

The Pioneer, 3 October 2007

Jihad reaches Maldives

Twelve foreign tourists -- eight Chinese, two Japanese and two British -- were injured in an explosion on September 29, 2007, in a park near the main mosque in the Maldives capital of Male. It is not yet known whether the Chinese were from mainland China or elsewhere. Nor is it known whether the explosion specifically targeted the foreign tourists or whether the tourists just happened to be near the scene when the explosion took place. The local police, however, seem to suspect that the blast was meant to target foreign tourists and affect the flow of tourists to the country. So far, no one has claimed responsibility for the blast.

Hindustan Times, 6 October 2007

High alert for 'suicide bombers' in Hyderabad

A high alert was sounded in Hyderabad on Friday following a warning by intelligence agencies about the presence of four "suicide bombers" in the city. All the police stations in the city and outskirts were put on increased vigil and security was stepped up in public places and places of worship, especially in the Muslim dominated old city area in view of huge gathering for Ramadan prayers and shopping for Eid. Police sources said intelligence agencies were on the lookout for suspected Bangladeshis.

The Hindu, 12 October 2007

2 killed in blast at Ajmer dargah

JAIPUR/NEW DELHI: Two people were killed and 17 injured on Thursday when a bomb ripped through the dargah of the Sufi saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti in Ajmer, a shrine in Rajasthan venerated by Hindus, Muslims and Christians across northern India. Officials said the bomb went off at 6.12 p.m., near the Ahata-e-Noor, a courtyard located some 20 metres from the saint's mausoleum. Some 5,000 devotees are estimated to have been present inside the shrine complex at the time of the bombing, which took place soon after Iftar the time when the day-long fast observed during the month of Ramzan is broken. A PTI report said one of the persons killed was identified as 45-year-old Mohd. Shoaib from Mumbai, who had come to offer prayers.

The Hindu, 12 October 2007

The war against popular Islam

NEW DELHI: The highest form of worship, wrote saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti, is to redress the misery of those in distress, to fulfil the needs of the helpless and to feed the hungry. Thursday's bombing of the saint's shrine at Ajmer the third in a series of attacks on Muslim religious institutions after the 2006 bombing of a Sufi shrine in Malegaon and this summer's strike at the Mecca Masjid in Hyderabad have been characterised as attempts to provoke a pan-India communal war. But the bombings also reflect another less-understood project: the war of Islamist neoconservatives against the syncretic traditions and beliefs that characterise popular Islam in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

The Hindu, 12 October 2007

Terrorist held by Mumbai police

HYDERABAD: The arrest of Mustaffa Sayyad from Toli Chowki area in Hyderabad by

the Mumbai police in connection with the Aurangabad arms haul, has reconfirmed the fact that the State capital has turned a safe haven for those who indulge in terrorist activities in the country. Sayyad, has been taking shelter in the city ever since the Aurangabad arms haul in May 2006 by Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) of Mumbai. The ATS had seized 43 kg of RDX, 50 hand grenades and 16 Kalashnikov rifles in one of the biggest raids last year. Sources say Sayyad was working in a metal fabrication unit owned by his close relative near Galaxy theatre of Toli Chowki area. He is stated to have married a Hyderabad woman.

The Indian Express, 12 October 2007

Shrine on security radar after maps found on Lashkar

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 11: That the Ajmer Sharif dargah was a militant target became clear way back in 2002-03 when two Lashkar-e-Toiba militants were arrested on the Rajasthan border with detailed maps of the dargah as they tried to cross over to Pakistan. During interrogation, the militants confessed that their Lashkar handlers had sent them on a reconnaissance mission after selecting targets which included Hyderabad and Delhi. This prompted the internal security establishment to recommend that CCTV cameras be installed within the dargah premises. But till date, these cameras have not been installed. The only time CCTVs are installed is during the annual Urs. Early findings suggest that the blast at the dargah was caused by an improvised explosive device kept in a green rexine bag beneath a tree. The explosive appeared to have been packed in a rifled (grooved) pipe with iron scrapings as shrapnel.

