

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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1. COUNTRY REVIEW

A. SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

- **Indian embassy in Kabul attacked; 17 killed and more than 70 injured; Taliban claims responsibility; Indian and world leaders strongly condemn the attack; India calls for quick adoption of the 'Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism'; Foreign Secretary Rao: "Effective pressure" on Pakistan required to stabilize Afghanistan; President Obama hears Gen. McChrystal's request for more troops in Afghanistan**

The Indian embassy in Kabul was attacked on October 8 by a suicide car bomber killing 17 people and injuring more than 70. No Indian officials were among the injured or the dead. This was the second big attack on the Indian embassy during the past 15 months. On July 7, 2008, a massive bomb attack had resulted in the loss of over 50 lives, including some senior Indian officials. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.¹

World leaders strongly condemned the attack with President Obama telephoning PM Dr. Singh to express his condolences.² Foreign Minister David Miliband told Foreign Minister S.M. Krishna that Britain appreciated and supported "the impressive development work that India is doing in Afghanistan."³

India also called on the global community to make a firm commitment to fight terrorism and quickly adopt the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) which has been under negotiations at the UN.⁴

Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao visited the embassy and met with President Karzai and Foreign Minister Spanta, who reiterated their resolve to bring the perpetrators to justice. She told reporters that the attack was "clearly the handiwork of those who are desperate to undermine Indo-Afghan friendship and do not believe in a strong, democratic and pluralistic Afghanistan."⁵

A day before the blast, Foreign Secretary Rao had stated in a seminar in New Delhi that "the international community should put effective pressure on

¹ "India embassy blast rocks Kabul," *Financial Times*, October 8, 2009, at <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/43185056-b3ce-11de-98ec-00144feab49a.html>

² "Obama expresses concern over Embassy attack," *Press Trust of India*, October 12, 2009, at http://www.ptinews.com/news/326540_Obama-expresses-concern-over-Embassy-attack

³ "India 'impressive' in Afghanistan: David Miliband," *The Times of India*, October 9, 2009, at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/India-impressive-in-Afghanistan-David-Miliband/articleshow/5106996.cms>

⁴ "India seeks firm commitment to fight 'scourge of terrorism'," *The Hindustan Times*, October 9, 2009, at <http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-seeks-firm-commitment-to-fight-scourge-of-terrorism/H1-Article1-463023.aspx>

⁵ "Kabul attack handiwork of enemies of Indo-Afghan ties: India," *The Times of India*, October 10, 2009, at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Kabul-attack-handiwork-of-enemies-of-Indo-Afghanistan-ties-India/articleshow/5110381.cms>

Pakistan to implement its stated commitment to deal with terrorist groups within its territory, including the members of Al-Qaeda, Taliban's Quetta Shura, Hizb-e-Islami, Lashkar-e-Taiba and other like-minded terrorist groups." She added that India had "already made up its mind - invest and endure because we believe in the cause of peace, democracy and development in Afghanistan."⁶

In other developments, Gen. McChrystal made a personal presentation requesting for more troops during a review meeting that President Obama held at the Oval Office on October 9.⁷

PAKISTAN

- **Pak Army headquarters in Rawalpindi attacked, a Brigadier and Lt. Col. among those dead, Taliban claims responsibility; Kerry-Lugar Bill generates criticism in the Army and National Assembly; Zardari and Gilani pledge to fight Taliban and al-Qaeda even as renewed offensive to be launched**

The Pakistan Army headquarters in Rawalpindi was attacked by unidentified terrorists dressed as army personnel on October 10. Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Athar Abbas stated that 6-7 terrorists opened fire when they were stopped for security checks.⁸ Some of them managed to enter the complex and hold nearly 40 people hostage even as troops waged a pitched battle to fight them. Among those killed initially included a Brigadier, a Lieutenant Colonel and four soldiers who died in the rescue operations. The Taliban claimed responsibility of the attack.⁹

The Kerry-Lugar bill generated considerable controversy as army officials criticised its contents, especially those relating to supervision from the civilian authority. The opposition in the National Assembly also called it a "strategic sell-out of Pakistan's sovereignty."¹⁰ Reports noted that President Obama held a meeting at the White House with his top military and political aides to discuss the Pakistan situation. Vice President Biden and Defence Secretary Gates were among those present.¹¹

⁶ "Pressurise Pakistan to stabilise Afghanistan: India," *The Hindustan Times*, October 7, 2009, at <http://www.hindustantimes.com/Pressurise-Pakistan-to-stabilise-Afghanistan-India/H1-Article1-462344.aspx>

