



INDIA NEWS

PUBLISHED BY PRESS & INFORMATION, EMBASSY OF INDIA, WASHINGTON, DC

U.S. President Clinton in India

April 2000

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"...virtually every challenge humanity knows can be found here in India. And every solution to every challenge can be found here as well: confidence in democracy; tolerance for diversity; a willingness to embrace social change. That is why Americans admire India; why we welcome India's leadership in the region and the world; and why we want to take our partnership to a new level, to advance our common values and interests, and to resolve the differences that still remain."

— President Clinton addressing the Indian Parliament, March 22, 2000

India-U.S. Relations: A Vision for the 21st Century



U.S. President Clinton and Prime Minister Vajpayee signing a joint statement "India-U.S. Relations: A Vision for the 21st Century", in New Delhi on March 21, 2000.

At the dawn of a new century, President Clinton and Prime Minister Vajpayee resolve to create a closer and qualitatively new relationship between the United States and India.

We are two of the world's largest democracies. We are nations forged from many traditions and faiths, proving year after year that diversity is our strength. From vastly different origins and experiences, we have come to the same conclusions: that freedom and democracy are the strongest bases for both peace and prosperity, and that they are universal aspirations, constrained neither by culture nor levels of economic development.

There have been times in the past when our relationship drifted without a steady course. As we now look towards the future, we are convinced that it is time to chart a new and purposeful direction in our relationship.

Globalization is erasing boundaries and building networks between nations and peoples, economies and cultures. The world is increasingly coming together around the democratic ideals India and the United States have long championed and lived by.

Together, we represent a fifth of the world's people, more than a quarter of the world's economy. We have built creative, entrepreneurial societies. We are leaders in the information age. The currents of commerce and culture that link our societies run strong and deep. In many ways, the character of the 21st century world will depend on the success of our cooperation for peace, prosperity, democracy and freedom.

That presents us with an opportunity, but also a profound responsibility to work together. Our partnership of shared ideals leads us to seek a natural partnership of shared endeavors.

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INDIA-U.S. RELATIONS

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In the new century, India and the United States will be partners in peace, with a common interest in and complementary responsibility for ensuring regional and international security. We will engage in regular consultations on, and work together for, strategic stability in Asia and beyond. We will bolster joint efforts to counter terrorism and meet other challenges to regional peace. We will strengthen the international security system, including in the United Nations, and support the United Nations in its peacekeeping efforts. We acknowledge that tensions in South Asia can only be resolved by the nations of South Asia. India is committed to enhancing cooperation, peace and stability in the region.

India and the United States share a commitment to reducing and ultimately eliminating nuclear weapons, but we have not always agreed on how to reach this common goal. The United States believes India should forgo nuclear weapons. India believes that it needs to maintain a credible minimum nuclear deterrent in keeping with its own assessment of its security needs. Nonetheless, India and the U.S. are prepared to work together to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery. To this end, we will persist with and build upon the productive bilateral dialogue already underway.

We reaffirm our respective voluntary commitments to forgo further nuclear explosive tests. We will work together and with others for an early commencement of negotiations on a treaty to end the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons. We have both shown strong commitments to export controls, and will continue to strengthen them. We will work together to prevent the spread of dangerous technologies. We are committed to build confidence and reduce the chances of miscalculation. We will pursue our security needs in a restrained and responsible manner, and will not engage in nuclear and missile arms races. We will seek to narrow our differences and increase mutual understanding on non-proliferation and security issues. This will help us to realize the full potential of Indo-U.S. relations and contribute significantly to regional and global security.

The true measure of our strength lies in the ability of our people to shape their destiny and to realize their aspirations for a better life. That is why the United States and India are and will be allies in the cause of democracy. We will share our experience in nurturing and strengthening democratic institutions the world over and fighting the challenge to democratic order from forces such as terrorism. We will cooperate with others to launch an international Community of Democracies this year.

The United States applauds India's success in opening its economy, its achievements in science and technology, its commitment to a new wave of economic expansion and reform, and its determination to bring the benefits of economic growth to all its people. Our nations pledge to reduce impediments to bilateral trade and investment and to expand commerce between us, especially in the emerging knowledge-based industries and high-technology areas.

We will work together to preserve stability and growth in the global economy as well. And we will join in an unrelenting battle against poverty in the world, so that the promise of a new economy is felt everywhere and no nation is left behind. That is among the fundamental challenges of our time. Opening trade and resisting protectionism are the best means for meeting it. We support an open, equitable and transparent rule-based multilateral trading system, and we will work together to strengthen it. We agree that developed countries should embrace policies that offer developing countries the opportunity to grow, because growth is the key to rising incomes and rising standards. At the same time, we share the conviction that human development also requires empowerment of people and availability of basic freedoms.

As leaders in the forefront of the new high-technology economy, we recognize that countries can achieve robust economic growth while protecting the environment and taking action to combat climate change. We will do our part to meet the global environmental challenges, including climate change and the impacts of air and water pollution on human health.

We also pledge a common effort to battle the infectious diseases that kill people and retard progress in so many countries. India is at the forefront of the global effort that has brought us to the threshold of the eradication of polio. With leadership, joint research, and application of modern science, we can and will do the same for the leading killers of our time, including AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

We are proud of the cooperation between Indians and Americans in advancing frontiers of knowledge. But even as we unravel the mysteries of time and space, we must continue to apply our knowledge to older challenges: eradicating human suffering, disease and poverty. In the past, our cooperation helped ease mass hunger in the world. In the future, it will focus as well on the development of clean energy, health, and education.

Our partnership is not an end in itself, but a means to all these ends. And it is reinforced by the ties of scholarship, commerce, and increasingly of kinship among our people. The industry, enterprise and cultural contributions of Americans of Indian heritage have enriched and enlivened both our societies.

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Excerpts from the Joint Press Conference by Prime Minister Vajpayee and President Clinton on March 21, 2000

Prime Minister Vajpayee on India - U.S. Relations:

“President Clinton and I have just signed a vision statement. The statement outlines the contours of and defines the agenda of our partnership in the 21st century. We both agreed that our commitment to the principles and practice of democracy constitutes the bedrock of our relations and for our cooperative efforts internationally for peace, prosperity and democratic freedom.”

Terrorism:

“We share a common concern at the growing threat of terrorist violence and its links with religious extremism and illegal trade in narcotics. Both of us expressed our firm opposition to the use of any form of violence, whether as an instrument of terror against democratic society or as a means of realizing territorial ambition. Nothing justifies the use of such matters against innocent people. We expressed our determination to intensify our cooperation in this area.”

