

[India, Pak relations have direct effects on J&K, says Omar Abdullah](#)

The Hindu, 2 March 2010

Welcoming the resumption of talks between India and Pakistan, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said the relation between the neighbours has a direct bearing on the State. "The smooth relations between India and Pakistan have good effect on our State and bad relations create an adverse result. So we must welcome the dialogue process between the countries," Mr. Abdullah told Legislative Council here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article125073.ece>

[Manmohan Singh meets Naga leaders](#)

The Hindu, 2 March 2010

Leaders of a frontline Naga separatist outfit on Tuesday met Prime Minister Manmohan Singh after several rounds of talks with a government-appointed interlocutor, a separatist leader said. The top leadership of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Isak-Muivah (NSCN—IM) is here for the peace talks which resumes after a gap of nearly a year.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article124795.ece>

[India, Australia to discuss student attacks, trade, terror](#)

The Hindu, 2 March 2010

Against the backdrop of continuing concerns in India over targeting of Indians in his country, Australian Foreign Minister Stephen Smith arrives here later Tuesday on a three-day trip that will also have counter-terrorism and friendly hockey diplomacy on the agenda. Mr. Smith's visit to India starts with a meeting with Commerce Minister Anand Sharma.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article124806.ece>

[India protests Pak ceasefire violation](#)

The Hindu, 2 March 2010

In yet another ceasefire violation, Pakistani troops fired rockets and used heavy machine guns on Indian posts along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. India has lodged a strong protest with Pakistan on Tuesday over the violation. Pakistan troops fired several rockets followed by firing by heavy machine guns on five Indian forward posts of Kranti, Kranti 1, Kirpan, Ghora and Deep along the LoC in Mendhar sub-sector of Poonch district on Monday night, Brigadier General Staff (BGS) Gurdeep Singh said on Tuesday.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article125046.ece>

[Manmohan asks Saudi Arabia to persuade Pakistan to stop terror](#)

The Hindu, 2 March 2010

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Monday said he had asked Saudi Arabia to use its "good offices" to persuade Pakistan to desist from the path of terror. Dr. Singh was asked by reporters on his way back home from Riyadh whether India would like

to see Saudi Arabia as a credible interlocutor in dealing with some Indo-Pak issues, an apparent reference to remarks made by Minister of State for External Affairs Shashi Tharoor that created a flutter.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article124450.ece>

[Manmohan, Advani spar over foreign policy](#)

The Hindu, 3 March 2010

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday witnessed an interesting passage of arms when Prime Minister Manmohan Singh intervened repeatedly and rejected BJP leader L.K. Advani's charge that U.S. pressure was behind India's decision to talk to Pakistan. In a sharp verbal duel during the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, Mr. Singh asserted that there is no change in the U.S. policy on India-Pak relations after President Barack Obama came to power.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article138850.ece>

[Holbrooke slams linking Kashmir to America's Afghan policy](#)

The Hindu, 3 March 2010

Careful not to mention Kashmir by name, Richard Holbrooke, the U.S. special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, on Wednesday rubbished Pakistan's attempt to link the Kashmir issue with the American approach to stabilise Afghanistan. Fresh from a trip to Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia, Mr. Holbrooke said he did not agree with people who have advocated the inclusion of Kashmir in the U.S. regional approach to end the war in Afghanistan.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article133211.ece>

[India upset with Holbrooke view on Kabul attack](#)

The Hindu, 3 March 2010

Indian officials have described as "absolutely incorrect" the statement by Washington's AfPak envoy, Richard Holbrooke, that India was not the target of last week's terrorist attack in Kabul. The officials expressed surprise and even consternation at this assertion, which, they said, ignored the fact that the terrorists' primary target was a building used by the Indian medical mission. The U.S. assessment, they said, also ran counter to what Afghanistan's intelligence agency, the National Directorate of Security, has established so far.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article139119.ece>

[Indian missions under fresh terror threat](#)

The Hindu, 3 March 2010

Indian missions in Afghanistan are under fresh threat from terror outfits as intelligence inputs suggest that such groups are planning new attacks. The fresh inputs received from Indian as well as international intelligence agencies said that terrorists may target Indian missions in Kabul and Jalalabad, Union Home Ministry sources said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article138980.ece>

[Bangladesh arrest underlines continued jihadist threat](#)

The Hindu, 3 March 2010

Little evidence exists to support claims that a Bangladeshi jihadist held in Dhaka on Monday was involved in the 1999 hijacking of an Indian Airlines flight to Kandahar, highly placed police sources told The Hindu. But the sources said Jamaat ul-Mujahideen-linked Belal Hosain's arrest underlined concerns over the regrouping of jihadist groups, despite suffering losses due to a determined joint offensive by India and Bangladesh.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article125308.ece>

[FC award: no spl funds for employees arrears](#)

Daily Excelsior, 3 March 2010

JAMMU, Mar 3: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will meet Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh tomorrow in New Delhi to seek a 10 per cent step-up in next financial year's annual plan for the State and extension of Prime Minister's Re-construction Plan (PMRP) for next two years. Meanwhile, 13th Finance Commission has, more or less, acceded to State Government's request for about Rs 40,000 crore award for next five years beginning April 1, 2010 in different sectors but refused to concede the demand for giving special funds for payment of arrears to over 3.5 lakh Government employees on account of implementation of Sixth Pay Commission report.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/10mar04/news.htm#1>

[Editorial: Miles to go](#)

The News, 3 March 2010

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has gone all the way to Saudi Arabia (the first time an Indian PM has visited Saudi Arabia for 28 years) to tell us what he could have just as easily told us if he had stayed at home. "If Pakistan cooperates with India, there is no problem that we cannot solve and we can walk the extra mile to open a new chapter in relations between our two countries", he said in Riyadh. He called on Saudi Arabia to use its good relationship with us to persuade us that harbouring terrorists and sending them across the border to commit all manner of skullduggery was no way to foster good international relations. Quite so, Mr Singh, but then neither is bolstering the corrupt and tottering Karzai regime in Afghanistan, is it? No matter – the Indian visit to Saudi Arabia is another marker along the road of an emerging regional superpower which needs to get the best from its relationships with other states in the region. The Saudis for their part see a harmonious relationship with India as both desirable and profitable, and for the time being are willing to live with the paradox of India restocking its arsenals by buying Israeli weaponry.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=226894

[Abuse Case Rouses India's Middle Class](#)

NYT, 3 March 2010

PANCHKULA, India — She was a gifted 14-year-old tennis player who idolized Steffi Graf and hoped to turn pro. He was a senior police official and president of the state

lawn tennis club. He lured her to his office with a promise of special coaching that could make her tennis dreams come true, then groped her. This encounter set in motion a saga that has taken almost 20 years to unfold. The family of the girl, Ruchika Girotra, threatened to press charges. Shambhu Pratap Singh Rathore, a senior officer in the Haryana State Police, then waged a campaign of harassment and intimidation against Ruchika so severe that she eventually committed suicide. Her brother, Ashu, was falsely accused of stealing cars, and said he had been beaten and tortured in custody. All the while Mr. Rathore, a flamboyant, mustachioed presence with deep ties to many of the state's top politicians, rose through the ranks, retiring in 2002 as a state police chief.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/03/world/asia/03india.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

[Maoists renew offer of ceasefire talks](#)

The Hindu, 4 March 2010

Maoist reiterated they were ready for ceasefire talks with the Government after the arrest of one of their top leaders seemed to put the insurgents under pressure, officials said on Thursday. Venkateswar Reddy, alias Telugu Deepak, a senior leader of the banned Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-Maoist), was arrested Tuesday in the eastern city of Kolkata.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article145699.ece>

[Be careful while preparing NPR: Chidambaram](#)

The Hindu, 4 March 2010

The Government on Thursday asked district magistrates posted along the Indo-Bangladesh border to guard against people from across the border who may try to enroll their names in the National Population Register (NPR). Home Minister P. Chidambaram said there have been some instances in border areas where people from across the border have tried to get themselves enrolled in the NPR, which will be updated across the country beginning April one.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article145678.ece>

[Teenager killing case: BSF commandant arrested](#)

The Hindu, 4 March 2010

Senior BSF officer R. K. Birdi, suspended in connection with the killing of a teenager here last month, was today handed over to the Jammu and Kashmir Police. Birdi was handed over to Superintendent of Police (city-east) and is lodged in Khotibagh police station, police sources said. Birdi's name surfaced in the case after the arrest of BSF jawan Lakhvinder Kumar, who was handed over to police after internal investigation by the paramilitary force claimed that his service rifle was used to kill 16-year-old Zahid Farooq on February 5, an incident which triggered massive protests in the valley.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/states/other-states/article141341.ece>

[Highest priority to women's quota bill: Sonia](#)

The Hindu, 4 March 2010

Congress president Sonia Gandhi told party MPs on Thursday that she would accord the "highest priority" to the women's reservation bill that would be introduced in the Lok Sabha on March 8, International Women's Day, party sources said after a Congress Parliamentary Party meeting here. The food security bill would also be introduced in parliament in the ongoing session, Ms. Gandhi said while addressing the meeting.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article139227.ece>

[Stampede Kills Scores in India](#)

