

The Government of Pakistan also condemned the incident and further stated that the miscreants would be firmly dealt with in accordance with law.

In the 1974 India-Pakistan bilateral Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines, it was agreed that every effort should continue to be made to ensure that places of religious workshop mentioned in the agreed list of shrines, that includes Gurudwara Nankana Sahib, are properly maintained and their sanctity preserved. In all relevant bilateral meetings with Pakistan, India has regularly taken up the need for proper upkeep, maintenance, safety and security of Gurudwaras in that country.

Foreign visits of Prime Minister and Foreign Minister

†112. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The details of the countries visited by the Prime Minister and him during the last three months along with the purposes thereof;

(b) the details of agreements arrived at during the visits and the benefits likely to be attained as a result thereof; and

(c) the number of Head of the States and the Ministers of External Affairs of other countries visited India during the said period and the details of agreements arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The details of visits abroad of Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister during the last three months are given below along with the details of agreements signed and benefits likely to be accrued are given below, country-wise:

Bhutan

External Affairs Minister visited Bhutan from 12-13 October, 2004. During the visit, EAM was received by His Majesty King Jigme Singye Wangchuck and held wide ranging discussions on bilateral and regional issues of mutual interests, including security related issues.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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The visit provided an excellent opportunity to review and further strengthen the close and mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation between India and Bhutan.

Vietnam

EAM visited Hanoi 15th—18th October, 2004.

The visit was in connection with the 12th India-Vietnam Joint Commission and commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Pandit Nehru's meeting with President Ho Chi Minh. During the visit joint agreed inutes were adopted along with an Action Plan for the years 2004-2006 for promoting bilateral ties in all areas.

Thailand

EAM paid a transit visit to Bangkok on 15th/16th October, 2004 on his way to Hanoi.

No agreement was signed during the visit as this was only a transit visit. However, EAM had an opportunity of meeting his Thai counterpart to take stock of the growing bilateral relationship.

Egypt

External Affairs Minister represented India at the condolence ceremony held in Cairo in honour of President Yasir Arafat, President of the Palestinian National Authority.

Condolence messages from the Indian leaders were conveyed to the leadership of the Palestinian National Authority. Condolence messages had been sent by President, PM and EAM to their counterparts.

USA

PM led the Indian delegation to the 59th session of the UN General Assembly, held in New York in September 2004. EAM accompanied the PM and participated in the UN General assembly (UNGA).

PM addressed the UNGA on September 23,2004. In his address to the UNGA, and in the bilateral interactions of PM and EAM, a number of important issues on the international agenda were covered. India's participation was active and constructive.

Prime Minister met with President Bush on 21 September, 2004 in New York. They held wideranging discussions including developments of bilateral relations, terrorism, and global trade. The two leaders exchanged thoughts on their shared global concerns and agreed that making the world a safer place was an overriding priority. They agreed that stronger partnership between India and the United States, two nations sharing values and traditions, acting in concert in international institutions, would enhance global security and prosperity.

The Netherlands

PM led a delegation, which comprised EAM and Commerce and Industry Minister to the 5th India-EU Summit at the Hague from 7-9 November, 2004.

The EU side was led by Dutch Prime Minister Jan-Peter Balkenende, in his capacity as President in-Office of the European Council, and included Mr. Romano Prodit, President of the European Commission. We agreed to strengthen and deepen our bilateral relations including Parliamentary exchanges and Civil Society interaction and cooperation in energy, Environment and Science & Technology. We agreed to intensify consultation on UN Reforms and Cooperation in Counter Terrorism. PM called on Queen Beatrix and participated in the 'India-EU Business round Table'—a select group of Indian and European CEOs. EAM had a bilateral meeting with Dutch Foreign Minister Bernard Bot. No agreements were signed during the visit.

UK

PM led a delegation including EAM to U.K. on 19-20 September, 2004 at the invitation of British Prime Minister. PM had wide ranging discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues with British Prime Minister Tony Blair. EAM met, UK Foreign Secretary Mr. Jack Straw separately. PM interacted with a high level British Corporate delegation and met a delegation from Labour Party Friends of India group in British parliament. No agreement was signed during the visit.

