

*The Monitor is going through an initial test phase. Feedback is welcome.*

## Mum on Iran

### Analysis

*Constantino Xavier*

And suddenly everyone went silent in India. The Iran elections were being watched closely by the media and strategic communities, but since the massive street protests started, it has been *as if good old Persia has disappeared from New Delhi's regional radar.*

The Government's silence on what is happening in Teheran is not surprising. Truly remarkable is nevertheless the silence of the normally verbose Indian media and opinion-makers. Not one single editorial, policy paper or op-ed. Only one timid indirect sentence in the *Times of India* ("It is in Iran's, as well as India's, interest that Tehran plays a constructive role in the Middle East crisis").

*This is "only natural", they would say in Delhi, because bilateral relations are in great shape,* for the first time after the 2005 crisis. Trade has reached the \$14-bn mark; Iran is India's second biggest supplier of oil; thousands of Iranians go to India for education and tourism every year; and in recent years Indians, particularly from Kashmir, have been coming to Iran to study. And although the IPI pipeline project is now sure to rest in peace, several other Indian investments in Iran have been cleared in the last few months.

So why has Obama not pressured Delhi to take a more offensive stand? First, because he himself has opted for a softer approach. And more importantly, because the *Delhi-Teheran rapprochement fosters Washington's wider interests of shaping stability in a strategic region* in which Iran converges with South and Central Asia. Without at least a "passive Iran", Washington's wider Af-Pak project would certainly collapse.

*India's good relations with the current Iranian regime could thus be of use - not the least via its Chabahar port project* and the logistic channel linking it to South-western Afghanistan.

### In the Press

#### Iran and India, yesterday and today

*K. Natwar Singh* What should India do? Publicly, say nothing. It is an internal matter of Iran which also has international ramifications. Wait and watch. { [HYPERLINK](#)  
"http://www.hindu.com/2009/06/25/stories/2009062553250900.htm" }

#### Memo to India: Look west, at Iran

{ [HYPERLINK](#)  
"http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Memo-to-India-Look-west-at-Iran/articleshw/4625983.cms" }

#### OVL, IOC, OIL to invest \$5bn in Iran gas field

{ [HYPERLINK](#)  
"http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Business/India-Business/OVL-IOC-OIL-to-invest-5bn-in-Iran-gas-field/articleshw/4701018.cms" }

#### MTN-Bharti plans could be hit by Iran mobile clampdown

{ [HYPERLINK](#)  
"http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/News/News-By-Industry/Telecom/MTN-Bharti-plans-could-be-hit-by-Iran-mobile-clampdown/articleshw/4697438.cms" }

#### IPI contract in doubt

{ [HYPERLINK](#)  
"http://www.upi.com/Energy\_Resources/2009/06/17/IPI-contract-in-doubt/UPI-78651245256664/" }

#### BPCL to continue with Iran oil buys

{ [HYPERLINK](#)  
"http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/feedarticle/8548613" }

#### Kashmiris Hold Pro-Iran Protests

{ [HYPERLINK](#)  
"http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsindex.php?id=420700" }

#### India puts priority on investment in Chabahar: envoy

{ [HYPERLINK](#)  
"http://www.tehrantimes.com/index\_View.asp?code=196711" }

## The Western Front

### Trading across the Radcliffe and Durand lines

**C. Raja Mohan** As it prepares for the next round of meetings with the leaders of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the United States in July, New Delhi must put on the table a range of new proposals for regional trade and economic integration. { [HYPERLINK](#)

"<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/trading-across-the-radcliffe-and-durand-lines/482729/0>" }

### UPA should stay the course

**Kanwal Sibal** It is Pakistan, not India, that has prevented the normalization of bilateral relations by making it contingent on the resolution of the Kashmir issue. It is Pakistan therefore that needs to "reshape" its policy towards us, not vice versa. { [HYPERLINK](#)

"<http://www.observerindia.com/cms/sites/orfonline/modules/analysis/AnalysisDetail.html?cmaid=16423&mamacmaid=16424>" }