NYT, 4 March 2010

NEW DELHI — Thousands of villagers who came to a popular ashram in northern India for a free meal Thursday were caught in a stampede, which left more than 60 dead. The ashram's religious leader, Kripaluji Maharaj, has a huge following in India and abroad for his tales of religious devotion and speeches on subjects like "The secret of attachment and detachment" and "Who is a true spiritual master." On Thursday, thousands of people visited his ashram in the village of Manghar, in the state of Uttar Pradesh, for a community lunch where local residents can come to eat for free. A stampede occurred at the ashram gate, said R. N. Singh, an official in the local district information office of Pratab Garh, in a telephone interview. The stampede started when the gate collapsed, officials told The Press Trust of India. Many women and children were among the dead, according to several news reports.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/05/world/asia/05india.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

[India expresses surprise over Pak statement on Saeed](#)

The Hindu, 7 March 2010

Expressing "surprise" over Pakistan's claim that the issue of arrest of Hafiz Saeed, one of the masterminds of the Mumbai terror attacks, was not taken up during Foreign Secretary-level talks, India on Sunday said it has been demanding action against him since attacks and the matter was raised "strongly" during the parleys. "Saeed's activities including his recent vitriolic and venomous statements aimed at fomenting further acts of terrorism against India and the unhindered public space and freedom he enjoys in Pakistan was raised strongly by India during the Foreign Secretary-level talks," External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in a statement here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article202062.ece>

[Govt. hails consensus as RJD issues whip against women's Bill](#)

The Hindu, 7 March 2010

Government on Sunday hailed the consensus among major political parties on Women's Reservation Bill and said no single party could claim credit for it. "People of the country, the women and Parliament will take the credit. There is no partition in this credit," Law Minister M. Veerappa Moily, who will table the Bill in the Rajya Sabha on Monday, told reporters here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article202051.ece>

[BSF-BDR talks in New Delhi today](#)

The Hindu, 7 March 2010

India and Bangladesh will discuss issues related to cross-border terrorist activities and joint patrolling of the frontiers as top officers of the border guarding forces of both the countries begin their four-day meeting here on Sunday. While Border Security Force (BSF) Director General Raman Srivastava will lead the Indian side, Major General Mainul Islam is leading a 19-member team of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) officials for the Border Coordination Conference here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article201926.ece>

[Nirupama Rao calls on Sri Lankan President](#)

The Hindu, 7 March 2010

Visiting Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao called on Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa here on Sunday and exchanged views on whole range of issues of mutual interest to both the countries in general and the ongoing rehabilitation and resettlement of the nearly three lakh Tamil civilians displaced during the war between the Sri Lankan forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the course of the 34 month war (July 2006 to May 2009) in particular. Ms. Rao is here on a three day visit on the invitation of the Sri Lankan Government to the island nation for interaction with her interlocutors on a wide range of issues of mutual interest to both the countries. Her visit comes days after the External Affairs Minister, S.M. Krishna told Rajya Sabha in a written answer that the war in the island nation is over but the search for a political settlement continues.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article202025.ece>

[Dhaka prepares to sign free trade agreement with Delhi](#)

The Hindu, 7 March 2010

Bangladesh is to resume talks after five years on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India that it hopes will allow greater access to the Indian market. Commerce Ministry officials are to begin the exercise on Wednesday and an inter-ministerial meeting is scheduled to be held end of this month to work out the details. A major objective of the agreement is to narrow Bangladesh's widening balance of payments deficit against India, worth more than \$3 billion a year in formal trade.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article201940.ece>

[India to continue work in Afghanistan](#)

The Hindu, 7 March 2010

India on Saturday emphasised that it would continue to work with Afghanistan and carry on with the humanitarian and reconstruction mission in the country, including medical work here that took a hit after the February 26 terror strike. "We have temporarily suspended the medical mission here. The other four in Afghanistan are going on and we will continue to work here in future," National Security Advisor Shiv Shankar Menon said at a press conference at the end of his two-day visit here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article201621.ece>

[Pak deploying US equipments along J&K borders: Antony](#)
Daily Excelsior, 7 March 2010

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, Mar 6: Expressing serious concern over the US equipping Pakistan Army with modern weapons, Defence Minister, A K Antony today said that instead of using against terrorists, the Pakistan Army was deploying such equipment on Jammu and Kashmir borders. "United States decision to provide sophisticated weapons to Pakistan is a matter of serious concern to India. The US should ensure that these weapons are not targeted against India", he said while talking to reporters here.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/10mar07/news.htm#1>

['Pakistan wants result-oriented talks with India' FM says New Delhi can't stop Islamabad's water und](#)

The News, 7 March 2010

MULTAN: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said on Saturday that Pakistan had suggested a roadmap for structured dialogue with India, stressing that the interaction should be meaningful and result-oriented. Addressing a press conference at the airport, he said India was facing some internal problems on the issue of resumption of dialogue. Some elements there were opposing it on the pretext of the Mumbai attacks, while the rest supported and considered it in favour of their country, he added.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27645

[Need healthy debate before going ahead with Women's Bill: Moily](#)

The Hindu, 8 March 2010

PTI Representatives of various women's organisations raise slogans as they press for the passage of Women's Reservation Bill outside Parliament House in New Delhi on Monday. Faced with strident opposition from the Samajwadi Party and the RJD over the Women's Reservation Bill, the government on Monday said it does not want to "bulldoze" the Constitutional amendment and would favour a healthy debate before going ahead with it. After a day of high drama in Rajya Sabha where the Bill was moved for consideration, Law Minister Veerappa Moily slammed the Opposition parties for the way they protested against it.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article221172.ece>

[Asia Pacific region has one of the world's worst gender gaps: UNDP](#)

The Hindu, 8 March 2010

While Asia and the Pacific can take pride in the region's vibrant economic transformation in recent decades, this has not translated into progress on gender equality. Discrimination and neglect are threatening women's very survival in the Asia-Pacific region, where women suffer from some of the world's lowest rates of political representation, employment and property ownership. Their lack of participation is also depressing economic growth. Those were some of the findings of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-sponsored 2010 Asia-Pacific Human Development Report launched on Monday.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article217900.ece>

[Don't dump inquiry commission reports like nuclear waste: Baxi](#)

The Hindu, 8 March 2010

Legal scholar Upendra Baxi has expressed deep concern over the state of implementation of the recommendations of various Commissions of Inquiry in India. Their implementation would not only "check official misconduct," "government lawlessness" but would go a long way in nation-building. He made these observations in the course of his presidential address at a public lecture organised by the O.P. Jindal Global University here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article202549.ece>

[Nuclear liability law has sting in tail for the U.S. too](#)

The Hindu, 8 March 2010

The Manmohan Singh government may be courting trouble at home by pushing a controversial new law to limit the financial exposure of nuclear companies in the event of a nuclear accident. But the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Bill also has a sting in its tail for the United States, which has made the passage of a liability law immunising its suppliers from lawsuits a precondition for any American nuclear sales to India. For even as the legislation will free foreign companies from any responsibility towards the victims of a nuclear accident, it contains a loophole that could well see Westinghouse and G.E. being hauled up before an Indian court in the event of a disaster involving equipment made, supplied or serviced by them,

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article202534.ece>

[Opinion: Humanising the Border Security Force](#)

The Hindu, 8 March 2010

The arrest of Border Security Force Commandant R.K. Birdi in Jammu and Kashmir for allegedly ordering the shooting of a 16-year-old Kashmiri should send shock waves across the ranks in that critical paramilitary force. K.F. Rustamji, the legendary founder of the BSF, was a dynamic and respected policeman who built the BSF brick by brick and paved the way for it to become the premier ally of the Army that it is today in defending the Indo-Pakistan border. (It was just the other day that I was reviewing for The Hindu a diary he left behind.)

<http://beta.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/article202348.ece>

[SC asks Centre to deport Pakistani prisoners](#)

Daily Excelsior, 8 March 2010

NEW DELHI : The Supreme Court today directed the Centre to deport within two months all Pakistani prisoners who have completed their sentences after being arrested under the Public Safety Act of Jammu and Kashmir. A Bench comprising Justices Markandey Katju and R M Lodha, which passed the direction, disapproved of the submission of the Centre that these prisoners could be released only in return for an equal number of Indian prisoners languishing in jails in Pakistan.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/10mar08/newsupdate.htm#4>

[Confidence and hope for Indo-Lanka ties](#)

Daily News, 8 March 2010

Indian Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao who met President Mahinda Rajapaksa at Janadhipathi Mandiraya yesterday congratulated the President for his resounding victory at the recent Presidential Election. She observed that so much had taken place for the better in Sri Lanka since she was last here as High Commissioner. She said the President's victory gave much cause for confidence and hope for bi-lateral relations between India and Sri Lanka in the future. The Indian Prime Minister looked forward to an early visit by President Rajapaksa to India, she said.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2010/03/08/pol01.asp>

[No threat to UPA stability: Sonia](#)

The Hindu, 9 March 2010

A jubilant Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday appeared to express confidence over the stability of the UPA government but wished former allies like SP and RJD were with it on the Women's Reservation Bill. "I think so. One can never tell. I am not an astrologer. I wish our former partners remained with us," she told reporters.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article223220.ece>

