

The Times of India, 2 February 2008

Terror camps, Pak flags in Karnataka jungles

KALGHATGI (DHARWAD): Terrorist training camps may be closer to home than the distant mountains in Pakistan. This chilling evidence came to light during the interrogation of three Islamist radicals arrested recently Riyazuddin Nasir alias Mohammed Ghouse, Asadullah Abu Bakar and Mohammed Asif. The investigators have unearthed a thick forest area bordering Dharwad and Uttara Kannada districts of Karnataka, which was used to train terrorists in the use of firearms. The three youths arrested by anti-terror police in Hubli and Davanagere a fortnight ago allegedly received weapons training in these woods which are surrounded by religious shrines.

The Times of India, 2 February 2008

HuJI may be behind low- intensity blasts

NEW DELHI: A militant organisation backed by Bangladeshi terrorist outfit Harkat Ul-Jehadi Islam (HuJI) is suspected to be behind the two low-intensity blasts that rocked Lado Sarai in Malviya Nagar late on Thursday. A similar explosion was reported near IIT Gate on January 16. The police said that no one was hurt in the blast though sources claimed that two persons suffered minor injuries and were given first aid treatment. Meanwhile, hours after the blasts security agencies are still groping in the dark about the nature of the explosives and what triggered the blasts. Samples from the sites have been sent to forensic labs. A case under the Explosive Act has been registered at Malviya Nagar police station.

The Times of India, 4 February 2008

Second terror camp unearthed in Karnataka

HUBLI: Ominous signals are emanating from the jungles of Karnataka. Investigation into the unearthing of a terrorist training camp in Dharwad has led to more disturbing evidence: the location of another abandoned terrorist training centre, this time, deep inside the forest of neighbouring Uttara Kannada district. Sources in the anti-terrorist cell said the camp was located in the midst of dilapidated temples belonging to the period of Chalukyas. Going by the evidence they collected, an investigating officer said that the abandoned camp could be the first location of Riyazuddin Nasir alias Mohammed Ghouse and his accomplice, arrested recently. He said this could be the place where Ghouse worked on the elaborate recruitment process of jihadis.

Daily Excelsior, 5 February 2008

Situation peaceful in J&K: Antony

NEW DELHI, Feb 4: Government today ruled out deployment of Army to contain rising naxal violence in the country, saying the forces hands were already full. "I am totally opposed to Army being moved against naxal elements", Defence Minister A K Antony said, adding "Army cannot be used against everything....The forces are already coming in aid of civil authorities". "Army should be called in only as a last resort", the Minister said in reply to questions on a sidelines of a Defence Financial Controllers conference here. However, Antony said the forces would not shy away in containing the menace and were already providing logistic support and training to police forces of naxal-affected States.

The Times of India, 5 February 2008

Fidayeen threat to L K Advani

NEW DELHI: The Union Home Ministry has warned of possible fidayeen attack on BJP leader L K Advani. Taking a serious note of the Home Ministry's warning, the party has indefinitely postponed all planned rallies by L K Advani. The BJP leader was all set to embark on a sankalp yatra, which would have covered the entire nation in 15 months. But the renewed terror threat to Advani has put a question mark over his sankalp yatra. Advani is scheduled to address a public rally in Jabalpur on February 6. Despite the terror warning, the BJP has decided to go ahead with the Jabalpur rally.

Daily Excelsior, 8 February 2008

Centre extends ban on SIMI

NEW DELHI, Feb 7: The Government today decided to extend the ban on the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) for its anti-national activities. The Cabinet Committee on Security decided to ban the organisation for indulging in acts of terrorism and anti-national activities. SIMI has been banned for clandestine activities and links with many terror organisations through which it was allegedly operating. SIMI was earlier banned by the Home Ministry by notification dated February 2006 for the third time. It was first banned on September 27, 2001 immediately after the bombing of twin towers of the World Trade Centre at New York, US, on September 11. SIMI remained banned from September 27, 2001 to September 27, 2003 during which period several prosecutions were launched against its members under the provisions of Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Prevention Act (TADA), the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA), and the Unlawful Activities Preventions Act 1967. In fact, the second ban of SIMI on September 9, 2003 came to an end on September 27, 2005.