### Pakistan's growing N-arsenal

**Nitin Pai** There is little doubt that Pakistan's nuclear arsenal is India-centric, but this by itself does not completely explain Pakistan's behaviour { [HYPERLINK](#)

"<http://www.livemint.com/2009/06/24221529/Pakistan8217s-growing-Nars.html>" }

## India & China

### Mighty dragon in the sea

**Thomas Mathew** India cannot drift into a slumber on remixes of 'Hindi-Chini bhai-bhai'. Having learnt a bitter lesson in 1962, it bears repeating that it would be unwise to be militarily unprepared when it comes to China. { [HYPERLINK](#)

"<http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/StoryPage.aspx?id=813de693-01f8-441f-9a81-d628e4378fc1>" }

### Games Neighbours Play

**G Parthasarathy** Statements and leaks to the press about troop and air power deployments in Arunachal, or about development of China-specific Agni 3 and Agni 5 missiles, are uncalled for and appear to forget the old adage that actions speak louder than words. { [HYPERLINK](#)

"<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Editorial/COMMENT-Games-Neighbours-Play/articleshow/4712987.cms>" }

### China: Signs of Attention to the Communist Party of India (Maoists)

**D. S. Rajan** It would be prudent for New Delhi to look for signs of any clandestine or indirect sales of Chinese-made small arms to the Indian Maoists { [HYPERLINK](#)

"<http://www.southasiaanalysis.org/%5Cpapers33%5Cpaper3280.html>" }

## From The Cabinet

### NSG hub at Mumbai to be operationalised tomorrow

The regional hub at Mumbai will get operationalised on 30th June 2009 and the hubs at Chennai, Hyderabad and Kolkata will become operational on 01st July 2009. { [HYPERLINK](#)

"<http://pib.nic.in/release/release.asp?relid=49458>" }

### Unified Commanders Conference to discuss integrated war fighting capability

Jointness, integration and development of integrated war fighting capability will be the focus of the two-day Unified Commanders Conference opening here tomorrow. { [HYPERLINK](#)

"<http://pib.nic.in/release/release.asp?relid=49359>" }

### NSA holds discussions with US counterpart

US National Security Adviser General James L Jones (retd.) visited New Delhi at the invitation of Shri M. K. Narayanan, National Security Adviser on June 25-26, 2009. { [HYPERLINK](#)

"<http://pib.nic.in/release/release.asp?relid=49439>" }

## Domestic Arena

### India tightens the screw on Maoists

**Siddharth Srivastava** The CPI (Maoist) is now clubbed with other banned terror groups such as the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Toiba and the Sri Lankan Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, with its offices and bank accounts sealed { [HYPERLINK](#)

"[http://www.atimes.com/atimes/South\\_Asia/KF25DF02.html](http://www.atimes.com/atimes/South_Asia/KF25DF02.html)" }

## Defence & Intel

### Gorshkov Spurs Indian Navy To Look Beyond Russia

**Radhakrishna Rao** The simmering controversy over the cost escalation insisted upon by Russia for retrofitting the 44,750-tonne Kiev class aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov has spurred the Indian Navy to look beyond Russia to meet its futuristic requirements. { [HYPERLINK](#)

"[http://www.ipcs.org/article\\_details.php?articleNo=2896](http://www.ipcs.org/article_details.php?articleNo=2896)" }

### Navy seals 45,000-cr deal: seven warships

The P17A warship project, which will be India's most advanced and stealthy frigates, has been cleared by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) on Friday. { [HYPERLINK](#)

"<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/navy-seals-45-000cr-deal-seven-warships/479132/>" }

## Mumbai 26/11: BBC's Unlikely Story

**B. Raman** It is also a reasonable possibility that the Mumbai Police has not been able to identify and neutralise all the sleeper cells of the LET in Mumbai. { [HYPERLINK](#)

"<http://www.southasiaanalysis.org/%5Cpapers33%5Cpaper3283.html>" }

## Economy

### India wilts as monsoon fears grow

**Santwana Bhattacharya** The implications can be better understood when seen against what are otherwise mundane statistics - 60% of India's 1.1 billion population survives on agriculture.

