

City Monitoring Report - 20th February, 2010

<p>Our Services</p> <p>Computer Forensics</p> <p>Drug & Alcohol Testing</p> <p>Electronic Sweeping</p> <p>Background Checks</p> <p>Investigations</p> <p>Electronic Security</p> <p>Cash Services</p> <p>Manned Services</p> <p>Consultancy</p> <p>Training</p> <p>Education Initiatives - IGNOU, CII, DGET</p>	<p>Delhi NCR</p> <p>Update</p>	<p>Mumbai</p> <p>Update</p>	<p>Kolkata</p> <p>Update</p>
	<p>Chennai</p> <p>Update</p>	<p>Bangalore</p> <p>Update</p>	<p>Hyderabad</p> <p>Update</p>
	<p>Pune</p> <p>Update</p>	<p>Patna</p>	<p>Bhubaneshwar</p>
	<p>Meerut</p>	<p>Lucknow</p>	<p>Chandigarh</p> <p>Update</p>
	<p>Ahmedabad</p>	<p>Indore</p>	<p>Jaipur</p> <p>Update</p>
	<p>Jammu</p> <p>Update</p>	<p>Other Cities</p>	<p>Thiruvananthapuram</p>
	<p>Bhopal</p>	<p>North East</p>	<p>International Alerts</p> <p>Update</p>



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Delhi City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law and Order

Terrorist ally, 4 Africans held for herbal racket

A 28-year-old woman, an alleged member of Indian Mujahideen and accomplice of Aftab Ansari convicted in the American Center attack, was arrested here along with four Africans for allegedly selling fake herbal products through the Internet.

Accused of duping trader on pretext of selling herbal products

Several international mobile SIM cards seized

So-called herbal product costs Rs.100 a packet

Nikita, who got released in 2008 after serving over six years in prison, was caught from the Jor Bagh market yesterday and is likely to be questioned by the intelligence agencies about the Pune blast.

The accused have been identified as Richard Eugenes (36), Tommy Ojeaga (38), Aaron (34), all from Nigeria, and Lucien (35) from Ivory Coast. Three fake ST herbal seeds, fake business cards of leading drug companies have been seized .

Uphaar averted: Hall gutted but nobody is hurt

Thirteen years ago, many innocent lives were lost in the Uphaar tragedy. A cinema in Sahibabad — one of the oldest multiplexes in western UP — came close to reliving the same horror on Wednesday. However, the fact that the devastating fire broke an hour and five minutes before the first show averted a major disaster.

The entire floor and the roof had caught fire after the blaze broke out at 8.32 am. There were too many inflammable objects in the form of carpets and seats. We had to continue the operation till 11.45 am, more than three hours after it broke out.

The foam seats led to smoke and even the iron rods holding up the structure twisted causing the roof to collapse.

The first show was at 9.40 am and over 70 tickets were sold for My Name is Khan. Most of these viewers were schoolchildren and any such incident during a show could have led to a stampede.

Health

Other News

Mumbai City Monitoring		
Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order**House broken open in Mumbai, owner relieved of Rs 5 lakh booty**

Unidentified robbers broke open a house and fled with cash and gold ornaments worth Rs 5.29 lakh at suburban Borivali.

The victim Aarati Shetty (49) was not at home yesterday afternoon when the incident occurred. On her return late evening, she found latch of the door was broken.

She rushed into the house to find Rs 25,000 in cash and gold ornaments worth Rs 5.04 lakh missing.

Health**Other News**

Mumbai City Monitoring > Top

Kolkata City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order**300 Maoists sneak into Bengal**

A 300-400 strong Maoist attack force, fleeing a crackdown in Chhattisgarh, has sneaked into Bengal and is preparing to launch more brutal attacks than the one in Silda on Monday. This new intelligence input has rattled the state police, who are already staring down the barrel in Jangalmahal.

A mere 200-odd Maoists have kept the 4,500-strong joint force at bay since the offensive began in West Midnapore in mid-June last year. The addition of twice as many battle-hardened PLGA members is the worst possible news for the administration before Op Green Hunt. According to sources, 50 members of this group took part in the Silda massacre, codenamed Operation Bloodbath by the rebels.

