

NEWS AND ANALYSIS ON INDIA

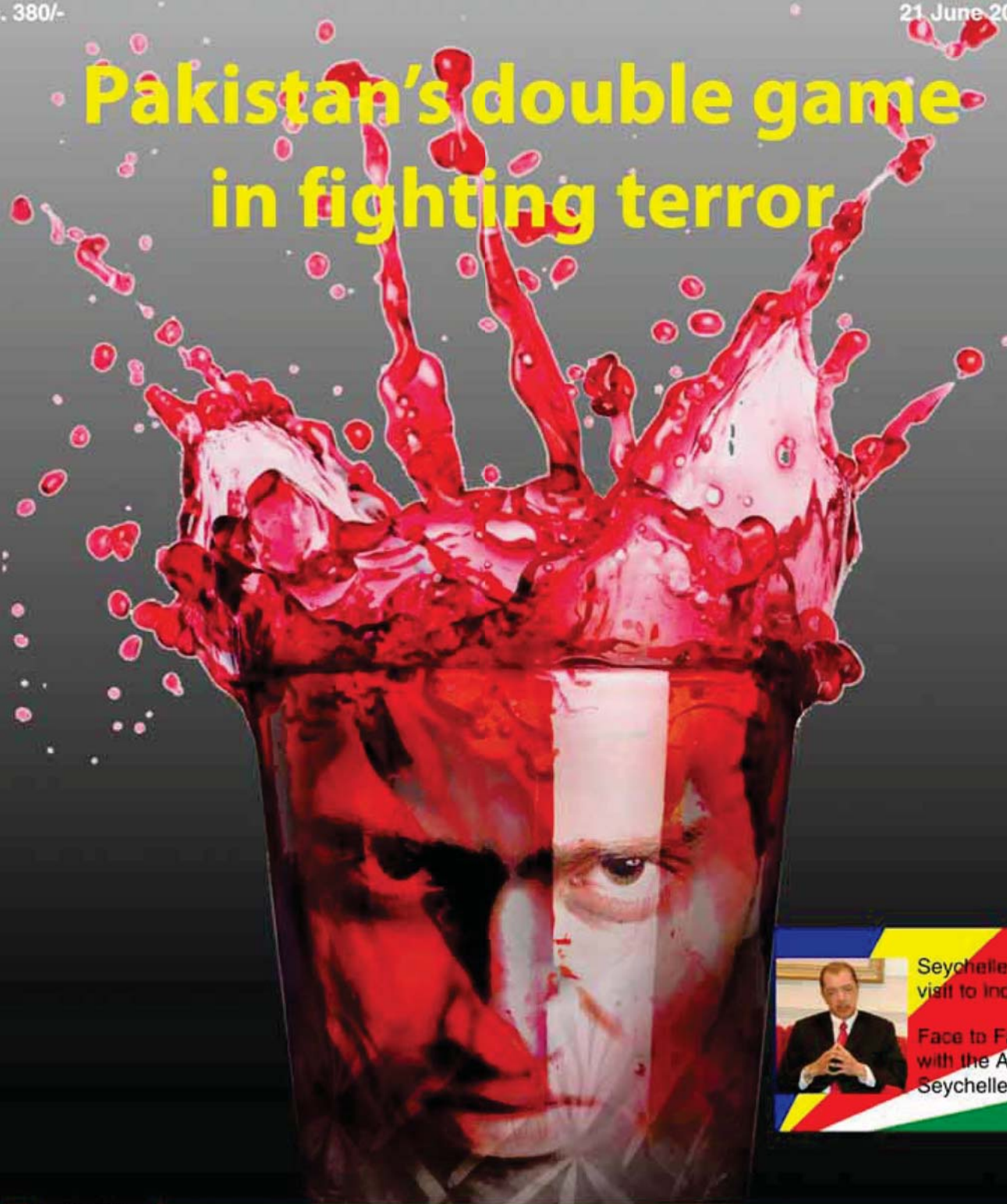
# News behind the News

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## Pakistan's double game in fighting terror



Seychelles President  
visit to India

Face to Face interview  
with the Ambassador of  
Seychelles in India



## VISIT OF SEYCHELLES PRESIDENT H.E. MR. JAMES ALIX MICHEL TO INDIA

After its independence from British rule in 1976, Seychelles, an archipelago of great scenic beauty, took immediate steps to place itself on the path of strong economic growth.

