



# 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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## Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies

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2010 will prove to be an important year for nuclear security and non-proliferation. Despite the obvious decline in momentum, the international community will have a new window of opportunity to advance disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation programs. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference scheduled in May will prove to be a major event this year and is seen as a cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament debate. The treaty as a whole is facing significant challenges and a successful outcome would aim to strengthen confidence not only in the treaty, but also for the collective global effort to build a world free of nuclear weapons.

Several events in particular will impact the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, the Global Zero Summit in Paris and the Global Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, among others. The outcomes of these will eventually culminate in the success of the NPT Review Conference. President Barack Obama sees the Global Nuclear Security Summit as another piece of the non-proliferation agenda he first put forward in his Prague speech. He believes that the most immediate and extreme threat to global security is nuclear terrorism. The approach will be on two levels, reducing existing arsenals, while simultaneously securing vulnerable nuclear materials. Obama's agenda for this year includes substantial reductions in the US and Russian nuclear arsenals; the US ratification of the CTBT and strengthening of the NPT. Additionally, the United States is also pressing Pakistan to stop blocking negotiations on the FMCT at the UN Conference on Disarmament, stating that it is an imperative measure to move forward.

Iran will continue to be the most dynamic issue for this coming year and it will be essential for the international community to work towards developing a solution to Iran's nuclear development program. In recent weeks, Iran has been stepping up uranium enrichment levels, expanding its nuclear fuel cycle plans

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and announcing the development of 10 more nuclear-fuel enrichment plants (two within the next year). This has paved the way for the international community to move ahead with "crippling sanctions" on Iran, targeting the Revolutionary Guard and the government. For these economic sanctions to be effectual it is critical for international unity to form and that requires the support of China and Russia.

India, on its part, has made overtures that it wishes to join the NPT as a nuclear weapon state only. Recently, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh stated on Fareed Zakaria's show that India wants to join the NPT and become the sixth NPT recognized nuclear power. This poses enormous hurdles for the treaty as the United States and the other four nuclear weapon states may not want another member in the club. India's nuclear arsenal is mainly a deterrent and the country has not made any attempts to proliferate nuclear weapons, unlike China or Pakistan. Bringing India, however, into the fold may pose problems and adds a degree of complexity. Whether India succeeds or fails, its move highlights inherent problems with the NPT and forces non-proliferation advocates to think of new ways to strengthen their efforts.

## Ensuring India's Nuclear Energy Industry Growth

*Nandakumar J, Senior Energy Analyst, GlobalData, Hyderabad, India*

Domestic factors pose more serious challenges than external factors to India's nuclear energy industry development. While there have been no security lapses reported about the safety of nuclear power facilities that are protected against non-state actors, domestic factors like issues in radiation management and public opinion regarding uranium mining and atomic power facilities could affect the growth of India's nuclear energy industry.

The recent accident, in which some 40 employees in the Kaiga nuclear power facility were exposed to radiation due to the consuming contaminated drinking water in the premises, indicates that the country needs to take serious steps to prevent any such mishap. Whether the incident resulted from technical errors or security lapses or the act of a "disgruntled individual" it is important for the government to ensure security in its facilities and its work force to ensure the safe development of India's nuclear power industry. This is especially important since nuclear power will play a major role in the energy mix of the country over the longer term.

With 17 operational reactors in India, the country produces about 15 billion kilowatt-hour of electricity from its nuclear power facilities, which constitutes only 2.5 per cent of the total electricity output. Many more reactors are planned, and India has signed nuclear cooperation agreements with other proficient countries like the United States and France.

There is little doubt of the potential of nuclear power to be an alternative for conventional thermal fuels for electricity generation. The country hopes to install some 20,000 MW of nuclear capacity by 2020 and a total of 63,000 MW by 2032. If fully developed, nuclear power could be of significance for India, as the country will have an enormous demand for electricity in the coming years. However, public opinion has been divided on the issue of overall social costs and benefits of nuclear energy. There is a lack of adequate knowledge in the general population about the advantages and disadvantages of nuclear energy. It is believed that the nuclear establishment and the various governments in power have kept the public in the dark regarding issues concerning the nuclear sector.

Some of these issues relate to nuclear waste management, and have been used by sections of the political community for their anti-nuclear agenda. Though nuclear reactor fuel is cost competitive, the capital costs, expenses of decommissioning and waste management are considered additional burdens for nuclear power generation. Often these factors are utilized by antinuclear lobbies in the

country to suggest that nuclear power is not economically feasible. Moulding favourable public opinion in India appears to be a difficult task, but it is a strategic necessity.

India has an excellent track record with regard to non-proliferation. Safety measures in all the Indian nuclear facilities conform to international standards. However, some of the issues related to domestic nuclear radiation and waste management have engendered negative perceptions of the nuclear industry. The major factor that has shaped anti-nuclear sentiments in the people is the inefficient handling of radiation problems in nuclear power, uranium mining and milling facilities.

The mining facilities of the Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) in Jaduguda in Bihar have often invited criticism on the radiation issues associated with mining and milling operations. According to a Down to Earth study the company allegedly dumps waste from the mines in open fields and transports uranium ore in uncovered dumpers. It even supplied mine tailings as construction material to the villagers. The study also says that in December 2006, a pipe burst spilling radioactive waste; since there was no warning system in place the authorities took about nine hours to respond. There are many people with congenital deformities born near Jaduguda. High incidence of tuberculosis, skin and lung cancer and other diseases are also found.

The inefficiency in managing these radiation issues often turns into protests against the nuclear establishment and its facilities. Some political sections have capitalized these issues to promote their anti-nuclear agenda. Other uranium mining/milling sites in India also face such problems. The Domiasiat project in Meghalaya and the Lambapur- Peddagattu Project in Nalgonda, Andhra Pradesh, are other sites where public concerns often inform anti-nuclear sentiments. These factors play a significant role in shaping public perceptions, and they are often used as political weapons against the ruling government, which ultimately affects nuclear industry development in the country.

The government needs to address these challenges by strengthening radiation prevention and nuclear waste management measures. Without proactive steps by the Government, the domestic challenges will continue to be serious concerns for the nuclear industry's development. Since nuclear energy has to play a major role in ensuring the country's long term energy security, ensuring the stability of the industry is critical for achieving the nation's economic goals.

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## North Korean Nuclear Issue: The Road Ahead

*Jasbir Rakhra, Research Officer, Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies*

North Korea made a surprising peace pledge this year. Kim Jong Il's new year resolution is to create a nuclear-free Korean peninsula. The statement has brought new hopes for the daunting task of denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. Although the international community has welcomed the positive gesture made by North Korea, doubts continue to persist for North Korea's actions in the past have undermined the possibility of a nuclear-free Korean peninsula. According to the statement, North Korea seems eager to carry forward its bilateral negotiations with the United States. The question is, however, how successful would these bilateral negotiations be if South Korea is kept out of the loop? Moreover, will the six-party talks resume this year? These are some of the several apprehensions concerning North Korea's nuclear programme.

North Korea quit the six-party talks as well as the bilateral talks with the US last year in response to international criticism over its long-range rocket test. Subsequently, hopes for denuclearization were further eroded after the second nuclear test in May 2009. North Korea justifies its nuclear programme as a means to deter the United States; how valid, however, are such reasons? North Korea became party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in 1985, yet continued with its nuclear programme along with its involvement in covert proliferation activities.

