

Indo-Asian News Service, 1 November 2007

**India for development packages in return for African oil**

New Delhi, Nov 1 (IANS) India is ready to consider more private participation in development packages for African countries in return for access to their hydrocarbon reserves. This was indicated by Petroleum Secretary M.S. Srinivasan Wednesday evening at a function to announce the 'India-Africa Hydrocarbon conference and exhibition' next week -- which could be termed India's formal coming out party in the market of African hydrocarbon riches. With rising oil prices and volatility in the Middle East, India has been eyeing Africa more seriously to meet its climbing energy demands and diversify its energy procurement basket.

The Hindu, 1 November 2007

**90 Indians facing prosecution in Dubai**

DUBAI: Authorities here have released most of the 4,500 Asian workers detained after their protests for higher wages turned violent on Saturday. However, 159 workers, including 90 Indians, are facing prosecution as they have been accused of direct involvement in the violence. A majority of those released resumed work on Wednesday after furnishing bonds that they would abide by the terms of their existing contracts. As many as 3,900 of the 4,500 held were Indians, hailing mainly from Punjab, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh.

The Hindu, 1 November 2007

**India matters more than Pakistan, says U.S. official**

Washington: The United States has said that broad-based partnerships with India are critical and more important than those with Pakistan. This is because New Delhi is growing as a potential power with global influence. While Pakistan continues to search for Osama bin Laden and helps in waging a global war on terrorism, the U.S.-Indian relationship is more important in the long run, said Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence for South and South East Asia, James Clad.

Indo-Asian News Service, 1 November 2007

**India to host grand global meet on federalism**

New Delhi, Nov 1 (IANS) From heads of state and government to experts and activists, around 1,000 people from the world will take part in an international conference on federalism here next week. Conference leaders say the Nov 5-7 meet - the fourth in a series organised by the Canada-based Forum of Federations - will provide a platform for exchanges of ideas that can prove useful to countries in turmoil such as Sri Lanka. For a country where federalism as a concept has proved greatly successful, the Indian contingent will include Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Congress president Sonia Gandhi, opposition leader L.K. Advani and Home Minister Shivraj Patil.

The Hindu, 2 November 2007

**Merkel offers help to develop Indian cities**

MUMBAI: German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Thursday that fast-growing cities needed all the attention of national policy but to help cities "we must not stop developing the countryside." "Helping cities means also developing the countryside. This has been a

basic rule of our policy in Germany. Developing the countryside is as important as helping the city, struggling with climate change, migration and poverty," she said, delivering the keynote address at the Deutsche Bank Urban Age Award presentation function here.

Indo-Asian News Service, 2 November 2007

**India, Bangladesh to allow development projects along border**

Agartala, Nov 2 (IANS) India and Bangladesh have agreed to allow development projects on either side of the border although the two countries will not put up any defence installations close to the international boundary, officials said Friday. "We have cleared some pending development projects on either side of the border which were stalled earlier with the two countries opposing such moves with the location of those projects very close to the border," J.A. Khan, Border Security Force (BSF) Tripura frontier inspector general, said. The projects include construction of embankments, bridges, market sheds and drinking water facilities. Several projects remained half-done for years after objections raised by the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and the BSF.

Indo-Asian News Service, 2 November 2007

**India-US civil n-deal good for the world: France**

New Delhi, Nov 1 (IANS) France Thursday ruled out a bilateral civil nuclear pact with India, but vigorously supported New Delhi's integration into the global civil nuclear order, saying that the India-US nuclear deal is "a good thing for India and for the world". "I don't want to interfere with India's internal political affairs or India-US relations. Going further in global cooperation in civil nuclear energy with India is good for India and the world," said French Minister for Higher Education and Research Valerie Pecresse.

Indo-Asian News Service, 3 November 2007

**It is now or never for India-US n-deal: William Cohen**

New Delhi, Nov 2 (IANS) Setting a January deadline for activating the India-US civilian nuclear deal, a former American official says commercial links will continue to grow but military ties would be "retarded" if the pact collapsed as the new dispensation in Washington would not revive it. "We are pretty close to now or never. Unless the 123 agreement and the NSG (Nuclear Suppliers Group) waiver is in place by end-January, the deal will die," William Cohen, who was the defence secretary in the administration of former president Bill Clinton, said during a select media interaction here Friday.

Indo-Asian News Service, 3 November 2007

**Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew meets PM, foreign minister**

New Delhi, Nov 2 (IANS) The founder of modern Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew, met with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Friday and discussed the current high growth in the Indian economy. Lee met Singh on the last day of his two-city, five-day official visit to India, which began Oct 28 in Mumbai.

The Indian Express, 4 November 2007

**Pleasing Beijing, Govt tells its Ministers don't attend Dalai Lama honour function**

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3: Fearing a strong Chinese diplomatic backlash, besides protests from the Left, a cautious UPA government took a rare pre-emptive step on Friday asking all members of the Council of Ministers to stay away from a function here today to felicitate the Dalai Lama for the US Congressional Gold Medal, Washington's highest civilian honour.

The Indian Express, 4 November 2007

**Karunanidhi mourns LTTE leader's death**

Chennai:: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M Karunanidhi has expressed grief over the death of LTTE's political wing secretary Tamilselvan in an aerial attack on Friday. He wrote an elegy saying, "...one who was like life to us, like a brother to us, oh, Selva, he who etched his fame on every Tamil heart, and every Tamil home, where have you gone?"

