

### **Parties term CEC's action unfortunate**

**Hindu, 1 February 2009**

NEW DELHI: With the Election Commission embroiled in a controversy, following The Hindu's expose of Chief Election Commissioner N. Gopalaswami's recommendation to the President that Election Commissioner Navin Chawla be removed, the view among political parties and constitutional experts is that the CEC's action was unfortunate and calculated to damage the Commission's institutional prestige. The Bharatiya Janata Party, however, sided with the CEC, even as Mr. Chawla rejected the possibility of his resignation. Mr. Chawla, who has been weathering the storm kicked up by the BJP against him, quietly said: "There is no confusion. We will work unitedly towards the general election ... The Election Commission has delivered flawless elections in the country. We will continue to do so." To a question whether he would resign, he retorted: "Why should I resign?" Talking to PTI, he said: "The dignity of the Commission is paramount."

### **CEC's action damages institution: Nariman**

**Hindu, 1 February 2009**

New Delhi: Eminent jurist and constitution expert Fali Nariman has regretted the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) N. Gopalaswami's action recommending the removal of Election Commissioner Navin Chawla. The CEC may have the power under Article 324 (5) of the Constitution to recommend the removal of an EC but this power cannot be used mechanically due to some difference of opinion with the other Commissioners simply because he is a superior authority

### **It is for Pakistan to act: Chidambaram**

**Hindu, 1 February 2009**

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram on Saturday said India had provided to Pakistan a comprehensive dossier on the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack and it was for Islamabad to act on it. "For the record, Pakistan has maintained that it will investigate and its Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) will probe," Mr. Chidambaram said, responding to a question at a press conference here. In reply to another query whether the Mumbai terror attack had come up for discussion during his meeting with Pakistan High Commissioner Shahid Malik, the Home Minister clarified that the High Commissioner had only paid a courtesy call on him after the Republic Day celebrations and it was normal for ambassadors and envoys to do so

### **ATS quizzes Muthalik on Malegaon blast**

**Hindu, 1 February 2009**

MANGALORE: A team from the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad on Saturday interrogated Sri Ram Sene chief Pramod Muthalik here on Saturday for over two hours on his suspected links to the Malegaon blast. According to ATS sources, Mr. Muthalik remained calm and denied any links to the Malegaon blasts

### **Colombo: we will destroy LTTE shortly**

**Hindu, 2 February 2009**

COLOMBO: Amid claims by the military of further advances into the last two remaining settlements of the LTTE, Sri Lanka Defence Secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Sunday asserted that the forces would shortly "destroy" the Tigers. A report posted on the

Defence Ministry website quoted him as saying that the LTTE's refusal to pay heed to the 48-hour ultimatum issued by President Mahinda Rajapaksa to the outfit to release civilians should be an eye-opener to the NGOs and the international community

### **FBI wants to question Ansari**

**Hindu, 2 February 2009**

New Delhi: The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has made a request to interrogate two militants arrested by the Uttar Pradesh police and questioned by the Mumbai police in connection with the 26/11 terror strikes. The FBI made the request through proper channels for questioning Fahim Arshad Ansari and Sabbauddin of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba, who were taken to Mumbai in December last as a follow-up to the probe into the 26/11 attacks, official sources said

### **Naxals trap, kill 15 policemen in Maha**

**Asian Age, 2 February 2009**

Feb. 1: The Anti-Naxal Squad (ANS) at Gadchiroli was combing the thick forests of Dhanora in Ghadchiroli district of Maharashtra on Sunday for Naxals after 15 policemen were lured into the jungle and killed by the militants. Reports from the district said 15 members of a police party, including a police sub-inspector, were trapped and slain by Naxals after a fearsome battle. The Naxals were armed with sophisticated weapons like AK-47 assault rifles. The Naxals had surrounded the Gyarapatti Katgul police party, which had entered the jungle on a tipoff about the presence of a few of the militants. But the tipoff turned out to be a trap and the waiting Naxals surrounded the police from all sides and started firing at them

### **Youth in J&K suicidal: Report**

**Asian Age, 2 February 2009**

Feb. 1: Many of the jobless youth in Jammu and Kashmir are toying with the idea of taking extreme steps such as committing suicide and are prepared to take drugs to relieve their mental burden. This has been stated in the just released report by South Africa based ActionAid, the aid agency which has been working in restive Jammu and Kashmir for past several years. Referring to their harbouring a death wish and a disturbing recourse to drugs and cigarettes, the report says that an overwhelming majority of the jobless have no faith in self-employment institutions set up by the state government mainly because of the discouraging terms set by them.

