

AP PHOTO/B.K. BANGASH



"Time Up?",  
September 17, 2007

**"Democratic countries like India and the US need to rethink about their support to the Musharraf regime. The dictator must step down."**

D.B.N. MURTHY, *Bangalore*

## General Thoughts

The magazine's analysis of the current turmoil in Pakistan and India's role in the situation provided for an excellent read ("End Game", September 17). Though change of guard has never been smooth in Pakistan, it is hoped that sanity will prevail over Musharraf.

G.M. RAMA RAO, *Visakhapatnam*

Musharraf being replaced by either Benazir Bhutto or Nawaz Sharif does not seem to be a probability in a country long accustomed to the iron rod of a dictator.

J. N. BHARTIYA, *Hyderabad*

One should not write off Musharraf yet. Considering the manner in which he came to power and sent his opponents—Sharif and Bhutto—into exile, one should not be surprised if he bounces back.

VIDYA SAGAR, *Delhi*

This is the most suitable time in Pakistan's chequered history for it to be brought back on track. The country has to shatter the unholy alliance of mullahs and the radical groups, which is an arduous task. The writing on the wall is clear: get united to keep above chaos and disorder.

ARVIND K. PANDEY, *Allahabad*

It is the politicians in Pakistan and Bangladesh who are to blame for the mess the countries are in. In their zeal to finish off their opponents, the leaders create conditions in which ambitious generals like Musharraf are able to easily cease power.

M.M. GURBAXANI, *Bangalore*

If Musharraf indeed wants to prove himself as Pakistan's saviour, he should not fight shy of facing the polls. But then without the support of the army, a defanged

Musharraf might have to contend with the possibility of history repeating itself and the deposed Sharif having the last laugh.

NALINI VIJAYARAGHAVAN,  
*Thiruvananthapuram*

## Left with Contradictions

The US has never claimed a chunk of Indian territory *a la* China's claim of Arunachal Pradesh or never usurped a portion of India like China's occupation of the Aksai Chin ("The Karat Dogma", September 17). Yet, the Marxists take everything from the US to be detrimental to our interests. Communism, thy name is paradox.

ASOKE C. BANERJEE, *Kolkata*

## Crime—a New Business

Kidnapping is fast assuming the character of an industry not unlike investing in stocks ("The Missing Kids", September 17). One's only hope lies in Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's reputation for

good governance and his ability to inject fear in the minds of hardened criminals who seem to enjoy political patronage and police protection.

H.R. BABU SATYANARAYANA,  
*Mysore*

## Dealing with Inadequacies

The Rs 40,000-crore global tender to acquire fighter aircraft brings to fore our gross inadequacy in technological progress in the much-needed spheres of development like defence ("The Mother of all Deals", September 17). Peace comes from national solidarity and strength—the focal point of preparedness—not vocal joints of conferences.

J. N. BHARTIYA, *Hyderabad*

## Dot the Eye

The magazine has done a nice job of highlighting the adverse effects of technology on eyes ("Watch Those Eyes", September 17). However, it seems to have

missed out on the laptop users. It would also be appreciable if it digs out information on the back, shoulders and eye problems faced by laptop users. **RUBEENA ANSARI, Mumbai**

## A Distant Lesson

The survey on B-schools failed to include the institutes that offer MBA through distance learning and are much sought after by students today ("The Best Business Schools", September 17).

**NALIN SANGAL, on e-mail**

## Fancy Footwork

The Nehru Cup is the first major victory of the football team in 13 years ("Well Begun or Half Done?", September 17). It is about time we cashed in on this amazing win and gave this sport its due place.

**BAL GOVIND, Bareilly**

## The Toon Zoom

Though it is great news that Bollywood is now experimenting with animated films, it cannot be said for sure whether this genre will strike a chord with the Indian audience which still hankers for typical masala movies ("Toon Boom", September 17).

**ARJYA PATNAIK, Cuttack**

## Limited Interest

Considering the magazine's readership, its section on society and the arts invariably deals with only dresses which interests only those connected to the world of fashion ("Ethical Chic", September 17). Can't it think of any other aspect under this section of larger interest?

**K. SUNDARRAJA RAO, Bangalore**

## Leading the Leader

Advani believes he has not got his right place in modern history as the architect of BJP's growth ("Who is the Leader?", September 10). With Vajpayee remaining aloof, Rajnath can only look towards Sangh as his saviour. **ZOHEB HASAN, Aligarh**

## Game of Statesmanship

Diplomacy is all about being dishonest in an honest manner ("Did India Topple

Him?", September 10). Aristide Gomes, the ousted prime minister of Guinea Bissau is yet to learn the tricks of the trade.

**S. JAYACHANDRAN NAIR, on e-mail**

## Clarification

The photographs for the article "Cull of the Wild" (May 21, 2007) were outsourced and there was an inadvertent mix-up of pictures and captions. The error is regretted.

—The Editor

## HALF TRUTHS



V.S. Naipaul has presented a fanciful picture of Mahatma Gandhi and Vinobha Bhave ("Home Truths", September 10). He claims that Gandhi's *Hind Swaraj* has not been read much. The truth is over 57,000 copies of the paper have been published. Using the word "fool" to describe a learned person like Bhave, who has 75 books on him and written by him in the US Congress's Library, is absurd.

**AMARJEET SINGH, USA**

Excerpts from Naipaul's book were unpalatable for any self-respecting Indian. He has exposed the narrowness of his mental horizon by deriding everything at variance with his own practices and viewpoint.

**ARUN BALA, Bathinda**

People like Naipaul are born to criticise just about everything. They shouldn't be given much importance.

**NALIN VERMA, on e-mail**

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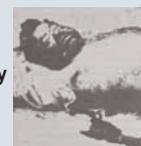
Years Ago in India Today

OCTOBER 1-15, 1977



## Terrorism—Still Alive

Terrorism as a phenomenon has been part and parcel of human existence ever since the advent of civilisation. Often enough, these terrorist actions leave their own imprint on history. In India, groups like Ghadar Party and Hindu-stan Republican Army, incidents like Kakori Conspiracy case, Chittagong Armoury raid and exploits of Bhagat



**Terror victim** Singh, have become parts of folk legend. The least understood today is the struggle for "independence" by the Nagas and the Mizos, and the most romanticised are the Naxalites. From 1969 to 1971, Naxalism caught the imagination of the middle class intellectuals facing unemployment and the village poor. Such was their terror that in Calcutta, cinema halls refused to operate their night shows. Unable to comprehend the isolation of the revolutionaries from masses, the people turned against them.

—Chand Joshi with Ajay Singh