzer¹ describes the isolation of vitamin C in 1932. He says, correctly, that J. L. Svirbely went from C. G. King's laboratories in Pittsburgh to Albert Szent-Györgyi's laboratory in Szeged, where Svirbely tested Szent-Györgyi's hexuronic acid with guinea pigs and found that it was vitamin C. Reflecting the way events are recounted in the book, Gratzer then says that King, upon receiving a letter from Svirbely with this information, "promptly and shamelessly jumped the gun and got a paper off to *Science*".

This is defamatory to King and is quite incorrect. It is compounded by Gratzer's statement that the book (by Moss) is "clear-eyed, scholarly and scrupulous". The pertinent events were as follows^{2,3}: W. A. Waugh, a student in King's laboratory, obtained crystalline vitamin C from lemon juice, in September 1931, with constant assay activity in scorbutic guinea pigs. These results were repeated, and Waugh and King submitted an abstract for the 27–30 April 1932 meeting of the American Society of Biological Chemists. As nearly as I can find out, abstracts then had to be submitted before the end of February to be placed on the programme of the meeting. This is in accordance with King's statement that a few weeks after this submission, King received a letter from Svirbely (as noted by Gratzer) in Szent-Györgyi's laboratory, saying that they were "just finishing their first assay in which animals . . . were protected from scurvy when given 1 mg of hexuronic acid daily" and that they were sending a report to *Nature* (published 16 April 1932)⁴. The report did not mention that Svirbely had spent the previous year working with King and that he and King had co-authored a paper on preparation of vitamin C concentrates from lemon juice⁵. In short, the news was brought from Ghent to Aix, not, as Gratzer claims, from Aix to Ghent! In contrast to the omission of reference to their work by Svirbely and Szent-Györgyi, King and Waugh in *Science*⁶ stated that recrystallized vitamin C from lemon juice "is apparently identical with the hexuronic acid described by Szent-Györgyi", thus giving credit to Szent-Györgyi for his role.

Far from "jumping the gun", King actually *delayed* submission of his manuscript to *Science* until he had checked the spurious claim of O. Rygh that vitamin C was methylnormarcotine^{7,8}.

It should be noted that S. S. Zilva had reported erroneously that Szent-Györgyi's hexuronic acid was not Vitamin C^{9,10}, and that King and Waugh corrected Zilva's mistake¹.

This brings up the question: when is a vitamin identified? The answer is: not until its biological activity is established. Funk, who had predicted the existence of

an anti-pellagra 'vitamine' (he coined the word 'vitamine', now 'vitamin'), isolated nicotinic acid from yeast in 1913¹¹, but it was not tested against canine black tongue or human pellagra until 1937 and so was not recognized as a vitamin until then, without credit going to Funk. Szent-Györgyi isolated hexuronic acid in 1928¹², but it was not tested against scurvy until 1932. The test was carried out by Svirbely, not by Szent-Györgyi¹².

At my invitation, in 1979, King described the history of the isolation of vitamin C at the annual meeting of the American Institute of Nutrition³. King's scientific conduct in the vitamin C episode, as on all other occasions, was exemplary and punctilious², and, in my opinion, over-reticent on this issue, despite the fact that he did not share in the Nobel Prizes for vitamin C in 1937. It is unfortunate that this slur has appeared within a short time of King's death on 23 January 1988.

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SIR—I would like to correct some misconceptions appearing in Walter Gratzer's otherwise excellent review of *Free Radical: Albert Szent-Györgyi and the Battle Over Vitamin C* (*Nature* 331, 397–398; 1988). I had the privilege of collaborating closely with Szent-Györgyi during the last 12 years of his life and enjoyed the friendship of many of those who collaborated with him before and during that time. To state, as the reviewer does, that Szent-Györgyi "often perverted" the talents of his scientific followers is a concept that does not come out of the book and incorrectly reflects the integrity and spirit of the scientific collaborations which occurred.

The reviewer also states that the National Foundation for Cancer Research which supported Szent-Györgyi's work for 13 years "collapsed in squalor and recrimination" and yet the book (p. 257) describes how "for reasons difficult to fathom" the foundation's fund-raising fell but "has since begun to stabilize". I currently receive funding from the foundation and my involvement with the "international, interdisciplinary, laboratory

without walls" approach of its support for basic research remains one of my most exciting experiences. It is true that in the last year of his life Szent-Györgyi was in conflict with the foundation's administration, but I believe the previous 12 years of mutual goodwill and support far outweighed this unfortunate situation.

Finally, and here the reviewer does correctly reflect the book, the image is given that "influenced by his young wife, Szent-Györgyi became alienated from his family and friends" and at the end became "lonely, embittered and unfulfilled". During that last summer (and for many before that) my family and I were house guests of the Szent-Györgyis in the summer cottage by their house. Marcia Szent-Györgyi lovingly devoted herself to the care of her husband and encouraged visitors whenever possible (one such visitor was Linus Pauling). Although Szent-Györgyi was seriously ill, he remained interested in and positive about the science in his laboratory, and he retained his impish sense of humour and philosophical view of life. If there is one criticism I would make of the biography of Szent-Györgyi, it would be that the author did not allow himself enough time to obtain a wider and more balanced view of those last few years.

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India and China

SIR—In my opinion the letter by N. H. Antia, "India since independence" (*Nature* 331, 384; 1988) contained inaccurate statistics and factual errors.

It is difficult to compare India and China because precise statistics are difficult to obtain from a closed system such as China's. Nevertheless, available data indicate that India leads China in most fields, besides having the third largest technical manpower in the world (after the Soviet Union and the United States).

China lost an entire generation of scientists to the cultural revolution while science in India benefits from free interaction of Indian scientists with those in Western and Eastern bloc countries. The number of contributions to scientific journals coming from Indian as opposed to Chinese laboratories demonstrates this.

Moreover, the sound defeat of the Chinese during the 1979 Sino-Vietnamese conflict indicated the backwardness of the Chinese arms industry, which may reflect the state of her heavy industry as a whole.

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plenary sessions or in a subcommittee composed again of the big three. The test ban issue was also prominent during this entire period in the deliberations of the United Nations and was the subject of extensive congressional hearings.

One can argue that the discussions in the various forums were about proposals that contemplated more comprehensive treaties than the one that was finally adopted. While that was mainly the case, it was not exclusively so. On September 3, 1961, following the Soviet resumption of testing after a three-year moratorium, the United States and United Kingdom proposed a ban on atmospheric testing with no inspection. This was rejected by Nikita Khrushchev a week later. Then, in August 1962, the United States and United Kingdom laid before the ENDC two alternative treaty drafts, one covering testing in all environments, the other limited to tests in the atmosphere, under water, and in outer space. This latter draft was very close to the one actually initiated a year later.

Moreover, the fact that most of the negotiation prior to the Hartman mission was about a more comprehensive treaty does not imply that such negotiation was irrelevant. No agreement could have been reached so rapidly in 1963 if both sides had not spent large amounts of time during prior years considering the implications and acceptability of test limitations of varying degrees. All of this soul searching should therefore be considered an integral part of the Partial Test Ban Treaty's negotiating history.

Thus, to say that the treaty was negotiated in 10 days is no more significant for historical analysis than to say (as was equally true) that the final texts of the SALT I agreements were negotiated in the five-day Nixon-Brezhnev summit of May 1972.

Benjamin S. Loeb
Bethesda, Maryland

India's atoms for energy

I enjoyed the informative article "New Players in the Nuclear Game" (January/February Bulletin). As a scientist and interested observer of India's nuclear program, I would like to make the follow-

ing comments. The primary focus of India's nuclear program has always been to provide energy for its people. Though India could probably have detonated a nuclear device earlier than China did, it declined to do so. In 1959 Dr. Homi J. Bhabha, architect of India's nuclear program, told a visiting group of Western scientists that India could develop a nuclear bomb within 13 months. While Jawaharlal Nehru was prime minister, however, no such effort was undertaken.

Unfortunately, the communist Chinese nuclear threat compelled India to test a nuclear device in 1974. Although it possesses a nuclear deterrent, India gears its nuclear program to peaceful applications and manufactures nuclear power plants on a routine basis, while its neighbor China is struggling to build its first nuclear power plant, and with foreign expertise.

India's nuclear energy program is the second largest in Asia, trailing only that of Japan. I believe that if other nuclear powers followed India's example, our world would be safer.

Uppinder Fotadar
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When the dust had settled,
there was nowhere to turn.
Especially not the government.

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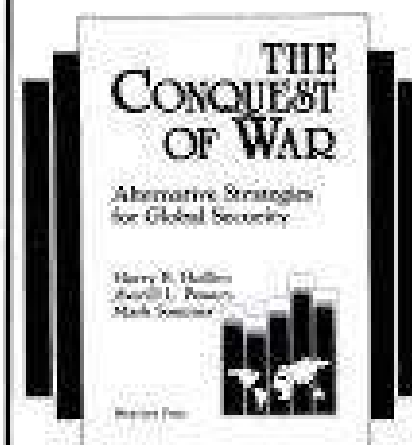
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India's Buddhists and Hindus Live in Harmony

Published: July 17, 1992

To the Editor:

I found "Where Buddha's Path Crosses the Hindu Cosmos" (news article, July 3), on sectarian conflict in Bodh Gaya, India, exaggerated in characterizing tensions between Buddhists and Hindus in the place where Siddhartha Gautama meditated under a peepul tree and found enlightenment. The problem is minor and will certainly be resolved peacefully.

The relationship between Hinduism and Buddhism has all along been amicable. Buddha is deeply revered by most Hindus, and many of the official symbols of modern India are Buddhist in origin.

Furthermore, the tolerance inherent in Hinduism is clearly reflected in India's vibrant, secular democracy. Moreover, you mention the "dominant Aryan Brahmins": This so-called Aryan-Dravidian division is a myth perpetuated by some Western Indologists. Both these racial groups have lived in harmony since time immemorial in India, mainly under their common Vedic culture.

It must also be pointed out that Lord Buddha himself was an Aryan belonging to the famous tribe of the Sakyas. Hence he was often referred to as Sakyamuni, which in Sanskrit means the sage of the Sakyas.

Thus, the likelihood of a conflict between Buddhism and Hinduism based on racial differences was remote during the lifetime of Buddha, and remains true. Besides, neither Buddhism nor Hinduism has any racial overtones. UPINDER FOTADAR Bronx, July 7, 1992

Riddle of the tenth man

SIR — While describing the history of the revelation of the Piltdown hoax, Henry Gee¹ says that the "chemical analyses by Kenneth P. Oakley of the museum [British Museum (Natural History)] showed that all the artefacts were of recent date". Because the artefacts were of extreme importance and were registered at the museum, it was decreed that they could not be removed from the museum precincts and that no samples could be taken for analysis either within or outside the museum.

The Machiavellian minds of the lawyers, however, decided that it could be considered that the objects could be deemed to be still in the museum if they were in the charge of the curator and if they were returned before nightfall. I had recently developed X-ray fluorescence analysis (XRF) as a nondestructive method of chemical analysis, which was also very rapid and ideally suited if the surface was to be investigated. Indeed, these analyses were probably the very first practical use of XRF for either academic or commercial purposes^{2,3}. (Many other methods of chemical and physical examination using classical techniques were used by the Natural History Museum after it had been discovered⁴ that the bones were not in fact so irreplaceable!)

When mentioning the comparison of the staining on the original Piltdown specimens and the teeth found in Hinton's trunk, Gee quotes Professor Brian Gardiner as accusing Martin Hinton (late of the Natural History Museum) of the fraud, and saying: "But Oakley did not look for manganese. Crucially, analyses of the contents of Hinton's trunk by Currant and Gardiner show that they are enriched in iron as well as manganese — in the same proportions as in the Piltdown specimen." To quote from my thesis²: "...all specimens were also analysed for manganese which was found to be absent in all cases down to the sensitivity limits of the apparatus. Potassium permanganate staining had been suspected but it was shown that no such treatment had taken place." It is clear, therefore, that if manganese has been found in the recently discovered "trunk" samples, it is evidence that the two sources are not similar.

Gee's report gives a description of how the staining of the bones was achieved by treatment with chromic acid in order to turn the bone apatite to gypsum. It is not clear to me why apatite (calcium phosphate) should be turned into gypsum (calcium sulphate) by treatment with chromic acid. Moreover, during the work carried out in 1953, it was evident that the chromium was associated with potassium ions, and there is little doubt that it was potassium dichromate that was used in the staining process and not chromic acid. Indeed, experiments were

carried out to test this hypothesis using other bone samples; the results gave final products very similar to the original in both chemical analysis and colours. Incidentally, Gardiner claims that the orang-utan mandible was not stained in the same way as the other artefacts, whereas reference to the 1953 thesis shows that its chromium content is very close to the average chromium content of the other eight chromium-stained samples.

I have a list of nine other candidates who have been cited at one time or another as the Piltdown forger. Martin Hinton, whom Gardiner now believes was the perpetrator, is just another to be added to this list. The evidence presented may show that he was involved, probably with others, but in no way is it proved. Charles Dawson, a proven fraudster in other spheres, seems a much more likely candidate.

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SIR — Brian Gardiner's contention that Martin A. C. Hinton was the perpetrator of the Piltdown hoax adds another culprit, but he lets Charles Dawson off the hook too easily. He should also consider the chapter on "The Piltdown Perpetrator" in the book *Mysterious Realms* by Joe Nickell with John F. Fischer (Prometheus Books, Amherst, New York, 1992).

Dawson was the one person consistently present at all the Piltdown discoveries. To say he was Hinton's dupe throughout gives Hinton almost omniscient power over Dawson. It is far more likely, given the discovery of Hinton's trunk of coloured bones at the museum, that Hinton was a collaborator, even the junior partner in the affair. For the discoveries at Piltdown ceased with Dawson's death. If Hinton was the real mastermind, he would have found some other dupe, and the discoveries at Piltdown would have continued.

Dawson also tried to pass off other frauds — a plagiarized book as his own, cryptozoological creatures and bogus artefacts. Dawson consistently appears as the most likely perpetrator of the Piltdown hoax. What Gardiner has done is to discover Dawson's accomplice.

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Energy, not bombs

SIR — It is unfortunate that *Nature* (**381**, 267; 1996) has joined in the criticism of India's approach to a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

In contrast to that of its neighbour, China, the primary focus of India's nuclear programme has been to provide energy for its people. As a result, India's nuclear energy programme is the second largest indigenous programme in Asia, after that of Japan. Furthermore, India's capability since 1960 to manufacture nuclear weapons is well documented (K. D. Nichols, *The Road to Trinity* 351-352, William Morrow, New York, 1987). India was one of the few countries with this capability (although it faced consistent threats on its borders) to have shown restraint. It was only after the emergence of the alliance between the United States and China in 1973, however, that India felt threatened and demonstrated its capability with a sophisticated nuclear explosion test in 1974. Since then, India has not tested any other device.

Rather than criticizing India, therefore, the declared nuclear powers should set an example and move towards total nuclear disarmament within a realistic time-frame. This would give the CTBT universal appeal. In fact, the late Rajiv Gandhi suggested a time-frame for the total liquidation of weapons of mass destruction. Quite recently, Pope John Paul II expressed similar views.

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History lesson

SIR — I refuse to accept Henry I. Miller's comparison of the Nazis with groups in Germany opposed to field tests (*Nature* **381**, 362; 1996). I also reject the term "Entartete Forschung". I do not agree with the activities of groups in Germany opposed to genetic engineering, but to equate them with the criminals of Nazi Germany is just stupid.

During my two-year stay in the United States I met too many people who may have learned a lot, even history, but have understood nothing. Miller's letter is another example.

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Freedom of speech Risks of a law on Holocaust denial

Tue 23 Jan '07 00:07 GMT

Unfortunately the controversy over Germany's proposal to make Holocaust denial a criminal offence across Europe (Report, January 16) will just keep on the back burner - where it has been for five years - the essential European law against race-hate crime, into which Germany wishes to incorporate this offence.

Instead, Germany should ensure the EU cracks down on those who make the daily lives of Jewish, black, Asian and Roma Europeans a misery through harassment and violence.

I understand why countries like Germany and Austria felt they needed Holocaust denial laws after 1945, and it is up to them whether to keep those laws. But the mad fringe of Holocaust deniers, who have no historical leg to stand on, are best fought through the war of words based on incontrovertible fact. Their freedom of speech must be matched by our vigorous refutation and ridicule.

If criminalisation of Holocaust denial is made the priority, the sufferings of those who often endure violent hate crime risk not getting the urgent attention and action they deserve at EU level.

Sarah Ludford MEP

London, Liberal Democrat

The German proposal to ban the display of the swastika across the EU is uncalled for. While no sane person can overlook the Nazis' heinous crimes and the association of this symbol with them, the bona fide meaning of swastika should not be overshadowed. The word is derived from the Sanskrit words su (good) and vasti (being). Hence many of us Indians find it rather unfortunate that this auspicious symbol of India has become a symbol of disrepute.

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SOME OF MY EDITORIALS.

NO SOFT OPTION ON KASHMIR

By UPINDER FOTADAR

THE current situation in Kashmir comes as no surprise. Though affairs in this State have not been handled properly by the Centre since Independence, the present troubles which started during the Prime Ministership of Mr V. P. Singh, are significantly external in origin and in fact a relic of the Cold War. The USA and its allies were busy using the China card against the Soviet Union which, along with its allies, was playing the India card against the USA. As the Cold War progressed, the USA dealt the Pakistan card against India and the Soviet Union pushed the Vietnam card against China.

China and the USA used Pakistan to further their interests by destabilizing India via Kashmir. A vacillating Mr Singh did not react appropriately and the result was a crisis. Now that the international situation has changed considerably, the Indian Government must formulate an aggressive foreign policy in relation to Kashmir.

Today's world is chaotic. While the Commonwealth of Independent States is orchestrating its own so-called fragmentation to extract as much help as possible from the West, to salvage its ailing economy, Western media keep exaggerating China's military and economic capabilities to sustain the pressure on

the CIS. Since Indian foreign policy has never been opportunistic, it is but natural that India continues to have a good relationship with the CIS and simultaneously works to consolidate its strong relationship with the USA, it is hoped that the USA, which no longer has vital interests in Pakistan and has always appreciated stable democracies, would get over the Cold War mentality and stop supporting Pakistan politically or militarily against India.

As the sole super power, the USA is having trouble policing the world, which is evident from the challenges posed by countries such as Cuba and North Korea. The Kashmir problem is, of course, an internal one for India. But the USA could be persuaded to pressure Pakistan to return to India that part of Kashmir it continues to occupy illegally.

It must be made clear to Pakistan that the whole State of Jammu and Kashmir is legally and historically part of India and this cannot be negotiated. Moreover, Indian strategists must take into account the fact that Pakistan, with little heavy industry and steel, does not have the military capability to take on India single-handed. Given India's formidable conventional military strength, coupled with an extensive nuclear programme

and demonstrated nuclear capability, any external support for Pakistan is unlikely since, in the event of a conflict between India and Pakistan, this would constitute a global conflict.

Kashmir then is a test case for the great secular democratic traditions of India. A failure of secularism in Kashmir could further polarize India and could result in India becoming a religious state. A substantial section of the world media has made the Kashmir problem look like an ethnic one when, in reality, the problem is between the majority of Kashmiris, who remain secular, and a small group of misguided Islamic fundamentalists.

There are no gentle options for resolving the issue. In fact, even if conditions were brought back to pre-V.P. Singh days, this State could again revert to what it is today. The appropriate way is to fight terrorism effectively and firmly. Political violence cannot be tolerated, particularly in a democratic state. Kashmir should be treated as any other State of India and Article 370 of the Constitution eliminated. This would remove the isolation of Kashmir and let the people of that State interact with mainstream India. In no way will this threaten the ethnic diversity of the Kashmiris.

Indian science: Visions of a glorious past

Science in ancient India was so developed that even a modern scientist like J-Robert Oppenheimer, the father of the atom bomb, remarked that ancient Indians might have used nuclear devices. Upinder Fotedar explores the glorious past of Indian science to highlight its present plight

When the father of the US atomic bomb, J Robert Oppenheimer was asked by a reporter whether the nuclear test conducted by the USA on July 16, 1945 was the first ever atomic test, his reply was that the ancient Indians may have conducted one earlier.

While it is impossible to ascertain the authenticity of this statement it does make evident the thoughts of some eminent Western scientists toward the contribution of ancient India in science and technology. It may not be an exaggeration to say that no other civilization can claim to have contributed in totality in the areas of science and technology more than India.

Modern India cannot live by her past, however, our glorious past can be a stimulus for the future. While it is impossible to summarize the contributions of all the Indian scientists, it may be possible to point out some of the significant contributions by Indian scientists.

VIEWPOINT

The world's first known symposium on medicinal plants was held in about 700 BC in India and was presided over by none other than the Sage Bharadvaja. The details of this symposium are given in the Caraka-Samhita. During the golden age of Indian medicine from 800 BC to AD 1000 many great medical treatises including the Susruta-Samhita were compiled. Susruta describes more than one hundred surgical instruments made of steel. Some of these are used in surgery till this day.

The first known reference to atomic structure, which deals with atomic and sub-atomic particles was in the Vaisesika-sutra of Kanada (1st century AD). Aryabhata I (476-550 AD), the great Indian astronomer was the first known person to use algebra. In the year 499 AD, he finished the *Arabhatiya* which summarized mathematics known at that time. This genius even came up with an accurate approximation for the value of pi at 3.1416. Contributions were also made by ancient Indians to the science and methodology of surgery.

beyond doubt that dynasties such as the Mitanni originating from India ruled territories up to what is modern Egypt, as far back as 1,400 BC. In fact, during the reign of the Pharaoh Thutmose IV (1401-1391 BC) the Mitanni captured a substantial part of Egyptian territory. Great contributions by Indian scientists and mathematicians continued until the 12th century AD. Even though the science and technology stagnated substantially from then till 1947

when India got her independence, contributions by Indian scientists continued. In fact, the 20th century saw a series of great Indian scientists and mathematicians, such as the genius Ramanujan, Megad Saha, SS Bhatnagar and Birbal Sahni.

Modern India was fortunate that at independence it was led by a remarkable group of people headed by Pandit Nehru with a world vision, who saw the importance of science and technology as a means to better the conditions of her people. While several outstanding people have contributed towards the development of science and technology in post-independence India, one man who stands above all of them is Dr Homi J Bhabha.

Few nations can field a person of Dr Bhabha's calibre as far as the combination of being a great scientist and an extraordinary administrator are concerned. Dr Bhabha had a superb understanding and perception of international politics. Actually, Dr Bhabha had put a lot of pressure on Pandit Nehru to conduct a nuclear explosion test as far back as 1960. Dr Bhabha had hoped that the psychological impact of this test would enable India to divert a significant amount of resources (which she might be forced to spend in the future on conventional defence equipment) towards industrial and scientific

production of plutonium on 31st March, 1964. At the time when this plant was commissioned only four countries in the world namely the USA, USSR, England and France had such facilities.

It was Dr Bhabha who led the country to become the most advanced country in Asia in many critical technological areas. The first atomic reactor which was named APSARA attained criticality on 4th August, 1956. Dr Bhabha should be credited for the commissioning a large scale totally Indian fabricated plant for the

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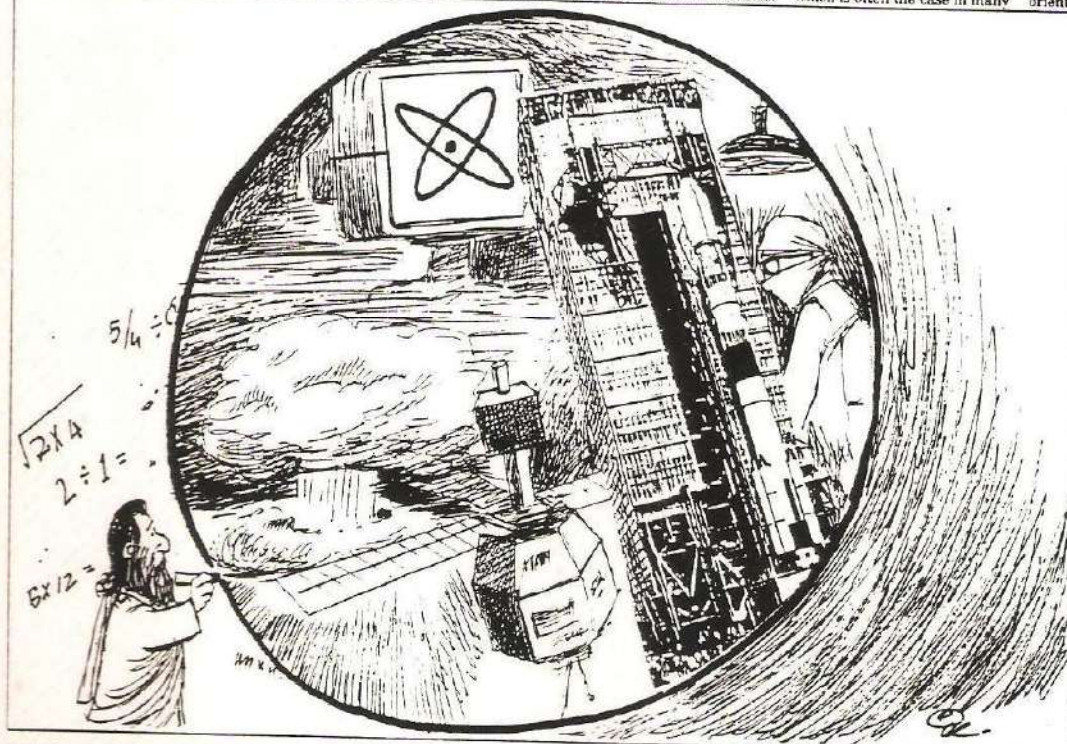
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The contributions of the brilliant scientist-philosopher Dr Raja Ramanna have also been significant towards the Indian nuclear programme. It is mainly due to Dr Bhabha's legacy

lites upto 650 kilograms in weight into near earth orbit. However, China lacks the capability to manufacture remote sensing and communication satellites. In fact, the mission failure of the Long March 2E in December, 1992, has been a major setback for the Chinese space programme. Although, Dr Bhabha contributed substantially towards the organization of science in many areas

It is overdue that the whole educational system be overhauled.

Talent must be tapped at a young age and the student should be taught in such a way that they can be creative. The Indian education puts stress on memorizing and less on thinking. A balance has to be developed between these two faculties. Children at school should be taught how to have access to

educational establishments in India. During the period of foreign rule the people became agnostic, less critical and superficial, which is contrary to the ancient Indian tradition and thought. The organization of Indian science and technology must be given to eminent scientists and technocrats. Veteran scientist-administrators must be given total latitude to

Prof ECG Sudarshan for his contributions in physics.

Finally, in addition to emerging as a great scientific industrial and military power in the near future, India must continue to be a cultural superpower.

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Pioneer, Sept 3, 1993

Science policy in India

By Upinder Fotedar

When the father of the US atomic bomb, J Robert Oppenheimer, was asked by a reporter whether the nuclear test conducted by the USA on July 16, 1945, was the first ever atomic test, his reply was that the ancient Indians may have conducted one earlier. While it is impossible to ascertain the authenticity of this statement it does make evident the thoughts of some eminent Western scientists toward the contribution of ancient India in science and technology. It may not be an exaggeration to say that no other civilisation can claim to have contributed in totality in the areas of science and technology more than India.

Modern India cannot live by its past, however, our glorious past can be a stimulus for the future. While it is impossible to summarise the contributions of all the Indian scientists, it may be possible to point out some of those eminent Indian scientists.

The world's first known symposium on medicinal plants was held in about 700 BCE in India and was presided over by none other than the Sage Bharadvaja. The details of this symposium are given in the Caraka-Samhita. During the golden age of Indian medicine from 800 BCE to AD 1000 many great medical treatises, including the Susruta-samhita attributed to the great surgeon Susruta were compiled. Susruta describes more than one hundred surgical instruments made of steel. Some of these are used in surgery to this day.

The first known reference to atomic structure, which deals with atomic and sub-atomic particles, was in the Vaisheshika-sutra of Kanada (1st century AD). Aryabhata I (476-550 AD), the great Indian astronomer, was the first known person to use algebra. In the year 499 AD he finished the Aryabhatiya which summarised mathematics known at that time. This genius even came up with an accurate approximation for the value of pi at 3.1416.

Contributions were also made by ancient Indians to the science and methodology of warfare. There is now evidence beyond doubt that dynasties such as the Mitanni originating from India ruled territories up to what is modern Egypt, as far back as 1,400 BCE. In fact, during the reign of the Pharaoh Thutmose IV (c 1401-1391 BCE) the Mitanni captured a substantial part of Egyptian territory.

Great contributions by Indian scientists and mathematicians continued until

the 12th century AD. Even though the science and technology stagnated substantially from then till 1947 when India got the independence from Britain, contributions by Indian scientists continued. In fact, the 20th century saw a series of great Indian scientists and mathematicians, such as the genius Ramanujan, Meghnad Saha, B K Bhatnagar, Bhabha Sahni etc.

Modern India was fortunate that at Independence it was led by a remarkable group of people headed by Pandit Nehru with a world vision, who saw the importance of science and technology as a means to better the conditions of its people.

While several outstanding people have contributed towards the development of science and technology in post-independence India, one man who stands above all of them is Dr Homi J Bhabha. Few nations can field a person of Dr Bhabha's calibre as far as the combination of being a great scientist and an extraordinary administrator is concerned. In addition to these qualities Dr Bhabha had a superb understanding and perception of international politics. Actually, Dr Bhabha had put a lot of pressure on Nehru to conduct a nuclear explosion test as far back as 1960. Dr Bhabha had hoped that the psychological impact of this test would enable India to divert a significant amount of resources (which it might be forced to spend in future on conventional defence equipment) towards industrial and scientific development. Unfortunately, Nehru being an idealist and a pacifist did not approve nuclear or conventional arms building and hence ignored the advice of Dr Bhabha.

It was under the directorship of Dr Bhabha that India became the most advanced country in Asia (excluding the then Soviet Union as a part of Asia) in many critical technological areas. The first atomic reactor to be built in Asia was built by Indian scientists. The reactor which was named APSARA attained criticality on August 4, 1956. Again under the directorship of Dr Bhabha, India was able to commission a large scale totally Indian fabricated plant for the production of plutonium on March 31, 1964. At the time when this plant was commissioned only four countries in the world namely the USA, the USSR, England and France had such facilities.

The contributions of the brilliant scientist-philosopher Dr Ramanna have also been significant towards the Indian

nuclear programme. It is mainly due to Dr Bhabha's legacy that India's atomic energy programme is the second largest in Asia trailing only that of Japan and also its space programme is one of the most advanced in Asia. In fact, if the upcoming launch of the PSLV succeeds, India will be the only country in Asia to make remote sensing satellites and also launch them. While Japan makes remote sensing satellites, it still does not have the capability to launch them. China on the other hand has a series of the Long March launchers, which can launch satellites up to 650 kilograms in weight into near earth orbit. However, China lacks the capability to manufacture remote sensing and communication satellites. In fact, the mission failure of the Long March 2E in December, 1992, has been a major setback for the Chinese space programme.

Although Dr Bhabha contributed substantially towards the organisation of science in many areas he had, however, the insight to realize that the key criterion for India to emerge as a great power in the 21st century was to have ample energy sources along with advanced communication and education facilities. He hence stressed the areas of atomic energy and space.

Indian science and technology now is ready to enter the next phase in its development. Although India has the third largest pool of scientists and technologists in the world, except some institutes the general standards of education in most Indian institutes are still below those of the Western countries. It is overdue that the whole educational system be overhauled. Talent must be tapped at a young age and the students should be taught in such a way that they can be creative. The Indian education puts more stress on memorizing and less on thinking. A balance has to be developed between these two faculties. Children at school should be taught how to have access to information, use and interpret information, particularly via computers. Students should be made to be more communicative towards each other and their teachers.

In some sections of Indian society non-communicative people are thought to be wise, while in many cases the cause of him or her not communicating is due to the fact the person is ignorant. Self criticism and healthy criticism of other people must be encouraged. Teachers must be made to face challenges from their students without getting annoyed, which is often the case

in many educational establishments in India. During the period of foreign rule the people became egoistic, less critical and superficial, which is contrary to the ancient Indian traditions.

The organization of Indian science and technology must be given to eminent scientists and technocrats. Veteran scientist-administrators like Prof C N R Rao of the Indian Institute of Science must be given total latitude to function, without any interference from politicians and administrators.

Many of the scientists are not only more aware but also more exposed to the international developments than many of our administrators and politicians. Interdisciplinary approach is the way to go and traditional areas of science must further be consolidated, while stress must be put on virgin areas of science which have ample applications such as genetic engineering and electronics.

Unfortunately many Indian scientists look to the West to recognize them and also look upon the Nobel prize as the only criterion of excellence. While science is universal and interaction is a must, let us not look to the West for recognition but develop such excellence as to make it inevitable that we will be appreciated. It must also be taken into consideration that the Nobel prize is a Western prize and though many of the people who receive this prize are brilliant there is a great deal of politics.

However, Prof C V Raman's contribution was so significant that the Nobel committee could not have overlooked him. Some of the clear overights from India have been Jagadis Bose (1858-1937), Satyen Bose (1894-1974) both of whose contributions have been weighty in physics. Some of the living omissions from India are Prof G N Ramachandran, whose contributions have laid the very basis of the structure of proteins and Prof E C G Sudarshan for his contributions in physics.

Finally, in addition to emerging as a great scientific, industrial and military power in the near future, India must continue to be a cultural superpower. The Indian youth must draw inspiration from Prime Minister Rao and President Sharma, since both of them typify the rich culture and tradition of India.

The writer is senior research associate at Montefiore Medical Center, New York.

Wavelengths

"Pen friend"

By Janakraj Laroia

To have pen-friends is one of the most common hobbies practised not only by the youngsters but some grown-ups too. Various periodicals and magazine sections of dailies, particularly in English, earmark regular columns, probably to boost up their own popularity, publishing names and particulars of prospective pen-pals.

If taken in the right perspective, pen-friend relationship could be a fine example of national harmony, inasmuch as, people from all walks of life, irrespective of caste and creed, age, sex or status, selflessly inter-express themselves in free and frank language. Nothing could be more informatory and educative than pen-friendship with regards to local rites and customs.

Encouraged with such golden ideas, I hesitatingly decided to adopt pen-friendship as a post-retirement activity primarily as a past-time.

It was a pleasant surprise to learn that quite a large number of fellow-pensioners had also similarly taken up this hobby. Many of them found it a simple cure for loneliness. Some took it as an opportunity to express their grievances against their "non-cooperative" sons and daughters-in-law. Some wrote pages criticising the government for its apathy towards pensioners. Some chose to harp over the lost position and power they had while in service.

But Dubey from Varanasi was a characteristically different from others. He invariably boasted about the post-retirement social status he had acquired, the spacious well-furnished house he possessed, the brand new car he had purchased, the sound export business he managed and the dutiful sons, grand sons who looked after him etc. Unlike others, he never, even casually, invited me to his place. In fact, in his well-written and fairly long letters he opposed the very idea of personal meetings amongst the pen-friends.

Months passed by. The number of my pen-friends was drastically cut short but Dubey continued to be an old faithful, writing regularly in his own style. One day, the inevitable happened.

I was travelling from Delhi to Calcutta by the Tootan Express. Suddenly, a desire to break journey at Varanasi and meet the old pen-friend overpowered me. It was late in the evening when I could spot him at his known address. What I found was quite contrary to what he had all along been describing. A widower from the early days of his marriage, he was leading an isolated life in a small dilapidated house in a miserable condition. His only son had shrewdly grabbed all his pensionary and other savings and left for USA to pursue a flourishing career, leaving the old man lonely and helpless to fend for himself. He had no income except a meagre monthly pension.

During the night-long stay with him, I did not find him regretting the bright picture he had falsely presented about himself. "After all, it was only through pen-friendship that I could forget the mental agony without meaning any harm to anybody", he explained.

Since then there has been no correspondence from him. I have also struck him off from the list of my pen-friends.

China far behind India

by Upinder Fotadar

IT is a fashion in the western media to compare India and China, particularly in the areas of development and culture. Having lived in the West for the last 24 years (mostly in the USA) and also being a travel addict, I decided to embark on an extensive journey to India and China. My main aim being to compare the development of these two Asian giants.

I felt the best way to start a journey into China was to fly by Air China, the national airline of the People's Republic of China. The flight schedule was New York-Anchorage-Shanghai-Beijing. Once we boarded the plane, an old Boeing 747, it became evident that the plane had been poorly maintained as the panels of the plane were coming off. I now hoped that the poor maintenance was only an internal phenomenon and the maintenance of the engines and fuselage was more stringent. I was also aware that the safety record of Chinese airlines, particularly for internal flights, was dismal.

The plane was packed mainly with Chinese students going home and there were few tourists. The food served, however, was delicious and also the care and attention given to the passengers was excellent. Due to the flooding at Shanghai Airport the plane was diverted and was made to land at a nearby airbase. One could clearly see rows of upgraded versions of MIG-19's, the backbone of the air force of the People's Republic of China.

Once the plane landed at this airport, intense activity occurred and the Chinese army came aboard making many of the Chinese passengers clearly nervous. After a discussion with the crew, the army had the plane refuelled and the plane took off for Beijing. Beijing international airport reminded me of Delhi airport in the eighties. The pilot parked the plane on the runway and, in an old-fashioned way, buses took the passengers into the main terminal of the airport. After clearing the immigration and customs, I took a taxi to a hotel.

While the Chinese tourist office in New York had informed me that this suggested hotel should cost me \$ 35 a night, the manager of the hotel wanted to charge \$75 a night. However, after bargaining I was able to bring down the price to \$ 60 a night. Even then the quality of the hotel in relation to the rent charged was not too good.

Any comparison of contemporary China with India is rather complicated, since it is like comparing oranges with apples. Both are ancient civilizations and have faced similar problems, particularly during the 19th and 20th centuries. However, both countries took different paths for their respective development, China chose a Marxist (an alien, occidental) approach and in the process obliterated its rich cultural past.

India took a secular democratic path for development and in the process retained its rich cultural past. After travelling in urban and rural China it became clear to me that China was cleaner and better organised than India. Most of the manpower was being put to work in China, although the efficiency was clearly less than what we have in the private sector in India. The technology in general in China was far behind what we have in India. Some modern technological gadgets were visible but mainly imported ones.

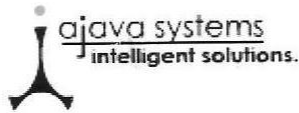
The methods of farming were quite primitive, and one could infer that the production must be rather low, particularly in relation to the states of India such as Punjab and Haryana.

In general, the impression one gets in China is of uniform poverty. Some economical boom has occurred in Southern China. However, the growth rates projected for China by western sources are a total hoax and are meant to project China as a great power, so that it can act as a US-sponsored leader of the developing world. The hope being that large countries such as India will consequently lose their chariness as far as opening up of their economies are concerned and can, therefore, become satellite U.S. economies. Much of the manufacturing being done in so-called China's special economic zones is not high-tech as we are made to believe. Most of the investment is from the U.S., Jewish industrial houses and Israel. In fact, during my travels in China some people mistakenly thought that I was an American or an Israeli and were very kind to me. However, when I told them I was an Indian they suddenly became quite cold towards me.

Science in China is also in a mess. Mao killed or despatched most of China's scientists to remote parts during the Cultural Revolution, while during the same period science in India flourished. China is now aggressively trying to make up this loss.

After observing objectively the systems of both China and India, one can firmly conclude that India is more advanced than China in most areas of science, technology and industry.

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Stories

Lalitaditya Muktapida: An omnipotent Indian

BY DR. UPINDER TOTA DAR*

Lalitaditya Muktapida appertained to the Karkota dynasty of the kings of Kashmir. The Karkota dynasty was started by Durlabhavardhana. During that period it was proclaimed that Durlabhavardhana had descended from the Karkota Naga (a snake deity who was worshipped in Kashmir and in other parts of India). In reality Durlabhavardhana was of modest background, he was originally in charge of the fodder for horses (asvaghaskayastha). Lalitaditya was the youngest of the three sons of Durlabhaka (Pratapaditya 2) and the latter was the son of Durlabhavardhana.

Lalitaditya's reign began in 699 A.D. and in no way is it a hyperbole to mention that this king was not only the greatest conqueror from Kashmir but probably from the whole of India. All evidence including numismatic supports this view. The credible and brilliant Kashmiri historian Kalhana in his classic history of Kashmir, the Rajatarangini (written in the 12th century A.D.) describes Lalitaditya as such, "The king, who carried his prowess, abandoned his (war-like) fury (only) when the (opposing) kings discretely folded their palms at his victorious onset. At the sound of his drums (beaten) in attack, the dwellings of his enemies were diverted by the (frightened) inhabitants and thus resembled women dropping in fright the burden of their wombs".

Besides Kalhana, the Chinese, Turkish and Tibetan legends also refer to him as a great conqueror. Kalhana has described many of the conquests of this king in detail, particularly the triumph of Muktapida over the mighty Yasovarman, the King of Kanauj.

According to Kalhana Yasovarman initially submitted to Lalitaditya; however, soon after a dispute erupted between these two kings as the treaty was being finalized. Yasovarman wanted his name to be given precedence over Lalitaditya in this treaty.

