

MUMBAI TERRORIST ATTACK

EDITOR

DR NOOR UL HAQ

ASSISTANT EDITOR

KHALID HUSSAIN

CONTENTS

Preface	v
1. Mumbai Rocked by Deadly Attacks	1
2. Mumbai Shootings: Reaction in Quotes	3
3. Condolence Messages on the Terrorist Attacks in Mumbai	6
4. Media Reacts to Mumbai Mayhem	8
5. UK Investigates Mumbai Attacks	12
6. How Mumbai Attacks Unfolded	13
7. Lots of Suspects in Mumbai Terrorist Attack	15
8. Hindutva Hand in Mumbai Terror: Dal Khalsa	16
9. Mumbai Terrorist Attack May Affect U.S. Foreign Policy	19
10. Carnage in Mumbai: Huge Trust Deficit	21
11. Pakistanis Wary of Mumbai Claims	23
12. United Pakistan Denounces Indian Allegations	25
13. Mumbai Attacks: Key Sites	28
14. Systemic Failure Led to Mumbai Attacks: Indian Navy	30
15. Mumbai Terror Attack: Further Evidence of the Anglo-American-Mossad-RSS Nexus	31
16. Pakistan in No Way Responsible for Mumbai Attacks: Zardari	39
17. Hafiz Saeed Denies Role in Mumbai Attacks	41
18. ISI Playing Key Role for National Security: Gilani	42
19. Pakistan's Demarche to India	42
20. Pakistan Not to Hand Over Mumbai Suspects to India: Qureshi	43
21. India-Pakistan Could Jointly Probe Mumbai Attacks, If Needed: Ahmad Mukhtar	44
22. The Terrorism Riddle	44
23. Pakistan to Keep Mumbai Suspects	46
24. India Names Mumbai Suspects	47
25. <i>Dawa</i> Offices in Most Cities and Towns Sealed: Hafiz Saeed, Others in Custody	48
26. Pakistan Arrests Mumbai Suspects	50
25. Assault on Indian Secularism	51
26. Mumbai Menace, a Psychological Perspective	55
27. US-India Growing Nexus	59

28. Singh Tones down Rhetoric: Mastermind of Mumbai Attacks Remains to be Identified: China	60
29. India Whips up Tensions	61
28. Comment on Information Material on Mumbai Attacks	63
29. Beyond Mumbai	64
30. Mumbai Dossier is not Evidence	66
31. Pakistan State not Involved: Miliband	68
32. Mumbai Terrorists Had Help from Inside India: U.S. Report	69
33. Mumbai Attacks Probe only under Pakistan's Laws: Gilani	71
34. Mumbai Dossier a Fairy Tale	72
35. Mumbai Not Planned in Pakistan	75
36. Mumbai Attacks were Aimed at Growing India-Israel Ties: LAT	77
37. Pakistan Terms Indian Information Insufficient	78
38. Response to Indian External Affairs Minister's Statement	80
39. India Welcomes Pakistan's Investigation into Mumbai Attacks	81
40. Mumbai Attacks and Samjhauta Express Blast were Interlinked	80
41. Qureshi Links Mumbai Attacks to Samjhauta Blasts: Report	82
42. Samjhauta Express Blast and Mumbai Attacks Interlinked, India to Respond	83
43. Indian External Affairs Minister's Remarks	83
44. Pakistan's 30 plus Two Questions for India	84
45. Sole Mumbai Attacks Suspect Charged	87
46. Foreign Secretary of Pakistan and India Meet in Colombo	88
47. India Urged to Respond Quickly to Pakistan's Queries	88
48. India Will Respond Pakistan Queries When it is Ready to Do So: Mukherjee	90
49. Mumbai Blast Not to Harm Indo-Pak Relations: Gilani	90
50. Naval Chief Denies Kasab Entered from Pakistan	91
51. India Rejects Resumption of Composite Dialogue	92

PREFACE

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India (1947-1964), who had also been the President of the Indian National Congress before independence, had said that his “deliberate plan would be to allow Jinnah [the founder of Pakistan] to have his Pakistan and then to make things so difficult for them that they would have to come on their bended knees and ask to be allowed back into India”.¹ It seems that this mindset is still persisting in certain Indian leaders. This is based on the concept of *Akband Bharat*, i.e., a great Hindu empire from the headwaters of the Indus River to eastern Burma and from Tibet to Cape Camorin.² Thus, to make things difficult for Pakistan, they accuse it for every act of extremism, insurgency or terrorism occurring in India. Recently, immediately after the Mumbai terrorist attack, India indulged in blame game, coercive diplomacy and even threats of surgical air strikes against Pakistan.

Whereas extremism and insurgency are internal problems of India, terrorism is mostly a transnational crime. It needs to be dealt with jointly, for which bilateral and multilateral cooperation is required. Pakistan has, therefore, asked for a joint investigation of Mumbai terrorist attack. Indian leaders have not accepted Pakistani suggestion for reasons best known to them. However, after receiving the Indian dossier on Mumbai attacks, Pakistan asked for details, mostly pertaining to the identity of terrorists to bring the murderers and their accomplices to justice. In addition, Pakistan has also asked for information about the killing in the Mumbai attacks of Hemant Karkare, the chief of the Indian anti-terror squad. He was investigating Samjhota Express train terrorism that happened on February 18, 2008, in which 68 people, mostly Pakistanis, died on the Indian soil. “Indian authorities and the media were quick to assert that the evidence overwhelmingly pointed towards Pakistan and the ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence). With the immediate release of sketches of the suspects, it seemed that Indians had it all figured out.”³ India has a history of blaming Pakistan and the ISI for the occurrences⁴ in

¹ Sir George Cunningham’s *Diary, 1947-48*, entry dated 21 September 21, 1947, 12, cited in Khalid bin Sayeed, *Pakistan: The Formative Phase 1857-1948* (London: Oxford University Press, 1968), 260.

² Larry Collins and Dominique LaPierre, *Freedom at Midnight* (New Delhi: Vikas Publishing House (Pvt.) Ltd., 1976), 294.

³ “Here is a statement worthy of debate”,
<http://blackhole.xerces.com/showthread.php?t=12919>

⁴ For instance, on September 8, 2006, 40 people were killed and 100 injured in blasts at a mosque in Malegaon, Maharashtra, India,
<http://faketerrorism.wordpress.com/chronology-major-terrorist-activities-in-india/>

their country. In fact, contrary to India's blame on Pakistan, Hemant Karkare's investigation reveals that a serving officer of the Indian Army, Lieutenant Colonel Prasad Shrikant Purohit, in collaboration with other Indian extremists, was involved. The Indian Maharashtra Police had told an Indian court that "Prohit procured 60 kg of RDX from Jammu and Kashmir in the year 2006, part of which is suspected to have been used in Samjautha Express train explosion and Malegaon blasts."⁵ This raises certain probing questions such as: Why "Karkare, Salaskar and Ashok Kaamte, the three Police Officers of the ATS (Anti-Terrorist Squad) were killed in the [Mumbai] terror attacks"?⁶

In any case, such terrorist acts breed hatred and help hate-mongers to sabotage the peace process between the two neighbours — India and Pakistan — and put the Kashmir issue on the back burner. They seemed to have achieved their objective for the present.

The *IPRI Factfile* includes a few national and international media reports and articles published from November 27, 2008 till February 27, 2009 that would give a brief account and sampling of views on the Mumbai Mayhem.

February 28, 2009

Noor ul Haq

⁵ <http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Politics/16-Nov-2008/Indian-colonel-linked-to-Samjhauta-Express-blasts>

⁶ General Mirza Aslam Beg, "Assault on Indian Secularism", *Nation* (Lahore), November 14, 2008, <http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Opinions/Columns/15-Dec-2008/Assault-on-Indian-secularism>

MUMBAI ROCKED BY DEADLY ATTACKS

Gunmen have carried out a series of coordinated attacks across the Indian city of Mumbai (Bombay), killing 101 people and injuring 287 more.

At least seven high-profile locations were hit in India's financial capital, including two luxury hotels where dozens of hostages are being held.

The buildings are now ringed by troops. Gunmen are also said to be holding people captive in an office block.

Police say four suspected terrorists have been killed and nine arrested.

As day broke in Mumbai, the situation on the ground was still confused with reports of gunfire and explosions at between seven and 16 locations.

The city's main commuter train station, a hospital, a restaurant and two hotels - locations used by foreigners as well as local businessmen and leaders - were among those places caught up in the violence.

Commandos have surrounded the two hotels, the Taj Mahal Palace and the Oberoi Trident, where it is believed that the armed men are holding dozens of hostages.

In other developments:

- Fire crews evacuate people from the upper floors of the Taj Mahal Palace, where police say a grenade attack caused a blaze
- The head of Mumbai's anti-terrorism unit and two other senior officers are among those killed, officials say
- The White House holds a meeting of top intelligence and counter-terrorism officials, and pledges to help the Indian government
- Trading on India's Bombay Stock Exchange and National Stock Exchange markets will remain closed on Thursday, officials say.

Gunmen opened fire at about 2300 local time (1730 GMT) on Wednesday at the sites in southern Mumbai.

"The terrorists have used automatic weapons and in some places grenades have been lobbed," said AN Roy, police commissioner of Maharashtra state.

Local TV images showed blood-splattered streets, and bodies being taken into ambulances.

One eyewitness told the BBC he had seen a gunman opening fire in the Taj Mahal's lobby.

"We all moved through the lobby in the opposite direction and another gunman then appeared towards where we were moving and he started firing immediately in our direction."

One British tourist said she spent six hours barricaded in the Oberoi hotel.

"There were about 20 or 30 people in each room. The doors were locked very quickly, the lights turned off, and everybody just lay very still on the floor," she said.

A BBC correspondent outside the landmark Taj Mahal Palace said there were gunshots between police and the armed men, and that 11 officers were killed in the skirmishes.

Eyewitness reports suggest the attackers singled out British and American passport holders.

If the reports are true, our security correspondent Frank Gardner says it implies an Islamist motive - attacks inspired or co-ordinated by al-Qaeda.

A claim of responsibility has been made by a previously unknown group calling itself the Deccan Mujahideen.

Our correspondent says it could be a hoax or assumed name for another group.

The motive is far from clear - but the attacks come amid elections in several Indian states, including in disputed Kashmir.

On Thursday, reports said five gunmen had taken hostages in an office block in the financial district of Mumbai.

There has been a wave of bombings in Indian cities in recent months which has left scores of people dead.

Most of the attacks have been blamed on Muslim militants, although police have also arrested suspected Hindu extremists.

Mumbai itself has also been attacked in the past: in July 2006 a series of bomb attacks on busy commuter trains killed almost 190 people and injured more than 700.

Police accused Pakistan's intelligence agency of planning those attacks, which they said were carried out by an Islamist militant group, Lashkar-e-Toiba.

Pakistan rejected the allegation, saying there was no evidence that its intelligence staff were involved.

But the latest shootings come at a time when ties between India and Pakistan have improved.

Just days ago Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari told a summit in Delhi that Pakistan would not be first to carry out a missile strike on India.

The two countries have a joint anti-terror mechanism whereby they are supposed to share information on terrorist attacks.

BBC, November 27, 2008

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/7751160.stm

MUMBAI SHOOTINGS: REACTION IN QUOTES

There has been widespread international condemnation of the series of shootings across the Indian city of Mumbai in which more than 100 people have been killed and many more injured.

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari

The attacks in Mumbai have claimed many innocent victims and remind us, yet again, of the threat we face from violent extremists.

Our thoughts are with the families and friends of those killed and injured. Pakistan and India will continue their joint struggles to counter the actions of terrorists.

Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani

I condemn these attacks strongly.

We need to take strict measures to eradicate terrorism and extremism from the region while continuing with concerted efforts to make it a peaceful place to live.

White House Press Secretary Dana Perino

President Bush offers his condolences to the Indian people and the families of the innocent civilians killed and injured in the attacks in Mumbai, India.

The United States condemns this terrorist attack and we will continue to stand with the people of India in this time of tragedy.

This afternoon, the White House National Security Council convened officials from counter-terrorism and intelligence agencies as well as the state and defence departments.

The US government continues to monitor the situation, including the safety and security of our citizens, and stands ready to assist and support the Indian government.

Brooke Anderson, Spokesman for Barack Obama

President-elect Obama strongly condemns today's terrorist attacks in Mumbai, and his thoughts and prayers are with the victims, their families, and the people of India.

These coordinated attacks on innocent civilians demonstrate the grave and urgent threat of terrorism.

The United States must continue to strengthen our partnerships with India and nations around the world to root out and destroy terrorist networks.

We stand with the people of India, whose democracy will prove far more resilient than the hateful ideology that led to these attacks.

Gordon Brown, British Prime Minister

These outrageous attacks in Mumbai will be met with a vigorous response.

I have sent a message to [Indian] Prime Minister [Manmohan] Singh that the UK stands solidly with his government as they respond, and to offer all necessary help.

Urgent action is underway to offer every possible protection to British citizens in the region.

Qin Gang, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman

China always opposes terrorist attacks of any kind, and we express our condolences to the victims.

Dmitry Medvedev, Russian President

We are concerned about the loss of life and consider that acts of terrorism of this type are harmful to the whole international order and are a challenge to humanity.

Spokesman for Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General

The secretary general condemns the rash of shootings and blasts in Mumbai today, which killed and wounded a large number of people. Such violence is totally unacceptable.

The secretary general reiterates his conviction that no cause or grievance can justify indiscriminate attacks against civilians. He calls for the perpetrators to be brought to justice swiftly.

[He] sends his deepest sympathies to the families of the victims and the wounded and expresses his solidarity with the people and government of India.

Pope Benedict XVI

The Holy Father [conveys] his heartfelt condolences to the families of those who have lost their lives in these brutal attacks.

His Holiness urgently appeals for an end to all acts of terrorism, which gravely offend the human family and severely destabilise the peace and solidarity needed to build a civilization worthy of mankind's noble vocation to love God and neighbour.

Hamid Karzai, Afghan President

Terrorism is a tyrant enemy which threatens all of humanity and has challenged the region of South Asia.

Mahinda Rajapaksa, Sri Lankan President

The attacks on leading hotels, hospitals and public transport in Mumbai, the business and financial capital of India, show that the terrorists are targeting an important sector of the Indian economy, with a view to destabilizing democracy in India.

Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Bangladesh Foreign Minister

We strongly condemned what's happened in Mumbai. These are acts of terrorism, and terrorism serves no purpose. Many innocent people have suffered, many have been killed, others injured and we send them our condolences.

Kevin Rudd, Australian Prime Minister

Whichever group has perpetrated this attack, they are cowards, absolute cowards, and murderers.

This cowardly attack on India's stability, peace and democracy reminds us all that international terrorism is far from defeated, and that we must all maintain our vigilance.

TARO ASO, Japanese Prime Minister

This kind of terrorism is unforgivable, extremely despicable and vicious. I feel strong resentment and deeply condemn it.

Japan is with the Indian people who are fighting against terrorism and we will cooperate with the Indian government.

David Miliband, UK Foreign Secretary

Today's attacks in Mumbai which have claimed many innocent victims, remind us, yet again, of the threat we face from violent extremists.

I condemn these attacks unreservedly. Our thoughts are with the families and friends of those killed and injured.

The UK and India will continue their joint efforts to counter the actions of terrorists.

Lawrence Cannon, Canadian Foreign Minister

Canada and India share a commitment to freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Among our mutual priorities is close cooperation to promote international security and to fight terrorism.

BBC, November 27, 2008

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/7751507.stm

CONDOLENCE MESSAGES ON THE TERRORIST ATTACKS IN MUMBAI

Following are the condolence messages from the President and the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the President and the Prime Minister of India on the terrorist attacks in Mumbai :-

Message from the President

Excellency,

On behalf of the people and Government of Pakistan and on my own behalf, I wish to express our deep shock and sorrow at last night's terrorist attacks in Mumbai.

The people of Pakistan join you in mourning the loss of so many precious lives. We offer our heartfelt sympathies and condolences to the family members of all those who have lost their lives or have been injured in these incidents.

Pakistan strongly condemns these acts of terrorism. Terrorism is a scourge of humanity, which needs to be rooted out.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Asif Ali Zardari)

President of Pakistan

To Her Excellency,
Mrs. Pratibha Devisingh Patil,
President of the Republic of India,
New Delhi.

Message from the Prime Minister

Excellency,

I am shocked to learn of the deadly terrorist attacks in Mumbai last night which have caused enormous loss of lives.

Please accept our deepest condolences on these dastardly attacks.

Such acts of violence and terrorism are totally unacceptable in any civilized society. The Government and people of Pakistan unequivocally and strongly condemn these heinous acts of terrorism.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani)

Prime Minister of Pakistan

To H.E. Mr. Manmohan Singh,
Prime Minister of the Republic of India,
New Delhi
Islamabad

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan, November 27, 2008
http://www.mofa.gov.pk/Press_Releases/2008/Nov/PR_363_08.htm

MEDIA REACTS TO MUMBAI MAYHEM

The attacks in Mumbai have attracted saturation coverage in the world media.

While the unfolding drama in India's financial capital dominates newspaper pages, editorial writers across continents have found consensus in pouring scorn over the attackers and voicing their indignation.

A round-up of reaction in the world's media:

India

The Indian Express - City by the sea

No other city in India is confronted by its own legend with as much verve and as brutal honesty as Mumbai has been. Now a bunch of individuals, of still unknown affiliation but clearly possessed of clockwork innovation, has alerted this country yet again that to strike at its cities and its commerce is to threaten the idea of India.

But through all this, the challenge is to our politics. This is a defining moment. The Mumbai attack renders petty and pointless the discourse on terrorism that has thickened the electoral air. Politics has to rise to the occasion, because it is only through a saner politics that India will defeat the challenge posed to its globalised, growing potential.

A saner, more engaged politics is also the only way for this country to constructively ask itself what it can do better to keep its people and its aspirations safe.

The Times of India - It's war

This nation is under attack. The scale, intensity and level of orchestration of terror attacks in Mumbai put one thing beyond doubt: India is effectively at war and it has deadly enemies in its midst.

Ten places in south Mumbai were struck in quick succession.

To tackle terror in India it is urgently necessary to stabilise Pakistan and Bangladesh. And, India should seek international help now to upgrade its own security apparatus, but also to stabilise the entire region stretching from Afghanistan to Bangladesh. There is no time to waste.

Pakistan

Dawn - Mumbai blasts

It is ironical that the attacks came in the wake of the two-day talks between the home secretaries of Pakistan and India in Islamabad earlier in the week where co-operation in fighting terrorism came under discussion.

Détente between the two neighbours does have the potential to curb the menace because militancy does not recognise borders and it is only logical to challenge it through a joint endeavour.

But for the moment the focus will obviously be on how the two countries manage the fallout of the Mumbai blasts.

Without apportioning blame on each other they should co-operate in the investigations to make them productive and facilitate effective measures for domestic security in the two countries while promoting bilateral understanding between them.

The Frontier Post - The Bombay holocaust

It is unfortunate that Manmohan Singh has raised his finger at Pakistan for the Bombay holocaust, without even waiting for the findings of the investigation panel he himself has set up to probe this reprehensible terrorist assault.

And that too when only the other day the two countries' interior secretaries decided in their Islamabad meeting not to blame each other's country for terrorist acts without substantive evidence.

He should have waited for his panel's report. But he did not, replicating his Congress party's mainstream rival BJP, which his own party president Sonia Gandhi had recently berated in a party meeting for accusing Pakistan of every terrorist act in India impetuously, not on some concrete evidence's basis.

The regret is that Singh's accusation will leave the real culprits go laughing all the way.

USA

The Washington Post - Blood in Mumbai

At present, the attacks have not led to an outbreak of Hindu-Muslim violence in other parts of India. Politicians, who are often quick to react to such incidents, have been remarkably discreet. Muslims and Hindus have condemned the attacks without indulging in a blame game.

Even more remarkable, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and the leader of the opposition, K Advani of the BJP, have agreed to set aside their differences to visit Mumbai together to comfort those who lost relatives in the carnage. The victims include senior officers of the Mumbai police.

This single gesture by Singh and Advani will go a long way toward reassuring a dazed and nervous India that the political establishment can still be trusted to rise above partisan passion.

The New York Times - India's suspicion of Pakistan clouds US strategy in region
The terrorist attacks in Mumbai occurred as India and Pakistan, two big, hostile and nuclear-armed nations, were delicately moving toward improved relations with the encouragement of the United States and in particular the incoming Obama administration.

Those steps could quickly be derailed, with deep consequences for the United States, if India finds Pakistani fingerprints on the well-planned operation. India has raised suspicions.

Pakistan has vehemently denied them. But no matter who turns out to be responsible for the Mumbai attacks, their scale and the choice of international targets will make the agenda of the new American administration harder.

Bangladesh

The Daily Star - The carnage in Mumbai

This attack, vicious in its nature and with wide-ranging ramifications, has brought home to all of us in South Asia the lesson that a serious, purposeful and united effort toward combating the terrorist menace is now necessary.

With the Taj and Oberoi hotels in Mumbai [as well as other spots] now coming under attack, it is clear that terrorism is now no more a national but a broad regional menace. It is now anyone's guess as to where terrorism will strike next.

