

[China Rejects Demands for Greater Tibetan Autonomy](#)

NYT, 1 February 2010

BEIJING — Chinese officials have rejected demands by the Dalai Lama that Tibetan areas of China receive greater autonomy and be governed as a single region, Xinhua, the state news agency, reported Monday. The report came after days of meetings in China between Chinese officials and two envoys of the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of the Tibetans, who lives in exile in India. During talks, a senior Chinese official, Du Qinglin, told the envoys that the concept of a "Greater Tibet" and "high-level autonomy" violated the Chinese Constitution, Xinhua reported. Mr. Du insisted that talks would progress "only if the Dalai Lama completely abandoned such claims," Xinhua reported.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/02/world/asia/02tibet.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

[Shiv Sena contention a pernicious thesis: Chidambaram](#)

The Hindu, 1 February 2010

Rejecting Shiv Sena's contention of 'Mumbai for Maharashtrians' as a "pernicious thesis", the Centre on Monday said the financial capital belonged to all Indians who are free to live and work there. On Sena threats to Australian and Pakistani players' participation in the IPL cricket event in Mumbai, Home Minister P. Chidambaram asserted that he would "guarantee them full security."

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article98425.ece>

[Maoists attack police station, kill CPI \(M\) worker](#)

The Hindu, 1 February 2010

Maoists and the PCPA on Monday attacked a police station triggering an exchange of fire with the security personnel in West Bengal's Bankura district, while in neighbouring West Midnapore district the left wing extremists killed a CPI (M) worker after abducting him. According to police, PCPA activists along with Maoists attacked Barikul police station, 70 km from Bankura district headquarters, triggering an exchange of fire in which three persons were injured.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article98681.ece>

[12-nation naval wargame from February 4](#)

The Hindu, 1 February 2010

India will host the largest four-day naval wargame, Milan-2010, involving 12 nations in the Asia Pacific region from Thursday, in which means to counter terror threats to coastal and island territories would be debated keeping in mind the attacks in Mumbai. "There would be a discussion (during Milan-2010) on maritime terror and the means to counter the attacks like what happened in Mumbai," Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Foreign Cooperation and Intelligence), Rear Admiral Sudharshan Shrikhande told reporters here on Monday.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article98638.ece>

[Terrorism, insurgency need to be tackled with firm hand: PM](#)

The Hindu, 1 February 2010

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Monday emphasised that "terrorism, insurgency and extremism need to be tackled with a firm and yet sensitive hand" as a requirement for rapid economic growth. "It is one of the primary responsibilities of any government to ensure the rule of law. In addition, an atmosphere of peace and communal harmony is also a pre-requisite for rapid economic growth," the Prime Minister said while inaugurating a two-day conference of state chief secretaries here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article98296.ece>

[Opinion:More effective externally than internally](#)

The Hindu, 1 February 2010

India is unique in combining a parliamentary system with the institution of a National Security Adviser who has wide-ranging executive responsibilities in the areas of foreign policy, intelligence, nuclear command and control as well as long-term strategic planning. Created in 1998 following a series of high-level committees that studied the management of national security and intelligence, the NSA was intended to be the prime mover of a multi-tiered planning structure with the National Security Council (NSC) headed by the Prime Minister at the apex. An NSC Secretariat (NSCS) was created to service the Council, which subsumed the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC) and its staff within it. Finally, a National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) of outside experts was set up to generate independent inputs to the NSC.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/opinion/columns/siddharth-varadarajan/article82786.ece>

[Defence ministry to purchase 6 more Akash squadrons](#)

The Hindu, 2 February 2010

The Defence Ministry has decided to procure six more squadrons of Akash - the medium range surface-to-air missiles - from public sector unit Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Defence Minister A. K. Antony said. The decision was taken at the Defence Acquisition Council meeting on Monday, Mr. Antony told reporters.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article99367.ece>

[TDP's anti-Telangana delegation meets Chidambaram](#)

The Hindu, 2 February 2010

A five-member Telugu Desam Party delegation on Tuesday met Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram and expressed their solidarity against creation of separate Telangana in Andhra Pradesh. The delegation, led by TDP Politburo member and former Union minister K. Yerranna, asked the Home Minister not to take (any) "hasty decision" while devising a roadmap on resolving the Telangana issue.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article99221.ece>

[India strengthening security set up in Arunachal: Antony](#)

The Hindu, 2 February 2010

India is strengthening security set up in Arunachal Pradesh to enhance its deterrent capability but there was no question of militarisation of the north-eastern state,

Defence Minister A.K. Antony said on Tuesday.China has repeatedly raked up its claim over Arunachal Pradesh and even objected to visits of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama. India has strongly rejected China's claims.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article99034.ece>

Russia ready to build nuclear reactors at Haripur

The Hindu, 2 February 2010

Russia has expressed its readiness to build nuclear reactors at Haripur in West Bengal, but in a veiled reference to the opposition to the project by Union Minister Mamata Banerjee, asked India to take into account the "local political situation."While Russia is building two reactors at Koodankulam in Tamil Nadu and tying up the loose ends to put up at least four more units of 1,000 MW each at the same site, space limitation has stopped the Central government from allocating land for another nuclear park in West Bengal.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article98844.ece>

Malabar' to be an Indo-U.S. bilateral affair

The Hindu, 2 February 2010

India has lined up interactions with friendly navies in the coming days both on the waters and at the staff level. The next round of Indo-U.S. joint naval exercise 'Malabar' to be held in the Arabian Sea in April-May will be a bilateral affair, a senior naval officer said here on Monday.The U.S. is likely to bring one of its nuclear submarines, as it usually does for war games with the Indian Navy, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Sudharshan Shrikhande said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article98840.ece>

India willing to normalise ties with Pakistan: Krishna

The Hindu, 3 February 2010

India has indicated its willingness to normalise ties with Pakistan following indications that Islamabad is serious about prosecuting the masterminds of the Mumbai terror attacks in November 2008. The first step in this direction would be the Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram's end of the month visit to Rawalpindi to attend a meeting of SAARC Ministers where he could "get a chance to have useful exchanges" with Pakistani leaders in addition to the planned multilateral meetings, External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna told newsmen accompanying him for a visit to Kuwait.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article100085.ece>

Fourth launch of Agni-III before Sunday

The Hindu, 3 February 2010

Intense preparations are under way on the tiny Wheeler Island, off Damra village on the Orissa coast, for the launch of ballistic missile Agni-III before Sunday.This will be the fourth launch of Agni-III and it aims at establishing its reliability. "We are doing this flight to demonstrate the robustness of the missile's systems," a top missile engineer of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) said on

Wednesday.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article100217.ece>

[Stop commenting on regional lines: Meira Kumar](#)

The Hindu, 3 February 2010

Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar on Wednesday said the best way to put an end to regionalism rhetoric was to stop commenting on it. "The best way to put an end to this thing (regional rhetoric) is to stop commenting on it," Ms. Kumar told reporters, when asked about the Shiv Sena and MNS's campaigning for 'Marathi Manoos' in Mumbai. However, she said all citizens were free to live anywhere in the country.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article100268.ece>

[No takers for Sena stand even in Maharashtra, says Karunanidhi](#)

The Hindu, 3 February 2010

Joining issue with Shiv Sena, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M Karunanidhi on Wednesday made light of its "Mumbai for Marathis" stand, saying it has no takers even in Maharashtra and dismissed suggestions that people of the South were "anti-Hindi." "Even in Maharashtra there is no support for his (Shiv Sena President Uddhav Thackeray's) views," the DMK patriarch told reporters here in his first remarks on the Shiv Sena campaign, which has triggered a national outcry.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/states/tamil-nadu/article99789.ece>

['Cold war era regulations hampering India-US relationship'](#)

The Hindu, 3 February 2010

The cold-war era policies restricting technology transfer is coming in the way of strengthening and deepening of America's relationship with India in the 21st century, a top Obama Administration official has said. "Right now we are in a really -- building, frankly, on the work of the last administration and that before, we are at a really critical and important point in our partnership with India," said Michele Flournoy, the Undersecretary of Defence for Policy.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article99588.ece>

[Editorial: Another crisis](#)

The News, 3 February 2010

Water is a major problem at a sub-continental level and domestically it is a point of inter-provincial tension and, potentially, conflict. We have a massive power-generation deficit, our major dams are old and now we have another crisis – the AJK government is very unhappy at the delay in its water allocation and has threatened to delay the filling of the upgraded Mangla Dam. The Mangla upgrade cost Rs90 billion and has created an additional 2.33 MAF (million-acre feet) of storage capacity. The AJK government has sought a modest allocation of 614 cusecs of water for drinking, irrigation and fishery needs. The ministries of water and power and law and the Punjab government have supported the demand on the basis of agreements with the AJK government, as well as from other legal positions. But the Indus River System Authority (IRSA) and the governments of Sindh, Balochistan and NWFP have

opposed the allocation on the grounds that Indus system water was allocated to the provinces and thus could not be allocated to AJK under the IRSA Act.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=222140

[No change in exchange rate](#)

Kathmandu, 3 February 2010

Amid speculation of possible change in exchange rate of Nepali currency vis-a-vis Indian currency, the government has clarified it has no such plan. Finance Minister Surendra Pandey, Vice Chairman of National Planning Commission (NPC) Yubraj Khatiwada and Finance Secretary Rameshwore Khanal unanimously ruled out the possibility of re-pegging the Nepali currency with Indian currency. At a programme on Monday, Minister Pandey assured that the government had no plan to change the exchange rate. Speculations of change in exchange rate surfaced two weeks ago after some newspapers reported the comments of the finance minister and the NPC vice chairman on possibility of change in exchange rate. Nepal Bankers Association President Sashin Joshi said, "A lot of Indian currency was stacked due to this rumour."