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However, Mitrasarman the clever foreign minister of Lalitaditya objected to this treaty. Following this dispute the war between these two kings resumed. Eventually Yasovarman (who was then at the peak of his power) was defeated. Prior to his defeat Yasovarman had established himself as a ruler of a substantial part of India. Following his victory Lalitaditya was able to annex the kingdom of Yasovarman which included Vanga (Bengal). However, it is not clear as to whether Yasovarman was slain in battle; but what is clear that after his defeat Yasovarman disappears from the political scene. Lalitaditya also defeated many other rulers following this victory. The famous Ratta (from the Rastrakuta dynasty of Maharashtra) the queen of Karnata (Canarese country) also submitted to this king. The numerous conquests of Lalitaditya are also mentioned by the brilliant Alberuni of Khiva (b. 973 A.D., d. 1048 A.D.). Alberuni for example informs us of the triumph of the Kashmirian King Mutthai (Lalitaditya Muktapida) over the Turks. According to Alberuni a festival was held on the second day of Chaita (March) every year for centuries to celebrate the victory of King Muttai over the Turks. An eighth century inscription in the Sharda script found in Kabul refers to the defeat of the Turks by a conquering monarch. During this period only Muktapida had this capability. Alberuni mentions that this king's territory also included most of the Indian subcontinent. In fact the colourful seventeenth century Kashmiri adventurer and historian Haider Malik Chadurah describes the conquests of Lalitaditya as such, " Finally when he was satisfied with (the conquest) of India, he headed towards Turkestan via Kabul. Mumin the ruler of Bukhara fought against him four times but when he had no strength or resistance left, he solicited for safety (of his life) and met the Raja and agreed to pay tribute and taxes to him. Thus all the rulers of Mawara-al-Nahr and Turkestan submitted to him. Then he went to China via Kasgar and conquered the lands there and after a fierce battle subjugated Khita. Finally he returned to Kashmir via Tibet". The conquest of Tibet by Lalitaditya receives confirmation from the Chinese Tang Annals. By the period of the Tibetan king Khri-lde-btsug-brtan-mes-ag-tshoms the Chinese provinces of Yunnan, Szechan, Kansu, Sinkiang had been annexed by the Tibetans.

Hence, Lalitaditya was able to obtain a large territory from the Tibetans. Lalitaditya maintained close contact with the Taklamakan region which served as his Central Asian base. There is also strong evidence to suggest that Lalitaditya was responsible for defeating the Arabs when they were at the zenith of their power. This is also a view entertained by the noted historian Romila Thapar. It is well known that during the reign of Caliph Hisham (724-743 A.D.) one Junaid was deputed as the governor of Sindh.

Udaid is supposed to have made an attempt to invade the rest of the Indian subcontinent; however, Lalitaditya soundly defeated him and saved the whole of India from Arab conquest. Also in the Persian Chronicle Chachanamah, the history of Sind translated into Persian from Arabic by the Arab Ali of Kufah in 1216 A. D., it is mentioned that the King of Sind, Dahar had earlier warned Mahamed-bin-Qassim (the Arab conqueror of Sind), "If I had sent against you Rai Jaisiah who is the most victorious of all the rulers of the face of earth and who can wreck vengeance on the strongest men of the age, or the king of Kashmir who is the mighty possession of a crown, kettle drums and standards, on whose royal threshold the rulers of Hind and even the country of Makran and Turan, whose chains a great many noblemen and grandees have willingly placed on their knees...".

Due to his numerous conquests Lalitaditya was able to enrich Kashmir. He constructed several temples and utilities and built the present town of Latipur in Kashmir. Kalhana describes the construction (in reality the enlargement) of the famous Martand Temple such, "This liberal (king) built the wonderful (ne) of Martand with its massive walls of stone within a lofty enclosure (prasadantar) and its town swelling with grapes". Muktapida was a liberal king though he was a Hindu he had equal respect for all faiths. Kalhana also informs us that he was a compassionate ruler who was well versed in the Sastras.

Lalitaditya also was a good administrator and an efficient king. Being a cautious person he was fully aware of the problems that could arise if the powerful classes of the landed oligarchy (Damaras) rebelled. According to Muktapida, "If they should keep more wealth, they would become in a single year very formidable and strong enough to neglect the commands of the king". This king instructed his ministers to be very careful in recruiting people for the two wings of the army, namely the cavalry and infantry. Orders were sent out that no two persons from the same place were to be put in one and the same company.

In the year 736 A.D. the reign of this great king came to an end. According to Kalhana there were two versions relating to the death of Lalitaditya. One version states that this king perished during a military campaign in Aryanaka (Eastern Iran) due to heavy snowfall which occurred out of season. According to the other version Lalitaditya faced with a critical situation burnt himself.

The author at present is an academician at the New York University. In the past he has held academic positions in some of the elite universities of the United States such as the University of Illinois and University of Texas. He had all his schooling at The Lawrence School, Sanawar (India) and higher education in Europe.

Features



MAHARAJA RANJIT SINGH: A HOMAGE

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One of the Indians whose impact on the history of the Indian sub-continent has been significantly marginalized is Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Clearly the British historians were partially censurable for this. While many Indians do have admiration for the spirit of adventure of some of the Britishers during their rule in parts of India, nevertheless one must remember that the British were there in India mainly to further their interests. It is thus likely that the British may have made an effort to vitiate the achievements of this great Indian as any appreciation of Maharaja Ranjit Singh could have proven to be disastrous for the British during their colonial period in India. Hence, it is long over due that we Indians recognize and appreciate the contributions of this extraordinary Indian.

Like many other things associated with the life of Maharaja Ranjit Singh the date and place of his birth are still a great controversy. Most historians, however, entertain the view that he was born on November 13, 1780 A.D. in Gujranwala. His father Mahan Singh (a Jat-Sikh) was the chief of the Sukkarchakkia Misl (a Sikh confederacy) with headquarters in Gujranawala. Furthermore, Ranjit Singh was baptized into battle at an extremely young age of 12 years. It so happened that Mahan Singh had laid siege to the fort of Sodrun where Sahib Singh Bhangi of Gujrat had taken refuge after refusing to pay tribute to the Sukkarchakkias. During this siege Mahan Singh was taken ill with chronic dysentery so he handed over the command to his son and he (Mahan Singh) returned to Gujranawala. Subsequently the Bhangi Sardars of Lahore taking advantage of the situation rushed to the relief of Sodrun. Amazingly this boy (Ranjit Singh) cleverly ambushed and defeated the Bhangis. Unfortunately on his return to Gujranwala Ranjit Singh heard that his father Mahan Singh had already passed away. Consequently this lad who spent most of his time hunting was forced to take over the responsibilities of his Misl. Moreover, marriage in 1796 A.D. to Mahatab Kaur who was the daughter of Sada Kaur the leader of the powerful Kanhaya Misl and subsequent marriage to Raj Kaur of the Nakkai Misl enabled Ranjit Singh to gain the loyalty of other powerful Misls. Ranjit Singh who was an extremely ambitious person was now equipped to fulfill his dream of expanding his kingdom.

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While Hindu Shah and his successors were not able to achieve the desired expansionist ambitions were the Afghans. It must be mentioned that during that period and the period prior to that period dynasties originating from Afghanistan had started making incursions into parts of India. As is well documented that a Buddhist influenced Afghanistan was not able to survive the onslaught of Arab armies for long. Moreover, gradually by the the 10th century A.D. the religion, culture and even to a degree the ethnicity of Afghanistan had started to change as colonies of Arabs settled in Afghanistan. After the Islamization of Afghanistan invaders from Afghanistan frequently pillaged India. Fortunately, due to pressure initially from the Rajputs these invaders were not too successful in forming stable kingdoms in India. Also it was only after the middle of the 18th century (following also the weakening of the Mughal Empire) that the Afghans led by Ahmad Shah Abdali were successful in carving out a kingdom in India. It was thus the descendents and kinsmen of Abdali who posed a challenge to any expansive moves by Maharaja Ranjit Singh particularly in the West and North. In fact Maharaja Ranjit Singh's grandfather the great Charat Singh had already come into conflict earlier with Ahmad Shah Abdali.

While it is impossible as such to mention and describe all the conquests undertaken by Maharaja Ranjit Singh in this article, however, an effort will be made to refer to some of the important ones. The first major conquest that Maharaja Ranjit Singh undertook was not from the Afghans but from his own kinsmen the Sikhs. Lahore during that period was ruled by three Sikh chieftains namely Chet Singh, Sahib Singh and Mohar Singh, whose fathers had wrested this city from the Afghans in 1764 A.D.. The citizens of Lahore who were tired with misrule invited Maharaja Ranjit Singh to take over the city. With the encouragement of Sada Kaur his mother-in-law, Maharaja Ranjit Singh entered Lahore on July 7, 1799 and took the defenders by surprise and thus captured this largest city of Punjab technically without firing a shot. Subsequently at a Grand Durbar on April 12, 1801 A.D., Sahib Singh Bedi a direct descendent of Guru Nanak proclaimed him Maharaja of Punjab. Next Maharaja Ranjit Singh captured the holy city of Amritsar from Mai Sukhan who was the widow of Gulab Singh Bhangi. The exact date of this possession is still controversial but many historians accept a date of February 24, 1805 A.D. However, in no way was Maharaj Ranjit Singh's appetite for conquest satisfied and next this Maharaja embarked on taking over Kasur. Moreover, the Afghan ruler of Kasur Qutub-ud-Din Khan after the death of his brother Nizam-ud-Din Khan had refused to accept the overlordship of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

Eventually in the year 1807 A.D. Maharaja Ranjit Singh annexed Kasur and also in the same year Bhawalpur was made a tributary. The British alarmed at the rapid expansion of the kingdom of Maharaja Ranjit Singh signed the Peace Treaty of Amritsar in 1809 A.D. with him and Sutlej River was accepted by Britishers as the eastern boundaries of the Maharaja's territories. Next Maharaja Ranjit Singh annexed the territories of Gujrat, Khushab, Sarhind, Sahiwal etc. Multan was next on the agenda of the Maharaja. The total control of Multan had evaded the Maharaja on six times. Eventually a large force led by Diwan Chand Misr was sent to capture Multan and Nawab Muzzafar Khan of Multan was killed and Multan Fort capitulated on June 2, 1818 A.D. Also one of the childhood dreams of Maharaja Ranjit Singh was to seize Peshawar from the Afghans.

In October 1818 A.D. Maharaja Ranjit Singh marched towards Peshawar from Attock and swiftly occupied the

businesses of Shahabad, Jhangra and Jandahra. In the process the powerful Shahdai Khan was also forced to submit to the Maharaja. Eventually the Sikh forces entered Peshawar on 19th November, 1818 A.D.. The famous and invincible Sikh general namely Hari Singh Nalwa (Uppal) played a key role in the capture of Peshawar. Following this in the year 1819 A.D. a large force led by Prince Kharak Singh (the eldest son of the Maharaja) and Diwan Chand Misr was sent to capture Kashmir from the Afghans. After fierce fighting the Maharaja's Army entered Srinager on July 4, 1819 A.D. Rebellions against Sikh authority in Peshawar occurred in 1823 A.D. and 1827 A.D. The 1823 A.D. rebellion was put down mainly due to the great Sikh warrior namely, Phula Singh Nihang who sacrificed his life in the famous battle of Naushera. The 1827 A.D. rebellion against the Sikh authority which was initiated by the fanatic Muslim Sayyed Ahmad of Barreilly was put down and a force led by Prince Sher Singh (the son of the Maharaja) was also successful in killing the Sayyed and his followers in 1831 A.D..

It was also during the reign of Maharaja Ranjit Singh that the first deep thrust by the Indians in the Himalayan territories occurred. Even the great Chandragupta Maurya whose territories included Eastern Iran and the whole of Afghanistan did not undertake such a conquest. It so happened that Raja Gulab Singh a noble of Maharaja Ranjit Singh decided to extend the boundaries of the Maharaja's kingdom to Ladakh etc. In the year 1834 A.D. Raja Gulab Singh commissioned the brilliant and fierce Rajput namely, General Zorawar Singh to lead this expedition. General Zorawar Singh was not only successful in adding Ladakh, Baltistan etc. to Maharaja Ranjit Singh's territories but continued his thrust deep in the Himalayan territories, till his death in Tibet while fighting a joint Sino-Tibetan force. It must be remembered that Tibet was a close ally of China during that period. Starting as a minor kingdom, however, by the time of his death on 27th June, 1839 A.D. Maharaja Ranjit Singh's kingdom extended from Tibet to Sind and from Khyber Pass to the Sutlej River. Prior to his death the Maharaja's Army entered Kabul in 1838 A.D. and installed Shah Shuja as a puppet King of Afghanistan.

Moreover, while Maharaja Ranjit Singh had great respect for all religions, however, he in no way appeased any particular religious group for his personal gains. Nevertheless, this Maharaja took upon himself to reverse any injustice which had been done to India by the Afghans. For instance the Maharaja was able to recover the gates of the Somnath Temple and Kohinoor Diamond both of which had been taken from India by invaders. The former was taken by Mahmud of Ghazni, while the latter was by Nadir Shah of Persia. The gates of the Somnath Temple were eventually brought back by the Maharaja's Army from Afghanistan.

Supposedly the Darshani Gates of the Golden Temple in Amritsar are the original Somnath Temple Gates. As far as the Kohinoor Diamond is concerned it is well known that it found its way to Shah Shuja the King of Afghanistan. Maharaja Ranjit Singh after capturing Shah Shuja (by means of an intelligent setup) was eventually able to extract this precious stone from Shah Shuja, though after a lot of effort. Moreover, just before his death Maharaja Ranjit Singh was keen to gift this stone to the Jagannath Puri Temple, however, the ruling chiefs did not approve this.

Maharaja Ranjit Singh was an intelligently aggressive person and this is more than clear from his numerous victories. Each conquest was planned meticulously and his troops were equipped with the state-of-art-weapons. As long as this Maharaja was alive the British had a formidable rival in India. In fact it is widely accepted by

experts that the Maharaja even had the capability of defeating the British.

²The author at present is an academictian at the New York University. In the past he has held academic positions in some of the elite universities of the United States such as the University of Illinois and University of Texas. He had all his schooling at The Lawrence School, Sanawar (India) and higher education in Europe.

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The visionary India forgot



Illustration by :Hidish

Homi J Bhabha, the man who set up the atomic energy establishment in India, had also envisaged the nuclear bomb, argues **Upinder Fotadar**

I decided to write this article on Bhabha mainly to enlighten the new generation of Indians about this prodigy whose contribution towards the building of a modern scientific infrastructure in India has been second to none. Bhabha was a unique person in every sense as his personality was a rare combination of three extremely diverse elements. Firstly, Bhabha was born in an aristocratic family, secondly, he was one of the top physicists of the twentieth century and thirdly, to top it all Bhabha was a great Indian nationalist.

Homi Jehangir Bhabha was born on October 30, 1909 in a well known (his family both on his father's and mother's side were related to the house of Tata) Parsi family. Bhabha's father was a famous barrister and his family (Bhabha's) had a tradition of learning. Bhabha's schooling took place mainly at the Cathedral High School in Bombay and after passing his Senior Cambridge he eventually left for England in 1927. His parents had him admitted to Caius College, Cambridge in order for him to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering. However, the famous Paul Dirac influenced

Published in Narbhad Times, Sulekha, etc. as well.

Bhabha immensely and eventually lured the latter into the discipline of physics.

After obtaining his Mechanical Sciences Tripos in 1930 Bhabha went on to study theoretical physics at Cambridge. By the time Bhabha received his Ph.D in physics in 1935 he had already made his presence felt in the international arena of physics. Following this Bhabha continued to make significant contributions in physics and was awarded the prestigious Isaac Newton Fellowship. By now Bhabha had blossomed into one of the great physicists of the 20th century and also mainly due to his attractive personality Bhabha made close friends with many of the prophets of physics. Among Bhabha's friends were Paul Dirac, Niels Bohr, Wolfgang Pauli, Enrico Fermi, John Cockroft, W.B. Lewis etc.

Bhabha and Nehru were like brothers, and under the persuasion of Bhabha Nehru passed the Atomic Energy Act on April 15, 1948. Thus Bhabha was granted permission to set up the Atomic Energy Commission

In the year 1939 Bhabha returned to his motherland India and he was subsequently requested by Prof. C.V. Raman to join the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore. Initially Bhabha was appointed as a Reader but he was soon after elevated to the position of Professor of Cosmic Ray Research. Following this Bhabha at a young age of 31 was elected to the prestigious Fellowship of the Royal Society.

In the year 1942 he also became the first Indian to be awarded the Adams Prize. Later on Bhabha was also elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.

As soon as he stabilized himself in India, Bhabha started to organise and build the Indian scientific infrastructure. It transpired on him that India needed a fundamental research institute of a world class. For this venture he was able to obtain help from the late J.R.D. Tata. Bhabha in his famous letter to the Tata Trust mentioned, "an embryo from which I hope to build up, in the course of time, a School of Physics comparable to the best anywhere". Initially this institute, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), was established at Bangalore in June 1945, but within six months Bhabha moved it to his own house in Bombay. Eventually this institute outgrew its accommodation and was moved to the famous Royal Bombay Yacht Club.

Bhabha and Nehru were like brothers, and under the persuasion of Bhabha Nehru passed the Atomic Energy Act on April 15, 1948. Thus Bhabha was granted permission to set up the Atomic Energy Commission. Following this on January 3, 1954 the Atomic Energy Commission decided to set up an Atomic Energy Establishment at Trombay where already some work was being carried out.

Bhabha not only understood the scientific-industrial needs of the nation but also international politics extremely well. While the main focus of the Indian Atomic Energy Commission was to generate electricity for the nation, nevertheless, the nuclear programme was tailored to be of dual utility. The aim was to produce weapons grade Plutonium-239 (while generating electricity).

COMMENTARY

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Bhabha's vision again proved to be correct when the British demonstrated that Plutonium-239 from nuclear power plants could be utilized for the production of nuclear weapons. In such a manner the large scale manufacture of nuclear weapons could not only be convenient but also extremely cheap.

Under the supervision of Bhabha the first large scale Plutonium production facility in Asia became functional in 1964 in India. Bhabha also saw to it that reactors were built in India for the sole purpose of production of large quantities of Plutonium-239. Actually Bhabha was also keen to test some nuclear weapons. The late T.N. Kaul, a veteran diplomat has mentioned that Bhabha wanted to test a device way back in the late 1950s. In fact the famous U.S. nuclear weapons expert, General K.D. Nichols who played a key role in producing the first nuclear explosion, mentions that he was convinced that in 1960 if given the go ahead by Nehru, India could have quite easily detonated a nuclear weapon. Unfortunately, Nehru though a great person hesitated. Hence, no such moves were undertaken.

Today, mainly due to Bhabha's efforts India's nuclear energy programme is the second largest and advanced indigenous programme after that of Japan in Asia. Already during Bhabha's lifetime many great advances were made. Such as the fabrication of the first atomic reactor namely, Apsara in Asia (if the then Soviet Union was not considered part of Asia). Other reactors such as Cirus, Zerlina etc, followed. Bhabha realised that India had one of the largest reserves of Thorium-232 in the world and hence he pushed for fast breeder technology to convert this element to fissionable Uranium-233.

Uranium-233 is a dual purpose element and can be used for power generation and also for the production of nuclear weapons. Today India is one of the few countries in the world which operates (the others being Russia, France, Japan) a fast breeder reactor. This 40 MW reactor attained criticality on Oct. 18, 1985. In 1996, the experimental 30 KW Kamini reactor went critical utilizing Uranium-233.

The genius and vision of Bhabha is clearly made evident in March 1944 when he mentioned, "When nuclear energy has been successfully applied for power production in, say a couple of decades from now, India will not have to look abroad for its experts but will find them ready at hand". It must be remembered that the first man-initiated self-sustained controlled nuclear chain reaction was done on Dec 2, 1942 under the direction of none other than Enrico Fermi, and this too was then a closely kept secret!

Today, mainly due to Bhabha's efforts India's nuclear energy programme is the second largest and advanced indigenous programme after that of Japan in Asia

Unfortunately, Bhabha died prematurely in a suspicious air crash on Mount Blanc on January 24, 1966.

Sabotage in no way can be ruled out. This great Indian in every sense was one of the greatest scientists of the 20th century. While in no way can we compare any

one with Bhabha, the closest comparison to him probably was the great physicist Robert J.

Oppenheimer, the father of the first atomic bomb. Both these people were polymaths and great physicists of any time.

Finally the best compliment I ever heard about Bhabha was by the late Prof. E.D. Bergmann, the father of the Israeli nuclear weapons. I was personally associated with Bergmann (who himself was a world class scientist and was the Chairman of The Israeli Atomic Energy Commission). Bergmann respected Bhabha and mentioned to me that he was convinced Bhabha was truly one of the greatest scientists of any time.

Bhabha never got the Nobel Prize (though he for sure deserved one), and also surprisingly India too did not honour him with a Bharat Ratna. Bhabha not getting the Nobel Prize did not pain or surprise me, but what pains me is that India has not done enough to honour him. It is, hence, my hope that the present government in India will honour this great Indian with a Bharat Ratna. This is long overdue and many a lesser men have already been honoured with this title.

Finally the best manner in which I can describe Bhabha is by the Sanskrit word *Hrtpriya* (dear to the heart). As he (Bhabha) for sure was dear to most of us Indians and will continue to be *Hrtpriya* of us Indians.

ditorial

EDITORIAL

RIAL

STAND

the first time since the
of Kargil hostilities that Prime
Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee has
been high. Usually mild, soft spoken
and moderate, Vajpayee
has all ambiguities and false
statements spread by Pakistan about India
being weak or lacking will to go full
on safeguarding national
interests and protecting sanctity of her
territory augurs well for the nation
and is neither apologetic nor
unapproach in holding Pakistan
responsible for present.....more

Security

full scale ground and air
operations are on to evict from Indian
territory intruders, the news on the
front calls for extra vigil. Some
openings are quite ominous
for all the States to wake up
and strap their loins against nefarious
ISI agents ready to foment
e

**The Evolution Of India
into a Great Power**

By Dr. Upender Fotadar

The present political situation in India
indicates quitemore

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**Enormity of Defence Minister's
incompetence**

From B L Kak

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to demand thatmore

**Another blunder in the
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in Daily Excelsior
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etc.

Letters to the Editor

The Evolution of India into a great power...

Dear Sir,

The present political situation in India indicates quite pellucidly that the Indian democracy has not matured adequately and is still some what susceptible particularly to outside influences. Nevertheless, fortunately the Indian political system is maturing and hopefully by the next decade things will be more stable in our country. In order to have a good grasp of how our country has developed in most areas so far and how we can hasten this process further in the future, it is absolutely necessary to study the sequence of events which have led to contemporary India. While it is not possible to go into the details of the contribution of all our leaders towards the development of post-independence India, I am, however, going to discuss the contributions of some of our leaders who have had a significant impact on our nation.

Modern India owes much to Mahatma Gandhi and he (the Mahatma) encouraged Pandit Nehru to lead India at a crucial period (immediately after independence) as the Mahatma realized that not only was Nehru a man of integrity but Nehru was also a man of worldly vision. However, the Mahatma being an extremely perceptive individual also realized that Nehru had his limitations and he (Nehru) was also an idealist. Hence, Sardar Patel was encouraged by Mahatma Gandhi to help Nehru run the country. As is well known that the Sardar apart from being a great nationalist was also an extremely practical person. The premature death of Patel in 1950 was a great loss to the nation as Nehru had no heavyweight person left to help him. Nehru during his premiership pushed for the industrialization of India and also developed the non-aligned external policy. This non-aligned approach not only created another global power-block but also helped many developing countries to conduct their affairs with self-respect and dignity.

Unfortunately, Nehru being a pacifist overlooked the area of defence. This resulted in the Indian Army suffering reverses at the hands of the Chinese in 1962 and also the loss of Indian territory to the Chinese. Nehru being also a somewhat dogmatic person had also ignored the advice of Patel pertaining to China and as is well known that just prior to his death Patel had written to Nehru, "The Chinese Government have tried to delude us by professions of peaceful intentions". Though much has been written about the 1962 Sino-India War one thing is quite clear that in no way did these reverses reflect negatively on the bravery and discipline of the Indian soldier. The main cause of these reverses of the Indian Armed Forces were the lack of numbers and the lack of proper equipment. During this period the Indian Army was equipped mainly with primitive weapons (such as the vintage .303 Enfield Rifles, which were first manufactured in 1914) while the Chinese during that period were equipped with the state-of-the-art Soviet weapons.

Besides the Chinese had 4 million troops while the Indians had approximately 3 hundred thousand troops, which were mostly then stationed on the Pakistani borders. Also during that period China had no enemies on her borders. The shock resulting from the failure of his China policy resulted in the premature

shock resulting from the failure of his China policy resulted in the premature death of Pandit Nehru in 1964. Lal Bahadur Shastri eventually filled in the vacuum after Nehru's death. Shastri who was known to be a man of morals also proved to be a man of steel by the manner in which he supervised the 1965 War with Pakistan. Following the death of Shastri in 1966, Mrs. Gandhi became the prime minister of India. Mrs. Gandhi though an extremely stubborn person by nature had learnt a lot from her father and was probably one of our finest prime ministers of our country. Amongst many areas Indira Gandhi also pushed the area of defence and quickly made India into a regional superpower. In 1971 just about 9 years after the China debacle India dismembered Pakistan and created the country of Bangladesh, while the allies of Pakistan namely, the U.S and China watched helplessly.

This was not only a great military move by Mrs. Gandhi but also a superb political move. In addition to this Mrs. Gandhi also demonstrated India's nuclear weapons capability by a ("peaceful") sophisticated nuclear device blast in 1974. After the assassination of Mrs. Gandhi in 1984. Rajiv Gandhi was next sworn in as the prime minister of India. Though he initially lacked political acumen, however, to the surprise of many a political pundit Mr. Gandhi matured into a good politician. Gandhi being a youthful person bubbling with energy pushed particularly areas of high technology which were a must if India wanted to enter the 21st century as an industrially advanced nation. Also during that period the Indian Armed Forces were made formidable and an aggressive policy was initiated. It was during his tenure that the Indian infantry seized the disputed Yak grazing grounds in Wangdung, in the Sumdorong Chu Valley, thus shocking the Chinese. This was a big shock for the Chinese as the Chinese were still recovering from their defeat by the Vietnamese in the 1979 border war. By now it had become quite clear to most credible military experts that India had surpassed China militarily. In fact during that period the brilliant and objective Indian Army Chief, General Sunderji was confident that he could take on both China and Pakistan militarily at the same time.

This was clearly made evident that when the Indian soldier was properly armed he was second to none. This Sumdorong Chu Valley episode reminded one of the legendary Rajput Zorawar Singh (the brilliant general of the great Maharaja Ranjit Singh) who captured the Northern territories etc. and died fighting a Sino-Tibetan Force on 12 December, 1841 deep inside Tibet. As is well known Tibet during that period was an ally of China. General Zorawar's Army was also responsible for capturing the main flag of the Chinese, namely the Mantalai Standard on August 7, 1841. This Standard is now in the proud possession of the 4th Battalion of the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles.

The next leader who has had a profound impact on India is Prime Minister Vajpayee. The re-demonstration of India's nuclear weapons capability was a must. This was indeed overdue and necessary since it sent the appropriate message to our adversaries that though India is a country of peace it can not be also taken for granted. Much credit in the nuclear and related areas goes to Dr. Bhabha. Dr. Bhabha was not only an extraordinary scientist but also understood international politics extremely well. It is well known that Bhabha wanted to test a nuclear weapon in 1960, however, Nehru refused to give him the permission to go ahead. The brilliant and veteran Indian diplomat Mr. T.N. Kaul mentions that actually Bhabha informed him in 1957 that he could produce a nuclear device in a year. As history has clearly made evident that it was a grave error that the then leadership of India did not heed the advice of Bhabha. Thanks mainly to Dr. Bhabha the nuclear program of India is the second largest and sophisticated indigenous nuclear program in Asia after that of Japan.

It is now necessary that the leadership in India project India as a great power (which India is) in the world arena. The nuclear tests have for sure

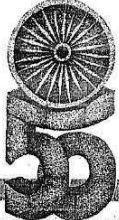
enhanced the global image of India. Let us not be tied down by our small neighbour Pakistan. Nevertheless, Pakistan must be handled with caution as it is no secret in political circles that Pakistan is only the proxy of the U.S. and China. It must be remembered that when India tested 5 nuclear weapons in May 1998 President Clinton remarked that these tests were "self-defeating". Clearly what President Clinton meant is that he would not tolerate India shattering the then global balance which favoured the U.S. and her ally China. It is also no secret that in order to send an appropriate message to India the U.S. in league with China tested nuclear devices in Pakistan and then Pakistan was declared a nuclear weapons state. Clearly these proxy nuclear and missile tests of the U.S. and China in Pakistan have no great implications for India, as no country will transfer lethal technology which could jeopardise the future security of the transferring country. Moreover, Pakistan has no known reserves of Uranium ore the key ingredient for nuclear weapons.

Thus the main message that the U.S. sent also to other developing countries by making Pakistan an artificial nuclear power was that if for example countries like Brazil or Argentina went nuclear these countries would then find proxy nuclear weapon states on their borders. In short the time is ripe for the Indian leadership to evolve an aggressive global policy, whereby India can play a global role which is commensurate with her development and stature. We must, however, stay vigilant to the fact that the Western countries led by the U.S. are trying to re-invent the "China Card" in order to salvage the global balance and try to again make China the U.S. sponsored leader of the developing countries. It is well known that the U.S. as a publicity stunt is helping China in the latter's goal to place a man in to space. This is, however, no great technical achievement these days and is only a stunt for political and psychological benefits. Nevertheless, India must still strive to improve her relationship with the U.S. Although India has often offered her hand of friendship to the U.S., unfortunately the U.S. has yet to reciprocate.

In fact it is no secret that the U.S. has been clandestinely supervising the actions of Pakistan particularly in Kashmir against India. As is well known that if the U.S. shows a genuine interest in improving her relationship with India it will be she (the U.S.) who will benefit greatly on the long run. Friendship between the two great democracies namely, India and the U.S. is a must for global harmony. Finally, in my opinion the B.J.P. led government in India has done an excellent job in a short period and it is my hope that the people of India will give this government another chance so that they can fulfill their goals. Variety is a must for the development of any nation and the people of India have already given the Congress Party ample time to contribute towards the development of our nation. Besides in my opinion the Congress Party no longer gives the impression of being a nationalistic organization.

Dr. Upinder Fotadar

HOME



The Tribune

Celebrating fifty years of Indian Independence

Friday, February 27, 1998

Stability, justice, development bedrock of power Nuclear disarmament must be global, not selective



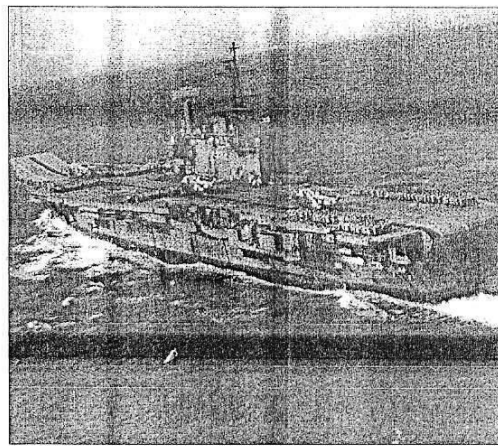
by Kuldip Singh Bajwa

OVER the centuries the armed forces have emerged as an instrument of state policy. When all other means failed, armed power was employed to safeguard or achieve national objectives. It did not really always matter whether such objectives transgressed the legitimate rights and interests of other people. What counted was that the creation and employment of armed power was an essential part of the will of a people to follow the course charted by them. In both the World Wars, German military might was unleashed to gain expansionist territorial lebensraum. In reply, the Allies mobilised a massive armed response to defend their interests. Nearer home in October, 1947, Pakistan invaded Jammu and Kashmir as a primary means of "expanding its domain" and the other hand in 1971, when faced with a massive influx of refugees driven out of the erstwhile East Pakistan by an Army cracked down, India first exhausted all other means before its armed forces

used second strike capability of the targeted adversary. After Hiroshima and Nagasaki, no nuclear weapons have been used even though there have been extensive conflicts. Equally, serious initiatives have been launched to achieve nuclear disarmament. These developments bear witness to the age of mutual deterrence. It, however, does not follow that armed power is no longer relevant in the formulation and pursuit of state policy. Interaction between states has not as yet reached such a level of co-existence that armed power can be totally dispensed with or even neglected. In the fifties our leadership in their naive and one-sided belief in Panchsheel did just that and made the nation pay a heavy price in 1962 against the Chinese. In the present day the recent Gulf war, Pakistan assistance to Taliban in Afghanistan and the low intensity war conducted by her against us in Jammu and Kashmir clearly show that armed power continues to be employed as an instrument of state policy. The design now is subversion and low-intensity local conflicts kept just short of provocation to a major intervention. Even more advent in the long run are the covert intrigues; political and economic pressure

to bend the targeted nation's will and policies to suit the interests and objectives of the dominant powers. Such tactics are invariably backed by a very convincing economic, political and military power status of the aggressor. It is still true that the world respects and defers to the strong. A case in point are the discriminatory policies followed by USA, the sole super power in the world today, which chooses to gloss over transgressions of nuclear proliferation, and missile control regime by China and Pakistan, but builds pressure upon us to abandon our missile development and upon Russia to deny us the purchase of advanced technologies and weapon systems. We must, therefore, broadly determine our vital national interests in the foreseeable future, visualise the likely overt as well as covert threats to these interests and consider the role armed power may be expected to play in the execution of our state policy. Based on these considerations we should determine the future perspective for the development of a credible armed power.

The thrust of our national interests in the 21st century will be political stability, sustainable economic development and social justice. Peaceful coexistence and non-interference will be the theme of our policy formulation. Apart from sustained dynamism in the formulation and conduct of our domestic as well as foreign policies, we must achieve a credible presence in the comity of nations. No other nation should lightly ignore or tread upon our vital national interests. To achieve this status, we must be convincingly strong. What are the elements of such power? Military strength by itself is not enough. The erstwhile USSR, one of the two militarily most powerful nations in the world, collapsed when its economic and political base was eroded. Bedrock of power are political stability, social justice and economic development. All three are closely interlinked. A people, whose aspirations for a reasonable quality of life are fulfilled and who are secure in the prevalent social justice, alone will generate a sustained political stability. Education and awareness of rights and justice is the backbone of such people. Above all is the quality of leadership that we throw up. Only leaders, who are secure in their own standing and who will place the national interests above their own or those of the party vehicles they ride onto power, can be taken serious-



We must acquire ready-to-use nuclear warheads and missile-delivery capability

back upon the Army at the slightest provocation must be firmly discouraged.

In the foreseeable future the nuclear great power threat is from Pakistan only. China cannot launch and sustain a viable ground threat from Tibet through the Himalayas. Our debate against the Chinese in 1962 was largely due to our failure rather than indicative of the Chinese

What are the actual and potential threats we will face in the 21st century? As we have considered already these threats are likely to be both internal subversion and overt military interference. Pakistan is already abetting and materially assisting dissendee militancy in Jammu and Kashmir and the eastern region. Its efforts to revive militancy in Punjab continue. China is helping in arming Pakistan and Myanmar. It is also indirectly providing some arms assistance to the Nagas and other dissidents in Assam, Manipur and Tripura, though the quantum of such aid has somewhat declined in recent years.

Indians brilliant strategists, ferocious fighters Drawing courage from Shivaji, Ranjit Singh, Raja Ram

by Upinder Fotadar

THE history of India like the history of many other nations is full of controversy, since the interpretation of history is often dependent on who has written it. As the military traditions of India have often been diluted or overlooked by historians (mainly foreigners), hence, a re-examination particularly of this aspect of the India history is overdue. While undoubtedly India was not able to utilise most of her military potential during a substantial part of her history (as the sub-continent usually consisted of several kingdoms who were usually at war with each other), nevertheless, a careful and an objective study of Indian history will reveal that the Indians in general in no way lacked courage or military skills and were in fact formidable adversaries to their enemies.

Even if we go back into history as far back as the period of the Mitanni (c.1500-1300 B.C.), one begins to become quite aware of the Indian military traditions. It is now known without any ambiguity that the kingdom of Mitanni extended up to modern Egypt. Since Mitanni had typical Indian names and also worshipped Vedic gods many experts are now of the opinion that the Mitanni originated in India. Moreover, when we proceed to better documented periods of world history it becomes clearly evident that the Indians were not only capable military strategists but were also good fighters. In fact all sources of history agree that the bloodiest battle that Alexander of Macedonia (b.356, d.323 B.C.) fought in all his numerous campaigns was against the Indian King Porus.

While it is still absolutely not clear as to the precise outcome of the great battle (the outcome of this battle is shrouded in controversy), however, what is well known that Alexander after this battle decided to advance no more and return home. Following this the Maurya king Chandragupta defeated the successor of Alexander namely Seleucus Nicator in about 302

B.C. A defeated Seleucus subsequently handed over Afghanistan and eastern Persia to Chandragupta Maurya. Following the demise of the Maurya dynasty the Brahmanical Gupta dynasty under Samudragupta who reigned from c.335 to 376 was able to rid India of the foreign dynasty of the Kushanas. One can not also forget the conquests of the mighty Tamil Cholas of south India particularly during the reign of Rajendra Deva I (1014-1044) who not only captured the whole of Sri Lanka but also conquered portions of the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago. The cultural impact of the Cholas can still be observed to this day in this region.

Also as is well known that during the peak of the Muslim period in India which extended approximately from 1200-1707 many Hindu rulers remained independent (particularly the warlike Rajputs) or exercised considerable authority. Even some of the local Indian rulers who were conquered by Muslim dynasties of foreign origin continued to offer resistance to the invaders or even showed magnanimity after defeating the invaders which often backfired on them. For example Prithviraj Chauhan after soundly defeating and capturing the invader Muhammad of Ghori at Tarain in 1191 in the true Rajput tradition released him.

As history has shown Chauhan made a grave error in his judgement and subsequently a well prepared Muhammad of Ghori returned and defeated and captured Prithviraj in the same battlefield of Tarain in 1192. Following this Muhammad of Ghori put to death Prithviraj Chauhan. In many cases the foreign dynasties in India had great difficulty in retaining the territories which they had conquered from local rulers. For instance Alauddin Khilji (who started a foreign dynasty in India the origin of which was in Gujarat) captured Chittor in 1303 nevertheless the foreign rule in Chittor did not last long. A Rajput chieftain namely Hammira, in about 1313 towards the close of

Alauddin Khilji's reign recovered Chittor from the Delhi Sultanate and subsequently also succeeded in liberating Mewar by 1321.

Meanwhile Mewar became even more powerful under Maharana Kumbha (Kumbhkarana) who humbled the foreign dynasties of Malwa and Gujarat. Maharana Kumbha soundly defeated and also managed to capture Mahmud Khilji of Malwa in the year 1440. Subsequently according to the noted British expert on the Rajputs namely Col. James Tod, Maharana Kumbha released Mahmud Khilji without any ransom and in fact even gave him presents. To celebrate this victory Maharana Kumbha built the Vijaya Stambha in Chittor which exists to this day. The grandson of Maharana Kumbha namely Maharana Sangha (Sangram Singh) further upheld the traditions of the royal house of Mewar and followed in the footsteps of his predecessors such as Bappa Rawal, Jaitra Singh, Hammira and his grandfather Kumbha. In the famous battle at the village of Ghatotli Maharana Sangha

defeated Sultan Ibrahim Lodi and the latter to save his life fled the scene of the battle. Far from home Maharana Sangha is also famous for taking on the Mughal invader Babur at Khanua in 1527. Unfortunately when Babur

furthermore, unfortunately the Maharana was hit by an arrow in the head and subsequently lost consciousness. Following this the followers of the Maharana removed him from the battle which resulted in a chaos in his

Babur again. However, before the Maharana could make such a move one of his own ministers poisoned Maharana Sangha to death in 1528.

The Jats who lived mostly in the north-western regions of India and who have been known since ages to excel not only in agriculture but also in the battlefield proved also to be great adversaries to many an invader of India. In fact, the Jats have since ages been known to have risen against despotism, injustice etc and have successfully shown their mettle when invaders passed their territory, whether it was Mahmud of Ghazni, Nadir Shah or Ahmad Shah Abdali. The famous British expert on ethnography Sir Herbert Risley describes the character of the Jat quite accurately when he mentions, "when a Jat ruler would it takes god to hold him". The exploits of the Jat leader Gokula (Gokal Ram) in fighting the tyranny of the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb are well documented. Gokula terrorized the Mughal forces from 1660 till 1669. Eventually Gokula was captured and put to death by Aurangzeb in 1669. As only one man was dispatched by the Sultan of Bijapur in 1659 under the command of the famous general Afzal Khan with the object of getting rid of Shivaji. To the dismay of the Sultan, Shivaji not only himself killed Afzal Khan but also succeeded in defeating the Sultan's large army.

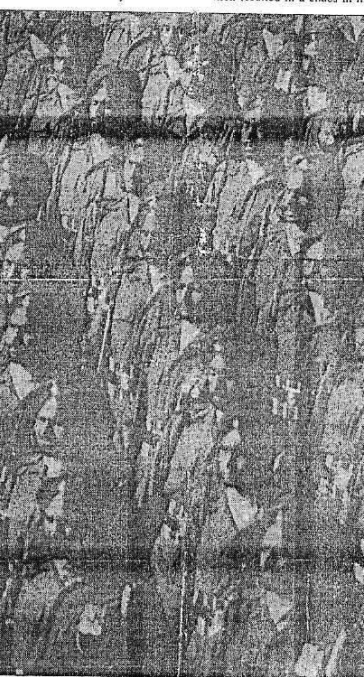
Initially Raja Ram disobeyed the Mughal authority, then he rebelled it and finally Raja Ram attacked the Mughal forces. For instance in the year 1686 when the famous Mughal general Agha Khan was on his way from Kabul to join Emperor Aurangzeb his caravan was waylaid at Dholpur by the men of Raja Ram. In the skirmish Agha Khan and eighty of his soldiers were killed. Moreover, also in addition Raja Ram was able to obtain a substantial booty from the Mughals.

Another Jat who has left a great impact on the history of India is the Sikh Maharaja Ranjit Singh, Maharaja Ranjit Singh started as the chief of a small Jat Misl (a Sikh confederacy) the Sukkharachias with headquarters in Gujranwala. However, by the time of his death on 27th June, 1839 the Maharaja had carved for himself a kingdom which extended from Tibet to Sind and from Khyber Pass to the Sutlej River.

Another Indian who played a critical role in getting rid of the foreign yoke in India, particularly by contributing in the disintegration of the Mughal dynasty was the Maratha chief Shivaji. Shivaji who descended from a line of prominent nobles (his ancestor Devraj came from the royal house of Udaipur) succeeded his father Shahji Bhonsale as a jagir of the Muslim kingdom of Bijapur in the year 1655 A.D. Initially Shivaji enlarged his territories and finally he declared independence from Bijapur.