Indo-Asian News Service, 4 November 2007

**World Bank reluctant to involve India in helping Africa**

New Delhi, Nov 3 (IANS) The World Bank appears reluctant to involve India in the International Development Association (IDA) in helping out countries like Liberia in Africa. "On the one hand I welcome the participation of developing countries like India. But then there are nearly the same number of poor people in Africa as in India," World Bank President Robert B. Zoellick told reporters after meeting Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Saturday.

Indo-Asian News Service, 4 November 2007

**US, India ties to combat fundamentalism: Kissinger**

Kolkata, Nov 3 (IANS) The US' growing bonhomie with India is aimed at combating the rise in Islamic fundamentalism and not to counter China in the subcontinent, former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said here Saturday. Stating that the growing US tilt towards India was not because of the rise of China in the subcontinent, he said, "The rise in Islamic fundamentalism is a threat to the United States which is why it is trying to create a basis of cooperation with India. It has nothing to do with US hostility against China."

The Hindu, 5 November 2007

**Developments are of special concern to India: BJP**

NEW DELHI: The Bharatiya Janata Party and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) have expressed serious concern over the declaration of emergency in Pakistan and sympathised with the struggle of Pakistan people for democracy. The CPI (M) Polit Bureau in a statement on Sunday said: "The developments in Pakistan are a matter of deep concern. The imposition of emergency is virtual martial law and harmful to the country. The people of Pakistan are overwhelmingly in favour of a democratic set-up," it said and expressed support for forces struggling to restore democracy.

The Hindu, 5 November 2007

**Sri Lanka frees fishermen**

NAGAPATTINAM: All the 97 Indian fishermen, detained by the Sri Lankan Navy for allegedly straying into the island nation's waters, were released on Sunday. The release

follows a request from the Centre to the Sri Lankan government. --- PTI

The Times of India, 6 November 2007

### **US arms aid review to Pak relief for India**

WASHINGTON: India, for long a victim of American arming of Pakistan with lethal weapons, may finally find some relief if Washington is serious about its decision to review its aid to Islamabad and does a fair job of it. US officials had said on Monday that an inter-agency process to assess aid to Pakistan, including military support, was already underway following the latest coup. The review is taking place amid growing realisation within US strategic circles that American military aid to Pakistan is misplaced and misdirected: it has actually helped Islamabad arm itself for yet another war against India instead of equipping it for the war on terrorism.

The Times of India, 6 November 2007

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The Times of India, 6 November 2007

### **Three Indians kidnapped in Somalia freed**

CHENNAI: Three fishermen hailing from Tamil Nadu's Kanyakumari district who were abducted six months ago by pirates off the coast of Somalia have been released, reports reaching here said on Monday. Antony, Kingsley and Vijayan were kidnapped May 15 and were among 24 others from the fishing vessel Mopeto 97. According to reports reaching here, the Somali pirates left two boats they had hijacked in the waters off the Horn of Africa, and their crew of 24 were under US Navy escort.

Indo-Asian News Service, 11 November 2007

### **India watchful of Sudan's present, mindful of its future**

Khartoum, Nov 11 (IANS) With the world's attention turned sharply toward the war-ravaged Darfur region, some key players - including the US, China and India - are making quiet overtures to Sudan's oil-rich south in what could be a pointer to the shape of things to come in this vast African nation. India is Sudan's second largest trading partner after China and has \$3 billion worth of investments in the country, \$2 billion of it in energy alone. India's Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) acquired a 25 percent stake in the Greater Nile Oil Project in the south in 2003. New Delhi - with its unique combination of an Africa-friendly profile and emerging economic clout - is seeking to offer the government of Southern Sudan a credit line of around \$400 million, guaranteed against the region's post-2011 oil production.

Indo-Asian News Service, 11 November 2007

**India unhappy with UN bid to expand role in Nepal**

New Delhi, Nov 10 (IANS) India has taken strong objection to the UN attempt to expand its limited mandate in troubled Nepal, particularly the way its officials have begun to reach out to leaders of the country's restive ethnic groups. New Delhi also feels that it made a mistake in neglecting leaders of the Madhesi ethnic community who populate the Terai region bordering northern India and that they need to be supported in a big way as some kind of "safety belt". India is slowly redefining its priorities in Nepal in the wake of the major changes taking place in the landlocked kingdom where Maoist guerrillas and mainstream parties have come together against the monarchy, igniting long suppressed ethnic consciousness.

Indo-Asian News Service, 11 November 2007

**India needs stronger defence capabilities: Antony**

New Delhi, Nov 10 (IANS) India needs to develop stronger defence capabilities to safeguard its interests as a prominent regional player, Defence Minister A.K. Antony said here Saturday. "With our growing stature, the need of the hour is to develop stronger defence capabilities to safeguard our interests," he said. "As a prominent regional player, we will be called upon to play an increasingly significant role in ensuring peace and stability in our immediate as well as extended neighbourhood and in the Asian region," he said.

Indo-Asian News Service, 12 November 2007

**India 'deeply worried' about instability in Pakistan**

On Board Air India One, Nov 11 (IANS) India Sunday said it was "deeply worried" about instability in Pakistan in the aftermath of the declaration of emergency as the political turmoil there could lead to an increase in militancy. New Delhi also underlined that it has "tightened" its borders and is on guard against the prospect of stepped up militancy from across the border, but was hopeful that its peace process with Pakistan that began nearly three years ago will not be affected in the long run.

