

India Needs Nukes, National Post, March 2 2006

It would be criminally irresponsible for India to not maintain a powerful nuclear weapons capability. China and Pakistan have both proliferated nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles to unstable regimes, and have both attacked India without provocation. Furthermore, India has suffered thousands of casualties from Islamist and Maoist terrorist groups, most of whom receive backing from Pakistan and China.

India is a stable democracy with an impeccable record of restraint, and deserves full support from Western democracies in every sphere, including the right to field a credible nuclear deterrent. Rather than trying to restrict India's nuclear weapons programme, we in the West should encourage its development as a just and vital force to safeguard liberty and democratic values.

Ron Banerjee
Director, Hindu Conference of Canada