Actually even much earlier in the year 1645 when Shivaji was just 18 his aggressive and independent attitude had alarmed the Mughal forces. Finally a large army of 20,000 men was dispatched by the Sultan of Bijapur in 1659 under the command of the famous general Afzal Khan with the object of getting rid of Shivaji. To the dismay of the Sultan, Shivaji not only himself killed Afzal Khan but also succeeded in defeating the Sultan's large army.

The writer has held important faculty positions at various US universities.



The Sikh Regiment is known for its courage and heroic exploits

had started to give into Maharana Sangha at the critical stage of the battle one of Sangha's confidants namely Silhadi defected to Babur's side taking along 35,000 cavalry.

It was, hence, only due to luck that Babur emerged with an upper hand in this battle. Totally disappointed with the outcome of this battle Maharana Sangha made preparations to take on

would anticipate the problems for Aurangzeb after the death of Gokula from the Jats got even more compounded and a even more ferocious Jat leader Raja Ram emerged on the scene

The Jats, who live mostly in the north-western regions of India and who have been known since ages to excel not only in agriculture but also in the battlefield, prove to be great adversaries to many an invader of India. In fact, the Jats have been known to have risen against despotism, injustice and have successfully shown their mettle when invaders passed their territory, whether it was Mahmud of Ghazni, Nadir Shah or Ahmad Shah Abdali. The famous British expert on ethnography Sir Herbert Risley, describes the character of the Jat quite accurately when he mentions, "when a Jat runs wild it takes God to hold him". The exploits of the Jat leader Gokula (Gokal Ram) in fighting the tyranny of the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb are well documented.

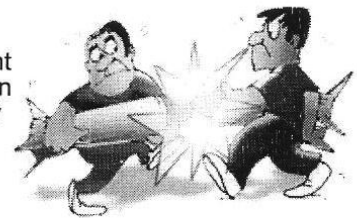
GHOURI MISSILE

** By Dr. Upinder Fotadar*

Most experts are now sure that the Ghauri missile is nothing but an obsolete CSS-5 (DF-21) missile which China has transferred in a rather subtle manner to Pakistan. As a matter of fact this CSS-5 itself is originally based on the Israeli Jericho-4A-1 an old Israeli missile. It is well known that Israel the U.S. and China are closely allied.

Moreover, it is also well known that many of the nuclear weapon designs that China has at present also originate from Israel. The Ghauri missile in my opinion has only psychological implications rather than any serious military implications. With an aggressive leadership in India at present it is but natural that the U.S. and her allies namely China and Pakistan will try to psychologically suppress the role of India in the world, in any way that is possible. Moreover, it is unlikely that China has transferred any missile manufacturing facilities to Pakistan as the economical burden on China would be tremendous if she made such a move. It is quite well known that Pakistan does not have an industrial nor the natural resources (strategic metals etc.) to fabricate missiles on her own.

All these rumours that are being spread by the U.S. intelligence agencies that this missile originates from North Korea etc. are only done to create a confusion so as to salvage the role of the loyal U.S. ally China. In fact the North Korean government recently denied that they had any thing to do with this missile. Also as is well known here in the political circles that the U.S. gave a gentle nod to the Chinese to supply these missiles to Pakistan.



Subsequently China has been rewarded by the U.S. with a generous supply of rocket engines, space and missile technology. As is well known also that Chinese astronauts are being trained here in the U.S. and also the necessary space technology to launch a man in to space has been provided by the U.S. to China. While it is a trivial task (the then Soviet Union put a man in to space way back in 1961) to put a man into space these days, this help is being given by the U.S. mainly to enhance the reputation of her ally China in the developing countries. In such a manner the U.S. hopes to maintain the artificial global balance which benefits her and her ally China. Also in my opinion the so called Chinese incursions in the Arunachal Pradesh have no great significance.

India and China share a large border and often such incursions by either parties are known to take place. It must be remembered that for instance in the year 1986 the Indian infantry seized the disputed Yak grazing ground in Wangdung, in the Sumdorong Chu Valley. Moreover, also Mr. Vajpapee has now informed the nation that there is no Chinese helipad in the Indian territory. Besides Mr. Fernandes pointed out, "I won't say what we're doing about it, but are doing whatever has to be done". That explains it all! Also the visit by General Fu Quanyou of the Chinese Army makes clearly evident as to how keen the Chinese are to improve their relationship with a formidable India.

As is also well known to most political scientists that the Western media significantly exaggerates the military and economic capabilities of a backward China so as to maintain a global balance which benefits the West and her loyal friend China. Forget 1962 when India hardly had any army, after that period India almost always had an edge over China during most of the border skirmishes that occurred between these rivals. Moreover, when China fought Vietnam in 1979, she (China) was soundly defeated and lost about 32,000 troops in that conflict. This clearly made evident the weakness of the Chinese military machine.

Also as is well known that the nuclear programme of India is the second largest indigenous nuclear programme in Asia after that of Japan. It is also well entertained by experts that India now produces enough Plutonium to build 200 bombs per year. It might also be interesting to point out that the great Indian physicist Dr. Homi Bhabha had wanted to test a nuclear bomb back in 1960 but a pacifist Nehru did not give the go ahead to him. However, the sophisticated nuclear device test in 1974 of a Plutonium device by India made evident to the world India's nuclear weapons capabilities.

It is the hope of many of us Indians that India now must go ahead and again demonstrate her nuclear weapons capability, however, this time with a thermonuclear blast in the 5 megaton range, a capability which India for sure has had for a long period. It might also be interesting to point out that the Pakistani nuclear weapons capability is nothing but the hoax of this century. This is the view of most experts. Also as is well known that Pakistan has no known reserves of Uranium ore. Actually the Pakistani nuclear weapons capability is in reality only an appendage of the Chinese capability.

Finally, the brilliant Indian general Sundarji once mentioned that India has the capability to take on both China and Pakistan at the same time and it is my hope that India further enhances this capability.

Indian Military Traditions A Re-Examination

DR UPINDER FOTADAR

The history of India like the history of many other nations is full of controversy, since the interpretation of history is often dependent on who has written the history. As the military traditions of India have often been diluted or overlooked by historians, hence, a re-examination of the Indian history is over due. While undoubtedly India was not able to utilize most of her military potential during a substantial part of her history, nevertheless, a careful and an objective study of Indian history will reveal that the Indians in general in no way lacked courage or military skills and were in fact formidable adversaries to their enemies.

Even if we go back into history as far back as the period of the Mitanni (c. 1500-1360 BC), one begins to become quite aware of the Indian military traditions. It is now well known that the kingdom of Mitanni extended up to modern Egypt. Since Mitanni had typical Indian names and also worshipped Vedic gods many experts are now of the opinion that the Mitanni originated in India. Moreover, when we proceed to better documented periods of world history it becomes clearly that the Indians were not only capable military strategists but were also good fighters. In fact all sources of history agree that the bloodiest battle that Alexander of Macedonia (b. 356, d. 323 BC) fought in all his numerous campaigns was against the Indian king Porus. While it is still absolutely not clear as to the precise outcome of the great battle, however, what is well known that Alexander after this battle decided to advance no more and return home. Following this the Maurya king Chandragupta defeated the successor of Alexander namely Seleucus Nicator in about 302 BC. A defeated Seleucus subsequently handed over Afghanistan and eastern Persia to Chandragupta Maurya. Following the demise of the Maurya dynasty Samudragupta who reigned from c. 335 to 376 was able to rid India of the foreign dynasty of the Kushanas. One cannot also forget the conquests of the mighty Tamil Cholas of south India particularly during the reign of Rajendra Deva I (1014-1044) who not only captured the whole of Sri Lanka but also conquered portions of the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago. The cultural impact of the Cholas can still be observed to this day in this region.

Also as is well known that during the peak of the Muslim period in India which extended approximately from 1200-1707 many Hindu rulers remained independent (particularly the warlike Rajputs) or exercised considerable authority. Even some of the local Indian rulers who were conquered by Muslim dynasties of foreign origin continued to offer resistance to the invaders or even showed magnanimity after defeating the invaders which often backfired on them. For example Prithviraj Chauhan after soundly defeating and capturing the invader Muhammad of Ghori at Tarain in 1191 in the true Rajput tradition released him. As history has shown Chauhan made a grave error in his judgement and subsequently a well prepared Muhammad of Ghori returned and defeated and captured Prithviraj in the same battlefield of Tarain in 1192. Following this Muhammad of Ghori put to death Prithviraj Chauhan. In many cases the foreign dynasties in India had great difficulty in retaining the territories which they had conquered from local rulers. For instance Alaaddin Khilji captured Chittor in 1303 nevertheless the foreign rule in Chittor did not last long. A Rajput chieftain namely Hammira, in about 1313 towards the close of Alaaddin Khilji's reign recovered Chittor from the Delhi Sultanate and subsequently also succeeded in liberating Mewar by 1321. Meanwhile Mewar became even more powerful under Maharana Kumbha who humbled the foreign dynasties of Malwa and Gujarat. Maharana Kumbha soundly defeated and also managed to capture Mahmud Khilji of Malwa in the year 1440. Subsequently according to the noted British expert on the Rajputs namely Col James Tod, Maharana Kumbha released Mahmud Khilji without any ransom and in fact even gave him presents! To celebrate this victory Maharana Kumbha built the Vijaya Stambha in Chittor which exists to this day. The grandson of Maharana Kumbha namely Maharana Sangha (Sangram Singh) further upheld the traditions of the royal house of Mewar and followed in the footsteps of his famous predecessors such as Bappa Rawal, Jaitra Singh, Hammira and his grandfather Kumbha. In the famous battle at the village of Ghatolli Maharana Sangha defeated Sultan Ibrahim Lodi and the latter to save his life fled the scene of the battle. Far from home Maharana Sangha is also famous for taking on the Mughal invader Babar at Khanva in 1527. Unfortunately when Babar had started to give into Maharana Sangha at the critical stage of the battle one of Sangha's confidants namely Silhiddi defected to Babar's side taking along 35,000 cavalry. Furthermore, unfortunately the Maharana was hit by an arrow in the head and subsequently lost consciousness. Following this the followers of the Maharana removed him from the battle which resulted in a chaos in his army. It was, hence, only due to luck that Babar emerged with an upper hand in this battle. Totally disappointed with the outcome of this battle Maharana Sangha made preparations to take on Babar again. However, before the Maharana could make such a move one of his own ministers poisoned Maharana Sangha to death in 1528. However, the headaches for the Mughals were in no way over. Next the legendary Maharana Pratap the indomitable grandson of Maharana Sangha continued to challenge the Mughals. As is well known that during the period due to Akbar's liberal policy copuled with matrimonial alliances with the princes of Rajasthan, Akbar had been successful in bringing in some Rajput princes into the Mughal fold. However, all attempts by Akbar to convince Maharana Pratap to change his stance failed. Finally led by the famous Raja Man Singh the huge Mughal army fought Maharana Pratap at

Haldigathi in 1576. Though after this fierce battle Maharana Pratap was pursued by the Mughal army, he continued to fight the Mughals using mainly guerrilla tactics. Eventually so demoralized was Akbar that by the year 1587 he gave up the pursuit of Maharana Pratap. Subsequently within the next two years Maharana Pratap was able to take back the whole of Mewar. Such a great regard did Akbar have for his rival Maharana Pratap, that when the Maharana passed away in 1597, Akbar on getting the news in a rare exhibition of emotion began to cry.

SOME OF THE LETTERS WRITTEN BY ME. ERRORS IF ANY
ARE DURING PUBLICATION

India and the world

Sir: As an academican of Indian origin who is an interested observer, I am dismayed at the impotence of India's foreign policy, especially in the post-Mrs Indira Gandhi period. It is indeed unfortunate that a powerful and an industrially developed country like India is not able to project an image which is consistent with her size and stature.

The non-aligned political outlook of India, if projected with aggressiveness in the proper perspective, will certainly result in getting a just place for India in the international arena. It is the policy of neutrality coupled with democracy that has benefited India tremendously in the past, enabling her to interact freely with the industrialised countries in both power blocs in developing her science, technology and armament industry.

To the surprise of many western experts, India has achieved all this without compromising her culture, independence or identity. In contrast, her neighbour, China when faced with similar problems experimented with Marxism, an alien Occidental philosophy. Not only does India lead China in most areas

of science and technology but the 1988 G.N.P. of India exceeded not only that of China (due to the devaluation of the Renminbi) but even that of many developed countries. This is all the more significant being based on the data from China which are often exaggerated for propaganda purposes.

With the advent of the Gorbachev era, in the changing world of today, India is poised to play an important role in the international political arena, provided our leaders take advantage of the favourable opportunities that exist for India. Efforts should be made to further improve our relationship with the United States. Evidently no miracles are to be expected in this area, since the United States has close defence and economic ties with China. Efforts which have been made to warm our relationship with both China and Pakistan are welcome. China has more to fear from Vietnam than India has to worry about Pakistan. Our relationship with both the Soviet Union and Vietnam are time-tested and also of mutual benefit, hence must stay consistent. Even with the coming Gorbachev-Deng summit in May no

relationship of the kind which existed between the Soviet Union and China in the 1950s is expected to materialise and hence any relationship that develops between these two countries is not expected to have any adverse effect on Indo-Soviet relationship. With the possible emergence of a United Europe in 1992 and the impact that group of nations is expected to have on the world, India needs to further strengthen her ties with that community.

The Indian press has a crucial role to play, since opinions given in some of our papers unfortunately are not independent, but reflect views originating and advance the interests of other parts of the world. The press has a big responsibility to neutralise this often anti-India rhetoric. Such propaganda can be extremely dangerous as it could have an adverse effect on the psyche of the Indian masses. As a concrete example, much has been said in the Indian media recently of the possibility of the transfer of nuclear submarines from China to Pakistan. It is indisputable that China does not have the technology to build nuclear power plants (she is struggling at present to build her first plant with foreign expertise) let alone build light compact and radiation-safe power plants

for submarines. If China has nuclear submarines as claimed by her (though there is publicly no available data to support or refute this) they in all probability originate from the United States. In general the Chinese submarine fleet consists of aging diesels based mainly on the Soviet Romeo class design.

While India should in the tradition of her philosophy and culture continue to be a strong moral force in the world, in no case should she forget the lessons of the past and ignore her defence. India at present has a formidable military machine (thanks to Mrs Gandhi) and many defence experts world over entertain the view of General Sundarji that she can take on both China and Pakistan at the same time. Such preparedness must be maintained at all costs irrespective of the political climate in the world. Moreover, it must be taken into account that weapon sales can be a significant foreign exchange earner.

Finally, though India has built an impressive industrial and scientific infrastructure, there is urgent need to develop commensurate organisational and administrative skills to deal with the problems the nation faces in gigantic proportions. Unless gains in these areas are made rapidly all the

progress made so far will certainly be nullified.

DR. UPINDER FOTADAR

1925-20E, Eastchester Road
Bronx, N. Y. 10461, USA
March 29

Goodbye to gowns

Sir: Our country is now free from foreign yoke. It is also a sovereign state. Still black gowns are compulsory wearing for advocates when they make an appearance in the High Courts and the Supreme Court to argue cases before judges. The judges should let a unanimous decision be taken by all the Bar Associations to bid goodbye to this dress which does not suit the Indian ethos. Gangapur City B. L. JAIMINI
March 31 (Advocate)

Take it or leave it

Sir: Apropos the letter of Dr Rafique Gandhi (IE, April 4) demanding a holiday on Dr Ambedkar's birthday. Without going into the merits of this demand, I wish to suggest a formula which may eliminate all such requests for holidays without hurting the feeling of anybody.

There should be only four national holidays: Republic Day, Independence Day, Mahatma Gandhi's Birth-

What India needs

Sir, — As a genetic engineer, who has spent a substantial part of my life in the West and stays closely in touch with the land of my birth, India, I would like to make some comments on rapid changes that are occurring in that ancient civilisation.

India's development into a military super power in the near future seems assured and she must continue to pursue this goal in all earnestness. The talk of disarmament is actually a gimmick by some countries to disarm upcoming powers such as India.

To become an economic power of the same order, she must strengthen her science and technology. Although India has the third largest pool of technical manpower in the world, her science and technology lag behind the West. While some of her academic and research institutes are comparable to the very best in the world the overall picture is not impressive. Most of the institutions in India put too much stress on theory, with the result that their graduates lack a practical approach. Many Indian teachers are too dogmatic, inflexible and not open to new ideas. Therefore, stress must be put on evolving a new cadre of teachers who will in turn produce a generation of competent graduates. However, when some of the upcoming institutions in India hire people from scientifically advanced countries they must take into consideration that not all Indians educated or trained outside are necessarily superior to those educated in India.

Modern India also has to regain some of the initiative and sense of adventure which was an inherent part of her culture in the past. This is clearly evident from the impact her civilisation has on a substantial part of Asia to this day. India has also to develop a sports oriented culture. The ancient Indians augmented their mental faculties with aggressive physical activity. It must be remembered that it was none other than the 6th century Indian ascetic Bodhidharma who happens to be the father of all Asian martial arts and initiated the great Shoalin tradition.

Finally, for a change if our politicians, planners and administrators show some team work, there is no reason why India will not have the privilege of having the unique combination of being a military, economic and cultural super power in the near future. — Yours etc.,

UPINDER FOTADAR
1925-20E, Eastchester Road,
Bronx, New York-10461.

Technology missions

Sir, — Ever since Mr V. P. Singh assumed office, he has been saying that his Government will not be vindictive. But some of his recent actions give ample room for criticism to his opponents. They cite examples like transfer of Government secretaries and the en masse resignation of the Governors. There is one more glaring example where his critics seem to be right. Mr Sam Pitroda has been removed from his

post as Adviser to the Prime Minister on Technology Missions. There is no valid reason for such action except the fact that he was too close to the former Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. But this is not sufficient ground for his removal. Had he been performing in an unsatisfactory way, then the action could have been justified. But as far as Mr Pitroda's work in the Technology Missions was concerned, it was commendable.

Undoubtedly, the major credit goes to Mr Pitroda for his innovative and visionary approach in the various basic need missions and programmes. His unceremonial removal from the post will only harm these zealously pursued and monitored programmes throughout the country. Political changes should not be at the cost of developmental programmes meant for the masses. — Yours etc.,

P. PRABHAKARAN
J-6 Green Park Extension,
New Delhi-110006.

II

Sir, — The lapses of the Rajiv Gandhi Government notwithstanding it is unfortunate that a person of the calibre of Mr Sam Pitroda has been denigrated. It is for the first time in the country that Mr Pitroda brought about a new technological culture, where the time parameter is sacrosanct. A project or programme can be made or broken, depending on whether it is time-bound in execution, or open-ended. With all grace, the new Government should reinduct Mr Pitroda and utilise him

Hindustan Times, 27 Feb. 1990

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1990 7

It is Time the World Appreciates India's Efforts to Safeguard her Unity

As a scientist of Indian origin, who also happens to be a Kashmiri, I would like to make the following comments on the present situation in Kashmir.

A substantial proportion of the problems arising in Kashmir are external in origin. The Jammu and Kashmir state with a 63 percent Muslim majority has a partially permeable border with Pakistan. Kashmir, therefore, offers an ideal situation for the infiltration of Islamic fundamentalists and terrorists from neighboring Pakistan, whose sole objective has been to destabilize India which is fast emerging as a global superpower.

Part of the problem lies in the fact that the United States for quite some time has been trying to prop up Pakistan (which is no match for India in every sense — ex: Pakistan's GNP is \$34 billion, India's GNP

is \$270 billion), its chief client in South Asia, with the help of China, the object being the fragmentation of India.

India, with a population close to 900 million of which approximately 10 percent is Muslim, is a secular state in which the minorities enjoy the same privileges as the majority. In fact, India has been more tolerant with Muslim fundamentalists than many Islamic states such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt. If some fundamentalists do not like the secular, democratic environment of India there are no restrictions on their leaving the country.

It is overdue that the world and particularly the United States, which is a great democracy as is India, appreciate India's aggressive stance in safeguarding her unity.

*Upinder Fotadar, D.Sc
Bronx, NY*

News India May 25, 1990

Chinese N-Program

I found the article 'How Pakistan is Getting Away with its Nukes' (News India, March 9) interesting. However, as a scientist who is an observer of the Chinese nuclear program, I would like to make the following comments:

It is indisputable that China does not have the technology to build nuclear power plants. China is at present struggling to complete her first nuclear power plant (300 MW), that too with foreign expertise. Hence, this so-called deal of China transferring a 300 MW power plant to Pakistan has only political and psychological significance and is, in fact, targeted at India.

It is India that manufactures nuclear power plants on a routine basis and her nuclear energy program is the second largest in Asia, trailing that of Japan.

*Dr Upinder Fotadar
Bronx, NY*

News India March 23, 1990

VP — a disappointment

Sir, — Like many other Indians living abroad, I was delighted with the change of guard in India by the election of Mr V. P. Singh as Prime Minister. Though the overall performance of Mr Rajiv Gandhi was excellent (taking into account that he had limited political experience when he became Prime Minister), many of us were of the opinion that a non-Congress leadership would generate competition in the Indian political system and hence accelerate India's development. Alas, Mr Singh has proved to be a disappointment. Never before has there been so much chaos in the country. Terrorists are not only being appeased but the secular, democratic institutions of India are being threatened. People affected by terrorism are encouraged to leave their homes instead of being provided protection by the state, thus further encouraging terrorism. How can a government claim legitimacy when it cannot protect her people? Nor has India been able to exert her rightful role as a semi-global superpower.

The paradox is that Mr Singh has some capable people in his Cabinet such as Mr Gujral, Mr Nehru, Dr Ramanna etc., however, unfortunately it appears that in India at present semi-literate leaders who have no understanding of internal or global politics seem to exert influence on the leadership and furthermore complicate matters by disrupting teamwork by their naive, random actions. For instance, I am told that some of these very people want to get rid of the English language in India. If India is ever to emerge as a world leader in science and technology it cannot ignore the English language, considering that the mass of the scientific and technological information is in English. This in no way means that Hindi and regional languages should not be encouraged. The recent move to further increase the percentage of reservations of jobs etc., for backward classes, which has led to disruption of life in many parts of the country is another unfortunate gimmick by the leadership. Clearly the Centre does not seem to be interested in bringing up the level of education of these unfortunate people but their main motivation seems to be the next election. In fact, some of the very people who have been selected for this special status are actually members of an economically and socially privileged part of the Indian society.

The recent events in the

Middle East resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has given India a unique opportunity to act as mediator and thus bring about peace in that area. India as the leader of the non-aligned and developing world can persuade the United States and its allies to withdraw from Saudi Arabia (the sacred place of the great Islamic faith) since the presence of foreign powers in Saudi Arabia is not only humiliating to the Arabs but to the whole Muslim world. If the present situation is allowed to continue, this could end in a dangerous confrontation between the West and Islam reminiscent of the days of the crusades. India which has an excellent relationship with Iraq and also trained its army, being also a friend of Kuwait too may be an acceptable mediator to both the parties. As in any other dispute, the United Nations cannot be anticipated to play an effective role. The UN since its inception has become a monopoly of Western powers. Out of the five permanent members of the Security Council three are allies (namely Britain, France and USA) while the fourth, China, has a strong relationship with the West and is virtually a puppet of Western powers considering its large financial debt to the West. The only consistent champion so far of the developing world has been the USSR. However, the time is ripe that the developing world take its own initiative in the arena of the nations of the world. India and other nations of the developing world could work for a reorganisation of the UN, or develop a parallel organisation in which the representation by nations is more fair even if it meant withdrawing from the UN.

Finally, I would like to congratulate most of the Indian media both in India and abroad for its maturity and professionalism. However, the Indian media has to stay vigilant, since some segments of the international media with tremendous resources succeed at times to sneak items of disinformation into the Indian media. Unfortunately much unjustified propaganda is being put out by the US media and that of some of its allies pertaining to the nuclear and missile programmes of a friendly democracy India, while little criticism is levelled by them on the programmes of a repressive state such as China. Considering that a technologically and militarily superior India as compared to China that has emerged, is in the interests of the USA and all democracies, as this signifies the triumph of democ-

acy over totalitarianism, this policy of singling out India is bad judgement on the part of the USA and its allies. Even in the depolarised world of today, China continues to be the darling of the USA and its allies and it seems that they have in no way abandoned the policy of neutralisation of the USSR by China. This is evident by the generous military and economic aid being given by the countries of the Western alliance to China. The recent transfer of the standard 105 m.m. NATO gun for the Chinese vintage T-59 tanks (India manufactures the superior T-72 tank with a 125 m.m. gun) and also upgrading of the inaccurate and unreliable Chinese missile systems with Western expertise followed by a US \$ 5.5 billion loan from Japan is a recent example of this policy. In the highly fluid world of today it is hoped and likely that China due to its proximity to India and USSR and their common problems (e.g. the recent surge of Islamic fundamentalism, which China suppressed with medieval barbarism), will be more friendly to its neighbours — the USSR and India. There has been much deliberate exaggeration by some of the world media of the nuclear capabilities of our small neighbour, Pakistan, so as to offset India's emergence as a superpower. Let us not forget that the total industrial output of Pakistan is less than the state of Maharashtra. Available data suggest that Pakistan may have enriched uranium-235 to the 20 per cent level sufficient to conduct a nuclear test.

Pakistan is, however, far from having a practical, deliverable weapon which requires enrichment of uranium-235 upwards of 90 per cent. India meanwhile with the largest number of atomic reactors in Asia outside Japan has a well-documented capability to manufacture nuclear weapons since 1961. India demonstrated its nuclear capability in 1974 with an explosion when it felt vulnerable to the Chinese nuclear threat resulting from the change of global alignment due to Nixon-Mao agreements of the early 1970s. In any case if Pakistan ever gets hold of a deliverable nuclear device, it can be anticipated to do only limited damage to India in a nuclear exchange. While due to Pakistan's small size and India's nuclear and missile superiority, it is highly unlikely that Pakistan can survive a nuclear conflict with India. Moreover if China persists in helping Pakistan with its nuclear programme, India must not hesitate to aid Vietnam's (Vietnam has shown interest in the past) to nullify this move by China. It has been further estimated that to elevate Pakistan to the level of

India militarily will require at least US \$ 200 billion, which none of its friends have the capacity to finance. Hence the rôle of Pakistan in the international arena due to its size and lack of industrialisation can be judged to be limited, while the rivalry between the USA and India which has emerged will get more intense as India's military build-up, particularly naval gets even more formidable.

Dr Upinder Fotadar
1925-20E, Eastchester Road
Bronx, New York 10461
USA.

II

Sir.—The Prime Minister, Mr V. P. Singh, has stated that job reservation need not be a permanent feature and once certain minimum norms of social justice and economic justice were met it could be dispensed with (News-item, 'Quota an interim feature' NH dated 29.9.90). The Prime Minister has, however, not stated how much time he anticipated for this goal to be fulfilled.

During the past 42 long years of independence with the existing percentage of reservation, there has been very little, if at all, improvement in the lot of the backward classes. It has, unfortunately, not been possible for the Government to find out suitable candidates to fill up the reserved vacancies eventually resorting to frequent de-reservation. The huge backlog now being tackled on priority basis by the various departments is an indication in this respect.

With the increase of reservation quota as per the Mandal Commission Report, it is doubtful if sufficient number of candidates would be available to fill up the vacancies. In my opinion unless the spirit of competition in various walks of life, especially the academic front is properly aroused, job reservation schemes would continue to remain on paper only without bringing any concrete benefit to the backward classes. If the Prime Minister was actually hopeful of a reservation-free nation in the near future, he should have thought of reducing the existing percentage step by step rather than increasing it. In case the percentage continues to be as it has been during the last 42 years of independence, he may have to further increase it within the next 20 years or so. The SC/ST youths, if given proper opportunities to go in for proper education without any sense of inferiority complex, are intelligent enough to compete with any other class both in the matter of competition or merit.

Janak Raj Laroiya
A-475 Sector-19,
Noida (UP)-201301.

PM's China Visit

Sir, — As a scientist of Indian origin in the US with interest in Sino-Indian relations I was glad to hear about the proposed visit of the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi to China. Not only is this visit overdue but it may well open the way for a more amicable relationship between these giant neighbours. Furthermore it could possibly result in collaboration in several areas in which both India and China have several common problems and could learn from each others experiences.

Contrary to what some people think India has certainly surpassed China in most scientific fields and also in industry. China lost an entire generation of scientists to the cultural revolution, while science and industry in India benefited by free interactions of Indian scientists and technocrats with their counterparts both in the east and west bloc countries. For example even such items as nuclear power plants and computers, which are routinely manufactured in India have still to be produced in China. Hence China has much to benefit from sharing with India in the fields of science and technology; furthermore, it could also result in a large market for Indian built consumer products. India has much to gain from the Chinese experience in population control, housing, preventive medicine and to some extent, in sports.

As far as the border dispute with China is concerned, the Indian politicians must take into account that both the political and military climate is ideal for India to exert its rights. China, considering its plans for economic development, can ill afford to have a powerful antagonistic neighbour in India, considering its poor relationships with its other neighbours (namely the USSR and Vietnam). In fact, the defeat of the Chinese in the 1979 Sino-Vietnamese conflict and the drubbing they took in the recent Spratly Islands conflict with Vietnam not only reflected on the obsolete equipment utilised by the Peoples Liberation Army but also reflected on the poor training and overall backwardness of the Chinese military machine as such.

Taking all these facts into consideration, I do hope our Prime Minister and his advisors will come up with an agreement with China which is favourable for India's long term interests.

UPINDER FOTADAR
Bronx, NY 10461

New York.

Letters

Article 370

As a scientist of Indian origin, working in the US who is also a Kashmiri, I am disturbed by the rapidly deteriorating situation in Kashmir. In my opinion it is overdue that the politicians in New Delhi look upon the situation in Kashmir not only as an internal problem of India but also from a global perspective.

A substantial proportion of the problems in Kashmir is certainly external in origin. The United States, wary of the Indian military buildup has been trying to prop up Pakistan, (which is no match for India in anyway eg Pakistan's GNP is \$ 34 billion, India's GNP is \$ 270 billion) its chief client in South Asia, with the help of China — the object being the fragmentation of India.

Since the Jammu and Kashmir State, with a 63 per cent Muslim majority, has a partially permeable border with Pakistan, it offers an ideal situation for the infiltration of Islamic fundamentalism and terrorists from neighbouring Pakistan to carry out these designs. This US policy stems directly from the fact that the Indian military machine has surpassed that of China and is hence a hindrance to the US global interests which are still dependent on the "China card" as far as the Soviet Union is concerned.

Even with the apparent thawing of relations between the US and the USSR, China still enjoys special economic and defence relationships with the US. The US media and that of some of her allies continues to grossly exaggerate China's economic and military capabilities. In spite of massive human rights violations, (particularly in Tibet), the United States persists in transferring sensitive defence technologies to China such as advanced avionics for the aging MiG 19s. There even have been rumours of China having obtained a second nuclear powered submarine (China has one for sure) from Western sources.

Internally while the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir acceded legally to India at independence and this decision was reaffirmed by none other than the great, undisputed leader of the Kashmiris, Shaikh Abdullah, the government in New Delhi persists in keeping Kashmir isolated from mainstream India by the imposition of Article 370.

This isolation has discouraged investment from the private sector resulting in poor development of the economy of the State. This has further fuelled the frustrations of the Kashmiris some of whom have unfortunately taken to violence in league with terrorists infiltrating from Pakistan.

Considering all these facts the time is ripe that Prime Minister V P

Singh take urgent steps to remedy the situation, otherwise these problems will ultimately sap the resources of the nation. It should be made clear to Pakistan without ambiguity that providing clandestine assistance to Kashmiri separatist groups operating from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and insurgent groups in India could lead to punitive action from the Indian giant.

Time is also ripe that the two great democracies, the US and India removed all obstacles and misunderstandings leading to a healthier relationship.

The Indo-Soviet and Indo-Vietnam relationships should be further strengthened. With all the irritants that exist in the Indo-Soviet relationship, the Soviet Union has nevertheless been a reliable friend and will continue to be so considering we have many common interests. Further, the Article 370 should be abrogated and the Jammu and Kashmir State treated like any other part of India. While India should continue to be vibrant secular democracy, it should not hesitate to use all the means at her disposal to protect her people from some misguided religious fanatics.

I hope Prime Minister Singh takes concrete step to normalise the situation in Kashmir. While Mr Singh has inherited this problem from his predecessors it has clearly been exacerbated during his short tenure. Mr Singh so far has been cautious to the level of indecisiveness in handling this problem.

Upinder Fotadar

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Published in several papers, such as Patriot, June 23, 1990, Hindustan Times, The Statesman, National Herald etc.

For Credible Opposition

Like many Indians living abroad, I look forward to the forthcoming elections in India in the hope that they will bring about a stable government in the Center.

Experience with rule by opposition parties to Congress party, (Morarji Desai March 1977-July 1979, Charan Singh July 1979-Jan. 1980, V.P. Singh Dec. 1989-Nov. 1990, Chandra Shekhar Nov. 1990 March 1991) has shown them to be constant failures in providing a stable leadership to the country. It is high time that the opposition parties form a credible organization, so that they can provide an effective government or opposition.

There has been much criticism in both India and abroad pertaining to the alleged dynastic rule of the Nehru family in the Indian political arena. In a great democracy such as India the only criterion is the will of the people, hence this criticism has no validity. Besides, the contribution of the Nehru family to India has been tremendous.

Great Visionary

India owes much to her first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru for the creation of a secular-democratic state with a sound industrial and scientific infrastructure. Clearly Nehru was a great visionary, however like many other great people he made errors such as ignoring Defense. His daughter Indira Gandhi, proved to be a practical and effective leader. Apart from pursuing Nehru's goals with enthusiasm, she also made India into a military heavy weight. Although her son Rajiv Gandhi lacked political experience when he took over the leadership, this bright young politician proved to be an aggressive and no-nonsense leader, contrary to the expectations of many a political pundit.

Whatever the outcome of the elections, the leadership in India faces tremendous tasks both internally and externally. It is necessary that the Center be further strengthened. In contrast to the changes occurring in many of the captive and enslaved nations of the world which are seeing a new ray of freedom, India's time-tested democracy

needs to tighten the screws on her people. Unfortunately some people in India identify democratic institutions with freedom to act against the interests of the state. In recent years religion has also started to play a very prominent role in the Indian political theatre. Clearly, religion has no place in the political affairs of a secular state. All kinds of religious terrorism whether perpetrated by the majority or minority communities has to be dealt with an iron fist. Special status such as the Jammu and Kashmir state enjoys should be reversed. In any case Article 370 (of the Indian Constitution) which came into existence in its present form on 17th November 1952 was meant to be merely ephemeral.

Unjust Invasion

In foreign affairs India, which is a major world power must play a more aggressive role. Her role during the crisis in the Middle East created by the unjust invasion of Kuwait by Iraq was minimal. In fact this conflict proved to be a great political and psychological victory for the United States and her allies. The United States still suffering from the 'post Vietnam syndrome' took advantage of the situation created by Iraq and orchestrated the whole affair with her allies in a very careful and systematic way. Iraq, a small country of 18 million people with negligible levels of industrialization and in general a poorly trained armed forces equipped with obsolete weapons was made to look a great power. The devastation of Iraq was then hailed as a great victory and the unstated aim was to send a message to the developing world.

Temporary Change

The improvement of the relationship between the U.S.A. and India which has been initiated by Chandra Shekhar must be further developed. However the temporary change in balance in the Middle East which has occurred must in no way affect India's foreign policy which is based on non-alignment, morality and independence.

Dr. Upinder Fotadar
Bronx, N. Y.

Published in India Abroad, April 19, 1991 and several other papers, such as News India, Hindustan Times etc.

HINDU ALSO

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gandhi Had Grasp Of International Affairs

Although by now several people have written eulogies for Rajiv Gandhi, I would like to offer my views about this statesman whose loss we all mourn.

I had the privilege of being in touch with Gandhi for some time and felt I had started to understand this great Indian. In my opinion, this modest and handsome leader had excellent grasp of international affairs, in addition to having a firm comprehension of the internal politics of India. No amount of

praise for this unusual Indian can adequately describe him.

In short, India has lost a leader who was second to none in the international arena particularly so far as his political acumen, flexibility, intelligence, aggressiveness and personality were concerned.

Even though he was the prime minister for only a short time, his impact on India has been so significant that he may very well go down in the history of our ancient nation as one of the

great leaders. I hope the present leadership in India will show good teamwork and usher in a period of peace and prosperity, as Mr. Gandhi would have desired.

Finally, Chandra Shekhar deserves to be congratulated for being an effective prime minister, although he had the disadvantage of being the leader of a minority government.

Dr. Upinder Fotadar,
Bronx, N.Y.

[The author is a senior scientist at the Montefiore Medical Center.]

July 19, 1991, News India, Page 55

New York



July 19, 1991

An appeal to politicians

Sir,— I am writing this letter mainly as an appeal to the politicians and people of India to give Prime Minister Rao cooperation so that India may emerge as a prosperous nation in the near future. While it may be too early to make an accurate assessment of Mr Rao as the Prime Minister, clearly the man has experience and appears to be a man of vision. A substantial part of the chaos created by Mr V.P. Singh which was partially rectified by Mr Chandra Shekhar is further being redressed by Mr Rao. In addition Mr Rao's radical changes aiming towards liberalization of the Indian economy both externally and internally attest to this foresight. This policy of cautious liberalization was overdue, if the Prime Minister's aim of integrating the Indian economy into the world economic order is to be achieved. This will also put pressure on the rapidly developing Indian industry to improve the quality of products so as to be competitive with the industrially developed nations. In turn, this could develop India rapidly into an economic and military superpower.

As far as internal politics is concerned Mr Rao faces serious challenges in suppressing terrorism mainly in parts of Punjab and Kashmir. The future of India lies in practising genuine secularism and also seeing to it that religion is not allowed to play any role in politics. While it may appear to be somewhat simplistic one might ask why not prevent terrorism rather than

curb it? Day after day a large number of innocent people are losing their lives to terrorists in India. To bring about a rapid normalization in these terrorist-affected areas it may be advisable to hand over all the troubled areas of these states to the army. The Indian army, which has the reputation of being one of the finest fighting forces in the world should not have much difficulty in disbanding and disarming the terrorists. This could then be followed by elections to bring about further normalisation. It is also surprising that while the world is on the move, the State of Jammu and Kashmir which is an integral part of India continues to be isolated from other parts of India by the quixotic Article 370. Opening up Kashmir would clearly benefit Kashmir as well as the rest of India.

India, which has the capacity to put pressure both diplomatically and militarily on neighbouring countries harbouring, encouraging or arming terrorists should not hesitate to do so. Some military or covert countermeasures particularly against terrorist bases in Pakistan are desired. Furthermore, diplomatic pressure against Pakistan to vacate the part of Kashmir, which it has illegally occupied must be sustained. While India may have a military edge over all her immediate neighbours, a total war must be avoided, since, in addition to the unnecessary loss of life it could prove to be a great economic loss to the nation.

Finally the nation must not

forget our late leader, Rajiv Gandhi, who in his short tenure was not only able to project India as a formidable entity in the international arena of nations but also prepared India for the challenges of the 21st century.

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PUBLISHED IN SEVERAL PAPERS SUCH AS, NATIONAL HERALD (NOV. 3),
HINDUSTAN TIMES (NOV. 19), The Statesman etc.

Hindustan Times,

1991

CROSSWORD

No. 60

truth in saying that India has contributed to this. It was Jawaharlal Nehru who made this problem linger so long; had he not announced a ceasefire in the first instance, it would have been solved.

Pakistan must give up its emotional attachment to Kashmir and become more practical. It must see reason; it has to live with a strong India and therefore should try to erase the enmity it has inculcated in the hearts of its younger people. A balanced approach will only pay it rich dividends. It should also admit that it has wrongfully grabbed almost half of Kashmir.

Now Pakistan can no longer depend on America for help since the latter's purpose of having friendship with it is almost over with the changes in the Soviet Union. China cannot remain unaffected by the change, and so it has to be involved more in its own affairs. Pakistan cannot look for more help from China.

Prabhakar S. Harsole

Indore

★ ★ ★

It is indisputable that China does not have the technology to build nuclear power plants. China is struggling to complete its first nuclear power plant (in Guangdong province near Hong Kong), that too with critical components supplied by France. Hence the possibility of Pakistan being supplied by China with a nuclear power plant in the near future is remote. This so-called deal has only political and psychological significance and is in fact targeted at India.

But India manufactures nuclear power plants on a routine basis and its nuclear energy programme is the second largest in Asia, next to that of Japan.

Upinder Fotadar

Bronx, New York

Conquering K2

The French Alpinists, by making it to the top of the world's second highest peak ("Conquering K2," October 12-25), have demonstrated that where there is a will, there is a way.

S. Ramesh

Bangalore

A photographic feat

This refers to "Conquering darkness" (September 28-October 11). Benoy K. Behl has done a great job which demands dedication, patience and expertise. But I differ with his remarks on the film.

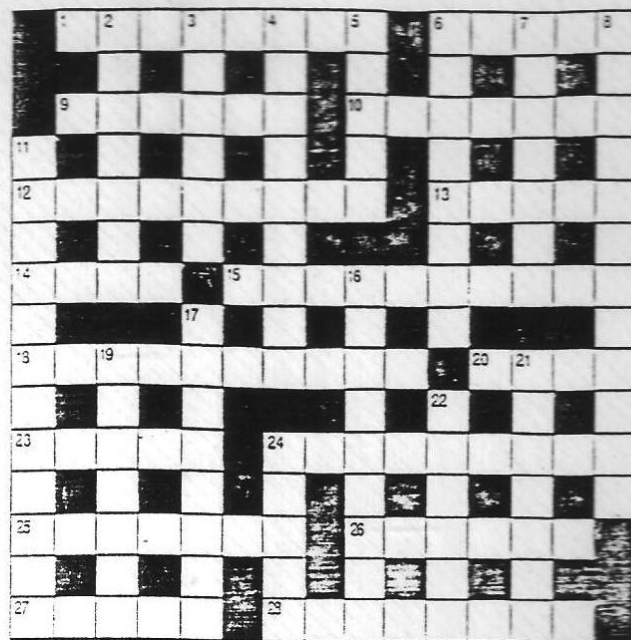
In my opinion, Fujichrome 100 is better than Ektachrome 100 in all respects. Many of my friends abroad, most of them professionals, have expressed the same opinion.