The PLGA — the most feared of Maoist action squads — is planning lightning strikes in West Midnapore, designed to arouse shock and horror so that Op Green Hunt can be stalled, say intelligence sources.

According to intelligence agencies, they crossed the Chhattisgarh-Bihar border and entered Bengal through Bandwan in Purulia via Jharkhand

Prisons put on alert after intel warning

Security has been beefed up in all state jails where Maoists and PCPA activists are lodged following a jailbreak threat. An intelligence report available with the state prisons department indicates possible jailbreak attempts in prisons with many Maoist prisoners.

Midnapore central jail has the maximum number of Maoists — 196 men and seven women — and hence the focus of the state prisons department is on this jail. All of these are undertrial prisoners (UTPs), some being PCPA activists but going by the charges, they have all been clubbed together.

Health

Other News

[Kolkata City Monitoring > Top](#)

Chennai City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law and Order

Trade unions to launch jail bhara to protest price rise on March 5

Nine central trade unions, including the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), politically affiliated to the Congress, will launch a jail bhara on March 5 to highlight the galloping increase in the price of food articles and the failure of the Centre to arrest it.

AITUC's state general secretary S.S. Thiyagarajan said in Tamil Nadu around 5 lakh workers would take part in the protests.

Health

Other News

[Chennai City Monitoring > Top](#)

Bangalore City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Three Nigerians held for lottery scam

The Cyber Crime police arrested three Nigerian nationals allegedly involved in a case of cheating a retired government official of his money. The three had, through email, managed to convince their victim he had won a lottery and had extracted Rs.85, 000 from him.

The police named the accused as Collins Osarobo Jacobs (37), Bamidele Emmanuel Kent (38) and Godson Omorodion alias Sir Joseph (36).

Health

Other News

	Bangalore City Monitoring > Top
--	--

Hyderabad City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Hyderabad under Telangana siege

Claiming that it apprehends violence in the state capital in view of the proposed march of Osmania University students to the state Assembly on Saturday, the state government has virtually cordoned off the heart of the city where the Assembly is situated. The state budget is slated to be presented in the House in the afternoon.

By deploying over 20,000 police personnel, the state has virtually declared a curfew from 5 am to 6 pm on Saturday and effected massive traffic diversions. Making the House a virtual fortress by erecting massive steel meshes and barbed wire fencing, the police have drafted eight IGPs, 30 SPs and DIGs, besides many policemen from outside to reinforce the 9,000-strong Hyderabad police.

Health

Other News

	Hyderabad City Monitoring > Top
--	--

Pune City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Unclaimed bag on bus creates panic

An unclaimed bag in a PMPML bus near Swargate caused panic among passengers on Friday afternoon. A Bomb Disposal and Detection Squad (BDDS) had to be summoned for scanning the bag which, it was later found, belonged to an engineering college student, who said he had forgotten the bag in the bus.

The bus was going from Kothrud to Kondhwa around 1.30 pm, when it was found that a brown bag was lying unclaimed on a seat. This led to panic in the bus and passengers tried to get out in a hurry. Driver Pandurang Ghadge halted the bus on Shankarsheth road just before the flyover at Seven Loves junction.

Security stepped up to high-level at Koregaon Park

Security was beefed up to an unprecedented level in the area around German Bakery late on Friday afternoon. City police commissioner Satya Pal Singh, however, said this was not due to specific intelligence inputs. The action, he said, had been taken to reassure the people.

Key establishments like the Osho International Meditation Centre and the Chabad House are located in close proximity to the bakery, where a powerful blast on February 13 killed 11 people and injured 58.

Similar security was provided at Ohel David Synagogue (better known as Lal Deval) in Pune Camp and a Jewish prayer centre near Shiralsheth chowk at Rasta Peth.

The police presence was raised to a conspicuous level at all these places, with barricades placed along the access routes to check all vehicles and random noting of details of vehicle users. However, there were no restrictions on the movement of people.

New bunkers for armed security personnel, with a wall of sandbags raised around, were put up at strategic points such as the lane leading to the Osho centre, the Inlaks and Budhrani hospital and also Chabad House.

