

The Hindu, 2 July 2005

### **Kissinger regrets remarks**

NEW DELHI: The former United States Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, has expressed regret over the use of foul language against the former Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, and Indians in the run-up to the 1971 Bangladesh war. He said the expression of strong remarks was a "one-time event" and had to be seen in the context of the Cold War.

The Hindu, 2 July 2005

### **Switzerland lifts ban on arms exports to India**

NEW DELHI: Switzerland has lifted the curbs on the export of military material to India that were imposed in 1998 following the nuclear tests. Confirming this, Swiss Ambassador to India Dominique Dreyer told The Hindu that the communiqué issued by the Swiss Federal Council (Cabinet) could pave the way for the export of military equipment worth 300 million Swiss francs (about Rs. 1,000 crores).

Indian Express, 2 July 2005

### **Now, UK bats for India's UNSC bid**

NEW DELHI: Pledging its 'active' support to India becoming a permanent member of the UN Security Council, Britain on Friday said it would back the G-4 resolution seeking expansion of the world body but expressed difficulties in co-sponsoring it. "We believe it is right because of India's size and importance and if the Security Council is to maintain its legitimacy, it is quite proper to ask a country like India to be represented in it," British High Commissioner Michael Arthur said.

Indian Express, 2 July 2005

### **India's vision void** (Bharat Karnad)

Few developments are as full of promise and danger for India as its burgeoning relationship with the United States. Had the Indian government configured the right set of "long haul" policies, there was every possibility of the two countries enjoying huge mutual benefits and, colaterally, firming up regional and international peace and stability. Unfortunately, in apparently seeking only short term gains and trying to please the US, there is the likelihood of the Manmohan Singh government sacrificing the irreducible Indian national security interests and turning India into a US client state in the region. It is a posture that cannot endure because an economically and militarily hefty India will soon begin to chafe at the bit.

The Hindu, 3 July 2005

### **EU finalising plan for partnership with India**

SRINAGAR: Stating that India was a priority country for the European Union, Italian Ambassador to India Antonio Armellini has said that an action plan for economic and strategic relations with India was being finalised by the Union. He said Italy would review the adverse travel advisory in respect of Jammu and Kashmir.

Indian Express, 3 July 2005

### **We will get matching weapons**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan said on Saturday that it would do whatever it could to get matching weapons systems in the event of India acquiring armaments but would not join the arms race. "Pakistan will get anything required for its defence but will not join any arms race," Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz told reporters here. He was fielding questions on the India-U.S. defence agreement signed between Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee and U.S. Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in Washington.

The Hindu, 03 July, 2005

### **India a responsible nuclear power, says Manmohan**

NEW DELHI: India is willing to work with other nations to combat the menace of nuclear proliferation, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said in an address to the 2004 batch of Indian Foreign Service probationers on Saturday. "Dr. Singh also highlighted India's role as [a] responsible nuclear power and underlined the need for blocking any further unauthorised proliferation of nuclear weapons. India was ready to cooperate with like-minded nations in this regard," an official release on the Prime Minister's remarks said.

The Hindu, 4 July 2005

### **India to participate in Shanghai summit**

NEW DELHI: India will be represented at a summit meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) for the first time this year, with External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh set to join the deliberations of the six-nation grouping in Kazakhstan on Tuesday as a "guest."

The Hindu, 4 July 2005

**Russia not for G-4 move**

MOSCOW: Russia has indicated its opposition to the Group of Four decision to move a framework resolution in the United Nations on the Security Council reform. A joint communique issued at the end of Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit to Russia, the two countries said they were against rushing any U.N. reform plan before it wins very broad consensus.

Indian Express, 4 July 2005

**They came as priests: Hinduas on BBC sting**

LONDON: The BBC has alleged that the Hinduas violated laws that bar British citizens from entering into agreements to ship "military specification" vehicles to Sudan, reported the Sunday Times today. According to the newspaper, BBC reporters persuaded the Hinduas to agree to supply 20 trucks of "military specifications" to Sudan, which is charged with massacring thousands in Darfur.

The Hindu, 4 July 2005

**China, Russia, and the Shanghai agenda** (Siddharth Varadarajan)

Summits between China and Russia have been an annual fixture of the diplomatic calendar since the end of the Cold War but deliberations between the two Presidents have rarely influenced the course of world politics. This year, however, is likely to be different. The joint declaration on political principles for the new world order issued on Saturday following the meeting between Hu Jintao and Vladimir Putin is a political shot across the bow of the United States, whose alliance building with Japan and India and renewed espousal of 'freedom' in Asia is being seen with great suspicion by both Beijing and Moscow.

The Hindu, 5 July 2005

**Indian envoy visits Mannar**

COLOMBO: Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Nirupama Rao on Monday visited Sri Lanka's northern Mannar district. The visit was described as reflecting New Delhi's recent policy move to reach out to grass roots communities in Sri Lanka.

Indian Express, 5 July 2005

**No need to panic over Indo-US defence pact, says Kasuri**

ISLAMABAD: Days after criticising last week's Indo-US defence agreement, Pakistan changed its tune saying there is no need to panic and reposing full confidence in its own capabilities. "There is no need to panic," Pakistan's Foreign Minister Khurshid M. Kasuri told reporters in Lahore yesterday.

The Hindu, 5 July 2005

**Decoding the India-U.S. defence tie-up** (Sandeep Dikshit)

Did Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee and senior Defence Ministry officials mislead the media and the country about the significance of their American visit, which ended in the signing of the "New framework for the Indo-US defence relationship"? Would it not have been fair for the Government to indicate the impendency of an arrangement that could rework the country's security philosophy? Besides the fact that there were no discussions with the supporting parties on the defence framework, which transcends the term of the present Government, Mr. Mukherjee's briefing to the media after the CCS meeting lost credibility when he concealed the main purpose of his tour.

The Hindu, 6 July 2005

**Do not impose vote on draft UN proposal, SCO tells G-4**

ASTANA: The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, which India has just joined as an observer, ended its summit here on Tuesday with a call for United Nations reform to follow the "principle of the broadest possible agreement." In a blunt reference to the G-4 draft framework resolution for expanding the U.N. Security Council, the SCO - which links China and Russia with Central Asia - said it opposed all attempts to "try to set a deadline for U.N. reform or to impose voting on draft proposals on which major differences exist."

The Hindu, 6 July 2005

**Not accepting U.S. offer on missile shield: Pranab**

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee on Tuesday said "there was no question" of accepting a missile defence shield from "anybody." Speaking in the context of American overtures regarding a missile defence shield, the Minister said there were gaps in the integrated guided missile defence programme but India would only accept critical inputs that bridged the deficiency. "If we don't get them, fine," he added, indicating that India would then

explore other options, including indigenous development and approaching other countries chiefly Russia.

The Hindu, 6 July 2005

#### **India, Pakistan to go ahead with pipeline**

ASTANA: Despite Washington's negative reaction to the election of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as Iran's new President, India and Pakistan intend to press ahead with their plans to construct a pipeline that will transport Iranian gas deep into South Asia. In a 45-minute meeting on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit here on Tuesday, External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh and Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz reviewed the state of bilateral relations in some detail and agreed that emphasis must be given to cooperation in energy, economic, water and trade issues.