⁷ "Obama Hears General's Troop Request for Afghanistan," *The New York Times*, October 9, 2009, at http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/10/world/asia/10prexy.html?_r=1&scp=9&sq=afghanistan&st=cse

⁸ "GHQ attacked," *Daily Times*, October 11, 2009, at http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\10\11\story_11-10-2009_pg1_1

⁹ "Thirty-nine rescued as GHQ siege comes to end," *Dawn*, October 11, 2009, at <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/news/pakistan/13+security+personnel+taken+hostage+at+ghq+army-za-05#>

¹⁰ Asim Yasin, "US aid with strings under fire in NA Friday," *The News*, October 09, 2009, at http://www.thenews.com.pk/arc_default.asp

¹¹ Anwar Iqbal, "Focus on Pakistan at White House meeting," *Dawn*, October 8, 2009, at <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/focus-on-pakistan-at-white-house-meeting-809>

Even as the Pakistan Army prepared to launch a renewed offensive against the Taliban in South Waziristan, President Zardari and PM Gilani reiterated their conviction to fight the Al Qaeda and Taliban operating in the region.¹²

BHUTAN

- **Cases of marijuana abuse on the rise in Bhutan, raw marijuana being exported to Assam also; NDFB using the border with Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh as a 'liberated zone'; Bangladesh PM calls for joint efforts to tap the tourism potential of Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh**

Reports noted that consumption of marijuana by youth has become a cause of concern to the Bhutanese government, with drug cases rising to 231 in 2009, compared to just 11 in 2001. Raw marijuana from Bhutan was also being exported to Assam, where it was being further processed for sale.¹³

Sources also noted that reserve forests along the border with Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh were being used as a "liberated zone" by the National Democratic Front of Boroland (NDFB). These militants also engaged in large-scale destruction of forests.¹⁴

Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina told Bhutan's visiting Economic Affairs Minister Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk that her country was interested in using Nepal and Bhutan for transit facilities to India. Hasina also pointed out that Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh can make efforts to tap the tourism potential in their countries jointly.¹⁵

MALDIVES

- **Maldives co-sponsors a resolution at the UN HRC for the release of Suu Kyi; President's spokesperson says that renewal of ties with Israel does not signify an approval of its action against Palestinians**

Maldives co-sponsored a resolution at the UN Human Rights Council for release of Burmese pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi. The resolution calls upon the military junta in Myanmar to resort to dialogue and release all political prisoners so that democratic elections in 2010 can be held in a free and fair environment.¹⁶

The Press Secretary to the Maldivian President stated that the government had consulted with Arab countries, before making the decision to renew ties with

¹² "President, PM vow to launch operation in South Waziristan," *Daily Times*, October 6, 2009, at http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\10\06\story_6-10-2009_pg1_1

¹³ "Marijuana being smuggled to Assam," *The Kuensel*, October 9, 2009, at <http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=13665>

¹⁴ "NDFB Daimary faction using reserve forests as bases," *The Kuensel*, October 8, 2009, at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/details.asp?id=oct0809/at02>

¹⁵ "Dhaka wants India to give Nepal, Bhutan transit," *Assam Tribune*, October 8, 2009, at <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=108823>

¹⁶ "Maldives calls for immediate release of Aung San Suu Kyi," *Minivan News*, October 4, 2009, at http://www.minivannews.com/news_detail.php?id=7392

Israel. He added that resumption of diplomatic relations with Israel did not signify an approval of its actions against the Palestinians.¹⁷

SRI LANKA

- **PM Wickramanayake: Colombo doing its best to rehabilitate displaced people in the North; UNHCR provides a \$5 million loan for de-mining activities; Granting of Indian citizenship to Sri Lankan refugees being discussed; Indian Coast Guard arrests 46 Sri Lankan fishermen**

PM Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka stated in parliament that the government was doing its best to provide psychological support to the displaced people in the North.¹⁸ The UNHCR on its part approved a grant of \$5 million to purchase machines in order to accelerate the de-mining program in the North.¹⁹

Meanwhile, reports noted that Home Minister P. Chidambaram discussed the issue of granting Indian citizenship to the Sri Lankan refugees with CM Karunanidhi in Chennai.²⁰ The Indian Coast Guard also arrested 46 Lankan fishermen and seized six boats off the Nagapattinam coast.²¹

B. EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

CHINA

- **China marks the 60th anniversary of its founding, displays sophisticated new weaponry; PLA official, after meeting Deputy Secretary Steinberg, hopes US would create conducive "conditions for the stable development of military-to-military relations"; New policies for PLA recruitment show positive results; PLA: 20,000-odd national defense patent applications accepted**

China marked the 60th anniversary of its founding on October 1 with a grand military parade at the Tian'anmen Square displaying more than 50 types of new weaponry, including nuclear-capable missiles. These included the indigenously-built Kongjing-2000 airborne early warning and control (AEWC) system aircraft. Chinese media reported that the technology was deployed after decades of embargoes by Western countries and unsuccessful attempts to acquire such

¹⁷ "Decision to renew ties with Israel was because friendly Arab countries supports the move - Spokesman," *Miadhu News*, September 29, 2009, at <http://www.miadhu.com.mv/2009/09/local-news/decision-to-renew-ties-with-israel-was-because-friendly-arab-countries-supports-the-move-%e2%80%93spokesman/>

¹⁸ "Govt to resettle IDPs with security," *Daily News*, October 9, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/10/09/news01.asp>

¹⁹ "Lanka gets US\$ 5m for de-mining," *Daily News*, September 30, 2009, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/09/30/news02.asp>

²⁰ "Chidambaram meets Karunanidhi to discuss refugee citizenship issue," *Asian Tribune*, October 3, 2009, at <http://www.asiantribune.com/news/2009/10/03/chidambaram-meets-karunanidhi-discuss-refugee-citizenship-issue>

²¹ "Indian Coast Guard arrests 46 Sri Lankan fishermen," *Daily Mirror*, September 28, 2009, at http://www.dailymirror.lk/DM_BLOG/Sections/frmNewsDetailView.aspx?ARTID=62965

equipment from Russia and other sources.²² Ten UAV's were also shown. Beijing reiterated that its weapon systems were mainly to serve the country's "active defense" strategy.²³

In a meeting with the US Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg, the Deputy Chief of PLA General Staff Ma Xiaotian hoped that the US would create conducive "conditions for the stable development of military-to-military relations" and that it would cautiously handle issues of arms sales to Taiwan and American surveillance activities.²⁴

Reports meanwhile noted that as part of its new recruitment policy, the PLA will focus on college students-turned-soldiers for selection to its officer corps. The PLA had selected about 36 exceptionally good college-student soldiers as officers in the last two years. PLA officers generally are selected and recruited from the following four channels: graduates of military academy; graduates of regular higher learning institutions; civilian technical and professional personnel; and reserve officers and personnel from non-military departments in war time.²⁵

Similarly, as part of the new military talent cultivation system, the PLA and the Armed Police Force have tasked a total of 117 colleges and universities to recruit national defense students. Over 40,000 out of the 80,000 selected students from these institutions have graduated and started their military services. The PLA also sends 1,800 technical officers of the three services to seek master's degrees every year and has expanded avenues of international personnel exchange. Since 2003, over 1,700 officers have studied abroad and over 600 senior officers of divisions and brigades have received training or have undertaken study tours abroad. At the same time, around 100 foreign military delegations have visited China since 2003.²⁶

In a related development, an official of the National Defense Patent Bureau of the PLA's General Armaments Department stated that "presently, 20,000-odd national defense patent applications have been accepted in China", indicating to the robust state of innovation in the PLA.²⁷

²² "China's First Early Warning Aircraft Hints Strategic Leap in Air Defense," *PLA Daily*, October 1, 2009, at http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-10/01/content_4053957.htm

²³ "China Eyes Defensive Capability in Building up Military," *PLA Daily*, October 1, 2009, at http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-10/01/content_4053974.htm

²⁴ "China Urges U.S. to Create Condition for Military Relations," *PLA Daily*, September 30, 2009, at http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/today-headlines/2009-09/30/content_4051930.htm

²⁵ "College-Student-Turned Soldiers Become New Source of Grassroots Officers," *PLA Daily*, October 9, 2009, at http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-10/09/content_4057845.htm

²⁶ "PLA Establishes New Type Military Talent Cultivation System," *PLA Daily*, October 9, 2009, at http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-10/09/content_4057859.htm

²⁷ "National Defense Patents Boost Military Innovation," *PLA Daily*, October 9, 2009, at http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/china-military-news/2009-10/09/content_4057802.htm

SOUTHEAST ASIA

- **Thai govt to go ahead with proposed constitutional amendments; Suu Kyi allowed to meet with diplomats from US, UK, Australia to discuss sanctions; Sarkozy offers all help to Malaysia, including in nuclear technology; Casualty figure in West Sumatra rises to 784**