North Korea has continued to test missiles without any adherence to international norms thereby undermining the six-party talks. Earlier during the six-party negotiations, North Korea remained on the negotiating table on one hand, and continued with its covert activities on the other. The negotiations were nothing but a bargaining chip for North Korea to receive economic aid and concessions from the negotiating parties. It, therefore, seems that the nuclear programme is representative of North Korea's military desire rather than US threat.

In its 1 January 2010 message, North Korea gave several clues vis-à-vis its policies for the year. Accordingly, North Korea is looking forward to better relations with the West as well as its neighbours for the economic betterment of the country and is therefore willing to renegotiate the nuclear issue. The international community has learnt lessons from its past negotiations with North Korea where the regime has displayed a tendency to switch tactics. Therefore, to prove its adherence to the new year resolution, North Korea must display good faith and return to the six-party talks. It is important for North Korea to realise that negotiations with United States alone cannot resolve the issue. South Korea,

Japan, China and Russia, the North's neighbours, are major stakeholders too. In this regard, China should take responsibility for resuming the six-party talks and must act as an arbitrator again. An agenda for accounting the nuclear activities of North Korea in the past must be put forward at the very beginning of any such negotiations; without raising this issue, further goals cannot be achieved.

The upcoming Review Conference for the NPT (NPT RevCon) is significant this year, especially in the case of North Korea. Although North Korea has begun the new year with a positive approach towards denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, it is important that such statements are matched by actions as well. North Korea, therefore, should become a party to the NPT once again. This will open channels for all concerned parties and would also be the most formidable step towards the denuclearization. On its part, North Korea should voice

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its concerns regarding the Negative Security Assurances (NSA), which has been an outstanding issue at the NPT RevCon; the nuclear threat from United States has always been regarded by North Korea as the primary motive behind its nuclear programme.

As far as the North's relations with South Korea are concerned, the Lee Myung Bak regime took a hard line approach towards North Korea. The year 2009 also witnessed a naval confrontation between the Koreas. The naval confrontation was a direct consequence of South Korea's decision to participate in the US led Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI). Kim Dae-jong's regime had taken several steps for improving relations between the two nations; President Lee, however, opted for hard-line policies instead. Lee Myung Bak's efforts must aim at resumption of talks between the two Koreas in the present context.

While South Korea is also aiming at a nuclear-free Korean peninsula, this goal cannot be achieved without improving relations with the North. North Korea must understand that tactics of nuclear blackmail would now be futile and it has to adhere to treaties and declarations. The North has to pursue its resolution for denuclearization with a respect for international norms. This would in turn ensure cooperation and improvement in the living conditions of an impoverished North Korean population.

## Towards the 2010 NPT Review Conference

*Report of the IPCS Panel Discussion held on 19 January 2010*

### SPEAKERS:

**Prof. R Rajaraman**, *Emeritus Professor of Physics, Jawaharlal Nehru University*

**Rear. Adm. Raja Menon**, *Former Chairman, Task Force on Net Assessment and Simulation, National Security Council*

**Amb. Arundhati Ghose**, *Former Permanent Representative of India to the UN Conference on Disarmament*

### Introductory Remarks: Maj. Gen. Dipankar Banerjee

In the run up to the 2010 Review Conference, the IPCS will be initiating a series of discussions that will help us understand what the developments are likely to be; where the discussions might be heading; what may be the outcome, and most importantly how these developments would impact the Indian policy and its security concerns.

### Setting the Doomsday Clock 2010: Prof. R Rajaraman

The Bulletin is a semi-technical periodical, founded in 1945 soon after the atomic holocaust of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. A key feature of the Bulletin has been the "Doomsday Clock," appearing on the cover of every issue since 1947. This symbolic Clock conveys how close humanity is to catastrophic nuclear destruction. The recent Clock setting had to reflect the overall change since the last setting in 2007. In this perspective the Board found many reasons for hope have emerged in the last three years. However it also noted that some of these have not fructified as fast or as fully as one might have wished for.

There has been some serious cooperation between the US and Russia to negotiate a new START treaty and bring down their deployed strategic warheads from more than 2,000 to about 1,500 warheads each. President Obama has also removed a major obstruction to starting FMCT negotiations by making a strong call for a 'verifiable' treaty. He has also promised to push for ratification of CTBT by the senate. The UK has further reduced its number of deployed warheads to about 160, with only 3 Trident submarines as delivery vehicles, of which only one will be at sea at any given time. France has also announced an unspecified cut in its arsenal. The P5 powers are continuing their moratorium on fissile material production (although China has not formalized this).

Because of all these heartening developments, if the Clock setting had been changed a year ago, it would probably have been pulled quite a bit back from midnight. But more recently, further progress on some of the promising initiatives has been slow or discouraging. Some of Obama's political capital within the US has been used up in dealing with the economic recession and the health care reform bill. The task of pushing the CTBT ratification through the US senate has become harder and may be delayed by a year or more.

### India's Disarmament Decision-Making Structure and Policy Formulation: Rear. Adm. Raja Menon

The 2010 Review Conference may be an above-average conference. There has been no serious attempt to undermine the agenda even before the conference commences, as a result of which there may be some great changes. Can India deal with changes on the nonproliferation front as well as other crucial issues such as climate change and energy security?

A study done by the ICRIER on the kind of the situations India is likely to face in 2020-2025 points out that a number of issues will become as important as geography-based foreign policy. Many of these issues will be as important, if not more, than regions. The issues include nuclear weapons, arms control, global warming, food scarcity, water issues, alternative energy and energy security. What this posits is that, relationships between states will be seriously affected by the positions adopted by the countries on these issues, which will then become drivers of relationship between states. Therefore, merely dealing with these as part of the region and having no expertise on the issue would prove detrimental.

India is not structured to deal with this kind of situation and nuclear issue may not even be the biggest concern. A good example for this is the likely fallout of the Copenhagen conference. What is expected to arise from this is that the US could be facing two scenarios. One is that the US reinvents itself and the second is where it does not reinvent itself. The consequences are very clear. If it reinvents itself, it continues to be the world hegemon. Reinventing means, whatever lead the US had over rest of the world in 1914 increased because of the industrial revolution. Likewise the gap between the US and the rest of the world increased with the internet revolution. Will this happen again? It can happen as a result of the decisions taken at Copenhagen which will drive government policies to make alternative energy cheaper. However, if alternative energy is going to be cheaper, it will be at the high-end of technology. Almost 20-40 per cent of the scientists in the US in the high-end of technology are Indians. Therefore, India has an opportunity to be the manufacturing base of the change in the way the world is going to view energy. The transit is from global warming to a new industrial revolution. Can India therefore participate in the revolution that will occur there from?

### India and the NPT: Amb. Arundhati Ghose

It has been suggested that both India and Pakistan are the only one increasing their arsenals but the countries like Iran and China are involved in production of fissile material and delaying the FMCT further. Why is the international community so worried about India and Pakistan when countries such as the United States are developing RRW (Reliable Replacements Warheads) in the name of modernization? Is that so because India and Pakistan are not the members of NPT (Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty)?

