

**PRESENTATION OF JAWAHARLAL NEHRU AWARD FOR
INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING FOR THE YEAR 1994 TO
PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD OF
MALAYSIA**

Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia is visiting India to receive the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for international understanding for the year 1994. The Award is being conferred on Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir by the President of India at a glittering ceremony today (20th December, 1996) at 1800 hours (2030 Hours Malaysian time) at Ashoko Hall, Rashtrapati Bhavan (President's Palace), New Delhi. The vice-President of India, who is the Chairman of the Jury for the Nehru Award and the Prime Minister will also be present on the occasion.

Throughout his distinguished career in public life Dr. Mahathir has shown a remarkable ability to evolve appropriate public policies and national strategy which have brought Malaysia peace, stability and prosperity. He has imparted a new vision and a sense of purposiveness which have made Malaysia one of the most dynamic economies of Asia. Malaysia's rapid rise to the status of a near developed country and its determined bid to attain the stature of a developed country by the year 2020, are part of a comprehensive vision articulated by Dr. Mahathir.

Dr. Mahathir has untiringly directed attention to the problems of the developing nations which were becoming marginalized, more so now as a result of the end of the Cold War. He has displayed a rare candour and forthrightness in speaking out against injustice in articulating the need to reduce and eliminate disparities between the rich and poor nations. He has made innovative and meaningful proposals to forgo greater cooperation amongst the developing nations played an important role in the setting up of the South Commission and the South Centre and the formation of the G-15. Indeed the first G-15 Summit was hosted by Dr. Mahathir in Malaysia. The Malaysian Government under his leadership has an active technical assistance programme and directly supports several international co-operative projects.

Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad has been chosen for the 1994 Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding for his outstanding contribution to building closer cooperation amongst the developing nations and for his bold and vigorous articulation for their concerns. His qualities of leadership have helped to steer Malaysia towards greater prosperity and build harmonious multi-racial society. In international affairs, he has tenaciously pursued

the objectives of equity and justice speaking out for the poorer nations in world forums, in doing so, he has enlarged the arena of international peace and understanding – the objective for which the Jawaharlal Nehru Award was instituted.