

The Hindu, 1 November 2007

Dont have energy ties with Iran: Kissinger

The former U.S. Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, on Wednesday asked India not to have energy ties with Iran, which is facing a standoff with the U.S. over its nuclear programme. Mr. Kissinger conveyed this to Petroleum Minister Murli Deora at a meeting, during which the India-U.S. nuclear deal issue also figured. The comments assume significance as Washington is opposed to India going ahead with the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project as it views Tehran a rogue state, which should be isolated.

New Delhi Television, 1 November 2007

N-deal: US puts pressure on India

Shellshocked - that is how a senior Indian official described Washington's reaction after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told US President George W Bush that the nuclear deal has run into difficulties. In fact, US government officials told NDTV that America had no clue things had come to such a crisis with the Left Front. The feedback they got was that the deal would push through. After initially keeping quiet, American officials began speaking out. From Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to Under Secretary Nicholas Burns and US Ambassador David Mulford, all of them saying the same thing - the deal does not have unlimited time and more delays mean more uncertainty.

Business Standard, 1 November 2007

Tax relief for firms engaged in trade with US

In a relief to Indian companies, the Income-Tax Department has decided to suspend collection of taxes if the Mutual Agreement Procedure is invoked by a US-based entity under the Indo-US Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC). Article 27 of the Indo-US DTAC provides for Mutual Agreement Procedure for avoidance of double taxation.

Times Of India, 1 November 2007

Indians view US favourably: Study

Indians, cutting across states and socio-economic status, have more 'warm' feelings for the United States than any other country, according to an extensive survey done by a team led by a US-based political scientist of Indian origin. The survey, which polled over 2 lakh respondents, found that of those who expressed an opinion the warmth towards the US was the maximum followed by Japan, Russia and China. The three other countries about which the questions were asked Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh and Pakistan finished in that order.

United Press International, 1 November 2007

India-U.S. hiccup may hurt power targets

India says it will have to cut 6,000 megawatts of power from its target of 20,000 MW if the civilian nuclear deal with the United States is not implemented. "If the India-U.S. civilian nuclear deal does not go through, India will have to slash at least 6,000 MW from its projected 20,000 MW by 2020 in the absence of international civilian nuclear cooperation," said Anil Kakodkar, chairman of Atomic Energy Commission.

Times Of India, 1 November 2007

'India will lose much more if nuke deal fails'

A top nuclear scientist has warned that India stands to lose much more than access to American nuclear technology if it backs out of the nuke deal with the US, saying atomic cooperation with Russia and France could be also in doldrums. Any failure of the Indo-US nuke deal to go through will see India being denied not only access to a permanent source of energy but overseas nuclear technology, said M R Srinivasan, a member of National Security Advisory Board while delivering a lecture on 'Indo-US Nuclear Agreement and its Impact on Indian Economy' last night.

Indian Express, 2 November 2007

Karat worried: US is using India to encircle China

Just days after he signalled a thaw in the Left-UPA chill, CPM general secretary Prakash Karat vowed to oppose a strategic alliance between India and the United States claiming that such a move was meant to counter-balance and encircle China. Speaking at a CPM function here to mark the 90th anniversary of the Soviet Revolution, Karat made no mention of the nuclear deal but underlined his ideological opposition: We shall not rest in our fight till strategic ties with the US are snapped.

The Telegraph, 2 November 2007

US, Left govt can do business: Kissinger

The high priest of the international strategic community, Henry Kissinger, believes that the growing intimacy between India and the US has nothing to do with China but is founded on the common belief that jihadist Islam must be contained. In an exclusive interview to The Telegraph, Kissinger rejected the much-debated assumption, both in India and the US, that a rising China, which implicitly threatens American dominance, had pushed Washington to negotiate the nuclear deal with Delhi.

Economic Times, 2 November 2007

Left not for strategic ties with US ever

After a short breather, the CPM has yet again decided to up the ante against the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal by coming down heavily on all things American. CPM general secretary Prakash Karat, while speaking to partymen at a conference in Kolkata, said, the party would always take a hardline against any strategic alliance with the US and would only rest when its goal of permanently disabling any such effort is fulfilled.

Kantipur News Service, 2 November 2007

US to put pressure on India and Bhutan to resolve refugee problem

S Assistant Secretary Ellen Sauerbrey Friday stated that America would put pressure on India and Bhutan to resolve the Bhutanese refugee problem. The US official has said that the resettlement of the refugees in a third country is the first phase of the long term solution to the refugee problem. The US government would start the process from the coming week, Sauerbrey said. She admitted that India's role for the repatriation of the Bhutanese refugee would be crucial and said that she would try to convince India in this regard.

The Hindu, 2 November 2007

Select Indian firms can import US technology without licence

The United States has put in place a mechanism that would enable select companies in India and China to import sensitive technology from America, without requiring to have import licenses for individual articles. "We have put in place an innovative mechanism, Validated End User Programme, or VEU. Through this programme, American companies will find it easier to export certain US products to customers that meet the security standards of a US government inter-agency review," US Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez has said.