The Hindu, 12 November 2007

**India attaches high priority to ties with Russia: Manmohan**

New Delhi, (PTI): Embarking on a visit to Moscow in the backdrop of a diplomatic chill, Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, on Sunday said India attaches high priority to its ties with Russia and wanted to further strengthen the multi-faceted relationship, particularly in energy and defence fields. In his pre-departure statement, Singh hoped the relationship based on strong fundamentals and "enduring bond of friendship" would continue to bring the two countries closer in a dynamic international environment.

Indo-Asian News Service, 13 November 2007

**Asian Economic Community is need of the time: India**

New Delhi, Nov 12 (IANS) As Asian leaders meet in Singapore next week for an annual summit, India has revived the idea of an integrated Asian Economic Community that it believes could become the "epicentre of global economy". Speaking at a conference on Asian Economic Integration in New Delhi, Indian external affairs minister Pranab

Mukherjee admitted an initiative towards an Asian Economic Community will "take a great deal of time, energy and perseverance to translate this vision into reality". "But we should at least start thinking about the idea and develop the roadmap for its realization," he said.

The Hindu, 13 November 2007

### **Begin reconciliation process, India asks Myanmar**

NEW DELHI: India has again asked Myanmar to initiate inclusive political reforms. It also called upon Myanmar to release political prisoners "as far as is possible" and probe violence against unarmed civilians. "We want political reforms and the process of reconciliation to start immediately and it has to be inclusive," External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee told newsmen on the sidelines of a conference on Asian economic integration here on Monday.

The Hindu, 13 November 2007

### **India monitoring situation in Pakistan: Antony**

Kozhikode: India is closely monitoring the situation in Pakistan and taking adequate security measures along the borders with that country, Minister for Defence A.K. Antony said here on Monday. He told presspersons that the developments in Pakistan warranted taking several precautionary measures. "All steps have been taken to protect our borders as well as the Line of Control. As of now the situation is peaceful," he maintained.

The Hindu, 13 November 2007

### **Ties with Russia have stood the test of time: Manmohan**

MOSCOW: Dispelling concerns over a recent chill in bilateral ties, leaders of India and Russia have reiterated the depth and intensity of their strategic partnership. "Ours is a strategic partnership that has stood the test of time," Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said at a joint press interaction with President Vladimir Putin after their 7th annual summit here on Monday. "Through our discussions today we have consolidated and strengthened our engagement in different fields."

Indo-Asian News Service, 13 November 2007

### **Indo-Russian trade should reach \$10 bn by 2010: PM**

Moscow, Nov 12 (IANS) Calling for more Russian investment in India, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Monday set a target for bilateral trade to increase to \$10 billion by 2010. India and Russia set up a joint task force to explore ways to take concrete steps to accelerate trade and investment ties on the basis of a report at a joint study group. At a meeting of Indian and Russian businessmen, Singh stressed the need for increased contacts between the business communities of the two countries that have been hobbled by visa problems. "There is no substitute for a vigorous two-way engagement between the business communities of India and Russia," said Singh, admitting business relations "have lagged far behind our excellent political understanding".

The Hindu, 13 November 2007

### **India fails to sign deal for more reactors for Koodankulam**

MOSCOW: New Delhi decided not to sign the nuclear deal for construction of four

additional Russian reactors at the Koodankulam nuclear power station on Monday though Moscow was ready to ink it, an informed source said. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Russian President Vladimir Putin gave no reason, at their joint interaction with the media after their summit here, but Dr. Singh said the accord was in the pipeline. "The inter-government agreement for the construction of four more reactors is work in progress." Dr. Singh said. The accord was drawn up in pursuance of a memorandum of intent signed in January during Mr. Putin's visit to India.

The Hindu, 13 November 2007

### **Plane deal second major initiative**

NEW DELHI: The India-Russia accord on development and production of a multi-role transport aircraft (MTA) signed in Moscow on Monday marks the beginning of the second major joint research and development initiative in the aviation sector between the two sides. The first one fructified during Defence Minister A.K. Antony's visit to Moscow last month. Both countries agreed to develop and produce the fifth generation fighter aircraft.

The Hindu, 13 November 2007

### **Ready for active participation in Orissa SEZ, says Russia**

Moscow: Russia on Monday said it was ready to actively participate in developing a Special Economic Zone in Orissa. "I would like to mention the special progress by the two sides in setting up a joint venture for production of titanium dioxide and other titanium products in Orissa," Russian Premier Viktor Zubkov said while welcoming Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

The Hindu, 14 November 2007

### **India links emerge in Maldives terror probe**

MALE (MALDIVES): An Islamist cell which executed Maldives' first-ever terror strike had connections with Lashkar-e-Taiba operatives in India, investigators have discovered. Moosa Inas, a Laamu atoll resident charged with having triggered the explosive device which went off in Male's Sultan Park on September 29, had travelled to Thiruvananthapuram in December 2005. Inas arrived in Kerala on a flight through Colombo, and then crossed the India-Pakistan border at Attari to meet contacts linked to the Jamia Salafiyya in Faisalabad --- a seminary that has produced key Lashkar commanders.

The Times of India, 14 November 2007

### **Nukes in jihadi hands a worry: Army chief**

NEW DELHI: Holding that the terror infrastructure across the western border is still very much alive and kicking, Army chief General Deepak Kapoor says India will have to guard against a spurt in terrorist activities as a fallout of the ongoing turmoil in Pakistan. "The terrorist training camps (in Pakistan and PoK) are intact...infiltration is being calibrated. There has been a spate of infiltration bids and violent incidents in J&K over the last two months," said Gen Kapoor.