Deccan Chronicle, 12 October 2007

Police arrests Simi activist

Hyderabad, Oct. 11: The city police on Wednesday arrested a Students Islamic Movement of India activist wanted by the Mumbai Anti Terror Squad in the Aurangabad arms haul case. Police sources said that Mustafa Syed, 35, was working in an aluminum fabrication facility in Punjagutta. He had fled Aurangabad after the Mumbai ATS seized 34 kgs of RDX, 16 AK-47 rifles, 3,200 live cartridges and 50 grenades from three other SIMI activists on May 9, 2006. Mustafa was on the run since then as he was involved in smuggling arms meant for carrying out terrorist attacks. He was staying in Tolichowki in the city and on specific information from the Mumbai ATS, the city police picked him up.

The Hindu, 13 October 2007

Live bomb found near Ajmer dargah

Ajmer: A live bomb was found near the main gate of the shrine of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti here on Friday, a day after a blast killed two and injured 17 at the dargah.

The Hindu, 13 October 2007

We'll have to consider new strategy to tackle terror

NEW DELHI: A day after the Ajmer blast, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said the country would have to think of a different strategy to deal with terror strikes. Terrorists have the advantage of surprise. Therefore, we have to think of a different approach to deal with them, he said, replying to a question about recurring blasts, at the HT

Leadership Summit here on Friday. Although he did not elaborate on this observation, which suggested a different thinking in the government, the Prime Minister said: Let there be no mistake about our resolve to meet this challenge head on.

The Hindu, 13 October 2007

Ajmer probe throws up Hyderabad links

NEW DELHI: Forensic experts have determined that the explosive devices used in Thursday's blast at the shrine of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti closely resemble those placed in Hyderabad's Mecca Masjid five months ago a fact which raises the prospect that the same terror group may have executed both strikes. Similar mobile phone malfunctions led to the failure of a second bomb planted in the Mecca Masjid and the car bombs fabricated by Bangalore engineering student Kafeel Ahmed for use in Glasgow and London earlier this year. Forensic experts said the fault was most likely caused by the use of mobile phones with low-grade components. In December 2005, police in Ajmer interdicted a consignment of three Kalashnikov assault rifles, 229 cartridges and 15 detonators hidden in a truck carrying marble to Hyderabad.

Hindustan Times, 13 October 2007

LTTE aide let out on bail

In a shocking example of police caving in to political pressure, a functionary of a leading pro-LTTE party in Tamil Nadu, who was arrested for allegedly importing propellers and spare parts used in speedboats and was planning to send them to the LTTE, was let out on bail even after he admitted to his crime. Jayaraj Rathinam, alias Vanni Arasu, 36, editor of Tamil Mann (Tamil Soil), the official organ of Dalit Panthers of India, a close ally of the ruling DMK, was arrested after it was discovered that the consignment sent to him by a LTTE functionary were actually meant to be redirected to the Tigers.

The Hindu, 15 October 2007

Six killed, 25 injured in Ludhiana cinema hall blast

Ludhiana: Terror struck Ludhiana on Sunday night when six people were killed and 25 injured in a blast in one of the three cinema halls in a multiplex in a busy shopping area of this industrial town. It was not immediately known what caused the explosion in the multiplex on Sarmala road, which was teeming with hundreds of people. Janan Janam Ke Saath was being screened in the hall, which has a capacity for an audience of 600, when the explosion occurred at 8.40 p.m. The show started at 7 p.m. The police, who did not rule out the hand of terrorists, said the casualties could go up. Limbs of some of the dead were seen. Chandrashekar, ADGP (Law and Order), said the blast appeared to have been caused by a bomb.

The Hindu, 15 October 2007

Ajmer blast probe team in Madhya Pradesh

Bhopal: With some newspapers used to pack the explosives in the Ajmer Sharif blast being traced to Indore and Ujjain, a police team from Rajasthan arrived here on Sunday to conduct investigations. Some newspapers used to wrap the explosives were also traced to Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh Director-General of Police A.R. Pawar told PTI. Though we are yet to receive any written confirmation about it [findings at the

shrine about newspapers], we will provide all kind of support to the investigating team, he said.

The Hindu, 16 October 2007

Threat to blow up stock exchange

Mumbai: An anonymous mail threatening to blow up the Bombay and National Stock Exchanges was received by an NSE official, prompting the police to step up security at the key buildings here. The official received the letter by e-mail, Joint Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) K.L. Prasad said here.

