

Hindu, 1 December 2007

Taslina withdraws objectionable matter

Kolkata: Bangladeshi author Taslima Nasreen has asked her publisher here to delete controversial lines from her autobiographical novel *Dwikhandita* (Split in Two), withdraw all copies from the market, and ensure that the next edition does not contain them.

Indian Express, 3 December 2007

Space for mainstream parties shrinking, let us be political adversaries, not enemies: Advani to Rahul in first meeting

AHMEDABAD, DECEMBER 2: Hours before Congress president Sonia Gandhi, speaking at a rally in Gujarat on Saturday, accused the Narendra Modi government of being corrupt and called them merchants of death, Leader of Opposition L K Advani told her son Rahul Gandhi that the two mainstream parties should view each other only as political adversaries and not enemies.

Tribune, 3 December 2007

Opposition to N-deal emotional by K. Subrahmanyam

AFTER the debate in the Lok Sabha on November 28, the nuclear issue and the 123 Agreement with the US have gained significant clarity. One hopes the debate in the Rajya Sabha on Monday, December 3, will add to the transparency of the deal and highlight that a significant portion of the opposition to the deal stems from either emotional anti-Americanism or from political parochialism.

Statesman, 3 December 2007

Debate on nuke deal shows polity's division

The high spot of parliament sittings last week was the discussion on the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal, an issue that paralysed proceedings for a good part of the monsoon session in July-August. After prolonged deliberations among different political parties it was finally agreed to have a short duration discussion that did not entail voting. This was much to the chagrin of the main Opposition BJP, which found in the issue an opportunity to attack the Congress and also embarrass its Left supporters.

Statesman, 3 December 2007

The dual danger~II

Unfortunately, much blood has flowed in Nandigram this year accompanied by rape and humiliation of many women. Members of families are separated, not knowing whether the separated ones are alive or dead. At the last count ten to twelve thousand families are scattered, mostly living with their relatives, after the CPI-M activists armed to the teeth stormed Nandigram, accompanied by wanted criminals like Tapan Ghosh, Sukur Ali and Salim Laskar.

Statesman, 3 December 2007

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Hindu, 4 December 2007

India being converted into U.S. ally: CPI(M)

NEW DELHI: Ahead of Tuesday's discussion on the India-U.S. civilian nuclear deal in the Rajya Sabha, the Communist Party of India (Marxist), a key Left supporter of the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government, as well as the main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) sharpened their attack on the government.

Indian Express, 5 December 2007

N-deal debate: Govt firm, Left sidelined as Congress, BJP battle it out in Rajya Sabha

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4: The government stood its ground on the Indo-US nuclear deal today even as Left allies joined hands with the UNPA to oppose it in Rajya Sabha. But the debate turned out to be more of a Congress versus BJP slugfest with the Left, the most vocal critic of the deal, pushed to the sidelines and the BJP making clear it was all for renegotiating the deal.

Indian Express, 5 December 2007

Buddha admits: Nandigram an administrative, political failure

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4: West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee today admitted that Nandigram was an administrative and political failure and regretted his remark that those opposing land acquisition there had been paid back in the same coin.

Hindu, 6 December 2007

Parties demand action against Modi

NEW DELHI: Several political parties have demanded that the courts and the Election Commission take immediate suo motu action against Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi for his speech at an election meeting in Mangrol in south Gujarat on Tuesday where he reportedly justified fake encounter killings.

Tribune, 6 December 2007

Govt fails to convince Left, BJP on N-deal

Even as the government today insisted it was willing to take a sense of the House on the Indo-US nuclear deal once the pre-operationalisation process was complete, the NDA, the Left and the UNPA refused to budge from their opposition to the agreement and staged a walk out at the end of a short duration discussion in the Rajya Sabha.

Hindu, 7 December 2007

Notice issued to Narendra Modi

New Delhi: The Election Commission on Thursday issued notice to Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi for his speech on Tuesday, justifying the encounter death of

Sohrabuddin. It sought his response by 11 a.m. on Saturday.

