

Tehran Times, 1 November 2007

U.S. envoy in talks with N. Korea ahead of nuclear disablement

BEIJING: U.S. nuclear envoy Christopher Hill was due to meet his North Korean counterpart for final discussions on Wednesday before Pyongyang begins disabling its nuclear programs. Hill's talks with Kim Kye-Gwan come a day before a U.S. inspection team travels to North Korea to witness the start of disarmament steps called for under a landmark February agreement. "I think we are in pretty good shape on that," Hill said of the disablement plan in comments to reporters on Wednesday morning before heading off for his meeting with Kim.

The Associated Press, 1 November 2007

Iran Guards Warn US Against Attack

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) - The head of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard Corps warned the U.S. Wednesday against attacking the Islamic Republic, saying if it did, Washington would be "stuck in a quagmire" worse than Iraq or Afghanistan. Revolutionary Guards commander Mohammad Ali Jafari said his forces were prepared to strike back with a "crushing response" if attacked, according to comments carried by the semiofficial Fars news agency. "If enemies prove to be naive enough to invade Iran, they will be slapped hard," Fars, which is deemed close to the Guards, quoted Jafari as saying.

Reuters, 1 November 2007

Syria nuclear probe may be inconclusive

VIENNA (Reuters) - A U.N. watchdog inquiry into a suspected Syrian covert nuclear site bombed by Israel may end inconclusively without more information than satellite pictures that are already available, a diplomat said on Wednesday. Western analysts say a tall boxy building on the site may have contained a nuclear reactor under construction similar to North Korean design, and find it suspicious that the structure appeared to have been razed after the September 6 air raid. Syria denies the speculation and says it is hiding nothing from International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors.

The Hindu, 1 November 2007

India will lose much if it backs out of deal

M.R. Srinivasan, has warned that India stands to lose much more than access to U.S. nuclear technology if it backs out of the atomic deal. He said that nuclear cooperation with Russia and France could also be in the doldrums. Failure of the deal would see India being denied not only access to a permanent source of energy but overseas nuclear technology too, said Mr. Srinivasan, a member of National Security Advisory Board while delivering a lecture on 'Indo-U.S. Nuclear Agreement and its Impact on Indian Economy' on Tuesday night.

Xinhua News, 1 November 2007

China against sanctions on Iran nuclear issue

BEIJING, Oct. 31 -- China has rejected Israel's call for sanctions against Iran. The rejection came following a meeting between Premier Wen Jiabao and visiting Israeli Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Tzipi Livni. In her meeting on Tuesday afternoon with Premier Wen, Livni expressed the hope that China would support

imposing new sanctions on Iran. Livni arrived in Beijing on Sunday for a three-day visit to China. However, China's Foreign Ministry said at a press conference afterward that China does not support the use of sanctions on a random basis in handling international relations. It said China believes the best policy is to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue peacefully, through diplomatic channels.

The Hindu, 2 November 2007

France ready for civil nuclear ties with India

NEW DELHI: France is ready to have civil nuclear cooperation with India but New Delhi should first conclude agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). French Minister for Higher Education and Research Valerie Pecresse said this to journalists here on Thursday. He said it would be good for India to go further in civil nuclear cooperation. Atomic energy was a key to address the issue of climate change as it was a clean technology.

Reuters, 2 November 2007

U.S. team to begin disabling Korean nuclear plant

BEIJING (Reuters) - U.S. technicians are likely to begin dismantling by the end of this week North Korea's nuclear complex, which makes weapons-grade plutonium, the chief U.S. nuclear envoy said on Thursday. The team of U.S. experts arrived in Pyongyang on Thursday to oversee disabling the secretive state's Soviet-era nuclear reactor, a plant that makes nuclear fuel and another that turns spent fuel into plutonium. Christopher Hill, the top U.S. envoy to six-way talks to end Pyongyang's nuclear arms program, said the U.S. team had "a specific list of measures" and would arrive at the nuclear complex to begin the dismantling process on Friday or Saturday.

The Guardian, 2 November 2007

Talks over Iran's nuclear ambitions

Representatives of the world's major powers are meeting in London to discuss the possible tightening of sanctions on Iran if it does not halt its nuclear programme. The meeting brings together officials from the so-called E3 group of European nations - Britain, France and Germany - with the US, Russia and China in the latest of a sequence of exchanges reflecting growing international concern over Iran's apparent ambitions to develop a military nuclear capability. A senior US official said he hoped the meeting would pave the way for a new United Nations Security Council resolution if the Islamic Republic did not suspend nuclear enrichment within two weeks. Iran has rejected two previous resolutions, insisting its nuclear programme is for civil power only.

International Herald Tribune, 2 November 2007

Iran, IAEA end latest talks on Iran's nuclear program

Iran: Iranian officials and the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog ended four days of talks here aimed at resolving questions related to the Islamic Republic's nuclear program, state media reported. The conclusion of the talks comes as the United States, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany meet in London on Friday to try to coordinate strategy toward Iran's disputed nuclear activities. A Saudi Arabian official, meanwhile, said Arab states in the Persian Gulf had proposed to Tehran that they set up a consortium to provide

Iran with enriched uranium as way to defuse the nuclear fight.

Xinhua News, 3 November 2007

Ahmadinejad reiterates Iran's nuclear issue "closed"

TEHRAN, Nov. 3 (Xinhua) -- Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad reiterated on Saturday that his country's nuclear issue is already "closed", the official IRNA news agency reported. "Sooner, the fact that we said the nuclear issue has been closed from our point of view will become clear to all," Ahmadinejad told reporters on the sidelines of the 44th meeting of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU).

The Hindu, 3 November 2007

Sibal makes strong defense of nuclear deal

Hyderabad (PTI): The Indo-US nuclear deal would provide once in a life-time opportunity to boost atomic energy production without compromising on the country's weaponisation programme and the right to recycle spent fuel, Union Minister for Science and Technology Kapil Sibal said on Saturday. "This agreement will help us increase the nuclear power capacity from the current 4,000 MW to 1 lakh MW by 2030. Is it bad for the country? Let there be a dispassionate debate. What is good for the country should be done, no matter what are the consequences," he said.

Xinhua News, 3 November 2007

Hill: work to disable DPRK nuclear facilities to start Monday

TOKYO, Nov. 3 (Xinhua) -- Top U.S. nuclear negotiator Christopher Hill said here Saturday that the team of U.S. experts will start the process to disable the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)'s Yongbyon nuclear facilities on Monday. Hill, also assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, told Japanese media that the team is scheduled to arrive at Yongbyon on Sunday. To ensure the safety of the experts, the radiation of the fuel storage pool has to be cleared as soon as possible, Hill was quoted by Kyodo News as saying.

International Herald Tribune, 4 November 2007

North Korea to start disabling nuclear facilities

North Korea is expected to begin disabling its nuclear facilities Monday, marking the biggest step the communist country has ever taken to scale back its atomic program. The North shut down its sole functioning nuclear reactor at Yongbyon in July, and promised to disable it by year's end in exchange for energy aid and political concessions from other members of talks on its nuclear program: the U.S., China, Japan, South Korea and Russia. Disabling the reactor at Yongbyon, north of Pyongyang, would mark a further breakthrough in efforts to convince the North to scale back its nuclear program. The country conducted its first-ever nuclear test in October of last year.

