

President

Kalam queues up to vote

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By Our Staff Reporter

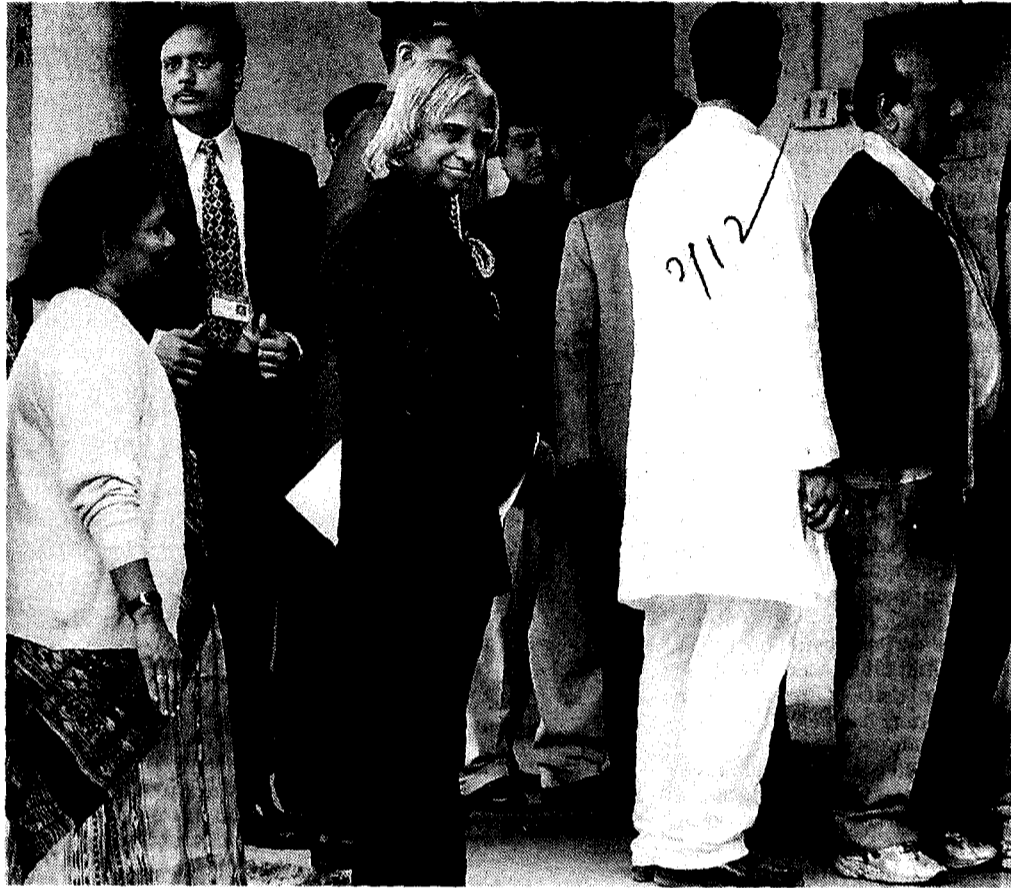
NEW DELHI, DEC. 1. The President, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, was among the last to cast his vote at a polling booth in the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Senior Secondary School inside the Presidential Estate here today.

Mr. Kalam came to the booth around 4.45 p.m., stood in the queue like a common man, cast his ballot, came out and showed the ink mark on his finger to waiting mediapersons.

The Congress president, Sonia Gandhi, accompanied by the Delhi Chief Minister, Sheila Dikshit, and her political secretary, Ahmed Patel, cast her vote early in the morning at a polling booth in the Nirman Bhawan. To a question, Ms. Gandhi said she was hoping for a good show by the Congress in all the four States.

Polling in the New Delhi parliamentary constituency, which comprises five segments, saw just two per cent of the electorate show up at most of the booths in the first two hours. While 20 or so of the 968 voters turned up at Nirman Bhawan, around 30 of the 964 voters had exercised their franchise in booths 18, 19 and 20 at an NDMC School in the Minto Road constituency till around 9.30 a.m.

However, after 10 a.m. more people began to troop into the polling booths. At St. Columbus School, some people found their names missing from the list and kept wandering from one booth to another. By 11 a.m., around 120 of the 637 votes were polled in booth 13,



The President, A.P.J Abdul Kalam, standing in a queue outside a polling station in New Delhi on Monday to cast his vote. — AFP

while 150 of the 1,200 voters had cast their votes in booth 57 at St. Columba's School. Around 20 per cent of voting was reported from almost all the booths till noon.

There was some confusion at the College of Art on Tilak Marg where Ms. Dikshit went around

10.30 a.m. to cast her vote. At booth 11, there were two Shielas in the list but no one with "Dikshit" as the surname, which apparently annoyed her. Soon, the Congress candidate from the Minto Road Assembly constituency, Tajdar Babar, arrived at the spot. As the news spread,

the election staff and Ms. Dikshit's personal security guards rushed to other booths in the college to find out where she was supposed to vote. It took almost 15 minutes to confirm that her name was in the list at booth 14, following which she cast her vote.

Militants confess KPP link

1-9-29/12
AVIJIT SINHA
9 Personal problem

Jalpaiguri, Dec. 23: Senior Kamtapur People's Party leaders have often asked for funds to run the organisation from KLO chief Jeevan Singha, police said today.

Chief of the Jalpaiguri force Siddh Nath Gupta told reporters the confession by five arrested militants had confirmed suspicions about the KPP's links with the militant outfit.

"The arrested KLO militants have admitted that some KPP leaders were in touch with their boss and often asked him for funds. When Ram Singh alias Bharat Das, a trained KLO militant, was gunned down in Kumargram on October 9, 2000, a letter was found on him that indicated a link between the outfits. Addressed to KLO's self-styled commander

Jeevan Singha, the letter referred to a veteran KPP leader and appealed for financial aid," Gupta said.

The revelation comes at a time when the faction-ridden KPP is struggling to distance itself from the militant outfit. The KPP president, who had recently praised the Bhutan army for launching the offensive against the insurgents, said over phone: "I was in touch with KLO leaders like Tom Adhikary, Jeevan Singha and Milton Burma when they were members of the All Kamtapur Liberation Organisation. After they founded the KLO, I never met them."