Indo-Asian News Service, 14 November 2007

### **India may go ahead with IAEA talks after Left nod**

New Delhi, Nov 13 (IANS) The Indian government may soon approach the international nuclear watchdog for negotiations on India-specific safeguard protocols to take forward its nuclear deal with the US following an apparent nod from the Left parties. The communists, who were earlier fiercely opposed to these talks, have now thrown a caveat that the discussions with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna can be held provided the government gets their concurrence before signing any final agreement.

Indo-Asian News Service, 14 November 2007

### **Myanmar leader asks India to arm anti-junta groups**

New Delhi, Nov 13 (IANS) One of the top Myanmar opposition leaders in exile has asked India to arm the country's pro-democracy parties with military and financial aid while snapping all defence sales to the ruling military junta. Urging for a change in Indian foreign policy towards Myanmar, the National League of Democracy's Tint Swe said he believed that "If not today, democracy will prevail soon". "If India is not going to change its policy then it will have to work harder, maybe for a decade, for better ties with a democratic regime," said Swe, who had fled to India after he was elected a member of parliament in the 1990 elections, which were not accepted by the military.

Indo-Asian News Service, 14 November 2007

### **US defence giant inks deals with Indian firms**

Dubai, Nov 13 (IANS) Leading US defence company Raytheon has signed memorandums of understanding with major Indian companies in the last few days to develop defence technology for India's armed forces. "We have signed MoUs with Larsen & Toubro, Wipro, Godrej & Boyce and Data Patterns in the last few days," Wes Motooka, Raytheon's vice-president for international strategy and business development, told IANS at the Dubai Airshow here Tuesday. "These strategic alignments make good business sense for Raytheon and for India," said Motooka. These Indian companies are among the largest manufacturers of technology and defence equipment for India's armed forces. They produce a wide range of products in the areas of radar, naval systems, telecommunications and broadcast, electronic warfare, tank electronics, opto-electronics, professional electronic components and solar photovoltaic systems.

Indian Express, 15 November 2007

### **Progress made in dialogue with India: Kasuri**

Islamabad, November 15: It will be easy for the future government in Pakistan to maintain the peace process with India as considerable progress has been made in the composite dialogue process, outgoing Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri said on Wednesday. "I can say with confidence that so much work has been done, it will be easy for the future government to pick up the pace from there to continue the process," he told reporters at a farewell party organised for him by the foreign ministry in Islamabad.

Indo-Asian News Service, 15 November 2007

### **India, China will cross \$30 bn trade this year: Envoy**

New Delhi, Nov 14 (IANS) India and China are set to surpass \$30 billion in bilateral trade this year, Chinese ambassador Sun Yuxi said here Wednesday. "Bilateral trade has

already crossed \$27 billion. We will easily cross \$30 billion trade this year," he told reporters while stressing that the two countries would achieve the 2010 target of \$40 billion much before that date.

Indian Express, 15 November 2007

### **Wary of China, India to boost eastern naval fleet**

Kolkata, November 15: India will strengthen its naval fleet on the eastern front, the regional commander said on Wednesday, adding destroyers and frigates among other ships, in an apparent move to counter Chinese interest in the region. Over the next five years or so, India's plans include stationing an aircraft carrier in the Bay of Bengal along with at least half of the 32 new warships and six submarines, Vice Admiral Raman Suthan said in Kolkata.

Indo-Asian News Service, 15 November 2007

### **Indian role in Myanmar wins praise from junta, UN**

New Delhi, Nov 15 (IANS) India has won praise from both the United Nations and the Myanmar military over its quiet diplomacy of pushing the junta into reconciliation talks with various opposition groups to end weeks of unrest. UN special envoy Ibrahim Gambari has thanked New Delhi for prodding the country's military rulers to talk to him after they initially sounded hostile to any foreign intervention to end Myanmar's internal troubles. At the same time, India made it clear to the junta that only negotiations with everyone in the opposition, not just the jailed Aung San Suu Kyi, would bring an element of stability to the country.

Indo-Asian News Service, 15 November 2007

### **India unlikely to resume arms supplies to Nepal**

Kathmandu, Nov 15 (IANS) A new multi-party government is in power in Nepal, but India is not planning to resume arms supplies that were stopped in February 2005 to show displeasure over King Gyanendra's bid to rule by force. This is because New Delhi sees no further insurgency threat, say Indian officials. The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, told IANS that currently New Delhi's focus is on the stalled constituent assembly election. A sizeable part of the Indian assistance now is intended to ensure free and fair polls.

Indo-Asian News Service, 17 November 2007

### **India-China war games next month**

New Delhi, Nov 16 (IANS) The Indian and Chinese armies will conduct their first war games in China next month but the dates for this are yet to be finalised, an official said Friday. Indian and Chinese officials who met for the annual defence dialogue in Beijing earlier this week, also decided that India would host a similar joint drill in this country next year.

The Times of India, 18 November 2007

### **After Moon, India eyes Mars mission**

MUMBAI: With India heading for the moon, can Mars be far behind? The answer is a no. On Friday, the Indian mission to Mars got a fillip with ISRO's 11th plan including the

flight to the Red Planet as a part of the document. India's decision assumes significance in the background of Mars becoming a favourite target after the moon for the US, Russia and the European Space Agency. In fact this week Russia began preparations for a manned mission to Mars. With Japan and China also expected to join the race to Mars, Indian space scientists feel that India cannot afford to lag behind.