Rediff News, 2 November 2007

World Bank to give \$944 mn loan to India

The World Bank on Friday agreed to sanction a loan of \$944 million to India for strengthening rural finance system, vocational training programmes and community-based water management projects. According to an agreement signed here, the multi-lateral agency would give 600 million dollars toward boosting rural cooperative credit projects, \$280 million for supporting 400 ITIs over four years and 64 million dollars for Karnataka-based water tank management projects.

AFP, 3 November 2007

Lockheed Martin to meet deadline for India's war jet deal

US aerospace giant Lockheed Martin said it would meet a March 2008 deadline set by India to bid for the world's largest military aircraft deal estimated at 10 billion dollars. It is among six global armament firms in the race to sell 126 fighter jets to the Indian air force. "We have sought no extension and plan to meet the deadline," company vice president Orville Prins told reporters in New Delhi.

News Post India, 3 November 2007

IMF Cautions India Against Curbs On Capital Inflows

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cautioned India that curbing capital inflows too much could undermine confidence in the country's 'very brilliant economy' with consequences beyond India itself. The warning came Friday from the new IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn a day after the former French finance minister took over as the financial institution's managing director. It was important to enhance the transparency of the capital flowing into the country but limiting it may not always be good, he said at a press conference. 'The problem of this kind of thing is it may undermine the confidence in the Indian economy.'

Daily News and Analysis, 3 November 2007

Kissinger visit: Will the Left parties play ball?

When West Bengal chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee shakes hands with Henry Kissinger on Saturday, it may not match the ping-pong diplomacy launched by the latter in his days as the US secretary of state in the Richard Nixon administration that led to the opening up of China. It will, however, put to test the current anti-imperialism campaign of the Left. The former high priest of international diplomacy will also meet former CM

and CPI(M) politburo member Jyoti Basu to gain an insight into the minds of the current communists in power.

Economic Times, 3 November 2007

US cos arms too can MAP tax disputes in India

Coca-Cola India, Reebok India and subsidiaries of other US multinationals will now be eligible to benefit from the India-US memorandum of understanding (MoU) setting up a dispute settlement process, called the mutual agreement procedure (MAP), under the bilateral tax treaty. The Central Board of Direct Taxes has clarified that the benefit hitherto available only to US resident (the parent company) could now be availed of by the Indian resident entity (Indian subsidiary) if the company has opted for mutual agreement procedure (MAP).

The Hindu, 3 November 2007

World Nuclear Association says opposition to N-deal ill-founded

A global organisation of enterprises on Friday described as ill-founded opposition to the Indo-US nuclear deal, saying that the ratification of the agreement will end three decades of "injustice" to India and accelerate the country's progress. "No single step could better strengthen India's future prospects on the world stage than ratification of this historic deal," John Ritch, Director General of World Nuclear Association -- a confederation of companies connected with nuclear power production, was quoted as saying in a statement here.

The Hindu, 5 November 2007

India must not join hands with US: Buddhadeb

Joining hands with the US would lead to disaster, West Bengal Chief Minister, Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, said on Sunday and cautioned the Congress-led UPA government at the Centre against such a move. "Whoever joined hands with the US faced disaster. India should refrain from joining hands with that country," he said in a reference to the Indo-US strategic alliance while addressing open session of the 8th All India Democratic Women's Association here.

Economic Times, 5 November 2007

N-deal in interest of India, US: Kissinger

Former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger is clearly a man with a mission. While he's officially in India to talk foreign policy with various economic and political groups, his strategic interactions seem to suggest that his real agenda to try and push through the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal. A deal which he is "optimistic" about. "I am optimistic some solution will be found to the ongoing crisis over the nuke deal," he said. He was speaking here at an interactive session organised by CII on "The Asian Century: Where will India be."

Monster and Critics News Service, 5 November 2007

Congress to have brainstorming on Indo-US nuclear deal

At a time the government is facing uncertainty over the Indo-US civil nuclear deal, the Congress party is bracing for a brainstorming on the agreement and other contentious

issues. The Nov 17 All India Congress Committee (AICC) session here will provide an occasion for Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and party president Sonia Gandhi to hear first hand the views of second rung leaders from across the country.

Times Of India, 5 November 2007

India to fork out \$1b to US for 6 Hercules planes

In what will be the biggest defence deal with US till now, India is now firmly moving ahead to seal the contract for acquiring six C-130J 'Super Hercules' military transport planes for "special operations" at a cost of around \$1 billion. Defence ministry sources said the FMS (foreign military sale) contract a government-to-government arrangement for the C-130Js will be concluded "soon" since it had been catered for in the ongoing defence budget. "We are closely studying the offer after the US Defence Security Cooperation Agency notified the American Congress in May. The contract will be signed within this fiscal," said a source.

Times Of India, 5 November 2007

Changes in 123 pact, Hyde Act sought

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, 6 November 2007

Mulford meets BJP leaders to seek support for nuclear deal

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.