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/02/02/top-stories/No-change-in-exchange-rate/4697/>

[Obama certifies India-IAEA safeguards accord is in force](#)

The Hindu, 4 February 2010

U.S. President Barack Obama has certified that the Safeguards Agreement between India and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on its civilian nuclear facilities has come into force, in yet another step towards full implementation of the India-U.S. atomic deal. A memorandum in this regard was issued on Wednesday to the Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, as mandated by the United States-India Nuclear Cooperation Approval and Non-proliferation Enhancement Act regarding the safeguards agreement between India and the Vienna-based global nuclear watchdog.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article100714.ece>

[Pak not to accept any talks short of composite dialogue](#)

The Hindu, 4 February 2010

Seeking "result-oriented and sustained" talks with India, Pakistan has said it will accept no format of engagement other than the composite dialogue, which has been stalled since the 2008 Mumbai attacks. Pakistan will not be interested in "talks for the sake of talks," Foreign Office spokesman Abdul Basit told the Dawn newspaper. "We want result-oriented and sustained dialogue and no format of engagement other than composite dialogue will be acceptable to us," he said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article100592.ece>

[Three militants killed in J&K encounter](#)

The Hindu, 4 February 2010

Three Harkat-ul-Jehadi militants, including a self-styled divisional commander

"Dawood", were on Thursday killed in a gun battle with army troops in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir. Acting on a tip off, troops of 26 Rashtriya Rifle launched a search and cordon operation in Chicha-Nagsaini forest area of the district, 260 km from here, an army officer said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article100556.ece>

[Shiv Sena issues black flag diktat, but Rahul will go to Mumbai](#)
The Hindu, 4 February 2010

Shiv Sena chief Bal Thackeray on Thursday issued a diktat to his partymen to welcome Rahul Gandhi with black flags to protest his 'Mumbai for all' remark but undeterred by the verbal assault the Congress leader will go ahead with his visit to the city on Friday. "The Italian prince is on a visit to Mumbai tomorrow. Welcome him with black flags," the ailing Sena patriarch commanded his partymen through a statement.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article100569.ece>

[Chidambaram to visit Pakistan on 26th](#)
The News, 4 February 2010

NEW DELHI: India announced on Wednesday that Home Minister P Chidambaram will visit Pakistan for a regional meeting, in the first sign of tensions easing since the 2008 Mumbai attacks. Foreign Minister SM Krishna said Chidambaram would attend a conference of the South Asian interior ministers due to take place in Rawalpindi on February 26 and 27. "Chidambaram will get a chance to have very useful exchanges with his counterparts and other leaders in Pakistan," Krishna told reporters. The planned trip will be the first to Pakistan by an Indian government minister since the Mumbai attacks by Islamic militants, which left 166 people dead in the country's financial capital.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27055

[Pakistan cannot ignore aggressive Indian strategy, says Kayani](#)
The News, 4 February 2010

RAWALPINDI: Chief of the Army Staff General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani has said the Indian "Cold Start Strategy" is an aggressive strategy and Pakistan cannot close its eyes towards it. He was briefing media men and anchorpersons on Wednesday. "It is a wrong allegation against Pakistan that it has indulged in a double game," he said adding the casualties of Nato and allied forces in the war on terror were 1,582 during eight years while in one year alone, 2,273 officers and Jawans of Pakistan Army were killed and 6,512 were injured, he underlined.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27060

[I-T raids create panic in bureaucratic circles in Madhya Pradesh](#)
The Hindu, 6 February 2010

The Income Tax department raids on the premises of top government and private officials in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, that led to the suspension of an IAS couple on Friday, seems to have let the cat among the pigeons. While there seems to

be a general environment of panic and paranoia among the bureaucratic and business circles here, there have been reports of senior bureaucrats not answering their calls, according to unofficial sources.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article102133.ece>

[Maoists move fighters from Bastar to nearby States](#)

The Hindu, 6 February 2010

Even as security forces intensified their efforts to push into the rebel-controlled Abuz Maad area in the Bastar forests of southern Chhattisgarh, the Maoist leadership is believed to have moved the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) fighters into Orissa, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Intelligence officers monitoring the Left Wing Extremist (LWE) activity believe that there are five companies (each with a strength of 100) of the PLGA, which has a strong presence in Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article102216.ece>

[India to open talks with Russia on stealth aircraft](#)

The Hindu, 6 February 2010

After favouring the U.S. for its recent purchases of hi-tech military equipment, India has now turned to Russia, its old supplier, for the next generation fighter aircraft. PAK FA, Russia's fifth generation fighter, which boasts of radar evasion characteristics, made its maiden flight only late last month. India inked an agreement with Russia for jointly developing this aircraft, but the time taken to complete the paperwork meant that 70 per cent of the plane was already developed by the Sukhoi Design Bureau. Now India has planned to enter the project mid-way.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article102209.ece>

[Two militants killed in Assam](#)

The Hindu, 6 February 2010

Two militants, one from the ULFA and one from the NDFB, were killed on Saturday in separate encounters in lower Assam. Acting on a tip-off about the presence of four ULFA militants in Maladhara in Lakhimpur police station of Goalpara district, a joint operation by police and the Army was launched and one militant was killed on the spot while the other three managed to flee. The slain militant was identified as 'Sergeant' Dilip Rabha alias Laden of the outfit's 109 battalion.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article102184.ece>

[Pak HC meets Indian foreign secretary](#)

The News, 6 February 2010

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir on Friday said Pakistan will start the Composite Dialogue process with India from June 2008 position, where it was halted by India. Talking to The News here, Salman Bashir said Pakistan's High Commissioner in New Delhi Shahid Malik held a special meeting with India's Secretary External Affairs Nirupama Rao on Friday evening to finalise dates and agenda for the Composite Dialogue process.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27098

[Maoists blow up railway tracks in Bihar](#)

The Hindu, 7 February 2010

Maoists blew up railway tracks to enforce their 72-hour bandh near Rajla station on Jhaja-Jasidih section of East Central Railway in Bihar's Jamui district, officials said. "About 40 Maoist guerrillas blew up the up and down tracks late last night between Rajla and Narganjo railway halts near Kahba bridge, affecting the movement of several long-distance and local trains," Additional Director General of Police (Headquarters) U S Dutt said in Patna.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article102341.ece>

[Centre for strong action against Sena, MNS](#)

The Hindu, 7 February 2010

The Centre on Sunday asked the Maharashtra government to take strong action against groups responsible for the recent happenings in Mumbai, a veiled reference to the Shiv Sena and the MNS in the wake of their campaign against migrants and actor Shah Rukh Khan. Interjecting Chief Minister Ashok Chavan while he was addressing the Conference of Chief Ministers on Internal Security here, Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram said the whole nation wants strong action to be taken against people responsible for recent happenings in Maharashtra, particularly in Mumbai.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article102491.ece>

[Political parties, activists take on MP govt. over corruption](#)

The Hindu, 7 February 2010

Political parties and civil society activists have taken on the State government on the alleged involvement of several top businesspersons and bureaucrats in tax evasion and corruption, as was revealed by comprehensive raids by the Income Tax department over the weekend. In spite of swift action (suspension of an IAS couple) against the offenders, the ruling BJP government is finding itself cornered by the Communist Party of India (Marxist), the State Congress party and several social activists.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article102484.ece>

[Security under threat in West Bengal: Buddhadeb](#)

The Hindu, 7 February 2010

The security environment in West Bengal is under threat from Left-wing extremists in western areas and ongoing "separatist" movement in Darjeeling, Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee said on Sunday. He said 28 police stations in the three districts of Western Medinipur, Purulia and Bankura are affected by Naxalism.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article102482.ece>

[Pakistan-based terror groups will be defeated: Chidambaram](#)

The Hindu, 7 February 2010

India today described Pakistan-based terrorist groups as “dark forces” which are “implacably” opposed to the country, and asserted that they would be defeated whenever confronted. Home Minister P. Chidambaram said militant groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Hizbul Mujahideen, responsible for innumerable deadly terror strikes in India, held a meeting at Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir on Thursday and it was clear that these groups were “implacably” opposed to India.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article102361.ece>

