

The Hindu, 5 February 2007

Four suspected Jaish militants held in Delhi

New Delhi: Four suspected Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) militants, including a Pakistani, were arrested on Sunday after an encounter with the Delhi Police under the Ranjit Singh flyover near Connaught Place. The police claimed to have recovered 3 kg of RDX, four detonators, a timer, six hand grenades, .30 bore firearm, \$ 10,000 and Rs. 50,000 from them.

The Hindu, 6 February 2007

Militants had plans to trigger blasts in Delhi on Monday: Police

New Delhi: The four suspected Jaish-e-Mohammad militants arrested following an encounter with the Special Cell of the Delhi police near the Ranjit Singh flyover here on Sunday night had plans to carry out blasts at busy market places in the Capital on Monday, according to the police. During interrogation after their arrest, the three Kashmiri militants -- Bashir Ahmed Ponnunni, Fayaz Ahmed Lone and Abdul Majid Baba -- purportedly revealed that they had been directed by Abu Haider, their handler and JeM district commander of Sopore in Kashmir, to hand over the explosives to Pakistani militant Shahid Gafoor.

Daily Times, 10 February 2007

Militants open propaganda front in war on terror

London: Anyone with an Internet connection can watch videos of bombings and sniper attacks against US forces - shot and edited by militants and broadcast on YouTube, the world's largest video sharing portal. With the global spread of high-speed Internet connections and the relative anonymity afforded by the world's biggest and busiest sites, extremists have found a new theatre to display violence and propaganda, which can be seen by as many as 100 million people a day.

The Indian Express, 13 February 2007

Nepal Maoist held in J-K, LeT link suspected

Srinagar: For the first time, a nexus between the Maoists of Nepal and militants in Kashmir has come to light with the arrest of a suspected Maoist ultra near Baramulla. Troops of the 46 Rashtriya Rifles arrested Pasang Lama, a Nepalese citizen, when he was allegedly negotiating an arms deal with Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) men at Binner village, the army said. His interrogation revealed the link ran deeper than the arms sale. The Maoists were trying to establish links with militant outfits and planning a joint operation to train cadres in making Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), they added...

The Indian Express, 15 February 2007

LTTE bomber's jacket, sat phone, explosives seized off TN coast

A suicide bomber's jacket, explosives weighing 7 kg, five detonators, a satellite phone and a handheld GPS formed part of the cargo of a suspected LTTE boat intercepted by the Indian Coast Guard in the Palk Bay, 20 nautical miles from Point Calimere in south Tamil Nadu. Three Sri Lankans and two Indian Tamils on board were taken into custody and turned over to the police and intelligence agencies. Police later said the boat was headed for Jaffna and had strayed into Indian waters while fleeing from the Lankan

Navy.

The Hindu, 16 February 2007

Sensational seizures deepen anxieties

Chennai: The Coast Guard's interception and seizure in Indian waters, close to the Tamil Nadu coast, of a boat carrying deadly arms and ammunition, including a 7 kg suicide belt, has spotlighted the deadly terrorist menace the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam poses to India and chosen targets in Sri Lanka as well as India. But even before Wednesday's sensational catch, a number of recent seizures by the police, the Navy, and the Coast Guard off the Tamil Nadu coast pointed to a resumption, on a significant scale, of smuggling of arms and raw materials by the LTTE. Intelligence sources apprehend that these seizures may be only the tip of the iceberg, as two-way traffic across the Palk Strait has been going on uninterrupted for quite some time now.

Daily Excelsior, 17 February 2007

Ultras operating in big cities: Patil

New Delhi: Amid reports of terrorist groups establishing legitimate businesses to fund their activities, Government today said such outfits are making inroads into big cities and operating clandestinely. "Terrorists are sneaking into big cities and operating clandestinely...They have been making their plans by hiding in the cities and will continue to do it," Home Minister Shivraj Patil said here. His comments came on the heels of National Security Advisor M K Narayanan's remarks that some fictitious companies in stock markets of Mumbai and Chennai have been traced to terrorist groups. Patil said the influx of terrorists into major cities has a big impact on the national capital and asked its police force to remain on alert to frustrate designs to spread terror in the city.

The Hindu, 20 February 2007

Samjhauta Express firebombed, 67 killed

Panipat: At least 67 people were killed and 50 injured when two firebombs went off on the New Delhi-Wagah Samjhauta Express just before midnight on Sunday. Most of the dead, including three children, are Pakistani citizens: the first civilians of that country to have died in a terrorist strike on Indian soil. The attack comes a day ahead of Pakistan's Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri's three-day official visit to Delhi. Investigators believe the perpetrators of the terror strike intended that the bombing be mistaken for an arson attack - a deception they hoped would deflect suspicion away from them. Forensic tests on three unexploded suitcase-bombs found on the train will take at least 48 hours to complete, but a senior intelligence official told The Hindu that investigators have been able to determine that the devices were cleverly designed to start a fire. "They were incendiary devices," he said, "rather than explosive devices." "Whoever carried out this attack," the official said, "hoped that it would be interpreted as arson. Many in Pakistan would have blamed Hindu fundamentalists for the attack. India would have suspected terrorists, but few in Pakistan would have believed its claims. Unfortunately for the perpetrators, and fortunately for us, three devices failed to work."

