



CBRN South Asia

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CBRN South Asia is an online monthly bulletin of the Nuclear Security Programme of the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, providing a coverage of commentaries and news reports relating to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons material and substances in South Asia.

The bulletin also flags important reports that appear worldwide on the subject and features exclusive interviews.

IPCS is now partnering with the Nuclear Security Project of the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI), working towards global nuclear security.

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Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and US President Barack Obama met in Washington starting on 23 November 2009. It was a three-day visit that was anticipated by New Delhi as a hallmark of Obama's intention to sustain relations that had deepened under his predecessor President Bush. The success of the visit was measured by whether the two leaders were able to reinvigorate the bilateral relationship and dispel any doubts of Washington's commitment to New Delhi. It is clear that the relationship lacks a defining issue, such as the civilian nuclear deal, that defined the relationship during President Bush's tenure. This was an opportunity for India and the US to introduce and cement new ideas for regaining the bilateral relationship's strategic momentum.

The talks were held on a range of issues, including speeding up the completion of the landmark civilian nuclear deal signed last year. Unfortunately, the discussion failed to reach an agreement on the arrangements and procedures for reprocessing spent American fuel on Indian soil. The fact that both sides were looking at the agreement as a major deliverable from the visit suggests that the relationship made no significant progress and is living on the successes of the past US administration. The obstacles that exist are by no means minor, in contrast to India's official claim that the problems in settling the issue of reprocessing spent fuel under the 123 agreement are "minor" and of little practical significance since the US and India have until February 2010 to settle matters. The matter lies on a few key issues: the first is, the US demand for intrusive access to the reprocessing facilities that India is building; the second, relates to the US insistence on limiting the number of reprocessing facilities that can be built in relation to the reactors; and another issue, is the liability legislation. Therefore, the failure of the visit to operationalise key elements of the deal can be seen as an immediate let down for India, particularly the Singh government, who

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invested a great deal of political capital in passing the controversial deal. However, India remains optimistic about finalising the deal in the near future. India continues to stress that it is a responsible nuclear weapon state and unlike the other outliers of the NPT, it has not contributed to global proliferation problems.

On the heel of this momentous occasion, is an unfortunate, yet somewhat expected, update on the Iranian nuclear programme. The Iranian government approved a plan to build ten new uranium enrichment facilities, which is in dramatic defiance of the UN demands to halt its programme. The decision comes shortly after the IAEA censured Iran, demanding it to stop building a newly revealed enrichment facility near Qom and freeze all uranium enrichment activities. As predicted, Iran continues to engage the international community, providing the right amount of cooperation at strategic moments to deflect attention. It is now time for harsher measures to be imposed, ideally targeting the leadership and the regime, before Iran isolates itself further, thereby accentuating the situation and making it unmanageable.

Pressing the "Reset" Button

Larissa Wagner, Research Intern, Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies

The third round of bilateral talks between the US and Russia started on 5 October 2009. It remains to be seen whether both countries will be able to develop a follow-up agreement to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I), which expires on 5 December 2009. US President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev began the weapons-reduction process while attending the April G20 Financial Summit in London, announcing a new bilateral treaty aimed at reducing the number of nuclear warheads to 1,100 and bringing about reductions in delivery vehicles, such as ballistic missiles and submarines to 700-800 per country. The new treaty is a beginning towards the 'nuclear-free world' agenda proposed by both the presidents.

Possessing more than 95 per cent of the world's nuclear weapons, Obama stated that US and Russia will lead by example, taking concrete steps toward the long-term diplomatic goal of disarmament while sending a powerful message to countries such as Iran. With such an agenda, a follow-up agreement is crucial for both countries to monitor each other's nuclear stockpiles. The first round of bilateral talks in Moscow held on 19-20 May 2009 was an important positive development in US-Russian relations, marking a definite shift from the days of the Bush administration when the bilateral relationship suffered due to American plans to develop a missile defence shield in Poland and the Czech Republic. The recent talks were described as very "successful" and "constructive" addressing new cuts in US and Russian nuclear weapons arsenals. Both sides also agreed to hold further meetings addressing trans-national issues such as terrorism, organized crime, corruption and drug trafficking, as well as strengthening US-Russian economic ties and cultural exchanges.

