

CTBT has no relevance for India, says Kalam

“We are a nuclear weapons State since 1998 and committed to nuclear disarmament”

Special Correspondent

BANGALORE: The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty has no relevance to India any more since the country was a nuclear weapons State since 1998 and confirmed its commitment to total nuclear disarmament, said President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam here on Saturday.

He was inaugurating the silver jubilee celebrations of the Karnataka Rajya Vijnana Parishat. Mr. Kalam was in his elements while interacting with high school children of nearly ten schools. The children who were seated in the auditorium three hours were the happiest lot after their interaction with the President, which extended to nearly 45 minutes of the hour-long programme.

In reply to a question from a student on the CTBT, Mr. Kalam said the treaty had lost its relevance for India. The country became a nuclear-weapons state in 1998 and has also made it clear



President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam addressing the Karnataka Rajya Vijnana Parishat silver jubilee function in Bangalore on Saturday. — PHOTO: K. GOPINATHAN

“we will not test further” apart from keeping away from “no-first use” of nuclear weapons.

On disposal of nuclear wastes,

the President said the country had adequate facilities for disposal of such wastes and these facilities were located in the proximity of all nuclear reactors. He said he had got in touch with the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission on this matter on Friday to have an update on the facilities for nuclear wastes disposal.

On achievement in the field of space technology, Mr. Kalam said the country entered the space sector in 1963 and the building of large rocket systems using indigenous technology was one of the biggest achievements. In 2007, the Indian Space Research Organisation was expected to send a spacecraft to the moon along with a payload and this would be another milestone.

Referring to the Agni missile technology, he said it was indeed a unique challenge and the development of the re-entry technology which has since been

perfected was a major achievement. The Agni missile had to be protected with a heat shield since the temperature during the re-entry stage increased up to 4,000 degrees Celsius. The payload in the system had to be obviously protected. “We have developed a good heat shield”.

The President said it was essential to develop appropriate technologies that give immediate benefits to the people. It was imperative to package such technologies and also ensure political support for them to receive the necessary patronage.

Mr. Kalam spent time explaining to the students his association with great scientists like Homi Bhabha, Vikram Sarabai, D.S.Kothari, Brahm Prakash and Satish Dhawan. He also referred to Sir C.V.Raman and Chandrashekar Subramaniam and spoke on the sound foundation that they had laid for the country in the field of science. “Bangalore

is the centre for science and Prof. C.N.R. Rao resides here.”

The President commended the work being done by the Karnataka Rajya Vijnana Parishat founded under the guidance of the late H. Narasimhaiah of the National Education Society, Bangalore. The KRVP has established over 500 school science centres across the State and has a continuous programme to promote science and a scientific temperament.

Deputy Chief Minister M.P. Prakash congratulating the KRVP on its achievements said: “We have miles to go and promises to keep.”

The silver jubilee celebrations of the KRVP is indeed a milestone for the organisation which has done a commendable job.

Governor T.N. Chaturvedi, Minister for Science and Technology Basavaraj Horatti, KRVP president S.J.Nagalotimath and secretary H.S.Niranjana Aradhya also spoke.

Kalam for indigenously developed jet airliner

Calls for a national aeronautics commission to plan, design and develop the aircraft

BANGALORE: President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on Saturday called for a mission mode-approach by India in developing a 150-seater jet airliner and selling it to other countries.

With the convergence of technologies in aeronautics and space and the availability of vast infrastructure and human resource, “India can definitely launch such missions in the international market,” Mr. Kalam said.

He was delivering the JRD Tata Memorial lecture on “Vision for Aeronautics-Missions” at the National Institute of Advanced Studies here.

Recalling the efforts of JRD, a pioneer in the aviation industry, Mr. Kalam said the need of the hour was a national aeronautics commission, which should be planned and mandated to design, develop and send a passenger aircraft soaring into the

There are more than 300,000 engineers and an infrastructure worth more than Rs. 20,000 crores

skies. “When our 150-seater aircraft flies in our sky, JRD will smile.”

Mission-mode approach

The President stressed on a mission mode-approach for building the jet airliner. “Looking at the current scenario, the mission mode-approach to develop a 150-seater passenger aircraft will be technologically satisfying enough to attract youngsters to take up aeronautical education and research, will make economic sense and, at the same time, meet national requirements.” A similar approach

and national vision for the Light Combat Aircraft, the Advanced Light Helicopter and the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme had been successful earlier.

Referring to Vision 2020, he said that India was expected to be one of the fastest growing countries in the aviation sector. He called for a national aeronautics policy to integrate the strength in both civil and military sectors and bring a synergy in the aviation sector. Implementation of such a policy would usher in an era of high technology and high skill industry environment resulting in generation of assets, wealth and employment.

Space systems and missile and aeronautics groups had demonstrated technological excellence in their products through networking with academic institutes, industries and the

Government. There are more than 300,000 engineers and an infrastructure worth more than Rs. 20,000 crores. To tap this opportunity, an appropriate policy should be in place, Mr. Kalam said.

The President also called for integrated development of a supersonic, unmanned combat aircraft, a hypersonic reusable missile and a hyperplane and planetary missions, including manned missions for energy and water.

He said that aerospace had moved away from being a hard engineering subject and encompassed many emerging areas such as software, material science, control and guidance and computer and communication technologies.

This multi-disciplinary area could be developed only by uniting minds working in diverse areas. — PTI, UNI

CTBT no more relevant, says President

Bangalore

20 AUGUST



PRESIDENT APJ Abdul Kalam on Saturday said the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) had lost its 'relevance' for India.

President Kalam said though India became a 'nuclear-weapons' state in 1998, its nuclear doctrine states "we will not test further" and mentions about "no-first use" of nuclear weapons and that India is for complete disarmament.

"With these three, CTBT has lost relevance," he said to a query from a boy who asked the President about India's stand on the CTBT at a function to mark the inauguration of the silver jubilee programme of the Karnataka Rajya Vijnana Parishat here.

Replying to a question posed by another student, President Kalam said India had well established capabilities in nuclear waste management at its nuclear facilities.

Answering another query, he said that the capability to build rockets and spacecraft was one of the most important achievements of India's space programme which started in 1963.

"One of the very important achievements is to build large rocket system using our own technology and to launch this type of spacecraft," he said in this context, he noted that India has planned an unmanned mission to the moon in 2007.

President alerts nation on need for energy independence

"Entrust the job to young leadership to achieve the objective in 25 years"

HD-1
15/8
9-P. Nussbaum



FUEL SECURITY: President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam addresses the nation from the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Sunday. He pointed to the growing mismatch between demand and supply of fossil fuels. - PHOTO: PTI

Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI: On the eve of the 59th Independence Day, President Abdul J. Kalam exhorted the country to become alert to the need for "energy independence."

Calling for "a comprehensive renewable energy policy" within one year, the President asserted on Sunday that "India has knowledge and natural resources" and all that was needed was "planned integrated missions" to achieve the goal.

Technical theme

Like last Independence Day when the President devoted his entire customary address to the nation on the theme of "employment generation," this time Mr. Kalam has focussed on the highly technical theme of energy security and independence. Except for a brief note on the natural disasters in recent months, the President chose not to talk about any political, constitutional or economic issues facing the nation.

Pointing out that India has 17 per cent of the world's population and only 0.8 per cent of the world's known oil and natural gas resources, Mr. Kalam drew the nation's attention to this gap between demand and resources as "energy and water demand will soon surely be a defining characteristic of our people's life in the 21st Century."

As the President saw it: "Energy Independence has to be our nation's first and highest priority. We must be determined to achieve this within the next 25 years, therefore by the year 2030. This one major 25-year national mission must be formulated, funds guaranteed, and leadership entrusted without delay as a public-private partnerships to our younger generation, now in their 30s, as their lifetime mission in a renewed drive for nation-building."

Suggesting a shift in the structure of energy sources, the President stressed the need to minimise the imports of fossil

• **Need to minimise import of fossil fuel stressed**

• **Larger reliance on solar energy suggested**

fuel. The access to such imported supply would have to be ensured. Maximum hydro and nuclear power potential, thus, would need to be tapped. Above all, there has to be a shift from fossil to renewable energy. He suggested a larger reliance on solar energy and added that new technologies would need to be explored in order to reduce the cost of harvesting solar energy for large-scale use in rural and urban areas.

Large reserve

Mr. Kalam noted that there would have to be a ten-fold increase in nuclear power generation in order to achieve a reasonable degree of energy self-sufficiency. Hence, the focus should be on development of nuclear power using thorium as the country has a large reserve of this key source material. In addition, "Nuclear Fusion research needs to be progressed with international cooperation to keep the option for meeting the large power requirement, at a time when fossil fuels get depleted."