The Times of India, 18 November 2007

**Indo-Chinese trade set to cross \$30b mark in 2007**

NEW DELHI: There may be some wrinkles in the bilateral relationship, but Indo-Chinese trade, business and travel is forging ahead. India-China bilateral trade is set to cross the \$30 billion limit this year. Between January and September 2007, it had already crossed \$27 billion, said Chinese ambassador to India, Sun Yuxi.

The Hindu, 19 November 2007

**India offers help**

NEW DELHI: India has offered help to cyclone-ravaged Bangladesh. President Pratibha Patil and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh have expressed their condolences over the deaths and pledged support and relief to the people of that country.

The Hindu, 19 November 2007

**A lot is at stake for India in East Asia: Lee**

SINGAPORE: The East Asia Summit (EAS) will look forward to what Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has to say on key issues on its agenda such as climate change, environmental sustainability, energy security and Myanmar. EAS Chairman and Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong struck this emphatic note in an interview to The Hindu even as leaders are geared up for the summit meeting on November 21.

Indo-Asian News Service, 19 November 2007

**Asean countries wary of being overtaken by China, India**

Singapore, Nov 18 (DPA) The Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) must complete economic integration in the next three to five years or China and India would bypass the region, the bloc's trade ministers said Sunday. Leaders of the 10-member Asean are scheduled to sign a blueprint for economic integration by 2015 during their annual summit in Singapore this week.

Indo-Asian News Service, 19 November 2007

**India's fingers crossed as Rajapakse begins third year**

New Delhi, Nov 18 (IANS) As Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse begins his third year in office, India is desperately hoping that he will unveil a credible power sharing package to end one of the world's most protracted conflicts. After two years of escalating violence and many political twists and turns, the optimism in New Delhi seems to be slowly ebbing away vis-a-vis an early negotiated solution to a strife that has claimed nearly 70,000 lives since 1983.

The Times of India, 20 November 2007

**No Indian ships for Bangla rescue ops**

NEW DELHI: India's offer of a "comprehensive relief package" of merely \$1 million to Bangladesh is just about a fraction of the grand contributions it has made in the name of aid diplomacy to countries ranging from the US to Pakistan. In 2005, India offered to send IAF helicopters to Pakistan to help its rescue efforts for the victims of the October 8 earthquake. But Bangladesh gets only a package that "will consist of relief material required urgently by those affected --- including medicine, food items, milk powder tents and blankets, first-aid kits and other relief items", said the MEA spokesman.

The Hindu, 20 November 2007

#### **Kakodkar to meet IAEA chief tomorrow**

Mumbai: Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Anil Kakodkar will meet IAEA Director-General Mohammed ElBaradei on Wednesday, sources in the Department of Atomic Energy said here on Monday.

Indo-Asian News Service, 20 November 2007

#### **India blames jihadi groups for terror, not Islamabad**

New Delhi, Nov 19 (IANS) India said Monday that it desired a "stable and peaceful" Pakistan, adding that it held Islamist groups, rather than the government in Islamabad, responsible for terrorist activities against it. "We know that Pakistani territory is used by groups that engage in all sorts of activities that include terrorism," Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon told reporters. "That is different from saying Pakistan is doing it. "These are groups in Pakistan that promote various forms of instability," he added.

Indo-Asian News Service, 20 November 2007

#### **Manmohan Singh leaves for Singapore visit**

New Delhi, Nov 20 (IANS) Prime Minister Manmohan Singh left Tuesday on a two-day visit to Singapore where he will attend the India-Asean summit. Manmohan Singh will also take part in the East Asia summit that groups 16 countries, including Australia, New Zealand, Japan, China and South Korea. The prime minister returns to New Delhi after midnight Wednesday and will take off Thursday afternoon for Uganda to attend the Commonwealth summit.

The Hindu, 20 November 2007

#### **Look East policy is showing results, says Manmohan Singh**

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said he would utilise his Singapore visit beginning on Tuesday to deepen and expand cooperation with East Asian states. Describing India's 'Look East' policy as "blossoming and showing results on the ground," Dr. Singh considered India's participation in the India-ASEAN Summit and EAS to be its "essential pillars" and "vital for the qualitatively enhanced engagement which India seeks with the region."

The Indian Express, 20 November 2007

#### **S'pore co 1st foreign player to invest in Indian shipyard**

NEW DELHI, November 19: For the first time, a foreign shipyard has picked up a stake in the emerging domestic ship building and ship repair industry. Singapore-based SembCorp Marine, the world's second largest offshore oil rig builder, has recently bought

a 3.31 per cent stake in Pipavav Shipyard Ltd (PSL) for around Rs 80 crore. With this, the Singapore-based company would get a firm foothold in Pipavav Shipyard, which is located on the western coast along the East Asia- Middle East sea route. It would also give the company an opportunity to tap into what would perhaps be the country's largest shipyard, post-completion in 2008.

Indo-Asian News Service, 20 November 2007

**London, Delhi to share counter-terror intelligence**

New Delhi, Nov 19 (IANS) Britain will share with India intelligence and expertise to prevent any terrorist attack during the 2010 Commonwealth games in Delhi and the Olympics in London in 2012, London Mayor Ken Livingstone said here Monday. Hailing India as "an economic superpower", Livingstone also announced the opening of his office in India here that will promote business, culture and tourism between Delhi and London.