If special films are not available, it is better to use Kodachrome which is the best slide film ever made. The only problem with it is, only Kodak can do the processing. And the nearest processing centre is in England!

Kodachrome has a storage life of 100 years in ideal conditions.

P. Mohandas

Mattannur, Kerala



Across

- 1 One who didn't do it! (8)
- 6 At a joint is a pelvic bone (5)
- 9 Spicily coined? (6)
- 10 This is a great blow! (7)
- 12 Be articulate enough to pass judgement (9)
- 13 Kenyan forest (5)
- 14 At any time the woman is right (4)
- 15 Not where you can buy the grizzlies (4, 6)
- 18 As in cocoon, change when necessary (2, 8)
- 20 A fruitful appointment? (4)
- 23 Pound the balance? (5)
- 24 Which is thrown after one has had a wash (4, 5)
- 25 Gun — gun lying by the heather (7)
- 26 Tablecloths, napkins, sheets, pillowcases — all go under this (6)
- 27 It is short for a wire (5) —
- 28 A father cannot have such instincts (8)

Down

- 2 Monies the circle arranges are offensive (7)
- 3 You can choose to take it! (6)
- 4 Imperils little Daniel in mixed colours (9)
- 5 A one-in-ten tax (5)
- 6 A child needs such love — and control (8)
- 7 Ban kite flown by the youth of unconventional behaviour (7)
- 8 Morale-boosting injection (4, 2, 3, 3)
- 11 Anything travelling at this rate need not necessarily flash (5, 2, 5)
- 16 May be a sign outside a vacant lodging-house (4, 2, 3)
- 17 By which the poor violinist manages to live? (8)
- 19 This clue is revolutionary! (7)
- 21 A cold box on the airline has sea-anemone (7)
- 22 Winter withers climbing plant (6)
- 24 Be sticky about a Muslim title (5)

Solution to Frontline Crossword No. 59

Across: 1. Abstract art, 6. Old, 8. Officer, 10. Mindful, 11. Droop, 12. North zone, 13. Rim, 15. Past history, 18. Distraction, 21. Ras, 22. Escalator, 24. Aglee, 26. Sparrow, 27. Evolved, 28. Ell, 29. Leading lady.

Down: 1. As ordered, 2. Rice paper, 3. Coronas, 4. Almirah, 5. Tenth, 6. Off colour, 7. Delve, 9. Foo, 14. Music hall, 16. Sing along, 17. Yesterday, 19. Catawba, 20. Israeli, 22. Ensue, 23. Lorel, 25. Liv.

Put pressure on Islamabad to vacate POK!

THIS letter is an appeal to the politicians and the people of India to extend cooperation to Prime Minister Narasimha Rao so that India may emerge as a prosperous nation in the near future.

While it may be too early to make an accurate assessment of Mr Rao as the Prime Minister, he appears to be a man of vision. A substantial part of the chaos created by Mr V P Singh, which was partially rectified by Mr Chandrashekhar,

is further being redressed by Mr Rao.

The radical changes aimed at liberalisation of the Indian economy, both externally and internally, attest to this view. This policy of cautious liberalisation was overdue.

The new policies will put pressure on the rapidly developing Indian industry to improve the quality of products so as to be competitive with the industrially-developed nations.

In turn, this could develop India rapidly into an economic and military superpower.

As far as internal politics is concerned Mr Rao faces a seri-

LETTERS

ous challenge in suppressing terrorism, mainly in parts of Punjab and Kashmir. Day after day, a large number of innocent people are losing their lives to

terrorists in these states. To bring about a rapid normalisation in these states, it may be advisable to hand over all the terrorist-affected areas to the army. The Indian army, which has the reputation of being one of the finest fighting forces in the world, should not have much difficulty in disbanding and disarming the terrorists. This could be followed by elections to bring about further normalisation.

India should not hesitate in

putting pressure, both diplomatically and militarily, on neighbouring countries which are harbouring, encouraging or arming terrorists.

Some military or covert counter-measures particularly against terrorist bases in Pakistan are desirable. Furthermore, diplomatic pressure must be put on Pakistan to vacate the part of Kashmir, which it has illegally occupied.

Dr UPINDER FOTADAR
New York, USA

The Business & Political Observer

New Delhi

November 23, 1991

Page: 3

Letters to the Editor

India and NPT

LT
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Sir, — During the period ahead, India is likely to be put under great pressure externally, particularly from the industrially developed world and internally from fifth columnists and so-called pacifists to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. In no case should India sign this treaty under any clause, as this treaty has so far proved to be ineffectual and biased particularly towards the developing world. It is, however, encouraging that the other great democracy, the USA, which is developing a warm relationship with India is becoming more understanding of India's stance on nuclear issues.

In fact, although much has been written and said pertaining to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, no trenchant steps have been taken in this direction so far. Moreover, India, which has shown great interest in this area has often been misunderstood and singled out as being non-cooperative. It must be remembered that Pandit Nehru, who formulated India's nuclear policy, based it on the peaceful uses of atomic energy and proposed nuclear disarmament as far back as the 1950s. This has resulted in India having at present a nuclear energy programme second only to Japan in Asia.

In one with this policy, India, whose nuclear weapon capability is well documented since 1960, chose not to conduct a nuclear explosion test for a substantial time. It was only after the change of the global alignments due to the Kissinger-Mao agreements of 1973 that India felt vulnerable and demonstrated her nuclear capability in 1974, by means of a sophisticated nuclear explosion. Since then India has not

tested any other device.

I believe it is overdue that all the countries involved in nuclear testing also stop doing so, as has also been proposed by the Soviet Union (Commonwealth). The US and ex-Soviet Union, both with large nuclear arsenals, could then set an example by dismantling a part of them. Subsequently, the United Nations in league with the International Atomic Energy Agency could get involved and take possession of the global nuclear weapon stock and get rid of most of it. The United Nations could, however, retain a small arsenal so as to prevent any parvenu nation from threatening other countries with nuclear blackmail in future. In this way the world may become a safer place to live in.

Until global nuclear disarmament becomes acceptable to all the parties, it is imperative that India maintain a large nuclear weapons arsenal with the appropriate delivery systems, since in this unpredictable and fluid world of today, India can only depend on herself for her defence. Besides, according to the ancient traditions of India, there is no contradiction between being strong and being moral. — Yours etc.,

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N.Y. 10461

“Disastrous” policy

Sir, — The Exit Policy as envisaged by the Government of India has portents of diabolical dimensions. Whatever may be the compulsions, it is not child's play. With the unemployment figure already touching nearly four crore, the exit policy would add another 2.5 crore unemployed persons. The views ex-

pressed by Suresh Desai and others in the letters column on the economic policies (HT, Jan. 20) should act as an eye-opener to Dr Manmohan Singh.

With Dr Singh asserting recently in Calcutta that the hike in WPI and inflation would continue for another three years, the exit policy would result in catastrophic consequences to the working class either in PSUs or in the private sector. Total absence of political interference, managerial accountability and productivity conscious workers alone can pull out the sick units from the brink. While rampant corruption has made the PSUs sick, it is financial irregularities that have made many a private sector unit sick.

Consider this fact. The workers in the age group of 45-50 would be directly affected by the exit policy. Having given the prime of their lives to an organisation and having children in the prime age group, sudden unemployment would ruin families. The sop of doles would not mitigate the hardship as they would only be joining the bandwagon of four-crore unemployed. This compensation would not neutralise the rise in prices. With no scope for employment, prime age group children would join the multitude of unemployed. — Yours etc.,

R. RANGARAJAN
3/77 Sector-V,
Rajendra Nagar,
Sahibabad-201005.

NAM's relevance

Sir, — The collapse of the Soviet structure has initiated a debate on the relevance of NAM. There is no dispute that the Soviet Union as a balancing force for the hegemony of the USA and its allies over the global resources has ceased to exist. But the western bloc and its imperialism has not been extinguished. It is, therefore, essential today that NAM should strengthen itself.

In the absence of outside the western world, essentially intact vital, economic and natural resource exploitation of the sphere by the north for mankind. The more today than cold war era, as a protect the developed world. — You
IQBALUDDIN
Director, RSACF
AMU, Aligarh.

AIR's

Sir,—I was an Madhukar Ganga Feb. 6) as a rejo (HT, Dec. 26). H I had paid “unro compliments” to after hearing him concocted, factu misleading. The 1990, was not at

As regards the Gangadhar is re omy for the elec neither written n Ramaswamy. T pilation of spe seminars, edited It contains the s persons like Just A. N. Grover, V. Kamath, Pr Krishnamoorthy and retired AIR officials.

It was the no whenever I cam publication and sionally relevant media practition it to the Progran stations, but it do endorsed the vi made in these bo AMRIT RAO S 234, Mandakini New Delhi-1100

Bright future awaits India

Sir, — I am writing this to congratulate Prime Minister Narasimha Rao on the ultraistic steps he and his brilliant Finance Minister Manmohan Singh have taken to see that the Indian economy is rapidly integrated into the world economic order. Clearly the effects of these changes are already evident in the Indian economy. While India can learn a lot from the dynamic economies of the United States and of Western Europe, there is no need for India to totally scrap her unique mixed economic system. In fact this system may prove to be very successful if the rusty Indian economy is greased with modern methods. The critical problem that still remains for India is to be able to rapidly uplift a large proportion of her population from chronic poverty. While all these economic changes are welcome it is necessary that we as an ancient and time tested society retain our cultural identity. In particular it is rather unfortunate that some of our youth, particularly in the larger cities of India, try to imitate the West with no prior experience or understanding of the Western culture. Though people in the West are in general more objected and practical than Indians, the family infrastructure in these countries is substantially weakened resulting in many of the youth becoming self-destructive. The Indian youth must be made aware of the richness of Indian culture. In fact the impact of the Indian civilization is still evident in most parts of Asia to this day. One must remember that the ancient Vedic Indian dynasties ruled most of the Middle East, including parts of Egypt as far back as 1400 B.C. According to the eminent historian-archaeologist Dr Werner Keller, some of these dynasties, e.g. the Mitanni, built powerful empires in the north of Mesopotamia. The Mitanni had

typical Sanskrit names and form the same era, incantations from the great Indian hymn Rig Veda were also unearthed in that region by the US archaeologists. In turn, the South Indian Chola Empire, at the zenith of its glory under Rajendra I in the 11th century, included Sri Lanka, the Nicobars, the Maldives and the Laccadive islands, and substantial parts of Indonesia and Malaysia.

As far as the stability of India is concerned, contrary to the predictions of many political scientists the fragmentation of India is a possibility which one can rule out. These "experts" have no understanding of the resilience of India to overcome any divisive forces. Our diverse nation has great unifying forces such as substantial cultural identity coupled with the vitality inherent in secular, democratic institutions. The Centre in India needs to be further strengthened, as the latitude given to the states in the past by the federal government has been excessive. The concrete effect of this faulty policy are evident in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. It is necessary that all the states of India give the Central government more cooperation of the kind being given by the pragmatic Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Jayalalitha. This will enable India to rapidly achieve her potential in all spheres of life. The time has come to resolve the Kashmir crisis, and dialogue with Pakistan for relinquishing to India parts of Jammu and Kashmir which it has occupied illegally since 1947 must be pursued. As the border of Jammu and Kashmir with Pakistan has been substantially sealed, the state could now be handed over to the army for administration. Furthermore, the disturbed parts of the state should be saturated with security forces and people should be restrained from moving in groups having more than

ten persons. Such a deployment of security forces would definitely be an economic drain, but would be compensated at least partially by the revenue that India may generate by means of tourism in that state. Moreover, as has often been suggested, the special status given to Jammu and Kashmir should be discarded. In addition all the people who have been uprooted from their homes due to terrorism should be compensated and settled temporarily in the safe urbanised regions of the Kashmir Valley. This could then be followed by elections to bring about further stability in this state. Clearly Pakistan with a GNP less than the annual budget of India is in no position to take on the Indian colossus militarily. Furthermore her past sponsors, the USA and China are in no mood to sponsor her. Clearly China wants to improve her relations with a militarily superior India, and continues to have serious tensions with a powerful Vietnam particularly in the Spradly Islands. India must continue to improve her relationship with China, however a good relationship cannot be achieved until China returns to India all the territory it took from an ill-prepared India in 1962. In addition India as a great moral nation must never abandon the cause of the Tibetan people. Furthermore, the US which is developing an amicable relationship with India and looks upon a powerful India as an example for developing nations of the triumph of democratic institutions, is unlikely to sponsor Pakistan in any conflict with India. Moreover Pakistan with serious troubles of her own, is quite aware that taking on the Indian giant could result in further fragmentation of the former and even the birth of a new country Sindhu Desh, as demanded by many Sindhis. Moreover, mainly due to the resources of India, any buttressing of Pakistan by a major power in case of a conflict with India is unlikely,

since this has all the making of a conflict of global proportions.

In short India is likely to emerge as a great power in the future if she can maintain her independent foreign policy and culture. In no case should any nation or group of nations be allowed to tell us how to conduct our business and we must not compromise our long-term interests for short-term benefits.

Upinder Fotada

1925-20 E. Eastchester Road,
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NATIONAL HERALD 28 April, 1992

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Post-Rio Scene Indian Bowl

Sir, — With the Rio Earth Summit behind us it is encouraging to note that both the industrialised and developing countries are concerned about the well-being of our planet. However, the developing countries must be char' that the industrialised nations do not use the environment as a pretext to retard their industrial development, since this could further result in a form of neo-colonialism.

This phenomenon of global warming, and the damage to the ozone layer has to be studied further before a firm conclusion can be drawn as to whether these effects are genuinely due to environmental damage. It is actually too early to speculate (as there are many variables) whether or not severe irreversible damage has been done to our planet. Global weather changes have been a consistent cyclic phenomenon, for example, the last ice age ended 11,000 years ago. Moreover, it is the industrialised countries which have polluted the environment during their development and hence should be made to clear up the mess.

While rapidly industrialising countries like India must not ignore the environment during their development, they must nevertheless push for rapid industrialisation. India and other developing countries have an access to the environmental data of the industrialised countries and are hence less prone to make similar mistakes during the process of industrialisation. Rather than giving vent to their emotions based on superstitions, the people of India should allow Indian experts to decide the feasibility of these projects. To fuel this industrialisation, India needs energy, hence the building of dams such as the giant Tehri dam should be pursued. Since India has an advanced nuclear energy programme (thanks mainly to the late Dr Homi Bhabha) the mass production of nuclear power plants can also be easily undertaken.

Population control, education and the utilisation of our natural resources are important areas which have to be tackled rapidly, so as to quickly uplift the living standards of the masses of our people. Fortunately the planners in India have shown great foresight in developing an advanced space programme, which is bound to have a great impact in the development of these areas. As such India and Japan are two countries in Asia which have the technology to build remote sensing and communications satellites. Both the Indian built satellites, the IRS-1A and IRS-1B, have proven to be a great success. Even the images of the older version IRS-1A rivals those of the

U.S. Landsat and French SPOT. Other developing countries like Brazil, China and Indonesia plan to follow the Indian example. Furthermore, India must push her satellite launch technology. With the recent success of the ASLV and the PSLV almost ready things look rosy for India in this area. In Asia, India is bound to face competition in space launches from both Japan and China. While Japan is busy testing her new state-of-the-art H-11 launcher, China already has a primitive but reliable launcher in the Long March-111, which has the capacity of putting 650 kilograms into the near-earth orbit. In fact, the communications satellite Asia Sat-1 (built in the U.S.) was placed by the Long March-111 rocket into the near-earth orbit, while AsiaSat's own boosters placed it into a geostationary orbit.

In the political area, with the global balance shattered due to the partial end of the cold war, India is emerging a key player in the global arena. It is thus inevitable that some sections of the world media are going to unleash a vigorous campaign to undermine her role. Hence it is necessary that the Indian politicians and media be vigilant and counter this propaganda.

DR UPINDER FOTADAR
Senior Research Scientist
Montefiore Medical Center

the Statesman, Hindustan Times etc.

LETTERS

Of sissies & soldiers

■ Sir: Flt. Lt. (retd) Tyagi's letter (Sept. 26) displays a total lack of perception and sensitivity. Tyagi seems to firmly believe that unless the junior cadets receive their quota of slaps, kicks and the dirtiest abuses from their seniors, they will remain "sissies". Does he even know that the three present chiefs of defence services are all from the first course and did not have any seniors to punish them? Further how does he claim to assert that nothing wrong is being perpetrated within the precincts of the NDA? His observation that it is good riddance for the NDA that the son of the ex-serviceman is missing is most amazing. It is precisely against this kind of mentality that the observations of the letter writer Jayal were seemingly directed and not against the NDA as an institution.

R.N. BAKSHI
Haridwar Road
RISHKESH (UP)

Farooq Abdullah's claim

■ Sir: Like most Indians, I found unfortunate the recent statement made by Dr Farooq Abdullah, claiming that Kashmir is a disputed issue. Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India, since the Maharaja of this state acceded legally to India by signing the Instrument of Accession in 1947. It must also be pointed out that this decision was reaffirmed by none other than Dr. Abdullah's father, the late Sheikh Abdullah, and the state legislature. The main problem which still re-

mains is that Pakistan continues to occupy a part of this state illegally. It is hence necessary that the Government of India maintain pressure on Pakistan to return the occupied part of the state to India.

Dr Abdullah has also claimed that the Shankaracharya Temple has been built on the foundations of the Takht-e-Suleiman (throne of King Solomon). This hypothesis has no rational or historical basis. There is no mention of Solomon (about 10th century BC) having travelled to Kashmir (see Old Testament, Book of Kings). There is no evidence of the name Takht-e-Suleiman or any other Semitic (an Afro-Asiatic group of languages and people including Jews and Arabs) names existing in the pre-Islamic period in Kashmir. The Semitic names Suleiman, Musa and Isa appear in Kashmir only after the advent of Islam in about the 14th century. These are the Arabic equivalents of the Jewish names Solomon, Moses and Joshua (in Greek Jesus). This is easy to comprehend since these names are also common in Islam, as Prophet Mohammad refers to the Jews and Christian prophets as true.

The existence of the Shankaracharya Temple is mentioned several times in the *Rajatarangini*, an excellent and authentic history of Kashmir, which P. Kalhana completed in 1148. Actually, Kalhana mentions the existence of this temple as far back as 220 BC during the period of King Jalauka (Book I). Moreover as the *Rajatarangini*

makes no mention of Takht-e-Suleiman or any other Semitic name it is clear that this name for the Shankaracharya Temple and its vicinity appeared only with the advent of Islam in Kashmir.

Clearly only Indo-European (Aryan) names such as Aryaraja (Book 11) appear in this classic. In fact, it might be interesting to add that from a purely anthropological point of view the Kashmiri Pandits may actually be the purest repre-

sentatives of the Aryan race, considering that they are one of the most inbred communities in the world.

I do hope with a of the evidence provided, particularly pertaining to the pre-Islamic existence of the Shankaracharya Temple and the source of the name Takht-e-Suleiman, Dr Abdullah's incredulity regarding the origin of this temple will be put to rest.

UPINDER FOTAI AR
Senior Research Scientist
Mongefiore Medical Centre
Bronx NY
USA

Redundant Act

■ Sir: Parliament passed Wild Life Protection (Amendment) Act 1991 banning all hunting to protect "our rare and endangered wild life," which was already protected vide Wild Life Protection Act 1972. Members who spoke on the amendment mentioned, among other things, the following words: "Ahimsa Parmo Dharma", "Philosophy of Lord Mahavira", "Teaching of Lord Buddha", etc. Minister of forests Kamal Nath said, "protection of wild life and environment is so well reflected in our scriptures and mythology". By all these references it is apparent that a redundant Act was enacted to appease Hindu feelings. Only God will save our country if we were to start making laws according to our mythology.

I. S. RAWAL
Srinivasapuri
NEW DELHI

Eco system of Himachal

■ Sir: There are reports about setting up of cement plants in Himachal Pradesh. I fully agree with the Minister of State for Planning that this will further harm the eco system of the State. Population explosion and unplanned development have already done much damage in the State. This has been compounded by theft of the wealth by corrupt officials. Poor villagers are used for destroying forests. People of the State must be made aware of the natural resources, and dedicated network administrators and social workers has to be put on the job.

KAMLESH AGARWAL
Near Strawberry Hill Gate
CHOTTA SHIDLA (HP)

DA and NDC

■ Sir: With reference to the item, "NDC for freeze on U (Sept. 23), the commendation the National Development Council

Several papers, such as Indian Express 20 October, 1992, The Statesman 13 October etc.

India moving toward economic stability

Sir.—Since sufficient time has elapsed after Mr Narasimha Rao took over as the Prime Minister of India, it may be possible to judge him critically. It is clear that India is moving in the direction of economic prosperity and stability under the stewardship of Mr Rao. Clearly the best compliment one can give Mr Rao is that if our late leader, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, was an observer to the changes India is undergoing, he would have been delighted. As such, the Indian democracy has been successful in generating a galaxy of outstanding leaders, who, although forward looking, never compromised our culture, traditions and independence. Unfortunately the only exception was Mr V.P. Singh who proved to be an inefficient leader, even though he is a great nationalist.

With the 21st century around the corner, India, owing to the vision of its leadership, past and present, is well prepared to face the challenges of that century. However, the critical question is how quickly India can emerge as "the power". There exists a conspiracy by some countries to keep India partially destabilised to prevent her from emerging as "the power". These countries are

well aware that if they push India too hard India might react too vigorously and hence rectify the situation permanently. The Indian leadership must formulate an effective policy to frustrate the designs of anyone trying to destabilise India. India must impress upon its small neighbours, Pakistan and Bangladesh, that co-operation will bring prosperity to the region. Pakistan must be made aware that even during the height of the cold war her sponsor, the US, did not intervene in 1971 to prevent her fragmentation. Hence any reckless adventure by Pakistan against India in the present global climate could prove even more disastrous for Pakistan. Besides, the US and India, both democratic giants, are getting closer and it is highly unlikely that the US would jeopardise her nascent relationship with India to support an unimportant country such as Pakistan. There is also a lot of scope for co-operation among the three great powers of Asia, namely, India, Japan and China. Japan has always been a traditional friend of India and co-operation in several relevant areas will benefit both countries. China

also seems to sense that co-operation with India is a must for both countries, if they want to develop rapidly. However, the leadership in China must be made to be more accommodative over the border problem with India. India can also be of help to China in sorting out her dispute with Vietnam over the Spratly Islands. Although her Western allies are doing a lot of subtle lobbying to project China as a great power, so as to salvage the global balance, which has been shattered by a more powerful India, it is likely that in case of a conflict with Vietnam, China may end up again getting a bloody nose as she did in 1979.

It is unfortunate that in India, religious emotions are being exploited by some of our petty, naive politicians, as vote catchers. It is time that the people of India put an end to this and also to political hooliganism which has become an accepted practice in the Indian political scene. India is also a unique democracy in tolerating terrorism. In fact, whenever it is politically expedient, people are allowed to suffer at the hands of the terrorists as is the case with the minorities in Kashmir. The

Indian political system is obligated to protect its citizens irrespective of their social and religious affiliations. However, recently Mr Rao and Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh along with the brilliant police strategist, Mr K.P.S. Gill, have done an excellent job by ushering in relative peace in Punjab.

The experience gained in Punjab could serve as a model for bringing peace in Kashmir.

Upinder Fotadar

(Senior Research Scientist)

Montefiore Medical Center
Bronx, N.Y.-10467
USA

ICCR apathy

Sir, — The Director General, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Azad Bhavan, Indraprastha Estate, New Delhi, had advertised in the Indian Express of August 29 calling for large photographs on the theme of "My Hand, My people" for organising a photographic exhibition during the first South Asian Festival of SAARC countries, October 9-24.

I had sent seven entries. They had promised that Rs 2,000 will be paid per selected entry.

Time to act

Sir, — For any one who observes and cares for India, India offers a paradoxical image at present. While the destruction of the Babri Masjid, a symptom of religious polarisation pains most Indians, we can all be proud of its scientific, technological and industrial achievements.

While our founding fathers, Mahatma Gandhi and Nehru laid the foundations of a modern, democratic and secular India it is unfortunate that India is seeing a surge in religious fundamentalism, mainly due to the policies of some of our petty politicians. While the Congress leadership at the top has been superb, it has however also been tolerant at the lower cadres towards some unscrupulous and ignorant people, thus allowing religion, caste and regionalism to permeate the political scene. This has resulted in the disenchantment of the masses, which has in turn given a greater leverage to some of the religious parties enabling them to get a firmer grip on the Indian political system. Clearly the PM who is proving to be an admirable leader should see to it, that the Congress party gets rid of all those in its ranks, who are proving not only to be a liability to the party but also to the country.

The Opposition should also play a constructive role in India. The BJP which has emerged powerful and

claims to be a national organisation, should lend support to Mr. Rao in preventing the religious polarisation of the country. While most Indians do not agree with the overall policies of the BJP however some of the views put forward by the BJP leader Dr. M. M. Joshi pertaining particularly to India's defence needs and Kashmir cannot be ignored.

It is rather unfortunate that the Centre has still not evolved a practical policy towards Kashmir. It is even more amazing that a group of anti-India elements are allowed to function with relative impunity in Kashmir and even in some cases appeasing them.

One hopes that the Prime Minister will get rid of the criteria of religion, caste, regionalism etc., which have unfortunately started to play a significant role on the Indian political stage. Let these criteria remain only as a personal belief of every individual. Only then will India evolve as an even greater democracy.

Dr. Upinder Fotadar, New York

दैनिक जागरण

२३ जून, १९९४

बेनजीर और मुर्तजा में नूराकुशती

पाकिस्तान की राजनीति से जो लोग भी वाकिफ हैं, उन्हें अभी पिछली पांच जून को मुर्तजा भुट्टो के जमानत पर रिहा होने की खबर से कोई आश्चर्य नहीं होना चाहिये। सोलह वर्ष बाद मुर्तजा भुट्टो के सीरिया से स्वदेश लौटने के बाद अब तक के घटनाक्रम में पदों के पीछे प्रधानमंत्री बेनजीर भुट्टो की भूमिका कुल मिलाकर अपने भाई मुर्तजा को राष्ट्रद्रोह के अपराध में फांसी के तख्ते से बचा लेने की कोशिश में निहित है। आखिर कौन बहन अपने प्रिय भाई को फांसी के तख्ते पर चढ़ते देखना चाहेगी। बेनजीर ने अपने भाई के स्वदेश लौटने के बाद बड़ी खूबसूरती से उसके लिए अनुकूल परिस्थितियां उत्पन्न कीं। यही नहीं बेनजीर भुट्टो द्वारा पाकिस्तानी और अन्तरराष्ट्रीय प्रचार माध्यमों के बीच यह अफवाह बड़े सुनियोजित तरीके से फैलायी जा रही है कि दोनों भाइयों के बीच बड़े कटु संबंध हैं। इस अफवाह अभियान के दो उद्देश्य हैं। पहला तो यह कि नवाज शरीफ के नेतृत्व वाले विपक्ष का इस प्रकरण पर खैया नरम हो तथा आम लोगों में मुर्तजा के प्रति सहानुभूति जागृत हो। दूसरा उद्देश्य यह है कि पाकिस्तानी न्यायपालिका का रुख भी मुर्तजा के प्रति सकारात्मक हो और उसके खिलाफ साक्ष्य न इकट्ठा हो सकें। बहन और भाई के बीच कौचड़ उछालने का यह छद्म दौर तब तक चलता रहेगा जब तक मुर्तजा पर लगा अभियोग निरस्त नहीं हो जाता और विपक्ष इस प्रकरण की उपेक्षा करने लगे। यानी बेनजीर समूचे भुट्टो परिवार का ख्याल करती हैं और उस पर विपक्ष के हमलों को धार कम करने के लिए भ्रम की स्थिति लगातार बनाये रखना चाहती है। यहां एक गौर तलब बात यह भी है कि नवाज शरीफ के प्रधानमंत्रित्व काल में मुर्तजा भुट्टो ने कभी भी स्वदेश लौटने की कोशिश नहीं की। लोगों को यह बात समझनी चाहिये कि भुट्टो परिवार अपनी अस्मिता और राजनैतिक अस्तित्व के प्रति काफी सतर्क हैं। इस परिवार के सभी सदस्य एक टीम की तरह एक दूसरे के हितों का भरपूर ख्याल करते हैं। यह एक तथ्य है कि इन्हीं सब बातों को ध्यान में रखते हुए मुर्तजा और बेनजीर को साझा तौर पर इस तरह का राजनैतिक प्रशिक्षण शुरू से ही दिया गया है कि

वे एकजुट रहकर पाकिस्तानी राजनीति में भुट्टो परिवार का प्रभाव बनाये रखें। इसलिए जाहिर है कि बेनजीर भुट्टो कुटिल अभियान के जरिये अपने भाई को किसी न किसी तरह बचाने का प्रयास करेंगी। इसमें कोई शक नहीं कि बेनजीर अपने उद्देश्य में कामयाब होती दिख भी रही हैं। विपक्षी नेता नवाज शरीफ के खिलाफ हाल ही में दाखिल भ्रष्टाचार के मामलों के पीछे भी यही नीति है कि विपक्ष दूसरे मामलों में उलझा रहे और बेनजीर अपने राजनैतिक कौशल से मुर्तजा भुट्टो को सभी अभियोगों से मुक्त करा लें।

उपेन्द्र फोतेदार
लखनऊ

BANDA BAHADUR

Sir, — Jay Mangharam Mukhi's article "Kashmiri Pandits: Marginalization Began in 1949" (June 6-7) and Isa Haque's letter (June 19-20) make an error regarding the events leading to the martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur.

This period of Indian history is well documented. Pandit Kripa Ram Bharadwaj of Mattan, Kashmir, and Guru Teg Bahadur were good friends. Aurangzeb was under the impression that if he could convert the elite group of Brahmins to Islam, it would be easy for him to convert the rest. So Pandit Kripa Ram took a delegation to Guru Tegh Bahadur and told him about the problems of the Kashmiri Pandits. Guru Tegh Bahadur supported them and challenged Aurangzeb to convert him first. Guru Tegh Bahadur became a martyr on November 11, 1675. Later, Pandit Kripa Ram and Guru Govind Singh fought against the tyranny of the Mughal regime. Pandit Kripa Ram was killed in the battle of Chamakaur in 1705.

After the assassination of Guru Govind Singh, it was again a Brahmin from Kashmir who set out to avenge injustice. It is not an exaggeration to say that rarely in the history of mankind has anyone been so successful in fighting oppression as Lakshman Dev Bharadwaj (Banda Bahadur) of Rajouri in Kashmir. The punishment that Banda Bahadur inflicted on the repressive Mughal regime during 1709-1716 is still remembered. — Yours, etc., UPINDER FOTADAR.

New York (USA), June 28.
HINDU (CALCUTTA) JULY 14 1995

published in New India
the name Ramesh Kala Khar

The history of Kashmir

Sir, — This is with reference to the article, "Trauma over Kashmir" (*The Hindu*, Sept. 17) by Mr. C. V. Gopalakrishnan. Clearly the author has made grave errors as far as the history of Kashmir is concerned. First, he mentions that King Kanishka retrieved Kashmir from the Greek emperor Kadphises I around 70 A.D. Both from the Greek sources and also from Kalhana's *Rajatarangini* (an authentic and credible history of Kashmir), written by Kalyan Pandit (Kalhana) during 1148-1150 A.D., it is unambiguously clear that the Vale of Kashmir was never under the rule or control of the Greeks. Secondly, the author says, "After having been ruled by a succession of Hindu dynasties till the end of the 12th century, Kashmir came under the Muslim rule and was part of the Empire of Akbar." In reality, right up to the 14th century, Kashmir was ruled by Hindu kings and the first Muslim dynasty started only in 1338 A.D. when Shamira, a foreigner, seized the throne of Kashmir by treachery. Thirdly, the author probably confuses Harsa of Kashmir (a king of the local Lohara dynasty), who ruled from 1089 to 1101 A.D., with Harshvardhana of Kannauj when he mentions Harshvardhana. Actually during the reign (606-647 A.D.) of Harshvardhana of Kannauj, Kashmir was ruled by a local, powerful dynasty, Karkotas (600-855 A.D.) and more-

over, there is no evidence whatsoever to suggest that Kashmir was part of the empire of Harshvardhana of Kannauj.

Finally, by Kashmir is meant the Vale of Kashmir and not the Kingdom of Kashmir. The kingdom has often included other parts of the Indian subcontinent, as for example during the reign (699-736 A.D.) of the great Karkota king Lalitaditya Muktapida. According to both Arab and Indian sources, Muktapida was responsible for defeating the powerful Arab armies in the Eighth century and thus protecting most of India from an Arab conquest. Moreover, all historical evidence, including numismatic, reinforces the view of Kalhana that the Kingdom of Kashmir during his reign not only included most of northern India but his suzerainty extended over a considerable portion of the Indian subcontinent and also large parts of Central Asia. This king is known to have perished during a military expedition in Aryanaka (Eastern Iran).

Upinder Fotadar, Elmhurst, New York

Cauvery dispute

Sir, — This has reference to the article "Cauvery: Tamil Nadu's case," by Mr. S. Madhavan (*The Hindu*, Sept. 17). While the interim award of April 1992 of the Cauvery Waters Tribunal directed that Karnataka release 205 tmcft of water to Tamil Nadu annually at Mettur, the

The Hindu October 4, 1997

Sports In India...

Dear Sir,

For an Indian who has lived in the West for most of his life and who still keeps in touch with his motherland India the dismal performance of the Indian team at the Asian Games has come as no surprise. It is, hence, over due that a sports culture be developed in India and more resources be put in to sports. Importance should be laid on traditional Indian sports such as hockey, wrestling etc. In fact even quite recently India has produced world class wrestlers such as Kartar Singh.

However, there is no need to imitate some communist countries who for the glory of the state virtually cheat the children of their childhood.

As is well known that in many of these countries talented children are separated from their parents at an early age and then these children spend most of their time training only in their respective sports. In addition it is also well established that many of these athletes receive performance enhancing drugs. Moreover, unfortunately many naive people often wrongly equate the development and military might (or fighting abilities) of a country to the performance of that country in sports. This is indeed not an objective approach.

For example though China wins quite a few medals even in the Olympic Games yet no mainland Chinese citizen so far has won a Nobel Prize. While in comparison India has not only produced the maximum number of Nobel Prize winners in the developing world but India also now has the second largest technical manpower in the world after that of the U.S. Also in the military area Vietnam (which is no sports power) defeated the U.S. (in 1976) and also the present ally of the U.S., namely China in the year 1979.

Dr. Upinder Fotadart, CA, U.S.A.

HOME

news TODAY LETTERS

Last Updated September 22, 1998

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It's those jokers again!

Dear sir,
The bunch of jokers are at it again. The utter confusion they have created over the Sahara-Cup episode would put anybody to shame. Don't they know the basic rules? Not only have we lost the series but also made fools of ourselves before the whole world.

Yours Sincerely
Shiva Rao
<samba_shiva@hotmail.com>

India must improve ties with the US

Dear Sir,
It is in the news that both the U.S. and Russia are not willing to accept India as a nuclear weapons state. While India must try to improve her relations with the US, nevertheless the Indian colossus has not necessarily to look to the US for recognition as a nuclear weapons state. In fact Prime Minister Vajpayee has already announced that India is a nuclear weapons state and that is what matters. Moreover, one might mention that the U.S. is trying extremely hard to disrupt the relationship between Russia and India by offering aid to the former. India in the tradition of her culture has always been loyal to her friends. It is, hence, hoped that Russia will not turn opportunistic and fall in to the U.S. trap. If unfortunately Russia does get seduced and blackmailed by the U.S. it is likely that she (Russia) will lose a good friend in India. If this does occur Russia has more to lose than India on the long run.

Upinder Fotadar
<inderf@hotmail.com>

India not safe with Sangh Parivar

Dear Sir,
Your news item pertaining to Justice M C Jain's disappointment with the governments handling of his report was quite interesting. Another interesting news item was the one where you reported the government's admission or an 'error' in 'inadvertantly' including Karunanidhi's name in its Action Taken Report (ATR). As Justice Jain points out, the BJP government's politicisation of the Jain commission report and the SS-BJP government's inaction on the Srikrishna commission report clearly underscore the sangh parivar's scant regard for the judiciary. This should serve as further proof (if any was needed) for the followers of the saffron brand of politics that India is not safe in the hands of these double-talking hypocrites.
Gopal Iyer
<giyer@emirates.net.ae>

What will justify India's retaliation?

Dear Sir,
The American bombing of the Afghan-Pak border proved to the western world that 2 out of 6 camps militant training camps were for Kashmir operations against India. India has made such allegations for ages now. If the killing of only 10 Americans and another 190 working for America can justify such retaliation by America, what will justify the India's retaliation against Pakistan for its proxy war in Kashmir where the figure indicates not only many times of this number killed but also the impunity of the attacks? Even if this action may not be justified, is there anything any country or the U.N. can do about it? Isn't it is time the BJP took some action, instead of hedging like the Congress did in the past and mess up things further?
Harshad Sandesara

MAIL BAG

THE TRIBUNE

Tuesday, September 29, 1998

USA & Indo-Russian ties

IT is in the news that both the USA and Russia are not willing to accept India as a nuclear weapons state. While India must try to improve its relations with the USA, it should not look to Washington for recognition as a nuclear weapons state. In fact, Prime Minister Vajpayee has already announced that India is a nuclear weapons state, and that is what matters.

Moreover, one may mention here that the USA is trying extremely hard to disrupt the relationship between Russia and India by offering aid to the former. India has always been loyal to its friends. It is, therefore, hoped that Russia will not turn opportunistic and fall into the US trap. If, unfortunately, Russia does get seduced and blackmailed by the USA, it is likely that it will lose a good friend. If this happens, Russia has more to lose than India in the long run.

UPINDER FOTADAR
Iselin (NJ, USA)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



India needn't look to the U.S. for recognition as a nuclear weapons country

Dear Sir,

It is in the news that both the United States and Russia are not willing to accept India as a nuclear weapons country. While India must try to improve her terms with the U.S., she doesn't have to look to the U.S. for recognition as a nuclear weapons country. In fact the Prime Minister Mr. Vajpayee has already announced that India is a nuclear weapons country and that is what matters. Moreover, one might mention that the U.S. is trying extremely hard to disrupt the relationship between Russia and India by offering aid to the former. India in the tradition of her culture has always been loyal to her friends. It is, hence, hoped that Russia will not turn opportunistic and fall into the U.S. trap. If Russia is seduced and blackmailed by the U.S. it is likely that she (Russia) will lose a good friend in India. If this did occur Russia has more to lose than India does in the long run.

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Iselin, U.S.A.

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Harshad Sandesara

The Hindu April 21, 1999

EDITOR

presenting a Prime Ministerial candidate who cannot face the reporters in any Indian language, nor give a speech written by herself. There is hardly a chance that the Congress (I), with only 140 seats in the Lok Sabha, will be able to form a stable Government. Mr. Vajpayee remains head and shoulders above the crowd as the best man to lead the country. It is time we changed the electoral system to keep unhealthy elements out of the sphere of national influence. Democracy does not give any rights to people who equate national interest with self-interest.

Subhash Bhagwat,
Illinois (U.S.)

Sir, — For someone who is following the Indian political developments closely, the resignation of the BJP-led Government is a rather sad event. Although I personally have no political affiliations, I feel that what this Government achieved in barely 13 months, many other administrations would probably not have delivered to the nation in a decade. Mr. George Fernandes made the so-called West-sponsored "China card" irrelevant as far as global

politics is concerned. The international status of India has been significantly enhanced. Hence, my hope is that the people of India will unite (at this crucial period in our history) and frustrate the designs of some forces whose sole aim is to destabilise India.

Upinder Fotedar,
Florida (U.S.)

Financial ethics

Sir, — R. K. Shanmugam Chetty, the first Finance Minister of free India and deemed the world's second best economist during the Forties and early Fifties, possessed astounding financial acumen. He had some prophetic words to say about the current scenario in the Indian industry. In the past, industrialists and businessmen were very ethical and sensitive, and cleared their borrowings much within the stipulated time. But, the industrialists and businessmen of the present generation seem to be least conscious of their company's outstandings. For, they consider thriving on others' funds a managerial skill, not an unethical act. The main reason for the sickness in the industrial houses today is heavy borrowings followed by the unmanoeuvrable constraint of debt financing.

This goes to show that financial

planning in the absence of a conservative approach will not succeed in the long run. For, booms and recessions are part of the economic cycle which cannot be avoided.

The generation to which Shanmugam Chetty belonged, and the subsequent generation as well, possessed profound financial skill, vigilance and, above all, financial ethics. These are some of the salient aspects which business management schools and colleges should impart, if management courses are to really serve the purpose for which they are meant.

D. Varadarajan,
Coimbatore

Gratuity payment

Sir, — Under the social security laws, the Government has enhanced the limit of gratuity from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2.5 lakhs and then to Rs. 3.5 lakhs with effect from Sept. 24, 1997. But it has deprived a sizable section of the PSU employees, who retired between April 1, 1995 and Sept. 23, 1997 of the enhanced benefit.

Are these old, helpless and unorganised people not citizens of the country to deserve the same social securities, as made available to others?

M. K. Sen,
Ranchi

Original thinkers

Unfortunately it is often mentioned in the Western media that the Hindus believe in the existence of multiple gods. Whether these views are being spread deliberately or are due to nescience are not worth probing into. However, what is certain is that many ignorant people in the Western countries are being seduced by these views. Moreover, since there is no concrete and proven scientific evidence for the existence of god (or existence) one might even look into the idea that there may actually be committee of gods!

It is well known that the Hindus (like most major religions) believe in one god who has three main manifestations namely as Shiva (the destroyer), Vishnu (the preserver) and Brahma (the creator). In addition to this, Hinduism has numerous minor manifestations. It may also be interesting to mention that Hinduism and Buddhism happen to be the only great Aryan religions (if they are referred to as religions and not as philosophies) left with large followers. The other great Aryan religion the Zoroastrianism (which for sure had its origins in India) which was common in ancient Persia has become extinct in Europe. In fact right up to the period of the Roman Emperor Constantine 1 (C.280-337 A.D.) the Romans like the Hindus cremated their dead. Interestingly quite in contrast to Hinduism the other major religions in the world namely Judaism, Christianity and Islam have Semitic roots.

