

The New York Times, 1 November 2006

U.S. - Led Group Unveils Steps to Fight Nuclear Terror

The five major nuclear powers and eight other nations on Tuesday endorsed a set of principles designed to keep nuclear materials out of the hands of extremist groups...

The Washington Post, 1 November 2006

Nuclear Cleanup Site Has Cities Cleaning Up Financially

Out on the Hanford nuclear reservation, a fantastically poisoned plateau where the federal government brewed up most of the plutonium for its nuclear arsenal, the cleanup is going rather badly...

The Washington Post, 1 November 2006

North Korea Talks

NORTH KOREA'S decision to return to the "six party" negotiations on its nuclear program is, first and foremost, a victory for China and its strategy of preserving Kim Jong Il's totalitarian regime. Whether it will contribute to the cause of dismantling the North's atomic arsenal remains to be seen...

The Tribune, 1 November 2006

'Prevent terrorists from getting access to nukes'

United Nations, October 31: India has sought concerted international efforts to prevent terrorists from gaining access to radiological materials and technology. In his maiden address to the United Nations General Assembly, India's delegate former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed asked the international community to give high priority to the development of global security culture and offered it full support to achieve the goal. He said global efforts are needed to prevent terrorists from accessing radiological material. In accordance with its commitment and record as a responsible nation with advanced nuclear technology, he said India is prepared to supplement international efforts for promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. India believes that closed fuel nuclear cycle is essential if nuclear power is to make sustained contribution at a large enough scale necessary to meet global energy needs, Mr Sayeed said yesterday while intervening in the debate on the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the nuclear watchdog body of the United Nations.

The Tribune, 1 November 2006

Geopolitics of nuclear energy

The geopolitics of energy has become a hot issue in the debate on Asia's rising share in the world economy. To sustain higher growth, big developing nations like China and India are confronted with finding more energy and raw materials to fuel their exports, industrial production and road transportation. The intensifying competition for energy injects a new element into geopolitics, with unpredictable consequences for the future of Asia. If China were to come out openly against a transparent, bilaterally negotiated, US-India cooperation agreement that also promotes global energy security, it would deal a blow to another Asian country's plans for faster economic growth and a setback to improving Sino-Indian relations.

The Tribune, 1 November 2006

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The Tribune, 1 November 2006

Improved reactor for nuclear power from thorium soon

Mumbai, October 31: The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) is working on an advanced heavy water reactor which will generate 300 mw of power from thorium. The work on the project will begin sometime next year, according to BARC. This is part of the efforts by the Indian nuclear energy establishment to look for alternatives to uranium as a primary source of nuclear power. While India is dependent on imported uranium to feed its nuclear power plants, the country has enormous reserves of thorium, mainly on the beaches of Kerala. The Nuclear Power Corporation, which runs the nuclear power plants across the country, has an ambitious programme to crank up the capacities of the reactors build with indigenous technology. The newer heavy water reactors being built in the country will generate as much as 700 mw of power.

The Hindu, 1 November 2006

Japan to stick to sanctions until N Korea abandons nukes

Tokyo, Nov.1: Japan said Wednesday it will maintain sanctions on North Korea until the impoverished nation gives up nuclear weapons development, despite its willingness to resume disarmament talks. ``The most important thing is that North Korea abandon all nuclear development" in accordance with U.N. Security Council demands, said Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuhisa Shiozaki, the government's top spokesman. ``Until we know whether this will be carried out, we will calmly carry out what we have decided," he said, referring to sanctions imposed after the North's Oct. 9 nuclear test. North Korea announced earlier on Wednesday that it would return to the six-party talks on its nuclear disarmament. The talks have been stalled for a year. Japanese officials welcomed the development Wednesday, but Tokyo has insisted that the talks should lead to a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula.

Hindustan Times, 2 November 2006

Jaswant Singh clarifies BJP's stand on Indo-US nuke deal

Washington: Former External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh has clarified Bhartiya Janata Party's stand on the Indo-US civilian nuclear agreement, saying the party's objections to the deal are confined merely to its details which he did not spell out. Speaking at a meeting at the Paul H Nitze School of Advanced International Studies in Washington on Wednesday, Singh frankly acknowledged that the agreement was a

"natural evolution" of the comprehensive dialogue on the Indo-US relations that he, as a representative of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, had with then US Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott. Talbott shared the dais with him. Singh said the difficulty was not with the direction of the India-US cooperation in the nuclear field but it was with the details of the agreement, interpreted differently by different people.

The Indian Express, 2 November 2006

China for N Korea sanctions to stay

SEOUL, November 1: North Korea officially confirmed on Wednesday it was returning to six-party talks because Washington had agreed to discuss financial sanctions that had driven it away from the negotiating table to start with. "The DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) decided to return to the six-party talks on the premise that the issue of lifting financial sanctions will be discussed and settled between the DPRK and the US within the framework of the six-party talks," said a Foreign Ministry spokes-man cited by the official KCNA news agency. Japan and the US, advocates of tough punitive measures against the North after its Oct 9 nuclear test, both said that sanctions over the test should remain. "With regard to the UN sanctions, those are international obligations," Washington's top North Korea envoy, Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, told reporters before leaving Beijing on Wednesday.

The Japan Times, 2 November 2006

Japan stands firm with sanctions on North Korea

Japan will continue the economic sanctions it leveled against North Korea despite Pyongyang's apparent about-face on returning to the multilateral talks to end its nuclear threat, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuhisa Shiozaki told a news conference Wednesday. The top government spokesman pointed out it is still not clear if the North will end its nuclear weapons program as demanded in a recent U.N. Security Council resolution and a joint declaration from the six-party talks in September 2005. "We will calmly implement what we decided to do as long as it remains unclear if (North Korea) will abide by" those requests, Shiozaki said. Following Pyongyang's Oct. 9 declared nuclear test, Japan toughened economic sanctions already in place in the wake of the July ballistic missile tests, including a complete ban on imports from the North, entry of North Korean vessels into Japanese ports and entry of North Korean nationals except for those living in Japan.

The Hindu, 2 November 2006

Defusing a crisis

Pyongyang's decision to re-enter the Six Party talks is excellent news but the world - and Washington, in particular - must realise this is not the way things were supposed to go. Thanks to gross mishandling by the Bush administration, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, after years of prevarication, jumped into the highly regrettable adventure of testing a nuclear weapon. China has succeeded in persuading its isolated neighbour to get back to the negotiating table but both Beijing and Washington are likely to find it difficult to put the genie back in the bottle. South Africa is an exemplary case of a country with nuclear weapons in the basement deciding - of its own accord during a period of radical change - to eliminate them. Libya is an example of a nation with a

nuclear weapons programme agreeing, under pressure and threat, to give it up. However, no state that has staged a public crossing of the nuclear Rubicon has so far agreed to disarm. Will the Democratic People's Republic of Korea be the first such case? Perhaps - but only if the U.S. effects a fundamental shift in policy towards that country and its government.

The Hindu, 2 November 2006

North Korea wants talks to focus on lifting sanctions

SINGAPORE: North Korea on Wednesday announced its decision to return to the negotiation table and address the concerns of major powers over its recent nuclear weapon test and related matters. The statement by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) follows China's announcement on Tuesday that the six-party talks on the de-nuclearisation of the Korean peninsula would be reconvened "soon." The six parties are the DPRK, the U.S., China as the host, South Korea, Japan, and Russia. China fashioned this diplomatic breakthrough at a trilateral meeting involving the U.S. and the DPRK, in Beijing on Tuesday. Without specifying that the "premise" was a precondition for the resumption of the six-party talks, stalled for about a year now, North Korea said, "bilateral and multilateral contacts [involving China and the U.S.] took place in Beijing on October 31, with the main emphasis [being] on the contact between the DPRK and the U.S."

The Nation, 2 November 2006

Israel's nuclear tactical weapons

Of all the statistics to emerge from Israel's recent war on Lebanon, the most shocking concerns are the number of cluster bombs that Israel dropped on Lebanon. More striking is the fact that these weren't ordinary cluster bombs but rather small nuclear tactical weapons manufactured in the United States of America. All was fine till the weapons were used after all they were given to be used. Then why suddenly the US State Department felt the need to investigate whether Israel had used US manufactured cluster bombs in Lebanon? Why is the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) asked to confirm whether uranium-based munitions were used by Israel? Can the US answer these questions?

The News, 2 November 2006

Iran may limit work with IAEA if sanctions imposed

TEHRAN: Iran may limit its cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog if sanctions are imposed over the Islamic Republic's atomic programme, a former chief nuclear negotiator was quoted as saying on Wednesday. European states have prepared a draft sanctions resolution after Iran rejected repeated UN demands to scrap uranium enrichment, which can be used to make material for power stations or warheads. Russia has expressed misgivings about the proposal. Hassan Rohani, a moderate politician who led Iran's nuclear negotiations with the European Union since 2003 until President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad took office last year, warned about the consequences of such sanctions. "Iran will give a proper answer if they pass such a tough and bad resolution," the students news agency ISNA quoted Rohania's saying.

The News, 2 November 2006

North Korea's return

North Korea's announcement on Wednesday that it is returning to the six-party talks that it had abandoned last November is a welcome development but only in the short-term. Three weeks after its first nuclear test, Pyongyang reversed its Nov. 2005 decision to quit talks in protest against US measures restricting its access to the international financial system. This new move lends credence to the view that North Korea carried out its nuclear test to get into a position of strength, return to negotiations and eventually use its de facto nuclear status to demand concessions. That said, any major breakthrough is unlikely, not least because Pyongyang's announcement makes it clear that the focus of its return is removal of the restrictions placed on it and not to barter its nuclear programme.

The Korean Herald, 2 November 2006

Expectations low for nuke talks

It was highly expected, observers say, that North Korea would return to the six-party talks, but it is equally anticipated that the nuclear negotiators will face a struggle once talks reopen. "There is nothing impressive about North Korea's decision to return to the talks," said Dr. Kim Tae-woo of the Korea Institute for Defense Analyses. North Korea will most likely bring up Washington's financial sanctions and demand recognition of its nuclear capacity. "North Korea will focus on its possession of nuclear weapons and an elevation of its status. It will repeat its past demands for a complete guarantee of its regime," Kim said. "And that is something the United States cannot accept." The United States, in turn, is expected to demand nuclear disarmament, an improvement in human rights, abandonment of weapons of mass destruction and a solution to the counterfeiting problem.

Daily Yomiuri, 2 November 2006

Don't let N. Korea call itself a nuclear power

Was it a result of the pressure of sanctions imposed by the international community? The Chinese Foreign Ministry on Tuesday announced that North Korea had agreed to return to the six-way talks on its nuclear ambitions. Three envoys from China, North Korea and the United States who represent their countries in the six-way framework reportedly agreed to resume the six-party talks at an early date during an unpublicized meeting they held in Beijing on Tuesday. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, Washington's envoy to the six-way talks, said the negotiations would resume in November or in December. Pyongyang had demanded that the United States lift its financial sanctions against North Korea as a precondition for it returning to the talks.

Daily Yomiuri, 2 November 2006

Japan, U.S. plan hard line / Will demand North Korea scrap N-program at 6-way talks

Tokyo and Washington will demand that North Korea express its intention to scrap all its nuclear weapons and existing nuclear development program shortly after the six-way talks over the country's nuclear ambition get under way, government sources said Wednesday. Both governments will ask North Korea to immediately halt its nuclear tests, announce a schedule to abandon its nuclear program and weapons and clarify a means of

verification, said the sources. The Japanese government will shortly coordinate opinions on the matter with China, chairman of the six-party talks, and three other participants-- Russia, South Korea and the United States--according to the sources. The Japanese and U.S. governments had previously agreed not to make North Korea's announcement of its willingness to completely abandon its nuclear program a precondition for reopening the six-party talks, in an effort to commence talks as soon as possible.

Daily Yomiuri, 2 November 2006

U.S. decision on nuclear talks with N. Korea not taken lightly

It took three days before U.S. President George W. Bush agreed to unofficial three-way discussions Tuesday between the United States, China and North Korea, in which they agreed to restart six-party nuclear disarmament talks. According to U.S. sources, the Chinese government proposed to U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice through the U.S. ambassador in Beijing on Oct. 25 to have three-way discussions between envoys from the three nations. Rice contacted the White House for Bush's response. According to Rice, North Korea informed China that it wanted to talk to the United States. Beijing thought it highly likely that Pyongyang would go back to six-party talks and conveyed this to the United States.

Daily Yomiuri, 2 November 2006

North Korea may take even harder line / Despite returning to talks, Pyongyang likely to continue brinkmanship strategy

Although North Korea has agreed to return to the table for the six-nation talks on its nuclear ambitions, negotiations will surely be hard going if they actually resume after a hiatus of about a year. This is because North Korea, which claims it has become a nuclear power after its nuclear test last month, will raise the bar on conditions for every concession it makes. Diplomats from the other five countries involved in the talks are highly suspicious over whether Pyongyang seriously intends to abandon its nuclear ambitions. The North Korean nuclear problem may be further complicated if the going gets tough during the talks, as this would allow Pyongyang more time to develop its nuclear weapons. A source in Seoul said North Korea's agreement to resume the talks was "a calculated action." Pyongyang knew the Oct. 9 nuclear test would shock the international community, and has been waiting for the United States, which has been tied up handling Middle East affairs, to offer a diplomatic solution.

Daily Yomiuri, 2 November 2006

Govt watches N. Korea's next move

The government is paying close attention to North Korea's next move as it wants to ensure that Pyongyang has not only agreed to resume international talks on its nuclear program, but will actually give up the program. A source close to the government said: "China must have been successful in putting pressure on North Korea. But what really matters is whether North Korea will show its intention to scrap its nuclear program." As for the establishment of a working group to discuss financial sanctions imposed on North Korea by the United States, a senior Foreign Ministry official said, "A stern attitude should be maintained, so that North Korea won't be rewarded for conducting a nuclear test." The government had been in close contact with the U.S. government before the

unpublicized meeting of the United States, China and North Korea took place on Tuesday.

