

THE SATURDAY INTERVIEW

## 'BRICS should adopt new growth paradigm'

Vladimir Yakunin is the founder and president of the public forum, Dialogue of Civilizations. He is also the head of the department of state politics at Moscow State University. Between 1985 and 1991, he was Second and then First Secretary of the USSR's Permanent Representative office at the UN. He has also been the chairman of the International Centre for Business Cooperation. From 2005 to October 2015, he was the president of Russian Railways. During the Youth Time Forum 2015, held in Barcelona, he spoke to MOINUDDIN AHMAD about education and employment in BRICS nations and his other engagements with youth programmes.



India will always be different, and it is sustainable. We in Russia are facing the same challenge. Even if our leaders decide that we should be a part of western society, it is not possible. We should maintain the mosaic of civilizations, which is best for development. One should not try to copy either the West or Russia. But in terms of relations and values we have so many things in common with India, I think we will be back where we were some years ago. Indian students will return to Russia.

**The perception about India as a post-colonial nation is changing quickly as is slated to become a super power in a few years. How do you see this assessment?**  
Some economic analyses are showing that India is going to overtake the speed of development of China in five years. However it says very little in itself. In my research analysis of the situation, the statistical data of GDP growth does not reflect the real situation. For example, the service in a restaurant is bringing some proportion of GDP growth, while a family feeding ten members does not reflect anything on GDP. So I suppose the model should be changed and BRICS should consider making new models to assess development.

**So you mean to say that**

quite good. There was a time when a considerable number of Indian students used to go there for higher studies, which is not the case any more. Indian students prefer the US and Western European countries over Russia. Do you think that they will look up to Russia in times to come?  
This is a sad fact. Nevertheless, Indian society values its own traditions, history and beliefs that protect India from being a part of what is called western.

**Bilateral relations between India and Russia have been**

**The standard of education in the BRICS nations is getting better. However, there are not enough employment opportunities. In your opinion, what should be done to strike a balance between the two?**

First of all I would like to say that BRICS, which began as an idea of some financial consultants, now appears very sustainable. I am very interested in the development of BRICS policy. I believe that BRICS nations can improve employment opportunities for youth by making a comprehensive programme of developing infrastructure. All of us are lacking infrastructure, which includes railways, roads, education, water supply, elec-

tricity, etc. It is so huge that once such a programme is set up, it will give employment to many youth. Not everyone would like to be an engineer, there are a number of other jobs that people want to take up and once we start working on this, we can create many jobs for our youth. It is not possible to have high employment rate without creating jobs.

## NATO's options after Paris strike

Harsha Kakar

The terror strike in Paris last Friday, leaving behind a trail of casualties, came as a rude shock. It was the most brutal attack in France since World War II. France is involved in operations against ISIS, which has claimed responsibility for the strike. The world united with France in grief. Details on the attackers are emerging and with passage of time, the clouds will clear. It is confirmed that the attackers were a multinational team involving Belgians, French and West Asians.

The French government followed a systematic approach of initially securing its population from further attacks and simultaneously sealing its borders to prevent escape of perpetrators. It has also commenced locating those who provided logistical support and assistance. Tactically such a strike would never have been possible without local support and sympathizers.

The country is still in shock and a military clampdown has forced people indoors. But they are seething. However, there is likely to be local retribution and anger directed at Moslem communities. Islamophobia would definitely raise its ugly head in France and parts of Europe. The governments anticipate it and counter-measures would be taken.

NATO would soon begin discussing options for retaliation, including possible invoking of Article 5 of the treaty, which states that 'an attack on one is an

attack on all'. The only time it was invoked was post 9/11. Some or all NATO nations would willingly participate with or without Article 5. With passage of time, NATO and France would be expected to announce their future course.

The options available for retaliation are air strikes or a combination of ground and air offensives against ISIS. In the case of Afghanistan, NATO had the benefit of the Northern Alliance which they could support and fight alongside to regain the country. ISIS is centred in Iraq and Syria and both have separate dynamics.