The Times of India, 21 November 2007

**India, China ready to take partnership to 'new level'**

SINGAPORE: India and China on Wednesday affirmed their readiness to take their strategic and cooperative partnership to a "new level" and see a "fair, reasonable and mutually" acceptable solution to the boundary question. During a 30-minute meeting marked by "cordiality and friendship" on the margins of the East Asia Summit, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told his Chinese counterpart Wen Jiabao that India attaches "great importance" to its partnership with China. Singh said India is resolved to ensuring the comprehensive development of bilateral relations for mutual benefit and on the basis of "mutual sensitivity" to each other's concerns.

Indian Express, 21 November 2007

**India, China to hold joint military exercise**

New Delhi, November 21: China and India, who went to war in 1962, will hold their first joint army exercise next month in a sign of warmer ties between the two Asian powers. About 100 troops from each country will participate in the military exercise in China's Yunnan province. "The focus of the joint exercise will be on counter-terrorism measures. This is significant for the relationship between the two countries," Indian defence ministry spokesman Sitanshu Kar said.

The Hindu, 21 November 2007

**China 'supportive' of India's nuke ties**

Singapore (PTI): China was "forthcoming and supportive" of international civil nuclear energy cooperation with India as the two countries affirmed their readiness to take the strategic and cooperative partnership to a "new level". Beijing's views were conveyed to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh by his Chinese counterpart Wen Jiabao as the two leaders discussed opportunities that existed in furthering cooperation in regional and multilateral forums on global issues such as climate change and energy security.

Indo-Asian News Service, 21 November 2007

**India votes against UN resolution on Myanmar**

New York, Nov 21 (IANS) India has voted against the UN resolution condemning the

recent crackdown on anti-government protests by Myanmar's ruling generals. The resolution, adopted Tuesday night by a UN General Assembly committee by a 88-24 vote with 66 abstentions, "strongly condemns the use of violence against peaceful demonstrators who were exercising their rights to freedom of opinion and expression and to peaceful assembly and association". Kunwar Sarvraj Singh, MP and member of the Indian delegation to the UN, said: "By adopting a condemnatory, intrusive and unhelpful tone, this draft resolution will not contribute or strengthen the initiatives being taken (in Myanmar) by the UN and may, in fact, prove to be counter-productive."

Indo-Asian News Service, 21 November 2007

### **India seeks 'expeditious' reconciliation process in Myanmar**

Singapore, Nov 20 (IANS) Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Tuesday told Myanmar's military rulers to move ahead expeditiously with a broad-based reconciliation process to end lingering unrest in the country. The prime minister conveyed this to his Myanmar counterpart, General Thein Sein, in his first major engagement after arriving here on a two-day visit to attend the India-Asean Summit as also the East Asia Summit. "The prime minister conveyed India's position that the reform process should be broad based and include (jailed opposition leader) Aung San Suu Kyi and various ethnic nationalities and that it should be carried forward expeditiously towards a satisfactory solution," spokesman Navtej Sarna told reporters.

The Hindu, 21 November 2007

### **Manmohan proposes \$50 bn India-ASEAN trade target**

Singapore (PTI): Terming India's ties with the ASEAN as a 'pillar' of its 'Look East' policy, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Wednesday proposed a bilateral trade target of 50 billion US dollars by 2010 and sought boosting of cooperation with the key ten-member grouping in technology, health care, climate change and tourism.

Indo-Asian News Service, 21 November 2007

### **India, Japan to step up work on UN reforms**

Singapore, Nov 21 (IANS) India and Japan agreed Wednesday to increase their cooperation over reforms in the United Nations, where both are seeking permanent seats in the Security Council. Indian officials announced this after the first meeting between prime ministers Manmohan Singh of India and Yasuo Fukuda of Japan here on the sidelines of the third East Asian Summit. Their meeting was marked by "warmth and friendship", officials said, adding that they agreed to strengthen their cooperation in regional and multilateral forums on key issues such as UN Security Council reforms and climate change.

The Hindu, 21 November 2007

### **"Bulk of US aid to Pak. spent on arming against India"**

Silicon Valley (PTI): Pakistan has used a significant portion of the US aid since September 11 attack to arm itself for a confrontation with India instead of conducting war on terrorism, according to a strategic think tank. Most of the USD 10 billion US aid is supposed to compensate the Pakistani government for sending its 80,000 or so soldiers to the Northwest Frontier Province and providing support to the US war in Afghanistan.

However the money has been used for procuring high-tech weaponry to arm the military for its confrontation with India, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) has said.

The Hindu, 21 November 2007

### **'India reluctant big brother avoiding involvement in Lanka'**

Colombo (PTI): The Indian government's policy on Sri Lanka is confined to strategic aspects of peace process involving the LTTE to avoid controversies due to its "survival pre-occupations", a leading Sri Lankan newspaper said here on Tuesday. "India, the 'reluctant big brother', has been studiously avoiding any open or close involvement in (Sri Lankan President) Rajapakse's style of running the country. It is still focusing on strategic aspects of peace process rather than contentious issues of tactical governance, because they are the least controversial," the Daily Mirror said.

The Hindu, 21 November 2007

### **Failure of Doha round to impact India in services sector: Study**

New Delhi (PTI): India will lose out in services sector in case the WTO's Doha round of trade negotiations fails, according to a paper brought out by Finance Ministry. The country could be a major beneficiary from greater market access in services unlike other developing nations, said the working paper authored by H A C Prasad, Senior Economic Advisor in the ministry. India is Asia's third largest economy with a size of nearly one trillion dollars. Services contribute about 61 per cent of GDP and the sector is growing at double-digit rates.

