

[India, Pak exchange lists of nuclear installations](#)

The Hindu, 1 January 2010

India and Pakistan today exchanged the lists of their nuclear installations for the 19th consecutive time under an agreement which prohibits any kind of attack on such facilities. The lists were exchanged through diplomatic channels simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities, a statement by the External Affairs Ministry said here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article73967.ece>

[Armed forces modernisation on track: Defence Ministry](#)

The Hindu, 1 January 2010

The government on Thursday emphasised that the process of modernising the armed forces was on track, with the Defence Ministry expecting to spend over Rs.54,824 crore on capital acquisition earmarked in the total budget of Rs.1,41,703 crore for the current financial year. The Ministry said the expenditure for acquisitions had increased substantially over the last five years and it was expected to cross Rs.1,78,000 crore, compared to Rs.62,672 crore in 1999-2004.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article73736.ece>

[Congress on winning streak, BJP downhill](#)

The Hindu, 1 January 2010

In its only achievement in all of 2009, the Bharatiya Janata Party installed a government in Jharkhand in the fading moments of the year. But even this victory was not won square and fair. It came second hand, from a Congress deciding imperiously to sit in the opposition rather than yield the Chief Ministerial space to Shibhu Soren. Indeed, the story of Jharkhand is not that the BJP outmanoeuvred the Congress to form a government but that the Congress could afford not to form a government. The Congress dumped Mr. Soren from a position of strength. It was either the driver's seat or nothing for the party.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article73728.ece>

[Govt pressurised negotiators to end IC-814 hijacking by Dec 31: Doval](#)

The Hindu, 1 January 2010

Pressure from the government and hysteria back home by relatives of passengers prevented negotiators to force the hijackers of an Indian Airlines plane to scale down their demand to release just one terrorist, says A K Doval, India's Chief negotiator. Ten years after the traumatic passengers were released after a costly exchange of three dreaded terrorists on New Year eve, Mr. Doval, a former IB chief, says demands may have been reduced to release of just one terrorist if negotiators had got some more time.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article73831.ece>

[One and a half billion people just want peace](#)

The News, 1 January 2010

ISLAMABAD: The two nations have repeatedly gone to war in the past. Their governments continue sabre rattling and spewing bellicose rhetoric. But identical nationwide opinion surveys conducted by the Jang Group and the Times of India Group in India and Pakistan show that a majority of the billion and a half people of the sub-continent want to live as peaceful and friendly neighbours and share the same humane goals like any other civilised polity; economic prosperity for all, education for the youth, health for the needy, absence of violence and elimination of existential threats.

http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26396

[Top Indian, Pakistani media groups join hands for peace](#)

The News, 1 January 2010

KARACHI: The turn of the decade brings with it a momentous shot in the arm to the moribund Indo-Pak peace process with the unveiling of a grand cross-border collaborative peace project. The initiative, titled Aman Ki Asha, promises to be a path-breaking collaboration between Pakistan's Jang Group and Geo and India's Times of India Group, the largest media groups on their respective sides of the border. It will look to inject impetus into the Indo-Pak dialogue in a manner that is unparalleled, on a scale that is unprecedented.

http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26395

[Quake hits east again](#)

Kuensel, 1 January 2010

Eastern Bhutan 1 January, 2010 - Eastern Bhutan was shaken again yesterday afternoon, for the third time in four months, when a 5.5 magnitude earthquake, with its epicentre somewhere along the border of Sakteng gewog, Trashigang, and the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, hit around 3.57 pm causing damage to homes and properties in the region. No human casualties were reported as of yesterday, but two people in Drametse, Mongar, suffered minor injuries. The quake was also felt in Thimphu and several parts of the country, as well as in towns of the neighbouring Indian states.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14375>

[TDP, PRP flay Chidambaram on Telangana issue](#)

The Hindu, 2 January 2010

Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram was on Saturday criticised by two opposition parties in Andhra Pradesh - Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Praja Rajyam Party (PRP) - which said he was "adding fuel to fire" over the contentious Telangana issue. Mr. Chidambaram also became the target of attack of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), with the party alleging that his statements on the separate statehood demand were only compounding the confusion.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article74573.ece>

[India rejects Pakistan actions on Gilgit-Baltistan](#)

The Hindu, 2 January 2010

India on Friday termed "completely unacceptable" actions by Pakistan in regard to Gilgit-Baltistan and asserted it can neither camouflage Islamabad's illegal occupation of part of the State of Jammu and Kashmir nor hide the denial of basic rights to the people in that part for the past six decades. "The entire State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India by virtue of its accession to India in 1947. Any action to alter the status of any part of the territory under the illegal occupation of Pakistan has no legal basis whatsoever, and is completely unacceptable," Vishnu Prakash, official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs said here in a statement.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article74181.ece>

Editorial: Anodyne blueprint

The Hindu, 2 January 2010

In the summer of 2007, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh promised Jammu and Kashmir's people a "blueprint for a new future." Late last month, retired Supreme Court judge Saghir Ahmed released the summary of that blueprint — and sparked off protests across party lines. Made on behalf of a working group set up by the Prime Minister in 2006 to consider measures for strengthening the relationship between the Union of India and Jammu and Kashmir, Justice Ahmed's recommendations are less-than-substantial. Among other things, he has called on the Prime Minister to set up a mechanism to restore J&K's autonomy "to the extent possible."

<http://beta.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/article74195.ece>

Alert sounded in U.P. following escape of 3 Pak. terrorists

The Hindu, 4 January 2010

An alert has been sounded in Uttar Pradesh following the escape of three Pakistani terrorists from police custody in Delhi, a top officer said on Monday. "Anti Terror Squad, Special Task Force and district units especially those sharing their boundaries with Delhi have been put on alert after the incident," Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Brij Lal told reporters here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article75564.ece>

Govt not coming out with firm response on attacks in Australia: BJP

The Hindu, 4 January 2010

BJP on Monday accused the Government of not coming out with a firm response on attacks on Indians in Australia and suggested using "coercive diplomacy" to find a solution. "The Prime Minister should tell how many more Indians will be either killed or attacked in Australia before the Government comes out with a response," BJP spokesperson Ravi Shankar Prasad said here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article75570.ece>

Ansari to leave for tri-nation tour to Africa tomorrow

The Hindu, 4 January 2010

Inking of a pact to enhance funding of a hydropower project and ways to strengthen trade ties with the African countries will be the highlights of the week-long visit of

Vice President Hamid Ansari to tri-nation tour of Zambia, Botswana and Malawi starting on Tuesday. Besides the bilateral issues, a joint programme of action on promoting trade relations with the African region, which is being finalised with the African Union Commission, is also expected to figure predominantly in the talks between Mr. Ansari and his counterparts in these countries.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article75516.ece>

[Dhaka, New Delhi begin river water-sharing talks](#)

The Hindu, 4 January 2010

Bangladesh and India on Monday began Secretary-level talks here on river water-sharing to lay the groundwork for the coming summit talks between their Prime Ministers. Bangladesh Water Resources Secretary Sheikh M. Wahiduzzaman, who leads the home side, said the sharing of the waters of the Teesta and Feni and the construction of embankments were on the agenda of the two-day discussion. The Indian team is led by Water Resources Secretary U.N. Panjiar.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article75216.ece>

[No threat to J&K coalition: Soz](#)

The Hindu, 4 January 2010

Ruling out any factionalism in state Congress, which heads the coalition in Jammu and Kashmir, PCC chief Saif-ud-Din Soz has said there was no threat to the Omar Abdullah government. "There is no threat to the coalition in Jammu and Kashmir. It is running smoothly. There are no differences between Congress and National Conference and the coalition was getting stronger day by day," he said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article75221.ece>

[Recommendations of JK WG will divide nation: RSS](#)

Daily Excelsior, 4 January 2010

NEW DELHI : RSS today warned that the report of the Prime Minister's working Group on Centre-State relations, if implemented, will divide the nation on religious lines. "The Sagir Ahmad report has given suggestions like giving a permanent special status to J&K under Article 370 and maintaining the pre-1953 status in the State. Such suggestions are completely anti-national and are equivalent to creating another Pakistan within the country," RSS mouthpiece Panchjanya said in an editorial in its latest issue.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/10jan04/newsupdate.htm#3>

[Dhaka, Delhi stay upbeat](#)

Daily Star, 4 January 2010

The first day of the secretary-level talks of the Joint Rivers Commission between Bangladesh and India ended yesterday with a positive note with both sides expecting a consensus on sharing water of the Teesta river. Besides sharing the Teesta waters, the delegations of the two countries have been discussing different related issues including dredging of the Isamoti river, small irrigation and drinking water project of the Feni river and making embankments on the bordering rivers.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=120540>

[Dhaka, Delhi conclude water talks amid optimism](#)

The Hindu, 5 January 2010

Bangladesh and India have agreed to resolve outstanding issues relating to water sharing and decided that they will jointly start work for the protection of banks of the common rivers. The consensus came at the end of the two-day crucial water talks at the Secretary level here on Tuesday.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article76205.ece>

[Eliminate extremist ideologies: Manmohan](#)

The Hindu, 5 January 2010

"The proponents of such ideologies are challenging the tenets of democracy and representational politics by resorting to intimidation, terror and other manifestations of intolerance," Dr. Singh said in his keynote address at the inaugural session of the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Commonwealth Countries (CSPOC). While asserting that such forces should not be given any quarter, the Prime Minister said it would require sustained international effort and cooperation to evolve "new insights" on how to tackle this "grave menace."

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article76133.ece>

[Redeploy army in border districts: BJP](#)

The Hindu, 5 January 2010

BJP on Tuesday demanded the redeployment of the army in rural areas of the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu and Kashmir and sophisticated weapons for Village Defence Committee members to instill confidence among the people there. In a memorandum submitted to Governor N N Vohra here, senior party leader Kuldeep Raj Gupta claimed that due to the shifting of the army, people in rural areas of Rajouri and Poonch were feeling unsafe and insecure and were migrating to other places.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article76132.ece>

[Full text of Chidambaram's statement on Telangana](#)

The Hindu, 5 January 2010

Consultations with eight recognised political parties of Andhra Pradesh on the issues arising out of the recent agitations in the State in favour of and against the separate state of Telangana began here today. In his opening statement at the meeting, the Union Home Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram stressed the need to maintain peace and harmony in the State while the consultations take place. Following is the text of his statement : - "I welcome you to this consultation on the issues arising out of the recent agitations in Andhra Pradesh in favour of and against a separate State of Telangana.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article75815.ece>

[Omar wants Centre to hold talks on autonomy](#)

Daily Excelsior, 5 January 2010

JAMMU : Stepping into the second year in office as Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah today said the Centre should initiate dialogue with political parties in the state on the issue of autonomy. He also feels that the quiet diplomacy launched by Union Home Minister P Chidambaram by talking to separatists including Hurriyat Conference would be sustained and would find a lasting solution to Kashmir issue.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/10jan05/newsupdate.htm#4>

[JuM claims responsibility for Srinagar attack](#)

The Hindu, 6 January 2010

At least one security forces personnel was killed and seven people -- including three security men and a journalist -- were injured in a suicide attack launched by unknown militants on police in Lal Chowk in the heart of the city. Jamiat-ul-Mujahideen, a radical outfit, on Wednesday claimed responsibility for the terror attack in Lal Chowk here, saying the strike was intended to convey the message that militancy was not yet over in Kashmir.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article76431.ece>

['Non-state actors' for peace](#)

The News, 6 January 2010

The term "non-state actors" is becoming a catchword in our part of the world. But it has had different notional connotations for each different situation. India has been using the term "non-state actors" to describe the "perpetrators" of the November 2008 Mumbai tragedy. In Pakistan, this catchword is being obsessively used to euphemise one's political nemeses. A different kind of "non-state actors," with eminently positive credentials, now seem to have come together in a joint mission to breathe a fresh new impulse for peace in the region.

http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=217116

[2011 deadline for Nu 250 mn project](#)

Kuensel, 6 January 2010

The country's first medical college, Bhutan institute of medical sciences (BIMS), will be established within the scope of Nu 250 mn and expects to open for admission by February next year. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the two countries during His Majesty's recent state visit to India. "With the signing of MoU between the two countries, it'll accelerate the work on establishment of BIMS," said the health minister Lyonpo Zangley Drukpa. "We've been waiting for the MoU to be signed so that we can start work as per the plan drawn by the ministry. We're clinically equipped to establish the institute."

