

The Times of India, 1 December 2006

Indo-US ties improving: Survey

HOUSTON: Americans are increasingly feeling positive about India even as their warmest feelings are reserved for England, Canada and Israel, a new survey has found.

The Hindu, 1 December 2006

China, U.S. dialogue

BEIJING: China and the United States will hold their first strategic economic dialogue on December 14 and 15 in Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu announced on Thursday.

The Hindu, 1 December 2006

Clinton lauds commitment of Indian companies

NATIONAL EFFORT: The former U.S. President, Bill Clinton, and UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi, French Minister of Foreign Affairs Philippe Douste-Blazy (second from left) and Health Minister Anbumani Ramadoss look on, during the launch of the National Paediatric HIV/AIDS Initiative in New Delhi on Thursday.

Hindustan Times, 1 December 2006

Cohen named on US-India business lobby board

Washington: William Cohen, a former secretary of defence and a leading advocate of the US-India civil nuclear deal, has been appointed on the board of directors of the US-India Business Council (USIBC).

Dawn, 1 December 2006

US offers \$100m for education reforms

WASHINGTON, Nov 30: The United States has earmarked \$100 million to assist education reforms in Pakistan in 2007, says a joint statement issued on Thursday.

Daily Times, 1 December 2006

US-Pakistan ties broad-based, long-term, says Burns

WASHINGTON: The 'strong and growing' partnership between Pakistan and the US is broad-based, strategic and long-term, said US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns as the two countries held the first session of strategic dialogue on education.

The Hindu, 2 December 2006

U.S. arms firms seek changes in purchase policy

NEW DELHI: Major U.S. armament companies have sought changes in the defence policy for large purchases announced in September this year. The companies are specifically concerned with the "off-set clause" - a new addition - under which, one-third of the value of all weapon imports above Rs. 300 crore would have to be sourced from India.

Daily Times, 3 December 2006

Kashmir not America's issue to resolve: Sen Biden

WASHINGTON: Senator Joseph Biden, the incoming chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has said that Kashmir is not an issue that is 'ours to solve'.

The Indian Express, 4 December 2006

In clear signal to investors, Buddha, team plan US trips

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3: Sidestepping political and ideological differences, American and Indian diplomats as well as Left bigwigs are preparing the ground for what will be a pathbreaking first official visit by Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, the Marxist Chief Minister of West Bengal, to the US sometime next year.

The Tribune, 5 December 2006

Mufti briefs PM on his US visit

New Delhi, December 4: Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed today met Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and gave him a detailed account of his recent US visit during which he had several engagements including that at the United Nations.

Dawn, 5 December 2006

'US needs Pakistan strategy'

WASHINGTON, Dec 4: Pakistan needs to abandon the search for 'strategic depth' in Afghanistan and instead focus on the economic revival of the South Asian region, writes Newsweek editor Fareed Zakaria.

Daily Times, 6 December 2006

Burns assures Pakistan of US 'engagement and commitment'

WASHINGTON: Nicholas Burns, US under secretary of state, told a meeting in New York that America's 'engagement and commitment' with Pakistan was much broader than the war on terrorism and his country was building a strong bilateral relationship with Pakistan in education, energy and the economy.

Daily Times, 7 December 2006

Lockheed gets \$144m deal for Pakistan F-16s

WASHINGTON: The US Air Force is giving the Lockheed Martin Corp a \$144.1 million contract for materials to be used in advanced F-16 fighter aircraft for Pakistan, said the US Defence Department on Wednesday.

Deccan Herald, 8 December 2006

The effects of Doha trade talks

Parliamentarians seldom like suspension of their right to legislate. Even during a serious national calamity or war, they would like their sanctum sanctorum to be kept open for official or other business.

Daily Times, 8 December 2006

US tells citizens not to visit Pakistan

WASHINGTON: The US State Department has warned Americans against travelling to Pakistan in view of an 'increased danger of terrorism', reported the VOA.