In Calcutta, Maj. Gen. Madan Gopal, who is in charge of army operations in the eastern sector, held a news conference at Fort William and denied that the Indian Army is taking part in the crack-down on insurgents in Bhutan.

410-19

Three KLO leaders surrender

27/12 By Marcus Dam

KOLKATA, DEC. 26. Three senior leaders belonging to the Kamtapur Liberation Organisation (KLO), who had fled their camps in Bhutan in the wake of the offensive by the Royal Bhutan Army against Indian insurgents sheltered there, surrendered to the West Bengal police today.

Two others belonging to the outfit, who had been captured by the Bhutanese Army earlier, were handed over by the Indian Army to the authorities on Thursday. Among them was the vice-chairman of the outfit, Harshavardhan Das. Sources in the State's Home Department told *The Hindu* here that the militants laid down a universal machine gun before the authorities while surrendering. While two belonged to Kumargram area of Jalpaiguri district, the other hailed from Alipurduar. They said the Centre

9 Regional Program

had sanctioned Rs. 15 crores to the West Bengal Government under a special programme for implementing comprehensive development schemes in those areas where the naxalites and other subversive outfits such as the KLO were active. The funds will be disbursed to the authorities of five districts, including three in the southwestern fringe of the State where the People's War (PW) and the Maoist Communist Centre (MCC) were active. Similar development funds are being sanctioned for four other States — Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh — as part of a Central move to combat the naxalite problem in these areas, the sources added.

The police in Hooghly district had raided two areas — Baidyabati and Polba — from where they recovered a large quantity of ammunition, two sten-guns and explosive devices.

KLO top gun in Army net

(10) SF 6 28/12 Regional Press

KPP undeterred

SILIGURI, Dec 27. — The Kamtapur Peoples' Party has decided to go ahead with their projected programmes. "The KPP would be organising a major rally at Siliguri on 7 January," the party's central committee leader, Mr Atul Roy, said.

Incidentally, senior police officials had recently alleged that KPP president Mr Nikhil Roy and former president Mr Atul Roy had links with the KLO. The police had also said that they were in possession of letters written to the KLO chief Jivan Singh by the two KPP leaders.

It was also learnt that the KLO leaders arrested during the ongoing crack-down by the Royal Bhutan Army had spilled during interrogation that the outfit's members, who were mostly holed up in the camps in Bhutan, introduced themselves as KPP supporters whenever they ventured into the open. The two KPP leaders have rejected the allegation made against them by the police. Instead, they have challenged the police to come up publicly with the alleged documents and have those checked by forensic and other experts. While Mr Atul Roy said that his party would be holding the largest rally organised by the KPP so far, on 7 January, the KPP resident Mr Nikhil Roy said that his organisation would launch a fund collection and membership raise drive from January. — SNS

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

JALPAIGURI, Dec. 27. — In an encounter with KLO militants at Dhumpara forest in the Indo-Bhutan border at Kumargramduar in Jalpaiguri last

night, the Indian Army shot a KLO militant dead and netted Sanat Roy alias Balram Singh, a fourth batch trained militant.

Sanat had been trying to infiltrate into India from the Bhutan hills. A 9 mm pistol was recovered from him. Two other militants, Bijoy Roy alias Ketab Das and Birsha Munda, were arrested.

The police had wanted Bijoy Roy for a long time. Ten warrants had been issued against him. The prime cases he was wanted in were the murders of Nitai Das on 7 August, 2000, Dilip Roy on 19 February, 2000, Subodh Mazumdar on 23 July, 2000, Gopal Chaki on 13 December last year. Bisra was a non-trained ultra.

The two Indian jawans injured in the encounter are out of danger, said the Jalpaiguri SP, Mr SN Gupta. He said there were Manchlal Singha alias Nilambar Rajbanshi, a second batch KLO militant, Lina, wife of Ulfa ultra and her infant child, Sanat Roy, Monoranj Roy alias Tapan Barua, a second batch KLO militant, Bijoy Roy alias Ketab Das and Birsha Munda in the group yesterday. Of these ultras, Nilambar, Lina and Tapan managed to escape. Ketab and Birsha were arrested while Sanat was shot dead. Mr Gupta said that Harshavardhan, the founder member of the outfit, had said during interrogations that there were 17 KLO militants in the CHQ and GHQ of the Ulfa in Bhutan. Of them, said Mr Gupta, 15 surrendered to the police. One was shot dead at Nalbari recently during infiltration and only Antim Barua alias Bisaru was absconding.

Mr Gupta said there were 34 militants in the RBA custody according to statement of militants, which were still to be handed over to the Indian side.

THE STATESMAN 28 DEC 2003

Disclosed: Ulfa-KLO date in Myanmar

AVIJIT SINHA

*15/9
29/12*

Jalpaiguri, Dec. 28: The KLO's captured vice-president, Harshavardhan Das, today revealed that he had met Ulfa chairman Arabinda Rajkhowa in Myanmar in 1995 along with his boss Jeevan Singha to seek support in building up a guerrilla outfit that would fight for a Kamtapur state.

Jalpaiguri superintendent of police Siddh Nath Gupta said: "During the interrogation, Harshavardhan Das said he had accompanied Jeevan Singha to Myanmar in 1995 to meet Ulfa chairman Arabinda Rajkhowa at a National Socialist Council of Nagalim (I-M) camp and put forward the proposal of forming a militant outfit to fight for a separate Kamtapur state. He also claimed to have seen three People's War Group rebels attending the Ulfa's Raising Day function on April 7, 1997. The event is held every year at the Ulfa central headquarters in the Samdrup Jongkhar district of Bhutan."

According to the district police chief, the duo had first headed for Gossaingaon in Assam's

Kokrajhar district in September 1993 where they discussed the KLO proposal with Bhaskar Kalita, the chairman of Ulfa's Kokrajhar district committee.

Kalita later accompanied them to Saudangi, on the fringes of Siliguri town, where a meeting was held to finalise the formation of a militant outfit to fight for a separate state for the Rajbanshis through armed struggle.