As per his timetable, by 2020 India should achieve comprehensive energy security and by 2030 there should be energy independence. Mr. Kalam concluded: "We need to evolve a comprehensive renewable energy policy for energy independence within a year. This should address all issues relating to generation of energy through wind, solar, geothermal, biomass and ocean. The nation should also work towards establishment of thorium-based reactors. Research and technology development of thorium-based reactors is one of the immediate requirements for realising self-reliance in nuclear power generation and long-term energy security for the nation."

Kalam's vision: Energy independence

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, Aug. 14. — In a major departure from the customary Independence Day eve address, President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam tonight completely dwelt on issues of science and technology and development. He also presented his vision of "energy independence" by 2030.

Addressing the nation on the eve of 59th Independence Day, Dr Kalam emphasised the imperative of achieving "energy independence" by evolving a comprehensive renewable "energy policy and accelerating research for forecasting earthquakes.

With the death and devastation caused by rains and floods in Maharashtra, Gujarat and other states at the back of his mind, Dr Kalam renewed his call to realise the project of inter-state river linking. The project of interlinking of rivers should be implemented with a "sense of urgency" and efforts should be made to overcome "various hurdles" in its way. "While we are celebrating 59th anniversary of our hard-earned political independence, we have to remember the sufferings of our people affected by the recent rains and floods in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Orissa," he said.

Instead of thinking about interlinking of rivers only at times of flood and drought, it is time that we implement this programme with great urgency." He added: "We need to make an effort to overcome various hurdles in our way to the implementation of this major project."

Calling for freedom from energy de-

pendence, Dr Kalam said the country needed 114 million tonnes of oil every year, 75 per cent of which was imported and used almost entirely in the transportation sector. "Energy independence" has to be India's "first and highest priority" and the country must be determined to achieve this within the next 25 years. "This one major 25-year national mission must be formulated, funds guaranteed and leadership entrusted without delay as public-private partnerships to our younger generation as their lifetime mission..."

Observing that energy was the lifeline of modern societies, he said India has 17 per cent of the world's population but just 0.8 per cent of the world's known oil and natural gas resources. Hence the urgency for developing "energy security", he said. "Energy security, which means ensuring that our country can supply life-line energy to all citizens, at affordable costs at all times, is a very significant need."

Also for the first time, the President used a Powerpoint presentation with the help of slides and graphics to explain his views on the importance of energy independence in his Independence Day speech, adds PTI.

The President also hailed the Armed and police forces for rendering selfless service and paid tributes to freedom fighters for freeing the country from foreign yoke. He said: "Let us resolve on this occasion to remember with gratitude, the selfless and devoted services of our Armed Forces who are guarding our frontiers. We are also grateful to the para-military and police forces for preserving our internal security and maintaining law and order."

More reports on pages 6 & 11



ADDING COLOUR TO FREEDOM: A woman and a child look at tri-coloured bangles in Delhi on the eve of Independence Day. — PTI

...Pak flexes nuke muscle

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 14. — Marking its 59th Independence Day, Pakistan today vowed to improve its nuclear and missile capabilities while asserting that a resolution on Kashmir was "a must for durable peace" in South Asia.

Pakistan Prime Minister Mr Shaukat Aziz hoisted the national flag at an indoor auditorium here due to security concerns. Without directly referring to India, he said Pakistan would continue the process of improving its nuclear and missile capabilities to keep pace with the changing scenario in the neighbourhood. "The most recent example is successful test-firing of Babur cruise missile. It is a great responsibility to safeguard our independence. Pakistan today is a nuclear power and no one can cast an evil eye on our beloved country."

MR Aziz added that regional peace was directly linked to justice and fair-play. "Solution of the burning issue of Kashmir is a must for durable peace in South Asia. Its resolution must reflect aspirations of the Kashmiri people."

On the occasion, President Gen. Pervez Musharraf said the nation should reject elements who want to drag Pakistan into darkness, referring to his campaign against extremism. "I appeal to the nation to reject the retrogressive elements politically and socially as they are opposed to progress."

Rocket attacks, blasts in Baluchistan

Rocket attacks and bomb blasts rocked parts of Pakistan's troubled Baluchistan province as the country marked its Independence Day, but there were no casualties. — PTI

স্পিকারকে নিয়ে আবার বিতর্ক, লোকসভা মূলতুবি

স্টাফ রিপোর্টার, নয়াদিল্লি, ১২ অগস্ট: প্রথম বার লোকসভার কাজ পরিচালনার দায়িত্বে এসে কিছুতেই বিতর্কের বাইরে যেতে পারছেন না স্পিকার সোমনাথ চট্টোপাধ্যায়। এর আগে তাঁর বিরুদ্ধে তোপ দেগেছেন ভূগমূল নেত্রী মমতা বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায়, ফ্লোভ জানিয়েছেন দলেরই সাংসদ তড়িৎ তোপদার। এ বারে তাঁকে ফের বিতর্কে টেনে আনল একটি সংবাদপত্র রিপোর্ট। স্পিকার নাকি বাম ঘেঁষা— সংবাদপত্রটির আজকের এই মন্তব্য থেকেই এ দিনের বিতর্কের শুরু। পরে সেই আলোচনার পথ ধরেই বিজেপি প্রমুখ তুলেছে, রাষ্ট্রপতি, সুপ্রিম কোর্টের বিচারপতি, প্রধানমন্ত্রীর যদি সমালোচনা হতে পারে, তবে স্পিকারকে কেন তার বাইরে রাখা হবে?

জোট রাজনীতির টানা পোড়েনে সংসদীয় অধিবেশন চালানোর মতো কঠিন কাজ ঠিকঠাকই সামলে এ বারের অধিবেশন সূচু ভাবে পরিচালনা করছিলেন স্পিকার। বিজেপি সংসদ অচল করবে না, অধিবেশন শুরুর আগেই বিরোধী দলনেতা লালকৃষ্ণ আডবাণীর সঙ্গে তিনি এই বোঝাপড়াতেও আসতে সক্ষম হন। তৈরি হয় ঐকমত্যের বাতাবরণ। তা সত্ত্বেও আজ ফের স্পিকারের ভূমিকা নিয়ে লোকসভায় বিতর্ক এবং তার জেরে কিছু ক্ষণের জন্য মূলতুবি হল অধিবেশন।

গত সপ্তাহে মমতার পদত্যাগে ছিল উন্মাদ। অভিযোগ ছিল, তাঁকে বলতে দিচ্ছেন না স্পিকার। তার পর তড়িৎবাবুর সঙ্গে বচসা জড়িয়ে পড়েন স্পিকার। তার জেরে তিনি কিছুটা আবেগপ্রবণও হয়ে পড়েছিলেন। সেই বিতর্ক বেশি দূর না এগোলেও তারপর থেকে সংসদে আর দেখতে পাওয়া যাচ্ছে না তড়িৎবাবুকে।

আজ এক সংবাদপত্রে স্পিকারকে নিয়ে প্রকাশিত বিতর্কিত মন্তব্যের জেরে মূলতুবি হল লোকসভা।

সমাজবাদী পার্টির রামজিলাল সুমন বিষয়টি উত্থাপন করে ওই সংবাদপত্রের বিরুদ্ধে শাস্তিমূলক ব্যবস্থা নেওয়ার দাবি তোলেন। জবাবে বিজেপির বিজয়কুমার মলহোত্র সওয়াল করেন সংবাদপত্রের স্বাধীনতা এবং স্পিকারকে সমালোচনা করা উচিত কি না, তাই নিয়ে। মলহোত্রের এই বক্তব্যের জেরে উত্তাল হয়ে ওঠে লোকসভা। দেখা যায়, এক দিকে বাম, সমাজবাদী পার্টি, এমনকী এনডিএ-র শরিকদল জে ডি (ইউ)-ও। অন্য দিকে শুধুই বি জে পি। তাতেও দমে না গিয়ে মলহোত্র সংবিধান অনুযায়ী স্পিকারের বিরুদ্ধেও ব্যবস্থা নেওয়ার প্রসঙ্গটি উত্থাপন করেন। এই ঘটনায় পরিস্থিতি আরও জটিল হয়ে যায়। বাধ্য হয়েই সভা কিছু ক্ষণের জন্য মূলতুবি করেন স্পিকার।