The Hindu, 6 July 2005

#### **India to articulate Third World views at G-8 meet**

NEW DELHI: India will articulate the views of developing countries in the G-8 Summit at Gleneagles and will oppose any attempt by the industrialised nations to create non-tariff barriers in the name of promoting clean energy and arresting climate change. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who is leaving for the G-8 Summit in Gleneagles in Scotland tomorrow, will press for "common and differentiated response" to deal with climate change and sustainable development.

The Hindu, 7 July 2005

#### **No deputations to US military commands**

NEW DELHI: After ruling out the purchase of complete missile defence systems from "anybody," Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee has turned down an American suggestion for posting Indian defence officers at two of its global military commands. "There is no question of posting officers at (US) military commands. We have a defence attaché in Washington," said Mr Mukherjee.

The Hindu, 7 July 2005

#### **Myanmar-India gas pipeline proposal runs into problems**

NEW DELHI: The proposed natural gas pipeline from Myanmar to India via Bangladesh has run into problems, leading to the exploration of other options such as liquefied natural gas shipments by the two countries. According to Petroleum Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar, there has been some delay in the pipeline initiative due to some outstanding issues between India and Bangladesh. The contentious issues with Bangladesh were said to be related to the provision of a trade and power corridor to Nepal and Bhutan as well as steps to reduce the trade deficit with India.

The Hindu, 7 July 2005

#### **India may agree to defer vote on G-4 resolution on UN Council**

NEW DELHI: With the G-4 countries' "deadline" for tabling their draft resolution on UN Security Council enlargement fast approaching, India is now leaning towards not insisting on an immediate vote in the General Assembly. According to official sources, India still sees tremendous merit in the draft framework resolution being submitted to the General Assembly as early as next week. But rather than pushing through with a vote immediately, the feeling is that it might be better to have an open-ended debate on the resolution's proposals.

The Hindu, 7 July 2005

#### **A damage-control exercise**

Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee has taken a welcome step back. Following public criticism of the "defence framework" signed by India and the United States, he told presspersons on Tuesday that the framework was not a "pact" or "treaty." And, in one stroke, Mr Mukherjee repudiated one of the central elements of the "defence framework" he signed with US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on June 28 in Arlington, Virginia. Mr Mukherjee declared that India was not about to accept a missile defence shield from anyone when asked what kind of "briefings" and "discussions" the Americans were providing in an area which has the capability of fundamentally shifting India's strategic equations.

The Hindu, 8 July 2005

#### **We need to work together: Manmohan**

GLENEAGLES: Expressing grief and outrage over the terrorist attacks in London on Thursday, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said the incidents underscored the contention that terrorism was a global scourge that had to be tackled through concerted efforts.

The Hindu, 8 July 2005

**Dhaka awaits outcome of talks**

DHAKA: Bangladesh will wait for the outcome of the talks between India and Myanmar on the gas pipeline, Mahmudur Rahman, Adviser to the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry, has said. Talking to reporters here on Wednesday, he said the talks should continue and "if India comes again, we will talk about the project and our interests."

Indian Express, 8 July 2005

**Avoid spread of poverty: PM to G-8**

GLENEAGLES: India today made it clear that any action plan of G-8 industrialised nations will have to strike a "right balance" to protect the environment so that poverty is not perpetuated. Speaking at the G-8 summit's "outreach" meeting with G-5 members of developing countries, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said for the action plan to be effective, it should not pose standards diverse from reality.

The Hindu, 9 July 2005

**India-UK ties an example: Manmohan**

LONDON: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh may have inadvertently set the tone for a brave re-assessment of Britain's colonial legacy in India when, speaking at Oxford University on Friday, he acknowledged the "beneficial consequences" of the Raj. He said there were elements of the "British-Indian administration" such as the rule of law and free press, which India still valued and cherished.

Indian Express, 9 July 2005

**US, Korean, German firms gave sensitive equipment to Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan secretly procured various types of sensitive military equipment, including radio and wireless systems, from private firms in the US, Germany and Korea, even after Washington imposed sanctions on it in the wake of the 1998 nuclear tests, a media report said today. Quoting a Public Accounts Committee (PAC) report, the Friday Times said Pakistan procured radio and wireless systems and parts for other military hardware even after the sanctions were imposed.

The Hindu, 9 July 2005

**Greenhouse gas emissions, G8 and India (N. Ram)**

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, in his contribution to the G8 Summit discussion, elaborated on the official Indian stand on greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. Interestingly, President Bush declared that he agreed wholeheartedly with this approach. In short, climate change affects us all. But there are certain limits to what developing countries can do. What they need to achieve is the right balance between the environment and development, between protecting the environment and not perpetuating poverty. It is important that the G8 countries do not impose on developing countries standards divorced from reality. It is important that whatever is agreed upon takes into account the capabilities and preoccupations of developing countries.

The Hindu, 10 July 2005

**London blasts will adversely impact Muslims: Musharraf**

ISLAMABAD: Describing the bomb blasts in London as an "open act of terrorism," Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf has said the terror attacks would have an adverse impact on Muslims all over the world. "The London blasts are an open act of terrorism and will have a deep impact, particularly on Muslims all over the world," Gen. Musharraf said on Pakistan's Geo TV at a meeting in Chitral in the North West Frontier Province (NWFP). He said Pakistan bore the brunt of terrorism "pouring" out of Afghanistan.

Indian Express, 10 July 2005

**New Delhi looks at New Washington (Shishir Gupta & Pranab Dhal Samanta)**

NEW DELHI: If New Delhi's defence agreement with Washington makes the Left see red, what lies in store could possibly make it change colours. A second green revolution, 10 top CEOs from each side to discuss FDI inflows into India, making India a base for the manufacture of anti-HIV drugs, new departments in the IITs in frontier bio- and nanotechnology areas and an upgrade of agriculture universities: these form the key initiatives that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh takes with him as he goes to Washington in less than 10 days to build on the US promise of an enduring partnership with India.

The Hindu, 11 July 2005

**Natwar "hopeful" of India's bid for permanent seat**

LONDON: With the countdown for the process that would lead to the much-awaited reforms of the United Nations

starting on Monday, External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh said on Sunday that he was quite "hopeful" about India's prospects of winning a permanent seat on an expanded U.N. Security Council, but did not want to "pitch the expectations too high."

The Hindu, 11 July 2005

#### **Developed nations must ensure fair trade: PM**

NEW DELHI: Fresh from his parleys with the G-8 group of industrialised countries at Gleneagles, Scotland, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said on Sunday that global environmental problems "cannot be resolved by perpetuating the poverty of poor developing countries." In a statement made upon his return, he said the imperative of development had to be reconciled with the imperative of making that development sustainable.

Indian Express, 11 July 2005

#### **The great image meltdown**

At the Carnegie Endowment of International Peace, a liberal think tank in Washington, Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee had made an important observation: "Unipolar world is clearly not a sustainable proposition in the long run. India's vision of a multipolar is one of partnership among nations." The word "multipolar" is an anathema to the US. To the Bush administration, there's only one pole and that's the American pole. Moreover it believes it has the power to reorder the world according to its design.

The Hindu, 11 July 2005

#### **Kamal Nath to attend WTO meet in China**

NEW DELHI: Union Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath will participate in the WTO informal Ministerial meeting - also known as Mini-Ministerial - scheduled to be held in China on July 12 and 13. Trade Ministers from around 30 member-countries of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) are expected to participate in the meeting that has been convened by China. These include from Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, South Africa, Kenya, the U.S. and the European Community.

