

Rediff News, 1 December 2007

US slowdown to affect India: Stiglitz

The Indian government could consider controls to curb excessive fund inflows into the country, a world-renowned economist has said. Large inflows into a country could be destabilising, said Nobel laureate, Joseph Stiglitz, adding "I don't think it's a coincidence that the two Asian economies to escape the financial crisis of 1997 were India and China, both of which had capital controls." Stiglitz was speaking to the media on the sidelines of a conference on investment organised by mutual fund major, Pioneer Investments, in Vienna.

Daily News and Analysis, 3 December 2007

India abandons spy satellite launch under US pressure

India's strategic space-based surveillance (SBS) programme has suffered a huge setback. Following last-minute US pressure, the launch of an Indo-Israeli spy satellite with synthetic aperture radar (SAR) was aborted literally at the launch pad stage. Images from the satellite, with sub-metre picture resolution, would have significantly boosted India's intelligence-gathering abilities. The satellite is capable of obtaining sharp images of civilian construction activities, including nuclear plants, that may have a strategic bearing. It can also scan cloud-covered mountain peaks. Lack of this capability enabled Pakistan-backed militants and army regulars to entrench themselves on the heights of Kargil, necessitating a huge armed response with many casualties.

Indo-Asian News Service, 3 December 2007

India, US should work on trade pact: Kamal Nath

India and the US, being the world's two leading democracies, should try and find out ways to clinch a deal on the lines of a free trade agreement (FTA), Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath said here Sunday. "This (US-India FTA) is something which we should examine. We are the world's two greatest democracies and if we both cannot have an agreement on trade then the world wonders why," Kamal Nath said in reply to a specific query while addressing the India Economic Summit of the World Economic Forum (WEF). The minister also reiterated the successful conclusion of the Doha Round of trade talks under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) so as to revive the global economy.

The Hindu, 4 December 2007

US rules out re-negotiation of nuclear deal

Firmly ruling out re-negotiation of the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal, the United States has expressed confidence that the agreement, which was "fundamentally important" and in the "best interests" of both countries, would go forward. "I do not foresee it (the negotiations) being re-opened, by either side. Not by the United States, and I don't think by India either," Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns said at a media roundtable in Singapore on Monday. Emphasising that the deal was in the "best interests" of both the countries, Burns hoped that it would come up for a final voting at the US Congress early next year.

Indian Express, 4 December 2007

US wants India as subordinate ally

A day before the Nuclear deal debate in Rajya Sabha, the CPI(M) on Monday stepped up attack on the Government besides saying they would also raise the Iran issue in the context of the deal. The CPI(M) Politburo member and leader in Rajya Sabha, Sitaram Yechury, alleged that the US's larger agenda was to convert India into a subordinate ally and Delhi's shift in policy was visible in the Indo-Iran relations.

Economic Times, 4 December 2007

Citi India CEO appointed to US-India Business Council

Premier business advocacy organisation US India Business Council (USIBC) on Monday announced the appointment of Sanjay Nayar, Chief Executive Officer of Citi's franchisee in India, to its Board of Directors. USIBC's mandate is to strengthen commercial ties between the US and India, a release said here today. The USIBC represents around 250 US companies investing in India, joined by two dozen of India's largest global companies, the release said.

The Hindu, 4 December 2007

Deal taken at highest level

Defence Minister A. K. Antony on Monday said the government was trying to settle the issue of acquisition of Russian aircraft carrier Gorshkov at the highest level. There are some problems. We are trying to settle that at the highest level of the Russian government, he told presspersons here when asked about reports that Russia was demanding more money and one more year to complete the project.

Indian Express, 4 December 2007

US encourages India to move forward on nuke deal

The US has said it continues to encourage India to move forward on the Indo-US civil nuclear deal but is respectful of its democratic process. It also hailed the passage of the Hyde Act as an "outstanding" example of "bipartisan consensus" in the deeply divided US Congress. "Following the completion of negotiations on the 123 Agreement, we continue to encourage the Government of India to move forward to complete the process that President George W Bush and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh have delineated and which when completed will bring profound economic and non proliferation benefits," US Ambassador David C Mulford said.

