

Hindu, 1 December 2008

Patil quits, Chidambaram takes charge of Home

NEW DELHI: Four days after unprecedented terror attacks shook Mumbai, Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram on Sunday replaced Shivraj Patil as the new Home Minister. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh entrusted Mr. Chidambaram with the responsibility of overhauling the country's internal security set-up in the wake of increasing terror-related attacks in the recent past and finally the one that jolted Mumbai on November 26-28 and took nearly 200 lives and left about 300 people injured

Hindu, 1 December 2008

No evidence so far of local involvement

MUMBAI: Sources in the joint Mumbai Police-Intelligence Bureau investigation team, probing last week's terror attack, said efforts to harvest further evidence through exploring the Lashkar's possible local infrastructure have so far yielded little. Police were investigating the possible role of a Mumbai smuggling syndicate run by city resident Ali Mohammad Sheikh. Investigators had explored the possibility that Sheikh may have been involved in facilitating the landing of the 10 fidayeen on Mumbai's coast and the providing local infrastructure needed for target reconnaissance

Hindu, 1 December 2008

Terror attack death toll 172: Health Department

MUMBAI: The Health Department has confirmed the death of 172 people in the recent terror attacks in the city. The number of injured in hospitals is 248. Another 44 have taken treatment in the outpatient departments, said a source. Twenty-one foreign nationals died in the attacks. These include three Germans, an American, a Briton, a Thai, a Japanese, two Canadians, an Australian, an Italian, a Chinese and six Israelis and three unknown persons

Indian Express, 1 December 2008

Opinion: A tale of two crises By C Raja Mohan

McCain meltdownAs the focus shifts from Operation Black Tornado to the predictable bickering at home, Manmohan Singh faces an even bigger challenge on the diplomatic front. He has already pointed a finger at the militant groups operating in Pakistan and warned Islamabad that it will have to pay if it can't stop the extremists operating on its soil

Asian Age, 1 December 2008

Opinion: Where is our strategy for tackling terrorism? By Vijay Oberoi

The counter-terrorism operations in Mumbai have now been successfully completed. But this success came at a heavy cost, both in terms of loss of precious lives and destruction of infrastructure. The real loss though is the image of our country. The brave men of the NSG, which in reality is the Army, albeit incongruously with a police head, the para-commandos of the Army, the Marcos of the Navy, the helicopter pilots of the Air Force and the police have made the country proud with their gallant action and sacrifices. However, people across the nation want answers to important questions, including whether we have a strategy for tackling terrorism. This terrorist attack, in a long series of such attacks at different places, is the worst the country has faced in terms of any parameter

Hindu, 2 December 2008

Mumbai massacre story unfolds in terrorist's interrogation

MUMBAI: For the past week, newspaper readers across the world gazed at photographs of the dark young man who, sack slung over his shoulder, was caught on closed-circuit camera minutes before he opened fire at commuters at a busy Mumbai railway station. Based on interviews with key officers involved in the investigation and on the interrogation records of the terrorist, The Hindu has been able to assemble key parts of the story behind the face

Hindu, 3 December 2008

Pranab rules out military action

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee on Tuesday said 'time will show' what action India will take in response to the Mumbai terror attacks. Every sovereign nation has the right to protect its territorial integrity and take action as it saw fit, he told journalists. He, however, cautioned against misinterpreting his observation to mean military action

Hindu, 3 December 2008

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Hindu, 3 December 2008

Pakistan offers 'joint investigating mechanism'

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has offered India a 'joint investigating mechanism' to probe the Mumbai attacks, and said it could be headed by the National Security Advisers of both countries. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi made the offer in a 'policy statement' telecast over the state-owned Pakistan Television. The statement followed India's demarche demanding action to match the 'sentiments' expressed by the Pakistani leadership

Asian Age, 3 December 2008

IB warning of Dec. 6 suicide hit at airports

Dec. 2: The Intelligence Bureau warned on Tuesday that airports around the country could be the target of a fidayeen attack later this week, and the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security has issued a red alert from December 3 to 7 at four of them: New Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai and Ahmedabad. Security at airports and other major national installations is always stepped up around December 6, the anniversary of the 1992 demolition of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya. This year, for the first time, Bengaluru international airport is among the places where the threat level is considered high