Daily Times, 4 November 2007

Egypt hopes to head "Arab nuclear family"

Egypt has emerged at the forefront of a new push by Arab nations to build nuclear power plants in the volatile Middle East even as the West is locked in a standoff with Iran over its atomic drive. President Hosni Mubarak announced on Tuesday that Egypt planned to

construct a series of nuclear power plants, relaunching a programme shelved 20 years ago following the Chernobyl disaster.

The Hindu, 4 November 2007

Kissinger optimistic about nuclear deal

Kolkata: The former U.S. Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, said that while he was optimistic about the India-U.S. nuclear deal, he felt that even otherwise, there would still be cooperation between the two countries. I am amazed at the scope of India-U.S. cooperation at the government level and that of the private sector, he said while answering queries during a nearly hour and a half long session organised by the Confederation of the Indian Industry (CII).

Tehran Times, 5 November 2007

West opposes legal investigation of Iran nuclear dossier: expert

TEHRAN -- The U.S. and some European countries are by no means willing the Iranian nuclear dossier to be investigated through a "legal channel", international expert Davud Hermidas Bavand said here on Saturday. Political directors from 5+1 group (the five permanent UN Security Council members plus Germany) met in London on Friday to discuss new sanctions against Iran over its nuclear program. However, China and Russia objected calls for a new set of sanctions on Iran.

The Hindu, 5 November 2007

BJP to discuss strategy on nuclear deal

NEW DELHI: Before the start of the winter session of Parliament the Bharatiya Janata Partys top leadership is expected to sit together to discuss the strategy on the India-United States nuclear deal in the light of its discussions with United States Ambassador David Mulford. The former External Affairs Minister, Yashwant Sinha, told The Hindu on Sunday that he was scheduled to meet Mr. Mulford on Monday. Mr. Sinha has been out of the country for a few weeks.

Times of India, 5 November 2007

Changes in 123 pact, Hyde Act sought

NEW DELHI: BJP on Sunday ruled out support to the Indo-US nuclear deal unless it was amended along with America's Hyde Act and insisted that bilateral relations would be "completely ruined" if the agreement went through. Maintaining that his party was in favour of stronger relations with the US, party vice-president Yashwant Sinha said it could not come at the cost of national interest. "In its present form, the deal is unacceptable to us. It is our duty to oppose the deal," Sinha told a news channel. "We have clearly said that there are elements in the 123 agreement which are not acceptable to us and it is not merely the Hyde Act."

Economic Times, 5 November 2007

Left lowers rhetoric on withdrawal

KOLKATA: After playing hardball for the past couple of months and bringing the country to the threshold of elections by threatening to withdraw support from the Congress-led UPA government, CPM seems to have decided to take a more rationale

stand on the future of the Indo-US nuclear deal. At a press conference in Kolkata on Friday, CPM general secretary Prakash Karat left the decision on whether and how to operationalise the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal to Parliament. We have been talking to parties in the UPA and UNPA to work out a common stand in Parliament.

Reuters, 6 November 2007

Americans split on Iran action -poll

WASHINGTON, Nov 5 (Reuters) - Americans are concerned about Iran's nuclear program but split on whether the United States should take military action to shut it down if diplomatic efforts fail, according to a USA Today/Gallup Poll released on Monday. Seventy-three percent of those surveyed said the United States should use economic sanctions and diplomacy to stop Iran's nuclear program and 18 percent favored military action, the poll found.

Reuters, India, 6 November 2007

U.S. experts begin disabling N.Korean nuclear plant

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - A team of U.S. technicians began the process of disabling North Korea's nuclear complex at Yongbyon on Monday under a multinational disarmament deal, the State Department said. "They are on-scene and the work is underway," State Department spokesman Tom Casey told reporters. He said he could not provide details on "which nut and bolt and chain and screw and piece of equipment has been moved where."

Economic Times, 6 November 2007

Mulford meets BJP leaders to seek support for nuclear deal

NEW DELHI: Unable to garner support for the nuclear deal, the UPA government seems to have outsourced the job to the Americans. So, US ambassador David Mulford met senior BJP leaders Yashwant Sinha and Jaswant Singh as part of the continuing effort to soften the main Opposition party and assuage their concerns on the agreement. Mr Mulford met the senior BJP leaders ahead of his departure to the US, where he will brief top officials in the Bush administration on the political ground realities on the deal. The US, which has been taken aback by the turn of events, has been making attempts to salvage the deal.

Jerusalem Post, 7 November 2007

Mofaz: 2008 decisive for stopping Iran

Next year will be a critical one in efforts to stop Iran from acquiring nuclear capabilities, Transportation Minister Shaul Mofaz said Tuesday. "Iran's nuclear program is proceeding like an express train. The diplomatic efforts to thwart Iran are like a slow train. If we cannot derail the Iranian train from the tracks, we are on the verge of a nuclear era that will totally alter the regional reality," the former defense minister and IDF chief of General Staff told the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish organizations in New York.

Reuters, 7 November 2007

North Korea nuclear reversal off to good start - U.S.

SEOUL (Reuters) - North Korea's first steps to roll back a nuclear arms program launched about 40 years ago are going well, a U.S. official said on Tuesday after visiting the North's plutonium-producing atomic complex. Destitute North Korea struck a deal with regional powers last month to disable its Soviet-era nuclear complex in exchange for aid and an end to its international ostracism. "I think we are off to a good start," U.S. State Department official Sung Kim said at Incheon airport near Seoul, according to a pool report. Kim was with a team of U.S. nuclear specialists who arrived in North Korea last week.

Xinhua, 7 November 2007

China says disablement of DPRK's nuclear facilities "encouraging"

BEIJING, Nov. 6 (Xinhua) -- China said here Tuesday the disablement of the nuclear facilities in Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) was "an encouraging progress". The joint document that the six parties reached on Oct. 3 has been implemented effectively, and China was satisfied at the progress, Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao told a regular press conference. "We hope the parties concerned could continue to follow their commitment and consensus, and implement the joint document in a comprehensive and balanced way," Liu said.

International Herald Tribune, 7 November 2007

Greenpeace pledges legal action to block construction of nuclear plant

Brazil: Greenpeace said Tuesday it is seeking court injunctions to block the construction of a third nuclear power plant in Brazil, which is searching for ways to produce more energy for Latin America's largest nation. The environmental group said it is seeking a restraining order from a federal court in Angra dos Reis, a coastal resort south of Rio de Janeiro and the site of Brazil's only two nuclear power plants.

The Hindu, 8 November 2007

BJP wants nuclear deal renegotiated

NEW DELHI: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) here on Wednesday made it clear that it was against the India-United States nuclear deal being hustled through as it would like the deal to be re-negotiated. The political signal from the party was that it would not come to the aid of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) during the coming winter session of Parliament when the deal is debated and an attempt made to get a sense of the House with or without a vote on it.