[Pakistan to take up rivers' low flow issue with Indian team](#)

The News, 7 February 2010

LAHORE: Pakistan will take up the issue of low flows of western rivers on the sidelines of the routine site inspection being conducted by the visiting Indian delegation. Talking to The News here on Saturday, Syed Jamaat Ali Shah, Indus Water Commissioner, said as per the treaty, both India and Pakistan were permitted to routinely inspect various water-related sites. He added though there was no scheduled meeting during the five-day visit of the Indian delegation, Pakistan would take up the issue of low flows with India on the sidelines. “We will ask them to share facts about the rivers' low flows,” he maintained.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27120

[Centre to formulate surrender plan for J&K youth in PoK terror camps](#)

The Hindu, 8 February 2010

For the first time, the Centre has agreed to formulate a general amnesty plan for the Kashmiri youth undergoing training in terrorist camps in Pak-occupied Kashmir (POK). The broader contours of the package to facilitate their return to their homes would be worked out in consultation with Jammu and Kashmir Government, highly placed government sources said here on Monday. Also, it formed part of a recommendation made by one of the five working groups, set up by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to address various dimensions of Kashmir problem. One of the groups, asked to suggest internal confidence building measures, had recommended safe passage for Kashmiri youth based in PoK.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article103146.ece>

[Pranab hopes price rise will be in control soon](#)

The Hindu, 8 February 2010

As food inflation spiralled to over 17 per cent, the government on Monday said that the price situation is being reviewed regularly and surge in prices of essential items would be controlled soon. “The process is on to control the price rise. I am hopeful that the prices of essential items will be in control soon,” Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee said after receiving the Indira Gandhi Gold Plaque at the Asiatic Society here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article102889.ece>

[Bengal announces reservation for Muslims in jobs](#)

The Hindu, 8 February 2010

The West Bengal government on Monday announced 10 per cent job reservation for Muslims under the OBC category, on a day when the Andhra Pradesh High Court struck down such provision for the community. The government declared the quota for the Muslims who were educationally, socially and economically backward in the State. "Muslims form 25 per cent of the State's population and we have for long been thinking of doing something for them. We have decided to accept the recommendations of the Ranganath Mishra Commission and will take steps to implement it," Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee told newsmen here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article103139.ece>

[DRDO raises the bar, sets its sights on 5,000-km Agni-V](#)

The Hindu, 8 February 2010

With three consecutively successful flights of Agni-III, the missile technologists of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have raised the bar: they will now busy themselves with realising Agni-V which will have a range of 5,000 km. The success of the Agni-III flight on Sunday, according to them, sent out several signals: it has become a proven missile; the decks have been cleared for its induction with nuclear warheads, into the Army; it established the maturity of India's nuclear deterrence programme and its second-strike capability.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article102608.ece>

[India proposes two dates this month for talks](#)

The Hindu, 8 February 2010

Having "made its point" by not engaging with Pakistan for over 14 months, India has offered two dates this month — February 18 and 25 — for Foreign Secretary-level talks here. India is open to discussing all issues, including Balochistan, but its sole focus will be on flagging its concerns on terror acts planned and executed from Pakistan, said senior Government sources.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article102493.ece>

[All issues to be discussed with India: Qureshi](#)

The News, 8 February 2010

MULTAN: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said on Sunday that all issues would be discussed during talks with India. In a brief chat with reporters at the Seetal Mari area in the suburbs of Multan after addressing a public meeting and inaugurating uplift schemes, the foreign minister said Pakistan would present its stance on different issues with India during talks while the Indian side would put up their issues.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27129

[Asia Sails Smoothly Through Debt Waters](#)

NYT, 8 February 2010

MUMBAI, India — While rising government debt is a growing concern in Europe and

the United States, Asia's economies remain remarkably resilient, even buoyant, underscoring how economic might is shifting from West to East. China has been repaying some of what little foreign debt it owes, even as economists wonder whether Greece will require an international bailout and ask how long the United States can sustain record budget deficits. "We took a pass on the economic crisis," said Philip S. Carmichael, president of Asian operations at Haier, China's biggest appliance maker.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/08/business/global/08asiaecon.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

Chidambaram renews offer of talks if Maoists halt violence

The Hindu, 9 February 2010

After a meeting of four naxal-affected States, the Centre on Tuesday said it was ready to hold talks with the Maoists if they "halt" violence. "My appeal to all the naxals on behalf of all the Chief Ministers who participated in the conference two days ago, on behalf of naxal-affected states, if you abjure violence that is if you say a halt to violence, we are not asking you to do anything more, if you halt the violence we are prepared to talk to you on any matter," Home Minister P. Chidambaram said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article103692.ece>

'India, China do not pose threat to each other'

The Hindu, 9 February 2010

Describing its ties with India as "friendly and cooperative," China on Tuesday said both countries did not pose a mutual threat. Dismissing reports that India's nuclear-capable Agni-III missile, which has a range of 3,500 km posed a threat to China, Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu said China and India were having friendly and cooperative relations. "I don't want to interpret or comment on the reports," Mr. Ma said when asked to comment on the February 7 launch of Agni-III, which put China's major cities within its strike range.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article103716.ece>

Job quota for Muslims in West Bengal a political gimmick: Congress

The Hindu, 9 February 2010

Congress on Tuesday rubbished as a "political gimmick" West Bengal government's announcement of job reservation to Muslims and questioned the intention behind the decision. "We should wait and watch and assess the situation. Are they doing this only to make political gains? It seems to be a political gimmick. Congress will keep an eye on it on whether the State government has made the announcement just to mislead people," Congress spokesman Shakeel Ahmad told reporters.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article103804.ece>

One killed as militants attack police station in J&K

The Hindu, 9 February 2010

A policeman was killed when ultras attacked Sopore police station in Baramulla

district of north Kashmir on Tuesday. Head constable Mohammad Yousuf was entering the police station at 10:45 AM when militants opened fire, Deputy Inspector General of Police (north Kashmir) Abdul Qayoom Manhas told PTI. The policeman died instantly in the firing, he said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article103613.ece>

[Pak to discuss India's offer at inter-ministerial meeting](#)

The Hindu, 9 February 2010

Pakistan will hold high-level discussions here on Wednesday to discuss India's offer for Foreign Secretary-level talks amid its insistence that such a meeting should lead to the full-fledged resumption of the composite dialogue. Pakistan is in a dilemma over the Indian offer of talks which is confined to discuss terrorism and is in the process of formulating a response.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article103593.ece>

[Uncanny parallels between Beg's and Shah's deaths](#)

Kathmandu Post, 9 February 2010

the gruesome murder on Sunday of media entrepreneur Jamim Shah, 47, has brought back chilling memories of June 29, 1998. On that day, Mirza Dilshad Beg, a sitting lawmaker, was gunned down outside his home in Siphai, Kathmandu. It was a dark night and the hillside neighbourhood looked darker still due to load-shedding, when we (reporters and photographers from Kantipur and The Kathmandu Post) arrived at the scene, soon after the 9.30 hit-and-run incident. Of the first two, one was that Beg had a fallout with the underworld don Dawood Ibrahim (who is reportedly based in Karachi now) and the second was that Beg had been "eliminated" in a covert operation by an Indian agency for his allegedly shady links with the rival Pakistani intelligence. In a 2005 interview with Tehelka magazine, Chhota Rajan, Dawood's once-lynchpin in India (the two later had a serious fallout) claimed to have killed Beg "in India's interests." Twelve years after Beg's death, both the theories once again look eerily familiar.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/02/08/top-stories/Uncanny-parallels-between-Begs-and-Shahs-deaths/4935/>

[Advani expresses surprise over 'sudden move' for India-Pak talks](#)

The Hindu, 11 February 2010

Expressing surprise at the "sudden" move for talks with Pakistan, senior BJP leader L. K. Advani on Thursday said the principle issue is terrorism and talks should not be held unless the terror infrastructure in the neighbouring country is dismantled. The main Opposition party will raise this issue along with the sensitive issue of price rise during the forthcoming budget session of Parliament, he added. "The principle issue is terrorism. We are not interested in talks for talks sake," Mr. Advani told reporters, adding that India should go by the Joint Statement signed in January 2004 between then Prime Minister A. B. Vajpayee and Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article105136.ece>

[India hopes Sri Lanka will follow law in Fonseka's case](#)

The Hindu, 11 February 2010

Breaking its silence on the detention of former Sri Lankan Army chief Gen. Sarath Fonseka, India on Thursday said it "trusts" that the Rajapaksa government would "observe" due process of law in the case. External Affairs Ministry said India was in touch with the Sri Lankan authorities over the detention. "We have been in touch with the Government of Sri Lanka over the detention of Rtd Gen. Sarath Fonseka," the Ministry spokesman Vishnu Prakash said in a statement here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article105098.ece>

[Pakistan's relative inaction on terror won't affect talks: Antony](#)