Kazakhstan

EAM led Indian delegation to the Ministerial Meeting of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) held in

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Almaty, Kazakhstan from October 21-22, 2004. The meeting adopted the following documents:—

1. CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures
2. CICA Rules and Procedures

EAM also utilized the opportunity to have bilateral consultations with President Nazarbayev and Foreign Minister Tokayev of Kazakhstan. A trilateral meeting with Foreign Ministers of China and Russia was also held on the sidelines of the meeting. The CICA Ministerial Meeting marked another step in the evolution of CICA. India has been actively participating in CICA in keeping within its commitment of promoting greater trust and confidence.

(c) The details of visits of Heads of States and Ministers of External Affairs of other countries who visited India during the period along with details of agreements arrived are given below, country-wise:

Sri Lanka

President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga visited India on November 3-7, 2004. No agreements were signed during the visit.

Bangladesh

The Foreign Minister of Bangladesh visited India from October 31 to November 2 as the special envoy of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to invite Prime Minister for the 13th SAARC Summit to be held at Dhaka in January, 2005. No agreements were signed during the visit.

Afghanistan

Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, Foreign Minister of Afghanistan paid an official visit to India from August 31—September 3, 2004. A MOU on Mutual Cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute of the Ministry of External Affairs and the Institute of Diplomacy of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Afghanistan was signed during the visit.

Pakistan

- (i) Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Mr Khurshid M. Kasuri, accompanied by the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, visited India

from September 4-8, 2004 and held discussions with External Affairs Minister, Shri K. Natwar Singh, on September 5-6, 2004. They reviewed the overall progress in the Composite Dialogue. The Ministers, agreed to a number of technical level meetings on various subjects, including, expert level meetings on Conventional and Nuclear CBMs, *inter alia*, to discuss the draft agreement on advance notification of missile tests; meeting between railway authorities on the Munnabao-Khokhrapar rail link; meeting between Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and Pakistan Rangers; meeting between Narcotics Control Authorities, including for finalisation of an MOU; meeting between the Indian Coast Guards and the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency to, *inter alia*, discuss the Memorandum of Understanding for establishing communication link between them; and meeting on all issues related to commencement of a bus service between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad. The two Ministers also agreed to the establishment of a Committee of Experts to consider issues related to trade; a Joint Survey of the boundary pillars in the horizontal segment of the international boundary in the Sir Creek area; additional of a new category of Tourist Visa in the visa regime between the two countries, and to promote group tourism; and enhanced interaction and exchanges among the respective Foreign Offices, including study tours of young diplomats/probationers to each other's country.

- (ii) Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Shaukat Aziz, visited India on November 23-24, 2004 in his capacity as the Chairperson of SAARC. During his meeting with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, in addition to the exchange of views on matters related to SAARC, the two sides also exchanged views on bilateral issues.

Myanmar

1. H.E. Senior General than Shwe, Chairman of State Peace and Development Council (Head of State) of the Union of Myanmar, accompanied by a high-level delegation paid a State visit to India from 25th to 29th October, 2004. During the WIP visit, three bilateral documents were signed, namely, (i) MoU on cooperation in Non-Traditional Security matters; (ii) The Cultural Exchange Programme; and

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(iii) MoU for a Pre-feasibility Study in respect of Tamanthi Hydro-Electric Project.

2. Foreign Minister of Thailand, H.E. Surakairt Sathirathai, visited India from 4th to 6th November, 2004 to attend the Hindustan Times Seminar. As it was not a bilateral visit, no agreements were signed during this visit.

Kuwait

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh (Dr.) Mohammed Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah paid an official visit to India from 24th to 26th August, 2004. Following agreements between India and Kuwait were signed during his visit:

- (i) Extradition Treaty
- (ii) Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal matters
- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding for Establishment of Indo-Kuwait Strategic Consultative Group.

Mexico

Dr. UE. Debrez, Foreign Minister of Mexico visited from 13-14 August, 2004: Decisions were taken on initiatives such as EXIM Bank Line of Credit, Joint Business Group, Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement and bilateral investment protection agreement for increasing bilateral trade.

Venezuela

Mr. Jesus Amaldo Perez, Foreign Minister of Venezuela visited India 1-2 September, 2004. During the visit a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Co-operation between the Diplomatic Academies of the two countries was signed.

