

The Times of India, 1 October 2007

Myanmar strife: Europe puts moral onus on India

Forty-one days after the protests began in Myanmar and blood once more was spilt on its streets, the talk in European capitals is all about bringing pressure to bear on India to "do something". From the UK PM downwards, there are ever-louder calls for New Delhi to speak out and suffer the financial pain of losing the trust of Myanmar's military junta. New Delhi, it's argued, has a special responsibility as the world's largest democracy, to export its values to its eastern neighbour. Europe believes that forcefully-expressed Indian disapproval would be a powerful antidote to the junta's rising repressiveness.

The Indian Express, 1 October 2007

Sonia Gandhi leaves for New York

New Delhi, September 30: Congress President Sonia Gandhi left for New York to address the United Nations General Assembly on October two, when the international body will celebrate Mahatma Gandhi's birthday as World Non-Violence Day. The United Nations had adopted an Indian resolution earlier this year to declare the day as International Non-Violence Day as a tribute to the Satyagraha movement launched by the Father of the Nation.

The Indo-Asian News Service, 1 October 2007

Indian Air Force enhances strategic reach against China

Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh), Sep 30 (IANS) The Indian Air Force (IAF) has significantly enhanced its strategic reach against China by making fully operational a squadron of frontline Sukhoi Su-30MKI fighters at this sprawling airbase in northern India. Over the next one year, another Su-30MKI squadron will also be made fully operational, along with a similar deployment of the combat jets at Tezpur in Assam. The "buddy-refuelling" will enable them stay in the air for up to a staggering 10 hours at a stretch, an IAF officer told a group of visiting journalists. Buddy-refuelling, a Su-30 tanking up another, "gives us the tactical advantage of refuelling in enemy territory", the officer explained.

Indo-Asian News Service, 3 October 2007

India pitches for UN reforms, backs nuke-free world

New York, Oct 2 (IANS) India has made a fresh pitch for reform of the United Nations and an expansion of the UN Security Council saying the global organisation cannot remain "mired in the realities of the 1940s" if it has to be a cornerstone of evolving international order. New Delhi sought renewed focus on nuclear disarmament and expressed readiness to work for a new global consensus on non-proliferation. "The international system cannot be reordered meaningfully without comprehensively reforming the United Nations," External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee said Monday while participating in the general debate of the 62nd session of the UN general assembly.

The Hindu, 3 October 2007

"Collective failure on universal disarmament"

United Nations: As the United Nations marked Mahatma Gandhi's birthday as the first International Day of Non-violence, Congress president Sonia Gandhi spoke of the international community's "collective failure" to move towards comprehensive universal

disarmament. "It is not the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi that is in question today ... it is whether we have the courage to emulate his preachings and what he lived and died for," Ms. Gandhi said in an address to the 192-member U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday.

Indo-Asian News Service, 3 October 2007

Pranab defends n-deal, growing India-US ties

New York, Oct 2 (IANS) External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee said the India-U.S. nuclear deal will pave the way for lifting of global technology restrictions and stressed that New Delhi's growing strategic ties with Washington will not be at the expense of a third country. Underlining the importance of nuclear energy and cutting-edge technologies for a burgeoning economy like India's, Mukherjee stressed that the nuclear deal will open the doors for high technology trade not only with the US but with the world. "If India is to realise its economic potential, it will also need alternative sources of clean energy. Foremost among them is nuclear energy," Mukherjee said Monday in a talk on India's Foreign Policy and Future India-US Relations at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

Indo-Asian News Service, 3 October 2007

India opposes sanctions, urges Myanmar to probe crackdown

New York, Oct 2 (IANS) India has urged Myanmar to hold an inquiry into violent crackdown on pro-democracy protesters, but cautioned the international community against using sanctions that may end up exacerbating the sufferings of innocent citizens. In remarks that indicated New Delhi's toughening stance at the festering crisis in Myanmar, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee said Monday that the "bloodshed in this situation was unacceptable" even as he exhorted the international community to engage in dialogue, rather than deploy sanctions which he stressed should only be used as a "last resort".

Indo-Asian News Service, 3 October 2007

IAEA chief to visit India next week

New Delhi, Oct 1 (IANS) India will hold informal talks with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Mohammed ElBaradei on a safeguards agreement to operationalise the Indo-US nuclear deal during his visit here next week. During his three-day stay, the IAEA chief will meet Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and visit the Tarapur Atomic plant. But first he will hold talks with the officials of the department of atomic energy, (DAE) after he arrives in Delhi.

The Indian Express, 3 October 2007

India to US: Your banks coming in, you need to allow ours as well

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2: The internal security establishment's over-enthusiasm in claiming that Indian financial institutions are vulnerable to terrorist groups has come back to haunt the Government: six applications from Indian banks, including SBI and ICICI seeking permission to open branches in the US, are pending with the US Treasury department. Government sources said delay in granting permission figured in a meeting between Finance Minister P. Chidambaram and his US counterpart Henry Paulson in New York last month. Chidambaram told the US team that India would have to review its

policy if Indian banks aren't allowed to open branches in the US.

Indo-Asian News Service, 4 October 2007

Musharraf re-election likely to hit peace process

New Delhi, Oct 4 (IANS) The India-Pakistan peace process is likely to slow down as Pakistan's political parties and civil society question the legitimacy of the Saturday election that will give President Pervez Muhsarraaf five more years in power but lead to prolonged instability, experts say. "There will be increasing instability in Pakistan. We have to put up with it. It would mean Pakistan will be preoccupied with its internal problems, leaving it little time for the peace process with India," security analyst K. Subrahmanyam, who heads the Indian government's task force on global strategic developments, told IANS. "There will be no breakthroughs in key issues dogging India-Pakistan relations," he warned.