Dawn, 2 November 2006

Iran to test ballistic missiles

TEHRAN, Nov 1: Iran's Revolutionary Guards will fire off ballistic missiles with a range of more than 1,000km during war games this week, state television reported on Wednesday. The air, land and naval manoeuvre will take place in 14 provinces starting on Thursday 'with the focus on the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea,' army chief General Rahim Safavi was quoted by the television as saying. "Missiles Shahab-2 and Shahab-3 with cluster warheads and range of over 1,000km will be shot as well as hundreds of rockets and other missiles such as Fateh and Zolfaghar," Safavi said. "The first and main goal of this manoeuvre is to demonstrate power and national determination to defend the country against any possible threat," he added.

Dawn, 2 November 2006

Pakistan urged to cooperate more with IAEA

ISLAMABAD, Nov 1: Belgium, a key member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), has advised Pakistan to 'cooperate more' with the IAEA, hinting that it could facilitate access to civilian nuclear technology. This suggestion was made by the visiting Belgian Foreign Minister Karel de Gucht during a meeting with his Pakistani counterpart Khurshid Kasuri here on Wednesday. Later, addressing a joint press conference both the ministers confirmed that during their talks the key question of civilian nuclear cooperation was discussed and they had stated their respective positions. Foreign Minister Gucht was, however, non-committal on the question of whether Belgium acknowledged Pakistan's right to civilian nuclear technology and supported its call for the NSG to pursue a criteria-based approach for civilian nuclear trade.

Daily Times, 2 November 2006

Belgium wants Pakistan to open up N-sites

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan should open all its nuclear installations for examination by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) if it wants help from countries to meet its nuclear energy needs, Belgian Foreign Affairs Minister Karel De Gucht told reporters on Wednesday evening. "We want that the Pakistan civil nuclear programme be governed by IAEA safeguards and the programme should be open to the IAEA for inspection," Mr De Gucht said after talks with Pakistan's Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri. On US cooperation with India in civilian nuclear energy technology without opening its installations for IAEA examination, he said, "We are not making any comparisons here. But it is the beginning and India will have to come to this point eventually."

The New York Times, 3 November 2006

Iran Test - Fires Longer Range Missile

TEHRAN: Iran test-fired dozens of missiles, including the Shahab-3 that can reach Israel, in military maneuvers Thursday that it said were aimed at putting a stop to the role of world powers in the Persian Gulf region. The show of strength came three days after U.S.-led warships finished naval exercises in the Gulf that Iran branded as "adventurist."

Iran remains locked in dispute with the West over its nuclear program, which Washington says is geared to producing atomic weapons but Tehran says is only for generating electricity. Asked about Thursday's maneuvers, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said she thought the Iranians "are trying to demonstrate that they are tough." "The Iranians also I think are not unaware that the security environment is one in which if they actually were to do something Iran would suffer greatly and so I think they probably understand that," Rice said on the Bill Cunningham radio show on WLW Cincinnati.

Hindustan Times, 3 November 2006

Rice warns Iran after missile launches

Washington: US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice chided Iran for trying to act "tough" after it fired a new long-range missile for the first time, but warned Tehran would "suffer greatly" if it used the weapon in anger. Iranian forces launched the Shahab-3 ballistic missile on Wednesday as they began 10 days of war games that coincide with US-led efforts to impose UN-mandated sanctions on Iran over its nuclear programme. "I think they're trying to demonstrate that they're tough," Rice said of the missile test. "But the Iranians also I think are not unaware that the security environment is one in which if they actually were to do something, Iran would suffer greatly and so I think they probably understand that," she said in a radio interview.

Hindustan Times, 3 November 2006

Sanctions against N Korea to remain: US

Seoul, November 2: The main US envoy to South Korea on Thursday urged all countries to implement UN sanctions against the North for its nuclear test, even after Pyongyang agreed to return to arms talks. US Ambassador Alexander Vershbow said the UN Security Council resolution condemning the North's October 9 nuclear test "remains in force until North Korea complies with its terms -- that is, until North Korea denuclearises." He didn't mention any country by name, but the North's two main trade partners, China and South Korea, have been reluctant to antagonise Pyongyang with harsh action for fear of upsetting regional stability. Vershbow also praised Pyongyang for agreeing this week to return to six-nation arms talks, but said there was a "long way to go" before the crisis is resolved.

The Asahi Shimbun, 3 November 2006

Six-party talks

North Korea will rejoin negotiations with the international community over its nuclear ambitions. The long-stalled six-party talks on dismantling Pyongyang's nuclear programs now look set to resume by the end of November. Three weeks of intensive diplomacy triggered by North Korea's surprise Oct. 9 announcement of its first nuclear test led to this breakthrough. The stage was set for the new round of talks after the United Nations Security Council voted to impose sanctions against North Korea in tandem with furious shuttle diplomacy by U.S. and Chinese officials. We welcome the latest development in this crisis. The international community sent a clear message that it would not tolerate the reclusive state's development of nuclear weapons. Aside from the U.N. resolution, countries like Japan, China, the United States, South Korea and Russia applied economic pressure on the isolated regime. There were concerns about how Pyongyang would

respond to the message. Of particular concern was whether it would conduct a second nuclear test.

The Hindu, 3 November 2006

North Korea and a new nuclear order

North Korea's nuclear weapon test on October 9 galvanised the United Nations Security Council into making efforts to preserve and protect the existing non-proliferation order. Faced with this stark reality, Pyongyang announced on November 1 its willingness to rejoin the stalled six-party talks on denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula. The punch line in these talks, expected to restart later this month or in December, will be that the United States, the high priest of nuclear non-proliferation, and China, the proactive host of these parleys, do not accept North Korea as a nuclear-armed state. This has been amplified by the U.S., after China brokered on October 31 a diplomatic breakthrough that might "soon" revive the six-party process. While China did so by holding informal talks with the U.S. and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the others in this process - South Korea, Japan, and Russia - are also opposed to accepting Pyongyang as a nuclear-armed player.

China Daily, 3 November 2006

China hopes N.Korea talks to start soon

China hopes the Six-Party Talks on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue will be held soon, the Foreign Ministry said Thursday. "It is our belief that it would be better to hold the meeting as early as possible," spokesman Liu Jianchao said at a regular news briefing, referring to the six-nation talks. On Tuesday's informal meeting in Beijing between chief delegates to the Six-Party Talks from China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the United States, which led to the announcement of talks resumption, Liu said: "We appreciate and welcome the positive attitude and flexibility they had shown." The meeting ended with an agreement to "restart the talks in the near future, at a time convenient to the six parties." The Six-Party Talks aimed at making the Korean Peninsula nuclear-free also involve the Republic of Korea (ROK), Russia and Japan. The last round of the talks was suspended in November last year when the DPRK refused to return to the negotiation table citing financial sanctions imposed by the US against it.

Daily Times, 3 November 2006

Keeping the bomb safe from extremists

A group of nuclear-powered and other countries led by the United States and Russia has crafted new global nuclear-safety principles under the rubric of "Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism" in a meeting in Morocco. The idea is to keep nuclear materials out of the hands of "extremist" groups by improving countries' control over their nuclear materials and to better detect radioactive materials to prevent their trafficking. The statement containing the principles calls for nations to develop criminal and civil penalties for people who facilitate 'nuclear terrorism', to deny such people financial resources and to improve information-sharing about such activities. The statement also requires all member states - so far five nuclear powers plus eight others - to ensure the -national, legal and regulatory frameworks sufficient to provide for the implementation of appropriate criminal and, if applicable, civil liability for terrorists and

those who facilitate acts of nuclear terrorism', while recognising the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the fields of nuclear safety and security.

Daily Times, 3 November 2006

China to seek nuclear favours for Pakistan

WASHINGTON: The 45-member Nuclear Suppliers Group, which will need to make a country-specific exception for India as part of a series of steps to finalise the Indo-US nuclear cooperation agreement, may be asked by China to make a similar exception for Pakistan, according to former United States deputy secretary of state Strobe Talbott. Addressing a joint meeting with former Indian external affairs minister Jaswant Singh at the John Hopkins University, Talbott said that this is what he had gathered during his meeting with Chinese officials on a recent visit to that country. Singh, who held the foreign affairs portfolio under the Vajpayee government and had held 13 meetings with Talbott to get the Indo-US strategic dialogue rolling, said that at one point during the Kargil war, India noted a movement of Pakistani missiles near Jehlum but had come to the conclusion that the redeployment was of a diversionary nature and that it would therefore be erroneous for India to respond in kind.

The New York Times, 3 November 2006

U.S. Web Archive Is Said to Reveal a Nuclear Guide

Last March, the federal government set up a Web site to make public a vast archive of Iraqi documents captured during the war. The Bush administration did so under pressure from Congressional Republicans who had said they hoped to 'leverage the Internet' to find new evidence of the prewar dangers posed by Saddam Hussein. But in recent weeks, the site has posted some documents that weapons experts say are a danger themselves: detailed accounts of Iraq's secret nuclear research before the 1991 Persian Gulf war. The documents, the experts say, constitute a basic guide to building an atom bomb. Last night, the government shut down the Web site after The New York Times asked about complaints from weapons experts and arms-control officials. A spokesman for the director of national intelligence said access to the site had been suspended 'pending a review to ensure its content is appropriate for public viewing.'

The Washington Post, 3 November 2006

Optimism Turns to Anxiety On Curbing Nuclear Arms

In the waning days of the 20th century, nearly a dozen countries abandoned nuclear weapons programs, betting on the promised security of a post-Cold War world. But the trend toward disarmament seems to have tapered off almost as quickly as it began. In the first six years of the 21st century, one country -- Libya -- agreed to give up the possibility of making a weapon. But North Korea accelerated its program, and many believe Iran is doing the same. More countries are exploring uranium enrichment and nuclear power programs that could be diverted to produce weapons. Officials and nuclear experts who felt nothing but optimism in the early 1990s now see a world on the threshold of a dangerous arms race. Some fault the Bush administration for policies that rewarded nuclear-armed friends while denouncing foes accused of building the same weapons. Others say the current situation is a natural byproduct of a fragmented world in which countries no longer have to choose between the United States and the Soviet Union, but

can go separate ways and build independent alliances.

The New York Times, 3 November 2006

U.S. Shuts Web Site Said to Reveal Nuclear Guide: NYT

WASHINGTON: The U.S. government has shut down a Web site it set up in March containing documents captured during the Iraq war after arms experts and officials raised concerns it offered a guide to building a nuclear bomb, The New York Times reported on Thursday. The newspaper said the Bush administration started the site under pressure from congressional Republicans who had hoped to use the Internet to find new evidence of the dangers posed by former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein before the U.S.-led invasion in 2003. In recent weeks, according to the Times, the site posted documents that weapons experts said contained detailed accounts of Iraq's secret nuclear research before the 1991 Gulf War that one diplomat called "a cookbook" for building an atom bomb. On Wednesday night, after the Times informed the government about the concerns, it said the government suspended the site. A spokesman for the director of national intelligence said the site was suspended "pending a review to ensure its content is appropriate for public viewing."

The Tribune, 4 November 2006

Staying the course on nuke deal

As legislation intended to enable U.S.-India civil nuclear cooperation negotiates partisan wrangling in the United States Congress, two South Asia analysts warn that if the deal falters it could cause a 'significant setback' to U.S.-India relations. In an article in Current History, Sumit Ganguly and Dinshaw Mistry say that 'the substantial improvement that has taken place in U.S.-India relations over the past decade' will suffer as 'key individuals and groups within the Indian political arena who are virulently opposed to the improvement of U.S.-India ties would exploit the failure to realise the nuclear deal as evidence of American perfidy and the ruling Indian government's ineptitude and na`vet'. They add that the strategic significance of the nuclear agreement for advancing U.S.-India bilateral relations cannot be overstated.

The Indian Express, 4 November 2006

'India's NPT track record better than most'

NPT Washington, November 4: Admitting that there was opposition to the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal in both the countries, India has said New Delhi's track record in non-proliferation was 'much better' than any other nation. In his address at the Potomac institute of policy studies on Friday, Indian Ambassador to the US Ronen Sen acknowledged that the nuclear agreement between the United States and India had some opposition but asserted that the debate is dissimilar in the two countries. "There is a little bit of history," Sen said when asked about the opposition in India where some had raised the question of whether Washington will stay the course or pull the rug from under the feet down the line.

The Tribune, 4 November 2006

UK calms India's nuclear nerves

New Delhi, November 3: The visiting Foreign Minister of United Kingdom, Ms Margaret

Beckett, today made two suo motu important assurances which would be music to the ears of the Indian leadership. Ms Beckett said that London supported New Delhi's civil nuclear aspirations and that the UK would continue to push for India's growing status to be fully reflected in the UN Security Council and other international organisations. There is no novelty or change in the UK's stand on these two issues but in diplomacy reiteration of positive things is always welcomed. On London's support to New Delhi's aspirations for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council, Ms Beckett was categorical. "We in the UK will continue to use our strong influence - in the European Union, in the United Nations, in the global economic institutions - to push for India's growing status to be fully reflected in the UN Security Council and other international organisations."