The Statesman, 9 December 2006

Burns sees closer military ties

NEW DELHI, Dec. 8: Enthused with the final Bill on the civil nuclear deal, the USA today said it has a 'separate ambition' of a much closer military relationship with India and that it hoped to participate in the transformation of its armed forces. "We want to build a much closer military relationship with India," US under-secretary of state Mr Nicholas Burns told a Press conference after talks with defence ministry officials.

The Hindu, 10 December 2006

American industry sees opportunities

Washington: Hailing the U.S. Congress approval of a landmark legislation allowing nuclear trade with India, the American industry has said the move would yield a "bounty of opportunities" for both countries and transform the economic and geopolitical destiny of the 21st century.

The Statesman, 11 December 2006

USA sells \$1b arms to Pak

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10: The Bush administration has announced the sale of military equipment worth over one billion dollars to Pakistan.

Dawn, 12 December 2006

Indo-US deal could open N-trade for Pakistan, Israel

WASHINGTON, Dec 11: The Indo-US nuclear deal would ultimately allow Israel and Pakistan to buy nuclear material from international suppliers, a US think-tank said on Monday. The Washington-based Centre for American Progress noted that under pressure from the White House and Indian government lobbyists, 'congressional conferees dropped a Senate provision that would have barred the United States from supporting changes to NSG rules'.

Daily Times, 13 December 2006

Pakistan to get advanced F16s from US

WASHINGTON: The US government has awarded an initial \$78 million as part of a \$144 million contract to Lockheed Martin for tasks related to the production of 18 new Advanced Block 52 F-16 aircraft for Pakistan.

Daily Times, 13 December 2006

US concerned over 'extremist safe havens' in Pakistan

WASHINGTON: The US said on Monday that it was concerned over 'safe havens' being established by Islamic militants in Pakistan's tribal areas bordering Afghanistan, and acknowledged the situation on the Pak-Afghan border was a 'mess'.

People's Daily, 13 December 2006

China urges U.S. to abandon double standards on human rights

China on Tuesday urged the United States to abandon its double standards on human rights and refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of other countries.

Deccan Herald, 14 December 2006

Indo-US ties 'absolutely fantastic'

Hong Kong: The American ambassador to India said on Wednesday that he couldn't imagine any internal tensions in US-India ties that could derail the relationship between the two nations.

The Indian Express, 14 December 2006

US offers AWACS to India, Pak

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13: With both India and Pakistan gearing up to receive advanced airborne warning and control (AWACS) aircraft respectively from Israel and Sweden, priority purchases to keep track of each other's air and ground movements from well behind their border, Washington has geared up to get a foothold.

Hindustan Times, 15 December 2006

Go for free trade pact with India after N-deal: Senator

Washington: An influential Republican senator has asked President George Bush to negotiate a full scale free trade agreement with India following the successful conclusion of the India-US civil nuclear deal.

China Daily, 15 December 2006

China-US dialogue yields 'encouraging' consensus

China and the United States concluded their first strategic economic dialogue Friday noon, with "a number of consensus" being reached.

People's Daily, 16 December 2006

First China-U.S. strategic economic dialogue ends with

China and the United States concluded their first strategic economic dialogue Friday noon, with "a number of consensus" reached.

China Daily, 16 December 2006

Westinghouse wins nuclear deal -US

BEIJING: China and the United States on Saturday signed a memorandum that Washington said "will pave the way" for Westinghouse Electric Co. to build four civilian nuclear power plants in China in a deal estimated at \$8 billion.

The Hindu, 17 December 2006

India to seek details on U.S. military aircraft

WASHINGTON: India has asked the United States for information on buying what would be its first U.S. military aircraft, six C-130J 'Super Hercules' cargo planes, sources said on Friday.