Disarmament:

“President Clinton and I had a frank

discussion on the issues of disarmament and nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The dialogue which is in progress between our two countries on these issues has enhanced the mutual understanding of our respective concerns. I’ve explained to President Clinton the reasons that compel us to maintain a minimum nuclear deterrent. I have reiterated our firm commitment not to conduct further nuclear explosive tests, not to engage in a nuclear arms race, and not to be the first to use nuclear weapons against any country.”

President Bill Clinton on India - U.S. Relations:

“I have come to India because I want us to build a dynamic and lasting partnership, based on mutual respect and mutual benefit. India and America should be better friends and stronger partners. In a world of increasing globalization, our futures plainly are intertwined.”

Terrorism:

“I recognize that India has real security concerns. We certainly share your outrage and heartbreak over last

night’s brutal attack in Kashmir. We offer our profoundest sympathies to the people, especially to the families of the victims. It reminds us of what tremendous suffering this conflict has caused India. The violence must end. This should be a time for restraint, for respect for the line of control, for renewed lines of communication.”

Disarmament:

“I felt today that there was a possibility that we could reach more common ground on the issues of testing, on the production of fissile material, on export controls and on restraint, generally.

With regard to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, you heard the Prime Minister’s statement about his position on testing. I would hope that the democratic process will produce a signing and ultimately a ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban in India, just like I hope the democratic process will ultimately produce a ratification of the Test Ban Treaty in America that I signed. These are contentious issues. But I’m actually quite optimistic about our ability to make progress on them.”



U.S. President Clinton and Prime Minister Vajpayee making a joint press-statement after the signing of India-U.S. vision statement, in New Delhi on March 21, 2000.

INDIA-U.S. RELATIONS

(Continued from page 2)

Today, we pledge to deepen the Indian-American partnership in tangible ways, always seeking to reconcile our differences through dialogue and engagement, always seizing opportunities to advance the countless interests we have in common. As a first step, President Clinton has invited Prime Minister Vajpayee to visit Washington at a mutually convenient opportunity, and the Prime Minister has accepted that invitation. Henceforth, the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of India should meet regularly to institutionalize our dialogue. We have also agreed on and separately outlined an architecture of additional high-level consultations, and of joint working groups, across the broad spectrum of areas in which we are determined to institutionalize our enhanced cooperation. And we will encourage even stronger people-to-people ties.

For India and the United States, this is a day of new beginnings. We have before us for the first time in 50 years the possibility to realize the full potential of our relationship. We will work to seize that chance, for our benefit and all those with whom we share this increasingly interdependent world.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee
Prime Minister of India

William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States of America

Done on March 21, 2000 at New Delhi

AGREED PRINCIPLES

Institutional Dialogue Between the United States and India

1. During the visit of President Clinton to Delhi in March 2000, President Clinton and Prime Minister Vajpayee agreed as part of their vision for the future relationship that a regular, wide-ranging dialogue is important for achieving the goal of establishing closer and multifaceted relations between India and the United States and for the two countries to work jointly for promotion of peace and prosperity in the 21st century. The two leaders agreed on a number of steps to intensify and institutionalize the dialogue between India and the United States.

2. The President of the United States and Prime Minister of India will hold regular bilateral 'Summits' in alternating capitals or elsewhere, including on the occasions of multilateral meetings, to review bilateral relations and consult on international developments and issues. They will remain in frequent contact by telephone and through letters.

3. The two countries will also hold an Annual Foreign Policy Dialogue at the level of the Secretary of State of

the United States and External Affairs Minister of India. This dialogue will be broad-based and touch upon all aspects of US-India relations, including considering the work of other groups as appropriate.

4. The two countries also consider the ongoing Dialogue on Security and Non-proliferation between the Deputy Secretary of State of the United States and External Affairs Minister of India important for improving mutual understanding on bilateral, regional and international security matters. They agreed that this dialogue should continue and take place semi-annually or as often as considered desirable by both sides. The Principals of this dialogue will establish Expert Groups on specific issues as considered desirable and appropriate.

5. Foreign Office Consultations between the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs of the United States and Foreign Secretary of India will continue. The two leaders believe that close cooperation between the two countries is a factor of stability in the politically and culturally diverse and rapidly transforming Asia. A Dialogue on Asian Security will also be conducted as part of the Foreign Office Consultations. The two sides will also stay in close touch and consult on international democracy initiatives.

6. The two leaders consider combating international terrorism as one of the most important global challenges. They expressed satisfaction at the establishment of the Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism and its productive first meeting in February 2000. They agree that the Joint Working Group should continue to meet regularly and become an effective mechanism for the two countries to share information and intensify their cooperation in combating terrorism.

7. The two leaders see an enormous potential for enhancement of economic and business relations between the two countries in the Knowledge Age. They decided to institutionalize bilateral economic dialogue. They will keep themselves informed and follow developments in the bilateral economic dialogue closely through a high-level coordinating group. The coordinating group will be led on the U.S. side by the White House with the support of the State Department, and on the Indian side by the Prime Minister's Office with the support of the Ministry of External Affairs.

The Coordinating Group will develop a common economic agenda for and undertake preparations for the Heads of Government meetings. With broad inter-agency and inter-ministerial representations at senior official levels, it would convene regularly to facilitate close coordination on the various issues raised in the ministerial dialogues and ensure that discussions therein complement and reinforce broad economic and foreign policy objectives, including the deepening of bilateral cooperation on high technology and information technology issues.

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INDIA-U.S. RELATIONS

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U.S.-India Financial and Economic Forum: The U.S. Secretary of the Treasury and the Indian Minister of Finance will host a forum on finance and investment issues, macroeconomic policy and international economic developments at regular intervals. Their meetings at the ministerial level would be supplemented by sub-Cabinet meetings and involve, as appropriate, the participation of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Federal Reserve, Council of Economic Advisors, and other officials of the U.S. Government and the Securities and Exchange Board of India, Reserve Bank of India, and other officials of the Government of India.