New Delhi Television, 6 November 2007

Buddha defies dogma to woo US capital

He is a communist whose public loathing of the US is well known. But economics, a great ideological leveller, is driving West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharya to court American capital. Even as he rants against the Indo-US nuclear deal, in line with the thinking of his Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M), Bhattacharya is busy meeting senior figures from the US administration - past and present. Saturday was the turn of Henry Kissinger, who was closeted with Bhattacharaya for over 45 minutes discussing "life in general". It was a high point of an American courtship for Bhattacharya.

Zee News, 6 November 2007

US organisation seeks close cooperation in education, health

A US-based organisation sought increased cooperation between India and America in various areas including education, jobs and healthcare. "Both our nations have far greater commonalities than differences. It is crucial for our governments to provide a congenial environment and facilities to our children so that economic development takes place," Donna Stone, Head of National Conference for State Legislators (ncsl) said. Stone, leading a five-member delegation as part of a study exchange programme between the US and Indian lawmakers, held an hour-long breakfast meeting with Haryana speaker Raghubir Singh Kadian here.

Reuters, 6 November 2007

RPT-India's Essar reviewing US laws on Iran investment

India's Essar Group is reviewing its legal position on investing in Iran's energy sector to see if it is violating U.S. sanctions on Tehran after a U.S. governor challenged a proposed refinery deal, the company said on Tuesday. Last week Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty said that Essar, which recently bought a steel company in his state, had promised to abide by U.S. law and that it was backing away from developing a multi-billion dollar oil refinery in Iran.

Rediff News, 6 November 2007

What do Indians think of Indo-US relations?-commentary by Devesh Kapur

With the India-United States nuclear deal facing an uncertain future, there has been a spate of analysis on the domestic opposition to the deal from within India. Security hawks and sections of the Bharatiya Janata Party worry that the deal may constrain India's strategic options in the future. And for India's Left the most disturbing implication of the deal is that it will bind India more closely to the US. Commentators in favour argue that the BJP's opposition to the deal seems more the result of the narcissism of small differences, payback for the Congress's carping when the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance government conducted India's nuclear tests

Energy Publisher, 6 November 2007

Capital Hill hosts US-India renewable energy meet

Last week, the U.S. India Business Alliance (USIBA) hosted the first ever summit on U.S.-India renewable energy cooperation. The two-day conference entitled "The U.S. and India: Partners in Renewable Energy Innovation" was held on October 30th and 31st in conjunction with the Congressional Taskforce on U.S.-India Trade.

Rediff News, 8 November 2007

White House celebrates Diwali

The Indian-American community celebrated Diwali at the White House in the presence of senior US and Indian officials. "Diwali celebrations at the White House, this year, has special significance as the US House of Representatives for the first time passed a resolution recognising the "religious and historical significance" of it just a few days ago" said Arathi Krishna of the Indian embassy. The festivities took place in the Indian Treaty

Room of the White House, and was attended by the Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns among others

Daily News and Analysis, 8 November 2007

AICC to back N-deal with allies in mind

The AICC session on November 17 is likely to endorse the India-US nuclear deal. Though how the AICC will do this is still being debated within the party, the move is significant given the opposition the Congress-led government is facing from its partners. The support and the endorsement may have to be nuanced keeping in view the sensitivities of the allies, said a CWC member. The short one-day AICC session will witness many firsts. It will be Rahul Gandhis first as general secretary. And, as things stand, it will be the first time there will be not be separate resolutions on political, economic and foreign affairs.

India Daily, 8 November 2007

Will America agree to renegotiate the nuke agreement with India in accordance with the demands of BJP

The only way the India-US nuclear deal can be implemented is to have BJP support the deal. Because of ideological differences no matter what the deal is, the communists will oppose any deal or agreement with the Americans. America needs India as its strategic ally. India equally needs America on its side...

Earth Times, 8 November 2007

US Congress honours first Indian American member

Dilip Singh Saund, the first Indian-American to be elected to the US Congress nearly 50 years before Louisiana governor elect Bobby Jindal, has been honoured with a portrait in the complex. Saund, who represented the 29th congressional district of California in the US House of Representatives from 1957 until 1963, is the seventh person to be so honoured. The portrait unveiled Wednesday forms part of the House Fine Arts Board's programme to enhance the fine arts collection of the US Congress to include historically important members of the House

Rediff News, 8 November 2007

N-deal will be completed very soon: Burns

At a White House Diwali function, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns said he believes in the India-United States civil nuclear agreement and hopes to see it completed very soon. "We are working on the civil-nuclear cooperation, as I'm sure you are aware, and all of us in government are deeply grateful for the strong support the Indian-American community has shown for this initiative," he said. He said, "We are proud to share in the celebration of Diwali, for the fifth year, here at the White House."

Rediff News, 12 November 2007

India leading exporter of students to the US

For the sixth successive year, India remained the leading country of origin for students coming to the United States. About 83,333 students enrolled in 2006/2007 year, according to Open Doors:Report on International Educational Exchange published

annually by the Institute of International Education with support from the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Even in the academic year 2005/2006, when there was a brief decline, India has been in the lead since 2001/2002, when she captured the top position from China, which once again was in second place for 2006/2007.