Thai Deputy PM Suthep Thaugsuban stated that despite fierce protests from the opposition Peoples Alliance for Democracy (PAD), the Thai government will go ahead with the proposed constitutional amendments. Suthep expressed surprise over Puea Thai party's recent decision to boycott the charter change process, as the party repeatedly demanded these constitutional amendments earlier.²⁸ The United front for Democracy against Dictatorship (UDD) has meanwhile started demanding the reinstatement of the 1997 constitution.²⁹

Myanmar democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi was permitted to meet diplomats from the US, UK and Australia to discuss sanctions imposed by the West on the country. Suu Kyi had earlier expressed her willingness to cooperate with the junta in having the sanctions lifted.³⁰

After a four-day visit to France by Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, France reiterated that Malaysia was an important and strategic country with which it wants to strengthen bilateral ties. President Sarkozy latter offered to provide full support and assistance to the country whenever required, including in the field of nuclear technology.³¹

In other developments, the casualty figure due to last week's devastating earthquake in West Sumatra reached 784, while hundred of others are still reportedly missing. Indonesian authorities have indicated that the final death toll could be even greater.³²

Six people were killed in Philippines due to landslides after tropical storm Parma struck the region for a second time during the week. More than 400,000 people had to take refuge in evacuation centers.³³

²⁸ "Government to go ahead with charter change," *Bangkok Post*, October 8, 2009, at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/156443/govt-to-go-ahead-with-charter-change>

²⁹ "RedShirts hold anti-government rally," *Bangkok Post*, October 11, 2009, at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/156761/red-shirts-hold-anti-govt-rally>

³⁰ "Myanmar democracy leader Suu Kyi meets diplomats," *The Jakarta Post*, October 9, 2009, at <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2009/10/09/myanmar-democracy-leader-suu-kyi-meets-diplomats.html>

³¹ "Najib's visit fruitful, France wants Ties to be strengthened," *Bernama.com*, October 8, 2009, at http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/news_lite.php?id=445271

³² "West Sumatra's quake death toll recorded at 784," *The Jakarta Post*, October 9, 2009, at <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2009/10/09/west-sumatra039s-quake-death-toll-recorded-784.html>

³³ "Six dead as storm hits Philippines," *Bangkok Post*, October 8, 2009, at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/156512/six-dead-as-storm-hits-northern-philippines>

C. WEST ASIA

- **Shashi Tharoor visits UAE and Bahrain; Bahrain reiterates its support for India's permanent membership at UNSC; MoS expresses hope that the robust \$44 billion bilateral trade with UAE will grow even higher; Tharoor: India ready to work with UAE on nuclear energy**

India's Minister of State for External Affairs Shashi Tharoor visited UAE and Bahrain in the first leg of his journey to the Gulf region from October 4-8, 2009. During his visit to Bahrain, Tharoor called on PM Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalid Bin Ahmed Bin Mohamed Al Khalifa. Bahrain reiterated its support for India's permanent membership at the UN Security Council (UNSC) and reiterated that such a step would be a stabilising influence in the whole region. Bahrain has also committed to support India's candidature for a non-permanent seat in the UNSC for 2011-12, while India has committed to support Bahrain's candidature for a non-permanent seat in 2026-27.³⁴ Tharoor also discussed the India-GCC Free Trade Agreement and issues relating to the welfare of Indians working in that country.

Mr. Tharoor also sought the support of the UAE for UNSC permanent membership and urged the strengthening of political and economic relations between the two countries. Tharoor held talks with Crown Prince of Dubai, Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, the Minister of Cabinet Affairs Mohammed Abdullah al Gargawi, and Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak, the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research. The MoS expressed satisfaction at the \$44 billion (Dh160bn) bilateral trade between the two countries last year, excluding Information Technology and urged steps to further develop build on it. Tharoor added that "this is a relationship that India does not take for granted."³⁵ The Minister also stated that India was ready to work with the UAE in the field of nuclear energy, which he pointed out was following a "creative and forward-looking approach" to cater for its energy security.³⁶

IRAN

- **Iran set to buy 20 percent pure uranium from abroad; US lawmakers urge Obama to report by January 31 the status of his diplomatic efforts on Iran; Ahmadinejad says Geneva talks were "positive" and a "step forward"**

A spokesman of Iran's atomic body stated that Iran will enrich uranium to 20 percent purity required for its research reactor in Tehran if third-party deals