Daily Times, 4 November 2006

United States posted Iraqi nuclear bomb documents on Internet, says NYT report

WASHINGTON: The US government posted on the Internet Iraqi documents that explain how to build a nuclear bomb, the New York Times reported on Friday on its website. The Times said that officials from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) had complained to US officials last week about the postings of 'roughly a dozen' documents from Iraq's pre-1991 nuclear research that contained diagrams, equations and other details for making a nuclear bomb. The Times cited experts who said the documents "constitute a basic guide to building an atom bomb." One of the documents, running to 51 pages, covered the technical advances of Iraq's early nuclear programme, including 18 pages on the development of its bomb design.

The New York Times, 4 November 2006

U.S. Analysts Had Flagged Atomic Data on Web Site

Two weeks before the government shut down a Web site holding an archive of Iraqi documents captured during the war, scientists at an American weapons laboratory complained that papers on the site contained sensitive nuclear information, federal officials said yesterday. Two documents were quickly removed. The Bush administration set up the Web site last March at the urging of Congressional Republicans, who said giving public access to materials from the 48,000 boxes of documents found in Iraq could increase the understanding of the danger posed by Saddam Hussein. But among the documents posted were roughly a dozen that nuclear weapons experts said constituted a basic guide to building an atom bomb. They were accounts of Mr. Hussein's nuclear program, which United Nations inspectors dismantled after the 1991 Persian Gulf war.

The New York Times, 4 November 2006

Russia Seeks Changes in Iran Measure

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 3: Russia on Friday submitted a broad revision of a draft resolution designed to curb Iran's nuclear program, and the United States promised counterproposals, casting talks on the subject into increasing doubt and delay. An hourlong meeting of ambassadors from the five permanent members of the Security Council and Germany ended with no discussion of specifics, and a decision to circulate the amended drafts among the six governments, said John R. Bolton, the American ambassador. "In light of the extent of the Russian changes, we decided that we'll refer all these back to capitals and meet again at some later date, and that's basically all we

decided," he said. The United States has pressed for speedy action, but Russian and Chinese reluctance to impose broad sanctions on Tehran is expected to carry the talks into the coming weeks.

Daily Yomiuri, 4 November 2006

Macau bank tied to DPRK WMD projects/Funds sent from accounts to Japan in '02

North Korea used accounts opened at a Macau-based bank, allegedly linked to its illicit activities, to pay for purchases made in 2002 from Japanese companies supplying equipment that could be used to produce weapons of mass destruction, according to investigative sources. In September, the U.S. government said Banco Delta Asia's accounts had been used as vital financial windows for North Korea's illegal counterfeiting and money laundering through forged U.S. currency. Under pressure from Washington, the bank froze the accounts in February. The revelation is the first to detail the flow of illegal North Korean funds through BDA. Pyongyang has demanded that Washington lift the freeze on the accounts, which shows frustrations suffered by the state in transferring funds gained through illegal means, coupled with its difficulties in settling bills for the purchase of weapons-related goods.

The Hindu, 5 November 2006

India has a better track record: Sen

Washington : Admitting that there was opposition to the India-U.S. civilian nuclear deal in both countries, India said on Friday that New Delhi's track record in non-proliferation was "much better" than any other nation. In his address at the Potomac Institute of Policy Studies, Ambassador to the U.S. Ronen Sen acknowledged that the nuclear agreement between the U.S. and India had some opposition but asserted that the debate was dissimilar in the countries. "There is a little bit of history," Mr. Sen said, when asked about the opposition in India where some had raised the question of whether Washington will stay the course or pull the rug from under the feet down the line. "We are unique in many ways. Our track record is much better than many of the countries represented in the Nuclear Suppliers Group," he said. Mr. Sen pointed out that it was not for India to set the timetable on when the agreement is going to get through Congress.

Hindustan Times, 5 November 2006

India will honour N-deal, ambassador Sen tells US

Washington, November 4: Indian ambassador to the US says while the Bush administration is trying to fulfil its commitments on the India-US civilian nuclear deal, New Delhi will honour its part of the bargain. Ambassador Ronen Sen said on Friday that while he had met a large number of US Congressmen, there was no active lobbying on his part as it was for the administration to secure Congressional approval for the deal. "We will handle our part of the bargain," he said in a talk on "India-US Relations: The Outlook" at the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies, a think tank in Washington. "We have never reneged on our commitments. When we enter into an agreement, we honour it," he said. "We have difficulties, but we have to take people with us." While it was not proper for him as an envoy to comment on domestic political processes in the US, Sen hoped that there will be bipartisan support in the Senate, of the kind demonstrated in the US House of Representatives.

The Hindu, 5 November 2006

Russia for limited curbs against Iran

MOSCOW: Russia has demanded sweeping changes to a European draft resolution on Iran that would drastically scale down proposed sanctions against Tehran and define conditions for lifting them. "What the European `troika' has drawn up goes way beyond what was agreed," Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said. The draft prepared by Britain, France and Germany calls for preventing the sale and supply of equipment, technology and financing that may contribute to Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes. It also would freeze the assets of people and companies involved in these programmes and bar them from travelling.

The New York Times, 5 November 2006

U.N. Inspectors Visit Iran Enrichment Cascades

TEHRAN: A group of U.N. nuclear watchdog inspectors has visited Iran's second network of centrifuges at its Natanz uranium enrichment facility, the official IRNA news agency quoted an official as saying on Sunday. Despite U.N. Security Council demands that it halt nuclear fuel production work, Iran announced last month that it had started up a second group of 164 centrifuges, which spin at supersonic speeds to enrich uranium. The networks of centrifuges are known as cascades. Iran says Natanz will eventually house tens of thousands of the machines but that it will only use them to enrich uranium to a level suitable for use in atomic power reactors and not to the much higher level needed to make atom bombs. "They have visited the second cascade and the Isfahan uranium conversion facility," the unnamed official told IRNA.

The Tribune, 5 November 2006

Japan not welcome at N-talks: N. Korea

Seoul, November 4: North Korea today said that Japan should not bother to attend the six-nation talks on ending its nuclear weapons programme because it was just a territory of the USA. Pyongyang agreed on Tuesday to return to the talks involving the two Koreas, Japan, China, Russia and the USA after staying away for a year in protest against a US crackdown on its international finances. Talks are expected to resume next month. "It would be much better for Japan to refrain from participating in the six-party talks and less attendants would be not bad for making the talks fruitful," a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman was quoted as saying by KCNA news agency.

The New York Times, 5 November 2006

Japan Lawmakers Clash Over Nuclear Weapons Debate

TOKYO: Japanese ruling party lawmakers sparred on Sunday over whether the country should hold a debate on acquiring nuclear weapons in a row triggered by North Korea's test of a nuclear device last month. The head of policy at the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) said Japan should at least discuss its self-imposed ban on nuclear weapons, an opinion which is controversial in the only country to have experienced nuclear attacks. "We should hold a debate, including on what should be done if a nuclear missile comes flying toward us," Shoichi Nakagawa told a discussion programme broadcast by Fuji TV. Japan watched nervously as North Korea fired off a series of ballistic missiles in July and

tested a nuclear device last month. As the only country to have suffered nuclear attacks, on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, Japan is highly sensitive about nuclear issues and even suggestions the country hold a debate about having nuclear weapons has created a controversy.

The New York Times, 5 November 2006

Testing North Korea

Nobody knows why the North Koreans decided to come back to the negotiating table or whether any pressure or promise could persuade them to give up their nuclear weapons. But after a year of nothing happening - except for Pyongyang churning out more plutonium - it is far past time to find out. Administration hawks are claiming that sanctions and the threat of a naval blockade - after last month's nuclear test - wrestled the North back to the table. The more diplomatically minded suggest that Washington's offer to also discuss American financial sanctions may have helped tip the balance. So what do we do now? The best approach is to try more of both - pressure and promises - and see if it works. That is pretty unremarkable advice. Except, of course, for the Bush administration, which can't decide if it wants to negotiate with Kim Jong-il or try to overthrow him.

Daily Times, 5 November 2006

6 Arab states join nuclear race

DUBAI: At least six Arab countries are developing domestic nuclear power programmes to diversify energy sources, reported a Middle East economic magazine on Saturday. Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Morocco and Algeria have shown interest in developing nuclear power primarily for water desalination, the Middle East Economic Digest (MEED) quoted Tomihiko Taniguchi, deputy director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as saying. "We held preliminary discussions with these governments. We will offer them help under our technical advisory programme to conduct a study for the power plants," he was quoted as saying. He said that the interest the four nations had shown was 'at a tertiary stage'. The UAE and Tunisia had also shown interest in nuclear power, but their plans were at an 'infant stage', said the magazine. Nobody at the IAEA was immediately available for comments. A diplomat close to the IAEA said the plans of Arab countries reflected 'renewed interest in nuclear power'

The Washington Post, 5 November 2006

Nonproliferation After North Korea

North Korea is the first country to withdraw from the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and test a nuclear weapon. It has agreed to return to six-party talks about its nuclear status, but skeptics expect little progress. Some doomsayers are predicting the collapse of the nonproliferation regime, but that kind of fatalism is mistaken. There are many things we can do to prevent such a future. We are, in fact, doing better at slowing the spread of the bomb than might be expected. In 1963 President John F. Kennedy predicted that there would be 15 to 20 states with nuclear weapons within the next decade. Every country has a right of self-defense, and today some 50 countries have the technical capacity to produce nuclear weapons. Yet only nine do -- the original five grandfathered in the 1968 treaty, along with India, Pakistan and Israel, which have never signed the treaty, and now

North Korea. Some countries, such as South Africa, developed nuclear weapons and later gave them up. Many, such as South Korea, Brazil, Argentina and Libya, terminated active nuclear weapons programs.

The Tribune, 6 November 2006

Dealing with Iran

Iran, it seems, is preparing itself to go to any extent to realise its nuclear ambitions. Teheran's missile tests for two days should be seen against this backdrop. Two days after the US-led six-nation naval exercise ended in the Persian Gulf, Iran's Revolutionary Guards test-fired a number of missiles, including Shahab-3 having a range of 2000 km, to demonstrate Teheran's military capabilities. The next day (Friday) it tested a few short-range missiles (Noor, Kowsar and Nasr) capable of covering a distance of 167 km, enough to reach the Strait of Hormuz and the Sea of Oman through which much of the world's oil supplies are shipped.

The Hindu, 6 November 2006

Iran ready for talks with U.S.

TEHRAN: An spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry said on Sunday that Tehran would be ready to consider holding talks with the United States over regional issues, including Iraq. "If we receive any official request about talks on regional issues, we are ready to study it," Mohammad-Ali Hosseini told a weekly press briefing. However, Mr. Hosseini said Iran was not changing its stance regarding bilateral relations with the U.S. - an apparent indication that Iran would refuse to talk with the U.S. about issues including its controversial nuclear programme. He said that some U.S. and Iraqi officials had raised the possibility of a dialogue. The United States said in May that it wanted to hold direct talks with Iran about Iraq. Iran at that time said it had accepted it in principle, but later changed its mind, accusing Washington of using it as propaganda.

Daily Times, 6 November 2006

Dangerous nuclear signs

According to reports, at least six Arab countries are developing domestic nuclear power programmes to diversify their energy sources. Out of them, four, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Morocco and Algeria have shown interest in developing nuclear power primarily for water desalination. Since they are Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) members, the IAEA is bound by its charter to help them acquire nuclear technology, but under strict safeguards. The plans of these four for nuclear power plants are at a tertiary stage while those of the two other Arab states, the UAE and Tunisia, are at an infant stage.

Daily Times, 6 November 2006

North Korean test to impact US-India nuclear deal

WASHINGTON: One country that is likely to be significantly affected by the North Korean nuclear test is India, according to Peter Crail of the Monterey Institute of Non-Proliferation Studies. Writing in the journal WMD Insights, he noted concern expressed in India over the impact of the development on the US-Indian agreement on civilian nuclear cooperation, which is hanging fire in Congress and may even face defeat in the event of the Democrats gaining control of the Senate. The house has already passed it,

but the Senate has slapped on a number of amendments to it, some of which India finds unacceptable. While India condemned the North Korean test, Pakistan called it 'regrettable' but expressed little concern about its repercussions for Islamabad.

The Korean Herald, 6 November 2006

U.S. discusses N.K. strategy

South Korea, the United States and Japan are holding a series of consultations to discuss joint strategies for the six-party talks on ending North Korea's nuclear weapons program and the implementation of the United Nations Security Council sanctions against the communist regime. R. Nicholas Burns, undersecretary of state for political affairs, and Robert Joseph, undersecretary of state for arms control and security, arrive in Seoul today for two-day talks as part of their Northeast Asian tour, the Foreign Ministry said.

Pyongyang agreed to return to the multiparty negotiations last week, less than a month after testing a nuclear device. "The two undersecretaries will likely be armed with both sticks and carrots for North Korea, and they are expected to request Seoul's cooperation in employing both methods," said one diplomatic source who spoke anonymously.

The Korean Herald, 6 November 2006

Nuke talks face uphill battle

Once the six-party talks resume, top negotiators from the two Koreas, the United States, China, Japan and Russia will be heading to Beijing with a lot on their minds. The Joint Statement that lists principles on how to denuclearize the Korean peninsula will finally be put on the table for discussion after over a year-long hiatus. The statement can be described as a long menu of agendas that need to be addressed. "A possible scenario of the talks could be the parties allocating working-level groups for each agenda item," a high-ranking government source told The Korea Herald on condition of anonymity. The best scenario would be the parties reaching a consensus on the categories of the working-level talks within the next round of talks, observers said. But the task will be difficult.