Times of India, 3 December 2008

Antony to armed forces: Be prepared for airborne threats

NEW DELHI: With India's coastal security already breached by terrorists in Mumbai, Defence Minister A K Antony on Wednesday warned the armed forces of possible terror attacks from airborne platforms similar to the 9/11 attacks in the US. Antony asked them to be prepared to counter the threat of terrorists from the air and prevent a repeat of World Trade Centre-type of attacks carried out by the al-Qaida

Times of India, 3 December 2008

4100 terror attacks in India from 1970-2004

WASHINGTON: India faced more than 4,100 terrorist attacks between 1970 and 2004, accounting for more than 12,000 fatalities, according to the Global Terrorism Database. The database is maintained by the University of Maryland and the US National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START). START's Terrorist Organisation Profiles (TOPs) collection has information on 56 groups known to have engaged in terrorism in India, including the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI).

Asian Age, 5 December 2008

Can UPA tackle jihadi mentality? By Balbir K. Punj

THE ENORMITY of last week's incidents in Mumbai, and the earlier bombings in several Indian cities, have exposed the ability of terror merchants to strike at civilian targets across the country at will. Every time these incidents happen there are set reactions from those in power. This time, however, the ruling coalition at the Centre and in Mumbai has been forced into accepting their incompetence and insensitivity and they are trying to save themselves from people's anger by making Shivraj Patil, Vilasrao Deshmukh and R.R. Patil the scapegoats. One is reminded of the public rage after India's defeat in the war with China in 1962 when the defence minister, also Jawaharlal Nehru's blue-eyed boy, V.K. Krishna Menon, was made the target. The pathetic state of India's armed forces that the war in 1962 exposed and the poor quality of its leadership had turned the searchlight on Jawaharlal Nehru himself. Two generations later, Congress president Sonia Gandhi has saved her own party's government by letting her favourite puppet in the home ministry take the blame for a series of security lapses, culminating in the 26/11 incident

Hindu, 5 December 2008

India has 'proof of ISI involvement'

New Delhi: India has proof of the involvement of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency in last week's terrorist attacks in Mumbai but will not level a public accusation because the ensuing tension in bilateral relations would play into the hands of those responsible for the incidents, authoritative sources claimed here on Thursday. Asked for the sort of proof linking the ISI to the attacks, the sources said investigators had 'the names of the handlers and trainers, the locations where the training was held, and some of their communication through Voice over Internet Protocol have addresses that have been used by known ISI people before.'

Hindu, 5 December 2008

68.22 per cent voting in 3rd phase in J&K

Jammu/Srinagar: Election authorities on Thursday said that 68.22 per cent polling was recorded in third phase of election in five Assembly segment of Kupwara district after final compilation of the figures. 'With reference to the presiding officers diaries of the five Assembly segment of Kupwara district, which went to polls on November 30 in third phase of elections in the State was recorded as 68.22 per cent,' an official statement said. Giving further details, it said that 80.41 per cent of votes were cast in Karnah segment followed by 75.47 per cent in Handwara, 68.46 per cent in Lolab, 62.60 per cent in Kupwara and 61.46 per cent in Langate segment

Hindu, 6 December 2008

Indians angry and hurt as never before: Manmohan

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said on Friday that the Mumbai terror strikes had left Indians angry and hurt as 'never before' and affirmed that terrorists had used the territory of a neighbouring country for mounting the attacks. Utilising the occasion of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's visit to send a message to the

international community, Dr. Singh said it was 'everyone's obligation' to bring the perpetrators of the crime to book

Hindu, 6 December 2008

Terrorist's name lost in transliteration

MUMBAI: More than a week after the arrest of a Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist, taken alive during last week's terror strike on Mumbai, the world's media still cannot agree on his name. Muhammad Amin Kasab, Azam Amir Kasav and Azam Amir Kasab are just some of the names that have figured on print and television reports, much to the delight of Pakistani critics, who argue that the terrorist is a fiction invented by India

Hindu, 6 December 2008

India ranks high among terror affected countries

New Delhi: India is ranked sixth in a list of countries affected by terrorism, with over 4,100 such incidents recorded in the past 34 years, according to an international database on terrorism. The 'Global Terrorism Database (GTD)', maintained at University of Maryland by the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), said India was witness to 4,108 terrorist incidents between 1970 and 2004 in which 12,539 people have been killed