Health

Other News

	Pune City Monitoring > Top
--	---

Patna City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Health

Other News

	Patna City Monitoring > Top
--	--

Bhubaneswar City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Health

Other News

	Bhubaneswar City Monitoring > Top
--	--

Meerut City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Health

Other News

	Meerut City Monitoring > Top
--	---

Lucknow City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Health

Other News

	Lucknow City Monitoring > Top
--	--

Chandigarh City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Bag containing Rs 1.59 lakh snatched

Two motorcycle-borne unidentified youths snatched a bag from a woman containing Rs 1.59 lakh near Phoenix Club.

The incident took place when the victim, Manjula Rani, working as an assistant project coordinator at the Sarav Shiksha Abhiyan office in Ambala Cantonment, entered the main gate of her office near Phoenix Club after withdrawing the cash from a local bank. This was the second incident of snatching within a span of four days.

The victim in her complaint said a mobile phone, an ATM card and her driving license was also in the bag. A case has been registered with the Sadar Police Station in this regard.

Health

Other News

	Chandigarh City Monitoring > Top

Ahmedabad City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Health

Other News

	Ahmedabad City Monitoring > Top

Jaipur City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Terror threat to first ODI, security beefed up in Jaipur

Rajasthan police have issued a terror alert for the one-day international (ODI) cricket match between India and South Africa to be played here February 21.

IG Police (Jaipur) said that they do have intelligence inputs, though a bit vague, of a terror

threat to the first ODI but assures that there is no need to panic as the city is on full alert. CCTVs and metal detectors are being installed inside the stadium and everyone who comes to watch the match will have to go through security checks. On Tuesday, a team of officials from South Africa had inspected the stadium and are believed to have expressed satisfaction over the security arrangements.

Intelligence agencies had earlier warned about terror strikes during various sporting events to be held in the country this year.

Health

Other News

	Jaipur City Monitoring > Top

Indore City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Health

Other News

	Indore City Monitoring > Top

Jammu City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Five injured in Baramulla clashes

Five persons were injured as youth, chanting pro-freedom slogans, hurled stones at security personnel in Baramulla in north Kashmir on Friday, prompting the forces to use force to restore order. The youth took to the streets after Friday prayers and started throwing stones on the police and CRPF personnel, official sources said.

The police fired a few rounds of warning shots, burst teargas shells and used batons. Reinforcements were rushed to the area.

The Jamia Masjid area in downtown Srinagar remained peaceful, though shopkeepers put up the shutters after the police picked up two more youths.

Violent protests have become a regular feature in the localities around the Jamia Masjid on Fridays and Sundays. The police had detained hundreds of youths since the beginning of this month to prevent stone-throwing.

Employees continue strike

Around 10,000 employees of urban local bodies of the Kashmir valley observed a strike for the 10th consecutive day today, demanding the implementation of the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission.

General secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir Employees Joint Action Committee Haji Bashir Ahmed said there were 48 urban local bodies in the valley.

Health

Other News

	Jammu City Monitoring > Top
--	--

Bhopal City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Health

Other News

	Bhopal City Monitoring > Top
--	---

Other City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Health

Other News

[Goa City Monitoring > Top](#)

Thiruvananthapuram City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Health

Other News

[Thiruvananthapuram City Monitoring > Top](#)

North East City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Health

Other News

International Alerts

Law & Order

Health

Other News

Law & Order

Ex-LeT man behind attack on Lahore ISI HQ shot dead

Pakistani law enforcement personnel on Friday shot dead former Lashkar-e-Taiba commander Dr Muaz alias Omar Kundi, who allegedly masterminded the May 2009 attack on the headquarters of the Inter-Services Intelligence in Lahore.

Intelligence agencies located Mauz in Faisalabad city of Punjab province on the basis of information provided by one of his close associates who was arrested recently.

Authorities used the detained associate to convey a message to doctor Mauz that he should provide weapons for carrying out an attack on the ISI office in Faisalabad, located about 100 km from Lahore.

When Mauz and his accomplice Adil came in a rickshaw to supply the weapons, they were intercepted and killed by commandos hardly a kilometre from the ISI office on University Road.

Health

Other News