The Korean Herald, 6 November 2006

N.K. demands Japan stay out of nuclear talks

North Korea called Japanese officials "political imbeciles" for saying they won't accept Pyongyang as a nuclear power, less than a week after it agreed to return to international arms talks. In typically harsh rhetoric, the reclusive communist state demanded Saturday that Japan stay away from the negotiations, and also condemned the United States as "fanatic warmongers who destroy peace and security on the Korean Peninsula." The North agreed earlier this week to return to the international disarmament negotiations - which also include China, Russia, the United States and South Korea - in the first easing of tension after its Oct. 9 nuclear test. The talks have been stalled for a year. A statement from North Korea's Foreign Ministry carried by the North's official Korea Central News Agency on Saturday said "there is no need for Japan to participate in (the talks) as a local delegate because it is no more than a state of the U.S. and it is enough for Tokyo just to be informed of the results of the talks by Washington."

The Times of India, 7 November 2006

Democrats' win in polls may nuke India-US deal

WASHINGTON: The India-US nuclear deal could be one of the many casualties in an American mid-term election on Tuesday. The poll is widely expected to lead to a Democratic control of Congress and a lame-duck president till 2008. President Bush and the ruling Republican Party are bracing for defeat with all pre-poll surveys and analyses pointing to a Democratic win in the 435-member House of Representatives. Such an outcome will turn over control of all Congressional committees to Democrats. Although the US-India nuclear deal had bipartisan support both in the House International Relations Committee (it got 16-2 approval) and in the full House (where it passed 359-68), experts say a big win will tempt the Democrats to seek even greater concessions from India should they at all agree to resume considering the pact in the lame-duck session that will follow the Nov 7 election.

The Times of India, 7 November 2006

'N-deal can't be re-negotiated'

WASHINGTON: Indian officials have said that India is simply not going to agree to the nuclear deal being re-negotiated, and the onus was on the Bush administration to get it through the Congress. Privately, the official suggested that the United States president George Bush's administration had not been vigorous enough in pushing the deal in the just concluded session and allowed it to flounder into the lame-duck session by insisting on a sequencing that was not foreseen in the Bush-Manmohan Singh agreement of July 18, 2005.

Hindustan Times, 7 November 2006

US, Seoul discuss united front on N Korea N-talks

Seoul: Senior United States and South Korean officials on Tuesday began debating a strategy for progress in upcoming talks on North Korea's nuclear programme, as well as ways to keep up the pressure on the communist regime. Undersecretaries of State Nicholas Burns and Robert Joseph arrived from Japan and will go on to China to stress the importance of a united front when six-nation talks resume after a year-long break. Joseph was also discussing ways to enforce UN sanctions imposed on the North after its October 9 nuclear test. South Korea, like other UN member states, must submit a list of its own measures against Pyongyang by early next week. But it has stopped short of supporting tough action proposed by Japan and the United States.

People's Daily, 7 November 2006

U.S. says Japan should be part of six-party talks

The United States said on Monday that Japan should continue to be part of the six-party talks in addressing the nuclear issue of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). "Obviously Japan is one of the core members of the group. They're part of the six-party talks. You can't have six-party talks without them, and we fully expect that they will be at the table when the next round convenes," State Department deputy spokesman Tom Casey said at a briefing. In a statement on Saturday, the DPRK's Foreign Ministry said "there is no need for Japan to participate in (the six-party talks) as a local delegate

because it is no more than a state of the U.S. and it is enough for Tokyo just to be informed of the results of the talks by Washington," Japan has rejected the call.

Hindustan Times, 7 November 2006

India fails to convince NSG: US arms control body

Washington: An American arms control association claims that India has failed to address all the concerns and questions raised by the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) members on the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal. Indian officials made their case on October 12 when the 45-member group met in Vienna for a regular Consultative Group meeting to assess worldwide nuclear developments, said Arms Control Today (ACT), a publication of the Washington-based Arms Control Association. The confidential presentation, which reportedly stressed India's need for nuclear energy and determination not to cap its nuclear weapons sector, did not assuage all the concerns of critics and sceptics, it said citing two NSG member officials.

The Times of India, 7 November 2006

Indo-US nuclear deal on backburner?

WASHINGTON: A White House move to push for passage of a trade bill with Vietnam ahead of the US-India nuclear deal in the upcoming lame duck session of Congress has riled some Indian activists who are starting to see deal -- and India's growing ties with the US -- being put on the backburner. While the chances of the nuke deal being taken up if the Democrats capture the one of both houses is already slim, the administration seems more intent on pushing through the Vietnam bill ahead of President Bush's visit to Hanoi for the APEC summit later this month. The deal is also beset with other difficulties, including a failure to get the 45-member Nuclear Suppliers Group to accept it wholeheartedly. The latest newsletter of the Washington-based Arms Control Association (ACA) reports that New Delhi "failed to address all the concerns and questions group members have raised," at a consultative group meeting of the NSG on October 11-12, the first time Indian officials are said to have met the group to discuss the deal.

The Tribune, 8 November 2006

Democrats may nuke deal

The Democrat-controlled United States Congress may put the brakes on the passage of the US-India civilian nuclear deal on Capitol Hill. The Democrats need to win six seats in the Senate and 15 in the House of Representatives on Tuesday's mid-term elections to snatch control of both chambers of the Congress from the Republican Party. According to political analysts, if the Democrats gain the majority they would be less than enthusiastic about giving President George W. Bush, a Republican, the satisfaction of achieving a key foreign policy goal - the importance of which members of the administration have frequently underlined.

Daily Times, 8 November 2006

Pakistan, Hungary to discuss civilian nuclear cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Hungary have agreed to discuss cooperation in civil nuclear energy and the two countries will hold talks in this regard in Vienna, the foreign ministers of the two countries told a press briefing after a meeting here on Tuesday. In response to

a question, Hungarian Foreign Minister Kálmán Gyöngyösi said that her country supported the peaceful use of nuclear energy provided there was 'transparency, international guarantees and non-proliferation safeguards'. "Nuclear energy can be used and misused. International guarantees are needed," she told reporters when asked about the prospects of Pakistan-Hungary cooperation.

China Daily, 8 November 2006

DPRK not nuke country, US, Japan, ROK reaffirm

Japan has joined the United States and the Republic of Korea (ROK) in agreeing not to recognize the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) as a nuclear weapons state, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said Monday. Tokyo's position was agreed to during a brief evening phone conversation between Foreign Minister Tarō Aso and US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. The two diplomats said they would also consult with China, Russia and the ROK on the DPRK nuclear standoff on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit later this month in Viet Nam.

The Nation, 8 November 2006

US in a difficult predicament over N. Korea

On 31st October US envoy Christopher Hill said six-party talks could resume soon. The announcement came after the Chief US negotiator, met North Korean officials in Beijing for their first discussions since the North Korea's test of a nuclear weapon in October. This would mark the fifth round of talks between US, Japan, China and Russia, North and South Korea. And it represents the continuation of the saga between the US and North Korea, where Pyongyang is seeking security and financial guarantees from the US in return for abandoning its nuclear programme.

People's Daily, 8 November 2006

China, Egypt agree on nuke co-operation

China and Egypt agreed to strengthen co-operation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy, according to a joint communique released yesterday in Beijing. The document does not give any details, but earlier reports said that Cairo in late September announced it was relaunching its civil nuclear programme after a suspension of 20 years following the Chernobyl disaster in 1986. Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit reportedly said that Egypt talked about the possible help China would give to Egypt over its civilian nuclear programme. Increased co-operation in agriculture, science and technology, finance, tourism, environment, medical treatment, energy, aerospace technology, information and telecommunications were also highlighted in the document. President Hu Jintao held a welcoming ceremony for visiting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in the Great Hall of the People and then the two held a closed-door meeting.

The New York Times, 8 November 2006

At the U.N., Discord Over Confronting Iran's Nuclear Ambitions

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 7: A meeting of six nations working on a resolution to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions broke up Tuesday evening with the ambassadors reporting widening disagreements and lessening prospects of a swift accord. "The mood is not right

for serious discussions," said Wang Guangya, the ambassador of China, emerging from the meeting of the five permanent members of the Security Council and Germany, whose envoys had gathered at the French Mission. "Clearly, I think in a number of difficult areas that the differences cannot be bridged," he said. "So I believe there ought to be more reflections in the capitals, and also I believe that we need to talk to each other."

Hindustan Times, 9 November 2006

Democrats win US polls, nuclear deal not lost yet

New Delhi, November 8: A New United States Congress was voted in on Wednesday, but it is the old Congress that will meet next Monday in the so-called lame-duck session. That is why diplomats from both the governments concerned still hope the Indo-US nuclear deal may yet get a senatorial stamp of approval. Indian officials who met US congressional leaders in September say both the Senate's chief Republican, Bill Frist, and its chief Democrat, Harry Reid, said they would try to push the nuclear legislation through.

Hindustan Times, 9 November 2006

Bush vows to push India nuclear deal

Washington: A day after the collapse of his Republican majority in the US Congress, President George W Bush vowed to push the India-US civilian nuclear deal through the lame duck session of the outgoing Senate. "I'm trying to get the Indian deal done, the Vietnam deal done, and the budgets done," he told a White House press conference on Wednesday where he extended an olive branch to Democrats and vowed to strike a new tone of bi-partisanship after years of partisan rancour.

Hindustan Times, 9 November 2006

Cohen to lobby for Senate passage in 'lame duck' session

New Delhi, November 8: Despite uncertainty over the fate of the Indo-US civil nuclear deal in the US Senate, Former US Secretary of Defence William S Cohen intends writing to former colleagues in the US Senate to push for its passage in the 'lame duck' session of Congress later this month. The deal needed to succeed, Cohen said, as it was important for India to realize that the US was a reliable partner.

The Indian Express, 9 November 2006

Senator wants to move bill quickly

Washington, November 9: A key Democratic senator on Wednesday said he was ready to have the US Senate act quickly to approve a landmark nuclear deal with India but other congressional sources said much depends on Republicans who suffered major defeats in mid-term elections. "I think we're ready to do it. I'm ready to go" on the India bill, Sen Joseph Biden of Delaware told reporters.

The Times of India, 9 November 2006

India-US nuke deal up in the air with Senate results

WASHINGTON: The US mid-term election looks to have produced a 'hung' Senate -- and with it hangs the fate of the US-India nuclear deal. With Democratic advances producing a 49-49 lockdown in the Senate for the moment with two seats undecided, the

nuke deal is the last thing on anyone's mind, save India partisans.

The Washington Post, 9 November 2006

Democrat Poll Gains Cloud India - U.S. Nuclear Deal

NEW DELHI: India's fears over the fate of a landmark but controversial civilian nuclear deal with the United States were exacerbated on Wednesday as the Democrats swept mid-term elections to the U.S. Congress. The U.S. administration is due to seek approval for the deal, which aims to reverse a three-decade ban on nuclear trade with India, from a "lame duck" session of Senate this month.

The Times of India, 9 November 2006

India-US nuke deal up in the air with Senate results

WASHINGTON: The US mid-term election looks to have produced a 'hung' Senate -- and with it hangs the fate of the US-India nuclear deal. With Democratic advances producing a 49-49 lockdown in the Senate for the moment with two seats undecided, the nuke deal is the last thing on anyone's mind, save India partisans.

The Times of India, 9 November 2006

...But may slow down N-deal, Doha round

NEW DELHI: Indian officials feel that if the US Senate does business in the next few weeks, the India can "expect the Nuke deal to go through." The Democrats will certainly question Bush administration's foreign policy initiatives, those that they can. Most of the "killer" amendments in the nuclear legislation in both Houses were sponsored by Democrats, and a more muscular Democrat leadership could play hardball at the reconciliation stage.

The Hindu, 9 November 2006

Indo-US deal will not affect indigenous N-plan: Kakodkar

Hyderabad, Nov. 8 (PTI): India will continue its indigenous atomic programme irrespective of the outcome of the civil nuclear deal with the US following the victory of Democrats in polls in that country, a top scientist said today. "The Indo-US deal is our Plan No-2. Our Plan No-1 is the indigenous nuclear programme which will continue even if the agreement falls through in a US Congress controlled by Democrats," Atomic Energy Commission Chairman, Anil Kakodkar, said here.

The Tribune, 9 November 2006

Indo-US nuclear deal may take some time

New Delhi, November 8: Even as former US Secretary of State William C. Cohen stressed that the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal must go through as it is "critical for stability" in Asia, the victory of the Democrats in the American Congressional elections has brought to the fore that a lot of ground still needs to be traversed before the agreement is sealed.

The Tribune, 9 November 2006

No effect on N-deal

There has been so much of breast-beating and hand wringing in our media about the US

election results and President Bush losing the majority in both Houses of Legislature that any reassurance to the media persons that this will have very little impact on the voting on Indo-US nuclear deal was received with great skepticism.

The Hindu, 9 November 2006

GE Energy plans to set up nuke plant in India

New Delhi, Nov. 8 (PTI): US-based conglomerate 'GE' today said it was looking to set up nuclear power plants in India and was open to form joint ventures with domestic companies.

The Tribune, 9 November 2006

Nonproliferation goals still viable

North Korea is the first country to withdraw from the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and test a nuclear weapon. It has agreed to return to six-party talks about its nuclear status, but skeptics expect little progress.

Deccan Herald, 9 November 2006

Are they atomic ghosts?

Strong opposition to mining of uranium (which is virtually useless except as a nuclear fuel) is keeping a few NGOs and the Uranium Corporation of India (UCIL) busy these days. UCIL has plans to open new mines at Domiasiat in Meghalaya Lambapur/Peddagattu in Andhra Pradesh and Bagjata and Banduburang in Jharkhand.

The Japan Times, 9 November 2006

Abe says no to nukes but allows discussion

Japan has no intention of going nuclear but there is still room for debate on the issue, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Wednesday as he defended key Liberal Democratic Party lawmakers who have been criticized for comments suggesting that the matter needs to be discussed. At a head-to-head debate in the Upper House with Ichiro Ozawa, head of the Democratic Party of Japan, Abe repeatedly stressed that his Cabinet, LDP policy chief Shoichi Nakagawa and Foreign Minister Taro Aso remain committed to the country's three nonnuclear principles -- not to develop, possess or allow the entry of nuclear weapons into Japan.