[The 14 years journey of Women's Reservation Bill](#)

The Hindu, 9 March 2010

The 14 years journey of the Women's Reservation Bill was marked by high drama and hit roadblocks in each of its outings in Parliament before the historic measure cleared the first legislative hurdle on Tuesday. The battle for greater representation to women in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies was routinely punctuated by frayed tempers and war of words which sometimes got physical, as different governments since 1996 tried to get the Women's Reservation Bill passed in Parliament without success.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article223383.ece>

['Pak Army officers trained 26/11 terrorists'](#)

The Hindu, 9 March 2010

Terming the 26/11 terror attack as Pakistan government sponsored one, the prosecution on Tuesday opened its final arguments in the case saying the neighbouring country's Army was also involved in the dastardly attack. "The conspiracy of the 26/11 attack was hatched on Pakistan soil and inevitable inference can be drawn that the attack was state-sponsored," Special Public Prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam argued.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article223063.ece>

[Sanctions on Iran counterproductive, says India](#)

The Hindu, 9 March 2010

India believes sanctions on Iran are counterproductive, the government told Parliament on Tuesday in the first public articulation of the government's views on U.S. efforts to tighten the screws on the Islamic Republic. The statement was made in response to a question about whether Washington had objected to Indian gasoline sales to the Islamic Republic.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article223516.ece>

['India, Russia to ink pact on fifth generation fighter aircraft'](#)

The Hindu, 9 March 2010

India and Russia are expected to sign the first of a series of agreements for the development of fifth generation fighter aircraft (FGFA) to meet futuristic requirements of the Indian Air Force during Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's visit to New Delhi later this week. "We expect to ink the agreement for the development of FGFA design and its technical parameters after March 10," sources in the United Aircraft Corporation (UAC) said. The comments come ahead of Mr. Putin's two-day visit to New Delhi beginning on Thursday.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article223155.ece>

[Uproar in India Over Quota for Female Lawmakers](#)

NYT, 9 March 2010

NEW DELHI — The upper house of India's Parliament passed a bill Tuesday that would amend the Constitution to reserve one-third of the seats in India's national and state legislatures for women, after the measure stirred two days of political chaos that could whittle the governing coalition's majority to a dangerously thin margin. The vote, which is an early step in the process of amending the Constitution, brought pandemonium to the floor of the Parliament, as a small group of regional caste-based parties waged a fierce fight to block it, arguing that it would diminish their influence.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/10/world/asia/10india.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

[China, India give nod to climate deal](#)

People's Daily, 10 March 2010

China joined India Tuesday in giving qualified approval to the Copenhagen climate accord which calls for voluntary limits on the greenhouse gas emissions. A one-sentence note from China's top climate change negotiator, Su Wei, authorized the addition of China to the list. More than 100 countries had earlier replied to a query by Denmark whether they wanted to be "associated" with the accord.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6914115.html>

[India rubbishes charges of involvement in Lahore blast](#)

The Hindu, 10 March 2010

Dismissing Pakistan's allegation that India was involved in the Lahore blast, External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna on Wednesday said it was "most unthinkable" and a

"falsehood" that was being spread. Asserting that these incidents were occurring due to the "selective" approach of Pakistan against terror, the minister said, "I think all these issues of blasts arise out of our attitude towards terror. When we take a firm stand against terror, not on a selective basis but across the board, then I am sure that Pakistan will be happier and India will be peaceful."

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article225060.ece>

[26/11 attacks amounted to waging war against India: Nikam](#)

The Hindu, 10 March 2010

The acts of Ajmal Kasab and other accused in the 26/11 terror siege amounted to "waging war against India" which is punishable by death penalty or life imprisonment, the prosecution argued in a trial court on Wednesday. "By firing at people indiscriminately in Mumbai, Kasab and other conspirators wanted to destabilise the government and break the political and economic order of the country," special public prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam said in his arguments that began on Tuesday in the high-security court at the Central Prison here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article228596.ece>

[India, Russia to sign defence deals](#)

The Hindu, 10 March 2010

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin will arrive in New Delhi on Thursday on a two-day visit during, which the two sides are likely to conclude the long-delayed agreement on aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov and sign defence deals worth USD 4 billion. Coming three months after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Russia in December 2009, Putin's India trip has a wider agenda like taking bilateral technological and energy cooperation to a new level.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article228418.ece>

[Women's Bill may be tabled in Lok Sabha on March 15 or 16](#)

The Hindu, 10 March 2010

The Women's Reservation Bill, which has been passed by Rajya Sabha, may be tabled in Lok Sabha on March 15 or 16 but a final decision on it will be taken by the Business Advisory Committee which meets on Friday. "The BAC is meeting on Friday. It will have to decide the date," Law Minister M. Veerappa Moily told reporters when asked when the Constitution (108th Amendment) Bill would be tabled in the Lower House.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article228536.ece>

[Left parties to launch nationwide jail bharo on April 8](#)

The Hindu, 12 March 2010

Initiating a major campaign against price rise and holding the Manmohan Singh government responsible, the Left parties on Friday announced the launch of a 'jail bharo' agitation on April 8 across the country. On that day, there would be mass picketing and 'court arrest' programmes outside Central government offices in all district headquarters, they said. Some 25 lakh people will take part in the

programme demanding immediate steps to curb price rise and for strengthening the public distribution system, implementation of land reforms and creation of employment opportunities.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/article237273.ece>

[Women get permanent commission in defence services](#)

The Hindu, 12 March 2010

In a major boost to women serving in the defence services, the Delhi High Court on Friday directed the Centre to allow grant of permanent commission to them. Delivering a verdict on a batch of petitions filed by serving and retired lady officers, a bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul decided the matter in their favour and asked the government to provide all consequential benefit to them.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article243327.ece>

[Russia to build 12 atomic plants in India; Revised pact on Gorshkov](#)

The Hindu, 12 March 2010

Giving a fillip to their ties, India and Russia on Friday signed 19 pacts, including three in civil nuclear field and one for purchase of 29 MiG-29 fighters besides inking the revised agreement on Gorshkov aircraft carrier, a deal that was stuck for three years over price. Under the agreements in civil nuclear field, Russia will build 12 atomic plants — six in Kudankulam and six in Haripur in West Bengal.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article243518.ece>

[ISI supports LeT, other terror outfits in Pak: Chidambaram](#)

The Hindu, 12 March 2010

Trashing Pakistan's assertion that state actors were not involved in terror acts against India, Home Minister P. Chidambaram on Friday said Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and every other militant outfit of that country is supported by Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) and they have set up modules and sleeper cells in this country. "If it is the state policy to sponsor terrorism, if the state policy is to export terrorism to India, how will we deal with that state?," he said at the India Today conclave here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article243439.ece>

[UAE, India set to firm up ties](#)

The Hindu, 12 March 2010

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Vice-President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and ruler of Dubai, has left for India to hold talks in New Delhi on a range of business, political and security issues. During his stay, Sheikh Mohammed is expected to hold talks with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, diplomatic sources said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article237135.ece>

[India and Russia Sign Development Pacts](#)

NYT, 12 March 2010

NEW DELHI — India and Russia signed a series of agreements on nuclear, space and military issues on Friday, after a visit by Prime Minister Vladimir V. Putin of Russia. The agreements pave the way to build at least a dozen more Russian nuclear power plants for an energy-starved India, and to funnel more Russian weapons to India's military. The countries also reached agreements to work together on space and fertilizer projects, two crucial areas for India, which has sought to send rockets into space even as its farmers, who make up about 70 percent of the population, struggle to coax subsistence from the soil.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/13/world/asia/13india.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

Women's Bill was impossible without DMK support: Sonia

The Hindu, 13 March 2010

UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi said the passage of Women's Reservation Bill in the Rajya Sabha could not have been possible without the support of DMK. "It could not have been possible without his (DMK president M Karunanidhi) support," she said at the inauguration of the new Tamil Nadu Assembly and Secretariat complex here, attended by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article244256.ece>

Lahore bombings: India denies involvement

The Hindu, 13 March 2010

"Deeply disappointed" over the charges by Pakistan regarding its involvement in the suicide attack in Lahore on Friday night, India on Saturday said it was unfortunate that by repeating such "unfounded and unsubstantiated allegations" Pakistan puts a strain on the bilateral relationship. "Unequivocally" condemning the allegations, India rejected charges of any involvement in such acts or activities and said Pakistan should "concentrate on dismantling the infrastructure of terrorism directed against India and adversely impacting on Pakistan itself."