Hindu, 7 December 2008

Key Mumbai blasts suspect hiding in Pakistan

NEW DELHI: Onlookers watched in amazement as a wiry young man jumped out of a second-floor window of the Gulistan Apartments near the Shalimar Talkies on Mumbai's Grant Road, and ran, hobbling, down the street. Ever since he escaped the Delhi police who hammered at his door in May 2006, Rahil Abdul Rehman Sheikh has gone on to become one of India's most wanted terrorists. He is alleged to have played a key role in that year's serial bombings in Mumbai as well as abortive terror attacks in Gujarat and New Delhi

Hindu, 8 December 2008

Government unveils stimulus package

NEW DELHI: Unveiling the much-awaited stimulus package to shore up various sectors of the economy from the global downturn, the government on Sunday effected an across-the-board 4 per cent cut in Cenvat to bring down the prices of cars, cement, textiles and other products, and earmarked an additional Rs. 20,000 crore for infrastructure, industry and export sectors for the current fiscal. In what may be dubbed as a mini-budget of sorts to lessen the impact of the global slowdown and recession in the West on the Indian economy, the package, while entailing a revenue loss of Rs 8,700 crore in the remaining four months of 2008-09, seeks to revive various crucial sectors such as housing, exports, automobile, textiles and small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Asian Age, 8 December 2008

OPINION: India's various dilemmas: Domestic, regional, global By Harsh V. Pant

The Indian government's inability to articulate a coherent anti-terror policy has resulted in a rather farcical situation where anyone who is someone is now pontificating on what can be done. From Amitabh Bachchan's decision to put his loaded revolver under his pillow to Simi Garewal's advocacy of launching attacks on terror camps in Pakistan, the media is leaving no stone unturned in putting up a theatre of the absurd for its viewers. This is what happens when a government

abdicates its responsibilities and the political establishment loses even the last remaining shreds of its credibility. The Prime Minister rather grandly declared in his address to the nation that he "will go after these individuals and organisations and make sure that every perpetrator, organiser and supporter of terror, whatever his affiliation or religion may be, pays a heavy price." He further suggested that he would "take up strongly with our neighbours that the use of their territory for launching attacks" will not be tolerated and that "there will be a cost if suitable measures are not taken by them". By doing so, he raised the stakes without realising that he doesn't have very strong cards to play. The Pakistani government has all but accepted that it doesn't control large parts of its territory and so it is not really its fault if some elements of the Lashkar-e-Tayyaba planned Mumbai attacks there. After all, it is because of this reason that it has been allowing the US to carry out selective bombings in its own territory

Hindu, 9 December 2008

Hindu Congress wins Rajasthan, Delhi, Mizoram; BJP retains Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh

New Delhi: The Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party on Monday settled for two each out of four in the Assembly elections to the north Indian States of Rajasthan, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. The Congress won in the northeastern State of Mizoram also. The five States went to the polls over the last three weeks, starting as early as November 14 in Chhattisgarh, but the counting was taken up only on Monday

Hindu, 9 December 2008

Pakistan launches operation against banned organisation

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan military said on Monday it had mounted an 'intelligence-led operation' against a banned militant organisation in Pakistan-administered Kashmir and made several arrests. Military spokesman Major-General Athar Abbas did not specify that the target of the operation was the Lashkar-e-Taiba, nor would he confirm if Lashkar commander Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, suspected by Indian investigators of having masterminded the Mumbai attacks, was among those arrested

Hindu, 9 December 2008

Vote for development, says Manmohan

New Delhi: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has hailed the victory of the Congress in three Assembly elections, saying the people had voted for development. He complimented the people on participating in the democratic process in a good measure. Lauding Congress MP Rahul Gandhi for rejuvenating the party's campaign, AICC general secretary Prithviraj Chavan said: 'Rahul will play a bigger role in the future. He has become the third pole in the Congress after Manmohan Singh and Congress president Sonia Gandhi.'