The report "Unemployment in Kashmir: Psycho Social Implications" said that regardless of the window dressing by government agencies, as many as 88 per cent of unemployed youth have not applied for any loan or seized employment scheme. "

### **3 top LeT militants shot dead in Handwara**

**Daily Excelsior, 2 February 2009**

SRINAGAR, Feb 1: The security forces in North Kashmir continued their successful drive against militancy as three militants believed to be cadres of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) were killed in a 10-hour long encounter in forest area of Handwara in Kupwara district, officials said. A joint team of Special Operations Group of Police and troops of

21 Rashtriya Rifles launched search operations in forest area of Wadar Bala in Handwara area in the wee hours today following specific information about presence of militants in the area, the officials said

### **Naxals trap, kill 15 policemen in Maharashtra**

**Asian Age, 2 February 2009**

The Anti-Naxal Squad (ANS) at Gadchiroli was combing the thick forests of Dhanora in Ghadchiroli district of Maharashtra on Sunday for Naxals after 15 policemen were lured into the jungle and killed by the militants. Reports from the district said 15 members of a police party, including a police sub-inspector, were trapped and slain by Naxals after a fearsome battle. The Naxals were armed with sophisticated weapons like AK-47 assault rifles. The Naxals had surrounded the Gyarapatti Katgul police party, which had entered the jungle on a tipoff about the presence of a few of the militants. But the tipoff turned out to be a trap and the waiting Naxals surrounded the police from all sides and started firing at them

### **Youth in J&K suicidal: Report**

**Asian Age, 2 February 2009**

Many of the jobless youth in Jammu and Kashmir are toying with the idea of taking extreme steps such as committing suicide and are prepared to take drugs to relieve their mental burden. This has been stated in the just released report by South Africa based ActionAid, the aid agency which has been working in restive Jammu and Kashmir for past several years. Referring to their harbouring a death wish and a disturbing recourse to drugs and cigarettes, the report says that an overwhelming majority of the jobless have no faith in self-employment institutions set up by the state government mainly because of the discouraging terms set by them. The report "Unemployment in Kashmir: Psycho Social Implications" said that regardless of the window dressing by government agencies, as many as 88 per cent of unemployed youth have not applied for any loan or seized employment scheme. "

### **Pranab contradicts NSA, says Pak yet to respond**

**Hindu, 3 February 2009**

New Delhi: Contradicting National Security Adviser M K Narayanan's claim that Islamabad has reverted on Mumbai attacks dossier, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee on Tuesday asserted that India is yet to receive any official response from Pakistan. "That he (Narayanan) has said in his own way. The fact of the matter is that after they (Pakistan) received material from us, we have not received any official communication about the progress of investigation conducted by them," Mukherjee told reporters here when referred to the NSA's comments

### **Opinion: The Jammu & Kashmir elections and after By Amitabh Mattoo**

**Hindu, 3 February 2009**

Elections in Jammu and Kashmir are much more than a democratic ritual. In the popular Kashmiri imagination, they have been powerful symbols: of faith and betrayal; of resistance and accommodation; of hope and disillusionment; of confidence and uncertainty...However, the immediate priority must be to devise and implement a comprehensive policy for the young men and women of the State. The State has had

consistently high levels of educated unemployment and low levels of vocationally skilled human resources. With more than 2,00,000 unemployed, and in many case unemployable (other than as white collar workers for the government), the youth have formed the bedrock of the militant movement over the last two decades. The challenge is to use this energy of the young Kashmiri to build peace

**Pranab, NSA sing different tunes on Pakistan probe**  
**Hindu, 4 February 2009**

New Delhi: Two days after National Security Adviser M.K. Narayanan said Pakistan had "reverted to us and asked a number of questions" on the Mumbai terrorist attacks dossier, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee reiterated that India had received no "official communication" from Islamabad "about the progress of the investigations conducted by them" into the November 26-29 events. Asked on Tuesday about Mr. Narayanan's assertions to the contrary, the Minister said, "That he has stated in his own way." India had been informed by Pakistan about the receipt of the dossier, he said, but "thereafter" there had been no word