[China, India hold 3rd round of defense consultation](#)

People's Daily, 9 January 2010

China and India held the third round of defense consultation here Wednesday,

according to a press release from the Information Office of China's Defense Ministry Friday. Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Ma Xiaotian and visiting Indian Defense Secretary Pradeep Kumar jointly presided over the consultation, during which they exchanged views and reached some consensus on bilateral ties, regional security, national defense policies and military exchanges and cooperation.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6864067.html>

Militants making a comeback in Kashmir

The Hindu, 9 January 2010

The past few weeks have witnessed some major strikes by militants in north Kashmir, where four CRPF personnel were killed last week. It was followed by some targeted civilian killings in that area. Jammu and Kashmir may see more violence in the coming months as the militants have successfully regrouped themselves and there is qualitative shift in their handling and strategy. The renewed effort on their part is becoming possible with the increasing support of locals.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article78234.ece>

India not a warmongering country: Antony

The Hindu, 9 January 2010

India is not a warmongering country and does not foster any extraterritorial ambitions, Union Defence Minister A.K. Antony has said. Interacting with the media on the sidelines of a Coast Guard investiture ceremony here on Saturday, Mr. Antony said the country strengthened its forces to safeguard its territorial integrity. "It is a deterrent action," he added.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article78270.ece>

BSF retaliates as Pakistan troops fire rockets

The Hindu, 9 January 2010

The Border Security Force accused Pakistan troops of firing at least four rockets across the border at Attari, 240 km from here at midnight on Friday night, and said it retaliated with machine gunfire and mortars. The BSF said it was difficult to find the location of the rockets owing to dense fog. Two rockets that did not go off after falling on Indian territory were traced at the Kahangarh post of the BSF, Himmat Singh, Inspector-General (Frontier), said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article78254.ece>

Opinion: Future of India-Bangladesh relations

The Hindu, 9 January 2010

Sheikh Hasina, who started her second term as Prime Minister of Bangladesh on January 6, 2009, is due to visit India from Sunday. This is her first visit to New Delhi during this term, and it is expected to be a significant one. When Ms Hasina became Prime Minister in 1996 (she held office till 2001), her Awami League had a thin majority in Parliament, and her government had many limitations. She came to power after two decades that followed the bloody changeover of 1975. Despite those

limitations, her government took some remarkable steps vis-à-vis India.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/article77850.ece>

[Image and reality in Kashmir](#)

The Hindu, 9 January 2010

Early this week, President Asif Ali Zardari promised legislators in Pakistan-administered Jammu and Kashmir that he would honour his father-in-law's promise to wage "a thousand year war" to seize territory claimed by the country from India. On Wednesday, as two jihadists holed up inside a Srinagar hotel battled police personnel, India's media were quick to cast the fighting in similarly apocalyptic terms. Barring that it took place around the corner from the offices of Srinagar-based television stations, there was little to distinguish the incident from dozens of similar fire engagements that regularly take place in the State. In fact the news from Jammu and Kashmir for the most part is heartening.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/article77849.ece>

[Kashmir encounters do not signify return of militancy in J&K:CM](#)

Daily Excelsior, 9 January 2010

NEW DELHI: Downplaying the terrorist encounter at Lal Chowk in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today said security forces engaged the militants on the basis of credible intelligence inputs and the incidents did not signify revival of militancy.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/10jan09/newsupdate.htm#4>

[BASIC to meet in Delhi, discuss targets under Copenhagen Accord](#)

The Hindu, 10 January 2010

With the Copenhagen Accord setting a January 31 deadline for the nations to specify 2020 emission targets and other steps, India will hold discussion with other BASIC group members comprising China, South Africa and Brazil in New Delhi on their climate strategy. "I have invited my counterparts in the BASIC group to attend a meeting in New Delhi in the third week of January before everyone finalises the entry into the appendix (Accord)," Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article78407.ece>

[Bangladesh PM arrives on maiden Indian visit](#)

The Hindu, 10 January 2010

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina arrived here tonight on her maiden visit, which India sees as "a path-breaking and historic opportunity" to forge a "new and forward-looking" relationship amid hopes that its security concerns would be addressed. Ms. Hasina was accorded a warm welcome at the Indira Gandhi International Airport here where she was received by Minister of State for External Affairs Preneet Kaur and Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article78622.ece>

[Government to review arms policy](#)

The Hindu, 10 January 2010

In a bid to check proliferation of both legal and illegal weapons, the government has decided to review the law for granting licences to individuals and keep a database of those issued across the country. The Home Ministry says proliferation of arms, whether licensed or illegal, vitiates the law and order situation and holding of sophisticated weapons by conflicting parties directly contributes towards lethality of violent acts.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article78326.ece>

[Botswana: do more for South-South cooperation](#)

The Hindu, 10 January 2010

Botswana on Saturday urged India to do more for South-South cooperation in a changing world order. Pleased to be included in the list of countries being visited by Vice-President Hamid Ansari in a "long overdue high-level visit from India to southern Africa," the Botswana leadership underlined the need for the developing world to speak up in one voice on issues of common concern.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article78300.ece>

[New Delhi, Maoists seem to drift further apart](#)

Kathmandu Post, 10 January 2010

Nepal's Maoists are up against a hardened New Delhi. It only takes a quick chat with officials here to figure out that UCPN (Maoist) leaders have their task cut out: New Delhi expects them to initiate the rapprochement, or else there won't be one. Such suggestions as possible visits by Maoist leaders to disputed border points—Kalapani and Susta—have only hardened perception that the Maoists will never hesitate to take recourse to anti-India politics to gain populist points. Add to this India's national security concerns from its own mounting Maoist problem and glaring lack of political ownership to the faltering peace process and you will begin to despair that Nepal's largest political party and its most important neighbour are not likely to find a common ground anytime soon.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/01/09/top-stories/New-Delhi-Maoists-seem-to-drift-further-apart/3878/>

[Israel pushing for trade pact with India](#)

The Hindu, 11 January 2010

Israel on Monday said, it wants to push for a free trade agreement with India with an objective of tripling bilateral commerce to USD 12 billion over the next four-five years. "I hope it (Free Trade Agreement) will happen very soon. It is one of the aims of my visit here to try and push it as much as possible...it is progressing quite well," Israeli Minister of Industry, Trade and Labour Benjamin (Fouad) Ben-Eliezer said at a FICCI function here. During April-December 2008-09, bilateral trade stood at USD 2.8 billion.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/business/article78919.ece>

[India, Bangladesh to sign security, power pacts](#)

The Hindu, 11 January 2010

India on Monday rolled out the red carpet for visiting Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as she began the official leg of her four-day visit during which the two neighbours will sign five agreements, including three security related pacts. Sheikh Hasina, who is on her first visit to India after assuming power last year, was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in the morning. The Bangladesh leader later called on President Pratibha Patil and discussed a host of bilateral and regional issues.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article78871.ece>

[Call to resume dialogue](#)

The Hindu, 11 January 2010

A call to resume dialogue between India and Pakistan resonated on the inaugural day of a three-day conference aimed at drawing up a road map for peace between the two countries. The former Pakistan Law Minister Iqbal Haider, the former Union Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar, journalist Kuldip Nayar and Peoples' Democratic Party leader Mehbooba Mufti were united in urging both governments to resume the dialogue that has been suspended since the Mumbai terror attacks in November 2008.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article78683.ece>

[Opinion: Militants making a comeback in Kashmir](#)

The Hindu, 11 January 2010

Jammu and Kashmir may see more violence in the coming months as the militants have successfully regrouped themselves and there is qualitative shift in their handling and strategy. The renewed effort on their part is becoming possible with the increasing support of locals. These impressions are from internal deliberations taking place within various security agencies operating in the State. The past few weeks have witnessed some major strikes by militants in north Kashmir, where four CRPF personnel were killed last week. It was followed by some targeted civilian killings in that area. But it did not stop there and they managed to travel to Srinagar and attacked security personnel in Lal Chowk.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article78234.ece>

[Opinion: The alphabet soup of internal security](#)

The Hindu, 11 January 2010

"Future historians," wrote Walter Lacquer, "will be intrigued and puzzled by the staggering disproportion between the enormous amount of talk about terrorism and the tiny effort made to combat it." Ever since the savage Lashkar-e-Taiba attack on Mumbai in November 2008, Indians have been demanding that the government add muscle to the country's counter-terrorism defences. Speaking at a lecture organised by the Intelligence Bureau on December 23, 2009, Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram laid out the government's response, outlining his vision for the "broad architecture of a new security system that will serve the country today and in the foreseeable future."