{ [HYPERLINK](#)

"[http://www.atimes.com/atimes/South\\_Asia/KF30Df02.html](http://www.atimes.com/atimes/South_Asia/KF30Df02.html)" }

### India Woos GCC's Sovereign Wealth Fund: Policy, Scope and Precautions

**Zakir Hussain** this is an opportune time for India to adopt proactive 'economic diplomacy' and win over the GCC SWFs. { [HYPERLINK](#)

"[http://www.idsa.in/policy\\_briefs/ZakirHussain26062009.htm](http://www.idsa.in/policy_briefs/ZakirHussain26062009.htm)" }

### Infosys CEO to Head First National ID System

Nandan Nilekani will lead the National Unique Identification Authority as chairperson with the monumental task of organizing data from the nation's more than 1 billion citizens. {

[HYPERLINK](#) "<http://www.india-briefing.com/news/infosys-ceo-head-national-id-system-649.html/#more-649>" }

## Coming Up

### MEA in Japan (July 2-4)

External Affairs Minister S M Krishna will travel to Japan on Thursday for a three-day visit aimed at pushing the bilateral ties, particularly in trade and investment sphere, against the backdrop of global economic crisis.

## India goes South

### India & Africa

#### India joins 'neocolonial' rush for Africa's land and labour

India has been accused of 'neo-colonialism' in Africa where its business people have joined a race with China, Saudi Arabia and elsewhere to buy up agricultural estates and take advantage of cheap labour. { [HYPERLINK](#)

"<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/india/5673437/India-joins-neocolonial-rush-for-Africas-land-and-labour.html>" }

#### Aurobindo sues S.Africa on AIDS drug tender

Indian pharmaceutical company Aurobindo is taking South Africa's Treasury to court after it lost out to local drug firms in a \$400 million contract for anti-retroviral AIDS drugs {

[HYPERLINK](#)

"<http://www.livemint.com/2009/06/29121319/Aurobindo-sues-SAfrica-on-AID.html?h=B>" }

#### India-centric business meet in South Africa next month

The July 23 conference is expected to attract more than 200 leaders of trade and industry from India and South Africa to debate the theme "building partnerships when the chips are down". { [HYPERLINK](#)

"[http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/business/india-centric-business-meet-in-south-africa-next-month\\_100211047.html](http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/business/india-centric-business-meet-in-south-africa-next-month_100211047.html)" }

#### Africa looking towards India, China: Senegal president

Senegal's President Abdoulaye Wade Wednesday criticised European Union (EU) policies towards Africa and said the continent was looking towards India and China for its economic needs

{ [HYPERLINK](#)

"<http://www.samaylive.com/news/africa-looking-towards-india-china-senegal-president/636372.html>" }

#### India asks Uganda to furnish proposal on police training

{ [HYPERLINK](#)

"<http://search.indopia.in/begin.php?txtsearch=India&newsCatId=1>" }India today asked {

[HYPERLINK](#)

"<http://search.indopia.in/begin.php?txtsearch=Uganda&newsCatId=1>" }Uganda to furnish detailed proposals to it for providing training to the police officials and computerisation of policing system of the African country. {

[HYPERLINK](#) "<http://www.indopia.in/India-usa-uk-news/latest-news/607949/National/1/20/1>" }

#### Indian EXIM bank to open office in Ethiopia

Board directors of the bank have already decided to open their East African office in Addis Ababa so as to support Indian companies' growing investment in eastern Africa {

[HYPERLINK](#)

"<http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/006200906271353.htm>" }

### **Nigeria, India Trade Volume Reaches \$9.8bn –Ambassador**

The Nigerian Ambassador to India, Alhaji Gali Umar, has explained that as at last year, the trade volume between India and Nigeria has reached \$9.8 billion. { [HYPERLINK "http://leadershipnigeria.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=3091:nigeria-india-trade-volume-reaches-98bn-ambassador&catid=16:headline-news&Itemid=75" }](http://leadershipnigeria.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3091:nigeria-india-trade-volume-reaches-98bn-ambassador&catid=16:headline-news&Itemid=75) }