**CoBRA reaches Bastar to join anti-Naxal ops**  
**Indian Express, 5 February 2009**

Raipur: Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) personnel have reached Chhattisgarh's tribal Bastar region, one of the worst Maoist affected regions in the country, to join the anti-Naxalite operations. As many as 400 personnel of the CoBRA force are now based at a camp of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) at Masgaon and the remaining 657 personnel of the battalion are expected to be in Bastar by April this year, official sources said

**Quotes taken out of context have given a distorted view: Narayanan**  
**Hindu, 5 February 2009**

New Delhi: In a case of one man's (sound) bite being worse than another's bark, National Security Adviser M.K. Narayanan has rushed to clarify that his remarks about the new American President "barking up the wrong tree" on Kashmir were really aimed at underlining the "high expectation India had from the Obama administration." And that "selective quotes taken out of context have tended to give a distorted idea of what was actually said" by him

**Cooperate with India in probe, Ban tells Pakistan**  
**Hindu, 5 February 2009**

ISLAMABAD: United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who arrived here on Wednesday on a day's visit, called on Pakistan to cooperate "fully" with India in the investigation of the Mumbai attacks, and urged both countries to resolve the Kashmir issue and other differences through dialogue. Addressing a joint press conference with Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, the top U.N. official said he had "urged that the Pakistan government should have a full investigation into the [Mumbai attacks], and fully co-operate with the Indian government" in the matter

**India shifting to urban centres**  
**Hindu, 5 February 2009**

NEW DELHI: Fifty per cent of India's population is expected to be urban-based by

2030. This projection takes into account an expected 8 and 9 per cent growth rate of the population over the next decade and anticipated shifts from agricultural to non-agricultural occupations and from rural to non-rural employment, according to a report, India: Urban Poverty Report 2009. The report was released on Tuesday by Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation Minister Kumari Selja

**Indian held for Al-Qaeda link**  
**Hindu, 5 February 2009**

New Delhi: An Indian national has been arrested in Spain for alleged links with Al-Qaeda and India has sought consular access to him, the government said here on Wednesday

**Ex-Ulfa man: ISI sponsors Bangla camps**  
**Asian Age, 7 February 2009**

Feb. 6: After Pakistan pointed towards a Bangladeshi hand in the 26/11 terror attacks, former commanders of the outlawed Ulfa came forward on Friday to allege that the ISI was sponsoring training camps for Ulfa cadres on Bangladeshi soil. The former leaders of one of the fierce wings of the Ulfa exposed the nexus between the ISI and Bangladeshi spy agency DGFI who were sponsoring terror activities being carried out in India. These commanders who came overground last year admitted that the Ulfa had sent its cadres to Pakistan-Afghanistan borders for training till two years ago. "The top Ulfa leadership has close links with the ISI, DGFI and some Islamic organisations. Without their support, it is not possible for anyone to have bases in Bangladesh," Mrinal Hazarika, former chief of the Ulfa's 28th battalion, who had come overground deserting the organisation along with 150 other cadres, told reporters here on Thursday. Hazarika, who described his group as pro-talks, said the Ulfa has several camps, offices and shelter places in Bangladesh, including some in cities

**Menon: Pakistan must come back with clear, unqualified response**  
**Hindu, 7 February 2009**

Paris: Pakistan must come back to India with a clear and unqualified response on the probe into the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, "even if it involves screwing up the courage to face facts and talk to us," Foreign Secretary Shiv Shankar Menon told The Hindu in an exclusive interview here on Thursday. Although India has still not received what could be described as a clear and forthright response, Mr. Menon said: "I think so far we have seen more from Pakistan in terms of response than we have seen ever before. It has created trouble within Pakistan — General Durrani lost his job for commenting on it in public — but they need to sort it out among themselves. This they have to sort out. They have to choose where they stand on this."

**Mumbai terror 'a crime against humanity, totally unacceptable'**  
**Hindu, 7 February 2009**

New Delhi: "I would not pre-judge what the Pakistan government will say. But I am convinced that the Pakistani government is also committed to addressing terrorism," United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told The Hindu in an interview in New Delhi on Thursday. He was asked whether he was confident that Pakistan would heed his appeal to "fully cooperate" with the Indian government in getting to the bottom of the Mumbai terror attacks. Mr. Ban, who was in New Delhi for a day, revealed that Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani had informed him the Pakistan government "was

going to enact the legislation to allow them to punish those Pakistani people who engage in terrorist acts outside Pakistan."