Daily Telegraph, 12 November 2007

Left shadow on IAF doctorate dream

An Indian Air Force bid to participate in one of the largest war games hosted in the US has run into a hurdle with the Centre worrying over the price tag attached to such a drill. The air force may now have to reconsider going to the Red Flag Nellis, also known among air forces the world over as the doctorate of fighter aircraft drills because the Pentagon wants India to sign a logistics support agreement that New Delhi is fighting shy of. The US military has actually been keen to get the air force to participate in Red Flag after first inviting it in mid-2004. The US wants the IAF to deploy its most modern Sukhoi 30 Mki fighter aircraft.

Earth Times, 12 November 2007

N-deal can enhance India's strategic programme: official

Ahead of the debate on the India-US nuclear deal in parliament, the Manmohan Singh government Sunday sought to assuage the opposition's anxieties, saying that the deal's enabling 123 pact can enhance the country's strategic programme but will not diminish it in anyway. National Security Advisor M.K. Narayanan said that he along with Atomic Energy Commission chief Anil Kakodkar met senior leaders of the main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), including L.K. Advani, Rajnath Singh and Jaswant Singh, and addressed their apprehensions on the impact of the nuclear deal on India's strategic programme.

Times Of India, 13 November 2007

Cong following independent foreign policy, not sold to US'

At the coming AICC session in the backdrop of the Indo-US nuclear deal should send a clear signal to the Muslim world that Congress cares for it and has "not been sold to America", a senior leader said on Tuesday. Former Union Minister Ram Niwas Mirdha said the day-long session on Saturday should emphasise that Congress was following an independent foreign policy at a time when there was growing resentment among Muslims against the US.

Forbes, 13 November 2007

Bombay Exchange Futures To Trade In Dollars In U.S.

The Bombay Stock Exchange Monday said it had forged ties with the U.S. Futures Exchange to license the benchmark Sensitive index, known as the Sensex, for dollar-denominated futures trading, giving investors elsewhere in the world wider access to the Indian markets. Trading will begin from Feb. 22, 2008. The U.S. exchanges Sensex contract will allow eligible U.S. investors to directly participate in India's equity markets for the first time, without requiring American Depository Receipt authorization, the indexes said in a statement in Mumbai.

Washington Post, 13 November 2007

Indian left says no change in U.S. nuclear deal stand

Indian communists have not changed their position on a controversial nuclear deal with the United States and do not want the government to pursue key steps needed to clinch it, left leaders said on Tuesday. They said comments by a senior left leader to an Indian TV channel did not represent a shift in their stance over the deal that has destabilized Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's coalition government. Communist Party of India chief A.B. Bardhan said on Monday that the communists could allow the government to start talks with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to secure a safeguards agreement to pursue the deal, if it agreed to seek communist approval for the draft before signing it.

New Delhi Television, 13 November 2007

Left sanctions govt move on n-deal

In what comes as a significant movement on the Indo-US nuclear deal, the CPI General Secretary A B Bardhan told NDTV that the government could go to the IAEA, the UN's atomic body as long as they don't finalize any agreement. The next Left UPA meeting is slated to be held on Friday. Earlier on Wednesday the government's pointsman on the political negotiations met key Left leaders.

Thaiindian News Service, 14 November 2007

US legislators, experts call for continuous support to Indo-Pak peace process

Washington's relationships with both countries are incredibly important, they told at a congressional hearing on Pakistan. We've come a long way in terms of encouraging an Indo-Pak peace process, both relationships (for US) are incredibly important, but for very different reasons. The Indo-Pak peace process is fundamental to overall regional stability and it impacts the situation even in Afghanistan. So for that reason, we can't take our eye off the ball in continuing to encourage those talks, Lisa Curtis, a senior analyst at the Heritage Foundation said.

Dawn, 14 November 2007

Indian Left softens stance on N-deal with US

In a softening of their opposition to the India-US nuclear deal, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's Left Front allies have agreed to allow pending crucial talks between New Delhi and the IAEA, news reports said on Tuesday quoting communist sources. The rightwing opposition Bharatiya Janata Party reacted to the reports by claiming the Left Front's apparent change of heart was prompted by its difficulties in West Bengal. The communist-led Left Front has ruled the state since 1977 but it has been under relentless attack by a joint opposition, which in West Bengal also includes India's ruling Congress, over plans to evict peasants to set up industrial zones on their land.

Economic Times, 14 November 2007

Left riders on N-deal to make govts job tougher

The Leftists on Monday denied Manmohan Singh a face saver on the nuclear deal by making it known that the government has promised to its leaders that the Indian side will make stiff and seemingly unacceptable demands at the IAEA for wriggling out of the

Indo-US nuclear agreement. The Left gave the Centre its nod for approaching the IAEA after it assured that the government will not wrap up the draft India specific safeguards.