<http://beta.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/article78677.ece>

[Abdullah wants Govt to take up Ladakh land issue with China](#)

Daily Excelsior, 11 January 2010

NEW DELHI : Expressing concern over reports of China taking substantial portion of land in Ladakh, Union Minister Farooq Abdullah today said the Centre should take up the matter with Beijing at the earliest and sort out the boundary dispute. "This seems to be happening for the last 25 years. One cannot be absolved of the responsibility by just merely saying that the Line of Actual Control (LAC) has not been demarcated," he said.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/10jan11/newsupdate.htm#3>

[Pranab hints at duty-free access of Bangladeshi products](#)

Daily News, 11 January 2010

Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee on Monday said India wanted that the tariff and non-tariff barriers on Bangladeshi goods be withdrawn to access Indian market. "We want many products from Bangladesh to enter Indian market without any duty," Mukherjee told reporters after a meeting with Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Delhi. India and Bangladesh have yawning trade gap and Dhaka was demanding that India lower tariff and non-tariff barriers to narrow the gap.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=21584

[70 loan and 30 grant for inter-govt. projects](#)

Kuensel, 11 January 2010

11 January, 2010 - Apart from the ongoing Punatsangchhu I, all future inter-governmental projects to produce 10,000 MW by 2020 will be built on a 70 percent loan and 30 percent grant basis, Bhutan and India have agreed recently. The two governments have also estimated that the 10 projects for the 10,000 MW project would cost around Nu 500 bn. This figure is based on current costs and may go up with inflation. As a start, the 1,000 MW Punatsangchhu II (Nu 37.7 bn) and 720 MW Mangdechu (Nu 28.9 bn) projects will start on a 70-30 basis immediately after an agreement is signed in March.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14458>

[NPC vice chairman meets Indian delegation](#)

People's Daily, 12 January 2010

Han Qide, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, met Tuesday with a cross-party delegation of senior Indian statesmen, led by Rao Inderjit Singh, chairman of India-China Forum of Parliamentarians, in Beijing. China and India had no fundamental conflicts of interest, but shared broad common interests, said Han. Maintaining peace and friendship, mutually beneficial cooperation and common development not only conformed to the interests of both countries and their peoples, but also had a significant impact on world peace and development, he said.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6866565.html>

[India's first manned space flight in 2013](#)

The Hindu, 12 January 2010

India would launch its first manned space flights by sending two astronauts into orbit in a Russian spaceship in 2013, according to reports. For this, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is to finance the acquisition of a Soyuz spaceship and train its astronauts by a Russian commander. The Russian cosmonaut would lead the two-member crew on an independent space flight lasting several days, Voice of Russia radio reported.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article79377.ece>

[Clashes in Shopian, normal life disrupted](#)

The Hindu, 12 January 2010

An angry mob on Tuesday hurled stones at a police party in Shopian, prompting the security personnel to fire in the air and use batons in the South Kashmir town which saw disruption of normal life, with shops closing down and vehicles going off the road. The clashes broke out as an irate mob charging the police with destroying evidence to save the culprits in the alleged rape and murder of two women in Shopian indulged in pelting of stones on a police party escorting a market checking squad led by Additional Deputy Commissioner M.Y. Zargar in the town, 52 kms from here, official sources said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article79600.ece>

[Hope good reason prevails upon ULFA: Manmohan](#)

The Hindu, 12 January 2010

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Tuesday said the government wants to restore peace in Assam and hoped that good reason prevails upon the outlawed ULFA to end the decades-long insurgency problem in the State. On talks with the ULFA, which received a major setback last year with four of its top leaders arrested in Bangladesh, he said "Though we tried to bring them (ULFA) to the negotiation table in 2006, they backed out. I hope this time good reason prevails."

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article79576.ece>

['Indian linked to Mumbai blasts issued fake Pak passport'](#)

The Hindu, 12 January 2010

Three Indian citizens, including a man linked to the 1993 serial bomb blasts in Mumbai, were issued Pakistani passports by the country's consulate in the U.S. city of Houston, an anti-corruption court has been told by a senior diplomat. Pakistan's Consul General in Houston, Aqil Nadeem, appeared as a witness in the accountability court in Rawalpindi on Monday and confirmed that Pakistani passports were issued by the consulate to Indian nationals Aziz Moosa, Saleem Ali and Abdul Sadiq.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article79411.ece>

[Army to issue notice to Military Secretary, 3 others](#)

The Hindu, 12 January 2010

Army Chief General Deepak Kapoor on Monday decided to issue show-cause notice to four senior officers named in a land scam in Darjeeling, amid speculation that soon-to- retire Military Secretary Lt. Gen. Avadesh Prakash may escape sacking. The four officers will be given 30 days time to show cause why action cannot be taken against them for issuing a No-Objection Certificate (NOC) to a private realtor in Siliguri to purchase a 70-acre land adjacent to the Sukna military station.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article79196.ece>

[Suitable action against China's incursions: IAF chief](#)

Daily Excelsior, 12 January 2010

NEW DELHI : IAF chief Air Chief Marshal P V Naik today said India will take "suitable action" if the reports of China occupying Indian territory along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) was established. "I am not aware of the authenticity of the reports. When it is established on the ground, then we will take suitable action. It (incursions) has got nothing to do with the Air Force though," Naik told reporters here.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/10jan12/newsupdate.htm#4>

[Manmohan allays worries over Tipai plan](#)

Daily Star, 12 January 2010

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday said her Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh assured her that nothing will be done with regard to Tipaimukh Dam project, which will harm the interest of Bangladesh. "He (Manmohan) has assured me that nothing will be done which will harm the interest of Bangladesh in any manner," Hasina told The Daily Star immediately after having lunch with the leaders of Indian Industry at Hotel ICT Maurya Sheraton. Her reply came in response to a question about the assurance given by the Indian premier to her on the Tipaimukh project.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=21595

[Krishna speaks to Pak Foreign Minister over terror, 26/11 trial](#)

The Hindu, 13 January 2010

Amid concerns here over rising infiltration, External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna on Wednesday spoke to his Pakistani counterpart Shah Mahmood Qureshi and pressed for "effective steps" to dismantle infrastructure of terror, saying it is still being "used" for anti-India acts. During the telephonic conversation, Mr. Krishna also enquired about the status of the Mumbai attacks trial with an emphasis that perpetrators should be brought to justice expeditiously and the entire conspiracy unravelled.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article80174.ece>

[Talks on with World Bank for environment project](#)

The Hindu, 13 January 2010

The Ministry for Environment and Forests is negotiating an integrated coastal zone management project worth \$ 200 million (approximately Rs. 900 crores) with the World Bank, of which \$ 50 million (approximately Rs. 225 crores) will be allocated for the estuarine islands of the Sunderbans, Union Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Jairam Ramesh said here on Wednesday. The funds, to be utilised over a 5-year period, will be employed in projects relating to eco tourism, coastal erosion protection, improvement of the livelihood of the people who live in the fringe areas of the forests, construction of cyclone shelters, electrification projects and building capacity of universities and institute that provide technical support.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article80335.ece>

[Declaration: India-Pakistan Conference – A road map towards peace](#)

The Hindu, 13 January 2010

The discussions in the India-Pakistan Conference: A Road map towards Peace over the last three days have shown how far the public sentiment in both India and Pakistan is inclined towards peace. The participating organizations from both sides of the border represent a vast constituency which is ready to work towards building enduring and sustainable peace between the two countries.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article80184.ece>

[India, Bangladesh working on Extradition Treaty: Hasina](#)

The Hindu, 13 January 2010

After signing three pacts to combat terrorism and organised crime, India and Bangladesh are working on an Extradition Treaty, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asserted on Wednesday. The Bangladesh premier added that her government would go to "any extent" curb the menace, in cooperation with India. Winding up her three-day India visit, she said the two countries need to stand against terrorism and can work together in a "friendly atmosphere".

<http://beta.thehindu.com/incoming/article79867.ece>

[Opinion: India and Pakistan: deadlines for dialogue](#)

The Hindu, 13 January 2010

As a slew of new track-2 and track-3 initiatives try to build a 'roadmap' for a new India-Pakistan dialogue, it may be time to look at some of the circumstances in which dialogue has been derailed in the past — and hunt clues for the future. In the parlance of India-Pakistan ties, specifically in the past decade, it is the top leadership that has proposed new initiatives for peace, and it is terrorists and those who direct them who have been most easily able to dispose of them.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/article79689.ece>

[Another infiltration bid foiled](#)

Daily Excelsior, 13 January 2010

JAMMU : BSF troops today foiled two infiltration bids after a brief encounter with militants along the Indo-Pak border in Akhnour sector of Jammu division, the

seventh such attempt by ultras from across the border this month. A group of five militants entered Indian territory around 1200 hours and their movement was picked up by the patrolling party of BSF at Tent Border Out Post in Akhnoor sector, a senior BSF official said.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/10jan13/newsupdate.htm#1>

[Afghanistan problem](#)

The News, 13 January 2010

The international community's failure against the insurgency in Afghanistan is breeding violence and instability in the region. The US involvement in Afghanistan is pushing radical elements across the border into Pakistan, and is destabilising this nuclear-armed country. The US should change its policy on the global war against terrorism and try to bring peace by adopting a policy that must stress on economic, educational, food, healthcare and security assistance. Only the deployment of troops throughout Afghanistan will not defeat Al-Qaeda or the Taliban. India's participation in this global peace effort against terror and extremism remains eyewash. Countless complaints against Indian troops and intelligence operators in Afghanistan substantiate the fact that there is an Indian hand behind the recent troubles inside Balochistan and FATA. It is an open secret now that the Balochistan Liberation Army, a well-organised Kabul-based movement inside Pakistan, receives monetary and other assistance from Indian defence and intelligence circles.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=218379

[PM defends move to allow port use](#)

Daily Star, 13 January 2010

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina wrapped her four-day official visit to India yesterday describing it as 'totally successful'. She also justified the decision to allow India to use Chittagong and Mongla ports saying, "In the present day world you cannot live with doors closed." In her opening remarks at a crowded media briefing attended by Bangladeshi and Indian journalists, she said, "India is our natural friend. India is a big country and it has a very strong economy. It should look after all neighbours -- whether they are big or small -- on the basis of respect for their sovereignty and equality."

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=121785>

[Delhi's Nepal Policy: 'Officials at the helm'](#)

Kathmandu Post, 13 January 2010

Acute absence of political leadership in New Delhi in dealing with Nepal has made the security apparatus and bureaucracy the determining factors of Nepal policy, according to a former envoy to India. "Political leaders who were engaged with Nepal are no longer in policy making positions in New Delhi," said Durgesh Man Singh. Though New Delhi's position on Nepal hasn't failed, there has been a shift in approach because the security apparatus and bureaucrats now control Nepal policy, he said. However, India's concerns on Nepal's long-term stability have been loud and clear since the signing of the 12-point agreement between the Maoists and non-Maoist parties.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/01/12/top-stories/Delhis-Nepal-Policy-Officials-at-the-helm/3991/>

[Legal rights of arrested Indian traders will be protected: Chinese official](#)

The Hindu, 14 January 2010

The 21 Indian traders who were arrested last week in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen on diamond-smuggling charges have been assured that their legal rights will be protected, a Chinese official said on Thursday. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Jiang Yu said the case was still under investigation, and that Chinese authorities had granted consular access to Indian officials who met with those detained on Wednesday.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article80503.ece>

[Pakistan national held at Punjab border](#)

The Hindu, 14 January 2010

An alleged suicide bomber from Pakistan has been arrested after troopers of the Border Security Force (BSF) caught him doing a reconnaissance of the area at the Attari international border in this frontier district of Punjab. During initial interrogation by security agencies, the youth, identified as Noman Arshad of Singhpura in Pakistan, said that he had come to the border for a recce, officials said Wednesday. "The Pakistani youth was arrested by the BSF as he was carrying out a recce of the border belt. Further investigations are in progress," BSF Punjab Frontier Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Jagir Singh said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article80457.ece>

[Call to resume dialogue](#)