### **India soft launches Tea Centre in Egypt**

The Indian Tea Centre was conceived in 2007 as a public-private partnership project with the Tea Board of India sharing the project costs with the industry. { [HYPERLINK "http://www.hindu.com/2009/06/30/stories/2009063056601400.htm" }](http://www.hindu.com/2009/06/30/stories/2009063056601400.htm) }

## **India & Latin America**

### **IT cos expanding in Latin America**

Driven by customer demand, Indian IT firms such as TCS, Infosys, and Patni are enhancing their 'near-shore' delivery capabilities in Latin America. { [HYPERLINK "http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2009/06/29/stories/2009062950710200.htm" }](http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2009/06/29/stories/2009062950710200.htm) }

### **India, Cuba sign accord on technological exchange**

Indian Ambassador to Cuba, Mitra Vashist and Cuba's vice-minister of Information and Communication (MIC) Boris Moreno signed the accord which deals with training of 400 Cuban professionals and facilitate technological exchange { [HYPERLINK "http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/india-cuba-sign-accordtechnological-exchange/64142/on" }](http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/india-cuba-sign-accordtechnological-exchange/64142/on) }

## **Brazil**

### **Brazil Eyes Non-Dlr Trade With India**

Central Bank President Henrique Meirelles met with Indian banking officials in Europe at the Bank for International Settlements meeting over the weekend to discuss the move away from the dollar in trade between the nations. { [HYPERLINK "http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20090629-707133.html" }](http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20090629-707133.html) }

### **Elgi launches 100% subsidiary in Brazil**

Elgi Equipments, a leading manufacturer of compressors in India has launched a 100% subsidiary at Sao Paulo in Brazil to directly market its products. { [HYPERLINK "http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/News/News-By-Industry/Indl-Goods--Svs/Elgi-launches-100-subsidiary-in-Brazil/articleshow/4698052.cms" }](http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/News/News-By-Industry/Indl-Goods--Svs/Elgi-launches-100-subsidiary-in-Brazil/articleshow/4698052.cms) }

### **Vale aposta na Índia e China**

...economias emergentes da Índia e da China, sociedades que, de acordo com Barbosa "não vão se contentar com o nível de desenvolvimento já alcançados" - especialmente a Índia, cuja produção siderúrgica representa apenas 10% da chinesa. { [HYPERLINK "http://www.monitormercantil.com.br/mostranoticia.php?id=63383" }](http://www.monitormercantil.com.br/mostranoticia.php?id=63383) }

## **India & Portugal**

### **Portuguese Warship NRP Corte-Real rescues Indian Seafarers**

14 Indian seafarers of the dhow Vishvakalyan were rescued by Portuguese Warship NRP Corte-Real (F332) { [HYPERLINK "http://www.marinebuzz.com/2009/06/16/somali-piracy-portuguese-warship-nrp-corte-real-rescues-indian-seafarers/" }](http://www.marinebuzz.com/2009/06/16/somali-piracy-portuguese-warship-nrp-corte-real-rescues-indian-seafarers/) }

### **Salem files plea against CBI**

Abu Salem's counsel S Pradeep Kumar told the court that the Embassy of Portugal has clarified to India through a letter on January 17, 2006, that he should be tried only for the offences for which he was extradited. { [HYPERLINK "http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Cities/Salem-files-plea-against-CBI/articleshow/4673495.cms" }](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Cities/Salem-files-plea-against-CBI/articleshow/4673495.cms) }

### **Portuguese wonder to boost Diu tourism**

According to RN Dharecha, tourism officer in Diu, the listing of Diu fortress among seven wonders will help the tourism industry. { [HYPERLINK "http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report\\_portuguese-wonder-to-boost-diu-tourism\\_1269423" }](http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report_portuguese-wonder-to-boost-diu-tourism_1269423) }

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