Looking at the facts on India and NPT, India has been allergic to NPT for decades. India has never discussed the negotiations at the NPT Review Conferences. There have been occasions when India, through NAM (Non Aligned Movement), tried to influence the negotiations at the Review Conferences. The situation however started changing since 1998, where India started referring to itself as a nuclear weapons state (NWS) which was evident from the statements of the former External Affairs Ministers in the Parliament on India's compliance with the objectives of NPT as a nuclear weapons state.

The first major issue is the importance of the Review Conference to India. At one level entire the process (of Review Conference) does not have any norms which control proliferation. On the other level, India is facing a different kind of situation as the restrictions placed on non-parties to the NPT in terms of nuclear commerce have been waived for just for one of the three outliers, which is not acceptable to everyone regardless of the NSG (Nuclear Supplier Group) waiver. The other issue is India's firm stand on being recognized as a nuclear weapons state. India has clearly declared to the international community, through its ambassadors, that it will approach the negotiations on the fissile material treaty or the NPT as a nuclear weapons state only.

## DISCUSSION

### Comments/Questions

#### Fissile Material and the Fast Breeder Reactors

- How critical would the fast breeder reactor be on technical grounds? Has India overcommitted itself on the development of fast breeder reactors?
- What would be the status of fast breeder reactor if thorium does not work?
- What is the scope for commercial power generation through fast breeder reactors?

#### Doomsday Clock and Climate Change

- Was the concern of nuclear weapons falling in the hands of non-state actors discussed during the Clock Setting? What was rationale for factoring climate change during the Clock setting?

#### India and the NPT

India's main contention vis-à-vis the NPT is that the treaty overlooks India's security concerns. The softening process, however, took place through the Jaswant Singh-Strobe Talbot dialogue. The NPT as an issue soon disappeared because the Americans were convinced that India would not sign the NPT, yet it would adhere to the spirit of the treaty despite being a non-signatory. On the other hand, India's

allergy to the NPT seems to be gradually disappearing with the Prime Minister statement that India would enter the NPT regime as a nuclear weapons state. If India is not going to take part in the 2010 NPT Rev Con, it must then be represented at least by a NGO to voice its concern as a nuclear weapon state.

### Responses

- France, Japan and Russia have been using fast breeder reactors for commercial purposes. Therefore, discussions and collaborations with these countries are now possible. The only concern is that of thorium as far as the commercial scale reprocessing is concerned. India has not overcommitted itself on the FBR. The Phoenix reactor in France was operational till the end of its life. Russia is building FBRs of 750 MWe in Kazakhstan. India's FRB capacity is 500 MWe.
- On the issue of power generation, India must keep the breeder process going with more emphasis on building conventional reactors as Uranium is going to be available. It is important to note whether the breeder is for civilian energy or as the current breeder, which is for military purpose. For the current breeder, the plutonium and its separation processes have to be done and it is allowed under the Indo-US nuclear deal. The reprocessing would undoubtedly be allowed for any future breeders for civilian purposes but under IAEA supervision.
- The question of nuclear weapons falling in hands of non-state actors in Pakistan was indeed raised at the meeting for Clock setting, there is, however, difficulty in quantifying it to make a sensible statement. Further, the threat by the Taliban is undoubtedly serious but India is facing greater dangers pertaining to climate change. The nuclear attack by the Taliban on India in the near future seems to be some what lower.
- Climate change was factored in the Clock setting as it was felt that it is a global danger, although, the major question that was raised was regarding how to quantify climate change problem with that of nuclear problem.
- As far as the negotiations on the START treaty is concerned, the international community is worried as the discussions are not converging. Reduction in Missiles and warheads must go hand-in-hand. Therefore, the Russians are very keen that there should be missile disarmament rather than just warhead disarmament

*(Log on to [www.ipcs.org](http://www.ipcs.org) for complete report of the Panel Discussion)*

## Major Events in South Asia - January and February 2010

### Nuclear Disarmament/Proliferation/ Security

#### PAKISTAN

**12 January 2010**

#### **'Pakistan Fully Implementing Nuclear Export Controls'**

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nawabzada Malik Amad Khan on Tuesday said Pakistan, as a nuclear power and a responsible member of the comity of nations, was fully implementing effective export controls in line with international obligations. He was speaking as chief guest at a day-long seminar on 'Export Controls in Pakistan' organized by Strategic Export Control Division (SECDIV) held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here. The purpose of the seminar was to sensitize and educate public sector organizations on strategic export controls in Pakistan. The Minister said wide-ranging legislative, regulatory instruments and administrative mechanisms had been put in place to prevent proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and their means of delivery to states or non-state actors. (*Associated Press of Pakistan, 12 January 2010*)

**13 January 2010**

#### **Pakistan concerned over "massive" Indian arms buildup**

Pakistan expressed concern on Wednesday about a "massive" buildup of arms by old rival India, warning that it could jeopardise a regional balance. The statement by the National Command Authority (NCA), which oversees Pakistan's nuclear weapons, came a day after Russian and Indian officials announced that Russia would lease its new Nerpa nuclear-powered submarine to India this year. Relations between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan have been strained since Pakistan-based militants raided Mumbai in November 2008, killing 166 people. Recent reported remarks by India's army chief General Deepak Kapoor that his country was capable of fighting Pakistan and China at the same time, raised alarm in Pakistan. (*The Times of India, 13 January 2010*)

**17 January 2010**

#### **No Threat to Nuke Assets: FO**

Pakistan on Sunday categorically said that its nuclear arsenals were safe and there was no danger of their falling into the hands of anyone, as being propagated by the western media. "We trust our nuclear capabilities and there was no threat to them from anyone," Abdul Basit said to report that a US elite unit is being trained to capture and defuse Pakistani nuclear weapons in an event of their fall into the wrong hands. The spokesman said it was not for the first time that western media has speculated about Pakistan's nuclear program's security. "We should not be scared of them (speculations), nor should we give them any importance," Basit said a particular lobby in the western media is falsely propagating about the security of Pakistan's nukes. Meanwhile, Defence Minister Ahmad Mukhtar told newsmen that country's nuclear program and assets are under very tight control. (*The Daily Mail, 17 January 2010*)

#### **Pakistan Nuke Capability Sans US Aid: Dr Khan**

Renowned Nuclear Scientist of Pakistan Dr. Qadeer Khan has pointed out that Pakistan owing to its best missile technology can target every city of India and Pakistan got its nuclear capability without American assistance. He was talking to visit media fare on Saturday. Talking to a private TV channel here on Friday, he disclosed that Pakistan had got the nuclear capability in 1984 and Pakistan had not utilized American assistance to for its atomic capability adding that during the decade of ninety annual budget of KRL (Kahuta Research Laboratories) was allocated only \$ 20-25 millions. He also disclosed that he had written a letter to former Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif regarding permission for atomic explosions as he was threatened of possible sanctions that could be imposed on Pakistan, so he took the courage and directed to atomic explosion. (*Pakistan Observer, 17 January 2010*)

#### **Elite US Troops Ready to Combat Pakistani Nuclear Hijacks**

The US army is training a crack unit to seal off and snatch back Pakistani nuclear weapons in the event that militants, possibly from inside the country's security apparatus, get their hands on a nuclear device or materials that could make one. The specialised unit would be charged with recovering the nuclear materials and securing them. The move follows growing anti-Americanism in Pakistan's military, a series of attacks on sensitive installations over the past two years, several of which housed nuclear facilities, and rising tension that has seen a series of official complaints by US authorities to Islamabad in the past fortnight. "What you have in Pakistan is nuclear weapons mixed with the highest density of extremists in the world, so we have a right to be concerned," said Rolf Mowatt-Larssen, a former CIA officer who used to run the US energy department's intelligence unit. (*The Times, 17 January 2010*)