### **CRPF begins partial pullout from J&K**

**Asian Age, 7 February 2009**

Feb. 6: The rollback of CRPF personnel from Jammu and Kashmir began on Friday with about 3,100 personnel being removed from duty in parts of Srinagar. A CRPF spokesperson said here that another 100 companies (approximately 10,000 jawans) would be withdrawn in the coming weeks. "Those who were pulled out today will return to their base camp outside Jammu and Kashmir," he added. In all 131 CRPF companies are being pulled out of Srinagar to be replaced by members of the armed wing of the J&K police, official sources here said

### **'Armed forces prepared for surgical strikes'**

**Indian Express, 9 February 2009**

Feb. 8: Post-Mumbai terror attack, after months of debate on the option of surgical strikes against terror targets in Pakistan, Army Chief Gen. Deepak Kapoor has stated that such strikes were militarily very feasible. "Surgical strikes are definitely feasible but whether you wish to take that decision or not is a separate issue," Gen. Kapoor said. "Whether you would like to look at doing it (carrying out such strikes) by air or artillery or by another means or physically there," he said

### **PC says Ram Sene crossed limits, RSS favours ban**

**Indian Express, 9 February 2009**

Terming the Sri Ram Sene as a 'threat' to the country, Home Minister P Chidambaram on Monday said the Centre was watching its activities and expected the Karnataka Government to take firm action against the outfit, accused of being involved in the Mangalore pub attack. "Sri Ram Sene is a threat to the country. The Centre is watching its activities with great concern", the minister told reporters

### **'Snap trade, transport ties with Pakistan'**

**Hindu, 9 February 2009**

NAGPUR: A political resolution adopted on the final day of the 3-day Bharatiya Janata Party conclave here demanded that all trade, transport, tourism and cultural ties with Pakistan be snapped and the Indian High Commissioner recalled if Pakistan did not take proper action, including handing over all the terrorists involved in Mumbai and other terrorist attacks. The resolution termed the United Progressive Alliance a "coalition of opportunism," of "desperation" and "compulsion" that had "no moral right to seek legitimacy" because of its track record

### **Mumbai attacks: anatomy of a failed strategy By Kanwal Sibal**

**Hindu, 10 February 2009**

Our post-Mumbai strategy has lacked purposefulness and coherence. We have been overly cautious in our reaction to the Mumbai carnage, as if the overriding concern was to somehow salvage the policy of engagement with Pakistan pursued in recent years. We were defensive in accusing "elements in Pakistan," and not the state agencies, of the outrage, despite the common sense view that such a highly organised, skilful commando-style operation could not have been mounted without institutional

connivance and notwithstanding the earlier evidence of the involvement of the Inter-Services Intelligence in blasting our Kabul Embassy. Subsequently, the Prime Minister chose to mention the involvement of "official agencies."

### **Kidnapped Indian in Afghanistan dead**

**Hindu, 10 February 2009**

NEW DELHI: Simon Paranthaman (39), kidnapped in Afghanistan for ransom, is dead, according to official sources here. "We have lost him," they said. Paranthaman, who hails from a village near Kallakurichi in Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu, was abducted along with two Afghans in October last from the Herat province in western Afghanistan. He is survived by wife Vasanthi, daughter Nirmala (10) and son Ajit (8).

### **Pakistan seeks more information on 26/11**

**Hindu, 10 February 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will register a case on the Mumbai attacks to bring the perpetrators to justice under its own laws but says it needs more information from India to complete its investigations, or will find it "exceedingly difficult" to proceed. This was the outcome of a marathon four-hour meeting of the Pakistan Cabinet's Defence Co-ordination Committee that Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani chaired on Monday to take stock of a report prepared by the Federal Investigation Agency on the material provided by India on the Mumbai attacks

### **26/11 partly planned in Pakistan: Malik**

**Hindu, 13 February 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday delivered a big part of its promise of cooperation with India on the Mumbai attacks by registering a case of terrorism against eight Pakistani suspects, and formally acknowledging that part of the planning for the attacks was done in this country. The move is unprecedented and marks an important milestone in India-Pakistan relations. Rehman Malik, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Interior, who also heads the crucial Ministry, told journalists that the case was registered under sections of the 1997 Anti-Terrorism Act that enable the prosecution of Pakistanis for directing, abetting, conspiring or facilitating a terrorist act in another country