Deccan Herald, 5 December 2007

Govt will go ahead with Indo-US nuclear deal: Pranab

The Minister made it clear that India would be governed only by the 123 Agreement, not the Hyde Act, and nothing prevented the country from conducting nuclear tests and refining nuclear weapons. Asserting that the opponents of the Indo-US Nuclear agreement did not have any case, the government today made it clear that it would go ahead with the deal to sustain 9-10 per cent growth rate, even as the entire Opposition...

Zee News, 5 December 2007

US can be a helpful assistant to India: Govindacharya

Former general secretary of the BJP, K N Govindacharya, once a well known face in

party circles has been quite a recluse for some time now. However, he continues to keenly observe political developments in the country and the world. Proud of his long association with the RSS, the soft-spoken ideologue considers the Pokhran explosion as the greatest achievement of NDA regime, and feels the Indo-US nuke deal is irrelevant. In a free-wheeling interview to Arun Chaubey, he calls Nandigram a natural reaction to the forces of marketism and touches upon topics like terrorism and impact of liberalisation on the Indian society. Excerpts: What is your opinion on the Indo-US civil nuke deal? Neither is the deal required nor would it be helpful in its objective. The deal has very little to offer. It is only for power generation, and in terms of power also it would fulfill merely 10% of energy demand. As far as technology is concerned, India has evolved on its own and not at the mercy of US. In fact in the present situation, US needs India more. Therefore India should begin negotiation from a higher pedestal, as this treaty in an indirect way of forcing India towards NPT. India should have made it clear to the US that the Hyde Act cannot be a feature of the deal.

Times of India, 5 December 2007

Kakodkar hopeful N-deal will get through

The country's top atomic scientist Anil Kakodkar on Wednesday said he was hopeful that the Indo-US civil nuclear deal will get through. "I am hopeful," he told reporters outside Parliament when asked whether he felt that the nuclear deal will get through. The nuclear deal has raked up a political controversy in the country with BJP and Left parties, key allies of the ruling UPA, voicing their strident opposition to the agreement.

Zee News, 5 December 2007

Govt building unanimity on Indo-US N-deal: Chavan

The government is trying to get unanimity in the country on the India-US nuclear deal, Minister of State in the PMO Prithviraj Chavan informed the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. "We are trying to get unanimity in the country and international clearance for the nuclear deal," Chavan said, replying to supplementaries. He said the government proposed to set up an atomic energy research centre near Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. It would be a new campus of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Trombay, to carry out advanced R and D in nuclear science.

Zee News, 5 December 2007

US reactor vendors playing role in nuke deal: Shourie

Four American reactor building private firms are playing a role in "pushing" the Indo-US nuclear deal, noted journalist and BJP member Arun Shourie said today. "There are only four American partners whose role would be seen when a history of all this is written," Shourie said in the Rajya Sabha participating in the debate. He said there was a "mystery" around the role of these companies in this agreement. However, he did not divulge the names of the companies.

Indian Express, 5 December 2007

Mulford sends reminder: US Congress divided but passed Hyde Act

As a political deadlock in India continues to delay the progress of the Indo-US civil nuclear deal, the US Ambassador to India David Mulford on Tuesday said his country

was respectful towards India's democratic process even as it encourages New Delhi to move forward on the deal. Speaking at a function organised by the American Chambers of Commerce in India to felicitate him for an award that he recently won, Mulford said the US was of the view that the civilian nuclear agreement with India was good for India, good for the world, and good for the US.

Daily India, 6 December 2007

Indo-US N-deal will contribute in growth of Indian economy: Pranab

External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee today said that the Indo-US civilian nuclear cooperation agreement would help to achieve India's energy targets and contribute to growth in vital sectors of the economy, including industry and agriculture. He further said that the agreement on the cooperation in civil uses of nuclear energy could result in substantial additional power generating capacity. "The Integrated Energy Policy, 2006 sets a target for the year 2020 of 20,000 MW of nuclear power generation. This could double with international cooperation," Mukherjee said...

The Hindu, 7 December 2007

Govt should not go ahead with nuke deal: Advani

The leader of the Opposition, L.K.Advani, said that the Government should not go ahead with Indo-US nuclear deal. Advani demanded that Election Commission should take action against Congress president Sonia Gandhi for her 'merchant of death' remarks.