**19 January 2010**

#### **Pakistan blocks agenda at U.N. disarmament conference**

Arms negotiators failed to start talks on Tuesday on cutting nuclear weapons when Pakistan blocked the adoption of the 2010 agenda for the U.N.-sponsored Conference on Disarmament. The conference, the world's sole multinational negotiating forum for disarmament, spent much of 2009 stuck on procedural wrangles raised by Pakistan after breaking a 12-year deadlock to agree a programme of work. The impasse on Tuesday suggested 2010 would be another year of halting progress. Pakistan, which tested a nuclear weapon in 1998, is wary of the proposed focus in the programme on limiting the production of fissile material, which would put it at a disadvantage against longer-standing nuclear powers such as India. (*Reuters, 19 January 2010*)

**20 January 2010**

#### **Al-Qaeda Seeks to Heighten South Asian Tensions, Gates Warns**

An al-Qaeda-linked terrorist strike in South Asia could lead to another military conflict between nuclear-armed rivals India and Pakistan, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates

warned today. A handful of organizations within a regional al-Qaeda "syndicate" aim "to destabilize not just Afghanistan, not just Pakistan, but potentially the whole region by provoking a conflict perhaps between India and Pakistan through some provocative act," Gates told reporters in New Delhi, according to Agence France-Presse. "It's important to recognize the magnitude of the threat that the entire region faces," he added, saying the al-Qaeda "umbrella" included the Taliban groups in Pakistan and Afghanistan as well as the Pakistani-based extremist organization Lashkar-e-Taiba, which is believed to have masterminded the 2008 terror attack on the Indian city of Mumbai. (*Global Security Newswire, 20 January 2010*)

### 22 January 2010

#### **Pakistan asks US to enter into civilian-nuclear energy cooperation**

The US should enter into civilian-nuclear energy cooperation with Pakistan and recognise it as a nuclear state, Defence Minister Ahmad Mukhtar told US Defence Secretary Robert Gates on Thursday. The meeting focused on Pakistan's role in the war on terror, its security and economic needs and the region's geo-strategic situation with special reference to Afghanistan. The meeting emphasised the need to promote a long and durable strategic partnership based on mutual trust, respect and shared goals. Mukhtar briefed Gates on Pakistan's counterterrorism efforts. He said Pakistan was committed to eliminating terrorism and extremism and had been playing a key role in this regard. The US delegation appreciated the sacrifices and contribution made by Pakistani security forces against terrorism and militancy. (*Daily Times, 22 January 2010*)

### 26 January 2010

#### **US asks Pakistan to stop blocking nuclear talks**

Pakistan is delaying international talks on a ban on the production of new nuclear bomb material, insisting that any deal must also require its archrival India to reduce its existing stockpile. President Barack Obama has pushed for the ban, and the United States on Tuesday urged Pakistan to allow a quick start to the talks at the U.N. Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. "It is imperative that we work together ... and begin substantive work in 2010," U.S. representative Garold N. Larson told the meeting. India has a larger stock of fissile material and the capacity to build more warheads than Pakistan. Pakistan fears that India is gaining disproportionate power in South Asia after a 2008 agreement on civilian nuclear cooperation between the U.S. and India, and a series of strategic and economic cooperation deals it has concluded with countries including Russia. (*The Washington Post, 26 January 2010*)

### 3 February 2010

#### **Pakistan nuclear arsenal safe: Top US spy chief**

Pakistan's military knows there would be "catastrophic consequences, primarily for Pakistan," if any of its nuclear bombs fell into the wrong hands, the top US intelligence chief said Wednesday. Director of National Intelligence Dennis Blair's comments came one day after another top US

national security official told the Senate Intelligence Committee that "vulnerabilities exist" in Pakistan's nuclear safeguards. "The Pakistan army takes very seriously the security of its weapons, and they know the catastrophic consequences -- primarily for Pakistan -- if they were to get loose," Blair told the House Intelligence Committee. "From what we see of the measures that they take, they are keeping them safe," Blair told lawmakers concerned about the stability of Pakistan and the fate of its atomic arsenal as it grapples with Islamic extremists. (*Agence France-Presse, 3 February 2010*)

### 11 February 2010

#### **Pakistan is My Biggest Worry: Biden**

US Vice President Joe Biden said Wednesday that his greatest concern was not Afghanistan, not Iraq, nor the Iranian nuclear crisis, but Pakistan. "I think it's a big country. It has nuclear weapons that are able to be deployed. It has a real significant minority of radicalized population," Biden said in an interview with CNN. "It is not a completely functional democracy in the sense we think about it, and so that's my greatest concern." President Barack Obama's administration has called on Pakistan to see greater urgency in the fight against extremism as the United States pours thousands more troops into Afghanistan to fight Al-Qaeda and Taliban extremists. US officials have long been concerned that elements in the Pakistani establishment support extremists, despite the nation's offensives against Taliban strongholds in border areas. (*Agence France-Presse, 11 February 2010*)

### 23 February 2010

#### **Pakistan Rules Out Joining Nonproliferation Treaty**

Pakistan indicated this weekend that India's increasing military strength would prevent Islamabad from signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear power, even if New Delhi agreed to do just that, Kyodo News reported. "We cannot sign the treaty. We cannot give up nuclear weapons," Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman Abdul Basit said in an interview. "If you have a conventional imbalance between Pakistan and India, then obviously our reliance on nuclear deterrence increases correspondingly." "At one point in time, we were ready to sign the treaty, provided it was also done by India," the official said. "That is the position that we took, but it has become outdated." Now, Islamabad would only sign the treaty if it recognized Pakistan as a legitimate nuclear power, Basit said. (*Global Security Newswire, 23 February 2010*)

## INDIA

### 11 January 2010

#### **2 Astra missiles successfully test fired**

Achieving a new milestone, India on Monday successfully test-fired two indigenously developed air-to-air missiles 'Astra' in quick succession from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Orissa. The beyond visual range (BVR) missiles were test-fired from a ground launcher in the launch pad No. 2 of the ITR complex at about 9.45 am and 12.06 pm, defence sources said. Describing both the trials as "successful", they said the data of the flight test was being thoroughly analysed.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) scientists said Astra was a futuristic missile and it could intercept targets at supersonic speeds between mach 1.2 to 1.4 (mach one is equivalent to 1236 kmph). "The tests on the missile's navigation, control, air frame, propulsion and other sub-system have been validated," they said. (*The Indian Express*, 11 January 2010)

### 13 January 2010

#### **Russia to lease nuclear submarine to India for decade: report**

Russia will lease a multifunctional nuclear submarine to India for a decade in the second half of this year, the Itar-Tass news agency reported Tuesday, quoting a Russian Defense Ministry official. The Nerpa nuclear submarine, which successfully concluded tests last December, will be handed over to India this summer or autumn, the unidentified official told Itar-Tass. The official said Indian crew would come to Russia's military base near the far eastern port of Vladivostok to take the Nerpa on trial. "After the signing of an act of acceptance, the Nerpa will head for India," the source said. Mikhail Dmitriev, director of the Federal Service of Military and Technical Cooperation, said in December 2008 that Russia might lease a nuclear submarine to India for 10 years. (*China View*, 13 January 2010)