The Hindu, 8 February 2008

Terror suspects undergo brain mapping

BANGALORE: The two terror suspects arrested by the Davangere police, Riyazuddin Nasir and Asadullah Abubaker, were subjected to polygraph and brain-mapping tests at the State Forensic Science Laboratory here on Thursday to ascertain certain claims they had made during interrogation by the police. Nasir underwent the two tests on Wednesday after a team from the Corps of Detectives (CoD) brought the two to Bangalore from Hubli. After subjecting Nasir to another round of polygraph and brain mapping tests on Thursday, the experts made Asadullah to undergo the two tests, sources in the laboratory told The Hindu.

The Hindu, 8 February 2008

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The Indian Express, 8 February 2008

Al Qaida losing support among Muslims: intelligence chief

Washington, February 8: Al Qaida may have started losing support of the Islamic world due to its use of violence, especially against Muslims, a top US intelligence official has said. "Are we reaching a tipping point to witness the decline of this radical behaviour. We don't know the answer to that yet, but we're watching it very closely," National Intelligence Director Admiral Mike McConnell told the House Select Committee on Intelligence. "Brutal attacks unleashed by Al Qaida and the other Al Qaida affiliates against Muslim civilians have tarnished Al Qaida's self-styled image as the extremist vanguard," he said.

The Hindu, 8 February 2008

Goa alert after militant reveals attack plans

Panaji: Goa may have escaped a major terror attack with a suspected militant revealing plans to strike at the tourist State, targeting the crowded Calangute-Baga beach and a discotheque in the north. The plan, the police said, could not be executed because the militant said he failed to get 50 kg of RDX from Pakistan. The attack was timed for the Christmas-New Year festivities a few weeks back. Goa Chief Minister Digambar Kamat said an alert has been sounded in the coastal State and the police have intensified checks to look for possible terror links in the holiday hot spot.

Daily Excelsior, 11 February 2008

Editorial: Terrorism indigenised

The discovery that terrorist training camps were being run in the dense forests of Dharwad and Uttara Kannada districts of Karnataka should not come as a surprise. It is the same state where the inaccessible jungles had provided a safe sanctuary for a 'dreaded' sandalwood smuggler and bandit called Veerappan who was able to stay out of reach of the law for a long time even though some scribes were able to reach his hideout with remarkable ease. But the discovery of these terrorist training camps, following the arrest of suspects, has to be seen as the larger designs of the main exporter from across the border and its efforts to 'indigenise' terrorism in India so that it can run on its own steam in the unlikely event of the exporting nation actually forced to dismantle the entire edifice of its officially sponsored terror business.

The Hindu, 11 February 2008

Six militants involved in attacks on IISc, CRPF camp held in Uttar Pradesh

LUCKNOW: Six Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists, who were involved in the terror attacks on the CRPF Group Centre in Rampur and the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, were arrested in Rampur and here late on Saturday night and early hours of Sunday by the Special Task Force (STF) of the Uttar Pradesh Police. While eight persons, including seven CRPF personnel, were killed in the January 1 Rampur attack, one scientist died and few others injured in the Bangalore attack on December 29, 2005 during a seminar in the J.N. Tata auditorium. Fahim Ahmed Ansari alias Abu Zaraqar alias Saquib, Mohammad Sharif alias Mohammad Anwar and Jang Bahadur alias Baba were

arrested in Rampur around 12.15 a.m. on Sunday and Mohammad Sabahuddin alias Abu Qasim alias Sameer Singh, Amar Singh alias Abu Jaar and Abu Osama alias Aavesh, were detained at the Charbagh Railway Station tempo stand here around 6.30 a.m.

The Hindu, 11 February 2008

Arrests blow the lid off Lashkar networks

NEW DELHI: A still unidentified Jammu and Kashmir-based Lashkar-e-Taiba commander and a complex network of Islamists recruited from across north and west India, worked together to execute two of the most high-profile terror strikes since 2005. Resources for both the Indian Institute of Science and Rampur attacks, investigators believe, were provided by the Lashkar's long-serving Pulwama-based commander, so far known only by codenames Sadaaq and Aatif. Described by those who have met him as a Pakistani who speaks Urdu with a Karachi accent, Sadaaq took charge of the Lashkar's south Kashmir operations in early 2005. Sabahuddin's links with Sadaaq, the investigators say, date back to 2001, when the Lashkar operative was recruited by Mohammad Zubair, an Uttar Pradesh-based cleric.