These ambitious plans notwithstanding, Obama and Medvedev failed to make any significant progress in setting the world on the path to nuclear abolition during the last summit in July. They could only agree on minor cuts in their respective weapons arsenals due to American unwillingness to cancel plans for the missile-defence shield in Central Europe. Russia believes these plans undermine its national security. It was, at this point, believed that these plans for a missile defence shield, a legacy of the Bush era, could ruin ambitions for bilateral rapprochement. However, Russia received some comfort from President Obama's unexpected announcement in September to cancel all plans for the missile-defence shield. The release subsequently of a new plan for a

missile-defence shield, that would include the deployment of smaller radars closer to Iran, on land and on Aegis missile-tracking ships, was considered by Russia an even greater security threat. Russian reaction on the matter seems to be mixed. While the scrapping of the old plan demonstrates a victory for Russian politics, Chief of Russia's General Staff, General Nikolai Makarov is convinced that the US anti-missile shield had only been modified, not scrapped as the US claimed.

According to reports, America was expecting better Russian cooperation on an array of foreign policy issues, such as the US led war in Afghanistan. The whole bilateral negotiations illustrate a complex quid pro quo situation. Even if Russia and the US consistently deny the immediate connection between the international dispute over Iran's nuclear programme and their nuclear disarmament negotiations,

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recent events underline the exact opposite. It would seem that Russia is using Iran as a bargaining chip in its quest for cooperation with the US and NATO on a joint missile defence, this is supported by the statement of Russian Major General Vladimir Dvorkin that a joint missile defence system would be 'even more important than START' because it would represent a dramatic boost in mutual trust. With US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton affirming during her Moscow visit in October that the world would not wait forever for Iran to prove it was not building nuclear bombs, it will be interesting to see the extent to which Russia and US will pull together, when the limit of diplomatic proceedings is reached.

Both Presidents Barack Obama and Dmitry Medvedev symbolize a new, post-Cold War generation of leaders who warmed-up long frozen US-Russian relations. Whether this new era of bilateral relations will lead to a new era of nuclear disarmament as well, remains to be seen. The fact that Russia and the US are aiming for a legally binding document by the beginning of December is a step in the right direction. In light of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, it is necessary to think about the extent to which US-Russian negotiations will continue if a follow-up agreement cannot be formulated. This would have severe consequences for Obama's vision of a global zero and the intentions of both, the US and Russia, to serve as an example for nuclear disarmament. The entire process also raises the question for smaller nuclear weapons states like Britain or France as to why they should even consider reducing their nuclear stockpiles if the two biggest nuclear states fail to make any noticeable cuts in their own accumulations.

Draft Agreement on Iran's Nuclear Programme: A Victory?

Tara Sarin, Research Intern, Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies

On 21 October 2009 negotiations over Iran's nuclear programme wrapped up in Vienna. Terms such as "breakthrough" and "victory" were prematurely used to describe the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) preliminary agreement with Iran. The agreement was seen as a way to assuage international concerns over Iran's nuclear intentions and prove a substantial vindication of President Barack Obama's engagement policy. Even before the international optimism has settled in, the wariness has begun to creep in. How distant has the attempt to build cooperation become is a question that may only be answered if the Iranian leadership accepts the proposed agreement in its entirety and after the IAEA inspectors complete their inspection of the recently discovered clandestine nuclear enrichment facility near the city of Qom.