³⁴ "India, Bahrain to back each other for UN seat," *The Hindustan Times*, October 6, 2009, at <http://www.hindustantimes.com/rssfeed/newdelhi/India-Bahrain-to-back-each-other-for-UN-seat/Article1-461854.aspx>

³⁵ "Minister praises Indian commercial ties," *The National*, October 8, 2009, at <http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091008/NATIONAL/710079836/1010>

³⁶ "India ready for nuclear energy tie-ups with UAE," *The Hindu*, October 8, 2009, at <http://www.hindu.com/2009/10/08/stories/2009100859441000.htm>

failed. Officials from Iran, the US, Russia, France and the IAEA are to meet in Vienna on October 19 to work out the modalities for deals under which Tehran can buy 20 percent pure uranium from abroad. Iran agreed to buy the higher grade uranium required from overseas suppliers at the Geneva talks.³⁷

As part of the provisions of the 2010 defence budget bill, the US House of Representatives called on President Obama to report by January 31 the progress of his diplomatic efforts with Iran. The legislation also demanded that sanctions should be levied against Iran if it fails "to suspend all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities" related to its nuclear ambitions. The bill also requires Defense Secretary Gates to submit an annual report to Congress on the current and future military strategy of Iran.³⁸

President Ahmadinejad, in comments reported in state media, stated that the Geneva talks were "positive" and a "step forward." He added that Iran was prepared to cooperate with world powers if there was a will to form a "collective and general cooperation on global issues."³⁹

IRAQ

- **Six people killed in suicide attack in Anbar province; Sunni cleric lost his life in car explosion**

A suicide bomber killed 6 people and wounded 16 others at a funeral in Haditha in Anbar Province. In the same province, in the city of Falluja, three bombs killed one person and wounded five others. In other incidents of violence, two police officers were killed after a roadside bomb exploded in the northern city of Mosul.⁴⁰

A Sunni cleric, Jamal Humadi, who had denounced insurgents, was killed when a bomb exploded as he was driving home after his Friday sermons. Humadi was known for his opposition to the Al Qaeda in Mesopotamia and other Sunni insurgent groups. In the previous week, another Sunni cleric opposed to the group was killed in a mosque south of Mosul.⁴¹

³⁷ "Iran will enrich uranium if third-party deals fail," *Khaleej Times*, October 10, 2009, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticleNew.asp?section=middleeast&xfile=data/middleeast/2009/october/middleeast_october238.xml

³⁸ "US lawmakers call for Obama's report on Iran by January," *Khaleej Times*, October 9, 2009, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticleNew.asp?section=middleeast&xfile=data/middleeast/2009/october/middleeast_october204.xml

³⁹ "Geneva talks a 'step forward': Ahmadinejad," *Khaleej Times*, October 7, 2009, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticleNew.asp?section=middleeast&xfile=data/middleeast/2009/october/middleeast_october164.xml

⁴⁰ Timothy Williams, "6 Are Killed by Bomber at Funeral in West Iraq," *New York Times*, October 6, 2009, at http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/06/world/middleeast/06iraq.html?_r=1&ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

⁴¹ "Iraq: Bomb in Car Kills Sunni Cleric Who Spoke out against Insurgents," *New York Times*, October 9, 2009, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/10/world/middleeast/10briefs-Iraqbrf.html?ref=todayspaper>

II. DEFENCE AND MISSILES REVIEW

DEFENCE NATIONAL

- **ASSOCHAM and Ernest & Young: Govt. needs to fund 80 per cent of defence R&D in private sector**

A joint study by ASSOCHAM and Ernst & Young (E&Y) has recommended that the government should fund 80 per cent of defence research and development (R&D) in the private sector. The report noted that since defence R&D was “fraught with risks,” the private sector was unlikely to come forward unless it was adequately encouraged through greater financial assistance.⁴²

Currently, almost the entire defence R&D is undertaken by the DRDO, which has an annual budget of Rs. 8511.54 crores, representing six per cent of total defence budget for 2009-10.⁴³ However, under the ‘make’ procedure of Defence Procurement Procedure 2006 (DPP 2006) and its subsequent version, i.e., DPP 2008, the DRDO is responsible for development of systems which are of “strategic, complex and security sensitive” in nature. Other products which are of “low technology and mature system” and “high technology complex system” would be developed by any player(s) in Indian defence industry, either in the private or public sectors. For products in non-DRDO sector, the developmental cost would be shared “in the ratio of MoD (80 per cent) and the industry (20 per cent).”⁴⁴