The Hindu, 21 February 2007

Seized LTTE boat destroyed

Chennai/Madurai: The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam boat, apprehended by the Coast Guard on February 13, was destroyed in the high seas off Chennai on Tuesday. The boat contained a substantial quantity of explosives, and the Tamil Nadu police and the joint interrogation team did not want to take chances, an official explained. Early on Tuesday morning, the Coast Guard was asked to tow the boat from the Chennai Port, where it had been moored, to a distance of about 20 nautical miles into the Bay of Bengal. More than a dozen officers of Central and State agencies, including senior Tamil Nadu police officers S. Davidson Devasirvatham and C. Easwaramoorthy, watched as the bomb disposal squad exploded the boat.

The Hindu, 22 February 2007

Samjhauta blasts: five detained

New Delhi/Jaipur: Five persons, including a couple, were detained on Wednesday night for questioning in raids by security forces in Rajasthan (2), Uttar Pradesh (2) and the walled city in Old Delhi (1) in connection with Sunday's blasts on the Samjhauta Express.

The Hindu, 22 February 2007

Nanded blast "a possible explosive accident"

Mumbai: The explosion that killed two persons and damaged a biscuit factory unit in Nanded on February 10 was not a fire accident but a possible explosive accident, says preliminary findings of Concerned Citizen Inquiry, conducted by Teesta Setalvad, Justice B.G. Kolse-Patil and Arvind Deshmukh. The final report will be out in a month, which will include details on the Malegaon blasts, the recovery of RDX and several other recent events. On February 10, 2007, at about 12.15 a.m., 28-year-old Pandurang Amealkanthwar died on the spot as the biscuit boxes he was carrying exploded. His cousin, Dnaneshwar Manikwar, who sustained 72 per cent burns, died on February 16 at the JJ Hospital in Mumbai.

The Hindu, 22 February 2007

Editorial: Tamil Nadu and LTTE menace

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a designated terrorist organisation, is banned in India. Nevertheless, a deeply worrying mix of political collusion, official complacency, mercenary considerations, and corruption has enabled it to exploit Tamil Nadu both as a source of supply and a base of operations. The chain of seizures by the Indian Navy, Coast Guard, and the State police over the past three months points strongly to the LTTE's use of Tamil Nadu coastal locations, especially landing points in the Rameswaram-Tuticorin-Cuddalore stretch, for a two-way terrorist traffic across the Palk Strait. The Coast Guard's February 13 seizure in Indian waters, off Point Calimere, of a boat bearing an AK 56, five grenades, chemicals, and most sensationally a suicide jacket with belt, sent shock waves through India's security establishment. It was quickly established that the boat belonged to the LTTE's 'naval' arm, the Sea Tigers, and its five-member crew included a 'Black Tiger' operative and an Indian decoy to mislead security personnel.

The Hindu, 23 February 2007

Bombs found on train

Kolkata: A polythene bag containing several bombs were seized on Thursday by RPF personnel from a general compartment of the Sealdah-Varanasi Express at Dhanauri station.

The Indian Express, 23 February 2007

Samjhauta probe: Seven held, diesel bottles found in Bikaner raids

Bikaner, Lucknow: As the probe into the Samjhauta Express blasts widened, six persons were arrested in Bikaner and a Pakistani national in Bulandshahr. Among them were Saira Taj Mohammad and Salman Ahmed, who is said to resemble one of the suspects in the two sketches put out by the Haryana police. Military Intelligence, Rajasthan Police and Uttar Pradesh Police raided the house of Saira Taj Mohammad last night and they were formally arrested today along with four others, including railway employees. Police claimed Saira had been running a brothel in Rampura Basti in the Nava Shehar area of Bikaner. Her house was raided in August 2004 and four girls from Mumbai were found there.

The Hindu, 26 February 2007

Train attack: reward amount hiked

New Delhi: While clues have started emerging in the Samjhauta Express blasts, the reward money on the suspects who planted the bombs on the train was increased to Rs. 5 lakh on Sunday. The Haryana police released modified sketches of the suspects a couple of days ago. Investigations by the Haryana police indicated that the bombs were configured at a place close to the Old Delhi railway station, before they were planted in the train. Raw materials used in the bomb and suitcases were brought by different people from different "directions." The police believe that about six identical suitcases were brought for the purpose.

The Hindu, 28 February 2007

LeT men fire in air, escape from Lucknow court

Lucknow: In true filmy style, two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operatives escaped from the crowded district and sessions court campus here, opening fire in the air, on Tuesday. The Lucknow police and Special Task Force launched a joint combing operation in the nearby Nai Basti, a congested locality, and other areas adjoining the City Station. A sub-inspector and two constables who accompanied the undertrial prisoners, Maqsood Ahmed and Mohd Saeed, from the Lucknow district jail, have been placed under suspension and a criminal case has been registered against them. They are being interrogated by the STF. The LeT operatives, both Pakistanis, were detained under the Prevention of Terrorist Act (POTA), for their involvement in the 2001 attack on a Central Reserve Police Force camp in Delhi. A CRPF man was killed in the attack.