Those attending the meet were members of the All Kamtapur Students' Union, disillusioned with the organisation's ideology of fighting for a Kamtapur state through "democratic means".

In April 1994, eight youths were selected by Jeevan and Harshavardhan to visit the Ulfa central headquarters to earn support for the proposed outfit. The mission failed with the Central Reserve Police Force spotting them on the border and chasing them back. In Assam, Kalita surrendered, dealing a blow to all the plans.

With no other option, Jeevan and Harshavardhan contacted Debojyoti Sinha — an Ulfa leader operating in lower Assam — who took them to Naogaon in

Bhutan and introduced them to Ulfa general secretary Anup Chetia. The two managed to secure an appointment with Ulfa chief Rajkhowa, who is now in a Bangladeshi jail.

In July 1995, ULFA militant Pahar Singh met them. "He escorted the duo to an NSCN (I-M) camp in Myanmar. Rajkhowa promised them funds and arms-training to build up a guerrilla force. The two had stayed there for three months. They returned at the end of 1995 and called an AKSU meeting at Salkumarhat in January 1996. Here everything was finalised. The KLO was formed," Gupta said.

Jeevan Singha, would have received gun salutes from cadets at the Piping camp today, the outfit's raising day, had it not been for the Bhutan army.

Many feel the event is being observed in Bangladesh, where most of the militants are suspected to have fled. Singha is also reportedly holed up there. This is the first time in 10 years since its formation that the outfit is not celebrating the day at the Piping camp in Kalikhola.

NSCN-IM played key role in KLO formation

SF-9
28/12

9-Resident position

Statesman News Service

JALPAIGURI, Dec. 28. — In a major revelation, Harshavardhan, a surrendered KLO militant, has disclosed that not only the Ulfa but the Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland, had played a crucial role in the formation of the Kamtapur Liberation Organisation. Besides, the Andhra Pradesh outfit, the People's War group, too has close links with the Ulfa.

The first major meeting of the KLO chairman, Tamir Das alias Tushar Das alias Jeeban Singh, and the founder member, Harshavardhan alias Bardhaman Das, with Ulfa chairman, Arabinda Rakhowa, was held in an NSCN camp in Myanmar under supervision of Tonkari, a Naga ultra of the NSCN-IM group in July 1995.

The KLO leaders stayed at the NSCN camp for three months and returned at the year's end.

In a meeting in January 1996 at Salakumar in Kumargramduar of Jalpaiguri, 21 names were proposed for training in the Bhutan hills.

Quoting Harshavardhan Jalpaiguri SP Mr SN Gupta today said the leader has disclosed the KLO's formation.

In 1993 Jeeban Singh and Harshavardhan went to Gossaigaon in Assam's Kokrajhar and met Ulfa's Bhaskara Kalika. They came to Saudangi near Siliguri to Badal Roy's house with him and expressed desire to initiate an arms struggle against West Bengal and the nation demanding a separate Kamtapur state. Bhaskar advised them to continue with the All Kamtapur Students' Union and run the KLO behind its curtain.

In 1994 eight cadres were sent by Jeeban and Harshavardhan for arms training to Ulfa's central headquarters at Daifam. But soon Bhaskar surrendered to Assam police and the training proposal was cancelled.

After this, both KLO founders decided to meet the top Ulfa gunmen. They met Debjyoti Sinha who took them to Bhutan's Naugaon where Anup Chetia, Ulfa general secretary assured a meeting with Arabinda Rakhowa, the chairman, if they were determined to launch the arms struggle.

In July 1995, Pahar Singh took Jeeban and Harshavardhan to Burma through Assam, where they met Arabinda Rakhowa in an NSCN camp.

After meeting him, the sketch for launching the KLO was prepared and after they returned at the year end, in coming 21 January cadets were sent to Bhutan in three groups of 8, 7 and 6 each, for training by the Ulfas. Harshavardhan was taken to a camp named Enigma near the Ulfa CHQ and training started on 11 April. There he found three PW militants of Andhra Pradesh, present on the Ulfa raising day on 7 April. After training, Harshavardhan mostly remained at the Ulfa CHQ. with Ulfa "think tank" Bhimkanta Buragohain, both of whom surrendered to the Royal Bhutan Army.

Ulfa cadre handed over to police

Six Ulfa ultras who had surrendered after fleeing Bhutan were today handed over by the Army to the police in Assam's Darrang district. Darrang SP Mr Ijaz Hazarika said they were handed over at Harisinga, adds PTI.

9. Personal
press

35 KLO militants still unaccounted for in Bhutan

10-12
29/12

By Our Special Correspondent

KOLKATA, DEC. 28. All the camps known to local intelligence — two main and four satellite — set up over the past few years by militants of the Kamtapur Liberation Organisation (KLO) in the forests of southern Bhutan have been destroyed in operations by the Royal Bhutan Army against Indian insurgents. But there are still around 35 KLO militants in that country who are “unaccounted for as yet.”

Speaking to *The Hindu* today over telephone from West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district adjacent to the Indo-Bhutan border, the Inspector-General, North Bengal, Bhupinder Singh, said “between 38 and 40 KLO militants had been killed, surrendered or captured by the Bhutanese Army since the operations began on December 15.

But the fate of another 35, along with four women whose husbands are KLO militants and about five children of these families was still not known to the

local authorities.”

Meanwhile, the police have stepped up security arrangements for the Bhutanese passing through the region in the wake of a reported threat by the KLO against people of Bhutan who might either be residing or are in transit in north Bengal. The Jalpaiguri Superintendent of Police, S.N. Gupta, said “additional security was being provided to Bhutanese nationals in the district, many of whom have to pass through the fringe areas of Jalpaiguri while travelling from one part of Bhutan to another.”

Two Indian jawans were injured and a KLO leader was killed in an encounter between the Indian Army and six militants trying to cross the border into India on Friday night, according to Mr. Singh.

The incident occurred when Lima, wife of an ULFA leader, was confronted by jawans while attempting to sneak into Jalpaiguri's Kumargram area, carrying a baby on her back. On being challenged, she whipped out a

.65 pistol and fired at the jawans.

