

International Herald Tribune, 1 October 2007

Draft plan reached on North Korean nuclear plants

BEIJING: Talks on dismantling the North Korean nuclear program broke off Sunday for a two-day recess so that delegates could consult their governments on a draft plan and timetable for disabling the North's main reactor and fuel plants. The draft agreed upon after four days of six-nation talks here was expected to be made public after the recess, negotiators said without revealing further details.

Indian Express, 1 October 2007

ISRO looks at n-power to take it deep into universe

Hyderabad, September 30: As India's space programme gets into its second phase, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is looking to harness nuclear energy to propel its future rockets which will explore distant planets and areas beyond the solar system. While the Chandrayan-1 mission to moon, and the likely mission to Mars, can be done by using conventional fuel, ISRO is realising that going beyond that would require developing nuclear technology to propel the rockets. Though such an endeavour in outer space is not going to happen in the near future, ISRO wants to start early and be ready with the technology in time.

The Hindu, 1 October 2007

France to help India at NSG

Paris: France is keen on a civilian nuclear cooperation with India and has promised garnering support for New Delhi at the Nuclear Suppliers Group, according to senior French government officials. India was a responsible country and grant of waiver to it by the 45-nation NSG would strengthen the global non-proliferation regime, instead of weakening the system as feared in some quarters, they said. The officials said an India-France nuclear agreement would be on a different scale than the India-United States one. It would involve transfer of crucial reprocessing technology.

Times of India, 1 October 2007

Israel's plea to NSG may hit India

New Delhi: India would be "unhappy" if Israel pushes for a "criteria-based approach" to nuclear commerce with the NSG, to coincide with the India-US nuclear deal. A report said Israel had presented papers to the 45-member NSG asking for a "criteria-based approach" to opening nuclear commerce with non-NPT states. Israel is regarded as an undeclared nuclear weapons state by the international community and, like India, is outside the NPT net.

Times of India, 1 October 2007

UPA to pitch fresh nuke argument

NEW DELHI: Reconciled to the Left's uncompromising position on the India-US nuclear deal, the UPA government will try another tack at persuasion during the next joint mechanism meeting scheduled for October 5. Though nobody in the government seriously believes the arguments will swing the Left, they are determined to pitch fresh points. The government will, this time, stress the importance of the IAEA safeguards agreement as a measure independent of India's relations with the US. Government

sources said the Left will be told this is crucial in order to get an exemption from the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). Such an exemption will free up India's ability to source nuclear fuel, equipment, reactors and technology from the rest of the world, not merely the US.

Reuters, 1 October 2007

Iran says will work with IAEA to avert sanctions

TEHRAN (Reuters) - Iran will continue its cooperation with the U.N. atomic watchdog to defuse a row over its nuclear programme, an Iranian official said on Sunday, accusing some Western states of trying to disrupt the process. Six world powers agreed on Friday to delay a vote on tougher U.N. sanctions on Iran until late November at the earliest, to wait for reports by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and European Union negotiator Javier Solana. The United States and France had sought swifter action to step up economic and political pressure on Iran for refusing to halt uranium enrichment, which the West suspects is aimed at developing nuclear arms. Iran denies those charges.

Korea Times, 2 October 2007

China Likely to Announce Joint Statement on NK Nuclear Issue

China was widely expected to release a joint statement Tuesday of six nations in talks over North Korea's nuclear program, amid signs that the countries would approve what their negotiators called a substantive roadmap to disable the North's nuclear facilities within the year. The agreement was reached Sunday, but the latest round of the talks was recessed for two days and the statement was not made public as some of the delegations, including that of the United States, needed to take the statement back to their capitals for further study, according to the Chinese chairman of the talks, Wu Dawei.

Xinhua News, 2 October 2007

U.S. reiterates diplomacy on Iran's nuclear issue

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1 (Xinhua) -- The United States reiterated Monday that it will seek a diplomatic solution to Iran's nuclear issue after the New Yorker magazine reported that the Bush administration had shifted emphasis in possible war with Iran. "The president has said that he believes there is a diplomatic solution that we can use to solve the Iranian problem. And that's why we're working with our allies to get there," White House press secretary Dana Perino said. Perino also said U.S. President George W. Bush will not "take any option off the table."

The Independent, 2 October 2007

US plan for air strikes on Iran 'backed by Brown'

A plan by the Bush administration to launch surgical strikes on Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps has won the support of Gordon Brown, according to a US report, although a presidential "execute order" required for such an operation has yet to be issued. The report in The New Yorker magazine by the journalist Seymour Hersh states that the White House has concluded that many of its problems in Iraq are the responsibility of Tehran. But rather than conduct an unpopular all-out assault on Iran's nuclear facilities, the US is planning limited air strikes, arguing that they are needed to defend soldiers in Iraq.

Hindustan Times, 2 October 2007

We will not compromise on N-deal: Jyoti Basu

The Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) will not compromise its stance on the India-US nuclear deal, veteran party leader Jyoti Basu said on Saturday. "There is no question of compromising on our stand on the nuclear deal. We have already made our stand very clear on the issue," Basu told reporters after emerging from the central committee meeting at the state party headquarters on the Alimuddin Street. The four-day CPI-M politburo and central committee meeting began in Kolkata on Friday with the India-US nuclear deal figuring high on the agenda.

Hindustan Times, 2 October 2007

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Hindustan Times, 2 October 2007

Centre defends N-deal ahead of crucial meeting

As the Left parties tightened the noose over the UPA on the Indo-US civil nuclear deal, the government strongly came out defending the accord ahead of the crucial meeting between the sides on the issue. Strong remarks have emanated from Left quarters warning the government not to operationalise the deal without taking into consideration the findings of the Left-UPA Committee, which is scheduled to meet in New Delhi on October 5.

Hindustan Times, 2 October 2007

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Al Jazeera, 3 October 2007

US backs six-party nuclear deal

The United States has given its approval to a tentative deal in which North Korea will disclose all its nuclear programmes and disable its Yongbyon plant. Sean McCormack, the state department spokesman, said on Tuesday: "We have conveyed to the Chinese government our approval for the draft statement." Separately, the chief US negotiator with North Korea said he expected China to announce the deal, hammered out over the

weekend in talks among the two Koreas, China, Japan, Russia and the US, in the next day or two.

Associated Press, 3 October 2007

Obama Urges Eliminating Nuclear Weapons

CHICAGO (AP) Democrat Barack Obama called for ridding the world of nuclear weapons Tuesday and offered his early opposition to the Iraq war as evidence of sound judgment that trumps his lack of Washington experience. Obama argued that U.S. policy is still focused on the defunct Soviet Union instead of combatting the nuclear threat from rogue nations and terrorists. The United States shouldn't unilaterally disarm, he said, but it must work with other nations to phase out weapons and control atomic material.

"Here's what I'll say as president: 'America seeks a world in which there are no nuclear weapons,'" Obama said.

The Hindu, 3 October 2007

Put nuclear deal on hold, says CPI

NEW DELHI: The Communist Party of India (CPI) on Tuesday said there was no change in the stand of the Left parties on the India-United States nuclear deal, and that differences remained between the United Progressive Alliance and the Left parties on the issue. Referring to United Progressive Alliance chairperson Sonia Gandhi's statement in New York on Tuesday that some time a great deal is made in [the] public domain of the opinion expressed by our friends, who support our coalition, but this should not alarm you, CPI national secretary D. Raja said she was candid enough to admit the differences.

International Herald Tribune, 3 October 2007

Japan to back plan to disable North Korea's nuclear facilities

TOKYO: Japan is expected to endorse a plan aimed at disabling North Korea's nuclear facilities by the end of the year, a government official said Wednesday. Envoys participating in disarmament talks, which also include the U.S., China, Russia and the two Koreas, tentatively agreed in Beijing on Sunday on the plan, which paves the way for a framework for the denuclearization process. Japan was to accept the contents of the document and an official announcement was expected soon, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said on customary condition of anonymity, without elaborating.

Times of India, 3 October 2007

Iran must provide nuke programme details by November: ElBaradei

LONDON: Iran must provide key details on its nuclear programme by late November or its unwillingness to work with the international community will backfire, the UN's nuclear chief said in an interview published on Wednesday. Speaking to the Financial Times from Vienna, Mohamed ElBaradei said that the two key issues that required clarification before he delivered a report to the governing body of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) next month had to do with Iran's research capabilities and its nuclear weaponisation capacity.

Tehran Times, 3 October 2007

Iran's nuclear dossier a criterion for changing world system

TEHRAN -- Today Iran's nuclear dossier is considered an important factor in changing the current world system from a bipolar system into a multi-polar one, international law expert Yusef Molayi said here on Sunday. On 5+1 group decision to delay a third sanctions resolution against Iran, Molayi said the political and economic interests of its five permanent members are the main determinant of the body's decisions. He noted that imposing new sanctions against Iran depends on various factors.

International Herald Tribune, 4 October 2007

North Koreans agree to disable nuclear facilities

WASHINGTON: North Korea has agreed to disable all of its nuclear facilities by the end of the year, in a move that the Bush administration hailed as a diplomatic victory that could serve as a model for how to deal with Iran, which has defied American efforts to rein in its nuclear ambitions. The North Korea agreement, announced in Beijing on Wednesday, sets out the first specific timetable for the North to disclose all its nuclear programs and disable all facilities in return for 950,000 metric tons of fuel oil or its equivalent in economic aid.

Xinhua News, 4 October 2007

Bush: U.S. might negotiate with Iran

WASHINGTON, Oct. 3 (Xinhua) -- U.S. President George W. Bush said Wednesday that the United States might enter into negotiations with Iran as long as Iran is willing to abandon its nuclear programs. After a speech in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and answering questions from the audience, Bush said, "If your question is 'will you ever sit down with them (Iranians),' we've proven we would with North Korea, and the answer is 'yeah, just so long as we can achieve something, so long as we are able to get our objective.'

Voice of America, 4 October 2007

Iran's Foreign Minister Says US Threats Not Helpful to Resolving Nuclear Issue

Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Motaki says there have always been two options for resolving the crisis surrounding his country's nuclear activities - cooperation and confrontation. "We did - and we do - prefer the first option," he said. He told reporters Wednesday at the United Nations that Tehran is cooperating with the International Atomic Energy Agency to answer what he said are "six or seven sets" of questions about its nuclear program, adding that the IAEA is the appropriate forum for such a discussion.

The Hindu, 4 October 2007

Our stand on nuclear deal is clear: Karat

BHOPAL: Communist Party of India (Marxist) general secretary Prakash Karat told the media here on Wednesday that Congress president Sonia Gandhi was free to state that the Left's concerns on the India-U.S. nuclear agreement were no cause for alarm. (Speaking in New York, Ms. Gandhi had also said that India was adhering to the democratic process and that the India-U.S. nuclear deal was still within the realm of discussion.) Asked whether the CPI(M) would support the deal if it was altered to accommodate its concerns, Mr. Karat said the deal would be discussed at the next meeting of the UPA-Left Committee on Friday.

Xinhua News, 4 October 2007

Iran summons French envoy to protest at nuclear remarks

TEHRAN, Oct. 3 (Xinhua) -- Iran's Foreign Ministry summoned France's charge d'affaires in Tehran on Wednesday to protest at French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner's statements about Iran's nuclear program, local Fars news agency reported. "The Iranian Foreign Ministry's second office for West European Affairs summoned French charge d'affaires Jean Graebing...to voice the Islamic Republic's strong protest at the intensification of the negative tone of Paris against Tehran," Fars said.