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article244159.ece>

India likely to test-fire ADD missile on Sunday

The Hindu, 13 March 2010

With an eye to develop a full fledged multi-layer Ballistic Missile Defence system, India is likely to test-fire its indigenously designed and developed Advanced Air Defence (AAD) missile from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) off Orissa coast tomorrow. The AAD missile is capable of destroying any hostile ballistic missile at low altitude situation, defence sources said today. Range integration work at the ITR for the proposed trial is complete and the test is likely to be conducted tomorrow, they said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/states/other-states/article244152.ece>

Pakistan for steps to energise Indus Treaty

The Hindu, 13 March 2010

Affirming its commitment to the Indus Water Treaty (IWT), Pakistan has sought measures to make the mechanism more effective by outlining its concerns, as well as proposing measures that would reduce distrust between the two countries. In a non-paper submitted to India, Pakistan has said construction of projects on the three western rivers should be undertaken only after objections are amicably resolved. It also called upon India to submit full and timely information about new power plants and irrigation works on these rivers.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article243828.ece>

[Nuclear cooperation will cover all areas: Putin](#)

The Hindu, 13 March 2010

India-Russia cooperation in civil nuclear energy will be wide ranging and cover areas such as nuclear waste and safety of reactors as well, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said, during a video conference with businessmen from the country's main metros here. Mr. Putin also advised a section of Indian business and strategic community to be "realistic" in its attitude towards Pakistan and take into consideration the action taken by Islamabad against some militant organisations operating along its border with Afghanistan.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article243754.ece>

[Nuclear Liability Bill to be introduced on Monday](#)

The Hindu, 13 March 2010

The government intends to introduce in the Lok Sabha on Monday the Nuclear Liability Bill to cap liability in the event of a nuclear accident. Although India is not yet a signatory to the International Atomic Energy Agency's model law on the subject, the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage, the Bill does flow from that, although it is different in some respects.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article243756.ece>

[Solid evidence of Indian involvement in Balochistan terror acts: Malik](#)

The News, 13 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rehman Malik has said there is solid evidence of the Indian involvement in acts of terror in Balochistan and the government is taking up this matter diplomatically with the Indian government. Talking to media persons at the Parliament House here on Friday, he said: "We are not levelling mere allegations against India but have solid evidence of the Indian involvement in Balochistan." The weapons recovered from various areas were also Indian-made, he added. Rehman Malik said Afghanistan's soil was also being used for destabilisation of Balochistan and Afghan President Hamid Karzai had given a commitment that the Afghan soil would not be used against Pakistan.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27769

[BSF digs 25 bunkers inside Bangladesh](#)

Daily Star, 13 March 2010

Indian Border Security Force dug 25 bunkers following an overnight intrusion into

Bangladesh territory through Padua-Protappur border in Gowainghat upazila of Sylhet and retreated yesterday afternoon after 19 hours. The BSF's retreat from about 100-yard inside the international border came after an emergency flag meeting held from 1:30pm to 3:30pm on 'no man's land' at Padua-Protappur border amidst tension prevailing there since Friday night.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=129955>

[Two arrested for Pak-linked terror plot](#)

The Hindu, 14 March 2010

A weekend of successes, says Government after terrorists' arrests Gujarat ATS arrests terror suspects A month after blast, Pune yet to recover Pune blast probe on right track, says Chidambaram Pune blast probe may be handed over to NIA. Two terror suspects allegedly operating here for a terror outfit in Pakistan have been arrested for conducting recce of an ONGC installation and two markets for attacking them, a senior official from Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) said on Sunday. Acting on a tip off by Central Security Agencies, Abdul Latif alias Guddu (29) and Riyaz Ali (23) were arrested from near Matunga railway station in central Mumbai last night, ATS chief K.P. Raghuvanshi told reporters.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article244639.ece>

[Gender concerns are only on the periphery, says ILO study](#)

The Hindu, 14 March 2010

Although great efforts have been made to ensure equality for women in the Indian society — viewed from a broad perspective — it is evident that the gender concerns are on the periphery, than woven into all agendas of both the employer organisations and trade unions. The male-dominated unions prefer to let the women specific cells deal with gender issues, while women's wings in employer organisations seek to address gender concerns, says a study commissioned by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) on "Social Dialogue and Gender Equality in India (2009)."

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article244878.ece>

[One killed, 5 injured in grenade attack on CRPF personnel](#)

The Hindu, 14 March 2010

In the third strike in the city within a week, militants on Sunday attacked a CRPF patrol near a police station in downtown Srinagar, killing a jawan and injuring five others. Unidentified militants hurled a grenade at a group of CRPF personnel at Pather Masjid near Maharaj Gunj police station around 3.15 pm, injuring six jawans, official sources said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article244849.ece>

[JKLF chief's convoy attacked, 3 injured](#)

The Hindu, 14 March 2010

Activists of the hardline faction of the Hurriyat Conference allegedly attacked the cavalcade of JKLF chairman Mohammad Yaseen Malik in Sopore in North Kashmir on Sunday, leaving three persons injured and two vehicles damaged. The separatist

leader, who was returning to his Maisuma headquarters when his cavalcade was attacked, escaped unhurt, official sources said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article244819.ece>

[Next round in New Delhi](#)

Kuensel, 14 March 2010

GNH Seminar 14 March, 2010 - The first ever seminar between Bhutan and India on GNH concluded on March 12, with participants from both sides acknowledging the need for more discussion and study for the development philosophy to be successfully implemented. Dasho Karma Ura, the president for the centre for Bhutan studies (CBS), said that the "rich dialogue" had "enriched" the understanding of GNH for both Bhutanese and Indian participants. The seminar saw, what a CBS press release described as, "influential minds in India" talking to Bhutanese counterparts on various topics related to GNH. The Indian delegation included young politicians, sociologists, environmentalists, conservationists, and health activists.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14898>

[Govt: Next Foreign Secretary-level talks in Islamabad](#)

The Hindu, 15 March 2010

Government on Monday indicated that the next round of Foreign Secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan will take place in Islamabad to take forward the dialogue process. "The Foreign Secretary of Pakistan came here for the talks. So, perhaps it is the turn of Indian Foreign Secretary to go to Pakistan. So, let us move step by step," External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna said on the sidelines of the India-Africa conclave here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article245373.ece>

[Chidambaram tables Bill seeking amendment in CrPC](#)

The Hindu, 15 March 2010

A bill seeking to amend criminal laws relating to powers of the police to make an arrest without a warrant was introduced in the Lok Sabha on Monday. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, introduced by Home Minister P Chidambaram, will be applicable to cognizable offences for which the maximum punishment is up to seven years.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article245579.ece>

[Govt warns of a 'knee-jerk' reaction from Maoists](#)

The Hindu, 15 March 2010

The Government is expecting a "knee-jerk" reaction from Left Wing extremists in the Naxal affected States following the arrest of four Maoists in two separate operations and seizure of over 2800 kilograms of explosives. The Centre has alerted all its security forces operating in the Maoists-affected States to be on vigil as the Naxals could carry out a retaliatory attack on them, official sources said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article245722.ece>

[India, US set to boost high technology trade](#)

The Hindu, 15 March 2010

India and the US hope to significantly expand bilateral cooperation in critical areas like defence/ strategic trade, civil nuclear cooperation, biotechnology, nano-technology and civil aviation after two-day talks on high technology starting here Monday. Indian Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao arrived here Sunday to co-chair the seventh meeting of the India-US High Technology Cooperation Group (HTCG), its first since President Barack Obama took office, with Dennis F. Hightower, Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article245150.ece>

[Govt faces tough task on nuclear liability bill](#)

The Hindu, 15 March 2010

With the BJP and the Left parties having strong reservations over the nuclear liability bill, Government faces an uphill task in getting the measure approved in Parliament this week. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is keen to secure Parliament's nod for the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Bill before he leaves for Washington around the middle of next month to attend a summit meeting on nuclear security.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article245179.ece>

[Shahbaz asks Taliban not to attack Punjab](#)

The News, 15 March 2010

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif on Sunday asked the Taliban not to target the Punjab as the provincial government would not take dictation from outsiders. The Punjab CM was speaking at the annual seminar in the memory of Maulana Mufti Muhammad Hussain Naeemi at Jamia Naeemia. He said that extremism and terrorism were the consequences of wrong policies of a dictator, General Pervez Musharraf, for which the country was paying a heavy price. He said the dictator enacted a bloodbath of innocent Muslims at the behest of others only to prolong his rule. He asked the Taliban not to target the Punjab as his government would not take dictation from outsiders.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27788

[Govt to bring in Bill for setting up NEPA](#)

The Hindu, 16 March 2010

A Bill for setting up National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA), an independent body of professionals to monitor compliance of green laws in the country, will be tabled in monsoon session of Parliament by the government. This was stated by Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh at a two-day conference on 'Environment Audit: Concerns About Water Pollution' organised by the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article248097.ece>

[Shooting outside ISRO facility an amateurish attempt: Chidambaram](#)

The Hindu, 16 March 2010

Home Minister P. Chidambaram today termed the shooting incident outside the ISRO facility near Bangalore as an "amateurish attempt" and said a security review of the sensitive facility has been ordered. "This seems to be an amateurish attempt made by two men with country-made pistols," he told reporters. Mr. Chidambaram said he has asked CISF, which is in-charge of the security of ISRO, to do "another security review" of the area.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article247711.ece>

[Politics of Women's Reservation Bill](#)

The Hindu, 16 March 2010

Fourteen years and one small victory later, the Women's Reservation Bill has again begun to look iffy. In all this time, a lot many things could have been done independent of the fate of the Bill. Those in the forefront of demanding greater political representation for women, such as women leaders of mainstream parties, could have made a beginning by amending their own party constitutions to allow a fairer share of party ticket to women. Those opposing the Bill on the ground that it overlooks the interests of women from the Other Backward Classes and minorities could have shown their commitment by fielding a significant number of women from these categories in successive elections.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/article245970.ece>

