HE TRUST GAP: Prime Minister D Manmohan ingh with his Pakistani counterpar Yousaf Raza Gillani and Pakistan Foreig Minister Hin Rabbani Kha



LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR

Thanks to some deft moves, New Delhi's ties with neighbouring countries improved, while there were hardly any gains in relations with major powers

By Ashok Tuteja



and addressing their concerns with sincer-ity. The 'Gujral doctrine' has truly started yielding results if one closely looks at India's ties with its neighbours in the

ear gone by. India's most difficult relationship with-India's most difficult relationship with-out doubt is with Pakistan. The highlight of 2011 was the revival of the normalisation process with Islamabad. After two years of tension in the wake of the Mumbai attacks, the two countries put back on track their dia-logue process to resolve the outstanding issues. Pakistan's decision to grant the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to India, 15 years after New Delhi accorded it the same designation, is being seen as one of the major confidence-building measuress (CBMs) that is expected to transform South

Asia's political economy. However, critics argue that the new-found bonhomic in the accident-prone relationship can again be there are started to the signal combail like the bords. The signal combail like are during prime Minister Mannohan Singh's visit to Dhaka the varya deal with Bangladesh during prime Minister Mannohan Singh's visit to Dhaka in early September has dras-tically changed the dynamics of ties between the two nations. The hostility of the past seems to have given way to an unprece-dented upswing in the bilateral ties. Due credit must be given to the friendly Sheith Hasina government in Dhaka for cracking down on anti-India elements operating from the Bangladesh territory.

the Bangladeshi territory. In the case of Nepal, the election of India-educated Baburam Bhattarai as the new educated Baburam Bhattarai as the new Prime Minister has provided New Delhi an opportunity to re-design the relationship and put an end to anti-India campaign there. New Delhi must keep nudging the new lead-ership in Negah to complete the peace and constitution-making processes, while not being seen as an Il-powerful neighbour, hell bent on interfering in the internal affairs of the Himalayan nation. India Sei Lanka relations have been fluc-nation theorem bhavanes. The rehibilisticate

India-Sri Lanka relations have been fluc-tuating through the years. The rehabilitation of the people, affected by the prolonged civil war in the island nation, has become an emotive issue in Tamil Nadu, introduc-ing strains in ties between India and Sri Lanka. However, events in the past few

years have certainly led Sri Lanka to move

years have certainly led Sr Lanka to move a shade close to China and Pakistan for mil-tis and political app of a more state of the state of the state of the end of the state of the state of the state end by the day, the embattled nation con-tinues to pose a big challenge to Indian diplomacy. New Delhi has invested heavi-tuiton has hardly changed in the battle-scarred country during the past decade. The foreign office. When it comes to relations with major powers, nothing worthwith happened in India-US ties. The two countries are still basy ironing out their differences over the

busy ironing out their differences over the historic civil-nuclear deal signed three years back. One heartening thing, howev-er, has been that Washington no longer looks at India through the prism of its ties with Pakistan

with Pakistan. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Moscow from December 15-17 gave an impetus to India's time-tested relationship with Russia.

with Russia. The decision of the ruling Labour Party in Australia to allow the sale of uranium to India is being seen in strategic circles as a major diplomatic gain for the country. The Japanese Prime Minister will be vis-iting New Delhi soon when the two coun-tries are expected to resume negotiations on a civil-nuclear deal.

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NEWSPICK



Dragon King gets a Queen King Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuck marriec Jetsun Pema at the Punakha Dzong in Punakha, Bhutan. Even as Bhutan erupted into joy to welcome its new Queen, there was no less regalement and joviality at The Lawrence School, Sanawar, where she spent two years of her life.

All is not well with Zardari

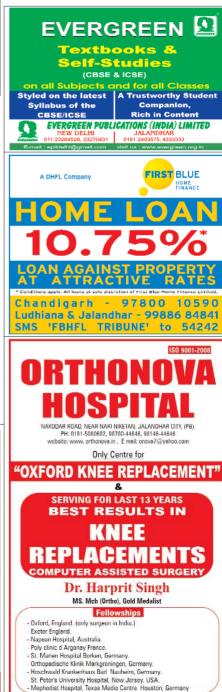
Pakistan's ailing president Asif Ali Zardari has scotched speculation that he could be ousted under a constitusion that pro-e removal of a uonal provision



vides for the removal of a president on the ground of hybrical or mental inco-pacity.² Zarden is besen at the centre of a storm since reports linked into an alleged secret memo that where the analysis of the secret memo that Manscor (juz to the US militory after the killing of Osama bin Laden in May.

Power of social networking

ia networking sites were in news out the year for their constructive role in the Arab Spring. However, during the UK riots peo ple used text messages, BlackBerry phones and social media platforms such as Twitter to coordi nate attacks and stay ahead of the police.





ont Ha mid Karzai, Bhutan King Jigme Khesa Nameval Wangchuck and Nepal's new Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai came calling, while Prime Minister Manmohan Singh went to Finne winnsten wannotral singly went to Bangladesh to meet his counterpart Sheikh Hasina. A historic land-swap deal during the visit to Dhaka in early September drastically changed the dynamics of ties between the two nations.