The Times of India, 5 October 2007

US Under Secretary Burns optimistic on Indo-US nuclear deal

WASHINGTON: A top Bush administration official has expressed hope that the civilian nuclear deal with India will be done and that Americans, in about twenty years, would be able to look at India as being one of its two or three most important relationships in the world. "The nuclear deal is done. We hope that will happen. I think Americans might be able to say 20 years from now, India is one of our two or three most important partners in the world," Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns said in an interview.

Reuters, 5 October 2007

Little hope over key talks on nuclear row

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - India's political crisis over a controversial nuclear deal with the United States could enter a decisive phase on Friday as the government and its communist allies hold talks to resolve their bitter row. A joint panel formed to try and end the face-off will make a fresh attempt to convince communist leaders who have threatened to end their support to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's coalition if it pursues the historic pact.

Economic Times, 5 October 2007

Left ups its pitch, finds fault with UPA's foreign policy now

NEW DELHI: As the nuclear stand-off in the ruling alliance heads toward a confrontation, the Left on Thursday said it cannot be expected to back a government that pursues the NDA governments foreign policy. On the eve of the crucial UPA-Left panel meeting on the nuclear deal, the Leftists have enlarged the conflict by finding fault with an entire gamut of foreign policy issues, making any reconciliation virtually impossible.

International Herald Tribune, 5 October 2007

IAEA chief urges patience with Iran, warns against confrontations

CAIRO, Egypt: The head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency Mohamed ElBaradei urged the world to give Iran more time to prove its nuclear intentions are peaceful, warning in an interview published Thursday that attempts to isolate Tehran are boosting its hard-liners. ElBaradei has come under sharp U.S. criticism over moves that Washington sees as appeasing Iran particularly a deal he negotiated for Tehran to explain outstanding questions over its nuclear program.

The Age, 5 October 2007

North Korea nuclear decision 'positive'

Australia has joined the international chorus backing North Korea's decision to disable its key nuclear reactors. Foreign Minister Alexander Downer says he believes Pyongyang's decision to shut down the Yongbyon reactor and other nuclear facilities is a positive step towards denuclearising the Korean peninsula. US President George W Bush hailed the move as helping "secure the future peace and prosperity of the north-east Asian region". After the latest round of six-party talks on its nuclear ambitions, Pyongyang agreed to disable its three main nuclear facilities at Yongbyon this year, in return for energy aid and a promise that efforts will be made to take North Korea off a terrorism blacklist.

International Herald Tribune, 6 October 2007

Ahmadinejad says Iran won't negotiate over its "nuclear rights"

TEHRAN, Iran: President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad vowed that Iran will not negotiate over its "nuclear rights" but said the government was prepared to answer questions from the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency. The comments Friday came as French diplomatic officials said Iran is set to run almost 3,000 centrifuges by the end of the month, nearing the threshold for industrial-scale uranium enrichment. Ahmadinejad said Iran has already achieved proficiency in the whole nuclear fuel cycle, from extracting uranium ore to enriching it, and that Tehran has removed any hurdles in the way of its nuclear progress.

Times of India, 6 October 2007

It Helps To Talk

The presidents of the two Koreas, North and South, have met for the first time in seven years and signed a wide-ranging agreement. The pact, inked at the end of a three-day summit in Pyongyang, calls for a peace treaty to replace the Korean War ceasefire dating 1953. This is a significant step forward in improving ties between two countries that are technically still at war. The agreement skirts the nuclear issue and sceptics have been quick to point out that reconciliatory efforts are meaningless as long as North Korea is in possession of the nuke. But after years of deadlock -- precipitated by North Korea pulling out of the NPT in 2003 -- there has been some progress on that front as well.

Indian Express, 6 October 2007

N-deal or No Deal, UPA starts the countdown

New Delhi, October 5: External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee told the Left today that given the calendar for the nuclear deal, the government would soon have to begin negotiations with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the India-specific safeguards agreement. But the Left stuck to its stand of no negotiation with the IAEA until the political committee submits its report and Parliament debates the deal. It later claimed it got the impression that the Government may not go ahead with the IAEA talks, making the next round of meeting slated for October 9 crucial.

The Hindu, 6 October 2007

Informal talks are on with IAEA, Govt. tells Left

New Delhi, Oct. 6 (PTI): The UPA-Left Committee on Indo-US Civil Nuclear Cooperation had one more meeting on Friday, when it was conveyed to the supporting parties that informal consultations were on with the IAEA over the safeguards agreement.

This was the third meeting of the committee set up to go into the concerns and reservations expressed by the Left parties who are opposed to the deal. The next meeting will be held on October 9 instead of on October 14 as scheduled earlier in view of Eid. Left sources said they strongly opposed the Government going ahead with operationalising the deal, including any negotiations with the IAEA for reaching a safeguards agreement.

The Hindu, 6 October 2007

UPA-Left talks on nuclear deal continue

NEW DELHI: The government has held no formal talks yet with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on India specific safeguards, the United Progressive Alliance-Left Committee on the India-United States nuclear agreement was told at its fourth meeting here on Friday. After the two-hour meeting, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee said: The meeting carried forward the earlier discussions on the basis of inputs provided by both sides. It was held in a cordial atmosphere. The next meeting is slated for October 9, he said.

International Herald Tribune, 7 October 2007

North Korea shows firm commitment to nuclear deal, South Korean ex-minister says

SEOUL, South Korea: North Korea's chief nuclear negotiator expressed a strong commitment to disabling the country's nuclear facilities by the year's end, an ex-government minister from the South said Saturday. Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan said Pyongyang wants to disable the Yongbyon nuclear complex "as quickly as possible" under an Oct. 3 agreement with the U.S. and the North's neighbor countries, according to Jeong Se-hyun, a former unification minister. South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun visited Pyongyang last week for a summit meeting with his North Korean counterpart, Kim Jong Il the first such meeting for seven years.

International Herald Tribune, 7 October 2007

Iran welcomes call by Bush for talks but rejects suspending nuclear program

TEHRAN, Iran: Iran on Sunday welcomed a call by U.S. President George W. Bush for talks between Washington and Tehran but said it would not give up its disputed nuclear program as a condition for sitting down with the United States. Iran's comments come less than a week after Bush told a group of businessmen and women in Pennsylvania that he would negotiate with Iran if it suspended its nuclear program something Iran has repeatedly refused to do. Bush also made similar comments in an interview aired Friday on Al-Arabiya TV. "Iran is ready for talks in a just, unconditional manner with mutual respect," said Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini.

The Hindu, 7 October 2007

Indo-US nuclear deal 'rather complicated'

Beijing, Oct. 7 (PTI): A veteran Chinese diplomat has described the Indo-US nuclear deal as "detrimental" to global nuclear non-proliferation regime which could impact the settlement of the Korean and Iranian nuclear issues as well as the Middle East situation. "China is fully aware that India is in dire need of energy for its economic development,"

former Chinese Ambassador to India, Zhou Gang, told PTI here while describing the Indo-US nuclear deal as "rather complicated." Zhou, who was the Chinese Ambassador in New Delhi when India conducted the nuclear tests in 1998 citing apparent China threat, said India should first overcome some "obstacles" to the nuclear deal, including opposition from within the country.

Times of India, 7 October 2007

N-deal: Indian-Americans to lobby with Left, BJP

NEW DELHI: A delegation of Indian-Americans, who lobbied hard in the US in favour of the Indo-US civil nuclear deal, will hold discussions later this month with the Left parties, who continue to be at loggerheads with the UPA government on the agreement. A 10-member delegation of Indo-American political activists led by United States India Political Action Committee (USINPAC) will meet the Indian leadership across the political spectrum, including the BJP, the Left parties and the Third Front.

The Hindu, 7 October 2007

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NEW DELHI: The government has held no formal talks yet with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on India specific safeguards, the United Progressive Alliance-Left Committee on the India-United States nuclear agreement was told at its fourth meeting here on Friday. After the two-hour meeting, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee said: The meeting carried forward the earlier discussions on the basis of inputs provided by both sides. It was held in a cordial atmosphere. The next meeting is slated for October 9, he said. Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader Sitaram Yechury said the Left parties gave a note on the implications of the nuclear deal on India's foreign policy and security matters.

The Times of India, 7 October 2007

PIL filed against Indo-US nuclear deal in Bombay HC

MUMBAI: A city-based lawyer has filed a PIL in the Bombay High Court against the 123 Agreement between India and United States on civilian nuclear cooperation. Petitioner M V Holmaggi has sought "an interpretation of the bilateral agreement, and an assurance from the Union government that it would not harm the country's interests." Holmaggi is the former President of city-civil court Bar Association in Mumbai. He has also made the American Consulate a party to the PIL.

International Herald Tribune, 8 October 2007

South Korean official says China might join talks declaring Korean War's end

SEOUL, South Korea: China might join a regional summit to formally declare the end of the Korean War, a South Korean official said, amid speculation that Beijing would not get involved in the process. China, the U.S. and North Korea were signatories to the cease-fire on the Korean peninsula in 1953. There has never been a formal treaty to end the war. South Korea which never signed the armistice that halted the three years of fighting has suggested a process for declaring the war's end. It could be a prelude to a formal peace treaty involving all the cease-fire agreement signatories.

The Hindu, 8 October 2007

Sonia defends nuclear deal

Jhajjar (Haryana): Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Sunday defended the India-U.S. nuclear deal and said that elements opposed to the countrys progress were enemies not only of the Congress but also of the nation. We must understand that such elements are not only the enemies of the Congress but they are also enemies of progress and development. We have to give them a strong and befitting reply, she told a public meeting at Jharli village after laying the foundation of a power plant.

The Hindu, 8 October 2007

CPI(M) Polit Bureau to meet soon on nuclear deal

New Delhi, Oct. 8 (PTI): Against the backdrop of Congress chief Sonia Gandhi's sharp attack on Left parties yesterday, the CPI(M) Politbureau will meet here soon to take an "appropriate decision" if the talks between Left parties and the UPA fail to end the logjam over Indo-US nuclear deal. The party central committee had in its meeting in Kolkata last week authorised the Politbureau to take an "appropriate decision" if the UPA government went ahead with operationalising the nuclear deal.

Reuters, 8 October 2007

Iran holds more talks with U.N. over nuclear work

TEHRAN (Reuters) - Iran and U.N. nuclear experts will hold fresh round of talks in the Islamic state this week aimed at clarifying aspects of the country's disputed nuclear programme, a foreign ministry spokesman said on Sunday. Iran agreed with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on August 21 to explain the scope of its nuclear programme, which the West fears is a cover for building a bomb. Iran says its atomic work is aimed at generating electricity.

Voice of America, 8 October 2007

Iran to Hold Talks With IAEA Tuesday

Iran says it will hold another round of talks with U.N. nuclear experts this week to answer questions about its disputed nuclear program. Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini said Sunday the talks with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will take place Tuesday in Tehran. He says the two sides will discuss Iranian plans to develop advanced centrifuges that enrich uranium more efficiently than Iran's current technology.

The Statesman, 8 October 2007

Amid nuclear deadlock, IAEA chief arrives

New Delhi, Oct. 7: Amid persisting differences between the government and its Left allies, IAEA chief Mohammed ElBaradei comes to India Monday on a four-day visit for informal talks that could set the stage for negotiations with the UN atomic agency on a crucial safeguards agreement. Mr ElBaradei's visit coincides with the crucial meeting of the joint mechanism formed by the ruling United Progressive Alliance (UPA) and its Left allies to resolve their fundamental differences over the India-US nuclear deal, which will be held Tuesday.