[Opinion: A deeply flawed bill](#)

The Hindu, 16 March 2010

The civil nuclear liability bill is a deeply flawed piece of legislation that the government has done well to develop cold feet about. Broadly speaking, the law proposes to channel all legal liability stemming from a nuclear accident in India on to the nuclear power plant operator concerned. In turn, the operator's own individual liability is limited to Rs.500 crore regardless of the scale of the accident or of his own negligence. For any damages in excess of that amount, the bill makes the government liable up to a further level of 300 million Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), approximately Rs.2100 crore-2300 crore. Once India accedes to the IAEA's Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage (CSC), Indian victims could draw upon an international fund to the maximum amount of another 300 million SDRs.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/article245981.ece>

[Indian Cabinet Backs Foreign Schools](#)

NYT, 16 March 2010

MUMBAI, India — The Indian cabinet approved a bill on Monday that would allow foreign universities to set up campuses in the country, a major break with a previous policy in which outside institutions were seen as a threat to the education system. The bill, still subject to a decision by Parliament, appears to be an acknowledgment by public officials that the country's largely public higher education system cannot cope with the rising demand for degrees from a large population of young people. About half of India's 1.2 billion people are 25 or younger. "In the next

10 years, you are going to have more than 40 million children going to college, an extra 40 million," said Kapil Sibal, the minister for human resource development. "So you have to create infrastructure for them."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/16/world/asia/16india.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

[Don't expect miracles from Indo-Pak dialogue: Antony](#)
The Hindu, 17 March 2010

Defence Minister A.K. Antony on Wednesday said Pakistan "was not taking serious steps" to destroy 42 terror camps on its soil. Stating that India was "exploring all possibilities", Mr. Antony also said he did not expect any "miracles" from the dialogue with Pakistan. "All the terror camps in Pakistan are active. Pakistan has not taken any serious steps to destroy these camps," Antony told a press conference on the sidelines of the launch of Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) offshore patrol vessel (OPV) Vishwast at the port town of Vasco, 30 km from here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article253918.ece>

[No intention to seek FDI in nuclear sector: Chavan](#)
The Hindu, 17 March 2010

Government on Wednesday said it had no plans right now to seek foreign investment in the atomic power sector, rejecting opposition contention that it was rushing through with the nuclear liability bill with an eye on overseas funds. "There is no policy to allow FDI in the nuclear sector," Science and Technology Minister Prithviraj Chavan said, adding that words like investments and procurements were being used very loosely in the debate on the liability bill.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article252767.ece>

[Rao emphasises India's role in Afghanistan](#)
The Hindu, 17 March 2010

Indian Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao has concluded her visit to Washington, during which she impressed upon U.S. officials the importance of India's continued commitment to its developmental work in Afghanistan. Her trip also saw a sharp focus on high-tech trade and the Strategic Dialogue that was initiated last July when Secretary Clinton visited India. In a brief to U.S. interlocutors earlier this week Ms. Rao drew attention to several key regional issues according to Rahul Chhabra of the Indian Embassy, including her talks with the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan in February. She also touched upon the recent developments in Afghanistan and stressed "that Afghanistan presented the foremost security related challenge in the region," Mr. Chhabra said. In that context, Ms. Rao emphasised the need "for the international community to stay the present course in Afghanistan for as long as it is necessary." U.S. officials reportedly conveyed their appreciation of the important developmental work being done by India in Afghanistan.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article248418.ece>

[India will be a dominant player in South Asia, Middle East](#)

The Hindu, 17 March 2010

India's strategic location in the Indian Ocean and proud martial traditions will make it a dominant player in South Asia and the Middle East in the next 25 years, a Pentagon report has said. US Joint Forces Command in its latest report of emerging geopolitical and technological trends, which estimates their potential impact on future military operations, said it will likely have a role to play as America encourages the growth of India as a regional and even global power.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article248387.ece>

Omar for facilitating Center-Separatists talks

Daily Excelsior, 17 March 2010

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today reiterated his Government's endeavour to facilitate talks between separatists and the Centre as also between India and Pakistan to help address all issues for amicable resolution. "While the Government is thoroughly engaged in carrying forward its agenda of all round development, it is also working to help political engagement for restoration of permanent peace and settlement of issues across the table," Mr Abdullah said while addressing a public rally in Rajouri district.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/10mar17/newsupdate.htm#4>

India, Bangladesh hold talks on sharing of Teesta water

The Hindu, 18 March 2010

The Joint River Commission was established by India and Bangladesh to work for the common interests and sharing of water resources, irrigation, floods and cyclones control. As the two-day water talks began here on Thursday, Bangladesh hoped to reach an interim agreement on the vexed issue of Teesta river water sharing at the meeting being held after a gap of five years while India insisted on sorting out certain technical issues first. "The expectation is high. We are here to grow the relations between the two countries further," Bangladesh Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen told PTI here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article257120.ece>

Compensation for farmers tortured by Army

The Hindu, 18 March 2010

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the Defence Ministry to pay a compensation of Rs. 50,000 each to two farmers — Bhadrakanta Baruah and Ghana Neog — of Assam who were tortured by the Army after being taken into custody on suspicion of links with the banned ULFA. The incident happened on January 31 last year after the victims were taken by the 871st field regiment at the Maibela camp in Sivasagar district of Assam.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article257307.ece>

India has pricing, security concerns over Iran pipeline: Krishna

The Hindu, 18 March 2010

Following a deal between Iran and Pakistan for the construction of natural gas pipeline, India on Thursday said it was in consultation with the Iranian government to address "concerns about pricing and security" pertaining to the pact which

originally involved India. "... As far as India is concerned, we are in consultation with the government of Iran. We have certain concerns. Concerns about pricing, concerns about security, which have been taken up with the government of Iran," External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna said here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article257235.ece>

[India, U.S. sign trade and investment agreement](#)

The Hindu, 18 March 2010

A framework for cooperation on trade and investment was on Wednesday signed by Indian Minister of Commerce and Industry Anand Sharma and U.S. Trade Representative Ronald Kirk. The agreement aims to strengthen bilateral cooperation between India and the U.S., building on rapid growth between the two countries in recent years, according to an official statement. Saying that the numerous synergies linking the two economies have not been tapped fully yet Mr. Sharma added that this agreement would encourage development of small and medium enterprises, and also help with the deployment of clean energy and environmental technologies. "Closer collaboration with entrepreneurs and private sector leaders in both our countries will enhance our work," Mr. Sharma said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article253986.ece>

[Some tasks before the Indian nation](#)

The Hindu, 18 March 2010

The progress or otherwise of a people will depend on their level of respect for human rights, and the willingness to share and care for the weaker sections of society that each member of the community has, be he high or humble. Today, the Indian government is democratic: it is without doubt a government by the people, of the people, for the people. But, is it really a government for the people? The framers of the Indian Constitution thought that socialism is the only system that can guarantee equality among the people. But when there is a plurality of religions in rivalry, each god competes with the other and a certain divine conflict ensues. This divisive tendency is unhealthy, because according to human understanding there is only one god and one humanity. And everyone's well-being has to be ensured without some being high and some being low, some being in luxury and others in lowly circumstances.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/article257525.ece>

[No decline in Pak support to terrorists: Kapoor](#)

The Hindu, 19 March 2010

There has been "no decline" in support from Pakistan to terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir and top militant leaders including Hafiz Saeed are operating with impunity from its territory despite international pressure after Mumbai terror attacks, Army Chief Deepak Kapoor has said. Pointing to ISI and Pakistan army officials aiding terrorist camps and the functioning of top militant leaders including LeT chief Hafiz Saeed and Hizbul Mujahideen's Syed Salahuddin from Pakistani soil, General Kapoor said the terrorists "are probably more emboldened".

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article258168.ece>

[LeT now a threat beyond India: U.S. Congress](#)

The Hindu, 19 March 2010

In an unmistakable sign of rising concern in the United States over the expansive reach of the militant outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), a Congressional hearing on Thursday emphasised the urgent need to “crush” the group. The hearing, titled “Bad Company: Lashkar e-Tayyiba and the Growing Ambition of Islamist Militancy in Pakistan”, Chairman Gary Ackerman said that in the wake of the Mumbai attacks in 2008 computer records and email accounts investigated yielded 320 locations worldwide deemed to be possible targets of LeT attacks. Only 20 of the targets were locations in India, Mr. Ackerman added.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/article243726.ece>

[Chidambaram to visit Britain to discuss anti-terror cooperation](#)

The Hindu, 19 March 2010

Union Home Minister P Chidambaram will leave on a three day official visit to United Kingdom on Saturday and will hold talks with top intelligence officials there. During the visit, Mr. Chidambaram will discuss issues relating to security with the Home Secretary Alan Johnson, Foreign Secretary David Miliband and the British Prime Minister's Foreign Policy Adviser Simon Mcdonald.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article258336.ece>

[Govt to consult all political parties on civil nuclear Bill](#)

The Hindu, 19 March 2010

Facing stiff opposition over the nuclear liability Bill, government on Friday said it will consult all political parties before tabling the draft legislation in Parliament. “...We will consult all political parties concerned because it requires Parliamentary approval,” Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee told reporters here when asked about the government's next move on the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damages Bill 2010.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article258122.ece>

[World Bank provides \\$1.05 bn to improve education in India](#)

The Hindu, 19 March 2010

The World Bank has approved two projects worth \$ 1.05 billion (over Rs 4,800 crore) for India, aimed at expanding the reach of primary schools and the quality of engineering education in the country. “The World Bank today approved two education projects worth USD 1.05 billion for India, designed to boost the number of children enrolling in and completing elementary school, and to improve quality of engineering education across the country,” it said in a statement.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/education/article258063.ece>

[A Guilty Plea to 2 Terrorism Charges](#)

NYT, 19 March 2010

CHICAGO — A Chicago man pleaded guilty on Thursday to helping plan the terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India, that killed 163 people in 2008. The man, David C. Headley, also pleaded guilty to charges of plotting to attack a Danish newspaper that published cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad in 2005. In his plea agreement, Mr.

