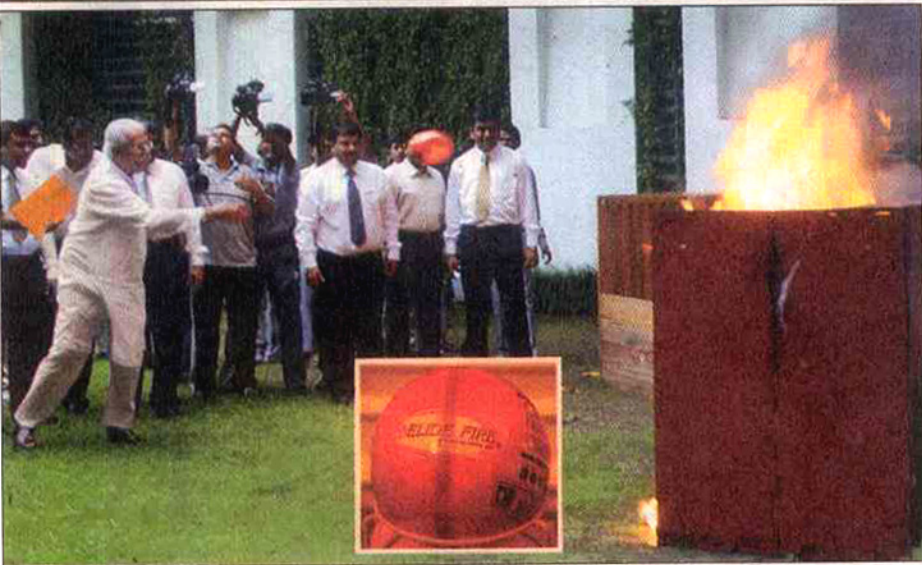


BLAZE-BUSTER BALL



Fire services minister Pratim Chatterjee chucks a fire-extinguishing ball into a wooden box set ablaze on the lawns of a city hotel on Friday. Developed and manufactured in Thailand, the ball (inset) explodes to emit a sodium bicarbonate-based dry chemical powder when it comes in contact with flames. Picture by Amit Datta