At the same time, people everywhere must condemn the atrocity perpetrated in Mumbai. After having been claimed responsibility by the so-called Deccan Mujahideen, it is especially for Muslims everywhere, seeing that such atrocities are being perpetrated in their names, to condemn the killings loudly and make it clear that their faith abjures violence of all kinds.

New Age - We mourn the dead of Mumbai

Today, our deepest condolences go out to the dead and injured in Wednesday's terrorist attacks in India's financial capital Mumbai, even as we strongly condemn those responsible for these horrible acts.

In recent times India has been confronted with a spate of shootings and bombings which have targeted civilians and public places, with the May bombings that killed over 60 people in the city of Jaipur still fresh on the mind. Similar attacks took place in Ahmedabad and New Delhi as well.

As such, there is a need for New Delhi to recognise that these are not isolated incidents though the perpetrators of each attack may have belonged to disparate politico-ideological spheres.

Side by side, it is also important to note that India's terrorism problem, as with anywhere else, is not exclusively a law and order issue, and the government may likely fail if it seeks to contain it with more sophisticated weapons and more draconian laws.

United Kingdom

The Times - Massacre in Bombay

Depravity and barbarism have made a sickeningly familiar return in Bombay. The co-ordinated viciousness, the targeting of a crowded station, popular restaurant and two hotels and the firebombing of a cultural monument have horrified an entire sub-continent. Terrorism has struck at the heart of the world's largest democracy.

This is a time for India's friends not only to share its grief, but to bolster its leaders' resolve and steady their response. The atrocity in Bombay threatens to drive a wedge between Hindus and Muslims in India; between India and its neighbour, Pakistan; and between the people of the sub-continent and the West.

All of this would be to take revenge against precisely the wrong people for what is a terrorist act. The people to blame here, and the only people to blame, are the terrorists.

The Guardian - Pointing the finger at Pakistan

Though such charges may yet be proved to have merit – the use of grenades and machine gun fire bear the hallmark of Pakistani based militant group Lashkar-e-Toiba [who have now denied involvement], the Indian government would do well to move to not succumb to internal pressure from the BJP and instead move cautiously.

The attacks came amid talks between the two countries' home departments, and strengthening cooperation in fighting terror were discussed, and the two countries decided together to stop blaming each other for tit-for-tat attacks.

Finally, it is worth bearing in mind that whatever rhetoric the Pakistani government may be emitting, the possibility that rogue elements within the ISI acting on their own will cannot at this stage be precluded.

If this turns out to be the case, the Indian government should go public with their evidence, instead of pointing the finger then not producing the goods (as was the case with the Indian embassy in Kabul bombing).

Aljazeera, November 28, 2008

<http://english.aljazeera.net/focus/2008/11/20081128144635863908.html>

UK INVESTIGATES MUMBAI ATTACKS

Britain said on Friday it was too early to tell if Britons of Pakistani origin could be among the gunmen in the Mumbai attacks, but acknowledged it was “intensively” probing who was behind the plot.

Foreign Secretary David Miliband said British detectives, who have already travelled to India, will work with their Indian counterparts to shed light on the source of the plot.

“We obviously will want to work very, very closely with the Indians on that, but it is too early to say whether or not any of them are British,” he told Sky News TV.

“Obviously, the priority of the Indian authorities is to complete this operation. They can then start identifying who are the terrorists, what is their background.”

Prime Minister Gordon Brown was cautious regarding a British link. “I would not want to be drawn into early conclusions about this,” he said. “There is so much information still to be discovered and made available.

“But obviously when you have terrorists operating in one country they may be getting support from another country or coming from another country,” he said. AFP

Dawn, November 29, 2008

<http://www.dawn.com/2008/11/29/top11.htm>

HOW MUMBAI ATTACKS UNFOLDED

New details have been slowly emerging about the early stages of the Mumbai terror attacks. Much of the information has been gleaned after the capture of one of the militants involved, as the BBC's Prachi Pinglay reports from Mumbai.

The story of the Mumbai terror attacks likely began when a private fishing trawler with five crew members set sail on the Arabian sea off the coast of Porbandar in India's western Gujarat state on 13 November.

Sometime during the next 12 days, the trawler was taken over at sea by at least 10 young men, aged between 20 and 23 years, carrying backpacks and bags, according to sources in the Mumbai police, coastguard, and commandos.

Investigators still do not know what the men were sailing on and where they were coming from when they took over the trawler - though suspicion has fallen on the Pakistani port city of Karachi.

What they do know is that the men tied up one of the crew in the trawler's engine room, and slit his throat. The abandoned trawler was found by Indian coastguard ships more than three nautical miles off Mumbai.

GPS Co-ordinates

When coastguards boarded the vessel, they found the dead crew member, plus a satellite phone and GPS tracker that possibly belonged to the trawler's crew.

Investigators told the BBC that the tracker showed "a return mapping for Karachi", leading to speculation that the men who attacked Mumbai had planned to return in the same trawler.

A ferry doing about 20 knots can cover the 506-nautical mile distance between Karachi and Mumbai in a little over 24 hours.

After abandoning the trawler, the men opened the inflatable dinghies they were carrying and sailed into Mumbai waters early on 26 November, a little more than 10 hours before the attack, investigators say.

An abandoned dinghy has been recovered in the sea off one of the many fishing colonies which dot the city's coast.

One of the top investigating officers told the BBC that the gunmen - nine were eventually killed and one arrested - split up into four groups and took the city's rickety black-and-yellow Fiat taxis from the fishing colony at Cuffe Parade to some of the locations they planned to attack.

They say the men left grenades or bombs inside the taxis before they got out. The taxis exploded soon after, killing two drivers and one bystander.

The first round of attacks took place around the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus or the Victoria Terminus railway station, when gunmen entered the platforms and fired on people indiscriminately.

They walked out of the station after the carnage, and shot three policemen and fired at journalists gathered near a cinema to record the event. Then they took a police van and drove off.

A flat tyre forced the gunmen to abandon the police van. The men then stole a Skoda car and drove towards the seafront Marine Drive, just as the other groups of gunmen were attacking a cafe, two luxury hotels and a Jewish cultural centre.

As the Skoda took a zig-zag route through the streets of Mumbai, the men inside opened fire in several locations - including at the Cama and Albbless hospital for women and children.

Police say they intercepted the Skoda on the seafront and shot at it, killing one of the gunmen and arresting the other.

Twenty-one-year-old Azam Amir Qasab, who police say is from Pakistan's Punjab province, is now the investigators' key to unravelling the planning that went into the attacks.

Senseless Violence

Commandos who fought early pitched battles with the gunmen in the two luxury hotels, the Taj Mahal and Oberoi Trident, say that the lithe attackers moved quickly from room to room and climbed up and down floors to throw them off tracks.

The gunmen set fire to curtains and threw grenades to distract the commandos, according to federal commando chief JK Dutt.

"We found a lot of unexploded grenades inside the hotel. They damaged a lot of property. It was senseless violence," he said.

They also found lots of dry fruits, Indian and American currency, ammunition and fake Mumbai college student identity cards in the bags the gunmen had left behind during the attacks.

"We are checking whether the gunmen had any local support. But what we are sure is that they were not from India, and had trained in and were carrying stuff - AK-56, AK-47 and 9mm revolvers and hand grenades possibly of Chinese make," said an investigator.

The investigators say that Qasab has told them that their work was to "take hostages for safe passage". He also told them their aim was to "create an international incident, and anything big in Mumbai would be noticed all over the world".

BBC, November 30, 2008

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/7757500.stm

LOTS OF SUSPECTS IN MUMBAI TERRORIST ATTACK

Mumbai's terrorist attacks created two insistent lines of suspicion. Some argue the scale and lethality of the multiple; coordinated assaults were too sophisticated to be homegrown. They seek outside links, especially Pakistan. Others say the attackers knew the targets too well not to be local.

The murderous terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India, are shocking for their carnage, coldblooded preparation and the desire to link them to elements outside the country, which means Pakistan. No easy assumptions hold up.

Puget Sound shares a kinship with the region through our neighbors, friends and co-workers. Feelings of grief, concern and fearful puzzlement are broadly shared.

Identifying the attackers might begin with a satellite phone and a global positioning map found aboard a drifting trawler. The Times of India reported the crew was missing and the crew leader was found dead with his throat slit.

The use of high-tech tools would add a bloody twist to the coordinated waterborne attacks on at least 10 locations, including two luxury hotels. A city of 18 million, Mumbai is South Asia's financial center. Some believe vaguely described Muslim militants targeted the city's Colaba district for its modernity and prosperity.

Police and army commandos were battling terrorists and working to rescue hostages at week's end. The bloody tenacity of the attackers created two insistent lines of suspicion.

One holds the assaults were too sophisticated to be homegrown. Money and training had to come from elsewhere. Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari scheduled talks to discuss what Singh described as "well-planned and well-orchestrated attacks, probably with external linkages ... "

Another view is meant to serve as a spark suppressor: The attacks betrayed knowledge of Mumbai's financial district and an ease of movement that argues for terrorists from inside the country. The subtext here is emotions and political heat could ignite a conflagration. India and Pakistan have repeatedly shed blood over the disputed province of Kashmir. Both have nuclear arms.

Feelings are raw in the shocked aftermath, and subject to exploitation. The Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party blames the attacks on the ruling Congress party for eroding terrorist legislation pushed by the opposition BJP.

Rounding up the usual suspects is further complicated by a bloody history of civilian attacks in Mumbai and across India. An unknown Islamic group, Deccan Mujahedin is claiming credit for the slaughter that began Wednesday. Another group with blood on its hands has said it was not responsible. Yet another group attacked India's parliament in 2001. The bloodiest assault in Mumbai dates to 1993 when a criminal syndicate killed 257 people.

The United States is treading softly, volunteering to send investigators to help piece the puzzle together, but the offer is being carefully handled so as not to offend Pakistan. The U.S., which recently signed a nuclear accord with India, has its hands full in Afghanistan and along the border it shares with Pakistan.

Editorial, *Seattle Times*, November 30, 2008

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/editorialsopinion/2008449228_edit30mumbai.html

HINDUTVA HAND IN MUMBAI TERROR: DAL KHALSA

While speculation mounts on the involvement of Islamist Jihadist groups in Mumbai's carnage, Dal Khalsa UK would like to point out that the Fanatical Hand of Hindutva could be behind the terrorist attacks in Mumbai and its Hotels. The hand of Hindutva groups and radical Hindu outfits like the Bajrang Dal, RSS, alongside Shiv Sena could well be behind the latest string of attacks, mostly aimed at the general public and tourists, spokesman of Dal Khalsa (UK) said.

For the last 6 months the Indian Nation has been in World News Headlines regarding the on going genocide and ethnic cleansing of Christians in the North Eastern State of Orrisa, the Pope, EU and other World leaders have expressed their outrage to the Indian Govt about the brutal killings, rapes and destruction of Christian Churches in Orissa by Fanatical Hindu Terror groups.

The word 'Hindu Terrorism' has also popped up in the Media in the last few weeks and leading newspapers like The Times UK and others are actively monitoring Hindutva outfits like the RSS and Bajrang Dal and their activities in Orissa against Christians all this and pressure from activist groups in the UK have led to the RSS and Hindutva Terrorism in Orrisa to be discussed in the UK House of Lords. Lord Patten (Conservative), with a whole host of Bishops has called on the UK Govt. to protest the killings and genocide and have also discussed a ban on these groups.

The Hindutva terrorism in Orrisa has given India a bad name in the international community, in order to take away the attention from Orissa Hindutva groups may well have engineered these attacks to take the attention away from 'Hindu Terrorism' which was reaching world headlines and back to Islamic Terrorism. Its important to point out that in the last week at least 200 bodies have been recovered dumped on a jungle in the state of Orrisa that just shows the magnitude of the killings in the North Eastern State.

Not only this the attacks could also have been carried out to have an influence on the outcome of India's next elections, as the Congress led Govt. is weak and is heavily opposed by most major Hindutva groups .In order to get into power once more through the BJP and to grab the votes of Hindu Nationalists these attacks may well have been engineered at just the right time. The reason for this is that 2 Leading officials who were leading the Investigation into 'Hindu Terror Cells' in Mumbai have been killed, it is important at this time to recall the arrest of the Hindu Sadhvi Pragya Thakur she was arrested for the Malegoan blasts and had alleged involvement in making bombs and bomb factories. The ATF Chief leading the investigation

Hemant Karkare was killed a few days ago in the Mumbai Terror attacks along with another ATF senior member, Hindu radicals have celebrated his death as a blessing from God and have expressed their gratitude that he is now dead. This is evident from comments left on Indian News Blogs:

‘Pragya’s heartfelt cry and prayer to Hindu Goddess Durga, that might have resulted in the killing of not only Hemant Karkare but also other members of ATS and the Marthi Police manoos.’

‘Death of Hemant Karkare 1 ATS head Hemant Karkare’s demise was welcomed by Hindus as he was trying to create artificial Hindu terrorists’. ATS head Hemant Karkare’s death is due to his illegal and immoral way of detaining a Hindu Sadhvi Pragya.’

This leads us to ask the question as to why the head of a Govt agency who deals not with criminals but with terrorists was killed. Where was his security? Body armour? Its easy to say he was shot dead and so on, but would we see Metropolitan Chief Sir Paul Stephenson, on the front line in an attack like this in the UK?

There is the possibility the head of the ATF was killed of due to his exposure of Hindu Terrorism and the arrest of the Sadhvi, Hindutva groups were growing very hostile towards the ATF and their uncovering and use of the word Hindu Terrorism. The BJP/RSS has and continue to actively support the Sadhvi and all the suspects arrested in the Malegaon Blast cases, and they are highly critical of the ATF and its management.

With the attacks being blamed on Islamic Jihadists and Pakistan this may well be used as a reason to crack down on Muslims living within India, and one cannot rule out the chance of another ‘Gujarat 2002’(Genocide) through the Right Wing propaganda of the RSS Hindutva terrorists. In 2002 as well Islamic Fanatics were blamed for the train bombing of Hindus, but earlier this year it came to light that these attacks were themselves engineered by the Bajrang Dal and RSS, this attack was used as a reason to attack Muslims and cause communal tensions all this was exposed by the Tehelka Network in an undercover sting operation using hidden cameras and interviews of Hindutva leaders.

The Chinese Official Daily also says that Hindutva may have a hand in this horrific incident

Tehreek E Kashmir also expresses similar views.

Dal Khalsa UK and the Sikh Community as a whole would like to at this time send its condolences to the families of the victims of this sickening attack on unarmed civilians and tourists who were going about their daily lives only for them to be tragically ended by the terror of cowards and inhumane terrorists

We hope peace prevails and that the spirit of Humanity shines

through these dark days.-

Pakistan Times, December 1, 2008

<http://www.pak-times.com/2008/12/01/hindutva-hand-in-mumbai-terror-dal-khalsa/>

MUMBAI TERRORIST ATTACK MAY AFFECT U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

The terrorist attacks in Mumbai could fundamentally change the U.S. war on terror as President Bush hands the keys of power over to President-elect Barack Obama.

President Bush is handing off more than just a financial crisis and wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to Barack Obama. The president-elect will also inherit a potentially escalating conflict between India and Pakistan that could fundamentally alter the war on terror.

Indian officials are pointing fingers at the Pakistani government for the terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India's financial capital, that left at least 174 dead, including six Americans.

If the Pakistani government, which has condemned the attack, is found to be involved, foreign policy analysts believe that could lead the longtime nuclear-armed rivals to the brink of all-out war.

"It could be disastrous," said Caroline Wadhams, a senior policy analyst for national security at the Center for American Progress.

"There would be repercussions for the world and the war in Afghanistan," she said.

Analysts agree that Bush has made the right initial moves and that there should be close coordination between him and Obama on the issue.

Bush sent the FBI to India to help with the investigation and assured the country's prime minister, Manmohan Singh, that the U.S. government will "devote the necessary resources and personnel to this situation."

Obama expressed sympathy for the victims of the terror attacks on Monday during a news conference in which he introduced his national security team. But he declined to say whether the Indian government would be justified in pursuing terrorists in next-door Pakistan.

"This is one of those times when I have to reiterate there is one president at a time," Obama said.

"We're going to be engaged in some very delicate diplomacy in the next days and weeks, and I think it would be very inappropriate of me to comment."

Bush has seven weeks to help investigate the attacks and try to calm tensions before Obama is inaugurated.

"I think both the Bush administration and the Obama transition team will have to shift part of their attention from Afghanistan to defusing the India-Pakistan crisis," said Lisa Curtis, a senior research fellow at The Heritage Foundation who focuses on national security.

She called the Mumbai attacks a "watershed moment" for the United States.

"It's going to complicate the war on terror," she said.

If tensions ratchet up between the two nations, Pakistan, which has been an uneasy ally of the United States in the war on terror, will likely declare that it cannot fight terrorism on its western Afghanistan border because it must focus on its eastern border with India, Curtis said.

Wadhams said the Mumbai attack signals that terrorism is not going away.

"This is a huge issue that the next administration will have to focus on," she said, explaining that the top priority will be how to handle Pakistan, especially if terrorist groups in that country were responsible for the attacks in Mumbai.

"How is the U.S. going to support Pakistan's efforts to fight terrorism while demanding greater action to eliminate these rogue elements?" she said.

Curtis said this crisis resembles the India-Pakistan military standoff early this decade that came after a militant attack on the Indian Parliament that left 14 people, including the five men who attacked the building, dead in December 2001.

At that time, India blamed the attacks on two Pakistan-based militant groups fighting Indian rule in Kashmir, Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad, both of which were backed by Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence agency, a charge Pakistan denied.

Tensions died down following international diplomatic mediation, which resulted in the 2002 withdrawal of Indian and Pakistan troops from the International Border.

That same year, Lashkar was banned in Pakistan under pressure from the U.S., a year after Washington and Britain listed it as a terrorist group. It is since believed to have emerged under another name, Jamaat-ud-Dawa.

The Pakistani government denies any link to Lashkar-e-Taiba.

Stephen Clark, *Fox News*, December 1, 2008
<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2008/12/01/mumbai-terrorist-attack-affect-foreign-policy/>

CARNAGE IN MUMBAI: HUGE TRUST DEFICIT

The Indian political leadership, government, the army and its press and media, have once again jumped the gun and pointed their finger prematurely towards Pakistan for involvement in the Mumbai Chain terror attacks, fire and shoot-

outs, irresponsibly precipitating tension and confrontation rather than acting with caution in order to avert a showdown between inherently uneasy neighbors.

Shallowness of the hurried knee-jerk reaction of most Indian luminaries and its media is already beginning to be exposed within seventy six hours of the occurrence. Conflicting claims and mutual blames by Indian intelligence agencies claiming they had issued warning over the attacks much earlier, has been denied by the Indian Navy, while the former Indian-Occupied Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah has ruled out any involvement of the Pakistan Government.

The Indian media needs to wake up to the problems which exist at home, rather than cover up for India's own security lapses, distort or try to obscure facts, become part of the intrigue and try to divert attention or shift the blame. Like responsible media, it may not be their job to build undue bridges, but their job it is to report facts rather than engage in spreading premeditated notions, indulge in war mongering, ignite tempers and take sides.

Worst still, the smugness of the Indians could easily sabotage and badly hurt American interests, as Pakistan which had so far been a frontline 'ally' against its sinister war thrust upon it much against the wishes of its people, could per force withdraw its troops from its Western borders to face up to the new threat. No wonder that the Pakistan Government had been forced to review its sanguine offer to send its intelligence chief to help investigate the dastard incident. If the Indian prime minister pointing to Karachi as the route to transportation of weaponry and ammunition used in the Mumbai terror attacks, and its foreign minister's diatribe asking Pakistan to remove sanctuaries sourcing terror activities was to be taken seriously, India would need to look for skeletons in its own cupboard.

Firstly, it provides comic relief rather than consternation, to note that while the route so hurriedly mapped without a proper probe if taken to be true by any figment of imagination, ought to be attributed to great Indian Intelligence, it only points to inherent contradiction in the script, raising the obvious question as to why then, such sharp intelligence failed to detect or track down the route which such lethal weaponry followed, and allowed it to be brought in and distributed to various key destinations without check by a bunch of outsiders.

It either reflects serious flaws in the Indian security apparatus, or inability of the Indian government to identify the seeds of terrorism it has itself sown at home, or still worst, an attempt to cover up its internal maladies and foment trouble with Pakistan yet again.

This reminds one, of the infamous Ganga Hijacking which ostensibly triggered a war between the two countries in the sixties, the stage-managed but poorly propagated Indian Parliament attack covered by the Indian electronic

media like a well rehearsed out-door sequence of a drama scene, and which nearly caused a bloody confrontation between India and Pakistan as troops on both sides headed for the Line of Control in Kashmir; the Samjhota Express killings and carnage blamed on Pakistan, which was negated by the Indian Court later; the Mumbai blasts earlier, and attack on the Indian Consulate in Kabul, all initially blamed on Pakistan. Little do the players on the regional chessboard realise, that these and several other incidents of terror and carnage, as also the present blame game, have potential germs of a similar misadventure, which could be deadly for this part of the world, sooner than the rest.

As to the sanctuaries sourcing terrorism in the region, far more than the drummed up militants from Pakistan into Afghanistan, there is incontrovertible evidence of the direct RAW, RAM and MOSSAD involvement in funding and fanning infiltration, espionage, sabotage and blasts deep inside Pakistan, labelled as Taliban asking for Nifaz-e-Shariah in the country. Pakistan has not pressed the evidence, simply because it did not want to derail the fragile peace process which was already moving with a gingerly pace.