Indo-Asian News Service, 4 October 2007

India, Philippines to sign 8 pacts, discuss Myanmar

New Delhi, Oct 3 (IANS) India and the Philippines, an influential ASEAN country, will sign eight pacts in areas ranging from counter-terrorism to energy and trade after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh holds talks with Philippines President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo here Friday. Arroyo, during her talks with Manmohan Singh, is also likely to seek India's help in pressing the Myanmar junta towards political reforms.

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Indo-Asian News Service, 4 October 2007

India says Iran has right to pursue civil nuclear programme

Washington, Oct 4 (IANS) Like India, Iran too has the right to pursue a civilian nuclear programme, but with obligations under the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and problems with Tehran should be resolved through talks, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee has suggested. "We do not want another conflagration in our neighbourhood. Therefore, it would be better to resolve the problems through negotiations, however strenuous they may be," Mukherjee said on the American TV show "Charlie Rose Show on PBS" Wednesday.

The Hindu, 4 October 2007

Ties with U.S. not dependent on nuclear deal: Mukherjee

Washington: India-U.S. bilateral ties will not fall apart if the civilian nuclear deal does not move forward, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee has said. "But our relationship--you talked of the 60 years relationship. That means from the very beginning, we have a good relationship with the U.S. Sometimes there have been--in

every relationship, there may be things that may be don't work, but nonetheless, we have good relations from day one," Mr. Mukherjee said on the Charlie Rose Show on PBS. "Therefore, this is not the only matter on which our entire relationship depends. Of course, it is an important milestone, but I do not feel that if this will collapse, or if this will fail ... we'll go back to the negative situation. It's not like that."

The Hindu, 5 October 2007

India seeks release of Suu Kyi

NEW DELHI: For the first time in many years, India has joined the West in seeking release of the pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi but insisted that the tone of a resolution on Myanmar by a United Nations body should have been less minatory.

The Hindu, 5 October 2007

BSF, BDR exchange fire

KOLKATA: The Border Security Force and the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) exchanged fire near the Sidhai border outpost in West Bengal's South Dinajpur district on Wednesday night. The BSF opened fire at a group of people near the zero line between the two countries. However, there were no casualties, BSF's Additional Director General U.K. Bansal told The Hindu on Thursday.

Indo-Asian News Service, 5 October 2007

16 Indian fishermen arrested by Pakistan

Karachi, Oct 5 (IANS) Pakistan's Maritime Security Agency (MSA) has arrested 16 Indian fishermen and impounded four fishing vessels for allegedly fishing in Pakistani waters, Online news agency reported Friday. The MSA ship was on a routine patrol in the Eastern Maritime Region when Indian boats were found fishing allegedly illegally, about 30 nautical miles inside the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Pakistan. Later the arrested fishermen were handed over to police, the agency said.

Indo-Asian News Service, 5 October 2007

Deferred poll erodes Nepal's credibility: India

Kathmandu, Oct 5 (IANS) India Friday said it was disappointed at the repeated postponement of elections in Nepal, and that the deferred November polls eroded Nepal's credibility and affected the process of "democratic transformation" in the country. India's Ministry of External Affairs Friday said, "... (It) erodes credibility and affects the process of democratic transformation and legitimisation in Nepal."

Indo-Asian News Service, 5 October 2007

Narayanan makes secret visit to Afghanistan

New Delhi, Oct 5 (IANS) India's National Security Advisor M.K. Narayanan paid a secret visit to Afghanistan earlier this week for a first hand assessment of the security situation, prompted by the escalating violence and growing influence of the Taliban militia. Informed sources told IANS that Narayanan met his Afghan counterpart Zalmay Rassoul, who reportedly briefed him on developments pertaining to the Taliban build-up on the Pakistan-Afghan border, during the day-long visit. India has expressed concern over the growing violence in Afghanistan and underlined that Pakistan has a key role in

checking the Taliban's resurgence in the war-ravaged country.

Indo-Asian News Service, 8 October 2007

Row deepens over Sri Lankan's death in Tamil Nadu

Chennai/Madurai, Oct 8 (IANS) A diplomatic row between India and Sri Lanka is worsening following Friday's "accidental death" of Canicius Fernando, a Sinhalese activist with a fishermen's group. Colombo is planning to lodge a protest officially. Fernando, 44, was shot dead by prison guard D. Devraj, when he was attempting to enter the Madurai Central Prison from a gate not meant for visitors.

Indo-Asian News Service, 8 October 2007

India sends aid to flood-hit Uganda

New Delhi, Oct 8 (IANS) India will provide an emergency assistance of about \$250,000 to Uganda that has been facing the flood fury in recent months. The floods in northern and eastern parts of Uganda have reportedly killed 20 people and affected 300,000. Devastating floods have lashed over 20 African countries over the last two months, killing over 300 people and affecting at least 1.5 million. They have been described as the worst floods in Africa in the last 30 years.

Indo-Asian News Service, 9 October 2007

US Red Flag drill a while away: IAF

Hindon (Uttar Pradesh), Oct 8 (IANS) The Indian Air Force (IAF) hopes to participate in the prestigious Red Flag war games the US Air Force conducts but it could be a while before this happens, the IAF chief, Air Chief Marshal Fali Homi Major, said Monday. "It's very, very far away. We've just asked for permission (to participate)," Major told reporters on the sidelines of the IAF's platinum jubilee celebrations.