U.S.-India Commercial Dialogue: The U.S. Secretary of Commerce and Minister of Commerce and Industry of India will lead a dialogue to deepen ties between the Indian and American Business communities. The dialogue will encompass regular government-to-government meetings to be held in conjunction with private sector meetings. Its aim will be to (a) facilitate trade, and (b) maximize investment opportunities across a broad range of economic sectors, including information technology, infrastructure, biotechnology, and services. Participation will include, as appropriate, representatives of other Cabinet agencies and ministries on both sides. Close contact will be maintained with business associations, and activities will be planned with the benefit of such private sector input, including the establishment of subcommittees to pursue specific projects or sectoral issues of mutual interest.

U.S.-India Working Group on Trade: The United States Trade Representative and the Ministry of Commerce and other concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India will engage in regular discussion to enhance cooperation on trade policy. As appropriate, individual trade issues could be examined in greater depth with the participation of other agencies with corresponding responsibilities and through creation of subgroups. The Group will serve as a locus of consultation on a broad range of trade-related issues, including those pertaining to the World Trade Organization. The Group will receive inputs from the private sector (including trade policy issues identified in the U.S.-India Commercial Dialogue) as appropriate.

8. The two leaders consider cooperation between the two countries in energy and environment an important part of their vision for the future. They have agreed to set up a Joint Consultative Group on Clean Energy and Environment. The Group will hold periodic ministerial/high level meetings as desirable and appropriate and will lay emphasis on collaborative projects, developing and deploying clean energy technologies, public and private sector investment and cooperation, and climate change and other environmental issues. The Co-conveners of the Group will be the Department of State of the United States and the Ministry of External Affairs of India.

9. The two leaders believe that the strong scientific resources of the two countries provide excellent opportunities for scientific collaboration between them. They agree to set up a U.S.-India Science and Technology Forum. The Forum shall promote research and development, the transfer of technology, the creation of a comprehensive electronic reference source for U.S.-India science and technology cooperation, and the electronic exchange and dissemination of information on U.S.-India science and technology cooperation, and other programs consistent with the previous practice of the U.S.-India Foundation.

10. Institutional dialogue in other areas will be considered as mutually agreed.

Quotes

"Our peoples now expect us to advance our relationship based on a shared commitment to peace and democracy, reinforced by a growing mutuality of interest in political and technological fields and by an increasing convergence of a world view."

— President K.R. Narayanan while welcoming President Clinton, March 21, 2000.

"The Prime Minister did, I thought, a brave thing in participating in the Lahore process. He took some risks to do it. He'd always said that just the facts of geography and shared history called upon him to do that. But you cannot expect a dialogue to go forward unless there is an absence of violence and a respect for the line of control."

— President Clinton while addressing a joint press conference with Prime Minister Vajpayee on March 22, 2000.

"India and the United States must move beyond a mere intersection of interests to a focusing of our vision. The statement that we signed yesterday is the first step in this direction. There is a vivid, vibrant example of the kind of relationship that should exist between us. Hundreds of thousands of Indians are today in the United States. Your country has given them the opportunity to realize their potential, in turn, they are contributing to progress in every sphere."

— Prime Minister Vajpayee while addressing the Parliament on March 22, 2000.

India-U.S. should target bilateral trade of \$25 billion over the next five years: Murasoli Maran

Shri Murasoli Maran, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, has said that India and the United States should aim at an annual trade turnover of at least U.S. \$25 billion over the next 5 years, which would represent more than doubling of the current level of bilateral merchandise trade, which crossed U.S. \$12 billion in 1999.

Addressing the “Conference on Indo-U.S. Trade and Investment — An Agenda for Action”, organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Mr. Maran pointed out that although the U.S. was India’s largest trading partner as well as one of the top investors in India, the range of the existing export basket from India continued to be limited with India’s share of U.S. imports estimated at only 0.7%.

The vision document signed by Prime Minister Vajpayee and President Clinton aims to institutionalise the India-U.S. commercial dialogue and would deepen ties between the Indian and the U.S. business communities.

In pursuance of the joint vision statement signed by the Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and U.S. President, Mr. William J. Clinton on March 21, India and the U.S. have finalized the Terms of Reference of the India-U.S. Commercial Dialogue.

Shri Murasoli Maran, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry on behalf of the Government of India and Mr. William Daley, Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce, on behalf of the Government of the United States, signed the understanding for Terms of Reference.

The Minister said that the commercial dialogue would encompass regular government-to-government meeting in coordination with private sector with the objective of (a) facilitating trade and (b) maximizing investment opportunity across a broad range of economic sectors including information technology, infrastructure, bio-technology and services.

The Minister stressed that one of the primary foundations of the new architecture of bilateral relations unveiled in the Vision Statement would be the economic and commercial partnership between the peoples and businesses of the two countries.

India-U.S. renewable energy MoU signed

A Memorandum of Understanding in the field of renewable energy was signed between the Solar Energy Center of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory of the United States Department of Energy.

Shri N.N. Mookerjee, Secretary, Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and Dr. Ernest J. Moniz, Under Secretary of Energy in the United States Department of Energy signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on behalf of the respective institutions.

The MoU envisages cooperation between the Solar Energy Center and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory to promote scientific and technological cooperation in the field of renewable energy. The activities proposed to be undertaken under this MoU include strengthening of capacities for energy technology innovation, promoting technologies to increase energy conservation and for a cleaner energy supply.

The contribution of U.S. based companies in the power sector in India has been very significant. Out of techno-economically-cleared private power projects, which are having foreign participation, 47 per cent projects have USA based developers are 57 per cent and 80 per cent respectively.

The major U.S. power companies like Enron, CMS Generation, General Electrics, AES Transpower, Bechtel, Southern Electric, Ogden, PSEG Global etc. are associated with the growth of power sector in the country. It is estimated that in next few years’ investment by U.S. companies in the Indian power sector could cross U.S. \$10 billion dollars.

India-U.S. Sign a Joint Statement on Cooperation in Energy and Environment

Minister of External Affairs Jaswant Singh and U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright signed a joint statement on cooperation on energy and environment issues on behalf of the India and the United States on March 22, 2000 in Agra. The statement outlines a common agenda on clean energy development and environmental protection, including:

- Two ambitious national Indian environmental goals:
- 10% of new electric power will come from renewable energy sources by 2012;
- and approximately 15% improvements in energy efficiency in power production will be made by 2007-08.