গোটা ঘটনায় ক্ষুব্ধ খোদ সোমনাথ চট্টোপাধ্যায়। তাঁর বক্তব্য, “কিছু লোক আছেন যাঁরা মুখে সংসদীয় গণতন্ত্রের ধ্বজা ওড়ান, কিন্তু প্রাণপণে চেষ্টা করেন যাতে, এই মহান প্রতিষ্ঠানের মানহানি করা যায়।” সোমনাথবাবুর মতে, “এই সব দায়িত্বজ্ঞানহীন, অপরিণত মতামতের দিকে নজর দেওয়া উচিত নয়। এগুলি হতাশা এবং মরিয়া ভাবেরই প্রকাশ। আমি এই সমস্ত উদ্দেশ্যপ্রণোদিত উস্কানিকে প্রত্যাখ্যান করে এখানেই বিষয়টি শেষ করে দিতে চাই।”

বিষয়টি সাংবাদিক সম্মেলনেও তোলেন মলহোত্র। তাঁর প্রশ্ন, স্পিকার কেন সমালোচনার উর্ধ্ব থাকবেন? তিনি বলেন, “এই সংবাদপত্রের মন্তব্যটি নিয়ে আমরা সর্বদলীয় আলোচনার জন্য স্পিকারকে অনুরোধ করেছি।”

সোমনাথবাবু নিজে অবশ্য বিষয়টি নিয়ে আর জলঘোলা করতে চান না। তাঁর বক্তব্য, “এই নিয়ে আমার কিছু বলার নেই। এ বার সংসদ যে কত ভাল ভাবে চলছে, সকলেই দেখছেন। অনেক গুরুত্বপূর্ণ বিষয় নিয়ে আলোচনা হচ্ছে।”

1 : 106 2005 4/1/17

সংসদ

Forget terror, touch stars: Kalam

Statesman News Service

KOLKATA, July 13. — From the importance of cultivating a "thought process" to the need for bringing all that was impossible within the realm of the possible, from the concept of "real education" to ways to cope with terrorism, President APJ Abdul Kalam laid it all bare for students.

While interacting with nearly 800 students of 26 schools from the city and suburbs at Nandan this afternoon, the President spoke about ways to combat the effects of terrorism on the child psyche: "It is for the world leaders to handle terrorism. You keep studying." Dr Kalam pointed out to the students a three dimensional approach to eliminating the roots of terrorism: "Education with a strong value system, religion transformed into spiritual force and economic development."

The interactive session was organised by the Confederation of Indian Industries (Eastern Region) on Dr Kalam's request and wasn't on the official itinerary of the President. "The word 'impossible' is much heard these days in the scientific and technological world. There is no disgrace in not being able to reach for the stars, but it is indeed disgraceful having no stars to reach for," he told the students gathered there.

When a student spoke about how she aspired to be a doctor and the anguish at the possibility of having to give up midway owing to economic constraints, Dr Kalam immediately asked the gathering: "Can anyone help her?" Seated beside him on the dais, the state school education minister Mr Kanti Biswas promised that the government would see to it that she had an education.

Dr Kalam stressed the role of parents and primary school teachers in instilling values in a child. Drawing attention to banks providing education



Dr Kalam greets a student at the third convocation of Netaji Subhas Open University. At Mahajati Sadan on Wednesday. — *The Statesman*

Traffic, rain take for a rough ride

KOLKATA, July 13. — Traffic congestion during President Kalam's visit and water-logged streets today left Kolkatans gasping for relief. Efforts by Kolkata Police to minimise disruption in movement of vehicles could not yield the desired results as it took more than an hour to restore normal flow of traffic after traffic snarls at Girish Park, CR Avenue-MG Road crossing, Shyambazaar five-point crossing, Shakespear Sarani, Jadavpur and Exide-AJC Bose crossing at different times of the day. Incessant rain made things worse. Office-goers had to wade through knee-deep water at Mahajati Sadan and near Golpark. The KMC, however, failed to account for water-logging at various places in the city. — SNS

he said: "Jadavpur University could become a modern Nalanda." Dr Kalam released a book *Lamp in the lotus* chronicling the history of Jadavpur University. At the inauguration of Bengal Engineering and Science University at Shibpur today, Dr Kalam listed five musts for students: research and inquiry, creativity and innovation, use of

At the function to mark the closing ceremony of the year-long 175th year celebrations of Scottish Church Collegiate School, at Science City auditorium, the President made the students present take the same oaths. Though the programme began with a sound-system snag, all forgot the hitch as Dr Kalam patiently replied to the student's questions on the destructive nature of nuclear power, the country's progress in the field of nuclear science, the proposed Moon Mission and the future of its power sector.

With the students and faculty of Netaji Subhas Open University, the President shared his dream of a good mathematician teacher from a remote Bengal village, Bagribri, tutoring students in a Konkani village. Only a technology-enhanced distance education can build a knowledge-intensive society essential for transforming West Bengal into a developed state by the year 2020, the teacher-scientist-turned-President said while speaking at the varsity's third convocation.

Before taking off for Delhi, Dr Kalam met about 20 representatives of different organisations at the airport. Some came on their own. The IG (EB), Mr Nazrul Islam, met the President in the capacity of the founder-chairman of Basantapur Educational Society at Domkol in Murshidabad. He also met Mr RN Bhattacharya, a former Isro colleague who came with a transcript of Dr Kalam's Vision India speech delivered in Hyderabad. Mr Bhattacharya said the former scientist was keen on having the speech translated into Bengali.

The West Bengal Governor, Mr Gopal Krishna Gandhi, the chief minister, Mr Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee and senior government and defence officials saw the President off at airport around 8.30 p.m. — nearly 15 minutes behind schedule. Not that the President, a muddled,

high technology, entrepreneurial and moral leadership. He said, in 21st century, management of knowledge was beyond the capacity of a single individual. Students needed to manage knowledge collectively. He made the students present there to repeat after him: "I'll love whatever profession I take up. I'll try to excel. I'll teach at least 10 persons to read and write. I'll plant 10 trees and ensure they grow. I'll go to rural areas to rehabilitate at least five addicts and gamblers. I'll not support any discrimination based on language, religion and community. I'll lead an honest life free from corruption. I'll celebrate the success of the country."

Kalam calls for 3-pronged approach to tackling terror

"A problem should not defeat you, you must defeat the problem"

Special Correspondent

KOLKATA: "Terrorism is a world phenomenon." To combat it there is need for "a combination of a three-dimensional approach — education with a value system, the transformation of religion into a spiritual force and the removal of economic disparities," President Abdul Kalam said here on Wednesday.

"You all have to think it is possible... it is not a disgrace not to be able to reach the stars but is a disgrace to have no stars to reach for." This was Dr. Kalam's message to a gathering of students drawn from 26 schools and educational institutions across rural West Bengal which was part of the audience at an interactive session with the President organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (Eastern Region).

Answering questions from the floor on a wide range of issues Dr. Kalam said, "A problem should not defeat you, you must defeat the problem. The word impossible was becoming very notorious in the world of science and technology."

"Draw out creativity"

On the subject of "real education" the President suggested "it was about bringing out creativity [in the school-going years] to preparing one to take the responsibility to take on various assignments." He had given his assent to a Bill that ensured compulsory and free education to all children till the age of 15 years.

The President dwelt on a variety of topics — from the possibilities opening up with educational loans for professional courses being provided by banks, the importance of an inter-river linking system to the opportunities now available through the information communication technology. "Through tele-education we are heading for a new type of revolution," he said.

Growth rate

To raise the economic growth rate in the country from six per cent to 10 per cent which would lift the country's 260 million people from below the poverty line there was need to focus on agriculture and food processing, education and health care, information communication technology, infrastructural development and, self-reliance in critical technology, the President said.



FEELING GOOD: President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam shares a light moment with West Bengal Governor Gopal Krishna Gandhi in Kolkata on Wednesday. Tara Gandhi, wife of the Governor, looks on. Mr. Kalam inaugurated a herbal garden in the Raj Bhavan. — PHOTO: AFP

Speaking at the convocation of the Netaji Subash Open University here, Dr. Kalam called for a collective effort by universities and higher education institutions to take advantage of the facilities provided by information and communication technology to further tele-education in the country.

"Now that an exclusive education satellite was available it was time to make greater use of information and communication technology to create interactive virtual class rooms across the country." Through tele-education students in even remote villages could be made aware of developments in sectors such as agriculture, telecommunication and information technology.

India's endeavours to digitise books through a digital library programme would help facilitate the setting up of an "on-line knowledge

society." Already, 90,000 books had been digitised at the initiative of institutions, social organisations and even the Rashtrapati Bhavan, Dr. Kalam said.

Low-cost software

The President said he had taken the initiative to develop low-cost software that would make available detailed study material on various subjects to the visually impaired through the web.

• Education must help bring out creativity

• Tele-education harbinger of new revolution

• Jadavpur University can become modern Nalanda

Earlier, on the occasion of the golden jubilee celebrations of Jadavpur University, Dr. Kalam said the university had all the qualities to "become a modern Nalanda" [the 17th century international university in Bihar to which scholars from different countries came to interact and learn.]