The Hindu, 11 July 2005

#### **Power grids and the new Silk Road in Asia (Siddharth Varadarajan)**

When India's External Affairs Minister, Natwar Singh, called on Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Astana last week, his host made a proposal which could - if implemented fully - alter the dynamics of the international market for oil and gas. "Now that the prospects for peace between India and Pakistan are so bright," Indian officials recounted Mr. Nazarbayev as saying, "why can't Kazakhstan think of supplying you oil via the Caspian Sea and Iran?"

The Hindu, 12 July 2005

#### **Pakistan denies training camps**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday said that it did not have any camps on its soil, imparting training to militants operating in Jammu and Kashmir. "There are no terrorist camps in Pakistan," Foreign Office spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani said here, while commenting on External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh's statement that the terrorist camps are still operating and New Delhi had photographic evidence. Mr. Singh said in an interview with the BBC on Sunday that he told Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz that the terrorist camps had not been dismantled. "We have the photographs and I have told him that we can provide them with evidence," he added.

The Hindu, 12 July 2005

#### **India, Pakistan to discuss pipeline project**

NEW DELHI: India and Pakistan will discuss all issues involved in laying the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline in its entirety, including transit fees and security issues, on Tuesday. The talks will be held during a meeting of the India-Pakistan Joint Working Group on pipeline projects between the two countries. The Adviser to the Pakistan Prime Minister on Energy, Mukhtar Ahmad, and Pakistan Petroleum Secretary Ahmed Waqar are expected to meet Petroleum Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar at the beginning of the two-day talks.

The Hindu, 12 July 2005

#### **No defence agreement with US, clarifies Pranab**

KOLKATA: "There has been no defence agreement or pact with the United States of America," Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee declared here on Monday. The recent discussions with the U.S. Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and other officials of that country "were within the framework of talks on the defence relationship between the two nations," he said. The Left parties had a different perception on the issue and "I have discussed it with Prakash Karat [general secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist)] and A. B. Bardhan [general

secretary of the Communist Party of India]," he said.

The Times of India, 12 July 2005

**The Ball Is In America's Court: Onus on Bush to refashion Indo-US relations** (K Subrahmanyam)

The objective international reality is that the world does not have and will not have any more superpowers and will have to reconcile itself to a six-actor balance of power system. In that system, with the rising Chinese economic challenge, the US will need India and not vice-versa. The US and India have the potential to be natural allies. Whether the alliance firms up in the near future or suffers a setback because of Cold War mindsets depends on the US leadership.

The Hindu, 12 July 2005

**India's clean chit to Dhaka**

DHAKA: The leader of a visiting Indian parliamentary delegation has said Bangladesh does not harbour any Indian insurgents, but they might be seeking shelter in some countries including Bangladesh.

The Hindu, 13 July 2005

**G-4 introduces draft resolution in UN**

UNITED NATIONS: In a major step that could radically transform the working of the United Nations, G-4 countries - India, Japan, Germany and Brazil - have formally introduced their framework resolution for expansion of the 15-member Security Council in the General Assembly. The draft calls for enlarging the Security Council from the current 15 members to 25 by creating six new permanent seats without veto power and four non-permanent seats.

The Hindu, 13 July 2005

**Manmohan not going to US with a list of demands**

NEW DELHI: India believes that American endorsement of its candidature for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council is a "difficult call" given that the G-4 resolution on expansion of the body will be the centre of attention in New York almost at the same time Prime Minister Manmohan Singh meets President George W. Bush in Washington on July 18. It is up to the United States to announce support for India's case for a permanent seat, South Block sources said.

The Hindu, 13 July 2005

**America, India and outsourcing imperial overreach** (Siddharth Varadarajan)

If there is one document everyone should read to understand the direction relations between the United States and India have begun to take in the past few years, it is The Indo-US Military Relationship: Expectations and Perceptions, a report commissioned by the Pentagon in October 2002. The American officials quoted in the IATAC report also said the US needs to prepare for the day its traditional relationships in Asia weaken. A State Department official notes: "India's strategic importance increases in the event that US relationships with other traditional allies (e.g. Japan, South Korea, and Saudi Arabia) become more acrimonious or politically uncomfortable for both parties; or if access rights that the US takes for granted become more restrictive... The US needs to develop alternatives in Asia. India is the optimal choice if we can overcome the obstacles in building the relationship."

Indian Express, 13 July 2005

**Jakarta says no to Indian patrol in Malacca Straits**

JAKARTA: While Indonesia has been supportive of India's participation in the ASEAN-sponsored East Asia Summit to be held in Malaysia in December, it has reservations about the idea of Indian Navy patrolling the Malacca Straits. The Indonesian government plans to take up the issue with Indian Navy Chief Admiral Arun Prakash when he arrives here later this month. The Admiral's visit will coincide with the arrival in Indonesian waters of his navy's pride, *INS Viraat*, on a goodwill mission.

The Hindu, 13 July 2005

**WTO: India, China oppose bid to divide developing countries**

SINGAPORE: India and China have expressed resolve to resist attempts at dividing the developing countries during the ongoing negotiations under the framework of the World Trade Organisation Doha Round. An accord on this and other related issues was reached by Union Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath and Chinese Commerce Minister Bo Xilai ahead of a two-day informal ministerial meeting of the WTO, dubbed the "mini-ministerial," which began at Dalian in China on Tuesday.

The Hindu, 14 July 2005

### **China supports India's UN bid**

DALIAN: The Chinese leadership on Wednesday assured Beijing's support to India's bid for permanent membership in the U.N. Security Council but said the expansion of the Council needed wider consultation. The Chinese stand was conveyed by Wu Guanzheng, member of the Standing Committee of the Polit Bureau of the Communist Party of China, to the visiting CPI(M) general secretary, Prakash Karat.

Indian Express, 14 July 2005

### **Indian prisoners threaten strike**

ISLAMABAD: A total of 46 Indian prisoners, currently lodged in a Pakistani jail, threatened to go on a hungerstrike till death to protest the delay in their repatriation despite the completion of their prison terms. The prisoners held in Kot Lakhpat Central Jail in Punjab province, who had earlier gone on a week-long hunger strike, made the threat on Monday when the Provincial Advisor for Law and Human Rights, Rana Ijaz Ahmad Khan, visited the jail and held negotiations with them, local daily The News reported.

The Hindu, 15 July 2005

### **India's role in resolving Nepal crisis greater: Koirala**

KATHMANDU: Nepal's leading politicians have sought the involvement of the international community, including India, in initiating talks with the Maoists and bringing them to the political mainstream. This was conveyed to Lakhdar Brahimi, Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, who is here to help find a solution to the insurgency that has plagued the country for 12 years and claimed over 12,000 lives.

The Indian Express, 15 July 2005

### **Pipeline, lifeline: The project could transform South Asia's geopolitics, although the snarls are many**

US opposition to the pipeline, involving its unfolding confrontation with Iran, is perhaps among the least of the project's problems. Overcoming the others is the real challenge in finalising a project that promises to transform the geopolitics of South Asia and the Persian Gulf by linking them firmly in arrangements for energy and economic interdependence. This agreement between India and Pakistan would also be a model for similar arrangements for the transport of gas from Central Asia, when it is available, to India through Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The Indian Express, 15 July 2005

### **Poised for the jump Can Bush transform the terms of the India-US engagement? (Arvind Virmani)**

US President Nixon transformed US relations with China with his breakthrough trip to China. This led after a decade or so to a transformation of China's role in Asia. President Reagan transformed US relations with the USSR, contributing to the disintegration of the Soviet empire. Will President Bush transform US relationship with India leading to a transformation of India's role in Asia? A change in objective conditions suggests this is likely. There are, however, obstacles on the US side that will have to be overcome.