- **Indian, Russia to develop hypersonic version of BrahMos**

Reports noted that India and Russia have agreed to develop and induct a new hypersonic version of the BrahMos cruise missile by 2015. The new missile, to be known as BrahMos-II, will have speed in excess of Mach 6, as compared to close to Mach 3 for the supersonic BrahMos. However, the flight range of the new missile will be same as that of BrahMos, capable of striking targets up to 290 km. The Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), to which Russia is a party, does not allow it to cooperate with others on missiles with ranges exceeding 300 kms.⁴⁵

In 1998, India and Russia had signed an Inter-governmental Agreement to form a joint venture company (later named BrahMos Aerospace) in India to design, develop, produce and market the supersonic version of BrahMos. India has so far inducted the ship- and land-based versions of BrahMos, and the work

⁴² “Govt. Ought To Fund 80% Of Defence R&D: E&Y-ASSOCHAM,” at <http://www.assoccham.org/prels/shownews.php?id=2189>

⁴³ Government of India, Ministry of Defence, *Defence Services Estimates: 2009-10*.

⁴⁴ See government of India, Ministry of Defence, *Defence Procurement Procedure (Capital Procurements)*, p. 140.

⁴⁵ “India, Russia to develop new hypersonic cruise missile,” <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/india-russia-to-develop-new-hypersonic-cruise-missile/527148/>

is “in progress” for the air- and submarine-launched versions.⁴⁶ Reports also indicated that India plans to deploy the missile in Ladakh.⁴⁷

INTERNATIONAL

- **China to downsize PLA by 7,00,000**

Reports noted that China is planning to cut down the strength of the PLA by nearly 7,00,000 within the next 2-3 years to enable the country to “modernise its military capabilities.” Presently, PLA strength is around 2.185 million, with the army alone accounting for 1.6 million. Besides, China’s reserves and paramilitary forces constitute a further 1.5 million. Between 1985 and 2003, China reduced PLA strength by 1.7 million.⁴⁸

- **NATO Secretary General urges Russia to provide more support in Afghanistan**

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen urged Russia to provide more support for the war in Afghanistan, including in equipping Afghan security forces and training them. Currently, Russia only allows ‘limited movement’ of ISAF material across its territory into Afghanistan.⁴⁹

MISSILES

- **Prithvi-II successfully test-fired**

Two 350 kms range Prithvi Short Range Ballistic Missiles (SRBM) were fired in rapid succession at the Interim Test Range (ITR), Balasore. The missiles were launched from a mobile platform, with only five minutes separating the twin launches.⁵⁰ The tests were conducted to meet specifications of user trials for the Army. Prithvi missiles are designed for launch with liquid and solid fuels and have different stages.

- **US and Israel to conduct joint missile defence exercise**

The US and Israel are expected to conduct ‘Juniper Cobra’, a joint missile defence exercise as part of a war game against adversaries. The exercises assume significance due to growing tensions between Iran and Israel on account of its nuclear programme. The exercise, to begin on October 12, will involve Theatre High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) Aegis and PAC-3 systems from the US

⁴⁶ BrahMos Aerospace, “BrahMos supersonic Cruise Missile,” <http://www.brahmos.com/content.php?id=10&sid=10>

⁴⁷ “BrahMos to be deployed in Ladakh,” <http://www.timesnow.tv/BrahMos-to-be-deployed-in-Ladakh/articleshow/4329414.cms>

⁴⁸ Trefor Moss, “PLA cuts manpower to modernize capabilities,” *Jane’s Defence Weekly*, October 9, 2009

⁴⁹ Brooks Tigner, “NATO Chief calls on Russia to bolster Afghanistan support,” *Jane’s Defence Weekly*, October 9, 2009

⁵⁰ “Two Nuclear Capable Prithvi-2 missiles successfully test-fired,” *Times of India*, October 12, 2009, at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Two-nuclear-capable-Prithvi-2-missiles-successfully-test-fired/articleshow/5114380.cms>

and the Israeli built Arrow missile defence system. Over a thousand American troops belonging to the Pentagon's European Command, who are already deployed in the Negev desert, will participate. Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamanei warned that Iranian missiles will "blow up the heart of Israel" if "a single American or Zionist missile land in our country, before the dust settles ..."⁵¹

⁵¹ "Israel, United States to hold key missile exercise amid nuclear row with Iran," *Times of India*, October 11, 2009, at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/middle-east/Israel-United-States-to-hold-key-missile-exercise-amid-nuclear-row-with-Iran/articleshow/5113249.cms>