Economic Times, 8 November 2007

PM seeks Swiss support for N-deal

NEW DELHI: Key Nuclear Suppliers Group member Switzerland on Wednesday asked India to give details of the civil nuclear agreement with the US as Prime Minister Manmohan Singh sought its support for the agreement. The issue was discussed at talks between Singh and visiting President Micheline Calmy-Rey here. "I requested the Prime Minister to have an Indian expert to explain the Indo-US nuclear deal," Calmy-Rey told reporters here when asked about Switzerland's position on the Indo-US nuclear agreement.

Daily Times, 8 November 2007

Italy defends Iran's nuclear rights

ROME: Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi Tuesday repeated Rome's opposition to any military action against Iran over its nuclear programme, saying Tehran had a right to use civilian nuclear energy. I would like to reiterate once again Italy's opposition to any military solution. Such a solution will not only not resolve the problem but also usher in new destabilising scenarios in the whole region, Prodi said at a banquet hosted for visiting Saudi King Abdullah. Prodi said Iran had every right to develop a peaceful nuclear programme. Prodi and his Foreign Minister Massimo D'Alema have both spoken out strongly in favour of negotiations with Tehran while not ruling out stepped-up sanctions.

Korea Times, 8 November 2007

US Describes NK Nuclear Disablement Steps as 'So Far, So Good'

WASHINGTON _ Top South Korean and U.S. diplomats said Wednesday North Korea's nuclear disablement was on the right track so far and agreed to look for "the right time" in launching negotiations for a Korean peace treaty that would officially end the 1950-1953 Korean War. "So far, so good, I would say," U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told reporters after talks of nearly an hour with her South Korean counterpart Song Min-soon.

BBC News, 10 November 2007

Merkel, Bush seek Iran consensus

US President George W Bush is hosting German Chancellor Angela Merkel at his Texas ranch, with Iran's nuclear programme likely to dominate the talks. Her two-day trip follows French President Nicolas Sarkozy's US visit. White House officials said the two leaders would discuss "ways to work together on the diplomatic track to get Iran to halt its uranium enrichment". Mrs Merkel has said Germany supports a diplomatic solution but would back tougher UN sanctions if necessary.

Los Angeles Times, 10 November 2007

Pakistan's Plan B deficiency

What is happening today in Pakistan takes me back to the time when the Iranian revolution was brewing, when I was the desk officer for Iran on the National Security Council. The ultimate reason for the U.S. policy failure then was the fact that the U.S. had placed enormous trust and responsibility in the shah of Iran. He -- and not the country or people of Iran -- was seen as the linchpin of U.S. strategy in the Persian Gulf. Everything relied on him. There was no Plan B. As a consequence, the endlessly mulled-over U.S. response to Iranian instability was that we had no choice except to support the shah.

Reuters, 10 November 2007

Turkish parliament approves nuclear power law

ANKARA, Nov 9 (Reuters) - Turkey's parliament has approved a law allowing construction of nuclear power plants intended to help avert an energy shortfall, passing a long-delayed bill that had been vetoed by the last president. Oil importer Turkey aims to

build three nuclear plants with a total capacity of 5,000 megawatts. It initially planned for the first plant to come on line by 2012, although the legislative delays are seen putting that back.

International Herald Tribune, 10 November 2007

Report: US promises to remove NKorea from terrorism list by year's end

SEOUL, South Korea: The United States has promised to remove North Korea from a list of states sponsoring terrorism by year's end in exchange for Pyongyang disabling its nuclear facilities on time, a news report said Saturday. Removal from the list is one of the economic and political rewards promised to North Korea in return for disabling its nuclear facilities by Dec. 31. A recent accord only calls for Washington to delist the communist nation "in parallel with" Pyongyang fulfilling its disablement promise.

New York Times, 10 November 2007

China Urges Iran to "Respond Positively" on Arms

HONG KONG: China asked Iran on Thursday to respond positively to international pressures to limit its nuclear program, a possible sign that China is responding to American demands that it take a greater role in combating nuclear proliferation. We have taken note of the developments and we request Iran to positively respond and attach importance to the concerns and voice of the international community, said Liu Jianchao, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Xinhua News, 10 November 2007

Romanian minister: Iran has right to peaceful use of nuclear energy

BUCHAREST, Nov. 9 (Xinhua) -- Romanian Defense Minister Teodor Melescanu said here Friday that no country should be deprived of right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy and Iran is no exception. Local media reported that Melescanu said this after meeting with Iranian Ambassador to Romania Hamid Reza Arshadi. He said that at a time when Iran refuses to suspend its uranium enrichment activities and the United States seeks to impose tougher sanctions against the Islamic country, Tehran should sign an agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to end the standoff.

Hindustan Times, 10 November 2007

Shashi Tharoor laments left's stand on Indo-US Nuclear Deal

Indian American Council, an organisation setup by the Confederation of Indian Industry presented a talk between Shashi Tharoor and Sam Pitroda (on the Phone from Chicago) at the India Community Center in Milpitas, California on Sunday, November 4. In his usual loquacious and vivacious manner, Shashi Tharoor commenced the session with an engaging monologue about India's current political, social and economic clime. After appreciating the new ICC facility, Shashi said, "India, especially urban Indian youth are palpably bubbling with excitement of progress. A sense of purpose and dynamism is very apparent in the nation."

Xinhua News, 11 November 2007

India-Russia nuclear pact deferred

NEW DELHI, Nov. 11 (Xinhua) -- The stalemate of India-U.S. nuclear deal has deferred

an agreement for Russia to build four more reactors in India, but it is not the end of civil-nuclear cooperation between the two countries, the Indo-Asia News Service (IANS) reported Sunday. "We are in the process of discussing an inter-governmental agreement on building four more reactors in Kudankulam. We look forward to expanding civil nuclear cooperation with Russia," Foreign Secretary Shiv Shankar Menon told reporters aboard Air India One which is taking Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to Moscow for a two-day visit to Russia starting from Sunday.

Voice of America, 11 November 2007

Bush, Merkel Urge Diplomacy in Resolving Iranian Nuclear Standoff

President George Bush and German Chancellor Angela Merkel have agreed on the need for a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear standoff. After their meeting Saturday at the president's ranch in Crawford, Texas, President Bush said it is more likely diplomacy will work if the United States, Germany, and other nations work together. He said they must convey to Iran that the world does not want Tehran to have the capacity to make nuclear weapons.

International Herald Tribune, 11 November 2007

Iran warns Israel against military threats over nuclear program

TEHRAN, Iran: Iran's Foreign Ministry warned Israel on Sunday it would retaliate against any military attack and accused Israelis of trying to damage relations between Tehran and the United Nations' nuclear watchdog. "The Zionist regime (Israel) is less than nothing to pose any kind of threat to Iran," ministry spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini told reporters Sunday when questioned about recent comments on Tehran's nuclear program made by Israeli officials.

The Hindu, 11 November 2007

Yechury discusses nuclear deal with Pranab

New Delhi (PTI): CPI(M) Polit Bureau member Sitaram Yechury on Sunday night held detailed discussions with External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee on the Indo-US nuclear deal, in a bid to resolve differences in perception between the Left and UPA on the issue. Mukherjee, who is also the Leader of Lok Sabha, and Yechury are understood to have discussed issues concerning floor coordination between the ruling coalition and its outside supporters in the Winter Session of Parliament.

