

[Complex yet fascinating job: Nirupama Rao](#)

Hindu, 2 August 2009

NEW DELHI: Describing her new assignment as "complex and yet fascinating," Nirupama Rao on Saturday took over as Foreign Secretary with the focus on augmenting India's diplomatic capabilities. The appointment of the seasoned diplomat comes at a time when India's relations with Pakistan are going through testing times in the wake of the Mumbai terror attacks in November last

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/08/02/stories/2009080260360800.htm>

[China rejects report on border talks with India](#)

People's Daily, 7 August 2009

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman on Friday rejected a report from Hong Kong about China-India border talks, saying the report is groundless. Hong Kong based Ming Pao newspaper reported Wednesday that China's bottom line in its border talks with India is that China would possess only 28 percent of the disputed territory with India. China is willing to make joint efforts with India in the spirit of mutual understanding and accommodation to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the issue, said Jiang Yu, spokeswoman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6722271.html>

[Rudd assures Krishna of safety of Indian students](#)

Hindu, 8 August 2009

SINGAPORE: Australia on Friday allayed India's concerns over the security of Indian students and the quality of education given to them. The two countries also exchanged ideas on how to give a "forward-oriented" thrust to Hindu by External Affairs Minister the bilateral ties. This was conveyed to The S. M. Krishna and diplomatic sources after he met Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Foreign Minister Stephen Smith in Cairns. Mr. Krishna was representing India as a dialogue partner of the Pacific Islands Forum at their meeting there

[India-China border talks begin](#)

Hindu, 8 August 2009

NEW DELHI: The Special Representatives of India and China, M.K. Narayanan and Dai Bingguo, began the 13th round of talks on the boundary issue with a wider ambit here on Friday. Besides continuing with the "second stage" of boundary talks, they are also discussing bilateral and regional issues ahead of several bilateral high-level exchanges, including President Pratibha Patil's visit to Beijing and a "top" Chinese leader's arrival here later this year

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/08/08/stories/2009080862511400.htm>

[India, US operationalise biggest-ever defence deal](#)

Times of India, 8 August 2009

NEW DELHI: The last hurdle for the execution of the biggest-ever

defence deal with US, the \$2.1 billion contract for eight Boeing P-8I long-range maritime reconnaissance (LRMR) aircraft, has now been cleared. The US and Indian governments have finalised the technical assistance agreement (TAA) for the P-8I contract after exchange of a few drafts and the formal approval by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS).

[Delhi meet can nudge Doha process forward: Anand Sharma](#)
Hindu, 10 August 2009

SINGAPORE: Set to host an "informal ministerial" in the Doha process in early September, India says the political "platform can help us in working out a path forward." The negotiators in Geneva, from diverse economies, can then have "a clearer course of action" for framing "a rule-based global trade order," according to Union Commerce Minister Anand Sharma. Speaking to The Hindu from Seoul on Saturday, Mr. Sharma said: "It is not a question of raising expectations" about the planned ministerial in Delhi. Nor was it India's intention to have the prospective talks judged against "any comparable yardstick" of progress at the previous ministerial meetings in the Doha process

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/08/10/stories/2009081054941200.htm>

[Ties with China not clouded: Krishna](#)
Hindu, 11 August 2009

SINGAPORE: The boundary issue with China "has not clouded" India's "vision of the larger picture" in bilateral ties, according to External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna. "We have a good relationship with China," Mr. Krishna said at the airport here on Monday. Speaking to The Hindu during a brief stop-over, while on his way home from Australia, he called for a continued "focus" by both India and China on staying their economic courses in the present context

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/08/11/stories/2009081158240100.htm>

[India, Nepal to discuss better border management](#)
Hindu, 11 August 2009

NEW DELHI: Border management, encroachments and political mechanisms to promote trust and understanding among parties in Nepal will come up for high-level discussions during the visit of Nepal's Foreign Minister Sujata Koirala, which began here on Monday

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/08/11/stories/2009081160961200.htm>

['U.S. travel alert routine, no threat to foreigners'](#)
Hindu, 12 August 2009

NEW DELHI: India has described the U.S. and Canada travel advisories as "routine" and said there is no threat to foreigners in the country. "The U.S. Embassy keeps sending advisories. These are routine and general in nature. There is nothing new in it," Home Secretary G.K. Pillai said when asked about the fresh travel alerts issued by the U.S. and Canada

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/08/12/stories/2009081257382200.htm>

[Split India, says China think-tank](#)