Creation of a binational 'Joint Consultative Group' on Clean Energy and the Environment that will focus on clean energy projects and policy, commercial development of clean energy, and, enhanced cooperation on global climate change;

Promotion of a shared vision that countries can achieve robust economic growth while protecting the environment and taking action to combat climate change;

A reaffirmation of the urgent need for international dialogue on ways both developed and developing countries can participate in actions to combat climate change, consistent with treaty obligations under the Framework Convention on Climate Change;

Agreement to work in closer partnership on the further elaboration of mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol, such as the Clean Development Mechanism; and acknowledgement of the essential role of the private sector and reference to new initiatives.

South Asia Regional Initiative (SARI) Energy Program: The SARI Energy Program is a new \$50 million USAID program designed to accelerate investment and trade in clean energy among South Asian nations, including India, Bangladesh and Nepal, which the President announced in Bangladesh on Monday. Program support will help countries foster regional cooperation and develop the appropriate policy, regulatory, and investment environments to encourage private investment. The program will promote the use of clean energy technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help stimulate economic growth.

U.S. Export-Import Bank Line of Credit: The Ex-Im Bank will provide a \$200 million specialized line of credit targeted for clean energy development projects through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Power Finance Corporation.

Clean Energy Trade Mission: To further the goals of President Clinton's International Clean Energy initiative,

the Department of Commerce will lead a trade mission to India focused on clean energy projects by the end of the year.

Greenhouse Gas Pollution Prevention Project (GEP): USAID will provide \$20 million for a three-year extension of this program to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency and cleaner fuel use. GEP will:

- expand the efforts of India's National Thermal Power Corporation to increase efficiency in its power generation plants;
- help increase use of clean energy technology in power production;
- build local institutional capacity, and increase public/private partnerships for climate change abatement efforts; and
- design and demonstrate climate change abatement initiatives in cities.

Energy Conservation and Commercialization (ECO) Project: USAID will provide \$25 million for ECO, a program to help promote commercialization of energy efficient technologies and services. ECO will provide technical assistance and training to the Ministry of Power, electric utilities, and regulatory commissions on policy reforms and will work to address market constraints to greater use of energy efficiency products and services.

Resumption of Bilateral Energy Consultations and Technical Assistance: Dept. of Energy will resume its cooperative efforts on non-nuclear power sector policy reforms, and on public and private collaborative projects related to clean energy, renewable energy and energy efficiency. DOE programs were suspended in 1998 in the context of policy-based restrictions on U.S. assistance to India.

Resumption of EPA Technical Assistance: EPA will re-establish its environmental cooperation program in India with proposals to address air quality management, strengthening implementation of environmental policies and regulations, risk assessment and management of priority pollutants, and greenhouse gas reduction projects. EPA programs were suspended in 1998 in the context of policy-based restrictions on U.S. assistance to India.

Joint Private Sector Statement: The Confederation on Indian Industry and the U.S. Energy Association announced a joint statement to cooperate on trade and investment for clean energy development in India. The parties announced creation of a new 'green business center' in Hyderabad and a 'matchmaker' initiative to help bring investors in contact with business/project opportunities.

India and the United States sign commercial agreements exceeding \$3.5 billion

Information Technologies

- **Motorola (Schaumburg, IL)**, working with the government of Andhra Pradesh, will establish the Motorola School of Communications Technology as part of the Indian Institute of Information Technology in Hyderabad. The Motorola school is the first of its kind for training students in the field of telecommunications. The curriculum will focus on CDMA, satellite, Internet networks, and other technologies.
- **TechnologyNet.com (Bethesda, MD)** signed an agreement with Satyam, the second largest national provider of Internet access and services in India, to create a new Internet portal which will provide India's high-tech industry with access to information technology services and products throughout the world.
- **Avid Technology (Tewksbury, MA)** signed a memorandum of understanding with the Indian company, IMT Imaging Technologies to create a training center for next generation imaging technology. Avid would participate as a joint promoter. The next generation imaging applications will be used for films, television and net-based entertainment.
- **Hewlett Packard (Palo Alto, CA)** signed an MOU with the Indian company, Imaging Technologies (IMT) to create a center for next generation imaging technology. Hewlett Packard software will form the platform for centersys imaging technology.
- **Hughes Network Systems (Germantown, MD)** signed a business agreement to provide a VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminals -

a small antenna used for transmitting and receiving data communications) system to S.Kumars.Com Limited. This network is designed to promote electronic communication, with a special focus on rural India.

- **Motorola (Schaumburg, IL)** signed a memorandum of understanding with the Indian telecommunications company, Essar Telecom Ltd., to develop a Local Multipoint Distribution System (LMDS) to provide wireless broadband access. Essar plans to offer a variety of Internet services across 52 cities in phase 1 of this project.
- **Bank of America (Chicago, IL)** signed a business agreement with DSQ Software, India's 4th largest software services company, to form a global IT services company specializing in the financial services sector. Bank of America is the majority investor in the new entity.
- **IBM (Armonk, NY)** signed a business agreement with the Indian hitech firm, DSQ World.com Ltd, to supply a range of computer products and services.
- **InfoDream (Santa Clara, CA)** signed a business agreement with the Indian firm, ModiCorp Ltd. for the creation of an innovative web portal for automating the entire process of resource management in a service enterprise.
- **NeuVis Inc. (Shelton, CT)** and DSQ Software signed a business agreement to help speed innovations in the NeuVis ebusiness platform and increase the rate of customer implementations to the global ebusiness market.

Finance

- **The Principal Financial Group (Des Moines, IA)** signed an agreement with its Indian joint venture partner, the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), solidifying its plans to launch the IDBI - Principal Asset Management Company Ltd. The products of this partnership will enable the people of India to attain old age security, a need that is not currently being addressed.
- **Hughes Network Systems (Germantown, MD)** signed a financing agreement with a leading Indian financial institution, Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India, that will allow Hughes Network and its partners to raise the necessary funds to install broadband communications network for customers across Maharashtra and Goa. Hughes, which currently has 20,000 lines in service, hopes to have over 220,000 lines in operation by March 2002.

Energy

- **Enron (Houston, TX)** signed an agreement with Ispat Energy Ltd. to supply natural gas to the Dolvi power plant near Mumbai. Enron anticipates U.S. products and services to be incorporated into the pipeline that will carry the gas from Enron's facility to the power plant.
- **Synergics Energy Development, Inc. (Annapolis, MD)** signed a Memorandum of Intent with India's Power Finance Corporation which will commit to financing 25 percent of the Shrinagar Hydroelectric Project in Uttar Pradesh. The project will provide a clean and reliable energy source

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Commercial Agreements

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for three million people in Northern India and will help eliminate more than a million tons of greenhouse gas emissions and annually save over 100 million gallons of oil.

