

City Monitoring Report - 5th April, 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>Chennai</p> <p>Update</p>	<p>Bangalore</p> <p>Update</p>	<p>Hyderabad</p> <p>Update</p>
	<p>Pune</p>	<p>Patna</p>	<p>Bhubaneswar</p> <p>Update</p>
	<p>Meerut</p>	<p>Lucknow</p> <p>Update</p>	<p>Chandigarh</p> <p>Update</p>
	<p>Ahmedabad</p> <p>Update</p>	<p>Indore</p>	<p>Jaipur</p>
	<p>Jammu</p> <p>Update</p>	<p>Other Cities</p> <p>Update</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

Big cities on Naxal radar

Taking a leaf out of the methods adopted by Pakistan-based terrorists, the Maoists have plans to attack major cities and are trying to enhance their strike capabilities in the urban areas.

Central security agencies have gathered information that the Maoists have plans to strike in the cities in a big way but lack of infrastructure like hideouts for cadres, safe transport to carry arms and explosives are preventing them from doing so. "The Maoists want to strike in cities to divert the attention of the security forces which are intensifying their operations in the jungles of Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and West Bengal," a senior official said.

The top leadership of the Maoists are in regular contact with their sympathisers, specially students, in Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Pune and encouraging them to provide necessary support to the Naxal cadres. "Once they are convinced about their capabilities, they will try to strike in the cities," the official said.

Security agencies have gathered specific information that in the wake of continued operations by forces, the Maoists also trying to shift their key leaders from the hideouts of forests and put in urban centres where they could be safe and guide their cadres to launch specific attack.

Mock security drills held

The Delhi police on Sunday carried out mock security drills at the India Gate and the Supreme Court complex here to check operational preparedness and review security in the Capital.

Bomb disposal squad, dog squad, quick reaction teams and policemen from nearby police stations were immediately pressed into action when an "unidentified bag" was found on the lawns of the India Gate, a police officer said.

At the Supreme Court, security personnel simulated a scenario of a cross-firing at the outer gate of the building.

27 held in Delhi for rioting

At least 27 people were arrested for rioting after a clash between two groups in east Delhi. The incident took place late Saturday when some residents of Block 11 in Kalyan Puri pelted stones on people of Block 16. The mob, which the police say was instigated by Sarwan, a known criminal of the area, torched three rickshaw carts and tried to set shops on fire.

They also fired at policemen, injuring a sub inspector and six others. Police have registered two cases of rioting and arrested 27 people. Police have also recovered swords and illegally made pistols.

Health

Other News

Mumbai City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Terrorists could be behind missing rogue trawler

The suspicious untraced trawler Al-Salaam, which was spotted by the fishermen off the Diu coast on Monday, could be indeed a surveillance vessel of some terrorist organisation, say senior police sources. The sources also claimed that the vessel could be a part of a mock-drill conducted by the terrorists to check the readiness of the security in the coastal areas.

The vessel could be used by the terrorists to check the readiness of the security agencies. Like police, even the terrorist organisations conduct mock-drills to check their response. In case of terrorists, it is more about extracting the loopholes of the security agencies,” said a senior police official, monitoring the case. The vessel is yet to be located.

The official added that, there have been cases wherein hoax calls are also used a medium by the sleeper cells and radicals to check the response time of the police. What all think sometimes is a hoax call, proves to be a calculated move from the radicals to check the police response. The terrorists then plan their attack accordingly.

Fire breaks out at Mumbai police commissioner's office

A fire broke out yesterday in the city police commissioner's office at south Mumbai destroying many documents.

The fire broke out at the weapons license renewal department inside the commissioner's office due to short circuit, officials said adding no person has been injured.

Four fire engines were rushed to the spot and fire has been extinguished. Although the exact damage is yet to ascertained, officials said several files and documents got burnt in the fire.

Health

Other News

	Mumbai City Monitoring > Top

Kolkata City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Health

Other News

Chennai City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law and Order

Held for furnishing fake documents

A man who tried to register his name as a medical practitioner with the Tamil Nadu Medical Council by furnishing fake documents was apprehended by the police on Friday.

K. Prakasam, president of the Tamil Nadu Medical Council, lodged a complaint with Commissioner of Police T. Rajendran that Mohammed Sajith Ayas had applied for registration by submitting certain documents that were found to be fake. The suspect had claimed that his original MBBS certificate and other documents were washed away when the tsunami struck Nagapattinam in 2004. Mr. Rajendran formed a special team of the Central Crime Branch police to investigate the case.

Health

Other News

Power supply to be suspended in several areas today

Power supply will be suspended for maintenance work on Monday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the following areas.

Ennore: Ennore, Kathivakkam, Ernavoor, Tiruvottiyur and Kaladipet.

Little Mount and Taramani: Kotturpuram, Kasturiba Nagar, Indira Nagar, Srinagar Colony, Kanagam, Kottur, Pallipattu Housing Board, Sri Ram Nagar and parts of Sardar Patel Road.