The Hindu, 14 January 2010

Pakistan said its Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi stressed the need to restart the composite dialogue process during a telephone conversation with his Indian counterpart S.M. Krishna on Wednesday. A statement from the Foreign Ministry said Mr. Krishna called Mr. Qureshi to greet him on the new year. The telephone conversation between the two Ministers took place as the U.S. special envoy on Afghanistan and Pakistan, Richard Holbrooke, began a three-day visit to Pakistan.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article80410.ece>

[Editorial: Seizing the moment](#)

The Hindu, 14 January 2010

For most of the past four decades, India and Bangladesh have been distant neighbours, separated by distrust and suspicion despite their visceral connections of geography and ecology, language and culture, economics and politics. There have been periods of acute stasis and also moments of hope, when a basic transformation in the relationship seemed possible. But never before has the overall situation been quite as propitious as it is now.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/article80347.ece>

[India interfering in Balochistan: Malik](#)

The News, 14 January 2010

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rehman Malik on Wednesday categorically said that India was interfering in Balochistan while missing Baloch were forcibly taken to training camps in Afghanistan. He was making a statement in the Senate in response to points of order raised by some members from Balochistan about missing persons. "Pakistan has identified terrorists training camps established inside Afghanistan for interference in Balochistan," Malik said.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=26664

[Visit of great value: Nepal](#)

Kathmandu Post, 14 January 2010

India's External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna will on Friday start his three-day visit to Nepal. The visit is being seen here as New Delhi's effort to address Nepal's call for reciprocity in high-level bilateral visits. The visit, which begins on Jan. 15, will be his first to Nepal since he assumed office in May. Accompanying him will be senior South Block officials, including Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao and Joint Secretary Satish Mehta.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/01/13/top-stories/Visit-of-great-value-Nepal/4024/>

[China, India to lead climate meeting](#)

People's Daily, 14 January 2010

NEW DELHI: Four of the world's largest and fastest-growing carbon emitters will meet in New Delhi this month ahead of a Jan 31 deadline for countries to submit their action plans to fight climate change. The meeting, to be held either on Jan 24 or 25, will be attended by the environment ministers of Brazil, South Africa, India and China - the BASIC bloc of nations that helped broker a political accord at last month's Copenhagen climate summit.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6868385.html>

[Japan Ends Naval Support for Afghan War](#)

NYT, 15 January 2010

TOKYO — Japan's defense minister ordered the nation's naval ships to return from the Indian Ocean on Friday, fulfilling a pledge by his government to end an eight-year refueling mission in support of the war in Afghanistan. A destroyer and a supply ship that had been refueling American and other warships are to head home at midnight, when a special law authorizing the mission expires. Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama refused to renew the law, ignoring requests from the Obama administration to continue the mission as a show of diplomatic support for Washington.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/16/world/asia/16japan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

[2 killed, 6 injured in Sopore militant attack](#)

The Hindu, 15 January 2010

A policeman was among two persons killed and six others were injured when militants attacked Sopore police station in Baramulla district with grenades and gunfire twice within an hour today. The constable and a civilian, injured in the indiscriminate firing by militants on the police station in the North Kashmir town, succumbed to injuries on way to SMHS hospital here, official sources said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article80620.ece>

[Headley told to scout possible terror targets post 26/11](#)

The Hindu, 15 January 2010

Encouraged by the role played by David Coleman Headley in the Mumbai attacks without coming to notice of intelligence agencies, LeT had put the Pakistani-origin Chicago resident on another job - surveillance of Jewish Chabad houses (a Jewish community center, serving the needs of the entire Jewish community) in several Indian cities - for possible future strikes on the lines of 26/11. The fresh indictment filed against Headley along with his school friend Tahawwur Hussein Rana, alleged that in March 2009, Headley conducted surveillance of various targets in India, including the National Defence College in New Delhi and Chabad houses in several cities of the country.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article80629.ece>

['India wants cordial, peaceful relations with Pak and China'](#)

The Hindu, 15 January 2010

With his doctrine of two-front war with Pakistan and China having received vehement protest across the border, Army Chief General Deepak Kapoor on Friday said India wanted to foster "cordial and peaceful relations" with both the nations. "India has always believed in maintaining peaceful and cordial relations with its neighbouring countries," Gen. Kapoor told his troops, senior officers and foreign dignitaries here on the occasion of 62nd Army Day.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article80679.ece>

[Nepal vows not to allow its soil to be used against India](#)

The Hindu, 15 January 2010

Seeking to address India's concerns with regard to fake currency being smuggled from here, Nepal on Friday promised not to allow its territory to be used for any anti-India activity as the two countries discussed ways to step up cooperation in security and other issues. External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna held delegation-level talks with Nepalese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sujata Koirala here on a wide range of subjects that also covered developmental assistance and projects to be undertaken by India.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article80669.ece>

[Troop cut won't affect security situation: Kapoor](#)

Daily Excelsior, 15 January 2010

NEW DELHI, Jan 14: Army chief General Deepak Kapoor today said infiltration from Pakistan had doubled last year as that country wanted to push in maximum number of terrorists but insisted that troop reduction undertaken in Jammu and Kashmir recently will not affect the security situation there. He also rejected the attack on him from Pakistan over his doctrine of two-front war, saying it was his duty to keep the nation prepared for any eventuality and update policies to this effect.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/10jan15/news.htm#1>

Joint chiefs discuss internal security situation

The News, 15 January 2010

RAWALPINDI: A meeting of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC) was held at the Joint Staff Headquarters, Chaklala, on Thursday. Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC) General Tariq Majid chaired the meeting. It was attended by General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, Chief of the Army Staff, Admiral Noman Bashir, Chief of the Naval Staff, Air Chief Marshal Rao Qamar Suleman, Chief of the Air Staff, director general Inter-Services Intelligence, director general Strategic Plans Division, acting secretary Defence, secretary Defence Production, director general Joint Staff and other senior military officials from the three services. The committee undertook a comprehensive review of the national security scene, taking stock of the evolving internal and external challenges and the contemplated response. The deliberations focused on reshaping the regional dynamics, implications of the revised US strategy for Afghanistan, impact of increased instability in Afghanistan, the situation along the eastern borders, developments in the Indian Ocean Region and the tenuous spectre of regional strategic balance.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=26680

Maoists set treaties on fire, lift Tarai banda

Kathmandu Post, 15 January 2010

UCPN (Maoist) activists, as part of their fourth phase struggle for the establishment of civilian supremacy and national sovereignty, torched copies of treaties signed with India, in various parts of the country on Thursday. Demanding annulment of unequal treaties signed with India, the Maoists burned copies of Koshi, Mahakali and the Peace and Friendship treaties in Sunsari, Nuwakot and Sindhuli districts. They shouted slogans against foreign intervention and demanded that national sovereignty be maintained.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/01/14/top-stories/Maoists-set-treaties-on-fire-lift-Tarai-banda/4062/>

BrahMos missiles to be assembled at Pilani

The Hindu, 16 January 2010

The country's next assembling centre for the prestigious BrahMos missiles will be Rajasthan's Pilani. The State Government has already allocated 80 hectares of land near Pilani town, better known for its Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS Pilani) for this purpose. At present the BrahMos missiles, a joint venture of India and Russia, are assembled in Hyderabad. There is also a Brahmos Aerospace Thiruvananthapuram Limited near the Kerala capital.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/states/other-states/article81323.ece>

[Krishna expresses 'deep disappointment' with Prachanda](#)

The Hindu, 16 January 2010

External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna on Saturday conveyed India's "deep disappointment" to Maoist leader Prachanda over his attack on the country, saying his "baseless propaganda" vitiates the age-old and time-tested relations between the two countries. During a meeting with Mr. Prachanda here, Mr. Krishna asked the Maoists to fulfil their peace process commitments and join consensus on concluding the peace process and drafting of the new constitution by the targeted date of May 28.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article81309.ece>

[India to undertake Rs. 837 crore developmental projects in Nepal](#)

The Hindu, 16 January 2010

Giving a boost to bilateral ties, India will undertake developmental activities worth over Rs 837 crore in Nepal, under four pacts signed between the two countries in fields like infrastructure, power and science and technology. One of the major projects that India will undertake entails construction of a 680-km long highway in Terai region of Nepal at the cost of Rs 810 crore.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article81150.ece>

[Headley case shows LeT has global ambitions: U.S.](#)

The Hindu, 16 January 2010

Pakistani terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) has global ambitions and is willing to undertake bold, mass casualty operations, a top counter-terrorism official of the Obama Administration has said. "The example of David Headley shows Al-Qaeda is not the only group with global ambitions that we have to worry about," Daniel Benjamin, Coordinator, Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism at the State Department said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article81093.ece>

['India faces threat of another 26/11'](#)

The Hindu, 16 January 2010

Facing the "undeniable" threat of another Mumbai-type attack by Pakistan-based terror groups which may act under al-Qaeda's direction, India is most likely to retaliate militarily in such a scenario, according to a prominent US think tank. "The threat of another Mumbai-type attack is undeniable, numerous Pakistan-based groups remain motivated and able to strike Indian targets," said Daniel Markey, of the prestigious Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) in his latest paper 'Terrorism and Indo-Pakistani Escalation.'

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article81077.ece>

[BSF kills 1](#)

Daily Star, 16 January 2010

Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) shot dead a Bangladeshi national at Kazipur border in Gangni upazila of Meherpur on Saturday. The dead was identified as Sahidul Islam, 36, son of Sher Ali of Kazipur village in the upazila. According to Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), BSF opened fire on Sahidul while he was working at a field near the border point about 10:30am. Sahidul died on the spot.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=21681

[India's second AWACS to arrive in March](#)

The Hindu, 17 January 2010

The Indian Air Force (IAF) will get its second Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS), called the eye-in-the-sky, in March providing a dramatic boost to its capability to see beyond enemy lines and to detect incoming airborne threats. "The second AWACS will arrive in March. Though a little delayed than the scheduled delivery, it would enhance IAF's capabilities tremendously," a senior IAF official, requesting anonymity, told IANS.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article81512.ece>

[India, Nepal discuss cooperation to check cross-border crimes](#)

The Hindu, 17 January 2010

India said it looked forward to cooperation from Nepal in addressing its security concerns as the two sides explored ways to control cross-border crimes, such as smuggling of fake Indian currency and human trafficking, and agreed to combat terrorism jointly. "I brought to notice of Nepalese leadership that the territory of Nepal is being used for anti-India activities, fake note smuggling and drug trafficking and we want government of Nepal to prevent such unhealthy activities," External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna said on Sunday, wrapping up his three-day visit here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article81545.ece>

[Krishna meets Nemwang, enquires about Constitution drafting](#)

The Hindu, 17 January 2010

India on Sunday said it wanted to see a stable and democratic Nepal and expressed confidence that the country would be able to meet the deadline of drafting its new Constitution by May 2010. This was stated by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna when he met Nepal's Constituent Assembly chairman Subhash Nemwang here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article81482.ece>

[Holbrooke to visit India to discuss meet on Afghanistan](#)

The Hindu, 17 January 2010

U.S. Special Envoy for Pakistan and Afghanistan Richard Holbrooke will arrive here on Sunday evening for a brief visit to mainly discuss the international conference on Afghanistan later this month in London. On Monday, Mr. Holbrooke will meet External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna. A meeting with the National Security Advisor is also included in his brief list of engagements. Mr. Holbrooke is expected to brief his

Indian interlocutors about the contours of the new policy on Afghanistan prepared by the new Obama administration, especially the surge in troops.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article81450.ece>

[China moving with "specific design" to control Indus in Leh](#)

Daily Excelsior, 17 January 2010

NEW DELHI : Army officials in Leh were a part of a meeting convened by the Jammu and Kashmir Government that agreed that China was encroaching into the land with "specific design" to grab a particular area to extend its control till Indus river. "As per all maps and evidences, the Dokbug pasture (in Northeast of Leh) land undisputedly belongs to India and China is moving with specific design to grab this area to extend its control till Indus (river)," according to an official report.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/10jan17/newsupdate.htm#1>

[India visit not only a failure, harmful too: Khaleda](#)

Daily Star, 17 January 2010

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia on Sunday said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's India visit was not only a failure, but also a harmful event for the country. In her formal reaction to the visit, Khaleda Zia at a press conference at the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office said the prime minister returned home empty-handed. Khaleda rejected the joint communiqué signed during the prime minister's visit and urged the people to wage vigorous movement against the anti-people moves.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=21698

[Kashmir Suicide Bomber Strikes Pakistani Soldiers](#)

NYT, 17 January 2010

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — A suicide bomber detonated his explosives on the Pakistani side of the Kashmir region on Saturday in a rare attack on the Pakistani military there. The bomber blew himself up as a Pakistani military vehicle passed, wounding two soldiers, a Pakistani military spokesman said. The attack took place near the town of Rawalakot, in the Pakistani part of Kashmir, a Himalayan region at the center of a territorial dispute between India and Pakistan.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/17/world/asia/17pstan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

[Jyoti Basu, 95, Leader of Communists in India, Dies](#)

NYT, 17 January 2010

NEW DELHI — Jyoti Basu, a powerful leftist leader who dominated politics in the state of West Bengal for more than two decades and nearly became India's first Communist prime minister, died in Calcutta on Sunday. He was 95. Mr. Basu's outsized stature in West Bengal was evident by a huge public outpouring of concern in recent days as his health steadily deteriorated. Anxious crowds gathered outside his Calcutta hospital, local newspapers carried front-page updates on his condition and a litany of leading Indian politicians, including Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, made calls to him. He died of multiple organ failure, according to Indian press

reports.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/18/world/asia/18basu.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

[BSF foils infiltration bids along India-Pakistan border](#)

The Hindu, 18 January 2010

The BSF on Monday foiled two infiltration bids by militants along India-Pakistan border here, officials said. A group of at least 5 militants entered the Indian territory and came close to border fencing in Suchetgarh forward defence location along the International Border in R.S. Pura sub-sector of the district, they said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article81790.ece>

[Robert Gates on India visit from tomorrow](#)

The Hindu, 18 January 2010

US Defence Secretary Robert Gates will visit India from tomorrow, with deliberations on regional security situation top on his agenda during a tour that will reinforce the importance the Obama Administration places on the bilateral ties. During the January 19-21 tour, Mr. Gates will meet Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, External Affairs Minister S M Krishna and Defence Minister A K Antony.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article81797.ece>

[Army Chief on Nepal visit from tomorrow](#)

The Hindu, 18 January 2010

Indian Army Chief Deepak Kapoor will be arriving here on Tuesday on a three-day visit, during which he will meet the country's top civilian and military leadership and will be conferred the honorary rank of a General of the Nepal Army. Gen. Kapoor is paying a visit to Nepal at the invitation of Nepal Army Chief Chhatra Man Singh Gurung.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article81938.ece>

[All terrorists who stormed Taj Hotel were Indians: Kasab](#)

The Hindu, 18 January 2010

Continuing his flip-flop, Pakistani gunman Ajmal Kasab on Monday told a special court trying the 26/11 attacks case that all the four terrorists who stormed Taj hotel were Indians. Kasab, whose statement is being recorded by the court on evidences adduced by the prosecution, told Special Judge M.L. Tahaliyani that while one of the terrorists of the Taj hotel siege was a Kashmiri, another was from Gujarat.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article81957.ece>

[India to push for pharma, IT access as trade talks resume in China](#)

The Hindu, 18 January 2010

India will push for greater market access for Indian pharmaceutical and Information Technology companies in China when trade talks resume this week in Beijing,

against the backdrop of a fast-widening trade gap between the two countries. Resuming after an almost four-year hiatus, the eighth Joint Economic Group between India and China will be held here on January 19. Since the last dialogue in New Delhi in March 2006, bilateral trade has grown by more than 50 per cent — up from \$25 billion in 2006 to \$38 billion in eleven months of last year, in spite of the unexpected slowdown.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article81727.ece>

Talks with China in progress over border disputes: Pallam
Daily Excelsior, 18 January 2010

NEW DELHI : With reports from Jammu and Kashmir indicating Chinese hold over Indian territory in Ladakh, Minister of State for Defence M M Pallam Raju today said India "need not be alarmed" as talks were in progress to settle the border disputes. He also gave the benefit of doubt to China on reports of Chinese produced arms finding their way to militants in the North-Eastern states.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/10jan18/newsupdate.htm#2>

US not mediating between Pakistan, India: Holbrooke
The News, 18 January 2010

KABUL: Easing tension between India and Pakistan would help the Western efforts in Afghanistan, but it is up to Islamabad and New Delhi to find their own path towards better ties, the US envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan said on Sunday. Richard Holbrooke, who was due to fly to India later on Sunday after visiting Pakistan and Afghanistan, said Washington would welcome better relations between Islamabad and New Delhi, but he had no plans to act as a mediator between the two foes.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=26735

Bird flu in West Bengal
Kuensel, 18 January 2010

People entering Phuentsholing town are being searched for chickens or eggs, after Bhutan declared an indefinite ban on import of poultry and its products from India, starting yesterday morning, in response to an outbreak of avian influenza (H5N1) or bird flu in the neighbouring Indian state of West Bengal. The ban comes almost six months after the last ban was lifted in July 2009. Mobile users were also notified about the bird flu with a joint sms from agriculture and health ministry on Saturday evening, which asked for cooperation to prevent the flu from entering the country.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14509>

Maoists offer talks with Delhi
Daily News, 18 January 2010

If all goes well, UCPN (Maoist) leadership could be offered a visit to New Delhi if they drop the Fourth Phase of their nationwide protest, which is taking a stridently anti-Indian pitch. According to a senior Maoist leader, party Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal made the offer for "high-level talks" with New Delhi during his meeting with the visiting Minister for External Affairs S. M. Krishna on Saturday.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/01/17/top-stories/Maoists-offer-talks-with-Delhi/4156/>

[Lack of local cardiologists forces NGO to fly in doctors](#)

Minivan, 18 January 2010

Maldivian infants with suspected congenital heart defects (CHD) are being flown to India for corrective surgery because of the lack of a pediatric cardiologist at Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). In one Indian hospital alone, over a two year period 40 Maldivian babies have undergone surgery for CHD claimed Maldives NGO 'Tiny Hearts Maldives', which is advocating early screening within the country.

<http://minivannews.com/society/2010/01/18/lack-of-local-cardiologists-forces-ngo-to-fly-in-doctors/>

[China becomes India's 2nd largest trade partner](#)

People's Daily, 19 January 2010

China Economic Net reporters learned from the China-India Economic and Trade Cooperation Forum held in Beijing January 19 that the trade volume between China and India doubled in the past 2 years, exceeding 50 billion U.S. dollars. The 2-way investment increased by 10 times and the infrastructure projects that Chinese enterprises built in India exceeded 10 billion U.S. dollars. So far, China has become India's second largest trade partner.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90778/90861/6873167.html>

[LeT leader sent to 14-day judicial custody](#)

The Hindu, 19 January 2010

Mohammed Amjad, an alleged LeT operative and south India chief of terror group HuJI, was sent to 14—day judicial custody by a local court on Tuesday. Apprehended on Monday, Amjad alias Khaja was produced amid high security before Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate which sent him to judicial remand till February 1.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article82650.ece>

[NC opposes division of J&K](#)

The Hindu, 19 January 2010

The ruling National Conference on Monday vehemently opposed the division of the State, rejecting the demand for Union Territory status to Ladakh and statehood for Jammu. Senior NC leader and Rural Development Minister Ali Mohammad Sagar told a party convention here: "We [NC] will never allow the division of the State. Those making such demands should know that it is not possible as the people of all the three regions have made sacrifices for the unity of the State."

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article82169.ece>

[India discusses cross border criminal activities with Nepal](#)

The Hindu, 19 January 2010

India on Monday discussed with Nepal the issue of cross border criminal activities and the need to strengthen immigration points. The issues were discussed at a meeting between Union Home Minister P Chidambaram and his Nepal counterpart Bhim Rawa here. After the meeting, Mr. Rawa told reporters that the two sides exchanged views on mutual security, cross border criminal activities and organised crime and on the need to strengthen immigration points to ensure that no criminal element and potential terrorists cross the border.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article82091.ece>

Pakistan troops violate ceasefire in Poonch; fire small arms, rockets

The Hindu, 19 January 2010

In yet another ceasefire violation along the Line of Control, Pakistani troops on Monday evening fired small arms and rockets on Forward Defence Locations in Poonch sector of Jammu and Kashmir, a senior army official said. Pakistani troops in Kadu post fired small arms and at least five rockets on the Indian Army's Kranti post in Krishnaghati sub-sector in Poonch from 6.10 pm till 7.40 pm on Monday, he told PTI.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article82156.ece>

Govt not to cross red lines: Gilani

The Hindu, 19 January 2010

ISLAMABAD: Ruling out a constitutional clash with any of the state institutions, Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Monday held out an assurance in the National Assembly that his government will not act against the Constitution, as it believes in the trichotomy of powers. "The Constitution has set the red lines for all the three pillars of the state, and the government will not go beyond its fixed constitutional parameters. We respect the judiciary and will not do anything against the Constitution and will protect the institutions," he said in the National Assembly while responding to a point of order of Opposition Leader Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, who raised the issue of ongoing conspiracies against the judiciary with interference in the appointment and promotion of judges.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=26746

India out of tune with realities: FO

The News, 19 January 2010

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has accused India of 'darkening' South Asia's horizons by living in an unreal world devoid of ground realities. In a hard-hitting rejoinder, it also rejected the allegations that Pakistan was involved in state-sponsored terrorism. The Foreign Office spokesman was constrained to react after Indian Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao said in a TV interview: "It has been clear that militancy had been an instrument of state policy, which has been pursued by agencies within Pakistan." In a statement, the FO spokesman reacted by saying that vitriolic remarks against Pakistan yet again revealed that the Indian government persisted with its propaganda campaign that only vitiated the atmosphere, darkened the horizon and dampened the hopes for peace and tranquillity in South Asia.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=26752

[Moriarty eyes 20,000 Bangladeshi students going to US each year](#)
Daily News, 19 January 2010

US Ambassador James F Moriarty hopes to see 20,000 students from Bangladesh in his country each year over the next decade, as the diplomat disclosed some new initiatives for bolstering cooperation. Addressing the monthly luncheon of the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, Moriarty said 2,000 students are now going to the United States from Bangladesh a year while 14,000 students are going from Nepal and 40,000 from India.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=21743

[Maoists boycott House over Indian Army chief remarks](#)
Kathmandu Post, 19 January 2010

A day before Indian Army Chief Gen. Deepak Kapoor's four-day "goodwill visit", the main opposition UCPN (Maoist) boycotted Monday's Legislature-Parliament session demanding that the government clarify its position on Kapoor's views opposing bulk integration of Maoist combatants into Nepal Army last month. Maoist lawmaker Dev Gurung announced that his party had decided to boycott the session because the government failed to "respond" to the Indian Army chief's remarks. Gurung said the Maoist party considers Gen. Kapoor's statement as "interference in the sovereignty of Nepal".

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/01/18/top-stories/Maoists-boycott-House-over-Indian-Army-chief-remarks/4187/>

[China, India not opponents but partners: Chinese Premier](#)
People's Daily, 20 January 2010

"Only if China and India achieve common development and prosperity could we have a real Asia century," Wen told Indian Minister of Commerce and Industry Anand Sharma. Both China and India were large developing nations in Asia, and the total population of the two countries accounted for 40 percent of the world, Wen noted. "We share broad common interests," he said.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6873372.html>

[India to hold meeting of BASIC group partners](#)
The Hindu, 20 January 2010

India will on Sunday hold a meeting with its BASIC group partners comprising China, Brazil and South Africa in the capital to firm up a common position on the climate front post-Copenhagen. "The representatives of the BASIC nations will hold a meeting with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on January 24. The idea is to chalk out the climate strategy ahead of the formal negotiations that will run through the year," a senior official in the environment ministry said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article83232.ece>

[BJP delegation meets PM on price rise, submits memorandum](#)

The Hindu, 20 January 2010

A delegation of BJP top brass led by L.K. Advani on Wednesday submitted a memorandum on rising prices of sugar and essential commodities to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh who assured that the government would take appropriate steps to keep a check on it. Besides Mr. Advani, party president Nitin Gadkari, senior BJP leaders Sushma Swaraj, Arun Jaitley, Rajnath Singh, S.S. Ahluwalia, Ananth Kumar were also part of the delegation.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article82985.ece>

"Syndicate of terror" threat to the region: Gates

The Hindu, 20 January 2010

The United States on Wednesday characterised "syndicate of terror" operating in Afghanistan and Pakistan as a threat to the region with the Lashker-e-Taiyba, being part of the Al-Qaeda-Taliban nexus, targeting India and Pakistan. "The syndicate of terror [is] operating to destabilise the region and it for each one to understand its magnitude and engage to reduce and eliminate [these threats] ...requiring high degree of cooperation", U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates said here at a press conference.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article82974.ece>

India's concerns taken seriously, says Nepal PM

The Hindu, 20 January 2010

Amid India's concerns over use of Nepalese soil by ISI and other anti-India elements, Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal has said such apprehensions are being taken seriously but made it clear that an Extradition Treaty would have to wait for political stability here. He asserted that his government will not allow Nepal to be used for activities against India and would act whenever there is information about it. "Sensitivity of India is being taken seriously by Government of Nepal," he told PTI in an interview here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article82957.ece>

Wen Jiabao for "constructive measures" to ease tensions

The Hindu, 20 January 2010

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao has called on India and China to take "constructive measures" to ease tensions over the long-running border dispute, which has strained the ties between the neighbours in recent months. In a 50-minute discussion with the visiting Minister for Commerce and Industry Anand Sharma on Tuesday, Mr. Wen urged both countries "to avoid being misguided by provocations from either side or by media sensationalism."

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article82769.ece>

US seeks stability between India, Pakistan: Gates

The News, 20 January 2010

NEW DELHI: The United States would like to help India and Pakistan focus less on each other and more on the terrorism threat, but the two countries prefer to settle

their differences themselves, US Defence Secretary Robert Gates said on Tuesday. "We're always interested in that," Gates said as he flew to New Delhi for talks on Tuesday and Wednesday. "Regional stability is very important for everybody involved. I think it's clear that both sides prefer to deal with this bilaterally," he said.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=26779

'Nepal and Indian armies enjoy exemplary ties'
Kathmandu Post, 20 January 2010

Indian Army Chief Gen. Deepak Kapoor, who arrived here on a four-day goodwill visit on Tuesday, has described the relationship between the national armies of the two countries as "exemplary." "Nepal Army and the Indian Army have traditional linkages and this will not be affected by political changes and whoever leads the government in the two countries," said Gen. Kapoor, addressing the Principal Staff Officers of Nepal Army at Army Headquarters. "We enjoy a special military relationship and we should try to make it exemplary for the rest of the world in the days ahead," said an NA general, quoting Kapoor.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/01/19/top-stories/Nepal-and-Indian-armies-enjoy-exemplary-ties/4214/>

Gates, in India, Warns of Regional Militant Threat
NYT, 20 January 2010

NEW DELHI — Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates warned Wednesday that the interconnected extremist groups on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border were working to destabilize the entire region and that "a victory for one was a victory for all." Speaking in New Delhi at a news conference after meetings with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India and the country's defense and external affairs ministers, Mr. Gates said that Taliban groups and other militant groups operating under the umbrella of Al Qaeda intended to destabilize not just Afghanistan and Pakistan but India as well. Mr. Gates, who was in the middle of a two-day visit to India's capital, said the groups could provoke conflict between India and Pakistan, and that focusing on only one extremist group for elimination was not the solution.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/21/world/asia/21gates.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

'Impatient' India demands strong action from Pakistan
The Hindu, 21 January 2010

India on Thursday asked Pakistan to take "strong, convincing" action against perpetrators of the Mumbai terror attacks, saying unless they were brought to book, it will remain impatient. It also asked the U.S. to advise Pakistan to dismantle the terror infrastructure and to stop use of its soil by terrorist groups to carry out attacks inside India, adding the government and the people did not want any confrontation with the neighbouring countries, but it would be difficult to move forward unless Pakistan acted.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article86171.ece>

[Draw a line between govt. private events: India tells Pakistan](#)

The Hindu, 21 January 2010

Rejecting Pakistan's charge that its players were snubbed for IPL at the behest of India, External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna on Thursday said it should draw a line between government programmes and private events. "Government has nothing to do with IPL, on selection of players and various exercises that are connected with it. So, Pakistan will have to draw a line between where Government of India is connected and where Government of India is an actor," he said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article83509.ece>

[Shivshankar Menon is new National Security Adviser](#)

The Hindu, 21 January 2010

The government on Thursday issued orders appointing Shiv Shankar Menon as the next National Security Adviser. Mr. Menon, who retired as Foreign Secretary last year, will be the fourth incumbent, succeeding M.K. Narayanan, who has already been designated as West Bengal governor. He will take charge from Mr. Narayanan as soon as the latter demits office. Sources told The Hindu this would most likely be on January 23.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article84408.ece>

[Police fabricated evidence by feeding data in GPS, claims Kasab](#)

The Hindu, 21 January 2010

Pakistani gunman Ajmal Kasab on Thursday claimed police had fabricated evidence by feeding data in the Global Positioning System (GPS) which showed that the 26/11 terrorists came from Karachi to Mumbai by the sea route. "I have no knowledge that police had retrieved data from GPS with the help of foreign experts which showed a sea route from Karachi to Mumbai... police may have fed the data," Kasab told judge M.L. Tahaliyani.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article87608.ece>

[Telangana bandh cripples normal life for second day](#)

The Hindu, 21 January 2010

Normal life was paralysed in Telangana region of Andhra Pradesh for the second consecutive day on Thursday due to bandh called by Telangana Joint Action Committee (JAC) to protest the police cane-charge on students in Osmania University here. The Andhra Pradesh Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) has suspended its services in Telangana districts like Nalgonda, Medak and Karimnagar. The APSRTC, however, partially resumed its services here, providing some relief to commuters. It suspended its services on Wednesday.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article83504.ece>

[Strict document checking for mobile phone users](#)

Daily Excelsior, 21 January 2010

NEW DELHI : Nearly two and a half months after imposing a ban on pre-paid mobile phones in Jammu and Kashmir, the Centre today lifted its order with immediate

effect but put stringent conditions on operators for verification of customers. While the revised guidelines for telecom operators in Jammu and Kashmir for issuing pre-paid and post-paid connections will see a stricter scrutiny of documents besides limiting a family's ability to have multiple phones to just six.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/10jan21/newsupdate.htm#1>

[Omar advises Pak not to act as hostile neighbour](#)

Daily Excelsior, 21 January 2010

JAMMU, Jan 20: Expressing serious concern over repeated violations of cease-fire on the borders in Jammu and Kashmir by the neighbouring country, Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, today advised Pakistan to shun hostility towards India and develop cordial relations as such violations would not auger well for anyone. "The cease-fire between India and Pakistan was very effective during the past several years but now it is being repeatedly violated both on the International Border and Line of Control (LoC) which is a matter of serious concern for us", Mr Omar said while addressing a public meeting after laying foundation stone of Cluster of Model Villages at Swankha near Vijaypur in the Samba district this afternoon.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/10jan21/news.htm#1>

[Terrorists can trigger Indo-Pak war: Gates](#)

The News, 21 January 2010

NEW DELHI: US Defence Secretary Robert Gates said on Wednesday India may lose its diplomatic restraint with Pakistan after any repeat of Mumbai-style attack and militants in the region may use this to provoke the two rivals to war. "I think it's not unreasonable to assume Indian patience would be limited were there to be further attacks," Gates told reporters on a trip to New Delhi aimed at broadening the US ties with the emerging Asian giant. "What we talked about at some length is the syndicate of different terrorist groups and how they put all of the countries in the region — Afghanistan, Pakistan, India — at risk," Gates said.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=26792

[India, China won't sign Copenhagen Accord](#)

The Hindu, 23 January 2010

The Indian and Chinese governments have had a rethink on signing the Copenhagen Accord, officials said on Saturday, and the UN has also indefinitely postponed its Jan 31 deadline for countries to accede to the document. An Indian official said that though the government had been thinking of signing the accord because it "did not have any legal teeth and would be good diplomatically"; it felt irked because of repeated messages from both UN officials and developed countries to accede to it.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article93870.ece>

[New Zealand offers green technology to India](#)

The Hindu, 23 January 2010

New Zealand today offered to share its expertise in green technology with India to produce clean energy and build eco-friendly transport system. "New Zealand has a

competitive advantage in green technology. I know India has a great interest in building renewable energy and transport system," New Zealand Trade Commissioner to New Delhi Cliff Fuller said here at New Zealand Invest 2010.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article93740.ece>

[India to take all steps to defeat anti-peace elements in J&K](#)

The Hindu, 23 January 2010

India on Saturday said it will take whatever steps are needed to prevent and defeat "inimical" elements against peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir. This comes amid government's assessment that there will be increase in terrorist attacks and infiltration attempts.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article93629.ece>

[Indo-Pak border fence breached, high alert sounded](#)

The Hindu, 23 January 2010

Throwing security machinery into a tizzy, militants taking advantage of dense fog cut the barbed-wire fence along the Indo-Pak border for the first time in a bid to carry out infiltration. The incident ahead of Republic Day function prompted the authorities to sound a high alert to thwart any infiltration attempt, a senior BSF officer told PTI on Saturday.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article93570.ece>

[Editor's Guild wants 'strong action' against candidates, media for paid news](#)

The Hindu, 23 January 2010

Expressing "grave concern" over the "paid news" phenomenon, the Editor's Guild has asked the Election Commission to take strong action against candidates as well as media persons involved in such practice. A delegation of the Guild, led by its president Rajdeep Sardesai, met Chief Election Commissioner Navin Chawla and submitted a memorandum, deploring the growing trend in some quarters for political advertisements to be purveyed as news.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article93687.ece>

[Bangladesh, India to form joint committee](#)

Daily Star, 23 January 2010

Bangladesh and India will form a joint coordination committee, in light of the recently signed three security-related agreements, with representatives of their law enforcement and intelligence agencies to combat international terrorism, organised crimes and cross-border drug trade. The committee will be constituted under the aegis of the home ministries of the two countries as per the terms of an agreement signed during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's recent visit to New Delhi, Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes yesterday said after making the official announcement about the committee.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=123231>

[TIA on high alert](#)

Kathmandu Post, 23 January 2010

Security at Tribhuvan International Airport has been beefed up to foil any possible security risks after the Indian government sensitized all Air India planes operating to and from India's neighbouring countries. The Indian government move followed 'intelligence inputs that terrorist groups with allegiance to al-Qaeda, Lashker-e-Toiba and Jamat-ul-Dawa were planning to hijack an Air India plane, especially operating to or from SAARC countries.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/01/22/top-stories/TIA-on-high-alert/4320/>

[Lee Visits India to Support Korean Businesses](#)

Chosun Ilbo, 25 January 2010

President Lee Myung-bak and First Lady Kim Yoon-ok arrived in India on Sunday for a four-day visit. The President first stopped in Chennai in the southwestern part of the country to visit operations by Hyundai Motor India. Hyundai produces 600,000 cars a year on average at the plant. Sitting down with Hyundai workers and other Korean business representatives in India, the President listened to the difficulties in doing business in the country and rallied support for their hard work.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2010/01/25/2010012500679.html

[Nuclear cooperation to be productive for both India, Korea: Lee](#)

The Hindu, 25 January 2010

Cooperation in civil nuclear field figured prominently in the meetings South Korean President Lee Myung-Bak had with Indian leaders here on Monday with the visiting dignitary describing such engagement as "productive" for both the countries. Emphasising the expertise of his country in production and safety of civil nuclear projects, Mr. Lee, after his meeting with External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna, said, "This is (civil nuclear) an area which will be very productive for both of us."

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article94697.ece>

[Now, Kasab wants to be tried by an international court](#)

The Hindu, 25 January 2010

After a series of flip-flops, lone surviving 26/11 Pakistani gunman Ajmal Kasab on Monday sought to drag the Mumbai attacks case, saying he would like to be tried by an international court, but his plea was rejected by a special court here. 22-year-old Kasab told the court that he would like to be tried by an international court, to which judge M.L. Tahaliyani said he could make that plea after the judgement had been pronounced as it was premature at this stage.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article94673.ece>

[Govt monitoring reports of Pak digging tunnels along border](#)

The Hindu, 25 January 2010

Government is closely monitoring the reports of Pakistan digging tunnels along its border in Sargodha district and will analyse its "implications" to India. "We are closely monitoring whatever has been happening in Pakistan and both our Defence Ministry as well as our ministry will certainly work together to analyse what it means by way of implications to India," External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna said here on Monday.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article94626.ece>

Pak reluctant to plunge into war with Afghan militants'

The Hindu, 25 January 2010

Suspicious of deepening ties between India and the United States, Pakistan is reluctant to plunge into war with Afghan militants and even high-profile visits of U.S. officials have failed to win over a military and civilian establishment in Islamabad, a media report said. The recent visit of U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates and U.S. Special Representative for Pakistan and Afghanistan Richard Holbrooke could not convince Pakistan to go ahead full throat in its war against terrorism.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article94428.ece>

Second Meeting of Ministers of BASIC Group: Joint Statement

The Hindu, 25 January 2010

The second meeting of Ministers of the four BASIC Group countries took place in New Delhi on January 24th, 2010. Earlier, the Indian Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh met with the four Ministers on the evening of January 23rd. The Ministers who participated in the meeting were H.E. Xie Zhenhua, Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reforms Commission from China, H.E. Carlos Minc, Minister for Environment from Brazil, H.E. Buyelwa Sonjica, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs from South Africa and H.E. Jairam Ramesh, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Environment and Forests from India. The current G-77 Chair – Yemen – had also been invited but could not attend because of other commitments.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article94419.ece>

Mortar shells fired from Pakistan

Daily Excelsior, 25 January 2010

JAMMU : Ahead of the Republic Day, three mortar shells were fired from the Pakistani side targeting an Indian post in Poonch sector of Jammu and Kashmir today, but there were no casualties. Three mortal shells, fired from across the border, exploded some 200-mt away from the Cobra Forward Defence Location along the Line of Control in Poonch sector this evening, official sources said.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/10jan25/newsupdate.htm#1>

Let's prevent violence before and after Presidential election

Daily News, 25 January 2010

The following appeal has been made to the people and the Government by the Most Venerable Agga Maha Panditha Kotugoda Dhammawasa Anunayaka Thera, President of the Sri Lanka Amarapura Maha Sangha Sabha with the approval of the Most Venerable Davuldena Sri Gnanissara Mahanayake Thera, Supreme Patriarch of the

Sri Lanka Amarapura Sect and other Mahanayakas and Lekhakaadikari Theras of the Chapters."Sri Lanka is a country with a very long history dating back to pre-Buddhist times. Evidence of it is found in ancient Indian literature and Jataka tales.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2010/01/25/Pol02.asp>

[Korea, India Pledge to Establish Strategic Partnership](#)

Chosun Ilbo, 26 January 2010

President Lee Myung-bak met with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on Monday afternoon and agreed to boost bilateral relations to a strategic partnership. The two leaders agreed to expand bilateral trade from US\$12.2 billion last year to \$30 billion by 2014, increase investment, and broaden the relationship. After the meeting the two leaders signed a joint statement containing 31 agreements.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2010/01/26/2010012600715.html

[Leave path of agitation, come for talks: Vohra](#)

The Hindu, 26 January 2010

All forces holding contrary beliefs in Kashmir should come forward for a meaningful dialogue, Governor N.N. Vohra said on Tuesday, noting that India's liberal democratic framework provides space for divergent opinions. He also said the security forces will have to be on tight vigil in view of increasing infiltration over the past weeks but asked them ensure that no law-abiding citizen is harassed.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article94996.ece>

[Truce violation: jawan injured in Pak firing](#)

The Hindu, 26 January 2010

One jawan was injured when Pakistani troops violated the border truce by resorting to unprovoked firing for several hours as BSF personnel foiled two infiltration bids in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday. The latest ceasefire violation came even as the country was celebrating the Republic Day. There were 16 infiltration bids and six truce violations along the Indo-Pak border in this month.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article95040.ece>

[Omar asks militants to come to the negotiating table](#)

The Hindu, 26 January 2010

Noting that the gun culture of the last 20 years had only resulted in bloodshed and destruction, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday asked militants to shun violence and come to the dialogue table to resolve issues amicably. Mr. Abdullah expressed hope that a better sense will prevail and militants will drop guns forever.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/states/other-states/article94971.ece>

[China elevates rank of envoy in New Delhi](#)

The Hindu, 26 January 2010

In a sign of the rising importance - and growing challenges - Beijing perceives in its relations with New Delhi, China has elevated the rank and role of its Ambassador to India to the level of a Vice-Minister. The move means Zhang Yan, the current Chinese Ambassador to India, will now report directly to China's Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi, and will also have greater authority to take on-the-ground decisions, officials and analysts in Beijing said. Mr. Zhang was earlier reporting to another Vice-Minister, He Yafei, among others.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article94907.ece>

Kishanji: only unconditional talks

The Hindu, 26 January 2010

Kishanji, leader of Maoists, has rejected the Trinamool Congress chief's offer to facilitate peace talks with the Centre if they lay down arms, and said only unconditional talks are acceptable to them. In an open letter to Mamata Benerjee, he listed a host of demands concerning development in tribal areas, special economic zones, violence perpetrated by political parties and corruption in disbursement of government funds.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article94916.ece>

Blanket ban on foreign employment via India

Kathmandu Post, 26 January 2010

In a bid to curb the use of Indian routes for foreign employment, the Foreign Ministry has decided to write to the Government of India not to permit Nepalis to use Indian routes to go to Gulf countries, Lebanon and Malaysia for jobs. Nepali missions based in Gulf countries had complained that many Nepalis who reached there for blue collar jobs found themselves in trouble as they did not have prior approval of the government. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sujata Koirala decided to this effect on Monday. The ministry will be writing to the New Delhi mission on Tuesday asking Indian authorities to take strict measures against Nepalis who want to go to third countries with ordinary passports.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/01/25/top-stories/Blanket-ban-on-foreign-employment-via-India/4413/>

Opinion: Talk to Pakistan, says 26/11 inquiry committee member

The Hindu, 27 January 2010

A former intelligence official and member of the two-man R.D. Pradhan committee which probed the police response to the November 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai has said the resumption of dialogue with Pakistan will help marginalise the terrorists responsible for the incident and is the only way to contribute to peace in the region. In a statement to a Track-II India-Pakistan meeting convened in Delhi last week by the Centre for Dialogue and Reconciliation, V. Balachandran, formerly a special secretary in the Research & Analysis Wing, said, India must be mature rather than "prickly" in its diplomacy. Reiterating an assessment he made in 2004 that the "security-oriented containment strategy" of Pakistan had failed to deter terrorist incidents, Mr. Balachandran said that 26/11 had not changed the situation.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/opinion/columns/siddharth-varadarajan/article95703.ece>

[India to build two more fast breeder reactors](#)

The Hindu, 27 January 2010

Two more fast breeder reactors of 500 MWe capacity each would be set up here by 2020, a top official of the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) said on Tuesday. "In addition to the prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR), work on which is nearing completion, we have planned to construct two more reactors of this kind," IGCAR Director Dr Baldev Raj told reporters here. He said the work on the two reactors was expected to start by 2014.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article95097.ece>

[Krishna to meet Australian counterpart, discuss attacks](#)

The Hindu, 27 January 2010

External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna will take up the issue of attacks on Indian students in Australia with his Australian counterpart Stephen Smith on the sidelines of a conference on Afghanistan here. In his bilateral meeting with Mr. Smith, likely on Thursday, Krishna is expected to convey deepening concern in India over the continuing attacks on Indian students that are widely seen in India as "racist" in character despite Canberra's repeated disclaimers, sources said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article95491.ece>

[Ahead of Afghan conference, India shares 'concerns'](#)

The Hindu, 27 January 2010

Indian External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna "shared concerns" with his British counterpart and Europe's foreign policy chief on Wednesday ahead of a major international conference aimed at resolving the crisis in Afghanistan. British Foreign Secretary David Miliband said the discussions took in the "comprehensive range of our shared concerns" and the "full range of our bilateral shared agenda."

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article95660.ece>

[Soren in Delhi, to discuss Maoist issue with Chidambaram](#)

The Hindu, 27 January 2010

Jharkhand Chief Minister Shibu Soren on Wednesday left for New Delhi along with his two deputy chief ministers to discuss the Maoist problem in the state with union Home Minister P. Chidambaram. Mr. Soren and Deputy Chief Ministers Raghubar Das and Sudesh Mahto left for New Delhi Wednesday afternoon. According to government sources, Mr. Chidambaram has called Mr. Soren for talks on the Maoist menace and the proposed Green Hunt operation in Jharkhand.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article95606.ece>

[Zardari asks India not to escalate arms race](#)

The News, 27 January 2010

ISTANBUL: President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday expressed the hope that India

would not escalate the arms race in the region, adding that the government would keep open the option of dialogue without lowering its guard and would welcome technology like drone predators. "I hope India would not escalate the arms race in the region. It has already increased its defence budget by 30 per cent in the wake of the Mumbai attacks", the president observed during a detailed interview with the Turkish Radio & Television (TRT).

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=26913

[Border skirmish as India marks Republic Day](#)

The News, 27 January 2010

NEW DELHI: Tanks rolled and fighter jets roared above India's main ceremonial avenue in an annual Republic Day military parade on Tuesday, hours after the Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged heavy fire on the Line of Control (LoC). Celebrations were held under heavy security across India after recent hijack warnings and a spike in violence in held Kashmir, as well as border skirmishes between India and Pakistan. The border firing began shortly after midnight.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=26917

[India gives Nu 250 mn towards earthquake relief](#)

Kuensel, 27 January 2010

The ambassador of India to Bhutan, Pavan K Varma, met prime minister Lyonchhoen Jigmi Y Thinley last evening in Thimphu to hand over a Nu 250 million (25 crore) contribution cheque towards the government's disaster relief fund. Presenting the cheque the ambassador said that the contribution is a small token of deep concern and assistance to reinforce the effort for the rehabilitation and reconstruction caused by the September 21 earthquake. He also stated that India has been closely watching and appreciating the great efforts made by the government officials in trying to rehabilitate and succor the victims.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14580>

[Maldives to ease trade barriers with India](#)

Minivan, 27 January 2010

The government will ease trade barriers with India to promote trade between the two countries and accelerate foreign investment. Foreign Minister Ahmed Shaheed is currently leading a delegation in India to facilitate trade. Indian financial newspaper Business Standard claimed Indian companies, including Tata, Suzlon, GMR, Apollo Hospitals and Oberoi, could invest as much as US\$1 billion in the Maldives and significantly boost the country's economy.

<http://minivannews.com/business/2010/01/27/maldives-to-ease-trade-barriers-with-india/>

['India ready to cut troops if Pakistan acts'](#)

The Hindu, 28 January 2010

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is willing to limit troops along the border if Pakistan ends infiltration by terrorists into India, according to U.S. Senator Arlen Specter, who

met Dr. Singh in New Delhi recently. "In India, our congressional delegation met with Prime Minister Singh. I put the question to him, would he be willing to have a limitation with Pakistan on the number of troops on the border, which would liberate Pakistani troops to help us fight al-Qaeda in Pakistan," the Senator said on the Senate floor on Monday night.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article95805.ece>

[Centre to convene CM's meet to fine tune anti-Naxal operation](#)

The Hindu, 28 January 2010

The Centre said anti-Naxal operations will continue till the extremists agree to talks, adding it has convened a meeting of Chief Ministers of four Naxal affected states in Kolkata next month to fine tune the joint operations. A Home Ministry spokesperson said the meeting, scheduled for February 9 is to fine tune coordination for the inter-state joint operation against the left-wing extremism. It would be attended by Chief Ministers of Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal and Bihar.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article96257.ece>

[Gates discussed Afghan policy with Indian leaders: Pentagon](#)

The Hindu, 28 January 2010

US Defence Secretary Robert Gates has discussed with the Indian leaders the need to have transparency with Pakistan on its activities in Afghanistan, the Pentagon said on Thursday. "We did discuss Afghanistan with the government in Delhi and discussed the need for the Indian government to be as transparent as they can be with the Pakistani government about their activities in Afghanistan," Department of Defence spokesman Geoff Morrell told reporters at a news conference.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article95906.ece>

[Chidambaram likely to visit Islamabad for SAARC meeting](#)

The Hindu, 28 January 2010

In the midst of current chill in Indo-Pak relations, Home Minister P. Chidambaram is likely to visit Islamabad next month for attending a multilateral meeting of interior ministers of South Asia. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna will discuss the issue and subject to their concurrence the Home Minister will travel to Pakistan to attend the SAARC meeting, a highly placed source said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article96317.ece>

[India, China to be engine of global growth: WEF experts](#)

The Hindu, 28 January 2010

Led by India and China, Asia will not only become the global engine for growth but will also increasingly exercise its influence on the rest of the world, experts at the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting here have said. "As their economic might grows, the region's (Asia) various societies will become more assertive and influential," WEF said in a statement, summing up the discussions on a session on 'The Rise of Asia' on Wednesday.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/business/Economy/article96313.ece>

[Good neighbours?](#)

The News, 28 January 2010

Unless there is lasting peace between Pakistan and India, there is no hope for hundreds of millions in the two countries. The Jang Group and The Times of India had the vision and the courage to launch "Aman ki Asha." The prime prerequisite of good-neighbourliness is a "live and let live" policy. Unfortunately, India has a marked inclination for the latter in dealing with the nations on its periphery, particularly Pakistan. Vast tracts of Bangladesh will become desert if India goes through with its plans to harness upstream the two great rivers that flow through the delta country. The India-friendly Hasina Wajed government notwithstanding, why does Bangladesh field almost seven Infantry divisions, not including division plus paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), double the fighting strength of the Pakistani armed forces in East Pakistan in 1971?.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=221111

['Banking on high-level panel to address attacks on Indians'](#)

The Hindu, 30 January 2010

India is looking to a top panel set up by Australia to address the concerns of Indian students, who have been targets of spate of attacks there, the External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna said. "The high-level Group must have been now formed and I will have to get updated from our High Commission as to what happened at the first meeting of the Group which is suppose to address the concerns of Indian students in Australia," Krishna said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article97723.ece>

['Talks with Pakistan only after 26/11 perpetrators are punished'](#)

The Hindu, 30 January 2010

Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Farooq Abdullah said talks between India and Pakistan can resume only when Pakistan takes action against those involved in the Mumbai attacks. "Indian stand is that terrorism be wiped out and those involved in Mumbai attack be punished," he told reporters after attending a function organised by J.K. Peace Foundation (JKPF), on the occasion of 'Shaheedi Divas' of Mahatma Gandhi. When India feels that Pakistan has taken action against the perpetrators of Mumbai attack, talks will resume, he said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article97486.ece>

[Opinion: Insurgencies in Manipur: politics & ideology](#)

The Hindu, 30 January 2010

Every time one travels to Manipur, one returns humbled. This has been the case since my first visit in the late 1960s, long before becoming a journalist. Active insurgency was not even on the horizon then though some resentment against 'India' was evident. Between 1983 when I joined this paper and mid-1994, I visited the State at least once every year — more than once during some years. In the last

eight years I have returned four times. The feeling of inadequacy to confront and understand the complex situation in Manipur, the whys and wherefores of the insurgencies (the plural is advisedly used), the resilience of the ordinary people whose amazing creative energies thrive in the midst of all the pain and violence manifest in every walk of life, has only increased.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/article95770.ece>

[Interior ministers conference in Islamabad](#)

The News, 30 January 2010

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan says that the Saarc secretariat at Katmandu has not formally informed the Foreign Office of the participation of Indian Home Minister P Chidambaram in the 3-day Saarc conference of interior ministers in Islamabad on February 20. Presently, Dr Sheel Kant Sharma from India is the Saarc secretary general. Established in 1987, the role of the Saarc secretariat is to coordinate and monitor the implementation of its activities, to make arrangements for the meetings of the association and serve as a channel of communication between the Saarc and other international organisations.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26963

[Entrusting law and order to Kashmir police ultimate aim: Govt](#)

The Hindu, 31 January 2010

The government on Sunday said its long-term aim in Kashmir was to entrust the responsibility of law and order to local police and bring normalcy there. "As far as policy is concerned, we are very clear. Our ultimate aim is to bring normalcy in Kashmir and entrust law and order to Kashmir police itself. The army can safely safeguard the border. That is our long-term aim," Defence Minister A.K. Antony said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article97933.ece>

[NSA meets Karunanidhi, discusses Sri Lankan Tamils issue](#)

The Hindu, 31 January 2010

India is working with the Sri Lankan government for resettlement and rehabilitation of displaced Tamils and devolution of powers in the political arrangement that will satisfy all sections, National Security Adviser Shiv Shankar Menon said on Sunday. Talking to reporters after meeting Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi at the Secretariat, Mr Menon said it was a courtesy call and both of them discussed various issues of concern.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article97907.ece>

[IAF plans to acquire 75 basic trainer aircraft](#)

The Hindu, 31 January 2010

Looking to acquire 75 basic trainer aircraft for the Indian Air Force (IAF), the Ministry of Defence has issued a request for proposal (RFP) to a dozen global aircraft manufacturers. The manufacturers including such global names as Embraer (aircraft name in brackets) (Tucano), Pilatus (PC-7 or PC-9), Raytheon (T-6 Texan), Finmeccanica (M-311), Grob Aircraft Company (G-120TP), EADS PZL (PZL-130-TC-

11 Orisk and Korea Aerospace Industries (KT-1) are required to submit their proposals by March 17.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article97811.ece>

[India submits emission cut proposals to U.N.](#)

The Hindu, 31 January 2010

India on Saturday conveyed its association with the Copenhagen Accord to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat by pronouncing its domestic mitigation actions to prevent climate change. India told the UNFCCC that it would endeavour to reduce the emissions intensity of its gross domestic product (GDP) by 20-25 per cent by 2020 in comparison to the 2005 levels.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article97801.ece>

[Freeze on U.K. student visa applications in north India](#)

The Hindu, 31 January 2010

Faced with a manifold increase in student visa applications from north India and fearing foul play, the United Kingdom on Saturday announced that no fresh student visa applications would be accepted at any of its three centres in the region from February 1. This "temporary suspension" was announced here by the British Deputy High Commissioner Nigel Casey and the Regional Director of the U.K. Border Agency, Chris Dix. According to Mr. Dix, this decision had to be taken in view of the "unexpectedly high numbers of student visa applications" at centres in New Delhi, Chandigarh and Jalandhar this time round.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article97626.ece>