Headley said Ilyas Kashmiri, an Islamic militant operating in Pakistan, had said the attackers should behead captives and throw their heads out of the newspaper building to heighten the response from Danish authorities.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/19/us/19cartoon.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

[India and Bangladesh exchange documents on Teesta water sharing](#)

The Hindu, 20 March 2010

India and Bangladesh achieved a "significant movement forward" during their two-day talks on the sharing of Teesta waters with an understanding that the two sides would finalise an agreement on the issue within a year. Both sides exchanged draft documents during the ministerial-level 37th Joint River Commission talks that concluded here on Friday. During the talks Bangladesh proposed a draft interim agreement, while India suggested a 'statement of principles' including on modalities and methodology of sharing the Teesta waters during dry season. Now the two documents would be reconciled at official-level talks.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article258933.ece>

[Open up markets, U.S. tells India](#)

The Hindu, 20 March 2010

The U.S. has called upon India to open up its markets and further liberalise trade policies in order to strengthen bilateral ties. Speaking at a conference organised by the Asia Society here on Saturday, Assistant Secretary of State Robert Blake mentioned four areas where India should change its laws to make the market more open and receptive to foreign capital: increasing the cap on foreign direct investment, reducing agricultural import barriers, lowering barriers to infrastructure development (by developing a long-term debt market and removing local content requirements) and reducing regulatory barriers to business.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article260772.ece>

[76% of militants killed in Kashmir in 2 years are foreigners](#)

The Hindu, 20 March 2010

The composition of militancy in Kashmir continues to be dominated by foreigners — of the 398 militants killed 304 were foreigners, making it 76 per cent of total militants killed in the valley in 2008-09. The level of violence, which declined during this period, has increased in the past few months. Increase in this composition has also led to targeted attacks on security forces as these militants, who generally come from North-Western Frontier Province (NWFP), Punjab, Pakistan occupied Kashmir and other areas of Pakistan, are highly trained and well-equipped with latest arms. Top security officials refuse to confirm.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article257406.ece>

[Up to India to pass liability law: Blake](#)

The Hindu, 20 March 2010

A senior U.S. official said on Saturday that the liability law was an important component of the India-U.S. civil nuclear partnership, and it was up to the Indian government to find ways of passing it in Parliament. "The nuclear liability law is an important part of the partnership. But it is up to India to determine the mechanics of

passage of the legislation. So I will leave that to them to see how that would proceed," Assistant Secretary of State Robert Blake said here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article260718.ece>

[Will cut carbon intensity by 20-25 p.c. of 2005 level by 2020'](#)

The Hindu, 20 March 2010

India will be able to meet the target of cutting carbon intensity by 20 to 25 per cent of 2005 level by 2020 without affecting growth, Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh said on Saturday. He called for balancing between economic growth and environment sustainability while planning roadmap for eight to nine per cent growth rate. "We are convinced that we are one of the lowest emission intensity because service sector is the larger contributor of our GDP. We will reduce our carbon intensity by 20 to 25 per cent of the 2005 level by 2020," he said at a summit co-organized by Wall Street Journal and CII.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/article260613.ece>

[Capital's unrest has potential to engulf entire Punjab](#)

The News, 20 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: The sharp increase of Rs 7 in public transport fares has led to unrest in the federal capital, which has the potential to spread to Rawalpindi and other cities of the Punjab. The agitators seemed to be increasing in number as people belonging to different walks of life have joined students in their protest against the hike in fares of public transport vehicles. When the director (administration) issued a notification — 5(12)-Law/2006-1163 — on March 16, 2010, hardly anybody would have assessed the violent reaction from students.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27878

[Govt ready to "look into" genuine issues on Nuclear Bill](#)

The Hindu, 21 March 2010

Government is ready to "look into" any genuine and sincere issues the opposition may raise over the Nuclear Liability Bill which it wants to be passed urgently, failing which the entire atomic power generation programme would be delayed. Science and Technology Minister Prithviraj Chavan, who is in-charge of Department of Atomic Energy, said the country lacks a law under which compensation could be awarded in the case of a nuclear accident.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article260936.ece>

[BSF to help secure roads in militancy hit areas in J&K](#)

The Hindu, 21 March 2010

The BSF is likely to do Road Opening Party (ROP) duties also in certain militancy hit areas and units of Rashtriya Rifles shifted closer to the border in a revamped security strategy in Jammu and Kashmir. The Border Security Force, which has ROP expertise, will help secure roads to facilitate safe movement of troops to the Line of Control (LoC). The ROP job is currently being undertaken by Rashtriya Rifles.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article261195.ece>

[India to produce 35,000 MW of nuclear power by 2020](#)

The Hindu, 21 March 2010

India is expected to produce 35,000 MW of nuclear power by 2020, a senior official from Atomic Energy Commission said. "The total nuclear power generation of India is expected to reach 35,000 MW by 2020," Atomic Energy Commission Chairman and Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) Director, S. Banerjee, told PTI on the sidelines of a function conducted by Jadavpur University Alumni Association Mumbai Branch (JUAAM), on nuclear power.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article261174.ece>

[India-U.K. to deepen anti-terrorism cooperation](#)

The Hindu, 21 March 2010

India and the U.K. will seek to deepen bilateral anti-terrorism cooperation as Home Minister P. Chidambaram will meet his British counterpart and top intelligence officials here on Monday. Mr. Chidambaram, who arrived here last night on a three-day official visit, will have in-depth talks with British Home Secretary Alan Johnson to intensify cooperation on security issues, including efforts to combat terrorism.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article261181.ece>

[India playing a stellar role in rebuilding Afghanistan: Krishna](#)

The Hindu, 21 March 2010

Refuting reports that it has been "squeezed out" of Afghanistan, External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna has said India was playing a "stellar role" in rebuilding the war-torn country which was acknowledged by the people and the legitimate government there. He also said India has taken note of Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai's statement that it was a friend and Pakistan a conjoined twin.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article260949.ece>

[India could grow by 8.5 p.c. in next fiscal: Manmohan](#)

The Hindu, 23 March 2010

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Tuesday exuded confidence the Indian economy would grow by 8.5 per cent in the next fiscal and accelerate to nine per cent the following year from an estimated 7.2 per cent this fiscal. Going forward, the country should step up the pace of economic expansion to above 10 per cent per annum in the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-2017) to generate employment for the youth and remove poverty, the Prime Minister said at a conference on building infrastructure hosted by the Planning Commission.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/business/Economy/article267886.ece>

[Chinese vice premier in India for talks on agriculture, environment](#)

The Hindu, 23 March 2010

Chinese vice premier Hui Liangyu will arrive in New Delhi on Friday for talks with Indian officials on furthering co-operation between the two countries on a range of agricultural and environmental issues. Of particular focus during Mr. Hui's visit will be an exchange of views on an issue that has recently stirred up much debate and public concern in both countries – the use of genetically modified (GM) foods in agriculture.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article285518.ece>

[U.S. Ambassador was only giving his opinion"](#)

The Hindu, 23 March 2010

While the U.S. on Tuesday denied that it had taken a decision to provide "direct access" to India to question Pakistani-origin American citizen David Coleman Headley, who has pleaded guilty to charges of plotting the 26/11 terror attacks in Mumbai, sources in the government maintained "these are legal matters where not opinions but U.S. law will prevail." Reacting to the clarification by the U.S. ambassador to India, Timothy Roemer, the sources said that so far "nothing has changed for India" since Headley entered into plea bargain last week with U.S. prosecutors, pointing out that the U.S. Ambassador was only expressing his opinion. Mr. Roemer said the U.S. had provided "substantial information" from the confession made by David Headley and was committed to doing so in the future.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article268732.ece>

Krishna: consider track record when allowing civil nuclear trade

The Hindu, 23 March 2010

India on Monday hoped the international community would strike the right balance when taking a decision on meeting the energy needs of "any" country through the nuclear route. The world must take on board the country's "track record" of proliferation of nuclear technology and weapons of mass destruction, said External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna. "I am sure that the U.S. will constantly remember that the proliferation of nuclear weapons was because of certain indiscretions of certain countries and more particularly Pakistan and the clandestine activities which they carried on," added Mr. Krishna.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article267458.ece>

New info highway to link neighbours

Daily Star, 23 March 2010

The government's vision of a "digital Bangladesh" came a step nearer yesterday when the Executive Committee on National Economic Council approved a Tk 29 crore project to establish an information highway with India, Nepal and Bhutan. Fifty-five kilometres of fibre optic cables will be installed between Panchgarh and Banglabandha and a landing station will be built in Panchgarh, which will provide a rural wireless broadband network and portal service.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=131332>

India's Woes Reflected in Bid to Restart Old Plant

NYT, 23 March 2010

VELDUR, India — "Wherever there is a lamp, there is darkness below it," said Bava Bhalekar, a fisherman and local leader in this village roughly a hundred miles south of Mumbai. "The tragedy is that while our village has this project, we ourselves don't have electricity." "This project" is the power plant that Enron built. A decade after Enron withdrew from the project, the Indian government and two Indian companies are promising to bring the plant to full capacity. The tragedy, as Mr. Bhalekar and his fellow villagers see it, is that even after the plant is fully operational, their daily blackouts — now from 3 to 7:30 p.m. — will still occur, with just slightly fewer hours without electricity.