The IAEA draft agreement is essentially providing Iran fuel sufficient for its stated civilian purposes but depriving Iran of any justification for enriching to higher levels itself. The details include that Iran would ship 1,200 kilograms of its own stockpiled low-enriched uranium (LEU) in one batch to Russia and subsequently to France for reprocessing by the end of this year, which would eventually be used as medical isotopes in Iran. The LEU would be enriched to 19.75 per cent, and that material would then be sent to France for fabrication into fuel rods and then eventually returned to Iran. The idea is to allow time for negotiations to convince Iran to freeze its nuclear programme because the LEU, if left in Iran, poses a threat that it could be turned into weapon-grade uranium and used in nuclear weapons in the near future. This agreement does not solve the fundamental problem of what to do about Iran's growing nuclear weapons capabilities and how to convince Iran to disband its uranium enrichment programme. It, however, does reduce further sanctions from being imposed on Iran and the immediate threat of military action from countries such as Israel. Iran continues to refuse to accept a halt to its enrichment, which means it has also refused to accept a negotiating structure to discuss the suspension of enrichment, which is called "freeze for freeze." By that formula, the United Nations Security Council would freeze its sanctions against Iran and Iran would freeze its LEU programme. This reaction does not confirm Iran's nuclear ambitions but does reinforce the skepticism felt by the international community.

However state media has recently reported that Iran wants major amendments within the framework of the agreement which it broadly accepts. The changes have not been elaborated upon but Iran has stated that they would present

their response to the proposed agreement within 48 hours, on 30 October 2009, a week after a deadline set by the IAEA. Iranian opposition to the agreement could be driven by concerns that it weakens Iran's control over its stockpiles of nuclear fuel and could be perceived as a concession to the West. In fact Iran has announced a preference to buy the 20 per cent enriched uranium for its reactor, rather than export its own uranium to Russia and France for enrichment. Iranian leadership appears to be deeply divided over the proposal and divergent views have emerged. In response to ambiguous statements by Iran, this development was described by the French Foreign Minister, Bernard Kouchner, as "not a good sign...it is a bad indication." Iran's response is seen as a continuation of its cat and mouse game where it has often used counter-proposals as a way to draw out negotiations with the West leading to an unraveling of the West's policy of diplomatic engagement.

Along with the draft agreement on enrichment, IAEA inspectors are undertaking a visit to the newly revealed enrichment facility. These two simultaneous pledges are seen as a litmus test of Iran's stated intent for peaceful civilian use and as a basis for more ambitious negotiations on curbing Iran's nuclear aspirations.

Along with the draft agreement on enrichment, IAEA inspectors are undertaking a visit to the newly revealed enrichment facility. These two simultaneous pledges are seen as a litmus test of Iran's stated intent for peaceful civilian use and as a basis for more ambitious negotiations on curbing Iran's nuclear aspirations. Ultimately, the draft agreement is seen as a time-saving agreement as it makes it less likely for Iran to immediately produce nuclear weapons and creates an environment conducive for negotiating. Although it seems doubtful, if Iran accepts the agreement as is, it can be seen as a small victory on an otherwise arduous path to the goal of a permanent freeze and then suspension of its enrichment programme. The position of the West remains the same they will look at a whole range of issues with Iran, including whether to continue negotiations, or whether it should advance to a new chapter wherein harsher sanctions are imposed on Iran.

Iran has become something of an international pariah and it is unable to operate with great legitimacy around the world, particularly after its recent election debacle. The nation is constrained and if well handled, can be kept that way until the regime becomes more transparent and cooperative on the nuclear issue. If the agreement fails, any new measure of tougher sanctions should target the leadership and regime of the nation. In the words of British scholar, Timothy Garton Ash, "there is a physics of diplomacy, but there is also a chemistry of politics" and in this context, Iran's "chemistry of politics" may prove to be the critical element that changes the dynamics within the nation to a regime that wants to symbiotically engage the international community.

Argentina: India's Seventh Nuclear Destination

Amit Kumar Chatterjee, Freelancer

This October, Argentina became the seventh country with which India signed a civil nuclear agreement. The crucial deal follows a series of similar ones that India signed with other countries. The lifting of a 34-year-old ban on India with regard to nuclear commerce in September 2008 by the 45-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) has facilitated the said process. The Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy between India and Argentina was signed by Vivek Katju, Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs and the Argentine Foreign Minister Jorge Talana. Starting with the US, India has already signed civil nuclear pacts with France, Russia, Kazakhstan, Namibia and Mongolia.