The Hindu, 7 December 2007

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The Hindu, 7 December 2007

Lockheed Martin expects to clinch defence deal

Lockheed Martin Corporation of US was hopeful that the first ever Indo-American defence deal valued at USD one billion would be sealed by the end of the current financial year. The US and Indian governments were expected to sign a contract by March 2008 for the supply of six C130J Hercules transport aircraft for the Indian Air Force. "This will be the first Indo-US defence deal," Royce Caplinger, Managing Director of Lockheed Martin India said on Friday. The deal was valued at USD one billion, he told reporters on the sidelines of Lockheed Martin India Innovation Growth Programme here. He said that Lockheed Martin, which manufactures F16 fighter jets, was establishing its brand in India after many years of being on the sidelines.

Earth Times, 8 December 2007

Ties with US not at cost of Russia: Antony

Defence Minister A.K. Antony stoutly defended India's long-standing military ties with

Russia, saying the growing warmth with the US would not impact on 'old friends'. 'Nobody should feel that our growing ties with other countries are at the cost of old friends,' the minister told reporters at this firing range on the sidelines of a firepower demonstration staged by the Indian Air Force (IAF). His comment came in response to a specific question on whether the Russian demand for virtually doubling the price of an aircraft carrier the Indian Navy has purchased would sour ties between the two countries.

Calcutta Telegraph, 8 December 2007

Lockheed charts India plan

Representatives of Lockheed Martin Corporations 55 business units will meet in Washington DC next week to discuss their Indian operations. The US-based company is also hopeful that the first-ever Indo-US defence deal, valued at \$1 billion, will be sealed by the end of this fiscal. The governments of the US and India are expected to sign a contract by March 2008 for six C130J Hercules transport cargo aircraft for the Indian Air Force. There will be an option to buy six more such planes.

The Statesman, 8 December 2007

Govt urged not to go ahead with N-deal

Amid a growing chorus of political opposition to the Indo-US nuclear deal, both the Left and the Right today again firmly asked the Congress-led UPA government not to go ahead with the deal in view of the majority of both Houses of Parliament being against it, even as the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, while noting some political parties opposition hoped that a positive conclusion would emerge on the contentious issue. The Left, including the CPI-M and the CPI, as well as the BJP today highlighted the Manmohan Singh governments isolation in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha with the majority sense of the House being opposed to the deal. They asked the government to pay heed to Parliaments majority view and desist from pushing the deal ahead. A couple of days after the CPM general secretary Mr Prakash Karat made these points, the Left and the BJP, despite their nuanced differences on the issue, appeared to echo them.

Hindu, 8 December 2007

Indo-US deal to open new vistas for energy security: PM

Hoping that Indo-US nuclear deal will sail through despite opposition from some parties, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Friday termed the deal an "honourable" agreement which can provide new options for energy security of the country. "It is an honourable agreement which will open new vistas of opportunities for our country with respect to energy security situation," he said at a press conference here after addressing an election rally of the Congress. To a question on the status of the deal, he said: "we have miles to cross as we have to go to International Atomic Energy Commission and then Nuclear Suppliers Group." "There are difficulties. Some political parties are opposed to it," he said. "I have full faith in the people. Once more and more people become aware about the merits of the deal, they will come to a positive conclusion on it," the Prime Minister said.

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BBC news, 10 December 2007

Indian rift over US deal deepens

A communist leader said there would be early elections if the Congress-led government did not pull out of negotiations by the end of the month. The government is due to hold fresh talks with the UN's nuclear watchdog, the IAEA, over the controversial deal. Its left-wing allies have opposed the accord, saying it will give the US influence over India's foreign policy. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has defended the deal, which would allow India access to US nuclear technology and described it as a "landmark".

Sify News, 11 December 2007

US keeps prodding India on nuclear deal

"Well, we certainly have been involved," White House press secretary Dana Perino said on Monday when asked if President George Bush is in touch with anybody in India or if they have briefed him on this issue. Washington's chief interlocutor on the nuclear deal, Nick Burns "has certainly been trying to push India to try to reconcile their differences so that we can move forward," she said. "We think it's a very important programme."