While we Hindus respect all faiths, however, we tend to be no fan of other religions. Indians have been and will continue to be original thinkers, nevertheless, with a great deal of religious and cultural tolerance. It is due to the depth of our thought that the Tibetans since ancient times have referred to India (the Tibetan spiritual home) as Aryatara (the Star of the East). In fact the Dalai Lama still continues to refer fondly to India as Aryatara. As a great power it is my hope that Aryatara (Bharat) will also continue to illuminate the world with her rich culture and spiritual thought.

Yours etc...

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Last Updated April 19, 1999

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Appreciation for BJP

For someone who follows the Indian political developments closely, the resignation of the BJP-led government is a rather sad event. Although I


personally have no political affiliations, nevertheless, I might mention that what the BJP-led government achieved in barely 13 months, many other administrations would probably not have delivered to our nation in a decade. Moreover, the brilliant George Fernandes made the so-called West-sponsored "China Card" irrelevant as far as global politics was concerned. It is now my hope that the people of India will unite (at this crucial period in our history) and frustrate the designs of some forces whose sole aim is to destabilise India. Also, as has become clearly evident, many of the opposition parties in India lack nationalism (quite in contrast to the BJP) and are only a bunch of opportunists. In fact, some of the leaders of these parties are virtually tools in the hands of some anti-India elements. Therefore, my hope is that the people of India will continue to back the BJP. In short, many us of Indians living abroad appreciate greatly the manner in which the BJP-led government conducted the affairs of the state.

Upinder Fotadar
<inderf@hotmail.com>

Fall of BJP government - I

Someone who follows the Indian political developments will find the resignation of the BJP led Government is a rather sad event. Although I personally have no political affiliations, nevertheless, I might mention that what the BJP led Government achieved in barely 13 months many other administrations would hardly not have delivered to our nation in a decade. Moreover, the brilliant George Fernandes made the so called Western inspired "China Card" irrelevant as far as global politics was concerned. In such a manner the international status of India was significantly enhanced.

Now, hence, my hope that the people of India will unite (at this crucial period in our history) and frustrate the designs of some forces whose sole aim at present is to destabilize India. Also as it has become clearly evident to many of us by now that many of the opposition parties in India lack nationalism (quite in contrast to the BJP) and are only a bunch of opportunists. In fact some of the leaders of these parties are virtually tools in the hands of some anti-India elements. Therefore my hope is that the people of India will continue to back the BJP. In short many of us Indians living abroad appreciate greatly the manner in which the B.J.P. led Government conducted the affairs of the State.



Yours etc....
Upinder Fotadar, D.Sc
18436 Meyer Avenue
Florida 33948 USA

New Delhi: 110 048

Saving Jaya

Sir—The disclosure by Mr Ram Jethmalani of the unethical handling of the cases involving Ms Jayalalitha by the outgoing Law Minister, Mr Thambidurai, should open our eyes to the (mal)functioning of our political system. Is it not very obvious that Mr Vajpayee also connived in this cover-up? What will Ms Sonia Gandhi do if faced with the same situation and similar compulsions? Why have we allowed ourselves to be ruled like this?

R Singh

37, Rajpur Road

Delhi: 110 054

Naturally clownish

Sir—Apropos of the report, 'The wound that hurts Indian cricket' (April 3), even as the other teams were peaking in time for the World Cup, the Indian team's selection was far from over thanks to the people we call "selectors". The selectors, in turn, have only been acting in their traditional clownish way and have carrying out all sorts of ridiculous experiments which are doing immense harm to many a youngster's confidence.

As captain, Azharuddin also does not have clear ideas nor any say in team selection or management. Also, he will continue to occupy a batsman's position in the team not on his performance but by virtue of being the captain. Going by his recent performances, he deserves to be retired.

Manish Garg

28-G/C, Sector 17

Noida

T'was good while it lasted

Sir—The resignation of the BJP-led Government is a sad event. What the BJP-led Government achieved in barely 13 months, many other administrations would probably not have delivered to our nation in a decade. Mr George Fernandes made the so-called West-sponsored "China Card" irrelevant as far as global politics was concerned. India's international status was significantly enhanced.

It is now my hope that the people of India will unite to frustrate the designs of some forces whose sole aim is to destabilise India. Also, as has become evident to many of us by now, most of the Opposition parties are a bunch of opportunists. Many Indians living abroad appreciate the manner in which the BJP-led Government conducted the affairs of the state.

Upinder Fotadar

18436, Meyer Avenue

Florida 33948, USA (via e-mail)



Nice effort

I am highly thankful to you for bringing out the Internet Addition of Daily Excelsior. I recently came to know about it, and find myself now in touch with you all through your eyes. I can atleast now know what is happening in the

site is a nice effort by you all at Excelsior and my sincere thanks to all of you.

Yours etc...

Deepak Kaul,
Ahmedabad

deepak_kaul@hotmail.com

Rewrite Indian history

It is long over due that the Government of India get together a panel of eminent historians in order to rewrite the history of India. To this day the story being taught in India is substantially based on the interpretations of British historians. While undoubtedly the British had some great intellects and they (the British) were also adventurers, nevertheless, one must mention the British were only in India to further their own interests like any other colonial power. Hence, the British did fine tune the Indian history to further their own political gains.

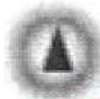
Even to this day for example not enough is mentioned about the great Maharaja Ranjit Singh in the text books in India. As is well known that not only was Maharaja Ranjit Singh a formidable rival to the British during the nineteenth century in India but this Maharaja also for sure had the capability to defeat the British. Interestingly apart from having a large kingdom in India the Maharaja being an aggressive person had his troops occupy Kabul in 1838. Unfortunately after the demise of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1839 a rift occurred (due to misunderstandings) between the Jat-Sikhs and Mughla-Rajputs who composed most of the Sikh Kingdom's nobility and armed forces. The result of this rift (naturally this rift was further exploited by the British) was that the Sikh Kingdom technically disintegrated after the loss in battle at Sabhraon to the British on February 10, 1846. Most military experts accept that even under these circumstances the British barely managed to emerge victorious.

Unfortunately also a substantial part of the history of our own Jammu and Kashmir State has been misinterpreted. There is a school of historians who claim that Kashmir was ruled by the Greeks or Indo-Greek kings. They cite circumstantial evidence based on some stray coins which have been unearthed on the edges of the Vale of Kashmir, even though these coins have nothing to do with Kashmir. These coins appeared in Kashmir probably due to trade. Moreover the Rajatarangini, a history of Kashmir compiled by the brilliant Kashmiri Pandit historian Kalhana in 1148 A.D. makes no mention of any persons of Greek origin having ruled Kashmir. One might mention that time has proven Kalhana to be a credible historian.

In fact the character of Kalhana is clearly evident by his following quote. "That noble-minded poet alone merits praise whose word, like the sentence of a judge is free from love or hate in recording the past". However, Kalhana does mention that some Mlecchas were driven out by Jalauka the son of the great Indian emperor Ashoka. According to Kalhana (Rajatarangini Book 1, 115), "He who was endowed with mighty courage, expelled the Mlecchas who oppressed the land and conquered in victorious expeditions the earth up to the encircling oceans". As Jalauka inherited a large empire from his father Ashoka it is not even certain whether these Mlecchas had actually entered the Vale of Kashmir or some other part of the kingdom of Jalauka. As to who these Mlecchas were Kalhana makes no mention.

Also the views of some Western Indologists that the Aryans invaded India has no bearing now. All evidence points that the Aryans were native to India and they then emigrated to other parts of the world. Moreover, the oldest surviving Indo-Aryan language namely Sanskrit is not only native to India but is also without any ambiguity the mother of all Indo-European languages. In addition to this genetic studies by modern techniques has revealed amazingly that modern day Caucasians are genetically linked to even some castes of South India.

Yours etc...
Dr Upinder Fotadar
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NY11373 U.S.A.
ufotadar@hotmail.com.



Under the Nazis

Warburg, and Laubichler (17 March 2000) [\[Full text\]](#)

Under the Nazis

Letter about Otto Heinrich Warburg

4 April 2000 ▲ ▲

Putadar

Medical

response

about Otto

Warburg

A question to which I have to this day not received a satisfactory answer pertains to the survival of Otto Heinrich Warburg (1883-1970) during this regrettable period in Germany. As is well known, this Nobel Prize winning biochemist was Jewish. It must be remembered that even such eminent people like Fritz Haber and Albert Einstein did not consider it to be safe to live in Germany during the Nazi regime. Does anyone have an answer to my question? If so I would be delighted.

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Kashmiri Pandits

Most of us Indians who hail from Kashmir are indeed appreciative of the manner in which the BJP-led government in India is tackling terrorism in Kashmir. Moreover, the recent remarks made by the Indian Army Chief General Malik pertaining to the improvement of the situation in Kashmir are also rather encouraging. Nevertheless, it is now over due that some immediate and concrete steps be taken by the leadership in India so as to enable the people (mainly Kashmiri Pandits) who have been uprooted due to terrorism from the Vale of Kashmir to return home. However, if for some reasons the Centre in India is worried that the low intensity conflict in Kashmir could continue for some time more it might be worthwhile (as has often been suggested) that these uprooted people be settled in an exclusive part of the Valley. Not only is this a practical solution to the problem but also the Islamic fundamentalists who have been trying hard to make Kashmir in to a bastion of Islam would only be further frustrated. Also in my opinion most of the Kashmiri Pandits would certainly be satisfied by such a move by the Government of

India. It might also be worth mentioning that the contribution of this minuscule community of Brahmins of Kashmir towards the Indian nation since ancient times has been significant particularly in many areas of learning and this is well documented.

Upinder Fotadar
<inderf@hotmail.com>

ment of women employees.

Sharma (kalyam@del3.vsnl.net.in)

Administrative activities

It is a pathetic situation to see that the High Court is literally forced to do administrative activities in the name of the Government. One would think that the Government is supposed to do this. The High Court is having to remind the Government to do its activities, order the BMP to keep the roads and pavements in condition, and even oversee that directives are translated into actions!

Politicians are probably too busy trying to hold on to their chairs. Frankly, they don't seem to be bothered whatever else goes on.

G Setlur (Keshava.Setlur@mci.com)

Securism in Kashmir

As Indians who hail from Kashmir are indeed appreciative of the manner in which the BJP-led Government in India is tackling terrorism in Kashmir. Moreover, the recent remarks made by the Indian Army Chief Gen. Malik, pertaining to the improvement of the situation in Kashmir, are also encouraging.

Nevertheless, it is now overdue for some immediate and concrete steps to be taken by the leadership in India so as to enable the people (mainly Kashmiri Pandits) uprooted from Kashmir to return home. However, if for some time the Centre is worried that the low intensity conflict in Kashmir could continue for some more time, it is worthwhile (as has often been suggested) for these uprooted people to be settled in an exclusive part of the country. Not only is this a practical solution to the problem, but also the Islamic fundamentalists who have been trying hard to make Kashmir into their bastion would only be further frustrated. Also, in my opinion, most Kashmiri Pandits would certainly be satisfied with such a move by the Government of India.

It is also worth mentioning that the contribution of this miniscule community towards the nation since independence has been significant, particularly in areas of learning and this is well documented.

It is also worth mentioning that it surprises many of us Indians when Dr Farooq Abdullah quite often suggests that the Jammu and Kashmir which Pakistan holds illegally be accepted as Pakistani territory. For many of us, every inch of the Indian soil is sacred, therefore the leadership of India must never encourage such policies of appeasement.

Inder Fotedar (inderf@hotmail.com)

Reply to Anant Nag's comment

From the report in *Deccan Herald* on Anant Nag's comment: A jubilant Nag told reporters here today that he looks forward to playing the lead role as hero in three films which are going to be released this year. 'I can face the assembly elections because three or four films of mine would be released before that,' he said.

I am really horrified by Anant Nag's perception towards people. It is ridiculous for any politician to make a such a comment. His comment mirrors his unhealthy strategy in gaining people's vote. This is why people give up on politicians. Instead of wasting time doing some movies, why can't he spend time working for the people who elected him? Why can't he keep up the promises that he made before the last elections? How does he get to do movies when he is working as a politician?

People voted for Mr Nag, in the hope that he would do some good to people. If he begins to think that people vote for him because he acted in some movies, he is mistaken. He had better change his strategy.

Vaswarappa V (Vasantha Kumar Nelahonne) (vasantha@lucent.com)

The impeachment of Clinton

eja

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WAS GOOD WHILE IT LASTED

Message 16 of 16

WAS GOOD WHILE IT LASTED

21/1999

Dr. Jai Maharaj <[address.below.or@web.site](#)><< [previous in search](#) · next >>

GOOD WHILE IT LASTED

Fotadar

to the Editor

Pioneer

1999

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 appreciate the manner in which the BJP-led Government
 conducted the affairs of the state.

Fotadar, USA

for commercial use. Solely to be fairly used for
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editorial

IIIHT

Thursday, Septe

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Pearl Harbour again



The dastardly terrorist attacks on the United States need to be condemned by all. It was Pearl Harbour with a difference.

It was a declaration of war, not by a sovereign State against another, but by terrorists against a sovereign country which symbolises freedom — of thought, word and deed. Our hearts go out to the near and dear ones of the thousands of people who were killed in the attacks.

Pearl Harbour paved the way for active US involvement in World War II. May be, the terrorist attacks in New York, Washington and elsewhere in the US would signal the beginning of the end of terrorism in the world. It is necessary to take tough action against countries which sponsor terrorism and harbour terrorists. -A. Sridharan, Coimbatore

II

This is perhaps the second time in **this century** that American national pride and psyche have been hurt. It was Pearl Harbour **then; it is their own home now.** At this hour of great tragedy and national crisis, our **sympathies** are with the American people. I hope the people who perpetrated this heinous crime do not go unpunished. -R.P. Jaiswal, via e-mail

III

Those behind Tuesday's terrorist acts have not succeeded in bringing the US to its knees nor won the sympathy of the people of the world. While we rush to condemn terrorism, we should also understand and attempt to eliminate the factors that force some people to make terrorism a weapon of choice. -Pritam Rohila, via e-mail

IV

We condemn the barbaric and cowardly terrorist assaults on the US on Tuesday. We pledge our support to all those countries and establishments all over the world which are determined to fight terrorism. -Ini Oru Sudhanthiram, Movement of India, via e-mail

V

India should stop appeasing those nations which support terrorism. The terrible incidents in the US provide us an opportunity to engage in a meaningful dialogue with Washington and join hands with the Americans in combating the terrorist menace and to isolate Pakistan. But before that our government will have to set its own house in order. -Parminder Singh, via e-mail

VI

The attacks on the US prove that no nation is immune from the scourge of terrorism. It is time all countries unite to get rid of this disease from our planet. -Upinder Fotedar, New York

VII

All nations should agree to combat terrorism jointly and set up an international body for the purpose. Or we will continue our march towards a less civilised and more violent world. -Shailesh Gandhi, Mumbai



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THE TRIBUNE

Scientist ignored

When Prof G.N. Ramachandran did not receive the Prize, I was not too pained. I said to myself that this another Western prize, hence this was anticipated to degree. However, astonishingly while many a mediocre person has been honoured with the Bharat Ratna, the Bharati and Dr Homi Bhabha have been ignored so far. Clearly it is not an exaggeration to mention that the contribution towards science of this great scientist is more than that of Albert Einstein.

Dr UPINDER FOTADAR, New York



The Tribune

ONLINE EDITION



Wednesday, August 25,
2014, Chandigarh, India



**MEL UDARA
PAR AVION**



Search

MAILBAG

NEWS AND VIEWS

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1997

THE TRIBUNE SPECIALS

50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

TERCENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

INDIANS NOT IN INDIA

Courts shouldn't give benefit of doubt to rapists

Dhananjay has been hung. However, it is regrettable that in India, some people, for the same crime, are given the benefit of doubt by the courts and acquitted of the charge. For instance, Santosh Kumar Singh, son of J.P. Singh, an IPS officer, was acquitted of the rape and murder of Priyadarshini Mattoo, though there was sufficient evidence to convict him. Singh had been stalking her for quite some time. Priyadarshini, a law student, was raped and strangled with a cord on January 23, 1996 at her Vasant Kuni residence in New Delhi.

While the CBI's role in handling her case is not above suspicion, it maintained in its review petition that the lower court's judgement on Santosh's acquittal was flawed as the CBI had proved that Santosh had committed the murder. Moreover, Mr. G.P. Thareja, Additional Sessions Judge handling this case, ruled thus: "Though I knew he (Santosh Kumar Singh) is the man who committed the crime, I acquit him, giving him the benefit of the doubt".

Taking all these facts into consideration, the President and the Prime Minister, both of whom are persons of eminence and reputation, should ensure that justice is delivered in this case.

Dr UPINDER FOTADAR, Research Scientist, New York University, New York

II

Socialism enshrined in our Constitution ensures security from cradle to grave. Providing security to the dependent family members of Dhananjay Chatterjee is a co-related constitutional requirement. For the unintended penalty of 14 years imprisonment (equivalent to life term), Dhananjay's family needs to be compensated by the government both in terms of life pension to his widow from the date of imprisonment (March 5, 1990) and compassionate appointment to the members of his family.

table and banal

The master of political manoeuvres, Mr Rao, drops Arjun Singh men in the Cabinet reshuffle, but those who have been found guilty of involvement in the bank scam — Mr Rameshwar Thakur and Mr B. Shankaranand — stay put. He inducts a non-MP, Mr Dinesh Singh, to bring down Mr Arjun Singh from slot two in the Cabinet. But for how long will this self-survival game last? Is Mr Rao presiding over the liquidation of the Congress?

S.S. JAIN

Chandigarh

Facts about Rock Garden

I want to share with the people of Chandigarh the facts I have gathered on the expenditure being incurred on the development and maintenance of the parks and other open spaces in the city by the UT Administration. There are also figures of the expenditure incurred on the development and maintenance of Rock Garden during the past three years. A comparative study of the figures should help dispel the myth of Rock Garden eating up a major chunk of the annual allocation:

Rock Garden	1989-90	Rs 25.63 lakh
	1990-91	Rs 39.57 lakh
	1991-92	Rs 19.32 lakh
Development of parks and other open spaces	1989-90	Rs 33.80 lakh
	1990-91	Rs 39.57 lakh
	1991-92	Rs 36.25 lakh
Maintenance of parks	1989-90	Rs 96.24 lakh
	1990-91	Rs 107.96 lakh
	1991-92	Rs 135.42 lakh

The figures make it clear that the Chandigarh Administration is utilising more than 80 per cent of the expenses under the common head "landscaping" for the development and maintenance of parks and other open spaces.

Interestingly, in spite of spending such huge amounts every year on the parks and other open spaces, we cannot see any single park well maintained or worth talking about. In comparison, only 20 per cent (roughly) of the allocation is being spent on the development and maintenance of Rock Garden, and it is a permanent feature of the city which will not require huge funds once its development work is completed. It should be noted that Rock Garden is also generating its own revenue — between Rs 3 lakh and Rs 4 lakh — by way of the sale of entrance tickets.

NEK CHAND SAINI

Chandigarh

Print order & contents

This refers to "An edit for 1997 — today" ("From here and there", January 20). Asiaweek's print order is not an index of the quality of its contents, Tabloids and "yellow"

journals purveying crime and sex stories often have more readership than that of standard magazines.

Anyway, Asiaweek's so-called editorial reminds one of a short story, "Swadeshi Rail", penned by well-known Urdu humorist Shaukat Thanvi before Independence, in which a very lurid picture of the country's administration in Indian hands was visualised and thus the freedom movement was made fun of. It has, however, been proved that the short story writer was talking poppycock.

CHAMAN LAL KORPAL

Amritsar

Disturbing scenario

For any Indian who cares for his country, it offers a paradoxical image at present. While the recent developments, which are symptoms of religious polarisation, pain most Indians, we can all be proud of our scientific, technological and industrial achievements. No other large country, including Japan, can claim to have developed more rapidly. It must be pointed out that Japan started its industrial development with the Meiji revolution in 1885, while in India the scientific and industrial infrastructure was created only after independence.

Some of the sceptics of India's development must be informed that the country has the third largest force of technical manpower in the world and has also emerged as a major industrial power. While these achievements make us all proud, it is unfortunate that secularism in India is being challenged, which is contrary to India's culture and traditions.

While Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru laid the foundations of a modern, democratic and secular India, unfortunately now it is experiencing a surge of religious fundamentalism, mainly due to the policies of some of our politicians. While the Congress leadership at the top has been superb and has given the country a strong leadership, it has, however, been tolerant in the case of unscrupulous and ignorant people, thus allowing religion, caste and regionalism to permeate the Indian political scene. This has resulted in the disenchantment of the masses with its policies, which has, in turn, given greater leverage to certain religious parties enabling them to get a firmer grip on political system.

Clearly, Mr Narasimha Rao should see to it that the Congress gets rid of all those people in its ranks who are proving to be a liability not only to the party but also to the country.

The opposition should play a constructive role in India. The BJP, which has emerged as a powerful party and claims to be a nationalistic organisation, should lend support to Mr

Editor's mail

Rao in preventing religious polarisation. While, like most Indians, I do not agree with all the policies of the BJP, some of the views put forward by Dr M.M. Joshi pertaining to India's defence needs and Kashmir cannot be ignored. It is rather unfortunate that the Centre has still not evolved a practical policy towards Kashmir. It is even more amazing that India, a great power, is allowing a group of anti-India elements to function with relative immunity in Kashmir. Even in some cases the country is appeasing them.

It is time the Centre took appropriate measures to correct the situation in the valley. It must be remembered that in another great democracy, the USA, when in 1985 some African-Americans used violence to further their goals, helicopter-dropped bombs were utilised by the authorities to quell this uprising in Philadelphia. This resulted in the loss of several lives and also in the destruction of a whole block of the City of Philadelphia.

UPINDER FOTADAR

New York

The Tribune on this day

Lahore, February 16, 1918

An Excellent Dictum

In the course of his speech in opening the Carmichael College in Rungpore His Excellency Lord Ronaldshay said: "I verily believe that every man born into this world has in him some spark of the divine, some potentiality for good, the seeds, so to speak, which if properly tended, will blossom into service in the cause of the general advancement of humanity." Very true, but His Excellency will doubtless permit us to add a little rider of our own to this excellent dictum. If it be true that every man has some spark of the divine in him, some potentiality for good which only waits to be developed, should it not be the supreme business of the State as well as of society, in their dealing with the individual, to see that this seed is properly developed? Should this not be among the principal objects not only of the educational system, but of all social and political institutions and all laws? Is it too much to hope that Lord Ronaldsay will apply his dictum to the matters that come up before him as head of Government? If he does, he will find that there is no room, whether in this country or any other, for purely penal laws, laws which only punish and do not provide remedial measures.

CHINA'S ALLIANCE WITH USA

SIR, — China will sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. It is well-known that China is allied to the USA. It is surprising how Indian media could fail to realize that two countries are working as a team to further their interests.

The renewal of the most favoured nation in trade status for China and the possibility of it obtaining a second nuclear-powered submarine from Western sources indicate the consolidation of Sino-American ties. When India launched Agni and Prithvi missiles the USA was perturbed because its two friends, China and Pakistan, were threatened. Israel is also supplying weapons and advanced nuclear designs to China. But Israel does have direct access to U.S. technologies through the powerful Jewish lobby in that country.

China and Russia have serious border problems. Rumours are being spread that they are friends and the latter is selling weapons to the former. These "stories" are circulated to salvage the image of China. The aim of these rumours is to make China the leader of the developing world, while in reality China can continue to work for Jewish interests.

Five nuclear powers want to retain their nuclear weapons monopoly. China is acting as a surrogate for the West. The five countries hope that they will have unlimited access to the resources of the developing world through inconspicuous blackmail.

India, as the leader of the developing world, must not sit idle. It should resume its nuclear tests. — Yours, etc., UPINDER FOTADAR.

Texas (USA), June 28.

BHAGAT SINGH

Sir, — C. R. Irani's review of A. G. Noorani's book, "The trial of Bhagat Singh" (Literary, July 12-13), reveals a rather unknown chapter of history. Jinnah played a glorious role in the Central Legislative Assembly in advocating Bhagat Singh's case for a fair trial. He understood the spirit of Bhagat Singh

145,803, and Punjab and Haryana 144,028. These nine High Courts jointly hold 83 per cent of the pending cases; many were filed years ago. No wonder that High Court buildings carry the common nickname of Delay Bhawan.

In public interest, removal of congestion at the judicature has to be judicially, judiciously and speedily effected without lowering the quality of justice. A cadre of roving judges may be formed to work on a time-bound basis. All courts should find out ways and means to eliminate loss of time, after classifying any delay beyond six months as inordinate, and beyond one year as excessive.

Constitutional writ petitions, and criminal appeal cases where the accused has lost his liberty and has been languishing in police custody, must be decided without excessive delay. According to the Ministry's disclosure, two years ago, in 60 per cent of the cases, the Government was a party, either as a petitioner or as a respondent. This is the crux of the problem, which the Government should study to reverse the trend.

The Government should take the help of experts in operations research technique for minimizing the waiting. The Ministry's motto should be "We will deny justice to none, nor delay it", as enshrined in the Magna Carta.

— Yours, etc., SIVABRATA CHATTERJEE.

Calcutta, July 20.

NEW REVOLUTION

Sir, — Amlan Datta's two-part article "New Revolution" (July 12-13 and 13-14), is commendable. He has rightly observed that the dream of the Russian Revolution of 1917 "has left behind a legacy of disillusionment". He has aptly denounced the Communist policy of "secrecy and violence as necessary means for coming to power" and reminded us of the Gandhian dictum that "what is gained by violence can only be defended by violence". Counter-revolutionary actions sprang up in the Communist world as a natural phenomenon.

Politically the world is living

USA & CHINA HAVE STRONG ALLIANCE

SIR, — Quite recently, I undertook an extensive tour of both the USA and China. I was not in the least surprised to observe that the special relationship between the USA and China is more solid than ever. In fact, the renewal of the most-favoured-nation trade status by the USA for China was anticipated.

It is, hence, overdue that Indian political experts realise that there exists a strong alliance between the USA, China and Israel. This alliance was initiated by none other than Dr Kissinger in 1973. Israel continues to act as a conduit for U S technology (particularly military) to China. In fact, all the so called confrontations between the USA and China are carefully designed so as to dupe the developing countries in to believing that China and the USA are at loggerheads, the main aim being to make China the US-sponsored leader of the developing world, while in reality China and the USA are busy furthering their own interests.

Moreover, also the powerful U S Jewish lobby is subtly pushing Pakistan against India so as to direct the venom of Islamic fundamentalism on to India rather than on Israel. Also the stories of weapons sales by Russia to China have been carefully planted in the world media so as to cover up the strong relationship between Israel and China, the sole aim being to salvage the respect of China in the developing countries by creating a confusion.

It must also be mentioned (a view that is entertained by most objective military experts) that India at present has a military edge over China. For instance, the backbone of the Chinese air force is the vintage MIG-19, while India has in its arsenal the lethal MIG-29. Recently, however, China has bought the designs of the Lavi Fighter from Israel and Israeli technicians are busy helping China produce this plane. The weakness of the Chinese military machine become evident when China was soundly defeated by the Vietnamese army in 1979. It must be remembered that the Western media grossly exaggerates the economic and military capabilities of their friend China.

Finally as has been often proposed by the BJP, India must further demonstrate her nuclear weapons capability. This will not only enhance our image internationally but will also bring immediate peace on our borders. Moreover, the reality of the Pakistani nuclear weapons capability will also become self-evident. Most nuclear experts are of the opinion that the Pakistani nuclear weapons capability is a hoax and is being used by some Western countries to prevent India from further demonstrating her nuclear weapons capability.

I might also mention that during the short span of the BJP Government in India (I was then in the USA), the Western countries during this period were alarmed and had started taking India seriously. — Yours, etc., UPINDER FOTADAR (Dr).

New Delhi, 23 May.

industrial ventures, are simply misleading them. — Yours, etc., R K CHAWLA.

Amritsar.

PICIEL-KAFIKHAN

Sir, — Your articles on cartoons and cartoonists (Impressions, 27-28 April) were very entertaining, but it is a pity that not a single line was written on Piciel-Kafikhan. Prafulla Chandra Lahiri, which was the cartoonist's real name, began his career as a teacher of history at a college in Noakhali. Piciel joined Amrita Bazar Patrika in 1934. A year later, he created "Khocro", the first strip cartoon in India. It entertained readers for 37 years. In 1937 he started drawing cartoons for Jugantar, the Bengali daily, and used the pseudonym of Kafikhan. His "Kafiscope" won praise from even Walt Disney. — Yours, etc., JAYANTA KUMAR SENGUPTA.

Calcutta, 30 April.

BIASED VIEW

Sir, — Mr Farrukh Nadeem, in his letter under the heading "Not new" (23 May) has given some examples of Muslim sportsmen's omission from respective Indian teams (cricket and hockey). Of course, it is sad that Azharuddin has been axed but perhaps Mr Farrukh will also agree that Azharuddin's performance in recent past has not at all satisfactory, perhaps the reason being he is not as serious as he used to be even a couple of years ago.

The reasons are best known to Azhar only. Our memory is very short. If I am not wrong, Azharuddin was awfully out of form during India's tour of Pakistan '89 but the then captain Srikkanth promised that Azhar will continue to play and he played and with the help of some tips from Zaheer Abbas, an outstanding batsman of his time, Azharuddin regained his form and in due course led India with distinction for a long time.

A sportsman is an asset to the country irrespective of cast and creed. So far as Kapil Dev's retirement is concerned it was timely. Otherwise, that coveted record would have eluded both Kapil and India.

The hockey players' omission from Indian team was due to the reason that one Bhopal player was selected for the 1948 Olympic team, but he said if at all India plays Pakistan he would not play. Later he migrated to that country and represented Pakistan. — Yours, etc., SAILEN BASU

New Delhi, 26 May.

JALIL ANDRABI

Sir, — I am writing to you to express my concern over the recent Amnesty International report "Jammu and Kashmir: Remembering Jalil Andrabi".

The "Special Investigating Team" appointed to look into the tragic death of Mr Andrabi reported on 10 April, 1997 that a Major in the 103rd unit of the Territorial Army was responsible for the abduction and killing.

I am extremely worried that army officers have denied any

DELHI, TUESDAY, 3 JUNE 1999

limited company presided over by either the Governor or his Chief Minister. When the Prime Minister

him, why did he not initiate proper prosecution of the culprit under the law of the land during his re-

Duping developing countries

Sir,—Political experts in India must realise that there exists a strong alliance between the US, China and Israel. This alliance was initiated by none other than Dr Kissinger in 1973. Israel continues to act as a conduit for US technology (particularly military) to China. In fact, all the so-called confrontations between the US and China are carefully designed so as to dupe the developing countries into believing that China and the US are at loggerheads. The main aim being to make China the US sponsored leader of the developing world, while in reality China and the US are busy furthering their own interests.

Moreover, the powerful US Jewish lobby is subtly pushing Pakistan against India so as to direct the venom of Islamic fundamentalism on to India rather than on Israel. Also the stories of weapons sales by Russia to China have been carefully planted in the world media so as to cover up the strong relationship between Israel and China. The sole aim being to salvage the respect of China in the developing countries by creating confusion.

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India must therefore further demonstrate her nuclear weapons capability. This will not only enhance our image internationally but will also bring immediate peace on our borders. The reality of Pakistani nuclear weapons capability will also become self-evident. Most nuclear experts are of the opinion that Pakistan's nuclear weapons capability is a hoax and is being used by some Western countries to prevent India from further demonstrating her nuclear weapons capability.—Yours etc.,

(DR) UPINDER FOTADAR
New Delhi.

ter, speaks, the nation speaks, of which the Governor and his 'limited company' members are a party.

Thirdly, if Gen Rao says that

nure of six years of Governor's rule?

The popular government which has been in office for over six months has also not framed him.

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THE TRIBUNE

OPEN FORUM

No one is safe

The acts of terrorism in the USA make it evident that no nation is immune to the scourge of terrorism. It is, hence, overdue that all nations unite to get rid of this disease from our beautiful planet.

Dr Upinder Fotadar, New York

Tuesday, September 18, 2001, Chandigarh, India

MAIL BAG

Courts shouldn't give benefit of doubt to rapists (Duplicate)

Dhananjay has been hung. However, it is regrettable that in India, some people, for the same crime, are given the benefit of doubt by the courts and acquitted of the charge. For instance, Santosh Kumar Singh, son of J.P. Singh, an IPS officer, was acquitted of the rape and murder of Priyadarshini Mattoo, though there was sufficient evidence to convict him. Singh had been stalking her for quite some time. Priyadarshini, a law student, was raped and strangled with a cord on January 23, 1996 at her Vasant Kunj residence in New Delhi.

While the CBI's role in handling her case is not above suspicion, it maintained in its review petition that the lower court's judgement on Santosh's acquittal was flawed as the CBI had proved that Santosh had committed the murder. Moreover, Mr. G.P. Thareja, Additional Sessions Judge handling this case, ruled thus: "Though I knew he (Santosh Kumar Singh) is the man who committed the crime, I acquit him, giving him the benefit of the doubt".

Taking all these facts into consideration, the President and the Prime Minister, both of whom are persons of eminence and reputation, should ensure that justice is delivered in this case.

Dr UPINDER FOTADAR, Research Scientist, New York University, New York

Wednesday, August 25, 2004, Chandigarh, India

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Mumbai attacks were barbaric, senseless and defied conventional wisdom in every sense. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh must take concrete steps to combat terrorism.

I want to salute our armed forces and commandos for saving numerous lives. They stood up to their reputation of being a force which is second to none. Nonetheless, the Indian administration needs to work on further shortening the response period for similar retaliatory actions against terrorists.

Dr UPINDER FOTADAR, New York City (USA)

Friday, December 5, 2008, Chandigarh, India

PM in control

It is gratifying that the government led by Dr Manmohan Singh has now achieved firm control of the administration. Dr Singh is well educated, ethical and has acquired considerable political experience. In the light of his credentials and accomplishments, there are grounds for optimism that India will now move ahead rapidly.

It is also hoped that Dr Singh will work towards bringing conclusive peace to the Kashmir valley. In reality, any government that fails to protect its people has little legitimacy.

DR UPINDER FOTADAR,
New York, USA
Friday, June 5, 2009, Chandigarh, India

BIHAR TIMES

Padma awards

(Bihar Times): It is rather lamentable that world class sportsmen such as the freestyle wrestler, Sushil Kumar and the boxer, Vijender (both of whom won bronze medals at the 2008 Beijing Olympics) have been overlooked for the prestigious Padma awards. Thus unfortunately national awards conferred by the Government of India quite often give the impression of being rather arbitrary.

Moreover, it is not only in sports that such omissions have occurred. For instance, world class scientists such as Dr. Homi Bhabha and Dr. G.N. Ramachandran (whose contributions in sciences were surely well above those necessary for a Nobel Prize) were overlooked for the Bharat Ratna titles. In addition, both these scientists were great Indian nationalists as well. It is also known, without any doubt, that it is mainly due to the efforts of Dr. Bhabha that India today has an extensive and a cutting-edge nuclear programme.

Hence, in my opinion it is overdue that the Government of India sets up a highly professional and an enlightened panel which oversees such national awards.

Dr. Upinder Fotadar
New York, U.S.A
28/01/2009

The Shillong Times

ESTABLISHED 1945

Election extravaganza

Editor,

Soon the world shall witness one of the most influential events on planet earth, namely the 16th Lok Sabha elections in India. The people of the world's largest (approximately 1.3 billion people) and possibly one of the greatest democracies will exercise their franchise. It is now hoped that the people of India will rise above party, caste, religious, etc. affiliations and vote only for honest, capable, and nationalistic leaders. Hopefully, the rest should automatically fall into place.

While India surely has made great progress in many disciplines, nevertheless, the disease of corruption is sapping the vitality of our nation. Hence, it is overdue the public of India show their maturity in electing the finest of our people. Moreover, even though corruption is a common phenomenon in most areas in the country, India has often been quite fortunate to have honest, intelligent and educated leaders to lead her. Hence, we have succeeded in moving ahead, though sadly we are still in no way close to attaining our full potential.

Yours etc.,

Dr. Upinder Fotadar
New York City
Feb 21, 2014

DAILYEXCELSIOR

Sportsman Sushil

Sir,

While fortunately India has quite a few highly educated people and experts in almost every discipline, nevertheless the franchise sadly in India for some time has often been in the hands of illiterate, corrupt or criminal politicians. The concrete results of this are clearly evident in the manner the wrestler Sushil Kumar's case is being handled. However, we in India are still some what fortunate that the Indian bureaucracy has some bright elements running the show. Hence, the country is still marching ahead, though evidently no where near her genuine potential.

It must also be noted that Sushil Kumar is not the average Olympic level sportsman but is probably one of the finest wrestler on this planet. Thus to deny him a fair trial truly demonstrates the highest level of thoughtlessness! Moreover, whatsoever the results of this trial it should certainly put the Indian public at ease, since in such a manner only the best shall represent India at Rio.

Yours etc....

Dr. Upinder Fotadar
New York City
U.S.A.
21/05/2016

Sir,

It is now common-knowledge that the Western countries, Japan, etc., are swiftly moving towards junking fossil fuel run vehicles and replacing these with electrically driven ones. Also much of this fossil fuel based technology is now generously being dumped into India! It is, hence, overdue that India does not miss the train and also start gradually getting rid of fossil fuel based vehicles.

Additionally, India must also further expand her nuclear and solar power production facilities. Fortunately for India we have had some exceptional scientists, such as Dr. Homi Jahangir Bhabha who was responsible for setting-up our world class nuclear program, the benefits of which we are reaping today. It was also Dr. Bhabha's vision to move towards Fast Breeder Reactors (FBR). Today India is close to commissioning a 500 MW FBR which has commercial applications. India would be the second country globally to have a commercial FBR. Russia is the only other country which has a commercial FBR namely, the Beloyarsk Nuclear Plant. We must now hasten the production of commercial FBRs.

Yours etc....

Dr. Upinder Fotadar,
New York
21/08/2017

SOME OF THE LETTERS (CIRCLED AND RANDOMLY
DATED) WRITTEN BY ME UNDER PSEUDO-NAMES.

Lalitaditya Repelled Arab Onslaught

I refer to Jamwal's letter (NIT, Sept. 8) on Bamian. I would like to give some additional information on it which interested readers might find fascinating.

Not only was Afghanistan a part of Chandragupta Maurya's empire, but also the whole eastern part of Iran. While Arabs were able to get a firm foothold first in Sind and eventually in Afghanistan, they were, however, never able to penetrate other parts of India mainly due to efforts of the

great Kashmiri King Lalitaditya Muktapida.

He administered a substantial part of India in the eighth century. Lalitaditya defeated hands down the Arab armies and protected the Punjab and other parts of India from Arab onslaught. This great conqueror died while on a military expedition in Arvanaka (eastern Iran).

Dina Nath Raina
New Haven, Connecticut

WRITTEN UNDER PSUEDO-NAME, NEWS INDIA TIMES, OCTOBER 13, 1995

Farooq's Patriotism Doubtful

The recent statement by Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah that India should accept the fact that occupied Kashmir is part of Pakistan came as no surprise to many Indians, including America-based NRIs. Both Farooq and his father Sheikh have had the reputation of adopting not-so-patriotic attitude toward India. We don't know the exact motive of Farooq in stating that the Line of Control should be recognized as the official Indo-Pak border. There are three ways to solve the Himalayan problem.

The first option for New Delhi is to demonstrate once again its nuclear capability by exploding a device and liberate the occupied part of the Himalayan territory, which is in illegal possession of Islamabad. However, there is a possibility that the United States would come to Pakistan's rescue if India tried to resort to nuclear weapons. In this connection, it

must be pointed out that Washington had armed Islamabad till the Cold War ended. It is probably in America's interests if the Kashmir problem is allowed to be perpetuated. The US aim is to keep India busy with the Kashmir issue and prevent its rapid economic growth.

The second is to give the Army a free hand in suppressing terror unleashed by misguided and Pak-inspired extremists.

If the Indian leadership does not have the political will to employ any of the foregoing methods, it has to accept the status quo. The displaced Pandits (members of the predominantly Brahman Hindu community) should at least be resettled in an exclusive zone in the Vale of Kashmir.

3) Though the low-level Indo-Pak conflict will continue, the only hope is that time will eventually solve the problem.

Ramesh Saraf
Boston

WRITTEN BY ME UNDER A PSEUDO-NAME. HOWEVER THE EDITOR TO FURTHER HIS OWN AIMS CHANGED SOME SENTENCES WHICH ARE REFERRED TO BELOW.

- 1) I wrote this is a trivial task to achieve.
- 2) I mentioned that the U.S. still continues to arm her proxy Pakistan in a covert manner. This sentence has been removed by the Editor.
- 3) I did not write this sentence but wrote that the internal problems perpetuated by the terrorists would probably subside on their own.

India - Times 28 Feb, 1997

SHED IN THE STATESMAN UNDER PSEUDO-NAME ON 19 Feb., 1997

INDIA AS N-POWER

Sir, — I have lived in the USA for more than 20 years, but I am still an Indian citizen and continue to be loyal to my motherland. I recently stayed in India for several months and was overjoyed to note that India is a very advanced country as far as science and technology are concerned. However, I was dismayed at the level of corruption in the country and was shocked to note that most people join politics in India with the sole aim of making money and not serving the nation. It is even more surprising that a country of one billion people has to continually face problems on her borders and the political leadership in India often does not show any will to solve the crises, such as in Kashmir.

It is necessary that India declare herself a nuclear power and also conduct a few more nuclear tests. In this manner she will be taken seriously and for sure the trouble on our borders will cease instantly. Also surprisingly, the Indian Army which, is one of the finest in the world is not allowed to use fire-power in fighting terrorism.

It is time the leadership in India ensured that there was no let-up in its monitoring of the US-China-Pakistan alliance (initiated by Dr Kissinger). This alliance is now only more disguised than before. I hope my country does not compromise its interests and does not chicken out when facing adversaries.

Yours, etc., VASUDEV NAIDU.
Iowa (USA), February 1.

Anti-India military axis

THE recent news of Pakistan having tested the Hatf-3 missile came as no surprise to me. As an academican (who works at present in Germany) who is an expert in military technology, I must point out that such a move by Pakistan was anticipated.