Paper Mills Road: Madhavaram High Road, Thulasingham St., Anandavelu St., M.P.M. St., Meenatchi Street, Kandepillai St., Palani Andavar Koil St.

Thirumudivakkam: Thirumudivakkam Sidco Industrial Estate, Kundrathur Town, Somangalam, Katrambakkam, Palanthandalam and Erumaiyur.

Ambattur 3rd Main Road: Chennai Tiruvallur High Road, Ambattur Kuppam, P.K.M. Road, Vanagaram Road, Ganesh St., Nageshwara Rao Road, Natesan Nagar, School St. and 3rd Main Road.

Stanley: C.B. Road, B.B. Road, P.P. Amman Koil Street, Vallalar Nagar and Bhojaraja Nagar.

Kodungaiyur: Muthamizh Nagar 1st to 7th Blocks, Narasimha Reddy Nagar, Seetha Ram Nagar, Tiruvottiyur High Road, Moolakadai, Teachers Colony and Gandhi Nagar 1st to 8th Streets.

Power supply will also be suspended in parts of Nungambakkam.

Bangalore City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Counterfeit notes seized; three held

The police have arrested three persons allegedly involved in the circulation of counterfeit currency notes with face value of Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 500, which had allegedly been printed in Lahore in Pakistan and pushed into India through the porous borders with Nepal.

The police gave the names of the accused as Binod Prasad (40), Raindar (23) and Basant Prasad (60), all from West Champaran in Bihar. The accused claiming to be agriculturists were staying in a house in Thanisandra on the outskirts of the city.

As the accused have admitted that the fake currency notes were printed in Pakistan and smuggled into India through Nepal, Police Commissioner Shankar Bidari said he would ask the State Government to refer the case to Central Bureau of Investigation for a detailed probe.

Health

Other News

Hyderabad City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

No day curfew in old city today

With the phased curfew relaxation in 25 police stations of old city passing off peacefully, the police on Sunday announced that the day curfew would be lifted from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday.

Curfew would be re-imposed if any untoward incidents were reported and Section 144 of the Cr. PC prohibiting movement of five or more persons would continue in the city, said Additional Commissioner of Police (Coordination) Dwaraka Tirumala Rao on Sunday.

A decision on further relaxing curfew after monitoring the situation on Monday. Pillion riding on motorcycles was also banned in curfew-bound areas from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. for a few days. Processions and demonstrations were also prohibited.

TDP dharna on April 9

Telugu Desam will organise a massive dharna, involving farmers in large numbers, at Prakasam barrage on April 9 in bid to exert pressure on the government to present the State's case effectively before the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal.

Doctors' stir from April 12

The Andhra Pradesh Government Doctors' Association has decided to launch a relay hunger

strike at Osmania General Hospital from April 12. Secretary-general of the association K. Ramesh Reddy said the doctors' protest by wearing black badges, launched on March 25, was continuing. He said doctors at all hospitals across the State were expressing their dissent between 9 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. by abstaining from duty.

The doctors involved in emergency duty were attending work. Continuing the agitation, doctors at teaching and non-teaching hospitals, including PHCs, would go on mass casual leave on April 21, he said. The association had extended the deadline for conceding their demands from March 31 to April 5.

Health

Other News

[Hyderabad City Monitoring > Top](#)

Pune City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

[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

Maoists kill 9 SOG jawans in Orissa landmine blast

Nine jawans of the anti-Maoist Special Operation Group (SOG) were killed and eight others seriously injured in a landmine blast triggered by Maoists in Koraput district of Orissa on Sunday morning.

The attack occurred at Tanginiguda on the Govindpalli ghat road around 10 a.m. The first of three mini buses carrying the SOG jawans took the impact of the massive blast, believed to have been triggered by remote control. The vehicle was thrown 40 feet in the air and its wreckage strewn over 100 metres. A 15-foot deep hole could be seen at the place of the blast.

A brief exchange of fire took place between the security personnel and the rebels near the blast site.

Combing operations

The Malkangiri SP and the Koraput SP rushed to the spot. Intense combing operations have been launched in the area.

Traffic between Malkangiri and Jeypore was held up for several hours following the blast. The SOG jawans were on their way from Koraput to Govindpalli in Malkangiri district.

They were on a mission to sanitise the Maoist-prone Govindpalli ghat road so that CRPF personnel camping at Govindpalli in Malkangiri district could move from there to Koraput.

This incident occurred while preparations are in full swing for a massive offensive against the naxals in the undivided Koraput district that adjoins the strongholds of the militants in Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh.

Two battalions of the Border Security Force have reached Malkangiri district and one more battalion is expected.

Two BSF battalions are camping in the Koraput district. The CRPF personnel deployed in these areas are being relocated to other naxal-hit districts.