International Herald Tribune, 8 October 2007

North Korea shows firm commitment to nuclear deal, South Korean ex-minister says

SEOUL, South Korea: North Korea's chief nuclear negotiator expressed a strong commitment to disabling the country's nuclear facilities by the year's end, an ex-government minister from the South said Saturday. Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan said Pyongyang wants to disable the Yongbyon nuclear complex "as quickly as possible" under an Oct. 3 agreement with the U.S. and the North's neighbor countries, according to Jeong Se-hyun, a former unification minister. South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun visited Pyongyang last week for a summit meeting with his North Korean counterpart, Kim Jong Il the first such meeting for seven years.

Hindustan Times, 8 October 2007

North-South on the centre-stage

It would be na'ive to read too much into developments in the Korean peninsula where the leaders of North and South Korea have held what's being hailed as a historic summit. President Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea and Kim Jong Il of the North signed a joint declaration in Pyongyang last Thursday to initiate a series of economic and political steps to end the North's isolation in the world. A major objective of the declaration only the second since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War is apparently to commit both Seoul and Pyongyang to seek a permanent peace treaty. In the absence of such a formal compact, the two Koreas are, technically, still at war.

The Korea Times, 8 October 2007

Denuclearization: So Far, So Good

HONOLULU _ Good news from Beijing! The joint declaration from the recently concluded round of six-party talks points to a significant step forward, provided Pyongyang follows through as promised with a significant series of denuclearization steps between now and the end of the year. As has often been the trend in the talks, however, the most critical issues seem to have been kicked down the road and remain subject to further deliberation. The Sept. 27-30 round of talks ended with a sense of anxiety as the participants reported that they needed to bring the proposed agreement on "Second Phase Actions for the Implementation of the Joint Statement" back home for final review and approval, raising the specter of renewed stonewalling by North Korea.

International Herald Tribune, 9 October 2007

Delegation from U.N nuclear agency arrives in Iran for talks

TEHRAN, Iran: A high-ranking delegation from the U.N.'s nuclear agency arrived here Tuesday for talks with Iran on the country's disputed nuclear program, state media reported. The discussions are the latest attempt by the International Atomic Energy Agency to address outstanding questions on a program that many Western countries believe is cover for weapons development, but Iran insists is focused on power generation. "The talks will be technical and take two to three days," the official Islamic Republic News Agency quoted Iran's envoy to the IAEA, Ali Asghar Soltanieh, as saying.

Taipei Times, 9 October 2007

N Korea may be slow to scrap existing nukes

North Korea will quickly scrap all its nuclear programs, South Korea predicted yesterday on the eve of the first anniversary of the communist state's atomic weapons test that shocked the world. But analysts cautioned that despite dramatic progress over the past year, the toughest negotiations -- to persuade the North to give up its plutonium stockpiles and actual atomic weapons -- still lie ahead. "I am confident that the North Korean nuclear issue will be settled completely and quickly because the six-party talks have produced an advanced accord, reaffirmed by the leaders of both Koreas," South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun said in a speech to parliament.

The Hindu, 9 October 2007

CPI questions Sonia's idea of development

MUMBAI: Communist Party of India MP Gurudas Dasgupta on Monday attacked Congress president Sonia Gandhi for her statement that opposing the India- United States nuclear deal was tantamount to opposing development. He questioned her idea of development, and quoted reports and statistics to show that the majority of Indians were poor and marginalised. Referring to the opposition to the nuclear deal, Ms. Gandhi said at a public meeting in Haryana on Sunday: We must understand that such elements are not only the enemies of the Congress, but they are also enemies of progress and development. We have to give them a strong and befitting reply.

BBC News, 9 October 2007

Japan extends N Korea sanctions

Japan has extended economic sanctions on North Korea, citing a lack of progress in a row over Japanese nationals abducted by Pyongyang. The measures - which ban imports from North Korea and visits by its ships - will continue for another six months. A top official said Japan was seeking advances on both the abduction and nuclear issues. The move comes exactly a year after North Korea carried out its first nuclear test, on 9 October 2006. Since then, Pyongyang has agreed to end its nuclear programme in return for millions of dollars worth of aid. It has closed its main Yongbyon reactor and last week committed to a timetable for disclosing and dismantling all its nuclear facilities by the end of the year.

The Hindu, 9 October 2007

Nuclear deal: Supreme Court rejects PIL

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed at the admission stage a public interest litigation petition to restrain the Union Government from executing the India-U.S. nuclear deal without Parliaments approval. As it was a policy matter, the court would not interfere with it, a Bench comprising Chief Justice K.G. Balakrishnan and Justices R.V. Raveendran and V.S. Sirpurkar told petitioner M.N. Ramamurthy of Mumbai. When the petitioner asked it to give reasons for dismissing the petition, the Bench said: We do not give reasons. It is the discretion of the court to entertain a petition."

Associated Press, 10 October 2007

Nuclear Deal Threatens India Government

NEW DELHI (AP) In the new capitalist India, old-line communists are playing the spoiler, threatening to bring down the government over a nuclear energy deal with the United States. The deepening political crisis over the pact came into sharp focus this week with the chief of the U.N. atomic watchdog agency in India. Mohamed ElBaradei, whose International Atomic Energy Agency must weigh in on the pact, said Tuesday he was ready to discuss the agreement whenever Indian officials wished. But "the Indian government will have to take a decision" on when to start negotiations, he said. It's a decision on which India's political future rests, and one that looks increasingly likely to lead to early elections.

Voice of America, 10 October 2007

Indian Government, Communists Meet on US Nuclear Deal

Political tensions eased as India's ruling Congress party and its communist allies met Tuesday to discuss a controversial nuclear energy deal with the United States. The two sides did not come to an agreement, but vowed to meet again on October 22 to discuss the communists' opposition to India participating in the deal. The pact reverses 30 years of a U.S. ban on nuclear trade with India. The agreement gives India access to American nuclear fuel and equipment to help it meet soaring energy needs, even though India has tested nuclear weapons and has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Reuters, 10 October 2007

Unrepentant North Korea marks "miracle" nuclear test

SEOUL (Reuters) - North Korea on Tuesday marked the first anniversary of the nuclear test that made it globally ostracized and the target of painful sanctions by calling it a "great miracle" for all Koreans. The chest-thumping tone of the article in the Rodong Sinmun daily is unlikely to give much cheer to regional powers who last week announced an agreement with the hermit state to disable the nuclear plant it has used to make material for atomic bombs.

Economic Times, 10 October 2007

Left is turning Right in its bid to block the nuclear deal

NEW DELHI: The Left parties's use of the BJP's decision to put the contentious issues of Ram Mandir, Article 370 and Uniform Civil Code in the freezer for the sake of the NDA, to drive home the point that the Congress too should put the nuclear deal on the back burner for running the coalition has raised a few eyebrows. The Communists who take a strong view of the BJP's ideological position on these subjects and supported the Congress-led UPA from outside in order to keep the communal BJP out of power seemed to have no qualms about admitting that saffron party had done a good job of running a coalition government for six years by skirting issues that were bound to ruffle feathers.

The Hindu, 10 October 2007

Nuclear deal, not polls, our agenda: Left

NEW DELHI: The Left parties said on Monday their agenda was the India-U.S. civilian nuclear deal and not mid-term elections and destabilisation of the government. At a meeting here, the four Left parties reviewed the political situation and the discussions

held earlier in the day at a meeting of the UPA-Left committee on the nuclear deal. In the evening, the Congress core committee also met at Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's residence.

Indian Express, 10 October 2007

UPA gets safeguards, allows Left to tie its hands on n-deal

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 9: Almost a month after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had dared the Left to withdraw support over the Indo-US nuclear deal, the UPA Government today gave in to Left pressure and agreed to go slow on its operationalisation. It deferred its plan to make a formal request to the International Atomic Energy Agency to discuss India-specific safeguards. The turnaround on the part of the Government came a day after CPM leaders Prakash Karat and Sitaram Yechury called on UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi asking her to take a political decision and delay the operationalisation of the deal adding that, otherwise, the Left would be forced to withdraw support.

Al Jazeera, 10 October 2007

France and Russia 'closer' on Iran

The French president says talks with his Russian counterpart have brought them closer to common ground on the issue of Iran's nuclear programme. "On Iran, I have the impression that our positions have firmly moved closer together," Nicolas Sarkozy said after a three-hour meeting with Vladimir Putin late on Tuesday. "There is a very clear convergence of views on the analysis of the state of Iranian nuclear research," he added.

ABC News, 11 October 2007

No evidence of Iranian nuclear bomb plan: Putin

Russian President Vladimir Putin says there is no evidence that Iran is trying to build a nuclear weapon. His comments come after talks in the Kremlin with his French counterpart, Nicolas Sarkozy. The question of Iran's nuclear program has been a point of disagreement between Russia and the West. France is pushing for tighter sanctions against Iran, but it needs Russia's support on the UN security council, and Russia has been reluctant to give that. After meeting Mr Putin, Mr Sarkozy said the positions of the two countries had moved closer together.

Xinhua News, 11 October 2007

Putin, Sarkozy meet on Iran nuclear issue in Moscow

BEIJING, Oct. 10 (Xinhuanet) -- Russian President Vladimir Putin said he did not believe Iran was trying to build a nuclear bomb after meeting with visiting French President Nicolas Sarkozy in Moscow Wednesday. "We do not have information that Iran is trying to create a nuclear weapon. We operate on the principle that Iran does not have those plans," Putin said after the end of the talks with Sarkozy who was in Moscow visiting, according to media reports. "We agreed that Iran is taking steps" to cooperate with international demands, Putin told a joint news conference in Moscow Wednesday with French President Sarkozy. Putin said work to bring Iran to cooperate was going on at the United Nations, adding "we agreed that this will go on in the future."

The Statesman, 11 October 2007

Koreas move forward

After a break of seven years, summit meetings between the leaders of North and South Korea have been resumed. President Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea has paid a three-day visit to Pyongyang for talks with his counterpart, Chairman Kim Jong-il of North Korea. Almost simultaneously as it happened, the six-party talks in which both these countries and four others have been taking part crossed another hurdle on the path to the negotiated de-nuclearisation of North Korea. Thus the trends in the Far East, so often the cause of tension and alarm, are currently hopeful and encouraging. The journey of President Roh from South to North was very carefully choreographed. The President will demit office in just a few months and his approval ratings have slipped badly. Hence the purpose and utility of his visit came in for much skeptical analysis, with his critics expressing the view that in a bid to burnish his image and assure his legacy he might make unwarranted concessions to the ancient adversary.

Hindustan Times, 11 October 2007

IAEA pact a matter of procedure: ElBaradei

Mohammed ElBaradei, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said here on Wednesday that there was nothing peculiar or significant about an India-specific safeguards agreement. The implication was that such an agreement would not be complicated, nor would it take much time. Coming out of a meeting with External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee in South Block, ElBaradei said, It is a standard procedure. India has already signed four safeguards agreements with the IAEA in the past, another set would not be difficult to negotiate, he added.

Economic Times, 11 October 2007

The nuclear deal

Jawaharlal Nehru had famously talked about Bhakra Nangal Dam as one of the temples of modern India. Besides aiding the Green revolution, the Bhakra dam gave north India much needed power supply. How would the original visionary of modern India have responded to the nuclear deal? We feel he would have used the nuclear deal to obtain technologies which would drive self-sufficiency in energy and other critical sectors such as space, defence and nanotechnology. The essence of the 123 agreement is not only access to nuclear-related technologies but the ending of the technology denial regime in place since the first Pokharan blast in 1974. In that sense the Congress party would do well to locate the deal squarely in the Nehruvian paradigm.

Times of India, 11 October 2007

Pranab, ElBaradei skirt N-issue

NEW DELHI: Amid intense speculation about the fate of India's safeguards agreement with the IAEA, Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee skirted the nuclear deal issue in his talks with IAEA chief Mohammed ElBaradei. Instead, he stressed the importance of nuclear energy from the point of view of energy security and climate change. This was agreed by Baradei. Talking to the media later, Baradei said it was important for India to "regularise" its relations with the nuclear community. He favoured an end to India's nuclear isolation to enable the country sustain its high economic growth rate.