She was later joined by the other militants,” Mr. Singh said.

Three of the militants fled into the Bhutan jungle.

According to Mr. Singh, during the course of interrogation, the militants now in police custody revealed that several KLO militants had been sharing camps with the ULFA in Bhutan.

“We have also learnt that at least four KLO leaders, including the commander-in-chief of the outfit, Jeevan Singh, are in Bangladesh.

The rest of those unaccounted for must still be in Bhutan even though all the KLO camps known to us including the major ones at Bukha and Piping/Bethani have been destroyed in the operations.”

He said that “while between 20 and 30 KLO militants, some with their wives and children, used to be holed up in each of the two major camps, small groups of between five and eight persons had been operating from the smaller, satellite KLO camps in Bhutan.”

President, UAE Prince discuss joint ventures

By Neena Vyas

ABU DHABI, OCT. 19. The President, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, had extended discussions with the Crown Prince of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al Nahyan, this afternoon immediately before a banquet hosted by the latter in his honour.

An effort was made to identify areas where the two countries could collaborate on joint ventures and projects. The interlinking of rivers project in India came up for discussion and Suresh Prabhu, who heads it, was on hand to give the details to Sheikh Khalifa. The President said the desalination plant here, which he visited yesterday, could be driven by solar energy, and later the Minister for Information Technology, Arun Shourie, who is accompanying the President, briefed the media on the possibility of India and the U.A.E. collaborating on developing more efficient solar energy cells.

Mr. Shourie told the media that a group of three or four persons would be set up to identify research projects based on the needs of the Emirates which could then be taken up in India as "contract research." Petrochemicals and pharmaceuticals are two areas that have been identified for joint ventures and projects.

At the meeting, Mr. Kalam took the opportunity to thank the Crown Prince for cooperation in helping extradite 12 persons wanted by India in



The President, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, with the Crown Prince of UAE, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al Nahyan, during a banquet hosted in his honour in Abu Dhabi on Sunday.

connection with various crimes.

Mr. Shourie said that this visit had once again brought into focus the need for India to maintain frequent high-level contacts with countries in different parts of the world, especially with those it had enjoyed warm and friendly relations over decades. He said that in this part of the world a new perception about India was gaining ground replacing the old image when relations were more or less based on trade and the large Indian community here. The fact of a "new India" with its "new economy" was dawning and in the financial services sector there was a lot of scope for an Indian presence here.

Mr. Shourie said that nearly \$200 to \$300 billion from Abu Dhabi are "parked elsewhere"

and the suggestion was that the Emirates were in a position to help invest this to build India's infrastructure.

When asked about disinvestments back home, he said Saudi Arabia and Kuwait had been interested in bidding for the oil companies and they must now be closely watching the developments on this front.

On Saturday night, five Indian ambassadors based in Saudi Arabia, Oman, Iran, Kuwait and the Emirates briefed the President. He wanted a feedback on the core competencies of these countries and information on how India and these countries could work together on major projects for mutual benefit.

Tomorrow morning the President will leave for Dubai and go on to Sudan the same evening.

Kalam's trip exposes security holes in Emirates shield

K. SUBRAHMANYA

New Delhi, Oct. 26: Trust, but verify goes the adage. But officials in the United Arab Emirates prefer not to verify.

More worryingly, Indian security officials entrusted with providing fool-proof protection to A.P.J. Abdul Kalam during his recent foreign trip appear to have done so in a haphazard manner because the Emirati president was not given the same level of security.

The result was that the President's security cover could have breached any time during the trip to the Emirates. The first step on his week-long trip, which included visits to

Sudan and Bulgaria. Someone could have pierced the cover without arousing the suspicion of or being challenged.

There was more scope for a security breach during Kalam's UAE visit, which ended last Monday, compared to visits by previous Presidents.

Kalam had several official engagements where he was mingling with people — there were at least seven such interactions in Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

On each occasion, the President's security was lax. Even his aide de camp, who is supposed to be by Kalam's side at all times,

curried in the Emirates, where many Indian criminals have taken shelter, is worrying enough. But perhaps, the UAE authorities can be excused — they may not be sufficiently experienced in handling VIP security.

But the President's security staff has no such defence, for it has been providing protection at Rashtrapati Bhavan for years.

Perhaps, the most serious security lapse was the one at the restricted VVIP area at Dubai international airport.

No media person was screened before boarding Kalam's aircraft. There were no Indian security personnel present when

guests were boarding the plane — perhaps they were being unusually unobtrusive. But it would appear that the President had been put at serious risk.

That risk persisted until Kalam landed in Bulgaria.

The East European country might have shrugged off the communist yoke and may be eyeing an entry into the European Union, but its security officers are as vigilant and suspicious as they were during Soviet times.

The officers trust, but they also verify. Taking no chances, they politely asked some Indian delegation members who

had not displayed their special security pass to identify themselves.

There may have been times when Indian security personnel were standing some distance from Kalam — this was never the case with the eagle-eyed Bulgarian security staff deployed to provide the President protection.

The fool-proof protection was reminiscent of the tight inner-cordon cover provided to Atal Bihari Vajpayee by the Special Protection Group.

It also makes a fit case for entrusting the President's security to the SPG.



President Kalam with the crown prince of Dubai Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum

W 9-5 27/10

Kalam seeks closer ties with Sudan

Khartoum: President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on Tuesday said it was time for India and Sudan to forge stronger ties and consolidate developments since their independence by using the existing mechanisms or creating new ones.

Addressing the national assembly of Sudan here on the second day of his three-day visit, the President said, "Over the years, our nations have main-

building capabilities for oil exploration, refining, marketing and value added oil based products. "Exploitation of natural hydrocarbon and other natural resources of Sudan with the assistance of India could fuel economic growth of Sudan through many mission mode projects like Vision 2020 of India," he said.

"One among the key resources of Sudan is hydrocarbon. With a large part of

the country still unexplored, hydrocarbon contribution to the national economy is likely to increase significantly in the future. The national oil companies of India and other countries are participating in the discoveries of oil and gas in Sudan," the President said.