Many Indian companies have already made investments in Argentina in various sectors like information technology, pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals and mining. Investments by Indian companies are estimated to the tune of US\$119 million. Moreover, these ventures provide employment opportunities to thousands of Argentine nationals. Correspondingly, a few Argentine companies have also set up operations in India in the engineering and pharmaceutical sectors. On the energy front, Indian and Argentine companies are discussing cooperation in oil and gas sectors.

According to the joint statement released by the Ministry of External Affairs of India on 14 October 2009, "Argentina and India, as active countries with a long tradition in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, have reiterated their intention to develop, promote and cooperate in this field in accordance with their respective international obligations and commitments. They will make use of the synergies existing between the two countries and the vast experience of their nuclear scientists and technologists."

The two leaders also shared the view that civil nuclear energy can play an important role as a safe, sustainable and non-polluting source in meeting rising global demands for energy. Taking into consideration their respective capabilities and experience in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, both India and Argentina have agreed to encourage and support scientific, technical and commercial cooperation for mutual benefit in this field. Looking at India's foreign policy, it can probably be concluded that not much significance has been given to Latin America till date. In 1949 Brazil became the first Latin American country with whom India established diplomatic relations. Peru was a part of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). Hence it gave moral support to India

during the Sino-Indian War in 1962.

Recently, President Lula Da Silva of Brazil visited India in June 2007. Indian President Pratibha Patil went to Brazil, Latin America's largest nation, in April 2008 to reach out to the business community there. She met the business community at Sao Paulo and a delegation of FIESP (Industry Federation of Sao Paulo).

The visit of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez to New Delhi in March 2005 was important and held promise. He even talked about sending Venezuelan oil experts to assist India for exploring oil in Rajasthan. In April 2008, the ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) signed a joint venture agreement with the state-owned oil firm Petroleos de Venezuela SA (PDVSA) to hold 40 per cent stake in the San Cristobel oil field located in Orinoco oil belt in Venezuela. Moreover, Venezuela also supports India's claim for a permanent membership in the UN Security Council.

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President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner's visit to India took place at a time when India and Argentina marked sixty years of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The visit was significant because this was the first Presidential visit from Argentina in 15 years, the last visit was by President Menem in 1994. From the Indian side, the last visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Argentina was in 1995 by late PV Narasimha Rao for the G-15 Summit.

Formal diplomatic relations with Argentina started in 1949. India has an embassy in Buenos Aires and Argentina has an embassy in New Delhi.

Previously, India supported the Argentine claims on British colonies in Southern Atlantic Ocean and other territorial border disputes with Chile.

In this latest visit by the Argentine President, the two sides expressed satisfaction at the growing engagement in the trade and economic spheres. They noted that some Indian companies have made investments in Argentina and that bilateral trade increased from US\$ 694 million in 2003 to US\$1328 million in 2008, almost doubling in the last five years. Furthermore, the two countries pegged the bilateral trade target at an ambitious level of US\$3 billion by 2012. Both nations expressed keenness to expand and diversify trade and economic cooperation in areas in which Argentina and India have comparative advantages, as well to utilize the untapped potentials. India has keenly pursued a Look East Policy since the early 1990s. Probably the time has come for it to embark on a "Look Latin America Policy." Energy requirements and better diplomatic ties to acquire support for its membership in the UN Security Council can be the core issues in this regard.