Korean Times, 14 November 2007

US Ties With Asia's Big 3 (Opinion by Tom Plate)

Three of the largest pieces in the sprawling jigsaw puzzle known as Asia are of course China, India and Japan. The first is the most populous country on earth, the second is the most populous democracy and the third is the world's number two economy _ and (theoretically) chief U.S. Asian ally. Recent events show that in its relationship with this Asiatic trio, the United States has serious problems to overcome...

Earth Times, 14 November 2007

US experts back India's bid for UN Security Council seat

Two US foreign policy experts want the next US president to publicly support India's bid for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council and make India and China formal members of an expanded Group of Eight (G8). 'The US is missing an excellent opportunity to do what the Bush administration has said is its goal: 'To help India become a major power in the 21st century', ' said Bruce Riedel and Karl F. Inderfurth, setting the agenda for President George W. Bush's successor.

Business Standard, 15 November 2007

Nuke Deal: Govt plans to approach IAEA

On the eve of the crucial UPA-Left meeting on the Indo-US nuclear deal, the government today indicated it would approach International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for negotiations on safeguards agreement. The indication by a senior minister came after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had a meeting with Congress president Sonia Gandhi. Singh also held consultations with some of his senior cabinet colleagues including External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, Defence Minister A K Antony and Home Minister Shivraj Patil.

New Delhi Television, 15 November 2007

Nuke deal debate on Nov 27-29

The Parliament's much-awaited debate on the Indo-US nuclear agreement will take place between November 27-29. The Parliament will most likely adjourn on account of the Chhat festival on Friday and reconvene the coming Monday. The moment proceedings begin, the BJP is expected to raise the Nandigram issue, and the Left is likely to retaliate by raising the Tehelka expose on Gujarat.

Indian Express, 15 November 2007

The question is can we get a better n-deal? No

The full text of the open letter sent by former military chiefs, bureaucrats and scientists to Members of Parliament: Parliament is about to debate what is known as the Indo-US Nuclear deal. We, the undersigned, who venture to claim some experience in serving our countrys national security interests, venture also to suggest that, in considering the issues involved, you view them in the one perspective which we believe transcends all others...

Rediff News, 15 November 2007

Did US nix 'Koodankulam Plus' deal with Moscow? (opinion-B.Raman)

Prior to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's just concluded 28-hour visit to Moscow on November 11-12, 2007, for talks with President Vladimir Putin and other Russian leaders, it was widely speculated in New Delhi that the visit would see the signing, inter alia, of a 'Koodankulam Plus' agreement under which Russia would help India in setting up four more civilian nuclear power reactors at Koodankulam in southern Tamil Nadu. These would be in addition to the two already under construction under an agreement signed by India and Russia in 1988. When work on the two reactors was about to start, the Clinton Administration in the US had strongly opposed it on the ground that even though the 1988 agreement was signed before the restrictions on civilian nuclear trade imposed by the Nuclear Suppliers' Group came into force, these restrictions would retrospectively apply to the 1988....

Rediff News, 16 November 2007

'There is too much at stake between the two greatest democracies'-Interview with Nicholas Burns

Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs R Nicholas Burns, the chief US interlocutor of the India-United States Civilian Nuclear Cooperation Agreement, says despite the Communist parties' opposition to the deal, he was optimistic that the historic agreement between India and the United States will ultimately move forward. In an interview with Rediff India Abroad Senior Editor Suman Guha Mozumder, Burns said the "civil nuclear card, if you will, has become the symbolic centerpiece of this new strategic partnership for better or for worse." Burns, who has made eight trips to India in connection with the agreement, said while he does not know what would ultimately be the fate of the deal, for which both the countries have invested tremendously in the past two years, the Bush administration hoped the Indian government would bring it forward and finish it because the deal is important for both countries.

The Hindu, 17 November 2007

Indian-American Community encouraged by developments on N-deal

A prominent member of the Indian-American Community has expressed encouragement over the political developments in New Delhi on the Indo-US civil nuclear deal and hoped the Left parties will continue to support the government on the issue. "We are encouraged with the developments in India and hope that the parties on the Left will continue to support Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on the issue," said Ashok Mago, Chairman of the Dallas-based US-India Forum...

MWC NEWS, 17 November 2007

The Indo-US Nuclear Deal

With the parliamentary debate on the Indo-US nuclear deal now scheduled for 27-28 November 2007, the fate of the deal hangs in the balance. Opposition to the deal has come from three distinct quarters, but the reasons for opposition overlap. The main complaint of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) against the deal is that it will open up part of India's nuclear programme to international scrutiny and compromise India's sovereign right to decide the future development of its nuclear weapons programme. For the Left

parties, the nuclear deal is only one link in the new strategic partnership being forged by India with the US and Israel. This would be an unequal partnership, one that makes India subservient to US foreign policy objectives.

Top News, 17 November 2007

Indo-US nuclear deal important to maintain economic growth: PM

Commenting on the propaganda against the Indo-US civil nuclear deal, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh today said that the deal will not hurt the country's strategic interests, and reiterated that "the deal was important to maintain economic growth". "I would like to say that the propaganda that is being made that this nuclear deal will in any way hurt our strategic programme is totally false," Dr. Singh said at the day-long AICC meeting here.