Hindu, 7 December 2007

Interceptor missile test-fired

Wheeler Island (Orissa): India on Thursday demonstrated its capability to defend itself against ballistic missile attacks by successfully testing a hypersonic interceptor missile. The missile destroyed an incoming target missile in a direct hit over the Bay of Bengal.

Hindu, 8 December 2007

Manmohan hopeful on deal

RAJKOT: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Friday reiterated his confidence that the nuclear deal with the United States would reach a positive conclusion. Talking to journalists after addressing election rallies in Surat and Rajkot, he agreed that some political parties were opposed to the deal but said he had confidence in people.

Indian Express, 8 December 2007

Day after EC notice, Modi talksto Soniabehn

Amreli (GUJARAT), December 7: He speaks of himself in the third person. He breaks his speech several times to ask questions of his audience, exhorting them to respond. And they do, especially the young men in the not-so-large crowd gathered in the dusty marketing yard of Lathi town in district Amreli.

Indian Express, 8 December 2007

Modi vs BJP

Attention has focused largely on Gujarat rather than Himachal Pradesh which is also going to the polls this month, because the electoral outcome in the state could well impact national politics. If Modi succeeds in pulling through despite the wide spectrum of forces ranged against him, the BJP may not necessarily be the gainer.

Hindu, 9 December 2007

Notice based on unverified media reports, says Modi

NEW DELHI: Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi has denied in its entirety the charge made by the Election Commission, in the December 6 notice, that in a speech at Mangrol on December 4 he made an open exhortation to violence and misused religion for political ends.

Tribune, 9 December 2007

Rule of law enhances national security

India's internal security problems, arising from varied sources, are influenced by a host of factors among which are its past history, geography, colonial legacy, a burgeoning population, sharp social and economic disparities and complex socio-cultural and ethno-religious traditions which interplay freely in our secular democracy.

Hindu, 10 December 2007

Decision on Modi deferred

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission on Sunday deferred its decision on the response

sent by Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi to the notice sent on December 6. The Commission said Mr. Modi's reply requires careful examination. Therefore, no decision has been taken. His reply will be examined in detail by the legal wing of the Commission.

Hindu, 10 December 2007

Will communalism work again?

After promising to seek re-election on a development platform, Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi is back to doing what he is best at stoking up communal sentiments as a political mobilisation strategy. He evidently trusts his own demagoguery and his ability to argue his way out of a tight spot.

Tribune, 10 December 2007

CPM renews threat on 123

Firing a fresh salvo at the government on the nuclear deal with the USA, the CPM has asked it to end the talks with the IAEA this month or get ready for elections. CPM general secretary Prakash Karat said at a meeting of the party's Delhi unit that the government would be told not to go ahead with the deal after its officials come back from the IAEA talks.

Hindu, 11 December 2007

Advani is BJP's candidate for Prime Minister

NEW DELHI: The Bharatiya Janata Party on Monday announced that the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, L.K. Advani, will be its prime ministerial candidate in the next general election. This brings to an end a perceived leadership tussle in the party.

Tribune, 11 December 2007

Left against deal, not govt

With remarks of party leader Prakash Karat about the need for the government to conclude talks at IAEA by December being seen as a warning to the government, CPI(M) leaders have emphasised that their aim was to stop the deal and not to de-stabilise the government.

Hindu, 12 December 2007

Manmohan promises re-look into riot cases

AHMEDABAD: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has promised to take a re-look into the investigations into the 2002 communal riots-related cases if the Congress is voted to power in Gujarat. Talking to journalists here and in Vadodara after addressing election meetings on Tuesday, Dr. Singh said he did not believe in the politics of vindictiveness.

Asian Age, 12 December 2007

UPA and Left will take final call after Gujarat poll over

New Delhi, Dec. 11: The Left-UPA joint committee on the Indo-US civil nuclear energy agreement will meet either after the polls are over in Gujarat on December 16 or just after the election results are declared on December 23. The date has not been finalised by the government as yet, but both sides admit that matters are now coming to a head and the government will have to take a final decision about the nuclear deal within the month.

Hindu, 13 December 2007

Contempt notice to Modi

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday issued a contempt notice to Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi for his speech allegedly justifying the encounter killing of Sohrabuddin Sheikh in November 2005. A Bench consisting of Justices Tarun Chatterjee and Dalveer Bhandari rejected the Gujarat government's submission that it was a political speech.