The President was certain that India's vision and her experiences can be useful in evolving a mission for the development of Sudan.

"It is only natural that the two countries should strive to synergies their development goals and policies.

This creates the strong possibility that both nations by 2020 could acquire enviable capabilities. This partnership in the development of our nations would be a model for other developing and developed nations," he said.

On Indo-Sudan friendship, the President said that throughout recorded history, India has always been a friend of all nations and "we are happy to be counted among the friends of Sudan. We have never at any time in our past invaded other countries or used destructive force to achieve any end," he said. (PTI)



Sudanese President Gen Omer El Bashir (right), and Indian President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and Sudanese minister of science and technology Al-Zuber Bashir Taha, ahead of their talks in Khartoum on Tuesday.

tained cordial and friendly relations and have formed many institutional arrangements for widening the scope of our cooperation and collaboration."

Stating that his visit coincided with the 50th year of Sudanese independence, Mr Kalam said, "The time has thus arrived for our two nations to consolidate these developments since independence, and forge stronger bonds between planning and implementation institutions."

Referring to the ongoing oil exploration by the ONGC, Mr Kalam said the two countries could work together in

Kalam terror pinch

K. SUBRAHMANYA

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 19: President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam today played the perfect diplomat to hardsell India and slipped in a message on terrorism with a concealed punch to Pakistan.

He started off the second day of his three-day tour of the United Arab Emirates by emphasising India's economic strengths and their role in transforming bilateral relations.

India's "core competence" in knowledge-based, high-technology areas and the UAE's strengths in oil and allied financial sectors were an ideal launching pad, he said.

There was no hint of the message to come when Kalam suggested specific areas for collaboration, in front of the entire Emirates leadership, at a banquet hosted in his honour by Crown Prince Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

He offered India's assistance in solar energy generation because the Emirates, he said, cannot forever depend on oil as the energy base for desalination to meet its ever growing requirement of drinking water.

Kalam emphasised the scope for forging mutually beneficial ties by spelling out emerging similarities in both countries' developmental priorities.

Kalam suggested setting up a joint cyber university and offered help in "digitising" the Emirates' information set-up.

Then came the touch of diplomacy as he traced the logic for the hardsell to the need for both countries to come closer, politically and diplomatically, by focusing on development.

"Development and peace can-



APJ Abdul Kalam being greeted by Crown Prince Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan at Abu Dhabi International Airport. (PTI)

not be separated from one another," Kalam said, as he first broached politics.

Without once directly mentioning Pakistan or terrorism or the need for a joint fight against the menace, he sent a message by "thanking" the Emirates leadership for extraditing to India 12 fugitives involved in terrorist activities in the country.

He pointedly recalled how the two countries have come closer by starting a structured

political dialogue.

Earlier, the President made good use of his scientific credentials to get former colleagues to help his presentation along.

Gopalswamy, a scientist who has worked on solar energy for four decades, made a presentation on the subject.

Disinvestment and IT minister Arun Shourie said the UAE has already recognised the emergence of India as a big global player in becoming a "generator of knowledge".

A drive back into memory

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 19: Only one person at the Higher Colleges of Technology made no mistake about A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

While the students were confused if he was a teacher, a scientist or a philosopher, security guard Siva Perumal Samy had no trouble recognising his former employer. The President could not initially recognise his former driver till his scientist friend Professor Balakrishnan reintroduced Samy.

Kalam immediately took Samy to his present boss, college chancellor Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan. "He is an accomplished driver," the President said.

Pat came the reply from the chancellor: "What is he doing here then?"

Samy was invited to be the President's special guest at the Intercontinental Hotel. They met there in the evening.

With the students, Kalam put aside his prepared speech and urged them to dream. "You must dream. The dreams should then transform into thoughts and thoughts into concrete action."

After the 35-minute speech, a student in the audience asked Kalam: "If you were young today, what would have been your dream?"

The President ducked a direct answer by relating his teacher's lesson on how birds fly. "But, now, I have landed here," he said.

Plan ahead to combat terror: President

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 26

PRESIDENT A.P.J. Abdul Kalam has stressed the need to formulate visionary policies with collective efforts to face the challenge of cross-border terrorism.

In his address at the Eleventh Special Convocation of Jammu University here today, Kalam said that certain nations have been indulging in cross-border terrorism without naming Pakistan. "We need to collectively address these sources of disturbance by formulating visionary policies for national development with security concerns integrated and by executing those projects with hard work," he said.

Kalam said the world is facing a new kind of warfare, religious conflicts, ideological differences and economic warfare. He said: "We have witnessed always that adds to wars, of course each there will be a time gap."

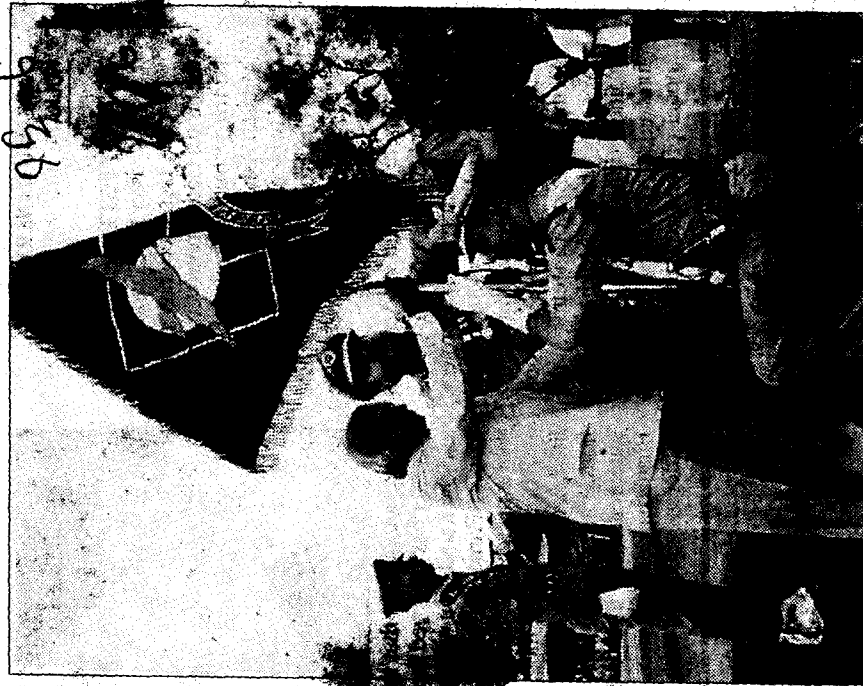
e President said cross-border

der terrorism, insurgency and threat of nuclear attacks have to be combatted with collective efforts. "Terrorism results from various factors like difference in ideologies, religious fanaticism, discrimination and enmity between organisations and nations," he said and added that India has to be made powerful and free of terrorism.

