

[Nirupama Rao to be next Foreign Secretary](#)

Hindu, 1 July 2009

New Delhi: The government on Tuesday named Nirupama Rao, currently Ambassador to China, as its next Foreign Secretary. She will succeed Shiv Shankar Menon, who retires at the end of July after a tenure that lasted two years and 10 months. A 1973-batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service, Ms. Rao has had extensive experience working the full range of diplomatic assignments that a prospective Foreign Secretary is expected to have under her or his belt: important postings in one or more of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, an ambassadorship in India's immediate neighbourhood and line responsibilities at the headquarters

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/07/01/stories/2009070158280100.htm>

[G8 meetings to focus on economic crisis and climate change](#)

Hindu, 8 July 2009

Rome: It is a confident, resurgent Prime Minister Manmohan Singh who will be discussing global issues with leaders at the G8 outreach meetings in Italy for three days. Earlier in April, when he attended the G20 summit in London, it was as a lame duck Prime Minister facing uncertain prospects of return to power in an election process that was already under way. If then his standing as an economist and originator of economic reforms in India still made the outside world hear him with respect, he can now speak with the authority of popular endorsement of his policies and the renewed mandate

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/07/08/stories/2009070857620100.htm>

['Not a single Tamil house was attacked, not a single Tamil humiliated'](#)

Hindu, 8 July 2009

In this concluding part of an extended interview to The Hindu at Temple Trees in Colombo on June 30, President Mahinda Rajapaksa answers N. Ram's questions on concerns over what is perceived as triumphalism, the power of Sri Lanka's executive presidency, assaults and pressures on the news media, personal friendships, and relations with India. The first and second parts of the interview were published on July 6 and 7.

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/07/08/stories/2009070855380900.htm>

[We deeply value India's pledge of Rs. 500 crore, says Sri Lankan envoy](#)

Hindu, 8 July 2009

CHENNAI: Sri Lanka deeply values the Rs. 500 crore pledged by India and the Rs. 25 crore granted by Tamil Nadu for the rehabilitation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) in government transit facilities, C. Romesh Jayasinghe, Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to India, said here on Tuesday. Speaking at a seminar on "Post Conflict Sri Lanka and India's Role," organised by the Observer Research Foundation, Mr. Jayasinghe said his country would also draw on the U.N. agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and reputed international non-governmental organisations (INGO) for assistance in coping with those displaced and affected by the conflict

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/07/08/stories/2009070860681300.htm>

[IMF raises India's growth forecast](#)

Hindu, 9 July 2009

WASHINGTON: The International Monetary Fund on Wednesday raised India's growth forecast to 5.4 per cent for 2009, even as it projected the world economy to shrink by 1.4 per cent. In April, it forecast a growth of 4.5 per cent for India. In its update to the World Economic Outlook, the IMF said the global economy would contract by 1.4 per cent. Earlier it had projected a growth of 1.3 per cent. The Chinese economy would expand by 7.5 per cent, as against 6.5 per cent forecast in April, it said

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/07/09/stories/2009070957380100.htm>

[Manmohan Singh seeks green technology transfer commitment](#)

Hindu, 9 July 2009

L'Aquila, Italy: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown on Wednesday discussed ways to push the climate change talks and strengthen what looks like a weak declaration that may emerge from the meeting of the Major Economies Forum on Thursday. Much of the bilateral meeting between the two leaders on the sidelines of the G8 and G5 summits that lasted 45 minutes was devoted to climate change, which is perhaps the most critical and divisive issue at the conference. The Major Economies Forum is planning to give a major political thrust to the talks, which will conclude at the end of the year with the Copenhagen summit

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/07/09/stories/2009070955211000.htm>

[T.N. MPs raise issue of fishermen's arrest](#)

Hindu, 9 July 2009

NEW DELHI: The arrest of Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy was on Wednesday raised in both Houses of Parliament by MPs from Tamil Nadu. The members, belonging to the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), All-India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) and Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK), urged the government to take up the matter with Colombo immediately. Cutting across party lines, they said the issue was hurting the fishermen, who had gone on strike in Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu after the arrest of 20 persons by the Sri Lankan Navy recently

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/07/09/stories/2009070960751100.htm>

[A strong political message on climate change: India](#)