The Times of India, 9 October 2007

N-talks only when Indian govt ready: IAEA chief

NEW DELHI: IAEA chief Mohammad El Baradei on Tuesday expressed confidence on firming up nuclear safeguards agreement with India whenever government here decides to talk. Baradei is currently on a four-day visit to India.

Indo-Asian News Service, 9 October 2007

India to rework defence purchase procedures

New Delhi, Oct 9 (IANS) Responding to suggestions from defence manufacturers, India is to rework its procedures for purchasing military hardware to bring them in line with international best practices, an official said. "We are considering a number of suggestions we have received. At the same time, we don't want to take piecemeal measures. We hope to have the new Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) by the beginning of the (2008-09) fiscal in April," a defence ministry official told IANS.

Indo-Asian News Service, 9 October 2007

India-China war games delayed

New Delhi, Oct 9 (IANS) The first military exercise between the Indian and Chinese armies that was to have been held next month has been delayed since the two countries

have not been able to decide on the dates, officials say. The exercise was to have been held in China with the participation of about 100 soldiers from each side. It was to have been the precursor of larger war games in the coming years.

The Times of India, 10 October 2007

US to support India in getting some steps of N-deal cleared

WASHINGTON: The United States on Wednesday said it would support India's effort in getting some of the steps cleared for finalisation of the Indo-US civil nuclear deal but those steps have to be taken by India. "There are a number of different steps that will need to be taken in order to finally conclude all aspects of this agreement. It's going to be up to the Indian government to go through some of those steps on their own," US State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said.

The Times of India, 10 October 2007

India to sign trade pact with Myanmar

NEW DELHI: Days after it joined the rest of the world in asking for the release of jailed Myanmar opposition leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, India is getting ready to sign a final agreement with Myanmar on the Kaladan multi-modal transport project in the next few weeks. This will be the biggest project in India's eastern periphery connecting Indian ports on the eastern seaboard and Sittwe port in Myanmar as well as through riverine transport and road to Mizoram. It gives India a crucial bypass of Bangladesh in transport, energy and trade links with Myanmar and South-East Asia.

The Hindu, 10 October 2007

Jihad Council truce fails to move Delhi

NEW DELHI: Indian forces in Jammu and Kashmir are unlikely to suspend operations against terror groups despite the dramatic announcement of a three-day unilateral ceasefire by Pakistan-based terror groups, Union Home Ministry officials have said. "We're considering the options," a senior official said, "but do not wish to repeat past mistakes." In December 2000 India responded to an eight-day Hizb ceasefire, terminating offensive operations for five months, but it led to a sharp rise in civilian fatalities.

Indo-Asian News Service, 10 October 2007

PM leaves on two-nation Africa trip Sunday

New Delhi, Oct 9 (IANS) Prime Minister Manmohan Singh goes on a two-nation tour of Africa Sunday, beginning with a trip to Nigeria, Africa's leading oil producer, and ending Oct 18 in South Africa where he will participate in the tri-nation IBSA summit. Manmohan Singh's three-day trip to Nigeria, the first visit by an Indian prime minister to Africa's most populous country in over four decades, will focus on expanding economic, energy and political ties with a country that is a leading player in the African Union and wields much influence in the continent.

Indo-Asian News Service, 10 October 2007

Saran heads for Nepal, India denies plan to send army

New Delhi, Oct 9 (IANS) With the political crisis in Nepal deepening after last week's postponement of crucial elections, former foreign secretary Shyam Saran will go to

Kathmandu Wednesday as India vehemently rebutted speculation that it had any plan to send the army to the Himalayan state.

Indo-Asian News Service, 10 October 2007

India, Singapore decide on joint air exercises

New Delhi, Oct 9 (IANS) India and Singapore Tuesday inked a long-term pact for conducting joint training and exercises between their air forces, an indication of their burgeoning defence ties which will also bolster New Delhi's Look East policy. Tuesday's pact is a forerunner to a five-year defence cooperation agreement between the two countries to permit Singapore to permanently station some of its assets in India and enable its army and air force to exercise regularly in this country.

Indo-Asian News Service, 11 October 2007

India consulting Pakistan on dates for pipeline talks

New Delhi, Oct 10 (IANS) India was consulting with Pakistan to finalise dates for their next bilateral meeting on the tri-nation gas pipeline also involving Iran, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Murli Deora said Wednesday. "All the major issues have been resolved. Only fixing of the transit fee remains to be solved," Srinivasan said. Meanwhile, senior officials of Pakistan and Iran will meet in Islamabad Oct 15 to conclude their bilateral agreement for the gas pipeline.

The Indian Express, 11 October 2007

As India-Iran gas pipe sputters, Turkmenistan plan surges ahead

New Delhi, October 10: The proposal on a gas pipeline from Turkmenistan is making quiet advances over the one planned from Iran with project sponsor Asian Development Bank piloting comprehensive agreements for signing next month. The ADB has proposed to hold the Steering Committee Meeting on November 28-29 at Islamabad to include India in the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan pipeline (TAPI) project, with the four nations signing Heads of Agreement (HoA) and the Gas Pipeline Framework Agreement (GPFA) that would formalize their path ahead.