The Hindu, 11 October 2007

Manmohan, Sonia failed to implement CMP

Bhubaneswar (PTI): Holding Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Congress president Sonia Gandhi responsible for pushing the country towards a possible snap poll, CPI(M) Polit Bureau member K Varadharajan said Left parties had differences of opinion with Centre on several issues including Indo-US nuclear deal. "Not Indo-US nuclear deal alone, we have differences of opinion on issues like delay in framing rules for the tribal rights, 33 per cent reservation of seats for women, curtailing of import and many other," Varadharajan told reporters here. He said the Left parties did not want a mid-term election. "But it is the chairperson of the UPA and prime minister who failed to implement the Common Minimum Programme in letter and spirit."

Times of India, 12 October 2007

Russia's actions show suspicion over Iran nuclear programme: Rice

SHANNON: US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said that Russia has shown it is concerned about Iran's nuclear ambitions, even though its president said Moscow has no proof that Tehran is seeking the bomb. "I think that concern was seen for instance in Russia's offer to Iran to enrich and reprocess (uranium) on Russian territory ... in a joint venture and to bring back any spent fuel so that the fuel cycle would not be available to Iran," Rice told reporters on a flight to Russia. "And I think there is a reason for that. And it is suspicion about Iran's intentions," she said.

Reuters, 12 October 2007

Iran says atomic talks with IAEA "satisfactory"

TEHRAN (Reuters) - Iran and the U.N. atomic watchdog ended three days of "satisfactory" talks on Thursday aimed at clearing up suspicions about Iranian nuclear activity and will continue discussions next week, an Iranian official said. The talks were part of a plan Iran agreed to in August to explain past nuclear work it kept secret for 18 years, raising suspicions of an illicit bid for atom bombs. Tehran, which stonewalled investigators from the International Atomic Energy Agency for years, is to provide answers in phases by the end of the year.

Voice of America, 12 October 2007

U.S.- India Nuclear Deal Faces New Challenges

The Bush Administration introduced the landmark nuclear deal with India in July 2005. It would give India access to U.S. technology necessary to build the most advanced nuclear power plants. Analysts say the deal is also symbolic of a growing strategic partnership between the United States and India, one that could act as a counterweight to China's rising global influence. India's communist parties say the treaty undermines India's nuclear program by denying India's right to conduct tests. The communists argue that this prohibition would make India strategically subservient to the United States. They add that India would lose a measure of independence in its foreign policy.

Hindustan Times, 12 October 2007

Safeguards agreement is a non-issue, says ElBaradei

The International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei believes that an

India-specific safeguards agreement is a non-issue. This, at a time when the Left is threatening to bring down the UPA government on this very issue. This is a standard procedure that we usually do. We have four of them with India I was surprised to see the focus on the safeguards agreement. Safeguards agreement is standard procedure, he said in an exclusive interview to the Hindustan Times on Thursday. ElBaradei, who will speak at the annual HT Leadership Summit on Friday, said, However, having said all that, whether and when the Government will go ahead to operationalise the deal, as we call it here, is a matter, obviously, for the Government to decide.

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. Its learnt that 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. He identified this as one of the major gains from India integrating with the global nuclear system.

BBC News, 12 October 2007

US nuclear team lands in N Korea

A US-led team of experts has arrived in North Korea to oversee the dismantling of the country's nuclear programme. They are due to map out a plan for disabling the reactor at Yongbyon, which US officials believed capable of producing weapons-grade plutonium. Pyongyang has agreed to shut its main facilities and give complete details of its nuclear programme by 31 December. The agreement came after negotiations last month in Beijing involving China, the US, Japan, Russia and the Koreans. The experts, led by Sung Kim of the US state department, landed in Pyongyang on a flight from Beijing on Thursday.

The Times, UK, 13 October 2007

Nuclear deal in jeopardy after coalition bows to communists

Indias landmark nuclear deal with the United States was in jeopardy last night after the Government indicated that it was unwilling to sacrifice the countrys ruling coalition and force early elections. The communist parties that back the Government have threatened repeatedly to withdraw their support over the deal, prompting widespread talk of a snap poll next year instead of in 2009. Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister, told a conference in Delhi that he would continue to try to persuade the communists to back what he called an honourable deal that is good for India and good for the world. But both he and Sonia Gandhi, the Congress Party leader, emphasised that their priority was to see out the Governments current term rather than to force the deal through at any cost.

Voice of America, 13 October 2007

Indian PM: Row Over Nuclear Pact Will Not Spark Early Elections

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh says he does not expect to call for early

elections, despite a political clash over a controversial nuclear pact with the United States. The pact would allow India to receive nuclear fuel and technology from the U.S., ending a three-decade ban. But India's communists have threatened to pull out of the government over the deal, saying it would undermine the country's nuclear program. Speaking at a conference in New Delhi Friday, Mr. Singh said the agreement is "an honorable deal" that is good for India and the world. The prime minister says he hopes to reach an accord with the communists in order to save the India-U.S. pact.

Times of India, 13 October 2007

Sonia, PM rule out early polls, freeze nuclear deal

NEW DELHI: A day after The Times of India's October 11 lead story, 'UPA develops cold feet on N-deal', both Sonia Gandhi and the Prime Minister all but confirmed that the nuclear agreement with the US has been pushed to the backburner and that saving the government is of paramount importance. In the showdown with the Left, there's little doubt that the Congress-led UPA government has blinked. Singh, the architect of the deal, acknowledged as much when he said at a function in the capital on Friday, "We are not a single-issue government. If the deal does not come through, it will be a disappointment. But in life, one has to live with certain disappointments and move on."

RIA Novosti, 13 October 2007

Putin to support Iran Six policy on Tehran

MOSCOW, October 12 (RIA Novosti) - Russian President Vladimir Putin will back the shared position of the six international mediators on Iran's nuclear program during his visit to Tehran next week, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said. "President Putin stressed during today's morning meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and [Defense Secretary] Robert Gates that in the course of his visit to Iran he would continue the current line of work with the Iranian leadership, which reflects the collective position of the [Iran] Six and the UN Security Council," Lavrov said.

New York Times, 14 October 2007

Analysts Find Israel Struck a Nuclear Project Inside Syria

Israel's air attack on Syria last month was directed against a site that Israeli and American intelligence analysts judged was a partly constructed nuclear reactor, apparently modeled on one North Korea has used to create its stockpile of nuclear weapons fuel, according to American and foreign officials with access to the intelligence reports.

Voice of America, 14 October 2007

North Korean Official to Visit Syria, Prompting Nuclear Concerns

North Korean media say a top official is planning to visit Syria, heightening suspicions that the two countries are cooperating on a secret nuclear program. In a brief statement Saturday, the official North Korean Central News Agency said the speaker of North Korea's parliament, Choe Thae Bok, has left for a trip that will take him to Italy and Syria. The report gave no other details. In September, U.S. media reports said Pyongyang has secretly offered nuclear cooperation to Syria, and that the two nations are working on some sort of nuclear facility. Both have denied the allegations.

Economic Times, 14 October 2007

L&T plans to enter nuclear power sector

MUMBAI: Engineering and construction major Larsen and Toubro (L&T) is planning to enter the nuclear power sector, a top company official has said. "We are looking forward to enter the nuclear sector and working on nuclear projects. We are waiting to see how the sector opens up," Whole-time Director and President of Machinery and Industrial Projects Division of L&T J P Nayak told reporters here. The company has the know-how and would get into manufacturing boilers, turbines and breeding of nuclear reactors, he said.

Hindustan Times, 14 October 2007

Nuclear deal or no deal?

Let me be simple and straightforward. If you want to understand the future of the Indo-US nuclear deal you need to consider four critical facts. The analysis that follows is distilled from conversations with Left leaders, in particular the CPIs AB Bardhan. First, the reason why the Left is adamant the government must not initiate formal talks with the IAEA is because this is the last point at which they can stop the deal. Once it sails or sneaks past the Agency there is no further intervention required by the Indian government.

Times of India, 15 October 2007

N-deal is not on, govt will tell US soon

ABUJA (NIGERIA): This is the final confirmation, if any were needed, that the UPA government has put the nuclear deal on hold in favour of keeping the government alive. Top government sources said India will soon formally tell the US that it will not be able to take the next step on the nuclear deal. The sources said that the UPA government, in the aftermath of the October 9 meeting with the Left parties, will convey to the US that it will not be approaching the IAEA for a safeguards agreement.

The Telegraph, 15 October 2007

Nuclear detour, the untold story

Contrary to the general perception, there is not even any slowdown in the operationalisation of the deal based on political considerations. According to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) sources in Vienna, India has concluded that it wants to put off signing an additional protocol and safeguards agreements with the IAEA. In informal discussions, Indians in charge of operationalising the deal have told IAEA officials that they will sign these two documents only after the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) finds a way to allow its members to engage in nuclear commerce with India followed by an absolute certainty that the US Congress will vote for the 123 Agreement successfully negotiated between Washington and New Delhi.

Times of India, 15 October 2007

Nuclear double standards

The India-US civil nuclear cooperation deal is as contentious within India as it has been controversial in the US and the world. The two negotiating parties appear to have achieved the miraculous feat of caving in too much to the other side. There are good - but

not conclusive: statesmen rarely deal in certainties, just varying degrees of probability - economic, environmental, foreign policy and strategic arguments to support the deal from India's point of view. There are also sound commercial, strategic and political benefits from the perspective of US national interests. The most troubling question is whether these are outweighed by the environmental risks (of nuclear power) and arms control reverses (with respect to nuclear weapons) in the common, international interest.

Times of India, 15 October 2007

Deal 'paused' only to be revived later

NEW DELHI: The nuclear deal is dead. Long live the nuclear deal. As the import of PM Manmohan Singh and Congress chief Sonia Gandhis statements on Friday sink in, the initial reactions ran on expected lines: India would miss the nuclear bus (as the PM warned, not too long ago); we would become the laughing stock of the world, and Indias international standing would be robbed of its trademark authority. Lets take a deep breath. Yes, India and the US were on track to complete the fastest civil nuclear deal between two countries ever, ending a long-standing technology-denial regime against India. Somewhere in the middle of 2008, the US government will cease to be able to push crucial legislation through the Congress.

Economic Times, 15 October 2007

Nuke retreat leaves Cong red-faced

NEW DELHI: For the Congress, the climbdown on the Indo-US civil nuclear deal in the face of determined resistance from the Left has come as a major embarrassment, particularly since the party and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh were striking an aggressive note on the issue. This is the second major loss of face for the Congress, which was similarly forced by the Left to abandon its short-listed nominees for the post of President. The latest Left veto has added insult to the partys wounded pride. The immediate fallout will be a systematically slowing down of its projected preparations for possible Lok Sabha mid-term polls, with focus now being shifted to just Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat elections in November-December.

Reuters, 15 October 2007

N. Korea beefs up guard at nuclear test site: report

SEOUL (Reuters) - North Korea has increased security around a site where it conducted a nuclear test last year, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported on Sunday. "Intelligence information was obtained that guards were being reinforced at the nuclear test site, along with (additional fencing)," it quoted an unnamed South Korean government source as saying. "South Korea and U.S. authorities are keeping a close watch on the area and analysing the North's intentions." But the source dismissed the likelihood of a second test at the Gilju site in North Hamkyung province, citing Pyongyang's pledge to the international community to disable its nuclear facilities.