It is long overdue that the leadership in India takes into consideration that at present a strong US-China-Pakistan axis exists, and it is targeted mainly at India. It is common knowledge that Pakistan, a technologically primitive country, does not have indigenous missile capabilities. However, it does have access to missiles mainly from its friends — China and the USA. Thus Pakistan having fired Hatf-3 missiles — whose origins certainly lie in some other country — should come as no surprise to most intelligent Indians.

Nevertheless, what surprises most of us Indians is the consistent ostrich-like response of our leadership to such moves by our adversaries. Rather than let this game against India continue, the best way, in my opinion, to correct the situation is for India to resume nuclear device testing, particularly of a high megatonnage. Moreover, India, whose nuclear programme is the second most advanced in Asia after that of Japan, should have no difficulty in making such a move.

While economic sanctions from the West against India are to be expected if it makes such a retaliatory move, no sacrifice is too great for the stability of our nation.

Moreover, I can also vouch that if India takes to such a path, Pakistan and its inconspicuous allies will have no answer for this move.

LEELA SARAF

New Delhi

Quality of popular drugs

The Ahmedabad-based Consumer Education and Research Society (CERS) found a 50 per cent failure rate after 18 brands of paracetamol were tested for their quality. One national brand, Pacimol, figures among the failed products, and

Target India

Sir, — The leadership in India must take into account the fact that a strong US-China-Pakistan axis exists and that this axis is targeted mainly against India. It is common knowledge that Pakistan, a technologically primitive country does not have indigenous missile capabilities. However, it does have access to missiles mainly from her friends China and the US. Hence, Pakistan having fired the Hatf-3 missiles whose origin is certainly from some other country, should come as no surprise to most intelligent Indians.

Nevertheless, what surprises most of us Indians is the consistent ostrich like response of our leadership to such moves by our adversaries. Rather than letting this game against India to continue, India must resume nuclear device testing particularly of high megatonnage. Moreover, India whose nuclear programme is the second most advanced in Asia after that of Japan should have no difficulty in making such a move. While economic sanctions of the West against India are to be expected if India makes such a retaliatory move, nevertheless, no sacrifice is too great for the stability of our nation. Moreover, even if India takes such a path Pakistan and her now inconspicuous allies will have no answer for such a move. — Yours etc.,
(Dr) LEELA SARAF
New Delhi.

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India. Two prominent figures were assassinated in Bombay. The

Mughals Taught A Lesson By Bahadur

The recent letter by N. Kataria titled "Will History Repeat" was rather interesting, but incomplete. Actually, after the martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur November 11, 1675, Pandit Kirpa Ram Bharadwaj of Mattan, Kashmir (who had previously led a Kashmiri Brahman delegation to Guru Tegh Bahadur May 25, 1675) joined with Guru Gobind Singh (who was his pupil) to fight the tyranny of Mughals.

Pandit Kirpa Ram was ultimately killed in the battle of Chamakaur in 1705.

Moreover, the story did not end there. After the cold-blooded

assassination of Guru Gobind Singh, it was again a Brahman from Kashmir (a follower of this guru), who set out to avenge the injustice done to this great man.

It is not an exaggeration to say that rarely in the recorded history of humanity has anyone been so successful in fighting oppression as was Lakshman Dev Bharadwaj (Banda Bahadur) of Rajouri in Kashmir. The punishment that Banda Bahadur inflicted on the repressive Mughal regime during 1709-1710 is still remembered with awe.

Ramesh (Kaka) Khardoori
Elmhurst, New York City

We Should Go Nuclear Again

Several nations led by the United States will continue to pressure India to sign the global Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It is long over due that rather than taking a passive stand, India should resume nuclear explosion testing as has been suggested by the Bharatiya Janata Party.

It is a well known fact that both India and Israel had the capability to explode nuclear devices as far back as the early 1960s. Dr. Homi Bhabha (then head of the Indian nuclear program) wanted to conduct a weapons test in 1960.

However, Jawaharlal Nehru being an idealist and a pacifist refused permission to Dr. Bhabha to pursue such a venture. As we all know, it was ultimately under the leadership of Indira Gandhi that India went ahead and tested a nuclear device in 1974. Any further demonstration of India's nuclear weapons capability is sure to benefit the nation -- politically and psychologically.

T.N.S. Janwal
Ballaire, Texas

Preserve The Buddhist Site Of Bamian

As many of us are aware, Hindu-Buddhist and Jewish civilizations are two of the most ancient which have survived the stringent test of time. Both civilizations have to look more keenly into their past mainly through history and archeology, as a gold mine of data awaits them. For instance, during my 1971 visit to Bamian in Afghanistan, I was dumbfounded to observe the impact Indian civilization had on that region. I was however pained to note that no serious effort had been undertaken by India to study and help preserve this area.

The history of Afghanistan became firmly intertwined with that of India in 303 BC when the former became a part of the Maurya empire. While a lot of numismatic and archeological data have been unearthed proving the ancient link between the two, the Buddhist site of Bamian surpasses other Hindu-Buddhist archeological wonders that exist in the world.

Although the Bamian area is dotted with several Buddhist sites, two giant statues of the Buddha are the main attraction to any visitor. The statues are majestic and were carved out of living rock. They are also the first known examples of the colossal cult in-

ages in Buddhist art and are speculated to date from Third Century AD to Fifth Century AD. The taller of the two is 58 meters, while the other is 40 meters.

Chinese traveler Huan-tsang in 630 AD saw the two and says in his writings they were decorated with gold and jewels. It is quite easy for anyone (who has visited Bamian) to visualize how wonderful the sight must have been when Huan-tsang visited the area.

Unfortunately, Bamian suffered its share of plunder and much damage was done to the area, though there is still some past splendor in it. In the first big Arab raid into Afghanistan in 699-700 AD, Bamian suffered no damage and there was no impact of Islam as the country continued to be ruled by Buddhist-Hindu kings.

However, the first serious damage to this area was done by Saffarid ruler Yaqub ibn Leys in 871 AD when he ravaged Bamian and carried a lot of booty, mainly gold, to Baghdad. Fortunately, since the Brahman Hindu Shahi kings continued to rule most of Afghanistan, the area of Bamian suffered no further damage till 1013 AD. Trilochanapala, the last of the great Shahi king, was defeated in 1013 by Mahmud of Ghazni mainly due to a tragic mistake made by

Kashmiri general Tunga, who had come to the aid of Trilochanapala. Blinded by his desire for battle, Tunga against the advice of Trilochanapala gave an open fight to Mahmud of Ghazni.

The strategic error resulted not only in further damage to Bamian but the loss of whole of Afghanistan, eventually to Islam. The problems of Bamian and its inhabitants did not cease there. In 1221 AD, Genghis Khan attacked Bamian in full fury as his grandson Mutugen was killed during the earlier siege.

Though Genghis Khan killed most people in Bamian and other areas of Afghanistan, there is no evidence that he damaged any Buddhist site. This came as no surprise as he was known to have revered the Buddha. Interestingly, it was during that period the chiefs of Afghanistan who survived that massacre took the title of Khan from Genghis Khan.

It is my hope that with the further improvement of political situation, the governments of India and Afghanistan (which have a warm relationship) will work together to preserve and further study this extraordinary place.

Thakur Niranjana Singh Jamwal
Hoboken, New Jersey

written by me under a psuedo-name in News India-Times September 8, 1995

Letters to the Editor

"India should go nuclear"

Sir, — Right since Independence, the Indian foreign policy has never had any initiative. A lot of our internal problems such as those in Kashmir and Punjab are substantially foreign in origin. India must find the means of putting a permanent end to these problems.

Ignoring the foreign aid considerations India must resume nuclear testing. The psychological benefits of this may be that we will have instant peace on our borders. India, thanks mainly to the scientific community led by Dr. Bhabha, could have detonated a nuclear device as early as 1960. Due to the delay in demonstrating our capability, we had to fight several major wars.

Indian political experts are for sure aware that the so-called nuclear and missile capability of Pakistan is actually an appendage of the nuclear and missiles programmes of the U.S. and China. Its main purpose is to lure India to sign the NPT and make it an impotent power. No loosening of the subtle alliance between U.S.-China-Israel and Pakistan is to be anticipated in the near future. All these false confrontations between the U.S. and China are designed to deceive the developing world to believe that China is their friend. As long as China continues to get the most favoured nation status from the U.S., it will continue to be a tool in the hands of the American Jewish lobby. In fact, under pressure from

Israel and the powerful Jewish politicians, China vetoed the second term nomination of Dr. Kurt Waldheim for the Secretary-General of the United Nations. As such the Chinese weapons firm of Norinco is jointly owned by Israel and China. It may surprise some naive people to know that this very firm is supplying weapons to the Islamic world, particularly Pakistan, under the made-in-China label. China is still getting rocket engines and also small communications satellites such as AsiaSat series (about 650 kg in weight with in-built boosters) from the U.S. with the help of the American Jewish lobby. This is being done more for propaganda purposes than for economic considerations.

India must strive to further improve its relationship with China, but at the same time stay vigilant. If China decides to get friendly with India, it is but natural that it (China) will benefit tremendously. Moreover, often Indian leaders complain that China is selling arms to our neighbour Pakistan. Rather than complain, why not sell arms to Vietnam and North Korea since both are good friends of India and are adversaries of China. In fact, a serious conflict is growing between China and Vietnam in the Spratly Islands and also between North Korea and China in the Chonji area. China seems to be pushing North Korea on behalf of the U.S.

It is long overdue that the Indian leadership showed some initiative and declared the country

a nuclear power. The possibility of U.S. or China giving nuclear weapons to Pakistan to explode is rather remote since considering the tensions which North Korea has with both China and the U.S., it (North Korea) will not hesitate to seize the opportunity and explode nuclear weapons.

Dr. Kissinger was recently in China for a prolonged visit. This might be a clear indication of how strongly allied China is to the Jews and the U.S. The aim of Dr. Kissinger's China policy has been and is to have China push for territorial claims against Russia in the future.

Ramesh Ghosh, Milpitas (U.S.)

'The Beijing spirit'

Sir, — This is with reference to your Editorial 'The Beijing spirit' (Sept. 19). It is a fact that women are an oppressed class and are the victims of the oldest and most basic form of domination, namely male supremacy.

Women are discriminated against economically, politically and socially. For example, women comprise a growing percentage of the labour force, but their earnings are lower than those of men. And, in some sectors, women still receive less pay than men for essentially the same output.

On the social front, commercial advertisements, films, beauty contests and even some magazines present women as mindless sex objects. There is a popular misconception that women are more emotional and less logical than men and hence cannot be expected to compete on equal terms with men in business and/or in politics. The aggressive, ambitious working women are usually held in low esteem by men.

alignment, and gambled its territory. On the contrary, Pakistan's shrewd military and civil leaders have become allies of America. What an irony?

adage: Eagles and turkeys don't soar together.

Prem Mital
Wilton, Connecticut

We Should Go Nuclear Again

Several nations led by the United States will continue to pressure India to sign the global Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It is long over due that rather than taking a passive stand, India should resume nuclear explosion testing as has been suggested by the Bharatiya Janata Party.

It is a well known fact that both India and Israel had the capability to explode nuclear devices as far back as the early 1960s. Dr. Homi Bhabha (then head of the Indian nuclear program) wanted to conduct a weapons test in 1960.

However, Jawaharlal Nehru being an idealist and a pacifist refused permission to Dr. Bhabha to pursue such a venture. As we all know, it was ultimately under the leadership of Indira Gandhi that India went ahead and tested a nuclear device in 1974. Any further demonstration of India's nuclear weapons capability is sure to benefit the nation -- politically and psychologically.

T.N.S. Jamwal
Ballaire, Texas

News India Times, May 24, 1996

SEPTEMBER 13, 1996 NEWS INDIA-TIMES PAC

Don't Compare Nation With Pak

I came to the United States nearly four months ago. Since I am a voracious reader, I read most newspapers published for the Indian community in America. I would like to share the following information with NI-T readers.

Much coverage is given to our neighbor, Pakistan. I find this not only surprising but ridiculous. While New Delhi cannot ignore Islamabad, one must point out that a comparison of India with Pakistan -- military and economic terms -- is like comparing an elephant with an ant.

It is time that we, Indians, realized that Pakistan is a proxy for the United States and China against India. While India must be vigilant I personally do not think there is any reason to be too much concerned. Being an Army officer I would like to quote retired general KrishnaSwami Sundarji who was and still is of

the opinion that India can take on both China and Pakistan at the simultaneously.

Though India will never start a war, I assure NRIs that the nation is ready for any external threat. Gone are the days of Jawaharlal Nehru when defense used to be neglected.

It must be clearly evident to any person with some perception that India's principled stand on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty is based not only on morality but on its strength. Most defense experts are aware that India has the ICBM capability since 1992.

In fact the Surya missile, with a range of 19,200 km, is based on the PSLV. The top adviser to the Defense Ministry said, "India can hit any place at any time with a missile."

While the transfer of Chinese missile technology to Pakistan must be watched, I might point out

that the firing reliability and accuracy of Chinese missiles are dismal.

It must be remembered that during the Iran-Iraq war the Iranians had numerous problems with China-supplied Silkworm missiles and as such they (Iranians) were successful in firing only one out of three.

The reliability and accuracy of Chinese missiles have improved a little bit in the recent past, but it has mainly been due to generous assistance given by Israeli technicians.

In view of all this, Indians should regard their country as a superpower in the making. We shouldn't try to compare ourselves with a smaller neighbor such as Pakistan. The United States has to be concerned more about Cuba than India has to be with Pakistan.

Narinder Singh Shergill
(retired brigadier)
New York City

WRITTEN UNDER PSEUDO-NAME

Murtaza Death Accidental

The death on Sept. 20 of Murtaza Bhutto in Karachi came as no surprise to many of us. He led a feudal, but dangerous, lifestyle. Murtaza was known to show contempt toward the rule of law.

Had Murtaza returned during the administrations of Nawaz Sharif or Zia ul-Haq, he would have been hanged for charges of sedition and murder. His clever sister Benazir, who had arranged for his return from Syria in 1993, got him released from prison later. She was also slowly, but subtly, withdrawing charges

against him in a way no opposition party would resent the process.

The shootout, in which Murtaza was killed, was certainly an accident due to an error in identifying the occupants of the car in which Murtaza was traveling in a troubled city like Karachi. However, such a death to a member of the ruling family was totally unexpected. It is hoped that the foregoing incident would send a clear signal to relatives of Indian politicians, who exploit the system and lead a Murtaza-type life.

Dina Kak-Raina
Washington, DC

RIGHT STAND

Sir, — The Indian stand on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty is commendable. India with a population of one billion has rightly refused to give in to foreign pressures. But it may draw considerable flak from "pacifists", fifth-columnists and others. Some people may argue that India will not survive the economic sanctions which may be imposed for adopting this stance. A highly-populated and mineral-rich country like India cannot develop by means of foreign aid. It can progress by utilizing capital generated by its abundant resources. So, any economic sanctions will have a negligible affect.

The leadership in India must realize that the only aim of the five nuclear powers is to work as a team and control the resources of the developing world. India must frustrate their goals. Industrially-advanced countries like Germany and Japan, whose capabilities have so far been curbed by the USA and its allies, may support India.

Some countries have benefited from their support to the USA on this treaty. There is enough evidence that the USA has already started to transfer rocket engines and space technology to boost the Chinese space programme.

India should resume nuclear tests because the nuclear powers have not taken kindly to its views on the CTBT. — 1000s etc., NARINDER KHARDOOR, Rochester NY (USA), September 11.

China Overrated

Sir,— Soon, President Jiang Zemin of China will visit India. For most Indians, this is indeed a welcome sign as far as India-China relations are concerned, since there are many areas in which both these Asian giants can cooperate. Yet, a note of caution is in order.

I recently visited both India and China from the US. After travelling extensively in China, it became evident to me that other than in selected areas which have been given cosmetic touches (to impress the tourists), China is way behind India in most areas of development, including critical areas such as nuclear sciences and space. For example, China is busy standardising her first indigenous nuclear power plant, while in India the manufacture of nuclear power plants has been routine for decades now. Moreover, China has yet to manufacture a functional communication satellite and also the launch reliability of the Long March series of rockets,

even for light satellites, has not been too good so far. In comparison, Indian communication satellites are not only made but are also designed and India hopefully should have a heavy launch capability for large geostationary satellites in the near future. Unfortunately, exaggerated statistics on China are carefully planted into the Indian media by Western sources, due to which some simple-minded Indians are convinced that China is ahead of India in most areas of development.

There is no reason why the leadership in India cannot put up a firm yet friendly stand as far as the border problems and the rights of the Tibetans are concerned when President Jiang visits. It must also be pointed out that China has serious border problems with several countries such as Russia, Vietnam, North Korea etc., hence, she is more than keen to develop a friendly relationship with India. India must also be vigilant as far as the so-called problems that China is supposed to have with the US are concerned. In reality, China and the US work as a team on most issues and these confrontations are carefully planned so as to create an artificial global balance with benefit both powers. Moreover, the stories of China and the US having problems is also a strategy to try to seduce India by making her believe that the US will help India against China, while in reality, both China and the US are setting up India so as to make India tow the US line.

DR MONOTOSH BOSE
Harrisburg (US)

WRITTEN UNDER PSEUDO-NAME, TIMES OF INDIA NOV. 21, 1996

The Status Of African American

I and other members of my family immigrated to the United States about four months ago and we are generally delighted to be in America. We have been able to travel extensively across the nation along with our relatives and were not only amazed with the technology but also with the natural beauty of America.

However, coming from the land of Gandhi we were indeed disappointed to observe the manner in which the "blackman" (African American) is still treated in most parts of the United States.

We were told in India that the African American was coming rapidly.

G. S. Arya
New York City

PUBLISHED IN NEWS INDIA-TIMES UNDER PSEUDO-NAME ON JAN. 3, 1997

BANDA BAHADUR

Sir, — Jay Mangharam Mukhi's article "Kashmiri Pandits: Marginalization Began in 1949" (June 6-7) and Isa Haque's letter (June 19-20) make an error regarding the events leading to the martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur.

This period of Indian history is well documented. Pandit Kripa Ram Bharadwaj of Mattan, Kashmir, and Guru Teg Bahadur were good friends. Aurangzeb was under the impression that if he could convert the elite group of Brahmins to Islam, it would be easy for him to convert the rest. So Pandit Kripa Ram took a delegation to Guru Tegh Bahadur and told him about the problems of the Kashmiri Pandits. Guru Tegh Bahadur supported them and challenged Aurangzeb to convert him first. Guru Tegh Bahadur became a martyr on November 11, 1675. Later, Pandit Kripa Ram and Guru Govind Singh fought against the tyranny of the Mughal regime. Pandit Kripa Ram was killed in the battle of Chamakaur in 1705.

After the assassination of Guru Govind Singh, it was again a Brahmin from Kashmir who set out to avenge injustice. It is not an exaggeration to say that rarely in the history of mankind has anyone been so successful in fighting oppression as Lakshman Dev Bharadwaj (Banda Bahadur) of Rajouri in Kashmir. The punishment that Banda Bahadur inflicted on the repressive Mughal regime during 1709-1716 is still remembered. — Yours, etc., UPINDER FOTADAR.

New York (USA), June 28.
THE STATESMAN (CALCUTTA) JULY 14 1995

Also published in New India Times June 9, 1995
under the name Ramesh Kala Khadooni

WRITTEN UNDER PSEUDO-NAME
NEWS INDIA-TIMES, August 2, 1996

New Delhi Should Go Nuclear

Congratulations to Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral on the stand taken by him on the CTBT issue. However, Indians cannot be totally satisfied by this stand and should push more for nuclear weapon tests as has often been suggested by brilliant BJP leader Murli Manohar Joshi.

A couple of tests will not result in wasting nuclear weapons as India is estimated to have a relatively huge arsenal. Also, the CIA estimates that India has stockpiled a sizable arsenal - probably in the range of 400 to 500 bombs.

The prestigious Bulletin of Atomic Scientists (June 1985) had speculated that in 1995 nuclear arsenals of both India and China would be similar in size. Subramaniam Swamy in one of his lectures in the United States disclosed that India has the capability of manufacturing as many as 200 nuclear bombs a year. This figure is no exaggeration considering that India has the second largest plutonium production facility in Asia after Japan.

Considering these facts if New Delhi conducted some more nuclear tests the image of India in the international arena will get a significant boost. The country will be recognized as a world power

instantly.

It might also be interesting to mention that the last weapon that India tested had an explosive range of about 17 kilotons. It should now proceed to explode a thermo-nuclear device in the range of 1 to 2 megatons. This is easily achievable since

LETTERS

nuclear technology in India is highly advanced and it has also been mentioned often by prominent Indian nuclear scientists that India has had bombs of this explosive range in its arsenal for quite some time now.

Since India does not get much aid from the West, a boycott by the West due to any nuclear test by it will have no major implication. The possibility of Pakistan conducting a nuclear weapons test as a chain reaction to any new Indian nuclear weapon test is rather remote.

In fact, most credible nuclear experts are of the opinion that the so-called Pakistani nuclear bomb is nothing but the hoax of the century. This is the game plan of some countries to suppress the emerging role

of India in the world and thus maintain the present artificial global balance (which benefits both the United States and its allies) and also if possible to bait India into signing the CTBT and the NPT.

In case the United States or China decides to give Pakistan a nuclear weapon for testing, there is every reason to believe that Israel will test nuclear weapons and this chain reaction will eventually culminate in North Korea following suit. In addition, it might be pointed out that the nuclear program of Israel cannot be overlooked or ignored. Tel Aviv also has an advanced nuclear weapons program and it must also be remembered that their program was organized by none other than J. Robert Oppenheimer (father of the US atomic bomb) and E.D. Bergmann (an Israeli scientist of German origin) - both of whom were scientists of international repute.

Taking all these facts into consideration, it is long over due that the present leadership in New Delhi wake up and push India on to its rightful and just position in the international arena.

Leela Shroff
Tucson, Arizona

The recent exit polls conducted by different TV networks are so different from each other that they make little sense. Results of one round can't be compared with other rounds.

The suggestion for inclusion of the expenses of a political party on TV ads and the expenses of the individual candidates is worth considering. This will ensure a level playing field for all candidates in the elections.

GURDERSHAN SINGH, Chandigarh

Congress lacks leadership

WITH two more crucial phases of the Lok Sabha elections to go, I, like many Indians, would like to take the liberty of giving my humble views on this. Undoubtedly, I want to see Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee continue to lead India as Prime Minister, towards greatness and prosperity.

While the Congress has also contributed significantly towards development in the past, at present it lacks a credible leadership which is acceptable to most. Sadly, the Congress has handed over leadership to Mrs Sonia Gandhi who, on merit, seems to be that she is the wife of Rajiv Gandhi and daughter-in-law of Indira Gandhi.

In the Congress, there is no dearth of brilliant and veteran leaders such as Mr Narain Dutt Tiwari, Mr Arjun Singh, Mr Natwar Singh and Dr Manmohan Singh. Having placed Mrs Sonia Gandhi at the party's helm of affairs, Congress has not only made a mockery of democracy but also played with the self-respect and dignity of the Indians. In my opinion, no sane voter will condone the Congress for this.

Dr KUM KUM BHARADWAJ, Agra

The Tribune
30 April, 2004

Bad tendency among students

It has become a bad habit among the students to follow the path of political parties to organise road demonstrations against their teachers to score their points. It is also sad that the authorities instead of pacifying the students by advising them not to resort to unlawful activities, action is taken against the teachers. This is not a healthy trend. To mend the erring students and to instill discipline, good manners and character, it is necessary to give lighter punishments to the students. If the students find it difficult to tolerate the kind advice of their teachers, they are unfit to continue their studies. Such disobedient students should be sent out of the school.

Years ago, parents never took serious the teachers beating the students, if they commit any offence. However, today fearing punishment from authorities, the teachers doesn't evince interest in the moulding of their students.

C L Narasimhan
 East Tambaram

It's unfair

While no one is or should be above the law, nevertheless, the arrest and harsh treatment meted to the great Acharya, Sri Jayendra Saraswati is regrettable. In any civilized society a person is not guilty until proven guilty. It is, hence, overdue that the concerned authorities in India transfer this case to a court of law following which scrupulous investigation pertaining to this case should be initiated. It is rather paradoxical that known ruffians such as Manu Sharma, Sanjeev Nanda, Santosh Kumar etc., are moving freely and having a nice time while a great Acharya namely, Sri Jayendra Saraswati is not being given an adequate opportunity to defend himself.

Dr Ramesh Saraf
 Edmonton, Canada

Address your letters to :

The Editor, News Today, 85 Mount Road, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032.

or e-mail to : letters@newstodaynet.com

GO TOP / HOME

Opportunity to defend

Dear Editor,

While no one is or should be above law, nevertheless, the arrest and harsh treatment meted out to Kanchi Acharya, is regrettable. In any civilized society, a person is not guilty till proven guilty. It is, hence, overdue that the concerned authorities in India transfer this case to a neutral region allowing which a scrupulous investigation pertaining to this case should be initiated.

It is also rather paradoxical that known ruffraff such as Manu Sharma, Sanjeev Nanda and Santosh Kumar Singh, etc, are moving freely and having a nice time while Kanchi Seer is not being given an adequate opportunity to defend himself.

Dr Ramesh Saraf,
7, Brown Street, Edmonton,
Alberta, Canada.

ASHMIR TIMES 14 December, 2004

*Yours etc...
Bhawana Kesar
Jammu.*

Peace in Kashmir

Sir,

It is long overdue that the Centre in India bring tranquility to Kashmir. Also it is necessary that we give Mufti Mohammad Sayeed an opportunity and total co-operation in his effort to bring peace to this region.

In my opinion there are three feasible routes to end dissension in this region. The first approach could be to attack Pakistan and make Pakistan realize that by creating a snag for the Indian colossus her (Pakistan's) very survival would be at stake. This can be achieved rather easily (considering India's formidable military might), however, this could be a complicated move as there are several thousand U.S. troops firmly entrenched in Pakistan at present. If we did attack Pakistan we may come into direct conflict with the U.S. This in no way is desirable. Secondly, if we have the proper political planning we could give our security forces a free hand to eliminate the terrorists. By this approach even if the low level conflict persists in the Valley, it would have no great impact on the people of the Valley. Also eventually the vicious activities by the misdirected fundamentalists are sure to fizzle out.

*Yours etc...
Dr. Dinanath Raina (Lallasahib)
On e-mail*

Excelsior a refreshing change

Sir,

I just wanted to say that I consider your newspaper, despite it's No Frills" approach, one of the most exhaustive, detailed, unbiased and reliable sources of information on events in J & K. After perusing reams of anti-Indian propoganda in other Kashmiri newspapers, your newspaper offers a refreshing change.

*Yours etc...
Vivek, Australia
On e-mail*

A condemnable act

murder of Kashmiri Brahmins by terrorists in the Pulwama district of Kashmir
not come as a surprise to me though I was deeply pained. Such vicious acts are
from these frustrated terrorists. In my opinion it is necessary that the Indian
takes appropriate steps in order to rectify the situation in the valley of Kashmir.
the necessary resources (if we plan our moves intelligently) to bring peace to this
part of India. We do not lack the manpower. Nor the military might nor the political
however it is long overdue that we act.

Dr Dhruv Mukhopadhyay
Agra

ADDRESS YOUR LETTERS TO :

**The Editor, News Today, 15, Vellaia Street, Kodambakkam,
Chennai - 600 024.**

or e-mail to : letters@newstodaynet.com

Rewriting Indian history

Sir,

This pertains to the article, " Joshi's bid to re-write Indian history" (9 August) , by Mr. Kotru. Though Mr. Kotru is a well known journalist and an intellect, however, unfortunately he is echoing views on Dr. Joshi which for sure have foreign origins. As Dr. Joshi is an impediment as far as the implementation of the Western cultural agenda in India is concerned, hence naturally frequent attacks on Dr. Joshi are anticipated from the Western countries. In reality Dr. Joshi is a great nationalist, a brilliant person and a man of guts. For example Dr. Joshi had the guts (quite rightfully) to propound that the Aryan Race has its origins in India. Moreover, now it is well established that majority of Indians in every corner of India belong to the Aryan race.

In addition Dr. Joshi though proud of his Hindu heritage also has genuine respect for all religions.

In short Dr. Joshi is the epitome of the Indian civilisation and the youth of India must draw inspiration from this great Indian.

Yours etc...
Dr. Leela Khardoori
On e-mail



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Excelent
request 2003
written by me
pseudo-name.

obsession

There does not seem to be a great deal of credibility as far as the Nobel Prizes are concerned, as there is no clear yardstick by which the candidates are judged. For example, this year's prize for physiology and medicine, which was given for discoveries concerning magnetic resonance imaging, overlooked the contributor to this powerful technique, Raymond Damadian, while recognizing the contributions of C. Lauterbur and Peter Mansfield. In the past too, great Indian scientists such as Jagdish Chandra, Homi Bhabha, S.N. Bose, G.N. Ramachandran and others have been overlooked for the prize. Let us not forget that this prize remains a fief of the Western academia and intelligentsia. It is amusing to note that even Albert Einstein got the prize after much delay, in 1923, for discovering the photoelectric effect (which he did in 1905), and not for his famous theory of relativity.

Yours faithfully,
Ram Mukhopadhyay, Surrey, UK

Nov 25, 2003
The Telegraph



Support the Government

Sir,

The ousting of the High Commissioner of Pakistan by India was long overdue. Clearly the tiny State of Pakistan feels inferior to the Indian giant, hence, out of insecurity she (Pakistan) wants to destabilize India. As Pakistan is not able to achieve this she and her sponsors are clearly frustrated. Moreover, why have diplomatic relations with Pakistan when Pakistan is now more or less U.S. territory? We already have diplomatic relations with the U.S.!

I might add that the Government led by Atalji is leading the country in the proper manner. Let all of us more than a billion Indians rise and support this Government fully. Also I might add that the Pakistani nuclear programme is a total hoax. Some countries to demoralize India are sending nuclear threats via Pakistan to India. These threats are now meaningless due to India's formidable defence capabilities. Moreover, it has been often pointed out by Dr. Kalam and lately by Mr. Fernandes that India now has the capability to hit any country at any time. Besides, any country would be stupid to take on a billion plus Indians with one of the finest armies in the world. Also as is well known India now is equipped with a large nuclear arsenal.

Yours etc...
Dr. Brijnath Saraf and
Dr. Sat Lal Saraf
On e-mail





India and the UN

Sir,

In my opinion it is long overdue that the United Nations troops be asked to leave Kashmir. Evidently the UN has not been able to play a constructive and evenhanded role as far as the Kashmir issue is concerned. It is well known that legally, morally and historically the whole of the Jammu and Kashmir State belongs to India. The UN has so far not been able to convince Pakistan to vacate the territory which she (Pakistan) holds illegally. Therefore many Indians feel that the UN has no further role to play as far as this issue is concerned. Hence, the UN troops stationed in Kashmir serve no purpose. While it may appear rather overweening but I am certain sooner or later (at the appropriate time) India will take back Indian territories from both Pakistan and China which these countries hold illegally.

I am also optimistic that in the near future the diseases of terrorism will be wiped out not only from Kashmir but also from other parts of India. For this our leadership (which is fortunately an effective one) has to plan their moves rather intelligently and then this battle could be won rather rapidly. Fighting terrorism is no big task for India any more as she (India) today is the third most powerful country (most experts entertain a similar opinion) militarily after Russia and the U.S.

Yours etc...

Niranjana Nath Fotedar,
(Ex-Headmaster Biscoe School,
Srinagar)

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Let China initiate

Sir,

I write this letter mainly pertaining to the letter by Autar Krishen Razdan (28th January) regarding India-China relations. The letter makes much sense although evidently the author seems to have no political training. What is important is that China take the initiative to improve her relations with India. India is certainly militarily stronger than China at present. Besides China is actually cornered and surrounded by enemies such as Russia, Vietnam, North Korea etc. Any improvement in the relationship of India and China is welcome but it is China which will clearly benefit more. In any case if necessary more than one billion Indians armed with nuclear warheads have not much to be concerned about any country on the long run!

Yours etc...
Dr Badall Ghosh
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England, CT119EQ
BadallGhosh@excite.com



India on right track

Sir,

K. Natwar Singh has often mentioned that Pakistan is a proxy of both the United States and China and has to be treated only as a proxy power. Atalji like Mrs. Gandhi has the correct approach as far as handling Pakistan is concerned. Atalji is not much concerned about the symptoms of the disease that is Pakistan but the cause of the disease that is both China and the U.S. Fortunately China has now emerged as a spineless power therefore our leadership is now concentrating on the U.S. both politically and militarily.

We are not blind to ignore the military strength of the U.S., but for sure the U.S. is in no position to go to war with India. Also the U.S. does not have any specific use for Pakistan any more.

Yours etc.,
Choudhary Harpal Singh Takait
Secretary Bhartiya Akta Dal
537 C Model Town
KARNAL



India Today

Sir,

Many people (who have little understanding of politics) are unnecessarily critical of the present government in India. By exploding nuclear weapons India has sent a clear message not only to our enemies but also to the world as such that she (India) a land of more than one billion people is a world power. We are also without any doubt the strongest military power in Asia and have also the second largest technical manpower in the world after the US. These are no fabrication of statistics but are facts. So let us thank the BJP and their partners for taking radical steps which were necessary for the future of our country.

I also like many other Sikhs was shocked by the brutal murder of innocent people (Sikhs) in Kashmir recently. What ever the rumours some people and countries may spread the fact is that any one with a little wisdom can figure out that this is the work of frustrated fundamentalists. These Islamic fundamentalists are sure to fail as they are not aware as to what they are up against. The game is clearly over and no power on earth can be of any help to them in achieving their unattainable goals. Our great country has stood the test of time and these are only minor pin-pricks for the Indian giant. The Indian history has clearly made evident that when ever India (even though she was rarely a single unit as she is now) was attacked eventually the invader was made to pay a heavy price. I hope people have not forgotten the great Maharaja Ranjit Singh who not only brought all the gold and most of the jewels which were plundered (by invitation) by Nadir Shah back to India but also made the descendents of Ahmad Shah Durrani (the general of Nadir Shah) pay a heavy penalty in treasure. The roof of the Varanasi Vishwanath Temple is a testimony to this as the gold roof of this Temple was presented by none other than Maharaja Ranjit Singh to the people of Kashi.

Lot of the statistics on China mentioned by Li Zhaoxing in China Today which appeared in DE (11.4.2000) are exaggerated. I visit China for business trips quite often and let me tell my countrymen that India is way ahead of China in most areas. The 1.2 billion mainland Chinese have yet to produce a single Nobel Prize ! Most of the fighter aircraft that you observe on Chinese airfields are the vintage Mig-19s. The only people who are delighted in India with these false statistics are some of the Indian communists. Many of these people are still pained by the Indian nuclear weapons tests, though they live in India and as Indians should be proud of these tests.

Yours etc...

Colonel (retd) Jwala Singh Garewal
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Marrickville, NSW 2204
Jwala Singh Garewal

<Jwalasinghgarewal@freemail.com.au>



Exterminate terrorism in J&K

Sir,

The recent bomb-attack in Kashmir by the Islamic fundamentalists on the Shias and their leader Maulvi Iflikar Hussain Ansari came as no surprise to me. Though I am not flabbergasted by this attack, however, like any other normal human being I am deeply pained. Any person who is even a little perceptive will realize that this attack clearly made evident that the terrorists in Kashmir are now a frustrated lot. This frustration of the terrorists is understandable as they (the terrorists) now realize that they are in no position to take on the Indian colossus. The sequence of events also clearly makes evident the increasing degree of frustration amongst the terrorists as the time passes. First these terrorists attacked the KPs, then the Sikhs and now the Shias. In general as is well known the Shias of Kashmir have always been a peaceful and an enlightened group of people.

In my opinion the time is now ripe that the Govt of India get rid of these violent elements not only in Kashmir but in the whole State of Jammu and Kashmir as soon as possible. This is rather a small task for India. In fact my cousin who is a Brigadier in the Indian Army has often mentioned that (if given orders) the formidable Indian Army can uproot terrorism in the State of Jammu and Kashmir rather quickly. We do fortunately have an effective Government in India at present and I do hope that they will ignore the human rights activists both in India and abroad and take surgical steps to uproot this pestilence of terrorism in this State. Moreover, no genuine democracy will tolerate a group of people taking up arms against the system.

Yours etc...

Colonel (retd) Jwala Singh Garewal
56 Paddington Road
Marrickville, NSW 2204
Australia

Jwala Singh Garewal <Jwalasinghgarewal@freemail.com.au>



Sino-Pak nuclear cooperation

Sir,

This is with reference to the article (June 20) by B Raman, "Sino-Pak nuclear co-operation". Evidently either this author has no understanding of nuclear energy related politics and science or he is spreading disinformation in the Indian media. China upto this time has not been able to develop an effective reactor design for nuclear power generation. The only Chinese designed and produced nuclear plant in China namely the Qinshan Nuclear Power Plant has remained non-functional for most of the time. Recently US engineers were flown in to help make this nuclear power plant functional.

In addition all data points that what Pakistan has built at Chashma (with Chinese help) is a coal-fired power plant for the generation of electricity. I might add that it is not unlikely that other friends (in the Western hemisphere) of Pakistan may come up and help Pakistan build a plant. Then as usual to maintain the global balance it will be mentioned that China built the plant.

At the end I hope that we in India research subjects thoroughly before publishing them.

Yours etc...
Choudhury Harpal Singh Takait
Secretary, Bhartiya Akta Dal
537 C Model Town Karnal
<harpalsinghtakait@hotmail.com>

Match fixing

Sir,

It was indeed Manoj Prabhakar the former fast bowler of India who made public the misdeeds of the players and their indulgence in match fixing etc. He cried and brought it to the notice of the authorities concerned of the time but nobody cared for his utterances and described him as a traitor and threw him out from the team. Now the time has come when his utterances are to be believed and culprits brought to book. What compelled Manoj Prabhakar to take secret videotapes of so many people is perhaps he wanted to convey the authorities the proof of his being a true sportsman. In my opinion, he has done a great job by exposing the misdeeds of the players of the time. We respect all the players of Indian Cricket but we are very much upset on hearing that they are also involved in this menace of match fixing. What prompted them to do so when they are provided with all the better facilities leaves a question mark. The authorities in India should also learn a lesson from the countries like Pakistan and South Africa who conducted the inquiries in record time and reached to a conclusion. There is every possibility of the players who have been named in the match fixing, of being indulged in



Chinese space programme

Sir,

This pertains to the article (25th June), "China aims at manned space launch in 2001". For this you quote the U.S Defence Dept as your source. First of all please do not get the impression that I am adversely critical of China but the real facts regarding the Chinese space programme are totally different from what the U.S. Defence Dept. wants us to believe. You all might recollect that the US Defence Dept. before the recent Indian nuclear weapons tests often mentioned that India had no nuclear weapons. While all experts were aware that not only did India have a large nuclear arsenal but India has also in addition to this accumulated several tons of Plutonium-239. In fact India had even accumulated the much sought after Uranium-233. I might mention that few countries in the world have access to Uranium-233. Quite in contrast to U-235, U-233 is extremely difficult to obtain. What this tells us is that often the U.S. news is meant to further her (U.S) interests only and is often a fabrication of data.

The story of the Chinese space programme is the same as everything else related to science and technology in China. Due to the CR (Cultural Revolution) from the period of 1966-1976 everything in China went backwards. Not only were eminent scientists sent to work in farms but many were even liquidated. The result China today lacks a scientific and industrial infrastructure and also poverty is widespread in that country. The recent disaster in which several Chinese (who had fled the Mainland for a better life) died in Britain due to suffocation in a truck reflects the plight of the common person in China without any ambiguity. In space to this day the Chinese have only been successful in launching satellites such as the Iridium series with a weight of less than a ton in the near earth orbit. However when China signed the CTBT in a September 1996 the US as a deal promised China (this is now a commonly known fact) that they will transfer space hardware to China so that China can launch a man into space. This launching of a man into space is meant to be more of a publicity stunt by China rather than a genuine scientific feat. In addition to this the U.S had also promised to train Chinese astronauts. At present all intelligence and scientific data points to the fact that the Chinese have already launched and retrieved cockroaches from space. These organisms as is well known are very sturdy and can even survive high doses of radiation. Therefore it is quite likely that if China is able to put all the U.S supplied hardware together they will soon be able to place a man into space. Actually in reality to this day the Chinese have no indigenous space launch vehicle comparable to the Indian GSLV.

Finally in my opinion the real status of the Chinese science becomes quite clear by the fact that the mainland Chinese have yet to produce a single Nobel Prize !

Yours etc...
Choudhary Harpal Singh Takait
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China : An artificial counter

Sir,

This has reference to the views of one Mac Kher (10 July) titled, "Rejected PNTR". I get the feeling from his letter that this author is acting as a salesman for China. All what he has written regarding China in my opinion is fabricated. Firstly, China is an ally of the US and not a rival. Secondly, this author wants to make China the leader of the developing countries by making China an artificial counter to the US. Thirdly, people who know China pretty well will inform you that China is a backward country in every sense.

Finally I might mention the West is not afraid of China but in reality they are worried (quite wrongly as India is a democracy) about India mainly because of India's vastly superior technological base in relation to China.

Yours etc...
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India and China

Sir,

I am sorry I could not respond (due to being extremely busy) to the attacks of my original letter which was published on August 23, in your newspaper. What I was doing was exposing China in that letter. My suggestion to those Indians who are emotionally attached to China is to visit China not on a conducted tour but on a personal objective one. I assure you these very Indians who have been brainwashed by the Western media will mention that India is not only a great democracy (in relation to China which is repressive totalitarian state) but also that India is ahead of China in most areas of industrial and scientific development.

Please travel to China and study China before you wrongly criticize your Matarbhumi, Bharat.

Yours etc...
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Solution to Kashmir problem

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SCIENTIFIC BENT MEANS A QUESTIONING MIND

SIR, — Recently many of us academicians of Indian origin in Europe had a meeting in Paris. During that meeting we all felt that though India has the second largest technical manpower in the world after the USA, except for a couple of schools of excellence in India much needs to be improved as far as higher education is concerned. Most students in India lack a tendency to analyse things and accept things easily which are fed to them.