In Iraq, supporting the Iraqi army in its battle with ISIS, with material, air strikes and limited boots on the ground is a feasible option. NATO knows the terrain and has trained the Iraqi army, and already has advisors on the ground; hence this would be an easier choice. Simultaneously supporting the Kurdish forces in a similar manner is also possible. Air power is already being employed. This option would be acceptable to the population of France and simultaneously limit ISIS expansion.

The situation is more complex in Syria. Here opposition forces (a combination of different factions), supported by western powers with equipment, air and limited advisors battle both ISIS and the current Assad regime. The West wants the Assad regime ousted. The ISIS is battling both, the government and the Syrian opposition.

Russia and Iran both cur-



rently support the Assad regime. Russian airstrikes target the rebels and ISIS. Iran openly provides troops and material support to the Assad regime. Therefore NATO, by involving boots on the ground in support of the opposition forces could be involved in an indirect conflict with Russia and Iran. It could also result in a proxy war between NATO and Russia, as in Afghanistan in the eighties. This is most undesirable.

In this complex scenario are the Gulf nations who are opposed to Iran and its ideology. They were willing partners in this coalition, though for the past few months other than token contribution they have not participated in anti-ISIS air strikes preferring to concentrate in Yemen. Their involvement could further heighten tensions in the

**BRICS should emerge as an alternative to the bigger economies in the world that consider GDP growth as a benchmark for development?**  
I am not talking about bigger economies. I would avoid using the term alternative. However, BRICS should introduce a new paradigm to evaluate growth. The evaluation process should change and we should look at sustainable development.

**You have been involved in Dialogue of Civilizations. Tell us something about that.**  
Any new idea is a well-forgotten old idea. I don't consider it as Samuel P Huntington who gave the idea of 'clash of civilizations' or Iranian President Khatami, who brought in the concept of 'dialogue of civilizations'. These ideas had been floating in society for a long time. But in practical life, we should refer to these sources and work for a better world through dialogue. The UN introduced alliance of civilizations, more than 150 countries are a part of that. They are given written material to speak about; that is not dialogue. That is a kind of negotiation. For us dialogue of civilizations is that every nation, big or small, should be able to protect their integrity, tradition and way of development of life.

**What role do you think India can play in Dialogue of Civilizations?**

Of course, with its rich history and tradition of tolerance, with all the major faiths co-existing for so long, India already has invested a lot in the development of mankind. Gandhi's activism with non-violence is one of the greatest examples of that. India in my view should be playing a major role in Dialogue of Civilizations.

operations are in progress, isolation of ISIS is essential.

ISIS anticipates a NATO reaction. This strike and the recent downing of the Russian passenger jet and the bombings in Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey indicate its growing capability. Islamophobia in Europe and launch of NATO offensive could possibly enhance the flow of funds and supporters to ISIS. It could also get support from other terrorist groups like the Taliban or the al Qaeda, ideologically against them but equally anti-West. This could complicate the situation unless the international community acts together.

The international community needs to come down hard on any state which supports terrorism or makes it a part of state policy. It cannot let states determine good or bad terrorism. It was the al Qaeda nurtured by the US and Pakistan which led the attack of 26/11. Thus countries which support them should be forced to ensure their destruction. This should be made an international law.

For India, it was a chilling reminder of 26/11. India would no longer tolerate similar attacks in future. The Centre and states need to join together to upgrade security responses to similar strikes on our cities, as also clearly spell out policy in dealing with future strikes. Intelligence agencies should perpetually be on their toes monitoring possible threats to the nation.

THE WRITER IS A RETIRED MAJOR-GENERAL OF THE INDIAN ARMY.