India partnered with Seychelles in developing trade between the two nations. Seychelles President James Alix Michel visited India recently to further strengthen bilateral relations.

In his interaction with the media he emphasized that Seychelles is India's ideal partner in establishing peace and stability in the Indian Ocean. "I think Seychelles and India have an important role to play in establishing peace, stability in the region," said Michel. He was happy about the Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) that was signed during the visit.

A teacher before he joined politics, the President described how Seychelles was bearing the brunt of the effects of piracy, with its exclusive economic zone (EEZ) bordering the waters of Somalia. The tiny nation's two major industries, tourism and fishing, have shown a sharp decline because of frequent pirate attacks over the last two years. "We are at the

forefront... But there is only so much we can do as a small country with limited resources," he said.

India, the President pointed out, has been especially responsive to his country's request for assistance. "We appreciate the help that is being given by India in terms of equipment being gifted to us and also Indian warships helping us in joint patrolling, as well as in training of our forces," he said. The Seychelles President noted that a fast attack craft *Topaz* gifted by India had recently been instrumental in capturing nine pirates, rescuing eight Seychellois fishermen and 21 Iranian sailors.

India has also offered help in setting up solar farms in the islands. "The Prime Minister told me... that India will give all assistance in terms of research, new technology," he said.

The 65-year-old President visited The Energy and Research Institute (TERI) and found the research on climate change and global warming "very interesting". "The research they are doing is relevant. We have agreed to exchange ideas and also see if our universities can partner," said the President.

The Pan-African e-network, India's flagship tele-medicine and tele-education

project in Africa, is already yielding results. "Before I came, some nurses graduated from some of the universities in India through this network," the Seychelles President said. There are already 20 Seychellois students in India. "We have been told that India will be granting more scholarships," he said.

Answering a question on the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Michel told the reporters that his country has always supported the movement, but now as the power equations in the world are changing, it is time to rethink about it. "Increasingly the world is becoming uni-polar and thus the importance of NAM has changed. We have to respond accordingly to it," said the President.

Seychelles was also hoping to have direct air links with India and was negotiating a bilateral services agreement. "We are trying to encourage Indian airlines to come to Seychelles. For example, Jet airways flies to South Africa. We are persuading them to stop here," he said. With increased connectivity, more and more Indians, the President hoped, would visit Seychelles for tourism and business. "Indians with affluence are going all over. Why not come to Seychelles? It is paradise," he said. ■ ■ ■



**FACE TO FACE INTERVIEW WITH  
H.E. MR. DICK PATRICK  
AMBASSADOR OF SEYCHELLES TO INDIA**

***On the occasion of the visit of H.E. Mr. James Alix Michel, President of Seychelles, to India, Asia News Agency caught up with H.E. Mr. Dick Patrick, the Ambassador of Seychelles in New Delhi. Excerpts from the interview are reproduced below.***

**ANA:** India and Seychelles have shared a close relationship since independence of the island nation in 1976. As a result of a common colonial history, India and Seychelles are part of the commonwealth. What do both the countries share in common on this account? Has it helped them to be a part of the same club of commonwealth countries?

**HE:** India and Seychelles belong to the same Commonwealth club of nations for the simple historical fact that both our countries were colonized for a period in their past by the British.

Today as members of the Commonwealth what binds India and Seychelles together is the undeniable truth that we share a common vision for the future. We firmly believe that we share a common destiny.

The coming together of Commonwealth countries stems from a common realization and vision that the artificial boundaries imposed upon them rather than segregate and partitioned them has in fact created the enabling condition to bring them together; to work together for a common prosperous future.

The countries of the Commonwealth because of their troublesome historic past have come together to mould a new and better future; where they are true architects of their own destinies.

**ANA:** Excellency it is our understanding that Seychelles follows a policy of “positive” nonalignment. Is it right to assume that nonalignment has lost its sheen over the years and that it is debatable whether it is still a relevant concept?

**HE:** If one looks at the composition, the membership of the non alignment one will quickly come to the conclusion that they form the bulk of the categorized “developing countries” and if you analyze the fundamental challenges, realities exigencies and opportunities facing the member countries of the Non Alignment one will undoubtedly conclude that yes the non alignment is still relevant and has a crucial role to play in world affairs.

