

The Hindu, 1 October 2005

U.P. alert after fresh Al Qaeda threat

LUCKNOW: The Uttar Pradesh Government has sounded a red alert at all major railway stations following fresh threats within a month by international terrorist organisation Al Qaeda to blow up Charbagh railway station here by RDX. State police along with Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) have cordoned off the Charbagh station, while bomb detection and bomb disposal squads have been deployed to detect the explosives. "The letters claimed that 30 kilograms of RDX is being sent to blow up the station," Mr Anand said. Claiming to be Al Qaeda area commander, Ahmed in the letter threatened that "this week other railway offices would be blown up with RDX."

The Hindustan Times, 1 October 2005

Another Al-Qaeda threat to blow off Lucknow station?

Is the Lucknow railway station again under a threat of being blown off? If a postcard signed by one Mohammad Ahmad is to be believed, then the Lucknow railway station was on the target of none other than dreaded terrorist outfit - Al-Qaeda. This was the second such threat received during the current month itself, leaving the entire railway administration on tenterhooks. "Once again, we have sounded an alert and police bomb disposal squads and sniffer dogs have been pressed into service as a precautionary measure," divisional railway manager Amitabh Lal said. The otherwise crowded railway station wore a deserted look once the word about the terrorist threat spread around evening. Each and every train was under the police scanner and even luggage of embarking passengers was being screened.

The Daily Excelsior, 4 October 2005

India tells Pak to end cross-border terror

ISLAMABAD: Taking a big leap forward towards confidence building, India and Pakistan today signed an accord on missile tests and reported "considerable progress" in key issues of talks on Kashmir and Siachen even as New Delhi pressed Islamabad to end cross-border terror to allow the peace process to continue. On cross-border terrorism, he said India had been hearing "welcome assurances" from Pakistan about addressing the issue of terrorism and extremism in its country. "But we have to see the situation on the ground," Saran said. "So as long as the phenomena of infiltration continues and phenomena of terrorist violence continues, this is going to be an issue between our two countries because the peace process that is taking place can be derailed if any major terrorist incident takes place."

The Hindustan Times, 5 October 2005

Gujarat police nabs gangster with terror links

Nadir Khan, who had allegedly connived with the terrorist outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed in a failed plot to kill a Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader, was nabbed by the Gujarat police, officials said on Monday. "Baba Khan connived with Abu Talani, a Riyadh-based terrorist who belongs to the terrorist outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed, to plot an attack on VHP's Gujarat general secretary Jaideep Patel," said the state's deputy Inspector General of police (operations) DG Vanjhara. Khan was arrested with a 0.30 calibre revolver and four cartridges and the Gujarat police expected a big cache of weapons after his interrogation.

The Hindu, 6 October 2005

Hizb militant with Rs. 10 lakhs arrested

NEW DELHI: Police arrested a militant of the Pakistan-based outfit Hizb-ul Mujahideen with Rs. 10 lakhs he had obtained through 'hawala' channels here on Tuesday evening. Mushtaq Ahmed (28) was apprehended near Golcha Cinema in Daryaganj when he came to deliver the money, Deputy Commissioner of Police Ajay Kumar told reporters. "It is likely that the money was to be used to set up a base in Delhi," he said adding that there were some fake notes in the cash that was in Rs.1000 denomination. Ahmed from Handwara in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir had been in Greater Kailash in south Delhi for some days. He had told the police that the money had been sent to him from Pakistan via 'hawala' channels.

The Daily Excelsior, 7 October 2005

Shekhawat for fight against terrorism (Press Trust of India)

YEREVAN: Asserting that the fight against terrorism has to be comprehensive and sustained, India today said the elements who "instigate or assist" the menace in any form need to be isolated as much as those who perpetrate it. Addressing the national Assembly of Armenia, the Vice President dwelt at length on the issue of terrorism, saying democracies are "haunted and threatened most by terrorism". He said the fight against the scourge has to be comprehensive and sustained. "We need to isolate the elements who instigate, support or assist terrorism, in any form, as much as those who perpetrate it." He said all nations of the world, like India and Armenia, which value peace, freedom, development and democracy, should work together tirelessly to root out the scourge of terrorism.

