

The Daily Excelsior, 1 April 2005

India, Mauritius sign four agreements (Press Trust of India)

PORT LOUIS, Mar 31: India and Mauritius today signed four agreements, including one on setting up a joint working group for combating international terrorism and on enhancing air services between the two countries. The agreement on terrorism envisages creation of a JWG to oversee bilateral cooperation in fighting international terrorism and associated threats like organised crime, illicit trafficking of arms and narcotics, money laundering. "Mauritius and India have long recognised the threat posed to international peace and security by the spread of international terrorism, both by non-state actors as well as by sponsoring states. Mauritius is one of the few countries in the world to have passed a tough anti-terrorism law which considers even 'moral support' to terrorism as a crime", a statement said.

The Daily Excelsior, 5 April 2005

Terrorism most potent threat to India: Mukherjee (Press Trust of India)

NEW DELHI, Apr 4: Maintaining that the "most potent threats" to the country were not from conventional wars but from terrorism, insurgency and nuclear and missile threats, the Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee today asked the armed forces to prepare for better border, airspace and maritime management. While asserting that India was moving towards solution of all outstanding issues with both its neighbours Pakistan and China by promoting confidence building measures, he cautioned that there was a need to guard against the use of softer borders to promote subversion and terrorism. Elaborating on the unconventional threats, the minister said at the low end such threats were coming from terrorism, insurgency, religious fundamentalism, arms smuggling... Mukherjee said security forces needed to be alert as the terrorist infrastructure along the LoC remained still intact.

The Hindu, 6 April 2005

India, Uzbekistan agree to fight terrorism

NEW DELHI, APRIL 5. India and Uzbekistan today agreed to fight terrorism on a "long term and sustained" basis and stated that international terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, constituted one of the "most serious threats" to peace and security. Condemning in the "strongest terms" all acts of terrorism, India and Uzbekistan also expressed their support to the efforts of the Afghanistan Government to build a "strong, united, prosperous and independent" country.

The Daily Excelsior, 8 April 2005

Terror camps still in PoK: Gen Singh

NEW DELHI: Notwithstanding zero-infiltration from across the border in Kashmir last month, the Army remained alert as the terrorist-training camps and related infrastructure continued in place in Pak-occupied Kashmir, Army chief General J J Singh today said. Meanwhile, he said the "iron fist in a velvet glove" policy adopted by the security forces wherein innocents were least inconvenienced while the militants, especially foreign mercenaries, were dealt with most firmly had borne desired results... The Army chief said the people of Kashmir had rejected soundly the agenda of terrorism and those who did not want people-to-contact between India and Pakistan. In similar vein, Gen JJ Singh expressed the confidence that disaffected elements in the North-East region, too, would realise the benefits of remaining part of the national mainstream.

The Hindu, 16 April 2005

No political compromise with terror: Manmohan (Vinay Kumar)

NEW DELHI: It is the joint responsibility of the Governments of India and Pakistan and of the local authorities on both sides of the Line of Control to work together and provide full security cover to the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service, the Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, said on Friday. Dr. Singh asserted that violence and use of force could not win the rewards that insurgents and extremists were seeking. The Government would deal firmly with insurgency. In a frank but firm tone, Dr. Singh said the challenge of terrorism must be faced squarely and resolutely by all shades of political opinion. In his 30-minute address, he dwelt on two key themes: there was no place for violence and extremism of any kind in a democratic, rule-based society; and disaffection and alienation were a result of pent up grievances against economic and social deprivation. Dr. Singh said inadequate employment opportunities, lack of access to resources, under developed agriculture, artificially depressed wages, geographical isolation, lack of land reforms could all impinge on growth of extremism.

The Daily Excelsior, 21 April 2005

Militants plan to target Ministers

NEW DELHI: The Government today said it had received reports about sneaking of terrorists from time to time and also intelligence inputs indicating plans of various terrorists and militant groups to target ministers of the Centre and Jammu and Kashmir and other states. In reply to another question, Minister of State for Home S

Reghupathy said the Government had no information about the reorganisation of terrorist and separatist organisations in the northeast except re-grouping of ULFA which has been receiving support from Bangladesh and has camps there and in Myanmar.

The Hindu, 23 April 2005

Global solutions needed to fight terror: Manmohan (Press Trust of India)

Jakarta: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today said global solutions were needed to meet the challenges posed by terrorism, while noting that absence of consensual international order had created insecurity in the world. Addressing the Asian-African Summit here, he said global solutions are needed to face the challenge of terrorism... "Our countries have our own distinct perspectives on measures to combat international terrorism," Singh said adding "we are well-equipped to initiate and sustain meaningful dialogues among civilisations, instead of subscribing to the theory of the so-called clash of civilisations. Our voice must be heard in this regard." "A cooperative and consensual international security order eludes us, and its consequence is insecurity, not common security," he said.

The Daily Times, 24 April 2005

Terror alert as cricket fans go 'missing' in India

LAHORE: Pakistan's cricket tour to India may have ended but to 11 "missing" fans from that country, the game seems to be far from over. Security agencies now suspect them to be Pakistani intelligence agents or terrorist operatives, according to a report in Times of India on Saturday. The Pakistani fans had been allowed to come to Mohali for the first Test match between India and Pakistan on March 8. A case has been registered against the missing fans under Section 14 of the Foreigners Act at the Gharinda police station near Wagah land border check post. Search parties are being sent to various locations in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and other states to trace them. Punjab police officials say the state and central security agencies are coordinating to get hold of the missing Pakistanis. There are apprehensions that some of these missing fans could be linked to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence or even to terrorist organisations like the Al Qaeda.