The Hindu, 12 February 2008

Concerns grow on Lashkar designs

NEW DELHI: Indian officials say passports recovered from members of a terror cell arrested over the weekend will increase pressure on Pakistan to deliver on its long-standing joint counter-terrorism commitments. At least four members of the cell arrested in Uttar Pradesh, including two Indian nationals, travelled on legitimate Pakistani passports obtained for them by the Lashkar-e-Taiba

The Asian Age, 15 February 2008

Opinion: The will to fight terror is missing (Arun Nehru)

UP chief minister and the STF must be complimented on the arrest of six Lashkar-e-Tayyaba terrorists who were responsible for the death and destruction at the CRPF camp in Rampur, and the attack on IIS, Bangalore. A sizeable quantity of arms, ammunition and AK-47 guns were seized from these criminals. Detailed interrogation reveals they were all "sleeper" units and received instructions and training from the ISI units in Pakistan.

The Indian Express, 16 February 2008

UP terror suspect found a room in Mumbai for team to target BSE

The purpose of the stay there was to find a suitable room on rent for the fidayeens. Fahim was tasked to provide logistical support to the hit squad and do a recce of the targets. Finally, Fahim found Shantabai's chawl on December 10. The investigators found maps of Mumbai's roads and a hand-drawn map of the BSE from the room

The Indian Express, 16 February 2008

LeT militant involved in UP serial blasts killed

Pulwama (J&K), February 15:: Self-styled district commander Abdul Rahman alias Rehman Bhai, a Pakistani, and a local militant Moin Ahmed Mir were killed in Pulwama. Khoda said Rehman was involved in the November 23 blasts in Varanasi, Faizabad and Lucknow courts in which 13 people, including four lawyers, were killed. Investigations also revealed that Rehman was closely associated with LeT cadres not only in the valley but outside the state.

The Asian Age, 17 February 2008

Opinion: The will to fight terror is missing (Arun Nehru)

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The Indian Express, 18 February 2008

More terror modules could be operating in Mumbai

Mumbai, February 17: With the arrest of a Lashkar-e-Toiba terrorist from Uttar Pradesh who had done a recce of a dozen sensitive targets in the city, the Maharashtra Anti Terrorism Squad fears three or more terror modules could be operating in the financial capital here and newer strategies will have to be devised for busting them

The Indian Express, 18 February 2008

Samjhauta blast case: Cops claim 'vital clues' found

Chandigarh, February 17:: A year after the Samjhauta express blast that killed 68 people including 42 Pakistanis near Panipat, the perpetrators of ghastly attack are still at large even as investigators claim they have found "vital clues" and hope the culprits will not be able to avoid arrest for long

The Asian Age, 21 February 2008

Militants in fix as Pak arms supply dries up

New Delhi, Feb. 20: Security forces in Jammu and Kashmir have intercepted messages from militants in Kashmir suggesting that they are now looking to buy arms from underground arms dealers in the state following the reduction in support to terrorism from across the border. Intelligence sources in the national capital said the intercepts indicated that the militants are unhappy with the situation since the ready supply of arms from across the border was thinning out

The Hindu, 23 February 2008

Arrested engineer is "top SIMI functionary"

BANGALORE: A Bangalore-based software engineer arrested for his suspected terror links on Thursday is said to be a top functionary of the proscribed Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) for the last eight years

The Asian Age, 23 February 2008

Lashkar targets South N-facilities

Hyderabad, Feb. 22: The Lashkar-e-Tayyaba has tasked two groups of terrorists to attack the Nuclear Fuel Complex in Hyderabad and the Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant at Karwar in Karnataka. According to intelligence inputs and information gathered by the investigating agencies following the arrest of six LeT terrorists in Lucknow on February 11, the Lashkar operatives, with arms sourced from the outlawed United Liberation Front of Asom, entered the country through Nepal. They stopped over at Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh

The Hindu, 24 February 2008

6,000 kg explosives seized in Bihar

Patna: The police on Saturday seized 6,000 kg of explosives, meant for use by naxalites, from a truck in Bihar's Nawada district and arrested seven persons. S.K. Bharadwaj, IG (Operations), said these included 40,000 gelatine sticks and 8,640 detonators

The Indian Express, 26 February 2008

"Have to fight terror...don't tar Muslims with its brush"

Deoband, February 25: An unprecedented gathering of clerics at the Darul Uloom in Deoband today strongly condemned terrorism calling it violative of Islamic tenets and at the same time denounced what it called prejudicial targeting of Muslims in the name of tackling terror. It claimed the Government was rounding up Muslims while letting Naxalites get away with their "acts of terrorism."