Pakistan's foreign minister while being present on the Indian soil, vividly translated the Pakistani resolve in expressing his country's desire to replace confrontation with cooperation, and advised Indian leadership not to play politics over the Mumbai attacks and refrain from the blame game, since our countries were facing a common enemy and required a joint mechanism and strategy to tackle the menace.

There was a hidden hand, which had schematically invented and exported terrorism in the shape of its self-created monster of Al-Qaeda, and labelled it as Muslim insurgency. India already for decades facing an internal Muslim backlash due to its own high-headed, biased and myopic policies in dealing with Occupied Kashmir, Indian Gujarat, Assam and Bihar, Naxelites etc readily and gleefully identified itself like an ostrich, with the US chorus on Muslim bashing and for some time, was able to divert the world's attention from its cloak and dagger policies towards Pakistan, little realising that vested overseas forces eyeing its invaluable resources, were hell-bent on destabilising a potentially vibrant region.

Instead of working to identify the hidden hand of the common enemy, India has so far played ball to its new found overseas ally which was only momentarily using it to contain the threat of China, a country emerging as the real superpower because of its principled policies of non-interference in the affairs of other nations.

But if India insisted on the course it had embarked upon, it would need to look itself in the mirror and understand that in that case, Pakistan would have to carry out attacks inside India and Afghanistan, from where with the help of their intelligence outfits and consulates, the governments in both

these countries were carrying out infiltration, espionage and terrorist activities inside Pakistan culminating in killings attributed to Talibanisation of Karachi, as portrayed in his pre-warnings by the MQM chief. This collision course would not only be destructive for both India and Pakistan, but would put the entire region on fire, which is the game plan of their common foe. ...

Zaheer Bhatti, *The Nation*, December 1, 2008

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Opinions/Columns/02-Dec-2008/Carnage-in-Mumbai-huge-trust-deficit/>

PAKISTANIS WARY OF MUMBAI CLAIMS

Indian media reports detailing Pakistani links to the audacious Mumbai attacks have been met with deep scepticism in Pakistan.

"Why do they always blame us?" said an airline worker in the port city of Karachi, from where some of the gunmen are alleged to have set off for Indian shores.

"Any time something happens in India, they say Pakistan is behind it, but they don't come up with any proof."

A boutique owner agreed. "Everybody's out to get us," he said as his customers expressed fear that Indian agents would retaliate by striking Karachi.

Such blanket dismissals fail to acknowledge Pakistan's history of using Islamist militant groups to fight proxy wars against India in the disputed region of Kashmir.

One of these, Lashkar-i-Taiba, was blamed for the attack on India's parliament in 2001 that brought the two countries to the brink of war.

However, it denied that, as well as any involvement in the Mumbai atrocities, which lasted three days and left over 170 people dead and hundreds injured.

Indian Denial

Whatever the case, Pakistanis say Indian accusations have become reflex actions that don't take changing realities into account.

"It is interesting that Indian security agencies failed to detect such a massive operation during its planning stage, but wasted little time in fixing the blame on some Pakistani group," wrote defence analyst Hasan Askari Rizvi in the local Daily Times newspaper.

"If they knew who was responsible, why could they not pre-empt it? India needs to face the reality of home-grown radicalism, and realize the futility of blaming Pakistan for its troubles."

Mr Rizvi expressed a widely held conviction here that India is in denial about its problems with indigenous Islamist groups that have surfaced

in recent years - rooted; it's believed, in state discrimination and communal violence against Muslims.

And, say Pakistanis, India has got it wrong before.

The fire-bombing of the Samjhauta Express train between New Delhi and Lahore in February 2007 was first blamed on Pakistan, but later linked to Hindu extremists supported by an Indian army colonel.

Brisk Escalation

At the official level, both the government and the military have also warned India against jumping to hasty conclusions, but otherwise their responses have differed.

Political leaders have gone out of their way to condemn the attacks and offer "unconditional support" in the investigation, promising to take action if any Pakistani link is established.

A conflict with India is the last thing they want after succeeding the military-led government of retired General Pervez Musharraf last year.

"I'm concerned because I could see forward movement, India warming up to Pakistan, constructive engagement," said Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi at the weekend.

"Let us not fool ourselves, the situation is serious when people in India are calling this their 9/11," adding that he hoped the "hiccup" in relations would be overcome soon.

Pakistan's powerful security establishment, however, is more cynical.

Despite a peace process which began in 2004 it sees India as stalling on Kashmir, and it is convinced Delhi's allegations are aimed at trying to discredit Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence Agency (ISI).

"The Indians are taking the escalation level up at a very brisk pace," a senior security official said on Saturday.

He too pledged co-operation but said if India began to mobilise troops, Pakistan would respond in kind, even if that meant pulling soldiers away from fighting Taleban and al-Qaeda militants on its border with Afghanistan.

The different attitudes towards India were publicly exposed when political leaders were forced to retract a promise to send the intelligence chief to Delhi.

While President Asif Zardari described this as a "miscommunication," others blamed the government for failing to consult the military before making the unprecedented announcement. ...

Barbara Plett, *BBC*, December 1, 2008
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/7757871.stm

'UNITED PAKISTAN' DENOUNCES INDIAN ALLEGATIONS

Condemning the terrorist attacks in Mumbai in the harshest terms, the political leadership of the country put their weight behind the government and the Armed Forces of Pakistan in defending Pakistan's security interests.

The political leadership attending the All Parties Conference on National Security at Prime Minister's House Tuesday evening also took strong exception to the unsubstantiated allegations made by India in haste against Pakistan and feared that it could harm the relations between the two neighbouring states.

In a rare show of solidarity almost all the political leadership of the country participated in the conference which discussed the situation arising out of the Mumbai attacks and direct implication of Pakistan in it by the Indian Government without providing them with substantial evidence.

The sources privy to the deliberations of the conference disclosed to The Nation that all the participants came out with strongest condemnation of the Mumbai blasts and showed solidarity and sympathy with the families of the victims, but at the same time they were critical of the irresponsibility shown by the Indian Government by implicating Pakistan in these attacks without any substantial evidence.

These sources further said that some of the participants also criticized the decision of Pakistan Government that they would send Director General or Director level officer to India regarding investigation into Mumbai blasts.

On conclusion of the conference, which remained in session for several hours, the following joint statement was issued with the approval of all the participants:

"On the invitation of the Government of Pakistan, the leaders representing all political parties met in Islamabad today to discuss the developments ensuing from the recent Mumbai terrorist attacks, including implications for national security.

The leaders and representatives of the political parties of Pakistan unanimously underscored the following:

A strong condemnation of the reprehensible terrorist attacks in Mumbai.

That the people of Pakistan share the grief of the people of India and extend their sympathy to the families of the victims. The steadfast resolve of the Pakistani nation to defend its honour and dignity as well as Pakistan's sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity.

That all political parties and democratic forces firmly support the Government and the Armed Forces of Pakistan in defending Pakistan's security interests.

Pakistan's abhorrence to any act of violence perpetrated against innocent persons.

That the political parties took strong exception to the unsubstantiated allegations made in haste against Pakistan.

That Pakistan's desire to pursue its constructive engagement with India in a comprehensive manner with a view to building confidence and mutual trust for establishing friendly and good-neighbourly relations with India on the basis of settlement of all outstanding disputes."

The participants included PML(N) Quaid, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Chief Minister Punjab, Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Leader of Opposition, Ch Nisar Ali Khan, Maulana Fazlur Rehman (JUI-F), Sardar Atique Ahmad Khan, PM (AJK), Dr Muhammad Farooq Sattar, Syed Haider Abbas Rizvi (MQM), Haji Muhammad Adeel, Mrs Bushra Gohar (ANP), Mr Justice (R) Abdul Razaq Thahim (PML-F), Mr Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao (PPP-S), Haji Munir Khan Aurakzai (FATA), Mr Ghulam Mustafa Khan Jatoi (NPP), Mr Mehmood Khan Achakzai (PkMAP), Sheikh Rashid Ahmad (PML-A), Syed Nusrat Ali Shan (TI), Mr Tahir Bazenjo (NPB), Qazi Hussain Ahmed (JI), Mr Israrullah Zehri (BNP Awami), Mr Imran Khan (PTI), Prof Sajid Mir (Jamiat-e-Ahl-e Hadith), Allama Sajid Ali Naqvi (TNFJ), Dr Raheeq Abbasi (Tehreek-e-Minhaj ul Quran), Syed Shujat Ali Bukhari, (Pak Wattan Party), Maulana Sami ul Haq (JUI-S), M Sarwat Ejaz Qadri (Sunni Tehrik), Haji Muhammad Hanif Tayyab (Tehreek-e-Nifaz-e-Islam), Qari Zawwar Bahadur (JUP-N), Rasool Bukhsh Palejo, (Awami Tahrik) and Shahid Hassan Bugti (JWP).

From Government side Mian Raza Rabbani, Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination, Ch Ahmad Mukhtar, Minister for Defence, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms Sherry Rehman, Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Farooq H Naek, Minister for Law & Justice, Rehman Malik, Advisor to PM on Interior, Shahbaz Bhatti, Minister for Minorities, Maj Gen (R) Mahmud Ali Durrani, Advisor on National Security, Qamar Zaman Kaira, Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Dr Zahir uddin Babar Awan, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs also attended the meeting.

On arrival at Prime Minister House the guests were received by Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Babar Awan, Qamar Zaman Kaira and other Federal Ministers.

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, who chaired the conference was flanked by PML(N) Quaid Mian Nawaz Sharif and JUI(F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

All along the conference was held in a cordial atmosphere in which the political leadership put their weight behind the government and Armed Forces of the country in tackling the issue with India without compromising the country's dignity and respect.

Abrar Saeed, *The Nation*, December 2, 2008
<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Politics/03-Dec-2008/United-Pakistan-denounces-Indian-allegations>

MUMBAI ATTACKS: KEY SITES

On 26 November gunmen began a series of co-ordinated and multiple attacks that lasted for three days. They targeted two luxury hotels and other landmarks in the city of Mumbai. All the major attacks began at 2120 local time.

Taj Mahal Hotel

The Taj Mahal Palace hotel was attacked by at least seven gunmen at about 2120 on Wednesday 26 November. About 450 people were staying there and a large fire was started.

The gunmen had stormed the Taj Mahal as people sat down for dinner on Wednesday evening, opening fire indiscriminately.

Hundreds of people hid for hours as gunmen fought special commandos.

A number of blazes broke out inside the hotel and flames billowed from the windows, the latest about 0730 local time on Saturday, the culmination of an hour of heavy gunfire and loud explosions, signalling the end of the operation.

It was the longest of the operations to clear the sites of gunmen, and involved more than 100 commandos.

The Taj Mahal is a 105-year-old city landmark at the heart of India's financial capital, popular with foreigners and tourists as well as the city's elite.

Oberoi-Trident Hotel

The Oberoi-Trident was seized on Wednesday night at 2120 - at the about same time as the Taj Majal - by heavily armed gunmen who rounded up diners who appeared to be tourists. At least 380 people were in the hotel at the time.

Indian commandos took control of the hotel at 1100 on Friday, freeing nearly 100 people, but 24 bodies were found shortly afterwards in the building.

Two militants, who had thrown hand grenades and exchanged gunfire, were killed, India's National Security Guard director-general said.

The hotel is very popular with business travellers and is located at Nariman Point, the city's main business district, near the Bombay Stock Exchange.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus

On Wednesday evening at 2120, gunmen, armed with rifles, stormed into the crowded Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus station firing indiscriminately and throwing grenades. At least two gunmen started shooting at passengers waiting for long-distance trains.

Ten people were reported killed and about 30 injured in these attacks.

The station, formerly Victoria Terminus, is one of the busiest railway stations in the country, handling thousands of passengers each day.

It took 10 years to build, starting in 1878, and is famous for its Victorian gothic architecture. It was named a Unesco world heritage site in 2004.

Nariman House

Gunmen seized control of the Nariman House business and residential complex on Wednesday at 2120. Police surrounded the complex, which houses the Jewish Chabad Lubavitch outreach centre and sent in commandos on Friday.

They dropped smoke bombs to create confusion, and then several troops abseiled down ropes from a helicopter to secure the roof.

Several hours later police confirmed six people had been killed inside, including a rabbi and his wife. The couple's child had already been evacuated from the building. Two kidnappers were also killed.

Indian security forces did not manage to secure the building until 1800 on Friday. Altogether, eight Israeli or dual Israeli-US citizens were killed and two gunmen.

The centre acts as a centre for prayer and study, attracting many Jewish and Israeli visitors every year.

Cafe Leopold

Gunmen stormed the Cafe Leopold restaurant late on Wednesday and opened fire on diners.

The wife of one injured Briton said: "It was mayhem. There were so many casualties. It was carnage."

Eyewitnesses suggest that the attackers looked very young, "like boys".

Cafe Leopold is an old Mumbai institution, popular with foreign tourists and close to the Taj Mahal Palace hotel.

Cama Hospital

Gunmen attacked the Cama and Albless Hospital on Wednesday, shooting indiscriminately.

One report from the hospital said four militants hijacked a nearby police van and opened fire from inside it, before two were killed and the other two captured by the authorities.

Cama and Albless is a charitable hospital for women and children that was built in the late 1880s by a wealthy businessman.

BBC, December 2, 2008

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/7751876.stm

'SYSTEMIC FAILURE' LED TO MUMBAI ATTACKS: INDIAN NAVY

The Indian navy said a "systemic failure" of security and intelligence services led to the Islamist militant attacks in Mumbai that killed 183 people, PTI news agency reported on Tuesday.

Indian police, coast guard and intelligence communities are pointing fingers over whether information existed that could have been acted on to prevent the three-day rampage in the financial hub.

"There is perhaps a (gap) that exists and we will work to sort this out. There is a systemic failure which needs to be taken stock of," navy chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta said at a press conference.

Intelligence sources told the NDTV news channel they had issued a series of warnings of a possible attack on Mumbai by sea in the months leading up to last week's strike.

The latest, warning that the "sea wing" of militant group Lashkar-i-Taiba was planning to attack, was issued just eight days ahead of the attack, the TV channel said.

Mehta promised the government would give an adequate response to the militant attacks, adding the navy had not received any "actionable" information which could have prevented the attack, PTI reported.

Fishermen, who are sometimes seen as the eyes and ears of the coast guard in India, said the government had ignored their warnings four months ago about militants using sea routes to land RDX explosives in Mumbai with help from the city's underworld.

Many Indians have expressed anger at apparent intelligence lapses and a slow reaction by security forces to the attacks against Mumbai's two best-known luxury hotels and other landmarks in the city of 18 million.

Mehta called for better coordination among intelligence and security agencies, and said the government was aware of the public outcry and debate that followed the Mumbai attacks, PTI reported.

“We are fully conscious of it and the debate. The point is it is a serious issue ... a serious matter of security.”—Reuters

Dawn, December 3, 2008

<http://www.dawn.com/2008/12/03/int3.htm>

MUMBAI TERROR ATTACK: FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN-MOSSAD-RSS NEXUS

Now who has the last laugh? That is the question; I only have pity for those who cannot see reality and who were so glib to buy into what the media and political troubleshooters were saying about the Mumbai terrorist attacks.

Consider This

As a BBC report notes, at least some of the Mumbai attackers were not Indian and certainly not Muslim. Pappu Mishra, a cafe proprietor at the gothic Victorian Chattrapati Shivaji Terminus railway station, described "two sprightly young men dressed in black" with AK47s who were "foreign looking, fair skinned." Gaffar Abdul Amir, an Iraqi tourist from Baghdad, saw at least two men who started the firing outside the Leopold Cafe. "They did not look Indian, they looked foreign. One of them, I thought, had blonde hair. The other had a punkish hairstyle. They were neatly dressed," Amir told the BBC.

According to Andrew G. Marshall, the ISI "has long been referred to as Pakistan's 'secret government' or 'shadow state.' It's long-standing ties and reliance upon American and British intelligence have not let up, therefore actions taken by the ISI should be viewed in the context of being a Central Asian outpost of Anglo-American covert intelligence operations." "The presence of "foreign looking, fair skinned" commandos who calmly gunned down dozens of people after drinking a few beers indicates that the Mumbai attacks were likely the work of the Anglo-American covert intelligence operatives, not indigenous Indian Muslims or for that matter Arab al-Qaeda terrorists. The attacks prepare the ground for the break-up of Pakistan and the furtherance of destabilizing terrorism in the Middle East and Asia. The Mumbai attacks had little to do with India or the relationship between Muslim Pakistanis and Hindu Indians." "Pakistan's position as a strategic focal point cannot be underestimated. It borders India, Afghanistan, China and Iran," concludes Marshall. "Destabilizing and ultimately breaking Pakistan up into several countries or regions will naturally spread chaos and destabilization into neighboring countries. This is also true of Iraq on the other side of Iran, as the Anglo-American have undertaken, primarily through Iraq, a strategy of balkanizing the entire Middle East in a new imperial project." (See Marshall's Divide and Conquer: The Anglo-American Imperial Project.)

Now I ask specifically: *Who has egg on the face? My detractors me?* Andrew Marshall is a respected author; he is clearly saying here that terrorists looked like Anglo-American covert operatives and that the entire Mumbai operation was an attempt by Anglo-American forces to destabilize India and push it further into the Israel-US orbit. Marshall also says that Americans are keen to dismember Pakistan -- it is clear that in this project, America needs India as a firm ally -- it cannot afford Indo-Pak friendship at least on a long-term basis. The Mumbai attack thus was multi-layered -- and one of the reasons could be to warn India that the Anglo-American elite has the power to penetrate India, with the help of its own people. Clearly, the attackers would not have come from the sea route without some kind of a connivance of Gujarat and Maharashtra Governments with the terrorists, and the connivance of RSS type Hindutva elements as I will prove later in the piece.

This afore-mentioned report appeared on the BBC, a news agency which pro-west, Muslim-haters and all NRIs love to see. *Now I ask these people:* why are you adopting double standards? Now a BBC report is inconvenient because it militates against your idea of what happened in Mumbai?

Even the Indian Government is aware of this reality. That is why it is not issuing statements in a hurry and that is why the kind of Islamo-phobia seen earlier after Bomb Blasts is not being seen now.

A second report is more shocking -- some news channels captured it but then it went off air:

One Police officer who encountered the gunmen as they entered the Jewish Center (Nariman House) said the attackers were white. "I went into the building late last night" he said. "I got a shock because they were white. I was expecting them to look like us. They fired three shots. I fired 10 back".

The Nariman House affair brings the Mossad angle to the fore. Two of the 'hostages' killed in the Nariman House were identified as Rabbi Gabreil Holtzberg and his wife Rivka. They ran the center as spokespersons of the Chabad Lubavitch movement.

Now the Chabad movement is one of the many sects within Israel and Judaism. But of late it has come under the Zionist influence. Now what is Zionism? A brief digression would suffice: Zionism is the political ideology of racist Jews, just like Hindutva is the political ideology of a section of 'race conscious' Hindus. Just as a majority of Sanatani Hindus have opposed Hindutva, a majority of Jews oppose Zionism and its fascist-anti-religious tone.

In opposition to the teachings of Judaism, the orthodox Jew religion, Zionists want to dominate the world; they see the 'Jewish race' as the most important, almost divine, race in the world. Zionists are opposed to democracy and even the concept of nationhood. Zionists believe in creating murder and mayhem as a matter of policy.

In America, Zionists have entered into an alliance with the American elites--the White-Anglo-Saxon Protestant (WASP) forces--which rule America. The reasons for this alliance lie in the way the Zionist agenda matches with that of the American corporate and WASP elite and is beyond the scope of this article.

People who do not understand Zionism will never be able to understand what happened in Mumbai.

Back to members of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement killed at Nariman House--people have asked how come the Rabbi and his wife were killed if Mossad is involved in the Mumbai terror attack.

The answer to this is being forwarded by Jewish anti-Zionist websites. They also detail the sectarian history of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement.

The attack on Mumbai spotlights the ultra-orthodox (haredi) Chabad-Lubavitch community and its international outreach network. When Chabad outreach (keruv) started in the 1950s, it seemed rather intellectually dishonest because the organization used nostalgia for a never-existent Jewish past as a hook to enmesh secular or secularized Jews in ultra-orthodox (haredi) practice as hozrim bitshuvah (returnees, sometimes improperly called baalei tshuvah), but on the whole the activity was mostly harmless in contrast with current Chabad activities, which long ago crossed the border into dangerous territory.

As the Lubavitcher organization has become larger and wealthier -- partially because mobilization for keruv has brought large contributions, members have shown a propensity for corruption.

Yet, the Lubavitchers have worked closely with Jewish racists like Lawrence Summers and Alan Dershowitz in the ongoing attempt to control discourse on American campuses. The wealthy Russian Lubavitcher hozer bitshuvah Lev Leviev openly supports Zionist terrorism and settlement building in the Palestinian occupied territories. Possibly because of Leviev Chabad-Lubavitch has openly become involved in Putin's struggles with Russian Jewish oligarchs.

Still, there is an even more sinister aspect to the Lubavitcher organization.