100 YEARS AGO

### OCCASIONAL NOTE

It is not always easy to discern a reason for the decisions of the India Office, but in the case of the report of the Public Services Commission the motives dictating the postponement of its publication are surely clear and unmistakable. The report was written before the war broke out, and the war is going to alter the outlook in India just as it will affect the situation in every part of the world. A report, therefore, which might have been published with propriety a year and a half ago, might at the best be found utterly out of date if its conclusions were given to the world in their entirety today. It is characteristic of the kind of criticism to which certain journals are prone that the Government should have been attacked yesterday morning for withholding the report, on the ground that such action would give rise to the moral certainty that its recommendations were unpopular. The critic does not appear to have considered the possibility that the authorities may have been influenced by the prospect of a reopening of the whole problem under the new conditions set up by the war. In any case the Government, as it happens, are only acting in accordance with the advice which was loudly tendered to them some months ago by a prominent Congress organ in Bombay.

NEWS ITEMS

### STEAMER ACCOMMODATION

#### GOVERNMENT CONTROL RULES

(From Our Correspondent)  
Delhi, Nov 20

Rules are notified in the *Gazette of India* under which powers are taken to control the sailing of certain steamers and to take up accommodation therein. These rules provide Government power to control the sailing of certain steamers and to take up accommodation therein. It may, by an order in writing, require the master or other person in command or charge of any British steamer to comply with all or any of the following directions: (a) to alter in any way specified in such order the date fixed for the sailing of such steamer and to sail on such altered date; (b) to place at the disposal of the Governor-General in Council the whole or any part which may be specified in the order of the accommodation available on such steamer, and to employ the same for the carriage of such persons, animals or things as may be specified in the order; and (c) to undertake or permit to be undertaken such structural additions or alterations on board such steamer as may be necessary to fit the same for the safe carriage of any persons, animals or things in respect of whom or of which an order has been made under clause (d).

### THE RECRUITING CAMPAIGN

London, Nov 20

A correspondence between Lord Derby and Mr. Asquith is published in which the position of married men who have enlisted under Lord Derby's scheme is defined thus, Mr. Asquith concurring: Unmarried men will be called up first and if, apart from munition workers, etc., and others exempted by local tribunals, there still remains a considerable number of young men who do not join voluntarily then either married men will be released from their pledge or Parliament will pass a Bill compelling young men to serve. If Parliament refuses married men will be released automatically. Lord Derby hopes, however, that young men who do not enlist will be a negligible minority and thus there will be no question of legislation.