Major Events in South Asia—November 2009

Nuclear Disarmament/Proliferation/ Security

PAKISTAN

29 November 2009

Pakistani PM takes charge of nuclear weapons

Pakistan's president has transferred authority over the nation's nuclear weapons to the prime ministership, as the unpopular leader tries to deflect growing criticism he has too much power. President Asif Ali Zardari, beset by corruption allegations, has been under pressure to give up sweeping powers that his predecessor Pervez Musharraf accumulated for the presidency. The transfer of the chairmanship of the National Command Authority (NCA), which oversees Pakistan's nuclear arsenal, came as Zardari could face pressure after the lapse of an amnesty opened several of his top aides to prosecution on graft charges. That amnesty, and growing criticism that Zardari has too much power, may herald more political instability in Pakistan, worrying the United States and its allies as the government also gets increasingly embroiled in a war against Islamist militants. (*Reuters, 29 November 2009*)

30 November 2009

Pakistan must have proper control over nuclear assets: Army Chief

Chief of Army staff General Deepak Kapoor on Sunday said it was important to ensure that the control of Pakistan's nuclear weapons command did not go to "wrong hands." Reacting to media reports that the National Command Authority, which controls the nuclear button, has been handed over to Premier Yusouf Raza Gilani, General Kapoor said: "It is more important to have proper control over nuclear weapons and ensure that it does not go to wrong hands." (*The Hindu, 30 November 2009*)

INDIA

18 November 2009

Nuclear installations safe: Manmohan

A day after nuclear installations were put on high alert following inputs that terrorists might target them, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh allayed fears about their safety. "We will do everything in our power to ensure the safety and security of nuclear installations," Dr. Singh said on Tuesday in response to a question on the threat to nuclear plants and India's quest to step up the civil nuclear energy component in its energy mix. At a joint press conference with Dr. Singh here, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper described India as a safe and reliable country and Canada had no reservations in negotiating a civilian nuclear deal with it. Both leaders revealed that they had discussed the case of Canadian born Lashkar-e-Taiba operative Tahawwur Rana and resolved to

step up exchange of information on terrorism. (*The Hindu, 18 November 2009*)

23 November 2009

Night launch for N-capable Agni-II today

India is all set to test its 2,000-km-plus Agni-II missile from the Wheeler Island off Orissa coast again on Monday. Significantly, the nuclear-capable missile will be launched for the first time during night in a major step towards making it fully operational in the Strategic Forces Command (SFC). Defence officials said Agni-II's 'user training trial' was likely to be conducted around 8pm on Monday to give the necessary confidence to the armed forces that the two-stage, solid-fuelled missile can be fired whenever required. Incidentally, DRDO is also working on MIRV (multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles) technology for the Agni series of ballistic missiles. (*The Times of India, 23 November 2009*)

24 November 2009

Agni-II missile fails to clear night trial

India's nuclear-capable intermediate range Agni-II missile, test-fired for the first time after sunset on Monday, reportedly failed to get the desired results. The Army test-fired the surface-to-surface Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) from Wheeler's Island, Bhadrak district, around 7.50pm. "The liftoff and the first stage separation was smooth. But it faltered just before the second stage separation and behaved erratically, deviating from its coordinated path. Further analysis is on to ascertain the cause," said a source. The entire trajectory of Monday's trial was tracked by a battery of sophisticated radars, telemetry observation stations, electro-optic instruments and a naval ship. (*The Times of India, 24 November 2009*)

Antony warns of n-weapons falling into wrong hands

Even as terrorists continue to strike close to crucial nuclear installations in Pakistan, Defence Minister A K Antony has said that there is a real threat of nuclear weapons falling into wrong hands, consequences of which would be 'unimaginable.' The minister said the threat of non state actors getting nuclear weapons is a matter of concern. "The threat of nuclear weapons falling into wrong hands remains an area of serious concern. The consequences of such a situation are unimaginable," Antony said in his keynote address at a global seminar on "The Changing Nature of Conflict" organised by the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS). (*The Indian Express, 24 November 2009*)

25 November 2009

Agni's failure raises eyebrows

The recurring failures of the Agni series, considered one of the most trusted missiles in the Indian arsenal, have raised serious concerns not only among scientists but across the

nation as well. In the past 20 years, since the beginning of Agni's developmental trails, it has failed four times to meet many of the mission parameters, which has left the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) scientists worried. More importantly, nuclear capable 2000 km plus range Agni-II missile has failed to deliver desired results, consecutively twice in the past six months during the "trainer user trials". Unfortunately, the debacle happened at the deployment stage, five years after the induction of the missile in the armed forces. (*The Times of India*, 25 November 2009)