"In this critical stage of turbulence where there is mutual distrust and hatred I feel that Jadavpur University can set up an environment of calm and peace."

West Bengal Governor Gopal Krishna Gandhi, who is also Chancellor of the Netaji Subash Open University and Jadavpur University, was present on both the occasions.

Dr. Kalam also addressed the concluding ceremony of the diamond jubilee celebrations of the Press Club here.

19/7
President
110-13

14 JUL 2005

Kalam wake-up call for Governors

9 - President
ST-1
1576

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, June 14. — Apparently taking note of the public perception of “politicisation” of constitutional offices, President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam today virtually asked the Governors to outgrow their political past and to work for the good of the people.

“You have to decide whether you rise to be a first citizen or remain caged in the confines of your political or any other identity. If you continue to nurture certain affiliations, many will hesitate about approaching you with suggestions and problems. You will be isolated from a large number of people,” Dr Kalam said with all the linguistic finesse required in dealing with the highly sensitive subject of the functioning of state governors. He was speaking

after inaugurating a two-day conference of Governors and Lt Governors in the capital. His speech was a thinly-concealed message to the constitutional heads.

The Governors should “distil the best of aspirations of the people from the vicissitudes of politics,” he said. Explaining, Dr Kalam said: “It is like preserving the light Dharma. Friends, I am sure you are all aware of this worldly wisdom. The Governor’s office is a beacon light in the affairs of the state. While there are many checks and balances provided by the Constitution, the office of the Governor has the independence to rise above the day-to-day politics and override compulsions emanating either from the central system or the state system.”

A Governor by definition and in the spirit of the Constitution is the

first citizen of the state; he said, and asked: “Can we collectively say that today such a well-intended position is upheld by each one of us?”

Getting isolated from a large number of people was not the purpose of being in a Raj Bhavan, he said adding: “If you are a true first citizen, every one will approach you and respect your views. It is a great victory to conquer the people’s hearts and preserve our democratic traditions.”

Quoting the Tamil classic, *Silapadikaram*, the poet-President said if people in high and responsible positions went against righteousness, righteousness itself would get transformed into a destroyer for them.

The conference is expected to discuss the concept and economic implications of the Value Added Tax, border management and the national security scenario.

15 JUN 2005

THE STATESMAN

Kalam seeks deeper ties with Iceland

India's president
SFB

Press Trust of India

REYKJAVIK, May 30. — A day after reaching Iceland, President APJ Abdul Kalam today asserted the need to reform the United Nations, and said the changes would make the world body more compatible with contemporary realities and enable it to become democratic and transparent. Also today, Iceland agreed to co-sponsor the draft resolution of G-4 countries to be tabled before the UN next month.

Speaking at a banquet hosted in his honour by Iceland President Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, Dr Kalam said: "India and Iceland share cherished values such as pluralistic democracy, human rights and freedom in a tolerant social environment. Both India and Iceland are committed to the UN Charter. We believe that there is a dire need to reform the UN structure to make it more compatible with the



WARMING UP: Dr Kalam talks to an unidentified scientist in Reykjavik on Sunday. — PTI

contemporary realities and make it more democratic and transparent."

He appreciated Iceland's principled stand and consistent support to India's candidature for a permanent seat at the UN Security Council.

Referring to ties between India and Iceland, he said: "We deeply appreciate patronage of bilateral relations by Iceland since the year 2000 when Grimsson visited India for the first time."

"My government too

shares your commitment to expand and deepen our ties for mutual advantage. We believe that my current visit to Iceland would give further fillip to our ties by providing visibility and fostering mutual awareness," Dr Kalam said.

31 MAY 2005

THE STATESMAN

Kalam reaches Iceland

Press Trust of India

REYKJAVIK, May 29. — President APJ Abdul Kalam arrived here today on a three-day state visit, the first ever by an Indian leader. He was received by the Secretary-General in the office of Iceland's President, Mr Stefan L Stefasson, and later accorded a guard of honour.

During Dr Kalam's visit, two bilateral agreements — air services and opening up of a resident mission here — are likely to be signed. The high-level delegation of the President is likely to be joined by the minister of state for civil aviation, Mr Praful Patel, who would be inking the MoU for paving the way for direct air services between the two countries.

When bilateral agreements with Iceland are being given shape, Dr Kalam said, India and Switzerland have agreed on a joint space research programme in which Delhi would offer its satellites to Swiss researchers. The joint research programme envisages use of space technology for peaceful purposes, including prediction of avalanches. India has also offered its satellite launchpads to place Swiss satellites into orbit, he said and added that cooperation in the field of science would be intensified.

30 MAY 2005

THE STATESMAN

Kalam, Putin seek to 'energise' relations

RITU SARIN
MOSCOW, MAY 24

PRESIDENT A.P.J. Abdul Kalam gave evidence of some persuasive diplomacy at the Kremlin today during his hour-long meeting with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin.

The meeting, held at the Kremlin's ornate Green Room, was the third between the two Presidents. During the interaction, as well as the delegation-level talks held at the St Catherine Hall later, President Kalam aggressively pushed the growing scientific and economic joint agenda between the two countries.

President Putin described Indo-Russian relations as "substantive and dynamic" and said President Kalam's visit to Moscow was another "serious step" in

the bilateral ties. Calling for the creation of a multi-polar world order, he said: "All issues, large or small, should be addressed through dialogue, without interference and dictatorship."

Throughout the meeting, President Kalam displayed his scientific temperament, pouring over his flagged folders and files, from which he referred to the various mega joint venture projects, which both leaders agreed should become models for all future cooperation.

Significantly, even President Putin mentioned the success of the Sakhalin oilfield project (which President Kalam said should be taken forward to Sakhalin-111) as well as the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant in Tamil Nadu.

The twin projects, were also referred to as the showpieces of Indo-Russian cooperation by President Kalam in his banquet speech. "We must actively continue



President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, in Moscow on Tuesday. P71

to look for means to enhance cooperation in this area, which is of mutual interest and has long-term synergies," he said.

President Kalam again reminded his Russian counterpart that he had set a

target of Indo-Russian trade growing exponentially from the present \$3 billion to \$25 billion in about 10 years time.

While the Kremlin statements could be seen as an enthusiastic re-assertion of

stated positions, President Kalam attempted to add new thrust areas to Indo-Russian cooperation. Today, he added on his wish-list of scientific collaborations, the idea of the two countries putting into orbit a world student satellite, which could be used for connectivity by the student community as well as be used for disaster management.

Some fresh areas of possible collaboration listed out by him in a powerpoint presentation at the Russian Academy of Sciences was stress and seismic forecasting as well as Nano Science and Technology. After the conclusion of his three-day visit to Moscow, President Kalam would be leaving tomorrow morning for St Petersburg, where he will visit the Hermitage Museum and the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute. From St Petersburg, he will fly directly to Geneva.

Kalam says India is a responsible nuclear state

"We did not have any alternative"

K.V. Prasad

MOSCOW: President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on Monday said India was a responsible nuclear state. It would never be a proliferator of weapons of mass destruction even though it was not a signatory to the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty.

"When we are surrounded by nuclear armed countries, we didn't have any alternative but to become a nuclear weapon state. Though India has not signed the NPT, India is a non-proliferator of weapons of mass destruction and a very responsible state. The Weapons of Mass Destruction and their delivery systems (prohibition of unlawful activities) Bill 2005 emphatically confirms that India will never be a proliferator, Mr. Kalam told a group of leaders at Duma, Russia's Lower House. The issue also came up during Mr. Kalam's interaction with teachers and students at Moscow State University, established in 1755. To a question, he said the proliferation was not a good thing. The biggest challenge before youth in both countries was to ensure a nuclear weapons-free world.

India consciously adopted a nuclear 'no-first use' policy, the President said. It was committed to complete disarmament.

To a question on terrorism, he said it could be tackled by promoting value-based education, attacking poverty and raising spiritual content against theology in religion. The university expressed concern over bomb attacks in New Delhi and said Russia knew what it was to face the threat from terrorism.

Boris Gryzlov, Speaker, said a strategic partnership was actively developing and was being helped by the geopolitical positions of both nations. He announced that the third session of Indo-Russian Inter-Parliamentary

Commission would meet in Delhi in September. He also condoled the loss of lives in the blasts on Sunday.

Mr. Kalam said the developed world had realised how responsible India was on international issues. All nations wanted India to be their friend. In this context, he mentioned the progress in relations between India and Pakistan and the Sino-Indian talks.