- **Ogden Energy (New York, NY)** signed two business agreements with Indian counterparts for the development of regional power projects.
- **Balaji Power Project:** Ogden signed an agreement formalizing its partnership with Balaji Power Corporation. The two partners will build, own, and operate a 106 MW greenfield power project.
- **Shree Maheswar Power Project:** Ogden signed an agreement with the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board for the construction of a hydropower dam. When completed the dam will provide 400 MW of hydroelectric power to the Madhya Pradesh region.
- **U.S. Energy Association (USEA) (Washington, D.C.)** signed an agreement with the Confederation of India Industry (CII) establishing a joint Indo-U.S. private sector trade and investment working group which will work with the both governments to promote commercially viable clean energy and environmental opportunities.

Environment

- **Global Market Resources, Inc. (Cary, NC)** which is the authorized Asia distributor and consultant for the Hydroclave Systems signed an agreement with the Indian company Healing Medicaids Private Ltd. for the purchase of the Hydroclave medical waste system. The Hydroclave technology provides an environmentally friendly alternative to traditional incineration technology, alleviating the air pollutants and water run off effects associ-

ated with incineration as well as reducing the volume and weight of waste.

- **LightStream Technologies, Inc. (Reston, VA)** signed a business agreement with its Indian partner, Subhash establishing a strategic alliance through which LightStream seeks to introduce its chemical-free, high-powered pulsed ultraviolet light water disinfection technology.
- **Water Systems International (Washington, DC)** signed an agreement with Haryana State Industrial Development Corporation to establish a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility for water purification units. WSI is an environmental engineering firm that has been active in India, focusing on water treatment solutions and drinking water problems. This will be its first project in Haryana

Tourism

- **World Corporate Club, Inc. (Annandale, NJ)** signed a business agreement with the Indian

Company, Flex Group of Companies, to evaluate the suitability of property for the construction of an international business club in New Delhi.

In addition to these commercial agreements, two Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) were signed between the two countries. Under the two MOUs, EXIM of the United States has pledged \$1 billion for Indian small businesses to purchase U.S. made goods and services.

- MOU between the Export Import Bank of India and EXIM Bank of the United States U.S.
- MOU between with the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) and the Small Industries Development Bank of India, a subsidiary of IDBI geared to meet the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises.

EXIM Bank of the United States also approved a preliminary commitment for \$358 million in financing to support the purchase of 10 Boeing aircrafts for Jet Airways of India.



U.S. President Clinton being received by President K. R. Narayanan at a ceremonial reception in New Delhi on March 21, 2000. Prime Minister Vajpayee and the U.S. President's daughter Chelsea Clinton are also seen.

Excerpts from Ambassador Naresh Chandra's chat with India Today

March 27, 2000

Q: Of what consequence and importance for India was President Clinton's visit considering that he is nothing but a lame duck President.

Naresh Chandra: The main purpose of President Clinton's visit was to send a clear signal that both India and the U.S. are ready and committed to forge a new relationship in the 21st century. The summit meeting has been very successful and laid the foundation for carrying forward meaningful dialogue and to improve cooperation in vital areas over a broad range. These institutional arrangements will survive a change of government, which is in any case a regular feature in democracies. Of course the personal contributions of the two leaders will remain to serve the interlocutors on both sides in the future.

Q: Sir, how do you analyze the failure of Indian diplomacy to persuade the US President not to visit Pakistan. It does seem that even now the Indian lobbying in Washington is not very efficient as compared with Pakistan's.

Naresh Chandra: The approach of the government of India has been very much distorted in some sections of the press. You'll be glad to know that our invitation to the U.S. President was unconditional. It was our duty to inform the U.S. side in advance about the adverse reaction in India to a visit to Pakistan at this time, because of all that had happened in 1999 like the Kargil crisis, the military takeover and the Indian Airlines plane hijack. We always said this is a decision for the US President to take and the warmth and the scale of our reception would not be affected if he decided to visit Pakistan. You should also know that leading newspapers expressed opinions against the Pakistan visit. Opinion in the US, among experts, was divided. Many leading Americans said that a visit to a military regime would somewhat tarnish America's image as a champion of democracy and tend to

legitimize the military government in Pakistan. Indian diplomacy did not fail. In fact Indian diplomacy alerted the U.S. administration of possible dangers; that is why the U.S. President and official spokesmen were able to quickly rebut Islamabad's claim that the visit legitimized the military government's stand. Our diplomatic efforts must have been effective as can be seen from the statements made by the President and his National Security Advisor on this subject.

Q: Will signing CTBT really make any difference in Indo-US ties?

Naresh Chandra: It is evident that signing the CTBT will narrow down differences that we have on Non-proliferation issues. However, the chief criterion for taking a decision one way or the other would be on the basis of a consensus and in the context of what is in the national security interests of the people of India.

Q: Now that Mr. Clinton has had a very successful visit to India, what specific steps will our embassy and consulates take to get NRIs involved in building a better understanding between the Congress and India on Kashmir and also between US citizens and India on Kashmir. Many still do not have a proper appreciation of the problems faced by India in solving the Kashmir problem. There should be a strategic plan drawn by the embassy for this purpose.

Naresh Chandra: The embassy and consulates have been working very closely with Indian Americans and this has resulted in a greater understanding of the Jammu and Kashmir issue. I agree that more needs to be done but you should note that a very large number of members of the House of Representatives and the Senate have given statements and written letters to the U.S. President supporting India's case and highlighting the irresponsible actions of Pak agencies in supporting

cross-border terrorism and fundamentalist militant activity. The strategic plan exists and it is drawn up at the government of India level to be followed and implemented by Indian missions abroad, including the embassy at Washington, DC.

Q: Do you think India and Pakistan will sit and talk on Kashmir? If Pakistan stops sending in armed militants, as required by India for talks, what is there to talk about Kashmir, there will be peace as such.