### **New Delhi sees a positive development**

**Hindu, 13 February 2009**

NEW DELHI: India on Friday said certain actions taken by Pakistan with regard to the Mumbai terror attacks were a "positive development." It, however, urged Islamabad to take credible action of dismantling the terror infrastructure on its territory. In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) offered to share "whatever" it can after examining the issues raised by Pakistan in its communication to the Indian High Commissioner in Islamabad

### **FICCI to hold next retreat of CEOs in Kashmir**

**Daily Excelsior, 13 February 2009**

NEW DELHI, Feb 12 : Appealing the Indian industry to come to Jammu and Kashmir for investment, Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah asked them to re-establish and revive the relationship they had for long with the State, even as FICCI assured him that the

power-intensive industries group will explore possibilities of future investment in the State. Addressing the 81st Annual General Meeting of Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), here this morning, the Chief Minister said the State has witnessed the most peaceful elections in the last two decades and people have ensured the success of the democratic process by huge participation

### **Islamabad hands over Mumbai probe report to New Delhi**

**Daily Times, 13 February 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has formally handed over the details of its investigation into the Mumbai terror attacks to India, the Foreign Office said on Thursday as Adviser to the Prime Minister on Interior Rehman Malik admitted that the attacks were 'partially planned' in Pakistan. "The Indian high commissioner was ... [on Thursday given] material pertaining to the Mumbai terror attacks probe by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), by the foreign secretary," said Foreign Office spokesman Abdul Basit

### **India: take action to logical conclusion**

**Hindu, 14 February 2009**

NEW DELHI: While reiterating that the official Pakistan response to the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks was a positive development, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee told Parliament on Friday that "much depends on actions in the Mumbai case reaching their logical conclusion." Making suo motu and unscheduled statements in both Houses of Parliament, Mr. Mukherjee underlined that India had no quarrel with the people of Pakistan and wished them well. "We do not think that they should be held responsible or face the consequences of this situation. We have, therefore, consciously, and after due deliberation, not thought it necessary or fit to curtail people-to-people contacts, trains and road links," he observed

### **15 killed, over 100 injured as Coromandel Express derails**

**Hindu, 14 February 2009**

JAJPUR Road: At least 15 passengers were killed and over 100 injured when 14 bogies of the Chennai-bound 2841 Coromandel Express derailed near the Jajpur-Keonjhar Road Station on Friday evening. The death toll is likely to increase as many of the injured were in a serious condition. Some bodies were feared trapped inside mangled coaches. The injured persons have been rushed to the local government hospital and the SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack

### **"Elephant-sized Railways now move like a cheetah"**

**Hindu, 14 February 2009**

NEW DELHI: Hemmed in by the limitations of unveiling an 'interim' Railway Budget, Minister Lalu Prasad was a shadow of his usual self on Friday in the Lok Sabha. Indulgent to his hecklers from the Opposition, he even paid a rare compliment to Leader of the Opposition L.K. Advani. Realising that he had left out a promised train starting from Mr. Advani's constituency, Gandhinagar, in Gujarat, Mr. Prasad held out the assurance that it would be done. "Yes, I oppose Mr. Advani on various issues, but I have great respect for him," said the Minister who, as Bihar Chief Minister, had arrested Mr. Advani during his Rath Yatra

### **Majority of Internet users from urban areas: survey**

### **Hindu, 15 February 2009**

KOCHI: India had an estimated 45.3 million 'active' Internet users as on September 2008, of whom the overwhelming majority — as many as 42 million — were from urban areas, according to the results of a study conducted by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and IMRB International. The results, released a few days ago, were based on survey data obtained from 30 urban and 100 rural centres, covering more than 22,000 households, 90,000 individuals, 1,000 small and medium enterprises and 500 cyber café owners