The last special Ministerial Meeting organized by the Non Aligned Movement in Manila, Philippines in March this current year addressing the role of interfaith dialogue in the promotion of peace and development, crystallizes the new vision and mandate of the said organization.

We live in a challenging world and no movement or organization can survive without adapting itself to the changing realities, challenges and opportunities.

The Non Aligned Movement has played a very important historical role and come what may it will surf the tides of tomorrow!

ANA: Seychelles strongly supports the principle of reduced superpower presence in the Indian Ocean and your Government is one of the proponents of the Indian Ocean zone of peace concept. Asia is a predominantly maritime-configured region with India and China both having strong interests in the Indian Ocean. And the US is already established itself in Diego Garcia. Excellency, in this light, what is the status of the concept of Indian Ocean as a zone of peace?

HE: The concept of Indian Ocean as a zone of peace is a very dynamic, vibrant and actualized concept. The uni polar world in which we live today has immortalized the notion that there cannot be sustainable development without peace and we in the Indian Ocean, shares the same vision and philosophy.

Today, however, peace in the India Ocean is being threatened by the scourge of Piracy and Seychelles development as you know is very much affected by the act of Piracy in our waters. Our livelihood, our survival as a nation is at state. We rely heavily on the sea. Our fishing industry, tourism, imports and exports are seriously affected.

In fact, when you come to think of it, the scourge of Piracy affects directly almost all the countries of the Indian Ocean. We have to bring peace back into our waters, borders and people.

We are partnering with neighboring India Ocean countries, countries with which we have bilateral relations, international organizations and institutions and the international community at large to mobilize resources and opinion to tackle the scourge of Piracy in the India Ocean. The Indian Ocean has to remain a "Zone of Peace".

ANA: During your visit, Seychelles and India have signed a Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement. This will enhance the investment environment further for Indian businesses. Excellency, could you indicate for our readers, the investment opportunities that your country offers.

HE: The signing of the Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement is a very crucial development for enticing Investments in our two economies. It guarantees that investments in our two economies are safe, protected and encouraged at the highest level.

Investment opportunities in Seychelles are unlimited and the business environment is a very conducive one for serious Indian investors. The main investment opportunities are;

Tourism, fisheries, commercial port, ship repairs facilities, manufacturing, agriculture, offshore services, telecommunication services, oil exploration etc. for detailed information [www.sib.sc](http://www.sib.sc) or mail : [sib@seychelles.sc](mailto:sib@seychelles.sc).

*Seychelles offers very attractive advantages to inventors:*

- A stable political environment and government policies which welcome and support local and foreign investment
- An investment code which provides a legal climate that is conducive to greater flow of investment and business
- Ideal location in the Indian Ocean, midway between the largest trading and manufacturing block of Asia and Europe, and a business stepping stone into Africa.
- Favorable time zone that allows working hours to overlap with major financial centres
- Labour force, fluent in English, French and Creole

- Excellent sea and air links with Europe, USA, Asia and Africa
- Seychelles boasts a telecommunications system which compares well with that of many countries in the developed world
- Port Victoria is at the heart of Seychelles economy with two deepwater berths, extensive space for container handling and modern cargo handling equipment
- An excellent and well developed infrastructure, including electricity, water supplies and road network
- Good educational system and peaceful living environment to bring up families
- Strategic location outside the cyclone belt

ANA: Excellency, Seychelles has successfully completed the first phase of its economic reform and has now embarked on the second phase which largely relates to business environment. Could you indicate the manner in which Seychelles is promoting a business friendly environment? And how will this help more Indian companies to establish businesses in your country.

HE: As, you rightly pointed out, the first phase of the macro economies reform has been successfully implemented and the focus now is how to promote a more business friendly environment. As part of the package to promote Seychelles as an investment friendly jurisdiction the government has completed a critical analysis of our Taxation System and has sought the approval of the National Assembly for a very comprehensive, well articulated and simplified Tax system.

The new transparent and predictable piece of tax legislation clearly defines the parameters and the taxation regime for serious investments into the economy and attempts to bring down the cost for doing business in Seychelles. And it is in this connection that the government has seen it fit to create one revenue authority. The said Revenue Authority will see to it that all tax related issues are streamlined in a transparent and accountable manner.