The Hindu, 12 November 2007

Parliament to discuss 123 agreement

NEW DELHI: The government and the Left parties on Saturday agreed to have a discussion on the India-U.S. civilian nuclear deal at the beginning of the winter session of Parliament starting on November 15. The decision was taken at a two-hour luncheon meeting here between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and United Progressive Alliance chairperson Sonia Gandhi, and CPI(M) general secretary Prakash Karat and his CPI counterpart A.B. Bardhan. External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, who is the convener of the UPA-Left committee on the nuclear deal, was present.

The Statesman, 12 November 2007

Left asks govt to put N-deal on hold

NEW DELHI, Nov. 11: Left leaders have told the UPA's top brass that uncertainties over the Government due to their stand on the Indo-US nuclear deal could end if the deal was put on hold indefinitely. At their luncheon meeting with the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, and the UPA chairperson, Mrs Sonia Gandhi, yesterday, the CPI and CPI (M) leaders said their parties had never talked of withdrawal of support. But if the Government thought their opposition to deal led to some uncertainties, these could be ended if the Government kept the deal in abeyance indefinitely.

The Statesman, 12 November 2007

Centre looks up to Indo-US nuclear deal for powering India

NEW DELHI, Nov. 11: As coal could exhaust in coming decades, the Union power ministry believes that the initiatives like the Indo-US nuclear deal could significantly help India achieve its power requirements and targets for the growing countrys needs. Indias current level of energy consumption is extremely low, but its energy requirement, meant to fuel its booming economy, is expected to grow at over 7 per cent every year, which would mean a four fold increase in Indias energy requirement over the next 25 years.

International Herald Tribune, 12 November 2007

Iran warns Israel against military threats over nuclear program

Iran's Foreign Ministry warned Israel on Sunday it would retaliate against any military attack and accused Israelis of trying to damage relations between Tehran and the United Nations' nuclear watchdog. "The Zionist regime (Israel) is less than nothing to pose any kind of threat to Iran," ministry spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini told reporters Sunday when questioned about recent comments on Tehran's nuclear program made by Israeli officials.

Times of India, 12 November 2007

No nuclear deal with Russia

MOSCOW: Russia cannot use the 1989 agreement on Kudankulam nuclear power plants to "grandfather" an agreement for four additional plants for India, officials accompanying PM Manmohan Singh on his visit to Russia said. India was hoping to get the Russians to work out an intergovernmental agreement under cover of the original agreement but it will have to wait until it gets a clear exemption from the NSG before Russia moves on it. The bottomline is that until India completes the formalities with the IAEA and NSG, there is almost no nuclear agreement that it can sign.

The Hindu, 12 November 2007

Nuclear issues and Iran will figure significantly in Putin-Manmohan talks

Moscow: Russia, with its strong nuclear energy capabilities, advanced technology, including in the field of breeder reactors, and fuel supply arrangements and plans, should be an attractive interlocutor and partner for an India that is desperately keen on getting the tap of international civilian nuclear supplies opened. For it is low-enriched uranium supplied by Russia that keeps the United States-supplied Tarapur reactors going. The Koodankulam nuclear power project under construction is a model of equity and dependability: India accepts IAEA safeguards in perpetuity and, in return, Russia

absolutely guarantees the supply of low-enriched uranium fuel and other essential items for the light water reactors, come what may.

Reuters, 12 November 2007

Merkel, Sarkozy to discuss Iran after Bush visits

BERLIN (Reuters) - The leaders of Germany and France meet on Monday to compare notes on dealing with Iran's nuclear programme, fresh from discussing tougher sanctions during separate visits to U.S. President George W. Bush last week. German Chancellor Angela Merkel will host French President Nicolas Sarkozy in Berlin for the talks a week before an expected meeting of world powers to assess reports on Iran's nuclear programme.

Hindustan Times, 14 November 2007

Breakthrough over nuclear deal likely

The stalemate between the UPA government and its Left allies over the nuclear deal with the US is expected to be broken when the two sides meet for a fresh round of talks on Friday, government and political sources said. They said the Left has agreed to let the UPA start talks with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for a India-specific safeguards agreement provided it does not commit itself to anything in writing. They also said the Marxists want the government to return to the UPA-Left committee on any steps it proposes to take with the IAEA.

Business Standard, 14 November 2007

Left relents on nuclear deal

The government will send an emissary to Vienna in the next few days to begin negotiations on India-specific nuclear safeguards at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). This follows permission from the Left parties - after months of deadlock - to open IAEA negotiations subject to the condition that the draft IAEA agreement will be signed only after they have given their clearance to it.

NDTV News, 14 November 2007

No climbdown on nuke deal: CPI

Asserting that there has been "no climbdown or a U-turn" by the Left on the Indo-US nuclear deal, the CPI on Wednesday said the government would have to report its discussions at the IAEA to the UPA-Left panel. The government will also have to consider its views before signing the safeguards agreement. "We have taken a flexible stand and allowed the government to hold discussions on the safeguards agreement. But we have not given a blank cheque.

International Herald Tribune, 14 November 2007

US, Britain, France asking tough questions about Iran's nuclear activities

VIENNA, Austria: The United States, Britain and France are asking dozens of tough questions about Iran's uranium enrichment program that an International Atomic Energy Agency report due Thursday probably will not be able to answer, setting the stage for a push for new U.N. sanctions on Tehran. The queries are contained in separate confidential documents from the three nations and were made available to The

Associated Press on the eve of a report being drawn up by IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei. Diplomats said they were also being circulated to other members of the IAEA's 35-nation board and had been made available to ElBaradei's office.

Voice of America, 14 November 2007

Iranian Minister: Former Nuclear Negotiator Shared Classified Information

Iran's intelligence minister says former Iranian nuclear negotiator Hossein Moussavian has been charged with giving classified information to foreigners, including the British embassy in Tehran. Gholam Hossein Mohseni Ezhehee told the semi-official Fars news agency that Moussavian has been charged with passing on secrets against the country's interests and security. Ezhehee also warned what he called "influential people" not to try to interfere in Moussavian's case and seek his acquittal.

The Guardian, 15 November 2007

Iran hands over nuclear papers - four years late

Iran has handed over a nuclear weapons blueprint to the International Atomic Energy Agency, four years after it was requested, diplomats in Vienna said yesterday. The document shows how to mould uranium into hemispheres, the only known purpose of which is in the engineering of nuclear warheads. Iranian officials claim it was sent unsolicited by the Pakistani nuclear trafficker AQ Khan, along with designs for centrifuges, and did not reflect any Iranian intention to build a bomb. Iran insists its nuclear programme is purely for civil energy purposes.

Times of India, 15 November 2007

India, Russia against Iran acquiring nuclear weapons

NEW DELHI: India and Russia took remarkably similar positions on the brewing nuclear crisis in Iran after a meeting between Manmohan Singh and president Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin. Sources said Putin briefed Singh on his visit to Tehran, where he gathered first-hand assessment of the situation. The bottom line for the two countries was that they would not support another nuclear weapons state in the region, though they were both uncomfortable with sanctions on Iran.