Associated Press, 15 October 2007

Putin to Visit Iran Amid Nuclear Tension

MOSCOW (AP)When President Vladimir Putin visits Tehran this week, he will be closely watched for any sign he has moved closer to launching the nuclear reactor Russia

is building for Iran. Russia has resisted the U.S. push for stronger sanctions against Tehran and strongly warned Washington against using force in its standoff with Iran over its nuclear program. But Moscow's position is carefully hedged. It has delayed completing the plant, Iran's first, and is urging the country to comply with international controls on its nuclear activities. Any show of support for Iran, such as a pledge by Putin to quickly complete the power plant, could embolden Iran and further cloud Russia's relations with the West.

Xinhua News, 16 October 2007

Merkel, Putin reiterate diplomatic dialogue in resolving Iran's nuclear issue

BERLIN, Oct. 15 (Xinhua) -- German Chancellor Angela Merkel and visiting Russian President Vladimir Putin reiterated Monday in Wiesbaden of Germany that they hoped the Iran's nuclear issue could be resolved through diplomatic dialogue. "It is not possible without dialogue with the Iranian government and people," Putin told a press conference after he met with Merkel in Wiesbaden. Putin cited the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula as a supporting example, saying that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) decided to abandon its nuclear program after international dialogues.

Reuters, 16 October 2007

UN watchdog asks Syria about "undeclared" atom plant

VIENNA, Oct 15 (Reuters) - The U.N. nuclear watchdog did not know about any undeclared atomic plant in Syria and has asked Damascus about information that such a site was targeted by an Israeli air strike, a spokeswoman said on Monday. Citing unidentified U.S. and foreign officials with access to intelligence reports, the New York Times said on Sunday the nuclear reactor was partially built and apparently modelled on one in North Korea used for stockpiling atomic bomb fuel. Israel confirmed earlier this month that it had carried out a Sept. 6 air strike on Syria, a major foe, but has not described the target. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said the target was an unused military building.

Reuters, 16 October 2007

India's Singh, Bush discuss troubled nuclear deal

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh discussed the U.S.-India nuclear cooperation deal on Monday amid signs the controversial pact is in political trouble in India. The two leaders who signed the nuclear agreement in July 2005 spoke by telephone in a conversation that also covered world trade talks and the crackdown on pro-democracy activists in military-ruled Myanmar, National Security Council spokesman Gordon Johndroe said in a statement.

Washington Post, 16 October 2007

Nuclear Deal With India May Be Near Collapse

A controversial nuclear deal between the United States and India appears close to collapse after the Indian prime minister told President Bush on Monday that "certain difficulties" will prevent India from moving forward on the pact for the foreseeable future. The main obstacle does not involve the specific terms of the agreement, but rather India's internal politics, including fears from leftist parties that India is moving too close

to the United States, according to officials and experts familiar with the deal. Besieged over the past two months by growing opposition to nuclear energy cooperation with the United States, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh indicated over the weekend that he would rather save his coalition government than the nuclear pact.

International Herald Tribune, 16 October 2007

France fails to sway EU counterparts on new Iran sanctions strategy

LUXEMBOURG: European Union nations failed to agree Monday on new sanctions against Iran meant to get Tehran to halt part of its nuclear program that European and other nations fear could be used to make atomic weapons. An effort by French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner to get the 27-nation EU to push ahead with more sanctions outside of the United Nations failed to get widespread support, diplomats said. But after an EU foreign ministers meeting, Kouchner said France may take additional punitive measures against Tehran on its own if the U.N. Security Council failed to take new measures before the end of the year.

Asia Times, 16 October 2007

India's Congress party backs off nuclear pact

NEW DELHI - India's Congress-led federal government has blinked on the Indo-US nuclear deal. The left-wing coalition partners, who are opposed to the pact and threatened to withdraw support, have had their way and without their support in Parliament the government would have collapsed. The Indo-US nuclear deal seeks to allow India access to civilian nuclear power technology without having to adhere to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Given the unpredictable way that matters have evolved over the nuclear issue over the past, it is still possible that the government may yet make a last ditch charge to seal the deal at international forums such as the International Atomic Energy Agency or the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

Economic Times, 16 October 2007

Nuclear energy cleaner, says US official

NEW DELHI: As the Indo-US nuclear deal appears to have been put on hold, a top American official today pushed for nuclear energy, saying it was a zero emission source of electricity. "Nuclear energy is the zero emission energy source of electricity," James L Connaughton, the Chairman of the Council on Environment Quality, told reporters today. Connaughton, who was appointed by US President George W Bush on June 18, 2001 to the top post after his name was unanimously cleared by the Senate, was here to attend the second ministerial meeting of the Asia Pacific Partnership for Clean Development and Climate, a voluntary grouping of the US, Australia, South Korea, China, Japan, India and Canada.

Economic Times, 17 October 2007

Differences not limited to any single issue: CPI

NEW DELHI: The Left on Tuesday said Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who claimed that the UPA is not a single-issue government, should walk the talk and address issues other than the nuclear deal. Keeping up its threatening tone, the CPI mounted pressure on the government to implement "aam admi measures" and take steps to contain price.

While welcoming the decision to put behind the Indo-US nuclear deal, CPI general secretary A B Bardhan said the danger to the government remained as long as price rise continued to affect people and that the Left could review its support to the government if appropriate steps are not taken to contain it.

Hindustan Times, 17 October 2007

Indo-US nuclear deal: it's dead or in deep freeze?

The Left parties on Tuesday were awaiting a formal communication from the UPA about the government's decision on not initiating talks with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on the India-US civil nuclear deal. They said whether the deal has been put on hold or not would be clear only when the UPA-Left political committee, set up to resolve differences on the agreement, meets on October 22. Till then, there was no question of assuming the deal was dead or merely suspended temporarily, they said.

Associated Press, 17 October 2007

US says nuclear deal with India 'not dead'

WASHINGTON (AFP) The United States still thinks a landmark nuclear accord with India can be salvaged even though Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh admits facing trouble pushing the controversial agreement within his coalition government. "It's not dead," White House spokesman Tony Fratto said after Singh explained to President George W. Bush that "certain difficulties" had arisen in implementing the India-US civilian nuclear cooperation agreement. Singh, who had been pushing for the conclusion of the deal as his key foreign policy achievement, conveyed the message to Bush during a phone conversation late Monday.

The Telegraph, 17 October 2007

India admits US nuclear deal stalled

The Indian government has all but admitted defeat in its attempts to complete a controversial nuclear deal with the United States because of resistance by Left-wing members of the coalition to closer ties with Washington. Manmohan Singh, the prime minister, who had been pushing for the deal as his key foreign policy achievement, conveyed the message to President George W Bush during a phone conversation late on Monday, an Indian government spokesman said yesterday.

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. Sidestepping questions on whether the nuclear deal had been put on hold, the Minister said that putting an end to the country's isolation from global civil nuclear trade was "in supreme national interest."

The Times, UK, 17 October 2007

Vladimir Putin pledges to complete Iranian nuclear reactor

President Putin forged an alliance with Iran yesterday against any military action by the West and pledged to complete the controversial Iranian nuclear power plant at Bushehr. A summit of Caspian Sea nations in Tehran agreed to bar foreign states from using their territory for military strikes against a member country. Mr Putin, the first Kremlin leader to visit Iran since the Second World War, insisted that the use of force was unacceptable. It is important . . . that we not only not use any kind of force but also do not even think about the possibility of using force, he told the leaders of Iran, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan.

New York Times, 18 October 2007

Nuclear-Armed Iran Risks World War, Bush Says

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17 President Bush issued a stark warning on Iran on Wednesday, suggesting that if the country obtained nuclear arms, it could lead to World War III. We got a leader in Iran who has announced that he wants to destroy Israel, Mr. Bush said at a White House news conference, referring to a remark by the Iranian president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, that Israel will disappear soon. Mr. Bush said he had told people that if you're interested in avoiding World War III, it seems like you ought to be interested in preventing them from having the knowledge necessary to make a nuclear weapon.

Wall Street Journal, 18 October 2007

U.S.-India Links Go Beyond Faltering Nuclear Deal

Even if the U.S. and India end up abandoning their landmark nuclear deal, the talks have created strong links between the two countries, whose intertwined political fortunes and burgeoning trade will continue to grow, executives and officials say. The deal, proposed by President Bush and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in 2005, appears headed for a delay in implementation, and possibly for the dustbin, because of opposition from leftist politicians in India who support Mr. Singh's government and have threatened to bring down the government if the deal goes ahead.

International Herald Tribune, 18 October 2007

UN blames interpreter's error for erroneous report that Syria has a nuclear facility

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations blamed an interpreter's error for an erroneous report that Syria claimed an Israeli airstrike hit a Syrian nuclear facility, a mistake that made headlines in the Middle East and heightened concerns over Damascus' nuclear ambitions. Syria denied on Wednesday that one of its representatives told the U.N. General Assembly's committee that deals with disarmament on Tuesday that Israel had attacked a Syrian nuclear facility and added that "such facilities do not exist in Syria."

Daily Times, 18 October 2007

US less than upbeat on nuclear deal with India

WASHINGTON: The US State Department sounded less than upbeat on Tuesday after reports surfaced that the much-heralded India-US nuclear cooperation deal had run into heavy weather in New Delhi and may even collapse altogether. Asked if the deal will be completed by next year, spokesman Tom Casey replied, Well, we believe it's still possible for that to happen. Obviously, a number of things would have to occur for that to be

ultimately implemented. But its a long time between now and the end of 2008, and well see where we are.

Hindustan Times, 18 October 2007

US believes nuclear deal can still be operationalised

Notwithstanding the current uncertainty over the Indo-US civil nuclear deal, Washington has asserted that the agreement is "not dead" and expressed confidence it could "still" be operationalised by the original timeframe of 2008. The US will continue to work to meet its commitments under the agreement, State Department deputy spokesman Tom Casey said but left it to the Indian government to "describe their interaction with the IAEA". There were some "internal discussions" on the deal in India, he noted, adding that "in terms of the timing of those discussions and the outcomes of them, frankly, we don't want to interfere in this internal matter for the Indian government and we'll leave it to them to comment on it".

Chosun Ilbo, 18 October 2007

Hill: Hand Over Plutonium First

The U.S. says North Korea must hand over 50 kg of plutonium it manufactured for atomic use for the peace process to begin on the Korean peninsula. Christopher Hill, Washington's chief nuclear envoy, stressed that the "toughest sell" will be getting Pyongyang to agree to part with the material. The North has yet to even acknowledge the plutonium exists. Part of the September 2005 six-party nuclear deal was to establish a peace regime on the Korean peninsula through a separate forum. But it's unclear when such peace talks will begin as some sources say the six countries to the nuclear dialogue have yet to reach consensus. Some of them say they must wait for further progress in the denuclearization process.

New York Times, 19 October 2007

U.S.-India Nuclear Pact Runs Into (Surprise!) Politics

CALCUTTA: The United States-India nuclear deal may be in trouble, but it is not dead yet. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, whose Communist allies object to plans for a nuclear accord with the United States. Last week the Indian government declared that it would postpone final negotiations because of political opposition at home, setting off a fresh round of speculation that the deal was in terminal decline. This week American officials conceded they were taken aback by the mixed signals but remained hopeful, so much so that they were engaged in daily conversations with their Indian counterparts on how the agreement could be sealed soon.

BBC News, 19 October 2007

India nuclear deal 'efforts on'

Indian PM Manmohan Singh has said that efforts are still on to persuade the government's communist allies on the controversial nuclear deal with the US. Mr Singh told US President George W Bush recently that he was having difficulty implementing the deal. It was the first clear sign India may shelve the deal. Differences between the Congress-led government and its allies over the deal has led to talk of early elections. The Congress party's communist allies say the deal, which would allow India access to

civilian nuclear technology and fuel, gives the US leverage on India's foreign policy.