### 14 January 2010

#### **Centre gives its nod to nuclear power plant at Haripur**

The Union Environment ministry has given the clearance for the proposed nuclear plant at Haripur in East Midnapore. Union minister for Environment and Forest Jairam Ramesh, who had a meeting with Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee at the Writers' Building, declared this on Wednesday. Asked about the Trinamool opposition to the plant, Ramesh said: "I have not heard about this agitation, but my ministry has given clearance for the project." During his recent visit to Russia, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had signed an agreement with the Russian government for collaboration on setting up five nuclear plants in the country, including the one in Haripur. (*The Indian Express*, 14 January 2010)

### 20 January 2010

#### **Armed forces want nuclear specialist in NSA restructuring**

With the role of the national security adviser up for some tinkering after M K Narayanan's exit, the armed forces are keen that "a specialist" takes charge of all matters connected to nuclear weapons. A chief of defence staff (CDS), over the three Service chiefs, of course, would have been ideal to act 'a single-point military advisor' to the government as well as manage the country's nuclear arsenal. But with the government still apathetic towards creation of this crucial post, which would also help in formulating concrete long-term strategic plans, the clamour is growing for 'a person well-versed in nuclear matters' to play the lead role in the 'executive council' of the Nuclear Command Author-

ity (NCA). (*The Times of India*, 20 January 2010)

### 7 February 2010

#### **India successfully test-fires nuclear-capable Agni-III missile**

India on Sunday successfully test-fired its indigenous Agni-III ballistic missile with a range of 3500 kms from the Wheeler Island off the coast of Orissa, making the nuclear-capable platform ready for induction into the armed forces. "The fourth test-firing of the Agni-III missile was carried out at 1050 hours today. It was for the full range and it hit the target with pinpoint accuracy and met all the mission objectives," Defence Ministry spokesman Sitanshu Kar said in New Delhi. Two Navy ships located near the target tracked and witnessed the missile hitting it accurately, he said. During today's launch, the missile was fired from a mobile rail launcher, sources in Balasore said. Defence Minister AK Antony congratulated DRDO chief VK Saraswat and the scientists involved in the Agni-III project on the "remarkable success" of the missile test. (*Hindustan Times*, 7 February 2010)

### 10 February 2010

#### **India will test 5,000-km-range nuclear-capable missile**

India will test a nuclear-capable missile with a range over 5,000 kilometres (3,000 miles) within a year, the country's top military scientist said Wednesday, which could stoke regional tensions. "The next series of missiles is Agni-V, which has left the drawing board and is moving toward the first flight trial within the year," the country's chief military scientist V.K. Saraswat told a news conference in New Delhi. India's current longest-range nuclear-capable missile Agni-III can travel a maximum of 3,500 kilometres and Saraswat announced the system was now ready for use by the military. "It is the full deterrence that the country needs," he said. (*Agence France-Presse*, 10 February 2010)

### 12 February 2010

#### **Nuclear liability bill: PM seeks BJP's help**

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has sought BJP's help in ensuring passage of nuclear liability bill that has been cleared by the Cabinet and needs the assistance of the main Opposition in Rajya Sabha where the ruling coalition is short of numbers. The PM made the request during an interaction with senior BJP leaders last month. The PMO is actively following on Singh's initiative and the intricacies and implications of the bill would be explained to BJP leaders. The government is keen to push the bill through in the forthcoming session as it has been hanging fire from before the 2009 national elections. There has been considerable US interest in the bill that is essential for American firms to do business in India's nuclear sector. The bill was cleared by the Cabinet ahead of Singh's US visit last year. (*The Times of India*, 12 February 2010)

### 22 February 2010

#### **India expanding civil n-energy programme: President**

India is fast expanding its 'ambitious' civil nuclear energy programme and has signed peaceful atomic agreements with many countries, President Pratibha Patil said here Monday, adding that many more such deals were being negotiated. 'As part of

the ambitious expansion of the country's nuclear energy programme, approval was accorded to the construction of additional pressurised heavy water reactors and sites for setting up light water reactors,' said Patil, highlighting the government's achievements in the field of nuclear energy in the last year. She was addressing the joint session of parliament which commenced its budget session Monday. 'Following the availability of imported fuel, as a result of the opening of international civil nuclear cooperation, commercial production has commenced in two units of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Project,' the president said, adding that one more unit was expected to begin commercial production soon. (*Indo-Asian News Service, 22 February 2010*)

## Nuclear Energy/Environment

**5 January 2010**

### **Koodankulam project may go on stream by June**

The Koodankulam nuclear power project is likely to go on stream by the middle of the year, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) Chairman Srikumar Banerjee said on Monday. Addressing presspersons on the sidelines of the 20th annual conference of the Indian Nuclear Society (INS), Dr. Banerjee, expressing satisfaction at the "good progress" of the project, said the first (of the two 1,000 MWe) reactor of the Koodankulam Nuclear Power Project could achieve criticality by mid-2010. "We could initiate talks at the highest level to ensure that the small gaps in delivery of components and installation are handled quickly," Dr. Banerjee said. (*The Hindu, 5 January 2010*)

### **India Planning Major Expansion of Its Nuclear-Power Capacity**

Reports indicate that India is planning a major expansion of its nuclear-power capacity. According to a report in Nature News, Srikumar Banerjee, head of the India's Atomic Energy Commission, said that the country is planning to increase nuclear power generation to 60 gigawatts by about 2035, from the current 4.7 gigawatts produced from 18 reactors. By increasing the nuclear capacity to 60 gigawatts, it would be roughly 10 percent of expected total installed capacity. "India's established reserve of uranium will allow us to raise our installed capacity only to 10 gigawatts," he said. We are intensifying our efforts to search for uranium in the country, but that takes time. But now that the Nuclear Suppliers Group (the international group that oversees nuclear exports) has relaxed its guidelines, we can access international markets," he added. (*ANI, 5 January 2010*)

**9 January 2010**

### **IIT-K scientist develops nuclear reactor using lead-bismuth**

The Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur, which is known for original research in various sectors of science and technology, has added another feather to its cap. A senior project scientist of IIT-K has been successful in prepar-

ing a model of a nuclear reactor which uses 'Lead-Bismuth' (its a liquid mixture) as a coolant instead of 'light water' (normally used in a reactor). The design of the proposed reactor has been developed at IIT-Kanpur with the support of a US-based company. "We have prepared a model of a reactor which is cooled by 'lead-bismuth'. Therefore, operation of this reactor will be faster as compared to the water cooled reactors. It (lead-bismuth) is also more efficient and thus will be capable of producing or extracting more power from the reactor and that too in very less time," said Dr Ashutosh Tiwari while talking to TOI. (*The Times of India, 9 January 2010*)

**11 January 2010**

### **India to have five nuclear energy parks by 2032**

India would set up five energy parks by 2032 to raise the generation of nuclear energy. "The selected sites for the energy parks are Haripur in West Bengal, Mithi Viridi in Gujarat, Jaitapur in Maharashtra, Kovvada in Andhra Pradesh and Kudamkulam in Tamil Nadu," chairman of Atomic Energy Commission and secretary, Department of Atomic Energy, Srikumar Banerjee said today. The country plans to have 35,000 MW of installed capacity by 2020 and 60,000 MW by 2032, Banerjee said at the 60th foundation day of Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics here. Out of this, 40,000 MW to 45,000 MW would come from energy parks and the balance from the other installations. (*Press Trust of India, 11 January 2010*)