Because Lubavitcher outreach offices are located in some of the most important political, corporate and university centers throughout the world, the Lubavitchers have put together a network that is incomparable for corporate and international espionage as well as for the secret exchange of information. Because Chabad Houses could potentially act as safe houses, where there would be no record of a person's stay.

Most people do not take the Lubavitchers seriously, but I have visited Chabad houses and encountered senior Israeli government or military officials (and probably intelligence agents). One can easily imagine that Neocon intelligentsia trying to develop a relationship with Hindutva (?????????)

intelligentsia or politicians might have used the Chabad Nariman House as a meeting place.

Here a Jew is saying that he has visited Chabad houses and that he has seen covert operations going on and the involvement of senior Government and military officials of Israel. This Jew writer is also talking openly about a Neo-Con-Chabad-Hindutva tie-up!

The Jew writer mentions the Mossad involvement in Chabad Houses:

Because the Lubavitchers provide an unconditional welcome to all Jews in the hope of bringing them closer to the Lubavitcher way of life, the Lubavitchers have been open to potential subversion by Israeli intelligence organizations. Mossad and Shin Bet found it quite easy to penetrate the haredi community during the Yossele Affair. Jewish politics has often involved infiltration and subversion of one political group by another. The David Project Israel Advocacy organization has used its educational programs as a means to infiltrate more mainstream Jewish communal organizations with radical Islamophobes and Jabotinskian Zionists.

To Zionize haredi groups that practice outreach, the Israeli government need only give encouragement to Zionistically indoctrinated Hebrew-speaking young people to participate in outreach programs, and in a few years the targeted haredi community is thoroughly enmeshed in Zionist thinking while Israeli intelligence organizations have a new crop of *saya'nim* in place ready to serve in Zionist covert operations.

What is a *saya'nim*? Go to the link <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sayanim> and it states that "*Saya'nim* (Hebrew: "helpers") is a term used to describe Jews living outside Israel who volunteer to provide assistance to the Mossad.[1] This assistance includes facilitating medical care, money, logistics, and even overt intelligence gathering, yet *saya'nim* are only paid for their expenses. No official number is known, but estimates put the number of *saya,nim* in the thousands. The existence of this large body of volunteers is one reason why the Mossad operates with fewer case officers than fellow intelligence agencies." Now back to the link <http://eaazi.blogspot.com/2008/12/chabad-lubavitch-dangerous-game.html> from which I was quoting the Jewish writer originally. He says that the Lubavitcher *shluchim* (outreach emissaries) Gavriel Noach and Rivka Holtzberg fit the '*saya'nim*' profile to a "T" - especially Rivkah.

So the two people killed in Nariman House fit the *Saya'nim*, that is Jews outside Israel who volunteer to provide assistance to Mossad, profile!

Now What other Proof do you Want?

The Jewish writer of the afore-mentioned link himself asks the question: *Would Mossad have killed the Rabbi and his wife in Nariman House?*

And He Provides the Answer.

Zionists have always used dead Jews to build sympathy for Zionist goals and as cover for Zionist crimes against humanity.

Ben-Gurion explicitly stated that he would sacrifice German Jewish children for the sake of Zionism while the Zionist leadership probably learned the benefit of sacrificing Zionist operatives from the 1946 Kielce Pogrom. In this incident (Jewish) Soviet and Zionist agents probably worked together to make sure that surviving Polish Jews chose emigration to Palestine over a return to Poland.

Because the Kielce Zionist recruiters were killed during the pogrom, the events leading up to the pogrom was rendered forever unobtainable.

Some reports of the Mumbai attack indicate that the Holtzbergs rented space to the attack planners over the past few months and thereby helped make the operation far more effective.

An opportunity to interrogate the Holtzbergs would have helped investigators immensely.

Again What More Do you Want?

Another piece of massive evidence: In a telephone interview with CBC News from outside the Center (Nariman House), freelance journalists Arun Asthana said that there are reports that some of the militants had stayed at a guest house there (Nariman House) for up to 15 days before the attack. "They had a huge mass of ammunition, arms and food there", Asthana said.

Now other reports have also confirmed that a huge mass of food was ordered by the residents of the Nariman House. This food was enough for 30-40 people for several days. Why was this amount of food ordered? Also why was Nariman House not assaulted till the very last? A Gujarati Hindu resident of Mumbai came onto TV on CNN-IBN to say at around 3.30 AM or so, that for two months suspicious activities were going in Nariman House. A lot of foreigners were seen coming in and going out. This matter was reported to the Police. But no one took action.

The CNN-IBN did not repeat the news; then it was only when the common people of Mumbai threatened to storm the Nariman House the NSG commandos were moved in--why this delay in assaulting Nariman House when only two terrorists were holed in there?

This is sheer official complicity and nothing else--AN

Investigation into the Whole Nariman House Affair is a Must.

Then it was reported that "somehow surprising to learn that the terrorists in Cama hospital in Mumbai were fluently speaking Marathi. The terrorists who

are said to have fired in Cama hospital talked to an employee clad in civil dress in Marathi, reports a Marathi daily 'Maharashtra Times'.

The newspaper said the terrorists who targeted ATS chief Hemant Karkare, police commissioner Ashok Kamte and encounter specialist Vijay Salaskar were speaking Marathi fluently.

The newspaper claims the terrorists having fired at two watchmen in uniform asked the other beside them on gunpoint in Marathi, 'You are here an employee?' The employee caught the legs of the terrorist and said, 'I am not working here. My wife has suffered from heart attack and I have come here to admit her.' The terrorist asked him again in Marathi, 'You are speaking true or false?' The employee answered, 'No, by God I am speaking true.' On this the terrorist let him go.

Now What do we Make of That?

Another report says that traditional Jews of Mumbai who have migrated to Israel speak fluent Marathi and are known to have been recruited by Mossad!

The death of Hemant Karkare remains a mystery. All official versions are contradictory: some say he was killed near CST, some that he died near Cama hospital, some near Metro cinema, and some that he was killed while in a Police jeep. Also, where did the bullet hit him? Some say on the neck and some near the heart. Karkare was shown on TV wearing a bullet proof vest-- he could not have been shot in neck in that case, unless there was a sniper waiting for him.

Also if he was shot near heart, then when did he take out his vest? No one has even bothered to answer this question. Also, another facet is coming to light: that Karkare was killed near Cama -- but Kaamte and Salaskar in the Metro shootout!

Intelligent people -- what do you have to say now? It is becoming obvious that...

1. Several terrorists might have been white.
2. Were they International mercenaries? If yes, then from which country? Who collected them? It is well known that Mossad and CIA have several mercenary organizations, including so-called Jihadi ones on their list. They create Jihad and manipulate Muslims disaffected by the Islamophobia in the world. Some of them might have been used in the Mumbai attack. But why were they carrying American, British, Mauritian and Malaysian passports?

3. Who were the Marathi speaking Karkare killers? The lane next to the Cama Hospital is a deserted one -- it goes straight to the backyard of the Mumbai CID Headquarters. Anonymous sources in the Police have revealed that Karkare was taken there, by a joint team of anti-Karkare, pro-Hindutva Mumbai Police officers, and Chota Rajan men. Now Karkare was opposed to Chota Rajan. Salaskar was anti-Pradeep Sharma, another Mumbai senior Police officer now in jail, for working as Rajan's shooter. So the Marathi speaking terrorists could either have been Jews with some connection to Mumbai -- or hired killers of the Hindutva brigade or men of Chota Rajan.
4. It seems that several things went on simultaneously -- the Maharashtra Chief Minister Vilas Rao Deshmukh was in Kerala when the Mumbai attack began at 9.30 PM on 26th November. Then by 11PM Deshmukh had informed the Home Minister Shivraj Patil--the latter has started proceedings to send the NSG Commandos. So Deshmukh knew about what was happening by 11PM--then why was there no Mumbai Police on various locations between 9.30 and 1am, the time when Karkare arrived? The Mumbai ATS is a separate organization. it does not lead the Mumbai Police. So the 40,000 strong Mumbai Police was absent from the scene of action between 11pm to 1am and then Karkare arrived and he was killed along with his men! Isn't there something fishy here? Obviously the Mumbai Police was kept deliberately away between 11pm and 1am, the time period when terrorists were killing people merrily. Then Karkare must have been told--and he went there expecting Mumbai police personals to be there--but there were none or only a few! And he was killed!

The author is a freelance writer, historian and poet.

Amaresh Misra, December 3, 2008
<http://www.countercurrents.org/misra031208.htm>

PAKISTAN IN NO WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR MUMBAI ATTACKS: ZARDARI

Asif Ali Zardari denied his nation was involved in last week's deadly attacks on Mumbai, India, and told on Tuesday he's seen no evidence that a suspect in custody is a Pakistani national as Indian officials claim. "I think these are stateless actors who have been operating all throughout the region," Zardari said on CNN's "Larry King Live" in an interview set to air Tuesday night. "The gunmen plus the planners, whoever they are, stateless actors who have

been holding hostage the whole world." Zardari confirmed he is willing to have Pakistani security officials participate with India in a joint investigation. "The state of Pakistan is in no way responsible," Zardari told King. "... Even the White House and the American CIA have said that today. The state of Pakistan is, of course, not involved. We're part of the victims, Larry. I'm a victim. The state of Pakistan is a victim. We are the victims of this war, and I am sorry for the Indians, and I feel sorry for them." Asked about the suspect in custody, Zardari said: "We have not been given any tangible proof to say that he is definitely a Pakistani. I very much doubt it, Larry, that he is a Pakistani." He said Pakistan is looking into the allegation, but added, "Like I said, these are stateless individuals. ... We've had incidents the past two days in Karachi where we've lost more than 40 to 45 people, hundreds injured. These are stateless actors who are moving throughout this region." "I am definitely going to look into all the possibility of any proof that is given to us," Zardari said. "At the moment, these are just names of individuals. No proof, no investigation, nothing has been brought forward." If proof of the individuals' involvement is provided, he said, "We would try them in our courts, we would try them in our land, and we would sentence them." Indian authorities said the suspect in custody was trained by Lashkar-e-Tayyiba.

Zardari said that Lashkar-e-Tayyiba is a "banned organization" in Pakistan and around the world. "If indeed they are involved, we would not know," he said. "Again, they are people who operate outside the system. They operate like -- al Qaeda, for instance, is not state-oriented. They operate something on that mechanism, and ... I've already offered India full cooperation on this incident, and we intend to do that." "I'm firmly committed to fighting terrorism per se," he said. "That's why we are fighting them every day, Larry." Asked about the possibility of Indian military strikes against terrorist camps in Pakistan, Zardari said: "I would not agree with that because this is a time to come together and do a joint investigation and look at the problem in the larger context. We have a larger threat on our hands ... it's a threat throughout the region. So that would be counterproductive." Pakistan and India, both nuclear powers, have a tense relationship and have fought three wars since the subcontinent was divided in 1947. On whether the Mumbai attacks could trigger a fourth war, Zardari said: "Larry, democracies don't go to war. All those wars you're talking about did not take place in any democracy. They all happened in the times of dictators. ..." "The whole nation of Pakistan is united to ... becoming friends with India," he said.

The Nation, December 3, 2008

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Politics/03-Dec-2008/Pakistan-in-no-way-responsible-for-Mumbai-attacks-Zardari>

HAFIZ SAEED DENIES ROLE IN MUMBAI ATTACKS

Lashkar-e-Tayyaba leader Hafiz Muhammad Saeed has said he cannot be extradited since he has never been convicted either in India or Pakistan. Saeed, whose name figures in the list of 20 fugitives wanted by India from Pakistan after the Mumbai attacks, termed the demand for his head a 'crude attempt' to divert attention of the people from the failures of Indian intelligence and security agencies.

In an interview with Indian Outlook magazine to hit the stands on Saturday (tomorrow), Saeed said: "I have never been convicted either in India or in Pakistan on any charge. On the other hand, a criminal case is still pending against BJP leader LK Advani for masterminding Muhammad Ali Jinnah's murder."

He said Pakistan never demanded "Advani's extradition despite this pending case." On the other hand, the Indian leadership is using Pakistan as a punching bag to cover its failures at home, Saeed added.

The Lashkar leader warned that his organisation would fight alongside Pakistani forces, in case India launched an attack. "It is up to the Pakistani government and Army how to react to any misadventure by the Indians. Like any other patriotic Pakistani, we will stand with the Army if there is any aggression."

Asked about India's allegation that Mumbai attacks were masterminded in Pakistan, Saeed replied it was not for the first time India was making the charge, and it would again be proven wrong again.

"The Indian leadership was quick to blame Pakistan for masterminding the blasts in Samjhota express and Malegaon. Yet their own security and intelligence agencies have finally arrested an Indian army officer as the actual mastermind," he said. On the Mumbai attacker who has been arrested and has reportedly confessed being a Lashkar militant from Pakistan, he said it was a 'cooked-up confessional statement'.

Completely denying any Lashkar involvement in Mumbai attacks, he said "Lashkar does not believe in killing civilians." Saeed charged that India was not interested in properly investigating the Mumbai attacks. "They are only interested in blaming Pakistan, evident from the fact that they started naming Pakistan even while the operation was still under way."

The Nation, December 4, 2008

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Politics/05-Dec-2008/Hafiz-Saeed-denies-role-in-Mumbai-attacks>

ISI PLAYING KEY ROLE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY: GILANI

Terming Indian allegation against ISI of being involved in Mumbai terror attacks baseless, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani on Friday underlined that the agency was playing a pivotal role for national security of the country.

The PM again told India to stop blaming Pakistan for the Mumbai mayhem, maintaining that befitting response would be given to non-state elements who were disrupting peace. He told ISI Chief Lt-Gen Ahmed Shuja Pasha in a briefing given to him at the PM's House.

Sources said during the briefing, the PM was brief on various thorny issues like situation after Mumbai blasts, operation in tribal areas, national security and other matters at length.

He emphasized that Pakistan strongly condemned the blasts and had offered its full cooperation to India in this regard. He was told that there was no threat to Pakistan security as ISI was working in a very efficient manner. India must stop blaming Pakistan, he held.

The PM was of the view that Pakistan itself is a victim of terrorism and has no aggressive designs against any country. He said that some stateless elements are propagating negatively, adding that their nefarious designs will never succeed.

He further said that the government is taking down to earth steps for the development of tribal areas, adding that no compromise will be made on national security matters. "We want peaceful relations with all countries, as Pakistan is a peace loving country," he maintained.

Sources further added that Ahmed Shuja Pasha gave a detailed briefing to PM concerning national security issues, adding that ISI is fully committed and equipped to give a befitting response to any aggression.

According to sources, Pasha informed the PM that ongoing operation in tribal areas is going on successfully; adding national security institutions are always ready to cope with any challenge.

The Nation, December 6, 2008

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Politics/06-Dec-2008/ISI-playing-key-role-for-national-security-Gilani>

PAKISTAN'S DEMARCHE TO INDIA

A demarche was made to the Indian High Commissioner by the Foreign Secretary who met him today. The High Commissioner was informed that the Government of Pakistan had initiated investigations on its own into the allegations that have surfaced concerning involvement of any individual or entity in Pakistan in the Mumbai attacks.

The Foreign Secretary noted that to carry forward these investigations, we require detailed information/evidence. In this context, while

reiterating our suggestion for joint investigations, the Foreign Secretary proposed that a high level delegation from Pakistan may visit New Delhi as soon as possible.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan, December 8, 2008
http://www.mofa.gov.pk/Press_Releases/2008/Dec/PR_385_08.htm

PAK NOT TO HAND OVER MUMBAI SUSPECTS TO INDIA: QURESHI

Pakistan on Tuesday said any of its citizens found to be linked to the Mumbai terror attacks will not be handed over to India, but tried under the country's own laws. "The arrests being made are for our own investigations. Even if allegations are proved against any suspect he will not be handed over to India," Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said on Tuesday.

Qureshi's remarks come as a Pakistan army confirmed that some key LeT terrorists had been rounded up during the crackdown on the banned organisation's camps on the outskirts of the Pakistan Occupied Kashmir capital of Muzaffarabad. The military spokesman had said the operations against banned groups would continue and more arrests are expected. Qureshi told reporters after offering Eid prayers in his hometown of Multan that though Pakistan will fully cooperate with India in investigating the Mumbai attacks, any Pakistani individual found to be linked or involved in the incident will be tried only in a Pakistani court. If necessary, he said, he would visit India to clarify Islamabad's position to New Delhi. His comments echoed a decision made by the cabinet yesterday to take action against any persons or groups involved in the Mumbai attacks only "within the ambit of Pakistani law". The meeting of the Defence Committee of the Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, also pledged to act on all information provided by India regarding the attacks. It also renewed Pakistan's offer to cooperate in probing the incident by setting up a joint investigative commission. India and the US have said Pakistan-based elements were responsible for planning and carrying out the attacks. Lashker-e-Taiba commander Zakiur Rehman Lakhwi, reportedly detained during a crackdown launched by Pakistani troops on Sunday, is suspected to be the mastermind of the Nov 26 Mumbai attacks. Pakistan has also rejected India's demand to hand over Jaish-e-Mohammed founder Maulana Masood Azhar and two India underworld dons and the 1993 Bombay blasts accused Dawood Ibrahim and Tiger Memon. Masood, who was released in Kandahar in exchange for the hijacked Indian airlines passengers in 1999, has reportedly been placed under restrictions in his hometown of Bahawalpur. India had demanded that the three be handed over in the wake of the Mumbai attacks.

The Nation, December 9, 2008
<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Regional/Islamabad/09-Dec-2008/Pak-not-to-hand-over-Mumbai-suspects-to-India-Qureshi>

INDIA-PAKISTAN COULD JOINTLY PROBE MUMBAI ATTACKS, IF NEEDED: AHMAD MUKHTAR

Defense Minister, Ahmad Mukhtar has said that India and Pakistan could jointly investigate into the Mumbai attacks, if needed and interrogation of the suspected persons could also be carried out. Talking to an Indian TV, Ahmad Mukhtar said that if any one found involved in Mumbai attacks, then Pakistan would be taking action under its own laws and regulations and the terrorism in no way would be tolerated. He said that the Lashkar-e-Taiba commander, Zaki ur Rahman Lakhvi has been arrested and the defunct Jaish Muhammad leader, Maulana Masood Azhar has been confined his residence.

The Nation, December 9, 2008
<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Politics/09-Dec-2008/IndiaPakistan-could-jointly-probe-Mumbai-attacks-if-needed-Ahmad-Mukhtar>

THE TERRORISM RIDDLE

Pakistan, never far from the news, has been firmly in the international spotlight since the Mumbai attacks. The steady drip of leaks from investigators in India and comments by Indian and American officials suggest that a Pakistani connection to the Mumbai attacks has been irrefutably established, at least in the eyes of the wider world. There is, however, a second, sometimes unspoken line of allegations against Pakistan: that we are a state with weak governance where terrorist groups have long run amok. Enough is enough, now put your house in order, the world led by India and the US is saying to Pakistan. We wish the world, and in particular the US, was not so selective in its memories of what has brought Pakistan to such a pass.

If Lashkar-i-Taiba has grown to a position of such strength that it could execute the Mumbai attacks with consummate ease, it has not done so in a vacuum. The Lashkar's capabilities grew on the watch of Gen Musharraf, a military strongman supported by American dollars and a White House that believed he was its best bet to take on Al Qaeda and the Taliban in the tribal areas. Even as it became clear that Gen Musharraf was not delivering on American demands and was possibly playing a dangerous double game by covertly supporting some militant groups, the Americans steadfastly stood by their man. The past year provided a particularly unedifying juxtaposition of a desperate general clinging to power and the resurgence of the two largest

political parties, the PPP and the PML-N, both of which unambiguously support closer ties with India. Throughout that tussle the US remained a silent spectator, keen not to upset a fading dictator. So militancy is a problem in the region not only because of Pakistan's numerous sins of commission but also because of the sins of the US, whose interests in Afghanistan led it to back a ruler who made neither Pakistan nor the region safer.

Making the region a safe place is no easy task now. The torching of 150 trucks laden with Nato supplies and vehicles outside Peshawar on Sunday confirms that a dangerous game of whack-a-mole is under way — hit the militants in one area and they pop up in another. This is possible because the militants are neither a monolith nor neatly divisible into separate groups; they have overlapped and melded in ways that have extended their overall reach. So for Pakistan the priority then must be to push back against all militants, not just the ones that the US or India wants us to stamp out. To do so would require a well-thought-out plan. However, no plan will succeed if foreign countries regard terrorism in Pakistan in a piecemeal way that only narrowly focuses on their own interests.

Editorial, *Dawn*, December 9, 2008
<http://www.dawn.com/2008/12/09/ed.htm>

PAKISTAN 'TO KEEP' MUMBAI SUSPECTS

Suspects identified as part of the investigation into last month's Mumbai attacks will face trial inside Pakistan rather than be handed over to India, the country's foreign minister says.

Shah Mehmood Qureshi made the comments on Tuesday, less than 48 hours after Pakistani forces reportedly raided a camp used by the group New Delhi blames for the co-ordinated attacks which killed more than 170 people.

Officials said Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, a member of the Lashkar-e-Taiba group identified by Indian officials as one of the suspected planners of the attack.

"The arrests are being made for our own investigations. Even if allegations are proved against any suspect, he will not be handed over to India," Qureshi said.

"We will proceed against those arrested under Pakistani laws."

Sources said about 15 suspected Lashkar-e-Taiba members had been detained in the town of Muzaffarabad in Pakistani-controlled Kashmir on Sunday afternoon.