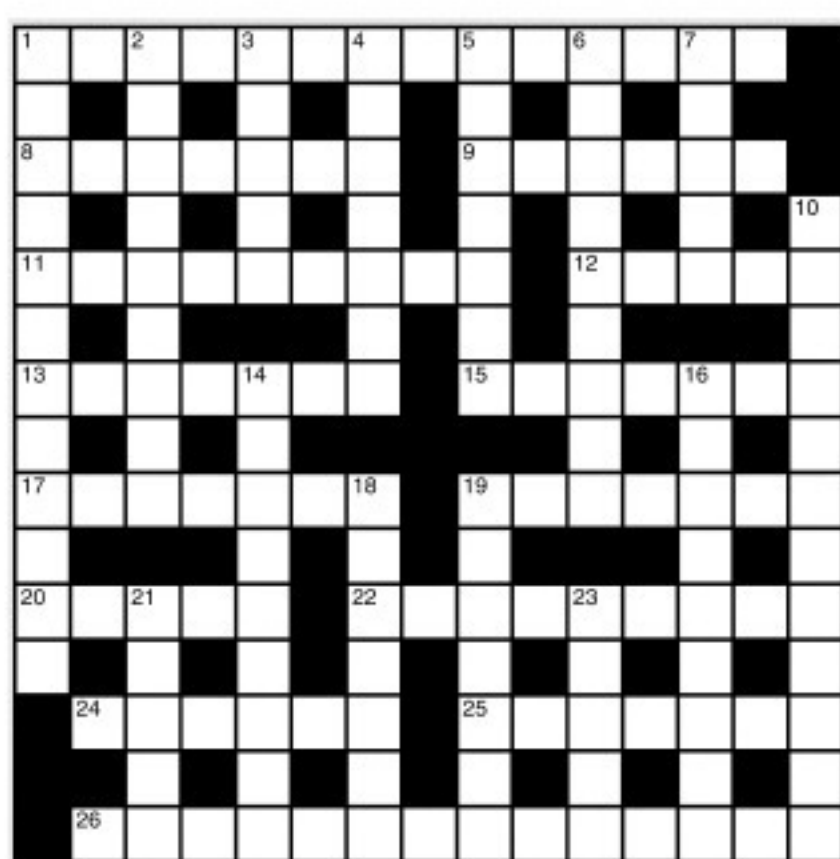
### A VETERAN JUDGE

(From Our Correspondent)  
Allahabad, Nov 20

Justice Sir George Knox completes tomorrow fifty years of active service. His Lordship will be the recipient of many congratulations. Sir James and Lady Meston are giving a dinner in his honour, and the Anglo-Indian Association, whose honorary president he is, are giving him a congratulatory address. Sir George has been High Court Judge for nearly twenty-five years, and is now aged 70.

CROSSWORD

NO 25633



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

REDESIGNS ACMES  
E O H L A U M E A  
CRU I L L D I S P O S E D  
A B R L T S S D  
P U L V E R I S E D L I E U  
E H P T N C  
P L U T O O N T H E M A K E  
A R L A A E  
M A K E S H I F T M I K E S  
P H E T P U  
H E A P W A L L F L O W E R  
L M X M I A A E  
E A S T E R B U N N Y I S M  
T I N E G E T I  
S A N T A R E S E R V I S T

ACROSS

- 1 Flying jet that's extremely huge, I've right to be nervous (4,3,7)
- 8 Illness caused by food

- 9 that's left a bit late? (7)
- 11 Capital German company invested in Leith? (6)
- 12 Filling that's nice - mm! - in pie snack? (9)
- 12 Radiance observed when

SOLUTION FOR 14 NOVEMBER

K U B L B  
H I S P A N I C R O O N E Y  
L E C R A S C  
O P T I O N A L E X T R A S  
V E N N G L  
N O U R I S H I N G E M M Y  
L P O A R N  
T H R I L L R E C E S S  
I E S E R O  
S P U N D E P E N D A B L E  
L C U P T E  
M A G I C A L R E A L I S M  
C P P G R O N  
P I L L A R E N T A N G L E  
D E E O Y Y

DOWN

- 1 Dismiss teacher, one caught out misbehaving? She may want to (12)
- 2 Old film star from Depression any number can love (9)
- 3 Melody Maker originally penned by old solver? (5)
- 4 Former partner's on box,

- 17 They give resistance to Tories violently? (7)
- 19 Removal of corruption's unproductive in football tournament? (5-2)
- 20 Resort's minute, for a start (5)
- 22 Put crudely, can anyone bother? (9)
- 24 Charlie's open secret (6)
- 25 Two names (the first abbreviated) for mineral (7)
- 26 Brief visit involves run then I'm at home, awfully weary (8,6)

- maybe pocketing millions? That's excessive (7)
- 5 Klingsor's favourite nurse regularly provides motivation (7)
- 6 Explain why I won't reach Euston on time? Not I (9)
- 7 In Don Juan's embrace, girl's beginning to blush (5)
- 10 Course tackling image building given by North European businessman (12)
- 14 Drink leaves Mark full of energy - for workforce that's ideal (5,4)
- 16 Nobody of note, tiny person ultimately? Possibly (9)
- 18 Fight and beat tough character (7)
- 19 Lacy clothes fashionable with clubs? On reflection that's doubtful (7)
- 21 A not half sad affair (5)
- 23 Yen for maiden in island port (5)

NOTE: Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required. (By arrangement with The Independent, London)