Hindu, 9 December 2008

Good show by BJP in naxal-hit areas

NEW DELHI: The Bharatiya Janata Party, while retaining power in Chhattisgarh, noticeably improved its performance in the tribal belts, most of which are hit by naxal menace. It may be pointed out that the State-sponsored 'Salwa Judum' was a main election issue. The BJP won 50 seats and the Congress 38. The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) secured two seats. The worst loser was the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), which did not win any of the three seats it got under the alliance with the Congress. In fact, it lost the lone Chandrapur seat to Yudhvir Singh Judev (BJP), son

of Dilip Singh Judev.

Hindu, 9 December 2008

Opinion: Pakistan and the Lashkar's jihad in India By Praveen Swami

'Whoever they are,' Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari said last week of the terrorists who attacked Mumbai, 'they are stateless actors who are holding hostage the whole world.' 'I very much doubt,' he continued, asked about the arrested terrorist Mohammad Ajmal Amir, 'that he's a Pakistani.' President Zardari's claims have disintegrated with media reports from Pakistan confirming that Amir is indeed a Pakistani national linked to the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba. Pakistan, under intense pressure, has since begun a crackdown on Lashkar offices in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, although its seriousness of purpose is still far from clear. How events develop from here will settle the question of whether the Lashkar is, in fact, a non-state actor-or a covert instrument of the Pakistani state. In 1987, Osama bin-Laden's ideological mentor and a professor of religious studies together founded the Markaz Dawat-ul-Irshad - the Centre for the Propagation of the Faith and its Teachings. It was to grow into an empire. Today, the Pakistan-based Jamaat-ud-Dawa runs a web of educational, medical charitable - and military - institutions on a sprawling campus at Muridke near Lahore

Indian Express, 9 December 2008

OPINION: Never say never By Pratap Bhanu Mehta

The results of the recently concluded assembly elections suggest that the Indian electorate is once again making sophisticated judgments amidst difficult conditions and choices. This was a significant election for many reasons: the states at stake are amongst the few where the BJP and the Congress are in direct competition; delimitation would have uncertain effects on local power structures; and a sense of significant national crisis was expected to affect the outcome

Tribune, 9 December 2008

Militants shifting camps

With tension mounting between India and Pakistan in the aftermath of the Mumbai terror attack, the militant training camps across the border are being vacated and relocated to other places. As India has constantly been building diplomatic pressure on Pakistan and America has also been backing India in its claim over Pakistan to hand over the people responsible for the terrorist attack in Mumbai, the militant leadership fearing a 'surgical strike' by India on their camps in PoK, are slowly vacating the camps. 'For the past few days we have been witnessing increase in activities across the line of control and we have intelligence inputs that the militant training camps across the border are being vacated and the inmates shifted to other locations.' a senior intelligence officer told The Tribune on condition of anonymity

Hindu, 9 December 2008

A small device could have averted Mumbai attack?

New Delhi: The Mumbai mayhem, which claimed 183 lives and crores of financial losses, could have been averted if the governments of the coastal states have acted on the recommendation of Coast Guard to fit the fishing boats with a low-cost alarm system developed by ISRO to send alerts during emergency. Reportedly, it was fishing trawler M V Kuber which was hijacked by terrorists to reach Mumbai coast. "If the trawler which was allegedly hijacked by terrorists to reach Mumbai had this equipment, Coast Guard would have been able to locate and intercept it in the sea soon after terrorists took over," a coast guard official said

Hindu, 10 December 2008

Mumbai terror cash trail leads to Karachi

MUMBAI: Investigators have determined that payments for a voice-over-Internet protocol service used by the terrorists who stormed this city last month were made from Karachi, Mumbai police sources told The Hindu. The investigators have found that a still-unidentified individual using false identification papers routed \$ 290 to the VOIP service Vox Phone through a Karachi office of the money-transfer giant, Western Union. Police in Mumbai intercepted calls made by the Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists, who attacked Mumbai, to two VOIP numbers from six Indian mobile phone numbers

Hindu, 11 December 2008

Ajmal names trainers: police

MUMBAI: The interrogation of Mohammad Ajmal Amir Iman, the only terrorist caught alive after the Mumbai attacks, has named those who trained the terrorists, Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime) Rakesh Maria told journalists here on Wednesday. Lashkar operative Zaki-ur-Rahman Lakhvi, Abu Hamza, Kahfa and Hafiz Saeed were among the trainers. The police were still verifying the details of others. While each of the four played key roles, the names of the chieftains were yet to be learnt, Mr. Maria said.

