

The Hindu, 3 May 2005

**No POTA case against Nedumaran: review panel (J. Venkatesan)**

NEW DELHI: In a setback to the Tamil Nadu Government, the Central Review Committee of the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) has held that "there is no prima facie case" for proceeding against the Tamil National Movement (TNM) leader, P. Nedumaran, and five others under the legislation. The Committee comprising chairperson, Justice Usha Mehra, and members, K. Roy and R.C. Jha, held that "expressing sympathy and asking others to understand and appreciate or even share misery suffered by Eelam Tamils in Sri Lanka and to espouse the cause of Tamilians would not bring their said speeches within the ambit of encouraging or furthering terrorism or the terrorist activities of the LTTE."

The Hindu, 5 May 2005

**Supreme Court reserves verdict in Parliament attack case**

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday reserved verdict in the four appeals — two by the Delhi Police and two by the accused — in the Parliament attack case challenging the verdict of the High Court acquitting two persons and upholding the death sentence for two others. Besides the five terrorists who attacked Parliament on December 13, 2001, nine persons died and 13 were injured.

The Times of India, 7 May 2005

**UN trims terror wing, bans LeT**

NEW DELHI: There is quiet satisfaction in India after the UN banned the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) and its 12 aliases as being closely associated with the al-Qaeda. Regarded as a fully-owned subsidiary of Pakistan's ISI, LeT has been active in J&K for years; and the UN action is touted as an indictment of Pakistan's continued support to these militant groups. The UN ban, said sources, came after some sustained lobbying by the US and Canada. Banned under UN Resolution 1267, it will entail all UN members states to freeze the assets, prevent the banned groups' entry into or transit through their territories. This could be particularly difficult for Pakistan which not only houses the organisation but even its leadership who drift in and out of house-arrests. The Resolution also prevents supply, sale and transfer of arms and military equipment with the entities associated with LeT. Lashkar-e-Toiba was listed with all its aliases, including al-Mansoorian, currently active in J&K. The UN had already banned Harkat-ul-Mujahideen (HuM) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) in October 2001, even before the December 13, 2001, Parliament attack.

The Daily Excelsior, 13 May 2005

**Terror camps major obstacle in peace process: PM**

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today said the ongoing peace initiative by India and Pakistan would not produce the desired result without dismantling of training camps and launch pads of terrorism existing across the border. "Even Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf has acknowledged that terrorism should not be allowed to impede the peace process," he said. Replying to a discussion held in the Lok Sabha under rule 193 on his statement made in the House on the visit of Chinese Premier and Pakistan President, the Prime Minister said there had been no further incidents of terrorism involving the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service. Both India and Pakistan are committed to make the peace process "formidable", he said. The Prime Minister, however, said the country needed to remain alert in the Jammu and Kashmir areas, where terrorism had marred peace. "There should be no relaxation of vigil in the region." Welcoming the pledge made by President Pervez Musharraf not to allow terrorism to impede bilateral peace process, he made it clear that "much will depend" on the actual ground situation on cross-border infiltration after the snow-bound passes open in summer in Kashmir.

The Hindu, 17 May 2005

**'LeT activist' held (Press Trust of India)**

NEW DELHI: Mohammad Haroon Rashid, a suspected activist of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, has been arrested at the Indira Gandhi International airport here after arriving from Singapore.

The Hindu, 17 May 2005

**'Conspiracy to attack HAL'**

NEW DELHI: An alleged militant of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit of Pakistan was arrested by the Special Cell of the Delhi police soon after he arrived at the Indira Gandhi International Airport here on May 12 by an Air India flight IC 856 from Singapore... the police said on Monday that the accused, Harun Rashid, a resident of Siwan in Bihar, had disclosed that he was working for a module of LeT in association with Parvez and Doctor. He got money from his handler Abdul Aziz who, in turn, was sending it to Shams and Shahnawaz. An active member of the Students Islamic Movement of India, Rashid had risen to the rank of "Ansar," police claimed. During the SIMI's meetings in Aligarh, the police said he had met Shams, Shahnawaz and Doctor, who introduced him to LeT. All through, he was in touch with his handlers in Pakistan and associates in India through e-mail and voice over Internet protocol cards, police claimed. After the death of Pakistan nationals Shams and Shahnawaz - who had come to Delhi to plan an attack on the Indian Military Academy at Dehra Dun but were killed in an encounter - Rashid was groomed to take their responsibilities.