The government is also revisiting all the laws, regulations and mechanisms governing investments with the view to create a level playing field for all and adequately equipping the Seychelles Investment Bureau so that it really becomes the one stop shop for investments into Seychelles.

The Second phase of the economic reform programme has a lot to do with the creation of a conducive environment for investments into Seychelles.

ANA: Excellency, piracy in the Indian Ocean and particularly off the coast of Somalia has the potential to disrupt the economy and tourism of Island nations like yours. Your country has praised efforts of the Indian navy for their anti-piracy operations. Have there been any further discussions on this issue during your interactions with Indian officials? What is the other important take-away from this visit?

HE: Allow me first and foremost to express our deepest appreciation and gratitude to the government and people of India for its unwavering and unconditional assistance, support and cooperation extended to Seychelles in our fight to combat the scourge of Piracy in our waters and in the India Ocean as a whole. We value very highly the excellent understanding and cooperation that exists between our two countries and we are both committed to tackle the piracy problem head on and we will also endeavour to working with all countries in the Indian ocean region and the international community to find a lasting solution to the problem.

Seychelles as you know is at forefront in the fight against piracy and together with our partners we are organizing an International Symposium in Seychelles on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2010. The principal objective of the symposium is to focus on the piracy problem and to mobilize and sensitize the international community to adopt a very strong stance against Piracy.

ANA: India has been a partner in the development of Seychelles' in many sectors like infrastructure, economy, social as well as political. Under the Indian Technical and Economic co-operation (ITEC) programme a number of citizens of your country have benefited from training courses conducted in India in both civilian and defense field. A number of Indian doctors are employed in Seychelles' health service sector. What does the future hold in augmenting these ties?

HE: For a number of years now, trade advertisements between our two countries have not been to the desired level. The Two major obstacles that have been lying in our path in our quest to achieve satisfactory level of trade and investment between India and Seychelles are;

- The market size: Seychelles is a small country with a population of only 87,000.00 people.
- No direct air and sea connectivity.

Given the economic reforms taking strong foothold in Seychelles, characterized by very attractive incentives on offer to invest in the multitude sectors, the stage is not set for Seychellois and Indian businesses to partner and impact positively on the economic

development of our countries.

The BIPPA which has just been signed by our two governments is a crucial element and is regarded as a catalyst by our business communities in enticing serious investments in to our economies.

Seychelles is optimistic and look forward to the day when our two countries will effectively sign a Double Taxation and Avoidance Agreement (DTA) which will give final propulsion to our economic partnership drive.

ANA: There have been several instances of cultural exchange between the two countries. These have helped in building people-to-people relations. Your comments Excellency on this important aspect of cooperation.

HE: Cultural exchanges between our two countries are taking place in a vibrant and dynamic manner. With the advance and help of IT Seychelles and India has become very connected culturally. One does not have to physically travel kilometers of air or sea to appreciate another's culture. Through the internet and social websites Indian and Seychellois alike are in constant and systematic contact. Other medians which allow our two peoples to appreciate each others culture better is through films and music. Indian films and music are now popular in Seychelles.


Not withstanding the above, I believe that the real qualitative and quantitative "rapprochement" between our two peoples will become a reality the minute we have direct air linkages between our two countries. And this we are convinced will happen very soon!



**Special Study**  
*Updated and revised* **June, 2010**

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**Naxalites**  
Biggest threat to India's internal security



The Study examines the following important aspects; the history, nature and extent of the Movement-the evolution of the extremist left Wing Movements in the pre-independence and post-independence India; the emergence of different factions within the Communists resulting in the extremist Maoist Naxlite Movement; the rise and fall of Naxalism and its re emergence in its present form; the nature of the present Movement its tactics and modus operandi; the factors that sustain it; the evolution and ideologies of the various naxalite groups like the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation and the People's War Group (PWG); emergence of the movement and latest developments in states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Orissa and its increasing influence in new areas of Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu; the growing criminalisation of Naxal Movement-extortion, drug trafficking; its linkages with other extremist groups like the Maoists of Nepal, Islamic fundamentalists, insurgent groups in the north-east and with the LTTE; the recent government initiatives-two-pronged focus on the development and law enforcement of the centre and the states to deal with the problem; the road ahead-eradicating the root cause on which Naxalism thrives. The study is approximately 18,000 words.

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