Daily Times, 9 November 2006

'US misjudges world view on nuclear row'

TEHRAN: Iran's most powerful figure, Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, said on Wednesday the United States was wrong to think the world opposed Tehran's nuclear programme. Major powers are currently split over a draft UN Security Council sanctions resolution drawn up by Britain, France and Germany that seeks to put pressure on Iran to curb its nuclear programme. The United States wants to beef up the text, but Russia wants it watered down.

The Asian Age, 10 November 2006

Anything but a done deal

American voters have given a body-blow to President Bush. The result was a referendum

on the whole policy of the Bush administration. But their anger was more against the Iraq war than any other shortcomings of the administration. Bush tried hard to link the Iraq war to the war on terror, but voters rejected that spin. This result may put the nuclear deal with India in jeopardy as the majority of the Democrats had opposed the deal.

The Tribune, 10 November 2006

N-deal Bill next week, says Mulford

New Delhi, November 9: Even though the Indo-US nuclear deal for civilian purposes might get delayed because of uncertainty following the success of the Democrats in the Congressional elections, American ambassador David C Mulford remained optimistic that the Bill would go through the Senate next week.

Hindustan Times, 10 November 2006

N-deal presidential priority for lame duck session

Washington, November 9: The United States has said that the Indo-US nuclear deal is at the top of President George W Bush's agenda for the coming lame duck session of the Senate, but was not aware as to how long the session would last.

Hindustan Times, 10 November 2006

Nuclear deal made easier for India to digest

New Delhi, November 9: India and the United States have reached a breakthrough in talks over the landmark nuclear deal, and the agreement being prepared will not bar New Delhi from detonating nuclear devices, a senior official has told the Hindustan Times.

The Hindu, 10 November 2006

Trying to get nuclear deal done: Bush

Washington: Notwithstanding the Democrats' emphatic victory in U.S. Congressional elections, President George W. Bush on Thursday vowed to push through the civilian nuclear deal with India in the coming 'lame duck' session of the Senate.

The Hindu, 10 November 2006

Nuclear deal: delayed but not quite dead

The Democrats' resounding victory in Congress makes the task of tying up the India-U.S. nuclear agreement's loose ends more difficult but the underlying strategic rationale for the deal from the American perspective remains strong.

The Times of India, 10 November 2006

Nuclear pact: Does Bush have enough influence?

WASHINGTON: US lawmakers backing the White House initiative on N-deal with India will push for a version that is closer to the pact that president Bush and PM Manmohan Singh signed. Legislators wedded to their version of non-proliferation will demand tightening.

The Times of India, 10 November 2006

Mulford hopes deal will get nod

NEW DELHI: After the US congressional elections threw up a Democrat Congress, there

has been a plethora of statements from senior Democrat leaders about their commitment to the relationship with India and the nuclear deal.

The Times of India, 10 November 2006

Boucher visiting, talks on N-deal on Friday

NEW DELHI: In the aftermath of the American Congressional polls, India and the US will have high level discussions on the future of the civil nuclear deal when visiting Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher meets officials here on Friday.

The New York Times, 10 November 2006

Lame Duck Session Tackles Spending Bills

WASHINGTON: Nobody likes a lame-duck session of Congress, particularly the election losers who won't be around for the next session. Republicans, who lost control of both the House and the Senate in Tuesday's election, would like nothing better than to wrap up their work for the year and go home.

Hindustan Times, 10 November 2006

Iran likely to review cooperation with IAEA

Moscow, November 10: Iran would "review" its cooperation with UN nuclear inspectors if a draft UN resolution aimed at curbing its nuclear programme is adopted in its current form, Iran's top nuclear negotiator warned on Friday.

The Statesman, 10 November 2006

Agni launch

CHENNAI, Nov. 9: Undeterred by the failure of the test of the Agni-III missile, the DRDO will go ahead with the programme and conduct another launch next year, DRDO chief M Natarajan said today. In an informal chat with reporters here, he said an expert committee was looking into the reasons for the failure of the first test of the Agni-III on July 9.

The Tribune, 10 November 2006

France tests N-missile

Biscarrosse (France), November 9: France test-launched a new generation of intercontinental ballistic missiles for the first time on Thursday. The M51 missile has a range of 6,000 km 50 per cent further than that of the missile currently in service.

The Hindu, 11 November 2006

Nuke deal one of the top issues: White House

Washington, Nov. 11: The White House has stressed that the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal is one of the "top" issues for the administration in the Lame Duck session of the US Congress.

The Times of India, 11 November 2006

Indo-US nuke deal: Full scale lobbying on

WASHINGTON: Indian-American pressure groups and US lobbyists are not leaving anything to chance to get the US-India nuclear deal through the lame duck session of

Congress next week.

Deccan Herald, 11 November 2006

Civil nuclear deal is not the only high priority for Bush

Washington: The civil nuclear deal is a high priority item for the Bush administration to push through during the forthcoming lame duck session of the US Senate, but it is not the only high priority.

Hindustan Times, 11 November 2006

'Indo-US nuclear deal to upset non-proliferation'

New Delhi, November 10: The Indo-US nuclear deal will upset the non-proliferation disarmament order and usher in a potentially catastrophic situation in South Asia, while confirming the global dominance of the United States.

The Hindu, 11 November 2006

Iran woos Russia on U.N. resolution

MOSCOW: Iran's chief nuclear negotiator mounted a charm offensive in the Russian capital on Friday to widen the split between Russia and the West on Tehran's nuclear programme. Describing Russia as Iran's "friend" and "natural ally," Iran's Supreme National Security Council Secretary Ali Larijani strongly backed Moscow's efforts to soften sanctions proposed in a European-drafted U.N. resolution.

The Korean Herald, 11 November 2006

Japan will not possess nuclear weapons: Abe

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe reaffirmed his commitment to the country's 1967 policy not to possess nuclear weapons during a meeting with former Seoul Mayor Lee Myung-bak in Tokyo yesterday.

The Nation, 11 November 2006

NSG wants Pak to sign addl IAEA protocol

ISLAMABAD - The United States and other members of Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) want Pakistan to sign the model additional protocol of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), a step that could pave way for the nuclear energy cooperation between Islamabad and the western world.

Hindustan Times, 12 November 2006

Negotiations on details of N-deal yet to begin: Boucher

New Delhi: The US on Saturday said 'serious' negotiations are yet to begin with India on the details of an agreement to enforce the nuclear deal but made it clear that the Bush administration was committed to pushing the bill on last year's deal through the Congressional processes.

The Tribune, 12 November 2006

Nuke deal: Wait-and-watch time before lame-duck session

New Delhi, November 11: Two days before the Senate starts its lame duck session where the Indo-US civil nuclear cooperation Bill is believed to be high on the agenda list, it is

time for quiet and patient diplomacy for the South Block mandarins.

The Times of India, 12 November 2006

Foreign firms make a beeline to reap N-deal benefit

MUMBAI: The civilian nuclear deal with the US is still not through but firms from Nuclear Suppliers' Group countries are already lining up for a possible share in the sweepstakes in the field of atomic energy in India.

The Hindu, 12 November 2006

India steps up lobbying among NSG for nuke deal

New Delhi: As efforts to plough the civil nuclear deal through the US Congressional processes continue, India has stepped up lobbying with Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) countries and found the positive response increasing among the member countries.

The Hindu, 12 November 2006

Nuclear deal with India tops agenda, says White House

Washington: The White House has said that the Indo-U.S. civilian nuclear deal is one of the ``top" issues for the administration in the lame duck session (meet following a general election) of the U.S. Congress.

The Times of India, 12 November 2006

No dame luck for lame duck session

WASHINGTON: Indian-American pressure groups and US lobbyists don't want to depend on dame luck to get the US-India nuke deal through the lame duck session of Congress. Both sides have resumed full scale lobbying, convening meetings, conferences, and seeking appointments with key lawmakers to ensure its passage in a narrow window afforded by a session which lawmakers find anathema.

The Times of India, 12 November 2006

Islamabad ready to set up N-parks

ISLAMABAD: Even as it was trying to secure a deal on the lines of the Indo-US nuclear agreement from the United States, Pakistan has said it was ready to establish nuclear parks in the country from where foreign companies could operate independently.

Dawn, 12 November 2006

N-safety pact with India likely

ISLAMABAD, Nov 11: For Pakistan, Jammu and Kashmir will be the key issue at the foreign secretary-level talks with India next week with emphasis on building on convergences already achieved on this front, official sources told Dawn on Saturday.

The New York Times, 12 November 2006

The Nuclear Neighborhood

At the geographic center of Long Island, just before the fish tail splits, three plumes of radioactive tritium snake through the earth. These plumes extend from soil beneath Brookhaven National Laboratory, where they originated during experiments involving one of the lab's nuclear reactors in the late 1990s, and travel by groundwater east and

south.

The News, 12 November 2006

Iran to install 3,000 nuclear centrifuges

TEHRAN: Iran plans to install 3,000 centrifuges for uranium enrichment by March 2007, the Iranian foreign ministry said Sunday. "Iranian officials and experts are seeking to do this," the ministry's spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini told reporters, responding to a question as to whether Tehran remains determined to install 3,000 centrifuges by the end of Iranian year in March 2007.

The Tribune, 13 November 2006

India destination next for US N-suppliers

Mumbai, November 12: The biggest ever trade delegation from the US, comprising more than 200 representatives of top nuclear and defence contractors, will arrive in India later this month to explore business opportunities.

The Hindu, 13 November 2006

Pranab hopeful of nuclear deal

Kolkata: External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee said here on Sunday that he was hopeful that the country's nuclear deal with the United States would be pushed through despite the change in composition of both the chambers of the U.S. Congress.

Hindustan Times, 13 November 2006

More than the N-deal

If there is one problem with India's free and lively media, it is that they tend to be monofocal. After the US mid-term elections, for example, the focus has exclusively been on whether or not the India-US nuclear deal will pass in the coming lame duck session.

The Times of India, 13 November 2006

India and US step up defence cooperation

NEW DELHI: Though the civilian nuclear deal's uncertain fate in the Senate's lame duck session is casting a shadow on the overall Indo-US ties, New Delhi and Washington have decided to further step up ties in the strategic military arena.

The Hindu, 13 November 2006

Rescue nuclear disarmament from backburner

The past couple of years have seen the further dwindling of what little serious interest there was in nuclear disarmament. It is vital for human survival to understand the reasons behind this slide and reverse it.

The Hindu, 13 November 2006

Call to make South Asia a nuclear free zone

NEW DELHI: Calling for making South Asia a "nuclear free" zone, an anti-nuclear lobby on Sunday suggested defeating the United States politically to achieve the purpose.

The New York Times, 13 November 2006

Iran Criticizes Security Council Over Threat of Sanctions

TEHRAN, Nov. 12: President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Sunday described efforts by the United Nations Security Council to impose sanctions on Iran as 'disgraceful.'

The Korean Herald, 13 November 2006

Seoul says 'no' to N.K. interdiction

South Korea has decided against full participation in the U.S.-led program to stop and search suspicious North Korean vessels in order to avoid the possibility of naval clashes, the governing Uri Party said yesterday.

The Times of India, 14 November 2006

India-US N-deal gets top billing in lame-duck Senate

WASHINGTON: The India-US nuclear deal was listed as a top priority for the US Congress as it opened a lame-duck session in a new spirit of bipartisanship after the defeat of the Republicans in last week's elections.

The Tribune, 14 November 2006

Hope for Indo-US N-deal yet

The resignation of Defence Secretary Washington: Donald Rumsfeld following the defeat of the Republicans has created a window of opportunity for the Indo-US nuclear deal.

The New York Times, 14 November 2006

South Korea Won't Intercept Cargo Ships From the North

SEOUL, South Korea, Nov. 13: South Korea said Monday that it would not join a United States-led effort to intercept North Korean ships suspected of carrying unconventional weapons or related cargo, raising fresh doubts about Washington's drive to punish the North for its nuclear test last month.

The News, 14 November 2006

UNSC, Germany discuss draft resolution on Iran

WASHINGTON: The five permanent member states of the UN Security Council and Germany discussed draft resolution on Iranian nuclear program.

The New York Times, 14 November 2006

Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Maintain Tough Front on Iran

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13: President Bush and Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel kept up their tough talk on Iran on Monday, warning it once again to drop its nuclear ambitions, even as Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain suggested that Tehran could take a role in stabilizing Iraq under 'a new partnership.'

The Times of India, 14 November 2006

Threat of nuclear Iran intolerable: Israel

NEW YORK: Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has said that it is "absolutely intolerable" for Tel Aviv to accept the threat of a nuclear Iran. In an interview with

Newsweek , he did not reply directly to the question whether Israel would consider taking military action if the international community does not act.

The Asahi Shimbun, 14 November 2006

Debate on nuclear arms

In the aftermath of North Korea's Oct. 9 nuclear test, Foreign Minister Taro Aso, Liberal Democratic Party policy chief Shoichi Nakagawa and others have been clamoring for debate on whether Japan should have an arsenal of nuclear weapons.

The Japan Times, 14 November 2006

Speed six-party talks, departing Russian envoy says

The departing Russian ambassador to Japan urged Monday that international talks over North Korea's nuclear weapons threat be accelerated.

Hindustan Times, 15 November 2006

Lawmakers to push Senate on Indo-US deal

Washington: Senators are pushing this week to approve a Bush administration plan to allow the US civilian nuclear fuel shipments to India. But with a crowded legislative agenda, time is short for a foreign policy initiative greatly coveted by President George W Bush.