The Hindu, 11 February 2010

India said its Foreign Secretary-level talks with Pakistan will "not be affected" despite increased infiltration by militants from across the border and the neighbouring nation failing to dismantle terror groups operating from its soil. Defence Minister A.K. Antony, however, said Pakistan had taken "some action" against the terrorists responsible for the 26/11 Mumbai attacks as per India's wishes, and that was why India had taken a conscious decision to go ahead with the dialogue.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article104990.ece>

[Kashmiris wanting to return from PoK welcome: Govt.](#)

The Hindu, 11 February 2010

In a significant gesture, the government on Thursday said it was ready to "welcome" Kashmiris who had gone to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) if they were ready to return after giving up militancy. "The idea that any Indian who had crossed over to PoK and wishes to return India is certainly welcome," Home Minister P. Chidambaram told reporters backing the proposal mooted by Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article104853.ece>

[We are ahead of Chinese in missile programme'](#)

The Hindu, 11 February 2010

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Director V.K. Saraswat on Wednesday said that India's anti-ballistic missile defence programme is ahead of China's programme. Mr. Saraswat said the country is also gearing to test its indigenous Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) shield in near future, a programme, he claimed, is more sophisticated than the Chinese one. "This is one area where we are senior to China," he said when asked to compare Indian BMD programme with that of China, which carried out its first test-firing on January 14.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article104821.ece>

[Kashmir, water to top talks agenda: Qureshi](#)

The News, 11 February 2010

ISLAMABAD: Unfazed by earlier Indian pressure tactics including abrupt ending of composite dialogue in the wake of Mumbai attacks, Pakistan on Wednesday sent out

a clear signal that if future engagements came with 'conditions', then these talks would only prove a non-starter and would serve neither Pakistan nor India's interests. And Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi's body language complemented it all as well. Appearing relaxed at the conclusion of the inter-ministerial meeting at the Foreign Office it was apparent that there had been a consensus among all the stakeholders at the meeting, which formulated a reply to India's offer to once again meet at the table.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27188

Politicisation of terror strikes is anti-national: Congress

The Hindu, 14 February 2010

Without naming the BJP and Shiv Sena, Congress today stepped up its attacks on the two parties for their remarks over the Pune blast, saying any politicisation or communalisation of the fight against terror is anti-national. "It is imprudent, inadvisable and irresponsible to second-guess an investigation and arrive at pre-determined conclusion by jumping the gun," party spokesperson Manish Tiwari said when asked to comment on BJP's remark on the incident.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article106531.ece>

BDR, BSF trade fire along Indo-Bangla border

The Hindu, 14 February 2010

BDR (Bangladesh Rifles) troops fired at three places along the Indo-Bangla border in Meghalaya, prompting the BSF (Border Security Forces) to retaliate, officials said here. "Some villagers of Muktapur in Meghalaya went for fishing near the border when BDR opened fire at them, and BSF retaliated, but no one was injured," a BSF official said. Later, BDR troops also fired a few shots at Naljuri and Rongtila, creating panic among the villagers.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article106529.ece>

From Mumbai to Pune, signs of a lesson learnt

The Hindu, 14 February 2010

Gone are the multiple changes of ministerial clothing, the delay in mobilising investigators and the information vacuum which led the media into speculative frenzy. Granted the scale of the Pune bomb. attack pales in comparison to the full frontal assault that heavily armed terrorists launched on Mumbai in November 2008, but Saturday's terror strike saw a more self-assured government step forward to pick up the pieces and instil a sense of confidence in ordinary citizens.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article106550.ece>

No rethinking on talks with Pakistan

The Hindu, 14 February 2010

India has no intention of allowing terrorists to dictate the scope and schedule of diplomatic interaction with Pakistan and will not let Saturday's bombing of a bakery in Pune derail the February 25 meeting of foreign secretaries, highly placed sources told The Hindu. With investigations into the attack still underway, officials said on

Sunday that there would be no "knee-jerk reaction". India knows the situation is complex, they added.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article106440.ece>

[PM reviews situation following Pune blast](#)

The Hindu, 14 February 2010

After a detailed review of the internal security situation in the wake of bomb blast in Pune, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Sunday directed the Union and Maharashtra governments to take coordinated and effective action to speedily investigate the terror attack. Dr. Singh who discussed the situation with Home Minister P. Chidambaram, directed speedy investigation so that "the culprits responsible for this heinous act are identified and brought to justice at the earliest," a spokesman of the Prime Minister's Office said. The Prime Minister was briefed by the Home Minister about investigations being carried out in Pune in the aftermath of the blast on Saturday.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article106482.ece>

[Omar meets FM, seeks NE-2007 package for J&K](#)

Daily Excelsior, 14 February 2010

NEW DELHI, Feb 13: Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah today called on Union Finance Minister, Pranab Mukherjee here and presented case of J&K for extension of North-East Package-2007 to the State as well, apart from already operational package of 2002. He said it is the concern of entire country to bring out the State from all such industrial ailments which were caused as a result of two decade turmoil. The Chief Minister said it is the endeavor of his Government to ensure massive investment in the sectors of Industry and Commerce in the State so that better and respectable employment opportunities are created for the youth.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/10feb14/news.htm#1>

[India Pursues Terror Link After Bomb Blast](#)

NYT, 14 February 2010

PUNE, India — A day after a bomb blast ripped through a crowded eatery in this western Indian city, Indian authorities were trying to determine Sunday whether the attack was linked to any known terrorist groups and to a man charged in the deadly 2008 assault on Mumbai. Home Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram said that the authorities had not determined who was responsible for the attack on Saturday, which killed nine people and wounded at least 60. But he said Indian officials would renew efforts to interview David Headley, a Pakistani-American who is facing charges in Chicago for performing reconnaissance for the Mumbai attacks on behalf of a Pakistan-based terrorist group, Lashkar-e-Taiba.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/15/world/asia/15india.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

[Thackeray's Mumbai stand against India's integrity: Narayanan](#)

The Hindu, 15 February 2010

Flaying Shiv Sena Chief Bal Thackeray's 'Mumbai for Marathis' stand, West Bengal Governor and former National Security Advisor, M.K. Narayanan, on Monday said such a position would undermine the nation's integrity. "If I tend to disagree with the stand adopted by the Shiv Sena chief, I may also be barred from visiting Mumbai," Narayanan said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/states/kerala/article107105.ece>

Two mountain divisions being raised in the North-East: Antony

The Hindu, 15 February 2010

Defence Minister A.K. Antony said the Army was raising two new mountain divisions in the North-East, along the borders with China, but dismissed suggestions that the move was against the neighbour. "We are raising two mountain divisions in the North-East. I must tell you it is not against China. But these are being raised under the overall policies to strengthen the presence of the armed forces in the North-East," Antony told a press conference on the occasion of the Sixth Def Expo here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article107021.ece>

Foreign hand possible: Pillai

The Hindu, 15 February 2010

Union Home Secretary G.K. Pillai on Monday said he could not rule out the possibility of involvement of foreign hand in the Saturday's Pune blast. Mr. Pillai said there definitely was a link between the blast and American David Coleman Headley, a Lashkar-e-Taiba operative. Headley had spoken of an ISI-sponsored "Karachi Project" to take away Indian youth to Pakistan and indoctrinate them to carry out attacks in India.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article107213.ece>

India-EU FTA likely by December

The Hindu, 15 February 2010

Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the European Union is likely to be finalised by December 2010, with the final round of talks to be held in March, a top official said on Monday. "India and the EU are negotiating a FTA that has the capacity to advance the relationship and increase bilateral trade. After seven round of negotiations, the final talks would be held in March. After the next round, the agreement is likely to be finalised by this December," Ambassador, Head of European Commission Delegation to India Daniele Smadja told reporters here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/cities/Chennai/article107155.ece>

Advani attacks Nehru's foreign policies

The Hindu, 15 February 2010

India's foreign policy as shaped by the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was criticised by Bharatiya Janata Party leader L.K. Advani in a blog posted by him on Sunday where he said Nehru's "mishandling" of Pakistan left Kashmir and terrorism as "two festering sores" on the country's body politic. Relying heavily on Fareed Zakaria's book The Post American World, he repeatedly and approvingly quoted

Zakaria's criticism of Nehru, noting his foreign policy was rooted in "abstract ideas rather than a strategic conception of national interests. Surprisingly, Mr. Advani made no mention of Nehru's policy of non-alignment, although experts consider that to be his major contribution to foreign policy in a world divided by the Cold War.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article107129.ece>

[Pune blast: Police to quiz IM militant Shahzad](#)
The Hindu, 15 February 2010

As an Indian Mujahideen(IM) link with the Pune attack is increasingly suspected, investigators are set to quiz one of its key men Shahzad over the presence of the terror group's sleeper cells in Maharashtra, especially in this city. Investigators were also looking for possible clues in the CCTV footage obtained from a five-star hotel in the vicinity of German Bakery which was blasted in the terror attack leaving nine dead and 60 injured on Saturday night.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article107078.ece>