He said he met children and they asked about terrorism? "This is a question of 30 crore children of the country and leaders of the country cannot ignore this question," said Kalam.

In his speech, Kalam stressed the need for evolution of society and said that Indians have to think how they can transform the country in to a developed nation in a time-bound way. He said the Prime Minister has also desired that India has to become a developed nation by 2020. "We have to think what is needed to achieve such a mega mission," he said.

Kalam said that whether India has to build missile technology, nuclear technology, space tech-



nology, attain self sufficiency in food or reach export potential in Information Technology products, they are all results of vision-ary thinking and working on it.

He said the combination of learning with value systems will pave the path for generating enlightened citizens. "This process can take place only during the students' education," he added.

Kalam said another important component will be religions graduating into a spiritual movement, and the most vital part is poverty eradication by attaining prosperity.

He said when he just joined the Indian Space Research Organisation (then called IN-COSPAR) in 1963, he met his guru Prof Vikram Sarabhai at Ahmedabad to plan some rocket experiments.

"He was busy reviewing cosmic ray research data obtained from Gulmarg in Kashmir which has hosted several scientific studies and has special and unique advantages for basic research in astronomy and certain geo-physical

studies," said Kalam.

The President said that after becoming the President he have visited 23 states and found that the country is unique. He said during his visit to Arunachal Pradesh, a Buddhist monk told him that India is a nation of peace. "This is true and and we have to maintain this spirit," said the President.

Kalam said he is delighted to participate in the convocation and wished students for their academic performance. J-K Governor and Chancellor of Jammu University, Lt. General (Retd) SK Sinha, Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed and Vice-Chancellor Armitabh Mattoo also spoke on the occasion. Harsh Dev Singh, Education Minister, various other ministers, political leaders were also present on the occasion.

Earlier, the function started with the academic procession. 101 students who got the medals and awards were introduced on the stage, including Sohail Paul, who won seven medals and Deep Shikha, who won five medals.

Work for higher GDP growth: Kalam

By Our Staff Reporter

KUPPAM, JUNE 7. The President, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, has said a strong GDP growth alone can propel the country's overall development and asked the student community to work untiringly to achieve the goal.

Inaugurating the Kuppam Engineering College (KEC) and the PES Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (PE-SIMSR) at Kuppam in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh, the constituency represented by the State Chief Minister, N. Chandrababu Naidu, Dr. Kalam said that a rapid growth in the gross domestic product from the present 4.5 per cent to 10 per cent alone could spur development, as it would have a direct bearing on the 26 crore people living below the poverty line (BPL). Agriculture, Information Technology, exports, basic infrastructure and health and education were the growth engines to speed up economic prosperity.

Indians were generating business to the tune of \$12 billions worldwide in the IT sector alone.

Referring to the 'tele-medicine' concept, which was reaching the downtrodden.

"As a first step, I urge the engineering and medicine students in the audience to get basic health services to the re-

motest corner of this Kuppam constituency in the form of mobile health clinics, as is being done by the Birla Institute of Technology and Sciences in Uttaranchal," he said.

The President said that HIV, cancer and tuberculosis, apart from cardiac ailments and water-borne diseases needed immediate attention.

Referring to stem cell technology, "a revolutionary research area" in medicine, Dr. Kalam suggested to the PES Education Trust to have a dedicated department for the highly specialised subject.

A few weeks before he was tipped for the post of President, Dr. Kalam, in course of his address to the students of the Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences (SVIMS) in Tirupati, favoured setting up of a similar facility there, which was realised in no time by the State Government.

The Chief Minister, N. Chandrababu Naidu, expressed happiness that his dream of getting a state-of-the-art facility in his constituency inaugurated by a statesman and top scientist, Dr. Kalam, had come true.

The State Ministers, K. Sivaprasad (Medical and Health) and B. Gopalakrishna Reddy (Employment Generation), and the PES Trust's founder-secretary, M.R. Doreswamy, participated.



The President, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Chandrababu Naidu, and M.R. Doreswamy (second from left), founder PES Institutions, after inaugurating PES Institute of Medical Sciences and Research at Kuppam, in Andhra Pradesh on Saturday. — Photo: K. Bhagya Prakash

'Root out corruption, usher in development'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, April 26. — Corruption in public life has to be rooted out if India wants to realise the dream of becoming a developed country by 2020, the President said today. "If we can't make India corruption free, the vision of making the nation developed by 2020 would remain remote," Dr APJ Abdul Kalam said.

Inaugurating a seminar on "Access to Justice", Dr Kalam referred to the judiciary as the "guardian of civilised society" and said: "The members of judiciary therefore becomes role models, the perfect incorruptible ideals of a civilised society...

I am asking the judicial community to start a nationwide movement to form a corruption free India, just like your forefathers who started the movement for Independence." He described the judiciary as the "angels and marshals" who ensure the survival of democracy. The seminar was organised by the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association and supported by the United Nations Development Programme.

The President said since most of the people in India were ignorant about their rights, the courts of law and the judicial system had to work to protect their rights. Underlining the

BE NOBLE TO BECOME A JUDGE: KALAM

NEW DELHI, April 26. — How to become a judge? The President had some tough moments answering this question asked by his grand-daughter. While speaking at the seminar on "Access to Judiciary", Dr APJ Abdul Kalam said when he was preparing his speech, his sister's grand-daughter, a lawyer, rang him up and asked him a question: How to become a judge? "I told her it's a very difficult question. After thinking for a while, I told her if you want to become a judge you've to become noble. And she kept down the phone." — PTI



Dr Abdul Kalam

the basis of equal opportunity, had been achieved.