Committed

Writing in the New York Times on Tuesday, Asif Ali Zardari, Pakistan's president, said the raid was evidence of his country's resolve in cracking down on who may have had a role in the attacks.

He said Pakistan was "committed to the pursuit, arrest, trial and punishment" of all people inside Pakistan who were involved.

Zardari also said that the peace process with India must continue in order to "foil the designs of the terrorists".

However, the Associated Press news agency reported unnamed Lashkar fighters as saying that the camp was abandoned by the group in 2004 and had since been used by Jamaat-ud-Dawa, Lashkar's parent organisation, for education and charity work.

Lashkar-e-Taiba has denied any role in the deadly rampage, but Indian officials say the sole attacker captured alive has told them that Lakhvi recruited him for the mission and that Lakhvi and another suspected Lashkar commander, Yusuf Muzammil, planned the assault.

News of the arrests emerged hours after Condoleezza Rice, the US secretary of state, urged Pakistan to act quickly and said there was evidence the country was used by "non-state actors" to mount the attacks.

"I do think that Pakistan has a responsibility to act," Rice said in a television interview.

Islamabad has denied any of its state agencies were involved in the attacks in India's financial hub.

Aljazeera, December 9, 2008

<http://english.aljazeera.net/news/asia/2008/12/200812965016237597.html>

INDIA NAMES MUMBAI SUSPECTS

Indian police have released the names or aliases of nine suspected gunmen killed during last month's deadly attacks in the city of Mumbai.

Passport photographs of eight of the men were released on Tuesday.

The body of the ninth gunman was said to have been too badly burned for an image to be released.

Police said all were from Pakistan

Reports suggest the information was obtained from the only attacker, named as Azam Amir Qasab, who was captured alive and is now in police custody being interrogated.

Rakesh Maria, a senior police official, said: "All of them were given aliases during training to prevent them from knowing each others original names."

Matt McClure, Al Jazeera's correspondent in New Delhi, said: "Indian police came to know this from the interrogation of the sole surviving member of the ten gunmen [Azam Amir Qasab].

"Apparently these men were sworn to secrecy, their identities were kept concealed from one another but during the voyage by sea from Karachi to Mumbai they did share personal details - and this is how the Indian police came to know their names and where they came from.

"Three attackers were said to have come from the central Pakistani city of Multan."

More Suspects

Indian police issued a statement on Tuesday saying they will question another suspect believed to have ties to the Mumbai attack.

India blames the Pakistani-based Lashkar-e-Taiba group for the attacks on 26 November that left at least 170 people dead during a 60-hour siege.

Pakistan has said it had arrested 16 people since Saturday but that it would not hand over any suspect to India.

Ahmad Mukhtar, the defence minister, said on Tuesday that those arrested include Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, Lashkar-e-Taiba's operations' director, and the head of another Islamic group fighting Indian rule in Kashmir.

Aljazeera, December 10, 2008

<http://english.aljazeera.net/news/asia/2008/12/2008129172738451959.html>

DAWA OFFICES IN MOST CITIES AND TOWNS SEALED: HAFIZ SAEED, OTHERS IN CUSTODY

Jamaatud Dawa Amir Hafiz Mohammad Saeed was placed under house arrest for three months as the countrywide crackdown on the organisation continued on Thursday.

Police sealed Qudisia Mosque, the headquarters of Jamaatud Dawa in Chauburji Chowk, and 18 other offices throughout Punjab.

Five offices were sealed in Sialkot. Twenty-five members of the organisation, including Ameer Hamza, Hafiz Abdul Rehman Makki, Maulana Naseer Hamza, Saifullah Mansoor, Dawa's director of public relations, Col (ret'd) Nazir Ahmed, and Rajanpur district president Talib Rehman, were detained. A large number of publications of the organisation were seized.

Hafiz Saeed was detained at his Johar Town residence under the maintenance of public order ordinance.

“Police have encircled the house of Hafiz Saeed and told him he cannot leave his home. They have told him that the detention order will be formally issued shortly,” his spokesman Abdullah Montazir said.

A police official told Dawn that detention orders had also been issued by the Punjab home department and raids were being conducted to arrest Yahya Mujahid, Abu Umer a number of other prominent members.

Sources said that an office of the organisation on Chamberlain Road, in Gawalmandi, had been sealed a few days ago.

In Peshawar, police sealed the provincial office of Jamaatud Dawa in Fowara Chowk.

However, Attiqur Rehman Chohan, the provincial spokesman for the Dawa, told Dawn from an unspecified place that the organisation had decided to close its offices in Peshawar and other cities and suspend its activities for the time being.

He said group’s leaders were in touch with the provincial government and major political parties and the issue would be raised in the national and provincial assemblies.

Security forces raided an office of the Dawa in Parhana area of Mansehra district and arrested five of its activists. Sources said that security personnel had sealed the relief camp-cum-office a day before Eidul Azha.

Six members of the organisation were arrested from its main relief camp on the Karakoram Highway, near Ghazikot Township, on Wednesday.

It was learnt that the district administration and police had not been informed about the raids.

In Rawalpindi, police sealed the Dawa’s local office on Circular Road.

The group’s office in Quetta was also sealed.

In Karachi, police sealed the central office of the Dawa in Gulshan-i-Iqbal.

City police chief Waseem Ahmed told Dawn that the office was sealed on a directive of the federal government and efforts were being made to track down top leaders of the religious outfit.

The government banned Jamaatud Dawa, arrested its top leaders, sealed its offices throughout the country and Azad Kashmir, froze its bank accounts and cancelled the declaration of its publication after the United Nations blacklisted the organisation for its alleged involvement in the Mumbai attacks and links with Al Qaeda, interior ministry sources said.

However, there was no official announcement about the banning of the organisation which was expected after a meeting of top security officials at the Foreign Office late in the night.

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi told PTV that India had so far not provided any evidence about Pakistanis' involvement in the Mumbai attacks.

He did not speak about any ban on the Dawa, but said the crackdown on the organisation was planned sometime ago. He said no one would be allowed to use Pakistani territory against any country. A spokesman for the State Bank said the central bank had frozen bank accounts of the organisation, its leaders and sister organisations — Al-Rashid Trust and Al-Akhtar Trust.

Dawn, December 12, 2008

<http://dawn.com/2008/12/12/top1.htm>

PAKISTAN ARRESTS MUMBAI SUSPECTS

Pakistan's prime minister has confirmed the arrest of two men that India says had a role in last month's attacks in Mumbai that left at least 171 people dead.

Yousuf Raza Gilani said in Multan city on Wednesday that Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi and Zarrar Shah, members of armed group Lashkar-e-Taiba, are being questioned by Pakistani investigators.

"They have been detained for investigation," Gilani said.

Confirmation of Lakhvi and Shah's arrest came a day after Indian police released the names or aliases of nine suspected attackers killed during the Mumbai assaults.

Police said all the men named were from Pakistan.

Trials in Pakistan

Gilani said he had no fresh information on whether Maulana Masood Azhar, leader of the Jaish-e-Muhammad group, was among those detained.

Both Lashkar and Jaish are banned in Pakistan.

Although neither Azhar nor his group have been named as suspects in the Mumbai attacks, he is on a list of 20 individuals that New Delhi has asked Pakistan to hand over.

Pakistan has come under pressure from the US to co-operate with India in the investigation into the Mumbai attacks.

But Islamabad has said that anyone arrested and accused of involvement in the attacks on India's financial capital will be tried in Pakistan.

About a dozen people have been arrested by Pakistani security forces so far, intelligence officials say.

Most were detained after a raid on a camp outside Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani Kashmir, the officials said.

Lashkar Front

The News, a Pakistani newspaper, reported on Tuesday that arrests were also made at offices of the Jamaat-ud-Dawa charity in the Mansehra and Chakdra districts of North West Frontier Province.

The organisation is considered by many analysts to be a front for Lashkar, which is designated a terrorist organisation by the US.

India has said that it wants the US to add Jamaat to its list of terrorist organisations.

Lashkar and Jaish were blamed for a 2001 attack on the Indian parliament that brought the two nuclear powers to the brink of war.

Aljazeera, December 10, 2008

<http://english.aljazeera.net/news/asia/2008/12/2008121085228795428.html>

ASSAULT ON INDIAN SECULARISM

In this age of ‘information proliferation’ through the internet and the comments made by the Indian scholars, appearing in the press, it was not difficult to develop the image of the ‘other side of the picture’ of the Mumbai mayhem, which triggered an aggressive policy of blame-game, directed towards Pakistan. Only a few such comments would help to build-up the picture: “Why was Karkare killed? The whole point of the current terror operation was to kill Karkare and his team who had committed the daring act of exposing the Saffron Brigade. Karkare was close to exposing the names of Praveen Togadia and Chota Rajan in the Malegaon blasts.”

“Karkare, Salaskar and Ashok Kaamte, the three police officers of the ATS killed in the terror attacks, were part of the anti-Pradeep Sharma group. Now the Indian media is talking about the underworld role. It is odd that all three police ATS officers killed should belong to the anti-Pradeep Sharma, anti-Chota Rajan group.”

“We owe this much to Karkare and the brave ATS men who had shown the courage to arrest Praggya Singh, Raj Kumar Purohit, the army officer and several others.”

“RSS sympathisers are cheering Karkare’s death. They say that he fell victim to the paap (sin) committed by him in arresting Sadhus etc.”

“Our worst fears have come true. It is clear that Mossad is involved in the whole affair. An entire city has been attacked by Mossad and probably units of mercenaries. It is not possible for one single organisation to plan and execute such a sophisticated operation. It is clear that this operation was backed by communal forces from within the Indian State.”

“If we are true Sanatanis and true Hindus and true Nationalists and true Patriots, we have to see this act as a clear attack by anti-national deshdrohi forces.”

“Crowds of Hindus and Muslims have come together in a united bid against what they see as a Mossad plot. These crowds are saying that if the police is not assaulting Nariman House, they will do so.

The old adage: *Is Ghar ko Aag lag gai ghar kay chiragh sey* (This house got burnt from the flames lit by their own lamp) has explicitly come true in the gruesome tragedy that gripped the beautiful commercial city of Mumbai, killing around 170 people and several hundred wounded on November 26, 2008. The easy scapegoat — Pakistan and ISI — was the chatter initially, but this time, the story boomeranged on the anti-nationalist forces — the Saffron Brigade, which is a fascist force like that of Hitler, Stalin or Mussolini, the proponents of the so-called ideology of Hindutva. This radical Hindu organisation is well known for the massacre of Muslims, Dalits (low caste Hindus) and Christians. Hindustan, they uphold is only for the Hindus, and the rest either be excommunicated or reduced to ashes. The perverted men of this hate philosophy are the notorious Modi, Advani, Bal Thackeray and a whole lot, under different militant groups like RSS, BJP, VHP and Bajrang Dal etc.

It was a homegrown conspiracy of the Hindu militant groups in collusion with Mossad. The very few terrorists who took over Taj and Oberai hotels and the railway station, their main target was Hemant Karkare and the officers of the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS), who were killed, for the reason that Karkare was a brave nationalist officer, who was trying to expose the terrorist activities of the Saffron Brigade, in the Malegaon blasts and the main culprit like Praggya Singh, an army officer who, along with other noted personalities of the BJP, RSS, Bajrang Dal and VHP were arrested. In retaliation Karkare and other members of ATS were eliminated and dastardly attacks were carried-out as the cover-up for the real crime.

The gory drama was meticulously planned by the Hindu terrorist organisations. The Ahmadabad Carnage was carried-out by these very groups. Nathu Ram Godssay, belonged to RS, who killed Mahatma Gandhi. Babri Mosque was demolished by such Hindu fundamentalists. What is very revealing in the whole killing spree is that, the centre of attack was the Nariman House in Mumbai, which is known to be the abode of Jews. Mossad's dirty hand in this carnage has patently been exposed. Targeting Muslims and Pakistanis for all acts of terror inside India now rings hollow. The truth is that, Muslims in India are the most traumatised minority, followed by other non-Hindus.

There are secularist Hindus and Muslims, who strive for the liberal democratic forces to prevail in India, but the fascist forces are political radicals, who are immensely communal in their approach and thinking. The same is true of Pakistan, where the majority is for liberal Islam and distributive justice. Every fair election held in Pakistan testifies this reality. We also have some obscurantist forces in Pakistan, who continue to create problems for the

elected governments. Mossad is now very active in India, in collusion with the communal parties to cause maximum harm to the Muslims. It was also their election strategy to deprive the Congress of the support of the Muslims and other secular elements, in the forthcoming elections. The Mumbai carnage should be an eye opener for the secular forces in India that their enemy is neither Pakistan, nor the Indian Muslims. The enemy is indigenous and from within, comprising some big names like L K Advani, Bal Thackeray and the very famous one of the Gujrat carnage — Narendra Modi. The 'Saffron Sensibility' found its worst manifestations in the horrifying episodes of killing Muslims as if they were objects of sport. A British historian Froude, rightly said: "Wild animals never kill for sports. Man is the only one whom torture, death of his fellow-creatures is amusing in itself. It was a matter of pride for some of the killers in the Ahmedabad carnage in February 2002, as one of them 'Chawal' heroically confessed how he and his accomplices first hacked former Congress MG Ehsan Jafri apart, limb from limb and then made a heap of his body parts, which they set on fire. Every one in this killing game was proclaiming what was his score, i.e., how many Muslims he had killed — *Chun-chun ke mara hai* (we specifically hunted them down).

"One Bajrangi, a major killer also claims: We hacked burnt, set on fire; many things were done...we, believe in setting them on fire because these bastards say they don't want to be cremated. They're afraid of it, they say this and that will happen to them....I have a wish that I go to Juhapura — a town dominated by Muslims — around seven or eight lakh Muslims live there. I will finish them off...at least 25-50,000 should die." And so on.

In the Gujrat massacre, everything was planned and executed under the supervision of MPs, police and even judges were part of them in the organised killing of the Muslims: "There were the cool strategists, leaders, officials, ideologists. And there were the foot soldiers, who raped, killed and looted. The genocide was clinical." "We killed these pigs, four or five of us, and then we hung the pig up from the mosque and raised a saffron flag. For three days absolute anarchy reigned. Execution squads were formed, composed of the dedicated cadre of Hindu organisations such as the Vishva Hindu Parishad, the Rashtriya Swayasevak Sangat, the Bajrang Dal, the Kissan Sangat, the Akhand Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad and the Bhartiya Janta Party. Mosques and darghas were destroyed across the state. Seventy three Muslim religious places were torched in Ahmadabad alone, 55 in Sabarkantha, 22 in Vadodra" (These episodes are reported in the *Truth*, Tehelka issue Vol 4, Nov 2007). The Mumbai mayhem was also a well-planned affair. No single terrorist or organisation could have executed such a massacre. Israeli connection is evident from the new terrorist war strategy, which has not so far been seen in the context of Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, where mostly the suicide bombers were used as weapon of terror. But what is alarming, that a very large number of the militant Hindu groups are well organised and in cooperation

with each other are out to destroy India's secularism. Killing Indian Muslims is their prime target to forge greater animosity between India and Pakistan. They wish to subvert plans for restoring peace in the region, or settle the issue of Kashmir. This is the pathological mind-set of the radical Hindus, in the so-called biggest democracy of the world, and supported by the "oldest democracy of the world — USA." Pakistan is condemned for all ills and evils, but India is a 'paragon' of democratic norms and values. "What a semantic aberration, for a country where communal riots are so constant features of its existence, Dalit organisations operating in USA, Canada, and I guess, in other foreign countries are full of venom' against the Hindu caste system. When I met some of them in the United Nations, I could not believe how bitter were the followers of Dr Ambedkar, who had drafted the Indian constitution. Like typical elephant, India has two sets of teeth — one inside and the other for outer exposure. Indian democracy is one such façade."

Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah was a far sighted leader, who even much before the creation of Pakistan, in late December 1938, remarked: "It is a misfortune of our country, indeed it is a tragedy that the High command of the Congress is determined, absolutely determined to crush all the communities and culture in this country and establish Hindu Raj. They talk of swaraj, but they mean Hindu Raj." This was the main reason which actualised creation of Pakistan, on the basis of the Two Nations Theory.

The Mumbai mayhem no doubt depicts the other side of the picture of 'secular' India.

The writer is a former chief of army staff.

General Mirza Aslam Beg, *The Nation*, December 14, 2008
<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Opinions/Columns/15-Dec-2008/Assault-on-Indian-secularism>

MUMBAI MENACE, A PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

India has undergone a psychological transformation and is getting awfully boisterous as it rubs shoulders with super powers, and in the present Post-Cold-War context, USA indeed is a hyper-power. India has been elevated to be its strategic partner. The latent purpose is to augment its clout in both, the military and economic spheres and blow it to a proportion that it is able to challenge and serve as a counter-weight to China. The image of being at par with China – a grand rival in the geo-strategic arena gives it a false feeling of grandeur. USA has earmarked India for a prestigious position to be the surrogate power of USA, which now comprises Afghanistan as well. A similar role was earmarked for Israel in the Middle East.

The subsequent defeats of USA in Iraq and Afghanistan, besides the phenomenal victory of Hezbollah in Lebanon, have shattered the US dream of

restructuring Middle East and expansion of Israeli territory. US strategy has now seemingly shifted towards Afghanistan, in which India has been inducted as an important player and quite naively Bush administration feels that it will contribute to the “final” victory. When the chips are down, India would never venture to confront China.

In order to justify India’s belligerent role, Afghanistan, which has traditionally been part of Central Asian region has now been proclaimed by USA to be a part of South Asia, which is already suffering from the coercive power syndrome, due to the territorial size India possesses. Practically every neighbour of India has experienced the pain and agony, due to the empire-building propensity, India has inherited from British colonialists. Henry Kissinger, in his paper presented to the three-day high level conference held at Beijing (September 4-6, 1996) on China and Asia in the 21st Century, said: “India emerges into great power status. It can be expected to return to the policies of the British Raj which were after all conceived by the Indian civil service under the Viceroys located first in Calcutta and towards the end of British rule in New Delhi. It will seek an influential if not dominant role in the arc extending from Aden to Singapore.”

Kissinger’s contention proved right except that it was more towards outright dominance and control. Except for Pakistan, which refused to play second fiddle to India, all other South Asian countries succumbed to its pressure. Sikkim was annexed; Bhutan totally subservient, Bangladesh, its own creation, very soon revolted to its exploitative measures and is not ready to kneel down to its imperialistic demands. Sri Lanka is an eloquent testimony that Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelan, the LTTE, perhaps one of the worst breed of terrorism, has been trained by the Indian Army. Nepal and Maldives have gone through their own traumatic experiences. The creation of Pakistan, left two options for India, to accept it in good grace and reconcile to the reality, even feel relieved that the subcontinent was only divided into two – India and Pakistan.

Z A Bhutto in his book “The myth of Independence” has rightly said that it would have been broken into several more pieces. His contention was not unfounded. F. Saleem, a statistically oriented journalist, maintains that “the house-grown militant entities have spread like wild fire all through India’s 2973.190 sq km of land now. According to South Asian Terrorism Portal at least 231 of the Indian 608 districts are currently afflicted at differing intensities by various insurgent and terrorist monuments.” There are different breeds of terrorists in India – the right, the left and outright separatists. The left breed of terrorists are perhaps the most brutal ones like People’s Guerilla Army, People’s war groups, Marxist Communist Centre, the Communist party of India, Janashake and so on. The breakdown, as provided by F. Saleem is indeed alarming. In Assam, there are at least 35 known separatist groups. In Manipur there is Peoples Liberation. In Meghlana, Peoples Liberation front of

Meghlana. In Nagaland alone the insurgent groups are operating. In Punjab 12, in Tiripura 30, Mezoram has 2, besides Arunchal Dragon Force in Arunchal Pradesh. With so many terrorist groups operating within India, the Indian Prime Minister dubs Pakistan as the epicenter of terrorism. There is an attributional error, to blame Pakistan for every event that happens. No time is lost in attributing the locus of causality to Pakistan and not look inwards which is required of a mature individual or a nation. Externals distort realities and Internals are dispassionate self introspectionists.

This is the chronic malady that India suffers from a strategy of self-deception. India is keen to project Pakistan in as many shades of dark as possible and the “India’s shining image” is self gratifying. But realities have the inherent tendency to bounce up and destroy all myths and deceptions. The Parliament attack episode, which was attributed to Pakistan, ultimately came to surface that, it was an indigenous operation. *Ilzaam ham un ko daitey they Kasur apna nikal aaya* (We always attributed blame to you, but the fault ultimately surfaced, and it was ours). Of the two decisional choices, India adopted a recalcitrant approach to overwhelm Pakistan, with its massive weaponry including high profile weapons of Mass Destruction. Quaid-e-Azam had a peaceful orientation. He thought that partition of the sub-continent would start off on a paradigm of peace and inter-existence and that they would bury the past. He said it while leaving for Karachi to lay the foundation of Pakistan: “The past must be buried and let us start afresh as two independent sovereign states of Hindustan and Pakistan. I wish Hindustan prosperity and peace.” He thought that they would live like peaceful neighbours – Canada and USA.