Times of India, 12 August 2009

NEW DELHI: India may have survived doomsday predictions — once a favourite pastime of the West — of its balkanization but that does not seem to have deterred the Chinese. On Tuesday, New Delhi took exception to an article on a quasi-official Chinese website, which boasted that the “great Indian federation” was ripe for dismemberment if Beijing tried just a little. Posted on April 8 on the website iiss.cn (International Institute for Strategic Studies), the article detailed a roadmap for breaking up India. “To split India, China can bring into its fold countries like Pakistan, Nepal and Bhutan, support Ulfa in attaining its goal for Assam’s independence, back aspirations of Indian nationalities like Tamils and Nagas, encourage Bangladesh to give a push to the independence of West Bengal and lastly recover the 90,000 sq km territory in southern Tibet,” the write-up said

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/news/india/Break-India-says-China-think-tank/articleshow/4883573.cms>

[India regrets U.S. report](#)

Hindu, 14 August 2009

NEW DELHI: India has termed “regrettable” the move by the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) to ask U.S. President Barack Obama to urge India to take new measures to promote communal harmony and prevent communal violence. In its India report, it also asked the U.S. administration to ensure that all Indian political parties and religious or social organisations publicly denounce violence against and harassment of religious minorities, women, and low-caste members, and to acknowledge that such violence constitute a crime under Indian law

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/08/14/stories/2009081460931000.htm>

[India, ASEAN sign free trade agreement](#)

Hindu, 14 August 2009

SINGAPORE: India and the Association of South East Asian Nations on Thursday signed a Free Trade Agreement, which took nearly six years to negotiate. The FTA, relating only to goods, was signed by Union Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma and his ASEAN counterparts at a ceremony in Bangkok after the two sides held annual consultations. The accord, India’s first with a trade bloc, will cover 11 countries with a combined Gross Domestic Product of over \$2 trillion. The combined population is of the order of 1.6 billion

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/08/14/stories/2009081455931500.htm>

[India may have been acting under international law: US on NKorean ship](#)

Times of India, 14 August 2009

WASHINGTON: Refraining from commenting over the detention of a North Korean ship by Indian authorities, a top US official today said New Delhi might have been acting under international and domestic law. "We've gotten some of the facts in the case, a North Korean ship anchored in Indian territorial waters without notification, without permission. When it was approached, it didn't answer. It was acting suspiciously," said Philip S Goldberg, Coordinator for Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1874

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/news/india/India-may-have-been-acting-under-international-law-US-on-NKorean-ship/articleshow/4892574.cms>

Govt to Holbrooke: Can't just walk in and out of India

Times of India, 14 August 2009

NEW DELHI: Richard Holbrooke, the US special envoy on Af-Pak, is finding the going very difficult when it comes to India. For the second time in a month, Holbrooke has had "scheduling" problems in India. The foreign office has told Holbrooke in very polite diplomatic terms that he cannot walk in and out of India at will. Holbrooke, senior officials said, had a habit of unilaterally deciding when he wanted to come to India and then demanding to see his top foreign policy interlocutors

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/news/india/Govt-to-Holbrooke-Cant-just-walk-in-and-out-of-India/articleshow/4892246.cms>

India for strategic relations with U.S., Russia

Hindu, 15 August 2009

NEW DELHI: While India's relationship with Russia has acquired stability, its ties with the U.S. appear to be still a work in progress with both sides attempting to broaden the ambit of their cooperation. India is more or less engaging with both countries in similar sectors such as defence and security, energy, space, science & technology and trade & economy. The agenda for dialogue with the U.S. also covers people-to-people contacts and health, which do not figure in the list of topics for dialogue with Russia. This was the indication from the government's reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha during the recent budget session

Nepal to push for Pancheshwor

Kathmandu Post, 16 August 2009

KATHMANDU, Aug 15 - Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal is all set to push for progress on the 6,000-MW Pancheshwor Hydropower Project, a key component of the Mahakali Treaty, during his India visit, which begins on Aug. 18. The deliberations will also focus on a host of issues, including the peace process, army integration, constitution-making and the future political system.

"We will seek India's commitment to take the project forward. This will be a breakthrough," said Minister for Energy Prakash Saran Mahat, who is a member of the prime ministerial delegation. "The

timing to push the project is right because India is keen on it now.”

<http://www.kantipuronline.com/kolnews.php?nid=209823>

[Why are Prime Ministerial visits to Nepal so rare?](#)

Hindu, 18 August 2009

NEW DELHI: When Madhav Kumar Nepal arrives here on Tuesday, he will be the third Nepalese Prime Minister in as many years to visit New Delhi. In contrast, Manmohan Singh in his six years as Prime Minister has not visited Kathmandu once. His predecessor for an equal number of years, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, went to Nepal once. That was not a standalone visit, but of an obligatory nature to attend the SAARC summit of which India is the leading light

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/08/18/stories/2009081860091300.htm>

[Talking the talk by Navin Singh Khadka](#)

Kathmandu Post, 22 August 2009

When Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal was hobnobbing with top officials in New Delhi earlier this week, a key Indian figure — at least, for the Nepalese delegation — was missing from the scene. Indian Water Resources Minister Pawan Bansal was just then here in Europe. Protocol-wise, it hardly mattered as Nepal's prime minister met with his Indian counterpart and other senior figures. But if what Nepal had described as one of his main items on the agenda meant anything, Bansal's absence makes a hell of a difference. Pancheshwor, you guessed right.