Naresh Chandra: The Simla agreement of 1972 and the Lahore declaration of 1999 provide for a bilateral dialogue to resolve all issues including Jammu and Kashmir. India's stand is that for the dialogue to be meaningful, the conditions essential to progress and constructive dialogue should be present. Aiding and abetting terrorist and militant activity along-with vicious propaganda are not conducive to holding a meaningful dialogue. This is common sense. What India is seeking is not a set of pre-conditions, but the building up of a helpful atmosphere. This requires the ground situation to improve and for Pakistan and its agencies to live up to its obligations under the Simla agreement and the Lahore declaration. I do not agree with you that if peace comes there would be nothing to talk about. On the contrary there are a number of issues on which we can hopefully make progress and resolve issues, for example the Siachen dispute, the Tulbul navigation project and the better and less costly management of the Line of Control and international border. Windows of opportunity would also open for cooperation in Energy and Environment, Information Technology, Business and Trade. We would also like to improve travel facilities between India and Pakistan to reduce the difficulties faced by travelers, particularly where members of the same family are living on both sides of the border.

Indian Press Monitor

Partners in peace

All the same, the stress placed on India's "commitment to enhancing cooperation, peace and stability" in the region specifically underlines New Delhi's positive role. The "risk" which Mr. Vajpayee took in visiting Lahore, as mentioned by Mr Clinton, is noteworthy in this context. It showed that India was ready to go the extra mile to resolve differences. But, as soon as the situation showed signs of improvement, there were attempts to sabotage the painstaking efforts, as Mr. Vajpayee pointed out in the joint press conference with the U.S. President. The "horrible" events in Kashmir the previous night, in Mr. Clinton's words, can possibly be seen as such a cynical ploy by mercenaries to whom human lives count for nothing.

— **Hindustan Times**, *March 22, 2000*

A Watershed?

The signing of the document, India-U.S. Relations: A Vision for the 21st Century by the Prime Minister of India, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and President Bill Clinton of the United States, is an event of far-reaching significance.

It marks the remarkable transformation that has come upon the relations between the two countries since the tension and suspicion of the Cold War days. The document, which is most comprehensive and covers almost every possible area in which India and the U.S. can interact is a clear indication of the depth and intensity of the engagement sought by both sides.

— **The Pioneer**, *March 22, 2000*

Man of the moment

Even as Bill Clinton's visit continues to inspire rhetorical flourishes — "the beginning of a new voyage in a new century", as Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee told Parliament on Wednesday — there is little doubt that the relaxed personal style of the American President has won him as many admirers in this country as has the seeming tilt in the U.S. policy towards India under him.

— **Hindustan Times**, *March 23, 2000*

Upswing in Indo-U.S. relations

The U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton's visit to India has inaugurated what could be a brighter and more promising chapter in the history of the relationship between India and the United States which has for long been a troubled and difficult one. The first American President to visit India in two decades, Mr. Clinton's interactions with the political leadership in New Delhi resulted in a decision to upgrade and intensify the diplomatic contacts between both sides — regular summit meetings between the —Indian Prime Minister and the U.S. President, an annual foreign policy dialogue at the level of the Minister for External Affairs and the U.S. Secretary of State and other regular foreign policy consultations. The decision to institutionalise the Indo-U.S. dialogue and to create an "architecture" of high-level consultations, marks an acknowledgment on both sides, particularly the U.S., of the strategic utility of deepening the engagement between the two countries that were clearly until now conforming to the description of "estranged democracies".

— **The Hindu**, *March 23, 2000*

Clinton in Middle India

To India of the silent majority, the Clinton visit is both an engaging spectacle (to be watched after office hours on TV) and serious business because it marks the beginning of a major change in mutual relations where the wasted opportunities may be set right. In doing so, India will guard its own interests and America its own, as always. Only this time, there seems every possibility of the two sets of interests converging because of the post-Cold War ground realities which were earlier absent. There is nothing artificial or forced, therefore, about the new warmth in Indo-US ties. It is the natural outcome of events such as the demise of communism and the rise of Islamic terrorism.

— **Hindustan Times**, *March 25, 2000*

See **INDIAN PRESS MONITOR**, *Page 12*



U.S. President Clinton and his daughter Chelsea paying homage at the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial, Rajghat in New Delhi on March 21, 2000.

INDIAN PRESS MONITOR (Continued from page 11)

Clinton's Productive Visit

For the first time, the world's most populous and most powerful democracies have an agreed vision of the way to foster closer and more cooperative bilateral relations over a decade or two. Moreover, the vision statement is not just an essay in rhetoric; practicality is its hallmark. Above all, an institutional mechanism has been put in place to ensure that the promise is matched by performance.

What makes this declaration of intent credible is that neither side has made any attempt to hide or paper over differences that persist, most notably on the crucial and sensitive nuclear issue. Mr Clinton has made it clear that while India is the best judge of what it should do about its security, America wants this country to abjure the use of nuclear weapons. Mr. Vajpayee has stated that the minimum nuclear deterrent for the security of the country will remain until there is an elimination of nuclear weapons by all.

— *Inder Malhotra* — **The Tribune, March 29, 2000**

After the euphoria

The point to note is that the differences of opinion between India and the U.S. on the issues detailed above have been accepted by both sides as existential realities which should not come in the way of a long-term broad-based consolidation and expansion of Indo-U.S. relations. The bilateral agreements and memoranda signed on cooperation in the fields of energy, technology and environment, in addition to the "Vision Statement" and the memoranda signed on institutionalising bilateral contacts, affirm this approach.

— *J.N. Dixit* — **The Hindustan Time, March 29, 2000**

Excerpts of U.S. News Media on President Clinton's visit

Upgrading India

The Clinton administration has finally publicly recognized a process that has been going on for some time in South Asia: a revolutionary change in the balance of power—the emergence of India as a nuclear power and the strategic decline of Pakistan. The president's trip was historic in the sense that it recognized the end of the Cold War in South Asia and with it the end of the special U.S.-Pakistani relationship that was directly connected to the Cold War.

— *Amos Perlmutter* — **Washington Times**
— **March 28, 2000**

Clinton Lauds Technology as Key to India's Economy

HYDERABAD, India, March 24 — President Clinton saluted India's information-technology industry today, the core of the country's steady economic growth and a supplier of brain power to Silicon Valley in California.

This was the last full day of Mr. Clinton's visit to India, and after having dealt with tricky strategic and political questions, it seemed appropriate that the president should concentrate on the economy, the area where there is probably the most commonality between the United States and India.

The number of Internet users in India is expected to grow 10 times in the next four years, he added. The worth of India's information-technology exports have catapulted, to \$4 billion from \$150 million 10 years ago. The Indian government projects that by 2008 the exports will grow to \$85 billion.