Perino's remarks about the US push follow a renewed warning by Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) leader Prakash Karat that the Left will not let the government go ahead with the deal after talks with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). A team of Indian officials from the Department of Atomic Energy is already in Vienna to negotiate with IAEA an India specific safeguards protocol acknowledging the separation of the New Delhi's civilian and military nuclear programmes. While leftist opponents of the nuclear deal say they reserve the right to reject the deal after the IAEA talks, its critics on the right led by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) want the implementing 123 agreement, finalised last July, to be renegotiated.

AFP, 11 December 2007

US downturn could help Indian outsourcers: Wipro CEO

A US economic downturn could give a boost to India's flagship outsourcing industry even though it is being hit by a rupee trading at near decade highs, says the head of leading Indian computer services provider Wipro. Shares of India's software services giants have slumped in the face of investor worries about the rupee's 12 percent ascent this year against the dollar, the currency in which the firms make most of their profits, and concern that a US economic slowdown might force US companies to cut IT budgets. But Azim Premji, the billionaire chairman of Wipro, India's third-largest software services provider, says a US economic downturn could be good tidings for Indian firms supplying information technology services to customers abroad.

Iran Press TV, 11 December 2007

US upset at Iran-India growing ties

Former United States' Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has expressed his concerns over growing energy ties between Iran and India. He asked the Indian authorities to cut energy ties with Iran. Kissinger voiced his concerns during a meeting with Union Petroleum Minister Murli Deora, in which the Indo-US nuclear deal was also discussed.

The Hindu, 13 December 2007

US team discusses nuclear cooperation with Indian cos.

Anticipating that the Indo-US deal will come through, a delegation of American energy firms are here on a two-day visit for the second time this year to explore possibilities of joint ventures with Indian companies. "There are constraints and lack of supply chain in the global energy sector as the Western countries did not expand their nuclear programme for the last two decades. In this backdrop, the US is looking forward to collaboration with Indian manufacturers to improve the global supply chain," a top official of an Indian company said.

Times of India, 13 December 2007

India, US cross swords over Kyoto pact

Talks in Bali hit a deadlock on the first day of the high-level ministerial meeting of the UN climate change conference with India and other developing countries taking a dissenting position against US and most other developed countries which are demanding that the existing Kyoto Protocol be scrapped. "There is a logjam on the future of the global treaty on climate change," science and technology minister Kapil Sibal, leading the Indian delegation, told TOI from Bali. "India has made its position emphatically clear to the gathered countries and we will continue to insist on it. We hope an understanding emerges over the next two days," he added.

Times of India, 14 December 2007

CPI asks Govt to scrap nuke deal

Insisting that majority of the lawmakers were against the Indo-US deal, the CPI on Friday asked the government to take the sense of the House into account and scrap the agreement. Party General Secretary A B Bardhan said his party will raise this demand at the next meeting of the UPA-Left committee on the nuclear deal. "We do not want the deal. We do not want the deal to be operationalised...There is no doubt about it. Arithmetically, the Sense of House (Parliament) is that the majority of the members are opposed to the deal," Bardhan told reporters here.

Indo-Asian News Service, 14 December 2007

Fears about old-design US nuclear reactors misplaced: Tellis

Top US strategic expert Ashley Tellis Friday said the US was heading towards a nuclear renaissance and new designs of nuclear reactors, but defended old-design reactors which India can get if the nuclear deal sails through, saying they continue to be 'cheap, reliable and safe'. 'The fears about old technologies are highly exaggerated. They are safe, reliable and cheap,' Tellis, senior associate with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, an influential US think tank, told experts, diplomats and media persons here. He was responding to a question on the anxieties in India, about New Delhi getting outdated US nuclear reactors from the US once the nuclear deal is operationalised.

New Delhi Television, 17 December 2007

Talks with IAEA over nuclear deal on course: Mukherjee

India is currently involved in the process of laying down its safeguard clauses for the Indo-US nuclear agreement and will decide the next course of action after placing it

before the UPA-Left Joint Committee, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee said on Sunday. "We have to finalise the India-specific safeguards of the agreement. It will then be placed before the UPA-Left Committee and the next course of action will be decided after that," Mukherjee said in Kolkata.