A series of engagements kept Mr. Kalam occupied and he utilised each occasion to stress the possibility of greater scientific interaction and use of advance technology for betterment of human beings.

Interacting with scientists and scholars at the Russian Academy of Sciences, the President outlined the challenges before the community in the field of earthquake prediction and application of laser physics and science that has emerged due to the convergence of information technology, bio-technology and nano-technology.

Cooperation between the two nations, he said, could expand into new areas such as knowledge products and knowledge systems. "Bio-info-nano technology convergence may lead to revolution in the health sector," he told members at the Duma and set a \$25 billion volume target for business and trade over the next 10 to 15 years from present level of \$3 billion.

Mr. Kalam was honoured by the Academy with an honorary professorship. He visited the Sukhoi Design Bureau and discussed the possibility of cooperation in the development of regional jet (civilian aircraft) in addition to an earlier proposal for the development of the fifth generation of fighter aircraft. He later attended a dinner hosted by Russian premier, Mikhail Fradkov.

Kalam trip to boost defence ties

Press Trust of India

MOSCOW, May 22. — President APJ Abdul Kalam arrived here today on a four-day state visit, the first such visit by an Indian head of state to Russia after the collapse of the erstwhile Soviet Union.

The President was warmly welcomed by the Russian finance minister, Mr Alexei Kudrin, at the VVIP Vnukovo-II airport. He was also given a ceremonial Guard of Honour at the tarmac.

Besides holding wide-ranging talks with his Russian host Mr Vladimir Putin on Tuesday, President Kalam is scheduled to visit key defence production installations and actively interact with Russian scientists and scholars in Moscow and St Petersburg. The President will meet with the

Moscow-based Indian community at a reception later tonight, to be hosted in his honour by the Indian High Commissioner in Moscow, Mr Kanwal Sibal.

According to diplomats, Dr Kalam's talks with Mr Putin would be instrumental in boosting the Indo-Russian strategic partnership in defence and space. "The President in his earlier capacities had been closely linked with the Russian defence scientists. He is well aware of Russia's scientific and technological potential and during his talks with President Putin, he would help in boosting bilateral strategic partnership in defence and space," Mr Sibal said while briefing the Indian media ahead of the President's state visit.

Mr Sibal did not rule out the possibility that during the

Presidents' talks, ideas about new Indo-Russian joint ventures in defence may also crop up. After all, the "highly successful" Brahmos cruise missile venture was launched under Dr Kalam's guidance, when he was the Prime Minister's defence adviser.

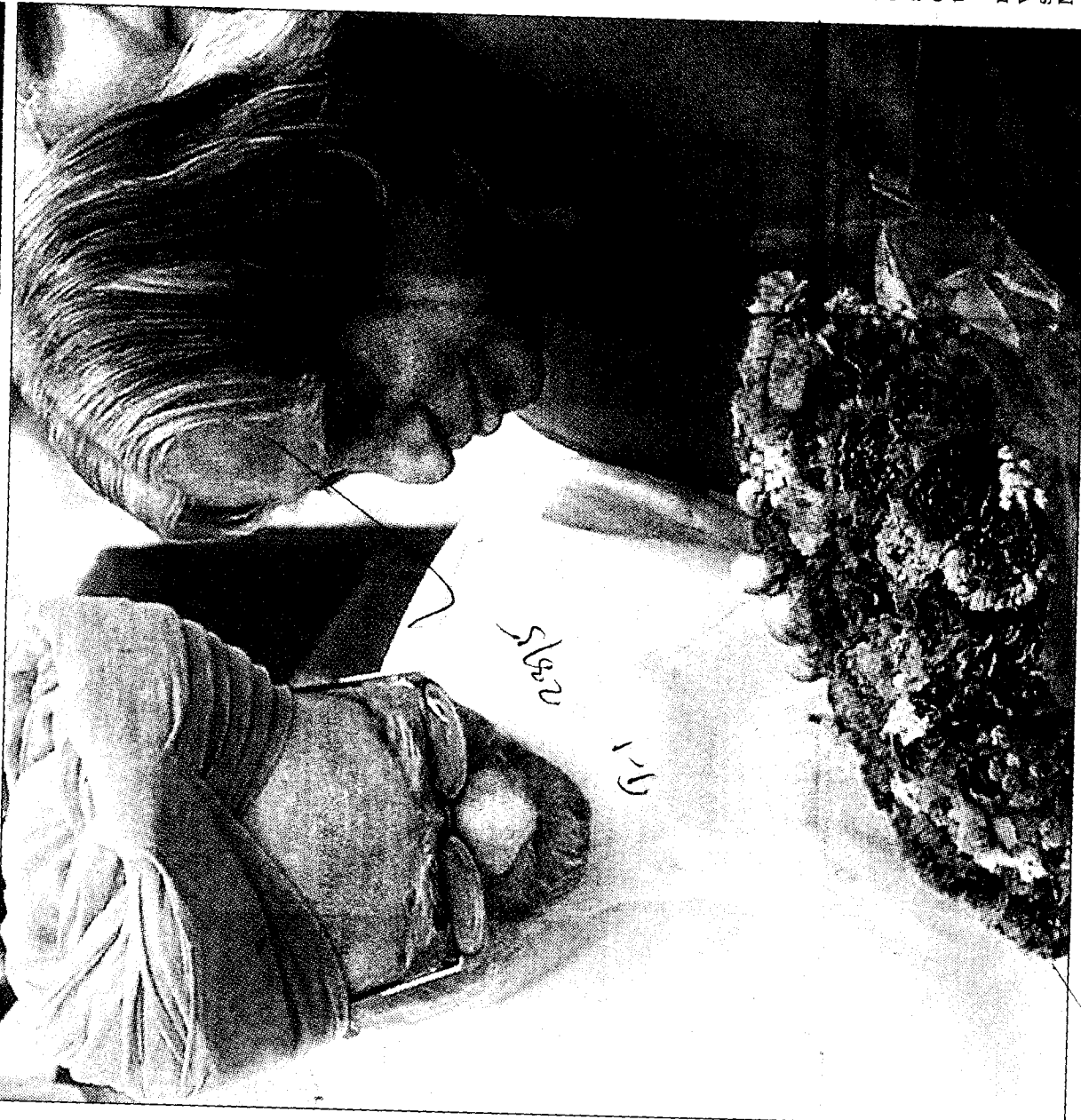
"India and Russia are confidently moving away from the buyer-seller relations in defence and through joint R&D, production and marketing projects, Russia would remain India's major long-term defence partner," Mr Sibal said.

During his visit, the President is also scheduled to visit the NPO Mashinostroyenie missile design bureau in Reutov, just outside Moscow, which is the partner in the Brahmos joint venture, and meet his former Russian colleagues and friends.

Bihar on dissolution edge

7-87 - Bihar

HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE YOU, 6/10?



Before leaving on a four-nation tour, President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam receives a bouquet from Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the Palam Air Force station on Sunday. (PTI) ■ See Page 6

Weaker Paswan ready to patch up, not Laloo

OUR BUREAU

May 22: As the ranks of the breakaway Lok Janshakti Party MLAs appeared to swell tonight, the Centre was considering dissolution of the Bihar Assembly to prevent the installation of an NDA government or a repeat of the Jharkhand "fiasco".

Last-minute attempts within the United Progressive Alliance to try and save the situation had made little headway with the Rashtriya Janata Dal firmly against Ram Vilas Paswan's plan of a "secular" government headed by someone other than Rabri Devi.

Paswan softened his stand to say he would have "no objection" to an RJD chief minister leading a UPA government. Only it has to be a Muslim and not Rabri. But RJD leader Laloo Prasad Yadav would not agree.

The Prime Minister met senior colleagues at his residence late tonight to discuss the subject. Sources said he might call off his visit to Rajasthan tomorrow, if necessary.

Earlier, before the UPA formally assembled for the anniversary meeting, its chairperson Sonia Gandhi called on Manmohan Singh along with senior Congress ministers Pranab Mukherjee, Arjun Singh, K. Natwar Singh and Shivraj

POACH PROWL

| | |
|--------------|----|
| LJP total: | 29 |
| Split mark: | 20 |
| With rebels: | 15 |
| With Paswan: | 10 |
| In prison: | 4 |

Figures as claimed by each group on Sunday night

Patil. They are believed to have discussed Bihar.

The only solace for Paswan today was that he managed to "parade" 10 of his 29 MLAs before the media and claimed the support of four more who are serving jail sentences in Bihar.

That still leaves 15 of his MLAs in favour of an NDA government headed by Nitish Kumar.

The NDA maintained it had the backing of two of the four jailed legislators. If true, the LJP rebels would need three more to raise their strength to 20 and get around the anti-defection law.