Hindu, 10 July 2009

L'Aquila, Italy: India considers the declaration on climate change in the agreed draft at the Major Economies Forum a "very strong political message" that would provide impetus to the negotiations on climate change before the Copenhagen summit in December. The Prime Minister's special envoy on climate change, Shyam Saran, said at a briefing on the sidelines of the G8 and G5 meetings that the declaration was positive and forward looking and would send the right kind of message, though the specifics would have to be negotiated under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change leading to the Copenhagen summit

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/07/10/stories/2009071060261000.htm>

[Krishna: Sri Lanka has new opportunity](#)

Hindu, 10 July 2009

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna said on Thursday Sri Lanka assured India that it would soon start an inclusive political process of dialogue and devolution with Tamils in the island nation. He said India would continue to help Sri Lanka in the rehabilitation of people displaced by war. In a suo motu statement in Parliament, Mr. Krishna said, "We have been assured by the Sri Lankan government of its intention to pursue a political process that envisages a broader dialogue with all parties, including the Tamil parties, the full implementation of the 13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution, and to go beyond, so as to achieve meaningful devolution of powers."

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/07/10/stories/2009071060281000.htm>

Colombo: no plan to set up military base on island

Hindu, 10 July 2009

NEW DELHI: Sri Lanka has denied any plans to build a military base on the Katchatheevu island, ceded by India as per an agreement in 1974, Minister of External Affairs S. M. Krishna told D. Raja of the (CPI), during the Question Hour in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. The issue was raised during the visit by a delegation last month led by Senior Adviser to the Sri Lankan President, Basil Rajapaksa

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/07/10/stories/2009071060311000.htm>

Pakistan should take credible action against terrorists: Manmohan

Hindu, 12 July 2009

New Delhi: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said on Saturday that India was "willing to walk more than half the distance" to normalise relations if Pakistan reaffirmed that it would bring the perpetrators of the Mumbai massacre to justice and would not allow its territory to be used for terrorist attacks against India. The Prime Minister was replying to a question on what India's stand would be in his scheduled meeting with Pakistan Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani in his interaction with journalists on board the special aircraft on the trip back from the G8 and G5 summit meetings in L'Aquila, Italy. Prefacing his answer with the remark that one could choose friends but not neighbours, he went on to say that if India were to realise its development ambitions and realise its place in the comity of nations it had to work with its neighbours to bring about peace and amity in South Asia

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/07/12/stories/2009071258580100.htm>

G8 ban on ENR sales shuts Russian door on India

Hindu, 12 July 2009

New Delhi: By not moving quickly to conclude an umbrella nuclear cooperation agreement with Russia before the international goalposts for commerce were moved again, India has made it easier for Washington to roll back the clean exemption the Nuclear Suppliers Group granted New Delhi from its export restrictions last year. Diplomatic sources told The Hindu that Moscow had approached the Indian side several months ago for the negotiation of an agreement going beyond the one already signed for the purchase of additional reactors at Kudankulam. Such an agreement could have provided for cooperation across the full range of civil nuclear activities and technologies, including enrichment and reprocessing (ENR), and allowed Russia to buck new rules restricting international trade in these technologies by saying such cooperation with India had already been "grandfathered."

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/07/12/stories/2009071258520100.htm>

[India and Pakistan to 'delink' action on terror from dialogue](#)

Hindu, 17 July 2009

Sharm-el-Sheikh: The leaders of India and Pakistan took a modest step towards thawing the bilateral relationship, frozen since the Mumbai terrorist attacks, with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Pakistani counterpart Yousaf Raza Gilani, agreeing that dialogue between their two countries "is the only way forward." And though the joint statement issued after their meeting here on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned summit said nothing about when and how the Composite Dialogue process would resume, the two Foreign Secretaries have been tasked with meeting "as often as necessary" in the run-up to a review by the Indian and Pakistani Foreign Ministers in New York this September

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/07/17/stories/2009071757750100.htm>

[No pressure was put on India: Hillary](#)

Hindu, 18 July 2009

New Delhi: The United States did not pressure India to return to the negotiating table with Pakistan, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said on Friday. In an interview to CNN IBN, Ms. Clinton said she was "very impressed" with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's discussions with his Pakistani counterpart Yusuf Raza Gilani in Egypt

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/07/18/stories/2009071861421100.htm>

[France eager on 'full' civilian nuclear relationship with India](#)