Xinhua News, 19 October 2007

Ahmadinejad: Putin "made no words" on Iranian nuclear issue

TEHRAN, Oct. 18 (Xinhua) -- Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Thursday that his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin "made no words" on Iranian nuclear issue during his just-ended visit, the official IRNA news agency reported. Ahmadinejad made the remarks to reporters on the sidelines of the general meeting of the High Council for Provinces, in response to earlier reports that Putin had brought forward a nuclear proposal to Iran's supreme leader during his Tehran tour.

International Herald Tribune, 19 October 2007

EU working on reply to Egyptian protest over vote on Mideast nuclear free zone

BERLIN: European Union members are drafting replies to a protest letter from Egypt, which expressed "astonishment and regret" at the union's refusal to endorse Cairo's call for a Mideast nuclear free zone, a German diplomat said Thursday. The EU currently has "elements for a reply that have been agreed upon" as the basis on which the letter made available Wednesday to The Associated Press will be answered, the diplomat said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the matter. "EU member states will now, on that basis, individually reply to the letter," he said. "The concrete agreement was everyone would decide on their own ... how to respond."

Associated Foreign Press, 19 October 2007

US says no missile defense review if Iran drops nuclear program

The United States said Thursday it would not review plans for a missile defense system in Europe if Iran gave up its sensitive uranium enrichment program. Any review of the controversial plan would occur only if there was a change in the overall threat posed by Iran, including from its missiles, the State Department said. It was clarifying remarks by Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Fried in Brussels Wednesday indicating that Washington could change its approach to developing the missile shield opposed by Russia if Iran were to suspend uranium enrichment in its nuclear program.

The Hindu, 19 October 2007

Where does your govt. stand on N-deal: BJP asks PM

New Delhi (PTI): A day after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh indicated that all was not over on the nuclear front, the BJP on Thursday charged him with flipflop and asked the UPA government to explain its stand on the nuclear deal. "In India, the Prime Minister said failure to implement the deal is not end of life. In Nigeria, he told US President (George) Bush that there are difficulties in implementing the deal. In South Africa, he spoke about evolving a meaningful consensus on the deal. We would like to know which is the real voice of the Prime Minister and what should we believe," party spokesperson Ravi Shankar Prasad said here.

Al Jazeera, 20 October 2007

US admits errors in nuclear flight

The Pentagon has admitted that a breakdown in standards and procedures led to an

unauthorised transfer of nuclear weapons aboard a B-52 bomber. On August 29, six cruise missiles armed with nuclear warheads were loaded onto one wing of the aircraft at the Minot air force base in the US state of North Dakota, where they remained overnight. Six missiles not armed with nuclear warheads were loaded onto the other wing of the aircraft.

Voice of America, 20 October 2007

Pentagon: Nuclear Warheads Domestic Flight was 'Serious Error'

The U.S. Air Force confirms that nuclear warheads were mistakenly flown over America in August, calling the error "unprecedented". Air Force Secretary Michael Wynne said Friday several commanders and dozens of servicemen involved in the incident have been relieved of their duties. Wynne described a series of errors that allowed a package of six nuclear armed missiles to be loaded mistakenly onto a B-52 bomber at Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota. The weapons should have been disarmed before their transfer to Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana, where they were to be destroyed.

The Hindu, 20 October 2007

India, Pak. hold talks on nuclear, missile CBMs

New Delhi, (PTI): India and Pakistan on Friday held talks on nuclear and missile related confidence building measures as a part of their Composite Dialogue process. The two sides, in their fifth round of talks, reviewed the implementation of existing agreements, including a pact on reducing risks due to nuclear accidents, signed last year. The Indian side was led by K C Singh, Additional Secretary (International Organisations) in MEA, while the Pakistani delegation was headed by Khalid Aziz Babar, Additional Secretary (UN) in the Foreign Ministry.

Associated Press, 20 October 2007

UN Nuclear Agency Examines Syria Images

VIENNA, Austria: U.N. experts have received satellite imagery of the site struck last month by Israeli warplanes and are analyzing it for signs that it might have been a secret nuclear facility, diplomats said Friday. One of the diplomats indicated that the photos came from U.S intelligence. Two others said the images, which have been studied by experts of the International Atomic Energy Agency since being received on Thursday, do not at first examination appear to substantiate reports that the target was a nuclear installation, but emphasized that the images were still under examination.

The Moscow Times, 20 October 2007

Putin Promises New Nuclear Missiles

President Vladimir Putin announced Thursday that the defense industry was developing new nuclear weapons as part of a "grandiose but fully realistic" plan to rearm the military. "We will develop missile technology, including completely new strategic complexes," he said during a televised call-in show. "Our plans are not simply considerable, but grandiose. At the same time, they are absolutely realistic," he said. "Our armed forces will be more compact but more effective and better able to ensure the defense of Russia."

International Herald Tribune, 20 October 2007

SKorean president says North wants solution to nuclear standoff to improve ties with US

SEOUL, South Korea: North Korea wants to resolve the international standoff over its nuclear weapons program in order to forge better ties with the United States, South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun said Friday. Roh made the remark while briefing foreign media on his rare talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il earlier this month, which produced a wide-ranging agreement on bringing greater peace and expanding economic cooperation on their divided peninsula. "The reason North Korea is trying to solve the North Korean nuclear question is to improve relations with the United States," Roh told reporters from selected foreign media organizations, including The Associated Press.

The Telegraph, 20 October 2007

We can attack Iran, says US commander

America's top military officer said the country does have the resources to attack Iran, despite the strain of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Adm Michael Mullen, who took over as chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff three weeks ago, said diplomacy remained the priority in dealing with Iran's suspected plans to develop a nuclear weapon and its support for anti-US insurgents in Iraq. But at a press conference he said: "there is more than enough reserve to respond (militarily) if that, in fact, is what the national leadership wanted to do".

Reuters, 20 October 2007

Roh sees North Korea as stable

SEOUL (Reuters) - South Korea's president said on Friday he sees the North Korean government as stable and wanting to resolve the nuclear issue to improve relations with the United States. "The reason that North Korea wants to resolve the nuclear issue is because it wants to improve relations with the United States," Roh Moo-hyun told foreign reporters at the presidential Blue House. Impoverished North Korea, which conducted its first nuclear test a year ago, struck a deal in February with regional powers to end its nuclear weapons program in return for massive aid and ending its status as an international pariah.

New York Times, 21 October 2007

Iran's Nuclear Envoy Resigns; Talks in Doubt

TEHRAN, Oct. 20 Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, viewed by the West as a moderating influence in Tehran, resigned before crucial talks with Europe this week over Iran's nuclear program, signaling that officials here may have closed the door to any possible negotiated settlement in its standoff with the West. The negotiator, Ali Larijani, was among a small group of officials who, while supportive of Iran's nuclear ambitions, have tried to press back against President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and his more radical approach, which has left Iran increasingly isolated.

The Times, 21 October 2007

US hits panic button as air force "loses" nuclear missiles

SENIOR officers, including three colonels and a lieutenant-colonel, are among 70 personnel to be punished for slipshod practices that allowed a B52 bomber to fly across America carrying six nuclear-armed cruise missiles that should never have been loaded under its wings. The incident triggered a rare Bent Spear alert code for an incident involving live nuclear weapons - which raced to the secretary of defence and the White House, leaving red-faced air force commanders with a lot of explaining to do.

Economic Times, 21 October 2007

Iran and IAEA in nuclear talks

Tehran: Iranian and UN nuclear watchdog officials started another round of talks on Sunday on Tehran's controversial nuclear programme focusing on P1 and P2 centrifuges, state media reported. "The negotiations started today and are ongoing. By night it will become evident how long the discussions will last," the deputy head of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organisation, Mohammad Saeedi, was quoted as saying by state broadcasting. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is seeking details on how Iran obtained components for its P1 type centrifuges at its nuclear enrichment plant at Natanz, and on its research with the more efficient P2 model.

The National Post, Canada, 21 October 2007

Canada thinking of nuclear deal with India

OTTAWA The federal government is mulling over a deal that would allow imports of nuclear technology in India even though the emerging economy has not signed an international treaty for non-proliferation of weapons, a spokesperson for Canada's Foreign Affairs Department says. As a member of an international group of nuclear suppliers, Canada gets a vote on whether to accept an agreement between the U.S. and India to resume trading of civilian nuclear technology and materials. If the deal is ratified by elected lawmakers in the two countries in the coming months, it would then be reviewed by the suppliers' group.

Times of India, 21 October 2007

Breach of trust

Last week, when Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told President George W Bush that India wasn't in a position to proceed with the nuclear agreement, at least not now, he didn't break any treaty or contract. His crime was worse. He assaulted the principle on which enduring relationships are based: Trust. In the past two years India witnessed the most spirited and informed debate ever on its strategic future. Although the deliberations weren't translated into the idiom of mass politics, except by the Communists and radical clerics, they touched nearly every decision-maker - including the business and scientific communities. As befits a strategic initiative of profound consequence, the proposed Indo-US nuclear agreement had a tremendous sense of national involvement, even if some of the positions taken were disingenuous.

The Independent, 22 October 2007

Iran's new hardline nuclear envoy causes jitters in West

The shock resignation of Iran's chief nuclear negotiator has cast a shadow of uncertainty over the country's future co-operation with UN inspectors, heightening the risk of US

military strikes. Iran sought to reassure the West yesterday that Tehran's policy over negotiations with Western powers attempting to curb its nuclear programme would not change after the replacement of Ali Larijani with a reputedly hardline deputy foreign minister, Saeed Jalili.

Khaleej Times, 22 October 2007

N Korea envoy in Syria amid nuclear talk

DAMASCUS - A top North Korean official was holding talks in Syria on Sunday, amid reports strongly denied by both countries that Pyongyang was helping Damascus develop a nuclear programme. Syrian Prime Minister Mohammed Naji Otri met Choe Thae-Bok, chairman of communist North Korea's Supreme Peoples Assembly discussed efforts to boost relations between the two nations, the official SANA news agency reported. The two men spoke of the cooperative relations and historic friendship between their nations, it said.

Economic Times, 22 October 2007

Left to ask Centre today: Is nuclear deal off or on hold?

NEW DELHI: Apprehensive that the Manmohan Singh government may attempt to revive the nuclear talks after the presentation of the Union Budget, the Left has decided to seek a categorical response from the government on its stand on the Indo-US nuclear deal at the meeting of the UPA-Left here on Monday. Left leaders on Sunday said the government should come upfront and state whether the deal was shelved or put on hold for the time being.

The Hindu, 22 October 2007

Wait for Bush to complete term: Yechury

BANGALORE: India should not operationalise the nuclear deal with the U.S. and should wait till President George W. Bush completed his term, Communist Party of India(Marxist) Polit Bureau member Sitaram Yechury said here on Sunday. Speaking to presspersons, Mr. Yechury, who returned to the city after attending a seminar on globalisation and culture organised at Chitradurga, said according to international norms no international agreement was signed when the government was about to change.

International Herald Tribune, 22 October 2007

Koreas set to discuss energy aid component of nuclear deal

SEOUL, South Korea: North and South Korean officials were to meet Monday to help prepare for upcoming multilateral talks on energy aid to the communist North under a February deal calling for the country to abandon its nuclear ambitions, an official said. The meeting, which runs through Tuesday at the Diamond Mountain resort in North Korea, is aimed at facilitating six-nation talks with the U.S., China, Russia and Japan on how to provide aid to the North in return for its pledge to abandon its nuclear weapons program, said Choi Ji-eun, a spokeswoman at the South Korean Foreign Ministry.