[Pune blast clouds Indo-Pak talks](#)
The News, 15 February 2010

PUNE, India: A deadly bomb blast in western India threw a cloud on Sunday over the scheduled resumption of India-Pakistan peace talks that were suspended in the wake of the 2008 Mumbai attacks. The blast, which killed nine people late on Saturday in a packed restaurant frequented by students and foreigners in the city of Pune, was the first major attack on the Indian soil since Mumbai. An Italian national and an Iranian were among the dead. Twelve of the 60 people injured were foreigners, police said. The timing was particularly sensitive, coming a day after India and Pakistan agreed to resume official talks after a 14-month hiatus.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27258

[Two HuJI militants convicted of waging war against country](#)
The Hindu, 16 February 2010

A Delhi court on Tuesday convicted two HuJI militants, including a Bangladeshi national, of possessing explosives, hawala money and waging war against the country, charges which envisage death penalty as the maximum punishment. Additional Sessions Judge Nivedita Anil Sharma held Mohd Amin Wani, a Jammu and Kashmir resident, and Lutfur Rahman, the Bangladeshi national, who is alleged to have received training at the instance of Pakistan-based Jamaat-Ud Dawa chief Hafiz Saeed, guilty in the case.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article107643.ece>

[Unknown Pakistani group claims responsibility for Pune blast](#)
The Hindu, 16 February 2010

An unknown group calling itself the Lashkar-e-Taiba Al Alami claimed on Tuesday it was behind Saturday's bomb attack in Pune that killed nine people. A person who identified himself as Abu Jindal called The Hindu here, described himself as the spokesman of the LeT Al Alami (international), and claimed the group had carried out

the attack because of what he said was India's "refusal" to discuss Kashmir in the forthcoming talks with Pakistan.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article107586.ece>

[India-Asean services pact may be inked in October](#)

The Hindu, 16 February 2010

India and the 10-nation South East Asian trading bloc Asean are expected to widen their trade engagement by signing in October, a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that will cover services and investment. India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) signed an FTA in goods in August last year and are engaged in intense negotiations to expand this pact to include services and investments.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article107517.ece>

[Gilani offers to step up intelligence cooperation with India](#)

The Hindu, 16 February 2010

Pakistan Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani on Tuesday offered to enhance cooperation with India in the field of intelligence to avert attacks like the Pune blast that could "further the agenda of terrorists" who were holding the bilateral ties "hostage". Mr. Gilani made the remarks during a meeting with visiting U.S. Senator John Kerry, the chairman of the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He also expressed Pakistan's "strong commitment to resolve all core issues between the two countries through peaceful means and composite dialogue."

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article107537.ece>

[President in New Delhi](#)

Kathmandu Post, 16 February 2010

President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav arrived in New Delhi on Monday afternoon on his maiden trip abroad. State Minister for External Affairs Pranita Kaur, Nepali Ambassador to India Rukma Sumsher Rana and Indian Ambassador to Nepal Rakesh Sood received the president. President Yadav left for India on Monday on the invitation of Indian President Pratibha Devi Singh Patil, leading a 27-member delegation. It has been learnt that the visit will review bilateral ties and see signing of several memoranda of understanding, including an MoU on civil aviation.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/02/15/top-stories/President-in-New-Delhi/5165/>

[Secret Joint Raid Captures Taliban's Top Commander](#)

NYT, 16 February 2010

WASHINGTON — The Taliban's top military commander was captured several days ago in Karachi, Pakistan, in a secret joint operation by Pakistani and American intelligence forces, according to American government officials. The commander, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, is an Afghan described by American officials as the most significant Taliban figure to be detained since the American-led war in Afghanistan started more than eight years ago. He ranks second in influence only to Mullah Muhammad Omar, the Taliban's founder and a close associate of Osama bin

Laden before the Sept. 11 attacks. Mullah Baradar has been in Pakistani custody for several days, with American and Pakistani intelligence officials both taking part in interrogations, according to the officials.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/16/world/asia/16intel.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

[India Condemns Attack by Maoists That Killed 24 Police Officers](#)

NYT, 16 February 2010

NEW DELHI — India's top domestic security official strongly condemned on Tuesday a brazen attack by Maoist rebels in which gunmen on motorcycles and pickup trucks killed 24 police officers during a daylight ambush against a paramilitary camp in the state of West Bengal. The attack occurred on Monday afternoon and represented a serious setback in India's mounting campaign against the Communist Party of India (Maoist), which has a presence in 20 of the country's 28 states and exerts outright control over several isolated regions. "Their goal is to seize power," the home affairs minister, Palaniappan Chidambaram, said in a statement condemning the attack. "Their weapon is violence. No organization or group in a democratic republic has the right to take to violence to overpower the established legal authority."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/17/world/asia/17india.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

[India Worries as China Builds Ports in South Asia](#)

NYT, 16 February 2010

HAMBANTOTA, Sri Lanka — For years, ships from other countries, laden with oil, machinery, clothes and cargo, sped past this small town near India as part of the world's brisk trade with China. Now, China is investing millions to turn this fishing hamlet into a booming new port, furthering an ambitious trading strategy in South Asia that is reshaping the region and forcing India to rethink relations with its neighbors. As trade in the region grows more lucrative, China has been developing port facilities in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar, and it is planning to build railroad lines in Nepal. These projects, analysts say, are part of a concerted effort by Chinese leaders and companies to open and expand markets for their goods and services in a part of Asia that has lagged behind the rest of the continent in trade and economic development.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/16/business/global/16port.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

[India cannot be deterred by HuJI's threat: Chidambaram](#)

The Hindu, 17 February 2010

Asserting that the Harkat-ul-Jehadi Islami (HuJI) operational chief Ilyas Kashmiri cannot dictate terms to the country, Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram said India is not deterred by his threats. "Ilyas Kashmir cannot dictate our course of action. We cannot be deterred and we are not deterred by what he says," he told reporters here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article108094.ece>

[Pune blasts: Four taken into custody in Hampi](#)

The Hindu, 17 February 2010

Four Kashmiri youths have been taken into custody from nearby Hampi in connection with the bomb blast in Pune that claimed 11 lives. A police team from Pune detained the youths, engaged in selling artefacts, at Virapura Gadde locality on Wednesday, police sources said. The sources said a search was on for three more persons in connection with the blast, but refused to give details.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article108077.ece>

[Pakistan fostering terror, not helping bilateral ties: India](#)

The Hindu, 17 February 2010

India said the conscious fostering of terrorism from across the border was not helping Indo-Pak ties and asked the neighbour to contain it. "Fostering of terrorism from across the border (by Pakistan) was not helping bilateral relations," Minister of State for Defence M.M. Pallam Raju told reporters on the sidelines of a CII-sponsored naval seminar at the ongoing DefExpo here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article108055.ece>

[India, Denmark sign social security pact](#)

The Hindu, 17 February 2010

India and Denmark on Wednesday signed a social security pact that will relieve their workers from double taxation and provide for cooperation in areas of labour market expansion and orderly migration. Under the agreement, workers on short term contracts will not be required to make any social security contribution in the country of employment provided they continue to make social security payments in the country of their origin.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article108241.ece>

[Chidambaram chairs meeting of Unified Command](#)

The Hindu, 17 February 2010

Union Home Minister P Chidambaram on Wednesday chaired the meeting of the Unified Command to discuss the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Tight security arrangements have been made for the Home Minister's visit in view of the State BJP's plan to gherao him to protest his approval of the policy to allow surrender of militants mooted by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article108000.ece>

[New Delhi accords Prez warm welcome](#)

Kathmandu Post, 17 February 2010

In the most important and busiest day of his four-day maiden visit to India, President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav on Tuesday met several top leaders including Indian President Pratibha Patil, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Indian National Congress President Sonia Gandhi. Before meeting with Gandhi, key Cabinet ministers and Vice President Hamid Ansari called on President Yadav. Foreign Minister S. M.