The Tribune, 17 December 2006

Expansion of Indo-US military ties ruled out

New Delhi, December 16: Defence Minister A.K. Antony today said there were no 'agenda' for expanding the Indo-US defence ties from the present joint exercise level despite strong suggestions for the same from Washington.

The New York Times, 18 December 2006

Bush to Sign U.S. - India Nuclear Cooperation Law

WASHINGTON: Aiming to cement closer ties with India, President George W. Bush is to sign legislation on Monday that is a major step toward allowing New Delhi to buy U.S. nuclear reactors and fuel for the first time in 30 years.

The Statesman, 19 December 2006

Back home after holding life at Bay for five years

DHAKA, Dec. 18: The US authorities handed over a youth to Bangladesh police yesterday, who was held at the Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba for the past five years for his alleged link with al-Qaeda. The youth, Mubarak Hossain, (30), son of Abul Hashem of Moin Madhyapara in Brahmanbaria, was arrested in Afghanistan in 2001. A special US Air Force plane flew Mubarak to Bangladesh and handed him over to the Zia International Airport Immigration at 11:30 a.m.

The Hindu, 19 December 2006

Bush clarifies "advisory" nature of some sections of Hyde Act

In a statement issued after he signed into law the Henry Hyde Act on December 18, 2006, President George Bush asserted that his approval of the Act "does not constitute my adoption of the statements of policy [made in Section 103 of the Act] as U.S. foreign policy." He also said that his administration would "construe section 104(d)(2)" of the Act as advisory.

The Hindu, 19 December 2006

Bush signs law on nuclear deal with India

U.S. President George Bush, surrounded by members of Congress and officials, signs the U.S.- India Peaceful Atomic Energy Cooperation Act at the White House in Washington on Monday. Washington: United States President George W. Bush on Monday signed the historic legislation allowing civilian nuclear trade with India. He said the step would make the world safer. Signing the Henry J. Hyde United States-India Peaceful Atomic Energy Cooperation Act of 2006 at a special White House ceremony, Mr. Bush said the civilian nuclear agreement, which was translated into the law, was an "evidence of the growing bonds of trust" between the two countries and would strengthen bilateral relations further.

The Hindu, 20 December 2006

Bush seeks to allay India's concerns

New Delhi: In an effort to allay official Indian concerns about several aspects of the nuclear cooperation legislation passed by the U.S. Congress earlier this month, President George W. Bush declared on Monday that he would not be bound by some of the law's

provisions. In a formal statement issued shortly after signing into law the Henry J. Hyde United States-India Peaceful Atomic Energy Cooperation Act of 2006, Mr. Bush introduced three specific caveats based on the executive's constitutional prerogative to conduct foreign policy.

The Hindu, 20 December 2006

No plan to extend deal to Pakistan: Burns

Washington: Even as President George W. Bush signed the legislation on the Indo-U.S. nuclear deal into law, the United States has said it has no plans of extending a similar agreement to Pakistan. "We've made clear all along that this is a unique deal to India only," Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns said replying to a question what it would take to offer Pakistan a similar accord.

Hindustan Times, 21 December 2006

US-India Business Council hails signing of deal legislation

The US-India Business Council has hailed the signing of the legislation on India-US nuclear deal by US President George W Bush as a defining moment in the relations between the two countries. "It marks a defining moment in the US-India relations, reminiscent of Nixon's opening to China," Council President Ron Somers said in a statement in Washington. "...We are now witnessing this change in US law that finally ends three decades of technology denial against India And, in so doing, will change the course of history," Somers said. Officers of the Council were present at the signing in ceremony.

Daily India, 22 December 2006

India's potential has reached beyond S Asia: Washington Times

An editorial in the Washington Times has said that it was in US' interests to see that India continued to develop as both a strategic and an economic power. It said that the signing of the Indo-US nuclear co-operation deal was "a good effort to facilitate India's growth". According to it, though India had not yet attained the status of a superpower, "its potential had reached beyond South Asia hegemony". Due to its strategic location, India could be a key player in terms of its strategic and economic importance to both the Middle East and Southeast Asia, added the editorial.