The Hindu, 7 October 2005

Kashmir, Taiwan and North Korea are potential hotbeds: John Reid

NEW DELHI: British Defence Secretary John Reid believes that Kashmir, Taiwan and North Korea are "three potential crises" in Asia that could provoke a regional conflict with the risk of nuclear escalation. On Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Reid stated that the British Government totally condemned the use of terrorism. "The way to resolve this issue is through political process and patient bilateral discussion and negotiation, not through terrorism. I would just like to say that we are hugely encouraged by the current rapprochement between New Delhi and Islamabad over the issue." Referring to other challenges in the region, the Defence Secretary felt that Islamic extremism was rising across Asia, notably in Thailand, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and the Philippines. "Terrorist attacks have been directed against Western interests as with the Bali bombing but are equally likely to be against Asians."

The Hindu, 7 October 2005

No compromise with terror, says Manmohan Singh (Vinay Kumar)

NEW DELHI: Asserting that there was no question of any compromise with terror anywhere be it Jammu and Kashmir or any other part of the country, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday emphasised the need to have competent, just, accountable and humane police force. Acknowledging that police and security forces faced multi-dimensional security challenges in different regions of the country, including Jammu and Kashmir, the North East and in a large swathe of the hinterland which was affected by the problem of Left wing extremism, Dr. Singh said several noteworthy steps by way of conflict resolution have been taken with regard to Jammu and Kashmir and the North East. "Notwithstanding these peace initiatives, the police and security machinery of the country cannot afford to lower their guard. No group or organisation can be allowed to take the law of the land in their own hands and indulge in violence," he told the top police and intelligence officials of the country. His concern also emanated from the rise of the Jamiat-ul-Mujahideen in Bangladesh which was involved in

August 17 blasts in Bangladesh's 63 districts.

The Hindustan Times, 9 October 2005

13 security personnel killed in Jharkhand blast

At least 13 security personnel, belonging to state police and central paramilitary forces, were killed and 10 others injured in a blast triggered by Maoist guerrillas in Chatra district of Jharkhand on Saturday morning. The bomb, which was kept in a container, went off when security personnel tried to open it. The Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-Maoist) is the prime suspect behind the act. Nearly 25 security men were on long-range patrolling in five vehicles when the incident occurred.

The Indian Express, 12 October 2005

US mission issues terror alert (Press Trust of India)

New Delhi: Apprehending a "possible threat" of terrorist strikes against American interests in India, US has cautioned its nationals to "maintain a high-level of vigil" and take appropriate steps to increase their security, particularly in New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Hyderabad. The US embassy has issued a "warden notice" dated October 10 on the basis of "information received by the US government" that terrorists may be planning attacks on American interests in India in the near future. "Information received from the US government suggests that attacks could include among other things, suicide car bombings," the notice said. The notice asked the American nationals to "maintain a high-level of vigil and to take appropriate steps to increase their security."

The Hindu, 13 October 2005

Powerful blast in Task Force office at Greenlands: home guard, another person killed

HYDERABAD: A powerful blast ripped through the city Police Commissioner's Task Force office here on the bustling Greenlands main road killing a home guard and another unidentified person on Wednesday night. A constable on sentry duty was injured in the mysterious explosion that occurred at a stone's throw away from Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy's official residence. The police suspect that the civilian victim could have brought the explosive to the office of the Task Force, which investigates complicated criminal cases reported in the twin cities. Though the theory of suicide bombing is doing rounds, no police official has confirmed this angle. The blowing of the trunk of the civilian leaving only his head intact led to speculation about the suicide bombing. Going by the blast impact, explosives' experts suspect that it was high explosive, possibly gelatine.

The Hindu, 14 October 2005

Explosion: suicide bomber theory gains strength

HYDERABAD: A day after the mysterious explosion in Commissioner's Task Force office here, the suicide bomber theory suspecting involvement of some religious fundamentalist organisations gained strength on Thursday. While efforts are on to establish identity of the bomber, whose severed head and limbs were found inside task force Additional DCP's chamber, a tattered piece of paper with the handwritten words 'Intekham' (revenge) 'Jihad' (holy war) and '70-year-old' on it was collected from the blast site. Explosive experts opined that gelatine packed in a box with electric detonator was used in the blast. The pieces of wires and batteries collected from the scene substantiated this. Home Minister K. Jana Reddy, who visited the spot, said: "The religious fundamentalist and violent forces behind the explosion will be tracked down and punished."