The Hindu, 16 July 2005

### **Hold proper probe: Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD: As the investigations into the recent terrorist attack in Ayodhya pointed to the banned Pakistan-based terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba, Islamabad on Friday asked India to conduct "proper investigations" to establish the true identity of the attackers. Reacting to reports of the LeT's involvement in the attack, Pakistan's Foreign Office spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani said Islamabad had condemned the terrorist attack in Ayodhya.

The Hindu, 16 July 2005

### **Friends yes, but not allies please**

As Prime Minister Manmohan Singh leaves for Washington, he will be conscious of the popular backlash the defence framework agreement has triggered. Such opposition is not confined to the Left. Dr. Singh must resist any attempt to widen the scope of the "strategic partnership," particularly in the military and political spheres. The Bush administration is keen to recruit India to its cause of promoting "democracy" worldwide. Any new institutions aimed at promoting democracy and good governance must be U.N.-run if they are to succeed. George Bush knows that what Dr. Singh wants more than anything else is forward movement on civilian nuclear cooperation.

The Hindu, 16 July 2005

### **The India-America nuclear dialogue (R. Ramachandran)**

A realistic analysis would suggest that little can be expected out of this India-U.S. nuclear dialogue, unless the latter can prevail on the 44-member Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) to relax its guidelines and also change its

own domestic laws. In fact, even under the NSSP, the U.S. has been inflexible in relaxing controls on the export of a class of nuclear-related dual-use goods - the so-called NP2 controlled items - which could have been easily done without violating its domestic laws or NSG Guidelines.

Indian Express, 16 July 2005

**A nuclear deal is in the works** (C Raja Mohan)

NEW DELHI: As Prime Minister Manmohan Singh heads to the United States tomorrow, senior Indian officials are in Washington finalising the contours of a broad nuclear understanding between the two sides to be announced on Monday. This could include a potential American facilitation of the supply of nuclear fuel for the Tarapur reactors and likely Indo-US cooperation on the development of the so-called Generation IV reactors and in nuclear fusion research.

Indian Express, 16 July 2005

**India and China should form trade platform for WTO and beyond**

India and China have done well to forge a common front at the World Trade Organisation (WTO). This will lend further strength to G-21 as a countervailing force to the might of the US and European Union. The two countries, with 40 percent of the world's population, can push for liberal policies on immigration and intellectual property rights. Besides, there is every reason for India to cement bilateral trade and economic ties with China. India needs to reorient its trade policy in view of major shifts in the direction of trade in the 90s. The US and EU are gradually declining in importance as trade partners.

The Times of India, 16 July 2005

**Emerging As A Global Player India can engage with US from a position of strength** (V R Raghavan)

It would be a serious mistake to view this visit as a make-or-break event. The end of the Cold War, the security situation after the terrorist attacks of 2001, and the rapid advance of globalisation are impacting every state. None, including the US, is unaffected by it, and each is attempting to find ways of securing its core interests. Past barriers are melting down, new partnerships are being forged. The India-US relationship has gone through many turbulent phases. Those phases were a product of belief systems in both countries that are now gone. The visit by the Indian prime minister needs every Indian's support.

The Hindu, 17 July 2005

**India is not for sale, says Manmohan**

FRANKFURT: Responding to concerns voiced by the Left that in forging closer ties with the United States, India will be moving away from an independent and non-aligned foreign policy, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh pointed out that the Congress was the architect of the non-aligned movement and it would be a mistake to think that any Prime Minister of the party would sell India cheap.

The Hindu, 17 July 2005

**Opening up the potential in economic cooperation**

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's four-day visit to the United States is expected to open up the potential in several broad areas of economic, high technology and strategic cooperation rather than see dramatic moves on key issues of public interest in India including membership of the United Nations Security Council and civil nuclear supplies.

The Hindu, 17 July 2005

**Looking forward to strengthening strategic ties**

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday said he looked forward to "further developing and strengthening" India's strategic partnership with the United States during his July 18-20 official visit to Washington. "India attaches the highest importance to further developing and strengthening the strategic partnership with the United States, both in the bilateral context and to strengthen our partnership to meet global challenges. As the world's two largest democracies, we have common values and interests," he said before his departure from here.

The Indian Express, 17 July 2005

**D's dose for Left: We don't need lesson in patriotism**

"India is not for sale, I will safeguard its interests until the end of my life; highest importance to strategic partnership with US ." "No Prime Minister from the Congress Party can think of selling India", Singh said. "India is not for sale" and "I will safeguard India's interests till the end of my life," he asserted. "No body has to teach us any lessons in patriotism." The Prime Minister was addressing reporters on his way to Washington. Singh will

take a break in Frankfurt tonight and travel to Washington tomorrow morning.

The Hindu, 18 July 2005

**India, US not estranged: Manmohan**

NEW YORK: Ahead of his crucial summit with the US President George W. Bush on Monday, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has said he was hoping to persuade the US to share more of its nuclear technology with India and reverse the perception that the two democracies have "estranged" relations. "People have described in the past our two countries' relations as two estranged democracies. I would like to work towards a new era where our two democracies are engaged," he said in an interview to *The New York Times*, published on Sunday.

The Hindu, 18 July 2005

**G-4 has put Council issue on world agenda: Natwar**

NEW YORK: External Affairs Minister K. Natwar Singh said on Sunday that G-4 countries have put the issue of expansion of the UN Security Council on the world agenda and were holding discussions with the African Union to arrive at a common position. Mr Singh made brief remarks to reporters after he, along with his counterparts from Japan, Germany and Brazil, had 45-minute discussions with the UN General Assembly president, Jean Ping, ahead of G-4 Foreign Ministers' luncheon discussions with the representatives of the African Union.

The Hindu, 18 July 2005

**Nuclear cooperation with US: experts urge caution** (Siddharth Varadarajan)

No matter how important a position India has come to occupy in US strategic thinking, Washington will be careful not to do anything that will weaken the non-proliferation initiatives announced by President Bush in February 2003. If anything, the ongoing crisis over North Korea and Iran has increased the salience of these initiatives and reduced the Bush administration's appetite for making exceptions.

The Indian Express, 18 July 2005

**On 'historic' visit, waiting for some history to be made India and US need to elevate their relations beyond the ordinary** (C Raja Mohan)

WASHINGTON: As Prime Minister Manmohan Singh arrived here on a four-day state visit to the United States, the stage has been set for a "successful" summit - by normal diplomatic standards - with President George W. Bush. Whether it will be a "memorable" one in the wayward history of Indo-US relations might depend on the kind of conversation that Singh and Bush strike up tomorrow morning at the White House. There will be enough wares to show off at the end of the talks tomorrow, including a joint statement that will celebrate shared democratic values and record the intent of the two nations to build a strategic partnership. There will also be agreements - from HIV/AIDS to information technology and agriculture. But the big question remains: Can Singh and Bush elevate Indo-US relations beyond the ordinary?

The Times of India, 18 July

**America and the '71 shadow** ( P R Chari)

There are two lessons here for India. First, narrowing the security decision-making base to a narrow cabal is fraught with danger. Some rethinking is needed on the PMO becoming the locus of national security decision-making. Second, it would be naive for India to exaggerate the Bush administration's desire to make India its strategic partner, or believe that it will abandon Pakistan. Wisdom lies in India placing its eggs in more baskets than one.