The breakaway LJP legislators in Jharkhand, who were shifted from their hideout near Jamshedpur to another in Ghatsila, have been joined by another group of rebel MLAs led by Munna Shukla.

Amid fears that the longer Laloo Prasad and Paswan take to patch up the easier it would

be for the NDA to wean away more LJP legislators, government sources indicated that dissolution of the Assembly and calling fresh polls was the most "viable" option.

Both Laloo Prasad and the CPM are pitching for it. Paswan, who had earlier opposed the move, has little or no leverage now.

Bihar governor Bata Singh chipped in with a request to home minister Patil to divert some of the security forces, on stand-by for combating Naxalites, to tackle "law and order".

Patil sought a report on why Bata Singh had made the request. The report was expected tonight or tomorrow and could be an input for recommending dissolution.

Sources said the reason for the request was the fear that the NDA may take to the streets if the Assembly is dissolved or try "strong-arm" tactics to spirit away Paswan's legislators.

Security has already been stepped up in Bihar. Chief secretary K.A.H. Subramanian said several contingents of paramilitary forces were being moved to the state.

At least four battalions were being shifted from Jamshedpur to Bihar, while more than two dozen companies of the Central Reserve Police Force were being deployed.

Bihar on dissolution edge

7-87 - Bihar

HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE YOU, 6/10?



Before leaving on a four-nation tour, President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam receives a bouquet from Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the Palam Air Force station on Sunday. (PTI) ■ See Page 6

Weaker Paswan ready to patch up, not Laloo

OUR BUREAU

May 22: As the ranks of the breakaway Lok Janshakti Party MLAs appeared to swell tonight, the Centre was considering dissolution of the Bihar Assembly to prevent the installation of an NDA government or a repeat of the Jharkhand "fiasco".

Last-minute attempts within the United Progressive Alliance to try and save the situation had made little headway with the Rashtriya Janata Dal firmly against Ram Vilas Paswan's plan of a "secular" government headed by someone other than Rabri Devi.

Paswan softened his stand to say he would have "no objection" to an RJD chief minister leading a UPA government. Only, it has to be a Muslim and not Rabri. But RJD leader Laloo Prasad Yadav would not agree.

The Prime Minister met senior colleagues at his residence late tonight to discuss the subject. Sources said he might call off his visit to Rajasthan tomorrow, if necessary.

Earlier, before the UPA formally assembled for the anniversary meeting, its chairperson Sonia Gandhi called on Manmohan Singh along with senior Congress ministers Pranab Mukherjee, Arjun Singh, K. Natwar Singh and Shivraj

POACH PROWL

| | |
|--------------|----|
| LJP total: | 29 |
| Split mark: | 20 |
| With rebels: | 15 |
| With Paswan: | 10 |
| In prison: | 4 |

Figures as claimed by each group on Sunday night

Patil. They are believed to have discussed Bihar.

The only solace for Paswan today was that he managed to "parade" 10 of his 29 MLAs before the media and claimed the support of four more who are serving jail sentences in Bihar.

That still leaves 15 of his MLAs in favour of an NDA government headed by Nitish Kumar.

The NDA maintained it had the backing of two of the four jailed legislators, if true, the LJP rebels would need three more to raise their strength to 20 and get around the anti-defection law.

The breakaway LJP legislators in Jharkhand, who were shifted from their hideout near Jamshedpur to another in Ghatshila, have been joined by another group of rebel MLAs led by Mumna Shukla.

Amid fears that the longer Laloo Prasad and Paswan take to patch up the easier it would

be for the NDA to wean away more LJP legislators, government sources indicated that dissolution of the Assembly and calling fresh polls was the most "viable" option.

Both Laloo Prasad and the CPM are pitching for it. Paswan, who had earlier opposed the move, has little or no leverage now.

Bihar governor Bata Singh chipped in with a request to home minister Patil to divert some of the security forces, on stand-by for combating Naxalites, to tackle "law and order".

Patil sought a report on why Bata Singh had made the request. The report was expected tonight or tomorrow and could be an input for recommending dissolution.

Sources said the reason for the request was the fear that the NDA may take to the streets if the Assembly is dissolved or try "strong-arm" tactics to spirit away Paswan's legislators.

Security has already been stepped up in Bihar. Chief secretary K.A.H. Subramanian said several contingents of paramilitary forces were being moved to the state.

At least four battalions were being shifted from Jamshedpur to Bihar, while more than two dozen companies of the Central Reserve Police Force were being deployed.

Kalam slams 'dubious' poll process

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, March 21. — In a strong warning to MPs, President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam has spoken out against "dubious and undemocratic" electoral process, and the "continued degradation of the parliamentary system". "It could lead to disaster and ruination," he added. He said this on a day when Bihar MP Pappu Yadav, who has spent a considerable time in jail for his alleged involvement in a murder, took oath.

At a function to honour eminent parliamentarians Dr Manmohan Singh, Mr LK Advani, Mr Jaswant Singh and Mr Arjun Singh, Dr Kalam said: "When politics degenerates itself to adventurism, the nation would

Somnath's warning

LONDON, March 21. — Continuing his attack on the judiciary, Speaker Mr Somnath Chatterjee has warned that India could face a "difficult situation" if the pillars of democracy cross their *lakshman rekha* and fail to help each other. "I appeal to all the arms (of democracy) to work within the constitutional provisions, helping each other," he said in a BBC interview.

Meanwhile, in Delhi, the government today told Rajya Sabha that there was no proposal for any legislation on judicial accountability. — PTI

uld be on the calamitous road to inevitable disaster and ruination. Let us not risk it."

The President, in the wake of the developments in Goa and Jharkhand, struck a som-

bre note, pointing out that he was concerned about the success of the parliamentary system. "Our poll processes have been, of late, under severe strain due to fatal violence. Let us be honest to ourselves. The arithmetical complications of incremental numbers and the alleged tradability of certain legislative seats, won perhaps through means allegedly dubious and undemocratic, have many a time created doubts about our democratic system in the public eye."

The Prime Minister expressed concern at the declining standards of debate and the general atmosphere in Parliament. "Without pointing fingers, we need to examine whether we are living up to the standards set by the great parliamentarians of the early years of our Independence," Dr Singh said.

Buoyant NDA asks Kalam to protect MLAs

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, March 9

UPBEAT FOLLOWING the Supreme Court's directive for an early floor test in Jharkhand, a delegation of NDA leaders urged President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam to appoint an observer to keep an eye on the proceedings in the Assembly and provide police protection to all the MLAs till the process of trial of strength was completed.

The NDA delegation, led by its convener George Fernandes, also requested Kalam to ensure that "no coercive or punitive action" be taken against any MLA by the state police till the vote of confidence is completed.

The President had cancelled a scheduled meeting with NDA leaders on Monday but gave an appointment on Wednesday. Senior BJP leaders Jaswant Singh, Rajnath Singh, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and Ravi Shankar Prasad were part of the delegation that went to Rajstrapati Bhavan.

Speaking after meeting Kalam, Fernandes said, "the Supreme Court has given us justice. We welcome the judgement and thank the Supreme Court for it."

BJP general secretary Rajnath Singh said, "we welcome the judgement and it has been according to our wishes."

BJP's deputy leader in Lok Sabha V.K. Malhotra said, "The Supreme Court has vindicated our stand and it is a big slap on Congress, UPA

Government and the strategy of Sonia Gandhi has failed."

He said, "All dreams of the Congress has been shattered and the Jharkhand chief minister, Shibu Soren, should resign. Even though the Congress has been saying that Sonia Gandhi is not involved but Union minister Priya Ranjan Das Munshi, who was deputed by the party to Jharkhand, had reportedly said Sonia knew why he was there and it was to form the UPA government," he said. He said the Congress could not stay without power as was seen in Goa, Jharkhand and Bihar and "despite repeatedly trying to stab democracy, it had failed to do so."

"We are not against nomination of an Anglo-Indian but not at the time of formation of government when voting has to be done in the Assembly.

"We welcome the SC order of not allowing any nomination to take place and also to ensure that members are provided security so that they are able to vote," he said.