Tribune, 14 December 2007

Army moves 6,000 troops to border with China amid intrusion reports

Amid reports of intrusion by Chinese forces in Bhutan, the Army has moved more than 6,000 troops to the Sino-Indian border, close to tri-junction of India, Bhutan and China. However, Army Chief Deepak Kapoor said that reported intrusions of Chinese forces in Bhutan were a matter between the two countries.

Hindu, 14 December 2007

Blast on Rajdhani Express kills five

Guwahati: Five passengers of the 2423A Dibrugarh-Guwahati-Delhi Rajdhani Express were killed and four injured seriously in a bomb blast near the Chungajan railway station in Upper Assam's Golaghat district late on Wednesday night. Police suspect that the blast could be the handiwork of the All Adivasi National Liberation Army (AANLA).

Hindu, 14 December 2007

Nandigram: CBI restrained from filing cases against police

New Delhi: The Supreme Court, by an interim order on Thursday, restrained the Central Bureau of Investigation from initiating criminal proceedings in any court against West Bengal police personnel for the March 14 firing in Nandigram.

Hindu, 15 December 2007

An acrimonious campaign ends

AHMEDABAD: Proxy war through newspaper advertisements and press statements denouncing rival camps gained momentum in Gujarat as campaigning ended on Friday in the 95 constituencies going to the polls in the second and final phase of elections to the Gujarat Assembly.

Indian Express, 15 December 2007

N-Deal: If UPA goes ahead, be ready for polls, says Left

New Delhi, December 14: In a fresh threat, the CPM has warned that if the Congress-led UPA Government went ahead with the Indo-US nuclear deal then all the political parties need to be prepared for elections any time. Party general secretary Prakash Karat said the Left was not in favour of India forging a strategic alliance with the US and it does not want the Government to proceed with the agreement.

Tribune, 15 December 2007

The Rajdhani blast

THE bomb blast in the Dibrugarh-Guwahati-New Delhi Rajdhani Express shows how troubled Assam continues to be, and the low level of security that plagues India's railway network. While ULFA continues to be a significant source of damage and disruption in the state, Thursday's blast is being connected to a militant Adivasi group.

Indian Express, 16 December 2007

First drafts exchanged, another round of talks planned this month

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 15: Taking forward discussions on the Safeguards Agreement, India has exchanged the first set of drafts with the International Atomic Energy Agency this week. With still some distance to travel before an understanding is reached, efforts are underway to schedule another round of talks before the end of this year.

Indian Express, 16 December 2007

Lesson for Gujarat victor: Shun confrontation

Unless a miracle happens and miracles do take place in elections Narendra Modi will be back as Gujarat's chief minister after the people's verdict is known next Sunday. To the many factors favouring a BJP victory, the Congress has added one more during the election campaign: it has transformed a state Assembly poll into a Narendra Modi vs. Sonia Gandhi contest.

Indian Express, 17 December 2007

299 flee jail after attack in Naxalite stronghold

RAIPUR, DECEMBER 16: Two years after they stormed the Jehanabad jail in Bihar and freed at least 137 of their comrades, Naxalites today attacked prison guards and escaped with weapons from a jail in Chhattisgarh's Dantewara this evening. Of the 377 inmates in the jail, 299 fled, including over 100 Naxalites and Sangham members (sympathisers) awaiting trial.

Tribune, 17 December 2007

Peaceful polling in Gujarat

An estimated 63 to 65 per cent of nearly 1.87 crore electorate today exercised their franchise in the second and final phase of the Gujarat Assembly election spread over 95 constituencies which was by and large peaceful. Today's polling sealed the fate of Chief Minister Narendra Modi.

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Asian Age, 17 December 2007

CVC wants panel to vet arms deals

New Delhi, Dec. 16: The Central Vigilance Commission is pressing for the inclusion of

independent military experts to oversee the trial of weapons systems being purchased by the government. This will help streamline the process and stave off unnecessary controversies that inevitably lead to prolonged delays in the procurement of weapons systems urgently required by the defence forces to modernise themselves.