BBC News, 23 October 2007

Iran nuclear negotiator makes debut

Iran's new chief nuclear negotiator will hold talks on Tuesday with the EU envoy Javier

Solana. They will be the first talks since Saeed Jalili, a close ally of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, took over from Ali Larijani. Diplomats will be looking closely for any sign of a new, more hardline direction in Iranian thinking. The Iranian government has insisted that the surprise resignation of Mr Larijani as chief negotiator will not change policy.

BBC News, 23 October 2007

Cheney - No nuclear arms for Iran

The US Vice-President, Dick Cheney, has warned Iran's government it will not be allowed to obtain a nuclear weapon. Mr Cheney said the United States and the international community could not stand by as a "terror-supporting state" fulfilled its grandest ambitions. He accused Tehran of practising delay and deception to buy time to pursue nuclear technology and of being an obstacle to peace in the Middle East.

International Herald Tribune, 23 October 2007

Tehran brushes off U.S. threats

WASHINGTON: Despite heated new rhetoric from the Bush administration and the threat of additional sanctions, Iran made clear Monday that it had no intention of stopping its nuclear research program. "Iran will not let its right to nuclear technology be suppressed," Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki wrote to his French counterpart, Bernard Kouchner. "Using tools like the Security Council, economic sanctions and other threats cannot deprive our nation and our government for a moment from its decision."

Business Standard, 23 October 2007

PM talks tough with allies over nuclear deal

'How can I run the government like this?' he said. An unhappy Manmohan Singh told allies of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) that if they did not support the Indo-US civil nuclear agreement - which they had endorsed in a Cabinet meeting - his continuing as prime minister would be untenable. "How can I run the government like this, the prime minister reportedly said. This declaration came just ahead of a scheduled meeting between the UPA and the Left on the nuclear agreement, to which the latter has raised objections.

The Hindu, 23 October 2007

Pranab: committee findings will be taken into account

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee said on Monday that members of the United Progressive Alliance-Left committee on the India-U.S. civilian nuclear deal expressed the hope that the operationalisation of the deal would take into account the findings of the committee. Reading out a brief prepared statement at the end of the fifth meeting of the committee here, Mr. Mukherjee, who is also the convener of the 15-member panel, said, "Issues currently before it [the committee] would be addressed in an appropriate manner and the operationalisation of the deal will take into account the Committees findings." He said the next meeting would be held on November 16.

Tehran Times, 24 October 2007

Iran will strongly pursue nuclear policy: official

ROME (IRNA): New Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Saeed Jalili said on Tuesday that the Islamic Republic of Iran will strongly pursue its nuclear diplomacy. There is a broad consensus on Iran's nuclear diplomacy by people from all walks of life, the country's high ranking officials and the nation put the seal of approval on the country's nuclear diplomacy, Jalili said. He commended efforts of Ali Larijani during his tenure in the past two years and underlined that "We will strongly pursue Iran's nuclear policy."

Hindustan Times, 24 October 2007

There is still hope on Indo-US nuclear deal: PM

Amid continuing standoff with his Left allies on the Indo-US nuclear deal, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Tuesday told a group of Indian American lobbyists that there is still hope for the matter to be resolved. The eight-member delegation, led by chairman of US India Political Action committee (Usinpac) Sanjay Puri, is currently in India to meet top leaders and officials to get an idea about the status of the civilian nuclear agreement, for which they had intensely lobbied last year in the US Congress.

Times of India, 24 October 2007

Nuclear deal not off, but certainly off-track: Left

NEW DELHI: The Indo-US nuclear deal is not dead yet but the timeframe worked out by the government with the US has gone off-track, is how a senior Left leader summed up the outcome of the fifth round of Left-UPA committee's meeting on Monday. But the hope of extracting a commitment from the government, as CPI general secretary AB Bardhan had demanded, did not come by. It is believed that NCP leader Sharad Pawar did mention Bardhan's demand for a formal clarification and said it would clear the confusion.

Economic Times, 24 October 2007

It's official: Nuclear deal is on hold

NEW DELHI: The Manmohan Singh government on Monday made a lastditch effort to earn the Left's indulgence for beginning negotiations with IAEA on the India specific safeguards, only to be rebuffed by the comrades. The UPA-Left panel which met on Monday evening gave clear hints of the timeline for the operationalisation of the deal going awry when it decided to meet nearly a month later - on November 16 - to finalise the findings of the committee. The allies, who appeared to have moved into the column of Left cheerleaders, supported the government leadership's proposal. The Congress interlocutors made the fresh appeal to the Left barely hours after the prime minister told a meeting with the allies that abandoning an agreement cleared by the Cabinet will dent the credibility of the regime.

Times of India, 24 October 2007

LEADER ARTICLE: The PM Must Stand Firm

So, is he going to quit? Many feel he ought to go. On Monday, Ram Jethmalani dashed off a furious letter to the prime minister asking him to resign since he can't get the Left to agree not to oppose the US-India nuclear deal. Huge speculation has been on in the

capital over the past couple of days on the PM's future. And on Tuesday, the PM kept everyone on their toes wondering what was going on. Well, he hasn't resigned. And, if he can stand firm, that's the way to go. In other words, he doesn't have to quit on his own. He can threaten to resign but must not give up by just caving in to the Left because too much of this country's credibility rides currently on his shoulders. Let the Left force him out if it wants.

International Herald Tribune, 24 October 2007

SKorean official: North expected to begin nuclear disablement procedures in mid-November

SEOUL, South Korea: North Korea will likely begin disabling its main nuclear facilities around the middle of next month, a South Korean official said Wednesday. "It's expected that a disablement implementation team will go to the North on Nov. 1 with actual disablement beginning in mid-November," Baek Jong-chun, senior presidential security adviser, said at a forum in Seoul. The North's Yongbyon nuclear complex is believed to have produced enough plutonium for perhaps more than a dozen bombs - including the device North Korea detonated a year ago to prove its long-suspected nuclear capability.

Tehran Times, 24 October 2007

Sanctions will not impact Iran's nuclear drive: expert

TEHRAN - Paul Rogers, a professor of peace studies at the University of Bradford in Britain, says he doesn't think that Iran will give up its nuclear energy program under economic sanctions. "Sanctions are unlikely to have much impact, Rogers told the Mehr News Agency last Wednesday. Under an August 21 deal, the IAEA and Tehran agreed on a timetable for addressing the remaining ambiguities about Iran's nuclear activities. IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei has called the agreement an important step in the right direction."

The Hindu, 24 October 2007

UNPA-Left for common approach to nuclear deal

NEW DELHI: The United National Progressive Alliance (UNPA) and the Left parties will adopt a common approach in Parliament to the nuclear deal with the United States. An understanding to this effect was worked out on Tuesday at a meeting between some senior UNPA leaders and Communist Party of India (Marxist) general secretary Prakash Karat. The UNPA leaders did not come out with details of the meeting held at Samajwadi Party leader Amar Singh's house here but Mr. Karat told The Hindu that "the UNPA agreed to have a common approach with the Left on the nuclear deal."

Tehran Times, 25 October 2007

EU, Iran call nuclear talks 'constructive'

ROME (AFP) - EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana and Iran's new nuclear pointman Saeed Jalili met for the first time on Tuesday for talks both sides described as "constructive." "There might be a (second) meeting before the end of November," Solana said after the talks with Jalili and his predecessor, Ali Larijani. It was Solana's first sit-down with Jalili. Larijani told a press briefing: "I thanked Mr. Solana for these constructive talks which were clear and transparent." Jalili took over as chief nuclear

negotiator on Sunday after Larijani resigned.

Voice of America, 25 October 2007

Experts Say Image Shows Possible Nuclear Construction Site in Syria

Experts at a Washington-based research institute say commercial satellite imagery of Syria show construction that resembles the early stages of a small nuclear reactor. The experts at the Institute for Science and International Security speculate that the site was the target of an Israeli air strike on September 6. In a report released Wednesday, former United Nations weapons inspector David Albright, who heads the institute, and researcher Paul Brannan say the imagery, which was taken about a month before the Israeli air strike, shows a tall building that may house a reactor under construction. They say it is similar in design to a North Korean nuclear reactor.

Reuters, 25 October 2007

North Korea said unable to stall on nuclear deal

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - North Korea cannot afford to stall on or repudiate the six-party nuclear pact, as it has in the past with international agreements, the head of South Korea's official unification think tank said on Wednesday. North Korea is eager to get on with disabling its nuclear facilities in exchange for energy aid and better relations with the United States, said Rhee Bong-jo, president of the Korea Institute for National Unification. "Given the current unstable political and social situation in the North, a long transition period would not be helpful in any respect," he said in a speech at the South Korean embassy in Washington.

The Hindu, 25 October 2007

UNPA not to insist on vote on nuclear deal

NEW DELHI: While pressing for a discussion in Parliament on the nuclear deal with the United States, the United National Progressive Alliance (UNPA) on Wednesday made it clear that it would not insist on the issue being put to vote. All we want is that the sense of the House should be taken first before proceeding any further with the deal, UNPA convener and Telugu Desam Party president N. Chandrababu Naidu told journalists. Mr. Naidu said the discussion would allow all political parties to have a say.

Tehran Times, 25 October 2007

Top UN Official to visit Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) - The UN nuclear watchdog's deputy director general is to hold talks in Tehran with Iranian officials next week on an accord over their atomic drive, the ISNA news agency reported on Wednesday. "A new meeting will take place on Monday in Tehran with the visit of Olli Heinonen," said Ali Asghar Soltanieh, Iran's ambassador to the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Heinonen clinched a deal in August for Iran to answer remaining questions over its atomic program so the agency can conclude a four year investigation into its nature.

Reuters, 25 October 2007

Nuclear power output could double by 2030 - IAEA

VIENNA (Reuters) - The world's output of nuclear power could nearly double by 2030,

fuelled by demand from energy-hungry emerging economies and fears about security of supply and climate change, the UN said on Wednesday. But the share that nuclear energy will contribute to global electricity production is still set to decline over the same period, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said in its latest annual projection of growth of nuclear power.

The New York Times, 26 October 2007

U.S. Plays Its "Unilateral" Card on Iran Sanctions

WASHINGTON, Oct. 25 - In announcing sweeping new sanctions against an elite unit of the Revolutionary Guard Corps in Iran, Bush administration officials took pains to offer assurances on Thursday that at least for now, the United States is not going to war with Iran. "We do not believe that conflict is inevitable", said R. Nicholas Burns, the under secretary of state for political affairs. "This decision today supports the diplomacy and in no way, shape or form does it anticipate the use of force."

International Herald Tribune, 26 October 2007

EU's Solana says Larijani still in the lead in Iran's nuclear talks

ROME: Iran's former top nuclear negotiator, replaced this weekend in a surprise announcement in Tehran, nevertheless maintained his authority and leadership in talks with the EU in Rome, the European Union foreign policy chief was quoted as saying Thursday. The EU's Javier Solana met with Ali Larijani, the former negotiator, and his successor, Saeed Jalili, for a session in Rome Tuesday. The three met again briefly on Wednesday. "Here I found the same Larijani I had met before, and he had the role of chief negotiator," Solana was quoted as saying in an interview with Rome daily La Repubblica.

Wired News, 26 October 2007

Nuclear Power to Explode in India, but China Prefers Coal

To curb greenhouse gas emissions, India is poised to dramatically increase its reliance on nuclear energy -- but there'll be no overall benefit to the planet if China's coal binge continues. A new report by the International Atomic Energy Agency forecasts India will increase nuclear production eight-fold by 2030 to account for 26 percent of its power grid. However, China plans to use nuclear power for only 4 percent of electricity generation by 2030. Globally, the IAEA estimates there'll be drop an overall drop in nuclear energy from around 15 percent in 2006, down to 13 percent in 2030.