রাষ্ট্রপতির দায় ও দায়িত্ব

রাষ্ট্রপতির দায়িত্বের মতো রাষ্ট্রপতির ক্ষমতা ও এজিয়ার লইয়াও ভারতীয় সংবিধানে বিবিধ সংশয়ের অবকাশ রহিয়াছে। পরিস্থিতিবিশেষে নিজের 'বিচারবুদ্ধি' প্রয়োগ করার অধিকার তাহাকেও দেওয়া হইয়াছে। কিন্তু তাহার সবটাই বিশেষ পরিস্থিতিতে প্রযোজ্য। যেমন কেন্দ্রীয় আইনসভা বা সংসদে যদি কোনও দল বা জোট গরিষ্ঠতা হারায় অথচ অন্য কোনও প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বী দল বা জোটেরও স্পষ্ট গরিষ্ঠতা না থাকে, তখন রাষ্ট্রপতি তাহার 'বিবেচনাবোধ' প্রয়োগ করিয়া সরকার গঠনে কাহাকেও আহ্বান জানাইতে পারেন। ভারতীয় গণতন্ত্রে এ ধরনের পরিস্থিতি একাধিক বার উদ্ভূত হইয়াছে। এই ধরনের বিশেষ পরিস্থিতি ছাড়া রাষ্ট্রপতির এজিয়ার ও ক্ষমতার সীমানা কিন্তু অনেকটাই চিহ্নিত, নির্দিষ্ট। এবং তাহা নিতান্তই আলঙ্কারিক।

রাষ্ট্রপতির এজিয়ার লইয়া প্রশ্নটি উঠিতেছে ঝাড়খণ্ডের রাজ্যপালকে রাষ্ট্রপতিভবনে আমন্ত্রণ জানাইবার কারণে। রাজ্যপাল একক গরিষ্ঠতা প্রাপ্ত প্রাক-নির্বাচনী জোটের দাবি অগ্রাহ্য করিয়া সংখ্যালঘু জোটের নেতাকে তড়িঘড়ি মুখ্যমন্ত্রী বানাওয়া বিধানসভায় গরিষ্ঠতা প্রমাণে তিন সপ্তাহ সময় দিয়াছেন। তাহা লইয়া বিতর্ক স্বাভাবিক। কিন্তু তাহার পরবর্তী ঘটনাক্রম আরও রোমহর্ষক। রাষ্ট্রপতি ভবনে ঝাড়খণ্ডের নির্বাচিত বিধায়কদের উড়াইয়া লইয়া যাওয়া এবং রাষ্ট্রপতির সম্মুখে তাহাদের কুচকাওয়াজ করানো কী ধরনের গণতান্ত্রিক রীতি? রাজ্যভবন যেমন পরিষদীয় গরিষ্ঠতা প্রমাণের মঞ্চ নয়, তেমনই রাষ্ট্রপতি-ভবনও তাহার মঞ্চ হইতে পারে না, আইনসভার কক্ষই ইহার যথাস্থান। রাষ্ট্রপতি ঝাড়খণ্ড বিধায়কদের কুচকাওয়াজে অভিবাদন গ্রহণ না করিয়া বিরোধী নেতাদের তাহা মনে করাইয়া দিতে পারিতেন। তাহার বিপরীতে কতকটা যেন বিরোধীদের খুশি করিতে কিংবা তাহাদের চাপে ঝাড়খণ্ডের রাজ্যপালকে ডাকিয়া পাঠানো হইল। রাজ্যপাল রাষ্ট্রপতির প্রতিনিধি, ইহা কিন্তু নিতান্তই সাংবিধানিক উপচারিকতা। তাহাদের নিয়োগপত্রে রাষ্ট্রপতির স্বাক্ষর থাকিলেও রাজ্যপালরা ব্যতিক্রমহীনভাবে মনোনীত হন কেন্দ্রীয় স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রক দ্বারা। রাষ্ট্রপতি নিজেও তো এক হিসাবে কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারেরই প্রতিনিধি। সে জনাই বাজেট অধিবেশনে বা প্রজাতন্ত্র দিবসের মতো উপলক্ষে তাহার ভাষণ কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারের নীতি ও বক্তব্যকেই প্রতিফলিত করে এবং কোনও রাষ্ট্রপতি 'নিরপেক্ষ' বা 'স্বাধীন' বক্তব্য পেশ করিলে তাহা লইয়া সমালোচনার ঝড় ওঠে। তাই ঝাড়খণ্ডের রাজ্যপাল আনুষ্ঠানিক ভাবে রাষ্ট্রপতির প্রতিনিধি হইলেও তাহাকে এমন একটি উত্তাল সময়ে নিছক সৌজন্যবশত রাষ্ট্রপতি ভবনে নিমন্ত্রণ জানানো হইতেছে, ইহা কিঞ্চিৎ চমকপ্রদ।

বিরোধী পক্ষ শাসক গোষ্ঠীকে কোণঠাসা করিতে রাষ্ট্রপতি বা রাজ্যপালের মতো আপাত-নিরপেক্ষ সাংবিধানিক পদাধিকারীদের উপর চাপ সৃষ্টি করিবে, ইহা স্বাভাবিক। তাহা করিতে গিয়া লোকসভার বিরোধী নেতা লালকৃষ্ণ আডবাণী ঝাড়খণ্ডের রাজ্যপাল সম্পর্কে যে ভাষা ব্যবহার করিয়াছেন, তাহা অবশ্য গৌরবজনক নয়। রাজ্যপাল সৈয়দ সিবতে রাজি তাহার কৃতকর্মের মাধ্যমে যথেষ্ট অগৌরবের কারণ ঘটাইয়াছেন, কিন্তু প্রশ্ন এখানে ব্যক্তিকে লইয়া নয়। সংসদের বিরোধী নেতারও রাজ্যপালের আসনটির এই পদগুলির মর্যাদা রক্ষার দায় আছে। গোয়া ও ঝাড়খণ্ডের রাজনৈতিক ডামাডোলকে জাতীয় রাজনীতির মধ্যে টানিয়া বিরোধীরা নিজেদের হৃত বিশ্বাসযোগ্যতা ফিরাইতে যে মরিয়া চেষ্টা শুরু করিয়াছেন (দিনের পর দিন সংসদের বাজেট অধিবেশন বানচাল করায় যাহা স্পষ্ট), তাহাতে রাষ্ট্রপতিকে কেন্দ্রীয় শাসক গোষ্ঠীর বিপ্রতীপে দাঁড় করাইবার একটা স্থূল অপপ্রয়াস নজর এড়ায় না। রাষ্ট্রপতিকে তাই আরও বেশি সতর্ক থাকিতে হইবে। তাহার একটি কথা, ইশারা বা সংকেতের ব্যাখ্যা যেন রাজনীতিকদের তুলীয়ে তির জোগাইতে না পারে, সে বিষয়ে আগাম সাবধানতা অবলম্বন জরুরি। ছোটখাটো বিষয়ে প্রথাভঙ্গ যদি বা উপেক্ষণীয়, স্পর্শকাতর রাজনৈতিক প্রশ্নে সামান্য বিচ্যুতিপ্রবণতাও অবাঞ্ছিত নজির সৃষ্টি করিতে পারে।

05 MAY 2005

ANADABAZAR PATRIKA

Jharkhand crisis: It's over to the President

HT Correspondents
New Delhi/Ranchi, March 3

PRESIDENT A.P.J. Abdul Kalam today summoned Jharkhand Governor Syed Sibtey Razi to New Delhi shortly before the NDA paraded 41 MLAs before him at Rashtrapati Bhavan — proof that the combine enjoyed a majority in the 81-member state legislature.

Razi, with the threat of dismissal hanging over his head, took the Delhi flight from Ranchi's Birsa Munda Airport amid heavy security through a sea of black flag-waving, slogan-shouting NDA supporters on the tarmac. He will meet the President tomorrow to try and explain why he had installed Shibu Soren instead of the NDA combine's Arjun Munda as chief minister.

Things have worsened for Razi and Soren with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Congress president Sonia Gandhi distancing themselves from the Governor's move. "It was his personal decision," Sonia told reporters. Party spokesperson Ambika Soni later said Sonia had given the "clear instruction that no UPA action should ever violate the Constitution".

Kalam's summons to Razi is one of the reasons why Sonia is "so displeased with the Governor", a Congress source said. "It's now basically a damage control exercise because her image has been harmed."

What may boomerang on Soren in



KALAM'S OPTIONS

- Ask Razi to allow Soren only 3 days to win trust vote
- Recall (dismiss) Razi

this situation is a huge advertisement he put in Jharkhand's newspapers today thanking Sonia for helping him become chief minister — a claim that contradicts the Congress chief's statement.

A senior Congress leader said Kalam now has only two options: (a) he can ask the Governor to allow Soren only three days instead of 19 to prove his majority on the floor of the House; or (b) he can recall (sack) the Governor.

The President, however, was non-committal after the NDA parade of 41 MLAs, one of whom arrived in an ambulance from Apollo Hospital, where he is admitted with heart problems. "Whatever is appropriate will be done," Kalam told L.K. Advani, George Fernandes and Venkiah Naidu who accompanied the

state legislators.