The Tribune, 15 November 2006

Senate likely to vote on N-Bill this week

Washington: The United States Senate is expected to debate and vote this week on a Bill that would permit civilian nuclear cooperation with India.

Hindustan Times, 15 November 2006

Bring changes in Indo-US nuclear deal: Experts

Washington: Arms control advocates urged changes in a US-India nuclear cooperation agreement on Tuesday as the US Senate prepared to resume action on the long-stalled deal.

The Times of India, 15 November 2006

India-US N-deal gets top billing in lame-duck Senate

WASHINGTON: The India-US nuclear deal was listed as a top priority for the US Congress as it opened a lame-duck session in a new spirit of bipartisanship after the defeat of the Republicans in last week's elections.

The Statesman, 15 November 2006

Bush can't be a lame duck

The US mid-term election has swept Democrats into power both in the House and the Senate raising hopes that the excesses of the Bush administration, which to a great extent arose out of the events of 9/11, would be corrected.

The Economic Times, 15 November 2006

Will Democrats' win nuke the deal?

Weary of the seemingly interminable war in Iraq, the American voter has snatched control of both the House and the Senate away from the Republicans after a gap of 14 years, thus weakening President Bush's position vis-a-vis the legislative branch.

Deccan Herald, 15 November 2006

Whither deal?

The outcome of the biennial Congressional elections in the United States last week was on expected lines. But never was there so much anxiety in Delhi about a biennial poll result in the world's sole surviving super power.

Hindustan Times, 15 November 2006

Bush may raise Chinese N-issue at APEC meet

Washington, November 14: The United States President George W Bush may reiterate American concerns about nuclear proliferation by Chinese entities to Pakistan when he meets Chinese President Hu Jintao in Hanoi during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Meeting later this week.

The Times of India, 15 November 2006

US concerned over Chinese N-proliferation to Pak

WASHINGTON: US President George W Bush may raise the issue of nuclear proliferation by Chinese entities to Pakistan when he meets President Hu Jintao in Hanoi later this week.

The Times of India, 15 November 2006

UK: Qaida trying to acquire nuclear kit

LONDON: Al Qaida is trying to acquire the technology that would enable it to use a nuclear device to attack Western targets including Britain, a senior British official said on Monday.

The New York Times, 15 November 2006

Iran's Leader Cites Nuclear Progress

Iran's president declared yesterday that his country's nuclear program was nearing an important milestone, even as international atomic inspectors reported that they had found unexplained traces of plutonium and that Tehran continued to be so uncooperative in answering questions that they had been unable to confirm earlier claims of progress.

The Washington Post, 15 November 2006

IAEA Reports On Discovery At Iran Facility

VIENNA, Nov. 14: New traces of plutonium and enriched uranium, potential material for atomic warheads, have been found at a nuclear waste facility in Iran, the International Atomic Energy Agency reported Tuesday, as Iran's president boasted that his country's nuclear fuel program would soon be completed.

Daily Times, 15 November 2006

IAEA asks Pakistan to develop N-database

MANIPAL: The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has asked Pakistan to develop a nuclear database for power reactors and contribute to the IAEA information base.

Daily Times, 15 November 2006

Iran wants to instal 60,000 centrifuges: president

TEHRAN, Nov 14: President Mahmoud Ahamdinejad announced on Tuesday the ultimate aim of Iran's atomic drive was to install tens of thousands of uranium-enriching centrifuges to produce nuclear fuel.

The Times of India, 16 November 2006

Senate takes up bill on Indo-US nuke deal

WASHINGTON: The US Senate took up the bill relating to the US-India nuclear deal on Wednesday. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist introduced the bill, formally titled S3709, after a unanimous consent motion that limited debate on the matter to a few hours, instead of the days Senators normally take to mull over major issues.

Hindustan Times, 16 November 2006

Capitol Hill yet to assess India's nuclear prowess

Washington: On the eve of the Senate vote on the India-US nuclear deal, the Washington Post suggested that Capitol Hill was yet to get a secret intelligence assessment of India's nuclear programme and New Delhi's ties to Tehran.

Hindustan Times, 16 November 2006

Senate fails to debate Indo-US nuclear deal

Washington: In spite of the decks being cleared for debate and vote in the Senate on a legislation for implementing the Indo-US nuclear deal, the proceeding was stalled on Thursday at the last minute due to objections raised by a Senator, who insisted on considering another bill.

The Statesman, 16 November 2006

Report on India's 'links' with Iran may bury N-deal

NEW DELHI, Nov. 15: Chances are bleak of the India-US nuclear deal getting a podium in the US Senate by Friday, following the release of a Congressional report on India's 'proliferation' links with Iran. The report has also raised doubts about the export control regime of the Indian government.

Daily Times, 16 November 2006

US told not to sign 'nukes for mangoes' deal

WASHINGTON: The Khalistan Affairs Centre has urged the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee not to approve the US-India nuclear deal without requiring New Delhi to put an end to its production of fissile material.

The News, 16 November 2006

Pakistan successfully test fires Hataf V Ghouri missile

ISLAMABAD(By Mazhar Tufail): Pakistan has successfully test-fired ballistic Hataf V Ghouri missile on Thursday morning. The strategic command force conducted the test fire. Medium range Hataf V missile can hit targets up to 1300 km.

Dawn, 16 November 2006

US hints at pre-emptive strike against Iran

WASHINGTON, Nov 15: The United States or other countries will one day be forced to consider pre-emptive action if Iran and North Korea continue to seek nuclear weapons, a senior US government official said on Tuesday.

The Washington Post, 16 November 2006

Democrats Blast Bush Policy on N. Korea

The Bush administration came under fierce attack yesterday from Democrats for its North Korea policy, with the incoming chairman of the House International Relations Committee saying that change is "long overdue" and that the United States should allow its chief nuclear arms negotiator to visit Pyongyang, North Korea's capital.

The Times of India, 16 November 2006

Drop nuke plan: Beijing to Tokyo

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/NEWS/World/Drop_nuke_plan_Beijing_to_Tokyo/articleshow/459646.cms BEIJING: An alarmed China today urged Japan not to develop nuclear weapons and adhere to its pacifist constitution so as to maintain regional peace and stability.

The Asahi Shimbun, 16 November 2006

Nuclear disarmament

A suggestion persists in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party: "If they have nuclear weapons, then let's discuss whether we, too, should have nukes." But that line of thinking misses the much more important question of what we can do to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

The New York Times, 17 November 2006

Senate Endorses U.S. - India Nuclear Deal

WASHINGTON: The Senate on Thursday overwhelmingly endorsed a plan allowing the United States to ship civilian nuclear fuel and technology to India, handing President Bush an important victory on one of his top foreign policy initiatives.

The New York Times, 17 November 2006

Next U.S. Vote on India Nuclear Deal May Be December

WASHINGTON: The U.S. Congress, following a strong Senate vote, aims to complete work in early December on legislation to allow nuclear cooperation with India for the first time in three decades.

Hindustan Times, 17 November 2006

US Senate rejects two amendments in civilian nuclear deal

Washington: The US Senate, debating a bill to implement the civilian nuclear energy agreement with India, on Thursday rejected two amendments proposed by Democrat Senator Byron Dorgan.

Hindustan Times, 17 November 2006

N-deal will open up major opportunities in India: Business Council

Washington: The US-India Business Council has welcomed the Senate approval of the US-India nuclear deal, calling it a "win" that will lay the foundation for major trade and investment opportunities in India for US companies.

Newindpress, 17 November 2006

India gives guarded welcome to N-deal vote

NEW DELHI: India on Friday welcomed the passage of a Bill on civil nuclear deal by the US Senate and said it expected the final version of the legislation to adhere as closely as possible to the understandings reached between the two countries on July 18, 2005 and March 2, 2006.

Asia Times, 17 November 2006

US-India nuclear deal closer to fruition

NEW DELHI: The Indo-US nuclear deal cleared a major hurdle when the US Senate approved the pact, with no crippling amendments, with an overwhelming 85-12 vote. It had already passed the House of Representatives. Assuming any differences are reconciled in a House-Senate conference, the deal will be much closer to fruition.

The Times of India, 17 November 2006

N-bill should meet Indian concerns, says Sonia

NEW DELHI: Congress party chief Sonia Gandhi on Friday welcomed the passage of the nuclear bill in the US Senate but said New Delhi will accept it only if it is in accordance with the spirit of the July 18 joint statement.

The Times of India, 17 November 2006

'Nuke deal will open up new vistas in India'

WASHINGTON: The US-India Business Council has welcomed the Senate approval of the US-India nuclear deal, calling it a "win" that will lay the foundation for major trade and investment opportunities in India for US companies.

The Indian Express, 17 November 2006

China planning ambitious n-power tie-up with Pakista

BEIJING, November 16: Chinese President Hu Jintao is poised to unveil an ambitious expansion of nuclear power cooperation with Pakistan when he visits next week, testing China's balance between Pakistan and India.

The Hindu, 17 November 2006

Opportunity to build strategic partnership with India: Lugar

WASHINGTON: As the United States Senate began discussing the bill on civilian nuclear deal with India on Thursday, Senator Richard Lugar urged his colleagues to approve the legislation.

The Hindu, 17 November 2006

Deal in mutual interest: Kerry

Agreement is not only in the mutual interests of the two countries but also a part of the "building block" process and a constructive effort to strengthen bilateral ties, senior Democratic Senator John Kerry on Wednesday said.

The Hindu, 17 November 2006

Bush warns North Korea

SINGAPORE: U.S. President George W. Bush on Thursday warned N. Korea against any moves by it to "transfer ... nuclear weapons or materials ... to states or non-state entities." Mr. Bush, who was delivering a foreign policy speech here, sought the cooperation of Asian powers to address this issue.

Hindustan Times, 17 November 2006

N Korea has fuel for 9 N-bombs: US scientist

Washington, November 16: An American nuclear scientist who toured North Korea this month has said he believes the North has enough fuel for as many as nine nuclear weapons and the capacity to make about one bomb's worth of fuel a year.

The Indian Express, 17 November 2006

South Korea to Back Resolution on North

SEOUL, South Korea: South Korea said Thursday it will reverse its long-standing refusal to join international efforts criticizing North Korea's human rights record and vote in favor of a U.N. resolution against the communist regime's alleged abuses.

Dawn, 17 November 2006

Pakistan tests N-capable missile

ISLAMABAD, Nov 16: Pakistan on Thursday conducted a successful launch of the intermediate range ballistic missile Hatf V (Ghauri) and was witnessed by the Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz.

Daily Times, 17 November 2006

Gen Haq seeks N-cooperation with US

BRUSSELS: Gen Ehsanul Haq, chairman of the joint chief of staffs, said on Thursday that the United States should extend civilian nuclear cooperation beyond India and include Pakistan, arguing the economic growth it would spur would help defeat extremism and terrorism.

The Indian Express, 17 November 2006

Iran buries past, eyes future India ties

IAEA New Delhi, November 17: Iran said it looked forward to strengthening its ties with India, seeking to put behind the episode of recent unease in bilateral relations caused by New Delhi's vote against its nuclear programme at the IAEA.

The Indian Express, 18 November 2006

Divided Senate unites to let the nuclear deal sail through

WASHINGTON, November 17: In a sweeping endorsement of the Bush Administration's proposal to resume civilian nuclear cooperation with New Delhi, the US Senate last night signaled a historic transformation of Indo-US relations and reaffirmed the American commitment to change India's status in the global nuclear order.

The New York Times, 18 November 2006

U.S. Senate Vote on Nuclear Deal Draws Guarded Praise by India

NEW DELHI, Nov. 17: India expressed both optimism and concern on Friday over the United States Senate's approval of nuclear cooperation between the countries, noting that major sticking points remained, including a stipulation by the Senate requiring India to help contain Iran's nuclear ambitions.

The Indian Express, 18 November 2006

Long way before N-deal becomes a living reality: Manmohan

Manmohan Singh New Delhi, November 17: Welcoming the passage of a bill to implement the Indo-US civil nuclear deal by the American Senate, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said there was still a long way to go for the pact to become 'living reality'.

The Indian Express, 18 November 2006

India hopes final nuke law will be within parameters

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17: India today welcomed passage of the Indo-US nuclear Bill in the US Senate, positive that the 'final version of the legislation, which would emerge after the Joint Conference of the House and Senate, would adhere as closely as possible to the understandings incorporated in the July 18, 2005 Indo-US Joint Statement and the March 2006 Separation Plan'.

The Indian Express, 18 November 2006

Capitol deal

There is a deserved sense of relief in the foreign office and amongst India hands in Washington over the American Senate's passage of legislation that enables the renewal of Indo-US civilian nuclear cooperation after nearly three decades.

The Statesman, 18 November 2006

Bill satisfies pact parameters: Mulford

NEW DELHI, Nov. 17: The USA today said the Bill on the civil nuclear deal approved by the Senate was within the parameters of the agreement between the two governments and the 'very few' problem areas remaining will be removed to make the final legislation

'acceptable'.

Deccan Herald, 18 November 2006

Rice calls for successful implementation of India-US nuke deal

Washington: Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has said that successful implementation of the India-US civil nuclear initiative was a key element of a new strategic partnership between the two countries.

The Tribune, 18 November 2006

Yes, but with riders

As usual the professional pessimists who were forecasting that the Indo-US Nuclear Cooperation Bill would slip into the next Congress and the Democratic seizure of the control over the two Houses of Congress would make the passage of the bill more difficult have been proved woefully wrong.

The Tribune, 18 November 2006

Stick to stand, CPM tells govt

New Delhi, November 17: The CPM today asked the government to stick to its commitment given in Parliament of not compromising on the concerns raised in the House regarding the Indo-US nuclear issue.