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/23/business/global/23enron.html?ref=asia&page_wanted=print

[Jihad only way to liberate Kashmir, say Lashkar and Jaish](#)

The Hindu, 24 March 2010

Pronouncing jihad as the only way to liberate Kashmir from "Indian occupation," the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), along with several other Kashmiri militant organisations, on Tuesday warned Pakistan of a greater tragedy than its 1971 dismemberment if the government lulled itself into considering India and the U.S. as friends. A declaration, rejecting India-Pakistan talks and calling for jihad instead, was adopted by leaders of these organisations at the 'Defence of Pakistan Conference,' organised in Kotli – a district along the Line of Control (LoC) in Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK). Among those party to the declaration were Hizb-ul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin and LeT commander Abdul Wahid Kashmiri.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article303663.ece>

[India to write to U.S. for access to Headley](#)

The Hindu, 24 March 2010

Overlooking the U.S. envoy's remarks here that no decision was taken on giving Indian investigators direct access to David Headley, India on Wednesday said it would soon write to the U.S. for interrogating the Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist. The Home Ministry will soon get in touch with the U.S. Department of Justice seeking a date for having direct access to Headley, currently under American custody, top government sources said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article299079.ece>

[Pak seeks 'constructive' U.S. role on Kashmir](#)

The Hindu, 24 March 2010

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said on Wednesday that Pakistan still hopes the United States would play a "constructive role" in resolving the Kashmir dispute and providing it with "non-discriminatory" access to energy. "Pakistan seeks peaceful resolution to all issues in South Asia, including Kashmir. We hope the U.S. will maintain its constructive engagement to encourage this process," Mr. Qureshi said at a press conference here at the start of a Strategic Dialogue between the two countries.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article303582.ece>

[India, U.K. discuss security cooperation](#)

The Hindu, 24 March 2010

India and Britain on Tuesday agreed to work more closely to fight terrorism following talks between Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram and his British counterpart Alan Johnson. Mr. Chidambaram also held talks with Foreign Secretary David Miliband as part of what was described as continuing India-UK bilateral dialogue on security and intelligence-related issues. While the Foreign Office declined to disclose details, the Home Office said that a "range of issues including counter-terrorism" were discussed.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article285630.ece>

[US to engage India, Pakistan to end water dispute Officials say potential for water conflict exists](#)

The News, 24 March 2010

WASHINGTON: A United States official has said that Washington will engage Pakistan and India to help improve their tension-brewing situation over water as Washington

wants the two South Asian neighbours to avoid any conflict over the lingering dispute. "I think we need to work on this and find ways to make sure that especially in the Pakistan-Indian case, we can help move that situation forward to an improved situation," US Under Secretary for Democracy and Global Affairs Maria Otero said at a State Department briefing on the occasion of the World Water Day on Monday.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27942

[US ready to consider Pak request for N-deal: Hillary](#)

The News, 24 March 2010

WASHINGTON: Notwithstanding India's reservations, the US on Tuesday said it would "consider" Pakistan's request for a civil nuclear deal as it wanted to help the country meet its immediate and long-term energy needs. Ahead of the crucial bilateral strategic dialogue between the US and Pakistan on Wednesday, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton made it clear that the issue of energy would be one of the subjects of discussion but refused to pre-judge the outcome of the talks.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27946

[Nepal to ink MRP deal with India](#)

Kathmandu Post, 24 March 2010

The Foreign Ministry and the Indian government are set to clinch the controversial Machine Readable Passport (MRP) deal. "Letters to this effect will be exchanged between the foreign secretary and the Indian ambassador within this week. A separate MoU will be signed between MoFA and officials from Nasik-based Indian Security Printing and Minting Press (ISPMP) later. The ISPMP had sought 10 weeks to deliver the first consignment of MRPs to Nepal.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/03/23/top-stories/Nepal-to-ink-MRP-deal-with-India/6465/>

[Every country under threat from Pak-based terror groups: Chidambaram](#)

The Hindu, 25 March 2010

India has warned western nations it would be "naive" for them to believe that only it faced a threat from Pakistan-based terrorist groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba which posed a danger to every country. "No country is truly safe.... Don't think that India alone is under threat. Every country is under threat from these groups and the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) today is like the al-Qaeda, a multi-country group", Mr. Chidambaram said in an interview to BBC.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article304060.ece>

[Kasab made scapegoat by police: Defence lawyer](#)

The Hindu, 25 March 2010

He is an innocent village boy who became the scapegoat in the 26/11 terror attacks case as he is a Pakistani, this is how Ajmal Kasab's lawyer K.P. Pawar described the gunman in his final arguments in the trial on Thursday. "Kasab has no connection with the perpetrators of the 26/11 attacks. He has been arrested by police just because he is a Pakistani and according to the police the conspiracy of the attack was hatched in Pakistan," Mr. Pawar told a special court here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article304438.ece>

[India, Bangladesh to join hands to save Sunderbans](#)

The Hindu, 25 March 2010

With the bio-diversity of Sunderbans facing threat, India and Bangladesh have decided to join hands to protect the world's largest mangrove forest and a joint forum will be formed soon in this direction. Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh has invited his Bangladeshi counterpart to discuss the issue of environmental degradation of Sunderban ecosystem and prepare a joint action plan to meet the challenges. "There will be a joint forum between India and Bangladesh for protection of Sunderban ecosystem that spreads from India to Bangladesh," he said at a press conference.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article304577.ece>

[Reservations on religious lines disastrous: BJP](#)

The Hindu, 25 March 2010

Reacting to the Supreme Court judgement permitting Andhra Pradesh to provide reservation to backward Muslims, BJP on Thursday said job quotas on religious lines could be disastrous for Indian democracy and society. "BJP has expressed earlier that reservations based on religion could be disastrous for Indian democracy and that needs to have a holistic view of the subject," BJP spokesperson Rajiv Pratap Rudy said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article304713.ece>

[U.S. says no to Pak's request for mediation on Kashmir](#)

The Hindu, 25 March 2010

US on Thursday tossed out Pakistan's request to mediate in resolving bilateral issues like Kashmir with India as it said the country can't dictate the foreign policy of any of the two South Asian countries. Emerging out of the first Cabinet-level 'Strategic Dialogue' between the US and Pakistan here, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said America encourages dialogue between India and Pakistan.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article304024.ece>

[Dell denies China pullout](#)

People's Daily, 26 March 2010

Dell Thursday denied claims by the Indian prime minister that the world's third-largest PC maker is considering shifting its operation from China to India. According to the Hindustan Times, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said after his meeting with Dell Chief Executive Michael Dell, "This morning I met the chairman of Dell Corporation. He informed me that they are buying equipment and parts worth \$25 billion from China. They would like to shift to a safer environment with a climate conducive to enterprise with security of legal system."

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6931215.html>

[Headley plea bargain shows al-Qaeda-LeT nexus'](#)

The Hindu, 26 March 2010

Pakistani-American terrorist David Headley's plea bargain under which he confessed to plotting the Mumbai attacks throws light on close links between al-Qaeda and LeT, according to former CIA expert Bruce Riedel. The 49-year-old Headley's story showed clear contours of the close relationship between al-Qaeda and the Pakistani militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba, Riedel, who led the review of the Obama Administration's

AfPak strategy, was quoted as saying by The New York Times.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/>

[Taliban say they can 'reconcile' with India but justifies Kabul attack](#)

The Hindu, 26 March 2010

Claiming that it was not in "direct conflict" with India, the Taliban have said there was a possibility of reconciliation even as they justified the February 26 Kabul attack on Indians as a "legitimate" action. In a self-contradicting interview, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed his organisation did not want India out of Afghanistan but attacked the country for supporting the Hamid Karzai government and western forces.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article306293.ece>

[Tribals, Dalits still at the bottom in most indicators](#)

The Hindu, 26 March 2010

Indigenous groups and Dalits continue to be at the bottom in most indicators of well-being, the Muslims and the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) occupy the middle rung, while forward caste Hindus and other minority religions are at the top. The "Human Development in India: Challenges for a Society in Transition" survey has found this. These patterns are seen in a variety of indicators, including household incomes, poverty rates, landownership and agricultural incomes, health, and education. The group positions are not immutable, and on some dimensions, there is a difference in rankings.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article306534.ece>