The Times of India, 11 October 2007

IAEA chief meets PM

NEW DELHI: IAEA chief Mohammad ElBaradei on Thursday met Prime Minister Manmohan Singh here and is understood to have discussed civil nuclear energy issues with him. ElBaradei is in favour of ending the restrictive regime against India in the nuclear field to enable the country meet its increasing energy needs. After meeting External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee on Wednesday, the IAEA Director General said he wanted India to make full use of atomic energy for its growth. India is to sign a safeguards agreement with IAEA to conclude the deal with the US. However, in view of the Left opposition, no formal discussions on the agreement took place during ElBaradei's meetings here.

Indo-Asian News Service, 11 October 2007

N-deal a positive agreement: Italy

New Delhi, Oct 10 (IANS) The India-US civil nuclear deal is a "positive agreement",

Italian Deputy Prime Minister Massimo D'Alema said here Wednesday. "We see this (nuclear deal) as a positive agreement as it can provide verification of the civilian nuclear facilities," D'Alema, also Italy's foreign minister, said. He pointed out that while India's 1998 nuclear tests had not been well received internationally, the geo-political situation had to be constantly assessed anew. "The nuclear test by India was not good news, but now we have to conceive the issue realistically," added D'Alema, who arrived Tuesday on a four-day visit.

Indo-Asian News Service, 11 October 2007

Air power critical for geopolitical balance: Antony

New Delhi, Oct 10 (IANS) Air power has emerged as a dominant factor in maintaining geopolitical and economic balance, Defence Minister A.K. Antony said Wednesday. "Aerospace has reached a critical stage, as it finds increasing application and utility in peacetime, as well as during conflicts," the minister said at the concluding session of an international flight safety seminar organised by the Indian Air Force (IAF). "Aerospace has emerged as one of the most dominant factors in maintaining a balance on the geopolitical and economic fronts," he added.

Indo-Asian News Service, 11 October 2007

India to boost Afghan school system, train teachers

New Delhi, Oct 10 (IANS) A premier Indian educational research organisation will train teachers of Afghanistan and help boost its school system as part of India's efforts to rebuild the war-ravaged country. The 40-member Afghan delegation, headed by Seddiq Weera, a senior policy advisor in the Afghan Education Ministry, consists of teacher educators and academics from Kabul University, Education University of Kabul, Academy of Science and Teacher Education Department of Kabul.

Indo-Asian News Service, 12 October 2007

India seeks early adoption of covenant against terrorism

United Nations, Oct 12 (IANS) India has called for the early adoption of the Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism (CCIT) to provide a solid legal basis for the global fight against terrorism. "We continue to believe that agreement on it is attainable," Nirupam Sen, permanent representative of India to the United Nations, told a UN General Assembly committee meeting Thursday on measures to eliminate international terrorism.

The Indian Express, 12 October 2007

IAEA chief to PM: keen to see you export n-reactors

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 11: Forced to keep the safeguards agreement off the table in his meeting with IAEA Director General Mohammed ElBaradei today, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh took encouragement from the fact that the International Atomic Energy Agency is keen to see India export its 220 MW nuclear reactors to developing countries. At a lunch hosted by the PM, ElBaradei said he would welcome the day when India can export these reactors, as this would present an affordable option for several developing countries seeking nuclear power.

The Hindu, 15 October 2007

Energy tops Manmohan's agenda

ABUJA: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh arrived in Nigeria on Sunday to provide a fresh impetus to diversify India's source of energy. Accompanied by senior officials, Dr. Singh will also discuss closer defence ties and more diversified trade. This is the first bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the country in 45 years. Dr. Singh's visit to mainland Africa since the formation of the United Progressive Alliance government underlines the importance India has begun to attach to this part of the continent to source oil as also engage it in a manner that benefits both sides.

The Hindu, 15 October 2007

Naval Observation Post to come up near Mandapam

RAMANATHAPURAM: As an urgent step to check smuggling activity in the Gulf of Mannar area, the Indian Navy has decided to establish a Naval Observation Post (NOP) at Seeniappa Dharga near Mandapam in Ramanathapuram district. This is the first time that the Navy has come out with a plan to create a facility along the Gulf of Mannar ever since it established Naval Detachments along the Palk Bay during the Indian Peace Keeping Force operations in Sri Lanka. The decision assumes significance following intelligence inputs that smugglers operating from the Palk Bay and the Palk Straits have reportedly shifted their activities to the Gulf of Mannar.

The Times of India, 15 October 2007

India quietly steps up arms aid to Lanka

NEW DELHI: Sri Lankan president Mahinda Rajapakse may publicly say India's "moral support" is all that his country requires to tackle its bloody ethnic strife but behind closed doors, Colombo continues to seek "more" military hardware and software from New Delhi. India, on its part, is not shying away from stepping up arms supplies to Sri Lanka, with the latest example being more automatic 40mm L-70 close range anti-aircraft guns to guard against aerial strikes by LTTE. Playing upon India's fears about China and Pakistan making strategic inroads into Sri Lanka, Colombo has asked New Delhi to supply more air defence weapons and radars, artillery guns, Nishant UAVs and even laser designators for PGMs (precision-guided munitions).

Indo-Asian News Service, 15 October 2007

Norway special envoy to Sri Lanka to visit India

New Delhi, Oct 15 (IANS) Norway's special envoy to Sri Lanka, Jon Hanssen Bauer, is to visit India soon to explore how to take ahead the fractured peace process in the war-hit country. But there are no immediate prospects of fresh peace talks. Bauer will be meeting officials of the external affairs ministry and National Security Adviser M.K. Narayanan to have a personal assessment of what India is thinking vis-a-vis the Sri Lankan conflict.

