

Hindi/English/Nat

India's prime minister says his nation's nuclear capability is intended for defence only, and has promised India will not threaten its neighbour, rival Pakistan. His comments came on Saturday as Pakistani defence officials announced that they detonated another two nuclear devices - each one bigger than the Hiroshima bomb. Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said that India only sought to enhance its ability to protect itself when it conducted five nuclear tests two weeks ago, drawing worldwide criticism. Brandishing a traditional sword presented by leaders of the Sikh community at his residence, Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said India would never enter another country to disrupt its peace. Apparently referring to Pakistan, Vajpayee also said India wanted to live like a good neighbour. Pakistan, which has fought three wars with India since 1947, responded to India's nuclear tests with five tests of its own on Thursday. On Saturday, Pakistani defence officials announced that they detonated another two nuclear devices - each one bigger than the Hiroshima bomb. The tests raised fears that tensions would escalate into a full-blown nuclear conflict on the South Asia subcontinent. India said last week that it would introduce a moratorium on testing and was willing to talk with "key interlocutors" to formalise it. Speaking before news of Pakistan's second series of nuclear tests, Vajpayee said India would never strike first. He said the aim of nuclear tests was self-defence, not destruction.

SOUNDBITE: (Hindi)

"To protect our nation and to protect our beliefs we've had to brandish the sword, and we will not lower it until we've conquered our enemies. We want to live in peace with our neighbours, but if they interrupt the peace in our country then it is our duty to protect ourselves, and that's what we've done."

SUPER CAPTION: Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Indian Prime Minister

India has proposed a mutual pledge not to attack first with nuclear weapons.

Pakistan has said it is willing to sign the global test ban treaty if India signs first.

Analysts said they do not expect quick progress toward arms control in South Asia.

SOUNDBITE: (English)

"Well, there were intelligence reports earlier in the week that two devices had been lowered down shafts and concrete had been placed upon them, and there was speculation that there was no way that the Pakistanis could have got them up, and the only way to get rid of them was to detonate them. That's one theory, and the other theory is that the Pakistanis needed additional

data which they would have got from these two blasts to complete their series of tests, like India needed five tests, they probably needed seven. (Q So do you think it's a tit-for-tat? Are they trying to outdo India?) Well, there is always an element between India and Pakistan of a tit-for-tat oneupmanship thing because they've been involved in oneupmanship for the last 50 odd years, ever since independence. So everybody really here in the government and the intelligence community expected that tit-for-tat equation to operate, and it seems to have."

SUPER CAPTION: Rahu Bedi, Defence analyst, Jane's Defence Weekly

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since being liberated from British colonial rule in 1947, two of these over the disputed Himalayan province of Kashmir.