Hindu, 12 December 2008

Kandahar resurfaces

NEW DELHI: Was the decision to free three dreaded terrorists in exchange for securing the freedom of hostages aboard the hijacked Indian Airlines aircraft in Kandahar in Afghanistan in December 1999 taken at an all-party meeting? The answer was an emphatic 'no' as Home Minister P. Chidambaram on Thursday clarified in the Lok Sabha. His clarification came after such a claim was made by senior BJP leader Vijay Kumar Malhotra

Hindu, 12 December 2008

U.N. slaps sanctions on Jamat-ud-Dawah

United Nations: Acceding to India's demand, the United Nations Security Council on Thursday imposed sanctions on the Pakistan-based Jamat-ud-Dawah (JuD) after declaring it a terrorist outfit. The Council branded four of the organisation's top leaders - the founder of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba Hafiz Mohammad Saeed, the suspected Mumbai attacks mastermind Zakir-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, Haji Muhammad Ashraf and Zaki-ur-Bahaziq - terrorists

Hindu, 12 December 2008

16,632 farmer suicides in 2007

MUMBAI: Suicides by farmers of Maharashtra crossed the 4,000-mark in 2007, for the third time in four years, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). As many as 4,238 farmers of the State took their lives that year, the latest for which data are available, accounting for a fourth of 16,632 farmer suicides in the country. The national total represents a slight fall, from 17,060 in 2006, but the broad trends of the past decade seem unshaken

Hindu, 12 December 2008

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Hindu, 13 December 2008

India: house arrest, sealing won't do

NEW DELHI: India has told United States interlocuters that it remains unimpressed with the house arrest of the chief of the Jamat-ud-Dawah and the reported sealing of some of the offices of this front organisation of the Laskhar-e-Taiba. The steps initiated by Pakistan should be taken to their logical conclusion, including dismantling of the terror infrastructure. This was conveyed during a telephonic conversation with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice on Wednesday and during meetings with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte on Friday

Hindu, 13 December 2008

Protesting 26/11, Mumbaikars form human chain

Nearly 60,000 people including several celebrities on Friday formed a 50 km long 'human chain for peace' which passed through the worst-hit sites of the recent Terror attacks - the Taj Hotel, Oberoi, Trident Hotel and the Nariman House in Mumbai. Mumbaikars poured on to the streets on Friday afternoon and formed the massive human chain crisscrossing the streets of the metropolis to condemn the audacious terror attacks on November 26

Indian Express, 13 December 2008

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Asian Age, 13 December 2008

Editorial: An action plan for Mr Chidambaram

Home minister Palaniappan Chidambaram has told Parliament that the government is going to set up a coastal command and establish 20 anti-terror combat schools, along with a flurry of other measures. Both Mr Pranab Mukherjee and Mr Chidambaram have confirmed that the terrorists were directed from Pakistan soil and also affirmed that going to war with Pakistan was not a solution. But however reassuring Mr Chidambaram's measures are, nothing will work if corruption is not weeded out or brought under firm control before anything else. The patrons of smugglers of arms, narcotics and hawala, who thrive even today, should be eliminated first. The terrorists, it is said, could not have carried out their activities without local help. In 1993, it was the customs department, from the top downwards, which had turned a blind eye when RDX and arms were landed in Raigad and transported to Mumbai. Similarly, the terrorists who struck Mumbai late last month had free access to the city from the sea. That they could bring in such a huge cache of arms, ammunition, grenades and RDX speaks volumes of the gaping holes in both our coastline and our institutions. Further, they were actually able to carry these as luggage quite openly into some of our best-known five-star hotels

Hindu, 14 December 2008

India willing to share evidence, but not now: Pranab

New Delhi: Voicing scepticism over Pakistan acting decisively against terrorists operating from its soil, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee has said such elements were 'let off' in the past after some initial action. 'Therefore we shall have to see whether these [actions by Pakistan] are taken to their logical conclusion,' he said, asking Islamabad to ensure that the terror infrastructure was dismantled completely. Reacting to Islamabad's demand for evidence of the involvement of the Pakistan-based elements in the Mumbai attacks, Mr. Mukherjee said India was ready to provide it but not at this juncture when investigations were yet to be concluded

