

# India, S Africa pact on hydrocarbon

Business Standard

NEW DELHI, Oct. 19. — India and South Africa have entered into an agreement for cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector for "social, economic and environmental benefits" of the two countries.

The two countries will endeavour to promote the development of cooperation in the sector on the basis of equality and mutual advantage, taking into account the experience of specialists and the possibilities for cooperation available in each country.

According to the agreement, the cooperation would be promoted by means of exchange of information pertaining to

**The two countries will endeavour to boost cooperation in the sector on the basis of equality and mutual advantage**

the overall hydrocarbon policies of the two countries, their strategies, priorities, institutional arrangements, regulatory frameworks, technology transfer, research and development and establishment of data banks and commercialisation of hydrocarbon technologies.

The two countries will promote joint ventures on erection and maintenance of hydrocarbon infrastructure and on the application of hydrocarbon technologies.

# India, South Africa pledge to maintain unity

By Amit Baruah

**NEW DELHI, OCT. 16.** India and South Africa today pledged to keep up the unity displayed by developing countries at the recent World Trade Organisation (WTO) talks in Cancun as they signed five agreements, including an extradition treaty.

The signing of the pacts took place after delegation-level talks between the visiting South African President, Thabo Mbeki, and the Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, at Hyderabad House.

Mr. Mbeki had a busy day in the capital — the Vice-President, Bairon Singh Shekhawat, the Deputy Prime Minister, L.K. Advani, and the Defence Minister, George Fernandes, called on him — and the President, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, hosted a banquet in his honour.

During the talks, India said it hoped to double the trade between the two countries to \$2 billions from the current \$1 billion, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said.

The two countries also agreed to step up the pace of their defence cooperation. They hoped for an early conclusion of preferential trading arrangements with the Southern African Customs Union (SACU). Apart from the extradition accord, India and South Africa signed a mutual legal assistance treaty, an agreement for cooperation in the field of power, a cultural exchange programme and another agreement in the field of hydrocarbons.

In his only public engagement, Mr. Mbeki said a "strong" India-South Africa relationship



The President, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, with the Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, welcoming the President of the Republic of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki, at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Thursday. — Photo: Anu Pushkarna

was required on account of the global crisis posed first by the "crisis in Iraq" and second by the recent failure of the WTO negotiations in Cancun.

Delivering the Third Alfred Nzo Memorial Lecture at Sapru House, he said the enduring and strategic relationship between India and South Africa should "come to the fore" as far as the reform of the United Nations and other multilateral institutions was concerned. "I stand here feeling that I have indeed come home again. This is

particularly because Indian and South African freedom fighters have shared an enduring and special bond of kinship, friendship, solidarity and comradeship for more than a century," he said.

"We can, therefore, say, without any hesitation, that we are not fair-weather friends — we have been, and are and always will be strategic partners for all seasons."

"Our strategic partnership was consolidated, ironically when the scent of the Indian

spices and the glitter of the African minerals seems to have tickled the insatiable avarice of the Portugese, the Dutch, the British and others, and this greed ensured that they relentlessly pursued everything that belonged to us as if these equally belonged to them," the South African leader stated.

Pointing to the arrival of indentured labour from different parts of India to South Africa, Mr. Mbeki paid tribute to the role played by India: "Of importance is the fact that since the

independence of India, we, as South Africans, have been blessed to have as our ally this country that assumed the mantle of a champion of our liberation and democracy."

Today, he said, the bigger challenges of global governance and of poverty that feed into each other faced both countries. He said after five decades of their existence, the United Nations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund were not truly democratic.

"In addition, India and South Africa together with many countries of the world have experienced numerous acts of terrorism. As we have said before, all of us have a duty and responsibility to act in defence of our countries and people against any and all acts of terrorism," Mr. Mbeki remarked. "On this matter, as in others, our partnership should respond as it has done over many decades, to collaborate and act together against those who wrongly believe that they can convey their message through bombs and guns." Reciting Tagore's "Where the Mind is Without Fear", he stressed, "I am confident that all of us are working for this world where the mind is fearless and our heads would be held high because all of us are no longer visited by the brutalities of conflicts and indignities of poverty."