Fake note racket busted

Sundargarh police busted a fake note racket and arrested a student of a computer institute here on Saturday. Police have seized 44 hundred rupee fake notes, a computer, a scanner and a printer from the house of the arrested.

A manhunt has been launched for other members of the gang while three have been detained. Police said Trilochan being a student may not be the kingpin. Police suspect the involvement of a gang and Trilochan might just be a part of it. Involvement of a Jharkhand gang cannot be ruled out.

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

Armed goons create ruckus at Gomtinagar mall

Panic prevailed at a posh Gomtinagar mall when a group of dozen-odd armed men, including a public works department (PWD) staffer, created ruckus at a food joint there on Sunday evening. The reason: They were denied entry into the restaurant which was booked for a private party that was underway when they arrived.

It was around 5 pm on Sunday when a group of men, some of whom were carrying firearms, arrived at the gates of the restaurant situated on the third floor of a mall situated close to the Lucknow Nagar Nigam workshop. Apparently looking for some drinks, the group tried to enter the restaurant which also serves drinks during particular hours.

Health

Other News

	Lucknow City Monitoring > Top
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Chandigarh City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

2 thieves nabbed red-handed

Govind, a resident of Jagatpura Colony, Phase XI, Mohali, was caught red-handed by the Zirakpur police while he was stealing sanitary items from a building under construction at Swastik Vihar, Zirakpur, here on Sunday.

One of his accomplices, Prema Singh, a resident of Phase VIII, Mohali, sustained serious injuries when he jumped off the second floor of the building while trying to escape from the spot, but was nabbed by residents. The police said two other miscreants, who managed to flee from the scene, would be arrested soon.

The incident took place around 1 pm. One of the labourers at the construction site noticed them and raised the alarm. Local residents nabbed Govind and Prema. The other two thieves fled with the sanitary items.

Health

Other News

	Chandigarh City Monitoring > Top

Ahmedabad City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

Alert passenger detects cellphone theft

A mobile phone thief was nabbed by alert passengers on an AMTS bus on Sunday afternoon. The youth was later nabbed by three Home Guards jawans who took him to Ramol police station and lodged a complaint.

Kirit Rathod, 28, a resident of Vastral, was travelling from Lambha to Naroda in AMTS bus on route number 130 at 1.30 pm. He was standing in a jam-packed bus when he realised that his mobile phone kept in a side pocket was missing. He immediately called up on his number from another passenger's mobile phone.

The phone was ringing from a youth's pocket sitting just one row behind. The youth was then searched and Rathod's mobile phone was found. He was then beaten up by fellow passengers. At that time, the bus was passing from Rabari Colony. The passengers spotted three home guard jawans and stopped the bus.

Health

Other News

	Ahmedabad City Monitoring > Top

Jaipur City Monitoring

Law & Order	Health	Other News

Law & Order

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

Govt staff to continue strike

Employees of various government departments have said that they will continue their strike. The employees, who, under the banner of the Jammu and Kashmir Employees Joint Action Committee (EJAC) have been on a three-day statewide strike since Saturday, say if the state government continues to be 'adamant', they would be forced to extend their strike.

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

Shiv Sena activists stage demonstration, Tirupur

As many as 35 Shiv Sena activists were arrested here on Sunday evening when they attempted rail roko to highlight their charter of demands. Initially, they staged a demonstration near Kumaran Statue asking the Central Government to take fiscal measures to bring down fuel prices and inflation.

They said that the State Government had caused enormous hardship to the common man by increasing the load shedding hours recently. The party men also came down heavily on the government machinery for removing Hindu places of worships in the pretext of widening the roads across the State.

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

[North East City News > Top](#)

International Alerts

Law & Order

Health

Other News

Law & Order

Suicide bombers target embassies in Iraq, kill 42

Suicide attackers detonated three car bombs in quick succession near foreign embassies in Baghdad on Sunday, killing more than 40 people in coordinated strikes that Iraqi officials said were intended to disrupt efforts to form a new government.

The bombings followed the execution-style killings of 24 villagers in a Sunni area two days earlier, a spike in violence that suggests insurgents are seizing on the political uncertainty after the recent election to try to destabilize the country as U.S. troops prepare to leave. No clear winner emerged from the March 7 vote.

Magnitude-6.9 earthquake strikes Baja California

A strong earthquake south of the US-Mexico border on Sunday shook high-rises in downtown Los Angeles and San Diego and was felt across Southern California and Arizona, but there were no immediate reports of major damage.

The 6.9 magnitude quake struck at 3:40 p.m. (2240 GMT) in Baja California, Mexico, about 19 miles (30 kilometers) southeast of Mexicali, according to the US Geological Survey. The area was hit by magnitude 3.0 quakes all week.

The quake was felt as far north as Santa Barbara, USGS seismologist Susan Potter said.

Health

Other News

	International Alerts > Top	