Hindu, 18 July 2009

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Mamohan Singh on Friday told the Rajya Sabha that he had raised the issue of India being provided with enrichment and reprocessing (ENR) technologies, with French President Nicolas Sarkozy, who was "emphatic" about France's eagerness to enter into a "full" civilian nuclear relationship with India. Dr. Singh was responding to questions by Sitaram Yechury (CPI-M) who wanted to know whether the recent G8 resolution to withhold ENR technologies from countries that had not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, had confirmed the Left's fears and ran against Dr. Singh's assurance of full cooperation under the Indo-U.S. civil nuclear agreement

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/07/18/stories/2009071861501300.htm>

['We want India to move towards greener energies'](#)

Hindu, 19 July 2009

Mumbai: United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said here on Saturday that India's pursuit of the goal of poverty alleviation did not have to go against the goal of moving towards greener energies. "There is no inherent contradiction in poverty eradication and moving to low carbon energy [models]. The United States wants India to reach its goal. Our point is, we acknowledge we have made mistakes by contributing to the problem. We hope that a great country like India will not make the same mistakes," Ms. Clinton said at a press interaction at the Taj Mahal Palace and Tower hotel

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/07/19/stories/2009071959261800.htm>

[Kakodkar sounded warning on NPT link to ENR](#)

Hindu, 20 July 2009

NEW DELHI: The United Progressive Alliance government may insist it is "not concerned" by the recent American move to get the G8 to prohibit the sale of enrichment and reprocessing (ENR) items to India pending a similar ban by the Nuclear Suppliers Group. But six months ago, Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Anil Kakodkar publicly drew attention to the restrictive moves afoot and warned that what Washington was pushing was "contrary to the spirit" of India's bilateral agreement with the United States. In his inaugural address to a seminar on Global Nuclear Challenges, organised by the Centre for Air Power Studies on January 10, Dr. Kakodkar spoke of "credible but unofficial information" that the Consultative Group of the NSG was "moving very close to the decision that ENR technologies would be available on the condition that one must have signed the NPT [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty]."

[It will be \\$2.9 billion for Gorshkov](#)

Hindu, 20 July 2009

NEW DELHI: India is all set to finalise the price tag of aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya (Admiral Gorshkov), which would be closer to the revised demand made by Russia at \$2.9 billion. Authoritative sources in the Ministry of Defence say the figure is likely to be finalised next week when negotiators end discussions. The Russian negotiators arrived here on July 10 and originally intended to stay till July 17. The team has conveyed that the cost had been calculated as per the standards specified by its government and there was little room to de-escalate the cost, revised from its original price of \$1.5 billion. This figure too had been later changed to \$2.2 billion

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/07/20/stories/2009072060702000.htm>

[Jaishankar is new envoy to China, Nalin Surie goes to UK](#)

Times of India, 24 July 2009

NEW DELHI: India on Friday named senior IFS officer S Jaishankar as its new Ambassador to China, succeeding Nirupama Rao who has been appointed as the next foreign secretary. Nalin Surie, secretary (West) in the ministry of external affairs, will be the next High Commissioner to UK. A 1973-batch IFS officer, Surie will succeed Shiv Shankar Mukherjee who retires next month

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/NEWS/India/Jaishankar-is-new-envoy-to-China-Nalin-Surie-goes-to-UK-/articleshow/4817375.cms>

[Indo-Pak joint statement not legally binding: Tharoor](#)

Times of India, 24 July 2009

NEW DELHI: In what clearly looks like a distancing act, MoS for external affairs Shashi Tharoor on Thursday downplayed the significance of the controversial India-Pakistan joint statement and said it was a "diplomatic paper" and not a legally binding commitment. The remarks have been interpreted as an indication that the composite dialogue — delinked by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh from terrorism at his meeting with his Pakistani counterpart Yousuf Gilani at Sharm el-Sheikh — is not likely to be resumed any time soon. It does appear that the government will make all efforts to "reiterate" the view that Pakistan must deliver on terrorism

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/NEWS/India/Indo-Pak-joint-statement-not-legally-binding-Tharoor/articleshow/4813131.cms>

[BNP to miss JS bus for Tipai](#)

Daily Star, 24 July 2009

The parliamentary delegation finally is going to India to visit the proposed Tipaimukh dam site without having any representative from the main opposition BNP. Abdur Razzaq who is leading the 10-member delegation yesterday brought allegations against BNP for 'not cooperating' with the government by sending names of two lawmakers of the party for the delegation

<http://thedailystar.net/story.php?nid=98309>

[Indian arms will imperil peace: Dahal](#)

Kathmandu Post, 24 July 2009

KATHMANDU, July 23 - UCPN (Maoist) Chairman Puspha Kamal Dahal has strongly objected to the government's request to New Delhi to resume the supply of arms, which had been put on hold since the February 2005 royal takeover. "If Defence Mini-ster Bidhya Bhandari makes a deal with India to resume arms supplies while the peace process is still on, it will effectively imply that the peace process has come to an end," said Dahal. "This could lead to bloodshed in the country and the current government will be responsible for untoward incidents that could follow."