Times of India, 15 November 2007

Delhi says no more nuke deals before full & clear NSG waiver

NEW DELHI: During his whirlwind tour of Moscow this week, PM Manmohan Singh spent almost two hours with Russian President Vladimir Putin, in a "restricted" session, with only national security advisor M K Narayanan and foreign secretary Shiv Shankar Menon for company. Their conversation is largely off the radar but the two leaders had one very important discussion about the nuclear deal and the aborted intergovernmental agreement on four additional reactors for Kudankulam.

Indian Express, 15 November 2007

Nuclear nihilism

On the face of it, the communists, who find themselves on the defensive over their disastrous handling of the Nandigram developments, appear ready to cut the government some slack on the negotiations with the International Atomic Energy Agency. From the

perspective of India's national interest, however, they have only moved from irrational posturing to a set of unreasonable demands. The Left remains recalcitrant in demanding the right to scrutinise and veto the safeguards agreement with the IAEA and has re-affirmed that the nuclear deal should not be operationalised.

The Telegraph, 15 November 2007

IAEA first of four nuclear hurdles

New Delhi, Nov. 14: Even if the Left parties agree that India can go to the International Atomic Energy Agency after the November 16 meeting with foreign minister Pranab Mukherjee, an IAEA additional protocol by itself will not allow Delhi to start nuclear commerce with the rest of the world. The US has a veto on all the steps needed to lift the technology denial regime that has kept India from accessing high technologies so far.

Reuters, 17 November 2007

U.S. helps Pakistan protect nuclear arms: NYT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The Bush administration has spent almost \$100 million in the past six years on a classified program to help Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf secure his country's nuclear weapons, The New York Times reported in Sunday editions. Citing current and former senior administration officials, the Times said the aid was buried in secret portions of the federal budget and was used to fund training of Pakistani personnel in the United States and construction of a nuclear security training center in Pakistan which is still far from operational.

Xinhua News, 17 November 2007

Ahmadinejad rules out war prospect

CAIRO, Nov. 17 (Xinhua) -- Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Saturday ruled out a war crisis in the region over Tehran's nuclear drive. Ahmadinejad made the denial at a press conference he held on the sidelines of his visit to Bahrain, according to reports reaching here from Manama. The Iranian president denied claims that signs of a new crisis were in the offing over his country's nuclear drive, said Bahrain News Agency.

Reuters, 18 November 2007

Iran warns sanctions could hurt nuclear cooperation

TEHRAN (Reuters) - Iran's cooperation with the U.N. nuclear agency depends on world powers' "legal and logical" behaviour, an Iranian official said on Saturday in an apparent warning to the West not to impose new sanctions on Tehran. Iranian deputy chief nuclear negotiator Javad Vaeeedi was also quoted by Iranian news agencies as saying he would meet a senior aide of European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana in Vienna on Wednesday.

Reuters, 18 November 2007

India set to push nuclear deal, some hurdles remain

NEW DELHI, Nov 17 (Reuters) - India's ruling coalition launched a fresh campaign to push a controversial nuclear deal with the United States on Saturday, a day after its communist allies revived hope over a pact they had strongly opposed. Officials said New Delhi would move immediately on the next key steps needed to close the deal as time

was running out and talks with a U.N. nuclear watchdog were expected to start as early as next week.

Economic Times, 18 November 2007

Cong strongly backs nuke deal, no overt attack on Left

NEW DELHI: Congress on Saturday came out with a full-throated backing for the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal without taking on the Left overtly. The party's display of support for the deal at a one-day session of the All India Congress Committee (AICC) in the Capital comes within 24-hours of the Left giving its go-ahead to the UPA government to discuss a draft safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Times of India, 18 November 2007

BJP not taken into confidence on nuclear deal issue : Rajnath

MANDI: Terming it 'wrong' on the part of the UPA to go ahead with the Indo-US nuclear deal, BJP President Rajnath Singh on Sunday said the decision to sign the pact had been taken without consulting the party. "The UPA government's progress towards signing of the deal is wrong...it is not good for the future of the country," Singh said addressing the party's 'yuva garjana rally' to kickstart the party's campaign for the second phase of assembly elections in the state on Sunday.

The Hindu, 18 November 2007

Left: see accord in the context of strategic ties

New Delhi: The India-U.S. nuclear cooperation agreement should not be seen in isolation from the overall context of India-U.S. strategic relations, its impact on India's foreign policy and strategic autonomy, Left sources have said. The agreement must be seen in the context of India's energy security, access to technology and the development of the three-stage nuclear programme.

Daily Times, 18 November 2007

Nuclear assets safe in army's hands, says Musharraf

LAHORE: Pakistans nuclear assets are safe as long as the army remains in charge of them, President General Pervez Musharraf told BBC Radio 4s Today programme in an interview. He said that if polls were held under disturbed conditions, the countrys nuclear arms could fall into the wrong hands. They cannot fall into the wrong hands, if we manage ourselves politically... The military is there - as long as the military is there, nothing happens to the strategic assets, we are in charge and nobody does anything with them, he said.

Times of India, 19 November 2007

Kakodkar to leave for Vienna this week

MUMBAI: Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) chairman Anil Kakodkar and his team are expected to leave for Vienna this week to start discussions relating to the India-specific safeguards with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Kakodkar was scheduled to attend, on November 20, the inaugural ceremony of a uranium mine at Tummipale in Cuddappah district of Andhra Pradesh but changed his plans since he will

now be leaving for Vienna, said Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) spokesman S K Malhotra to TOI from Hyderabad.

Economic Times, 19 November 2007

Left firm in its opposition to N-deal:Karat

NEW DELHI: While the ruling arrangement's Left corner on Sunday insisted that the nod to the government for approaching the IAEA secretariat was just a "face-saver" for the government, CPM general secretary Prakash Karat has made it plain that the Left was determined to oppose the Indo-US nuclear deal. "The Left is determined to oppose this deal, and we think it is bad for our country," said Mr Karat. Reminding the UPA that it was a coalition government, he said the government will have to come to terms with the fact that a majority of the political parties and members of Parliament do not want the deal to go ahead.

The Hindu, 19 November 2007

On the global nuclear weapons conspiracy

Chennai: The India-US nuclear deal is still being talked about among political parties, with clarity continuing to be elusive. Mentioning about the civilian nuclear technology agreement, Adrian Levy and Catherine Scott-Clark write in "Deception" (www.landmarkonthenet.com) that it was "an unmitigated disaster" for the president of Pakistan, Pervez Musharraf.

BBC News, 19 November 2007

Iran eyes nuclear options abroad

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is to discuss with Arab nations a plan to enrich uranium outside the region in a neutral country such as Switzerland. He made the announcement in an interview for Dow Jones Newswires in Saudi Arabia where he is attending a petroleum exporters' summit. Gulf Arab states recently proposed setting up a consortium to provide nuclear fuel to Iran and others.

Voice of America, 20 November 2007

Russia: Iran Makes Progress on Nuclear Issue, But Has More to Do

Russia's foreign ministry says a U.N. nuclear agency report on Iran shows Tehran has made progress in clarifying its past nuclear activities. But a foreign ministry spokesman, Mikhail Kamynin, said Monday the report is not a "final positive diagnosis" on Iran's nuclear program. He says that so far, the International Atomic Energy Agency cannot confirm the absence of undeclared activities in Iran. The Russian spokesman says Iran still has to do a lot in cooperating with the agency.