Suriname

Mr. Maria E. Levens, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Suriname visited India 16-18 November 2004 to attend the Indo-Suriname Joint Commission meeting. In this meeting, agreement was reached for expansion of co-operation and trade.

Comoros

Mr. Soef Mohd El Amine, Minister of External Affairs & Cooperation visited India from 23-27 August, 2004. No agreement was signed during the visit.

Lesotho

Mr Mohlabi Teskoa, Minister of Foreign Affairs visited India from 11-16 October, 2004. No agreement was signed.

Mauritius

Mr Krishan Cuttaree, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade & Regional Cooperation visited India from 4-9 November, 2004. No agreement was signed during the visit.

ROK (South Korea)

ROK President Mr. Roh Moo-hyun visited India from October 4-6, 2004. He met President and held talks with PM on wide range of bilateral, multilateral and global issues. A Joint Statement was issued during the visit outlining the broad parameters of the bilateral relationship. It was agreed to promote regular high level exchanges between the two sides, including ministerial level exchanges. Both sides also decided to establish a 'Long-Term Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity'. An Extradition Treaty and a Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters were also signed during the visit. The two sides decided to establish a new dialogue on foreign policy and security covering, *inter alia*, regional and international security issues, bilateral defence and service-to-service exchanges and counter terrorism. Both sides agreed to set a target of US \$ 10 billion for bilateral trade by 2008. It was also agreed to set up a Joint Study Group composed of government officials, economists and representatives of business community to take a comprehensive view of the bilateral linkages in trade, investment and services. Both sides also decided to promote cooperation in various areas including among others, information and communications technology, infrastructure, textiles, petrochemicals, oil and gas field developments including third country collaborations, automobiles, ship building, agriculture and iron and steel.

Japan

Japan's Foreign Minister Ms. Yoriko Kawaguchi visited India from August 12-14, 2004 during which, she held delegation level talks with EAM on bilateral relations, regional and international issues. Both sides agreed to support each other's candidature for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council and closely work together towards realizing the reform of the UN Security Council. It was also agreed to establish a Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and DG level dialogue on UN reforms between the two countries.

China

China's State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan visited India from October 18-20, 2004 as part of the continued high-level exchanges between India and China. He held extensive and wide-ranging talks with EAM covering bilateral, regional and global issues. Both sides agreed that India-China relations have entered a new phase of comprehensive growth and that the present positive trends should be maintained and cooperation should be further diversified, while seeking fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solutions of outstanding issues, including the boundary question. The two sides decided that they would celebrate the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, which falls on April 1, 2005. State Councillor Tang conveyed that China supports a bigger role for India in the international community, including in the United Nations Security Council.

Russia

The Foreign Minister of Russia, Mr. Layrov visited India from October 8-10, 2004. No agreement was signed during the visit of Russian Foreign Minister.

Uzbekistan

The Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, Mr. Safayev visited India on 29-30 October, 2004. A Memorandum of Understanding for establishing Indo-Uzbek Centre for Information Technology in Tashkent was signed during the visit.

France

France Foreign Minister, Mr. Michel Barnier visited India from 27-28 October, 2004. No Agreement was signed during the visit.

Germany

German Chancellor Mr. Gerhard Schroeder visited India as part of Annual Summit from 6-7 October, 2004. An MoU for Cooperation in S&T was signed between DST and Max Planck Society.

Commonwealth

Commonwealth Secretary General, Mr. Donald Mckinnon visited India from 27-29 October, 2004. No Agreement was signed during the visit.

Permanent Seat in Security Council

†113. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the assembly of United Nations has any programme for increasing the number of permanent members of Security Council of United Nations in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts made so far by Government for India's claim in this regard and whether these efforts are adequate; and

(d) if not, the steps Government are going to take in this regard at international level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The issue of the reform and the restructuring of the UN Security Council has been under discussion at the United Nations for several years. While there is no specific proposal under the UN General Assembly for the expansion of the UN Security Council, an Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) was set up in 1993, where discussions have taken place on all aspects of the reform and restructuring of the UN Security Council. The Working Group, however, has not been able to reach any decisions in this regard.

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