The Hindu, 16 October 2007

Badal rules out revival of terrorism in Punjab

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal has ruled out revival of terrorism in the State but security agencies and those investigating the Sunday blast in a Ludhiana cinema hall are said to be working on leads on joint involvement of Jehadi and Khalistani terrorists in the bombing. As many as six persons were killed and 36 injured, 10 critically, when a high intensity device was detonated by suspected terrorists in the packed cinema hall of the Shingar multiplex in Ludhiana on Sunday night. While placing the State on high alert, the government has announced an ex-gratia relief of Rs. 2 lakh to the next of kin of those killed.

The Indian Express, 16 October 2007

Blast aimed at migrant labourers, claim police

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 15: Several persons have been detained for questioning by the Punjab Police following the blast on Sunday at Ludhiana's Shringaar Cinema the toll has been revised to six dead and 32 injured but it is still unclear who was behind the blast. No militant group has owned up so far. But investigators are looking at the possibility of members of dormant pro-Khalistan groups joining hands with Pakistan-backed terror outfits such as the Jaish-e-Mohammed and Harkat-ul-Jihad-i-Islami to foment trouble in Punjab. We had reports that Khalistan Zindabad Force chief Ranjeet Singh Neeta, who has been in Pakistan for many years now, was trying to activate cells in the region. Since Neeta is being protected by the ISI, there is a possibility that he is collaborating with Pakistan-supported jihadi outfits. But as of now, nothing is final. We are looking at all possibilities.

The Indian Express, 16 October 2007

Editorial: Spooked

Terrorists set off a bomb, ministers rush in with clues and pointers, the police looks busy, and then everything settles down. This dreadfully familiar routine needs to change because it symbolises much of what is wrong with India's internal security management, especially under this government. Take the ministerial eagerness to drop hints. If the security establishment does get a solid clue within hours of a blast, it must follow that the terrorists will be caught, sooner rather than later. In fact, they are seldom caught. What ministerial overenthusiasm both the home minister and his minister of state have exhibited this trait does is to severely reduce the credibility of the internal security apparatus.

Hindustan Times, 16 October 2007

'Pakistani spy' held in Mankhurd

The Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) arrested a 29-year-old man from his Mankhurd house on Monday. He is believed to have links with Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). Mohammed Qamar Mohammed Shakeel Afghani was produced at a local court, which has remanded him in police custody till October 26. A few telephone diaries, a compact disc containing allegedly sensitive information and photographs related to vital installations in the city, five credit cards and a cellphone were recovered from Afghani. Afghani was allegedly active for six months and was responsible for identifying locals who could be trained in Pakistan, said ATS officials."

Hindustan Times, 16 October 2007

Editorial: Trial by terror

The explosion that killed six people and injured scores of others in a packed cinema hall in Ludhiana on Sunday suggests that terrorists are choosing soft targets to confuse security agencies. From all accounts, hundreds of people mainly poor migrant workers were crammed into the ill-fated theatre to watch the late-night screening of a new movie when the bomb went off. The intent was clearly to inflict heavy casualties by triggering a blast in a crowded place and traumatise the local population. Although it is too early to draw any firm conclusions, it is not improbable that terror cells of the Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) could have carried out this dastardly act.

The Times of India, 17 October 2007

Theatre blast: HuJI name crops up

CHANDIGARH: Forty-eight hours after the blast in Ludhiana's Shringar theatre killed six and injured 32 others, Punjab DGP NPS Aulakh said on Tuesday that it was RDX that was used in the explosion. They also let out that a "thin pencil cell" has been recovered from the site of explosion, an area frequented by migrants from Bihar and UP, suggesting the device may have been triggered by a battery operated gadget. The findings have come on a day the Punjab police began looking at the possibility of Bangladeshi migrants, many of them illegal, being involved in the attack. And though no agency or individual has claimed responsibility for the attack, the direction of the probe points to the possibility of Bangladesh-based ISI-linked HuJI, having a hand in it.

The Tribune, 18 October 2007

We don't believe in violence: Babbar chief

Deviating from their earlier stand, militant leaders of the Babbar Khalsa, UK-based Babbar Khalsa International and Dal Khalsa today severely condemned the recent bomb blast in Ludhiana, saying, We don't believe in violence. The significant statement came from these militant leaders after the needle of suspicion in the recent bomb blast in a cinema hall of Ludhiana pointed towards the Babbar Khalsa International and other militant organisations based in various foreign countries. Wadhawa Singh Babbar, chief of Babbar Khalsa International, talking to The Tribune on phone said, We are the Sikhs of Gurus and we feel pained whenever any innocent life is lost in violence anywhere in the world.