The Hindu, 16 October 2007

India and Nigeria to forge strategic partnership

Abuja (PTI): India and Nigeria on Monday decided to forge a strategic partnership and broadbase cooperation in several key spheres while intensifying efforts to bolster trade and investment. The 'Abuja Declaration' on strategic partnership, issued after talks

between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Nigerian President Yar'Adua, covers wide range of areas including enhancing cooperation in security, education, trade, economic and science and technology.

The Hindu, 16 October 2007

Manmohan to meet leaders of Brazil, South Africa tomorrow

Pretoria (PTI): Seeking to unlock the potential of the South, leaders from India, Brazil and South Africa will meet here tomorrow to give a new thrust to their trilateral initiative which seeks to take the trade volume to ten billion dollars in the next few years. Meeting under the banner "Second India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Summit", Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, South African President Thabo Mbeki and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva would be looking at ways to make the relationship between the three countries more "tangible".

The Hindu, 16 October 2007

Bush calls up PM

ABJUA (NIGERIA): Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Monday told United States President George W. Bush that there were "certain difficulties" in operationalising the civilian nuclear deal with Washington, according to the Prime Minister's Media Advisor Sanjaya Baru.

The Indian Express, 17 October 2007

Attempts in Pakistan to build radical Sikh environment: NSA

ON BOARD PM'S AIRCRAFT, OCTOBER 16: Concerned over the wave of terror attacks, National Security Advisor M K Narayanan today said that the Government was planning to convene a meeting of Chief Ministers soon to share perspectives, information and discuss the way ahead to combat terror. Speaking to The Indian Express, Narayanan said his assessment from available clues is that "there is no connection between the blasts in Ludhiana, Ajmer and Mecca Masjid (Hyderabad), other than the fact that the ISI's involvement is suspected, that is the common link."

The Hindu, 17 October 2007

India's growth impressive: IMF

Washington: Terming the Indian growth pattern "impressive," the International Monetary Fund has said it does not foresee overheating of the country's economy as long as the current monetary policy is in place and its "independence is strengthened." "[India's] growth has been impressive 9.7 per cent in 2006, 8.9 in 2007 and we are viewing at 8.4 per cent in 2008. That is really an impressive growth pattern," IMF Managing Director Rodrigo de Rato said.

The Times of India, 17 October 2007

India concerned over resource transfer

UNITED NATIONS: Concerned over the growing transfer of resources from the poor to rich countries, India has said creation of an economic and financial environment conducive to development is the need of the hour. Addressing a UN Committee, its delegate Santosh Bagrodia, MP, blamed the policies followed by the Bretton Woods

Institutions (BWI) - the World Bank and the IMF - for reverse flow of resources and called for reforming them to give more voice to the developing nations. "We have repeatedly stressed on the need for urgent reform of the BWIs in order to provide greater legitimacy and increase the effectiveness of these institutions," he said.

Indo-Asian News Service, 17 October 2007

Energy security tops PM's agenda at IBSA summit

Johannesburg, Oct 16 (IANS) Energy security will top the agenda of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in his trilateral meeting with leaders of South Africa and Brazil at the second annual IBSA summit Wednesday. Manmohan Singh, who began his two-day visit to South Africa Tuesday night, will also make a strong pitch for the India-US civil nuclear deal and seek support of Brazil and South Africa, influential members of the 45-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). The government may have put the nuclear deal on hold, but will proactively engage the NSG countries.

The Hindu, 17 October 2007

India seeks total elimination of nuclear weapons

United Nations (PTI): Warning against the possibility of terrorists and non-state actors acquiring atomic weapons, India has sought total elimination of nuclear arms backed by a security system in which states do not feel the need to develop, produce or stockpile them. "India has remained steadfast to the goal of a nuclear weapon-free world, to be achieved through global, verifiable and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament," its delegate Sushma Swaraj told a UN committee.

The Hindu, 17 October 2007

India to seek integration with global civil nuclear community

ABOARD PM'S SPECIAL AIRCRAFT: Despite the nuclear deal with the United States having been virtually put on hold, India said it would continue with its efforts to integrate with the mainstream civil nuclear community. Minister of State for External Affairs Anand Sharma said the government would also scout for alternative energy sources to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels. The alternatives include renewable sources such as wind and solar, bio-fuels and even nuclear based energy.

The Hindu, 17 October 2007

U.S. hopes Delhi will pursue deal at 'appropriate' time

Washington: With India virtually putting the nuclear deal with the United States on hold following the Left parties opposition to it, Washington hopes New Delhi will continue its efforts to implement the agreement "in a time that is appropriate for both sides."

The Hindu, 17 October 2007

India confident of sourcing more crude from Nigeria

ABOARD PM'S SPECIAL AIRCRAFT: New Delhi is confident of sourcing a greater proportion of crude from Nigeria--India's largest trading partner in Africa and the biggest supplier of oil from the region--than from the Middle-East in the near future. This optimism stems from Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's just-concluded visit to Nigeria. Nigeria currently supplies 12 per cent of India's oil imports and the understanding struck

with the Nigerian government will ensure that this rises to 16 per cent in the near future.

Indo-Asian News Service, 17 October 2007

India, Russia to sign fifth generation fighter deal

Moscow, Oct 16 (IANS) India and Russia will sign a pact on jointly developing and producing a fifth generation combat jet even as they overcame a contentious price escalation issue over the purchase of 40 additional Sukhoi Su-30 fighters for the Indian Air Force. "Yes, a protocol on the fifth generation fighter will be inked," said a senior official accompanying Defence Minister A.K. Antony on his four-day official trip to Russia.