### **Sporadic incidents mark Valentine's Day**

#### **Hindu, 15 February 2009**

NEW DELHI: Barring stray incidents of harassment, citizens and civil society beat back various attempts by moral police outfits to disrupt Valentine's Day on Saturday. If anything, the bid by saffron outfits to kick up a storm over the celebration generated greater interest in the Day and cash registers kept ringing in pubs. Heightened vigil by police and preventive custody of known miscreants nipped possible trouble in the bud. Still, there were instances of couples being forced into marriage or tie 'rakhis.' In Ujjain, a brother-sister duo was not spared as some miscreants – claiming to be of the Bajrang Dal – mistook them to be a couple and beat up the boy

### **Suspects not produced in Pakistan court**

#### **Hindu, 15 February 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Contrary to expectation, Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency has failed to produce in court the suspects in the Mumbai attacks two days after the government announced the registering of a first information report against them and declared six of them to be in its custody. The case was registered on Thursday. It was widely anticipated that the six would be produced in an anti-terrorist court in Rawalpindi on Friday, in keeping with the rule that suspects must be produced 24 hours after their arrest. But that did not happen, and they were not produced on Saturday either

### **Valley train reaches Baramulla**

#### **Indian Express, 15 February 2009**

Srinagar: People in Kashmir had another reason to smile this Valentine's Day, as UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi inaugurated the second phase of railway line in the Valley on Saturday.

But the residents will be able to travel from Baramulla to Anantnag, a distance of 101 km, on February 15. The Baramulla-Anantnag train will pass through 13 railway stations: Budgam, Nowgam, Pampore, Kakapora, Awantipora, Panzgam, Bijbehara, Anantnag, Mazgam, Sopore, Hamray, Pattan and Baramulla. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had flagged off Kashmir's first train on October 11

### **Train service will catalyse economic growth: PM**

#### **Daily Excelsior, 15 February 2009**

Srinagar, Feb 14: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has said the train services in Kashmir are going to catalyse the economic growth in the Valley as people will have cheaper and more reliable mode of transport. "I am delighted to learn that Indian Railways have met the challenge of connecting Anantnag to Baramulla by Rail. This is bound to catalyse economic growth in the Kashmir valley, with the availability of

cheaper and more reliable transport. I congratulate the Indian Railways on this achievement," the Prime Minister said in a message read out by Union Minister of State Prithvi Raj Chavan

### **After 26/11, infiltration goes down on LoC, IB**

**Daily Excelsior, 15 February 2009**

JAMMU, Feb 14: A steep decline in infiltration has been observed on Line of Control (LoC) in twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri during last one and a half month of this year. Official sources attributed this new phenomenon to closure of training camps of major militant outfits and shifting of militants inside Army camps to hide them in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) in the aftermath of 26/11 terror attacks in Mumbai. According to sources, very rare intrusion bids were noticed on the LoC in Jammu region and there was no Intelligence report of any successful infiltration attempt either from Rajouri and Poonch districts during first 45 days of 2009

### **'Remand' for 6 terror suspects in Pakistan**

**Hindu, 16 February 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency has obtained a 14-day remand for at least six suspects it has arrested in connection with the Mumbai attacks, according to media reports. A judge granted the remand after recording the statements of the suspects at a secret location, Dawn and Geo Television said. Dawn newspaper, quoting sources, said the FIA had obtained remand for seven suspects

### **Interim budget may give relief to exporters**

**Hindu, 16 February 2009**

NEW DELHI: With the global economic meltdown in the background and the Lok Sabha elections approaching, the UPA government will present its interim budget on Monday amid indications it will showcase its programmes in rural development, housing and infrastructure during 2009-10. To be presented by External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, currently holding the additional charge of the Finance Ministry, it is expected to spell out some short-term measures for exporters reeling under the impact of the global slowdown

### **Top naxal leader surrenders**

**Hindu, 16 February 2009**

HYDERABAD: Konapuri Ilaiah alias Sambasivudu, secretary of the State committee of CPI (Maoist), surrendered to the police on Sunday evening. Sambasivudu who carried a reward of Rs. 10 lakh on his head belongs to Nalgonda. He was involved in several offences, prominently the killing of Congress MLA of Makthal C. Narsi Reddy at Narayanpet in Mahabubnagar district on August 15, 2005. A top police official said the government would take a lenient view towards him in the criminal cases that he was involved in since he offered to surrender

### **Indian Mujahideen wanted bases in Maharashtra**

**Hindu, 18 February 2009**

Mumbai: The terror outfit Indian Mujahideen (IM), with its network spanning the length and breadth of the country and abroad, wanted to set up its bases in Maharashtra, according to a charge sheet filed on Tuesday. The Mumbai Crime Branch

filed the 1,809-page charge sheet against 21 members of the IM, who engineered blasts across the country since 2005. Its masterminds, however, are still at large