The Hindustan Times, 14 October 2005

Security tightened at US buildings in Kolkata

Security has been beefed up in and around the US Consulate and American Center after a terror alert from the US embassy in New Delhi. "We are taking all measures though we are always on high alert to protect the US consulate and American Center buildings besides other consulates," said Police Commissioner Prasun Mukherjee. The US embassy on Tuesday warned American citizens of a "possible threat" of terror attacks, including suicide car bombings, against US interests in India, particularly Hyderabad, New Delhi and Mumbai. The warning came after the US intelligence reportedly intercepted an email that hinted at possible attacks on their establishments in India.

The Hindu, 17 October 2005

India, Russia conduct first joint exercise (By Mohammed Iqbal)

BIKANER: The defence forces of India and Russia on Sunday held their first-ever joint airborne military exercise at the Mahajan Field Firing Range, nearly 100 km from here. The joint exercise was a spectacular show of coordination between the 140 military personnel from the both countries and introduced the concept of "interoperability" against a counter-terrorism backdrop. The exercise, codenamed `Indra', involved raid and destruction of a mock terrorist stronghold with the simultaneous securing of an advance landing ground. The objective of the exercise was to strengthen cooperation between the countries to counter terrorism. Russian Defence Minister Sergei Borisovich Ivanov said the exercise would herald a new era of defence cooperation with India as a strategic partner and would benefit both the countries through the exchange of information, equipment and experience. This, he said, would help strengthen the fight against international terrorism.

The Assam Tribune, 17 October 2005

Anti-terror fight needs new perspective: Patil

MANESAR - Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil today underlined the need to use ideological measures and a "new perspective" to eradicate terrorism which had spared no country in the world, reports PTI. "Terrorism can strike from any quarter - land, air or sea. There is a need to fight it with a special strategy," Patil said... "Terrorism germinates in the mind and its end also lies there. More important therefore (in this fight) is not just physical power, but also ideology and a new perspective," the Minister remarked. Patil, however, said both the Army and police would also have to fight terror harder in the times to come. "Wars have become rare, but terrorism has become prevalent everywhere. It has not spared any country." The Minister also stressed the need to step up civil aviation safety, saying there were mounting concerns about a possible rise in plane hijackings.

The Hindu, 18 October 2005

Top Babbar Khalsa militant arrested

CHANDIGARH: The Haryana Police have arrested Gurdeep Singh, alleged to be a top "militant" of the Babbar Khalsa Group and a close associate of Jagtar Singh Hawara. He is also said to be one of the main accused in the January 2004 Burail jail break case along with Hawara, who has been charged with assassinating the former Punjab Chief Minister, Beant Singh. A Chinese pistol and 14 live cartridges were seized from him. He said Gurdeep Singh used to reportedly collect funds for Hawara and also used to hide arms and ammunition. He was absconding and was wanted in the Burail Jail break case.

The Daily Excelsior, 18 October 2005

HP alert on militants' intrusions (Press Trust of India)

SHIMLA: Concerned over reports that about 50 Jamaat-e-Islami militants have moved to Chamba area of Himachal Pradesh from adjoining Doda in Jammu and Kashmir, the Himachal Police have sounded a security alert in the State and were verifying the information from the Military Intelligence and Jammu and Kashmir Police. However, the State Police was not taking any chance and the security forces guarding the bordering areas of Chamba along Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir were on high alert and intelligence had been beefed up. He said the intelligence agencies believed that infiltration of militants in such a large number could not go unnoticed and reports that the militants had entered Himachal under the garb of labourers of some forest contractors should be taken with a pinch of salt.

The Hindustan Times, 18 October 2005

Maoist attack: SAP jawan killed, 4 hurt (Press Trust of India)

Suspected Maoists shot dead a Special Armed Police (SAP) jawan and injured four others, including a civilian, at Badrama, near Sambalpur in Orissa in the wee hours on Monday, official sources said... a group of about 20 armed Maoists fired at a group of Orissa Special Armed Police personnel posted nearby killing one of them, they said. Two other jawans and a civilian were injured in the firing while the extremists beat up another jawan with a rifle butt. The Maoists also looted a self-loading rifle (SLR) and another firearm from the security personnel, the sources said.