Xinhua News, 20 November 2007

Pakistan rebukes report on secret U.S. aid for nuclear arms

ISLAMABAD, Nov. 19 (Xinhua) -- The Pakistani government denied Monday a story in The New York Times that the U.S. government has spent a huge amount of money to secretly aid Pakistan in securing nuclear weapons. "The story entitled 'U.S. Secretly Aids Pakistan in Guarding Nuclear Arms' gives a distorted and exaggerated picture of our efforts to learn from the best practices of other countries with regard to their nuclear

safety and export controls," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

The Statesman, 20 November 2007

Wheels within the nuclear wheels

The Left clearance for the IAEA talks does not represent a weakening either in the Left position or a thaw in the relations between the two major UPA partners. It begs a bigger question: is the Congress misreading the Left again? Actually, the chances of a mid-term election have only increased. The reason: the nuclear deal, the bone of contention, will come up again as a make-or-break issue when the Left-Congress committee meets to consider the India-specific safeguards.

The Hindu, 20 November 2007

'Nuke deal will help India to become powerful nation'

Hyderabad (PTI): Describing the Indo-US civil nuclear deal as an exceptional agreement, the Congress on Monday said it will help India achieve energy security and become a powerful nation. "We should know that energy security is a very important part. Tomorrow we want to see that electrification takes place in every corner of the country... If any country would like to attain the status of super power, without nuclear power no country can think of obtaining the status of a super power.

Tehran Times, 21 November 2007

IAEA report on Iran's nuclear program "a slap on U.S. face"

NEW DELHI (IRNA) -- An Indian academic Monday termed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) report on Iran's peaceful nuclear program ""a slap on U.S. face"". "World has come to know that Iran's nuclear activities are fully transparent and U.S. pressure on Iran to halt its uranium enrichment has no legal basis," said Professor Baseer Ahmed, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in New Delhi.

Voice of America, 21 November 2007

European Officials Say Iran Postpones European Nuclear Meeting

European officials say Iran has postponed a meeting about its nuclear program due to an illness of the Iranian negotiator. Iranian deputy nuclear negotiator Javad Vaeedi was to meet Wednesday in Vienna with a European Union official to pave the way for a possible meeting between Iran and EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana.

Reuters, 21 November 2007

IAEA, India to meet Wednesday on nuclear accord

VIENNA (Reuters) - India's nuclear energy chief will meet the International Atomic Energy Agency director on Wednesday, the IAEA said, after domestic opposition to pursuing a safeguards accord with the U.N. watchdog eased. To launch a controversial nuclear supply deal with the United States, New Delhi must put its declared civilian atomic reactors under IAEA monitoring and then win the approval of a multilateral group controlling sensitive nuclear trade.

The Hindu, 21 November 2007

Consensus still possible: Manmohan

On his way to the India-ASEAN summit in Singapore, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Tuesday sounded confident that the government would be able to build a viable national consensus on the Indo-U.S. civilian nuclear agreement. Interacting with journalists, Dr. Singh admitted that there was some delay in concluding the nuclear deal, but I still hope that the process of bringing about a viable national consensus will yield results. I have not given up hope that we can reach a final satisfactory outcome.

Times of India, 21 November 2007

Pak nukes already under US control: Report

WASHINGTON: Pakistan's nuclear weapons are already under American control even as analysts are working themselves into a lather on the subject, a well-regarded intelligence journal has said. In a stunning disclosure certain to stir up things in Washington's (and in Islamabad and New Delhi's) strategic community, the journal Stratfor reported on Monday that the "United States delivered a very clear ultimatum to Musharraf in the wake of 9/11: Unless Pakistan allowed US forces to take control of Pakistani nuclear facilities, the United States would be left with no choice but to destroy those facilities, possibly with India's help."

International Herald Tribune, 22 November 2007

35-nation board of IAEA to focus on Iran nuclear standoff

VIENNA, Austria: The U.S. has expressed confidence that a 35-nation meeting will urge Iran to fall in line with U.N. Security Council demands and suspend uranium enrichment as well as open its nuclear programs to full international scrutiny. Gregory L. Schulte, the chief delegate to the International Atomic Energy Agency, spoke on the eve of a two-day meeting starting Thursday of the organization's 35-nation board.

Tehran Times, 22 November 2007

Iran open to nuclear talks with all states except Israel: Ahmadinejad

TEHRAN - President Mahmud Ahmadinejad here on Wednesday said that Iran is prepared to hold talks on its nuclear program with all countries except the Zionist regime. The White House leaders should know that they are standing before a united and invincible nation, Ahmadinejad told well-wishers in the northwestern city of Ardebil. They should know that the Iranian nation regards resistance against hegemonic powers as its duty, the president noted.

Economic Times, 22 November 2007

China talks up nuclear ties with India

SINGAPORE: In what is seen as a major breakthrough, Chinese premier Wen Jiabao has made a dramatic offer of nuclear commerce with India. This has far-reaching implications as it indicates China's willingness to side with India at the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) to help operationalise the Indo-US nuclear deal. The deal needs the approval of the 45-nation NSG, which controls global nuclear trade. The Chinese premier's interest could also be seen as a precursor to his country's cooperation in India's overall approach to civil nuclear cooperation with the international community.

BBC News, 22 November 2007

India, UN to discuss nuclear deal

The Indian government is to hold talks with the UN nuclear watchdog, the IAEA, in Vienna on the controversial India-US civil nuclear deal. It is the next stage in the approval of the agreement which has run into serious domestic opposition in India. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's left-wing allies have opposed the deal, saying it will give the US too much influence over India's foreign policy.

Hindustan Times, 22 November 2007

Pakistan's nuclear weapons currently not under threat: Pentagon

Top Pentagon officials have said that the security of Pakistan's nuclear weapons is not under threat despite the current political crisis but have maintained that the US would have to be very careful about it. "... I know there's been lots of discussion about the security of the nuclear weapons. I'd like to be very clear. I don't see any indication right now that security of those weapons is in jeopardy, but clearly we are very watchful, as we should be," the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mike Mullen said in a press conference.

The Economist, 23 November 2007

They think they have right on their side

IT IS not hard to find examples of the peculiar divergence between how the world looks from Tehran, Iran's capital, and how it looks in the West. Take the recent release of a long-awaited report on Iran's nuclear programme by the International Atomic Energy Agency, the UN's nuclear watchdog. To Iran's state-controlled television, the report showed Iran's innocence and slapped its detractors in the face. In Washington, DC, the focus was on the report's doubts, which appeared to justify a push for further punitive sanctions.

Xinhua News, 23 November 2007

Elbaradei calls on Iran to suspend nuclear activities

VIENNA, Nov. 22 (Xinhua) -- Mohamed Elbaradei, general secretary of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) urged Iran again here Thursday to suspend its nuclear activities in order to help the Iran's nuclear issues to be solved as soon as possible. Elbaradei's new report on Iran's nuclear issues was the main topic for discussion of the ongoing IAEA's 35-nation board of governors conference, which is held on Nov. 22 and 23 and focus on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issues and Iran's nuclear issues.