**N-weapons could be brought through sea: Navy**  
**Indian Express, 18 February 2009**

New Delhi: In the backdrop of the Mumbai attacks having exposed the vulnerability of Indian coastline, Navy Chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta on Wednesday said cargo containers could be used to transport nuclear weapons. "Today, 70-75 global cargo is containerised. It is acknowledged that the container is the most likely means for terrorist organisations to illegally transport a nuclear weapon and, hence, there is a serious concern about container security," he said while inaugurating a seminar organised by the National Maritime Foundation in New Delhi

**Lawyers, police fight pitched battles in Madras High Court**  
**Hindu, 20 February 2009**

CHENNAI: In unprecedented violence on the Madras High Court premises, advocates protesting against the arrest of their colleagues in an assault case fought pitched battles with police personnel for several hours on Thursday. While a police station was set ablaze by the advocates, vehicles parked in the court complex were smashed by the policemen. Among those injured in the violence was a High Court judge, more than 50 lawyers and several policemen

**Supreme Court hurt at unruly behaviour**  
**Hindu, 20 February 2009**

New Delhi: Incidents of hooliganism involving lawyers, like the recent attack on Janata Party leader Subramanian Swamy in the Madras High Court, has angered the Supreme Court which on Thursday appeared searching for answers to protect courts from such rogue elements. "Please tell us how do we protect courts? We have instances where some people barge in and raise slogans in courts as it happened in Patna and Madras High Court," a three-judge Bench of Justices B.N. Aggrawal, G.S. Singhvi and Aftab Alam asked senior counsel Harish Salve, appearing for NDTV in the BMW sting operation case

**ULFA pro-talk faction demands 'full autonomy'**  
**Indian Express, 20 February 2009**

Guwahati: Giving up the demand of 'Independent Assam', the ULFA pro-talk faction submitted a charter of demands to the Prime Minister demanding "full autonomy" to Assam within the constitutional framework, and said it would return to arms struggle if the Centre failed to "discharge its responsibilities". "We sincerely believe that full autonomy to the state can be the only solution to the Assam-India conflict. It will remove the fear and insecurity from the minds of the indigenous people and provide safeguards to land, language, economy and right of self-determination", the charter said

**3 CRPF personnel die in C'garh Maoist attack**  
**Asian Age, 20 February 2009**

Raipur, Feb. 19: Three Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) troopers were killed and nine others injured in a Maoist attack early on Thursday morning in Chhattisgarh, the police said. The incident took place in the thickly-forested Mahakal area of Kanker district, about 350 km from capital Raipur, in the state's restive Bastar region. "It was a Maoist ambush. The insurgents first triggered blasts and then opened

indiscriminate fire on a joint patrolling team of the CRPF and the district force," deputy inspector-general of police, Pawan Deo said. He said that the troopers belonged to the 111 CRPF battalion

#### **47 private firms ask for CISF security cover**

**Asian Age, 20 February 2009**

Feb. 19: In total, 47 private sector organisations, including Infosys, Reliance Jamnagar Refinery, Oberoi Hotels, Taj Hotel, Delhi, IT Park, Bengaluru and DLF, have requested for security from the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). "We have received requests from total 47 private sector organisations for security cover. We are examining it," additional DG, CISF, Manjari Jaruhar said. The role of CISF has changed over the years, she said adding that there is a significant increase in CISF clientele. There has been a huge demand and surge for CISF security after the November 26 Mumbai attacks, she said

#### **IB: LeT team out to kill Kasab**

**Asian Age, 21 February 2009**

Feb. 20: The Intelligence Bureau (IB) has said there is a fresh threat to the life of Mohammad Ajmal Amir Kasab, the only terrorist taken alive during the November 26 terror raid. It has told the Mumbai police that a team of six highly-trained Lashkar-e-Tayyaba (LeT) operatives under the command of one Altaf would attempt to kill Kasab. Consequently, the Mumbai police has shifted Kasab to an unknown location. "We had intercepted a message, which stated that one Altaf, an LeT-trained militant, along with five other militants from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, have been given the job of killing Kasab," said an IB source