Times of India, 26 October 2007

LEADER ARTICLE: Save The Nuclear Deal

It is obvious that the US-India civilian nuclear deal is now in the doldrums. The opportunism of BJP, the cravenness of the Left, and the lack of resolve on the part of Congress have taken the wind out of its sails. However, there are compelling reasons for Congress to try and move it along. The reasons have much to do with the current state of Indo-US relations. After decades of mutual mistrust, a failure to appreciate each other's interests and concerns and a consequent lack of any substance to the bilateral relationship, Indo-US relations are at a cusp. The two states have made dramatic progress over the past decade in the realms of diplomacy, strategic affairs and economics. Yet, it

would be foolish to think that the relationship can move on its own steam. The forces that are stalling further movement in New Delhi are well known.

Hindustan Times, 26 October 2007

Working to reconcile differences with Left on N-deal: Pranab

Yes to making efforts, no to predicting outcomes. That was External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee's repeated response to questions from the Hindustan Times whether the civil nuclear deal with the United States could be salvaged in the face of stiff opposition from the Left parties. "What else can I say except that we are working to reconcile the positions (between the government and the Left). Five rounds of discussions have taken place with the Left," he said during a refuelling halt at Chengdu airport in Sichuan province en route to New Delhi.

Reuters, 26 October 2007

U.S. envoy predicts end to N.Korea nuclear threat

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. envoy to North Korean nuclear talks told Congress on Thursday the North's uranium enrichment program no longer will be a threat by year's end, and said the diplomatic normalization Pyongyang expects will happen only after full denuclearization. But U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill declined to comment on reports that a suspected Syrian nuclear site targeted in an Israeli air strike last month was constructed with North Korean help.

The Economist, 26 October 2007

On the blink

SINCE he got the job in 2004, Manmohan Singh has never been a strong prime minister of India. He was put in place at the behest of Sonia Gandhi, leader of the Congress party and the coalition it leads, the United Progressive Alliance (UPA). Mrs Gandhi is broadly in charge, but the UPA depends on Communist-led leftist parties for a parliamentary majority. This gives the Communists a pivotal role. Though there is nothing undemocratic about this, it has upset the UPA's economic policies and now threatens a cherished deal on civilian nuclear co-operation with America.

The Guardian, 27 October 2007

Nuclear cover-up suspected after Israeli raid

Syria has removed all traces of a building targeted by a mysterious Israeli air attack last month, fuelling speculation that the structure may have concealed a partially-completed nuclear installation. Images taken this week by two US commercial satellite companies show the remains of the building have been dismantled and ploughed over. Experts said the photos indicate Syria had tried to cover up what remained after the raid by the Israelis on September 6. "They are clearly trying to hide the evidence," said David Albright, president of the Institute for Science and International Security. "It is a trick that has been tried in the past, and it hasn't worked."

Hindustan Times, 27 October 2007

Nuclear deal a 'golden chance' for India: Yasukuni Enoki

Yasukuni Enoki, Japan's Ambassador to India, believes the civil nuclear deal with the

United States provides India with a "golden chance" to "accommodate itself" into a more legitimate international non-proliferation structure. In an interview to the Hindustan Times, Enoki, however, said that in the real world, 100 per cent results could not be achieved, pointing to the compromise implicit in the civil nuclear deal. "It is unthinkable for such a major, important power to remain an outsider to the nuclear non-proliferation regime. India will remain an excommunicated country and denied access to civil atomic energy technology and research (activities)," Enoki remarked.

Hindustan Times, 27 October 2007

Germany indicates support to Indo-US nuclear deal

Germany, an influential member of nuclear suppliers group (NSG), on Sunday indicated its support to the Indo-US civil nuclear deal. "We will be following discussions (on the deal) taking place in the US Congress. US Congress has to support it. I have listened to the Prime Minister. The discussions will follow in the NSG," German Chancellor Angela Merkel told a joint press conference after her talks with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Reuters, 27 October 2007

U.N.'s Ban "very worried" on Iran's nuclear progress

ROME (Reuters) - U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is worried about Iran's nuclear program but hopes a stand-off with the international community can be resolved through dialogue, he said in comments published in Italy on Friday. The West believes Iran is seeking to build an atomic bomb while Iran says its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes. Last week it appointed a new negotiator widely seen as taking a tough line in international talks intended to head off an intensification of existing U.N. sanctions against Iran.

Xinhua News, 28 October 2007

Iran turns cold shoulder to U.S. sanctions, promises to continue co-op with IAEA, EU

TEHRAN, Oct. 27 (Xinhua) -- With its usual rhetoric in condemning the latest U.S. sanctions against the Islamic Republic, Iran has turned a cold shoulder to the U.S. unilateral move, refraining from taking any drastic action to derail its cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog IAEA and the European Union. Washington announced Thursday that it is imposing new sanctions against Iran because Tehran supports terrorism in the Middle East, exports missiles while engaging in a nuclear buildup.

Indian Express, 28 October 2007

The myth being sold about nuclear bijlee

One question about the continuing drama and deepening political crisis over the Indo-US nuclear deal fills me with agony: Americans know what they want out of this agreement, but do we? The UPA government is fooling the nation by presenting the deal as a panacea for Indias chronic power scarcity. "Opponents of the deal are enemies of Indias development", thundered Sonia Gandhi at a rally in Haryana. True, her party did a quick U-turn by putting out a rather creative interpretation on her combative remark saying it was Haryana-specific!

Tehran Times, 28 October 2007

Italy should attend Iran-EU nuclear talks: Prodi

TEHRAN -- Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi has suggested that Italian officials attend nuclear talks between Iran and the European Union, a German publication said on its website. In an interview with Die Welt, Prodi stated that Tehran and Rome are significant business partners and "I have not realized why Italy, as an important European side, should not enter negotiations with Iran over the nuclear issue." "Since Iran is regarded as a significant business partner of Italy, Rome has so far adopted an appropriate approach towards the Iranian nuclear issue, he noted.

NDTV, 28 October 2007

'Put Indo-US nuclear deal on hold'

An eminent international expert on non-proliferation and nuclear arms control has suggested that the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal be put on hold till Fissile Material Cut off Treaty comes into being with India. Currently being negotiated in the United Nations Conference on Disarmament, the Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty would prohibit further production of weapons-grade uranium and plutonium when it comes into being.

Korea Times, 29 October 2007

Nuclear Envoys to Meet Over Energy Assistance to NK

Officials from six nations involved in talks on North Korea's denuclearization met at the inter-Korean border town here Monday to discuss ways of providing energy and economic assistance to the North under a multilateral deal signed in February. Under the aid-for-denuclearization deal, North Korea is entitled to one million tons of heavy fuel oil once it disables its key nuclear facilities and declares all its nuclear programs, a process which Pyongyang has agreed to complete by the end of the year.

The Hindu, 29 October 2007

U.S. encouraging India to go ahead with nuclear deal

KOLKATA: India will have to work through its internal, political decisions regarding the civilian nuclear deal. The U.S. government has been encouraging it to go forward [with the deal] as quickly as possible, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Henry M. Paulson Jr. said at Amtala near here on Sunday. The U.S. believes it is a very important deal, he told journalists. We, in our country, think that it [the deal] is very good and useful, and is going to help India with its economic security and growth and with the environmental issues we are all facing. Mr. Paulson was on a visit to Amtala, in South 24 Parganas district, to participate in a private sector initiative aimed at bringing financial services directly to the people in rural areas.

Xinhua News, 29 October 2007

IAEA chief sees no evidence of Iran making nuclear weapons

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 (Xinhua) -- There is no evidence that Iran is actively building nuclear weapons, said Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in an interview with CNN on Sunday. "I have not received any

information that there is a concrete active nuclear program going on right now," ElBaradei said. "My fear is that if we continue to escalate from both sides that we will end up into a precipice, we will end up into an abyss," he said. The IAEA chief said he will continue to work through "creative diplomacy" to try to resolve Iran's nuclear issue. "I do not see any other solution than diplomacy and inspections," he said.

Taipei Times, 29 October 2007

Faltering nuclear agreement could mean big trouble for India

A nuclear agreement that was to have been emblematic of new strategic relations between the US and India appears to be falling apart, with serious consequences all around. For US President George W. Bush, the faltering of the civilian nuclear agreement will be only a moderate diplomatic setback, overshadowed as it is by the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, the hostility of Iran and the Israeli-Arab conflict. Even so, the failure will rob Bush of what might have been a modest triumph in the final months of his presidency.

Daily Times, 29 October 2007

US warns Europe with latest Iran sanctions

WASHINGTON: Washington's latest sanctions on Iran up the pressure on America's European allies to follow suit and tighten the screws on the Islamic state or see it attacked, analysts say. The principal intention of the announcement was to send a signal as much to the Europeans, the Chinese and the Russians, as well as to the Iranians, said Karim Sadjapour, an Iran expert at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a Washington-based think-tank.

Times of India, 30 October 2007

Nuclear Nightmares

According to a new book by two British journalists, Adrian Levy and Catherine Scott-Clark, Pakistan readied nuclear missiles for use against India during the Kargil war. These revelations are alarming, all the more so because they correspond more and less with another behind-the-scenes account of the war that had been published earlier by Bruce Riedel, a National Security Council staffer in the Clinton administration.

Al Jazeera, 30 October 2007

Egypt plans nuclear programme

Egypt is to build several civilian nuclear power stations around the country. Hosni Mubarak, the Egyptian president, said on Monday that a decree to establish a higher council for the peaceful use of nuclear energy will be issued in the next few days. "I declare before you the decision to start a programme to build a number of nuclear power stations to generate electricity," Mubarak said. He said the project will be developed in co-operation with "international partners" including the UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The Associated Press, 30 October 2007

Paulson Pushes India on Nuclear Deal

Visiting U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson urged India on Sunday to quickly

implement a landmark civilian nuclear energy deal with the United States. Paulson was speaking in Calcutta, a stronghold of India's communists, who oppose the deal and have threatened to topple the government if it goes ahead with it. "This is a very important deal," Paulson told reporters after a conference on bringing banking services to India's impoverished masses. "We want the nuclear deal to move as quickly as possible."

Reuters, 30 October 2007

Hill visits China, South Korea, Japan this week

WASHINGTON, Oct 29 (Reuters) - The top U.S. negotiator with North Korea will visit China, South Korea and Japan this week and could meet his North Korean counterpart during his visit to Beijing, a U.S. official said on Monday. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, who has led negotiations to try to persuade North Korea to give up its nuclear programs, is expected to arrive in Beijing on Tuesday, Seoul on Thursday and Tokyo on Friday, said the official.

International Herald Tribune, 30 October 2007

French defense minister signals distrust of Iran's nuclear program

PARIS: The defense minister underscored France's sense of distrust in Iran's nuclear program, saying Monday that French intelligence makes Paris doubt Tehran's intentions. Reacting to a weekend statement by the head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog who said there was no evidence that Iran was working to build nuclear weapons, Herve Morin said France had drawn the opposite conclusion. "Our intelligence, corroborated by that of other countries, gives us the opposite feeling," Morin said during a visit to the United Arab Emirates. His comments, made at a news conference, were aired on France's LCI television.

Voice of America, 30 October 2007

Rice Says US Still Supports Nuclear Deal With India

U. S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has emphasized the United States' support for a nuclear deal with India, in a phone call Monday with Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee Monday. The agreement would allow India to buy nuclear fuel and technology from the United States. It has been stalled by debate among Indian lawmakers. India's communist politicians are threatening to pull out of the ruling coalition if the deal goes through. They argue that the deal will undermine India's independent foreign policy and nuclear weapons program.