### **Decongestion of laboratories, a priority: AEC chief**

Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Srikumar Banerjee, told journalists here on Monday that the DAE was introducing new safety standards to prevent the recurrence of accidents in its units. He also said that decongestion of the laboratories was a major priority for DAE. "We are trying to see if we can store chemicals elsewhere instead of keeping them at the laboratory itself," said Mr. Banerjee. He also pointed out that some of the DAE laboratories were very congested with 4,200 scientists and several research students working at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) itself. To reduce congestion the DAE was in the process of constructing a large laboratory facility at Vishakapatnam, Mr. Banerjee said. (*The Hindu, 11 January 2010*)

**24 January 2010**

### **Nuclear generation up on improved uranium supplies**

With uranium supplies perking up, nuclear power generation surged 39 per cent in December 2009 and 19 per cent for the April-December period this fiscal. Power generation at gas-based stations also rose 31 per cent during the April-December period due to the availability of KG D-6 gas, partly making up for the dip in hydro generation due to erratic monsoon, and the sluggish coal-fired generation. According to Government data, the generation from nuclear power stations during the April-December period surged with the production at key stations including Kaiga, Rajasthan Atomic Power Station, Madras Atomic Power Station and Tarapur rising as fuel availability improved. (*The Hindu Business Line, 24 January 2010*)

**8 February 2010**

### Indian reactor enters commercial operation

The new fifth unit at India's Rajasthan Atomic Power Project (RAPP) entered commercial operation on 4 February, Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) announced. The 202 MWe pressurized heavy water reactor (PHWR) achieved first criticality on 24 November and was connected to the grid on 22 December. The commissioning of the reactor brings the total number of power reactors in commercial operation in India to 18 with a combined generating capacity of 4340 MWe. The sixth unit at RAPP - also a 202 MWe PHWR - achieved first criticality on 23 January and is currently undergoing statutory tests in preparation of its grid connection and commercial operation. The commissioning of the sixth unit will bring the site's total installed capacity to 1180 MWe. (*World Nuclear News*, 8 February 2010)

### 9 February 2010

#### 'Nuclear power vital for India's future energy needs'

The growing energy needs of a developing country like India could only be met by ramping up nuclear power capacity, former Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) chairperson and Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) secretary Anil Kakodkar has said. "India's total power demand-supply gap will widen to 412 Gigawatt (412,000 Megawatt) by 2050," Kakodkar said delivering a lecture on 'Perspectives in Nuclear Energy' as part of the Lucknow University (LU) Convocation Week here. To bridge this chasm, the country would need to import 1.6 billion tonnes of coal annually by 2050 to generate enough power to meet the energy demands. "The only practical solution to meet the heightened energy demand would be to increase nuclear power generation in future," he said adding India had already proved its credentials as a leading nuclear technology state. (*Business Standard*, 9 February 2010)

### 15 February 2010

#### Indian prototype FBR delayed

India's first fast breeder reactor (FBR) is likely to be delayed by up to one year, a senior official from the Department of Atomic Energy told the Business Standard newspaper. The 500 MWe prototype FBR, under construction at Kalpakkam, near Chennai, Tamil Nadu state, was initially expected to be commissioned by the end of 2010. However, the unnamed official said, "There have been some delays in the commissioning of Kalpakkam FBR. This is because many equipment are being made for the first time in India as it is an indigenous reactor." He added that the delay could be between couple of months to one year, and that the FBR is now expected to be commissioned in 2011. (*World Nuclear News*, 15 February 2010)

### 18 February 2010

#### India's First Pair of 700 MW Nuke Plants to Be Ready by 2016

India's first set of indigenous 700 MW Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors, would be a reality in the next six years, as the excavation work at Kakrapar in Gujarat has already begun, NPCIL chairman and managing director S.K. Jain

said. The Centre had last October given a financial sanction of Rs 24,000 crore for four units of 700 MW of PHWRs, two each at Kakrapar and Rawatbhata in Rajasthan, he said. "We will begin the first 'pour of concrete' next month in Kakrapar and in Rajasthan power project site for reactor raft, and wish to finish the construction of the plants within five years from that day," Mr. Jain said at the 22nd annual Heavy Water Day here on Wednesday. "Since the Centre has given financial sanction for these four, we will be completing the procurement order of all components by September this year," he said. (*The Hindu*, 18 February 2010)

## Nuclear Cooperation/Treaties/Agreements

### 1 January 2010

#### India, Pak exchange lists of nuclear installations

The subcontinent's new year tradition played out again as India and Pakistan exchanged lists of nuclear installations on Friday. The list exchange was done under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities, inked December 31, 1988. The deal came into effect January 27, 1991, and the first exchange took place January 1, 1992. A press release of the Indian ministry of external affairs said that the exchange was made "through diplomatic channels simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad". In Islamabad, Pakistan's list was handed over to a diplomat of the Indian High Commission at the foreign Office at 11 am. A little later, India also handed over its list to a Pakistani diplomat at its headquarters in South Block at 11.30 am. This was the nineteenth consecutive list exchange between the two countries. (*Hindustan Times*, 1 January 2010)

### 8 January 2010

#### Final shape to nuclear deal by June: Canada

Canada's Senior Trade Commissioner Mario Ste-Marie on Thursday hinted that all the ground work relating to finalisation of the Indo-Canada civil nuclear deal, signed in November 2008, would be completed by June this year. "By June, all the work that needs to be done will be done and we could officially conclude that the Indo-Canada nuclear deal has been given a final shape," Mario Ste-Marie told journalists here on the sidelines of the roundtable discussion on "Fostering India-Canada Trade: Role of SMEs," organised by the CCII in association with the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce. However, the Canadian official did not elaborate on what work was required to be done. (*The Hindu*, 8 January 2010)

### 13 January 2010

#### India, Britain set to sign nuclear deal

A declaration on civil nuclear cooperation between India and Britain appears to be on the anvil when commerce minister Anand Sharma visits here next month. This was indicated by Lord Peter Mandelson, British secretary of state for business, innovation and skills. In an exclusive interview, Mandelson confirmed: "We are indeed working with the Indian government on closer relations in the sharing of civil nuclear technology. I hope that I will be able to sign a civil nuclear coopera-

tion declaration with minister Sharma early this year." Mandelson was said to be disappointed that such an agreement was not concluded during his visit to Delhi last month. According to a source at the Indian High Commission here, India objected to a non-proliferation clause in the draft submitted by the UK. (*The Times of India, 13 January 2010*)

**14 January 2010**

#### **Germany Keen on Civil Nuclear Cooperation**

Germany is keen on civilian nuclear cooperation with India but the first step in this direction could be about reactor safety, according to German ambassador to India Thomas Matussek. Speaking to *The Hindu* here on Wednesday, Mr. Matussek said: "We have been reluctant because one of the big risks of the globe is the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction... India has gone its own special way with the nuclear deal with the United States and has decided not to go the way of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). But you have an impeccable record of non-proliferation." He pointed to his experience of negotiating five Iran resolutions [while working as the permanent representative of Germany to the U.N.]. After making the offer to cooperate with Iran on civilian nuclear energy if it stopped enrichment as part of the negotiations, he said, cooperating with India was a "no-brainer." (*The Hindu, 14 January 2010*)