The Hindu, 18 November 2006

Push to strategic ties: Bush

SINGAPORE: United States President George W. Bush said here on Friday that the U.S.-India Nuclear Cooperation Bill, passed by the Senate, would "further strengthen" the "strategic partnership" between the "two great democracies."

The Hindu, 18 November 2006

An important development, says M.R. Srinivasan

CHENNAI: M.R. Srinivasan, the former Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), said on Friday that the United States Senate's passing the bill on the India-U.S. civilian nuclear deal was "an important development." He added that "we have to wait for the joint House and Senate conference when they will have a reconciliation and a common resolution."

The Tribune, 18 November 2006

N-deal will need Vienna group's nod

Washington: The US Senate yesterday overwhelmingly approved a Bill that seeks to permit civilian nuclear cooperation between the US and India.

The Hindu, 18 November 2006

Concerns must be safeguarded, says BJP

NEW DELHI : The Bharatiya Janata Party has said here on Friday that "the stated concerns of India as assured by Prime Minister [Manmohan Singh] in Parliament [in relation to the Indo-United States nuclear deal] must be protected and safeguarded."

The Hindu, 18 November 2006

The Senate vote and beyond

By voting overwhelmingly in favour of the draft law authorising civil nuclear cooperation with India, the United States Senate has underscored the broad, bipartisan nature of support the Bush administration's policies towards New Delhi enjoy in Washington.

The Times of India, 18 November 2006

Nuclear tango

The clouds are lifting on the India-US nuclear deal, with the Senate endorsing it with an overwhelming and bipartisan margin of 85-12. The House of Representatives has already approved it by a 359-68 margin.

The Times of India, 18 November 2006

Five months to fusion

WASHINGTON: A Congressional conference is a place where a bill goes in looking like a duck and comes out like a chicken, a critic of the American legislative process once said.

Hindustan Times, 18 November 2006

No need to worry over Pak's missile test: India

New Delhi, November 17: India on Friday said it was not worried over the test firing of Pakistan's nuclear capable ballistic missile Hatf V.

The Times of India, 18 November 2006

'Any wrinkles in N-deal will be ironed out'

WASHINGTON: The nuclear cooperation bill passed by the Senate broadly conforms to the agreement signed between the two countries, but any Indian doubts about language and prescriptions in the bill could yet be addressed, a top Bush administration official has assured.

Deccan Herald, 18 November 2006

Iran indicates support to India's quest for civil nuke energy

New Delhi: Faced with a stand-off with the West over its own nuclear programme, Iran today appeared to be supporting India's quest for civilian atomic energy as it said that every country has the "right to benefit" from it.

The News, 18 November 2006

Iranian nuclear standoff

DELHI: Russia does not want to see the UN Security Council punish Iran over its refusal to freeze sensitive nuclear work, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Friday. Speaking at the start of a visit to New Delhi, Lavrov also said that Moscow wanted to see the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) take the lead role in resolving the crisis.

The Indian Express, 18 November 2006

We've right to set up nuclear power plants: Iran

New Delhi, November 17: Iran asserted its right to construct nuclear power plants saying these would be used only to meet domestic energy requirements.

The Economic Times, 18 November 2006

Senate's sage bipartisanship

The Senate's vote of approval brings the Indo-US nuclear deal to the threshold of reality. With the rejection of all the potentially deal-breaking amendments it should not now be difficult to reconcile the Senate's Bill with that of the House of Representatives in a way that is consistent with the agreement signed by President Bush and Prime Minister Singh.

Daily Times, 18 November 2006

India and Pakistan get their 'nuclear deals'

One of the first things the new US Senate has done is to approve 'overwhelmingly' the US-India nuclear agreement allowing India access to American nuclear technology.

Hindustan Times, 19 November 2006

US hopes to meet Indian concerns over nuclear deal

Washington, November 18: The US considers successful implementation of the India-US nuclear deal as a key element of a new strategic partnership between the two countries and hopes a Senate-House Conference in early December can address their remaining concerns.

The News, 19 November 2006

Civil nuclear energy

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has called upon the world community to maintain a level playing field for the provision of civilian nuclear energy since it has genuine needs of expanding its civilian nuclear programme to meet its growing energy requirements and will take every step to meet these demands.

The Indian Express, 19 November 2006

India test-fires Prithvi II missile

Bhubaneswar: India test-fired a short-range nuclear-capable missile on Sunday, a top defence official said, days after a similar test by Pakistan.

Daily Times, 19 November 2006

Pakistan to expand peaceful nuclear programme: PM

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has 'genuine reasons' for expanding its civilian nuclear programme and will take every possible step to meet its growing energy needs, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz told reporters here on Saturday.

Dawn, 19 November 2006

US wants no nuclear accord with Pakistan

WASHINGTON, Nov 18: Pakistan cannot get a similar nuclear deal as India because that's 'a unique agreement with a unique country,' says US Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns.

Deccan Herald, 19 November 2006

China extends guarded support to India's quest for N-energy

New Delhi: China has expressed guarded support to India's quest for civil nuclear energy and rejected perceptions that the growing relations between New Delhi and the US were aimed at containing it.

The Times of India, 19 November 2006

Supply uranium to India: FM asks Australia

MELBOURNE: India on Sunday sought Australia's support for its plans to increase reliance on nuclear power and allow uranium exports to the rapidly industrialising South Asian giant.

The Times of India, 19 November 2006

G20 members condemn North Korea's N-test

MELBOURNE: The Group of 20 economies universally condemned North Korea for its recent nuclear test, but rejected a bid by Japan to formally include the position in the final communiqué issued on Sunday at its annual meeting, the meeting's host said.

The New York Times, 19 November 2006

Iran's Leader Seeks Ties With N. Korea

TEHRAN: President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has demanded more ties with North Korea and urged for nuclear disarmament in Korean peninsula, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported on Sunday.

The New York Times, 19 November 2006

U.S. Signals New Incentives for North Korea

HANOI: In a series of closed-door meetings on the edges of the economic summit meeting of Asian nations here, President Bush and his aides have signaled that they will dangle a new set of incentives for North Korea to give up nuclear weapons and technology, American officials said.

The Hindu, 20 November 2006

Pranab: nuclear issue may figure in talks with Hu

NEW DELHI: A day before Chinese President Hu Jintao arrives here on a four-day visit, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee said on Sunday evening that India was willing to discuss the issue of civilian nuclear cooperation with China.

The Hindu, 20 November 2006

Guarded Chinese support to nuclear energy quest

New Delhi: China has expressed guarded support to India's quest for civil nuclear energy and rejected perceptions that the growing relations between New Delhi and the U.S. were aimed at containing it.

The Hindu, 20 November 2006

Prithvi-II test fired

Balasore: Prithvi-II, India's sophisticated surface-to-surface medium range missile, was test fired from the integrated test range (ITR) at Chandipur-on-sea, about 15 km from here on Sunday.

Dawn, 20 November 2006

India lobbies US for N-state status

WASHINGTON, Nov 19: India is quietly urging the United States to grant it the same status given to a nuclear weapon state under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, diplomatic sources in Washington said.

Hindustan Times, 21 November 2006

So, what's the big Deal?

Last week the US Senate finally passed Bill S 3709, the legislation enabling the Indo-US nuclear deal.

The Hindu, 21 November 2006

Let's await the final U.S. Bill: Pranab

Pranab Mukherjee is back as External Affairs Minister after a gap of some 10 years. Besides the civilian nuclear deal with the United States, he speaks of addressing problems in the near and extended neighbourhood. Excerpts from an interview he gave on Sunday evening at his Talkatora.

The Asian Age, 21 November 2006

Bill paves way for covert US operations

On November 16, 2006, the US Senate discussed and modified its bill No. S-3709 on the Indo-US nuclear deal, which was forwarded to it by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC).

The Hindu, 21 November 2006

China promises "responsible attitude" at NSG

Beijing: China on Monday sought "more information and explanations" from India to address concerns of "some countries" on the India-U.S. civilian nuclear deal but promised to take a "responsible attitude" at the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) when the issue comes up.

The Hindu, 21 November 2006

India not to discuss NSG issue with China

NEW DELHI: Since India and the United States are still to clinch an agreement on civilian nuclear cooperation, New Delhi feels that the stage to seek China's support for its case at the 45-member Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG) has not yet been reached.

Daily Times, 21 November 2006

China to sign US-like N-deal with India

WASHINGTON: China and India are poised to sign a civilian nuclear cooperation deal, similar to the recent agreement between the US and India, during President Hu Jintao's four-day state visit to India beginning this Monday, according to a report in Boston

Globe.

Daily Times, 21 November 2006

'North Korea cannot miniaturise nuclear weapons'

SEOUL: North Korea's nuclear test last month was only partially successful and it cannot yet miniaturise atomic warheads, South Korea's next spy chief said Monday.

Daily Times, 21 November 2006

IAEA may turn down Iran's request on nuclear reactor

VIENNA: Thirty five nations abruptly adjourned a meeting Monday focusing on Iran's request to the UN nuclear watchdog agency for help in building a plutonium-producing reactor, reflecting discord despite general agreement on denying such aid.

The News, 21 November 2006

Iran has germ weapons, says US

GENEVA: Iran probably has germ warfare weapons, North Korea may have developed them and Syria could have carried out research into such banned weaponry, the United States told an arms control conference on Monday.

China Daily, 21 November 2006

80% of Japanese support non-nuclear principles

TOKYO: Nearly 80 percent of Japanese favor preserving the country's anti-nuclear weapons policy, a newspaper reported Tuesday, amid ongoing debate over whether Japan should re-examine its stance.

The New York Times, 22 November 2006

Iran and Arak

The International Atomic Energy Agency has always had a conflicted mandate. It is supposed to promote the peaceful use of nuclear technology while also restraining the spread of nuclear weapons.

BBC News, 22 November 2006

Australia report gives nuclear nod

Nuclear power is a viable option for meeting Australia's future energy needs, a new government report says.

International Herald Tribune, 22 November 2006

Australia is urged to lift restrictions on nuclear power plants

A government commission has recommended lifting Australia's restrictions on nuclear energy and uranium mining, setting up a showdown between a government eager to develop new sources of income and energy and environmentalists who oppose the building of nuclear power plants.

The Hindu, 22 November 2006

India, China to cooperate on nuclear energy

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Chinese President Hu Jintao have agreed that an early settlement of the boundary question will advance the "basic interests" of the two countries, and it should be pursued as a "strategic objective."

The Hindu, 22 November 2006

China not to stand in India's way

NEW DELHI: China will not come in the way of any decision of the Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG) to lift restrictions on international civilian nuclear cooperation with India, senior officials felt after talks between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Hu Jintao here on Tuesday.

Newindpress.com, 22 November 2006

Scientists concerned over new sections in US nuke Bill

MUMBAI: Nuclear scientists on Tuesday expressed concern at the addition of new sections in the Bill passed by US senate to implement the civil nuclear deal with India, and hoped they would be addressed during a reconciliation conference in December.

The Hindu, 22 November 2006

Pakistan evasive on nuclear deal

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has played down reports of a deal with China for assistance in building six nuclear reactors during the November 23-26 visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao.

The Indian Express, 22 November 2006

Nuclear minuet

On the face of it, the agreement between Manmohan Singh and Hu Jintao to cooperate on civilian nuclear energy is a bold step forward.

The Indian Express, 22 November 2006

Fusion reactor deal signed, India joins EU, US, China in hunt for future energy source

PARIS, NOVEMBER 21: Representatives of more than 30 countries, including India, today signed a deal to build the world's most advanced nuclear fusion reactor, aimed at developing a clean, cheap and abundant energy source as the end of fossil fuels looms.

The News, 22 November 2006

US could bomb Iran nuclear sites in 2007: analysts

WASHINGTON: President George W. Bush could choose military action over diplomacy and bomb Iran's nuclear facilities next year, political analysts in Washington agree.

Daily Times, 22 November 2006

Former Russian spy may have radioactive poisoning

LONDON: A former Russian spy and fierce critic of the Kremlin may have been poisoned with radioactive thallium, a doctor said Tuesday.

China Daily, 22 November 2006

Nuclear talks 'could restart next month'

Six-Party Talks on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue could resume next month, the top US negotiator to the disarmament negotiations said Tuesday.

The Indian Express, 23 November 2006

Patil alarm bell: terror may take sea route, N-plants at risk after US deal

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 22 : Alerting the security establishment, Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil today said that the nuclear deal with the US had made Indian atomic power plants "highly vulnerable" to terrorists who were making attempts to "occupy" uninhabited islands and use them as bases for terror attacks along the coast.

The Indian Express, 23 November 2006

Thermonuclear way out of crisis

On Tuesday the European Union and six other countries - China, United States, India, Japan, Russia and South Korea - signed a \$12.8 billion agreement to build an experimental nuclear fusion reactor or ITER as it is more commonly known.

The Tribune, 23 November 2006

China's media ignore N-energy plan with India

Beijing, November 22: Unlike the Indian media, the State-run Chinese media did not go overboard to highlight the possibility of India-China nuclear energy cooperation but devoted much space to showcase that Chinese President's ongoing visit as a "milestone" in upgrading strategic bilateral ties.

Hindustan Times, 23 November 2006

Hu's India visit no big deal in US

Washington: Chinese President Hu Jintao's "historic" India visit that opened new vistas of cooperation, including possibly in the field of civilian nuclear energy, between the two Asian giants, did not get much notice initially, at least in official Washington.

Deccan Herald, 23 November 2006

LeT's big plot revealed

Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil on Wednesday disclosed that Lashker-e-Toiba (LeT) operatives were being trained to sabotage oil installations in India and that the country's atomic power plants, defence, communications and IT sectors had become 'highly vulnerable'.