NDTV, 22 November 2007

### **Education ministers to visit Delhi**

Education ministers of 14 Asian countries will be in the Indian capital to participate in the Global Literacy Conference next week and promote literacy, especially among women. The two-day global meet beginning on November 29 is being organised by India's Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) and UNESCO. According to UNESCO, the ministers of education and finance of 14 countries, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan will be part of the conference...

The Hindu, 22 November 2007

### **India begins talks with IAEA on nuclear deal**

India on Wednesday began the process of negotiating a country-specific safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) after the Left parties gave the clearance to the government to go ahead with talks with the agency. After months of standoff over the civilian nuclear deal with the United States, the Left parties last week allowed the government to go ahead with negotiations with the IAEA on the condition that it will not initial any accord but bring back the draft to the United Progressive Alliance-Left committee on the nuclear deal...

The Hindu, 22 November 2007

### **India, China for reasonable solution to boundary dispute**

India and China have reiterated their willingness to find 'a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution' to the boundary question. This reaffirmation of a readiness to move forward in resolving the vexatious boundary dispute was made in a meeting on Wednesday between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, on the sidelines of the India-ASEAN summit here...

The Hindu, 22 November 2007

### **India seeks enhancement of trade with ASEAN**

India has proposed to enhance bilateral trade with the ASEAN countries from the current \$30 billion turnover to a target of \$50 billion by 2010. Addressing the 6th India-ASEAN summit here on Wednesday, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh stressed on increased trade as a key element in the on-going search for 'a robust institutional architecture for regional cooperation and action.' He proposed a simpler visa regime for businessmen for travelling to and from India, whereby 'bona fide' businessmen could get visa the same day...

IANS, 22 November 2007

### **Indians among top failed asylum seekers deported from Britain**

Britain deported 3,120 failed asylum seekers between July and September this year. India was one of the top five nations whose citizens were on the list, official figures show. Asylum applications from Indian citizens usually fail because the country is not considered dangerous. Figures published by the Home Office reveal that the top five nationalities of failed asylum seekers during the period were India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Serbia and Turkey...

IANS, 22 November 2007

### **India considering military logistics pact with US**

India is considering a pact with the US under which their militaries can provide each other logistical support in cashless transactions that are balanced at the end of year, parliament was informed Wednesday. The Logistics Support Agreement (LSA) would not impact on India's foreign policy and would not operate in situations of armed conflict, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee said in a written reply in the Lok Sabha...

IANS, 22 November 2007

### **PM seeks European support for Nalanda university**

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Wednesday sought European support for a proposed internationally-backed university at Nalanda, the ancient Buddhist site of learning in India. Speaking at an exhibition on "The Nalanda Trail" here, the prime minister said the university would focus on becoming a centre for excellence for research and teaching with an emphasis on postgraduate studies...

IANS, 22 November 2007

### **India, Japan to step up work on UN reforms**

India and Japan agreed Wednesday to increase their cooperation over reforms in the United Nations, where both are seeking permanent seats in the Security Council. Indian officials announced this after the first meeting between prime ministers Manmohan Singh

of India and Yasuo Fukuda of Japan here on the sidelines of the third East Asian Summit. India, Japan, Germany and Brazil are keen to find a permanent place in the UN Security Council. But their efforts have markedly slackened in recent months with the US showing no signs of supporting India's case...

IANS, 23 November 2007

### **British universities forge new ties with Indian institutes**

In the latest example of British universities collaborating with Indian institutions, the University of Ulster and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, have begun working on developing intelligent robotic devices to help severely disabled people become independent. Elsewhere, the Newcastle University Business School has announced an alliance with the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) to further strengthen its international ties and allow student and staff exchange, research and the development of new courses...

IANS, 23 November 2007

### **Manmohan Singh in Uganda for Commonwealth summit**

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Thursday arrived in Ugandan capital Kampala to participate in the 53-nation Commonwealth summit. The prime minister, who returned to New Delhi Tuesday from Singapore after attending the India-Asean summit, was expected to hold a string of bilateral meetings with Commonwealth leaders...

The Independent, 26 November 2007

### **Ethnic Indian protesters clash with Malaysian police**

In a rare street clash that exposed Muslim-majority Malaysia's deep racial divisions, slogan-shouting protesters hurled water bottles and stones at police, who chased them through streets surrounding the famous Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur and doused them repeatedly with tear gas and chemical-laced water for more than eight hours. There is increasing anger among ethnic Indians, who make up 8 per cent of the country's 27million population, that they still make up the poorest sections of Malaysian society, 50 years after independence from Britain...

IANS, 26 November 2007

### **Defence delegations from France, Italy, Colombia visiting India**

For the first time, high-level defence delegations from France, Italy and Colombia are simultaneously visiting India, an indication of the country's growing clout globally. French Army chief Gen. Bruno Cuche, Italian Chief of Defence Staff Adm. Giampaolo Di Paolo and Colombian Defence Minister Juan Manuel Santos will arrive Monday and hold discussions with Defence Minister A.K. Antony and other officials on a broad range of issues...

IANS, 26 November 2007

### **French Army chief arrives Monday**

The French Army chief, General Bruno Cuche, arrives here Monday on a five-day visit aimed at ramping up military ties between the two countries. "The visit will give the necessary impetus to the on-going defence relationship between India and France and

broad-base it further into a mutually beneficial partnership," a defence ministry release Friday said...