"We will achieve the world that has not been broken into fragments by narrow domestic walls that divide the rich from the poor, separating the powerful from the weak — walls that create two worlds of the hungry and the overfed."

# India, SA for joint fight against terror

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

INDIA and South Africa have sought action within the UN framework against countries sponsoring terrorism and breeding religious extremism. The two countries also signed an extradition treaty and four other accords on Thursday to enhance economic cooperation. A joint declaration by Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee and visiting South African President Thabo Mbeki stated that every state must refrain from organising, instigating, assisting, training or participating in terrorist acts against another state.

Without any specific reference

to a country, the statement mentioned that nations should not "acquiesce in organised activities within its territories directed towards such terror acts".

Besides the extradition treaty, the two sides signed agreements on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, cooperation in power and hydrocarbon sectors and cultural exchange programmes for a three-year period from 2004. Under the extradition treaty, the two countries have agreed to extradite persons who are wanted for trial or prosecution or facing sentence in the requesting country on charges of an extraditable offence.

The South African President

described India and South Africa as "strategic partners for all seasons" as he stressed the need for both countries to combine efforts at reforming institutions of global governance, particularly the UN after the Iraq war.

"After more than five decades of their existence, it is clear the institutions of global governance are, in reality, not truly democratic. On this issue, there is a broad consensus," Mbeki said, delivering the Alfred Nzo Memorial lecture on "India and South Strategic Partners for All Seasons".

He said there was broad agreement that these institutions need to undergo urgent reforms so that they could be in a better position to

serve the interests of the people, "the rich and the poor, the powerful and the weak".

According to him, the "enduring and strategic relationship" between India and South Africa along with the efforts of other developing countries could help accelerate the process of change in these global structures.

Mbeki said both countries needed this strong relationship because of the global crisis in the wake of the Iraq war that had "further shaken the very foundations of the UN philosophy and left the smaller and weaker nations more vulnerable. The second challenge was related to the failure of the WTO negotiations at Cancun".

## Defence teams meet

NEW DELHI: A South African defence delegation accompanying President Mbeki held extensive discussions on Thursday with Indian officials. This comes at a time when the Indian Army is trying to modernise its artillery.

It is learnt the Army approached Israeli company Soltam Ltd. Since the experiment did not fructify, India went back to South African arms major Denel to explore purchase and upgradation of its guns. South Block sources said India is also looking at buying variants of the 155mm guns.

— ENNS

# Cong. supports Centre's initiative, Azad tells Vohra

By Our Special Correspondent

**SRINAGAR, APRIL 26.** Delegations of the Congress, the Panun Kashmir, the Shiromani Akali Dal and the Awami League have called on the Centre's interlocutor on Jammu and Kashmir, N.N. Vohra, and put forth their points of view. Mr. Vohra has been camping here since Monday.

The Congress which is a partner in the ruling coalition in the State, has fully supported the Centre's initiative on restoring peace and this was conveyed to Mr. Vohra by the Pradesh Congress Committee president, Ghulam Nabi Azad, last evening.

Accompanied by the Deputy Chief Minister, Mangat Ram Sharma, and Saifuddin Soz, the delegation said the Congress was committed to a peaceful solution through the dialogue process, and said it strongly supported the Centre's decision to initiate the process. The dialogue should be held with all sections of civil society and political parties of all the three regions of Kashmir,

Jammu and Ladakh, particularly with the elected representatives, to evolve a broadbased consensus to preserve the unity and integrity and the secular fabric of the State.

The Panun Kashmir delegation led by its chairman, Ajay Chrungoo, told Mr. Vohra that the crisis in the State reflected the failure of the secular, nation-building process. The Nadimarg massacre justified their view that the return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Hindus in the Kashmir Valley was possible only if they were settled in an area north and east of the Jhelum. This area should be centrally administered as a Union Territory. The delegation presented the plight of their community, whose human rights were grossly violated by radical Islamists and made a strong plea for the provision of employment opportunities.

D.S. Deepak led a delegation of the Shiromani Akali Dal (Kashmir) and emphasised that Sikhs, who had lived in the State for several hundred years, were a party to the Kashmir dispute and should be duly involved in any dialogue process.

India, Tanzania to intensify cooperation

**DAR-ES-SALAAM, APRIL 26.** India and Tanzania today agreed to intensify cooperation in several key areas like agriculture, small and medium scale enterprises, health, education, information technology and defence.