Krishna, Finance Minister Pranab Mukharjee and Home Minister P. Chidambaram met the president separately. India's new national security adviser Shiv Shankar Menon also paid a courtesy call.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/02/16/top-stories/New-Delhi-accords-Prez-warm-welcome/5203/>

[China Intensifies a Tug of War With India Over Nepal](#)

NYT, 17 February 2010

KATMANDU, Nepal — For years, Nepal never bothered too much with policing its northern border with China. The Himalayas seemed a formidable enough barrier, and Nepal's political and economic attention was oriented south toward India. If Nepal was a mouse trapped between elephants, as the local saying went, the elephant that mattered most was India. But last week a Nepalese government delegation visited Beijing on a trip that underscored, once again, how China's newfound weight in the world is altering old geopolitical equations. As Nepal's home minister, Bhim Rawal, met with China's top security officials, Chinese state media reported that the two countries had agreed to cooperate on border security, while Nepal restated its commitment to preventing any "anti-China" events on its side of the border.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/18/world/asia/18nepal.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

[Crackdown Provokes Fears for Sri Lanka's Democracy](#)

NYT, 17 February 2010

NEW DELHI — In a part of the world better known for the interruption of democracy than its stubborn endurance, Sri Lanka has always been something of an oddity. A small country that suffered through one of the world's nastiest recent wars, it nevertheless remained for the most part a vibrant multiparty democracy. Last spring the government of President Mahinda Rajapaksa decisively defeated the Tamil Tiger insurgency that had terrorized Sri Lanka for the better part of three decades. Last month, voters rewarded him with a landslide victory that gave him a new term. So it is all the more surprising that his government decided to arrest the longtime ally who became his main rival for the presidency, Gen. Sarath Fonseka.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/17/world/asia/17lanka.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

[Bengal to raise battalion to contain Maoist violence](#)

The Hindu, 18 February 2010

Rattled by the spurt in Maoist violence in the state, the West Bengal Government has decided to raise a battalion of special combat forces to deal with it. The battalion, comprising 939 personnel, would tackle extremist violence and work towards restoring normalcy in the western region wrecked by an endless cycle of attacks, State Finance Minister Asim Dasgupta told reporters after a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article109059.ece>

[India being "realistic" in agreeing to talk to Pakistan](#)

The Hindu, 18 February 2010

The upcoming meeting between the foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan is aimed at building a climate of trust for future talks between the neighbours but much will depend on what Islamabad actually does, official sources said on Thursday. The sources said India was being "realistic" in going ahead with the meeting, as beyond a point, putting off talks was likely to yield diminishing returns. "However, this [meeting] is not aimed at resolving outstanding issues. We are fully conscious of the complexities involved in the process and are therefore adopting a nuanced approach to the dialogue."

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article108756.ece>

[Rajya Sabha M.P. wants surrender policy extended to Punjab](#)

The Hindu, 18 February 2010

An independent Rajya Sabha M.P. has suggested the government extends its new surrender policy in Jammu and Kashmir to Punjab, saying several of those from the Sikh community who crossed borders after Operation Blue Star are willing to come back and settle down peacefully in India. In a letter to Home Minister P. Chidambaram, Tarlochan Singh welcomed the steps being taken by the Centre to "normalise the situation in Kashmir" but wondered why it is "hesitant to provide the same facilities (general amnesty) to the Sikh youth who crossed borders in the wake of disturbances in Punjab after Operation Blue Star in 1984.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/states/article109009.ece>

['India's first pair of 700 MW nuke plants to be ready by 2016'](#)

The Hindu, 18 February 2010

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.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/sci-tech/article108748.ece>

[For Indo-Pakistan concord](#)

The Hindu, 18 February 2010

Who but the justices of the sub-continent will tell the governing classes of India and Pakistan to go for an "ephphatha" to make both countries listen to possible settlement measures as an urgent desideratum for survival and development? (Ephphatha is an Aramaic word that means "to be opened.") We are ready for peace talks, India had said. That statement was welcomed by Pakistan. The start of a serious, responsible dialogue is bound to produce — if it turns out to be successful — peace and prosperity, and augur well for a new world order. But communal views today mar harmony among the Indo-Pakistan humanity. Such an epic event cannot happen merely by the leaders meeting and talking. It requires a powerful awakening among the masses on both sides.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/article108484.ece>

[‘US help needed to balance Indian arms buying spree’](#)

The News, 18 February 2010

WASHINGTON: Pakistan will pursue a civilian nuclear deal with the United States and is urging Washington to help build up its military to counter massive defence spending by India, according to a report in The Washington Times citing Islamabad’s envoy to the United States. “India is our main concern, as it is buying weapons worth \$100 billion from five countries, including China, and to balance it, our relations with the US are very significant,” Ambassador Husain Haqqani said. “We have to largely depend upon the US for our defence-related matters,” added the ambassador, who is in Pakistan for routine consultations with political leaders and foreign ministry meetings.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27331

[Pak continues to push militants from across the border: Gen Kapoor](#)

The Hindu, 19 February 2010

Army Chief General Deepak Kapoor on Friday said Pakistan was continuing to push in militants from across the border into Jammu and Kashmir but the Armed Forces deployed there were capable of tackling it. “Our neighbour is continuing infiltration of militants from across the border into Jammu and Kashmir. It (infiltration) will continue. Forces are deployed in the border and they will make all efforts to stop the infiltrators there. If some militants do come in, our forces will tackle them,” he told reporters on the sidelines of an Army function.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article109469.ece>

[Supreme Court stays withdrawal of forces from Osmania University campus](#)

The Hindu, 19 February 2010

The Supreme Court on Friday stayed till February 23 the Andhra Pradesh High Court order directing withdrawal of Central paramilitary forces from Osmania University campus, the hotbed of the Telangana agitation. A bench of Justices G.S. Singhvi and T.S. Thakur, however, directed the state Home Secretary to ensure that the paramilitary forces are not allowed to misbehave in any manner with the students at the campus.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article109481.ece>

[Pact with Russia helps in faster delivery of defence supplies: India](#)

The Hindu, 19 February 2010

Admitting “setbacks” in its relations with Russia over delays in defence supplies, India today said the two sides have signed an agreement which will help in improving the product support from the European country. “There may be delays and setbacks sometimes, but we have a long relationship with Russia. There have been delays in delivery and product support in the past.” But after the signing of the Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) with Russia, issues have been sorted out.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article109644.ece>

[India, Israel vow to enhance cooperation in combating terror](#)

The Hindu, 19 February 2010

India and Israel have vowed to enhance cooperation in combating the menace of terror, with Tel Aviv terming "New Delhi's security as important to it as its own". "Israel's homeland security systems are very advanced and India can benefit from your experience. We are friendly countries and strategic partners based on sound fundamental principles. We have to cooperate to the fullest extent to combat the menace of terror," Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Jyotiraditya Scindia told business leaders here on Thursday.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article109349.ece>

[Indian stance on talks not encouraging, US told](#)

The News, 19 February 2010

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan made it clear to the United States that despite the challenging role that it was facing in the region, "the vibes emanating from New Delhi have not been encouraging" in the context of resumption of the Composite Dialogue process. Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, President Asif Ali Zardari, PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif and Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir, all impressed upon US Special Envoy for Pakistan and Afghanistan Richard Holbrooke, in their separate meetings, how vital it was for New Delhi to remain engaged in the dialogue process.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27336

[President's visit a mixed blessing](#)

Kathmandu, 19 February 2010

President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav returned home on Thursday completing his four-day visit to India. It was a mixed bag. To his supporters, New Delhi not only expressed solidarity with the budding Nepali republic but also demonstrated strong support for the president for his hardline position against the Maoist-led government. His detractors, especially the Maoists, could argue that it was but natural for Delhi to accord the president a warm welcome. Delhi, to this group, gave him a 'thank you' for doing what he was asked to do: revoke the Maoist-led government's decision to sack the then-Army chief Rookmangud Katawal. Some Nepal-watchers here say New Delhi has no illusion about the ceremonial status of Nepal's president. "After all, it is the political parties, including the Maoists, who have to come together to complete the work on the constitution," said an Indian analyst insisting anonymity.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/02/18/top-stories/Presidents-visit-a-mixed-blessing/5280/>

[German Bakery failed to follow security guidelines, say police](#)

The Hindu, 20 February 2010

Pune police on Saturday claimed the management of German Bakery that was bombed in February 13 terror attack had not followed the standard security guidelines given to all establishments in Koregaon Park area. Talking to reporters here, City Police Commissioner Satyapal Singh said a letter detailing the necessary security guidelines to be implemented was handed over to the manager of the eatery on October 9, 2009.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article110361.ece>

[Government ready to facilitate return of Sikh youth: Chidambaram](#)

The Hindu, 20 February 2010

On the lines of the offer made to Kashmiri militants, Home Minister P. Chidambaram said the Government is ready to facilitate the return of Sikh youth who took political asylum abroad during militancy in Punjab, provided they give up violence. "If Sikh youth want to return, having given up militancy, giving up violence, given up the demands of Khalistan, (then) we will certainly facilitate the return of Sikh youth," he said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article110234.ece>

[Telangana: Fresh round of violence erupts in Hyderabad](#)

The Hindu, 20 February 2010

Police fired at least 20 rounds of tear gas shells to disperse a stone-pelting mob near a flyover adjacent to Osmania University campus here on Saturday evening. The fresh round of violence erupted in Tarnaka area after city police successfully foiled the attempt of the students to lay a siege to Andhra Pradesh Assembly in support their demand for a separate Telangana state. Students indulged in heavy stone-pelting at police raising slogans "police go back".