The Statesman, 23 November 2007

Safeguards agreement complex

VIENNA, Nov. 22: Indian negotiators continued their discussions with the IAEA for the second today on a safeguards agreement which the Atomic Energy Commission chief said was complex and has to be worked out. The discussions at the international atomic watchdog proceeded even as the US ambassador to the agency expressed confidence that his country's civil nuclear cooperation agreement with India would be implemented.

The Economist, 23 November 2007

The real deal?

HAD India's leaders set out to portray India not as the rising global power of its imagining but as a chaotic sort of place, unable to maintain a simple policy, much less honour its international agreements, they could not have done better. The government's disarray over one of its proudest achievements - an agreement on civilian nuclear co-operation with America - has stunned its own supporters, as well as George Bush's administration, for which the deal is also a strategic priority.

New York Times, 23 November 2007

Critique of Iranian Leader Reveals Political Rift

An influential hard-line newspaper has made a rare direct attack on President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad over his recent harsh accusations against veteran politicians before parliamentary elections in March. The daily, Jomhuri Eslami, criticized Mr. Ahmadinejad for calling a former nuclear negotiator, Hossein Mousavian, a nuclear spy and saying that influential politicians were using their power to have him cleared of those charges. Mr. Mousavian was a close aide to a former president, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Tehran Times, 24 November 2007

Iran urges disarming nuclear states

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council on Thursday called on the NPT signatories to strive for the disarmament of atomic powers. Speaking at the International Conference on Iran's Nuclear Program, which kicked off here on Thursday, Saeed Jalili said, ""The Article 6 of the Non-Proliferation Treaty stresses the necessity of the disarmament of nuclear powers." "Islamic Republic of Iran insists on its absolute rights within the framework of NPT, and won't accept to be deprived of its nuclear rights,"" Jalili reiterated.

International Herald Tribune, 24 November 2007

6-nation North Korea nuclear talks could resume in early December, reports say
SEOUL, South Korea: A South Korean official said Friday that six-nation talks on disarming North Korea's nuclear programs could resume early next month, and a news report said host China has proposed dates of Dec. 6-8 for the negotiations. Russia's chief nuclear negotiator, Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Losyukov, said China had circulated the proposed dates to the other parties - the U.S., the two Koreas, Japan and Russia - and Moscow had accepted it, according to the Interfax news agency.

Tehran Times, 24 November 2007

Larijani: There is consensus in Iran on nuclear issue

TEHRAN (IRNA) -- Leader's representative in the Supreme National Security Council Ali Larijani said here on Thursday that all political groups in Iran are in a united front regarding the peaceful nuclear energy. He said although there is a clear and constant strategy about this issue, but there may sometimes be different tactics to tackle the issue.

Economic Times, 24 November 2007

Left in no hurry to see IAEA safeguards agreement

NEW DELHI: The Centre may be in a hurry to conclude negotiations with the Left on the IAEA draft safeguards for meeting the US Congress early January deadline, but the Left that holds the veto power on Friday said that it did not share the Centres anxiety on the Indo-US nuclear deal. The government will be making a mistake if they hurry up the process, CPI leader in the Lok Sabha Gurudas Dasgupta said.

Voice of America, 25 November 2007

Iran Produces Its First Nuclear Fuel Pellets

An official in Iran's nuclear program says Tehran has produced its first nuclear fuel pellets for use in a nuclear reactor currently under construction. Gholam Reza Aghazadeh, the head of Iran's atomic energy organization, said Saturday there would be enough enriched uranium pellets by September of 2008 to power the 40 megawatt Arak research reactor. The issue of uranium enrichment is the basis for the standoff between Iran and the West.

The Daily Star, 25 November 2007

Current status of Indo-US nuclear deal

India's trillion-dollar economy is growing at a breakneck speed of 9 % per cent a year. Measured by parity purchasing power, India is already the world's fourth largest economy. India's crave for energy is also increasing rapidly to meet its growing demands. Nuclear energy is one of the many options India has adopted to meet the growing demand of energy and having a secure energy source is now vital for India. Recently India has signed with Russia to build four new reactors for development of energy. India is also planning to get gas through pipeline from Iran through Pakistan.

Tehran Times, 25 November 2007

Communist Party of China supports Irans nuclear rights

TEHRAN - The Communist Party of China (CPC) supports Irans nuclear stances and is opposed to the powers that threaten the country in order to deprive it of its rights, Tian Duanhui, the deputy director of the West Asian and North African Affairs Bureau of the CPC International Department, said here on Saturday. The United States is trying to make the UN Security Council issue a third resolution against Iran, but Irans situation has improved and conditions are not right for a new resolution, Tian told the Mehr News Agency.

BBC News, 26 November 2007

Sarkozy secures deals with China

French industrialists visiting China with President Nicolas Sarkozy say they have finalised trade deals worth almost 20bn euros (\$30bn; GBP 14.5bn). They say China has agreed to buy Airbus planes and other business to the value of 8bn euros. And a French company, Areva, said it had signed a contract for the delivery of two nuclear reactors.

Daily Times, 26 November 2007

Chomsky critical of Indo-US nuclear treaty

WASHINGTON: Noted intellectual Noam Chomsky has said that the Bush administration is trying very hard to push through an agreement that not only authorises

India's illegal acquisition of nuclear weapons, but also assists it. In an interview given to political website Information Clearing House, Chomsky said, That's what the US-Indo Nuclear Pact is about. And, furthermore, there happens to be an obligation of the states in the Security Council and elsewhere to move towards establishing a nuclear weapons-free zone in the region. Now that would include Iran and Israel and any US forces deployed there".

Reuters, 26 November 2007

Iran says IAEA closes more files over atomic work

Iran said on Sunday the U.N. nuclear watchdog had closed two major issues relating to the scope of its nuclear programme, which the West suspects is aimed at acquiring atomic bombs. Tehran agreed with the International Atomic Energy Agency in August to answer outstanding questions by December about its atomic work, which it insists is purely for civilian purposes.

Times Online, 27 November 2007

French seal \$12bn Chinese nuclear deal

President Sarkozy helped to clinch the worlds largest commercial nuclear power contract yesterday, winning an agreement to sell French-designed reactors and atomic fuel worth nearly \$12 billion to China. The deal with Areva, the state-owned French nuclear energy giant, forms part of an ambitious Chinese drive to satisfy the countrys growing hunger for energy.

Reuters, 27 November 2007

IAEA checks Russian nuclear fuel bound for Iran

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Inspectors from the U.N nuclear watchdog on Monday began examining uranium fuel that Russia is likely to send to Iran's first atomic power station, a Russian nuclear official said. A spokesman for Russia's state nuclear fuel producer said International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors had arrived at a Siberian plant that was preparing fuel for Iran's Bushehr station that Russia is building.

International Herald Tribune, 27 November 2007

A U.S.-Indian partnership against nukes

A new era in U.S.-India cooperation was unveiled at the White House in July 2005 when President George W. Bush told Prime Minister Manmohan Singh that he would work to achieve full civil nuclear energy cooperation and trade with India, despite over a quarter century of disagreements between the two countries over nuclear issues. The overwhelming bipartisan support for the U.S.-India Civilian Nuclear Agreement that Bush signed last December reflected the consensus of American foreign policy strategists that India will be one of America's most crucial partners in the 21st century.

