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INSIGHT

Ranjit Pandit



'India has made tremendous progress and there is more to come,' says the director in McKensey's Mumbai office

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INTERVIEW

Suhag A Shukla



'I don't think that history can remain static especially in the light of new scientific evidence.'

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INTERVIEW

Michael Witzel



'I always get misrepresented that I am a Hindu-hater, but I am not. I hate people who misrepresent history.'

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Key Senator nixes nuke deal passage before Bush visit

Richard Lugar, Foreign Relations Committee chair, says deal won't be until February '06

AZIZ HANIFFA
in Washington DC

US Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN), chairman of the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee and whose approval is imperative if the proposed US-India civilian nuclear agreement is to make any progress in Congress, last week effectively confirmed that President George W Bush, when he visits India sometime in late February as has been rumored, will go empty-handed with no concluded nuke deal to gift to New Delhi.

Following a meeting with senior Indian policymakers and business leaders here, Lugar said the debate regarding the US-India civilian nuclear cooperation agreement 'has not progressed very far on Capitol Hill.'

The group included the likes of Ambassador S K Lambah, Special Envoy, Prime Minister's Office, ex-ambassadors to the US Naresh

Chandra and K Shankar Bajpai, and former chief of air staff Retd. Air Chief Marshall S Krishnaswamy, all of who were in Washington DC to participate in the 'US-India Strategic Dialogue,' as part of a task force of the Aspen Strategy Group.

In a statement made available to *India Abroad* after the meeting by his office, Lugar said, 'The Foreign Relations Committee has held one hearing involving Under Secretaries of State Nick Burns and Bob Joseph, as well as outside experts, and there have been a number of closed briefings at the staff level.'

But, he said, no action on any proposal the Administration may submit is likely till February next year at the earliest, even if India presents a plan of separating its civil and military nuclear facilities that the Administration

can go to bat with.



■ Richard Lugar (R-IN)

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California textbooks spark Hinduism row

Supported by Hindu groups, opposed by academics, revisions in the books in spotlight

SUMAN GUHA MOZUMDER
in New York

A set of revisions in California school text books relating to Indian history and culture suggested by some Hindu groups in the US has snowballed into a major debate over whether the proposed changes are borne out by historical facts or are merely sectarian and politically-motivated agendas.

Hindu organizations, mainly the Vedic Foundation and the Hindu Education Foundation that worked for months with the California Department of Education procedures suggesting improvements for sections of textbooks dealing with India and Hinduism, say that some academics, Americans as well as Indian Americans, have been trying to scuttle their efforts.

The scholars on the other hand allege that what these groups and some individuals are trying to do are at variance with the

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EEOC seeks \$5.5 mn in Tulsa slavery case