Indo-Asian News Service, 17 December 2007

US willing to offer advanced spy plane to India

The US is willing to offer its most advanced maritime spy plane, the advanced Hawkeye-2D, to India. According to a report in the forthcoming issue of India Strategic defence magazine, the Indian Navy had issued an RFI (Request for Information) for the aircraft to the US government some time back. Although Washington is yet to release this aircraft for export "it could be sold to countries like India, Egypt, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)", the report added. The aircraft is still under development and Northrop Grumman, its manufacturer, should achieve initial operational capability in 2011. Its first test flight was conducted only in August 2007.

The Times of India, 18 December 2007

CPM vows to oppose Indo-US nuclear deal

The CPM on Monday vowed to oppose Indo-US nuclear deal and military collaboration with the United States and any move to make New Delhi a strategic ally of Washington. "The US wants India to be its junior partner and continue to blackmail it for the next 40 years. But we would not allow this and ensure that India does not become a strategic ally of the US", CPM General Secretary Prakash Karat said addressing the open session of CPM state conference here. He said CPM would oppose any decision of the Congress-led coalition that would harm the interest of the poor, workers, tribals, government employees and small traders

Rediff News, 19 December 2007

'If N-deal fails, it will have long-term impact'

Marshall Bouton, president of The Chicago Council on Global Affairs and an expert of South Asia, especially India-US relations, says that while bilateral relations between India and the United States will not collapse totally, it will certainly cause significant damage in the ties if the US-India Civilian Nuclear Cooperation Agreement does not materialise. Also in his reply to a question he said- I am not saying the relationship will crash and burn, but I am saying that there will be significant damage in the US and certainly in political circles in Washington. Not just in the Bush administration but among Democrats and Republicans and in Congress and in the wider circle The Bush administration will be deeply embarrassed and it is not going to make any effort in its [remaining] time in office to pay attention to the relationship. Then, you have to think of the new administration, whether Republican or Democratic. I think the new administration will feel very wary [about] trying to revive the relationship or to upgrade it. I think the deal -- certainly under a Democratic administration -- seems unlikely. I think efforts will be made on both sides to limit the damage but I think there will be damage. I think there will be somewhat lasting damage.

NDTV.COM, 19 December 2007

TDP chief meets Karat on N-deal

Amid reports of the Left taking tougher stand on the Indo-US nuclear deal, CPI-M General Secretary Prakash Karat on Tuesday held an hour-long meeting with Telugu Desam Party chief Chandrababu Naidu in New Delhi. The sources said there was a possibility of Karat calling on Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK supremo M Karunanidhi during his stay in the capital for the National Development Council meet.

The Hindu, 20 December 2007

Plan panel pitches for Indo-US nuclear deal

The Planning Commission on Tuesday pitched for the Indo-US civil nuclear deal, saying the agreement will open doors for supply of fuel needed to augment the country's power generation capacity. "The nuclear deal will remove restrictions on supplies... (otherwise) we will be limited to existing supplies," Deputy Chairman of the Commission, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, told reporters on the eve of the National Development Council (NDC) meeting to discuss the 11th Five-Year Plan. At present, India's nuclear energy installed capacity is 3,900 MW, which works out to be 3.1 per cent of total power generation capacity. The 11th Plan proposes to increase the nuclear power generation capacity by 3,380 MW during 2007-12, taking up the total installed capacity to 7,280 MW.

NDTVPROFIT.COM, 21 December 2007

Nuke deal test Indo-US bilateral relations

The Indo-US civilian nuclear deal and rumblings over the controversial pact tested bilateral relations in 2007. It also saw the two countries chart a new course in hi-tech, defence cooperation and technology transfer. The year 2007 did not turn out to be much different than 2006 in that much of the time was spent on figuring out whether Washington and New Delhi will come to terms with the so-called 123 Agreement that would formalise the Henry J Hyde Peaceful Atomic Energy Cooperation Act that the President George W Bush signed into law. The breakthrough that negotiators from India and the United States had over the 123 Agreement in July 2007 was truly an achievement for there was in a five day period every indication that either Washington or New Delhi was simply going to walk away.

