



# India Review

A PUBLICATION OF THE EMBASSY OF INDIA, KABUL

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 8 AUGUST 2006

## Prime Minister participates in G8's outreach session



## Mumbai blasts condemned

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, second from left, along with leaders of G-8 nations and outreach partners at the G-8 Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia, on July 17.

**A** strong pitch by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the G-8 Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia, on July 17 made the leaders of industrialised nations and the outreach partners to condemn the "barbaric" July 11 Mumbai blasts and pledge their support to New Delhi in fighting terrorism.

The Prime Minister was a special invitee to G-8's outreach session along with the leaders of China, South Africa, Mexico, Brazil, Kazakhstan and Congo.

At least 200 people were killed and around 700 injured, many seriously, as seven powerful blasts ripped through packed train cars and on stations during rush hour in Mumbai on July 11 evening in the worst terror attack in India in over a decade.

The pledge by the G-8 members and its outreach partners came in the form of a statement in which they also said they would join hands with New Delhi to bring to justice to the "perpetrators, organisers and sponsors" of the terror attacks.

In a major diplomatic victory for India, the statement also recognised the cross-border linkages of terrorism and the links between the 7/11 Mumbai blasts and terrorism in other parts of the world.

"We are outraged by the barbaric terrorist acts, carried out on 11 July 2006 in Mumbai and other parts of India," said the statement — soon after the leaders of G-8 and special invitees met for over four hours — both formally at a plenary and informally over

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was a special invitee to G8's outreach session in St. Petersburg, Russia along with the leaders of China, South Africa, Mexico, Brazil, Kazakhstan and Congo

lunch. "We stand in solidarity with the government and the people of India and express our deepest condolences to the victims and their families," the statement added.

The G-8 comprises the world's top industrialised nations including the U.S., Russia, Britain, France, Japan, Italy, Germany and Canada.

United Nations Secretary General Kofi

Annan and top representatives of several global organisations like the World Bank and the International Atomic Energy Agency were also present at the meeting. The statement was also signed by the chairman of the Council of the Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the chairman of the African Union.

"We are united with India in our resolve to intensify efforts to fight terrorism which constitutes a threat to each of our countries, as well as to international peace and security," the statement said.

In the strongly-worded statement, the G-8 leaders vowed to continue their fight against terror and bring to justice those responsible for the terrorist attacks in India.

"We are determined to continue the fight against terrorism by all legitimate means. We express our readiness to undertake all necessary measures to bring to justice perpetrators, organisers, sponsors of these and other terrorist acts, and those who incited the perpetrators to commit them," the statement said.

"We shall do it in accordance with our obligations under international law, in particular, international human rights law, refugee law and humanitarian law," the statement added. ■