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article110309.ece>

[Govt ready to discuss all issues: Manmohan](#)

The Hindu, 20 February 2010

Under attack from Opposition over talks with Pakistan, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday said Government is ready to discuss all issues in Parliament. "We are ready to discuss all issues in Parliament," he told reporters after a meeting of leaders of political parties convened by Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar ahead of the Budget session of Parliament commencing from Monday.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article110117.ece>

[Curfew-like situation in Srinagar](#)

The Hindu, 20 February 2010

Life was disrupted today across Kashmir valley, including the state capital, where curfew-like situation prevailed following a general strike called by hardline faction of Hurriyat Conference against alleged human rights violations in the state. The call for strike has been given by the Hurriyat Conference led by Syed Ali Shah Geelani against "human rights violations, increasing arrests and atrocities on civilians".

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/states/other-states/article110100.ece>

[No rethink on Arjun tank: DRDO chief](#)

The Hindu, 21 February 2010

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) dispelled

apprehensions that there was a question mark over the capability of the indigenously manufactured Arjun tank. Speaking at a press conference here on Saturday, DRDO chief V.K. Saraswat dismissed reports that the tank was undergoing yet another series of revaluations vis-à-vis the Russian T-90 main battle tanks.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article110458.ece>

[DNA samples collected from the site of the blast at German Bakery](#)

The Hindu, 21 February 2010

Eight days after the terror attack in Pune, a breakthrough in the probe has eluded Maharashtra's Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) which is pinning its hopes on the forensic results of the DNA samples collected from the site of the blast at German Bakery here. The death toll in the blast on the night of February 13 meanwhile rose to 15 when two students succumbed to their injuries at a hospital here on Sunday. The victims were identified as Rajeev Agarwal (23) from Symbiosis college and Vikas Tulsyani (24) from D. Y. Patil College here. Rajeev and Vikas hailed from Kolkata and Delhi respectively, they added.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article110936.ece>

[Govt approves induction of 30,000 more personnel for BSF](#)

The Hindu, 21 February 2010

In its efforts to augment the strength of the Border Security Force (BSF), the Centre has approved raising of 29 battalions, comprising around 30,000 personnel, for the country's frontier guarding force. Of the 29 battalions, 16 would be deployed in areas along Indo-Bangladesh border, while 13 would serve as additional reserve battalions to be deployed on a rotational basis to ensure sufficient training, rest and recuperation for the personnel.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article110833.ece>

[India condemns beheading of Sikh in Pakistan](#)

The Hindu, 22 February 2010

India on Monday strongly condemned the "barbaric" beheading of a Sikh man by suspected Taliban militants in Pakistan. "We condemn the barbaric act of Taliban," External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna told reporters here following reports of the beheading of Jaspal Singh in Pakistan's Peshawar city. Jaspal Singh and his two companions were abducted by Taliban militants recently. His beheaded body was found in Pakistan's restive tribal region on Sunday. His two companions, Gorwandar Singh and Surjeet Singh, are still being held captive by the militants.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article111286.ece>

['Pak should take effective action against anti-India groups'](#)

The Hindu, 22 February 2010

Ahead of the Indo-Pak talks this week, India made it clear that process of normalisation of ties with Pakistan can be sustained only by "effective action" against groups there calling for jihad against India. "...calls of jihad, hostility and aggression continue to be made openly against India. This reflects the real and tangible

difficulties that we face in dealing with Pakistan," Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao said, delivering the key note address at the 3rd International Institute of Strategic Studies-MEA Dialogue here on Monday. 'Pak should take effective action against anti-India groups'.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article111495.ece>

[Five-member delegation to accompany Pak foreign secretary for talks](#)
The Hindu, 22 February 2010

Pakistan Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir will be accompanied by a five-member delegation when he arrives here for talks with his Indian counterpart Nirupama Rao on February 25. The delegation will arrive a day prior to the talks and will leave on February 26, a Pakistan High Commission source told PTI here. It was not clear whether the two Foreign Secretaries will do a joint media interaction after the parleys, with the current indications being that both sides would hold separate press conferences.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article111387.ece>

[India, Saudi Arabia to ink extradition treaty during Manmohan visit](#)
The Hindu, 22 February 2010

Issues of security and combating extremism in the region are likely to dominate parleys between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and leaders of Saudi Arabia, who are also expected to sign an extradition treaty during the former's three-day visit to this country later this week. Mr. Singh will lead a high-level delegation of senior ministers, officials and businessmen to Saudi Arabia on February 27, and will hold talks with King Abdullah on a number of bilateral and regional matters of mutual concern. Indian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Talmiz Ahmad told the media that the talks will also focus on Palestine, besides the situation in Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Yemen.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article111153.ece>

[JK coming back to normalcy: Governor](#)
Daily Excelsior, 22 February 2010

JAMMU : Welcoming the Foreign Secretary-level dialogue between India and Pakistan, Jammu and Kashmir Governor N N Vohra today said the State is slowly coming back to peace and normalcy. "To restore complete peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir, it is essential that process of (Indo-Pak) dialogue be resumed...The state Government welcomes the projected discussions between the Foreign Secretaries of Indian and Pakistan," Vohra told a joint session of the State Assembly ahead of the budget session.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/10feb22/newsupdate.htm#5>

[Qureshi optimistic about talks with India](#)
The News, 22 February 2010

BEIJING: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mehmud Qureshi said on Sunday he is "optimistic" on Pakistan, India foreign-secretary-level talks scheduled on February

25. Talking to Chinese print and electronic media here, he, however, made it clear the outcome of the talk "depends on the response from the Indian side". Being neighbours, we can not do without talking to each other, Qureshi noted.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27406

['Pakistan backs India for UNSC seat'](#)

The News, 22 February 2010

UNITED NATIONS: India's campaign to secure a non-permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council has received a major boost as 53 nations from the Asia region endorsed its candidature. According to an official statement from India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, 19 countries, including Pakistan, 'spoke in favour of the proposal to endorse New Delhi's candidature for the two-year term in the Security Council, starting from January 1, 2011.' If India does secure the seat, it will be the first time in 19 years that it will occupy a seat in the council.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27419

[Maldivian students recruited to wage jihad, confirms Vice President](#)

Minivan, 22 February 2010

Vice President of the Maldives Dr Mohammed Waheed Hassan has told Indian media that young Maldivians are being recruited by militant groups in Pakistan and Afghanistan to wage 'jihad'. The Indian Press Trust (IPT), among others, also reported that Waheed had claimed an increasing number of young Maldivians "are embracing a version of Islam which is more strict than the traditional Islamic values [of the Maldives]."

<http://minivannews.com/society/2010/02/22/maldivian-students-recruited-to-wage-jihad-confirms-vice-president/>

[Will take up Sikhs killing issue with Pak: Govt](#)

The Hindu, 24 February 2010

The government on Wednesday termed as a matter of "deep and serious concern" the beheading of a Sikh in Pakistan and said the issue was being taken up appropriately with Pakistan. Making a suo motu statement in the Lok Sabha on the 'beheading of a Sikh in Pakistan', External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna said: "I rise to strongly condemn the beheading of Sardar Jaspal Singh in the tribal areas of Pakistan. This barbaric and heinous crime is deplorable in the strongest possible terms.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article112601.ece>

[BSF jawan injured in Pak firing](#)

The Hindu, 24 February 2010

In yet another ceasefire violation, Pakistani troops fired on a forward post along the India-Pak border in Samba sector early Wednesday, leaving a BSF jawan injured. BSF officials said there was small arms firing from Pakistan on forward border post of Karotana-Manarain along the International Border in Samba sector, about 55 km from here. In the firing, a BSF jawan constable Krishan was injured, the officials said,

adding the firing continued for 30 minutes.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article112531.ece>

[Congress hails Mamata's budget](#)

The Hindu, 24 February 2010

The Congress on Wednesday hailed the Railway budget saying the party in particular welcomes Mamata Banerjee's decision not to increase passenger fares. "We welcome the Railway budget. In this seventh successive railway budget under UPA I and UPA II, there has been no hike in passenger fares or even in freight. Both the UPA governments need to be congratulated for that," party spokesperson Shakeel Ahmed told reporters here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article112745.ece>

[Pakistan unlikely to make headway on water issue with India](#)

The Hindu, 24 February 2010

India believes that Pakistan's bid to hoist the water issue on the bilateral agenda would be misplaced because the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) has stood the test of time in resolving differences. IWT Commissioners have met over a 100 times since the treaty was signed half a century ago to exchange information and iron out irritants, which means that the mechanism has been working well. In fact, Islamabad's desire to bring the water issue on the table on the eve of this week's foreign secretary talks is a change from its stand in 2002, when the "Pakistan Water Sector Strategy" argued for thwarting any "attempt by India" to scrap the treaty. It anticipated an adverse impact on the river water flows if the treaty was scrapped and argued for building storage capacities to meet requirements in times of shortages, which Pakistan has failed to do adequately.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article112388.ece>

[Foreign secy off to New Delhi for talks](#)