Economic Times, 19 November 2007

US, India fail to break Doha deadlock

Trade negotiators from the US and India met in London recently, away from the media glare, in a quiet attempt to break the deadlock over the ongoing Doha round of World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations. While the high-level meeting could not arrive at a consensus on key issues holding up the talks, the bilateral meeting signifies that the two sides acknowledge the need to reach an agreement on certain issues bilaterally to expedite the negotiations. Speaking to ET, sources said it was unlikely that the draft modalities text on liberalising agriculture and industrial trade would be out by the month-end, as initially planned by the WTO secretariat. It is now expected in January.

The Statesman, 19 November 2007

Nuclear misgivings-II (Editorial)

India decided on a three-stage nuclear programme back in the fifties of the last century when the country's nuclear power generation programme was drawn up. In the first stage, natural uranium was used in pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs). In the second stage, the plutonium extracted through reprocessing from the used fuel of the PHWRs was scheduled to be used to run fast-breeder reactors (PBRs) built by the former Soviet Union and Russia in India....

Economic Times, 19 November 2007

Indo-US conference on healthcare to begin from Monday

A two-day conference on strengthening cooperation between India and the US in the health care industry will begin from Monday here. The conference titled, "Affordability of Health Care in India and the US: Is Privatisation the Problem or Solution?" will discuss issues critical to the coordination of public policy and firm-level strategies in both the countries, a press release issued by Observer Research Foundation,

AFP News, 19 November 2007

Indo-US nuclear pact not out of woods: analysts

A landmark pact with the United States aimed at bringing India into the global nuclear marketplace has won a reprieve, but the deal is not out of the woods yet, analysts say. In a major turnaround, the government's communist allies said late last week they would

allow India to pursue crucial talks with a UN nuclear watchdog body as part of steps to implement the accord. Until then, they had loudly opposed the deal. "The logjam has been broken but the agreement is still not completely in the clear," said New Delhi-based political analyst Uday Bhaskhar.

AFP, 20 November 2007

India's government upbeat over US nuclear deal

India's government said Monday it was confident of moving ahead with a controversial nuclear deal with the United States, days after leftist allies opposing the pact softened their stance. Last week the government struck a compromise with its left-wing allies allowing it to move a step closer to implementing the accord -- the negotiation of an international safeguards agreement for its civilian reactors. Leftist parties had previously refused to allow these talks to go ahead and threatened to bring down the Congress party-led government.

Khaleej times, 20 November 2007

India atomic chief to start IAEA nuclear talks

The top Indian atomic official will start talks this week with the International Atomic Energy Agency as part of efforts to clinch a landmark nuclear deal with the US, his office said on Tuesday. India's atomic energy commission chief Anil Kakodkar was due to begin talks on Wednesday in Vienna with UN atomic energy chief Mohamed ElBaradei, an official in his Mumbai office told AFP. The talks come after the Indian government overcame stiff opposition last week from its communist allies, who had threatened to bring down the government.

New Delhi Television, 20 November 2007

N-deal important for India's energy security: Ronen Sen

Observing that the proposed Indo-US agreement on civil nuclear co-operation is very important part of India's energy security, which in turn is a vital component of its national security, the Indian Ambassador to the United States, Ronen Sen, on Monday hoped that at the end of current "debate" on this issue in India there will be a consensus which will enable to take the deal forward. Sen said this at a select gathering in New York organized by the Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan on his visit to this premier Indian cultural institute. This was his first public appearance in the US - and his encounter with the Indian media...

Khaleej times, 20 November 2007

India atomic chief to start IAEA nuclear talks

The top Indian atomic official will start talks this week with the International Atomic Energy Agency as part of efforts to clinch a landmark nuclear deal with the US, his office said on Tuesday. India's atomic energy commission chief Anil Kakodkar was due to begin talks on Wednesday in Vienna with UN atomic energy chief Mohamed ElBaradei, an official in his Mumbai office told AFP. The talks come after the Indian government overcame stiff opposition last week from its communist allies, who had threatened to bring down the government.

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CNN, 20 November 2007

India's L&T signs MoU with US-based Raytheon for medium combat aircraft

India's largest engineering and construction company Larsen & Toubro Ltd said it has signed a memorandum of understanding with US-based Raytheon (NYSE:RTN) Company to develop medium multi-role combat aircraft. No financial details were given.

New Delhi Television, 22 November 2007

US optimistic over India-IAEA talks

The US voiced optimism over the IAEA successfully negotiating an India-specific safeguards agreement, for which talks were initiated on Wednesday, and was confident that the Indo-US civil nuclear deal will come through. The safeguards issue is unlikely to come up at Friday's meeting of IAEA's Board of Governors and will come up for approval at a special Board meeting later. IAEA Director General Mohamed El-Baradei and Atomic Energy Commission chairman Anil Kakodkar initiated the talks.