The Hindu, 19 July 2005

**India can now get n-reactors from global market: PM**

WASHINGTON: In the wake of the breakthrough achieved over the highly contentious issue of US cooperation in nuclear energy, India can now hope to acquire nuclear power reactors and fuel from the international market to meet its ever growing energy needs. New Delhi is said to be keen to purchase at least six nuclear power reactors but was unable to do so in the face of sanctions and restrictions imposed by Washington following the 1974 Pokharan nuclear test.

The Hindu, 19 July 2005

**Manmohan expresses satisfaction over talks**

At the joint press conference held in the East Room of the White House, in reply to a question on how the prospects of lifting restrictions on nuclear material and high-technology supplies to India looked at the end of his discussion with Mr. Bush, Dr. Singh expressed "great satisfaction" over the manner in which the issue had been addressed. He said they had had "a very constructive and productive meeting" and thanked Mr. Bush for his

personal role and interest in facilitating a solution to this complex problem.

The Hindu, 19 July 2005

**Manmohan committed to peace**

WASHINGTON: US President George Bush on Monday lavished praise on Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, describing him as the "leader of one of the greatest democracies and a man committed to peace and liberty."

The Hindu, 19 July 2005

**Engaging with the soft power of U.S. -CEOs Forum will discuss trade and investment climate**

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will be spending all of his four days in the United States in Washington but much of his engagement will be with what Joseph Nye of Harvard University terms the "soft power" of the United States - its universities, businesses, scientific establishments and cultural bodies in contrast to its military and strategic establishments. An interesting event during this trip is the start of the CEOs Forum that would bring together 10 chief executive officers from each side for discussions on the trade and investment climate.

The Indian Express, 19 July 2005

**From corporate czars to farmers, India, US join hands**

WASHINGTON: To generate a strong private sector input into the proposed economic dialogue between India and the United States, a high-level bilateral CEO forum was launched here today. This was one of the many agreements and initiatives unveiled at the meeting between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and the US President George W Bush. The CEO forum brings together 10 top businessmen each from India and the US to promote Indo-US economic cooperation in the coming years. The forum is not aimed at lobbying the governments but to provide a smarter basis for economic policy making in both the capitals.

The Indian Express, 19 July 2005

**'Terrorists' held, Pak cries RAW connection**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan today said it has arrested five suspected "terrorists" and claims that they had confessed to links with an Indian intelligence agency. Initial investigations show that the men admitted their involvement in various terrorist acts like planting bombs on gas pipelines and electricity polls, Police spokesman Tariq Jameel told reporters in Karachi. He also said that during interrogation the arrested men said the leaders of the terrorist outfit met officials of India's Research and Analysis wing (RAW) in foreign countries and received support from them.

The Hindu, 20 July 2005

**US will work to lift curbs on nuclear supplies**

WASHINGTON: In a move that recognises India as a nuclear weapons state for all practical purposes but stops short of declaring it as one, the United States has committed itself to working for "full civil nuclear energy cooperation" with the country, including both direct and third party supplies of fuel for the safeguarded reactors at Tarapur. President George Bush will "seek agreement from Congress to adjust US laws and policies" towards this end. In return for such recognition and restrictions-free cooperation, India has committed itself to separating civilian and military nuclear facilities and placing its civilian nuclear reactors voluntarily under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards.

The Hindu, 20 July 2005

**India, US must make common cause against terrorism: Manmohan Singh**

Those who resorted to terrorism often clothed it in the garb of real or imaginary grievances. He declared, "We must categorically affirm that no grievance can justify resort to terror." Democracies provided legitimate means for expressing dissent and the right to engage in political activity. "However, for this very reason, they cannot afford to be soft on terror," he noted. Stressing that the United States and India must work together in all possible forums, he declared: "We cannot be selective in this area. We must fight terrorism wherever it exists, because terrorism anywhere threatens democracy everywhere."

The Hindu, 20 July 2005

**India will have same obligations as nuclear weapons states: Saran**

WASHINGTON: The commitments India has made, in the joint statement issued here on Monday, include identifying and separating civilian and military nuclear facilities, filing a declaration on its civilian facilities with the IAEA, "taking a decision to place voluntarily its civilian nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards," continuing its unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing, working with the U.S. on a fissile material cut off treaty, supporting international non-proliferation efforts through a comprehensive export control legislation and adhering to the

guidelines of the Missile Technology Control Regime and the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

The Hindu, 20 July 2005

**Nuclear bargain may prove costly in long run** (Siddharth Varadarajan)

While both sides have shown considerable flexibility, it is India that has leapt a greater distance in conceding a key demand of the Bush administration that the IAEA be allowed to monitor the 'non-military' side of the Indian nuclear energy programme. Apprehending such a decision, former and serving scientists at the Department of Atomic Energy had told The Hindu on Sunday that allowing international inspectors access to all civilian nuclear plants would seriously hamper ongoing research work on the fast breeder reactor (FBR) programme and compromise India's long-term energy security. On Tuesday, when news came from Washington confirming that this was precisely the bargain struck, the scientists reacted with anger and disbelief.

Indian Express, 20 July 2005

**US-India N-agreement inks doubt**

Washington, July 20: President George W. Bush, aiming to boost India as a counterbalance against China's rise, has moved closer to accepting the world's largest democracy as a nuclear weapons state and fueled fears he is weakening decades-old prohibitions against atomic arms. Bush accelerated the US embrace of India, after years of estrangement, during his first term. Monday's decision to permit expansive civilian nuclear cooperation is a further dramatic development.

Indian Express, 20 July 2005

**PM tells US Congress why India fit for new N-deal Indo-US**

WASHINGTON: Even as he savours the historic nuclear reconciliation with the Bush Administration, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today reached out to the US Congress which must change American non-proliferation laws to allow civilian nuclear commerce with India. Informing the Congress of his nuclear pact with President Bush, Singh declared that India is "fully conscious of the immense responsibilities that come with the possession of advanced technologies, both civilian and strategic". Aware of the potential opposition in the Congress to the Indo-US nuclear pact from the vociferous arms control lobby, Singh underlined India's "impeccable" track record on nuclear non-proliferation.

The Indian Express, 20 July 2005

**An embrace too ardent Ten questions India needs to ask about its relationship with the US** (Pratap Bhanu Mehta)

The scepticism about the US does not come from, as critics allege, an old mindset, paranoiac about the US. It comes, instead, from confidence in our strength, and a sense that we overestimate US power. By embracing the US as ardently as we are, we are giving up our bargaining chips too soon. We are letting the US set the terms of this relationship more than is warranted. India should become a different kind of great power, not one that orients itself to endorsement by the United States.

The Indian Express, 20 July 2005

**This means a cap on our n-arsenal, says Brajesh Mishra, facts show otherwise**

NEW DELHI, WASHINGTON: Brajesh Mishra, who was National Security Advisor during the Pokharan nuclear tests in 1998, today questioned Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's assurance to US President George Bush on segregation of Indian civilian and military nuclear facilities, saying it amounts to acceptance of a "cap" on the size of New Delhi's minimum credible nuclear deterrent. Speaking to The Indian Express in New Delhi, Mishra said: "The promise made yesterday in Washington means that we are accepting a cap on the size of our nuclear deterrent with a small number of nuclear weapons

The Indian Express, 20 July 2005

**US-India pact not against China**

WASHINGTON: The United States has said the new partnership with India is a reflection of its "growing role, power and influence" in the world and is not directed at any third country, including China. The agreement with India "stands on its own" and is not intended to be a counterweight to China, under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns said adding "this is a significant point of departure for our foreign policy, not just in South Asia but worldwide". Asked about Pakistan, Burns said Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has telephoned Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf to apprise him about the agreements with India.