Dr Kalam asked the law makers to be futuristic and keep an eye on cyber laws and intellectual property rights laws too.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Justice of India, Mr VN Khare, admitted that the judiciary was bogged down by huge backlog of cases. "The country has just 13,000 judicial officers though the need is for 75,000 officers. Despite the problems, judiciary is making an all out effort to reduce the backlog. Introduction of Lok Adalats and arbitration have helped us in reducing the large number of pending cases."

need for providing timely access to justice to everyone and in a user-friendly manner, he asked

Kalam warns against mounting debt

NEWS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, APRIL 9

PRESIDENT APJ Abdul Kalam asked both the Centre and the States to address the issue of mounting debt burden and orient their financial management towards higher economic growth and poverty reduction.

"Many States are burdened with debt. The Budget also shows that one-fourth of the total receipts go for interest payments," Dr Kalam said highlighting the unsustainability of the mounting debt. Addressing the golden jubilee function of the Finance Commission, he directed the Twelfth Finance Commission to evolve a mech-



President APJ Abdul Kalam with Finance Minister Jaswant Singh at the golden jubilee function of the Finance Commission of Vayalar Bhanu in the Capital on Wednesday. Express photo by Raj Dayal

anism for efficient resource allocation to ensure poverty reduction through proper fiscal management.

To realise the government's goal to make India a "develop-

Tenth Five Year Plan's target of 8 per cent GDP growth and the measures announced by finance minister Jaswant Singh in the Budget for economic development were steps in the right direction. He stressed on physical connectivity by way of roads, technology connectivity through use of IT and telecom, knowledge and financial connectivity in the country.

Stating that the high fiscal deficit was a "problem, Singh said: "It is essentially the revenue deficit and primary deficits which should be addressed." But, he said the country had come a long way, showing both financial and political resilience in dealing with difficult economic situation.

Vajpayee briefs Kalam over buns and roses

11.1.1993
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The developing situation on Iraq and the supreme court judgment striking down the Centre's electoral reforms law were among the key issues on which Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee briefed President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam at a breakfast meeting on Sunday.

Normally, the PM briefs the President after every parliament session over tea. However, Mr Kalam made a departure this time and suggested to the PM that they meet over breakfast and at the Mughal Garden which is presently in full bloom.

Mr Vajpayee also apprised the President about the other issues that came up during the first half of the budget session. These included the two all-party meetings that the PM convened on the Iraq crisis and the women's reservation bill.

The talk of national importance apart, the breakfast fare laid out by the President was as varied as it was colourful—a combination of north and south Indian dishes, besides an array of breads and croissants. Also up for grabs were the hot favourites of both the VVIPs—mysore paak, jalebis, ladoos and gulab jamuns.

With the Mughal Garden in full bloom at this time of the year, the hour-long meeting naturally ended with a long stroll by the two amidst gladiolis, tulips and roses.

Meanwhile, like his predecessors, Mr Kalam has expressed a distaste for any place, institution or organisation being named after him. Ever since he took over as the country's President, requests have been coming in from across the country seeking his approval for utilising his name for a variety of causes.

The President obviously does not want his name being misused or the institution using his name getting into a controversy. Besides, from the first President and the first PM onwards, the convention has been to reject any such request.

17 MAR 2003

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Respect court verdict on Ayodhya: Kalam

Terms Kelkar report as guide to a stable tax regime

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: If Ayodhya and Pakistan formed the core of President Abdul Kalam's first address to Parliament on Monday, his description of the Kelkar report as a road map for the creation of a "stable, transparent and efficient tax regime", indicated the direction the government planned to take in its last year and a half.

On Ayodhya, an issue likely to take centre stage in this session, the President stressed that the judiciary should expedite its work and give an early verdict. The government, he said, has repeatedly made it clear that the dispute could be resolved either through negotiations between the two communities or through a judicial verdict which has to be accepted by all concerned.

Criticising Islamabad, he said he saw a "method in the madness" of Pakistan-supported terrorist violence. "We must continue



A.P.J. Kalam

to be vigilant against an adversary which is unwilling to give up its anti-India stand." Pakistan had consistently responded to India's efforts for friendly relations with hatred and violence, he said, adding that every civilised diplomatic norm was being flouted with its mission here arranging finances for terrorist groups.

On the tension on the Indo-Bangla border, he said illegal immigration from Bangladesh had assumed serious proportions and affected many states. Bangladesh's territory was being used by insurgent groups operating in the north-east. The ISI's activities in Bangladesh "makes the issue of infiltration even more ominous". The December 13 terrorist attack on Parliament had compelled the government to deploy troops along the international border. He added that a comprehensive nuclear doctrine has been put in place giving control of strategic assets to the civilian political executive.

The President said the assembly elections in Gujarat had "strengthened" democracy and ended a "sad chapter" in its history. "We must resolve to ensure that communal violence is never repeated in any part of our country. The government remains committed to secularism."

Praising the performance of the Indian economy, he said the ambitious eight per cent growth target set by the 10th Plan was achievable. Further, this Plan was not merely a resources plan, but a reforms Plan.

"The imperative of fiscal consolidation requires that public finances are managed better. This can take place only through greater collection of revenue and controlling ex-

Cramps force Shekhawat to abandon speech

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Vice President Bhairon Singh Shekhawat collapsed in pain and staggered a little, forcing him to abruptly stop reading out the Hindi version of the President's address to a joint sitting of Parliament in the Central Hall on Monday.

Union minister and physician C P Thakur, parliamentary affairs and health minister Sushma Swaraj and a Parliament doctor rushed to attend on Mr Shekhawat. Later, Ms Swaraj said the the VP had suffered a sudden cramp in his leg.

Rural thrust in Kalam's first R-Day eve speech

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, January 25

PRESIDENT APJ Abdul Kalam on Saturday called for the transformation of rural India with improved roads, communication and knowledge. In his first address to the nation on the eve of the Republic Day, Kalam dwelt at length on India's assets and challenges as it looks to emerge as a developed nation by 2020.