Hindu, 14 December 2008

Mumbai police write to Centre on Ajmal's plea

MUMBAI: The Mumbai police have written to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on the surviving terrorist of the Mumbai attacks, Mohammad Ajmal Amir Iman's plea seeking contact with the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi. Rakesh Maria, Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime) told reporters on Saturday that on December 11, Ajmal wrote a three-page letter in Urdu, seeking 'consular access' and legal aid from the Pakistan High Commission

Hindu, 14 December 2008

Ashok Gehlot sworn in as Rajasthan Chief Minister

Ashok Gehlot, who spearheaded the Congress campaign and brought it back to power in assembly elections in Rajasthan, was sworn in as Chief Minister for a second term in office. 57-year-old Gehlot, who was the Chief Minister between 1998 and 2003, was sworn in at a public ceremony in front of a large number of Congressmen by Governor S K Singh. He was the only one to take oath on Saturday

Asian Age, 14 December 2008

Tough draft law on anvil

Dec. 13: A draft proposal of a tough anti-terror law has been forwarded by the Union law ministry to the home ministry. Official sources said the new anti-terror law has been envisaged to effectively deal with terrorists and includes much content of the Prevention of Terrorist Activities Act, which was repealed in October 2004 by the present government. Under the proposed anti-terror law the government is keen to have authority, that Pota also conferred upon it, to tap telephones, mobile phones and intercept email, and to allow such electronic evidence to be admissible in court

Times of India, 14 December 2008

Maoists kill four `police informers'

DHANBAD: Maoists gunned down four villagers suspecting them to be police informers in Giridih district of Jharkhand on Friday. While three of them were gunned down at Harladih-Lakshmipurtand village, the fourth one was killed at Kapilo village. Reports reaching Dhanbad said the Maoists suspected the three had passed on the information about the presence of their area commander Kawang at Harladih-Lakshmipurtand village to the police which led to his killing in an encounter

Hindu, 15 December 2008

Lashkar is behind Mumbai attacks: Brown

NEW DELHI: British Prime Minister Gordon Brown supported India's contention that the Lashkar-e-Taiba was behind the Mumbai terror attacks and observed that Pakistan had a 'great deal to answer for.' Mr. Brown arrived here on Sunday morning for a rescheduled visit. A meeting with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and senior officials was the only item on the agenda

Hindu, 15 December 2008

Third alternative within two months, says Karat

Guwahati: The general secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) Prakash Karat on Sunday said that a strong and viable third alternative of non-Congress and non-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) secular parties would take shape within the next two months, ahead of the coming Lok Sabha polls. Addressing a state-level party rally here, Mr. Karat said the left parties had been striving for an alliance of non-Congress and non-BJP parties as an alternative to the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) and the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Hindu, 16 December 2008

Approval for National Investigation Agency

NEW DELHI: In a move to arm itself with new, tough anti-terror laws and create a machinery to probe terror-related crimes, the Union Cabinet on Monday approved a proposal to amend the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967 and also gave its nod for setting up a National Investigation Agency (NIA). At its meeting, presided over by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, the Cabinet also gave the go-ahead for a proposal to amend the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Act. After the meeting, the government issued a brief press note which said that the relevant Bills would be introduced soon in Parliament

Hindu, 16 December 2008

Maoist attack

Raipur: About 100 Maoist insurgents destroyed the communication towers of BSNL and Reliance Communications on Sunday night at Kapsi in Chhattisgarh, police said

Hindu, 16 December 2008

CPI (M) for destroying terror camps in Bangladesh

The CPI (M) was in favour of mounting diplomatic pressure on Bangladesh to destroy camps of north-east based militant outfits in that country. Party general secretary Prakash Karat told a press conference that the militant camps present in Bangladesh of north east insurgent outfits should be destroyed which "will be possible only by mounting diplomatic pressure." Expressing grave concern over largescale infiltration from neighbouring Bangladesh, the CPI (M) leader said the entire Indo-Bangla border should be sealed.