<http://www.kantipuronline.com/kolnews.php?&nid=205719>

[Asean FTA goes through after PM's all-out push](#)

Times of India, 25 July 2009

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday secured the Cabinet's clearance for the proposed Free Trade Agreement with ASEAN by fielding heavyweights, marshalling arguments, expanding the list of restricted items and offering to set up a committee of secretaries to address concerns about repercussions for domestic players. Singh, who had pushed for the FTA, deployed heavy artillery to deal with the political resistance from Cabinet members from southern states who were concerned that cheap imports, facilitated by FTA, from southeast Asia would hurt domestic growers of tea, coffee, cashew, coconut, spices and rubber, besides manufacturers of auto components

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/NEWS/India/Asean-FTA-goes-through-after-PMs-all-out-push-/articleshow/4818412.cms>

[India has no aggressive designs, says Manmohan](#)

Hindu, 27 July 2009

VISAKHAPATNAM: At the stroke of noon on Sunday, India demonstrated its capability to indigenously build and operate a nuclear-powered submarine with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh launching INS Arihant for sea trials here. Tugged gently from its dry-dock base, the 110-metre-long, 11-metre wide vessel can displace 6,000 tonnes of water. Its journey towards the sea is the first step before eventual induction into the Navy that Dr. Singh said marked "years of hard work, dedication and perseverance."

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/07/27/stories/2009072757640100.htm>

[IAF played a 'pivotal' role in Kargil victory](#)

Hindu, 27 July 2009

DRASS: While the Army jawans fought the Pakistani troops on the ice-covered

heights of Drass and Kargil, the Indian Air Force (IAF) was called in for its "most difficult operation ever," — to carry out precision strikes without breaching the Line of Control (LoC). "The fighter planes changed the course of the battle and the use of precision weapons destroyed the enemy fortification," recalled Air Officer Commanding, Jammu and Kashmir, Air Marshal J. Chauhan

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/07/27/stories/2009072756001200.htm>

[Nepal to import 30 MW of power from India](#)

Hindustan Times, 27 July 2009

The Nepal Government will import 30 MW of power from India to meet its current electricity demands. "The Government has taken initiative to import 30 MW power from India to meet the current electricity demands," the country's Minister for Energy, Prakash Sharan Mahat said. Talks in this regard have already been started with the authorities concerned in India, he said. The Minister said that the government is also planning to generate 50 MW power from thermal plants with the assistance of World Bank and upgrade the capacity of its existing power projects to meet the short-term demands

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/StoryPage.aspx?sectionName=IndiaSectionPage&id=222b7f9d-a84a-4fe2-aff7-25b62670e982&Headline=Nepal+to+import+30+MW+of+power+from+India>

[SAARC meet: New Delhi for Pak-Bangla train via India, Nepal](#)

Hindustan Times, 27 July 2009

In a bid to strengthen intra-regional connectivity and unite hearts of people of South Asia, India has proposed a demonstration train between Pakistan and Bangladesh via its territory and that of Nepal. The Indian proposal for running a trial train from Pakistan to Bangladesh via India and Nepal was welcomed by the SAARC member states at the meeting of their Transport Ministers in Colombo on Saturday

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/StoryPage.aspx?sectionName=IndiaSectionPage&id=77ff43e8-67eb-4ab0-a72a-b4bae1713ba7&Headline=SAARC+meet+New+Delhi+for+Pak-Bangla+train+via+India+Nepal>

[MEA stalling India's rise to great power?](#)

Times of India, 27 July 2009

NEW DELHI: Instead of a catalyst for India's transformation into a world power, the foreign ministry may be a drag, preventing the nation from moving up the international power ladder. This is the conclusion drawn by Daniel Markey, of the Council for Foreign Relations and a former US state department official. Markey says in his article titled 'Developing India's Foreign Policy Software' that India's diplomatic service, think-tanks and universities are not yet up to the task of managing an agenda befitting a great power

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/NEWS/India/MEA-stalling-Indias-rise-to-great-power/articleshow/4823808.cms>