The Hindu, 26 April 2005

Two Lashkar militants gunned down

NEW DELHI: Two alleged Lashkar-e-Taiba militants were gunned down in an encounter with the Special Cell of the Delhi police near Pragati Maidan late on Monday night. The police said they recovered two kg RDX, an AK-56 assault rifle, .30 mm pistol, two magazines, four detonators, a satellite phone and two timers from them. With the killing, the police claimed to have busted a militant module, consisting of a "fidayeen" probably with roots in Pakistan. According to the Joint Commissioner of Police (Special Cell), Karnal Singh, intelligence inputs showed that an LeT group was trying to set up base in the capital. "We also got information that this group was to receive a consignment of weapons and explosives from Kashmir.

The Daily Excelsior, 26 April 2005

2 LeT terrorists killed (Press Trust of India)

NEW DELHI, Apr 25: Delhi Police tonight shot dead two Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists near exhibition complex Pragati Maidan here. Acting on a tip-off, Special Cell of Delhi Police chased the militants which led to an encounter, Joint Commissioner of Police Karnail Singh said. This is the second encounter in last two months. Earlier three Pakistani militants were shot dead while they were planning to carry out suicide attack at Indian Military Academy at Dehra Dun. Police recovered one AK series rifle, two revolvers, some magazines from the site of encounter. It was not immediately clear what the motive of the two militants was.

The Hindu, 27 April 2005

Aftab Ansari, 6 others convicted

KOLKATA: A special court set up to hear the case of the terrorist attack on the American Centre here three years ago, convicted on Tuesday Aftab Ansari and six others for waging war against the State, murder and conspiracy. The conviction in the Presidency Jail where the special court was set up may lead to death or life sentence for Ansari and six others. Even on Monday, the leader of the terrorist outfit, Harqat-ul-Jehadi, challenged the authorities with these words: "Chun chun kar maroonga. Ekbar jail se bhagne ko maoka mile to saab policewallah ki sar lenge. [Just wait till I get out of the jail. I will kill all the policemen.]" The police had been put on high alert across Bengal especially Kolkata and plainclothes policemen directed to keep strict vigil in sensitive areas.

The Hindu, 28 April 2005

Annan wants India, Pakistan to cooperate in tackling terrorism (Amit Baruah)

NEW DELHI: India and Pakistan must cooperate in dealing with the menace of terrorism, the United Nations

Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, said during a 30-minute meeting with the Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, on Wednesday. A spokesman for the Prime Minister said that Dr. Singh spoke at length about the need for U.N. reforms, the situation in South Asia and the recent visits of the Chinese Premier, Wen Jiabao, and the Pakistani President, Pervez Musharraf, to India. Earlier, Mr. Annan, who also met the External Affairs Minister, Natwar Singh, said that over the past few months India had demonstrated its ability to rise to challenges both at home and in the region - from dealing with the devastation caused by the tsunami to advancing the dialogue with Pakistan and responding to the crisis in Nepal.

The Hindu, 29 April 2005

ULFA in U.S. terrorist list

NEW DELHI: The United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) has been added to the list of "other selected terrorist organisations (OSTO)" by the American State Department in its 2004 country report. A U.S. statement here said the ULFA continued to target civilians. Referring to it as the most prominent group in India's northeast, the report noted the "ULFA use of extortion to finance military training and weapons' purchases, that it reportedly procures and trades in arms with other northeast Indian groups, it may have linkages with other ethnic insurgent groups active in neighbouring States, and it receives aid from unknown external sources.

The Times of India, 29 April 2005

Jihad jinx: J-K militants bankrupt

NEW DELHI: The militants are going through a rough patch in the Valley. Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and Hizb-ul-Mujahiddin (HM) are facing manpower, money, weapon and ammunition crisis. And they have started communicating the urgency for these to their people across the border. In the latest interception a fortnight back, LeT cadres in the Valley sounded desperate as they asked for ammunitions and weapons. Highly-placed sources in the Valley informed that JeM and HM are the worst hit as they aren't even getting supplies from 'outside'. Sources informed that about 400 newly-trained cadres are waiting with ammunition and sophisticated weapons to cross the border. It is presumed that in order to conserve ammunition for the 'bigger moments' the outfits are rotating attacks among themselves. It is also being perceived that it is due to this crisis HM chief Syed Salallahuddin has started feelers to the Indian government for a ceasefire. However, despite the crisis, sources in Valley informed, that there is a strong perception that there will be a militant strike by LeT and Al-Badr within 3-4 days when the Darbar move begins

The Times of India, 29 April 2005

So who all are threatening India?

NEW DELHI: A United States agency, the National Counterterrorism Center, on Wednesday, issued its first incident report on terrorism around the world. According to the report half of the terrorist incidents took place in South Asia, including attacks in Kashmir. The report noted "a significant decline in infiltration from Pakistani Kashmir during 2004", attributing the drop in large part to the fence India constructed during the year-long ceasefire with Pakistan and more effective counter-insurgency methods. However, in Jammu and Kashmir insurgent and terrorist groups made numerous attempts to kill Indian and Kashmiri politicians, targeted public areas frequented by tourists, and attacked security forces. The report also gives a fair idea of the different threats that India is facing, from violent groups, not just Islamic terrorists in Kashmir. However, a vast majority of the dreaded terrorists groups that pose serious challenges to India and rest of the world are headquartered in Pakistan.