There are actually two main flaws with the current system. Firstly, the students lose their originality and secondly it is easy for them to be brainwashed. After all, Western science is full of politics based substantially on economics.

For example these days it is fashionable for some politically motivated scientists to claim that man originated in the continent of Africa. Why is this done? Africa has a lot of resources.

So flattery means access to these resources. Also it is a political means of pitching one race against the other and thus creating a new world order. This order, for sure, benefits most developed countries.

The science of genetics is probably the most political science at present. To analyse where man originated is far beyond the capacity of modern science. We still do not understand the working of even a simple gene such as Lac Z which codes for a simple protein such as Beta-galactosidase, let alone understand the regulation of a few hundred human genes. So the realistic study of the origin of man is far beyond the present human capability.

Nevertheless, we must not get discouraged and must move ahead in the study of this subject.

Based on the little subjective data that we have, the universe was created 15 billion years ago followed by the birth of the earth 4.6 billion years ago. Then according to some scientists life originated on earth 3.9 billion years ago.

Available fossil data resembling a spherical prokaryote has been dated to 3.5 billion years. This all is still subjective information, as it seems impossible according to most calculations that life developed on its own accidentally.

This is very nearly like all the necessary ingredients coming together and materialising into a scooter! Besides if you find an old scooter in Delhi it in no way means that it was manufactured in Delhi. It is the same for fossils.

Thus any sane person will tell you it is impossible to fathom as to how even simple life originated let alone how and where man originated.

Also the standard mitochondrial data to link all the human race to a so-called African Eve has no bearing, as it is also known that mitochondrial DNA can change through ages and can even get a paternal input from the paternal genes in the mother. The famous scientist Dr Hector has recently discovered in Table Mountain in California man-made tools in the 55 million-year-old strata. This places the origin of man far before the period of the African fossils.

I might add that this in no way means that man originated in America either. This all is a concrete example of how science in the West functions and how one cannot swallow all that is fed to him or her.

Finally it is our hope that the higher educational pattern in India will be rectified in order to make the students more objective and cautious in their approach. —

Yours, etc., NAGRAJ SUBRAMANIAM.

History of Pashtuns

Sir,

I did read the article (29 November), "History of the Pashtuns", by M. Rama Rao with interest. It becomes quite clear from this article that either this author has no understanding of Central Asian history or this article is politically goaded.

It is impossible to isolate the history of Bharat from Central Asia. The very terms like Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan etc. are derived from the Sanskrit word Sthana (place). Also as is well known that no Arab or related tribes existed in this region before the invasion of this area by the Arabs in 652 AD. Prior to the Islamic period in Afghanistan Sanskrit and Sanskrit related languages were spoken in this territory and this region was often referred to as Aryana.

It must be mentioned that the ancient Aryavarta included Aryana (Afghanistan) as it did Aryadesa (other parts India). Many Divedis, Trivedis and Chaturvedis lived in this region. While the Arab invasion initially had no great impact on this region's ethnicity or religion it was the Taharid military governor namely Yacub ib Layath as-Saffar who in 867 AD conquered parts of what is modern Afghanistan and introduced Islam.

Let us not forget (that even according to the Greek sources) that Sandrocottus (Chandragupta Maurya) in about 302 BC seized Afghanistan and Eastern parts of Iran from the Greek Seleucus and even up to the early 11th Century AD the region of Kabul and Ghazni were ruled by the Brahmin Palas who belonged to the Shahi dynasty. Even during a much later period the troops of the great Jat-Sikh Maharaja namely, Ranjit Singh entered Kabul in 1838 AD. I might add that most tribes in present day Afghanistan are an Aryan-Arab mix as far as ethnicity is concerned. As is well known that Islam encourages the mixing of people.

Your's etc.....
Dr. Narinder Khardoori
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India our Future...

Dear Sir,

By again demonstrating her nuclear weapons capability in May 1998, India for sure shattered the artificial global balance which the U.S. and her allies had forced on her. Humiliated and left with no other option the U.S. and her ally China supplied (their proxy) Pakistan with nuclear weapons for demonstration in order to psychologically salvage the situation. Clearly this strategy of the U.S. and China to salvage the global balance by this political move has failed. So perturbed was President Clinton with India due to this move that he spent nine days in China planning common strategies for any future moves with the Chinese.

It is necessary that the leadership in India seize this unique opportunity and further enhance the image of India in the global arena by pushing for a permanent seat in United Nations Security Council. This is a must and also over due for India. Also since we Indians happen to be an emotional people and have a tendency to go overboard with a little flattery we have to be extremely cautious in our negotiations with the U.S. on the CTBT. In my opinion we must never sign the CTBT as this is against our interests and those of the whole developing countries of which we are the leaders. Many of us Indians living here in the West are also hopeful that the media in India will research all the data that is fed to it. Lot of false data particularly on China seems to find its way in to the Indian media.

It is often mentioned in the Indian media that Russia is supplying military hardware and technology to China. In fact China has received no military related stuff from the then Soviet Union or present C.I.S. after 1959. It is also well known that Russia and China still have serious border problems particularly on their eastern border. The reason why these stories are spread is to cover up the strong China-Israel relationship which has the backing of the powerful U.S. politicians of Jewish extraction. It is also known that the U.S. for sure is still supplying her ally China with space and nuclear related technologies though now in a more secret manner.

For example all the necessary hardware has been supplied by the U.S. to China (as a part of a deal) so that China can now place a man in to space. As we all know this is not much of a technological feat any way. The then Soviet Union placed a man in to space as far back as 12 April 1961. However the U.S. and Chinese aim is to time this Chinese launch in such a manner so that both the U.S. and her ally China can get the maximum mileage out of it. In such a manner the U.S. and China hope to salvage at least a part of the global political balance which benefits them both.

Dr. Badal Ghosh, Canada

MAILBAG

The Tribune
Monday, April 12, 1999

Sino-US gameplan and India

PREMIER ZHU RONGJI of China is currently on a visit to the USA. As is well known in political circles, this visit has been intentionally kept as a low-profile one, mainly for strategic reasons. It is hence necessary that Indian political experts study its effect on Asia (particularly on India) as this may leave its impact on the future of India.

It must also be pointed out that President Clinton spent more than a week in China (following the Indian nuclear tests) trying to formulate a global strategy with his Chinese allies. As is well known, the US- has been working hard for quite some time to make China the USA backed leader of developing countries. However, a militarily more powerful India as it has created a problem for this global policy.

It must be mentioned that a lot of fabricated data on the military and economic capabilities of China are generated from time to time by Western intelligence agencies. For example, it is also often mentioned that China is stealing nuclear and missile weapons data from the USA while in reality the USA is supplying this data in a covert manner to its friend, China.

The stories of Chinese defence data thefts are carefully planted by Western intelligence agencies in the world media so as to create confusion and thus make China an artificial counter-balancing factor to the USA in the world in order to particularly fool the developing countries. This is being done mainly to exploit the developing countries. In such a manner, it is also hoped by the USA that the global role of China will be maintained.

It is, therefore, necessary that Indian political experts stay vigilant towards any future US-Chinese moves.

(DR) TARAWATI MAJUMDAR
Plymouth (UK)

(Received on the Internet)

Chinese Premier in US: India must watch out

Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji visited the U.S. last week. It is well known in the political circles that this visit was intentionally kept low profile, mainly for strategic reasons.

Hence it is necessary that Indian political experts study the effects on Asia, particularly on India.

It must also be pointed out that President Clinton spent more than a week in China (following the Indian nuclear tests) trying to formulate a global strategy with his Chinese allies.

As is well known that the U.S. has been working quite hard for quite some time to make China the U.S. backed leader of the developing countries.

However, a militarily more powerful India has made a mess of this U.S. global policy. It must be mentioned that a lot of fabricated data on the military and economic capabilities of China are generated from time to time by the Western intelligence agencies.

For example it is also often men-

tioned that China is stealing nuclear and missile weapons data from the U.S., while in reality the U.S. is supplying this data in a covert manner to her friend China.

These stories of Chinese defense data thefts are carefully planted by Western intelligence agencies in the world media so as to create a confusion and thus make China an artificial counter to the U.S. in the world in order to particularly fool the developing countries.

This is being done mainly to exploit the developing countries. It is also hoped by the U.S. that the global role of China will be maintained. It is therefore necessary that the Indian political experts stay vigilant towards any future U.S.-Chinese political moves.

Dr. Tarawati Majumdar
Plymouth
Devon
United Kingdom

Singh's visit to China...

Dear Sir,

It was nice that Jaswant Singh visited China. As is well known that the Chinese leadership had been requesting Mr. Singh to visit China for quite some time now. Peace between these Asian giants is a must, however, it is China which needs India more than India needs her. As is well known China at present is surrounded by several countries (such as Vietnam, North Korea, Russia etc.) which are her sworn enemies. In addition China has a very primitive military machine.

It is for this reason China wants to mend her relations with India. India must now push China to vacate her (India's) territory and also request China to accept Dalai Lama as the legitimate leader of Tibet. It is the right time for India to push China intelligently in this area. In fact the approach of our brilliant defence minister George Fernandes is the correct one on China.

Many of us China experts are also rather sad that many Indian intellectuals in the West write tutored articles on China to sell China to the Indians. In reality anyone who has visited China will tell you that China is way behind India in most areas of development and it is the Western media which circulates false data on China. In reality the policy of the B.J.P.- led government on China is a sound one.

Prof. Swaran Singh Sidhu, U.S.A.



US- China- Pakistani Axis

admit that I enjoy reading your newspaper on the net. It is encouraging to
that now we have newspapers on the net from most parts of India.

A recent article by O P Modi (26 June). "Chinese masters or the American
made interesting reading. It is necessary to mention that the US-Chinese-
axis has now existed for quite some time now. Also for any major move
Pakistan makes the orders come from the US while the role of China is to
these US orders to Pakistan. In addition to this the US supplies Pakistan
sophisticated weapons while China is only able to supply vintage weapons to
it. In such a manner not only does the US hope to contain India but the US
wishes to maintain the global role of her close ally China. Fortunately this US
strategy against India has failed and is doomed to fail in the future.

Yours etc..

Dr Chinmoy Partha Dasgupta

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US' double-deceptive game

In reality the recent Kargil conflict is politically and militarily more complex than most political experts would even envision. Nevertheless, what is certain is that Mr Vajpayee has so far handled this affair exceptionally well in the political and military areas.

It is also well known that while the US and her darling China have provided military aid to Lilliputian Pakistan, these two countries (the US and China) have also been simultaneously trying to take India in to confidence. Actually the US is playing a double-deceptive game. Unfortunately for the US no matter how much aid and intelligence she provides to Pakistan, Pakistan is in no position to take on India militarily. Hence, this US game is going to prove to be futile. In reality it is extremely difficult for even a powerful country like the US to take on a nation of one billion people armed with nuclear warheads! It is also well known that the US general Anthony Zinni spends most of his time in Pakistan, supervising the Pakistani military establishment. Although it is necessary that the Indian leadership should continue to improve her relationship with the US they (the Indian leadership) must also continue to be circumspect.

Furthermore, while dis-information is being spread by some segments of the media that Russia is supplying weapons, space and nuclear technologies to China (in reality Russia and China have severe border problems) it is actually the US which is supplying space and nuclear technologies to China. For example recently the US government rushed experts from the US based Westinghouse Electric Co. to help upgrade and repair the Qinshan nuclear plant. As is well known that this is the only Chinese manufactured (though partially designed in China) nuclear power plant in China. It might be interesting to point out that in comparison (with China) indigenous nuclear power plants are being routinely manufactured in India since the 1970s. Moreover, to cover up for such and related transactions with China the US is spreading stories that China stole these technologies from the US.

So it is over due that the Western countries (led by the US) and Western sponsored human rights organizations stop criticising India on Kashmir. These people should be aware that the whole of the Jammu and Kashmir is legally and historically a part of India, therefore, India will not tolerate any interference in this or other areas. Actually it is time that these Western countries and organizations concentrate on the liberation of Tibet which China (a Western ally) has forcibly occupied. Besides the US should get her own house in order. The "Blackman" (African-American) as is well known is still treated as a beast of burden in the US.

Yours etc...
Dr Goura Khardoori
800 University Drive, N.W.
Calgary, Alberta
<gourakhardoori@hotmail.com>





Steps towards normalcy

I write this letter to congratulate the BJP led coalition government on coming to power in the Centre in India. Most of us Indians were delighted with their best performance and have great expectations from them in the future. It is also hoped by many of us from the J&K State that the present government will take concrete steps to bring normalcy to the Vale of Kashmir and other disturbed regions of our State. I recently attended a conference on international relations in Stockholm (Sweden) and was delighted to note that most military experts (who were honest) were convinced that India today is the third strongest military power in the world after the US and Russia. Hence, if the present leadership acts intelligently aggressive it should be able for them to root out terrorism from our State and also from other parts of India.

Yours etc...
Dr Leela Saraf
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Difficult days

INDIA & CHINA

Sir, — This is in reference to the letter, "Pakistani Threat" (3-4 January) by J K Dutt in reply to my letter of 20-21 December.

For a giant, such as India, it is not in the least necessary to join up with any other country and India mainly due to her cultural and military strength can go on her own in the world. Moreover, Nehru's policy of non-alignment has as much relevance today as in the past. Also the India of 1998 is not the India of 1952 when unfortunately approximately 100,000 (the other 200,000 were on the Pakistani border) ill-equipped Indian troops were made to face close to four million well-equipped Chinese troops by the then Indian leadership. Thanks mainly to Indira Gandhi the situation is substantially reversed now and particularly after the excellent performance of the Indian armed forces in 1971 war against Pakistan India emerged as a formidable military power. Mr Dutt, I am sure, is quite aware that rarely does the power of the nations stay constant and like any thing else undergoes a change with time.

I might also mention that I go quite often to China and I am glad to inform Mr Dutt that India has an edge over China in most areas of technology and industry. Mr Dutt must ignore what specialists of Indian or other backgrounds living here in the West tell him on the developments in China and must go to China and see things for himself. The aim of the USA and her allies is to make China the leader of the developing countries by subtly arming and backing her. As this benefits Israel, the powerful Jewish politicians here in the US push this policy. Many simple-minded Indians who believe that the Jewish people are friends of India are mistaken and actually the Jewish people are looking after their own interests. Politicians in India must be vigilant that both the USA and Jewish interests may not infiltrate via their friend China into India and try to take control of India. Mr Dutt must realise that the USA too is looking for her own interests and it is the USA which is responsible for the present political differences between her and India. The USA clearly has not got over the mentality of the cold war period and is suppressing the role of India in relation to China and propping up our small neighbour Pakistan against us. All of us here are quite aware that the USA continues to

support Pakistan both psychologically and militarily though now in a more inconspicuous manner. From time to time the Western media manufactures (as the need arises) data on the nuclear and missile capabilities of Pakistan so as to neutralise India. While Pakistan cannot be totally ignored by India most objective Indians are aware that the heavy industrial and technological capabilities including the manufacture of steel in large quantities are totally non-existent in Pakistan. Hence, the only role of Pakistan is that of a proxy of the USA and China against India. One must remember that so as to be able to continue the exploitation of the resources of particularly the developing countries it is necessary for the USA and her allies to maintain the present global balance.

Finally, I might inform Mr Dutt that the Western countries are terrified with the prospect of the BJP coming to power in India. These powers are quite aware that a BJP government in India will for sure demonstrate India's thermonuclear weapons capability and the reality of the so-called Pakistani nuclear weapons and missile programmes will then for sure surface. As all impartial experts agree that Pakistan has no such indigenous capabilities, hence the West and China are worried that the role of Pakistan as their proxy for creating trouble against India will cease in this manner. In addition, it is also quite likely that China will come to the negotiating table with India and may even return Aksai Chin to India. — Yours, etc.,

NARENDRA PALIT.

Boston (USA), 14 January.

WRITTEN UNDER PSEUDO-NAME IN THE
STATESMAN (CAL.) 30 Jan, 1998

The U.S. and India

Sir. — It is unfortunate that though the cold war is substantially over, the U.S. continues to criticise India from time to time on human rights violations in Kashmir. It is long overdue that the U.S. got over its cold war mentality and accepted that the whole State of Jammu and Kashmir is legally and morally a part of India. The so-called charges of human rights violations by the Indian armed forces in Kashmir are baseless. In fact the armed forces (against heavy odds) have handled the violence by the misdirected Muslim youth in Kashmir with great patience. Only a great democracy such as India has the strength and tolerance to handle the situation in such a gentle manner. The U.S. should set its own house in order first. As is clearly evident, the condition of the "blackman" (African-American) rather than improving both economically and intellectually is in fact further deteriorating. One might mention that some of the worst kind of human rights violations in this century occurred here in the U.S. during the

famous Tuskegee experiment when black Americans with syphilis were left untreated.

It is even more surprising that the U.S. rarely (if ever) criticises a totalitarian regime, namely China, for its illegal occupation and massive human rights violations in Tibet. In spite of all these violations, astonishingly, the U.S. continues to supply China with space and nuclear technologies. Recently there were reports that China may get a sophisticated air-combat simulator from the U.S. At present very few countries in the world possess such an equipment. Political experts in the West often circulate the story that since China has nuisance value, the U.S. is trying to contain it in this manner. In reality, nothing could be farther from the truth. For example, at the peak of the cold war, the erstwhile USSR, which supposedly was a nuisance for the U.S. in the world arena, had trade and economic sanctions imposed against it by the U.S. Therefore, it becomes clearly evident that China is not a troublemaker for the U.S. In reality it (China) is a loyal friend of the U.S. as it follows the line of the U.S. subtly in the world. Also while many of its allies are willing to pay the U.S. more money for the purchase of space and nuclear technologies, the U.S., as is well known, often refuses their requests but entertains the demands of its ally, China.

It is the hope of Indians that, instead of acting as the judge and the jury, the U.S. should congratulate India on handling the unfortunate violence in Kashmir in such a mild and democratic manner. This would enable the U.S. to build a strong relationship with India. Many of us Indians here in the U.S. also feel that while India is a powerful country, it often has a weak

leadership and hence, the India bashing by the U.S. is tolerated by the leadership in New Delhi. It is therefore time that the people of India brought to power a strong, stable Government.

Brij Nath Saraf.

West Kingston, Rhode Island (U.S.)

THE
WRITTEN BY ME UNDER PSEUDO-NAME.
HINDU, Feb., 27, 1998.

Letters to the Editor

Ghauri was no surprise

Sir, — To many of us defence and geopolitical experts of Indian origin here in the West the recent test-firing of the Ghauri missile by Pakistan came as no surprise. As is well known there exists a strong alliance (though somewhat of an invisible one) among the U.S., China and Pakistan. An aggressive and assertive India, under BJP's leadership, disturbs the global balance and this has upset the U.S. and its allies. Hence, the test of a missile was sanctioned by the U.S. The main aim obviously was to crush psychologically the role of India in the world and also to try to push India to abandon its missile and nuclear programmes.

The U.S., which has informed India that it is dismayed by Pakistan's missile test, has been busy supplying China with space and missile technologies and is also known to have given Beijing the gentle nod (though in a subtle manner) as far as supplying Pakistan with missiles is concerned. As is now well known, this so-called Ghauri missile is nothing but a primitive CSS-5 (DF-21) missile which China had transferred to Pakistan. As a matter of fact this CSS-5 itself was originally based on the Israeli Jericho-4A-1, an obsolete missile. Also, rumours are being spread by the Western media (so as to create confusion) that this missile originates in some country other than China.

While the Indian public need not worry about

these developments, as it is unlikely that China has transferred the equipment and technology for the manufacture of these missiles to Pakistan (because this would put a huge burden on the economy of China since Pakistan lacks the industrial infrastructure for the manufacture of such weapons), nevertheless, the Indian leadership must stay vigilant. A smart move by the Indian leadership would be to openly deploy ICBMs which India has the capability to do. In addition to this, a few thermonuclear weapon tests in the 1 to 2 megaton range should be undertaken by India without any further hesitation as this will make the U.S., China and Pakistan alliance meaningless.

The people of India should note that a panicky West and a panicky China are bound to make all-out efforts to try to crush the emerging role of India. Therefore, all Indian politicians should unite and help neutralise the moves of our adversaries. For example, China (as is well known) has no friends in its vicinity other than Pakistan. Countries such as Vietnam and North Korea, which have serious border problems with China, should be helped by India. Also North Korea, which is building a Nodong 111 missile with a range of more than 3000 km, should be given all help for its venture.

Dr. Narendra Palit, London

WRITTEN BY ME UNDER A PSEUDO-NAME

TEST-FIRING OF GHAURI

SIR. — To many of us here in the West the recent test-firing of the so-called Ghauri missile by Pakistan came as no surprise. As is well known there exists a strong alliance (though a somewhat invisible one) among the USA, China and Pakistan and an aggressive and assertive India disturbs the global balance which benefits the USA and her allies. Hence, this test of a missile was sanctioned by the USA. The main aim obviously was to crush psychologically the role of India in the world and also try to push India to abandon her missile and nuclear programmes.

The USA informs India that it is dismayed with this missile test by Pakistan. However, she has been busy supplying China with space and missile technologies and is also known to have given China a gentle nod (though in a subtle manner) as far as supplying Pakistan with missiles is concerned. This so-called Ghauri missile of Pakistan is nothing but a primitive CSS-5 (DF-21) missile which China has transferred in an inconspicuous manner to Pakistan. As a matter of fact, this CSS-5 itself is originally based on the Israeli Jericho-4A-1, an obsolete Israeli missile. Also rumours are being spread by the Western media that this missile originates in some country other than China. In fact as part of the ongoing game, Pakistan may be made to launch this missile into space and it will be claimed by the sponsors of Pakistan that she launched a satellite. This will naturally be done so as to politically suppress the indigenous India space programme which now is more advanced than China's.

While the Indian public does not have to worry over these developments, because it is unlikely that China has trans-

ferred the equipment and technology for the manufacture of these missiles to Pakistan (since Pakistan lacks an industrial infrastructure for the manufacture of such weapons), the Indian leadership must stay vigilant. A smart move by the Indian leadership would be to openly deploy ICBMs. In addition to this, a few thermonuclear weapon tests in the 1 to 2 megaton range should be undertaken by India without any further hesitation as this will make the USA-China-Pakistan alliance meaningless.

Finally, the people of India should note that a panicky West and a panicky China are bound to make all-out efforts to try to crush the emerging role of India. Therefore, Indian politicians should unite and help neutralise the moves of our adversaries. For example, China has no friends in her vicinity other than Pakistan. Hence, countries like Vietnam and North Korea which have serious border problems with China should be supported by India. Also North Korea which is building a missile Nodong 111, with a range of more than 3,000 kilometres should be helped by India in this venture. — Yours,
etc., NARENDRA PALIT.
London, 8 April.

TRAFFIC NOISE

Sir. — So much is being written and done about noise pollution from loudspeakers, crackers, etc. Nothing, however, is being said or done about the constant, loud noise pollution from horns — not just air horns, but unnecessarily and continuous horn blowing from cars, buses, and trucks. This continuous noise has to be endured by all, especially those who live in flats or houses facing the roads and, worse, near traffic lights.

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Nuclear tests have done India proud

Sir, I am very proud of India and the present government for boldly going ahead with the nuclear tests. India should not worry much about the US which always plays the role of an unsolicited big brother. What did America and Europe do when France carried out six nuclear tests in 1995?

Since the western powers have already developed their nuclear capability, they do not want any developing country to possess it. How strange! If the nuclear powers are really serious about non-proliferation, all countries, including India, must destroy their existing arsenal together.

S. Kamla Kar

39 Hampstead, London

Sir, I congratulate the BJP-led government for resuming the testing of nuclear devices. Clearly the BJP has now proved to be a party which the people of India can trust, as it has shown great initiative coupled with nationalism in taking such a bold step. It is also necessary that the people of India pay homage to the late Dr Homi Bhabha who laid the foundation of nuclear research in India.

Dr Indira Saraf

sarafindira@yahoo.com

78 Francis Street, Boston, MA 02115,

USA

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Mail Box

Far from the truth

Sir, The assertion of the working president of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Mr Ashok Singhal, that the RSS was not behind the killing of Mahatma Gandhi (20 May) is far from the truth. Let me draw his attention to the letter which Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, as home minister of India, wrote to M.S. Golwalkar, the then head of the RSS, on 11 September, 1948. While referring to the role of the RSS, the Sardar wrote: "It was not necessary to spread poison in order to enthrone the Hindus and organise for their protection. As a final result of the poison, the country has to suffer the sacrifice of the invaluable life of Gandhiji. Even an iota of the sympathy of the government or the people no more remained for the RSS. In fact opposition grew. Opposition turned more severe, when the RSS men expressed joy and distributed sweets after Gandhiji's death."

Neelima Sharma

1 Staff Quarters, Satyawati College, Delhi

The Ulfa-Bhutan link

Sir, This is in reference to the news item, *Bhutan King gets ready to take out Ulfa, Bodo camps* (24 May). Either your correspondent got carried away by the public display of emotion by the people of Haa district in Bhutan, as reported in the last issue of the Bhutanese government mouthpiece *Kuensel*, or he was totally unaware of the actual situation that prevails in the country. He should have done his homework properly instead of simply quoting a bias government publication.

It would have been more interesting to the readers if he had delved into how the militants actually began staying in Bhutan. Who laid the red carpet welcome? It is interesting that the King now feigns concern and tries to mouth his words through some innocent villagers who do not even know what Ulfa or Bodo means. It is clear that the King — by mentioning "non-military means" — is trying to shield his failure. The report of flushing out militants from Bhutan is simply an eyewash for the Indian public and the government. And the "senior home ministry official in New Delhi" should realise this before more cotton wool is wasted to veil the reality.

C.B. Dahal

Birtamod, Jhapa, Nepal

Chinese checker

Sir, Lately there has been a lot of unjustified criticism of Mr George Fernandes for his approach towards China. I fully endorse the attitude of Mr Fernandes towards China. While we do not have to start a war with China, we must make it clear to that nation that India will not tolerate the transfer of nuclear and missile technology to Pakistan.

The BJP is to be appreciated for reversing the past non-reactive Indian policy towards China. The previous Indian governments had an ostrich-like attitude towards China. Also, the Western media was busy feeding the Indian media with false data on the economic and military capabilities of their friend China. India at present has an edge over China in conventional weaponry and also our nuclear capability may actually be more advanced than that of the Chinese. While improvement of relations with China is a must, appeasement and giving away any Indian territory is not the way to proceed.

Dr Narendra Khardoori

842 Penohscot Blvd., Detroit,
MI 48226

Who cares?

Sir, Why is it so hard to avail basic facilities like getting your phone repaired or getting the cable TV man to see why the reception of your channels is so poor? And then we want to be part of the nuclearati and talk of our scientific prowess in international circles. What is the need of the hour? Is it not to make life comfortable for the ordinary citizens or is it to join the Big Five Club and feel jubilant about the fact that India can at least brush shoulders with

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The road ahead

Sir, I feel that the Indian government and media has been caught somewhat unawares by the so called nuclear tests that Pakistan claims to have conducted. I hope the people of India will not get aggravated by this news but will stop to analyse the issues before making any judgements or decisions. First it needs to be confirmed that these tests were actually nuclear explosions. Secondly there is also strong evidence to suggest that the US may have shifted some of its nuclear weapons to Pakistan and tested these devices there in order to send a warning to India. The movement of many US ships and aircraft towards Pakistan in the last two weeks can perhaps be best explained by this. As is well known the US is an expert in doing things in an underhanded and concealed manner. Finally, I want to congratulate the BJP its display of guts and declaring India a nuclear weapons power. It is also the hope of many of us that India will now further enlarge her nuclear arsenal. Nuclear testing must be resumed and pushed forward. We allow the US to intimidate us.

Dr. Indira Saraf

Boston, USA

Real issue

WRITTEN BY ME UNDER PSEUDO-NAME IN THE ASIAN AGE
1 JUNE, 1998.

ir, The US has and will always seek to terminate India's nuclear
and missile programme which will enable it to maintain the global
balance in its favour.

Now that India has tilted the balance, the US is trying to regain its
preminence by using Pakistan as a base for testing nuclear weapons.

The need of the hour for the Indian people and politicians is to
support the BJP government and see to it that the Indian nuclear and
missile programme are only pushed faster from now on. It may cost
some money now but on a long term basis this investment is sure to
pay dividends to the nation.

I would like to add that in my opinion the BJP government at the
centre has so far done an excellent job.

Nand Lal Bose
Amhurst, New York

Sir, The Indians are filled with a sense of pride after the testing of the nuclear devices at Pokhran. Irrespective of religious sentiments, the bomb has ignited feelings of nationalism. The necessity and possible repercussions of conducting these tests can be answered by scientists who made the bomb. Those who are raising their voices in protest against the tests should first hear them out and then be vocal about their negative attitude.

Sarbasree Chakraborty
Howrah

Sir, As soon as the BJP-led government detonated nuclear weapons in India, the power structure imposed on India by the US and her allies became meaningless. It is quite clear that Pakistan did not have a nuclear bomb since she was unable to react to India's move for almost two weeks. It is only after a US delegation visited Pakistan that they exploded "something" that resembled a nuclear device. Western media has all but declared the Pakistani bombs as duds but the reasons for this are purely political. These stories have been carefully planted to give the impression that Pakistan is genuinely testing her own bombs. The US has instigated the media to unleash propaganda war in order to psychologically depress India and prop Pakistan so that it can tilt global balance in its favour. The aim is to try to destabilise the effective and aggressive leadership which exists in India at present. As anticipated Pakistan is being used as bait by her sponsors to get India to sign the CTBT. Rather than signing it, India must push for total global nuclear disarmament. And as far as Pakistan goes India has nothing to fear. Pakistan has no known reserves of uranium and her nuclear facilities are rather insignificant. In short everything Pakistan has is being given to it. The US is informing the world that they have placed sanctions on Pakistan but in reality they continue to help. I hope India will continue to enhance her missile and nuclear programmes without any inhibition. This must, however, be done in a calculated way so that we gain militarily and politically and do not exhaust our resources.

Prof. Swaran Singh Sidhu
Dayton, Ohio USA

After India helped East Pakistan become Bangladesh in 1971, the balance of power has totally shifted in India's favor. With such enormous conventional superiority over Pakistan, India could almost dictate a diplomatic solution to the Kashmir problem. By injecting atom into the element, the whole region has become so volatile that it can explode at any moment. The wars and the bombs are not going to be confined to the desert sand. They may already be pointing towards Karachi and Bombay, Lahore and Lucknow.

India and Pakistan are two of the poorest desperately poor nations in the world. It was pathetic to see wild agitation by groups of hungry people against slum-like backyards. One big reason the two countries are so poor, is the amount of national budget they allocate to their defense.

India may gain domestic clout with its explosions. Pakistan may be able to exploit the Islamic content of its nuclear bomb. But in the long run, both stand to lose. When two nations have declared to renounce nuclear suicide, no one can help them.

Mohammed Shoab, CA

Council Member mediate

could likely internationalize the Kashmir issue and hold plebiscite only in the portion within India and likely to lose Kashmir. India's signing of the CTBT, as currently drafted, will also be a death knell for India.

I also ask the FIA to publish a list of candidates of elected offices particularly the Senate and the House who are friendly to India and inform us whom we should support and vote. I also ask the FIA to look forward to the year 2000 and select candidates who are friendly to India.

Satyen Das, CA

without third party intervention, but to find a trilateral solution.

The issue here is not just nuclear weapons or Kashmir, but also the Chinese occupation of India's territory, Tibet and its hand in proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Pakistan's logic that Jammu and

occupied Kashmir (POK) to Pakistan. The all weather road built by China in POK is a conduit for Chinese military power to be transferred for use in China's intervention in the Persian Gulf.

Pakistan now prizes its status as a nuclear weapon state more than

The UN Security Council should also investigate how did Pakistan finance its nuclear weapon's program? Where did the billions of dollars come from?

Dr Anjali Varma Fields
US Defense Research Scientist
(1984 - 1991)

US Game With India is Now Technically Over

I am hopeful that by now the people and politicians of India are aware as to what is happening in our neighborhood. As soon as the BJP led government exploded nuclear weapons, the artificial balance forced on India by the US and its allies became meaningless. Moreover, clearly as Pakistan did not have a nuclear bomb it was not able to react to the Indian moves for more than two weeks. It is only after a US military delegation visited Pakistan did they explode something that looked like a nuclear device. There clearly seems to be a US involvement in the nuclear tests claimed by Pakistan. It is quite likely that the US also involved the Chinese in this venture by promising them goodies. At present only one Pakistani blast (of about 10 kiloton) gives an impression of being a nuclear blast.

Moreover, some of the Pakistani bombs have been referred to as dud by the Western media only for political reasons. These stories have been carefully planted to give the impression that Pakistan is genuinely testing her own bombs. After these events, the US led

Western media unleashed a propaganda war so as to psychologically depress India and prop up Pakistan in order to try to salvage the global balance. The aim of this propaganda was also to try to destabilize the effective and aggressive leadership which exists in India at present.

As anticipated Pakistan has a bait and is willing to sign the CTBT etc, if India joins in too. India must never sign the CTBT as this is a trap. Rather than signing the CTBT, India must now push for total global nuclear disarmament.

In general, India has even now nothing to worry about as Pakistan has no known reserves of uranium ore and its nuclear facilities are rather small and insignificant. Moreover, Pakistan lacks a heavy industrial base and has very few metallurgical resources. It does not even have a chemical industry so as to produce fuel for missiles. Recently there are reports that the US is requesting Russia to ask its friend North Korea to supply missiles to Pakistan.

In short everything Pakistan has, is being given to by sponsors

It is also well known that now the US is fully entrenched in Pakistan, as the very survival of Pakistan now depends on the US.

In fact recently Benazir Bhutto was not too pleased on this account with the Nawaz Sharif government. It must be mentioned while the US and its allies are informing the world that they have placed sanctions on Pakistan, in reality they continue to help Pakistan, though not in an evident manner.

We Indians hope that India will now continue its missile and nuclear program without any inhibition. This must, however, be done in a calculated way so that it gains militarily and politically and not exhaust its resources.

One might mention that the competition of India is now with the US as for every bomb India now tests the US will match that for Pakistan. However, this should not deter India from continuing missile and nuclear testing.

In short no power on earth can now prevent India from emerging as a global superpower in the near future. The US game now is technically over.

Prof Swaran Singh Sidha, OH

Belong to the US or India

One of the readers has raised a very interesting question about our allegiance to the US or India (II 6/5/98). As an American citizen, my allegiance is to the Constitution of the United States and not to any individual or official.

The constitution guarantees freedom of speech and encourages the citizens to participate in the

political process through media and election.

The current administration policy on nuclear nonproliferation is faulty. Moreover, it is opposed to the notion of equality enshrined in the constitution. This is why, even though my loyalty is to this country, I have doubts about the soundness of the administration's

nuclear policy. The survival of democracy depends on the participation of citizens in the affairs of the state.

Even President Clinton opposed the Vietnam War, but this did not mean that his allegiance to the country was less than the hawks of the Vietnam War.

Satyen Das, NJ

NEWS TODAY LETTERS

Last Updated June 25, 1998

Send in your letters and comments now

Disinformation on the Tests

Many of us Indians living here in the West believe that it is somewhat over due that the media in India scrutinize all the data that is fed to it by the Western agencies. A concrete example of this pertains to all the disinformation that has been and is being spread in India by the Western media regarding the Pakistani nuclear tests. Many of us, experts of Indian origin who have carried out detailed analysis of the nuclear tests carried out by Pakistan, are now coming up with similar conclusions. For instance Pakistan falsely claimed that she carried out five nuclear device tests on May 28, 1998. However, all the scientific and intelligence data which has been gathered so far on these tests makes clearly that Pakistan only tested one nuclear device in the 8-10 kiloton yield on that day. Following this on May 30 Pakistan again claimed that she carried out a nuclear test. However, all sources (including the Jane's Defence Weekly) agree that this test generated about one kiloton of yield. Moreover, many experts are of the opinion that Pakistan may have either detonated a conventional explosive or used low enriched Uranium-235 for this test which resulted in the device fizzling out. On the political end, one might mention that the Western countries are trying systematically and covertly to dislodge the effective BJP-led government in India. To achieve these goals these countries are also busy utilizing the services of the corrupt politicians in India. It is my hope that the people of India will stay vigilant and frustrate the plans of these countries. Moreover, also the Western media will continue to plant false information on the scientific and economic capabilities of our neighbour (their friend) China.

Saligram Ghosh

<SALIGRAMGHOSH@CasablancaResort.Com>

Old Testimonies

...ries have forgotten

China is concerned and even

Continue With Nuclear Programs

careful that by now the politicians of India as to what is happening in the neighborhood. As soon as the US-led government exploded nuclear weapons, the alliance forced on India by the United States and her allies became meaningless. It is clearly as Pakistan has a nuclear bomb, she is unable to react to the moves for more than two

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These stories have been carefully planted to give the impression that Pakistan is genuinely testing her own bombs. After these events, the US-led Western media unleashed a propaganda war so as to psychologically depress India and prop up Pakistan in order to try to salvage the global balance.

The aim of this propaganda war was also to try to destabilize the effective and aggressive

leadership which exists in India at present.

Now as anticipated, Pakistan as a bait of her sponsors is willing to sign the CTBT if India joins in too. India must never sign the CTBT as this is a trap. Rather than signing the CTBT, India must now push for total global nuclear disarmament. In general, India has even now nothing to worry about as Pakistan has no known reserves of Uranium ore and her nuclear facilities are rather small and insignificant.

She does not even have a chemical industry so as to produce fuel for the missiles. Also there are reports recently that the US is requesting Russia to ask her friend North Korea to supply some missiles to Pakistan. In short, everything Pakistan has is being given to her by her sponsors. It is also well known now that the US is fully entrenched in Pakistan, as the very survival of Pakistan now depends on the US.

In fact, recently Benazir Bhutto was not too pleased on this

account with Nawaz Sharif government. It must be mentioned that while the US and her allies are informing the world that they have placed sanctions on Pakistan, but in reality, the US and her friends continue to help Pakistan, though not in a too evident manner.

We Indians hope that India will now continue her missile and nuclear programs without any inhibition. This must, however, be done in a calculated way so that we gain militarily and politically and don't exhaust our resources.

One might mention that the competition of India is now with the US as every bomb India now tests, the US will match that for Pakistan. However, this must in no way deter us from continuing our missile and nuclear testing. In short, no power on earth can now prevent India from emerging as a global superpower in the near future. The US game is technically over.

**Prof. Swaran Singh Sidhu,
Dayton, Ohio**

bereft of any real respect for the rule of law, healthy democratic practices and corruption-free governance as powerfully epitomised by its founder, the Jan Morcha, apart from being a parody name-wise, cannot hope to present any serious challenge to either the U.F. or the BJP.

Mr. Yadav's gameplan seems to be to work for a coalition at the Centre in which he will be a force to reckon with (while keeping himself in Bihar) so that he can ensure a decent burial of the cases against him.

N. K. Suryanarayanan, Bangalore

'Give BJP a chance'

Sir, — The recent collapse of the U.F. Government did not come as a surprise to many of us Indians here in the U.S. This was more than anticipated as the Congress(I) in recent years has developed into a totally opportunistic organisation which in no way seems to care for the future of India. Gone is the Congress of the period of Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Nehru which was totally dedicated to the nation.

Also in recent years the Congress(I) seems to have moved away from the concept of indigenous industry towards the policy of bringing in multinationals and import of goods. Probably for this reason the Congress(I) seems to want Ms. Sonia Gandhi to lead the organisation. The United Front also — other than having a couple of good people such as Mr. Gujral — remains an organisation with no concrete policies. Unfortunately both the Congress(I) and the U.F. are spending most of their resources on opposing the BJP rather than on formulating a policy

chance to lead it. It is time the BJP was given an exceptionally nationalistic party. It also has an image of being a party whose members in general have a reputation for being honest and dedicated.

Many who oppose the BJP often mention that it is a fundamentalist Hindu organisation. Such a charge is totally baseless. The BJP rule in many States in India has demonstrated without doubt that this party treats all the people with the same yardstick, be they minority or majority. In fact during my recent visit to India I went to Rajasthan and was delighted to observe that my Muslim friends there were more than satisfied with the BJP Government led by Mr. Bhairon Singh Shekhawat.

Nevertheless, the people of India have to be alert to the fact that many foreign agencies are going to leave no stone unturned to prevent the BJP from coming to power.

This is due to the fact that many countries are worried about the nationalistic and aggressive stance of the BJP as this approach will surely put an end to all the political and military games that these countries are playing against India at present.

Devaraj Nadar, Ardmore, Oklahoma (U.S.)

An advantage lost

Sir, — The price India has paid and is paying for the dilly-dallying of the past five or six years in the missiles field is clearly brought out by Mr. Atul Aneja in the article, "Ghauri changes security equations" (*The Hindu*, Jan. 6) and in your Editorial, "Missile imperatives" (Jan. 7). At the

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

Thursday 13 August 1998

Letters to the Editor

The Real Culprit

Why don't the so-called anti-nuclear weapons activists (who for sure have subtle support from the Western countries) in India hold a demonstration against the US which has more than 20,000 nuclear weapons in its arsenal? In fact, the US continues to refine its nuclear arsenal.

The US and her allies have been using Pakistan as a proxy to threaten India. Hence it is necessary that these activists in India target the US which is the real culprit rather than the Indian government. The US, which wants to lead the world, should set an example and initiate the process of nuclear disarmament rather than criticise India which has always preached non-violence.

Saligram Ghosh via Internet

Anti-nuke Activists Should Target US

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these activists in India target the
United States which is the real
culprit rather than India.

Moreover, also the US which
wants to lead the world should set
an example and initiate the pro-
cess of nuclear disarmament
rather than criticize India which
has always preached non-vio-
lence. India needs nuclear weap-
ons as long as other countries have
them obviously to protect herself.