**15 January 2010**

#### **India-France nuke deal comes into force**

The India-France deal for civil nuclear cooperation came into force on Thursday with foreign secretary Nirupama Rao and French ambassador Jerome Bonnafont exchanging the instruments of ratification of the agreement which was signed by the two countries on September 30, 2008. The agreement will allow France and India to develop a multi-form civil nuclear cooperation covering a wide range of activities including nuclear power projects, R&D, nuclear safety, education and training. The French embassy said in a statement that the coming into force of the agreement would give a new impetus to the Indo-French partnership and would contribute to "further strengthening the deep ties of friendship and long-standing cooperation between the two countries". (*The Times of India, 15 January 2010*)

**19 January 2010**

#### **Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant to be Under International Safeguards**

India will place the Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant's Units 3 and 4 in Rawatbhata under the India Specific Safeguards Agreement (ISSA) of the International Atomic Energy Agency, in accordance with the separation plan of Indo-US civilian nuclear deal. "In 2010, the two units of Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant (RAPP) at Rawatbhata will be placed under ISSA and the process has already begun," Nuclear Power Corporation Of India Limited (NPCIL) officials said. IAEA officials would visit the sites to make appropriate arrangements for monitoring and enabling units 3 and 4 to come under the nuclear watchdog's safeguards, officials said. India has to place a total of 14 of its nuclear reactors

under the IAEA safeguards, out of which eight - including units 5 and 6 of RAPP - are already under international safeguards since last year. (*The Hindu, 19 January 2010*)

**20 January 2010**

#### **India, Hungary hold talks on civil nuclear energy cooperation**

India and Hungary, the current chair of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), on Tuesday discussed civil nuclear energy cooperation. The European country's foreign minister Peter Balazs, who is currently on an official visit to India, also backed India's claim for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. Balazs met his counterpart S M Krishna and held talks on a range of issues from terrorism and the situation in Afghanistan to partnership in trade, investment, IT, pharmaceuticals, auto-components, energy, defence, security and agriculture. In an exclusive interview to TOI just before his meeting with Krishna, Balazs said that he had come to India seeking to enhance bilateral ties and that Hungary would fully support India's candidature for a permanent seat in the UNSC. (*The Times of India, 20 January 2010*)

#### **South Korea eyes nuclear cooperation with India**

Ahead of President Lee Myung-bak's visit to New Delhi, South Korea said it is keen to forge cooperation with India in the nuclear energy sector, as the two countries plan to upgrade their ties to strategic partnership. Lee will embark on a four-day visit to India on Sunday, his first overseas travel this year, during which he will hold a summit with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and will be the chief guest at the Republic Day parade. Lee will seek to expand his country's relations with India beyond their traditional economic cooperation to a strategic partnership on diplomacy, security and global issues during his trip there next week, his aides said. "The two sides plan to agree to (establish) a kind of (high-level) strategic dialogue on the political and security fields," Cheong Wa Dae, a senior official at the presidential office was quoted as saying by Yonhap news agency. (*The Hindu, 20 January 2010*)

**24 January 2010**

#### **India, South Korea to discuss nuclear pact, push Posco deal Monday**

India and South Korea will explore the possibilities of a civil nuclear pact and sign a clutch of accords in diverse areas, including IT and civilian space, when the leaders of the two countries meet here for talks Monday. Accompanied by ministers, parliamentarians and businessmen, South Korean President Lee Myung-bak began his four-day visit to India from Chennai Sunday. He will go to the Hyundai factory near the Tamil Nadu capital and meet Korean businessmen living in the city before flying to New Delhi in the evening. Lee will be the guest of honour at the Republic Day function - a signal honour reserved for close friends of India. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will hold talks with Lee Monday on a wide range of bilateral, regional and global issues, including the intensification of economic ties and cooperation in sphere of civilian nuclear cooperation and space technologies. (*The Times of India, 24 January 2010*)

**25 January 2010**

**Nuclear cooperation to be productive for both India, Korea: Lee**

Cooperation in civil nuclear field figured prominently in the meetings South Korean President Lee Myung-Bak had with Indian leaders here on Monday with the visiting dignitary describing such engagement as “productive” for both the countries. Emphasising the expertise of his country in production and safety of civil nuclear projects, Mr. Lee, after his meeting with External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna, said, “This is (civil nuclear) an area which will be very productive for both of us.” South Korea, a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, had supported consensus for reopening global civil nuclear trade with India in September 2008. Mr. Lee said the two leaders also discussed the crucial issue of climate change. (*The Hindu, 25 January 2010*)

**27 January 2010**

**Pakistan continues to block fissile material treaty**

Pakistan is coming under international pressure to drop its demand that the regional control of conventional arms and a regime on missiles be included in the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament’s session this year. The Conference on Disarmament usually adopts a standard agenda at the start of each session, reflecting the underlying consensus built up over the past few years. That consensus includes a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty, prevention of arms race in outer space, security assurances, transparency in armaments, comprehensive disarmament, and preventing new nuclear weapons and nuclear war. But at the opening 2010 plenary on January 19, Pakistan’s Ambassador Zamir Akram said the approval of the agenda should not be seen as “a mere formality.” (*The Hindu, 27 January 2010*)

**'India-U.S. deal a major hurdle'**

Australia’s non-proliferation envoy Gareth Evans has slammed the India-United States nuclear deal, saying it is a major hurdle to the goal of a nuclear-free world. “Everybody knows that from India’s point of view it was a brilliant success but from the point of view of non-proliferation objectives it wasn’t as helpful as it could have been,” Mr. Evans told journalists here. Mr. Evans, who is the co-chair of the International Commission for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament — a joint initiative of the governments of Japan and Australia, was speaking after presenting a report, ‘Eliminating Nuclear Threats: A Practical Agenda for Global Policymakers.’ One of the contributors for the report is the former National Security Adviser, Brajesh Mishra. (*The Hindu, 27 January 2010*)

**13 February 2010**

**Pak seeks civil nuclear deal with EU**

The European Union should treat Pakistan at par with India and accord it the same access in civil nuclear technology as given to India, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said today. Gilani made the remarks during a meeting with a group of European Union ambassadors at the Prime Minister’s House. The envoys met Gilani to brief him on the

European Union’s Action Plan on Pakistan that was approved in October last year. The premier emphasised that the EU “must realise that its relations with Pakistan are to be developed on a stand-alone basis and not for reasons of contiguity with... Afghanistan,” said an official statement. Gilani welcomed the EU’s Action Plan for Pakistan and its commitment to remain engaged with Islamabad by helping it through financial aid for socio-economic development. (*The Times of India, 13 February 2010*)

**18 February 2010**

**Pakistan, U.S. Discuss Nuclear Energy Cooperation, Ambassador Says**

Pakistani Ambassador to the United States Husain Haqqani said his nation’s government and the Obama administration are discussing possible civilian nuclear cooperation similar to the U.S.-India deal, the Washington Times reported Tuesday. “Talks between Pakistan and the U.S. for cooperation on atomic (energy) programs are under way, and we want the U.S. to have an agreement with us like the one it had with India on civil nuclear technology,” Haqqani said. That civilian nuclear agreement was brokered during the Bush administration and gives India access to U.S. nuclear technology and materials in return for international monitoring of New Delhi’s civilian nuclear facilities. (*Global Security Newswire, 18 February 2010*)