Hindustan Times, 23 November 2006

Tranquil steps

Despite their booming trade ties, Sino-Indian relations remain more promising than real. Chinese President Hu Jintao has essentially reiterated some old assurances and added a few new ones.

The Hindu, 23 November 2006

Australia urged to back nuclear programme

SINGAPORE : Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram has sought Australia's support for India's nuclear energy programme.

Dawn, 23 November 2006

US may bomb Iran N-sites next year: Think-tanks' assessment

WASHINGTON, Nov 22: President George W. Bush could choose military action over diplomacy and bomb Iran's nuclear facilities next year, political analysts in Washington agree.

The New York Times, 24 November 2006

Iran Says It Will Build Heavy-Water Reactor Without Agency's Help

TEHRAN, Nov. 23: Iran said Thursday that it would build a heavy-water reactor on its own after the United Nations nuclear monitoring agency decided to remove the item from a list of projects for which it planned to provide technical assistance.

Timesonline, 24 November 2006

Talking Trident

Past decisions on the British nuclear deterrent have been taken in secret amid claims that they reflected prime ministerial whim rather than the broader view of Cabinet, Parliament and public.

The Indian Express, 24 November 2006

Next N-stop, threat lowering clause

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 23: Days before the reconciliation process begins on the Indo-US civil nuclear cooperation Bill, New Delhi has sought a clarification from Washington on the Bingaman Amendment that calls for establishing a cooperative threat reduction programme between the both countries.

Hindustan Times, 24 November 2006

Sunshine for tomorrow

In all the gloom about climate change and rising oil prices, here is some heartening news. The International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) fusion energy project, a futuristic source of limitless energy, is getting underway.

The Indian Express, 24 November 2006

IAEA blocks all aid to Iran's Arak reactor

After days of haggling, the IAEA's 35-nation board of governors on Thursday indefinitely blocked Iran's bid for technical aid for its Arak reactor project over fears it could be secretly used to yield bomb-grade plutonium.

The Statesman, 24 November 2006

India has to wait for China stand on NSG

NEW DELHI, Nov. 23: India will have to "wait and watch" for China's stand in the Nuclear Suppliers Group with sources saying that the framing of the two paragraphs on civil nuclear cooperation in the Sino-Indian Joint Declaration issued during President Hu

Jintao's visit is a path to the 'right direction'.

The Times of India, 24 November 2006

Hu boasts of friendship with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Visiting Chinese President Hu Jintao will hold formal talks with his Pakistani counterpart, General Pervez Musharraf, on Friday to discuss how they can expand ties in defence, nuclear, economic and trade sectors.

The Indian Express, 24 November 2006

Iran Offers Look at Uranium Program

VIENNA: Iran has agreed to crack open the books on its uranium enrichment activities, the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency said Thursday - a move that could give experts a better grasp of a program the Security Council fears could be misused to produce atomic bombs.

Daily Times, 24 November 2006

China and US-India nuclear deal

The countries of the Power Triangle all have an interest in improving relations with one another.

Deccan Herald, 25 November 2006

Iran denies bribing Pak for nuke technology

Islamabad: Iran has said it never offered bribe to Islamabad to get access to nuclear technology for producing bombs and denied procuring the help of disgraced Pakistani scientist A Q Khan for its nuclear programme.

Hindustan Times, 25 November 2006

Prithvi against Prithvi

Bhubaneswar, November 24: FOR THE first time, India will fire two Prithvi-II missiles from different points off the Orissa coast and have them collide on Sunday. The mission is to test the interception efficacy and the air-defence capability of the indigenous missile.

Dawn, 25 November 2006

IAEA okays Chashma-2 accord

ISLAMABAD, Nov 24: The board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Thursday approved an agreement with Pakistan for application of safeguards on the Chashma Nuclear Power Plant Unit-2 (Chasnupp-2).

The Nation, 25 November 2006

Pak, China N-ties bound to grow: Hu

ISLAMABAD: Raffirming their commitment to faithfully implement the agreements, Pakistan and China on Friday pledged to further strengthen bilateral ties in all sectors to achieve a sustainable long-term strategic partnership.

Deccan Herald, 26 November 2006

China has endorsed Indo-US nuke deal: Mukherjee

New Delhi: China has "endorsed" the Indo-US civil nuclear deal during the just-concluded visit of President Hu Jintao here, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee has said.

The Hindu, 27 November 2006

China `endorsed' deal: Pranab

New Delhi: China "endorsed" the India-U.S. civilian nuclear deal during the recent visit of President Hu Jintao here, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee has said. He expressed confidence that Beijing would not stand in New Delhi's way in the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) when the group considers changing guidelines for allowing the world community to have civilian nuclear trade with India.

Dawn, 27 November 2006

India accepts China N-help for Pakistan

NEW DELHI, Nov 26: Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee was quoted as saying on Sunday that New Delhi had no problem with China offering to help Pakistan in civil nuclear energy projects.

Deccan Herald, 27 November 2006

Hang in the balance

Conferences come and go without making much impact. This is more so when the issues prove to be intractable, and often divisive, among the participants. Invariably, they fail to accomplish the key objectives for which they are convened in the first place. e until it is resolved.

Hindustan Times, 27 November 2006

India successfully conducts missile versus missile test

Balasore: India on Monday successfully test fired two home-grown Prithvi-II missiles against each other from different military test ranges on the Orissa coast, defence officials said.

The New York Times, 27 November 2006

Envoys Head for China to Set Up North Korea Talks

BEIJING: U.S. and South Korean envoys were due in Beijing on Monday to prepare for six-party talks on ending North Korea's nuclear weapons program which are expected to resume next month.

The Times of India, 28 November 2006

US hopes Congress won't radically alter N-deal

WASHINGTON: The Bush administration hopes that the US Congress will pass a legislation on the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal in a manner that would not make radical changes in the historic agreement so that they could "faithfully" implement it.

Newindpress.com, 28 November 2006

New section in Bill on N-deal raises eyebrows

NEW DELHI: There is a growing pressure on the Prime Minister by the country's nuclear

scientific community to clarify the Government's stand on section 115 of the US Senate Bill on Indo-US nuke deal that mandates the American National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) to conduct joint research and development with Indian atomic scientists on fissile material security in the name of fighting WMD terrorism.

The Indian Express, 28 November 2006

Now let the PM square this circle

What had the prime minister drawn as the contours beyond which India would not budge on the Indo-US nuclear deal? Do the provisions of the bill as finally passed by the Senate fall within those contours? If they do not, how can the country now be made to swallow the deal?

Hindustan Times, 28 November 2006

Do not get carried away, warn scientists

New Delhi, November 27: Scientists and strategic experts have cautioned against getting carried away by the hype generated by the successful surface-to-surface missile interception over the Bay of Bengal on Monday.

The Indian Express, 28 November 2006

Britain Tracing Poison That Killed Spy

LONDON: The British government began tracking radioactive hotspots in London on Monday to trace the poison that killed a former KGB agent, and three people who reported possible symptoms of contamination underwent testing.

The Hindu, 28 November 2006

"The answer to the nuclear issue is more democracy"

Winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003, Shirin Ebadi is a prominent lawyer and human rights activist within her country, Iran, as well as an advocate for human rights around the world. In an exclusive interview to The Hindu, she spoke about the situation in Iran and the impact the 'war of terror' is having on human rights.

The Times of India, 29 November 2006

Now, US for compromise version of N-deal

NEW YORK: Noting that India has concerns over the legislation on the Indo-US nuclear deal, the United States has hoped that the negotiators would be able to draw up a compromise version, which is acceptable to both countries.

The Indian Express, 29 November 2006

'Nuke deal only as originally agreed'

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28: As Congressional staff from both chambers of the US Congress started consultations on a reconciled version of the Indo-US Civil Nuclear Cooperation Bill, Congress president Sonia Gandhi today made it clear to the Congress Parliamentary Party that the 'final agreement' will be 'within the framework of what the Prime Minister has repeatedly said'.

The New York Times, 29 November 2006

Iran Resolution, Still Not Final, Drops Mention of Sanctions

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28: The six world powers seeking to rein in Iran's nuclear ambitions are circulating a significantly weakened draft for a United Nations Security Council resolution against Tehran's nuclear program, in a bid to keep their fragile coalition from falling apart.

The Hindu, 29 November 2006

"New air defence capability a milestone"

CHENNAI: The demonstration on Monday of India's capability of air defence against ballistic missiles, with one Prithvi-II intercepting and destroying another, is "a milestone," according to Avinash Chander, Director, Advanced Systems Laboratory (ASL), Hyderabad.

The Economic Times, 29 November 2006

Indo-China nuclear cooperation?

While Sino-Indian cooperation in economic, technological and political areas is to be welcomed, the euphoria generated in the Indian media about Sino-Indian nuclear cooperation is not merited by the one-line remark about this in the joint declaration issued at the end of the visit of the Chinese President.

Daily Times, 29 November 2006

'No cooperation with non-NPT signatories'

ISLAMABAD: French Ambassador to Pakistan Regis de Belenet said on Tuesday there was no possibility of the Nuclear Supply Group cooperating with non-signatories to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) for civil nuclear technology.

The News, 29 November 2006

Pakistan successfully test-fires Hataf-IV ballistic missile

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan successfully test-fired Hataf-IV Shaheen-I medium range ballistic missile on Wednesday.

The Hindu, 29 November 2006

Japan sets terms for six-party talks

SINGAPORE: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Tuesday asserted that his country "cannot allow North Korea to possess nuclear weapons." Speaking to journalists in Tokyo, Mr. Abe maintained that the six-party talks, now being sought to be revived, would take place only on this basis.

Daily Times, 29 November 2006

Tactical Nuclear Weapons

One experience I had with tactical nuclear planning in the 1970s reflected the attitude that nuclear weapons could be treated as large conventional ones. I was commander-in-chief of NATO's southern flank, responsible for, among other things, the defence of Italy.

Daily Times, 30 November 2006

Pakistan tests nuclear missile

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan successfully test launched the Shaheen-I (Hatf 4) ballistic missile, which has a range of 700km, on Wednesday as part of military exercises. Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Chairman General Ehsanul Haq, who witnessed the test, congratulated the Pakistan Army's Strategic Force Command on 'the high standards achieved during training which was reflected in the successful launch and the accuracy of the missile in reaching the target,' a statement said.

The Asian Age, 30 November 2006

Clash of the Prithvis

Monday's successful surface-to-surface Prithvi II missile interception over the Bay of Bengal is a morale booster for the scientists of the Defence Research and Development Organisation which suffered the mortification recently of having to shut down its Trishul project.

The Indian Express, 30 November 2006

North Korea, US and China seek early six-party talks

BEIJING, November 29: North Korea, the United States and host China agreed during two days of meetings in Beijing to strive for an early resumption of stalled six-party talks on dismantling Pyongyang's nuclear programme, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday.

The Hindu, 30 November 2006

Seeking a ballistic missile shield

For some years now, India has been interested in protecting itself from ballistic missiles. The reason for this concern is not hard to discern, considering the steady growth in Pakistan's missile capability.

The Times of India, 30 November 2006

N-deal: Burns confident of Congress seal

WASHINGTON: US undersecretary of state Nicholas Burns will visit New Delhi next fortnight to undertake a "mid-term review" of latest US-Indian initiatives amid continuing unease over the final shape of the nuclear agreement between the two sides.

The Times of India, 30 November 2006

US Congressional report rakes up Iran-India ties

WASHINGTON: A new US Congressional Research Service (CRS) report has suggested that India's long relationship with Iran and its support of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) positions on non-proliferation are obstacles to India's taking a hard line on Iran.

The Indian Express, 30 November 2006

Time to deal with the aftermath

Then came the point on which the prime minister received much applause. Members like me had drawn attention to the very comprehensive and intrusive inspections that were being accepted.

The Times of India, 30 November 2006

Indo-US N-deal to be in place by May: Mulford

MUMBAI: Even as the India-US civilian nuclear deal awaits congressional "clearance within the next few days," representatives of top American nuclear firms are already here scouring for lucrative opportunities in this sector.

The Times of India, 30 November 2006

New Zealand yet to decide on Indo-US N-deal

NEW DELHI: As India awaits the clearance of legislation by the Congress to implement the civil nuclear deal with the US, Nuclear Suppliers Group member New Zealand has said it is yet to take a stand on the issue.

Hindustan Times, 30 November 2006

UK, France support Indo-US N-deal

New Delhi: Britain, France and Russia have expressed support for civil nuclear cooperation between India and the US while other Nuclear Supplier Group members are yet to formalise their position, Rajya Sabha was informed on Thursday.

The Hindu, 30 November 2006

Missile programmes' deadline extended

NEW DELHI: The final cost of developing the Akash, Nag and Trishul missiles would cross Rs. 1,100 crore and the deadline had been extended to December next year, Defence Minister A.K. Antony told the Rajya Sabha in a written reply on Wednesday.

Deccan Herald, 30 November 2006

Miles to go

While few details are available on the Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO's) atmospheric intercept system that was tested on Monday, the experience of militarily advanced countries like the US, Russia and Israel, indicate that such a system is highly challenging to develop.

The New York Times, 30 November 2006

Japan Capable of Making Nuclear Weapon

TOKYO: Japan has the technological know-how to produce a nuclear weapon but has no immediate plans to do so, the foreign minister said Thursday, several weeks after communist North Korea carried out a nuclear test.

The New York Times, 30 November 2006

Study: Warhead Plutonium Long - Lasting

WASHINGTON: The plutonium in nuclear warheads seems to be much sturdier than previously thought, with a reliable life span of as much as 100 years.

BBC News, 30 November 2006

Radiation 'found at 12 locations'

UK experts probing the death of former Russian spy Alexander Litvinenko have found traces of radioactivity at 12 locations, the home secretary has said.