

Hindustan Times, 5 November 2007

100 kg RDX smuggled in, says militant

About 100 kg of RDX has been smuggled into India from Bangladesh and 20 kg of it has made its way to Delhi, a Harkat-ul-Jehad-e-Islami terrorist has told central intelligence agencies. The disclosure by Jalaluddin Molla alias Babu Bhai, believed to be the operations chief of HUJI, comes days before Diwali, raising fears in the Capital which saw blasts before the festival two years ago. On October 29, 2005, three blasts claimed 59 shoppers two days before the festival of lights. Molla, said to be reporting directly to HUJI chief Qamar alias Nata in Bangladesh, was arrested by Uttar Pradesh police on a tip-off from central intelligence agencies.

Daily Excelsior, 17 November 2007

3 Pak militants held in Lucknow

LUCKNOW, Nov 16: Three Jaish-e-Mohammed fidayeens, who were planning to kidnap a VVIP politician of Uttar Pradesh to press for the release of 42 terrorists including Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru, were today arrested from the State capital following a brief encounter with the Special Task Force of the State police. State Director General of Police Vikram Singh said here the three are Pakistan residents and were on their way to Lucknow from the National capital in a car when the STF intercepted them near Gudamba near here.

The Hindu, 20 November 2007

Probe into Ajmer dargah blast makes little headway

JAIPUR: More than a month after a bomb explosion killed three persons in the Ajmer dargah, the Rajasthan police are still groping in the dark to nail the perpetrators of the crime. They have failed to find any evidence to support their initial claims of the blast having a Hyderabad link in view of its resemblance to the Makkah Masjid incident. The Special Investigation Team (SIT), confining its probe to the purported role of Harkat-ul-Jihad-e-Islami (HuJI) in the October 11 blast, has picked up a number of clerics and madrasa teachers from as far as Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. The police had claimed to have nabbed terror suspects, but could not get anything substantial from them.

The Hindu, 24 November 2007

13 killed as serial blasts rock Uttar Pradesh

LUCKNOW AND NEW DELHI: At least 13 persons, including four lawyers, were killed and 60 injured when six bombs went off in three court complexes in Uttar Pradesh on Friday. Loaded on cycles parked outside the lawyers chambers in Lucknow, Faizabad and Varanasi, the bombs were synchronised to explode shortly after 1.15 p.m. All the explosions occurred in the courts where suspects linked to recent Islamist terror strikes have been attacked or denied presentation by lawyers, suggesting that they were intended as an act of reprisal. Pakistani nationals Mohammad Abid, Mohammad Yusuf and Mirza Rashid, who police say were members of a Jaish-e-Mohammad module assigned to assassinate Congress general secretary Rahul Gandhi, were beaten up by Lucknow lawyers when they were produced in the court on November 18.

The Hindu, 24 November 2007

U.P. terror cells remain elusive

NEW DELHI: Fridays court complex bombings in Uttar Pradesh have provided new evidence of the resilience of Islamist networks in the State. Based on past experience, as well as the bomb-fabrication techniques used to carry out the strikes, the Uttar Pradesh police believe their investigation will more likely than not lead to Bangladesh-trained elements of the proscribed Students Islamic Movement of India. In July last year, the Supreme Court upheld the proscription of the SIMI, rejecting claims that it was not involved in terrorism. Despite years of legal and police efforts to contain the proscribed organisation, however, the networks it spawned have continued to provide fresh recruits and logistical support to Islamist terror groups operating against India.

The Hindu, 25 November 2007

Uttar Pradesh bombings mark new phase of Islamist terror

NEW DELHI: Investigators believe an e-mail sent minutes after the serial court bombings in Uttar Pradesh began is a first-of-its kind manifesto for Islamist terror cells operating across India. Issued by an until-now unknown organisation, the Indian Mujahideen, the e-mail was sent from guru_alHindi@yahoo.fr, a purpose-generated address created on November 22, to several national television stations. Arguing that the court bombings were carried out because the Uttar Pradesh police arrested two innocent groups and frame[d] them in fake charges after which lawyer[s] of these places beaten those innocent group members the Indian Mujahideen mail insisted that its members are not any foreign mujahideen nor even we have any attachment with neighbouring countries agency like ISI, LET, HUJI etc.

The Hindu, 26 November 2007

U.P. serial blasts: 10 picked up

Azamgarh (U.P.): Police on Sunday night detained nine persons from a lodge here in connection with Fridays serial blasts in Uttar Pradesh. One of them resembles the sketch of a suspect released by the police. A report from New Delhi said a close relative of a Harkat-ul-Jehadi Islamia militant was picked up for questioning.

