

## APPOINTMENTS ETC.

### APPOINTED; ELECTED; ETC

**Dominique de Villepin:** He has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of France.

**B.B. Tandon:** He has assumed charge as the 14th Chief Election Commissioner of India.

**Naveen Chawla:** He has been named Election Commissioner of India, to fill the vacancy caused by retirement of Chief Election Commissioner T.S. Krishnamurthy.

**S.K. Arora:** He has taken over as the Union Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Secretary.

**Y.C. Deveshwar:** Chairman of ITC, he has taken over as the new president of Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).

### DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

**Chandrika Kumaratunga:** President of Sri Lanka.

**Mahmoud Abbas:** President of Palestine.

### DIED

**Ajit N. Haksar:** Chairman emeritus, ITC. He was 80. As the first Indian chairman of ITC, Haksar headed the

company for over 13 years from September 1969 to January 1983.

**Subodh Mukherjee:** Veteran film personality who had made several Hindi hit films like *Paying Guest*, *Muneemji* and *Jungle*. He was 84.

**Sunil Dutt:** Veteran actor and Union Sports and Youth Affairs Minister. He was 76.

**Ismail Merchant:** Eminent film-maker of the famous Merchant-Ivory production house. He was 69. He was well-known for the classic literary adaptations like *A Room with a View*, *Howard's End*, *Remains of the Day* and *The Golden Bowl*.

**K.N. Modi:** Noted industrialist, brother of late Gujar Mal Modi who founded the Modi Group.

**Fazal Mahmood:** Former Pakistan cricket great, known as the 'Hero of the Oval'. He was 78. Mahmood was famed for taking 12 wickets at the Oval ground in London in Pakistan's first year in Test cricket in the 1954, as well as in the country's two inaugural wins at Lucknow.

## EVENTS

### MAY

11—Four suicide bombs kill at least 71 people in Iraq, as thousands of American troops launch a massive offensive against the followers of Iraq's most wanted terrorist, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

13—Islamic revolt leaves nine dead in Uzbekistan.

22—Twin bomb blasts rock Satyam and Liberty cinema halls in Delhi, leaving one person dead and more than 50 injured. Both halls were screening the controversial film *Jo Bole So Nihaal*.

—Union Cabinet recommends to the President dissolution of Bihar House.

27—Suicide attack on Pakistan shrine of saint Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif leaves 19 dead.

28—Two bombs explode in a busy market on Indonesia's Sulawesi Island, killing 22 people and wounding 60 others, in the worst attack in the country since the October 2002 Bali bombings.

30—France deals a potentially fatal blow to a landmark treaty meant to streamline the 25-member European Union's (EU) working in the 21st century, with 55% voters saying 'non' in a referendum.

### JUNE

2—Three suicide car bombing strikes in Baghdad, Iraq, kill at least 38 people.

7—L.K. Advani resigns as President of BJP following objections by cross-section of BJP leaders, RSS and VHP over his remarks on Mohammad Ali Jinnah, (terming him as a secular leader) that he made during his visit to Pakistan as leader of Opposition in India.

## MILESTONES

**Natalie Glebova:** She has won the Miss Universe Title, 2005. Brown-haired and blue-eyed Glebova, a 23-year old motivational speaker, was born in Russia but emigrated to Toronto as a young girl.

**Moni Mulepati and Pem Dorjee:** Two Nepalese climbers, they climbed Mount Everest to get married there.

**Prof Raymond Lafitte:** A civil engineer and professor at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne, he has been appointed by the World Bank as the expert to "address differences" between India and Pakistan on the Baglihar dam project in Jammu and Kashmir.

**Ananth Robert Sampathkumar:** An Indian student in the US, he has received the prestigious Schiff Foundation fellowship for architecture for 2005. He secured the prize for his design 'Noah's Arcs'—a creation of movable, responsive canopies for urban sites.

**Greg Chappell:** He has been appointed the new coach to the Indian cricket team. He captained Australia to 21 wins in 48 Tests and was famous for his silken strokes.

**Didier Delsalle:** A French Test pilot, he has become the first to land a helicopter on top of Mount Everest, in the process knocking down the previous world record held by the Indian Air Force (IAF), for the highest landing by a helicopter. Flying Ecureuil/AStar (AS35) B3, he first broke the IAF record by nearly 300m and then bettered his own best by landing straight atop Mt Everest, the highest point in the world at 8,848m.

**Rohini Miglani:** Associate Director P&G, Asia, she is among the world's 25 top women executives. The US-based Advertising Age ranks Miglani number 5 in its Women to Watch 2005 survey. She is the only Indian to find a place in the hallowed list, for the role she played in transforming P&G's Asian markets from a problem zone into a profit centre for low income consumers.