The Indian Express, 20 July 2005

**India must in N-energy club: Russia**

MOSCOW, JULY 19: Russia today sought exception for India in the global nuclear non-proliferation regime in view of its "impeccable and unblemished" record and welcomed its engagement with US in the field of civilian nuclear energy. "There is a need for making exception for India in the global nuclear non-proliferation regime including the rules of Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) as New Delhi has impeccable and unblemished non-proliferation record," chief of Russia's Federal Atomic Energy Agency Alexander Romyantsev said.

The Indian Express, 20 July 2005

### **Crossing the milestone The nuclear agreement affirms the depth and maturity of the India-US engagement**

The new arrangement worked out between President Bush and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on the nuclear issue is a major landmark in several respects. The agreement promises to end India's nuclear isolation. The United States has committed itself to adjusting its domestic laws and international treaties to facilitate nuclear fuel supply to India. India will, as it always has, behave like a responsible power and put in all possible safeguards against proliferation. If the Bush Administration follows through on its commitments, this agreement could pave the way for a massive expansion of India's civilian nuclear energy programme. In the short run, this agreement will pave the way for expeditious consideration of fuel supplies to Tarapur, which is facing a critical shortage of fuel enriched uranium.

The Hindu, 21 July 2005

### **Indo-Iran pipeline fraught with risks: Manmohan**

WASHINGTON: Observing that the proposed multi-billion dollar Indo-Iran gas pipeline via Pakistan is fraught with risks, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has said he did not know if any international consortium of bankers would underwrite the project. "Only preliminary discussions have taken place (on the pipeline). We are terribly short of our energy supply and we desperately need new sources of energy. And that's why with Pakistan we have agreed to explore the possibility of the pipeline," he told The Washington Post yesterday when asked about the discussions on building a gas pipeline with Iran.

The Hindu, 21 July 2005

### **Breaking out of isolation to meet energy needs**

WASHINGTON: At the conclusion of his four-day visit to the United States, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said that the nuclear energy agreement with the U.S. was a way forward for India to break out of its present isolation and expand international cooperation to meet its energy needs. At the same time, it did not in any way lead to a diminution of the strategic nuclear capabilities that could affect the national security interests, he asserted in his remarks at a press conference. The two countries had agreed on reciprocal commitments, which would be addressed in a phased manner. A carefully selected working group would determine how best progress can be made in the matters reflected in the joint statement.

The Hindu, 21 July 2005

### **Nuclear deal will lead to a quantum jump: officials**

WASHINGTON: The nuclear deal with the United States by removing restrictions had opened up a huge opportunity and could lead to a quantum jump in the area of nuclear energy, according to official sources familiar with the negotiations. In contrast to the target of 10,000 MW or the likely achievement of 6,500 to 7,000 MW from nuclear energy with a restrictive regime, it would be possible under the new agreement to go to 40,000 MW or even beyond to meet the energy needs in the medium term.

The Hindu, 21 July 2005

### **Selling the United States of America in India (Harish Khare)**

The nuclear aspect may be a crucial element in the new relationship but much would hinge on a perception whether India has committed itself to a political relationship closer than warranted by domestic public opinion. And, let there be no mistake, notwithstanding the preferences in the so-called strategic community in this country, the national sentiment remains strangely reluctant to trust the US to wish this country well in the long run. This has nothing to do with the importance of the "Muslim vote," as the right-wing strategists assume; rather, it has quite a bit to do with the nationalist ethos, nurtured during the anti-colonial phase. It is all very well for the bureaucratic elites to argue that the Cold War is over and that we must move on and exorcise ourselves of the "non-alignment" mindset. Yet the national sentiment refuses to give the US the benefit of the doubt and no political leader with roots in democratic India can afford to overlook this simple fact.

The Indian Express, 21 July 2005

### **Islamists may seize Pak nukes: PM**

WASHINGTON: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has warned of "serious" consequences if Islamic militants grabbed power in Pakistan and took control of its nuclear weapons arsenal. Singh, wrapping up a four-day visit to the United States, said the al-Qaeda terror network led by Osama bin Laden had a key base in Pakistan and that there was always the risk of Islamic militants seizing power in Pakistan.

The Indian Express, 21 July 2005

### **N-deal a win-win for India, says Singh**

WASHINGTON: Despite the political criticism at home of the historic nuclear pact he concluded with the US this week, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today said he was confident that a strong national consensus will emerge once the immense gains from it are fully understood. Asked about former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's reaction to the pact, Singh said "if such a statement had been made, it must have been based on a misconception and wrong information".

The Indian Express, 21 July 2005

### **Born in the future Bush and Singh remove past burdens and carve out new spaces in the Indo-US engagement**

Bush and Singh have identified three broad areas for future joint initiatives. These include bilateral economic cooperation, which brings together the full range of new complementarities, including those of demographics and knowledge industries. Second was on spreading the virtues of democracy. In the past, India and the US were unwilling to make their own shared democratic values a basis for their foreign policy - the US supported pro-Western dictators and India, the anti-imperialist ones who mouthed third world slogans. Now Singh and Bush recognise the importance of promoting the values of pluralism and tolerance which they identify as the key to winning the war on terrorism. Finally, India and the US have also figured out they need each other to structure a new balance of power in Asia and beyond. Together the three new areas of engagement should constitute the long awaited transformation of Indo-US relations.

The Indian Express, 21 July 2005

### **American idol India will remain on Bush's radar only if it pushes on with reforms (Ashok Malik)**

So why is an "India with nuclear weapons" different? Why is it deemed acceptable and legitimate? What does America want of India in return for nuclear fuel, and the slew of agreements from space to agriculture to defence? The answer is simple enough: India has to keep its reforms going and its economy growing. Everything else is secondary. Nothing - not weapons systems, not nuclear plants - can make India a global power and an alternative role model to China if it reverts to being a slowcoach economy, if liberalisation doesn't continue, if retail and banking don't open up, if infrastructure is not seriously upgraded, if leading cities are allowed to waste away and die. These are the nuts and bolts of great power status; the nuclear-tipped missiles are only the gleaming showpieces.

The Hindu, 22 July 2005

### **Britain to continue Nuke curbs against India**

LONDON: Despite US government's decision to share civilian nuclear technology with India, Britain today said that its restrictions on transfer of such technology to New Delhi would continue till it signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. "The UK policy on the issue remains till India signs the NPT. We want all nuclear countries to adhere to the Treaty," an official spokesman told PTI.

The Hindu, 22 July 2005

### **Manmohan remarks unfortunate: Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday dubbed remarks by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on the security of Pakistan's nuclear programme and strategic assets as "unfortunate" and said they created a "misleading impression." "Pakistan's nuclear capability is defensive and based on minimum credible deterrence. Pakistan's nuclear programme and strategic assets are secure, under strict and multi-layered custodial controls," the Foreign Office spokesman said in a statement.