The Hindu, 26 November 2007

Editorial: Political will to counter terror

At first glance, Fridays terror bombings in Uttar Pradesh are just one more event in the murderous series of urban terror strikes that India has seen in recent years. For the first time, though, an Islamist terror group operating in India has issued a manifesto seeking to explain its actions. In an e-mail despatched to television stations, the perpetrators of the bombings said their acts were intended to avenge communal pogroms against Muslims. However, the e-mail made clear, propelling the pace of justice against their perpetrators was not the bombings intent. Justice, it claimed, could be only possible in Islamic rule, which could be achieved by only one path: jihad. Neither polemic, nor the accelerating tempo of violence, ought to surprise us.

Daily Excelsior, 27 November 2007

Editorial: Callous about security

If one of the objectives of terrorism is to throw the state into some disarray, it is disquieting to see the ease with which it succeeds. While society at large has, tenuously, kept calm, in the wake of such terror attacks (though this calm should not be taken for granted), the state seems peculiarly out of sorts in this situation. India often claims that it is the democratic state with the longest history and experience of terrorism. Yet it seems not to have evolved even the basic protocols of how the state should present itself in the aftermath of incidents of such magnitude. It is all political blame game, including intelligences agencies being abused for incompetence.

The Telegraph, 27 November 2007

Lawyers cant dump terror suspects

New Delhi, Nov. 26: The Bar Council of India has urged bar associations to desist from passing resolutions refusing to defend alleged terrorists in court one of the purported triggers behind the serial blasts in Uttar Pradesh last week. Council chairman Gopakumaran Nair said he had sent letters to all state bar councils requesting them to ask the associations not to deny legal assistance to suspected militants. A bar council is a regulatory body while a bar association is a forum of lawyers. I have circulated a letter to all state councils drawing their attention to the fact that refusal by an association to accept an engagement or a vakalatnama on the ground that a person was a terrorist was absolutely unethical and amounted to professional misconduct, Nair said from Kochi in Kerala.

The Tribune, 27 November 2007

9 kin of HuJI militant detained

The police detained nine relatives of Mohammed Tuffail Hussaini, Harkat-ul-Jehadi Islamia (HuJI) militant who masterminded the 1993 train blasts, from eastern Uttar Pradesh in connection with UP serial blasts. The police swooped on the residential premises of the relatives in Azamgarh and picked up nine of his relatives for questioning after certain leads suggested that a UP-based hawala operator Iqbal Kana, at present in Pakistan, had been supplying money to sleeper cells of HuJI. The detention of nine relatives of Tuffail came within hours after his brother Faizul was picked up for questioning from his Ameenabad locality in Azamgarh.

The Tribune, 27 November 2007

UP to set up anti-terror squads

To fulfil her promise of a bhaymukt samaj, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mayawati today announced creation of a special anti-terrorist squad (ATS) on the lines of Maharashtra and Karnataka and a technologically savvy intelligence cadre. Briefing the media, Mayawati said after the serial blasts on November 23 her government felt that there was a need for a specialised unit to defeat the designs of the terrorists. Having its headquarters in Lucknow, the ATS would have units in all police zones - Lucknow, Varanasi, Allahabad, Gorakhpur, Kanpur, Meerut and Bareilly. It will be headed by an IG-rank officer and would have a DIG, an SP, an additional SP, and one DSP, besides other support staff. At the moment, Lucknow zone IG Arvind Jain is taking additional charge as IG ATS.

The Kashmir Times, 28 November 2007

Editorial: Move to revive POTA

New Delhi may appear to be treading the right path by rejecting the demand made by the opposition parries to re-invoke a draconian law like POTA, but the fact is POTA alone has not been responsible for victimizing and framing innocent people. In the wake of the UP blasts, coming close on the heels of the Hyderabad bombings, the Centre has been compelled to rethink its strategy in countering such threats to life and peace in various parts of the country. The question of reviving POTA cropped up during debate in the parliament and the government may have rightly shelved the idea on grounds that POTA can be used as a tool of vindictiveness.

The Tribune, 29 November 2007

Crack down on militants: Karuna

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi has sat up following the AICC resolution on the LTTE and his elegy in praise of slain LTTE leader S.P. Thamilselvam, directing the police to crack down on militants. Congress president Sonia Gandhi's statement during the recent AICC session that her party could not be taken for granted by alliance partners was also a signal for Karunanidhi that he was not indispensable to the Congress. All these prompted the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu to display that it was not in favour of the LTTE and asked the state police to exhibit some action. In a bid to curb activities of the banned LTTE ,the Tamil Nadu police has warned of stern action against those supporting banned outfits, while an LTTE explosive expert was nabbed and seven arms smugglers arrested at Rameswaram, the closest point in India to Sri Lanka.