

## Singh showed reform was possible without autocracy

It was with immense satisfaction that I read Martin Wolf's piece praising the achievements of Manmohan Singh ("A dynamic India is Singh's greatest legacy", *Opinion*, January 8).

The impact of Singh's economic reforms may not quite match Deng Xiaoping's economic reforms in China's development a decade earlier. But Wolf is correct to point out the need for a politician wise enough to appoint Singh – in his case prime minister P.V. Narasimha Rao – and that perhaps the most important consequence of faster growth, lest we forget, is that it remains the best way to lift people out of poverty.

In terms of examples for developing countries today, India provides a counterpoint that good economic reforms can come from a democratic form of government.

However, it was also this same democratic form of government that had, until Singh's appointment, a less than desirable economic framework.

The same is true for China's authoritarian system that yielded disastrous economic policy