The Daily Excelsior, 22 May 2005

**Two LeT ultras held in UP (Press Trust of India)**

LUCKNOW: Two Lashkar-e-Toiba militants involved in recruiting youth from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for militant activities in Jammu and Kashmir were arrested here today along with explosive material. The militants, identified as Sadat Rashid and Masood Alam, were in the State to mobilise youth for attending militant training camps, special task force sources said. On

interrogation, Rashid said he had gone to Kashmir about two years ago for teaching in a Madrasa where he was lured by a self-styled commander of the Lashkar, identified as Imran Maqbool alias Doctor Sunil, into joining their movement. Rashid, who received training in using AK-47, pistol and grenades in Kashmir, was deputed the task of involving unemployed youth in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar with terrorist groups and he started to explore the possibility in Lucknow and Meerut, STF sources said.

The Hindu, 23 May 2005

**Blasts in Delhi cinemas: one killed, 60 hurt** (By Sandeep Joshi)

NEW DELHI: Explosions triggered by crude devices rocked two cinema halls here on Sunday evening during the screening of the controversial Hindi film, 'Jo Bole So Nihal,' leaving one person dead and at least 60 injured. Following the blasts, a red alert was sounded in the capital. While the first explosion occurred at Liberty Cinema on the busy G. T. Karnal Road around 8.15 p.m., the second one went off at Satyam Cinema in Patel Nagar 20 minutes later. One of those injured died at the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital later, while the condition of 10 others was reported to be serious.

The Times of India, 23 May 2005

**3rd blast rocks Delhi**

NEW DELHI: One person was injured in a blast in the Indian capital on Monday, but the incident was not linked to bomb attacks on two cinemas showing a controversial Sikh film, the police said. Delhi police chief K K Paul said investigations were underway into all three explosions but there was no evidence as yet to "prove Monday's blast is linked to Sunday's explosions." The latest blast went off in the middle-class residential district of Nand Nagri in eastern Delhi early on Monday morning. Home Minister Shivraj Patil confirmed the third blast, which came after two explosions at cinemas overnight left at least one person dead and 49 injured. An emergency cabinet meeting late Sunday chaired by Singh condemned the blasts.

The Hindu, 24 May 2005

**Lashkar militant held in Delhi**

NEW DELHI: The Special Cell of the Delhi police arrested Mohammed Ishaq, 23, a suspected Lashkar -e-Taiba (LeT) militant from outside Safdarjung Hospital here on Sunday night, minutes after explosions rocked two cinemas in the capital. It said it had recovered 5.5 kg of RDX, two electronic detonators and Rs. 2.5 lakhs in cash from him. However, no link had been found between the two cases so far, it added. Ashok Chand, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) said a trap was laid and Ishaq, a resident of Anantnag in Jammu and Kashmir, was spotted at a bus stand outside the hospital. According to Mr. Chand, Ishaq crossed over to Pakistan in 1999 and was training in handling arms and ammunition at a camp at Kotli in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. He also received religious training for "jehad" at Muridke, near Lahore.

The Times of India, 24 May 2005

**Blasts appear to be work of "terrorists": Pranab**

NEW DELHI: India's Defence minister said on Tuesday that weekend cinema blasts in New Delhi that killed one person and injured 49 appeared to be the "handiwork of terrorists" as police moved away Tuesday from initial theories the bombs were planted by angry Sikhs. No group has claimed responsibility for the blasts in the heart of the capital's shopping district late Sunday. Police initially thought Sikhs, unhappy over a controversial film condemned by Sikh religious leaders, might have been responsible for the explosions late Sunday as they took place in two cinemas screening the movie. But police said they were now exploring whether Islamic guerrillas opposed to New Delhi's rule in Indian Kashmir could have planted the bombs. "The blasts are not the work of an amateur group. Islamic rebel groups often use plastic explosives like those used on Sunday," said a senior Delhi police official, who asked not to be named, said. "Terrorists strike occasionally to make their presence felt," Mukherjee said late Monday, adding the bombers could have staged the weekend blasts to send a message to the government.