Saligram Ghosh,
Berkeley, Ca

NEWS INDIA-TIMES
WELCOMES READERS'
FEEDBACK ON LETTERS
PUBLISHED ON THIS PAGE

News India Times, Aug 21, 1998

NEWS TODAY LETTERS

Last Updated August 21, 1998

Send in your letters and comments now

Government has to beware of US designs

Many of us Indians living here in Brazil are delighted in the manner in which India is marching ahead due to the effective BJP-led government in India at present. It is, hence, natural that certain fifth-columnists in India with the backing of some Western countries will try to destabilize or even try to get rid of the present government in India. Also at present many Western countries are perturbed with India because she is now a declared nuclear weapons state. These countries are trying their level best to reverse this process. Unfortunately these people have no understanding of the inherent strength of the Indian civilization, hence, these people are not aware that they for sure are doomed to fail in this area. In addition to this a trap is also being laid by the U.S. and her allies to try to trick India in to signing the CTBT. The leadership in India therefore must stay vigilant and not get seduced and compromise in this area. It must be noted that Pakistan continues to be a base for the U.S., for her (U.S.) operations against India and also the nuclear and missile programmes of Pakistan are non-existent on their own. Actually the nuclear and missile programmes of Pakistan are only the appendages of the U.S. and also the Chinese programmes. Moreover, the special relationship between Pakistan and the U.S. becomes more than evident in the manner in which Pakistan has transferred Mohammed Saddiq Odeh and others (suspects in the bombing of the American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania) indirectly to the FBI. It must be remembered that earlier Pakistan even allowed U.S. troops to enter Pakistani soil and capture Mir Amal Kansi (a Pakistani citizen) who was alleged to have been involved in the slaying of some CIA agents. I would also like to congratulate the present government for its efficacious approach towards terrorism in Kashmir.

Yours sincerely,

Ramesh Saraf

<rameshsaraf@mailexcite.com>

re of the Fifth Columnists

Thus Indians living here in Brazil are delighted in the manner in which India is marching ahead due to the effective BJP government in India at present. It is, hence, natural that certain fifth-columnists in India with the backing of some Western countries will try to destabilize or even try to get rid of the present government in India. Also at present many Western countries are perturbed with India because she is now a declared nuclear weapons state. These countries are trying their best to reverse this process. Unfortunately these people have no understanding of the inherent strength of the Indian nation, hence, these people are not aware that they for sure are doomed to fail in this area.

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Nish Saraf
Janeiro



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Delighted in the manner in which India is marching ahead due to the effective B.J.P. led government

Dear Sir,

Many of us Indians living here in Brazil are delighted in the manner in which India is marching ahead due to the effective B.J.P. led government in India at present. It is, hence, natural that certain fifth-columnists in India with the backing of some Western countries will try to destabilize or even try to get rid of the present government in India. Also at present many Western countries are perturbed with India because she (India) is now a declared nuclear weapons state. These countries are trying their level best to reverse this process.

Unfortunately these people have no understanding of the inherent strength of the Indian civilization, hence, these people are not aware that they for sure are doomed to fail in this area.

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Dr. Ramesh Saraf, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

HOME

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



What is happening around us....

Dear Sir,

I am hopeful that by now the people and politicians of India are aware as to what is happening in our neighborhood. As soon as the B.J.P. led government exploded nuclear weapons the artificial balance forced on India by the U.S. and her allies became meaningless. Moreover, clearly as Pakistan did not have a nuclear bomb she was not able to react to the Indian moves for more than two weeks. It is only after a U.S. military delegation visited Pakistan that Pakistan did explode something that looked like a nuclear device. Moreover, some of the Pakistani bombs have been referred to as duds by the Western media only for political reasons. These stories have been carefully planted

to give the impression that Pakistan is genuinely testing her own bombs.

After these events the U.S. led Western media unleashed a propaganda war

so as to psychologically depress India and prop of Pakistan in order to try to salvage the global balance. The aim of this propaganda was also to try to destabilize the effective and aggressive leadership which exists in India at present.

Also Pakistan as a bait for her sponsors is often mentioning that she (Pakistan) is willing to sign the CTBT etc., if India joins in too. India must never sign the CTBT as this is a trap. Rather than signing the CTBT India must now push for total global nuclear disarmament. It is also unfortunate that not only does the U.S. continue to arm Pakistan (though now in a more subtle manner) but also the (U.S.) is providing Pakistan with satellite images of Indian military positions, so as to enable the former to continue her covert war in Kashmir. Also often the U.S. raises the Kashmir issue in the international arena in order to blackmail India. Although it is well known that the whole State

of Jammu And Kashmir is legally and morally a part of India.

Moreover, rarely does the U.S. raise the Tibet issue though China has illegally annexed Tibet. Basically there are two reasons for this U.S. approach

towards India and China. Firstly, China is a known ally of the the U.S.

Secondly, also most credible experts now are of the opinion that India has now emerged militarily and industrially more powerful than China. As this disturbs the global balance (which in the past was favorable towards the U.S.), hence, this U.S. political game. However, if the U.S. persists in raising the Kashmir issue India must not hesitate to raise the issue of "the Blackman" (African American) in the U.N. etc. The African American has been used as a beast of burden here in the U.S. and his condition only gets worse with the time.

In general India has even now nothing to worry about as Pakistan has no known reserves of Uranium ore and her nuclear facilities are rather small and insignificant. Moreover, Pakistan lacks a heavy industrial base and has also very few metallurgical resources. She does not even have a chemical industry so as to produce fuel for missiles. Also recently there are reports that the U.S. is requesting Russia that Russia ask her friend North Korea to supply some missiles to Pakistan. In short everything Pakistan has is being given to her by her sponsors. It is also well known that now the U.S. is fully entrenched in Pakistan, as the very survival of Pakistan now depends on the U.S. In fact recently Benazir Bhutto was not too pleased on this account with the Nawaz Sharif government. It must be mentioned while the U.S. and her allies are informing the world that they have placed sanctions on Pakistan but in reality the U.S. and her friends continue to help Pakistan in every area, though not in a too evident manner. We Indians hope that India will now continue her missile and nuclear programmes without any inhibition. This must, however, be done in a calculated way so that we gain militarily and politically and do not exhaust our resources. One might mention that the competition of India is now with the U.S. as for every bomb India now tests the U.S. will match that for Pakistan. However, this must in no way deter us from continuing our missile and nuclear testing. In short no power on earth can now prevent India from emerging as a global superpower in the near future. The U.S. game is technically over! Finally, I would like to congratulate the B.J.P. led government in India for appointing a brilliant and effective defense minister, namely, Mr. George Fernandes.

Prof. Swaran Singh Sidhu, Dayton, Ohio, USA

HOME

P J Stewart
England

Proud India

Many of us Indians living here in Brazil are delighted in the manner in which India is marching ahead due to the effective BJP led government in India at present. It is, hence, natural that certain fifth-columnists in India with the backing of some Western countries, will try to destabilize or even try to get rid of the present government in India. Also many Western countries are perturbed with India because she is now a declared nuclear weapons state.

These countries are trying their level best to reverse this process. Unfortunately these people have no understanding of the inherent strength of the Indian civilization, hence, these people are not aware that they are for sure doomed to fail in this area. In addition a trap is being laid by the U.S. and her allies to try to trick India in to signing the CTBT. The leadership in India must stay vigilant and not get seduced and compromise in this area. It must be noted that Pakistan continues to be a base of the U.S., for her operations against India and also the nuclear and missile programs of Pakistan are non existent on their own.

Actually the nuclear and missile programs of Pakistan are only appendages of the U.S. and also the Chinese programs. It is known without doubt that Pakistan does not even have Uranium ore of her own, the key ingredient for nuclear weapons. It is also now known for sure that the so called Pakistani nuclear explosion was a joint U.S. and Chinese effort.

Moreover, most impartial experts are of the opinion that India now is militarily, industrially and scientifically more advanced than China. Since China is a strategic ally of the U.S., therefore, the U.S. does not seem to like a more powerful India. Hence, the U.S. props up both China and the midget Pakistan

against India in order to try to salvage the global balance. As is well known the global balance prior to May 1998 was for sure to the advantage of the U.S.

It might also be interesting to point out that mainland China still has not produced a single Nobel Prize. Also the total number of Nobel Prizes won by Chinese (all working in the U.S. and also U.S. citizens) is just four. While in comparison Indians now have six Nobel Prizes to their credit and four of these have been won by Indian citizens. This clearly gives some indication of the status of the development of mainland China in relation to India. In general the Western media continues to grossly exaggerate the economic, military capabilities etc. of their ally China.

Moreover, the special relationship between Pakistan and the U.S. becomes more than evident in the manner in which Pakistan has transferred Mohammed Saddiq Odeh and others (suspects in the bombing of the American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania) indirectly to the FBI. It must be remembered that earlier Pakistan even allowed U.S. troops to enter the Pakistani soil and capture Kansi (a Pakistani citizen) who was alleged to have been involved in the slayings of some CIA agents. As is well entertained that no self-respecting sovereign nation will tolerate foreign troops on her soil.

Finally, I would also like to congratulate the present government in India for their efficacious approach towards terrorism in Kashmir. In addition we Indians here in Brazil are proud to have Fernandes as the defence minister of India. The man has guts and brains!

Dr. R Saraf
Brazil

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Have you felt strongly about anything that you may have read or seen?
If so, do feel free to write in.

If you have any comments or suggestions,

Received August 22, 1997

Letters to the Editor

China axis

Aerospace engineer of Indian origin in the United Kingdom and on his visit here in the U.S., I was surprised to find Chinese astronauts being sent to the space installations in the U.S. I was quite aware that China, India and the U.S. are strong allies, I did not realise that the relationship is so close and so strong. The U.S. seems to be to help China in space. While this is no big secret these days, the U.S. idea is to maintain the artificial global balance by propping up China. In fact, China has already obtained the Mercury Capsule from the U.S. for its rocket engines and allied technology. China still has not been able to maintain functional communication with its own.

Technological transfers these days are more political than economic aims, and India must take note of the fact that the weapons sale by Russia to China and most of the modern weapons technology originate from Israel. These Russian weapons sales to China are manufactured to cover up the relationship between China and the U.S. Jewish lobby. Comments on these sales as they come. Also, because it has to

obtain U.S. loans, it does not want to antagonise the powerful Jewish lobby there. As such, even the recent missiles transferred to Pakistan by China are based on the Israeli Jericho missile. It is indeed a paradox that the CSS-2 missiles sold by China to Saudi Arabia were also assembled partially in Israel.

Actually, the powerful Jewish politicians have several aims. Firstly, they want to prop up Israel in the world media to enable it (Israel) have the image of a great power. Secondly, the Jewish lobby wants to push Pakistan against India, so that in the process all Islamic fundamentalism is directed towards India and not against Israel. Thirdly, while the U.S. Jewish lobby is harming India politically, it is spreading stories via paid Pakistani journalists that Israel and India are friends and Israel is selling arms to India and also training the Indian Army. The reasons for this are clear as this gives the impression that Israel (in reality a country which is dependent on the U.S. for its own survival) is a great power. Fourthly, the Jewish lobby in the U.S. is keen that India play second fiddle to China. The reasons are self evident: A militarily more powerful India destroys the Kissinger plan of wrecking the CIS via China. One hopes the leadership in India will stay vigilant to the moves by the China, U.S., Israel and Pakistan axis and safeguard Indian interests by testing nuclear devices and missiles.

Nand Lal Bose, Houston, (U.S.)

The Hindu September 27, 1997

Letters to the Editor

India and China

Sir, — I write with reference to the article, "India blocks display of SU-30 in Moscow" (*The Hindu*, Aug. 31) by Mr. Atul Aneja. The author mentions that Russia has sold SU-27s to China. In fact both Russia and China are at loggerheads and such a sale would break all the laws of conventional wisdom. As is well known, for a long period (since 1971) Israel has been a conduit for the supply of U.S. weapons technology to a militarily backward China, as a result of which Russia and Israel are also at loggerheads. It is well known that Iran is being heavily armed by Russia and also an Iranian-backed Hamas is responsible for the attacks in Israel. Thus, this chain of events makes the picture quite clear.

All these false stories of weapons sales by Russia to China have been clearly planted by Western intelligence sources to salvage the situation for China which is rapidly losing friends in the world (particularly in the Middle East) due to its (China's) strong ties with Israel and with the powerful Jewish politicians mainly in the U.S. Also rumours are spread to implicate India with Israel to create confusion which benefits China and its Western friends.

It might also be interesting to point out that the Western world grossly exaggerates the military and economic achievements of a backward China. The main aim of this is to let the balance

in the world stay *status quo* and also to lure India into the American trap by getting India to join the U.S. against China, while in reality China will be working for the U.S.

While economic liberalisation is a must, one must remember that the multinationals are coming to India, not to enrich the country but only themselves. In fact, cautious liberalisation is the way to go to stimulate local industries by means of competition with world class products rather than blindly bringing in multinationals and thereby making India a satellite economy of the West.

I recently travelled extensively in China and a careful comparison with India made me feel proud of our country. Not only has India maintained its ancient culture, while China has compromised its culture by following the Marxist approach, but India has also for sure a military, industrial and scientific edge over China. What India needs now is an aggressive group of planners who can place it at the helm of the world affairs in the 21st century.

M. S. Anand Sircar, London

the unstinting assistance offered by various countries around the globe, both materially and in terms of expertise, in arresting the flames. As we have become painfully aware, environmental problems often cross national boundaries and the plight of one country can become the predicament of another. As Indonesia promises to curb unscrupulous logging and plantation companies and evolve stricter forestry management laws, the community of nations would do well to pull out all the stops in combating what is clearly a disaster of planetary proportions.

sent United Front Government, all of them flexible and somewhat amorphous, willing to change their garbs and names if that would help them consolidate their occupancy of the middle ground, and averse to the politics of the extremes on either side of the middle. In varying degrees, all of them are free of the politics of religion and, in the politics of caste, their professed sympathies are more with the lower than with the higher castes though they do not always act that way.

Secondly, this shape has an area on the right, large enough but much smaller than

THE HINDU October 1, 1997

Editor

Mr. Nawaz Sharif. The idea is that Mr. Sharif will speak only at the end of the agenda and when Mr. Gujral is at the world body, Kashmir auto-adjusts the international time-table.

The plan did not work, because Mr. Gujral brushed aside Mr. Sharif's postures. The Gita points out that sometimes "action" is what Mr. Gujral needs. This is what Mr. Gujral needs. U.N.

The Minister's silence was most eloquent. His message was loud and clear to be heard in Islamabad from New York. Everyone understands that Kashmir is only a matter of time and it will at no time become the property of anyone else.

K. Venkatasubramanian, Chennai

nuclear capability

With reference to Mr. C. Raja Mohan's "India in a nuclear limbo" (Aug. 21). I as a nuclear engineer and writer did not do his scientific and technical work. Thanks mainly to Dr. Homi Bhabha, the Indian nuclear energy programme is the second largest indigenous programme in Asia after that of Japan. While the use of nuclear power plants has been going on for decades now in India, China committed and only indigenous power plant (1000 MW) at Qinshan in Zhejiang Prov-

ince in December 1991, that too with generous Israeli help. Moreover, based on reliable information, the design of this plant seems to be rather unsatisfactory and it has yet not been able to reach its full capacity of power generation. The other two 900 megawatt reactors at Daya Bay in Guangdong Province were totally constructed by a U.S.-French consortium as part of agreements between President Reagan and the then Chinese Prime Minister, Mr. Zhao Ziyang. Reportedly one of the reactors of this plant was recently shut down due to technical problems.

I do, however, agree with Mr. Raja Mohan on the nuclear weapons issue. Like most Indians I do feel that India must further demonstrate its nuclear weapons capability. In fact, India, whose capability to manufacture nuclear weapons has been well documented since 1960, made a grave error (as history has shown) to have waited till 1974, when it demonstrated its nuclear weapons capability with a sophisticated device. Further nuclear explosion tests will certainly be helpful in removing any ambiguity or scepticism that some countries seem to have at present pertaining to Indian's nuclear weapons capability.

Tara Srinivasan, Princeton (U.S.)

Pensioners' hope

Sir, — It is the misfortune of the aged and ailing pensioners that they have been betrayed by the group of Ministers and the JCM members. The issues concerning the pensioners have been thrown back to the authorities concerned to be decided in consultation with the pensioners' as-

sociation. Pensioners' only if they can be serving only can only strations and ailing and soul decades look forward magnanimity in deciding the

Prasad

Sir, — the BBC "Freedom of British and made ne Judge, Lord the four broadcast rathi. Lord for delimit domain (tive law whether gretfully the land not reac cially in tendency by posit choice. civilisati of obedie

Fight Taliban!

Taliban control about two-thirds of Afghanistan and now stand at the very gate of Mazar-i-Sharif. It is hence necessary that India should mobilize the world opinion and prevent Taliban from destroying Buddhist relics. I am sure most democratic nations of the world would support India in that event.

It must be pointed out that Afghanistan, for most of its known history, has been territorially and culturally a part of the Indian mainland.

If Taliban persist in their aim to destroy such statues there is no reason why India should not threaten Taliban with the Agni missile.

Ramesh Saraf
Fremont, Calif.

News India Times
24 Oct 97

KASHMIRI HINDUS

Sir, — It is unfortunate that the political leadership in India, to show the world it is secular and also to gain minority votes, goes overboard in demonstrating secularism by making the Hindu population suffer. A concrete example of this flawed policy is the case of the Hindus of Kashmir. While no one can deny the morality, nationalism and good intentions of the Prime Minister, one nevertheless hopes the present leadership will show initiative and rectify the situation for the Hindus of Kashmir. Moreover, if the leadership in India for some reason is unwilling to guarantee the safety of the Hindus who plan to return to the Valley, it is then long overdue and fair that they be given an appropriate place in the Valley where they can live together. Even if the low intensity conflict in Kashmir continues for some time more, in this manner it should have no major impact on either the Muslim or Hindu populations of Kashmir.

Finally most of us Indians, whether in India or abroad, do feel the time is ripe that the people of India, irrespective of their religion, caste or ethnic background be treated with the same criterion on all issues. It is also our hope that the leadership in India when making any critical decisions takes into consideration the future of the country rather than the next election.

Yours, etc., SALIGRAM NAIDU.
Exton (USA), September 26.

The Statesman (Calcutta)

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INDIA'S NUCLEAR CAPABILITY

— It is now known and doubt that the USA started to transfer space and nuclear technology to China, many of us professional living in the USA hope the Indian leadership will push Indian space and nuclear programmes. In fact the seems to be quite unhappy the near perfect launch of SLV-03, as this not only makes India a competitor in the international satellite business also gives India a sophisticated ICBM capability. The USA was worried that India has an extremely advanced nuclear programme. Thanks mainly to Homi Bhabha, the Indian nuclear energy programme at present is the second largest indigenous programme in Asia after Japan.

While the manufacture of nuclear power plants has been going on for decades in India, its neighbour China, completed her first only indigenous power plant (300 MW) at Qinshan in Zhejiang Province in December 1991 with generous Israeli help. Based on reliable information the design of this plant seems to be rather unsatisfactory and it has yet not been able to reach its full capacity of power generation.

The other two 900 MW reactors at Daya Bay in Guangdong Province were totally constructed by a U S-French consortium as a part of an agreement between President Reagan and the then Chinese Prime Minister, Mr Zhao Ziyang. Reportedly one of

the reactors of this plant recently was shut down due to technical problems. However, I hope the Indian leadership will not be satisfied with these achievements and will put more resources into its space and nuclear programmes, as they will make India into a great economic and military power in the near future.

Moreover, India whose nuclear weapons capability is well documented since 1960 made a grave error (as history has shown) to wait till 1974, to demonstrate her capability with a sophisticated 17 kiloton device. Further nuclear-explosion-tests will certainly be helpful in removing any ambiguity or scepticism that some countries seem to have about India's nuclear weapons capability.

It must be also pointed out that the so-called nuclear weapons capability of our small neighbour Pakistan is nothing but a great hoax (most credible experts are of this view) and is only a bait by the USA via her proxy Pakistan to neutralise India's nuclear and missile programmes. Hence, Pakistan is always luring India on behalf of the USA to sign treaties such as NPT, CTBT etc, with the hope that in such a manner India's nuclear and missile programmes can be controlled by the USA. Naturally, India must never fall into this trap and in fact maintain a capability to take on both Pakistan and China at the same time militarily, which is not too difficult to achieve. — Yours,

etc., TARA SRINIVASAN.
Princeton (USA), October 13.

FAUX PAS

Sir, — Thanks for the piece "Blunders, flops' in pursuit of the almighty dollar" (9-10 November). May I add two more anecdotes on the subject.

A U S airline in order to make its service popular, offered a free ticket for the wife of executives for a to-and-fro journey beyond a certain distance. A number of executives availed of the facility. After a few weeks, the airline concerned sent letters to the wives to find out how they liked the flight which they took with their husbands and what suggestions they had to improve the service further. Most of the wives were surprised to receive the letters and asked the airline what flight they were talking about. The fallout in their family life was not known!

A company boasted that it treated its customers as kings and any complaint was welcome by the president. The company, anticipating that there will be a plethora of complaints, drafted a general reply thanking the customer and stating that it will try and improve its service. A nasty complaint came and the president wrote on the reverse to his P R man "send the 'b ...' the standard reply". An assistant in the P R Department by mistake attached the complaint letter of the customer along with the reply! — Yours, etc., NIRUPAM HALDAR.

Calcutta, November 12.

The Statesman October 13, 1991

Kashmiris' Contributions Significant

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ership in India for
the other is not

willing to guarantee the safety of
Hindus and Sikhs -- who plan to
return to their homes in the val-
ley -- there is a problem. Even if
the low intensity conflict in Kash-
mir continues for some more time,
it will have no major impact on ei-
ther Muslims or Hindus in the
valley.

Since the majority of Hindus
who belong to the Vale of Kash-
mir are Pandits, it might be inter-
esting to mention that the contri-
butions of this microscopic commu-
nity to India in the intellectual and
political areas right from the an-
cient to modern times have been
stupendous. One can mention per-
sons like Jawaharlal Nehru,
Indira Gandhi and Togh Bahadur
Sapru. It might also be worth men-
tioning that out of the 16 best
known historians of ancient India
14 were Kashmiri Pandits.

This small community of Brah-

mans also has contributed quite
substantially to the defense of
modern India and produced two
effective military leaders -- T.N.
Raina and S.K. Kaul. Capt.
Mahindra Nath Mulla gallantly
went down (to save his subordi-
nates) along with his ship INS
Khukri in the 1971 war with Pa-
kistan. For this supreme sacrifice,
Capt. Mulla was awarded Mahavir
Chakra posthumously.

Finally most of us Indians do
feel that the time is ripe for the
people of India irrespective of their
religion, caste or ethnic back-
ground to be treated on par on all
issues. It is also our hope that the
leadership in India when making
any critical decisions will take into
consideration the future of the
country rather than the next elec-
tion.

Saligram Naidu
Landsdale, Penn.

India - Times November 21, 1997

Of United Front Govt. No Surprise

collapse of the UF
not come as a
US-based NRIs.
anticipated as
party, over the last
developed into an
organization which
to care for the
motherland.
Congress of Ma-
and Jawaharlal
was totally dedi-
Also in recent
seems to have
the concept of
toward the
in multination-
even consumer
for this reason the

Congress party leadership seems to want an "imported" person like Sonia Gandhi to lead it. The United Front with only a few good people such as Gujral remains an organization with no concrete policies. Unfortunately Congress and the United Front are spending most of their time and resources on opposing BJP rather than formulating a policy which is beneficial to India.

Many of us NRIs feel that it is high time that the people of India gave the BJP a chance to lead the country. Clearly the BJP other than being an exceptionally nationalist party also has an image of being a party whose members in general have a reputation of

being extremely honest and dedicated. This is in sharp contrast to the situation existing in other parties of India.

Many people who oppose the BJP often mention that it is a fundamentalist Hindu organization. Such a charge is totally baseless. The BJP rule in many states demonstrated without doubt that it measures all religious groups with the same yardstick. During my recent visit to India I went to Rajasthan and was delighted to observe that many Muslim friends there were more than satisfied with the BJP government led by Bhairon Singh Shekhawat.

Devraj Nadar
Ardmore, Okla.

News India-Times
Dec 19, 1997

matter whether Kerala Chief Minister E.K. Nayanar's allegation against former State Finance Minister Oommen Chandy is politically motivated or is intended to clip the wings of his own party colleague, former Leader of the Opposition V.S. Achuthanandan. One thing is certain: the State exchequer has suffered a loss of Rs. 27 crores in the palmolein import deal.

Those who are responsible for this huge loss, however high and mighty they may be, should be brought to book.

S. Raghunatha
Prabhu
Alappuzha, Kerala

Satyamurti's remark

In his review of the book *The Dynasty* (October 17), Dr. S. Gopal quotes approvingly the description of Motilal Nehru, Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi by S. Satyamurti as "Father, son and holy ghost". Gopal finds this "not an unkind and meaningless remark."

As a student of Indian history I have the greatest regard for these great freedom fighters. They tower over the people who have been our "national leaders" in recent years. However, I have reservations about the comparison made with the Trinity by Satyamurti and the acceptance of it by Gopal. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English* (1995) defines the Holy Ghost as the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is defined as "the third person of the Trinity, God as spiritually active."

Christians believe that when Jesus Christ was preparing to leave the world, he promised to send the Holy Spirit to guide those in the world who believe in Him. "When I go, you will not be left all alone; I will come back to you. In a little while the world will see me no more, but you will see me; and because I live, you also will live. When that day comes, you will know that I am in my Father and that you are in me, just as I am in you... The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and make you remember all that I have told you (St. John's Gospel, the New Testament, Chapter 14, verses 18-20, 26).

Sundar Singh Baghel
Minister of State (Independent charge)
Dairy Development

Vidhan Bhavan
Lucknow
12-11-97

Dear Sir,

In the article titled "A crisis defused" by Venkitesh Ramakrishnan and Praveen Swami published in the issue dated November 1-14, 1997 of your respected periodical, in the caption to the photograph on page 5, I have been shown in a circle and described as a former legislator. (He was described as a "former MLA" - *Frontline*.)

The fact is that I am a Member of the Legislative Council at present and at the time of the confidence vote I attended the Legislative Assembly in my capacity as Minister for Dairy Development.

Please take the trouble to publish this letter prominently in the next issue.

Yours,
Sundar Singh Baghel

Shri N. Ram
Editor
Frontline, Kasturi Building
859-860 Anna Salai
Chennai 600002

(Translated from the Hindi original)

With this background, it is clear that there is no parallel between the spiritual matters spoken of by Jesus Christ and the earthly matters mentioned in the book review. Hence I am unable to understand the approving reference by Gopal to Satyamurti's remark.

Dr. V.K. Bawa

Hyderabad

On the contrary, the letter-writer's research and the characterisation of the Holy Ghost as the "spiritually active" component of the Trinity appear to indicate that Satyamurti's formulation was an appropriate one. - Editor.

China and India

This is with reference to Praful Bidwai's column "China's transition" (October 17). I find the article rather too subjective and also get the impression that the author has a pre-formed opinion of China.

As an economist who has just returned from China after a prolonged visit to various academic institutions in that country, I would like to give my views on China in relation to India as far as most issues are concerned. Undoubtedly, China is more organised than India. Nevertheless, quite in contrast to India, that nation lacks vitality.

The salaries for professional persons are

rather low in China in relation to India. For instance, a professor in China makes about \$90 per month and usually rides a bicycle to work. Even in a city such as Beijing there are far fewer cars than in Delhi, nor to speak of motorised bikes in which probably India leads the world now. In fact, most Chinese ride bicycles to work and only some party members or their children have access to automobiles, that too mostly old-model Japanese imports. The Chinese are masters when it comes to doing cosmetic changes so as to impress visitors. In fact, the only thing that is visible in China is uniform poverty.

Even in critical areas such as nuclear technology, the incigenous Indian programmes have an edge over those of China. For example, while nuclear power

plants are routinely built in India for decades now, China is still busy standardising its 300-MW plant design, for which it got generous foreign help.

As far as trade is concerned, China, as the loyal friend of the U.S., has the most-favoured-nation trade status and is thus able to supply a large amount of low-tech products such as toys, bags and so on, particularly to the U.S. However, I might point out that the foreign exchange reserves of China are not as large as the Western media have us believe because China buys a lot of hardware such as rocket parts, nuclear power and plant parts from the U.S.

Finally, conditions in China are such that it is rather rare for mainland Chinese students to return home from the U.S. The main reason for the Chinese students not returning home is pure economics, apart from the lack of any freedom in China. With all the problems in India, any unbiased person in my opinion would prefer to live in India.

The basic reason for China being a favourite of the Western countries is that since 1973 it is a strategic ally of the U.S.

What India really lacks, in relation to China, is a strong leadership that can push it to play a proportional role to its power in the international arena.

Dr. Monorosh Dasgupta
Park Ridge, N.J., U.S.A.

There could be some differences here and there, but still people live here in harmony. Even in the USA, which boasts of liberty and fraternity, racial hatred exists and the blacks are still considered second class citizens.

— EJAZ ZIA *New Delhi*

Give it a chance

Sir: The collapse of the United Front Government did not come as a surprise to many of us Indians here in the US. It was more than anticipated because it was surviving on the support of a party like the Congress.

Gone is the Congress of Gandhi and Nehru which was totally dedicated to the nation. The party has now become an organisation of opportunists.

Hence, many of us Indians feel that the people should give the BJP a chance. It has leaders *with a reputation for honesty and dedication.*

Those who oppose it as a fundamentalist Hindu organisation are wrong. In fact, during my recent visit to India, I went to Rajasthan and was delighted to observe that my Muslim friends over there were more than satisfied with the BJP government led by Bhairon Singh Shekhawat.

—DEVRAJ NADAR
Oklahoma (USA)

PAKISTAN HAS NO N-CAPABILITY

SIR, — I did find the article "Chanakya would understand" (22-23 November) by Mr K Dutt rather interesting. However, unfortunately this author in my opinion did not research his article too well either politically or scientifically. First, the author gives us data on Pakistan's nuclear weapons capability. All scientific evidence indicates that this so-called capability is false. Pakistan has yet to demonstrate her nuclear weapons capability and she ever conducts a test the scientific community worldwide has enough experience to detect such a test. Moreover, it is well known that Pakistan has virtually no uranium deposits and also no expertise in uranium ore mining, let alone facilities to enrich uranium-235 above the 93 per cent level or plutonium production and extraction facilities, which are necessary for producing a nuclear bomb.

Secondly, Mr Dutt quotes Prof. Stephen Peter Rosen, little knowing probably, that this person belongs to the U S Jewish lobby and hence, Prof. Rosen plays the politics which furthers the policies of this powerful lobby. With all the trouble in Israel the Jewish lobby is still following the standard policy laid down by Dr Kissinger against India. According to this policy, India will be pitted against the Islamic world via Pakistan. In such a manner it is hoped that Israel will benefit because all Islamic countries will turn their attention away from Israel and the focus will be on India.

Finally, Mr Dutt falls totally into the trap laid by political strategists here in the USA. As is well known Jewish political scientists make significant contributions towards formulating the

U S foreign policy. It is more than clear to many of us political scientists of Indian origin here that U S Jewish politicians are using some people (without their knowledge) in India to further their goals in the world via their friend China. One might mention that the China of the 1960s which spoke for the developing countries, exists no more. The China of today is tightly linked to the U S Jewish lobby and Israel and hence, it is obliged not only to look after its own interests but also those of Israel. China, as is well known, does benefit from her ties with the U S Jewish lobby and Israel. Recently China received space and nuclear technology and hardware from the USA and Canada. Economics has nothing to do with these deals as many other countries are willing to pay more money for such help, but have been so far refused both by the USA and Canada. Moreover, also once India demonstrated her nuclear weapon capabilities in 1974 the global balance was shattered and Dr Kissinger's "China card" against mainly the then Soviet Union and also against India lost its value. With the Agni missiles and the acquisition of SU-30 aircraft India now has the potential to penetrate deep into China with nuclear weapons. Hence, Dr Kissinger's China card has no relevance today. Therefore there is no reason why India should worry about China or play second fiddle to her. Yours, etc.,

NARENDRA PALIT.

Boston (USA), 3 December.

SCHOOL ADMISSION

Sir, — The season for admission to schools has begun. Parents are driven from pillar to post to get their children into English-medium schools of their

choice. Good English-medium schools are in short supply. To fill the gap schools of indifferent quality have mushroomed and they are doing good business.

The main problem with English-medium schools is that many of them demand donations from parents. This is unacceptable. Donations are a euphemism for bribes. Persons having black money can donate any amount, but for a salaried person it is a major burden. And in any case why should a boy or a girl start a career with bribery? In the USA education is very expensive, but bribery is un-heard of. English-medium schools are free to raise their fees; why should they demand money? Merit should be the criterion for admission, not black money or graft. — Yours, etc., KAMAL KUMAR GHATAK.

Calcutta, 12 December.

PLAYING C M

Sir, — I was surprised to read the news item, "Laloo plays CM at carnage site" (14-15 December). Immediately on his release, the former Chief Minister has again started using extra-constitutional powers for which he was sent to jail (read air-conditioned comfort). He is trying to woo the voters illegally on the eve of the elections to the Lok Sabha.

Since Laloo Prasad Yadav is no longer the Chief Minister, he must desist from issuing official orders. He should know that civil servants can carry out only the lawful orders of a lawful authority and none else.

If Rabri Devi is unable to run the administration without the promptings of an untenable de facto Chief Minister, she must step down. — Yours, etc., ABHIJIT GUPTA.

Calcutta, 15 December.

The Statesman Calcutta 20 December 1991

BJP MARCH

— Collapse of the United States government did not come as a surprise to many of us Indians here in the USA. This was expected as the Congress has recently developed into an opportunistic organization which in no way seems to care for the welfare of India. Gone is the Congress of Gandhi and Nehru which was dedicated to the welfare of India. Also the Congress seems to have moved away from the support of indigenous industry and away from multinationals and away from goods. Probably this is because the party wants an important person, namely, Mrs Sonia Gandhi to lead it! Besides the U

F hardly has any concrete policies. Both the Congress and the U F are spending most of their resources on opposing the BJP rather than on formulating a policy which is good for India.

It is overdue that the people of India give the BJP a chance. The BJP, other than being an exceptionally nationalistic party, also has an image of being one whose members in general have a reputation for honesty. This is in contrast to the reputation of other parties. The BJP is not fundamentalist. BJP rule in many states in India has demonstrated that this party looks upon all the people with the same yardstick, be they minority or majority. When I went to Rajasthan recently I was delighted to observe that my Muslim friends out there were more than satisfied with the Shekhawat government. Nevertheless, the people of India have to be alert to the fact that many foreign powers, particularly the USA, China and Pakistan, are against the BJP coming to power. They are worried about the nationalistic and aggressive stance of the BJP as this policy will put an end to all the political and military games that these countries are playing against India. — Yours, etc.

DEVRAJ NADAR.

Oklahoma (USA), 5 December.

DELISHED BY ME UNDER PSEUDO-NAME IN
STATESMAN (CAL.) 23 Dec., 1997

ing in our neighborhood. As soon as the BJP-led government exploded nuclear weapons, the artificial balance forced on India by the United States and her allies became meaningless. Moreover, clearly as Pakistan did not have a nuclear bomb, she was not able to react to the Indian moves for more than two weeks.

It is only after US military delegation visited Pakistan that Pakistan did explode something that looked like a nuclear device. There clearly seems to be a US involvement in the nuclear tests claimed by Pakistan. It is quite likely that the US also involved the Chinese in this venture by promising them goodies. At present only one Pakistani blast of about 10 kiloton gives an impression of being a nuclear blast. Moreover, some of the Pakistani bombs have been referred to as duds by the Western media only for political reasons.

These stories have been carefully planted to give the impression that Pakistan is genuinely testing her own bombs. After these events, the US-led Western media unleashed a propaganda war so as to psychologically depress India and prop up Pakistan in order to try to salvage the global balance.

The aim of this propaganda war was also to try to destabilize the effective and aggressive

Now as anticipated, Pakistan as a bait of her sponsors is willing to sign the CTBT if India joins in too. India must never sign the CTBT as this is a trap. Rather than signing the CTBT, India must now push for total global nuclear disarmament. In general, India has even now nothing to worry about as Pakistan has no known reserves of Uranium ore and her nuclear facilities are rather small and insignificant.

She does not even have a chemical industry so as to produce fuel for the missiles. Also there are reports recently that the US is requesting Russia to ask her friend North Korea to supply some missiles to Pakistan. In short, everything Pakistan has is being given to her by her sponsors. It is also well known now that the US is fully entrenched in Pakistan, as the very survival of Pakistan now depends on the US.

In fact, recently Benazir Bhutto was not too pleased on this

account with Nawaz Sharif government. It must be mentioned that while the US and her allies are informing the world that they have placed sanctions on Pakistan, but in reality, the US and her friends continue to help Pakistan, though not in a too evident manner.

We Indians hope that India will now continue her missile and nuclear programs without any inhibition. This must, however, be done in a calculated way so that we gain militarily and politically and don't exhaust our resources.

One might mention that the competition of India is now with the US as every bomb India now tests, the US will match that for Pakistan. However, this must in no way deter us from continuing our missile and nuclear testing. In short, no power on earth can now prevent India from emerging as a global superpower in the near future. The US game is technically over.

Prof. Swaran Singh Sidhu,
Dayton, Ohio

Minister, Mr. I. K. Gujral, nevertheless one hopes that the present leadership in India will show initiative and rectify the situation for the Hindus of Kashmir. Moreover, if the leadership in India for some reason is not willing to guarantee the safety of the Hindus, who plan to return to the valley, it is then long overdue and fair that they be given an appropriate place in the valley where they can live together. Even if the low intensity conflict in Kashmir continues for some time more, in this manner it should have no major tempestuous impact on either the Muslim or Hindu population of Kashmir.

Finally, most Indians, whether living in the country or abroad, do feel that the time is ripe for the people of India, irrespective of their religion, caste or ethnic background, to be treated with the same criterion on all issues. The leadership, when making any critical decisions, should take into consideration the future of the country rather than the next election.

Saligram Naidu, Exton (U.S.)

Council seat for India

unfortunate that often to display to are secular and also to gain political leaders in India go overrating secularism by making on suffer. A concrete example is the case of the Hindus of one can deny the morality,

Sir, — In the Editorial, "Reforming the U.N." (Sept. 26), it has been rightly pointed out that the logic of India's claim for a permanent seat in the Security Council is related to the rectification of the distortions of the U.N. as it is structured at present. Issues wholly irrelevant to India's entitlement to a permanent seat should not anymore stall a decision in its favour. The Pakistan Foreign Office statement (*The Hindu*, Sept. 26) that India is not eminently qualified to seek permanent membership as it has not implemented the U.N. resolution on Jammu and Kashmir

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Fight Taliban!

Taliban control about two-thirds of Afghanistan and now stand at the very gate of Mazar-i-Sharif. It is hence necessary that India should mobilize the world opinion and prevent Taliban from destroying Buddhist relics. I am sure most democratic nations of the world would support India in that event.

It must be pointed out that Afghanistan, for most of its known history, has been territorially and culturally a part of the Indian mainland.

If Taliban persist in their aim to destroy such statues there is no reason why India should not threaten Taliban with the Agni missile.

Ramesh Saraf
Fremont, Calif.

KASHMIRI HINDUS

Sir, — It is unfortunate that the political leadership in India, to show the world it is secular and also to gain minority votes, goes overboard in demonstrating secularism by making the Hindu population suffer. A concrete example of this flawed policy is the case of the Hindus of Kashmir. While no one can deny the morality, nationalism and good intentions of the Prime Minister, one nevertheless hopes the present leadership will show initiative and rectify the situation for the Hindus of Kashmir. Moreover, if the leadership in India for some reason is unwilling to guarantee the safety of the Hindus who plan to return to the Valley, it is then long overdue and fair that they be given an appropriate place in the Valley where they can live together. Even if the low intensity conflict in Kashmir continues for some time more, in this manner it should have no major impact on either the Muslim or Hindu populations of Kashmir.

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Yours, etc., SALIGRAM NAIDU.
Exton (USA), September 26.

Congress lacks leadership

more crucial phases of the Lok Sabha elections to go, I, like many other Indians, would like to
erty of giving my humble views on this subject. Undoubtedly, I want to see Mr Atal Bihari
ontinue to lead India, as the Prime Minister, towards greatness and prosperity.

Congress has also contributed significantly towards development in the past, at present it lacks a
adership which is acceptable to most Indians. Sadly, the Congress has handed over leadership to
Gandhi whose only merit seems to be that she is the wife of Rajiv Gandhi and daughter-in-law of
dhi.

gress, there is no dearth of brilliant and veteran leaders such as Mr Narain Dutt Tiwari, Mr Arjun
atwar Singh and Dr Manmohan Singh. Having placed Mrs Sonia Gandhi at the party's helm of
gressmen have not only made a mockery of democracy but also played with the self-respect and
he Indians. In my opinion, no sane voter will condone the Congress for this.

M BHARADWAJ, Agra

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China : An artificial counter

Sir,

This has reference to the views of one Mac Kher (10 July) titled, "Rejected PNTR". I get the feeling from his letter that this author is acting as a salesman for China. All what he has written regarding China in my opinion is fabricated. Firstly, China is an ally of the US and not a rival. Secondly, this author wants to make China the leader of the developing countries by making China an artificial counter to the US. Thirdly, people who know China pretty well will inform you that China is a backward country in every sense.

Finally I might mention the West is not afraid of China but in reality they are worried (quite wrongly as India is a democracy) about India mainly because of India's vastly superior technological base in relation to China.

Yours etc...
Kum Kum Saraf,
Amakenstrs, 32/62
80799, Munchen
Germany
<kumkumsaraf@web.de>

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Dr Bhabha and nuclear weapons

Sir,

This letter is with reference to the article of 25th September, "APJ Abdul Kalam : Father of Indian Bomb" by Mozaffar Islam. In my opinion this author has not done his homework for this article. While Dr Kalam (a brilliant person and a great nationalist) has contributed much towards our indigenous missile programme his contribution in the area of nuclear weapons development (for India) is rather insignificant.

The real father of the Indian nuclear weapons is none other than the great Homi J. Bhabha. Bhabha was not only one of the greatest physicists of any time but also a great Bharati nationalist. As is now well known that given the go ahead Bhabha could have detonated a nuclear bomb for India way back in the year 1957.

Yours etc....
Dr Badal (Babuul) Ghosh
York United Kingdom
badallghosh@excite.com

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