[Composite Dialogue only way to resolve issues with India: Pak](#)

The Hindu, 26 March 2010

The Pakistan government on Friday said it remains convinced that the Composite Dialogue is the only way forward to resolve all outstanding issues with India, including Kashmir, and to achieve peace and security in the region. The government conveyed its stand in a written reply by Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi during question hour in the National Assembly.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article306414.ece>

[Opinion: Stopping ballistic missile](#)

The Hindu, 26 March 2010

The deployment of India's planned ballistic missile shield is to start in two years' time. The Defence Research and Development Organisation, which is developing and testing the complex system, intends to roll it out in two phases and have all of it up and running by 2016. The first phase will deal with missiles having a range of less than 2,000 km, and the second will tackle missiles with a longer range. The latter will be travelling much faster than the former and are therefore less easily targeted. There will be interceptors to destroy the incoming missiles at heights of over 50 km as well as much closer to the ground. Such a tiered defence is intended to boost the chances of knocking out an incoming missile before it hits the target.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/article306468.ece>

[Infiltration has increased in J&K: Army chief](#)

Daily Excelsior, 26 March 2010

NEW DELHI: Infiltration in Jammu and Kashmir saw an increase during the last winter compared to the previous one, Army chief General Deepak Kapoor today said. Speaking to reporters after meeting Home Minister P Chidambaram here, he said "Infiltration increased in Jammu and Kashmir this winter in comparison to last winter. But we are fully capable to handle the situation."

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/10mar26/newsupdate.htm#2>

Modi questioned by SIT for five hours

The Hindu, 27 March 2010

Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi was on Saturday questioned for five hours by the Supreme Court-appointed SIT on his alleged role in the Gujarat riots, the first time he was being probed since the carnage eight years back. The questioning, which lasted more than five hours remained inconclusive and will resume in the night.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article311080.ece>

5 militants shot dead along Line of Control

The Hindu, 27 March 2010

Five heavily-armed militants were shot dead by troops along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara district on Saturday, raising the number of infiltrators gunned down in the sector in four days to eight, a defence spokesman said. The infiltration bid was scuttled in Keran sector, 140 km from here, Lt. Col. J.S. Brar told PTI. He said troops deployed on the LOC observed movement of militants from across. As the group tried to cross the border, they were challenged and fired at by the soldiers.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article317609.ece>

India testfires 'Prithvi-II' and 'Dhanush' missiles

The Hindu, 27 March 2010

Nuclear-capable surface-to-surface missile Prithvi-II and ship-based Dhanush missiles were successfully flight tested, within a few minutes of each other, in salvo mode early Saturday. While the 11-metre tall Dhanush was launched first from the Naval ship, Subhadhra at 05.30 AM, Prithvi-II was fired few minutes later from LC-III Complex at Integrated Test Range, Chandipur. Advanced navigation and guidance systems were flight-tested in the launches which met all the mission objectives and were carried out by Armed Forces with text-book precision.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/article306715.ece>

26/11: Headley names four Pakistani Army officers

The Hindu, 27 March 2010

Lashkar-e-Taiba operative David Headley has told a U.S. court that serving Pakistani Army officers were involved in the 26/11 terror mayhem in Mumbai, and one of them was "on the other side of the telephone line" with the terrorists during the 2008 attack, news reports said on Friday. According to Outlook Editor-in-Chief Vinod Mehta, the involvement of the Pakistani Army officers proves their "direct link" with the terror carnage in India's commercial and financial capital in 2008 that left 166 people dead, including foreigners.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article306624.ece>

[BJP: new composition, same stand](#)

The News, 27 March 2010

Is the Bharatiya Janata Party obsessed with proving itself the sectarian, confrontationist oddball of Indian politics? Last fortnight's developments suggest so. Take the shenanigans of Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi. A Special Investigation Team appointed by the Supreme Court to probe the 2002 Gujarat pogrom summoned him to question him about his role in the killings. Many questions had been raised about his role by former Gujarat Director General of Police RB Sreekumar, countless victims, independent inquiries, and sting-operation disclosures by Tehelka magazine.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=231130

[Agni-I test-fired successfully](#)

The Hindu, 28 March 2010

In the third consecutive success in two days, nuclear-capable surface-to-surface Agni-I ballistic missile with a range of 700 km was successfully flight-tested from the Wheeler's Island off the Orissa coast on Sunday. The test carried out by Strategic Forces Command personnel met all the mission objectives and was one of the best-ever launches, according to officials of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article318196.ece>

[Fully satisfied with questioning of Narendra Modi, says SIT chief](#)

The Hindu, 28 March 2010

Chairman of the Supreme Court-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT), R.K. Raghavan, said on Sunday that the SIT was "fully satisfied" with the questioning of Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi. Talking to journalists, Mr. Raghavan, who himself was not present during Mr Modi's questioning, said if necessary Mr. Modi could be called again. "But that is only if some major gaps have remained in his answers for which he can be called again for further clarity," he said, hinting that new issues are unlikely to be raised by the SIT with him.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/states/other-states/article318125.ece>

[Currency garlands: EC to set up expenditure watchdog](#)

The Hindu, 28 March 2010

The issue of 'currency garlands' has caused concerns to the Election Commission which will soon set up a high-level expenditure watchdog. An "Expenditure Monitoring Division" is being created with senior officials of the Income Tax Department manning it, Election Commissioner S. Y. Quraishi said. "The new division shall be in position in the next few months," he said, indicating the new mechanism will be in place before the assembly elections in Bihar due by November.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article318084.ece>

[New nuclear reactor sites](#)

The Hindu, 28 March 2010

Nuclear power reactors of 700 MWe capacity each will come up at two new inland sites – at Kumharia in Haryana and Bargi in Madhya Pradesh. These reactors will be indigenous Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) that will use natural uranium as fuel and heavy water as both moderator and coolant. The Union government has

also approved building imported reactors of a minimum of 1,000 MWe each at Chhayamithi Viridi in Gujarat, Kovvada in Andhra Pradesh and Haripur in West Bengal.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article318533.ece>

[LeT expanding to other South Asian states: US](#)

The News, 28 March 2010

WASHINGTON: The Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), predominately a threat to India, is fast expanding its operations to other South Asian countries, including Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives, a top US military official told US lawmakers on Friday. The dangerously expanding influence of LeT, which was responsible for the Mumbai attack in 2008, is an issue of concern for the Obama Administration, said Admiral Robert Willard, Commander of the US Pacific Command, in his testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=28026

[American Terror Suspect Traveled Unimpeded](#)

NYT, 28 March 2010

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — An American charged with helping plan the 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India, moved effortlessly between the United States, Pakistan and India for nearly seven years, training at a militant camp in Pakistan on five occasions, according to a plea agreement released by the Justice Department last week. The odyssey of David C. Headley, 49, included scouting targets in several cities in India and meeting with a senior operative of Al Qaeda in Pakistan's tribal areas. These and other new details of Mr. Headley's activities, contained in the plea agreement, raise troubling questions about how an American citizen could travel for so long undetected from his home base in Chicago to well-established terrorist training camps in Pakistan.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/26/world/asia/26pstan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

[India shoring up presence along border with China](#)

The Hindu, 29 March 2010

India on Monday said it is shoring up its military presence in the northern borders and upgrading infrastructure along the border with China in the light of Beijing's rapid infrastructure development and its upgraded military force projection in Tibet Autonomous Region and Xinjiang province. "India also remains conscious and alert about the implications of China's military modernisation...rapid infrastructure development in the Tibet Autonomous Region and Xinjiang province has considerably upgraded China's military force projection capability and strategic operational flexibility," the Defence Ministry said in its 2009-10 annual report released on Monday.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article321547.ece>

[Curfew in Old City of Hyderabad](#)

The Hindu, 29 March 2010

Indefinite curfew was clamped in all areas of Old City here from Monday night after one person was stabbed to death and 17 others sustained injuries in a sudden flare up of communal violence. Incidents of arson, group clashes and attacks on houses of

different communities continued for the third consecutive day on Monday, even as a beleaguered city police force tried to take the situation under control with the help of paramilitary forces.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article320972.ece>

[Civil nuclear regulations necessary: France](#)

The Hindu, 29 March 2010

With the government facing stiff opposition on its Civil Nuclear Liability Bill, France today dubbed the issue as "internal" but said the rules were necessary in order to establish a robust, equitable and efficient liability regime in India. "It is up to India to conduct its internal debates and its democratic debates, the way it has been conducted. So, I have absolutely no comments on the process which is going on in Parliament and with government in that respect," French Ambassador Jerome Bonnafont told reporters when asked for his reaction to the opposition to the bill in India.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article321224.ece>

[Indian firing incidents continue as border talks begin](#)

The News, 29 March 2010

SIALKOT: The Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) carried out unprovoked aerial firing from the Indian post, tent position, late on Saturday night at the Pasroor sector of Sialkot working boundary. Such incidents of firing by on the Sialkot working border have been continuing for the last many weeks. A flag meeting between the Pakistani Chenab Rangers authorities and the Indian BSF authorities was held Sunday in this regard, during which the Indian BSF authorities claimed to have killed some alleged border crosser in firing on Saturday.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28054