The Indian Express 24 October 2005

Communal clashes in Agra, PAC deployed (ENS & PTI)

AGRA, October 23: Tension prevailed in Agra after police fired in the air to disperse rioters following clashes between Hindu shopkeepers and Muslim residents here today that left several injured. Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) personnel were finally deployed to patrol trouble-torn areas in Mantola locality, where the clashes broke out, as the district administration described the situation as "tense but under control". A near-curfew like situation prevailed in the locality with police forcing residents to stay indoors, official sources said. The trouble erupted following an altercation between a Muslim woman and the owner of a garment shop, police said... Soon, the situation acquired communal overtones as members of the two communities traded blows and indulged in stone-pelting, said police.

The Daily Excelsior 25 October 2005

Red Fort attack: Pak militant, 6 others convicted

NEW DELHI, October 24: Nearly five years after terrorists stormed the historic Red Fort here killing two jawans and a civilian, a Delhi court today convicted Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Toiba militant Mohammad Arif alias Ashfaq and six others while acquitting four accused. Ashfaq and his key Indian conspirators Nazir Ahmed Qasid and his son Farooq Ahmad Qasid have been found guilty of waging war against the State which can attract a death sentence. The quantum of the punishment will be pronounced on October 29...

The Indian Express 26 October 2005

1984 Sikh riots: Home asks CBI to reopen cases

NEW DELHI, October 25: The Union Home Ministry has asked the CBI to re-open the 1984 anti-Sikh riot cases against former Union Minister Jagdish Tytler, Congress MP Sajjan Kumar and senior Congress leader from Karol Bagh Dharam Das Shastri. A CBI spokesperson told The Indian Express that the agency will examine the Nanavati Commission report on the riots and initiate "all possible action against the suspects". Sources say the Home Ministry has asked the CBI to examine the report and the affidavits filed before the Commission and proceed against the three accordingly. The ministry,

however, is yet to decide whether to re-open cases against police officials and bureaucrats indicted by the Commission-which had passed severe strictures against nine police officials, including the then Police Commissioner of Delhi S C Tandon and DCP Chander Prakesh...

The Indian Express 29 October 2005

No terror camps on our side, see for yourself: Dhaka to Delhi (Sudhi Ranjan Sen)

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28: Claiming that no terror camps exist on its soil, Bangladesh today said it was ready to let Indians visit the country and check for themselves. This offer was made during talks in New Delhi between Bangladesh Home Secretary Sarfraz Hossain and his Indian counterpart V K Duggal. New Delhi and Dhaka also agreed in principle to grant consular access to prisoners on either side. The modalities of granting consular access, official sources said, would have to be worked out. It's learnt that India also raised the issue of handing over ULFA leader Anup Chetia, currently in Bangladesh... According to internal security agencies and BSF, Bangladesh has roughly 190-200 camps of North East insurgent and extremist outfits. Last month, the BSF handed over to Bangladesh Rifles a detailed list of these camps. But it's a charge that Dhaka has consistently denied.

The Hindu 30 October 2005

Serial blasts kill 70 persons in Delhi

NEW DELHI: At least 70 persons were killed and several injured in three powerful serial explosions here on October 29. While two bombs went off at busy marketplaces, one exploded inside a Delhi Transport Corporation bus. Following the explosions, suspected to have been caused by Improvised Explosive Devices, a countrywide red alert was sounded. No terrorist outfit has so far claimed responsibility... According to police sources, at least 25 persons were killed and over 45 injured in this blast... Soon after the blasts, the Union Home Ministry convened an emergency meeting to review security in the capital... Police Commissioner K.K. Paul, visiting the site of blasts, said investigations were handed over to the Special Cell of the Delhi police. RDX is suspected to have been used in the bombs.

The Hindu 30 October 2005

Countrywide red alert (United News of India)

NEW DELHI: A red alert was sounded across the country after a series of blasts rocked Delhi on October 29, killing at least 50 people and leaving more than a hundred injured. Security has been beefed up in several States and important cities. Security forces have been asked to keep strict vigil around important government buildings and vital installations, including railway stations, airports and inter-state bus terminals. Special security arrangements have been made in religious and crowded places where people are shopping for Diwali and Eid... The Delhi police sealed all entry and exit points to the capital.