29 November 2009

N-plant radiation leak in Karnataka leaves 45 staffers sick

In a nuclear accident that is bound to raise key safety concerns ahead of India's ambitious atomic expansion programme, about 45 employees of the Kaiga atomic power plant suffered radiation poisoning when radioactive heavy water from the plant contaminated the drinking water. Kaiga is one of India's newer nuclear reactors. There was no official word from the usually secretive nuclear establishment. Sources said the employees were in hospital because they experienced a mildly higher level of radiation than permissible on Friday after drinking from a water cooler near an open area in one of the reactors. Though a tiny amount of radiation is normal, scientists said the contamination was unusual because the affected employees do not go into the actual reactor area but work around it. (*The Times of India*, 29 November 2009)

Nuclear Energy/Environment

25 November 2009

RAPS' fifth nuclear reactor attains criticality

The fifth nuclear reactor of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS-5) at Rawatbhatta, with a capacity of 220 MWe, reached criticality at 12.51 p.m. on Tuesday. This is the 18th nuclear power reactor to be commissioned in the country. With its commissioning, the total nuclear power-generation capacity now stands at 4,340 MWe. "The operation was very smooth. Everything went off perfectly," Chairman and Managing Director of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) S.K. Jain told The indigenous Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR), built by the NPCIL, it uses natural uranium fuel imported from Russia. Hence it will come under the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) safeguards as per the Separation Plan, under which India has agreed to put a total of 14 reactors under the safeguards. (*The Hindu*, 25 November 2009)

Nuclear Cooperation/Treaties/Agreements

21 November 2009

France not for India-like nuclear pact with Pakistan

Much as Pakistan has been trying to project in recent months that France's initiative for a "strategic relationship" with it was on the same lines as that with India, a top French government official made it categorically clear that in no case would it include a civil nuclear cooperation deal. In response to a query as to whether Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi's claim that Paris had decided to initiate a civil nuclear cooperation agreement with Islamabad, the official dismissed it outright saying there was no truth in that statement. Talking to *The Hindu* here, he said: "I can say that nothing like it is on the table. We [France] would like to ensure safety of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal but there is no question of getting into an India-like civil nuclear pact with them. Nothing like it is happening." (*The Hindu*, 21 November 2009)

17 November 2009

Canadian PM hopes India, Canada sign nuclear pact soon

On his first visit to India, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper said that he hoped the two countries would soon sign the bilateral nuclear co-operation agreement to help India's growing need for clean sources of energy. His three-day trip symbolizes Canada's approach to "deepen and nourish the existing business relationship." Addressing Canadian and Indian businessmen at the Trident Hotel, he condemned the 26/11 attacks, recalling Air India's Kanishka bombing in 1985 and said, "Canada strongly condemns the despicable and cowardly attacks on Mumbai." Harper also visited Nariman House and paid homage to the victims of 26/11. (*Hindustan Times*, 17 November 2009)

22 November 2009

India seeks Obama's reaffirmation of nuclear deal: Manmohan Singh

At his Tuesday summit with President Barack Obama, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh would seek "a positive reaffirmation" of his administration to carry forward their landmark civil nuclear deal forged during the previous Bush administration. India had no worries about the US honouring the consent agreement under their "landmark and watershed" nuclear deal, "but we would like a positive reaffirmation of this administration to carry forward that process", Manmohan Singh said in an interview with *Newsweek* ahead of his state visit starting Sunday. "First of all, we had a watershed and a landmark agreement with the US on nuclear cooperation. We would like to operationalise it and ensure that the objectives for the nuclear deal are realised in full merit," Manmohan Singh said talking of his objectives during the visit. (*Hindustan Times*, 22 November 2009)