People's Daily, 22 December 2006

US-India deal raises concerns

The nuclear deal between the United States and India undermines the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, according to critics. US President George W. Bush signed a landmark law on Monday allowing the sale of civilian nuclear technology and fuel to India. It overturns a 30-year-old US ban on supplying India with nuclear fuel and technology. The ban was imposed in 1974 following India's first nuclear test. The legislation allows the US to make a one-off exception for India to keep its nuclear weapons without signing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The NPT stipulates that only countries that renounce nuclear weapons qualify for civilian nuclear assistance. Bush called the bill the foundation for a new strategic partnership with India and said the two countries' relationship had never been more vital. "The US needs an ally

like India in South Asia, so it sacrifices national policy to meet its geo-strategic needs," said Han Hua, director with the Centre for Arms Control and Disarmament Studies at Peking University. In exchange for the US nuclear reactor and fuel, India has to submit civilian facilities for inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Daily Times, 23 December 2006

Pakistan continues to worry US

WASHINGTON: Pakistan, according to a new report, is the locus of three central US foreign policy issues, namely terrorism, WMD proliferation, and democratisation.

Dawn, 24 December 2006

Top Taliban commander killed, claims US

KABUL, Dec 23: Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Osmani, a top Taliban commander described as a close associate of Osama bin Laden, was killed in an airstrike this week close to the Afghan border with Pakistan, the US military said on Saturday.

Dawn, 24 December 2006

US opposition can block IPI pipeline: envoy

WASHINGTON, Dec 23: The proposed Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline may never be built if the United States continues to object to the project because of its continuing hostile relationship with Tehran, Pakistani Ambassador Mahmud Ali Durrani said here on Friday.

The Nation, 25 December 2006

US for new operation in Waziristan

ISLAMABAD: The United States has demanded of Pakistan to launch fresh military operations in South and North Waziristan against the suspected al Qaeda and Taliban militants.

Hindustan Times, 26 December 2006

India, US sign hydrocarbon pact

New Delhi: In a pattern similar to the recent nuclear cooperation agreement between India and the United States, the two democracies have inked in early December a pact on the hydrocarbon sector that covers petroleum and natural gas.

Dawn, 27 December 2006

US urges EU, China to stop Iran arms sale

WASHINGTON, Dec 26: The United States has urged the European Union, China, Japan, and Russia to limit export credits and stop selling arms to Iran to force it abandon its nuclear programme.

The Hindu, 28 December 2006

India, U.S. see Saddam verdict differently

NEW DELHI: India's response to the confirmation of the death sentence on the former Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein, on Tuesday contrasts with the position taken by the United States. Interestingly, the Indian view is quite close to that of the European Union.

The Times of India, 29 December 2006

India, US launch joint legal groups

WASHINGTON: India and the United States have formed a bilateral working group of legal experts to promote greater interaction between legal professionals and to facilitate trade in legal services between them.

Dawn, 30 December 2006

Musharraf meets US general

ISLAMABAD, Dec 29: President General Pervez Musharraf met the US Army's Chief of Staff, Gen Peter J. Schoomaker, on Friday to discuss military cooperation, a senior Pakistani army official said.

People's Daily, 31 December 2006

Chinese defense minister hails Sino-U.S. military ties

China and the United States have expanded the areas for bilateral military exchanges and cooperation, and bilateral military ties have enjoyed further development in 2006, said Chinese Defense Minister Cao Gangchuan Sunday.

Daily Times, 31 December 2006

US will find no better ally than Musharraf

WASHINGTON: History will show that America has seldom, if ever, had an ally more willing than Gen Pervez Musharraf to take actions to further US interests, which in no way served its own, according to Michael Scheuer, the former CIA head of the Osama bin Laden unit.