The Hindu 31 October 2005

New outfit claims responsibility

NEW DELHI: An outfit linked to the Pakistan-based militant organisation, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), has claimed responsibility for the blasts that rocked the capital on October 29, leaving over 60 dead and 210 injured. Joint Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Karnal Singh said a call was received by the Srinagar office of Kashmir News Service on Sunday. The caller claimed that the Islami Inqalabi Muhaz (IIM) had triggered the blasts in Delhi. Mr. Singh said the IIM, having links with the LeT, was set up in 1996. However, it had not been active over the past few years. "The claim is being verified," Mr.

Singh said... Mr. Singh said at least in one case - the explosion in a DTC bus at Govindpuri in South Delhi - an electronic timer was used to detonate the device. This indicated that a high-grade explosive was used in the blasts. The police said that in all probability similar devices were used in the other two incidents. "It appears that one group was involved in the three incidents and hence the construction of the devices was likely to be same," he said.

The Hindu 31 October 2005

World leaders condemn blasts

NEW DELHI: Several countries, including the U.S., Russia, China, Iran, the U.K. and Canada, have condemned the Delhi blasts and offered condolences to the dead. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said these acts were made more heinous in that they deliberately targeted innocent civilians who were preparing for holiday celebrations. The incident, she said, was "another sad reminder that terror knows no borders and respects no religion. Fighting terror is our common struggle, and we stand with the people of India as they bring to justice those responsible for these cowardly acts." Describing the blasts as "inhuman" and "pointless acts of terrorism", Russian President Vladimir Putin said they invoked grief and indignation among his countrymen. "These explosions, in which tens of human lives were lost and caused sufferings to many innocent people, took place before Diwali which is celebrated to mark the victory of good over evil. Terrorists have again shown that nothing is sacred for them; that they are driven entirely by blind malice and hatred for the whole mankind," he said. British Foreign Minister Jack Straw said the attacks, which appear to have been targeted at heavily populated areas to produce maximum carnage, were "yet another example of terrorists' cynical and callous disregard for human life." Chinese President Hu Jintao expressed deep grief over the deaths and stressed that the Chinese Government condemned all forms of terrorism... Iran denounced the blasts, saying: "We condemn the New Delhi blasts which resulted in the killing of innocent people. To us, the explosions run counter to humane principles," the Iranian Embassy said here. United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan on Sunday said he was "appalled" by the bombings and urged India to prosecute those responsible. A spokesman for Mr. Annan, in a statement said: "The Secretary-General is particularly shocked that this latest terrorist outrage has occurred on the eve of the major festival of Diwali."

The Hindustan Times 31 October 2005

Serial blasts toll crosses 60, police detain 22 (Neelesh Misra)

New Delhi, October 30: Investigators detained more than 20 people in raids on dozens of small hotels across the national capital on Sunday as they hunted for suspects in a series of terrorist bombings that killed at least 62 people in two crowded markets, police said. Authorities said they had already gathered "lots of information" about the attacks, while a caller claimed responsibility for the blasts on behalf of a small terrorist group. Police declared a state of emergency and closed all city markets after the Saturday evening bombings. "These blasts have been timed to create disaffection during the festival season," he said in a brief television statement. "We shall defeat their nefarious designs and will not allow them to succeed. We are resolute in our commitment to fighting terrorism." Singh held an emergency Cabinet meeting on Sunday evening to discuss the attacks... A man saying he represented the terrorist group "Islamic Inquilab Mahaz," or "Front for Islamic Uprising," took responsibility for the bombings in a call to the Kashmir News Service in Jammu and Kashmir. The little-known group is tied to the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba, the most feared terrorist group in Kashmir, police said. The caller, who identified himself as Ahmed Yaar Ghaznavi, said the attack "was meant as a rebuff to the claims of Indian security groups" that terrorist fighters had been wiped out by military crackdowns and

the October 8 South Asian earthquake... A police spokesman said 22 people had been detained following the hotel raids, but declined to give further details, citing the sensitive nature of the investigation... Police said the three blasts killed at least 61 people and wounded 188, several seriously...