In a political drama riddled with intrigue, Fernandes floated the idea of another twist in the plot. He feared the Jharkhand government "may nominate an Anglo-Indian nominee, the 82nd legislator, to turn the tide". But the NDA "has a strategy ready".

Earlier, the Opposition alliance again stalled both Houses of Parliament, with L.K. Advani dubbing Razi a "contract killer" who had used "the gun handed down by the UPA".

With even the UPA's staunchest ally, the CPI(M), criticising Razi for his "hasty" decision, the Congress top brass went into a huddle to find a way out of the hole it found itself in. The one-hour meeting at the Prime Minister's 7 Race Course residence was attended by Sonia, defence minister Pranab Mukherjee, home minister Shivraj Patil, HRD minister Arjun Singh, finance minister P. Chidambaram, parliamentary affairs minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, law minister H.R. Bhardwaj and senior leaders Margaret Alva and Ahmed Patel.

Later, the Prime Minister met attorney-general Milon Banerjee to find out the legal implications of any possible action the government might take to solve the tangle.

In Ranchi, Soren tried to put a brave face on the day's happenings, claiming he had the support of 42 MLAs, two of whom had been "kidnapped" by the NDA. He said he could prove his majority "anytime".

※ More reports on Page 2

04 MAR 2005

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

"Committed to common man"

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, FEB. 25. "My Government wants India to shine, but it must shine for all."

These 12 words in the President, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's 8,000-word address to Parliament, at the start of the Budget session, define the Manmohan Singh Government's agenda, demonstratively rigged in favour of the common man (*aam admi*).

Addressing the members of the two Houses of Parliament, assembled in the historic Central Hall, the President put on record that "my Government is committed to an inclusive society, a caring polity and a sharing economy." Expectedly, the address hones closely the National Common Minimum Programme.

The customary address at the start of the session is used by the incumbent Government to spell out its priorities and preferences. Apart from obligatorily flagging various economic policy issues (which would get fleshed out in the Union Budget in the next few days), the Manmohan Singh Government used the occasion to showcase its sensitivity in dealing with issues of security and alienation.

Security concerns

"In the final analysis, power in India can only flow from the ballot box; never from the barrel of a

gun," said the President in the context of the internal security concerns in Jammu and Kashmir, the Northeast and the naxalite problem. Even while the President said that "the infrastructure of terrorism has not been dismantled across the border" in Jammu and Kashmir, and also asserted that there was no "weakening of our resolve to deal with elements inimical to our national security," he said that his "Government is committed to paying equal attention to the genuine concerns of the people and redressing their grievances." He repeated the Government's "willingness to talk to any group provided they abjure the path of violence." And, the Northeast region, he observed, "needs a new agenda of hope."

Communal violence

In pursuit of an agenda of communal harmony, Mr. Kalam said that "a Model Comprehensive Law to deal with communal violence is on the anvil. My Government will deal resolutely with any attempts to spread communalism, disturb law and order and deny a life of peace and security to any citizen." Even to the naxalites, the President promised to encourage "a dialogue with all political forces interested in promoting the welfare of the people in a peaceful manner." But in the same breath, the Presi-

dent warned that the Government "will deal effectively with any group challenging the Constitutional authority of a democratically-elected Government and resorting to the use of arms."

Core issues

Dwelling on the Common Minimum Programme's seven core commitments — agriculture, education, employment, healthcare, infrastructure, urban renewal and water — the President's address unveils a bias in favour of the common man, even while attending to the task of accelerating the process of economic liberalisation.

In particular, he said: "We need a modern educational system that promotes secular values and creates concerned, committed and competent citizens capable of meeting the challenges of the 21st century."

In matters of foreign policy, the President's address notes the ongoing "serious dialogue" and describes the quest for peace as a "response to the felt desire of our peoples."

On Nepal, he said the situation could "only be addressed by a constitutional monarchy and multi-party democracy working together harmoniously on the basis of a national consensus."

Directionless, says
BJP: Page 11

THE HINDU

26 FEB 2005

Prez Kalam recovers after treatment

New Delhi: President A P J



Abdul Kalam, who had suffered a shoulder bone fracture, on Monday underwent a non-invasive corrective procedure and his condition is said to be fine.

"Today morning, under short general anaesthesia, closed reduction of the fracture has been done. His Excellency had uneventful recovery and is cheerful. His condition is fine," Maj Gen L P Sadhotra, commandant of the Army Hospital, research and referral.

The President, who fell in the Rashtrapati Bhavan premises during his morning walk on Sunday, had sustained a fracture of the shoulder bone and was admitted to the Army Hospital on Sunday evening.

While it was decided that Kalam would undergo an operation, on Monday morning top doctors met and decided instead to treat the fracture without an invasive procedure. A closed reduction of a fracture is a procedure in which the doctor sets a broken bone without making an incision in the skin.

"This procedure is sufficient now. Tomorrow the panel of doctors will again examine his Excellency, only then it can be known what time he can be discharged and how much rest he will need," the commandant said.

Rashtrapati Bhavan spokesperson S M Khan said "While the president was speaking to doctors, no visitors had been allowed yet." Vice president Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, PM Manmohan Singh and Congress president Sonia Gandhi had spoken to Kalam on Sunday evening and wished him a speedy recovery. "The president also spoke to his elder brother in Rameshwaram in Tamil Nadu last evening," Khan said.



Kalam slips, fractures shoulder

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, February 6

PRESIDENT A.P.J. Abdul Kalam today slipped during a walk inside the Rashtrapati Bhavan complex and suffered a fracture in his right shoulder. He was admitted to the Research and Referral Hospital where he will have surgery tomorrow.

Rashtrapati Bhavan spokesman S.M. Khan said the 74-year-old President began his daily walk late today as he had to inaugurate the renovated golf course in the Rashtrapati Bhavan. He slipped at a spot near Herbal Gardens. "His general condition is absolutely fine and there is no cause for any concern or alarm," Khan said. "The mild fracture requires a surgical correction and rest for a few days. The President will be operated on tomorrow morning."

The Herbal Garden and Moghul Garden are to be thrown open to the public from February 11, and the President had gone to see the arrangements at the two gardens.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

07 FEB 2005

Kalam thrust on jobs, education

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, January 25

PRESIDENT A.P.J. Abdul Kalam has called for an immediate realignment of the education system to meet present-day challenges and the emerging imperatives of societal transformation.

"The whole purpose of education in a country like India is to develop and enhance the potential of our human resource and progressively transform it into a knowledge society. This will lead to the production of value added products and services that are rich in both explicit and tacit terms amid a highly networked knowledge intensive environment," President Kalam said in his address to the nation on the eve of the 56th Republic Day here on Tuesday night.

In a pointed reference to the transformation of the world from industrial to information and knowledge era, the President painstakingly argued for the creation of employment opportunities for approximately 400 million eligible workforce out of which around 36 million were unemployed. "Jobs for all unemployed can be created in the next five years if several schemes in sectors such as textile, healthcare and wasteland development are taken up under a 'Mission Mode', he said.

Detailing the finer points of his Republic Day address theme of "Action Plan for Employment Generation", Kalam reiterated his prefer-



PTI
Kalam addresses the nation on the eve of Republic Day.

ence for Pura (Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas) leading to physical, electronic and knowledge connectivity to a cluster of villages for a greater economic connectivity and prosperity. He also did not lose sight of the shifting sectoral employment paradigm from agriculture to manufacturing and service sectors.

This trend, according to the President, must continue with an ambitious employment pattern of 44 per cent in agriculture, 21 per cent in manufacturing and 35 per cent in service sectors by 2020. Drawing up a list of specific schemes such as Bio-Fuel, Waste Land Develop-

ment, Water Harvesting and Recycling and extended Bamboo Plantations for large-scale employment generation, the scientist in Kalam pitched for the conversion of fly ash into a wealth generator "Fly ash can become a wealth generator by making use of it for producing green building materials and roads apart from its utilisation in agriculture. Total utilisation of the available fly ash can provide work to over three hundred thousand people with a net business volume of over Rs 4,000 crore," he said.

Stressing the importance of transforming India's villages as hubs of Information and Communication Technology, the President said that such knowledge centres could provide the villagers access to area specific information through digital storage and village-level dissemination of relevant inputs.

In a reference to the tsunami tragedy, Kalam said while we "are saddened by its wrath, we are not disheartened." In his 10-point list of integrated action paradigm for the people of the country, he called for a massive reconstruction plan for the tsunami-affected coastal regions by way of an integrated Pura. "The plan should include infrastructure for fish storage and chilling plants, sea food processing and marketing centres, boat and fishing net maintenance centres, schools, hospitals, water resources and other small scale industrial units.

26 JAN 2005

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES