

The Hindu, 1 August 2007

**India downplays significance of naval exercises**

NEW DELHI: India is downplaying the significance of the biggest-ever multinational naval exercise in the Bay of Bengal, saying that it is merely an enlargement of the war games regularly held with the U.S. Navy.....

The Hindu, 1 August 2007

**Australia assures cooperation in civil nuclear energy sector**

MANILA: Australia on Tuesday "assured" India of "cooperation" in the civil nuclear energy sector. This was indicated by External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee after his talks with Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer on the sidelines of a series of meetings being organised here by the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).....

The Indian Express, 1 August 2007

**Aussie minister digs up Net proof against Haneef**

Melbourne, July 31 : Chatroom conversations Mohammed Haneef had with his brother suggest that the doctor may have had prior knowledge of the botched terror plot in the UK, Australian Immigration Minister Kevin Andrews said today, defending the decision to cancel his work visa.....

The Indian Express, 1 August 2007

**India, Pak closer to registering Basmati jointly**

New Delhi, July 31: India and Pakistan are coming closer on the issue of joint registration of Basmati rice as a Geographical Indicator (GI). The issue figures in the Commerce Secretary-level talks between the two countries that began in New Delhi on Tuesday.....

The Times of India, 1 August 2007

**US says no double standard on non proliferation policy**

1 Aug 2007, WASHINGTON: The US on Wednesday denied any double standard in the non-proliferation policy in the wake of its civilian nuclear deal with India saying the whole accord only contributed to the policy with New Delhi making a number of commitments to that effect.....

The Times of India, 1 August 2007

**'Education,healthcare lag behind as Indian economy soars'**

31 Jul 2007, MANILA: Education and healthcare are lagging seriously behind as India and other South Asian economies take off, the Asian Development Bank said in a report released on Tuesday....

The Times of India, 1 August 2007

**'ASEAN could vie with India, China in BPO sector'**

31 Jul 2007, MANILA: ASEAN countries could emerge as a strong contender to India and China in cornering offshore contracts in Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) if they acted as a single market, a research firm has said.....

The Times of India, 1 August 2007

**Indian warships ready to head to West Asia**

1 Aug 2007, NEW DELHI: Much more than Army and IAF, the much smaller Navy is keeping the Tricolour flying high on foreign shores in tune with India's growing geo-political and strategic interests.....

The Hindu, 2 August 2007

**India to convey security concerns to Bangladesh**

New Delhi, Aug. 2 (PTI): India is expected to strongly convey its security concerns to Bangladesh and ask about steps Dhaka has taken against Indian insurgent groups operation from there during the two-day Home Secretary level talks beginning here today. Besides security-related issues, peaceful management of the boundary and cross border movement will be high on the agenda of the 8th bilateral talks between Home Secretary Madhukar Gupta and his Bangladeshi counterpart Mohd Abdul Karim.....

The Hindu, 2 August 2007

**West Bengal House seeks details on 123 pact**

KOLKATA: The West Bengal Assembly adopted a motion on Wednesday demanding that the United Progressive Alliance Government provide Parliament with all details related to the 123 agreement between India and the United States of America. It was also critical of the deepening military co-operation between the two countries.....

The Hindu, 2 August 2007

**Impetus to cement import**

NEW DELHI: India on Wednesday agreed to put cement import from Pakistan on fast track even as both nations decided to take a host of steps to multiply the bilateral trade to \$10 billion by 2010. At the end of the two-day talks between the Commerce Secretaries, it was agreed to allow two banks from both nations to operate branches across the border by December 31, 2007.....

The Hindu, 2 August 2007

**U.S.: address 'next issue'**

MANILA: The United States has placed the onus on India to create the momentum for activating their latest civil nuclear energy accord. This was indicated by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte, after his talks with External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee in Manila on Wednesday. The two met on the sidelines of a series of multilateral meetings being organised by the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The Hindu, 2 August 2007

**India, China satisfied with trade links'**

MANILA: External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee and Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi on Wednesday expressed satisfaction that the bilateral trade relations "are moving forward." Indicating this, official sources said the two leaders, who met here on the margins of multilateral meetings being organised by the Association of South East Asian Nations, noted that the two countries were on course to achieve the targets set

during Chinese President Hu Jintao's "very successful visit to India" several months ago.

The Indian Express, 2 August 2007

### **India, Pak plan trade worth \$10 bn by 2010**

NEW DELHI: India and Pakistan on Wednesday decided to jointly work for preventing any third country from patenting Basmati rice. At the two-day Commerce Secretary-level talks that concluded here, the two sides agreed to move together for filing a joint registration under the Geographical Indication tool for Basmati rice...

The Indian Express, 2 August 2007

### **Gorshkov deal delayed, Russia fires shipyard head**

NEW DELHI/MOSCOW, AUGUST 1: The chief of a Russian shipyard where aircraft carrier Gorshkov is being refurbished at a cost of \$1 billion has been sacked after India raised concerns about inordinate delays in the project. The Director General of Sevmash shipyard, Vladimir Pastukhov, has reportedly been fired for poor management as he underestimated the project cost and failed to inform authorities about delays in the modernisation of the carrier, which was to be overhauled and delivered to the Indian Navy by end of 2008.....

The Indian Express, 2 August 2007

### **India-Israel naval chiefs meet fizzles out**

New Delhi, August 1: A top-level interaction to chart out the course of Indo-Israel maritime security cooperation fizzled out with Israeli Navy chief Major General David Ben Ba'ashat resigning his post days before his meeting with Admiral Sureesh Mehta in India. While Maj Gen Ba'ashat - who resigned last week after facing severe criticism for naval failure during the Second Lebanon War is still likely to visit New Delhi, the meeting has become a low-key affair from what could have been a significant milestone in security cooperation.

The Indian Express, 2 August 2007

### **CPM brass to see 123 draft today, consult scientists**

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1: Even as the CPI(M) Central leadership is expected to receive the draft of the 123 Agreement by Thursday evening, the West Bengal Assembly on Wednesday adopted a motion demanding that the Union Government provide all details in Parliament regarding the Indo-US agreement for implementing the civil nuclear deal.....

The Hindu, 3 August 2007

### **India-Bangladesh talks begin**

NEW DELHI: The two-day India-Bangladesh Home Secretary-level talks began here on Thursday with both sides expressing their security-related concerns, including the deportation of militants and political activists who had crossed over to the other side....

The Hindu, 3 August 2007

### **I never wanted to let Vajpayee down, says Nawaz Sharif**

NEW DELHI: Revealing fresh insights into the Kargil conflict, exiled former Pakistan

Premier Nawaz Sharif has said he never wanted to let down his Indian counterpart Atal Bihari Vajpayee for whom he had great regard but had to cut a sorry figure after being stabbed in the back by Pervez Musharraf....

The Hindu, 3 August 2007

### **123 accord provides for consultations before termination**

New Delhi, Aug. 3 (PTI): The Indo-US civil nuclear deal provides for a consultative mechanism if termination of the pact is warranted due to any reason, including "changed security environment", apparently a fallback arrangement if New Delhi were to conduct an atomic test.

The Hindu, 3 August 2007

### **India's offer on maritime security**

MANILA: India on Thursday unveiled a maritime security package for the benefit of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). The ARF comprises the United States, China, Russia, Japan, India and the European Union, besides the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). It also has among other countries Australia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka.

The Hindu, 3 August 2007

### **Not big emitter of greenhouse gases: India**

United Nations: India on Thursday rejected the contention that it was among the largest emitters of greenhouse gases saying its per capita emission of polluting gases responsible for global warming was just one-fourth of the world average.

The Hindu, 3 August 2007

### **Delhi, Colombo checking arms smuggling**

MANILA: India and Sri Lanka are now engaged in "a hand-in-glove operation" to prevent arms smuggling by the LTTE, according to Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama. This was now the state of play, despite the "technical" time-lag for the formalisation of any accord on coordinated patrolling along the Palk Strait, he said here. What we need are results more than the methodology," he said....

The Hindu, 3 August 2007

### **Australia ready to sell uranium**

MANILA: Australia has declared its intention to sell uranium to India by negotiating a "nuclear safeguards agreement" like the one it has with China. This was indicated by Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer in response to questions from The Hindu on the sidelines of a series of multilateral meetings that ended here on Thursday under the auspices of the Association of South East Asian Nations....

The Hindu, 4 August 2007

### **China curbs**

Beijing: Hundreds of Indians studying medicine in China will be affected by the Government's recent revamp of its medical education sector, limiting to 30 the number of colleges which can offer courses in English to foreigners.....

The Hindu, 4 August 2007

**Bangladesh agrees to take action on terror groups**

NEW DELHI: India and Bangladesh on Friday reiterated that the use of the territory of either country would not be allowed for terrorist and criminal activities. The neighbours said sustained cooperation and information sharing would benefit them. Both sides agreed to initiate swift action on information received about groups and elements and other fugitives....

The Hindu, 4 August 2007

**123 agreement a satisfactory arrangement, says Kakodkar**

CHENNAI: Anil Kakodkar, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), has described the 123 Agreement with the U.S. on nuclear cooperation as a satisfactory arrangement which would enable India to receive international civil nuclear cooperation while at the same time, preserving India's programme relating to strategic areas, its three-stage indigenous nuclear power programme, and research and development.....

The Hindu, 4 August 2007

**Nuclear deal provides for uninterrupted fuel supply**

NEW DELHI: India on Friday made public the agreement for civil nuclear cooperation with the United States which does not hinder its military nuclear programme and provides for uninterrupted supplies of fuel. It incorporates a right of return of all the U.S. supplied equipment and material if New Delhi conducts a nuclear test but after consultations and also pursuing arrangements for restoration of supplies from other sources.....

The Indian Express, 4 August 2007

**Pak says deal may ignite arms race**

ISLAMABAD, August 3: The National Command Authority (NCA) of Pakistan has warned that the US-India Civil Nuclear Energy Deal, which would enable India to produce significant quantities of fissile material and nuclear weapons from un-safeguarded nuclear reactors, may ignite an arms race and have implications on strategic stability in South Asia.....

The Indian Express, 4 August 2007

**Tatas taking 35% stake in Mozambique project**

MUMBAI, AUGUST 3: In a move to secure raw material for its Corus facilities in UK and Europe and other global businesses, Tata Steel Ltd has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Riversdale Mining Ltd, an Australian Stock Exchange listed company. Through this pact, the company will become a strategic investor in Riversdale's Mozambique coal project by acquiring a 35 per cent stake for A\$100 million (around Rs 345 crore....

The Indian Express, 4 August 2007

**Bangla says Indian militants on its soil**

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 3: In what marks a shift in its traditional approach, Bangladesh

has acknowledged the possibility of Indian militants operating from its soil and agreed to the idea of a joint mechanism to handle information on militants and fugitives from taking shelter in either country.....

The Indian Express, 4 August 2007

### **Now, Pak and China**

As the political class pores over the text of the 123 agreement, it is all too easy for New Delhi to forget the global character of the Indo-US nuclear deal. For nearly two years, a self-absorbed and divided India quarrelled over the minutiae of the nuclear talks with Washington. The nation needs to draw together, as the nuclear initiative moves from the bilateral arena to the global. Until now, the focus of the debate was necessarily on India's separation plan, the Hyde Act, and the 123 Agreement that sought to translate the law into a mutually acceptable bilateral framework.....

The Indian Express, 4 August 2007

### **4,5,6: next steps in the deal**

To use American President George Bush's famously improvised verb, don't underestimate the ayatollahs of non-proliferation.....

The Hindu, 6 August 2007

### **Nuclear deal does not hinder strategic programme**

NEW DELHI: The civil nuclear deal with the United States does not hinder India's strategic programme and leaves enough room for conducting an atomic test in a changed geo-political situation, some former diplomats have said...

The Hindu, 6 August 2007

### **Manmohan declines Bush's invitation**

NEW DELHI: After the successful wrapping up of the civil nuclear cooperation agreement with the U.S., Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has declined U.S. President George Bush's invitation to visit his ranch later this month, said a senior U.S. diplomat who had earlier disclosed the invitation to The Hindu.....

The Hindu, 6 August 2007

### **123 agreement compromised India's case: Former BARC chief**

Mumbai, Aug. 6 (PTI): The agreement to operationalize the Indo-US civil nuclear deal has "compromised India's case to a large extent and the United States could "remotely drive our atomic programmes in the long run," former Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Dr A N Prasad, said here Sunday night....

The Indian Express, 6 August 2007

### **Left MP stars in anti-Bush play**

Kolkata, August 5: For the CPI(M), it's time to back its histrionics in Parliament with some real theatre. The Left Front Government is sponsoring a play starring MP Tarit Baran Topdar. Typical of the CPI(M), the play is against imperialism. More specifically, it is against US President George W Bush, represented in the play by Warjuice, a faceless, behind-the-scenes character.....

The Indian Express, 6 August 2007

**Pakistani student joins M S University**

VADODARA, AUGUST 5 : The much-talked about student from the other side of the border reported at the Faculty of Fine Arts of M S University (MSU) on Saturday. Tatheer Daryani, the girl who graduated from the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture in Karachi, has enrolled as a first year student in the Sculptor Department....

The Times of India, 6 August 2007

**Growing economy: India to overtake US, Japan**

6 Aug 2007, NEW DELHI: Emerging economies, including India, will overtake the developed countries in growth by 2050, with popularity of India and China as investment destination rising while the attractiveness of Europe and North America slipping, says a study.....

The Times of India, 6 August 2007

**India, US mull joint maritime patrol**

6 Aug 2007, NEW DELHI: After sealing the 123 Agreement on civilian nuclear cooperation, India and US are now exploring ways to "operationalise" the bilateral framework for maritime security cooperation (MSCF).....

The Times of India, 6 August 2007

**Qaida video warns of terror attacks against India**

6 Aug 2007, DUBAI: The Al-Qaida warned in a new video on Sunday that India and US diplomatic missions were the terror network's "legitimate targets.....

The Hindu, 6 August 2007

**A sound and honourable 123**

A close reading of the text of the civil nuclear cooperation agreement between the United States and India, which was made public on August 3, confirms this newspapers editorial endorsement of the deal.....

The Hindu, 7 August 2007

**India, Israel for strengthening economic ties**

JERUSALEM: India and Israel on Monday said efforts should be made to fully utilise the potential for enhanced economic cooperation between the two countries, especially in the fields of solar energy and agriculture.....

The Hindu, 7 August 2007

**Israeli Navy Chief on maiden visit**

NEW DELHI: Signalling an impetus to defence ties with Israel, the Commander-in-Chief of Israeli Navy, Vice-Admiral David Ben Bashat, is on a maiden visit to India.....

The Hindu, 7 August 2007

**123: Rethink before we go forward**

One associates government's PR or news management with propaganda hand-outs that

have low credibility and no impact. However, in the case of the India-U.S. nuclear deal, one must concede that the PR machine has been phenomenally effective.....

The Hindu, 7 August 2007

**Bharti, Wal-mart form wholesale venture**

NEW DELHI: After long deliberations, Bharti Enterprises and Wal-Mart Stores Inc. on Monday announced a 50:50 joint venture to form Bharti Wal-Mart Private Limited for their wholesale cash-and-carry and back-end supply chain management operations in India....

The Indian Express, 7 August 2007

**Left meet today to take stance on nuclear deal**

Express News Service Posted online: Tuesday, August 07, 2007 at 0000 hrs Print Email  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6 : Caught between an inflexible BJP and the need to protect its own strong anti-US constituency, the Left parties that support the UPA Government from outside will meet here on Tuesday to adopt a balanced ideological approach to the 123 agreement.....

The Indian Express, 7 August 2007

**FM: India unaffected by US sub-prime loan crisis**

New Delhi, August 6: Unfazed by the sharp fall in the stock market on Monday, the finance minister P Chidambaram attributed the oscillating nature of the markets to the movement in the Asian bourses. When asked if today's fall of 235 points and previous falls are a matter of concern, the finance minister said: "So what? Markets will rise and markets will fal..."

The Indian Express, 7 August 2007

**Brinda, Arjun spar on foreign varsity bill**

New Delhi, August 6 : The swift exchange of letters between the CPI(M) and HRD Minister Arjun Singh on the Foreign University Bill continues with party Politburo member Brinda Karat urging him yet again to halt the passage of the Bill....

The Indian Express, 7 August 2007

**Bangla Army chief's visit put off**

New Delhi, August 6: Bangladesh called off its Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed's India visit at the last minute after severe floods lashed the country and displaced millions of people. General Ahmed was scheduled to meet the top military brass and Defence Minister A K Antony this week.....

The Indian Express, 7 August 2007

**Wipro adds another jewel to India's US takeover crown**

MUMBAI, AUGUST 6: In what could be the largest overseas takeover by an Indian IT company, Wipro Technologies, country's third largest IT company, has acquired Infocrossing Inc, a US-based provider of IT infrastructure management, enterprise application and business process outsourcing services, for \$600 million (around Rs 2,425 crore).....

The Indian Express, 7 August 2007

**'Bangla Marxists hobnobbed with Army, backstabbed nation'**

Kolkata, August 6: On the day the CPI(M) celebrated the 119th birth anniversary of one of its founders, Muzaffar Ahmad, exiled Bangladeshi writer Salam Azad put Marxists from his own country in the dock for their role in Bangladesh's politics.....

The Indian Express, 7 August 2007

**India puts hilsa ban behind, flies relief to Bangla**

New Delhi, August 6 : India has decided not to fuel the squabble with Bangladesh over the trade ban the latter has imposed on coal and hilsa fish. Instead, New Delhi is sending food relief as an olive branch for its flood-stricken neighbour.....

The Hindu, 8 August 2007

**Left 'unable to accept' 123 agreement**

NEW DELHI: The Left parties on Tuesday said they were unable to accept the 123 agreement in the context of the burgeoning strategic alliance with the United States, and asked the Government not to operationalise it.....

The Indian Express, 8 August 2007

**There is America in Indo-US deal, so Left parties reject agreement**

New Delhi, August 7: After four days of "studying" the text of the 123 agreement in the Indo-US nuclear deal, the Left parties today rejected it, emphasizing more on its context than on the content of its text. Calling for a Constitutional amendment that would bring international treaties and "certain" bilateral agreements to Parliament for approval, the Left today underlined the growing Indo-US strategic relationship as its key reason for opposing the 123 agreement.....

The Hindu, 8 August 2007

**India, Pakistan Coast Guard chiefs to meet**

NEW DELHI: The Coast Guard chiefs of India and Pakistan will meet here on Wednesday to discuss enhanced maritime cooperation as part of confidence-building measures between the two countries....

The Hindu, 8 August 2007

**Insulating India's reactors from fuel disruption reality check**

Running like a sacred thread through the length of the nuclear cooperation agreement with the United States, India's right to run its reactors without interruption and take corrective measures in the event of fuel supply disruptions provides the ultimate textual insurance against the kind of uncertainty that plagued Tarapur following the 1974 nuclear explosion at Pokhran....

The Indian Express, 8 August 2007

**Indo-Pak Coast Guard talks from tomorrow**

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7: As part of confidence building measures along the maritime border, India and Pakistan will hold high-level talks in New Delhi on Thursday that will

focus on speedy repatriation of fishermen and sharing of intelligence for possible "coordinated" anti-smuggling operations in the future....

The Hindu, 8 August 2007

**Manmohan has kept all promises on India-U.S. deal: Dasmunsi**

NEW DELHI: "The Government is ready to respond to any question and any debate that the Opposition and other parties may want, whether it is the India-United States civil nuclear cooperation agreement or any other issue," Parliamentary Affairs Minister Priyaranjan Dasmunsi said here on Tuesday.....

The Hindu, 8 August 2007

**India, Switzerland sign pact on IPR issues**

NEW DELHI: India and Switzerland on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on safeguarding intellectual property rights (IPRs). The agreement envisages setting up of a joint committee to develop a dialogue on issues of intellectual property. The MoU was signed by Union Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath and Federal Councillor of Swiss Confederation's Department of Economic Affairs Doris Leuthard.....

The Hindu, 8 August 2007

**Laos happy over growing India-China ties**

MANILA: Expressing "delight" over the strengthening relations between India and China, Deputy Prime Minister of Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thongloun Sisoulith, has described his country's ties with the United States as "relatively good....

The Hindu, 8 August 2007

**Hyde Act provisions can be used to terminate 123 pact, says Left**

NEW DELHI: The Left parties on Tuesday reminded the Government that they had expressed serious concern about the various conditions inserted into the Henry Hyde Act passed by U.S. Congress as a number of them pertained to the strategic goals of the United States.....

The Hindu, 8 August 2007

**India's new offer to Myanmar**

NEW DELHI: India has sweetened an offer to Myanmar on developing a port. Yangon had expressed reservations over New Delhi's earlier proposal on ownership. The revised offer, approved by External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, overcomes Myanmar's sensitivities on developing the Sittwe port, which could serve as an alternative gateway to north-eastern States. The new package envisages immediate transfer of the port to Myanmar after it is made suitable for larger vessels.....

The Hindu, 8 August 2007

**Army, PLA to hold joint exercises in China**

NEW DELHI: The Indian Army would hold joint exercises with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) on Chinese soil for the first time in October-November this year, it was decided at a planning conference of both armies.....

The Hindu, 8 August 2007

**Left plans major protests against joint naval exercise**

New Delhi, Aug. 8 (PTI): Raising a banner of protest against India hosting a multi-nation naval exercise featuring the US, the Left parties on Tuesday announced that they would hold rallies along the entire East coast to mark their opposition.....

The Indian Express, 8 August 2007

**Israeli president for wider trade ties with India**

NEW DELHI:: In a rare unscheduled meeting, Nobel Prize winning Israeli President Shimon Peres met Union minister of state for industry Ashwani Kumar at Jerusalem. Kumar, who was leading a delegation of Indian industrialists to Israel, met Peres before a meeting with the countrys diamond industry representatives.....

The Indian Express, 9 August 2007

**India scores better in inequality reduction than America, China**

New Delhi, August 8: There is good news for India as a recent Asian Development Bank report finds that inequality has not increased significantly in India since the liberalization and rapid growth of the economy from 1991 onwards. This finding, the report says, is unlike the claims of many scholars who claim sharp increases in inequality. While other important economies in the region have registered comparatively sharp increases in inequality.....

The Indian Express, 9 August 2007

**India to host Global Agro-Industries Forum**

NEW DELHI: The first Global Agro-Industries Forum (Gaif)--a joint initiative of Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)/ United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (Unido) and Indian government--will be organised in New Delhi from April 8 to 11, 2008. While making the announcement, Union minister Sharad Pawar described the organisation as a timely initiative.....

The Hindu, 9 August 2007

**Myanmar: Rhetoric and reality of Indian democracy**

Union of Myanmar (Burma). Head of State: General Than Shwe. Head of Government: General Soe Win. More than three decades of brutal military rule. You see them at Rajghat in Delhi on October 25, 2004, when Than Shwe paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi; at the National Defence Academy in Khadakvasla; at the Tata Motors Plant in Pune; and many other places....

The Indian Express, 9 August 2007

**Deal through but Cong will have to pay a price: Karat**

New Delhi, August 8: With Prime Minister Manmohan Singh conveying to CPM general secretary Prakash Karat that the Indo-US nuclear deal had been cleared by the Cabinet and was "non-negotiable," the Left toned down its shrillness settling for a discussion in Parliament to put its objection on record more than anything else....

The Hindu, 9 August 2007

**Bharatnatyam gaining popularity in China**

BEIJING: After Bollywood films, classical Indian dance has caught the imagination of the Chinese, with a young woman actively promoting Bharatnatyam among her compatriots, especially the tiny-tots. For 33-year-old Jin Shan Shan, a Jawaharlal Nehru University alumna, it has always been a passion to become an exponent of Bharatnatyam. She has established a school for Bharatnatyam here.....

The Indian Express, 9 August 2007

**Ahead of Japan PM's trip, states vie for investment**

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 8: Ahead of Japanese Prime Minister Abe Shinzo's visit to India later this month to finalise the proposed \$90 billion Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) deal, states along the corridor are beginning to wear their business suits. In preparation for the high-level visit, which is expected to include the top management of over 50 large Japanese corporations, states have begun to aggressively market themselves as ideal investment hot-spots.....

The Indian Express, 14 August 2007

**India to free Pak prisoners today**

Express News Service Posted online: Tuesday, August 14, 2007 at 0000 hrs Print Email  
New Delhi, August 13 : India will release 72 Pakistani nationals, including 48 fishermen and 24 prisoners, on August 14 in accordance with the decision taken at the meeting of Home Secretaries of both countries in New Delhi last month.

The Indian Express, 14 August 2007

**Israel will tap Cochini-Indian tradition to promote tourism in southern Negev.**

Nevatim (Israel), August 13: Nevatim, a place closely associated with Cochini Jews in the country, has for long attracted the attention of Israeli leaders for their contribution in making the Negev desert in south Israel bloom. "We recognize the contribution of the Cochini community in making the desert bloom. The move to turn Nevatim (Cochini agricultural settlement in south Israel) into a tourist attraction was initiated by our Nobel laureate President Shimon Peres himself," a representative of the Keren Kayemet Foundation said.

The Indian Express, 14 August 2007

**China-based cargo airline gets nod for Delhi flights.**

NEW DELHI : Following a near diplomatic row over security concerns regarding its ownership, the Great Wall Airlines, a cargo airline based in China, is learnt to have been accorded a conditional approval to fly to Delhi. The Government, however, has refused the carrier permission to fly to Chennai due to the city's proximity to Kalapakkam nuclear plants.

The Times of India, 14 August 2007

**Pakistan wants to turn a new leaf in ties with India**

ISLAMABAD: On the eve of its 60th Independence Day, Pakistan on Monday said it wants to change its six-decade-long turbulent relations with India by settling all disputes,

building trust and enhancing economic cooperation between the two countries. "It has been complex relationship arising out of disputes from the day of Partition over distribution of assets, movement of people and the Kashmir issue," Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson Tasnim Aslam said when asked to describe India and Pakistan ties in recent years and Pakistan's vision for the next 60 years.

The Hindustan Times, 14 August 2007

**India to sign investment protection agreement with China.**

India and China are all set to sign an Investment Protection Agreement during the high profile visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao to New Delhi later this month. The proposal to enter into such an agreement was cleared by the Union Cabinet on Thursday. "The Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement will lead to a rise in investments between China and India and will be in force for 10 years," Information and Broadcasting Minister Priyaranjan Dasmunsi told reporters after the meeting.

The Hindustan Times, 14 August 2007

**India's strategic autonomy will be retained: PM**

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh put up a stout defence of the nuclear deal with the United States in his first statement in Parliament after the 123 agreement. He asserted that agreement did not in any way affect the country's right to conduct a nuclear test in the future and rejected outright the contention of the left and the opposition parties that it curtailed the country's strategic autonomy and impinged on its independent foreign policy.

Indo-Asian News Service, 14 August 2007

**'Australia should start uranium exports to India'**

Australia should commence uranium exports to India, Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer will recommend this to the National Security Committee of Cabinet Tuesday. In an interview to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), Downer said that no decision has been made regarding sale of uranium to India and any such sale would be conditional to a treaty being negotiated. "We would first of all have to negotiate a nuclear safeguards agreement with India and under that agreement, any uranium that would be exported to India would have to be subject to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) monitoring and so would be the nuclear power plants that the uranium was used for."

The Indian Express, 16 August 2007

**We want best of relations with all: PM**

New Delhi, August 15: In the midst of acrimony over the Indo-US civil nuclear deal, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh skirted the issue in his Independence Day address on Wednesday. Singh, who has been attacked by Left allies and the Opposition, made no mention of the issue that has generated much political heat over the last few days. The four Left parties, which are providing crucial outside support to the government, have rejected the nuclear deal and demanded that it should not be operationalised. The Prime Minister has, however, made it clear that there is no going back on the agreement. He insisted in Parliament that the deal was good for India and all rights, including testing of

atomic device, were preserved.

The Indian Express, 16 August 2007

### **UPA withdraws appeal, gives Q his independence day**

New Delhi, August 15: After pressing for his extradition from Argentina for six months, the UPA Government last week withdrew the appeal which was prepared for an upcoming hearing in the Buenos Aires Supreme Court and, thus, allowed Bofors-accused Ottavio Quattrocchi to fly back - a free man to Milan. This is similar to what happened in 2005 when the Government gave a clean chit to British authorities and allowed them to defreeze his Rs 21-crore accounts. The latest move was confirmed to The Indian Express by diplomatic sources in Buenos Aires today who said, "The fact is that the Indian Government decided not to go ahead with the appeal and this led to Quattrocchi getting his travel documents back."

The Indian Express, 16 August 2007

### **Aus uranium deal with India doubtful: Report**

Melbourne, August 16: Doubts are emerging about Australia's plans to export uranium to India even before the Prime Ministers of the two countries meet to discuss Cabinet's decision in favour of the yellow cake shipment. Foreign Minister Alexander Downer warned on Wednesday that no uranium would be exported to India until the conclusion of the agreement between the US and India on nuclear power. On Tuesday, the national security committee of Cabinet decided in principle to export uranium to the sub-continental nuclear power, conditional on agreed safeguards. Downer said Australia would "first of all" have to await the signing of a US-India pact to transfer civilian nuclear fuel and technology before Australian uranium went to India, The Australian reported on Thursday.

The Times of India, 16 August 2007

### **India, US flaunt what suits them**

WASHINGTON: The United States says it will scrap the landmark agreement to export civilian nuclear fuel and technology to India if New Delhi conducts a nuclear weapons test. India says it is free to conduct such a test should national interest so dictate. Who is right? Answer: Both. The delicate balance the two sides have arrived at in addressing domestic concerns in the two countries is already being put to test as officials put their own spin on the path-breaking deal. On Tuesday, state department spokesman Sean McCormack reiterated the American line in conforming to domestic US laws that trump the nuclear agreement in the event of an Indian test. "The proposed 123 Agreement has provisions in it that in an event of a nuclear test by India, then all nuclear cooperation is terminated, as well as there is provision for return of all materials, including reprocessed material covered by the agreement," he said in remarks certain to set off a furore in the already surcharged Indian political scene.

Indo Asian News Service, 16 August 2007

### **American Jewish group takes Indian Muslims to Israel**

Tel Aviv/New York/New Delhi, Aug 16 (IANS) A delegation of Indian Muslim leaders are touring Israel in an unprecedented visit that is part of the American Jewish

Committee's (AJC) efforts to showcase the country as a tolerant society and to improve Muslim-Jewish relations. Maulana Jamil Ilyasi, president of the All India Organization of Imams and Mosques, is leading the Indian delegation. "We are coming with the message of peace and goodwill from Indian Muslims who believe in the Indian tradition of resolving issues through dialogue and peaceful means," said Ilyasi, who is the leader of 500,000 imams across India. "Our visit to Israel will be historical in terms of developing a dialogue between Judaism and Islam in the Indian subcontinent, where more than 40 percent of the world's Muslim population lives. Interaction with both Palestinian and Jewish sisters and brothers and their religious leadership will lay a solid foundation for future engagement," Ilyasi said. The visit is sponsored by Project Interchange, an institute of the AJC, in coordination with the Australia Israel Jewish Affairs Council. The influential Jewish lobby wants to portray that Israel is keen to accommodate Muslims in its quest for lasting peace in the Middle East.

The Indian Express, 17 August 2007

### **Maybe comrades could check with China how it gave in more on 123**

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 16: When comrades sit down at the Politburo tomorrow to work out the next steps in their protest against the nuclear deal, chances are they will gloss over the 123 agreement their friend C They have reason to. For, a comparison of India's 123 agreement with that of China's shows the unique benefits that have come New Delhi's way. From reprocessing rights and bilateral safeguards to fuel supply assurances, the Indian agreement has far more specific commitments binding the US than what it gave to China even though the latter is a nuclear weapons state under the NPT.

The Indian Express, 17 August 2007

### **US statement adds fuel to BJP fire, says PM lied**

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 16: The BJP has found new ammunition against the Government, in the US State Department statement on the 123 agreement which reportedly says India cannot conduct another nuclear test as per its provisions. The BJP said the Indo-US deal will "remain a dead letter," and "cannot be operationalised" in its present form. BJP MPs disrupted both Houses of Parliament, accusing the UPA Government of "selling off the country", and demanding his resignation. BJP said the PM has "lied to Parliament" when he assured that India's strategic nuclear programme will not be affected by the agreement. BJP members staged a walk out, after forcing adjournments. The BJP got ample support from UNPA partners whereas the Left, despite its opposition to the Indo-US nuclear deal, kept a safe distance. BJP said it would settle for nothing less than a thorough discussion and voting in Parliament on the Indo-US nuke deal.

The Indian Express, 17 August 2007

### **Howard calls, will sell uranium**

India got a shot in the arm ahead of negotiations with the Nuclear Suppliers Group for its India-specific guidelines when Australian Prime Minister John Howard called up Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday. Howard conveyed to Singh the Australian Government's decision regarding the sale of uranium to India. Australia has some 40 per cent of the world's uranium reserves.

The Indian Express, 18 August 2007

**Meanwhile, US rules out renegotiation of deal**

New Delhi, August 18: The US has ruled out renegotiation of the civil nuclear deal with India amid demands that the agreement be worked out afresh. "We cannot renegotiate it because the (123) Agreement is done. Neither government wishes it to be renegotiated because it is now complete," US Under Secretary Nicholas Burns was quoted as saying in an interview. His assertion came in the midst of mounting attack on the government by Left allies and opposition parties, which are demanding re-negotiation of the Agreement and opposing operationalization of the deal. Asked how the differences between Hyde Act and 123 Agreement would be reconciled on the issue of reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel, Burns said, "I am absolutely confident that the 123 Agreement conforms (to Hyde Act) in all ways."

The Indian Express, 18 August 2007

**US: statement was a 'mis-statement'**

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 17: After the storm that US State Department spokes-person Sean McCormack's remark created, India sought a clarification from the US which is learnt to have replied that what was said was a "mis-statement". McCormack had said all civilian nuclear cooperation would be terminated if India conducted a nuclear test. External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee told Parliament on Thursday that there was "no authentic record" of what had been said. After many Ministers, at the Cabinet meeting, felt India should obtain clarity from the US on the statement, the matter was taken up by the Indian mission in Washington which was informed that there was no particular intent behind this remark. It's understood that McCormack was approached by some journalists after the regular briefing on Wednesday and in reply to queries, mentioned: "The proposed 123 agreement has provisions in it that in the event of a nuclear test by India, all nuclear cooperation is terminated."

The Times of India, 18 August 2007

**China's happy that India-US deal's in trouble**

BEIJING: If the Left is all but pulling the rug from under Manmohan Singh's government, comrades in Beijing are gloating over the fact that cozying up to Washington has New Delhi all tangled up in red, blue and white. It's uncharacteristic of Chinese Communist Party dailies to comment expansively on internal matters of the nations Beijing is trying to mend fences with. But China, wary from the start that the nuclear bonhomie between India and the US will challenge its security dominance, has obviously seen the troubles in New Delhi worthy of comment. Judging by two articles published on Friday in the People's Daily and its sister publication, Global Times, Beijing seems to want Washington to reconsider its nuclear deal with New Delhi.

The Times of India, 18 August 2007

**Bangla SIM cards a major terror tool for militants**

NEW DELHI: The police might have got another lead to the Hyderabad blast case, but intelligence agencies in West Bengal are in a tizzy owing to the easy availability of Bangladeshi SIM cards, which can be purchased in less than Rs 200, an exclusive report

of Times Now said. The alarm bells are ringing for security officials in the Hyderabad blasts, as similar SIM cards and connections to Harkat-ul-Jihad were found. The report also said that the Fuji militants on the border have been found with similar SIM cards, and the intelligence agencies believe that a terror network is in operation with the aid of these technological devices. On the border area it is a trouble-free procedure to obtain a Bangladesh Gramin Phone Service. The SIM cards are available along the India-Bangladesh border in North 24 Parganas in West Bengal. For many a Bangladeshi working in India, it is a cheap way to connect with their families back home. However, this technology in the hands of the militants has the potential to pose major trouble for the intelligence agencies because the identity and details of the caller cannot be traced as the service provider is in Bangladesh. To obtain the call details of a particular SIM a lengthy international procedure is required.

The Indian Express, 19 August 2007

**Soon, SAARC nations would be just a long drive away**

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19: Imagine being able to drive down in your car to Bangladesh or Pakistan to attend a friend's wedding with a three-day visa in hand and minimum fuss at border points. This is one of the several proposals included in the draft of the SAARC Regional Motor Vehicle Agreement, which India will be introducing around the month-end to member nations. India will be hosting the first-ever SAARC Transport Ministers' meeting in New Delhi from August 29 to 31. "The Regional Motor Vehicle Agreement has been discussed at several SAARC meetings and with India chairing the 14th SAARC Summit; we decided to take the initiative by preparing a draft agreement as requested by the Ministry of External Affairs. The draft recommends ways to do away with physical and non-physical barriers in the way of regional transport movement, allowing people to travel freely across the region and facilitate smooth goods movement," said a senior official, Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways.

Indo Asian News Service, 19 August 2007

**UPA allies worried over standoff want crisis averted**

New Delhi, Aug 19 (IANS) The beleaguered government of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, battling the Left parties with its back to the wall on the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal, is under pressure from the smaller coalition partners to hammer out a settlement at the earliest. None of the constituents of the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) want a mid-term election at this particular point and are eager to see that the present crisis blows over soon. Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad had two rounds of discussions with Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) politburo member Sitaram Yechury asking him to temper down his party's confrontation with the government. Even DMK chief Muthuvel Karunanidhi and Lok Janashakti president Ram Vilas Paswan talked to CPI-M leaders. The stakes are obviously high for the UPA, facing its worst political crisis in the last three years, as the Left parties, which commands 60 seats in the Lok Sabha and props up the government, threatens to withdraw support if the nuclear deal is operationalised.

The Indian Express, 20 August 2007

**No compromise formula, so far: Left**

New Delhi, August 19: The CPI-M suggested the setting up of a mechanism to evaluate the implications of the Hyde Act of the US on the country's sovereignty but ruled out any 'compromise formula' to resolve its stand-off with the Government on the Indo-US civil nuclear deal. CPI-M politburo member Sitaram Yechury met External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, Defence Minister A K Antony and senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel as part of efforts to find a way out of the situation created by the Left's ultimatum not to operationalize the deal. After the 30-minute parleys, Yechury said he was asked to clarify a part of the statement issued by the politburo on Saturday, which he said clearly states that the government should not take the next step of negotiating a safeguards agreement with the IAEA till all objections to the deal are considered and the implications of the Hyde Act are evaluated. "How to get clarity on these issues -- there has to be some kind of mechanism. The UPA has to decide on it and get back to us," Yechury told reporters after the meeting.

The Indian Express, 20 August 2007

#### **'China, Pak for N-deal to counter Indo-US pact'**

Beijing, August 19: China and its 'all-weather' ally Pakistan are discussing an agreement similar to the one India has reached with the US on the civilian nuclear cooperation to maintain the regional security balance, sources said. Even as the two old allies discuss a nuclear deal, China's reservations over the Indo-US deal and the boundary issue may be clouding Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's maiden visit to Beijing, which is likely to take place towards the end of the year, they said. Since Pakistan has pleaded with China at the highest level not to let it down in the nuclear balance with India, Beijing is apparently working out a nuclear deal with Islamabad, in case the Indo-US nuclear agreement is okayed by the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), the sources said preferring anonymity. While China was apparently taken aback by the finalization of the 123 Agreement, Beijing now hopes that the opposition within India itself will wreck the Indo-US nuclear deal, the sources said.

Indo Asian News Service, 20 August 2007

#### **India-Tibet trade moves, but slowly, across Himalayas**

Sherathang (Sikkim), Aug 20 (IANS) Tibetan men coming to trade here wear a dozen hats, an item not on the approved list of bilateral border trade between India and China. If they are lucky, on a clear day that attracts a crowd of traders and tourists, they return bareheaded. But the weather is often hostile on this ancient Silk Route at Nathu La, at 4,210 metres, 10 km from here, which reopened in July last year after 43 years. For geo-strategic reasons, India has been cautious and slow, while the Chinese, Indian officials here say, want this border trade to be converted into transit trade with no limits. "They want to dump their goods," said an official in Gangtok. Sikkim, the Himalayan Indian state, sees this as a major opportunity to reach out to the world and is pressing for trade expansion. Even as it exercises caution, the government of India has accepted Sikkim's proposal to raise the limit of exportable items per consignment per trader from Rs.25,000 to Rs.100,000. The list of items, actually a carry-forward of what existed in 1962, when the China-Indian conflict ended the border trade, is "obsolete", a Sikkim Government official says. Sikkim has prepared a revised list of items on the basis of their demand in Tibet and logistic advantages. It includes alcoholic beverages, tea, engineering hardware,

cement, cardamom, ginger, textiles and petrol and diesel. It is awaiting clearance from the Cabinet Committee of the government of India.

Indo Asian News Service, 20 August 2007

### **Indians attacked in Germany, 12 injured**

Muegeln (Germany), Aug 20 (DPA) A mob attacked a group of Indian fairgoers in a village in the eastern German state of Saxony, German police said. Eight Indians and four Germans were reported injured. The incident occurred at a village festival overnight Saturday in Muegeln. After a scuffle broke out shortly after midnight in a festival tent, a group of about 50 mostly young Germans apparently pursued a group of Indian visitors, who fled into a pizzeria. The doors of the restaurant were kicked in by the pursuing mob. A reported 70 police officers were needed to disperse the attackers, and two officers were injured. A large crowd reportedly witnessed the violence. Among the injured, one Indian and one German were hospitalized. There was no immediate report of arrests. Authorities have formed a task force to investigate the incident. Saxony state Police Chief Bernd Merbitz said that a "xenophobic motive" could have been a factor in the violence. "We're investigating in every direction," he said. The Leipziger Volkszeitung, a daily newspaper in nearby Leipzig, reported in its Monday edition that the mob attacking the Indians shouted anti-foreigner slogans. West Saxony police spokesman Reinhard Boettcher said that witness statements suggested that there might have been right-wing extremist shouts and insults during the melee. It was unclear whether the large crowd of bystanders cheered on the mob or merely failed to intervene. "The fact is: alcohol at the time played a role," Boettcher said. The incident was not revealed by police until nearly a day later. Muegeln, population 4,700 lies about 45 km east of Leipzig and 50 km west of Dresden, Saxony's two largest cities. Saxony is one of the states formerly part of communist East Germany, which have seen disproportionate rates of violence against foreigners since German reunification in 1990.

The Hindustan Times, 20 August 2007

### **N-logjam: Cold comfort, no peace deal yet**

The UPA allies rallied behind Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and coalition chairperson Sonia Gandhi on Sunday after the CPM mooted a mechanism to discuss the implications of a US act that is at the root of the Left's rejection of the Indo-US nuclear agreement. The late night UPA resolution also expressed confidence that Singh and Sonia will be able to address all concerns raised by the Left, including those on the Hyde Act, the India-specific US law. It made no mention of the proposed mechanism. Political sources told the Hindustan Times that the composition and mandate of a committee proposed by the Marxists would be addressed at the government's level. External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, to whom CPM's Sitaram Yechury conveyed the idea, briefed Singh, Sonia and the UPA leaders about it. As it would not merely be the job of a politician, the committee is likely to include experts and diplomats, a top government source said. The panel will be given shape over the next couple of days in consultation with the Left parties. At the meeting, the government explained to allies the status of the 123 Agreement and the difficulties in evolving a middle path to accommodate the Left's position on the issue. It also said that diplomacy was a continuous process and talks its integral part. In response, some allies urged the government to find a way out of the crisis

to avoid mid-term elections. The implications of early polls also figured in the talks with some participants optimistic that the Left will not cross the Rubicon as such a move would only help the BJP.

The Indian Express, 21 August 2007

**"We'll work with India to see fruition of deal"**

Washington, August 21: Notwithstanding the Left parties' warning to UPA government not to operationalize the Indo-US nuclear deal, the United States said it hopes to move forward and see the agreement to fruition. "...We don't have any specific comments on discussions within India about the agreement. This is a determination for Indians to make and we're going to be working with them to hopefully see this to fruition," acting State Department spokesman Gonzalo Gallegos told a press briefing, when asked for his reaction to the opposition in India and if this was justified. He said this is "an important agreement" that "we believe will help India reduce its energy shortfall and will allow Indians to gain access to advanced technologies that will improve their daily lives". "So we're working toward that end, coordinating with the Indians, coordinating with our Congress. And we hope to move forward on it," he added.

The Indian Express, 21 August 2007

**Aus Court reinstates Haneef's visa**

Melbourne, August 21: An Australian court on Tuesday quashed the government's controversial decision to cancel the work visa of Indian doctor Mohamed Haneef on character grounds after terror charges against him over the foiled UK terror plot were dropped. In a major loss of face for the Australian government, Federal Court Judge Jeff Spender in a decision in Brisbane ordered restoration of Haneef's visa, allowing the Bangalore doctor to return to this country, work as a doctor and resume his studies -- unless the authorities contemplate further action. The court also questioned the government as to why Haneef's visa was cancelled even though the terror charges against him were dropped. The Immigration ministry has been given 21 days to file a plea. Judge Spender had on August nine reserved his judgement on Haneef's appeal against Immigration Minister Kevin Andrews' controversial decision to revoke his work visa on character grounds.

The Indian Express, 21 August 2007

**On day Karat serves notice, his friends in China begin work on 31 new N-reactors**

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 20: Last Saturday, when the CPM Politburo rejected the 123 agreement and told the UPA government not to proceed on the nuclear deal, their comrades in Beijing launched the first nuclear power plant in northeastern China to kick start a massive plan to build 31 reactors by 2020. August 18 marked the start of construction at the Hongyanhe power plant off the Dalian coast of six 1000 MW reactors for an estimated \$6.5 billion. The first unit is to start generating power in five years time and the rest by 2014. This part of China used to have several state-owned heavy industry complexes but fell behind as reforms triggered a new economy. The plan is to revive this area and so the nuclear power plant is seen as an important first step. With its fuel supplies agreement tied up with Australia, China has its nuclear deal in place to aim for its target of 40,000 MW from nuclear power by 2020. As of now, it produces just over

8500 MW from its 11 reactors. India is slightly behind with around 4000 MW with most of its reactors performing below par largely due to fuel shortage. Both countries don't have an elaborate civilian nuclear programme today but China's big launch happened last Saturday at Hongyanhe. On the same day, India's race to complete its nuclear deal by early next year hit a wall. Unlike their comrades in Beijing, the Left parties in India want the deal scrapped because it involves the US.

The Indian Express, 21 August 2007

### **Soon, Delhi will be landmark on international legal map**

New Delhi, August 20: Very soon, India will pop up on the world map of major league arbitration. By this year-end, the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague is expected to set up its South Asian Regional Centre in New Delhi. On the drawing board for three years, since a proposal from the world legal body first reached India, a top Law Ministry official told The Indian Express that the modalities for setting up the facility in New Delhi this year is being "actively worked on" with the Ministry of External Affairs. Officials said that a high-level government team is expected to visit The Hague this year to wrap up the paperwork. Describing the offer as a "great achievement", Legal Affairs Secretary T K Viswanathan said, "We expect everything to be finalized this year with an MoU being signed between the PCA and the Indian Government. Despite the rich legal talent in India, and with liberalization leading to an increasing volume of international arbitrations, there is a lack of institutional facilities in India which this Regional Centre will address." According to the draft MoU, "The offer is made in recognition of the contributions of India to the cause of the peaceful settlement through a strict adherence to international law, a policy that India has vigorously and faithfully pursued over the years." It adds that all officials associated with the PCA Centre will enjoy the same immunities and privileges as those accorded to officials of the United Nations" the facility will also provide basic training on arbitration procedures and regulations. Similar facilities have been set up by PCA " the world's premier and oldest arbitration centre with over a 100 member states" in Costa Rica (for Latin America) and Pretoria (for Africa). Officials said several Asian countries had been vying to set up the centre in the region till PCA turned India's way. Set up in 1899, the PCA describes itself as "a unique intergovernmental organization providing a variety of dispute resolution services to the international community."

The Indian Express, 21 August 2007

### **N-deal protests won't hit Indo-US war games**

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 20: In spite of the Left ultimatum over the nuclear deal and a protest threat, the UPA Government is going ahead with the multinational naval exercises involving two US Navy aircraft carriers and one nuclear submarine in the Bay of Bengal next month. Government sources confirmed that the US, Japan, Australia and Singapore navies would be conducting war games in the Bay of Bengal, 100 nautical miles west of Andamans and 500 miles east of the Indian shores, during September 4-9. Undaunted by the Left parties' threat to protest against these exercises, the Manmohan Singh Government has given a clear signal to the Indian Navy to go ahead with 15 of its surface combatants including INS Viraat, India's sole aircraft carrier, for the war games. Erasing the memories of USS Enterprise in the Bay of Bengal during the Indo-Pak 1971 conflict,

the Americans are sending nuclear-powered Nimitz (CVN 68) and gas turbine-charged Kitty Hawk (CV 63) carrier battle groups for the exercises. The American flotilla will comprise a couple of guided missile destroyers and one nuclear submarine Chicago. The two aircraft carriers carry a total of 170 aircrafts, which is one-third of the Indian Air Force operational strength. Already, the Nimitz has docked in Singapore and is on its way to the exercise area with a number of senior US Navy officers expected to land in the Capital this week for last-minute coordination. Australian Navy Chief Admiral Russ Shalders was in the Capital today for bilateral naval cooperation and the exercise figured in the meeting. Although the Left parties have threatened to launch protests in Chennai and Vizag on the eastern seaboard during the exercises, the Government is not cowed down by the challenge. The ships of the participating nations have already left the shores of the respective countries. While the Left has concerns over closeness of Indo-US defence ties, the Indian Navy perceives the Bay of Bengal as its backyard and is all for playing a crucial role in protecting the sea-lanes of communications via the Malacca Straits. It is also conscious of the Chinese efforts to reach out to the Indian Ocean via Myanmar, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

The Indian Express, 21 August 2007

#### **India to seek Japan's support for NSG talks**

NEW DELHI, August 20: The Government is planning to seek Japan's assistance and support in its negotiations with the Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG). Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will meet his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe, who is scheduled to arrive in the Capital on Tuesday for a three-day visit. Though India has not asked Japan for support so far, the backing of the only nation in the world to have borne the brunt of a nuclear attack would be crucial when India begins negotiating with the 45-country NSG. Though Foreign Secretary Shiv Shankar Menon refused to divulge the details, he replied in the affirmative when asked whether India will discuss civil nuclear cooperation in general and the NSG in particular during Abe's visit. "Naturally, we will discuss the international framework for the nuclear deal," he said. Japan had recently decided to engage in talks with India on the issue. Apart from the nuclear agenda, key aspects of bilateral relations such as defence cooperation, joint research in the space sector are also on the agenda. However, the biggest gains are expected in the economic space with a strong delegation of 180 CEOs of top Japanese companies accompanying Abe on his visit. The 90-billion dollar flagship of the Indo-Japan 'Special Economic Partnership Initiative' " the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor " will figure high on the agenda, along with discussions towards finalizing a comprehensive economic partnership agreement that goes beyond the usual Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) that only deal with trade in goods. Dinesh Sharma, joint secretary, Ministry of Commerce, said that discussions for the agreement began in March this year and should be finalized in less than two years.

The Times of India, 21 August 2007

#### **Indian delegation visiting Israel witness rocket attacks**

JERUSALEM: The delegation of the Indian Muslim leaders visiting Israel, witnessed rocket attacks from Gaza during their visit to the southern city of Sderot and had to be rushed to a shelter house. "We heard a warning shot which was followed by a siren. We were immediately rushed to a shelter house where we heard the sound of a rocket attack,"

a member of the delegation said after the attack which took place on Monday. The delegation is visiting the country on the invitation of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) and the Australian Israel Jewish Affairs Council. The AJC and the AIJAC had arranged a trip to the southern city for the delegation, which came under Palestinian rocket attacks. At a press conference in Jerusalem, the Indian Muslim leaders and chief Ashkenazi and Shephardi chief Rabbis, Yona Metzger and Shlomo Amar, pledged to continue with efforts to further Muslim-Jewish dialogue to facilitate the peace process in Middle East. "India being a prominent Muslim country with 180 million Muslim population and a tradition of peaceful co-existence can play as a bridge between Jews and other Muslim countries as well," Metzger said. Indian Muslim leaders said that they won't be deterred by the criticisms against their visit to Israel and would continue to strive for harmonious Jewish-Muslim relations. "The process we started earlier this year in Delhi will continue despite all the protests. We know that the path is difficult but we will not bow down," Maulana Umair Iliyasi, General Secretary of All India Organization of Imam of Mosques, said. The Indian delegation's Israel visit follows a trip to India earlier this year by Jewish rabbis for an inter-faith meeting.

The Times of India, 22 August 2007

#### **PM, Rice visits on ice as bilateral ties skid**

WASHINGTON: Top level bilateral visits between the United States and India, including that of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, are being put on ice following the nuclear deal crisis that has rocked New Delhi. Rice was scheduled to visit New Delhi mid-October for a formal, ceremonial signing the nuclear agreement with her Indian counterpart Pranab Mukherjee, but that is now up in the air following the Left tripping the government on the deal. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was also slated to visit US, possibly making a trip to President Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas, in November or December. But now, with the government in crisis, those plans are on hold. It is not even certain now if Congress President Sonia Gandhi, who was scheduled to visit the United Nations on October 2 to deliver an address on "World non-violence day" will make that trip. The Left parties' decision to pull the plug on the government if it goes ahead with the nuclear deal has virtually paralyzed New Delhi's initiatives on that front, including negotiations with the IAEA. It has also made Washington's job of batting for India before the Nuclear Supplier's Group that much harder since it does not know if the Indian government can get the deal past domestic opposition.

The Indian Express, 22 August 2007

#### **'Go with US, or remain with Indians'**

Mudigonda, AP, August 21: In a stern warning to the UPA government against implementing the civil nuclear deal with America, the CPM said it should decide whether it would go with the US or 'remain firmly with the people'. "The Manmohan Singh government has to decide within a few weeks from now whether to go with the US or remain firmly with the people of India," CPM general secretary Prakash Karat told a public meeting in Mudigonda to pay homage to victims of police firing on July 28. Asserting that the Left parties were strongly opposed to any kind of strategic alliance with the US, he said it was a tragedy that the Central government had 'compromised' on

the independent foreign policy stand enunciated by late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. "It was the Congress party during Nehru's days that had evolved the non-alignment policy. It is a tragedy that the same Congress government today is compromising on independent foreign policy," he said.

The Indian Express, 22 August 2007

### **IAEA negotiations will go on: Congress**

New Delhi, August 21: Government will go ahead with negotiations with the IAEA in September in connection with the Indo-US nuclear deal despite its outright rejection by the Left parties, Congress indicated on Tuesday. "Our position is the same as was earlier. The position is unchanged. It is as it was for the last few days or few months. You can draw your own conclusions from that," Congress spokesman Abhishek Singhvi said. He was responding to a query on whether the Government will go ahead with the negotiations with the IAEA in September in the face of stiff opposition to the deal by its Left supporters. He said the Government's guiding pole star always was national interest and added, 'just like we do not negotiate out of fear, we should not and do not fear to negotiate'.

The Indian Express, 22 August 2007

### **Japan PM begins visit, N-energy on agenda**

NEW DELHI, August 21: With a multi-pronged bilateral agenda that includes dialogues on comprehensive economic partnership, collaboration in hi-tech research and India's nuclear energy needs, Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe arrived in the capital on Tuesday morning. He is accompanied by an unprecedented 200-member delegation comprising heads of top Japanese companies. Japanese sources told The Indian Express that though Japan fully understands India's energy needs, it can't take the lead in backing India at the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) forum. However, the source said that as support for India grows around the world, Japan would endeavour to join in. Stressing that the Japanese people are extremely sensitive to the issue of nuclear weapons proliferation, the official indicated that Japan will have an independent debate in its Parliament on India's bid to develop nuclear capability for its energy requirements. "On this, we want to start a debate from a neutral standpoint," the official said. Interestingly, the Japanese business delegation has top officials from Mitsubishi, Hitachi and Toshiba, key players in the global nuclear power business. The Japanese would be looking to drive home their strengths in the n-energy space ' an area where Japan and France are the world leaders, the official said. Clearing China's concerns (which have also been echoed by India's Communist parties) on the recently initiated quadrilateral dialogue among the US, India, Japan and Australia, the official said it was not an "anti-China" dialogue but a dialogue at a very nascent stage among four countries who share the same "basic values" and have the same "economic perspective". Arguing that it is similar to the multiple Asian fora like ASEAN and East Asia Summit, the official said if China wants to participate, it has to enhance "liberal values, freedom and democracy".

The Indian Express, 22 August 2007

### **Top defence officials from US Australia, Japan to visit Delhi**

New Delhi, August 21: Days ahead of the crucial multi-nation naval exercise in the Bay

Bengal, top defence officials from Japan, Australia and US are visiting New Delhi for talks with the Defence Ministry to identify areas of mutual interest and chalk out plans for further military cooperation. While Australia has denied any strategic quadrilateral tie-up in the region to contain China, Australian Naval Chief Admiral Russ Shalders is currently holding discussions with the top Indian military brass in the capital to identify areas of mutual interests in the Indian Ocean region "crucial for both countries as major fuel and trade routes run through the waters" to make ground for possible joint operations in the future. For the first time, Indian Navy officers will travel to Australia later this year as observers to the multi-nation Kakadu and Pacific Reach exercises. The latter will hold specific interest for the Indian Navy as it is focused on submarine rescue operations and will involve China and Pakistan, besides other countries. The Indian Navy is procuring a number of submarines and looking to expand its underwater operations in the near future.

Indo Asian News Service, 22 August 2007

### **Indian immigration helped US more than US aid did to India: Study**

Washington, Aug 22 (IANS) India may have provided more in intellectual capital to the US just over the last decade than all of the financial aid the US has given to India over the last 60 years, says an Indian American entrepreneur researcher who has done a study on the immigration issue. "So one may ask " who's helping who, here," said Delhi born Vivek Wadhwa, a technology entrepreneur currently working as Wertheim Fellow at Harvard Law School and executive in residence at Duke University on the release of the study Wednesday by Kauffman Foundation. But for the first time in its history the US faces the prospect of a reverse brain drain because of its flawed immigration policies, says the study, the third in a series of studies focusing on immigrants' contributions to the competitiveness of the US economy. The US should bring in highly skilled immigrants not as temporary workers but to stay if it does not want to lose them to countries like India and China, the study suggests. The study is co-authored by Guillermina Jasso, professor of sociology at New York University, Ben Rissing and Gary Gereffi research scholars at Duke University and Richard Freeman, Herbert Asherman Chair in Economics at Harvard University. Noting that the number of skilled workers waiting for visas is significantly larger than the number that can be admitted to the US, it says this imbalance creates the potential for a sizeable reverse brain-drain from America to the skilled workers' home countries. The study estimated "there are more than one million individuals waiting in line for legal permanent resident status". The wait time for visas for countries with the largest populations, like India and China, ranged to four years in June - not counting visa processing time - and may be even higher when visas are again available in October.

Indo Asian News Service, 22 August 2007

### **US not seeking change in 123 accord or Hyde Act**

Washington, Aug 22 (IANS) The United States says it would continue to work for Congressional approval of its civil nuclear deal with India without seeking a change in either the implementing 123 accord or the enabling US law. Declining to comment on the continuing furore in Indian parliament over the deal, state department spokesman Gonzalo R. Gallegos said Tuesday that while New Delhi worked through issues before it internally, Washington would work with the US Congress. "And we're committed to

hopefully coming together and succeeding in this." Consultations with US Congress, however, did not imply that the Bush Administration is trying to change either the terms of the implementing 123 agreement finalized here last month or the provisions of the enabling Hyde Act passed by the US Congress last December. "No, that was more of a general statement that we're having conversations to express the position of the Administration and this Department on why (we) believe this is an important initiative and why (we) believe it should ultimately succeed," Gallegos said. "My understanding is that the Indian Government is working through the issues internally. Obviously, we would have no comment on that. That is an issue for them to decide. We're working with our Congress here to move towards this agreement and we will continue that effort". "We believe that this is an opportunity for India to have access to cheap low-cost electrical power and an opportunity for the people to have economic development beyond the capacities at this point. So we're working our side of the issue here. The Indian Government is working their side. And we're committed to hopefully coming together and succeeding in this," he said.

The Indian Express, 23 August 2007

### **I'm confident about N-deal: Manmohan**

New Delhi, August 22: Breaking his silence on the stand-off with the Left parties, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh voiced confidence that the political 'turbulence' over the Indo-US nuclear deal will be overcome. "Certainly, there is some turbulence here in Delhi but I am confident that we shall overcome it," he said when asked whether the government will go ahead with the deal despite threats of 'serious consequences' from the Left. The Prime Minister has not commented in public about the impasse with the Left since he made a statement on the nuclear deal in Parliament nine days ago and his positive tone was in sharp contrast to growing speculation that the CPM, CPI and other supporting parties would not relent. "There is a saying when winter comes, can spring be away," Singh quipped at an interaction with the media jointly with his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe.

The Indian Express, 23 August 2007

### **Japan has rediscovered India, says Abe**

New Delhi, August 22: Observing that relations between New Delhi and Tokyo had weakened over the last decade, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Japan has 'rediscovered' India and wanted enhancement of ties between the two countries for the benefit of the region. "The India-Japan relations have been conspicuous by the silence in the past 10 years," he said at a reception hosted in his honour in New Delhi. Abe, who is on a three-day visit since Tuesday, said, "it may be reasonable to say that the relations have weakened in the last 10 years and are not (of the intensity) as should have been." The relationship had the 'greatest potential' compared to any other such bilateral ties, said the Japanese Prime Minister whose country is keen to enhance all-round ties, particularly in economic, defence and security fields.

The Indian Express, 23 August 2007

### **Pause in Delhi, fast-forward in Beijing & Islamabad**

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 22: The Left claims its stand on the nuclear deal has nothing to

do with how it's playing out in China or Pakistan. Maybe the comrades are unaware that while they stall the deal in India, Beijing and Islamabad are getting their act together to lobby with the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) that instead of making an exception for India, it should supply nuclear material to Pakistan as well. A day before India and US made public the draft of the 123 agreement, Pakistan's National Command Authority ♦?? its apex decision-making body on security matters ♦?? headed by Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf decided to persuade the NSG to evolve what it called the "criteria-based approach." Incidentally, this approach was first floated by China close to a year ago in an NSG meeting. Beijing suggested to the NSG that a set of independent criteria or benchmarks be evolved for countries which have nuclear weapons and are outside the NPT. Those meeting these "criteria" could then be granted an exemption. In reality, India and Pakistan are the only two major countries in this category. Currently, the momentum is in India's favour given that it has already concluded the 123 negotiations. To make its case stronger, sources said, India must finalize talks on an India-specific safeguards agreement with IAEA. The sooner India can move in this direction, the better it would be to outflank the counter NSG approach being worked upon by China and Pakistan. In fact, efforts gathered pace after India finalized its agreement with the US. Last week, moving according to script, Pakistan informed the Conference of Disarmament (CD) in Geneva that "recent developments in the nuclear field will tend to alter the strategic balance in South Asia." The CD, which is trying to forge an understanding among countries on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty, was clearly told by Pakistan that it wants a non-discriminatory treaty that takes into account "security concerns" of all states.

The Indian Express, 23 August 2007

### **Abe calls for a 'broader' Asia**

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 22: Envisioning a "broader Asia" transcending geographical borders, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Wednesday called for closer cooperation between India and Japan for the creation of an "arc of freedom and prosperity" along the outer rim of the Eurasian continent. Addressing MPs in the Central Hall of Parliament, Abe called for an expeditious conclusion of what he described as the "high-quality" Comprehensive Partnership Agreement to give a boost to economic relations and push bilateral trade to US\$ 20 billion in the next three years. Abe was conducted to the Central Hall by Vice-President Hamid Ansari, followed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee. He is the third Japanese Prime Minister to have addressed the Indian Parliament. In his address entitled "Confluence of Two Seas," Abe said: "A broader Asia that broke geographical boundaries is now beginning to take a distinct form." Japan and India, according to him, had the "ability and the responsibility to ensure that that it broadens further." Abe called for an open and transparent network to facilitate free flow of people, goods, capital and knowledge by both countries in the pursuit of prosperity. He said both India and Japan had vital interests in the security of shipping routes.

The Indian Express, 24 August 2007

### **Abe to look at investment opportunities in Bengal**

Kolkata, August 23: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe stopped in the city for five

hours on Thursday with a promise : he told Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee that his Government will explore opportunities for stronger involvement in the state's various sectors. Abe's grandfather Nobusuke Kishi was the only other Japanese leader of such stature to have visited Kolkata way back in 1967. But when Kishi visited Kolkata, he was a "former PM", not the one in office. The most significant investment proposal came from the Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation which has set up an Rs 4,000-crore joint venture here to manufacture purified terephthalic acid. The Mitsubishi Corporation said on Thursday the company will increase production and make fresh investments. The team accompanying Abe also confirmed that the Japanese Government is in talks with the Centre regarding financial assistance to West Bengal in extending the Metro railway project and other infrastructure ventures. Japanese officials also indicated that Suzuki has elaborate plans for fresh investments all over India. "They will spread their activity and operations," said an official. Asked if their expansion plan includes Bengal, he replied: "At this stage we can only say they have big plans." Abe's engagement in the city included the inauguration of an Indo-Japan cultural centre, a visit to the Netaji Research Centre in Kolkata and also to the Rabindra Bharati University's Jorasanko campus.

The Indian Express, 24 August 2007

### **US non-proliferation team on its way**

New Delhi, August 23: Even as the deadlock with the Left on the Indo-US nuclear deal continues, the Government is continuing its dialogue on disarmament with the US as it awaits the arrival of a US delegation led by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Non-proliferation, Donald Mahley, in September first week. In the ongoing conversation to take forward what was started with the Next Steps in Strategic Partnership (NSSP) initiative taken by the NDA regime and then put together under the nuclear deal, both sides will discuss the progress India has made in harmonizing its export control guidelines with those of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). The talks will also focus on the "remaining issues" on this front while also discussing the Australia Group and the Wassenaar Arrangement guidelines. Preparatory meetings for the same are underway in the Government. One meeting was held on August 10, another is slated for August 29. The MEA has informed government departments concerned that while India has already harmonized its export control lists and guidelines with the NSG and MTCR lists and guidelines of 2005, the revised Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment and Technology (SCOMET) list to be prepared by the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) had not yet been published and was pending with the DGFT for four months. The DGFT has informed the Government that they had sought advice on the inclusion of additional 24 Australia Group chemicals in the SCOMET list. Similarly, the MoD was examining the Wassenaar Arrangement munitions list proposed to be included in the SCOMET list. MEA's confidential background paper on the subject lays out the objective of the upcoming round of negotiations thus: "We would need to assess how these regimes approach the idea of an equal partnership, especially in the context of an India-specific exemption to the NSG guidelines, before contemplating next steps. As the regimes adjust and take on board our legitimate interests, this process can go forward. It is important that we, being a state with advanced nuclear technology are equal partners in this process."

The Indian Express, 24 August 2007

### **Muslim leaders face 'boycott' over Israel trip**

New Delhi, August 23: A delegation of Indian Muslims that visited Israel last week has evoked a strong reaction, with Muslim organizations and the Urdu press calling for a "social boycott" of delegates. The tour was organized as part of 'Project Interchange', an initiative of the American Jewish Council (AJC), as a 'peace delegation'. Prominent among the delegates were Umar Ilyasi, son of Maulana Jameel. The five-day trip between August 14 and 19 was aimed to "help effect peace between Israelis and Palestinians" but has instead ended up as a cause for several Muslim organizations calling for delegates' "social boycott". Their itinerary included meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Foreign Minister and Chief Rabbi. The meeting was a follow-up of the one held in March in New Delhi between prominent Indian Muslim intellectuals and clerics and their Israeli counterparts, along with the Chief Rabbi. Following the trip, several Muslim organizations, including the Jamiat-Ulema-e-Hindi, the Jamaat-e-Islami, All-India Majlis-e-Mushawarat, Bharti Majlis and Milli Council, organized a protest in Delhi and some other cities against "Israeli American aggression", calling it a sauda (a sellout) and wanting to enforce a "social boycott" of the delegates. The organizations also held a late-night seminar and meeting on Tuesday at the Jamaat-e-Islami office in New Delhi where they termed the trip as a "betrayal" of sentiments of Indian Muslims. Ilyasi (chief of All-India Imams Organization); Khwaja Iftikhar (the organizer of the Vajpayee Himaayat Committee, formed after the 2002 Gujarat riots); Khwaja Afzaal Nizami (of the Nizamuddin Dargah in Delhi); and Abdul Wahid Chishti (of the Ajmer Dargah).

The Indian Express, 25 August 2007

### **Kinder metaphor switched on: CPM says it's pause, not eject or stop**

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 24: Setting the stage for another meeting between CPM general secretary Prakash Karat and Congress president Sonia Gandhi next week, CPM leader Sitaram Yechury attempted to lower the temperature today. Asked about the next steps on the deal, including talks with the IAEA, Yechury said his party was for "pressing the pause button in the remote control (on the next steps of the deal) and not eject or stop." "I don't see it (the current stand-off) as a crisis...What we are saying is don't proceed until all objections are considered and the implications of the Hyde Act evaluated," Yechury said a day after the resolution that the party's central committee doesn't want "the current crisis to affect the government." Parallel to this, the core group of the Congress, which met here this evening; on Sonia Gandhi's return from South Africa "favoured "continued engagement" with the Left without giving in to its demand of freezing the next steps in the deal.

The Times of India, 25 August 2007

### **Booster shot: US body opposes Abbott's patent in India, Europe**

NEW DELHI: Multinationals like Novartis may be complaining about the Indian Patents Act, but a US-based non profit organisation has provided a shot in the arm to the country's patent regime. The organisation - Initiative for Medicines, Access & Knowledge (I-MAK) - has filed a pre-grant opposition against Abbott's patent on a key HIV drug, Kaletra in India as well as in Europe, on grounds which are similar to Glivec of Novartis. Abbott's drug, a combination of Lopinavir and Ritonavir, is sold under the

brand 'Aluvia'. After cancer drug Glivec, which lost a major legal battle recently in the country, Kaletra is the second major case expected to be hotly-debated under section 3 (d) of the Indian Patents Act, 1970. Abbott is claiming a patent on its heat-stable (tablet) formulation of Kaletra in India and in Europe. The drug in a soft-gel capsule form is already being marketed in some countries. The 'heat stable' form of the drug, Aluvia becomes critical for tropical countries such as India and Africa, where there is no refrigeration available. Abbott's application claims an invention for a solid oral dosage formulation (heat stable tablet) for protease inhibitors, in particular Ritonavir and/or Lopinavir, which will increase their solubility in water, provide suitable bioavailability and stability, the effects of which include lower pill burden and non-refrigeration.

The Indian Express, 25 August 2007

**There's so much to hide in Hyde Act: BJP**

Hyderabad, August 25: There is a qualitative difference in the opposition of the BJP and the Left Parties to the Indo-US civil nuclear deal, senior BJP leader M Venkaiah Naidu said on Saturday. "The Left opposes the deal because they are anti-US always. But we are not against America. Our opposition is not to the deal itself, but against the contents of the agreement, which gives upper hand to America. Under Hyde Act, the US President can recall the fuel supply to India under certain circumstances," he told reporters. "There is so much to hide in Hyde Act," he said. Naidu alleged that the UPA government has "surrendered" to the US over the nuclear deal. "Every country has the sovereign right. But, the UPA has surrendered itself to America. The Hyde Act contains many hidden provisions."

The Indian Express, 26 August 2007

**123 agreement is not Hyde-bound, says Sibal**

NEW DELHI AUGUST 25: Setting the tone for the Parliamentary debate on the nuclear deal in which he will be the UPA Government's lead speaker, Union Science and Technology Minister Kapil Sibal on Saturday tried to assuage Left concerns underlining the endorsement from Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Anil Kakodkar. Speaking to The Sunday Express, Sibal said: "Our Atomic Energy Commission Chairman (Kakodkar) before 123 agreement negotiations himself had expressed certain concerns...He is now satisfied that all these concerns have been met with and resolved in the national interest." To the Left's demand that the deal not be operationalised until its doubts are addressed, Sibal made it clear that the "operationalization" of the 123 agreement was not imminent and could only take place after the India-specific IAEA safeguards agreement was worked out in conjunction with the NSG negotiations and the final step of US Congress approval. "Much before this, the debate in Parliament, in which all things will be clarified, will hopefully satisfy all those concerned over the historic agreement," Sibal said. That Parliamentary debate is now expected to be postponed to the first week of September after talks with the Left, senior UPA ministers and party sources confirmed to The Sunday Express. This was decided at a meeting of the Congress core group on Friday where the consensus was that there's no question of any "surrender" on the 123 agreement. And that the party should keep the initiative with itself rather than be seen as both succumbing to the Left and losing the "historic opportunities" that come with the nuclear deal. Declining to comment on the standoff with the Left, Sibal said:

"The same concerns were expressed by US legislature in the agreement with China in the context of alleged human rights violations, status of Taiwan and helping neighbours with weaponisation...But surely the Chinese have not subjugated their foreign policy to American diktat."

Indo Asian News Service, 26 August 2007

### **Bangladesh condemns Hyderabad bombings**

Dhaka, Aug 26 (Xinhua) Bangladesh's foreign affairs adviser Iftexhar Ahmed Chowdhury Sunday strongly condemned the Hyderabad bombings that claimed 42 lives, UNB news agency reported Sunday. In a letter to Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, the adviser condemned the bombings in the strongest terms and extended his heartfelt condolences to the families of those who have lost their lives. "Such abhorrent violence is a blot on the conscience of humanity," he said, adding: "Our thoughts today are with those who lost their dear ones in this dastardly act." Meanwhile, the foreign adviser rejected Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy's allegation that a Bangladeshi terrorist outfit was behind the blasts. "This is baseless and we will contest any wrong allegation," the adviser told reporters at the Foreign Ministry Sunday afternoon.

Indo Asian News Service, 26 August 2007

### **Multilateral naval drill not a military alignment: Antony**

Gwalior, Aug 25 (IANS) India Saturday sought to allay apprehensions that an upcoming multilateral naval drill, also involving the US navy, in the Bay of Bengal had military overtones, saying it was a pointer to the country's growing importance on the world stage. "There is no question of confrontation. There is no military alignment. It's only an exercise," Defence Minister A.K. Antony told reporters here of Malabar-2007, the five nation drill Sep 4-9 involving the navies of India, the US, Japan, Australia and Singapore. "It (the exercise) will only help enhance the capabilities of our armed forces to deal with natural calamities (like the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami) and other eventualities," the minister said on the sidelines of an Indian Air Force (IAF) exposition of its multifaceted capabilities at this sprawling air base in central India. India's Left parties that are giving a hard time to the government of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on the landmark civilian nuclear deal with the US have announced a series of demonstrations during the exercise, which they see as another sign of New Delhi's growing closeness to Washington. China, which has not officially commented on the drill, is known to be unhappy over the event as it is being conducted in the Bay of Bengal for the first time. China has been cultivating naval cooperation with Bangladesh and Myanmar to gain access to the Bay of Bengal. China has also been strengthening military cooperation with Sri Lanka. In June, China had issued a demarche to India, the US, Japan and Australia seeking details about their four-nation meeting, termed a Quadrilateral Initiative. India and Australia had quickly assured Beijing that security and defence issues did not form part of the meeting's agenda.

The Indian Express, 27 August 2007

### **1 2 3... Get set, go!**

The 123 Agreement between two sovereign nations India and the United States of

America has been hogging the headlines of late. Even before a discussion in Parliament, parties have hardened their positions. A responsible national political party has been seen to stall the proceedings in Parliament in a manner not witnessed in the House before. Slogan shouting and use of unsavoury epithets in the course of Prime Minister's statement on the 123 Agreement, drowning his speech in the din of the House, was yet another first in the history of Parliament. Political parties are vying with each other in upping the ante. Instead of a debate and a meaningful discussion, we have witnessed only obfuscation of issues. The BJP has still not reconciled itself to the rejection of the "India Shining" campaign in the last Lok Sabha polls in 2004. Members of Parliament in the course of a debate bring to the table serious issues, which need to be addressed. Through such debates, people are informed, and the media is expected to play a constructive role as a vehicle of communication. What we see in Parliament is a denigration of the foundations of our democratic polity, in which debate and discourse allow for the meetings of minds and the reconciliation of seemingly irreconcilable positions. In the absence of a discussion in Parliament, it becomes necessary to inform people through the media. The 123 Agreement is an agreement under section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act, 1954. By virtue of this legislation, the United States of America, a sovereign state possessing nuclear weapons, seeks to commit non-nuclear weapon states to a nuclear weapons non-proliferation regime. The Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) of 1968 commits States to non-proliferation. Three sovereign independent states have not signed the NPT so far, India, Pakistan and Israel. India's position has always been that the NPT has perpetuated nuclear apartheid by nuclear states with a global nuclear order discriminating between states possessing nuclear weapons and those which do not. Though India propagated the NPT, India refused to sign it by acquiescing to such a discriminatory regime.

The Times of India, 27 August 2007

### **India loses maximum lives to terror except Iraq**

The US and UK may like to believe that they are leading the war on terror globally, but the country that has had to face the worst of terrorist attacks on its own soil, barring war-torn Iraq, is India. In fact, India has since 2004 lost more lives to terrorist incidents than all of North America, South America, Central America, Europe and Eurasia put together. All of these vast swathes of the globe lost a total of 3,280 lives in terrorist incidents between January 2004 and March this year. India alone lost 3,674 lives over the same period of three years and three months. In yesterday's edition of TOI, in our front page lead report on the Hyderabad blasts, we had said that terror groups have left India with perhaps the highest number of civilian victims of terror (apart from war-torn countries like Iraq). Later, on Sunday, when we looked in detail at the worldwide numbers, we found India not only had the highest number of deaths after Iraq, but also the highest number of terror-related incidents and injured among all countries (again, barring Iraq) more than all the war zones around the globe. India has been hit by terrorists at will and with chilling regularity Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Malegaon, Varanasi, J&K the list is endless. It's only on one count hostages taken by terror groups that India's at No 3, to Iraq's No 2. Guess which country was No 1. Nepal, that too by a huge margin, thanks to large-scale kidnappings by Maoists. Indeed, if one had to pick a terrorist hotspot on the globe it would have to be South Asia. Outside of Iraq, 20,781 people were

killed in terrorist violence between January 2004 and March 2007, according to data available from the Worldwide Incidents Tracking System (WITS) of the US National Counter-Terrorism Centre (NCTC). Almost half of them, 9,283 to be precise, were killed in South Asia. Besides India, Afghanistan has seen 2,405 lives being lost while more than 1,000 each have been killed in Pakistan and Nepal. Sri Lanka has had 866 terrorism-related deaths and Bangladesh 158. Bhutan and the Maldives are the only South Asian nations not to have lost lives to terror in this period.

The Indian Express, 27 August 2007

### **India's Sukhois turn it on in UK skies, turn off radars**

London, August 26: IAF pilots participating in the UK-Indian exercise Indra Dhanush last month switched off the radars on their Sukhois to prevent secret radio frequencies from being picked up by Western military intelligence. The IAF was so concerned about protecting the new-age Sukhois' highly classified NO11M Bars radars designed by the Russian Phazotron company that pilots were ordered not to use them at all during the exercise, top Indian sources here confirmed to The Indian Express. Asked if the radars were blocked at the request of Sukhois' Russian designers, the source explained, "It was for a mixture of reasons. The Russians have their IPRs (intellectual property rights) and we have our concerns." The source added, "India opened up four or five years ago, but we're still building up confidence in each other. It's a step-by-step process, we've always moved step by step." The frequency of the Su-30 MKI fighter's radar is jealously guarded because once disclosed it neutralises both the aircraft and its missiles. And obviously, if India is to maintain its air superiority over Pakistan and the SU-30 is the world's most advanced fighter bomber it needs to make sure that Islamabad does not gain access to its radar frequencies via friendly Western governments. In fact, during Indra Dhanush, the IAF pilots' refusal to use their radars created problems that the RAF overcame by flying its Tornado F3s alongside each of the six Su-30s. Later, RAF commanding officer for the exercise, Wing Commander John Prescott, admitted: "It isn't the way we normally do business. When we are working with another fighter, we would expect the pilot to use his radar for long-range targeting and to take the beyond visual range (BVR) shots as well." But stressing that the exercise was a success, Wg Cdr Prescott told UK's Defence News: "Working with a nation we were not familiar with proved to be extremely good value. It is good for both sides to be able to adapt and work with each other and gain a level of understanding with officers and airmen not just in the air but in a social situation as well."

The Indian Express, 27 August 2007

### **Ties with US in our national interest, deal OK if home law changed: Advani**

HYDERABAD, AUGUST 26: In a dramatic turnaround, the BJP today distanced itself from the Left over the Indo-US nuclear deal with Leader of Opposition L K Advani saying that his party has no objection to the 123 Agreement if the government amends the Indian Atomic Energy Act to ensure strategic independence and non-hindrance in reactor fuel supplies. Speaking to The Indian Express while visiting the blast sites in Hyderabad, Advani said: "It is anti-Americanism which propels the Left to oppose a nuclear ship docked at Chennai port. So far as the BJP is concerned, and it is in national interest that we have no objection to a strategic partnership with the US. This includes the forthcoming joint naval exercises." Advani, however, said that the proposed nuclear deal

in the present form was an agreement between "unequals" and the BJP objected to such "strategic subservience". "We have always felt that India's nuclear deterrence is imperative in the national interest. It is, therefore, that we have firmly resisted becoming part of the non-proliferation regime, which is what the nuclear deal seeks to impose on us," he said. But he made it clear that if the UPA government could bring an amendment in the Atomic Energy Act to protect India's strategic independence then "there is no problem with the 123 Agreement." These latest remarks from the Leader of Opposition appear to undermine the Left's consistent claim that a "majority" in Parliament are opposed to the nuclear deal. Advani said his party has pleaded that international agreements which impinge upon India's strategic independence or territorial integrity should be ratified by Parliament and an amendment to this effect must be made in the Constitution.

The Indian Express, 27 August 2007

### **US praises India's 'courage' in the face of terror**

Washington, August 27: The US has praised India for showing "great resolve and courage" in the face of extremist threats and vowed to stand by it in the fight against terror. In a formal statement condemning the terror attacks in Hyderabad that left at least 42 people dead, the State Department said there was no justification for killing innocent people. "India has shown great resolve and courage in the face of extremist threats. We continue to stand by the Indian people in the fight against terror," Acting Spokesman Tom Casey said on Sunday evening. "We condemn the attacks that occurred in Hyderabad.... Our hearts and prayers are with the people of India. There is no justification for harming and killing innocent people," the statement said. "The Indians are our friends and allies. Inciting violence and committing violence against innocent people is never acceptable," a State Department official had told PTI earlier. "Those who engage in terrorist activities seek only to foster fear and limit freedom. We will continue to work with the Indian people to eliminate terrorist threats," the official added. At least 42 people, including five women and seven students, were killed and 50 injured in two explosions at a crowded park and a popular eatery in Hyderabad Saturday evening.

The Indian Express, 27 August 2007

### **'Uranium sale could accelerate arms race'**

Melbourne, August 27: Former top UN weapons inspector Hans Blix has warned that Australian uranium sales to India could trigger tension in the region. "It would make it easier for them (Indians) to make bomb-grade material and this may increase tension vis-a-vis Pakistan and China," Blix said. In an interview to The Age on Monday, the veteran Swedish diplomat cautioned that the world is witnessing a dangerous phase of rearmament. While Blix acknowledged the need for India to secure energy supplies, he said stricter safeguards were needed to prevent proliferation globally. He said Australian uranium sales could free up India to use its own uranium to create weapons-grade material and heighten tensions in the region. Blix, who was here to address a UN function in Melbourne, led UN weapons inspections in Iraq in the lead-up to the 2003 war. After the invasion, he criticised the US and Britain for exaggerating the case for war around weapons of mass destruction. Beyond Iraq, Blix said the world had entered a dangerous period of rearmament, from the Russians developing new missiles to Britain ♦??s

decision to extend its nuclear weapons programme. "Despite the ending of the Cold War, which is now 17 years behind us, we are moving in the wrong direction," he said. Blix said Cold War thinking underpinned the US' new nuclear deal with India, which he says is aimed at containing China. He said Australia had a "great reputation" in taking part in disarmament initiatives and had a "past to live up to".

Indo Asian News Service, 27 August 2007

### **Sri Lankan peace official visiting India**

New Delhi, Aug 26 (IANS) The head of Sri Lanka's peace secretariat is visiting India this week for interactions on his country's barely alive peace process and also to release an anthology of short stories. Rajiva Wijesinghe, secretary general of the Secretariat for Coordinating the Peace Process (SCOPP), will arrive here Tuesday on a three-day visit. It will be his first trip to New Delhi after he took charge in June. On Wednesday, he will share his thoughts on the situation in his country -- where thousands have died in renewed violence this year alone -- with Sri Lanka watchers as well as diplomats from the US, the European Union, Japan and Norway. The four international actors form the co-chairs group that oversees the peace process between the Sri Lankan government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The interaction is to be hosted by the New Delhi-based Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), a government-funded body that keeps a close watch on the unending ethnic conflict among other issues.

"People are concerned about the situation in Sri Lanka," said IDSA deputy director Virendra Gupta. "There is so much spotlight on that. He will talk about the situation and a (possible) resolution of the conflict." Wijesinghe himself said that no meetings were scheduled with Indian government officials although he proposed to discuss ways to step up educational exchanges between the two countries. "The Indian and Sri Lankan governments had signed an agreement some time back regarding this. It has not moved forward as we wanted to," he said. "I would like to take it forward." Wijesinghe also spoke about his government's intention to end the conflict and bring about devolution of powers to the minorities. "Confidence building in the peace process is important. Ultimately, there has to be very solid economic development... empowerment of the people." Wijesinghe, who took charge of the Sri Lankan peace secretariat from Foreign Secretary Palitha Kohona, is considered close to President Mahinda Rajapakse. Wijesinghe has taken an aggressive stand in recent times vis-a-vis Western critics of the situation in Sri Lanka, where the military is now preparing to take on the LTTE in the island's rebel-controlled north. Although Colombo keeps telling the international community that it favours a negotiated settlement, sections in the Sri Lankan government are determined to chart what they think will be a military victory over the Tamil Tigers.

The Indian Express, 28 August 2007

### **Temporary ceasefire UPA and Left decide to discuss rather than just disagree**

New Delhi, August 27: The heat over the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal looked set to be lowered, at least for now, with the Left veering around to accepting the UPA's offer for a "political mechanism" to look into their objections to the Hyde Act even as the government remained non-committal on the Left's demand to press the "pause" button on any further negotiations on the deal. The details of this political mechanism " its duration and its terms of reference" agreed upon by the CPI and the CPM today, will be finalized

after Congress negotiators conclude talks with the two other Left parties Forward Bloc and RSP. Before giving the final OK, the Left parties will also discuss it among themselves. Those involved in negotiations said that the mechanism could take the form of a UPA-Left "political committee" headed by troubleshooter External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee and experts could be roped in for their inputs. Sources said its timeframe was likely to provide at least a month-long breather to both sides. "We reiterated our position to the government in this first round of talks. We are expecting something concrete by this month end," said CPM Politburo member Sitaram Yechury who, along with party general secretary Prakash Karat, had an hour-long meeting with Mukherjee, Ahmad Patel, political secretary to Congress president Sonia Gandhi and Defence Minister A K Antony this evening. The government's interlocutors had a meeting with a CPI delegation earlier in the day. "We wanted a political mechanism and not an expert mechanism. In today's meeting, it was decided that such a mechanism should be worked out," CPI general secretary A B Bardhan said after the meeting. Left leaders maintained there was no climbdown from their stated position that no formal negotiations on the deal be held until the committee gives its report. The Congress had a different interpretation, though. As no formal agreement is going to be inked in September when the DAE chief is expected to visit Vienna, the Left's arguments do not hold much significance, said Congress sources. They cited the BJP's turnaround in support of the deal as evident in L K Advani's statement yesterday as a sign of how public opinion isn't in sync with the Left's.

Indo Asian News Service, 28 August 2007

### **Narayanan to hold crucial defence talks in Russia**

New Delhi, Aug 27 (IANS) Russia's demand for more money for the military hardware that India has contracted for is expected to feature prominently during National Security Adviser M.K. Narayanan's two-day visit to Moscow from Monday. Security related issues are also likely to be discussed during Narayanan's meetings with Russian Defence Minister Anatoly Serdyukov and his counterpart, acting secretary of the National Security Council Valentin Sobolev. Russia's demand for a price hike in two big-ticket deals for the aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov and for the Sukhoi Su-30MKI combat jets "is proving to be a hard nut to crack", as one defence ministry official put it. "Eventually, it might have to be sorted out at the highest levels of government," the official added, speaking on condition of anonymity. Narayanan's visit is the third high-level engagement on the price issue between the two countries in recent months and comes ahead of Indian Defence Minister A.K. Antony's visit to Moscow in October for the annual meeting of the inter-governmental commission on military cooperation. This issue, in fact, has emerged as a major irritant as officials of the two countries prepare for a summit meeting between Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Russian President Vladimir Putin. Citing a weakening dollar and a strengthening rouble, Russia is reported to have asked for an additional \$113 million for refurbishing the Gorshkov, which India has purchased for \$1.5 billion. The contract doesn't contain a price escalation clause. Due to the lack of funds, work on the carrier has stopped at Russia's Sevmash shipyard and this has pushed back the delivery of the vessel from 2008 to 2012. However, there are also reports that another reason for the delay is that a major portion of the workforce at the yard has been diverted to a new nuclear submarine that is being built there. Earlier this month, Sevmash

director general Vladimir Pastukhov had put in his papers with Russian officials saying this was "due to slippages in (Gorshkov's) repair and modernisation schedule". At the time of signing of the deal in 2004, Pastukhov had expressed doubts whether the overhaul costs could be met at the price negotiated by India, reports in the Russian media said. In the case of the Su-30 combat jets, Russia is believed to have asked for a 5 percent increase in the cost of an additional 40 planes that India wants to purchase, as well as for the 138 that are to be manufactured here under license. India is agreeable to only a 2.5 percent hike. The price hikes were discussed when an Indian delegation led by the then defence secretary, Shekhar Dutt, visited Moscow in May. A Russian team was in New Delhi earlier this month to continue the negotiations.

The Indian Express, 28 August 2007

### **NHRC holds out hope for Pak nationals seeking asylum**

New Delhi, August 27: The National Human Rights (NHRC) has recommended that 63 Pakistani nationals who have sought asylum in India should not be deported till their request has been carefully considered. The Commission has further told the Government that these petitioners be treated in a humane manner and proper medical care and other basic amenities be provided to them as long as they are in India. The NHRC recommendations came on a petition filed by the lawyer representing the Pakistani nationals, Nilema Prabhoo, seeking the Commission's intervention to ensure that they were not deported. She said that repatriation might mean death penalty for them. The NHRC in turn approached the Ministry of External Affairs for its views. The MEA held that the petitioners had obtained a visa from the Indian High Commission on the basis of fake letters of reference and fear of persecution by the petitioners was unfounded. After going through the statement of the petitioners, the NHRC admitted that the grant of asylum was an administrative decision to be taken by the Government of India, where it could not interfere. However, it drew the attention of the Indian Government to the observations made by the House of Lords in a similar case where it was held that the Secretary of State had the power and duty to act so as to avoid any breach of a person's right as soon as an asylum seeker made it clear that there was an imminent prospect that such a violation could occur. The NHRC hoped that while considering the petitioners' request for asylum, the Government will give due regard to the observations made by the House of Lords.

The Indian Express, 28 August 2007

### **Uganda to ask Delhi to deliver on its promises**

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27: Five executive buses for heads of Government and their spouses, 20 garbage trucks, firefighting equipment and security assistance these are part of a \$2 million promise India had made to Uganda for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meet (CHOGM) to be held in Kampala this November. With barely 11 weeks to go for the event and the promise yet to be fulfilled, Uganda's Security Minister Amama Mbabazi, who arrives here on Tuesday for a meeting with Minister of State for External Affairs Anand Sharma, is likely to ask New Delhi to expedite the delivery. Last year Uganda had asked for \$5 million loan from India to help with the security and logistical arrangements for the CHOGM summit. While turning down the request, India had offered the \$2 million package. Even as Mbabazi would seek urgent implementation

of the promise, an Ugandan official told The Indian Express that Britain and South Africa's help has also been sought in case India doesn't deliver. Mbabazi is also expected to seek India's assistance for law and order enforcement. Incidentally, a top cop from Uganda had held a meeting with the chief of the Prime Minister's Special Protection Group (SPG) on Saturday to discuss security arrangements for Dr Manmohan Singh during the CHOGM summit. Singh's attendance at the summit would assume significance as it would provide India an opportunity to seek the support of other Commonwealth states for its nuclear energy ambition and in its discussion with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). Singh can also take up Uganda's offer to tap its uranium reserves for India's nuclear energy needs. Only last month, Uganda's President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni ordered his Energy Ministry to set up an Atomic Energy unit under its auspices. Though a nuclear reactor is not on the cards for now, the East African nation is also hoping that India can lend its expertise and support for its future nuclear energy programme.

The Indian Express, 29 August 2007

### **No intention to destabilize Govt: CPI**

New Delhi, August 28: In a softening of its sharp rhetoric, the CPI said it has no intention of destabilizing the government and force an immediate election on the contentious issue of the Indo-US nuclear deal. The party, however, wanted that its concerns on the deal would have to be addressed by the ruling coalition by a mechanism, like a committee at the political level, to clarify all doubts on 123 Agreement and allied matters like the Hyde Act.

The Indian Express, 29 August 2007

### **Our neighbours jealous, says India**

Farrukhabad, UP, August 28: Union Minister of State for Home Sriprakash Jaiswal has said some of the neighbouring countries always conspire 'to foment tension in India out of jealousy'. "Some of our neighbours are jealous of India's progress and they keep hatching conspiracies to disrupt harmony in the country," Jaiswal said at an election rally on Monday evening, while referring to the recent serial blasts in Hyderabad.

The Indian Express, 29 August 2007

### **Rs. 42,000 Crore deal: Global tenders go out for 126 fighters for IAF**

With the IAF fighter strength dipping to a record low it's down to 32 operational squadrons the Ministry of Defence on Tuesday issued India's largest ever global tender for 126 medium multi-role combat aircraft at an estimated cost of Rs 42,000 crore. Request For Proposals (RFPs) have been sent to six major manufacturers who will get six months to prepare a detailed commercial and technical bid for the contract. The selected aircraft basically replacements for the MiG 21s are likely to remain in service for over 40 years.

The Indian Express, 29 August 2007

### **Army Chief to witness anti-terror exercise in Russia**

New Delhi: On what could be his last foreign trip before stepping down as Army Chief, General J J Singh will lead a tri-services delegation to Russia next month to witness a

major anti-terror exercise between the two countries. General JJ Singh, who is also the Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, will be in Russia from September 16-19 for interaction with the top Russian military brass ahead of Defence Minister AK Antony's scheduled Moscow visit in October. The high level delegation will smoothen the way for interaction between Antony and the Russian Defence Minister.

The Indian Express, 29 August 2007

**SAARC: India to push for better connectivity**

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 28 : At the first SAARC Transport Ministers' meet that begins in New Delhi on Wednesday, India will not only push for creation of major regional transport corridors but also enhanced postal connectivity, money transfer and parcel services in the region. The three-day meet, from August 29 to 31, will include discussion at Joint Secretary, Secretary and Ministers' level.

The Indian Express, 29 August 2007

**Commonwealth meet: India tells Uganda it'll keep promise**

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 28: After meeting Uganda's Security Minister Amama Mbabazi on Tuesday afternoon, Union Minister of State for External Affairs Anand Sharma said that India would fulfil its promise to help Uganda in hosting the Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) summit in November. "We enjoy complete confidence and we have honoured all our commitments to Uganda," he said.

Indo Asian News Service, 29 August 2007

**Myanmar, India finalizing river transportation project**

Yangon, Aug 28 (Xinhua) Myanmar and India are in the process of finalizing a river transportation project mooted during former Indian president A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's state visit in March last year, local media reported Tuesday. The Kaladam multi-modal river transportation project, which also involves the building of the Paletwa border road, will involve India extending a US \$10 million line of credit. The Kaladam project will cover upgrading of waterways along the Kaladam River and Sittway port in Western Myanmar's Rakhine state, the Flower News said. Once the project is formally endorsed by both sides, it will start implementation, the report said.

The Indian Express, 30 August 2007

**Give us the same deal, Pakistan writes to NSG**

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 29: While the Manmohan Singh government continues its tedious search for an understanding with the Left on the nuclear deal to start the next stage of negotiations, Pakistan has formally approached key members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group seeking an exception from its rules on the lines being suggested for India. It's learnt that Pakistan, in its letter to key members like US, Russia and several other countries in Europe, has conveyed that it is willing to make the same commitments as India in return for civilian nuclear cooperation.

Indo Asian News Service, 30 August 2007

**We don't meddle in Bangladeshi politics: India**

New Delhi/Dhaka, Aug 29 (IANS) India Wednesday denied any role in the recent student

protests in Bangladesh and repudiated a report published in a Bangladesh daily about an alleged meeting between External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee and some Bangladeshi politicians."The story in the Bangladeshi newspaper is misleading, motivated and malicious," external affairs ministry spokesperson Navtej Sarna told reporters. He was reacting to a frontpage article in the Bangladeshi newspaper 'Naya Diganto' regarding a "secret meeting" between Mukherjee and some Bangladeshi politicians and activists.

Indo Asian News Service, 30 August 2007

### **Contribution of migrants from Indian subcontinent hailed**

Sydney, Aug 30 (IANS) A granite plaque commemorating the contribution of migrants from the Indian sub-continent to Australia has been installed at the roof garden of the New South Wales state parliament. Organised by the Deepavali Festival Committee of NSW in partnership with the state government and Parliament House, the plaque commemorates the joint achievements of Australians of the Indian sub-continental heritage in promoting harmony and mutual respect in the wider Australian community.

Indo Asian News Service, 30 August 2007

### **India, Pakistan to hold talks on dam dispute Thursday**

New Delhi, Aug 29 (IANS) India and Pakistan will begin two-day talks here Thursday to resolve their longstanding water dispute over the Tulbul navigation project located at the mouth of the Wullar Lake in Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan's Water and Power Ministry Secretary Muhammed Ismael Qureshi arrived Wednesday evening to participate in the talks, which will be held under the composite dialogue process.

The Times of India, 30 August 2007

### **India may lose edge in WTO bargain**

NEW DELHI: In a move which could shrink India's negotiating space on service sector liberalisation at the WTO, members of the multilateral trade body have opted to delink talks on opening up sectors like finance, telecom and more visas for IT professionals from those on agriculture and industrial tariffs. Though talks on services liberalisation have been on the backburner for a while, the final death knell seems to have been sounded at the Potsdam meeting of trade ministers from the US, Europe, Brazil and India in June where the G4 opted to disagree on everything except pushing ahead with farm sector and industrial tariff negotiations which are the two main issues being pushed by the developed countries.

Indo Asian News Service, 30 August 2007

### **Indian Airlines plane catches fire in Kathmandu**

Kathmandu, Aug 30 (IANS) Passengers aboard an Indian Airlines flight from Kolkata to Kathmandu had an ordeal when their aircraft caught fire while landing at the Tribhuvan International Airport here. The IC 747 flight turned into a nightmare around 3 p.m. Wednesday when, according to initial reports, the aircraft's landing gear caught fire. The cause of the fire was not known immediately. Passengers were unhurt and the airport staff extinguished the fire. Nepal's official media said an inquiry is on to ascertain the cause of the fire.

The Indian Express, 30 August 2007

**Khasis to honour Gore for work on climate**

New Delhi/ Shillong, August 29: Members of the Khasi tribe in Meghalaya plan to honour former US Vice-President Al Gore with an award for promoting awareness on climate change that they say will have a devastating impact on their homeland. "We are hoping that the association with Gore would bring global attention to the predicament facing the people of this remote corner of earth," said Robert Kharshiing, a Member of Parliament representing the tribals.

Tribune, 30 August 2007

**Left shadow over nuclear deal**

TILL the other day, our country looked like striding ahead with confidence towards its manifest destiny. Lately, however, there is some apprehension in the air because of the long shadows looming over its future from the Left. The Left has let loose hell over the Indo-U.S. nuclear treaty concluded recently.

The Indian Express, 31 August 2007

**Bangla terror group's fingerprints were handed over to Dhaka but no word yet**

NEW DELHI, VARANASI, AUGUST 30: If the Hyderabad blasts have brought Bangladesh-based Harkat-ul-Jehad-e-Islami (HUJI) under the scanner, nothing highlights the failure of the government to tackle this group than the stalled investigation into the March 7, 2006 serial blasts in Varanasi that killed 16 people at the Sankatmochan temple and the railway station and in which HUJI is the prime suspect.

The Indian Express, 31 August 2007

**Hacked: Email inboxes of Indian missions in US and China; NDA, DRDO officials too**

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30: Taking a dig at cyber security preparedness levels, a hacker, who claims to be based in Sweden, posted online this evening the passwords of 100 email accounts of embassies and government offices across the world, including 13 Indian accounts, containing classified information and correspondence. Other accounts include those of the embassies of Uzbekistan, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Japan, China, UK and Russia.

The Indian Express, 31 August 2007

**SAARC: India to propose road, rail links along Nepal, Bangla borders**

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30: As the first SAARC Transport Ministers' meet comes to a close in New Delhi on Friday, India is set to propose two inter-regional road corridors along the Nepal-India and Bangladesh circuit apart from a rail corridor. India will also suggest aviation corridors connecting New Delhi with two other SAARC nations. The road corridors India will push for are likely to include a 1,323 long km stretch from Kathmandu via Birganj (Nepal) and Kolkata to Haldia. The other road corridor is likely to be the 1,394 km-long stretch from Kathmandu via Kakarvitta in Nepal and Phulbari in India to Chittagong in Bangladesh.

The Indian Express, 31 August 2007

**India turns to China for help on glaciers**

New Delhi, August 30 : Faced with the spectre of receding Himalayan glaciers wreaking havoc with regional ecology, India has taken up the issue with China for a joint solution to the problem of climatic change, the Rajya Sabha has been informed on Thursday. "I had raised the issue with Chinese President Hu Jintao and it was agreed that there should be more discussions on modalities," Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said.