Dr Rajendra Prasad, a veteran congress leader, held a different view: “Distrust which is the basis of the proposal is bound to grow and any hope that after separation things will settle down and the independent states will soon become friendly, will have been built on sand.” V.P Menon’s famous contention: “Divide in order to Unite” is the overriding factor in the Indo-Pak Relations and there is still a lurking hope that some day Pakistan could collapse, and beg to be reintegrated into the Indian Union, is as self-defeating as ridiculous. Similarly for Kashmir, against all moral commitments, the great democratic leaders like Nehru reneged on the promises and commitments and that militarily they would sustain the occupation. This again is a very naïve appreciation of history and also the minds of the Kashmiris in the Indian Held territory. Six to seven lacs Indian soldiers, are unable to stifle their voices. Despite 60-70 thousand casualties, the Kashmiri issue as patently vibrant as it was several dictates back. The will of the people cannot be suppressed for very long. The liberation struggle has created several organizations, which unfortunately have been dubbed as terrorists in orientation. Freedom struggle can in no way be equated with ‘terrorism’. Could George Washington be labeled ‘terrorist’?

After the cold war, USA, which was supposedly an ally of Pakistan, is now all out to support India. It is totally blinded to the stark realities of how pitiable is the plight of people living below the poverty line, caste hatred culminating into colossal human rights violations. The atrocities against the minorities, the lower caste Dalits, besides Christians and Muslims are of incredible proportion. Had Pakistan not felt the looming threat to its existence, democracy would have taken much deeper roots and it could be salvaged from the pitiable plight of being a praetorian state and now it is on the road to democracy, India never wants democracy to flourish, so that Pakistan's global image remains tarnished. The language and temper of India is markedly belligerent against Pakistan.

It is mainly because it sees that Pakistan is under pressure on its western orders. It is opportune time to pressurize Pakistan from the eastern side. The Mumbai affair is a ploy and part of strategy, which is aimed at breaking the 'Will' of Pakistan. The redeeming factor is that India has conscientious objectors like Arundhati Roy, who has written a very objective article: '9 is not 11 Nov isn't September (Daily Time 13 Dec 08) she said: "It's hard to understand why those who steer India's ship are so keen to replicate Pakistan's mistakes and call damnation upon this country by inviting the United States to further meddle clumsily and dangerously in our extremely complicated affairs. A super power never has allies. It only has agents." She further explains why war rhetoric is so rampant in India. "On the plus side, the advantage in going to war is that it's the best way for India to avoid facing up to the serious trouble building on our home front." This is India's diversionary technique. But to those who are close watchers of Pakistan know that Pakistan is always at its best when a threat comes from the eastern border. The unity which otherwise appears fragile in Pakistan, suddenly shoots up to an incredible limit. So never provoke Pakistan with the threat of war. "If you are scared to go to the brink, you are lost." (Forster Dulles)

Dr S M Rahman, *Pakistan Observer*, December 21, 2008
<http://pakobserver.net/200812/21/Articles03.asp>

US-INDIA GROWING NEXUS

The Mumbai blasts of December 26, 2008 will reverberate for a long time and cast dark shadows on the strategic alignment in the region and beyond. Pakistan needs to deliberate on the repercussions of these terror attacks, on its relations both with India and the US. To begin with the peace process is the first casualty of the grim episode. The relations at least in the short term with Delhi and Washington would be dependent upon Pakistan's response. The crack down on Jammāt-ud-Dawā is being watched critically by both and Pakistan would be expected to deal early

and effectively as per the joint demand of India and the US, as expressed in the UNSC resolution. Such pressure will continue to be mounted and the calls for "do more" would now be in this context. ...

What is the likely profile of Pakistan's relations with Washington under Obama can be easily surmised. Even if the current Mumbai incident passes without much damage to Pakistan's interests and image, its political fallout would be fairly serious. Pakistan has been portrayed in the international media as a "sanctuary for terrorists, a safe haven for Al-Qaeda," the investigation in the Mumbai tragedy and disclosures would only further exacerbate the situation and thus reinforce US concerns about Pakistan's capacity to control and overcome the homegrown extremists and terrorists.

The report of the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction, proliferation and terrorism, titled World at Risk could not have come at a worst time.

The report has been compiled by Wendy Sharman, Chairperson of the Foreign Policy transition team of the Obama Administration. The report has "singled out Pakistan for special attention as it poses a serious challenge to America's short and medium term national security interests." The commission has expressed the apprehension that "the next terrorist attack against the US is likely to originate from within FATA in Pakistan."

The report observed that whole Pakistan was a US ally "there is a grave danger it could also be an unwilling source of a terrorist attack on the US - possibly using weapons of mass destruction." The report was presented to President Bush on December 3, 2008 and the White House endorsed its conclusions and recommendations.

Our policy planners must reflect on the two contrasting perceptions of India and Pakistan both seemingly US allies and rethink and re-evaluate our policy on "terrorism" and revise its domestic policies to create greater harmony and unity, to face the impending challenges.
The writer is a former ambassador.

Tayyab Siddiqui, *The Nation*, December 22, 2008
<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Opinions/Columns/23-Dec-2008/USIndia-growing-nexus>

SINGH TONES DOWN RHETORIC: MASTERMIND OF MUMBAI ATTACKS REMAINS TO BE IDENTIFIED: CHINA

A day after Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee came close to creating a scare when he declared that India might act on its own if the world failed to get Pakistan to arrest alleged terrorists named by New Delhi, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh intervened to tone down the rhetoric, saying war was not the issue.

Indian news agencies, quoting Dr Singh, said he sought to allay fears of a war with Pakistan and said no one wanted a war. "There's no question of war. That is not the issue," he told journalists after attending parliament.

A statement by India's foreign ministry spokesman conveyed the impression that Dr Singh's remarks against war hysteria were aimed at Pakistan and not Mr Mukherjee. In response to a question "on reported statements from Pakistan about the right to defend their borders, in case of any aggression", the Indian spokesperson said: "The talk of war or creating war hysteria is diversionary. The issue is not defence of Pakistan but a terrorist attack on India from Pakistan."

Even if that interpretation was valid, Mr Mukherjee's unsettling comments on Monday appeared to stand neutralised by Dr Singh's intervention. Addressing Indian ambassadors from different world capitals in New Delhi Mr Mukherjee had warned on Monday that if the international community failed to get Pakistan to take effective action then "we are also clear that ultimately it is we who have to deal with this problem. We will take all measures necessary, as we deem fit, to deal with the situation".

Meanwhile, Press Trust of India reporting from Beijing quoted Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Qin Gang as urging India and Pakistan to maintain calm and to work together to investigate the "cause" of the terror attack on Mumbai and identify its mastermind.

"We hope to see the improvement of Indian-Pakistani relations," the spokesperson told a regular press conference. He was responding to questions on the tense South Asian situation after last month's terror attacks in Mumbai.

The identity of the mastermind of the Mumbai attacks "awaited further investigation by concerned countries," the spokesperson said, indicating, according to PTI, that Beijing was still unsure about New Delhi's assertion that all the 10 attackers were Pakistanis.

He called on India and Pakistan to "work together through peaceful consultations to investigate the cause of the attacks and combat terrorism," the official Xinhua news agency reported. "We hope the region will maintain its peace and stability," Mr Qin said.

He said improvement and development of the relationship between India and Pakistan, both important nations in South Asia, would help regional peace and stability. China would, as always, support efforts by both countries to improve bilateral relations and safeguard regional peace, Mr Qin said. He noted that China had strongly denounced the Mumbai attacks. "We agree that the international community should cooperate to fight terrorism," Mr Qin said.

Dr Singh too stressed the importance of international help. He said: "Pakistan government knows what to do. The terror machinery has to be dismantled. The international community should use its power to persuade

Pakistan to end terrorism.” Significantly, he also said that the non-state actors were practising terrorism aided and abetted by state establishments.

Jawed Naqvi, *Dawn*, December 24, 2008
<http://www.dawn.com/2008/12/24/top1.htm>

INDIA WHIPS UP TENSIONS

The Government of Pakistan emphatically rejects the unfortunate allegations leveled against Pakistan by the Prime Minister of India in New Delhi today.

Instead of responding positively to Pakistan’s offer of cooperation and constructive proposals, India has chosen to embark on a propaganda offensive.

It will not only ratchet up tensions but occlude facts and destroy all prospects of serious and objective investigations into the Mumbai attacks.

This approach is fraught with grave risks and will further vitiate the situation in South Asia. Only yesterday the Government of India was advised not to embark on political point scoring. Regrettably this advice has not been heeded.

Pakistan is a victim of terrorism. This pernicious phenomenon is regionally pervasive. Pakistan has suffered more terror attacks than India. But we have not lost our equanimity.

Pakistan is not a state sponsor of terrorism. Our civilian and armed forces casualties over the past year in terror attacks and in countering terrorism have been far more than that of India. The history and genesis of terrorism is well-known and need no repetition. Many South Asian states have been victims of all kinds and manifestations of terrorism.

The Government of Pakistan expects the Government of India to demonstrate restraint and responsibility. The policy of casting accusations without uncovering full facts and even while the investigations are still continuing is irresponsible. Vilifying Pakistan or for that matter any of its state institutions on this score is unwarranted and unacceptable. This is a sure way to close avenues of cooperation in combating this menace.

Pakistan strongly rejects efforts at political and military coercion, which are counter-productive. India must refrain from hostile propaganda, and must not whip up tensions. It must also take steps to de-escalate its offensive military posture against Pakistan.

We once again call upon the Government of India to engage cooperatively with us to uncover the full facts behind the Mumbai terrorist attacks. In this regard, Pakistan awaits response to its constructive proposals, including joint investigation, a joint commission under the NSAs of the two countries and high level visit from Pakistan.

It is recalled that Pakistan was one of the first to condemn the Mumbai terrorist attacks and had offered full cooperation to the Government of India. Pakistan is also carrying out investigations on its own. We reiterate our call for a pragmatic and cooperative engagement between the two countries to fight terrorism, which is a region-wide phenomenon and the common enemy of our people.

We condemn terrorist activities whether perpetrated by individuals, groups or states resulting in violence or threat of violence. Pakistan would not allow its soil to be used for acts of terrorism at home and abroad. Pakistan as a responsible state is taking all requisite steps to counter terrorism. International community undoubtedly recognizes and appreciates the sacrifices made by Pakistan to combat terrorism.

Pakistan's government and state institutions remain fully committed to the fight against terrorism. We need no exhortations from India. Indian government is well advised to take careful stock of its own policies and conduct that are contributory to the problems facing South Asia.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan, January 6, 2009
http://www.mofa.gov.pk/Press_Releases/2009/Jan/PR_12_09.htm

COMMENT ON INFORMATION MATERIAL ON MUMBAI ATTACKS

In response to a query pertaining to Indian media reports, the Spokesman stated that the information material received from India is being seriously examined. Pakistan remains fully determined in its investigations to uncover full facts pertaining to the Mumbai incident and is cognizant of the need for establishing legally tenable evidence.

Pakistan regrets the propaganda campaign unleashed by India to malign Pakistan. Blame game and political point scoring is counter productive and unacceptable.

Terrorism is a pernicious problem afflicting South Asia. Pragmatic and responsible approach, including cooperation between the relevant investigation departments, is the imperative need of the hour to deal with the Mumbai terrorist attacks and to prevent any such incident in India, Pakistan or elsewhere.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan, January 7, 2009
http://www.mofa.gov.pk/Press_Releases/2009/Jan/PR_15_09.htm

BEYOND MUMBAI

After those viciously murdered in the Mumbai attack in November, the biggest casualty of the terrorist atrocity was the peace process between India and Pakistan.

In the wake of the assault, sabre-rattling on both sides has drowned out gentler voices calling for normalisation of relations.

The hysteria evident in the emails I have been receiving makes me despair of the entire human race. Literally hundreds of readers on both sides of the border have written the most jingoistic letters expressing sentiments I hope for their sake they will be ashamed of when they have cooled down.

In their eagerness to propel their government to somehow punish the perpetrators of the Mumbai attack, millions of Indians as well as the media forget that this is exactly what the militants would like to see. Should they succeed in derailing the peace process, and pushing the two neighbours into a state of armed confrontation again, the Lashkar-i-Taiba and their brothers-in-crime will have won a significant victory.

In any asymmetrical warfare, the weaker party tries to win by creating terror through violence directed at non-participants. These acts are aimed at destabilising legitimate governments, and causing tension. Knowing they cannot achieve their objectives through the political process or conventional warfare, they seek to mould public opinion by the selective use of violence that shocks and revolts. They manipulate the media by spectacular acts of seemingly random terror.

In the case of the Mumbai attacks, they appear to have succeeded in their aim. What these terrorists fear most is a durable peace in South Asia. Due to their gory efforts, they seem to have put off any normalisation for the immediate future. Indeed, should India take any military action, as so many Indians are demanding, we can forget about peace for a generation.

What these hawks seem to ignore is that we cannot wish geographical realities away. In their anger and their desire to vent their rage, they are putting themselves on the side of the terrorists. Groups like LeT and the Taliban thrive in an environment of hatred and confrontation. If tension increases, they can portray themselves as nationalists fighting off Indian aggression. This would give them legitimacy in the eyes of many Pakistanis. As it is, these groups were created during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and its bloody aftermath, as well as the Kashmir uprising that has now lasted for two decades.

The other side of the coin is that these killers are diminished and marginalised when there is peace and cooperation. If an Indian intelligence officer could pick up his phone and call his Pakistani counterpart to exchange information, this would sound the death knell for many terrorist groups.

Unfortunately, years of tension have bred deep suspicion and mistrust on both sides. Bilateral relations have become a zero-sum game where one country's loss translates into the other's gain. Pakistan's military and intelligence agencies have long sought to use Islamic groups as proxies in their efforts to dislodge India's grip over Kashmir. Even though the state has tried to distance itself from these militants after 9/11, the taint of association lingers. And clearly, many retired and serving officers have ideological sympathies as well as personal links with some of the jihadi groups.

However, Indians need to realise that it is precisely these connections that make it impossible for Pakistan to hand any of the terrorists over to India. The last thing the military establishment wants is to see its role in training and bankrolling these thugs exposed. Instead of demanding the impossible, India should offer to do everything it can to make sure that those guilty are tried and punished in Pakistan. In the absence of an extradition treaty between the two countries, it is hard to see any leader in Islamabad complying with the Indian demand to transfer the alleged planners of the Mumbai attacks to India.

Instead of bickering over legal niceties, the two countries need to look beyond Mumbai. Clearly, Pakistan must eliminate the cancer of terrorism that has taken root on its soil. To achieve this, its leaders and its people have to put their differences aside. Given the polarisation within the country, a massive media campaign is needed.

Unfortunately, the media's role on both sides of the border during and after the Mumbai crisis has been reprehensible. For weeks, we have witnessed the most irresponsible kind of reporting and commentary, especially on the private TV channels that have proliferated in both countries. Hysterical 'experts' have gained a prominence and an audience they do not deserve. Instead of promoting calm and restraint, they have been making the case for war in India.

In Pakistan, the army of studio warriors has been preaching denial of the obvious. When they should have been demanding that the Pakistan government take action against the jihadis, they have been demanding 'proof' from India. Well, the 'proof' that the attack was conceived and launched from Pakistani soil has been handed over. Let us see what our talking heads, and our government, will do with it.

While Pakistan certainly needs to put its house in order, the task is made more difficult when the sound of war drums echoes across India. When pushing for an accounting with the killers, New Delhi should be simultaneously arguing for more, not less, contacts with its neighbour. Knee-jerk reactions like cancelling the Indian cricket team's tour of Pakistan certainly do not help.

Recently, an Indian reader wrote to me, complaining that the Congress government was not showing the kind of determination in protecting its citizens as the Israelis were demonstrating by their assault on

Gaza. According to him, Indian politicians are less bold than their Israeli counterparts. I replied that I respected Indian restraint more than I did Israel's ruthlessness. Furthermore, I wrote, Pakistan's military is not Hamas.

And this is the point: do the hawks on both sides really want to condemn both countries to yet another cycle of violence? Do they really want to hand over success to the militants on a platter? Just as Hamas is not likely to be eliminated by Israel's massive attack, so too will LeT not be wiped out by any possible action the Indians could take. In both cases, the stock of these groups will rise in the eyes of ordinary people.

There are no easy answers. But one thing is clear: both India and Pakistan need a reasoned response, and not a media-fuelled confrontation.

Irfan Husain, *Dawn*, January 10, 2009

<http://www.dawn.com/weekly/mazdak/20091001.htm>

MUMBAI DOSSIER 'IS NOT EVIDENCE'

Pakistan says a dossier provided by India as evidence that links the Mumbai (Bombay) attacks to elements in Pakistan is merely "information".

PM Yousuf Raza Gilani said Pakistan was still examining the dossier.

Separately, India's interior minister accused Pakistan of doing nothing and said ties could "snap" if it did not help in probing the attacks.

Relations between India and Pakistan have deteriorated sharply since the November attacks which left 173 dead.

Earlier this month, India handed over to Pakistan what it described as evidence of the involvement of elements in Pakistan to the deadly attacks.

The evidence is said to include the interrogation of the surviving gunman, details of phone conversations between the attackers and weapons information.

Nothing Provided

Mr Gilani said he hoped India would agree to a joint investigation into the attacks.

"All that has been received formally from India is some information," Mr Gilani told the National Assembly.

"I say 'information' because these are not evidence. This needs to be carefully examined. Serious, sustained and pragmatic co-operation is the way forward."

Pakistan has said it will punish any of its citizens if "credible" evidence is found of their involvement in the attacks.

Asked what Pakistan was doing to co-operate with the investigation, Indian Interior Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram told the UK's Times newspaper: "Zero. What have they provided? Nothing."

"There are many, many links between India and Pakistan, and if Pakistan does not co-operate and does not help to bring the perpetrators to heel, those ties will become weaker and weaker and one day snap," he said.

UK Foreign Secretary David Miliband said on Tuesday that Pakistan had a primary responsibility to act against those who carried out the Mumbai attacks.

Mr Miliband said he did not believe the attacks had been "directed by the Pakistani state", but links could clearly be traced to Pakistan-based group Lashkar-e-Taiba.

India says all 10 gunmen were from Lashkar-e-Taiba.

Pakistan admitted last week that the only surviving gunman - Mohammed Ajmal Amir Qasab - was a Pakistani citizen.

BBC, January 14, 2009

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/7827783.stm

PAKISTAN STATE NOT INVOLVED: MILIBAND: MUMBAI ATTACKS

British Foreign Secretary David Miliband assured India on Tuesday that President Asif Ali Zardari was sincere in his resolve to fight terrorism and encouraged New Delhi's restraint with Islamabad as a mature way to deal with the fallout of the Mumbai terror attacks.

"I believe that President Zardari is sincere when he says he wants to tackle the scourge of terrorism in Pakistan," Mr Miliband told a joint news conference here with Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee.

He emphatically disagreed with India's accusations that Pakistan's state institutions were somehow complicit in the Mumbai carnage. "I have said publicly that I do not believe that the attacks were directed by the Pakistani state. And I think it is important to restate that," he told a questioner. "What is relevant is the approach of the Pakistani state to the LeT (Lashkar-e-Taiba) organisation and the way the Pakistani state takes on the menace of the LeT organisation."

The British minister felt it was vital that the "whole of the Pakistani state machine support" Mr Zardari's campaign against terrorism. He said he also thought it was vital that the whole of the Pakistani population recognised that after the last couple of bloody years, terrorism was a threat to Pakistan. "Terrorism is not someone else's war in Pakistan. It is their own battle that they need to face if they are to build the sort of secure and decent society that they need."

Mr Miliband's persuasion seemed to work with India. Mr Mukherjee said he had already shared with Britain "the evidence that has emerged linking the attacks with Pakistan" and that he favoured concerted international pressure on Pakistan to take firm action.

"We do believe that this is a problem which is to be addressed collectively by the international community so that the perpetrators of terror attacks are brought to justice. Attack on Mumbai by the terrorists need not be looked at through the prism of Indo-Pakistan relationship. It is a part of the global terrorist activities. Terrorism has no respect for any boundary. They simply believe in violence and destruction. Therefore, it is the biggest menace to the humanity and it is to be confronted," Mr Mukherjee said.

He hoped that Pakistan would implement the Saarc Anti-Terror Convention and the Protocol of 2004. "I do hope the material which we have provided to Pakistan, evidences which we have given, they will act on it and they will ensure that the perpetrators of this terror act are brought to justice, and some of the fugitives violating Indian laws who have taken shelter in Pakistan will be handed over to India for their proper justice."

Mr Miliband praised "the maturity and the wisdom, and the strength of the Indian response refusing to lurch into actions that could make the situation worse" and said New Delhi had set the right example. "I think it is very important that Pakistan repays that by following through on an agenda for criminal justice that is in the interest of Pakistan as well as in the interest of India."

Obviously responding to the relentless demands by Indian hawks for military action against Pakistan, Mr Miliband made some sobering observations. He said: "The truth is that Pakistan is vital for the security of India, but also vital for the security of Afghanistan." Terrorism had harmed Pakistan as well as India. "And we see the correct approach as being what the Pakistani authorities call a multi-pronged approach, a security approach, a political approach, and an economic approach. That in our view is the correct strategy."

Jawed Naqvi, *Dawn*, January 14, 2009
<http://www.dawn.com/2009/01/14/top4.htm>

MUMBAI TERRORISTS HAD HELP FROM INSIDE INDIA: US REPORT

The terrorists who attacked Mumbai on Nov. 26 also received help from inside India, warned a leading US think-tank which also noted that those planned the attack also wanted to influence the Pakistani government.