The News, 24 February 2010

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir flies to New Delhi on Wednesday to restart secretarial level talks starting on Thursday, which will see an end to the diplomatic freeze at a time when Indian 'posturing' sees the Pakistan foreign office relaxed and refusing to take the 'bait' from New Delhi and respond to the 'dictatorial' language of South Block. Knowing it is today, the 'flavour of the region', top Pakistani diplomats and bureaucrats appear relaxed, puffing smoke from their Chinese cigarettes, as India once again binds itself in knots on the eve of the talks.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27471

[India eyes Agartala-Akhaura train service next year](#)

Daily Star, 24 February 2010

India on Wednesday announced that a special train will run between India and Bangladesh to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore next year and a proposal for passenger train between Agartala and Akhaura has been put forward. Indian Railway Minister Mamata Banerjee made the announcements while

presenting the budget for his ministry for the year 2010-11 in Parliament. The budget proposes no increase in passenger fares and freight rates but cuts the tariff by Rs 100 per wagon in transportation of food grains, kerosene and fertilisers to tackle price rise.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=22391

Balancing Act for India as Talks With Pakistan Resume

NYT, 24 February 2010

NEW DELHI — The resumption of diplomatic talks between India and Pakistan on Thursday comes at a critical moment, with the United States hoping that even a modest improvement in relations between the nuclear-armed neighbors could help the broader American military effort in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Yet even a small improvement is likely to prove a challenge, analysts say. Even as the foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan were preparing to meet in New Delhi, the countries have squabbled over what would be discussed. India wants the agenda to focus on terrorism, while Pakistan wants to resume the broader talks that broke off after the November 2008 attacks on Mumbai, India, by militants trained in Pakistan.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/25/world/asia/25india.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

At least 9 Indians killed in Kabul attack

The Hindu, 26 February 2010

At least nine Indians, including government officials, were among 17 people killed as Taliban suicide bombers carried out a string of attacks in the heart of Kabul in yet another incident targeting Indian interests in Afghanistan. The Indians, who died in the incident included government officials, an ITBP constable and a tabla player who was part of a cultural delegation to Afghanistan.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article114082.ece>

Job well done,' says Manmohan

The Hindu, 26 February 2010

Terming as "exceedingly good", Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Friday said the Budget would help the economy to return to nine per cent growth while allaying the fears that it would fuel "inflationary" expectation. "A job well done" was how Singh summarised Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee's Union Budget for 2010-11, presented in Parliament on Friday.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article113959.ece>

Opinion: A balanced review

The Hindu, 26 February 2010

In line with the recent optimistic forecasts by both official and non-official agencies, the pre-Budget Economic Survey estimates that the economy could grow by as high as 8.75 per cent during 2010-11 and move to 9 per cent the next year. It is a tribute to India's economic management that the economy seems certain to grow, so soon after the global crisis, by a highly respectable 7 per cent-plus this year. A double-

digit growth does not seem out of reach within the next four years.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/article113670.ece>

[Naga rebels to arrive Saturday for talks with Centre](#)

The Hindu, 26 February 2010

Carrying forward the dialogue process on the vexed Naga issue, NSCN-IM chairman Isak Chisi Swu and general secretary Thuingaleng Muivah will arrive here on Saturday to hold talks with the Centre's new interlocutor and are likely to meet Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Swu and Muivah, who had last visited India in December 2006 and held talks with government leaders, are coming a fortnight after the Government appointed R.S. Pandey, former Petroleum Secretary, as the new interlocutor on Naga talks earlier this month.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article114107.ece>

[Allocation for education goes up by over 25 per cent](#)

The Hindu, 26 February 2010

With the government deciding to implement the Right To Education Act from April this year, the allocation for education sector witnessed an over 25 per cent increase in the budget with the major chunk of the funds going to elementary education. The total allocation for education increased from Rs 36,400 crore in 2009-10 to Rs 45,711 crore in 2010-11. In the backdrop of the decision to implement the Right To Education Act from April, the allocation for elementary education, which was Rs 26,800 crore last year, has been increased to Rs 34,711 crore this year. This money includes Rs 3,675 crore earmarked under the Thirteenth Finance Commission grants for 2010-11.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article114077.ece>

[No progress made in foreign secretaries meeting](#)

The News, 26 February 2010

NEW DELHI: No substantial progress was made during the secretary-level talks held between Pakistan and India here on Thursday, as India engaged in a game of doubletalk, saying one thing while meaning the other. Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir, while talking to the Pakistani press at the Pakistan High Commission in the evening, said the gap between Pakistan and India was widening and he did not see any substantial progress in the talks.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27508

[Clinton says peace in Pakistan, India's interest](#)

The News, 26 February 2010

WASHINGTON: As Pakistan and India held on Thursday their first official-level talks since 2008, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has expressed the view that proceeding on peace path is in the interest of both South Asian nations. She noted that before the suspension of talks about 15 months ago, the peace process between Pakistan and Indian leaders "had actually been quite productive, particularly in producing results on the ground in Kashmir." Clinton was referring to the composite

dialogue process between the two nuclear neighbours. "We've encouraged both countries to begin a dialogue," Clinton told a Senate Appropriations panel, while testifying on the Obama administration's State Department foreign operations budget request for 2011.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27518

[Manmohan urges Karzai to protect Indians](#)

The Hindu, 27 February 2010

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh expressed "outrage" over the killing of at least six Indians in the bomb blasts in Kabul aimed at two guest houses favoured by foreigners. In a telephonic conversation with Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai, Dr. Singh appreciated the timely medical assistance to those injured in the blast and requested him to ensure full protection of Indians working there on humanitarian projects. Mr. Karzai had called up Dr. Singh to express his condolences on the death of Indian nationals in the attacks in Kabul.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article117354.ece>

[No alternative to dialogue to resolve issues with Pak: Manmohan](#)

The Hindu, 27 February 2010

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday said India sought a peaceful and normal relationship with Pakistan, saying there was no alternative to dialogue to resolve the issues that divided the two countries. "We should be good neighbours. In that quest we have consistently sought to engage those in Pakistan who are ready to work with us. There is no alternative to dialogue to resolve the issues that divide us. Today the primary issue is terrorism," Dr. Singh said in an interview to Saudi journalists ahead of his visit to Riyadh.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article123393.ece>

[Curfew continues in J&K's Pattan town](#)

The Hindu, 27 February 2010

Curfew continued for the second day today in two villages of north Kashmir's Pattan town which witnessed clashes between two sects of Muslims leaving 20 people injured. Curfew was imposed in Hagarpora and Kangandora villages of Pattan when clashes broke out over erection of a hoarding of a spiritual leader in the town on Thursday in which 20 people were injured and scores of houses and shops damaged.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article114505.ece>

[Pakistan wants meaningful talks with India: PM](#)

The News, 27 February 2010

KARACHI: Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Friday said Pakistan wanted a meaningful dialogue with India. Talking to newsmen here after the inauguration of a 250 MW power plant, he said Pakistan wanted composite and meaningful dialogue with all the neighbouring countries, including India and Afghanistan, as the war was not a solution to any issue.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27524

[LeT militant arrested in Baramulla](#)

The Hindu, 28 February 2010

A Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militant was arrested in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, police said. Identified as Fayaz Ahmad Gojri alias Yasser, he was nabbed by security forces in Khawajabagh area, some 55 km from here, they said. An under barrel grenade launcher with two grenades were recovered from him, police said, adding he was a resident of Mohalla Kadeem in Baramulla.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/states/other-states/article123821.ece>

[42 terror camps still active in Pak: Antony](#)

The Hindu, 28 February 2010

India on Sunday said 42 terror camps are "still active" in Pakistan and that lack of a serious attempt or effort by that country to dismantle them is the "main cause of concern for us." Defence Minister A.K. Antony also said India did not expect a "miracle" from the resumption of Indo-Pak talks which concluded recently at the Foreign Secretary-level here noting it was just a beginning.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article123876.ece>

[Security tightened in Punjab, Haryana over Dera protests](#)

The Hindu, 28 February 2010

An uneasy calm prevailed on Sunday in parts of Haryana and Punjab, hit by violence after the filing of a fresh murder case against Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh. Authorities tightened security and the Centre rushed 1,200 paramilitary personnel to the affected areas. The police said at least 50 people were arrested in the two States and cases of arson, damaging public property and disturbing peace were filed against them. Prohibitory orders were clamped down in the worst-affected district of Sirsa, where the sect is based, and in Fatehbad, Jind and Hisar in Haryana.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article123684.ece>

[India stops U.S. attempt to sneak "scrutiny" into climate talks](#)

The Hindu, 28 February 2010

India has caught out an American attempt to go back on an agreement not to push for international "scrutiny" of voluntary attempts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, negotiated between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, U.S. President Barack Obama and the heads of government of China, Brazil and South Africa at the UN climate change talks in Copenhagen last December. Though the U.S. quickly changed tack when India protested, some negotiators here say the attempt to smuggle in already-discarded language vindicates their fears that compromises made by developing countries at Copenhagen signalled a "dangerous opening of the door."

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article123555.ece>