The Hindu, 22 July 2005

### **Some caveats on a constructive deal**

There is bound to be a contentious debate on the bargain struck by India and the United States on nuclear energy cooperation and trade that is the most substantive part of the Joint Statement issued from Washington DC. Unfortunately, this deal, like so much else in the realm of strategic affairs and foreign policy in recent years, including the Indo-US defence framework agreement, has been sprung on the people of India - forsaking the method of democratic discussion and consensus-building in advance rather than after the deal is done. But the

substance of the Indo-US nuclear bargain, which has constructive potential for the non-military, peaceful side of India's nuclear energy programme and offers the prospect of the country coming out of its post-1974 isolation in the international nuclear energy arena, must not be missed in the name of criticising the method.

The Indian Express, 25 July 2005

**Alert along coast for N Korean arms ship** (Prabhat Sharan)

MUMBAI: Naval Intelligence has sent a "classified and specific alert" to Customs officials to be on the lookout for a North Korean ship that is carrying arms and ammunition and heading towards India. The alert also said that the ship is likely to drop its consignment somewhere along the western coast. Confirming the alert, Commissioner of Customs (Preventive) K B Mishra said that "security and vigil has been intensified."

The Hindu, 25 July 2005

**The 'unsafe neighbourhood' syndrome** (Malini Parthasarathy)

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his delegation are understandably celebratory about the success of their efforts to intensify the India-U.S. engagement, reflecting notably in the groundbreaking deal on civil nuclear energy cooperation. Yet some of the arguments the Prime Minister used in his diplomatic pitch to President George Bush and the United States Congress drew heavily from 'scare scenarios' vis-à-vis Pakistan. These were ironically themes extensively relied upon by the predecessor Government and Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee; they were designed to gain strategic space in the competition for Washington's favour.

The Hindu, 25 July 2005

**Stay focussed on the Iran pipeline**

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has scored an own goal in telling the Washington Post that the proposed gas pipeline from Iran was fraught with both risk and uncertainty: "I am realistic enough to realise that there are many risks, because considering all the uncertainties of the situation there in Iran, I don't know if any international consortium of bankers would probably underwrite this." Was this a case of vacillation under pressure or just speaking out of turn? Even if he was merely giving vent to his personal reservations as an economist, Dr. Singh seems to have damaged the financial viability of the ambitious energy link between Iran, Pakistan, and India even before it has had a chance of coming off the drawing board. In the process, he has laid himself open to the charge of changing his mind on the utility of the project in order to appease the Bush administration.

The Hindu, 25 July 2005

**Pakistan team arrives for Baglihar inspection**

JAMMU: Two months after the World Bank appointed a Swiss mediator to hear its apprehensions, a five-member team of experts from Pakistan arrived here on Sunday for a three-day inspection tour of the Baglihar hydel project in Doda district. The team and eight Indian experts arrived from New Delhi and left for Baglihar. They will inspect the dam and reservoir of the project from Monday, officials said. The step was aimed at finding a bilateral solution to the controversy regarding the waters of the 450-mw Baglihar Power Project on the Chenab in Jammu and Kashmir, they said.

Indian Express, 25 July 2005

**Meanwhile, Port Blair for a future with Phuket** (Saurav Sanyal)

NEW DELHI: The Andaman and Nicobar Islands can never forget the tsunami but it's time now for its inhabitants to build a new future. As a first step, the island administration has turned to Phuket in Thailand, one of the world's best known tourist destinations which was also hit by the tsunami, to promote tourism, trade and commerce. The Port Blair Municipal Council (PBMC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Phuket city on June 29, a pact which now makes them twin cities. A&N Lt Governor Ram Kapse led a high-level delegation to Phuket which included PBMC chairperson K Krishnan and A&N Finance Commissioner Chetan B Sanghi.

The Indian Express, 27 July 2005

**African Union, G-4 reach agreement**

NEW DELHI: The prospect of G-4 framework resolution on expansion of UN Security Council being put for vote by month-end have brightened with the African Union agreeing to drop the demand for veto power for new permanent members. On its part, the G-4 has agreed to add a non-permanent member in its resolution. The understanding was reached after hectic negotiations between the foreign ministers of G-4 (India, Germany, Japan and Brazil) and representatives of the African Union in London on Monday.

The Indian Express, 27 July 2005

### **Wagah opens to Pak trade** (Dharmendra Rataul)

WAGAH: The Indo-Pak peace talks crossed a new milestone when several tonnes of garlic was sent to Lahore via the Wagah checkpost today. It's the first time after Partition that the Indian government had opened land route for trade. Earlier, most trade was through the bi-weekly Samjhauta Express, the lone rail link between India and Pakistan, or through Mumbai port. Though traders had been pressing for opening the route for quite some time, the Indian government decided to take this step only after Pakistan lifted import duties on garlic, potatoes, onions, tomatoes and green chillies. Thanks to this, India will be sending about 250 metric tonnes of garlic to Pakistan this week alone.

The Indian Express, 27 July 2005

### **Baglihar: Pak team studies run of Chenab**

JAMMU: The Pakistani team, inspecting the Baglihar hydel power project in Jammu and Kashmir, today studied the run of the Chenab river on which the 450-MW plant is situated, officials said. The five-member team, headed by Pakistan's Commissioner Indus Water Treaty and Ground Water Commission, Sayed Jamait Ali Shah, visited Ramban, Pul Doda, Thatri, Assar, Ragya Nallah and Khalani, among other places, in Doda district in the presence of the Indian technical team and took some readings and level markings.

The Indian Express, 27 July 2005

### **Terror camps reactivated in Pak: India**

NEW DELHI: A number of terrorist camps have been reactivated in Pakistan and the government is monitoring the situation very closely, Lok Sabha was informed on Wednesday. "Government is monitoring the situation very closely and has made it clear to Pakistan that the premise on which the present dialogue process is based is the commitment of January 6, 2004 by Pakistan not to permit any territory under its control to be used to support terrorism in any manner," Minister of State for External Affairs E Ahmed said during Question Hour.

The Hindu, July 27, 2005

### **Containers from Kerala used in London attacks?** (G Anand)

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: An important clue to the recent terrorist attacks in London may lie in plastic food storage containers exported from Kerala to the UK and sold through retail outlets in that country. A Thiruvananthapuram-based company, which exports moulded plastic articles to the UK, was contacted by the London Metropolitan Police investigating the bomb attacks. The BBC reported the Anti-Terrorist Branch's claim that all five bombs that failed to explode "were placed inside dark-coloured rucksacks or sports bags" and "all of them were made using the same type of plastic food storage containers." According to the Metropolitan Police website, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Peter Clarke told the media on July 25 that the containers were made in India and exported through a company to the UK and then sold in approximately 100 outlets across the country.

The Indian Express, 29 July 2005

### **N-pact: Chinese silence fails to unnerve India** (C Raja Mohan)

NEW DELHI: On the brink of regaining access to the international nuclear energy market, India hopes support from Russia, France and Britain will help the Bush administration change international non-proliferation rules. While the three European nuclear powers have broadly welcomed the Indo-US nuclear pact, the official Chinese silence has not gone unnoticed here. The government, however, is not overly concerned about potential opposition from Beijing to altering the global rules of nuclear commerce. Analysts here underline the possibility that China might either oppose the Indo-US nuclear deal or demand that similar privileges be extended to Pakistan as well.