The Hindu, 22 November 2007

We wont back out of nuclear deal: Pranab Mukherjee

The government is not contemplating backing out of the Indo-U.S. civil nuclear deal, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee told the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. When India completed negotiations for an India-specific safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency and for adjustment of guidelines with the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the deal would be sent to the U.S. Congress for approval for operationalisation, he said in a written reply. Mr. Mukherjee said India and the U.S. agreed on the text of an Agreement for Cooperation that had received Cabinet approval.

The Hindu, 22 November 2007

Growing Indo-US military ties 'positive':Pentagon

Describing the increasing Indo-US military cooperation as "positive", a top Pentagon official said the growing defence links reflects the continuing and emerging relationship between the two nations. "... I think there's a very positive and growing relationship between the two countries. And I think that's a very good thing," Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staffs Admiral Mike Mullen said. "India is providing not just for its own people a growing economic engine which, again, I think is good not just locally, but also globally," he said at the Washington Foreign Press Centre. Mullen noted that recent years have witnessed an increase in military-to-military contacts between the US and India.

The Telegraph, 22 November 2007

First step to nuclear pact gets off ground

The Centre has begun talks on concluding an India-specific safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, with atomic energy chief Anil Kakodkar meeting IAEA chairman Mohamed ElBaradei this evening. Kakodkar will be back home by the weekend, but talks on the safeguards agreement are likely to take at least another couple of weeks to conclude because of the additional assurances Delhi is seeking from the IAEA.

Rediff News, 22 November 2007

US invites India, Pak to West Asia peace talks

India and Pakistan are among 50 countries and international organisations that the Bush administration has invited to the West Asia peace conference next week to help Israel and Palestine revive the talks, which collapsed seven years ago.

Rediff News, 22 November 2007

US energy dept keen on bio-mass for India

The Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), US Department of Energy, is in talks with several Indian government departments for creating a bio-mass roadmap for India similar to the one being planned with China. The US department has also begun to undertake pilot projects in West Bengal for setting up green buildings. The US department runs a biomass programme that works with industry, academia and their national laboratory partners for research in biomass feedstocks and conversion technologies.

Economic Times, 22 November 2007

Ansari blames US for abetting terror in West Asia

In a departure from the government line, Vice-President Hamid Ansari on Wednesday accused the US of giving an "impetus to terrorism" through its policies in West Asia. Mr Ansari, who was speaking at a conference on Emerging Security Concerns in West Asia, was highly critical of Washington's policies indicating that it was leading to instability in the region and beyond.

The Statesman, 23 November 2007

Safeguards agreement complex

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 USA has expressed confidence that the Indo-US civil nuclear deal would be implemented. Hours after IAEA director-general Mohammed El-Baradei and Atomic Energy Commission chairman Mr Anil Kakodkar launched the talks, US Ambassador to the UN atomic watchdog Mr Gregory Schultz said once Mr El-Baradei agrees to endorse the safeguards pact, several countries will come forward to back the nuclear deal. Once the India-specific safeguards is approved by the IAEA board then it goes to the Nuclear Suppliers Group for getting exemptions for India for civilian nuclear programme, Mr Schultz said

yesterday.

News Track India, 23 November 2007

Talks with IAEA on - Government Justifies Global Co-operation

In a reply to a question, why Indo-US deal is essential minister of state Prithviraj Chavan said in the Lower House that, India lacks in the resources of uranium technology and fuel and to achieve its demand is essential to enhance global co-operation. Because whatever reserves existed would be exhausted after some time. For country's need and development point of view, the Congress must go ahead with the Indo-US nuclear deal howsoever, and to achieve its farsighted goal should be ready to fight next Lok Sabha election instead of making repeated compromise with the Left.

Daily News and Analysis, 23 November 2007

US spoke to India on Pak nukes after 9/11

The Indian government was aware that the United States wanted to secure Pakistan's nuclear arsenal after the 9/11 terrorist attack on New Yorks World Trade Centre. The United States informed us sometime in October 2001 (after the 9/11 attack) that they were going to talk to Pakistan about the security of its nuclear stockpile, acknowledged Brajesh Mishra who was National Security Adviser to the NDA government. But he denied that the US administration had sought any cooperation from India on this count, either then or later.

Daily Times, 26 November 2007

Chomsky critical of Indo-US nuclear treaty

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.

New Delhi Television, 26 November 2007

India to resume talks with IAEA

Indian negotiators during technical talks with the IAEA officials on India-specific safeguards did not spell out any specific mode of their approach, keeping several veterans on safeguards in Vienna and back in India guessing what would be the modalities that are being discussed. The negotiators are expected to resume their talks with the IAEA officials soon. The first round of official talks ended on Friday. The Indian negotiators comprising diplomats and a technical team appeared to have a difficult job of satisfying the Agency's tough legal team comprising Johan Rautenbach, Director of Legal Affairs and Laura Rockwood, Senior Legal advisor.

Times Of India, 26 November 2007

Go ahead to IAF to participate in Red Flag Exercises

Defence Minister AK Antony on Monday said the Government had given a go ahead to

the IAF to participate in the world's most advanced air combat manoeuvres "Red Flag Exercises" hosted by the US Air Force. In a written reply in Lok Sabha, the Minister said the exercises in which besides the US Air Force a number of other countries including from the NATO alliance will participate would be held at Nellis Air Force Base in August 2008.