Indo-Asian News Service, 18 October 2007

India, Brazil, South Africa aim for free trade, sign seven accords

Johannesburg, Oct 17 (IANS) India, Brazil and South Africa cemented their trilateral cooperation by signing seven agreements here Wednesday and resolved to push for a free trade area, with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh calling for considerably enhancing trade among the three. The seven agreements signed during the daylong IBSA (India, Brazil, South Africa) summit envisage cooperation among the three nations in the areas of public administration and governance, tax administration, arts and culture cooperation, higher education, wind resources, health and medicines and social development.

Indo-Asian News Service, 18 October 2007

IBSA calls for 'fair and acceptable' trade

Pretoria, Oct 17 (IANS) Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Wednesday joined Presidents Lula da Silva of Brazil and Thabo Mbeki of South Africa in calling for a "fair and acceptable" resolution to the Doha Round of trade talks. "We'll work towards a balanced and equitable conclusion of the Doha Round of talks," said Manmohan Singh at a joint interaction with the participants of the second IBSA Summit here. Agriculture remained the key to the successful conclusion of the WTO Doha Round of trade negotiations, the leaders said in a joint statement, calling for the removal of long-standing distortions and restrictions in international agricultural trade, such as subsidies and trade barriers that affect the agricultural exports and domestic production in developing countries.

The Hindu, 18 October 2007

India for expanding defence ties with Russia: Antony

MOSCOW: India is committed to further upgrading and expanding defence ties with Russia, but is concerned over delays in Russian supplies and problems in product support, according to Defence Minister A.K. Antony. "Russia is the only country with which we have elaborate institutionalised arrangements," he said. The Defence Minister said Russia was and would remain India's biggest defence partner. Mr. Antony said: "The larger part of the inventory of our armed forces is of Russian origin and this is likely to remain so for many years to come. India wants not only to maintain but to strengthen defence ties with Russia."

Indo-Asian News Service, 18 October 2007

India-Bangladesh train goes off the rails

New Delhi, Oct 18 (IANS) A proposal to start an India-Bangladesh train service is fast losing steam. An Indian official who took part in the two-day inter-governmental railway meeting here last week said that Bangladesh has indicated its disinterest in going ahead with the passenger train service. "They clearly told us that they are not interested in starting the train service any more," said the government official. Bangladesh officials, however deny that they have given up the project, which was named Moitree (friendship) Express. But, they admit, they had not even included the issue in the agenda for last week's meeting, which was over reforming freight train services.

Indo-Asian News Service, 18 October 2007

CPI-M lauds Chinese communists for economic growth

New Delhi, Oct 18 (IANS) Indian communist parties have congratulated the Communist Party of China (CPC), which is holding its 17th National Congress to choose a new leadership and policies for the country, for China's economic growth, and stressed that stronger ties between the two countries would bring peace and stability in the region. In separate messages, Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) and the Communist Party of India (CPI) have lauded the Chinese government for "impressive economic advances" and the "tremendous achievements in various fields".

Indo-Asian News Service, 23 October 2007

UN envoy discusses Myanmar with PM, Pranab

New Delhi, Oct 23 (IANS) UN special envoy Ibrahim Gambari Tuesday met Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee to discuss ways to exert pressure on Myanmar's military junta following its crackdown on pro-democracy protests in the country. Gambari, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's special advisor, said he was "very encouraged" by the Indian government's undertaking to do everything possible to influence the Myanmar regime to go faster on the path to democracy.

The Times of India, 23 October 2007

India committed to Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline: FM

WASHINGTON: India is committed to the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline said Finance Minister P Chidambaram, who is in Washington the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The issue of Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline was discussed when Chidambaram met the Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Davood Danesh Jafari.

Indo-Asian News Service, 23 October 2007

India, Iran move beyond pipeline dream, turn to power

New Delhi, Oct 22 (IANS) With the future of the proposed tri-nation gas pipeline uncertain due to political and economic factors, India and Iran are exploring co-production and transmission of power through an underwater cable. The two countries are actively engaged in discussions on the joint production of power and the modus operandi for its transmission, an official source said. Officials of the two countries plan to carry out a feasibility study of the proposal.

Indo-Asian News Service, 23 October 2007

India shares terror evidence with Pakistan

New Delhi, Oct 22 (IANS) India Monday shared with Pakistan evidence of the alleged complicity of the latter's intelligence agencies in the Hyderabad bomb blasts and brought up the involvement of terrorists based in Pakistan in terror attacks in Ludhiana and Ajmer. The two countries also discussed modalities of exchanging information on terrorist attacks in each other's territory as they ended the second meeting of their joint anti-terror mechanism here.

The Indian Express, 23 October 2007

Stop lecturing us, India tells rich nations

Washington, October 23: The time has come for the developed world to attend to its own problems, and stop lecturing emerging economies about what is right and what is wrong, FM P Chidambaram said on Monday. "For too long the advanced economies have told the developing economies that this is right and this is wrong," Chidambaram said on the sidelines of the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. India has been one of the most vocal emerging countries pushing for changes in the IMF to reflect the rising economic strength of the developing world.

The Hindu, 23 October 2007

Ties with India have never been so good: Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Foreign Ministry says the country's relations with India have never been better but it will be unrealistic to expect quick results from a peace process aimed at resolving complex issues. "The composite dialogue process is a very positive process. Pakistan-India relations have never been so good. It's there for all of us to see," spokesman Mohammed Sadiq said at the weekly briefing here on Monday.