With an eye on knowledge-powered PURA (providing urban amenities in rural areas), the President made a strong case for a second "green revolution". Kalam said more than two-thirds of India's population lives in villages and the country could develop only if a

mega mission is launched for the empowerment of the rural masses.

He, however, avoided some of the contentious issues confronting the nation. The address was professorial in content with an emphasis on science and technology, knowledge society and rural connectivity.

The references to politics were restricted to the conduct of free and fair elections in Jammu and Kashmir and Gujarat. For this, the President showered compliments on everybody concerned — the Election Commission, the central and State Government machineries, the media, the political parties and independent groups. Kashmiris got a special mention for upholding democratic traditions in the face of terrorism.

25 JAN 2003

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

Kalam calls for classless kid audience

Nandini Guha
Kolkata, January 20

WHEN PRESIDENT Abdul Kalam walks to the podium to address 8,500-odd school students at the Netaji Indoor Stadium on Tuesday morning, he will be greeted by a huge number of children from many not-so-elite suburban schools.

Dipankar Chatterjee, Chairman (Eastern Region), CII, said, "The President's clear brief to us was to get young under-20 adults from different backgrounds. That includes handicapped children too."

This means schools like La

home for destitute children.

The CII had initially sent out invites to 165 schools but ultimately decided on 120 schools because some rural schools took a long time to respond.

But what will the President talk about? Chatterjee said the President's speech, titled, "Vision of India" would probably touch upon issues like investing in knowledge, bio-diversity and so on. "It would hinge on his belief that the world will be ruled by knowledge economies in the future." The President felt only students of Class IX-Class XII would comprehend his "vision".

See also **Kolkata Live**

PRESIDENT'S PASSAGE THROUGH KOLKATA

8.25 AM Ramkrishna Mission, Barrackpore
10 AM Oberoi Grand for AGM of Aeronautical Society of India
11.35 AM Netaji Indoor Stadium to meet children
12.40 PM Raj Bhawan, to interact with various groups
1.30 PM Interaction with students of Loreto Day School, Sealdah

2.45-3 PM Children's programme organised by Calcutta Foundation
3 - 4 PM Rest
4 PM St Xavier's College, for World Congress of Jesuit Alumnus
5.10 PM Netaji Bhawan
6 PM Kala Mandir to attend ICC meet
6.55 PM To leave Kala Mandir for airport
7.20 PM Take-off for Delhi

Martiniere, St Xavier's and Loreto will either be left out or will attend only in small numbers. Large contingents will be

brought in from Narendrapur Blind Boys and Taki School as also from Don Bosco, Liluah. Incidentally, Don Bosco runs a

Kalam ignores RSS, hails Jesuit contribution

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JANUARY 21

UNRUFFLED by the controversy that the RSS has sought to raise over his attending a Jesuit meet, President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam today had unqualified praise for them for the work they have done in the field of education.

Inaugurating the Vth World Congress of the Jesuit Alumni at St Xavier's College this afternoon, he said: "The Jesuits are doing something holy, something sacrosanct by working in the field of education.... Education gives one the ultimate human value.... They have made excellent contributions not only in India but the world over."

The President also talked about

his own education in a Jesuit institution, the St Joseph's College in Tiruchirappalli, paying his tribute to two teachers "who shaped me", Father Sequiera and Father Chin-nadurai.

Kalam said Jesuit as well as other educational institutions should try and develop integrated personality, that's a combination of knowledge and value system, pointing out the enormous influence wielded by teachers on youngsters till the age of 17.

Interestingly for the RSS, the President observed that education should take one beyond religion. Talking about his own experience of "the beauty of true integration of religion", he recalled that his father was the chief of the mosque at their home village in Rameswaram and

among his friends were a Jesuit Father who headed a Roman Catholic church and a priest who knew Sanskrit scriptures.

During their discussions on Sunday, they would talk about the three scriptures and concluded that the message in all was the same. To thunderous applause, Kalam said, this was: "Love human beings. Remove pain of the people."

Earlier in the day, the President addressed the inaugural function of the 54th Annual General Meeting of the Aeronautical Society of India (ASI).

He urged the society to evolve a national aviation policy, and assured them help from his office. Kalam is the first Indian President to have taken part in an AGM of the Aeronautical Society of India.

Floored by Netaji chair

THE scene was Netaji Bhavan, housing the office from where Subhas Chandra Bose operated as Congress president in 1938 and 1939. Taking a chair opposite the seat Netaji used, Kalam seemed overwhelmed. He urged Governor Virendra Chandra Saxena to also take a chair opposite Netaji's. "He's trying to visualise that he's sitting beside Netaji," said Saugoto Bose, director of the Netaji Research Bureau. Kalam hoped that every year, at least 5,000 students would visit Netaji Bhavan to imbibe the leader's courage. — ENNS



President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam watching a dance programme by school girls at Raj Bhavan in Kolkata on Tuesday. PTI photo

Be pro-active, Kalam to Governors

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Jan. 11. — The President today asked Governors to be "active" and to lead the country in eliminating communal differences and insurgency.

"I am convinced the imperative need of the Governors is to reach at the grassroots to understand the problems and focus them to the state government concerned and the Central government for quick action to remove the sufferings of the common people," Dr APJ Abdul Kalam said while inaugurating a two-day conference of the constitutional heads of the state government at Rashtrapati Bhawan.

Twenty-eight Governors and three Lt-Governors re

57-10
were in the session to arrive at a consensus on their "roles" which often creates confrontation sometimes with the chief minister. The Governors emphasised on evolving an integrated approach towards security and development.

Setting the tone, Dr Kalam said: "Each Governor has a tremendous responsibility in providing partnership in the state administration to succeed.

I was asking myself what type of partnership this has to be."

The Centre and the states, he said, have to

work together and it is here that the Governor's role comes into play — to interact between the state and the Centre.



Governors greet the President on his arrival at the Conference of Governors in Delhi on Saturday. — AFP