— *Jane Perlez* — **New York Times**
— **March 25, 2000**



Prime Minister Vajpayee and U.S. President Clinton exchanging the signed documents on "India-U.S. Relations: A Vision for the 21st Century" in New Delhi on March 21, 2000.

Clinton Helps Boost U.S.-India Trade Ties

More than \$4 billion in business deals were signed during his visit to the South Asian nation, the president says.

India's huge, emerging middle class—estimated at 200 million or more people—represents a vast opportunity for U.S. business. Clinton also announced that the U.S. Export-Import Bank will provide more than \$2 billion in financing to small- and medium-sized enterprises in India. Included is \$358 million in financing to India's Jet Airways to buy 10 Boeing 737-800 aircraft, to be delivered next year.

The agreements culminated what Commerce Secretary William M. Daley called "a highly successful" trip to this nation of 1 billion people. Earlier in the day, Clinton visited Hyderabad, a center of India's thriving high-tech industry, to tout the economic potential of the information age.

— *Edwin Chen*
— **Los Angeles Times** — **March 25, 2000**

A Passage to a New Era of Peace, Prosperity

Clinton's visit can defuse tensions if he shows a new acceptance of New Delhi's world prominence.

Engaging with India holds many benefits for the United States. It will create a context of trust for dealing with India on sensitive regional and global security issues such as nonproliferation and terrorism. India will be a major factor for stability in Asia in this century. The U.S. needs the regular, high-level dialogue with Indian leaders that closer ties will bring.

India's economy, poised for takeoff if reforms proceed, offers important opportunities to American companies and investors. They can profit not only by selling to India but also by tapping its supply of low-cost, skilled labor. In the dynamic, knowledge-based industries such as information technology and biotechnology, India and the U.S. have complementary advantages in an open world trading system. And India will be pivotal to progress on the pressing social issues—public health, human rights, poverty alleviation and the environment—central to American foreign policy in coming years.

— *Frank G. Wisner, Marshal M. Bouton*
— **Los Angeles Times** - **March 15, 2000**

See **U.S. NEWS MEDIA REPORTS**, Page 14

A Turning Point

In addition, the strategic interests of India and the United States are converging for the first time since India's independence in 1947. Specifically, the two most daunting challenges facing Indian and American policymakers are the threat posed by the rise of Islamic fundamentalism and the emergence of China as an economic and military competitor. These factors should foster a frank and open dialogue with India's political leaders, who are a very patriotic and confident group.

Unlike high-level discussions with Chinese leaders, these will be a forum where Clinton can air a wide range of contentious issues such as nuclear proliferation, labor standards or Kashmir, without having to contend with onerous preconditions, prickly rejoinders or attempts at intimidation and retaliation.

— By Ed Rogers
— Washington Post — March 17, 2000

Waiting for Clinton - in Jaipur

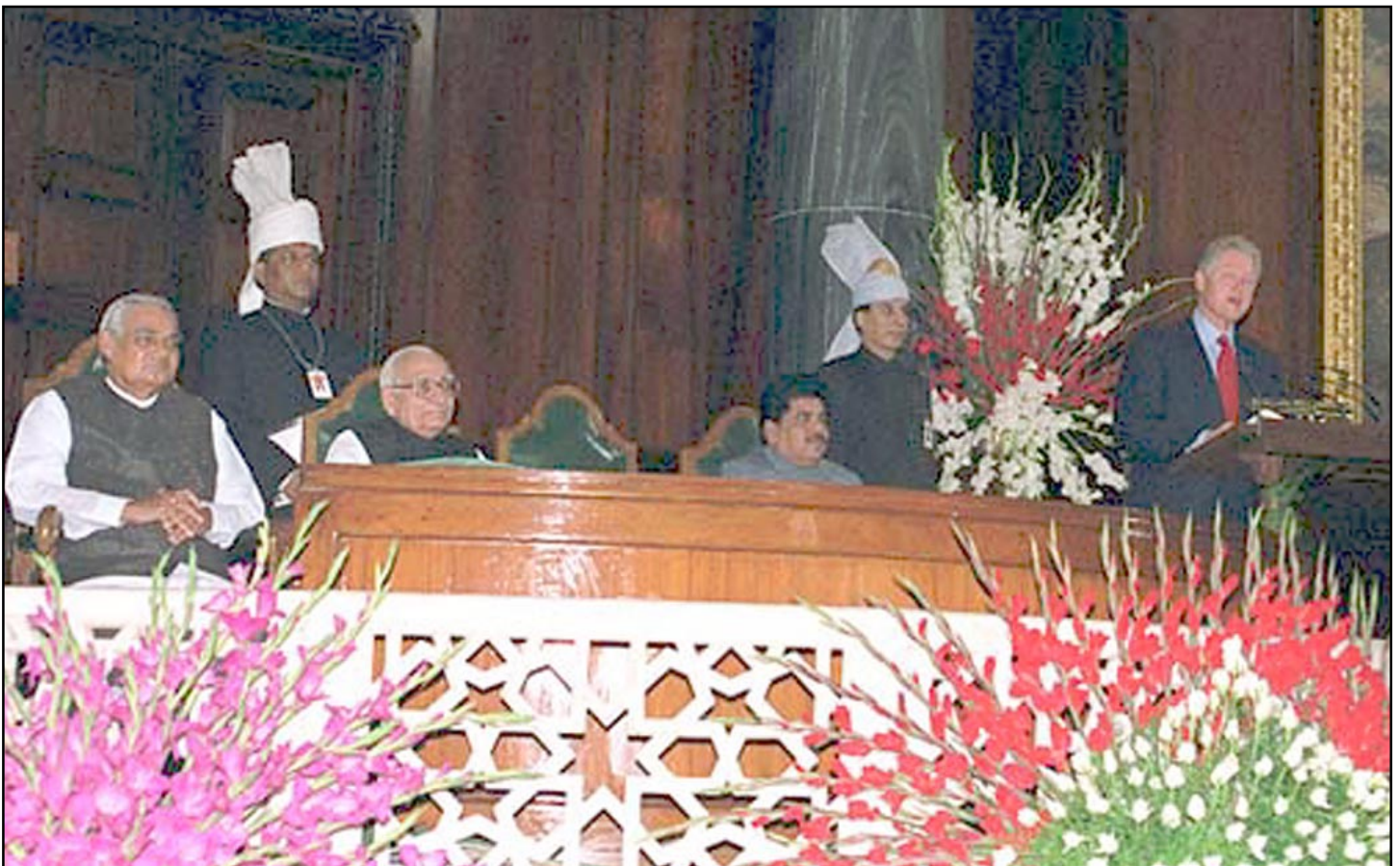
First, the president should make clear that the U.S. does not wish to remake the world in its own image. Echoing

themes in his State of the Union address, Clinton can say that the U.S. and India are not only the world's two largest democracies but also the world's two largest multicultural societies. In an era plagued with ethnic violence, both countries have shown the world how to live with difference. The president should also let his hosts know that Americans appreciate the heterogeneity of world cultures and admire the contribution India's ancient and vibrant civilization makes to that diversity.