Newindpress, 20 October 2007

Two held, detonators seized

MADURAI: More than thousand detonators and gelatin sticks were among the explosives seized by the police in Chathirapatti, near here, on Thursday. Sub- Inspector Devarajan, head constable Varadarajan of the special explosives detection squad were patrolling the road near Chathirapatti. Near a mineral water factory in Kadavur, they noticed two men standing suspiciously at the bus stand carrying a heavy white gunny bag.

The Hindu, 20 October 2007

Editorial: A war without frontiers

Every infidel fears us, wrote Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Maulana Masood Azhar in a commentary published last week: They fear the power and terror of jihad, which they know will eliminate them from the world. On Monday, when the India-Pakistan joint counter-terrorism mechanism meets in New Delhi, officials from both countries will discuss the long string of bombings that have taken place across India since last summer. Set up in the wake of the Lashkar-e-Taiba-authored serial bombing of Mumbai in 2006, the joint counter-terrorism mechanism has so far yielded little. But Indian policy makers have been asking themselves whether Thursdays murderous attack on the former Pakistan Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto, will mark the moment when the Pakistani establishment finally turned on the monsters it helped give birth to.

The Hindu, 22 October 2007

India to seek data on terror suspects

NEW DELHI: India and Pakistan are to discuss the modalities for exchanging information on terrorist acts in each other's countries. The issue will come up at the second meeting of the anti-terror mechanism (ATM) to be held here on Monday, according to official sources. New Delhi wants proactive assistance from Islamabad to help trace Pakistan nationals suspected of having had a role in terror attacks in India and bring them to book. It feels a good beginning has been made with the setting up of the ATM in March this year, and if meetings take place on a quarterly basis, the beginning of an institutional mechanism to exchange credible information will soon be in sight.

The Tribune, 22 October 2007

Suspect's three aides identified

In a significant breakthrough in the Mullanpur RDX recovery case, the Ludhiana police has identified three persons, who it believes are accomplices of Gurpreet Singh, the alleged terrorist from whose car 3.5 kg of RDX was seized near Mullanpur a month ago. Gurpreet is one of the suspects in the Shingaar cinema bomb blast case. The three youths are Sandeep and Hary of Amritsar and Gurvinder Singh of Phagwara. They were named in the FIR registered at Mullnapur Dakha tonight. SSP R.K. Jaiswal said the three youths were close to Gurpreet Singh, who is absconding. The police found that they were in regular touch with him. The police would seek an arrest warrant of the accused tomorrow. He said it would be too early to term them as terrorists who connived with Gurpreet to smuggle RDX into the state.

The Hindu, 23 October 2007

India, Pakistan share information on recent terrorist incidents

NEW DELHI: India and Pakistan on Monday shared new information on terrorist incidents, including those which have occurred recently in Ludhiana, Hyderabad and Ajmer. At the second meeting of the India-Pakistan joint anti-terror mechanism (JATM) here, both sides agreed on continuing work to identify measures, exchange specific information and assist in investigations. The meeting came close on the heels of Friday's bomb blasts in Karachi on the motorcade of the former Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto, who escaped narrowly. The two sides reviewed the follow-up steps taken on the information shared during the first meeting of the JATM held in Islamabad on March 6, 2007 and in the intervening period, a joint statement issued after the meeting said. The next meeting would be held in Islamabad, as per an earlier schedule.

Hindustan Times, 23 October 2007

Sketches of Ajmer blast suspects out

Ajmer police on Monday released sketches of two men suspected to be involved in the low intensity blast that killed three persons and injured 17 at the Moinnuddin Chistie dargah on October 11. SP S Sengathir said the sketches had been sent to police stations across the country. The police, he said, would reward anyone who gives clues about these accused and their identity would be kept secret. "Police had contacted the local people around the dargah and artists finalised the sketches on the basis of the details given by the people." The mobile and telephone numbers where the information can be given are: 01412624808, 01412628808, 01412629910, 01412625431, control room 0141 2621349 and mobile nos. 0414365789 and 9414107400.