At a meeting of the Indo-Tanzanian Joint Commission co-chaired by the External Affairs Minister, Yashwant Sinha and his Tanzanian counterpart, J.M. Kikwete, it was decided that these were "priority" areas for enhanced bilateral cooperation.

Mr. Sinha, who is on a four-day visit, expressed India's willingness to continue and expand cooperation with Tanzania in the spirit of the South-South cooperation. — PTI

# 'PDP exploiting sentiments of Kashmiris'

By Shujaat Bukhari

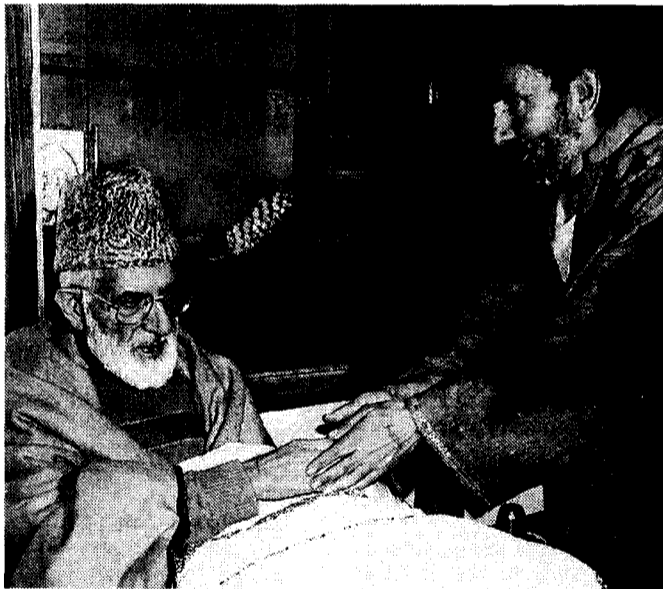
**SRINAGAR, APRIL 26.** The senior Hurriyat Conference leader and Jamat-e-Islami ideologue, Syed Ali Shah Geelani today accused the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP) of "exploiting the sentiments of Kashmiris" and said the "healing touch" policy of the Government will not succeed.

He condemned the recent massacre at Nadimarg saying "we are against all sorts of terrorism".

Mr. Geelani who arrived here after 11 months of detention and treatment outside Kashmir, reiterated that it was not elections but a "peaceful and purposeful dialogue" that would solve the Kashmir problem.

He said the National Conference was thrown out of power because it "paid for its oppressive measures" against the people and "the PDP exploited the situation to come to power". "Mufti's PDP used the situation as a launching pad to achieve its goal of grabbing power" he declared, while addressing the workers of Jamat-e-Islami and Hurriyat at his residence here.

He ridiculed the 'healing



The senior Jamaat-e-Islami leader and former Hurriyat chairman, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, who arrived in Srinagar on Saturday, being greeted by a well-wisher. — PTI

touch' policy of Chief Minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed and said "you are destined to fail in this as you are not using the natural process to heal the wounds".

Appointment letters or ex-gratia relief would not solve the

Kashmir problem, he said.

The former Hurriyat chairman said that even on the issue of releasing prisoners, the Mufti Government failed to keep its promise as New Delhi did not allow it to do so.

Referring to the Nadimarg

massacre, he said "it was barbaric and we strongly condemn it". He also condemned the attacks on the Raghunath temple, Akshardam and Kaluchak and said "these killings were against the humanity".

"We are against terrorism, that is why we say stop it here against the innocent people" he said and questioned the recent statement of Prime Minister, A.B. Vajpayee who talked about protecting humanity, democracy and Kashmiriyat.

"Humanity is bleeding in Kashmir and Mr. Vajpayee should know", he said, alleging that "security forces were involved in human rights violations".

Mr. Geelani who was arrested by the police on June 9 last year and lodged in Ranchi jail for over eight months was operated upon in Mumbai after being released on parole.

He was received at the airport by the Hurriyat chairman, Abdul Gani Bhat and Mohammad Yasin Malik and Moulvi Abbas Ansari.

The Hurriyat leader, however, reiterated his own stand of granting "right to self-determination to Kashmiris".

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