**4 February 2010**

**US certifies India-IAEA Safeguards Agreement on civil n-facilities**

In yet another step towards full implementation of the India-US civil nuclear deal, President Barack Obama has certified that India has placed its nuclear facilities under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. Obama made the Congressionally-mandated certification Wednesday in a presidential memorandum to the US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton asking her to have it inserted in the Federal Register that records all government actions. Obama’s confirmation that India has formally agreed to provide the UN nuclear watchdog access to a specified number of nuclear reactors takes the deal yet another step closer to implementation of the landmark deal. Military facilities are excluded from the safeguards agreement. (*The Economic Times, 4 February 2010*)

**5 February 2010**

**India, U.K. finalise text of civil nuclear cooperation deal**

India and the U.K. have agreed on the text of a civil nuclear cooperation deal that is likely to be signed soon on a convenient date. The agreement came after a meeting between British Business Secretary Peter Mandelson and visiting Union Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma in London on Thursday. Mr. Sharma, who reached London on Wednesday evening from his visit to Hungary, led the Indian delegation at a meeting of the U.K.-India Joint Economic Trade Committee (JETCO). The negotiations in the run-up to the agreement on the text from the Indian side were conducted by the former National Security Adviser, M.K. Narayanan. When the deal is signed, it will be the seventh civil nuclear agreement inked by

India since its first historic deal with the United States in October 2008. (*The Hindu*, 5 February 2010)

#### 12 February 2010

##### **India, Britain ink nuclear pact**

India on Thursday signed a "declaration" on civilian nuclear cooperation with the U.K. which officials described as a "general umbrella agreement." The two sides are expected to make a public announcement in the coming days. The U.K. becomes the eighth country with which India has signed a civilian nuclear pact since breaking out of restrictions imposed on it. The agreement was signed here by Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Srikumar Banerjee and British High Commissioner Richard Stagg. The pact will provide a legal framework for British companies that have expertise in supplying components. The declaration was agreed upon during Minister of State for Commerce Anand Sharma's visit. India has so far signed civilian nuclear pacts with Russia, France, the U.S., Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Argentina and Namibia. (*The Hindu*, 12 February 2010)

#### 14 February 2010

##### **India and Britain push ahead with civil nuclear plans**

The UK Government is hoping to use the impetus of the recently-signed Civil Nuclear Declaration to push forward Britain's involvement in India's civil nuclear programme. A "high level" delegation from India will take part in the Nuclear New Build 2010 conference in London in March, said the British Business Minister for Business, Innovation and Skills, Mr McFadden, in an interview. "This is a very significant step forward. Talks will be more productive now that we have signed an agreement," he said. "We will work to bring our excellent companies together with relevant people in India." The declaration was signed on Thursday by India's Atomic Energy Commission Chairman, Mr Srikumar Banerjee, and the British High Commissioner, Mr Richard Stagg. It was meant to be signed in December but Britain's insistence that the preamble include its policy on non-proliferation delayed the process. (*The Hindu Business Line*, 14 February 2010)

#### 17 February 2010

##### **US raises pitch on passage of nuclear liability bill**

The US today said Indian parliament needs to act upon the "critical" nuclear liability bill to take forward the Indo-American nuclear deal which had reached "almost the finishing line". US Ambassador to India Timothy J Roemer said there were "a couple of small issues we have to resolve" but replied in the negative, when asked if the deal had hit a road-block. "Liability bill first and foremost. That's critical...that's something (Indian) Parliament needs to act upon," he said, expressing hope this "very helpful, very important legislation for America and for India" would be passed in the next session. "We are very hopeful, I am an optimist that this (bill) will get through in the next session of Parliament," he said. Roemer said both countries were "very close" to the completion of reprocessing agreement. "We are very close. (*Press Trust of India*, 17 February

2010)

#### 18 February 2010

##### **India, S. Korea to explore civil nuclear links**

A team of civil nuclear experts from India is in South Korea to explore avenues of "broad-based cooperation" in the sensitive domain, according to diplomatic sources. Experts from the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and the Nuclear Power Corporation of India are attending a two-day professional workshop in Seoul. The event is focussed on the entire civil nuclear spectrum ranging from research to operational safety. The Indian delegation is also expected to visit a nuclear power plant in Busan and a heavy industry firm. South Korea is known to be keen on showcasing its capabilities in the fabrication of commercial nuclear reactors, in particular mega-power units. Seoul is also aware of India's efforts at developing the fast-breeder technology among other civil nuclear aspects. (*The Hindu*, 18 February 2010)

#### 20 February 2010

##### **Remaining steps of n-deal may be completed in few months: U.S.**

Describing the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal as a game changer for bilateral ties, the Obama Administration has said the remaining steps of the historic accord are expected to be completed in the next few months. "The civil nuclear deal turned probably our most significant irritant in bilateral relations into an opportunity for cooperation. This has the potential to lead to billions of dollars worth of opportunities for American companies, and many thousands of jobs as a result of that," Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia, Robert Blake, said. "A few more steps are still required, and we expect them to be completed in the next few months," he said yesterday, addressing the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, while terming the nuclear deal as an important milestone in ties. (*The Hindu*, 20 February 2010)

#### 21 February 2010

##### **Indo-US N-deal to boost economic ties: envoy**

The landmark Indo-US civil nuclear deal will boost bilateral economic ties and address "shared concerns" on energy security and climate change amid deepening strategic relations, according to India's envoy to America. Meera Shankar, the Indian ambassador to the United States, described relations between New Delhi and Washington as attaining "unprecedented progress." The envoy described the civil nuclear agreement as a "symbol of and instrument for the transformation in our relationship". Shankar underlined that the deal would "boost bilateral economic ties and also address our shared concerns on energy security and climate change." She noted that India would increase nuclear energy generation from 4,000 MW at present to 20,000 MW by 2020. (*Press Trust of India*, 21 February 2010)

## Nuclear Commerce

#### 9 February 2010

##### **Govt mulls nuclear trade policy**

The government may frame a policy for undertaking international civil nuclear commerce that will also have specific pro-

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visions for conducting trade with countries where it has not signed a bilateral agreement on the peaceful use of atomic energy. India has signed operational agreements on peaceful use of atomic energy with countries such as US, France, Russia, Canada. The department of atomic energy (DAE)-formulated draft guidelines for supply of nuclear and non-nuclear materials, equipment and components from such countries will be required assurance of their peaceful use by the two governments, said a government official requesting anonymity. (*The Economic Times*, 9 February 2010)

#### **11 February 2010**

##### **Australian Minister Rules Out Uranium Export to India**

The Australian government does not intend to export uranium to India, according to Minister for Resources, Energy and Tourism Martin Ferguson. Explaining his government's policy on what he described as a sensitive issue, Ferguson told a group of Pakistani journalists on Wednesday that nuclear material could be supplied only to countries which met a set of pre-determined criteria. "The Australian government's policy is to supply uranium to those countries that are parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and have an additional protocol with the International Atomic Energy Agency, and with which Australia has a bilateral nuclear safeguards agreement," he said. Ferguson, who visited New Delhi last week, said he had signed an agreement on renewable energy with India that was aimed at ending shortages in the country. (*Dawn*, 11 February 2010)

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