Hindu, 17 December 2008

BJP backs bill with a rider

NEW DELHI: The BJP said it supported the National Investigation Agency Bill, but was 'disappointed' that no stronger anti-terror laws were accompanying it. Party general secretary Arun Jaitley said a special law was needed to quickly prosecute terror cases. The changes being made in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act did not include admissibility of confessions made to police. This the BJP viewed as a lacuna

Hindu, 17 December 2008

Bills on anti-terror law, NIA introduced

NEW DELHI: The government on Tuesday introduced two Bills in the Lok Sabha - one to set up a National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the other to amend the law to bring in more stringent provisions to deal with terror crimes. The National Investigation Agency Bill 2008 and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2008 were moved by Home Minister P. Chidambaram. The Cabinet cleared them

on Monday

Hindu, 18 December 2008

Terror squad may have sneaked into Bengal

KOLKATA: First, confirmation that the Mumbai terrorists used SIMs bought illegally in Kolkata. Then, reports of HuJI operatives planning strikes in Bengal. And now, specific intelligence inputs that an eight-man hit team, including HuJI terrorists from Pakistan and KLO militants, has sneaked into the state through the Bangladesh border. The alert has come from the Subsidiary Intelligence Branch (SIB), which passed on the information to the state's intelligence unit. The state IB top brass on Thursday informed home secretary Ashok Mohan Chakrabarti about the threat

Times of India, 18 December 2008

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Hindu, 18 December 2008

Lok Sabha passes anti-terror Bills

NEW DELHI: Arming the law enforcement agencies with new anti-terror measures, the Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed two Bills - the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2008 and the other one to set up a National Investigation Agency. Replying to a six-hour debate, which at times turned into bitter criticism of the government, Home Minister P. Chidambaram said a meeting of Chief Ministers would be convened here on January 6, 2009 to hold further discussions on the steps to be taken to tackle terrorism

Hindu, 18 December 2008

It is not a return to POTA regime, assures Kapil Sibal

NEW DELHI: Union Minister for Science & Technology Kapil Sibal on Wednesday said the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2008, did not mean a return of the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) regime as was made out by Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha L.K. Advani during the discussion on the draft legislation. Through the amendment, the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) wanted to convey the message that it was tough on terror but was equally mindful of valuable human rights, he said. While drafting the amendment, the government had taken utmost care to ensure against its misuse as was the case with POTA.

Hindu, 18 December 2008

Insurgents operating from Bangladesh, Myanmar

NEW DELHI: Many Indian insurgent groups are operating from Bangladesh and Myanmar and India is putting pressure on its neighbours through diplomatic channels to stop such activities. It is also focussing on completing the fencing of the border with Bangladesh to check illegal immigration and infiltration. This was stated by Home Minister P. Chidambaram in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday

Hindu, 30 December 2008

It will be Omar : Farooq Abdullah steps aside; Congress sends positive

signals

SRINAGAR: The former Chief Minister and National Conference patron, Farooq Abdullah, on Monday paved the way for his son and party president Omar Abdullah to become the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. On Sunday, Dr. Abdullah hinted at the choice of Mr. Omar Abdullah as the chief ministerial candidate, but changed the statement late in the night. He told a news channel, 'You are talking to the next Chief Minister of the State.' However, he told reporters at his residence on Monday that he had made up his mind to leave the slot for his son. 'I will recommend to the party that Omar Abdullah be our chief ministerial candidate. I will pursue my career at the national and international levels. Jammu and Kashmir is a small canvas for me.'

Hindu, 31 December 2008

NC-Congress to share power

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Tuesday announced its decision to support the National Congress in government formation in Jammu and Kashmir under NC president Omar Abdullah and be part of the set-up. Union Minister and in-charge of party affairs in the State Prithviraj Chavan told journalists that Congress president Sonia Gandhi accepted the NC proposal to form a coalition government

Indian Express, 31 December 2008

BJP sweeps Ktk bypolls, gains absolute majority

The ruling BJP in Karnataka on Tuesday gained an absolute majority for its Government sweeping the bypolls, winning six of the eight seats and decimating the principal opposition, the Congress. The strength of the BJP rose to 116 in the 224-member house and its effective numerical numbers 122 in the wake of its government headed by Chief Minister B S Yeddyurappa enjoying the backing of six independents