Zee News, 27 November 2007

US can be a helpful assistant to India: Govindacharya

Former general secretary of the BJP, K N Govindacharya, once a well known face in party circles has been quite a recluse for some time now. However, he continues to keenly observe political developments in the country and the world... Excerpts: What is your opinion on the Indo-US civil nuke deal? Neither is the deal required nor would it be helpful in its objective. The deal has very little to offer. It is only for power generation, and in terms of power also it would fulfill merely 10% of energy demand. As far as technology is concerned, India has evolved on its own and not at the mercy of US. In fact in the present situation, US needs India more. Therefore India should begin negotiation from a higher pedestal, as this treaty in an indirect way of forcing India towards NPT. India should have made it clear to the US that the Hyde Act cannot be a feature of the deal.

The Hindu, 27 November 2007

U.S. investment in India will go up further, says Attorney

The U.S. investment in India is on the rise over the last few months and will increase further, even as the dollar is getting weaker by the day, U.S. Attorney Michael Kraus said here on Monday. It is cheaper to produce goods in India, but it is expensive to export goods from India as the buyers are not willing to renegotiate the contracted price. The dollar is likely to go down further in the days to come, he told The Hindu.

Indian Express, 27 November 2007

Lok Sabha to debate n-deal tomorrow

The long-awaited discussion on the Indo-US nuclear deal will take place in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. A decision to this effect was taken at a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee on Monday. The debate, as ruled by Speaker Somnath Chatterjee during the last session, would be under Rule 193, which does not entail voting. The debate comes at a time when the opposition of both the Left and Right parties to the deal has lost its momentum.

Rediff News, 28 November 2007

N-deal: Cautious optimism in US govt over Left go ahead

On the eve of the debate in the Indian Parliament on the US-India civilian nuclear agreement, there is cautious optimism in Bush administration circles that with the Left Parties giving a green light for the Indian government to begin negotiations with the International Atomic Energy Agency-which got underway last week-the US-India civilian deal is on track..

Rediff News, 28 November 2007

India backs US-sponsored West Asia peace meet

India has joined Brazil [Images] and South Africa in calling upon the international community to support the US-sponsored Annapolis West Asia peace conference in order to assist the peace dialogue between Israel and Palestine. The representatives of the these three countries met during the conference which began in Washington on Tuesday. Science and Technology Minister Kapil Sibal, who is leading the Indian delegation, met Brazilian and South African Foreign Ministers Amorin and Zuma, at a working lunch, which was hosted by the Brazilian foreign minister.

Daily News and Analysis, 28 November 2007

N-discussion may end in a whimper

The much-awaited discussion on the India-US nuclear deal in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday may be a repeat of another discussion Parliament witnessed exactly a year ago in the winter session of 2006 with parties expected to maintain their respective stands on the deal. Even as Congress managers continued their efforts to persuade the BJP to back the deal, Left leaders reiterated they would not budge from their opposition. If the BJP too sticks to its stand, the debate is likely to end in a predictable whimper. Government managers are trying to wind up the discussion starting Wednesday noon on the same day.

Express India, 28 November 2007

Nuclear deal is backdoor entry for US imperialism

The Indo-US nuclear deal is nothing but the back door entry of American imperialism, said Prof Achin Vanaik of the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi. Prof Vanaik was speaking during a special lecture on the Indo-US nuclear deal, organised jointly by the Panjab University Teachers Association, ICSSR and Critique. The lecture was presided over by Prof Randhir Singh, an eminent scholar and political analyst. Prof Vanaik highlighted three aspects of the deal: the strategic partnership with the US; nuclear weapons manufactured by India; and nuclear power generation to meet her energy needs. He said there were four different responses to the three aspects of the deal.

The Hindu, 28 November 2007

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Sahara Samay, 29 November 2007

SP softens stand on Indo-US Nuke deal

Samajwadi Party today appeared to have softened its stand on the Indo-US nuclear deal, saying going back on the agreement would harm the country's credibility in the global arena. Participating in the debate on the nuclear deal in the Lok Sabha, SP leader Ramgopal Yadav appealed to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to allay apprehensions on the agreement and take the support of his party and Parliament.

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. "Both sides strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and underscored it as a major threat to democracy, pluralism, international peace and security," a statement from the Indian Embassy here said.

Daily Times, 30 November 2007

India asked to end military ties with Iran

As Indian politicians get down this week to make-or-break discussions on the stalled Indo-US nuclear deal, a leading congressman has asked New Delhi to first break economic and military ties with Iran. Edward J Markey, Democratic member from Massachusetts, who is a proponent of the nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), pointed out in a statement that in December 2006 when Congress granted preliminary approval to the US-India nuclear cooperation agreement, it laid down a requirement regarding India's full and active participation in efforts to end Iran's nuclear weapons programme. Instead, India has spent the last year building its relationship with Iran, much to the dismay of US lawmakers, the congressman pointed out.