Indo-Asian News Service, 23 October 2007

Delhi to host SAARC police conference Tuesday

New Delhi, Oct 22 (IANS) Home secretaries of the eight South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries, including its newest member Afghanistan, will discuss cooperation in police matters at a three-day conference here beginning Tuesday.

Indo-Asian News Service, 23 October 2007

Security tightened along Tamil Nadu coast

New Delhi, Oct 22 (IANS) Security has been tightened along the Tamil Nadu coast after Tamil Tiger rebels staged a daring air and ground attack on a major Sri Lankan air base before dawn Monday, leaving five airmen and 10 guerrillas dead, an official here said. "We are constantly on the alert and have raised this a notch," the official added. "It's not that we fear an attack. They (the Tamil Tigers) would never dare to do so. It's just that some of them might try to slip in (to Indian territory) to escape reprisals," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Indo-Asian News Service, 26 October 2007

India's military might key to its growing clout: Antony

New Delhi, Oct 25 (IANS) The Indian military must always be combat ready, Defence Minister A.K. Antony said Thursday, hours after stating that the country's military might was key to its growing global clout. With India likely to become the world's third largest economy by 2050, this would lead to a rapid growth in the country's energy needs and pose new challenges to keep the sea-lanes open, he said while addressing a conference of the Indian Navy's top commanders here Thursday. "To effectively meet these challenges, we must evolve strategies that deny or reduce the freedom of our enemies to exploit the maritime environment. To achieve this objective, the services have to be developed into balanced and combat-ready forces," Antony said.

The Hindu, 26 October 2007

India, China making progress on border talks: Pranab

Harbin (China): India and China have established a Working Group to prepare a framework for the settlement of the boundary issue. External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee made the announcement at a press conference here on Thursday. The 11th round of talks between the Special Representatives of India and China was successful and they decided to set up a Working Group to prepare the framework, Mr. Mukherjee said after a 50-minute meeting with his Chinese counterpart, Yang Jiechi.

The Hindu, 26 October 2007

US hopes India not close to rejecting nuclear deal

Silicon Valley (PTI): Amid stiff opposition from the Left to the Indo-US nuclear deal, the US has hoped India was not close to rejecting the pact and said it would be a "smart" move to get it back to the Congress for final voting in January next before the presidential elections. "One message that the US is articulating very clearly to India was that this is an opportunity that doesn't come around often. They ought to take that opportunity," US Under Secretary for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns said.

The Indian Express, 26 October 2007

SEBI makes it easier for FIIs to enter through the front door

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 25: Sticking to its original proposal to slap curbs on participatory notes (PNs or P-Notes), the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) today approved new rules for investment by foreign investors that will force them to come through "the front door" and reduce the flow of unregulated funds into the stock markets.

Indo-Asian News Service, 27 October 2007

India alert to incursions along China border: Antony

New Delhi, Oct 26 (IANS) Incursions are occurring along the border with China but India is "alert" to the issue and raises it at various fora, Defence Minister A.K. Antony said Friday. "This is happening everywhere. The problem is that a large part of the border is not demarcated," he told reporters. "But we are very much alert and there is no question of compromising our stand," Antony maintained.

Indo-Asian News Service, 27 October 2007

India to deepen contacts with foreign militaries

New Delhi, Oct 26 (IANS) Sending out a powerful message that politics should not be mixed with the armed forces, the Indian military is set to intensify its engagement with its foreign counterparts despite objections of the Left parties that support the government. On Sunday, Indian and US Special Forces will begin two weeks long anti-terror war games at Chaubatia in Uttarkhand. The Indian Air Force (IAF) also hopes to participate in the prestigious Red Flag exercise at the Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada next year.

The Hindu, 29 October 2007

Iran hopes to finalise pipeline contract on Tuesday

DUBAI: Iran is hoping that its discussions with Pakistani officials that are likely to be held in Tehran on Tuesday would result in the finalisation of the contract for the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline.

Indo-Asian News Service, 29 October 2007

US hopes India would not go for Iran pipeline

Washington, Oct 26 (IANS) The US is hoping that India would not move forward with the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project as Washington has imposed more sanctions on Tehran citing links to terrorism and weapons proliferation. "We think at a time when the world should be imposing greater discipline on its interactions with (Iranian) companies and financial institutions and the Iranian government more broadly, that this is not the right path forward." David McCormick, treasury undersecretary for international affairs, said.

The Hindu, 29 October 2007

Merkel visit to focus on Asia policy

BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel will arrive here on Monday amidst a growing realisation in Berlin about the absence of an Asia strategy that encompasses three main spheres -- economic, geopolitical and security-related and global interests such as climate protection and protection of resources -- to redefine its position in a world shaped by "ever decreasing" Euro-Atlantic influences.

The Indian Express, 29 October 2007

'India should proceed with nuclear deal'

Mumbai, October 29: US Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson on Sunday urged India to proceed with a controversial US civilian nuclear deal and to take a leadership role in stalled global trade talks by opening more of its economy. Paulson said he received a warm reception on the subject of the stalled Doha round of trade talks after meeting with Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee, a senior Commerce and Industry Department official and West Bengal business leaders in Kolkata.

Indo-Asian News Service, 29 October 2007

France optimistic about N-deal, business with India

New Delhi, Oct 28 (IANS) In spite of bleak forecasts, France is optimistic that the Indo-US nuclear deal, which promises to bring in billions of dollars for the French nuclear industry, will "eventually happen".