The Times of India, 24 May 2005

**A revival of ISI-militant nexus?**

NEW DELHI/AMRITSAR: While investigators made little headway into Sunday's twin blasts at Satyam multiplex and Liberty cinema, questions are being raised over whether Delhi Police and other security agencies ignored crucial hints that the city's security could be breached. Sources point to at least one incident earlier this month which suggested that the city was more vulnerable than it appeared to be. Terror organisations like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed are once again under the scanner. Whether the blasts were handiwork of any ISI-backed Muslim terror organisation in connivance with some active Sikh militant organisations - to divert the attention of security forces from Kashmir so they could infiltrate ISI operatives in India - or an act of mischief by religiously oversensitive person is yet to be ascertained. However, the nexus of Sikh militant groups with ISI and Muslim militant organisation is not hidden.

The Hindu, 25 May 2005

**Blasts: reward for clues**

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police Commissioner, K.K. Paul, announced on Tuesday a reward of Rs. 1 lakh for clues to those involved in the twin blasts in Delhi. The blasts rocked two cinemas here on Sunday last.

The Hindu, 26 May 2005

**"Explosives used in blasts were smuggled"** (By Devesh K. Pandey)

NEW DELHI: The plastic explosives used in the twin blasts that rocked two cinema halls in the Capital this past Sunday were

in all probability smuggled in from outside Delhi. According to senior police officers probing the case, plastic explosives are not available here and even terrorist outfits find it difficult to obtain them. It is learnt that such plastic explosives are primarily manufactured and supplied in the form of cakes by an Army ordnance factory at Kirkee in Pune. However, they can also be smuggled in from outside the country from places like Pakistan and Afghanistan via Punjab or Jammu and Kashmir. In another development, the police are planning to reconstruct the scene of crime with the help of those who were present in the cinema halls when tragedy struck. Though there is no evidence so far to establish any connection between the twin blasts and the one that took place at Nandnagri in North-East Delhi on Monday morning, the police have not yet ruled out any such possibility.

The Hindu, 30 May 2005

**Four crude bombs found near Gujarat Secretariat**

GANDHINAGAR: Four crude bombs and 14 plastic containers filled with petrol were recovered near the Secretariat here on Sunday morning. Gandhinagar District Superintendent of Police R. B. Brahmhatt said the bombs were not powerful and they could have been planted to cause panic among people. The four bombs and petrol containers were found in the two bags. The police said the bombs were a slightly improved variety of the crackers burst during Deepavali and other festivals, but did not rule out the possibility of their being kept for testing the security preparedness in the Secretariat complex. The Crime Branch police are reportedly in possession of intelligence reports on movement of terrorists.

The Hindu, 30 May 2005

**Alert along Indo-Bangla border** (Press Trust of India)

Agartala: Security forces along the border with Bangladesh have been put on alert to apprehend insurgents likely to sneak into Indian territory following an anti-terrorist drive launched by Bangladesh security forces. All the border outposts in Tripura and Cachar in Assam have been alerted so that the ultras can be apprehended during their attempt to sneak into Indian territory, BSF IG in command of Tripura, Mizoram and Cachar (TCM) S K Dutta said. Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar had also urged the central government to take up the matter with Bangladesh so that the insurgents were not allowed to use Bangladesh soil to launch subversive activities in India. Dutta said " we are happy that Bangladesh is now raiding the hideouts of the ultras and hope that the process would wipe out the ultras from Bangla soil."

The Daily Excelsior, 31 May 2005

**Terrorism a threat to India, Pak: Advani** (Press Trust of India)

NEW DELHI: BJP president L K Advani, leaving on a "nostalgic" trip to Pakistan, today said terrorism was a threat to both the countries and they should get rid of it. "The joint statement issued in January 2004 in Islamabad marked a breakthrough in relations between the two countries," he said, pointing out that the decision on peaceful initiatives was taken on the basis of declaration by Pakistan that it will not allow the country and territories under it to be used for terrorist activities against India. Describing terrorism as a "threat" to India and Pakistan, he said "both should get rid of it".