Economic Times, 27 November 2007

EU keeps a close watch on India's nuke talks with IAEA

NEW DELHI: The European Union member states are closely watching negotiations between India and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), but the 27-member grouping does not have a common position on supporting India in the Nuclear Suppliers

Group, said the EU envoy to India. The EU is following with great interest India-IAEA negotiations. There are many different aspects where the EU has a common position... as far as the civilian nuclear agreement is concerned, the EU understands India's interests in nuclear energy and its growing energy needs... said EU's envoy to India, Daniele Smadja, at a briefing on the upcoming India-EU summit on November 29-30.

The Hindu, 28 November 2007

Lok Sabha to discuss nuke deal tomorrow

New Delhi (PTI): The much-awaited discussion on the Indo-US Nuclear Deal will be held in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday as the government made it clear that the debate could not be taken as reflecting the "sense of the House". "The sense of the House cannot be obtained in a short duration discussion under Rule 193. You cannot reach a conclusion on a debate which has not been voted," Parliamentary Affairs Minister P R Dasmunsi told reporters.

The Hindu, 28 November 2007

"Conclusion on nuclear debate cannot be reached under Rule 193"

NEW DELHI: Ahead of the nuclear debate in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, the government on Tuesday made it clear that "the sense of the House" cannot be obtained through a short duration discussion under Rule 193. You cannot reach a conclusion in a debate conducted under a rule which does not entail voting, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Priyaranjan Dasmunsi said.

Economic Times, 28 November 2007

Delay in N-deal makes task tougher

NEW DELHI: The delay and confusion over moving ahead with the nuclear deal is making it tougher for India to canvas for support within the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). Not only is the European Union a divided house on supporting exemption for India within NSG, but even countries like Australia, which were positively inclined towards India, seem set for a course change. Others like Portugal have taken a back step saying that they will wait for India-IAEA safeguards agreement before giving a commitment.

The Korea Times, 28 November 2007

US Nuclear Envoy to Meet Senior NK Officials in Pyongyang

The top U.S. nuclear negotiator will visit North Korea Dec. 3-5 and for the first time may meet senior officials other than his Pyongyang counterpart, a U.S. State Department official said Tuesday. The official said logistical details for Christopher Hill, assistant secretary of state, were still being worked out. "In Pyongyang, he plans to meet six-party counterpart Kim Kye-gwan and possibly other senior DPRK officials," the department official said, calling North Korea by its official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Reuters, 29 November 2007

U.S. asks China to cooperate on Iran sanctions

WASHINGTON, Nov 26 (Reuters) - U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice urged

China on Monday to support U.S. efforts to impose new U.N. Security Council sanctions against Iran over its nuclear program. China has been stonewalling attempts by the United States and other countries for a third round of U.N. Security Council sanctions and undermined plans for a meeting in Brussels earlier this month of major powers to discuss further punitive measures against Tehran.

Reuters, 29 November 2007

North Korea to submit nuclear list in days - U.S. envoy

SEOUL (Reuters) - The chief U.S. envoy to talks on ending North Korea's nuclear weapons programme said on Thursday he expects the secretive state to very soon release a full account of its atomic possessions. "We look forward to receiving in the next few days, certainly within the next week, a comprehensive list from the North Koreans on all their nuclear programmes, materials and facilities," Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill told business leaders in Seoul.

Agence France Presse, 29 November 2007

Six powers to meet in Paris on Iran nuclear issue

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Political directors from the six powers studying Iran's disputed nuclear program will meet in Paris on Saturday for new talks, the US State Department said Wednesday. "In Paris on December 1, Under Secretary (Nicholas) Burns will participate in a P5+1 political directors meeting to discuss the text of the next United Nations Security Council Chapter VII sanctions resolution on Iran," it said in a statement. The meeting had originally been scheduled for November 19, but was cancelled after China said it would not be able to take part.

Economic Times, 29 November 2007

India needs uranium import

Uranium mining in Andhra Pradesh, held up for years by environmental and other activists, has finally begun. Andhra Pradesh uranium ore is five times richer than in India's old mines at Jaduguda. But let nobody think this solves India's uranium shortage for nuclear power plants. Jaduguda ore has just 0.06% uranium, and AP will yield maybe 0.3%. But internationally, commercial ores have up to 15% uranium. All Indian ores are hopelessly uneconomic.

Hindustan Times, 29 November 2007

India can test nukes, assures PM

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said the 123 Agreement for the Indo-US nuclear deal does not bar India from carrying out nuclear tests. If a necessity for carrying out a nuclear test arises in future, there is nothing in the agreement which prevents us from carrying out tests, the PM said during a debate in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. Earlier, the BJP-led opposition walked out of the House before External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee began his response to concerns raised by most of the 29 members who spoke during the six-hour debate.

Times of India, 29 November 2007

123 text overrides Hyde Act: Pranab

NEW DELHI: External affairs minister Pranab Mukherjee shrugged aside Left's demand to treat the day-long debate on nuclear deal as 'sense of the House', saying that "where was the question of 'sense of the House' when the process was not complete." He assured that the government would come back to the Parliament once the process was completed, even as he said that negotiations for India-specific safeguards were technical in nature and would take time.

Chosun Ilbo, 30 November 2007

N.Korea on Track to Complete Nuclear Disablement

North Korea is on track to complete the disablement of its nuclear facilities, said Sung Kim, the director of the Korean affairs desk at the U.S. State Department and the chief U.S. inspector of the process. Kim made these remarks on arrival in Beijing on Thursday after a three-day visit to North Korea as U.S. leader of an inspection team that includes officials and experts from the six nations in denuclearization talks. "We saw a lot of disablement activity going on. I think that all of the steps that can be completed this year will be completed by Dec. 31, he said.

International Herald Tribune, 30 November 2007

China gears to become world's biggest operator of nuclear plants

China, its safety reputation tattered by lead paint in toys, cancer-causing chemicals in seafood and antifreeze ingredients in toothpaste, is gearing up to become the world's biggest producer and operator of nuclear plants, and a nuclear exporter. The country plans to build about 30 new reactors by 2020, at a cost totaling 450 billion yuan, or \$61 billion. It could add as many as 300 in time, according to an official from Atomic Energy of Canada.

The Hindu, 30 November 2007

Lifetime fuel for 2 Koodankulam reactors

NEW DELHI: 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 Ministers Office Prithviraj Chavan said in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. Two light water reactors of 1,000 MW each are now under construction at Koodankulam. The lifetime fuel supply for them is covered through a sovereign guarantee of the Russian Federation, he said.

Hindustan Times, 30 November 2007

Parties stand their ground in LS

When the debate on the India-US nuclear deal took place in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, it saw the Left, BJP and the Congress defend their ground stoutly and unwilling to spare each other while keeping the level of discussion quite high. The Congress was careful to ensure that the BJP and not the Left - remained the target of its counter-offensive while its allies, the DMK and the RJD, backed the government and praised Prime Minister Manmohan Singh even though they had recently shown their displeasure against the government for losing the Lefts support on the issue.

Hindustan Times, 30 November 2007

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