Daily Excelsior, 24 October 2007

SAARC to set up mechanism to tackle terrorism

NEW DELHI, Oct 23: The SAARC countries today decided to set up an improved institutional mechanism and a better network to deal with terrorism, drug trafficking, cyber crimes and financial frauds. The decision was arrived at the sixth SAARC conference on cooperation in police matters here in which police chiefs of eight SAARC countries participated. The meeting was chaired by Director Intelligence Bureau P C Haldar. The SAARC countries also agreed to create a data base of all these crimes including drug trafficking which they could share for the advantage of all the countries, Home Ministry sources said here today.

Daily Excelsior, 24 October 2007

Army to take a relook at anti-terrorism strategy

NEW DELHI, Oct 23: Top Army Commanders began their meeting here today to take a comprehensive "relook" at the country's anti-terrorism strategy in the backdrop of new trend of radical Islamic terrorists targeting eminent politicians. The four-day conference, chaired by the Army Chief Gen Deepak Kapoor who has a first-hand experience combating terrorism, took stock of the security scenario in the region, Army officials said. The internal review of the Army's operational and combat readiness

undertaken today would be followed by a full-fledged Combined Commanders Conference tomorrow to be chaired by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Hindustan Times, 24 October 2007

Ajmer suspect's landlord under scanner

A Rajasthan police team met senior officials of the Central Bureau of Investigation in Delhi on Tuesday in connection with the Ajmer shrine blast. The meeting was held at the CBI headquarters, CGO complex. Security agencies suspect the militant group behind the May 18 blast at the Mecca Masjid in Hyderabad is also behind the blast at the shrine of Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti in Ajmer. The CBI is investigating the Mecca Masjid case as well. Sources said that Syed Salim, one of the persons who died in the Ajmer blast, continued to be a suspect for the Rajasthan police, despite having been given a clean chit by the Andhra Pradesh police. The police are planning to conduct a polygraph test on Salim's landlord, Ikramuddin. Ikramuddin had received two calls on his mobile phone meant for Salim on the day of the blast. Both of these were international calls, the sources said.

Patna Daily, 24 October 2007

Police Recovers Arms in Patna; No Arrest Made

The police in Patna under Buddha Colony police station on Monday, after receiving tips from anonymous sources, recovered a large cache of arms and ammunition from a house in Dujra though, much to the shock of many, the police did not arrest anyone in the case. As reported, the police, after being tipped off, raided the house of a retired army jawan Rampratap Mahto in Dujrachak area and recovered two country-made rifles and four country-made pistols besides many live cartridges.

Daily Excelsior, 26 October 2007

Ex-KZF ultras reveal plan to revive militancy

JAMMU, Oct 25: Two former militants of Khalistan Zindabad Force (KZF), whose cadre were among the suspected militants, in addition to Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), for Ludhiana cinema hall blast early this month, have confirmed the KZF's plan to revive their cadre in Punjab and Jammu to step-up militancy with the help of Kashmir militant outfits. Former Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab KPS Gill had also blamed KZF for Ludhiana explosion which left six labourers dead and many others injured though police investigations have pointed to the involvement of BKI.

The Hindu, 26 October 2007

Dargah blast: one held

Godda (Jharkhand): The Rajasthan police took into custody a man from Chanda village here for interrogation in connection with the blast at the Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti shrine in Ajmer. Three persons were killed in the blast that had rocked the shrine on October 11.

Hindustan Times, 26 October 2007

Police release sketches of 3 'recce' suspects

Police on Friday released sketches of three persons who apparently carried out reconnaissance of sensitive spots in the city like Mahim dargah, Haji Ali dargah and Mahalaxmi temple last week. Joint Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) KL Prasad said the three, along with a burqa-clad woman, had used a taxi for roaming around the city for the recce on October 22 and 23. "The sketches were made as per the description given by the taxi driver," he said. The suspects allegedly asked the taxi driver to keep two bags containing 'unknown material' with him while leaving the cab near the Sidhivinayak temple on October 23, following which the driver got suspicious had a heated argument with them.

The Times of India, 30 October 2007

3 blasts trigger panic at Majestic

BANGALORE: Three bombs exploded at the Kempe Gowda Bus Stand on Monday evening, creating panic and chaos in the busy area. Passengers scurried for cover, newspaper offices and police control room were flooded with calls from people enquiring about a bomb blast even as the authorities did their best to ease the tension and restore normalcy. It was just a mock drill. The confusion and tension started at 3.30 pm with the security personnel at the KSRTC bus stand informing their bosses about suspicious objects found in and around the central bus stand.