Introduction of Dr. S. Jaishankar, IFS, President – Global Corporate Affairs, Tata Sons Limited and Former Foreign Secretary, by Mr. Bharat Doshi on the occasion of the Twenty-fourth Lalit Doshi Memorial Lecture on 3rd August 2018

Good evening friends,

It is my privilege and honour this evening to introduce Dr. S. Jaishankar, President – Global Corporate Affairs, Tata Sons Limited and India's Former Foreign Secretary, on the occasion of the 24th Lalit Doshi Memorial Lecture.

While thanking Dr. Jaishankar on behalf of the Trustees of the Foundation and on my behalf I am happy to say that we will be adding one more star today in the galaxy of Speakers who have delivered the past 23 Lalit Doshi Memorial Lectures.

I was hoping that Mrs. Kyoko Jaishankar will be joining us today but I am advised that she is in Japan at this time for certain family commitments.

Sir, my first interaction with you was in 2001in the context of an acquisition opportunity of a tractor business in the Czech Republic. You were at that time the Ambassador in the Czech Republic. Friends, I watched his illustrious career since then, and admired him as one of India's brightest diplomat known for his formidable intellect and sharp wit. For example, at Gateway House GeoEconomics Dialogue in 2017, when everyone was talking about the Trump effect on global economics and politics, Dr. Jaishankar said 'Don't demonise Trump, Analyse him.' I therefore targeted Dr. Jaishankar for the Lalit Doshi Memorial Lecture series as soon as he retired from the Diplomatic Service. I knew that he will have constraints while he was in service.

I requested Mr. Vijay Nambiar, one of the Trustees of Lalit Doshi Memorial Foundation and also one of the past speakers in the annual lecture series, to request Dr. Jaishankar to deliver the 24th Lalit Doshi Memorial Lecture today. When Mr. Nambiar approached him, prompt came Dr. Jaishankar's cryptic and to the point reply, he said " --- would be happy to, in principle". The Trustees were delighted. However, there was one question mark – Dr. Jaishankar kept suspense about whether the date 3rd August 2018 (on the eve of Lalit's birthday) was convenient to him. In response to my persistent follow up, he said it would take him some time before he could finalise the date. Around end of April, there was an announcement that Dr. Jaishankar was joining Tata Sons Ltd as President, Global Corporate Affairs, a definite gain not just for Tatas, but also for the corporate sector in India. Dr. Jaishankar again sent a short mail saying, "Hope you now understand my hesitation on committing dates. Will let

you know as soon as my Tata schedule is clear". He needed to ascertain whether the date for the lecture conflicted with his commitment with Tata Sons Limited.

Thank you sir – you are here today and on the date we wanted.

My first draft of his CV for the invitation card predominantly contained details about his career in Foreign Service. He said he would like to do his CV differently and his version rightly emphasised his second innings and commenced with the para on his future role at Tata Sons Limited and then referred to his career in the Foreign Service.

Dr. Jaishankar is a graduate of St. Stephen's College at the University of Delhi and PhD in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), where he specialised in nuclear diplomacy. In a recent conversation, Dr. Jaishankar told me that his UPSC interview was on the day immediately after the post emergency election results in March 1977. He added - the whole interview centered around emergency and politics. What the JNU Alumnus conveyed to the selection panel was left to my imagination.

An IFS officer of the 1977 batch, he was the topper of his batch and a Russian language specialist. Dr. Jaishankar knows several languages – Tamil, English and Hindi, - In addition, he knows Russian and Mandarin and Japanese and Hungarian too – Today's lecture, of course, is in English.

Dr. Jaishankar, the author of "India's Nuclear Doctrine", is a true dynast of an intellectual family. We know and talk about royal dynasties, dynasty in politics, in industrial houses, in legal and medical professions and here I am tempted to talk about this dynasty of intellectuals to which Dr. Jaishankar belongs.

His father, K. Subrahmanyam was considered father of Indian strategic thought, was a renowned analyst and commentator. His brother Sanjay Subrahmanyam is a prominent historian of early modern period and famous for his book "Europe's India". His son, Dhruv Jaishankar is a Senior Fellow in a think tank on foreign policy matters.

Dr. Jaishankar has been India's Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Singapore, China and the US and served in Tokyo, between 1996 to 2000, as India's Deputy Ambassador and it is reported that he introduced Mr. Shinzo Abe to Dr. Manmohan Singh.

As Joint Secretary (Americas) in Ministry of External Affairs between 2004 and 2007, Jaishankar was one of the key men behind the India-US civil nuclear deal.

Dr. Jaishankar was India's ambassador to China, with a four-and-a-half year term and was deeply involved in improving economic, trade and cultural relations between China and India, and in managing the Sino-Indian border dispute.

Dr. Jaishankar was appointed as India's Ambassador to United States in September 2013, at a time when the relationship between India and US soured over the arrest of an Indian Diplomat.

Dr. Jaishankar was the key man in planning Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's maiden visit to the United States in September 2014.

After his appointment as Foreign Secretary in 2015, Dr. Jaishankar helped negotiate a peaceful resolution to the stand-off between Indian and Chinese troops at Doklam under the guiding principle that differences should not become disputes between the neighbours.

To quote one of his seniors:

"He is possibly the only person in the diplomatic corps who knows Moscow, Beijing and Washington DC as well as the ASEAN region. He has a good understanding and the right balance between India's economic interests and security imperatives."

Indeed a handsome compliment coming from a senior.

What I said came from what we have read about and what is in public domain.

There are many things which Dr. Jaishankar must have done to shape India's foreign policy which we do not and may not know even in the future. Sir, I hope that in a few years from now you will write your memoirs which will tell us what happened behind the scenes to make history or change history.

Finally, when we were discussing the topic of the lecture “Doing Foreign Policy Differently”, I impulsively reacted - Doesn't 'Framing Foreign Policy differently' sound better? Prompt came a cryptic reply – “Actually, much of what I wanted to say pertains to 'doing'. We have not given enough attention to the execution aspects”.

Sir, all of us present here eagerly look forward to your lecture later today on “Doing Foreign Policy Differently”.

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