

Decision to split the business was literally thrust upon us

BY VIVEK LAW

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Harsh Goenka, chairman at RPG Group, says in an interview that neither he nor his brother Sanjeev Goenka wanted the conglomerate to split, but the decision was forced upon them by their father R.P. Goenka. Edited excerpts:

What do you feel about India's economic prospects?

I think we're much better than most other countries in the world and, in fact, most other businessmen that I meet from Europe or America look at us with envy. India has been a story where you go two steps forward and one step backward; and today is a similar situation when you have been af-



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very little has been spoken or talked about. But parting is painful. Has it been painful for you?

Yes, extremely painful on an emotional level. Our family has been an extremely close family and continues to be so. It is something that my father desired: neither my brother, Sanjeev, nor I, wanted it to happen; and it was literally thrust upon us. He is a wise old man who knows the ways of the world. We have seen so many business families split. So he has been telling us over the last two years, but we have been resisting it. But a day came when he made it a *fait accompli*, and we had no option but to accept it. The good thing is, it happens when there is so much of love, affection within the family. The bad thing is it's now almost two groups: so one doesn't feel