"The focus on Pakistan should not obscure the fact that the terrorists likely had help from inside India," warned the Rand Corporation, which

conducted the study. “Local radicalisation is a major goal of the terrorists, and will be a major political and social challenge for India.”

The report also warned that the Mumbai attacks would have serious consequences for Pakistan.

But “the repercussions for Pakistan will depend largely on what India and the international community do,” it noted. “Thus far, Indian and American officials recognise that Pakistan’s civilian government does not control the policies that its military and intelligence agency hold toward militant groups operating in and from Pakistan.”

The Rand Corporation, which often conducts research studies for the US government, blamed Lashkar-e-Taiba for the Mumbai attacks but said it’s not clear if official Pakistani agencies were also involved.

“We do not know for certain whether LeT carried out this operation without the knowledge or approval of Pakistan’s army or intelligence services, or whether the attack was instigated or encouraged by sectors of the Pakistani military or intelligence service to change the course of Pakistan’s own government,” the report said.

Former US ambassador to India Robert Blackwill, now a senior fellow at Rand, was also associated with the study. Mr Blackwill is a strong supporter of India and is known for his critical views on Pakistan.

The study claimed that LeT has emerged as an “independent constellation in the global jihad galaxy” after the Mumbai terror attacks.

The 22-page report focusses on the operational and tactical capabilities displayed by the 10 terrorists in the Mumbai attacks, evaluates the response of the Indian security forces and lists the implications of the attack for India, Pakistan and the international community. “The attack put into actual practice LeT’s previous rhetoric about making the Kashmir dispute part of the international jihad. In so doing, LeT has emerged, not as a subsidiary of Al Qaeda, but as an independent constellation in the global jihad galaxy...The Mumbai attack makes LeT a global contender on its own,” the report said.

The study warned that the Mumbai terrorist attacks suggested the possibility of an escalating terrorist campaign in South Asia and the rise of a strategic terrorist culture.

“India will continue to face a serious jihadist threat from Pakistan-based terrorist groups, and neither Indian nor US policy is likely to reduce that threat in the near future,” said Angel Rabasa, lead author of the report. “Other extremist groups in Pakistan likely will find inspiration in the Mumbai attacks, and we can expect more attacks with high body counts and symbolic targets.”

Brian Michael Jenkins, a leading terrorism expert and senior adviser at Rand, noted that the attackers targeted specific groups of people and facilities with political, cultural and emotional value. “This indicates a level of strategic thought — a strategic culture — that poses a difficult challenge: not whether we can outgun the terrorists, but can we outthink them?”

Prior Warnings: The study also noted that the attack exposed numerous weaknesses in India's counter-terrorism and threat mitigation structure. "Indian intelligence officials had received prior warnings from their own staff, as well as US sources, that a major attack was probable, but did not take any specific action." It pointed out.

Repercussions for Pakistan: "India is likely to hold the state of Pakistan responsible for the attacks and may look for a way to punish Pakistan to deter future attacks. Both countries have nuclear weapons, making any military action a dangerous course, but if India does not respond, that would signal a lack of Indian resolve or capability," the report noted.

Dawn, January 20, 2009

<http://www.dawn.com/2009/01/20/nat3.htm>

MUMBAI ATTACKS PROBE ONLY UNDER PAKISTAN'S LAWS, SAYS GILANI

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani has said Pakistan will cooperate with India in investigating the Mumbai attacks, but under its own laws.

"Pakistan is ready to cooperate with India to investigate the Mumbai attacks," he told reporters after inaugurating the Islamabad Expressway.

Mr Gilani said Pakistan itself was a victim of terrorism and had conveyed its point of view to India.

Answering a question about his Interior Adviser Rehman Malik's meeting with PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister said he might have met him because of some official business or work related to his department. The government, he said, had not asked Mr Malik to convey any message to Mr Sharif.

Referring to the National Finance Award, he said a commission had been constituted and work on the regularisation of contract employees was under way through a cabinet committee.

The provinces, he said, had nominated people for the NFC and the government would soon settle issues like the concurrent list and the NFC in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

About the new US administration, Mr Gilani said that people in the United States had voted for change because they did not endorse the policies of the Bush administration.

About the situation in Swat, Mr Gilani said the National Assembly had adopted a unanimous resolution on the issue and would soon convene a meeting to look into the matter in detail.

Highlighting the government's efforts for improving people's lives, the prime minister said the government would soon introduce a health insurance scheme for the poor.

The government, Mr Gilani said, would ensure the scheme's transparency by providing national identity cards to all citizens. "Nadra has been directed to provide every citizen ID cards for free and ensure that no eligible person is missed."

The government, he said, had been forced to take some "difficult decisions" to bring the country on the right track because of serious economic recession.

The government, he said, was focussing on development projects to bring about a positive change in people's standard of living.

He said terrorism and economy were two main issues confronting the government, adding that improvement in law and order would attract more foreign investment.

The prime minister said the government realised that inflation had burdened the common man and the Benazir Income Support Programme was aimed at providing basic support to low-income households.

Syed Irfan Raza, *Dawn*, January 21, 2009
<http://www.dawn.com/2009/01/21/nat3.htm>

MUMBAI DOSSIER A FAIRY TALE

After reading what has been released in the press for public consumption, I take a poor view of the Indian intelligence agencies for concocting such an unrealistic dossier of the Bombay carnage. The details of the incident mentioned there-in may be good enough to impress the illiterate masses of the subcontinent but for the intelligentsia the 52 pages document is nothing more than a fairy tale.

There is no denying the fact that terrorism is an international phenomenon and Pakistan is its worst victim. There is nothing new about the Bombay carnage that has turned India into a jitter bug to blame the Muslims community in general and Pakistan in particular. Terrorism was prevalent in India even fifty years ago when Pakistan was an absolutely peaceful country. The Nagas, Mizoes, Tamils, Naxalites and others were highly active making scores of people as their target.

To quote the recent incidents, the attacks on the Parliament House Delhi, an explosion in Ghauhati, Assam) in which six people were killed and many injured and the one on Samjhota Express in which a retired Lt Col of the Indian Army was involved were proved to be the acts of India's own militants. It is learnt that the UNO has a list of about 250 terrorist organisations of the world out of which 60 belong to India. How can we rule out that the acts of killing people at the Taj and Oberoi - Trident hotels of Bombay was not performed by the dissident elements of India when a number of the terrorist organisations are still active over there. It is, however, surprising that knowing all this, both UNO and USA are playing in the hands

of India and acting as a party to the Indian campaign of blaming Pakistan for all the killing.

The sequence of the terrorists' journey as projected by the author of this document takes one back to the era of the adventures of Sindbad - the sailor - and others. The 10 gunmen boarded a small boat in Karachi on November 22, sailed a short distance before shifting to a bigger carrier owned by Lashkar-e-Taiba of Pakistan. The next day the 10 men took over an Indian fishing trawler, killed four crew members and sailed 550 nautical miles along the Arabian Sea. On November 26 the trawler approached the shores of Mumbai. The men killed the trawler's captain and boarded a dinghy with an engine bearing marks of a Lahore based company which carried them to Mumbai.

A detailed analysis of this adventurous journey from Karachi to Mumbai which took five days involving the change of four different types of vessels will reveal a number of discrepancies. If the group belonged to a terrorist organisation in Pakistan they could have been provided with a sea vessel that would have dropped them close to Mumbai and disappeared.

They would not have been left at their own to act as pirates killing people and capturing vessels that came in their way. Such a nonsensical move could have jeopardised their plan even before reaching the 'target city'. The group's last mean of transport was a dinghy which they took over from the Indian fishing trawler. How come its engine had the marking of a company based in Lahore? The group is accused of killing four crew members of the Indian vessel at least four days before the actual operation and its captain later on. No news about these killings appeared in the press.

Let us now examine the weapon load that the group carried. Each man is said to have been equipped with the weapons pack of a Kalashnikov, a 9-mm pistol, ammunition, hand grenades and a bomb containing a military grade explosive, steel ball bearings and a timer. How did they feed themselves during the five days voyage, the author perhaps forgot to mention, a week's packed food as a part of the load. Let me mention that to facilitate their fast and crisp movement and a possible escape the people on such missions are not as heavily loaded. Carrying such a heavy load was only feasible if they had a sanctuary in India where they could safely dump it. The connivance of an Indian dissident group cannot thus be ruled out. A technical point which needs explanation is that the steel ball bearings are the components of a prepared explosive device. By carrying them in original, were they expected to prepare the bombs during their mission in India? Only fools could plan so. The last question in this respect is that a group of 10 persons carrying such a huge load of armaments and explosives on their bodies was not checked or detected at any stage of their five days voyage. They even walked into the city of Mumbai without being spotted. Were all the coast guards and members of security forces away

on

picnics?

Coming to the actual operations the militants who attacked Mumbai are said to have the instructions "to kill their hostages in cold blood and fight to the death in the name of Islam." This is discriminating not only Pakistan but the whole Muslim world. The militants are said to have been acted on the instructions received from Pakistan on the cell phones that each one of them carried. The orders were something like:

- The hostages are of use only as long as you do not come under fire. If you are still threatened then do not saddle yourself with the burden of the hostages. Immediately kill them.
- Do not be taken alive, kill all hostages including the three foreigners and the women but do not kill the two Muslims you are holding. Keep your phone switched on so that we can hear the gunfire.
- Throw one or two grenades on the navy and the police teams which are outside.
- Keep two magazines and three grenades aside and expend the rest of your ammunition.
- Brother you have to fight, this being a matter of the prestige of Islam

The militants conducted their mission for three days killing people and destroying property. By the morning of November 29 nine of them were killed by the Indian forces leaving Ajmal Kasab as the only survivor. The terrorist missions are never planned and conducted in such a stupid manner. The militants are trained and briefed properly about the mission and left to act according to the situation.

Contrary to what has been projected by the foolish author of this document, the terrorists act independently and are never controlled from the base. The phone messages mentioned above are fake and concocted merely to indicate Pakistan's involvement in this episode. The attackers normally accomplish their mission in one go. For a longer campaign like this a base is required with proper protection by the locals. Another flimsy piece of evidence through which the Indian authorities have tried to convince the foreign countries about Pakistan's involvement is that the militants left behind in the trawler, stuff like a bottle of Dew soda packed in Karachi, pistols bearing markings of a gun manufacturer in Peshawar and other Pakistani made items like a match box, detergent powder and shaving cream. With the trade relations and passenger traffic open between the two countries, how difficult it is to collect such items from various sources and produce them before the observers? Let me inform them that Lahore has a business centre called 'Pan Gali' where all sorts of Indian items are available.

Apart from Pakistan India has given the 52-page dossier to the US intelligence agency CIA also. While the ISI is said to have given its feed back to India let us see how intelligently and realistically the CIA interprets the same. If the USA can keep aside its newly found love for India and examines the whole affair impartially, I am sure they will find that Pakistan has no hand in this sordid episode. To my political understanding India has two motives behind the creation of this drama, to hide its own support to militants in Balochistan and to put the Kashmir issue in the back burner for another few years.

The writer is a retired colonel.

Rafi Nasim, *The Nation*, January 24, 2009

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Opinions/Columns/25-Jan-2009/Mumbai-dossier-a-fairy-tale>

MUMBAI 'NOT PLANNED IN PAKISTAN'

A top Pakistani diplomat has said its investigations into the attacks on Mumbai show they were not planned in either Pakistan or the UK.

Pakistan's high commissioner in Britain, Wajid Shamsul Hasan, told Indian media Islamabad's own report on the attacks would be released soon.

More than 170 people were killed when 10 gunmen attacked India's financial capital in November.

India says Pakistan-based militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba was to blame.

India has also suggested what it calls "state elements" were involved. Both Pakistan and Lashkar-e-Taiba have denied any involvement.

The attacks have put relations between India and Pakistan under severe strain.

No Whitewash

Mr Hasan's comments to India's NDTV channel are thought to be the first official words on what the Pakistani document might contain.

He said: "Pakistani territory was not used so far as the investigators have made their conclusions. It could have been some other place. Not the UK as well. Because these were the two places I was concerned about."

India and the international community have put huge pressure on Pakistan to take action against militants based on its soil and to bring the perpetrators of the Mumbai attacks to justice.

Pakistan says that it has arrested dozens of people in a crackdown on groups allegedly linked to Mumbai. It says it has also shut a number of operations run by a charity linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba.

Mr Hasan added: "We are not going to do any whitewashing business. We believe in going after facts. Our findings will be acceptable to the world. We will try to satisfy India with our findings. We are addressing the concerns of the world not just India."

He also defended the time it had taken for the report to come out.

"When you collect material, then you sort it out, you re-do it and re-read it. That requires time, so I am sure once they complete it, they will come out with concrete facts that will satisfy the world as to Pakistan's non-involvement in the Mumbai attacks."

Mr Hasan also criticised India's delay in handing over evidence, suggesting its dossier could be "fabricated".

"You [India] took 45 days to come up with a sort of evidence although you started blaming Pakistan on the first day".

The evidence India is said to have handed over includes the interrogation of the surviving gunman, Mohammed Ajmal Amir Qasab, details of phone conversations between the attackers and weapons information.

India says all 10 gunmen were from Lashkar-e-Taiba.

Pakistan has admitted Qasab is a Pakistani citizen.

BBC, January 30, 2009

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/7859865.stm

MUMBAI ATTACKS WERE AIMED AT GROWING INDIA-ISRAEL TIES: LAT

India's growing ties with Israel were a prime factor behind the targeting of a small Jewish center in the Mumbai attacks, The Los Angeles Times reported Sunday, citing unnamed counter-terrorism experts in the New Delhi.

"These experts, despite an ongoing investigation of the assailants' motives, have concluded that the assault on the obscure Nariman House was more sophisticated than those on the city's two luxury hotels, an indication that it was a prime target in the November operation," the newspaper said in a dispatch from the Indian capital. "Their aim was to humiliate India, that is aim No 1," retired Indian Vice Admiral Premvir Das was quoted as saying. "Two was to tell the Indians clearly that your growing linkage with Israel is not what you should be doing. I think the rest is peripheral."

Das and other members of a high-level delegation of Indian government and business leaders met in Washington in December with senior US State Department and Pentagon officials, including the then-Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and discussed the Mumbai violence, according to The Times.

“The relationship between India and Israel has grown into one of the most important for both countries, particularly in arms sales. India has become Israel’s largest customer, acquiring about \$1.5 billion in weapons every year. Only Russia sells more arms to India,” it said.

Bruce Riedel, a former South Asia analyst at the CIA, was cited as saying the Indian space agency launched a highly sophisticated Israeli spy satellite a year ago, the first of what is expected to be three such launches.

Israel’s ambassador to India, Mark Sofer, declined to discuss the security relationship between the countries, saying Israel never talks about it publicly. But Sofer, according to the dispatch, acknowledged that they had grown closer in nonmilitary areas in recent years, noting that Israeli-Indian trade has increased from \$80m in 1991, the year the nations established diplomatic ties, to more than \$3.5b last year. Israeli companies also have invested heavily in India, particularly in the real estate and agriculture sectors, and India, especially the western city of Goa, has become a prime tourist destination for Israelis, it said. According to data compiled by the Indian tourism ministry, the number of Israelis visiting India has more than quadrupled over the last decade, to more than 40,000 annually. “Direct evidence, however, that the Mumbai attackers were targeting this increasingly friendly relationship remains piecemeal,” The Times said.

Early in the assault, an attacker who was part of the operation on Nariman House called an Indian TV news channel and railed against the September visit by a senior Israeli military official, Maj Gen Avi Mizrahi, to the divided Kashmir region. Mizrahi reportedly spoke to Indian officers about counter-terrorism strategies. In addition, Indian media have reported that the lone suspect captured in the attacks, Ajmal Amir Kasab, has told authorities that the assailants were specifically targeting Israeli citizens at the Jewish center and had staked out the facility far in advance. Das, the retired vice admiral, said the ruthlessness of the attack at the Jewish center indicated how important the location was to the assailants. “They targeted a nondescript apartment building, which is known to be visited and known to be host to Israeli people,” Das said. But not everyone familiar with the Indian investigation is convinced that the bilateral relationship was specifically targeted, according to The Times. One senior New Delhi-based diplomat who has been briefed on the investigation said Indian officials were making too much of the relationship.

The Nation, February 1, 2009

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Politics/02-Feb-2009/Mumbai-attacks-were-aimed-at-growing-India-Israel-ties-LAT>

PAKISTAN TERMS INDIAN INFORMATION ‘INSUFFICIENT’

Pakistan has described the information provided by India on the Mumbai attacks as 'insufficient' to reach a logical conclusion and bring the alleged perpetrators to justice.

Reviewing a report prepared by the Federal Investigation Agency, the defence committee of the cabinet headed by Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani decided on Monday that Pakistan would also send a dossier to India with several questions required for investigation into the case.

Official sources told Dawn that the dossier had been drafted and would be sent to New Delhi in a couple of days.

India, it may be mentioned, has categorically rejected Pakistan's claim that the information contained in its dossier was 'insufficient' and announced that it would not provide any further information to Pakistan.

In its dossier Pakistan seeks reports of DNA tests of Ajmal Kasab — the lone surviving perpetrator of the Mumbai attacks and nine others reportedly killed by Indian security personnel so that they could be matched with their family members, if any, in Pakistan.

Pakistan, according to the sources, also seeks information about weapons used by terrorists and details of mobile phone calls made by them and reportedly taped by Indian security forces.

Pakistan also demands information regarding IP addresses from which emails were sent to attackers by alleged perpetrators.

In the dossier, Pakistan also seeks access of Pakistani investigators to the Indians who also were believed to be involved in the attacks in order to interrogate them. There is a strong realisation in Pakistani security agencies that without the help of elements in India, the Mumbai crime could have not been committed.

Pakistan also urges India to provide details about Indian Navy officials who were reportedly killed by terrorists when they violated Indian territorial waters.

Pakistan has also decided to register a case against perpetrators of the Mumbai attacks to bring them to justice in accordance with the law of the land.

An FIR on the basis of the investigation report would be registered in a couple of days which would also make its contents public, the sources said.

The cabinet committee was satisfied that the inquiry had been conducted professionally and endorsed interior ministry's recommendation to proceed with registration of the FIR.

According to an official handout, the committee was briefed on the inquiry carried out on the basis of information provided by Indian authorities.

The meeting decided that 'the case should be registered and further investigation be carried out so that the perpetrators, wherever they may be, of the heinous crime are brought to justice in accordance with the law of the land'.

It said: 'In order to complete the investigation the questions which are arising from the inquiry carried out by the FIA need to be answered by the Indian authorities.

'The meeting discussed and deliberated on the security situation in the country, particularly in Swat and the tribal areas. The security agencies were directed to clear the area of militants while ensuring safety of the locals'.

Minister for Defence Chaudhry Ahmad Mukhtar, Minister for Defence Production Abdul Qayyum Khan Jatoi, Minister for Foreign Affairs Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Minister for Information & Broadcasting Sherry Rehman, Minister for Law Farooq H. Naek, Adviser to the PM Finance Shaukat Tarin, Adviser on Interior Rehman Malik, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Tariq Majid, Chief of Army Staff General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Noman Bashir, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Tanvir Mehmood Ahmad, director general of Inter-Services Intelligence, cabinet secretary, foreign secretary, defence secretary, interior secretary and the director general of Intelligence Bureau attended the meeting.

Syed Irfan Raza and Ahmed Hassan, *Dawn*, February 10, 2009
<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/Dawn%20Content%20Library/dawn/news/pakistan/pakistan-terms-indian-information-insufficient-szh>

RESPONSE TO INDIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER'S STATEMENT

In response to a question on the suo motu statement by Indian External Affairs Minister Mr. Mukherjee at the Lok Sabha today, the Foreign Office Spokesman said that we have a distinct sense that the reality of the Mumbai terrorist attacks, which were whole-heartedly condemned by the international community and Pakistan, is getting increasingly mixed with compulsions of domestic politics in India.

Mr. Mukherjee's remarks are essentially a rehash of the standard Indian line against Pakistan and in complete variance with the imperatives of a serious approach to uncover the "full facts" relating to Mumbai attacks and bringing the perpetrators to justice.

The Government of Pakistan expects India to come clean on the multiple facets of the Mumbai tragedy and expose the names of persons and entities in India who were also responsible for acts of commission and omission in a transparent manner.

Pakistan has so far refrained from commenting on Indian internal affairs. We have acted with a high sense of responsibility and exercised restraint. We have offered our hand of cooperation. We do so in the interest of regional peace and security.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan, February 13, 2009

http://www.mofa.gov.pk/Press_Releases/2009/Feb/PR_73_09.htm

INDIA WELCOMES PAKISTAN'S INVESTIGATION INTO MUMBAI ATTACK

Pakistani officials shared the findings of the investigation with India's High Commissioner Satyabrata Pal on Thursday.

India's government and opposition parties cautiously welcomed Pakistan's investigation into the Mumbai attack.

The Pakistani government said on Thursday for the first time that last November's attack was launched and partly planned from Pakistan, and it was holding in custody a ringleader and five other suspects.

The news was welcomed by India as a "positive development", but Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee said Pakistan still needed to crack down on 'militant' camps.