The Hindu, 29 July 2005

### **Asia Pacific pact to complement Kyoto protocol: India**

NEW DELHI: India on Thursday said the new partnership of Asia-Pacific nations aimed at developing cleaner energy technologies to reduce global warming will complement the Kyoto protocol and not replace it. "This is consistent with and will contribute to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change," External Affairs Ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna told reporters here. "It will complement but it will not replace the Kyoto protocol," he said. The partnership between India, the US, Japan, Australia, South Korea and China on 'Clean Development and Climate' envisages working together to develop, deploy and transfer cleaner, more efficient technologies and to meet national pollution reduction, energy security and climate change concerns, consistent with the principles of the UN Framework Convention of Climate Change.

The Hindu, 29 July 2005

### **Rajapakse named for President** (V S Sambandan)

COLOMBO: The ruling Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) on Thursday officially named Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapakse as its candidate for the next Presidential election, and said President Chandrika Kumaratunga would lead the poll campaign. The SLFP also announced that senior Cabinet Minister Anura Bandaranaike (Ms. Kumaratunga's younger brother) would be the Prime Minister "when Mr. Rajapakse becomes President." Announcing the decision taken earlier in the day by the party's central committee, Government spokesperson Nimal Sripala De Silva said Ms. Kumaratunga had decided the candidature of Mr. Rajapakse. "It was her wish that Mahinda Rajapakse, our Prime Minister, be the Presidential candidate. The campaign will be led by none other than the President to ensure that [the Leader of the Opposition United National Party and former Prime Minister] Ranil Wickremesinghe is defeated".

The Hindu, 30 July 2005

**Manmohan, Musharraf to meet in New York**

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will meet Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf in New York in September this year on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly session. The meeting in New York was agreed to during a telephonic conversation President Musharraf had with Dr. Singh on Friday. President Musharraf telephoned and had a "cordial" 10-minute conversation on bilateral relations, Prime Minister's Media Adviser Sanjaya Baru said. The Pakistan leader called the Prime Minister to express sympathy and concern over the death and destruction in Maharashtra caused by heavy rain, Mr. Baru said.

The Indian Express, 30 July 2005

**Our Pipeline of Control We need the gas pipe, so do Iran and Pak. But let's get real, junk fantasies of strategic defiance** (Shekar Gupta)

Finally, our political and parliamentary debate is breaking out of the straight-jacket of national consensus. This writer has often complained that no democracy that conducted its foreign policy on a permanent consensus was ever going to have a dynamic, fleet-footed approach to a rapidly changing world. Sure enough, the NDA did move on from the fake, old, third-worldist, pro-Soviet Bloc and allegedly non-aligned consensus, but even that was accompanied by circumstances that forced the creation of another consensus. The Congress was too scared to question Pokharan II and the Left - which did - did not matter then. What followed, first the defiance and then engagement with America, first the peacemaking (Lahore) and then conflict with Pakistan (Kargil), a renewed effort at rapprochement (Agra) and fresh confrontation after the Parliament attack - with 9/11 thrown in the middle - made it that much easier for Vajpayee to push the shift, with the Congress too rattled by the rising jingoism to even complain.

The Indian Express, 30 July 2005

**Musharraf dials Manmohan on Mumbai Maharashtra**

NEW DELHI: Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf tonight called up Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to condole the deaths caused by incessant rains in Maharashtra and express sympathy over the massive destruction caused, particularly in Mumbai. Both leaders also discussed bilateral relations and agreed to meet on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly session at New York this September. The telephone call was made around 10 pm - it lasted for about 10 minutes - during which both leaders exchanged views on bilateral relations, with several official-level meetings lined up before the UNGA. The two leaders agreed to discuss bilateral subjects at New York.

The Tribune, 30 July 2005

**Political vacuum in Pakistan: Military and mullahs rule the roost** (M B Naqvi)

TWO news items illustrate what is happening today in Pakistan. One is the ongoing campaign to arrest terrorists, the Taliban really, who are causing so much trouble to the coalition forces in Afghanistan. The second is the election for next month's local government bodies. From the President down to most aware citizens, everyone seems to be in an electoral mode. Demands of the coalition forces from Afghanistan are strident that Pakistan should prevent the regrouped Taliban from crossing into Afghanistan. The accusations from the American Generals and the Afghan officials, including President Karzai and others, are about Pakistan being rather soft on the Taliban, though it is fully cooperating in their war on terror by having arrested over 500 Al-Qaeda linked suspects.

The Hindu, 31 July 2005

**Pakistan will conduct more missile tests** (B Muralidhar Reddy)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf on Saturday said his country's nuclear and missile power would be further refined and more missile tests conducted in the coming months for the purpose. Those compromising on country's indigenous nuclear and missile technology would be traitors and such compromise

was unthinkable, he told a public meeting at Kabalin the North West Frontier Province.

The Hindu, 31 July 2005

**Sri Lanka files review plea on P-TOMS** (V.S. Sambandan)

COLOMBO: The Sri Lankan Government on Friday filed a review petition requesting the Supreme Court to reconsider its interim injunction on the Post-Tsunami Operational Management Structure (P-TOMS) agreement between Colombo and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). According to sources, the Government asked the court that it be permitted to carry on with the operational aspect of the P-TOMS as it was a "delegated power" made by the Government to the LTTE and did not amount to granting the rebels the functions of the Government.

The Hindu, 31 July 2005

**ASEAN, Myanmar work out a compromise** (P S Suryanarayana)

SINGAPORE: The democracy lobby within the Association of South East Asian Nations' Regional Forum (ARF) has heaved a sigh relief that Myanmar's military Government will not chair either the ASEAN or its meetings with dialogue partners in 2006. The ARF held its latest annual session in Vientiane, Laos, on Friday. On the eve of that meeting, Myanmar announced its decision to give up the right to preside over the ASEAN next year. However, "the ASEAN way" provided the Yangon regime with an exit strategy, which had the effect of dodging, if not outwitting, the democracy lobby, especially the Western dialogue partners, according to some regional diplomats and analysts.

The Indian Express, 31 July 2005

**Gas via Pakistan? They don't even allow health biscuits from India to reach poor Afghan kids** (Pranab Dhal Samanta)

NEW DELHI: Here's some cold reason for all those passionately plugging the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline: Forget gas, Pakistan is not allowing Indian biscuits to pass its territory, biscuits meant for schoolchildren in war-ravaged Afghanistan. Result: India's annual supply of 15,000 tonnes of high-protein biscuits-under the UN's World Food Programme-that could have taken just two days to reach the children now takes more than a week. Extra cost: An estimated \$5 million (Rs 24 crore) a year. As of now, 100 grams of Indian biscuits are distributed to each of almost 1.5 million school children daily across Afghanistan, mainly in Kabul, Kandahar and Herat. Ironically, these biscuits are in lieu of 1 million tonnes of wheat, which India had pledged to send every year but had to withdraw after Islamabad did not allow transit.

The Times Of India, 31 July 2005

**Pak Supreme Court to hear Taliban-style Bill**

ISLAMABAD: A move by hardline Islamists to introduce what critics say amounts to a Taliban-style justice system in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province will come under the scrutiny of the country's Supreme Court on Monday. The controversy over the Hasba (accountability) bill is the latest episode of a long struggle between moderates and religious conservatives for control of Pakistan's future. The issue has blown up amid a recent government crackdown on militants, Islamist activists and firebrand preachers which has netted more than 600 suspects in the past two weeks. Diplomats in Islamabad say president Musharraf's handling of the bill will show how serious he is about containing and rolling back the religious right. Musharraf is trying to lead his mostly-Muslim nation down a path of "enlightened moderation", but critics say he has allowed the mullahs who lead Islamist parties to build power bases in Pakistan's mainstream politics.