Business Line, 22 December 2007

Democrats will pursue US-India nuclear deal

New Delhi, Dec. 20 Democrats will continue efforts to conclude the US-India nuclear deal, and are willing to work together towards the larger cause of global disarmament, Mr James Steinberg, Dean, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, The University of Texas, said here on Thursday. Speaking at a seminar organised by Aspen Institute India, he said that India and US should try and draw up a blueprint to engage China rather than to try and contain it.

Business Standard, 22 December 2007

IAEA talks stall on fuel supply fine print

The Indo-US Civil Nuclear Agreement calendar is almost certain to go awry following unexpected technical glitches that have emerged in the second round of talks between Indian negotiators and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the inter-

governmental forum for cooperation in the nuclear field. The second round of talks concluded on 12 December were led by Ravi B Grover, Director, Strategic Planning of the Department of Atomic Energy, and Sheelkant Sharma, India's ambassador in Vienna. A date for the next round of talks has not been set. Prakash Karat, leader of the CPI(M), the largest Left party that supports the government in Parliament and a major critic of the civil nuclear agreement, has said negotiations for the IAEA agreement must conclude by December so that the country knows where it stands.

The Telegraph, 24 December 2007

Jolt to Cong, nuclear deal and Rajnath

Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi led the Bharatiya Janata Party to its fourth consecutive victory in the state today, winning an impressive 117 seats in the 182-member Assembly. The immediate impact of the Gujarat result could be on the future of the Indo-US nuclear deal. The central government, whose emissaries have held talks with the IAEA on an India-specific safeguards agreement, is expected to get back to the Left with the outcome of those negotiations before "initialling" the agreement - the first stage of executing the deal. CPM general secretary Prakash Karat has already made it clear that the Left would not flash the green light to the deal. But sections within the Congress who are keen on going ahead with the nuclear deal were hopeful that a victory in Gujarat would embolden the party's leadership to take on the Left and go in for early Lok Sabha elections- in the spring or summer of 2008.

Daily Times, 27 December 2007

Indo-US N-deal headed for more political turmoil: Lobbyist hired by India on US arms dealers payroll

NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is in for yet another major political row over the Indo-US nuclear deal. It has surfaced that a former US ambassador to India, who has been engaged as a star lobbyist to influence US lawmakers, is also on the payroll of two American firms to acquire fat defence orders for them from the Indian government. The link that has emerged between the 123 Agreement signed in July and a multi-billion dollar fighter aircraft contract floated soon thereafter may become a major embarrassment for the government in power- Robert Blackwill, US ambassador to India during the previous government's tenure, happens to be associated with both. Legal experts here are surprised that the government has hired a lobbyist in Washington who works for the arms dealers. Blackwill's firm, Barbour Griffith & Rogers, was hired by India in 2007 on a contract worth over \$1.2 million, which has been renewed for 2008. "Blackwill is there only because of his official connections, because he can exercise influence over public servants. In India, it would be an offence under the Prevention of Corruption Act, that is, to pay somebody to influence a public servant in the discharge of his duties. Why should the government of India do that abroad if it is illegal in India?" Bhushan asks.

NDTV.COM, 29 December 2007

Bhutto's assassination a setback for US

Despite the focus on the upcoming Iowa caucuses, it has not escaped anyone in the US that Thursday's events in Pakistan have massive implications for their country. President

Bush was quick to react to the news of the assassination of former Pakistani PM Benazir Bhutto, but his firm and strong words of condemnation mask the huge setback Bhutto's assassination marks to his efforts for stability in nuclear-armed Pakistan. President Bush called and spoke with President Musharraf and urged that Pakistan continue with the democratic process that has been put in place with elections scheduled for next month. Whatever the official speak, Benazir Bhutto's assassination has been a major setback to US efforts to liberalise Pakistan politics and placed the US Pakistan strategy under the scanner.

Sify News, 31 December 2007

Doubts persist over Indo-US nuke deal

New Delhi: Doubts mounted over the fate of the Indo-US nuclear deal, the single largest issue that dominated foreign policy establishment in 2007, in the wake of Congress' year-end electoral defeats and the Left's serious threats over going ahead with it. This must be perhaps the first international agreement over which the future of the Government depends. The ambitious agreement, on which the Manmohan Singh government has put immense stakes, is expected to continue to dominate foreign policy matters in the outgoing year.