Indo-Asian News Service, 29 October 2007

Sonia meets top Chinese official

Beijing, Oct 27 (Xinhua) Congress president Sonia Gandhi Saturday met Liu Qi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC). The two stressed strengthening of exchanges between the two countries, especially through young people of each country visiting the other.

The Indian Express, 29 October 2007

Sonia meets Shanghai's new Communist Party chief

Shanghai, October 29: Congress Party President Sonia Gandhi has become the first foreign leader to meet with the new Communist Party Secretary of Shanghai, China's gleaming commercial hub. Sonia called on Yu Zhengsheng, the new Communist Party secretary of the Shanghai Municipal Committee, who was appointed only on Saturday to the high-ranking post.

Indo-Asian News Service, 30 October 2007

India, Germany to sign economic, defence pacts

New Delhi, Oct 29 (IANS) India and Germany will Tuesday sign a slew of agreements in areas ranging from trade and energy to defence and technology, cementing strategic and economic ties between one of Asia's growing economies and Europe's industrial giant. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who arrives here Monday night on her first visit to India, will hold talks on a broad range of bilateral, regional and global issues including UN reforms, climate change, energy security and cooperation in the Doha round of multilateral trade negotiations.

The Indian Express, 30 October 2007

N-deal: Rice calls Pranab, US rules out renegotiation

Washington, October 29: US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Monday spoke to External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee over telephone on bilateral nuclear deal as Washington ruled out renegotiation of the agreement. During the conversation, Rice conveyed to Mukherjee that the US was keen on moving ahead with the civilian nuclear deal.

Indo-Asian News Service, 30 October 2007

Lee Kuan Yew on India visit

New Delhi, Oct 30 (IANS) Ahead of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Singapore next month, the city state's Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew is currently in India on a five-day visit during which he will meet with Singh and United Progressive Alliance (UPA) chairperson Sonia Gandhi. Lee, who was the first prime minister of Singapore for 31 years from 1959, arrived in Mumbai Sunday night for a weeklong visit.

Indo-Asian News Service, 30 October 2007

British army chief's visit aimed at ramping ties

New Delhi, Oct 29 (IANS) British Army chief Gen. Richard Dannatt arrived here Monday on a six-day visit that is aimed at ramping up military-to-military ties between the two countries. During his visit, Dannatt, who is designated Chief of General Staff,

will interact with the senior military and civilian defence hierarchy to "discuss defence related issues and prospects for future cooperation between our two armies", a defence ministry statement said.

The Times of India, 31 October 2007

Nepal PM meets Indian envoy

KATHMANDU: Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala on Wednesday held consultations on the political deadlock in Nepal with Indian envoy Shiv Shankar Mukherjee, as his government prepared for a possible vote on the Maoist proposal in the parliament. Koirala met the Indian Ambassador to Nepal and discussed the political crisis arising from the Maoists demand for a parliamentary vote on declaring Nepal a republic and adopting a proportional electoral system for the country, sources close to the Prime Minister said.

The Hindu, 31 October 2007

India, Germany to double bilateral trade

NEW DELHI: India and Germany on Tuesday signed a joint statement on furthering their strategic partnership through new initiatives in trade and investment, energy, science and technology, education and culture and defence. Having achieved the bilateral trade target of Euros 10 billion two years ahead of schedule, they resolved to double it in another five years. The two sides also expressed their "firm support" for each other's candidatures for permanent seats in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and chalked out plans for closer cooperation in the defence arena, with a technological approach underpinning the symmetry of purpose in this direction.

Indo-Asian News Service, 31 October 2007

India, Russia could sign n-plant pact in November

New Delhi, Oct 30 (IANS) Russia could sign an agreement with India next month to build four more reactors for the Kudankulam nuclear power plant in Tamil Nadu, a senior Russian official said here Tuesday. "The issue is being discussed" and the agreement could be signed during Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Moscow Nov 11-12 for his annual summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin, acting security council secretary Valentin Sobolev told reporters here.

The Hindu, 31 October 2007

BSF-BDR consensus on exchanging terror information

DHAKA: India and Bangladesh have reached a consensus on exchanging terror information and handing over criminals hiding in each other's territory as the five-day directors-general level talks between the two neighbours ended. In the Dhaka meeting, claimed to have been held in a cordial atmosphere, Bangladesh has again denied the Indian charge that its insurgents are getting sanctuary in Bangladesh.

The Hindu, 31 October 2007

British Army chief for push to military ties

NEW DELHI: British Army chief General Richard Dannatt, here on a six-day visit, on Tuesday met Defence Secretary Vijay Singh, Chief of the Army Staff General Deepak

Kapoor, Navy Vice-Chief Vice Admiral Nirmal Verma and Air Force Vice-Chief Air Marshal B. N. Gokhale and discussed steps to rebuild military ties. "The visit reconfirms the mutual trust and friendship between the two armies and will provide the necessary fillip to our on-going army-to-army cooperation," said a Defence Ministry release.

The Hindu, 31 October 2007

Our destinies are linked: Kissinger

NEW DELHI: In a changing international order that requires global solutions, the fundamental interests of the United States and India run parallel; their destinies are linked and they must work together towards lasting world peace, the former U.S. Secretary of State, Dr Henry Kissinger, said here on Tuesday. Delivering the keynote address at a meeting organised by Aspen Institute India on "The Emerging Power Centres of the World," he said the centre of gravity had shifted from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean and the Pacific, and China and India were the new emerging powers, economically and politically.