24 November 2009

U.S. "Fully" Committed to Indian Nuclear Deal, Obama Says

U.S. President Barack Obama said today he intends to enact his predecessor's nuclear trade agreement with India, Reuters reported. Obama spoke at a press conference at the White House with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. "I reaffirmed to the prime minister my administration's commitment to fully implement the U.S.-India civil nuclear agreement, which will increase American exports and create jobs in both countries," Obama said. Singh and then-U.S. President George W. Bush in 2005 signed the agreement that would give New Delhi access to U.S. nuclear materials and technology in exchange for opening its civilian nuclear sector to international monitoring. It would give U.S. companies access to the potential \$150 billion Indian nuclear energy market, Reuters. (*Global Security News-wire*, 24 November 2009)

25 November 2009

Manmohan to travel to US for nuclear summit next year

Looking beyond differences in approach, India and the US on Tuesday agreed to partner each other in global non-proliferation efforts which will be in focus when Prime Minister Manmohan Singh goes to Washington for a nuclear security summit next year. After his wide-ranging talks with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, US President Barack Obama on Tuesday welcomed India's support for his non-proliferation and disarmament agenda and said he looked forward to New Delhi's participation in the nuclear security summit next year. "I welcomed prime minister's support for the non-proliferation agenda that I laid out in Prague," Obama said while assuring India about his commitment for an early and full implementation of the path-breaking nuclear deal. (*Hindustan Times*, 25 November 2009)

26 November 2009

Problems over nuclear deal minor, says Manmohan

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said on Wednesday that problems with the United States on the civil nuclear deal were "minor" and could be resolved in a couple of weeks. "We have had a very good discussion at the highest levels. I have been assured by the U.S. leadership that the U.S. remains committed to the early implementation of the civil nuclear agreement. "There are minor problems with regard to the reprocessing [of the spent] fuel under the 123 agreement. I think there are no insurmountable problems. I am confident that in the next couple of weeks we can sort out issues," Dr. Singh told a press conference, a day before he wraps up his visit. (*The Hindu*, 26 November 2009)

Last mile in the nuclear deal (Editorial)

There can be little question that the failure to reach agreement on the arrangements and procedures for reprocessing spent American fuel on Indian soil during Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to the United States is a let-down. The official Indian claim may be that the problems in settling the issue of reprocessing spent fuel under the 123 agreement are "minor" and of little practical significance

since the U.S. and India have until February 2010 to settle matters. But the fact that the two sides were looking at the agreement as a major deliverable from the visit suggests the bilateral relationship is living on past credit rather than current commitments. The Obama administration has said and done enough in the past six months to raise doubts about its intention of sticking to the letter and spirit of the U.S. obligation to facilitate full civil nuclear cooperation with India. (*The Hindu*, 26 November 2009)

30 November 2009

India, Canada clinch civil nuclear deal

India and Canada have reached a landmark agreement on civil nuclear cooperation after months of hectic negotiations, paving the way for supply of Canadian atomic technology, equipment and uranium to India after a gap of 34 years. The negotiations on the deal were concluded at a meeting between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Canadian counterpart Stephen Harper here on the margins of Commonwealth summit, with the two leaders describing the development as a "milestone" opening up "tremendous opportunity" for their countries. "The civil nuclear agreement is a very important step forward, a milestone for the development of our relationship," Dr. Singh said. (*The Hindu*, 30 November 2009)

Reprocessing pact likely in 10-12 days: M.K. Narayanan

On Board PM's Special Aircraft: India and the United States are expected to finalise a crucial agreement on reprocessing under the civil nuclear deal in 10-12 days, with all but one issue being resolved and negotiations centring around finalising a mutually acceptable legal text. "We have arrived into the last stage of negotiations...only one issue remains, that of finalising the legal text," National Security Adviser M.K. Narayanan told journalists accompanying the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on his return home from a two-nation tour of the U.S. and Trinidad and Tobago. The two sides were racing against time to conclude the agreement for setting up of dedicated reprocessing facility in India before the meeting between Dr. Singh and U.S. President Barack Obama in Washington on Tuesday but could not do so. (*The Hindu*, 30 November 2009)