[Russia to deliver MiG-29 engines to India](#)

Hindustan Times, 22 August 2009

Russia will deliver 26 engines for upgrading the MiG-29 combat jets of the Indian Air Force (IAF), with another 120 to be assembled in India, following an agreement with the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) at the ongoing MAKS 2009 air show near Moscow, officials said on Friday. The RD-33/series 3 engine, being delivered by state-run arms exporter Rosoboronexport, is an upgraded version of the powerful RD-33 turbofan with thrust vectoring for the MiG family of fighters. The engine provides superior maneuverability and enhances the fighter's performance in close air combat

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/News/india/Russia-to-deliver-MiG-29-engines-to-India/Article1-445657.aspx>

[India, Nepal firm up political, trade ties](#)

Hindu, 23 August 2009

NEW DELHI: After a five-day official visit, Madhav Kumar Nepal left India on Saturday, secure in the knowledge that the growing dissonance inside and outside his coalition government in Nepal will not affect the Indian commitment to underwrite his leadership in the difficult months that lie ahead. For the moment, at least. India remains concerned about divisions between Mr. Nepal and the Koiralas — the first family of his principal coalition partner, the Nepali Congress — and within the Prime Minister's own Unified

Marxists-Leninists. But on the principal faultline that divides Nepali politics — the Maoists vs. the UML-NC combine — New Delhi reiterated its strong support for the latter, weighing in behind the coalition's tough new stand against integration of Maoist combatants into the Nepal Army

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/08/23/stories/2009082356750100.htm>

[Indian envoys meet evades talks on Indo-Pak joint statement](#)

Times of India, 27 August 2009

NEW DELHI: Two days into an annual conference of India's envoys in the capital has seen a reverberating silence into the UPA government's most recent foreign policy affair. There has been no reference to, and almost no questions asked, about the India-Pakistan joint statement at Sharm el-Sheikh, which raised a political firestorm in the country only weeks ago. Interestingly, though privately Indian ambassadors repeatedly refer to the joint statement, at the envoys' conclave there has been a remarkable lack of curiosity about the event. On Tuesday, the ambassadors gathered together for a pow-pow on India's neighbourhood policy. Initially Pakistan was not even on the agenda, which only goes to show what everyone has always suspected, that India's policy on Pakistan is driven by domestic politics and domestic imperatives

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/news/india/Indian-envoys-meet-evades-talks-on-Indo-Pak-joint-statement/articleshow/4934351.cms>

[India, China armies clash in Sikkim?](#)

Hindustan Times, 28 August 2009

The Indian and Chinese armies have reportedly been locked in sporadic exchanges of fire in Sikkim, where the two countries share a high-altitude border, since Tuesday night. A senior defence ministry official in Kolkata, where the Eastern Command is based, said the conflict had been on at Nathu-la pass — 54 km east of Sikkim's capital Gangtok. In a statement issued on Thursday, the Ministry of Defence, however, denied any shooting on the border.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-China-armies-clash-in-Sikkim/H1-Article1-447812.aspx>

[India, Bangladesh to develop border infrastructure](#)

Hindustan Times, 28 August 2009

New Delhi and Dhaka would develop infrastructure along the border and simplify trade barriers to boost business between Bangladesh and northeast India, officials said in Agartala on Thursday. The two neighbours would upgrade existing infrastructural facilities of 27 Land Customs Stations (LCS) in four northeastern states of Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya and Mizoram - which share a 1,879-km border with Bangladesh

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/tripura/India-Bangladesh-to-develop-border-infrastructure-nbsp/Article1->

447568.aspx

'Sharm el-Sheikh was neither a step forward nor backward'
Hindu, 31 August 2009

New Delhi: Seeking to draw a line under the controversy surrounding last month's meeting between Manmohan Singh and Yusuf Raza Gilani, National Security Adviser M.K. Narayanan on Saturday replied in the negative when asked whether the Sharm el-Sheikh summit between the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan had been a step forward. "But," he hastened to add, "it certainly wasn't a step backward." The inclusion of Balochistan in the joint statement had made many critics see red but Mr. Narayanan was categorical that it made no difference to India's position

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/08/31/stories/2009083156271000.htm>