

**Vinod C. Dixit,**

*Ahmedabad, Gujarat*

Kudos for your superb cover story on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s pilgrimage to India. It reminded me that the two men, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi, were not politicians or lawmakers. They were not presidents or popes. But they were inspired human beings who believed deeply in the power of nonviolent resistance to injustice as a tool for social change. King's life and legacy will live on and the leaders of today can learn from a man who epitomized peace, harmony, determination, righteousness, justice and freedom for all people. It clearly shows what impact Gandhi's life had. King's trip to India is a reminder that the struggle for civil rights and justice has always been and continues to be a global mission; it knows no borders.



**Satananda Bhattacharjee,** *Hailakandi, Assam*

I am really astonished to read the article "The Indian Pilgrimage of Martin Luther King, Jr." by Laurinda Keys Long. This tremendous article provided much more information to the new generation regarding the process of nonviolent noncooperation and boycott. It is indeed nice that later on African Americans used the same tactics to get justice. Hope to get more such articles in the upcoming issues of SPAN.

**S.M. Goyal,** *Ajmer, Rajasthan*

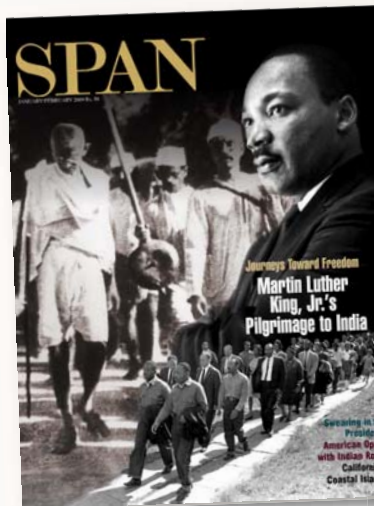
The January/February 2009 issue of SPAN augurs a better 2009, especially in Indo-American ties, than the year gone by. Though the main article is a reminder of the past, yet not so distant past. The Indian pilgrimage of Martin Luther King, Jr. to study the life and work of Mahatma Gandhi makes those moments vivid.

One wonders why such giants of humanity are destined to stop bullets, though both succeeded in their missions, King just recently in Barack Obama's form. King came to India not as a tourist but as a pilgrim and that evinced his unflinching faith in the policies of Gandhi. It is heartening to note that the now-head of the U.S. did have King in his memories.

**Kumud Mohan,** *New Delhi*

You have written such a lovely piece on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s visit to India in the January/February 2009 issue of SPAN, I had to go back to see the name of the author. I also liked the stories on the inauguration of the U.S. president, Abraham Lincoln, and what Indians and Americans were doing 50 years ago; plus the one on home education and the women who changed America... It is a collector's item as far as I am concerned.

I think that the black and white cover, too, is most imaginative and appropriate.



**V.S.S. Kannan,**  
*Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu*

As an educator I got awareness from the homeschooling article which will help me in my teaching and research guidance. Above all I am very much impressed by the information for the visually impaired and the effort taken by Mr. Jeffrey Bigham. This highly useful information will be transmitted to some of my students who are visually challenged.



**Ashim Kumar Chatterjee,**  
*New Delhi*

Ambassador Mulford is indeed right in highlighting defense deals and cooperation in education in the January/February 2009 issue of SPAN. But post the Indo-U.S. civil nuclear agreement, one is convinced the content and tenor of India's strategic relationship has reached a new level. One's sense is that our relationship now is very comprehensive in its scope.



India is still predominantly an agricultural economy and there is desire for a second green revolution where scientific cooperation has vast scope. In fact, nothing less than industrial grade agriculture is required for this. Possibly, India could be a huge market for U.S. agricultural surplus, provided agronomy of both countries are adjusted to accommodate each other.

Similarly, rural housing and infrastructure with semi-automatic labor intensive technology as well as urban infrastructure development offer scope for U.S. private sector participation in India in a commercially viable/profitable manner. Integration of U.S. private sector in these, shall one say, less glamorous sectors of economy which touch the common man in India, is important but is not talked about much in the media. Though, one is sure that some useful work must be going on through government agencies like USAID. Visibility of Indo-U.S. cooperation must go beyond Silicon Valley and Gurgaon, Hyderabad and Pune to small towns and villages in USA and India through not only USAID but also the U.S. India Business Council.