IANS, 26 November 2007

### **UN seeks camels from India for Darfur peacekeeping force**

The UN has sought camels from India's paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) for deployment on peacekeeping duties in Sudan's troubled Darfur region, but it could be a while before this happens. "The UN has asked us whether we can spare our camels. We have asked that the request be routed through proper channels," a BSF officer said Friday...

IANS, 26 November 2007

### **India to remove tariff barriers for least developed neighbours**

India has pledged it would take necessary steps to mitigate or eliminate non-tariff and para-tariff barriers to trade by the end of this year for the least developed countries (LDCs) among its neighbours. The promise, a follow-up to the 14th summit of the eight-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), was reiterated at a meeting of the group's commerce secretaries here Sunday...

The Hindu, 26 November 2007

### **India to attend West Asia peace meet**

India will attend a West Asia peace conference beginning on Tuesday in the United States, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister for West Asia and Middle East Peace Process C.R. Gharekhan has said. The meeting will be attended by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert. U.S. President George W. Bush is expected to drop in briefly. India is an invitee, along with other major global players such as China, Russia, the European Union, the United Nations and the Arab League...

The Hindu, 26 November 2007

### **UNESCO to offer video encyclopaedia on India**

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has strengthened its web portal with a rich video-based encyclopaedia on Indian heritage and culture. The collection will soon cover all States and Union Territories, highlighting the cultural diversity, craft and traditional knowledge of each region. To offer this resource, UNESCO has entered into a partnership with the Thiruvananthapuram based content provider, Invis Multimedia, known as the agency behind the critically acclaimed series of DVDs on Indian dance and the Kerala State tourism portal...

IANS, 27 November 2007

### **Indian Army chopper order could be scrapped**

The Indian Army's hopes of purchasing 197 Eurocopter Fennec modern light choppers valued at \$550 million have suffered a setback as irregularities were detected in the manner in which the machine was evaluated, and the deal is now likely to be scrapped. At issue is the machine Eurocopter sent for the trials. It was a civilian variant that the company said was similar in capabilities to the military version...

IANS, 27 November 2007

### **India, Singapore begin joint air exercises**

The Indian and Singaporean air forces Monday began a 19-day war games aimed at improving the ground attack capabilities of their pilots. The drill, being conducted at the Kalaikunda Air Force Base in West Bengal, will conclude Dec 13. Indicative of their burgeoning military ties, the two countries had last month inked a five-year defence cooperation agreement to permit Singapore to permanently station some of its assets in India and enable its army and air force to exercise regularly in this country...

IANS, 28 November 2007

### **PM 'touched' by St. John's Manmohan Singh scholarships**

It was a sentimental journey for Prime Minister Manmohan Singh as he recalled his days as a bright young student in Cambridge University when St John's College announced scholarships in his honour Tuesday...

IANS, 28 November 2007

### **Transparency scores over murkiness in army chopper deal**

Defence Minister A.K. Antony's repeated insistence of transparency in purchases of military hardware has resulted in the cancellation of an almost signed, sealed and delivered deal for the purchase of 197 Eurocopter Fennec copters for the Indian Army. The issue blew into the open following a media report that National Security Advisor M.K. Narayanan, on learning of this impropriety, shot off a missive to the defence ministry that quickly moved to scrap the deal...

IANS, 28 November 2007

### **Russia wants new nuclear contracts in India**

Moscow is seeking new contracts to continue civil nuclear construction work in India, Russia's first deputy prime minister has said. Russia has been building the 1,000 MW Kudankulam nuclear power plant in southern India's Tamil Nadu state since 2002, and has already delivered two nuclear reactors to the facility...

IANS, 29 November 2007

### **PM defends n-deal, majority of MPs not convinced**

The Indian government Wednesday defended the nuclear deal with the US, saying it preserved vital strategic and national interests, but a defiant opposition charged that it sacrificed the country's sovereignty and may reduce India to a junior partner of Washington. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh rejected chief opposition Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) criticism of the nuclear deal, saying there was nothing in the 123 agreement with the US that barred New Delhi's right to test a nuclear device...

The Hindu, 29 November 2007

### **We will continue to give shelter to Taslima: Pranab**

India will continue to provide shelter to Bangladeshi author Taslima Nasreen. This was stated by External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee in the Lok Sabha after question hour on Wednesday. It is also expected that the guests will refrain from activities and

expressions that may hurt the sentiments of our people, his statement said...

The Hindu, 29 November 2007

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The Hindu, 30 November 2007

**Indo-US joint group on counter-terrorism meets**

The Indo-US joint working group on counter-terrorism, which met here, discussed about the bilateral cooperation in fighting the global menace of terrorism and asked the international community to come together to combat it in a sustained and comprehensive manner. India and the US asked all states to abide by their commitment under the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2006. They also called for expeditious finalisation of the draft UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism...

BBC, 30 November 2007

**EU-India talks follow China visit**

The European Union (EU) is expected to hammer out details of a proposed free trade deal with India at bilateral summit this week in New Delhi. Such an agreement, which both sides want in place by 2008, would help support the global economy, EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson said...

The Hindu, 30 November 2007

**Lifetime fuel for 2 Koodankulam reactors**

Moscow has assured New Delhi of lifetime fuel supply for two 1,000-MW nuclear reactors, being built with Russian assistance at Koodankulam in Tamil Nadu, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Prithviraj Chavan said in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. However, fuel for four other proposed reactors of 700 MW each would depend on India getting the nod from the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and the International Atomic Energy Agency...