Second, the incumbent National Democratic Alliance government, and current public opinion here appear ready to accept a new relationship with Washington. Clinton should say that he is seeking to establish a cooperative partnership with India. He should indicate that the U.S. has discarded the Cold War tendency to balance and equate Pakistan and India, and that the U.S. recognizes India's leadership role in South Asia.

— By Matthew Rudolph, Susanne Hoeber Rudolph and
Lloyd I. Rudolph. Lloyd I. Rudolph and
Susanne Hoeber Rudolph.

— Chicago Tribune — March 8, 2000



U.S. President Clinton addressing the Members of both the Houses of Parliament, in New Delhi on March 22, 2000. Vice President Krishan Kant, Prime Minister Vajpayee and Lok Sabha Speaker Balayogi are also seen.



U.S. President Clinton inspecting a Guard of Honor at a Ceremonial Reception, in New Delhi on March 21, 2000.

India and U.S. to establish an India-U.S. Science & Technology Forum

New Delhi, March 21, 2000

India and the United States signed an Agreement today to establish the Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum to facilitate and promote the interaction, of government, academia, and industry in science, technology and other related areas. The Agreement was signed by the Minister of Human Resource Development, Science & Technology and Ocean Development Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi and the U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on the first day of the U.S. President Clinton's state visit to India.

The Forum will focus on issues of common concern and activities of mutual benefit while exploring trends in science and technology. The Forum will promote research and development, the transfer of technology, the creation of a comprehensive electronic reference

source for Indo-U.S. science and technology cooperation, and the electronic exchange and dissemination of information on Indo-U.S. science and technology cooperation.

The Forum will establish an electronic reference source in order to promote an active electronic exchange of ideas and opportunities in Indo-U.S. science and technology cooperation. The Forum will also commission studies, reports and papers and would assist in facilitating and promoting joint collaboration of projects.

The Forum will be registered as a non-profit Society under the India Society Act and will have the ability to receive funds from public and private sources to carry out its activities. A Governing Body com-

posed of seven members from the United States and seven from India will be established to provide guidance and the leadership to the Forum.

The Forum, will use the USIF interest earnings originally derived from the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United States of America on Educational, Cultural and Scientific Cooperation, signed at New Delhi, January 7, 1987, to create an endowment to support the operations of the Forum. The Forum in its capacity as an Indian Society, may also seek to raise funds from industry and private sources, in India and the United States, to support its activities, in accordance with the laws, regulations, and policies of the country in which the funds are being raised.

Cultural Calendar

April 8 - 9, 2000

The 6th Annual Festival Of India will be held in Charlotte, NC on April 8 and 9 at the First Union Atrium and Plaza in downtown Charlotte. There will be cultural displays, dances and delicious food. For information:
<http://www.freeyellow.com/members8/foict/index.html>

April 8 - 16, 2000

As part of its "Image-in-Asia" series for kids, Smithsonian Institution presents "In the Foot-steps of the Buddha". Exploring Buddhist sculptures in the Freer and Sackler galleries, children trace the path of Buddhism from South Asia through Central Asia to China, Korea and Japan. In the classroom, children make bas-relief sculptures incorporating Buddhist symbols. The sessions will be held on Saturdays (April 8, 15) and Sundays (April 9, 16). Venue is the classroom on the second level of the Sackler Gallery: 1050 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC. For more information, please call (202) 357-4880.

April 9, 2000

Natraj Enterprises and Kaleidoscope of Asia present "Holi Milan" with chief guest Mr. T.P. Sreenivasan, Deputy Chief of Mission, Indian Embassy. The program includes food, fun, entertainment and colors. Time: 5:00 p.m. Venue: Bohrer Park, 506 South Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD. For further information, please call Mr. Arora at (301) 340-9564.

April 11, 2000

Vidya Dehejia, Associate Director and Chief Curator of South Asian Art at the Smithsonian Institution will discuss the importance of sculpture in the arts of India. Time: Noon. Venue: Freer Gallery 18, Jefferson Drive at 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC. For further information, please call (202) 357-2700.

April 14, 2000

Smithsonian Institution presents Ajoy Chakrabarty in a vocal music program at the Freer Gallery of Art, Meyer Auditorium, Jefferson Drive at 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC. Two free tickets will be distributed one hour prior to the program. For

more information, please call (202) 357-2700. With more than 50 recordings, Chakrabarty is one of India's leading Hindustani vocalists.

April 15, 2000

The Gandhi Memorial Center presents north Indian classical music by Vishwas Shirgaonkar, a vocalist who has received extensive training in both the Gwalior and Jaipur styles. He will be accompanied by Subhash Karmarkar on the tabla and Arvind Bhand on the harmonium. Time: 7:30 p.m. Venue: Gandhi Memorial Center: 4748 Western Avenue at 49th Street, NW, Washington, DC. For further information, please call (301) 229-3871.

April 17, 2000

As part of its 'Meet the Author' series, Smithsonian Institution presents Jeffrey Paine. The author of "Father India", Paine will read and discuss his favorite Asian poems and sign copies of his new book, "The Poetry of Our World: An International Anthology of Contemporary Poetry". Time: 7:00 p.m. Venue: Freer conference room, Freer Gallery of Art, Jefferson Drive at 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC. For more information, please call (202) 357-2700.

April 29, 2000

The Embassy of India, with the World Bank / IMF India Club, presents: A concert of classical Indian music by Shubha Sankaran on surbahar (bass lute) and Peter Fagiola on pakhawaj (barrel drum).

Saturday, April 29, at 7:00 PM, at the World Bank, H Auditorium, entrance on the south side of the G St. NW, between 19th and 20th St; no admission charge; for assured placement on the admission list call 202-399-3399, or 202-939-7070, and leave a message with your name(s), or send your name(s) to surbahar@aol.com

For further information on the artists call 202-399-3399, or see www.surbahar.com

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