Pakistan shut down an Islamic charity, Dawa, over alleged its link with Lashker-e-Taiba group, blamed by India over Mumbai attacks.

Dawa, helping poor, constructed hospitals and schools across Pakistan and Kashmir. Thousands of Pakistanis protested state decision on Dawa closure, saying it helped poor, including Christians.

"We will share whatever (information) we can. We expect that Pakistan would take credible steps to dismantle the infrastructure which are used by these terror elements," Mukherjee told reporters.

Mukherjee is slated to make a detailed statement in parliament later on Friday.

Indian newspapers welcomed Islamabad's acknowledgement of Pakistanis' partly involvement in the Mumbai attack.

Pakistani officials shared the findings of the investigation with India's High Commissioner Satyabrata Pal on Thursday, giving details of how 10 gunmen had sailed from Karachi to carry out the attack that killed 179 people in the Indian financial capital between November 26-29.

Tensions have been running high between India and Pakistan since the attack, though fear of a conflict between the nuclear-armed neighbours has receded in recent weeks.

India has maintained its claims about Pakistani state involvement via intelligence agencies.

Pakistan strongly denies this and shows cooperation in investigation.
Reuters

February 13, 2009

http://www.worldbulletin.net/news_detail.php?id=36529

QURESHI LINKS MUMBAI ATTACKS TO SAMJHAUTA BLASTS: REPORT

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi was on Monday quoted as having linked the Samjhauta train blasts near Panipat in 2007 to the Mumbai terror attacks in November last.

According to Dawn newspaper, Qureshi had told reporters in Multan that the Samjhauta Express incident and the Mumbai attacks were interconnected and that the probe could continue only if India responds to questions raised by Pakistan.

However, the newspaper gave no quotations or details about his purported remarks.

Qureshi had on Sunday sought India's cooperation in ensuring the prosecution and conviction of Pakistani suspects arrested for involvement in the Mumbai terrorist attacks.

"If India wants the prosecution and conviction of persons responsible (for the Mumbai attacks), then they must answer our questions in a serious manner," he said, referring to queries sent by Pakistan to India last week seeking more information about the November 26 terrorist incident.

Hindustan Times, February 16, 2009

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/StoryPage.aspx?sectionName=ViewsSectionPage&id=b6580d80-2cb7-4275-b752-b2883c85451c&ParentID=7b7556fd-306c-4f56-94f7-a654c1148ffc&Headline='Pak+Foreign+Minister+links+26%2f11+attacks+to+Samjhauta+blasts'>

SAMJHAUTA EXPRESS BLAST AND MUMBAI ATTACKS INTERLINKED, INDIA TO RESPOND

With Pakistan reportedly slating that the Samjhauta Express blast and 26/11 Mumbai attacks were interlinked, India said Pakistan was trying to raise "old" issues.

Pakistani newspaper Dawn, on February 16, quoted Qureshi as saying, "If India wanted to punish the culprits of the Mumbai attacks, it should reply to the 30 questions raised by Pakistan because answers to these questions were necessary for completion of investigation."

In response to Qureshi's remarks, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee said that India is examining the queries and will send the response whenever it is possible.

Pakistan also suspects Lt. Colonel Prasad Purohit's involvement in the Samjhauta Express blasts.

Last year, the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) had exposed that Purohit supplied the RDX used in the Samjhauta Express blast on February 18, 2007 that killed 68 passengers.

Maintaining a cooperative attitude on the joint Mumbai attack probe, Mukherjee said, "...if somebody tries to bring certain issues which are old, it may have some relevance, they may have some information and whichever information they have shared with us, we will examine that and take corrective action." (ANI)

February 17, 2009

<http://in.news.yahoo.com/139/20090217/808/tnl-samjhauta-express-blast-and-mumbai-a.html>

INDIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIR MINISTER'S REMARKS

In response to a question regarding India's External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee's remarks that Pakistan was still in denial mode over cross-border terrorism, the Spokesman said that such remarks were unhelpful. The entire international community has praised Pakistan for its earnestness and cooperation in bringing the perpetrators of the Mumbai attacks to justice. Pakistan will continue working towards this end.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan, February 23, 2009

http://www.mofa.gov.pk/Press_Releases/2009/Feb/PR_88_09.htm

PAKISTAN'S 30 PLUS TWO QUESTIONS FOR INDIA

Annexure-A

Material/Evidence Required from the Government of India

1. Authenticated copy of confessional statement of Ajmal Qasab recorded by the judicial authorities
2. National Identity Card number of Ajmal and other documentation/diaries recovered from his possession.
3. Cell phone numbers used by Ajmal in the past, if disclosed during interrogation.
4. Detailed description and further particulars/maximum information of reportedly killed terrorists deposed by Ajmal during interrogation with Indian Police.
5. The digital note books/ diaries recovered from killed terrorists.
6. Authenticated copies of seizure memos of all the articles recovered from or belonging to accused terrorists along with their photographs.
7. Authentic forensic analysis reports of mobile/satellite phones and or any other evidence establishing connectivity and communication of

-
- the terrorists with militants based abroad along with identifying particulars.
8. Logs of cell phone interceptions.
 9. Detailed transcripts of conversation amongst the terrorists during the terror activity from 26 to 28 Nov as well as with their handlers.
 10. Cell-phone numbers targeted for transcripts immediately after the terror strike.
 11. Intercepted voice recording identified by Ajmal Qasab as of Abu Hamza and Kahfa etc for voice analysis, as well as further details about alleged handlers 'Abu Hamza' and 'Kahfa'.
 12. Thuraya telephone forensic analysis including:
 - a. Numbers in stored memory.
 - b. Called numbers /log
 - c. SMS messages
 - d. Any other information
 13. Forensic analysis of cell phones, recovered from the possession of accused including:
 - a. Dialed numbers
 - b. Missed and received calls.
 - c. Last location
 - d. Photographs/movies
 - e. Audio recording
 - f. IMEI no. & SIM IMSI no
 - g. Screen shots etc
 14. Fingerprints of all the ten accused for comparison with available database.
 15. Fingerprints lifted from recovered weapons, personal articles and navigation devices etc. of the accused required for comparison.
 16. Clear photographs of the accused for identification and matching with the national database.
 17. DNA profiles of all the terrorists arrested / killed.
 18. Post mortem reports of all the killed terrorists.
 19. Forensic analysis and photograph of engravings on Yamaha engine including the tampering of letters on the engine. Two letters are missing. Complete engine number must be provided.
 20. Photographs of engravings on pistols /SMGs recovered from the accused for identification.
 21. Confirmation as to whether the pistols used by the terrorists were 9 mm! The picture of pistol shows a TT 7.62 MM (30 Bore) and CAL-30 is clearly visible.

22. Headers of the email received from deccanmujahideen@gmail.com claiming responsibility and clarification as to which specific media received the same.
23. Complete and date wise CCTV footage of all the incidents.
24. GPS data regarding travelling log, location to check log and coordinates, etc. for identifying the launching area. This is important because certain ambiguities have been noticed in the information already provided. For instance, if the terrorists started in a small boat from Karachi at approximately 0800 hours on 22nd Nov, then how come MOB waypoint is showing the boat's position near Ketu Bandar nearly one hour before this time? Out of 17 waypoints, only three have date stamps and remaining is without the same, creating doubt whether these points are authentic or created through GPS.
25. GPS operation is dependent on internal or external batteries, thus following points need elaboration:
 - a. If internal batteries were used, a large cache of batteries were required to keep them operative for more than six days.
 - b. If external batteries were used on boat then picture/evidence of the same should have been included in the list of items recovered from 'Kuber'
 - c. Picture labelled 'Thuraya satellite phone found in Kuber' is of GPS of Garmin Company as GPS navigation buttons, waypoint names on screen and company name are clearly visible.
26. Photograph identified by Ajmal as Zaki ur Rehman Lakhvi.
27. Relevant information pertaining to tailor/company marks, brand names as well as dry cleaning or laundry stamps on clothes seized.
28. Google earth does not carry details of security systems, various entries/exit points, inner details. Such like information requires extensive physical reconnaissance and establishment of control centre within targets. Further details are required.
29. Why did the terrorists not come to the notice of Gujrat and Maharashtra Governments after having travelled by sea in their territory including reported refuelling enroute? Besides, how did they manage to evade so many coastal radars?
30. Details of interrogation reports of Mukhtar Ahmed (Counter-insurgency Officer) and Tausif Rehman, both Indian nationals, arrested after Mumbai attacks on charge of providing SIMs to the terrorists.

Annexure-B

Additional Information Required

The eye witness account of Jugdev, the only survivor boarding the vehicle of ATS Chief Mr Hemant Karkare, accompanied by two other senior police officers in the same vehicle namely Mr Salasker and Mr Kamteis required to be examined by investigators in Pakistan. It is necessary as Mr Karkare was investigating the cases against militants in mass scale killings of Muslims in India including Lt Col Prasad Shrikant Purohit, reportedly involved in Samjhota Express incident.

Linkages between diamond merchant firm Surat, Gujrat and some Hindus in Pakistan need to be clarified as the diamond merchant was alleged to sponsor Malegoen blasts through Col Purohit.

Dawn, February 24, 2009

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/Dawn%20Content%20Library/dawn/news/pakistan/pakistans-30-plus-2-questions-for-india-regarding-mumbai-attacks--bi>

SOLE MUMBAI ATTACKS SUSPECT CHARGED

Indian police have charged the only surviving suspect in the Mumbai attacks with murder and waging war on the country.

Pakistani Mohammed Aimal Kasab, an alleged gunman, was given a total of 12 charges, local television reports said.

Kasab, 21, has been held by police since the first hours following the incidents, which left 165 people killed including nine other alleged assailants.

Two television reports said that 19 other people had been charged, including Indians and Pakistanis, with planning and assisting the attacks last November.

It is the first formal charges related to the attacks and they allow a trial to begin, although no date has been announced for this.

CCTV Footage

A document of several thousand pages outlining the charges included a confession from Kasab and the accounts of 150 witnesses, Rakesh Maria, Mumbai police's main investigator, said.

There is also CCTV footage of Kasab and another man walking into Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji train station and firing successive rounds of bullets, Maria said.

Under Indian law police have 90 days to charge a suspect after a formal arrest.

A conviction for the two main charges could produce a death penalty sentence.

The attacks targeted numerous sites in the city on the western coast of India, including luxury hotels and a Jewish centre.

India has placed the blame for the attacks on Lashkar-e-Taiba, an Islamist group, and said that all 10 attackers were Pakistani.

The attacks have raised tensions between the two countries.

Earlier this month Pakistani officials said that part of their plotting was on Pakistani soil and established criminal proceedings against 8 suspects.

Aljazeera, February 25, 2009

<http://english.aljazeera.net/news/asia/2009/02/200922512473133560.html>

FOREIGN SECRETARY OF PAKISTAN AND INDIA MEET IN COLOMBO

The Foreign Secretary of Pakistan and India, Mr. Salman Bashir and Mr. Shivshankar Menon, met today in Colombo on the sidelines of the SAARC Standing Committee. High Commissioner of Pakistan to India Mr. Shahid Malik was also present. This was the first meeting of the two Foreign Secretaries after the Mumbai incident.

The two Foreign Secretaries exchanged views on broader issues of regional cooperation and agreed to continue their efforts to promote cooperation under the SAARC auspices. They affirmed the importance of promoting regional peace, stability and prosperity.

The Foreign Secretaries also discussed various aspects of bilateral relations. They agreed to keep the official channels of communication open. Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir underscored the importance that Pakistan attaches to preserving the gains made in the Composite Dialogue process. He reiterated the need to resume the process as soon as possible with the view to promoting substantive engagement on all issues including Kashmir, for establishing friendly and good neighborly relations.

Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon informed Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir that India would be responding soon to the queries raised by Pakistan in the context of the Mumbai incident.

The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere.

Ministry of Foreign affairs, Pakistan, February 26, 2009

http://www.mofa.gov.pk/Press_Releases/2009/Feb/PR_94_09.htm

INDIA URGED TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO PAKISTAN'S QUERIES

Pakistan urged India on Wednesday to quickly respond to its queries so that the Mumbai attack accused could be interrogated during their physical remand.

The court can allow FIA to hold the accused for a maximum of 30 days. Therefore, it is necessary for India to reply as quickly as possible,"

Interior Adviser Rehman Malik said while presiding over a meeting on Wednesday.

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) was directed to contact the foreign ministry so that the matter could be brought to the notice of Indian authorities, making them realise the need for sharing information as soon as possible.

“We are committed to bringing the culprits of the Mumbai attacks to justice, but we need Indian cooperation. Indian authorities must quickly provide answers to questions asked by the Pakistani investigation team, so that the culprits could be given exemplary punishment.”

Sources said that FIA’s Director-General Tariq Khosa said at the meeting that the anti-terrorist court had on Feb 12 remanded the accused arrested in connection with the Mumbai case into FIA custody till March 2.

Pakistan is seeking an authenticated copy of the confessional statement of Ajmal Kasab, the lone surviving alleged terrorist, as recorded by the judicial authorities, his National ID card number and other documents that were found in his possession.

Pakistan is also asking India to provide cellphone numbers used by Ajmal in the past, and maximum information about other terrorists as deposed by Ajmal during interrogation.

Also required are logs of terrorists’ and perpetrators’ cellphone interceptions and voice recordings and other information secured during Ajmal Kasab’s interrogation about his alleged handlers, ‘Abu Hamza’ and ‘Kahfa’, for analysis.

Fingerprints, DNA profiles and clear photographs of the 10 accused were also sought for identification and matching with national database.

Pakistan wanted to know how terrorists could evade Indian coastal radars, surveillance of maritime security agencies and the Gujarat and Maharashtra authorities despite having re-fuelled en route.

Dawn, February 26, 2009

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/Dawn%20Content%20Library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/india+urged+to+respond+quickly+to+pakistan+queries>

INDIA WILL RESPOND PAK QUERIES WHEN IT IS READY TO DO SO: MUKHERJEE

India tonight said it would respond to Pakistan's queries on the investigation into the Mumbai terror attacks whenever it will be in a position to do so.

"Whenever we will be in a position to share it with Pakistan, it will be done so," External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee told reporters here when asked when India will respond to Pakistan's questions.

Without giving any time line to reply, he pointed out that India had made a commitment to Pakistan that it would respond to the questions raised by it on the dossier of evidence on Mumbai attacks and will do so.

"When we received these questions seeking clarifications on the dossier .We made the commitment that government of India will respond and we will give the clarification, whatever is possible," Mukherjee said after launching pan-African e-network project.

Earlier, Home Minister P Chidambaram had said that India would respond to Pakistan after filing of the chargesheet in the case in a Mumbai court.

Geo TV, February 27, 2009
<http://www.geo.tv/2-27-2009/36088.htm>

MUMBAI BLAST NOT TO HARM INDO-PAK RELATIONS: GILANI

Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani has said that the bomb blasts in Mumbai would not have negative effect on the region and said Pakistan has done nothing wrong.

Talking to newsmen at Lahore airport on Friday, he said that immediately after the incident, Pakistan condemned it and President Asif Ali Zardari telephoned Chairperson of Indian National Congress Sonia Gandhi.

The President and he himself also talked to Indian Prime Minister over telephone today and conveyed to him that Pakistan was ready to extend possible cooperation.

To another question, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani said we must not jump conclusion after such incidents and there should be no blame game.

He said during conversation, the Indian Prime Minister said preliminary investigations have been held and wanted intelligence cooperation from Pakistan.

The Prime Minister said as Pakistan was not involved and it has nothing to hide, there was no harm in extending possible cooperation to India in the investigations. He said India wants cooperation of ISI and details would be sorted out by the two Governments.

The Prime Minister said Pakistan has nothing to do with the Mumbai incident and it has no links with this act of terrorism. He said Pakistan is already victim of terrorism and extremism and there was a suicide attack on Marriott hotel in Islamabad. At that time the Indian Prime Minister telephoned me and conveyed sorrows of the Indian government and people.

Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani said on Friday, I reciprocated these sentiments during my telephonic conversation with the Indian Prime Minister. He said Pakistan wants excellent relations with all its neighbors.

To a question the Prime Minister said acts of terrorism in Pakistan are reaction to the situation in Afghanistan and Uzbeks, Chechens, Arabs, Afghans and local Taliban are involved in acts of terrorism.

Responding to a question the Prime Minister said Pakistan's armed forces are among the best in the world and they have the capability to take care of drones but some issues are resolved militarily and others diplomatically. He said the United States was passing through a transition and hoped these issues would be sorted out once the new administration takes charge in Washington.

To another question he said he also had a brief meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif and this and his meeting with the President would have positive impact on relations between the PPP and PML (N) in Punjab.

Pak News, February 27, 2009
<http://paknewsupdate.com/?p=1375>

NAVAL CHIEF DENIES KASAB ENTERED FROM PAKISTAN

Pakistan's naval chief Noman Bashir on Friday denied that Ajmal Kasab, the lone surviving alleged gunman in the Mumbai attacks, entered India from Pakistani territorial waters.

New Delhi blamed the attacks, which killed 165 people last November, on the militant group Lashkar-i-Taiba (LeT) and the siege soured a five-year peace process between India and Pakistan.

'We have no evidence whatsoever that Ajmal Kasab had gone to India from Pakistani territorial waters,' Bashir told reporters in Karachi.

He was speaking one day after the top foreign ministry civil servants from India and Pakistan met in Colombo for the first time since the Mumbai attacks and agreed to keep the official channels of communication open.

'The Indian navy is much larger than ours and if Ajmal Kasab had gone from here then what were their coastguards doing and why they did not stop the terrorists?' said the naval commander.

Bashir declined to make further comment.

'There are many questions about the Mumbai attacks which need to be answered and until then we cannot make any comment,' he said.

AFP adds: India rejected on Friday a claim by Pakistan's naval chief that the lone surviving alleged gunman in the Mumbai attacks did not enter India from Pakistani waters.

Pakistan was engaging in 'multiple speak, duplicity and denial' and had 'created this confusion', India's junior foreign minister Anand Sharma told reporters in New Delhi.

Sharma said Pakistan had earlier acknowledged that Mohammed Ajmal Amir Iman -- also known as Kasab -- and nine other gunmen had arrived in India by sea and that Pakistan was speaking 'in different voices'.

Dawn, February 27, 2009

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/Dawn%20Content%20Library/dawn/news/pakistan/naval-chief-denies-kasab-entered-from-pakistan--qs>

INDIA REJECTS RESUMPTION OF COMPOSITE DIALOGUE

The foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan, who hadn't seen each other after the Mumbai attacks, met in Colombo on Thursday and while Islamabad said the talks were held in a cordial atmosphere, New Delhi firmly rejected its proposal to resume their composite dialogue, indicating that the healing would take more time, quite possibly at least three months when Indian elections are due to be over.

Pakistan conveyed its sense of the meeting between Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir and India's Shivshankar Menon in a press release circulated by its mission in New Delhi. The Indian interpretation came through a dispatch by Press Trust of India. It was based on a press briefing by Mr Menon.

Since Mr Bashir's version contained a specific suggestion to resume the stalled talks on Kashmir, it may be surmised he had audiences in Washington in mind as well.

The foreign secretaries are representing their countries at the two-day session of the SAARC Standing Committee.

Pakistan's High Commissioner in New Delhi Shahid Malik, who had met Mr Menon here last week, was present at Thursday's talks, an indication that substantial issues may have been discussed.

This first meeting of the foreign secretaries came a day after India formally charged dozens of Pakistanis among the plotters for the terror attacks.

PTI said Mr Menon promptly rejected Mr Bashir's suggestion for resumption of composite dialogue, saying Islamabad should first take credible steps to end terrorism.

According to PTI, Mr Menon stressed that India and Pakistan had entered entirely a 'new phase of relations' as Mumbai attacks has changed the situation.

'Bashir stressed the need for resuming the composite dialogue but Menon made it known that it could happen only after India's sees credible action by Pakistan to dismantle terror infrastructure,' PTI said.

'We have paused the composite dialogue and official talks have been paused,' Mr Menon told reporters after the meeting.

‘As far as resumption of composite dialogue is concerned, we have to see whether there is a real movement forward on (ending) terrorism. Our goal is to bring the perpetrators of Mumbai attack to justice,’ he said.

Noting that India wants to see perpetrators of Mumbai attack to be brought to justice, Mr Menon referred to the 30 questions sent by Pakistan in response to India's dossier, and said ‘initial steps were positive’.

The Pakistan version of the talks said the foreign secretaries exchanged views on broader issues of regional cooperation and agreed to continue their efforts to promote cooperating under the SAARC auspices. They affirmed the importance promoting regional peace, stability and prosperity.

The two officials ‘also discussed various aspects of the bilateral relations,’ said Pakistan's press note. ‘They agreed to keep official channels of communication open.’

Mr Bashir ‘underscored the importance that Pakistan attaches to preserving the gains made in the composite dialogue process. He reiterated the need to resume the process as soon as possible with the view to promoting substantive engagement on all issues including Kashmir, for establishing friendly and good neighbourly relations’.

The press note said Mr Menon informed Mr Bashir ‘that India would be responding soon to the queries raised by Pakistan in the context of the Mumbai incident.’

Jawed Naqvi, *Dawn*, February 27, 2009

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/Dawn%20Content%20Library/dawn/news/world/india-rejects-resumption-of-composite-dialogue--bi>