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# India Internal Security Wrap



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MSSG does a scan of the major internal security challenges that the country faces and the same are summarized in the “India Internal Security Wrap” covering the last fortnight. It covers major developments / activities pertaining to internal security along with the assessment of the current situation. It briefs you about the major internal security issues and how these directly affect your business. It suggests how these developments can be monitored / dealt with in a better manner and by taking pro-active measures, since these are ongoing and likely to continue.

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# Major Developments and Assessment

## North

### Centre, CBI Asked to Resolve Differences on AFSPA Powers

With the Union Government and the CBI taking different stand on the alleged fake encounter killings in the North-East and Jammu Kashmir, the Supreme Court on 21 Jan asked the Centre whether it could court martial the armed personnel charged for the killings under the Army Act. A Bench of Justices B.S. Chauhan and Swatanter Kumar was hearing petitions relating to the Centre's claim of immunity and applicability of the controversial Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act [AFSPA] in the North-East and Jammu and Kashmir and saying these killings were not encounter deaths but only killings due to mistaken identities. The CBI, on the other hand, registered cases against Army personnel treating some of the killings as 'encounter deaths' and filed charge sheets in the courts concerned.

**Assessment.** There has been discontent amongst the local population in Kashmir in wake of the allegations of fake encounters and rapes. It is opined that the Govt. will need to resolve the impasse before the issue leads to a law and order situation since in the next couple of months the mountain passes would open and the incidents of infiltration are likely to increase and the security forces would be in pressure to contain these.

### Fatwa Announced Against Christian Schools in Kashmir, 3 Priests Asked to Leave Valley

A self-styled sharia court of Kashmir on 19 Jan issued fatwa asking three Christian priests to leave the state for "luring the valley Muslims to Christianity". The court also directed Jammu and Kashmir

government to take over the management of the Christian missionary schools, besides monitoring their activities in future. Last year, a controversy arose over the conversion of some Muslim youths to Christianity after they were allegedly lured by the pastor M C Khanna of All Saints Church in Srinagar. The sharia court even directed the school management to allot a class for Islamia studies as well for the students of other faiths.

**Assessment.** All India Christian Council at in New Delhi on 13 Jan had expressed its apprehensions that the community members may face backlash by the verdict of the self-styled Srinagar's Islami shariat court against Christian pastors Jim Borst, C M Khanna and Gayoor Messah for their alleged involvement in luring the people to convert to their religion across Kashmir valley. A fact finding team which went to Srinagar in the wake of the arrest of Rev Khanna, and interviewed Church personnel, Ulema, school authorities and the police, found no evidence of force or fraud in baptisms that have been carried out over a period of time.

### Kashmir Valley Remains Cut off

The Kashmir Valley remained cut off from the rest of the country for the better part of the month as snow blocked the vital Srinagar-Jammu National Highway and delayed all scheduled flights to the Valley. Himachal Pradesh, tourist resort of Manali and other higher mountains of Kullu also experienced the heaviest snowfall of the season.

**Assessment.** In the coming few weeks, the temperatures are likely to rise, however this could trigger more avalanches. The people residing in the snow-bound areas of Solang, some Kullu districts, Chamba, Kinnaur and Lahaul and Spiti dis-

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districts are advised that should not venture into avalanche-prone areas during the period. Residents are also advised to clear snow from the rooftops to avoid any casualty due to roof collapse. The tourist operators need to advise the tourists not to venture out to far-off areas without guides.

## India, Nepal to Share Terror Information Real-time

India and Nepal on 16 Jan discussed cooperation in countering cross-border crimes and terrorist activities, and decided to join hands in sharing terror-related information on a real-time basis. During Home Secretary-level talks in New Delhi, the two sides discussed countering circulation of fake Indian currency, smuggling of arms and ammunition, trafficking in narcotics and psychotropic substances and misuse of SIM cards. They decided to share intelligence reports, progress in establishment of integrated check posts and laying of border roads, and India's support for training and capacity building of Nepal's security apparatus.

**Assessment.** Being held after a gap of two years, the high-level meeting took stock of security cooperation shows the serious resolve that the Govt. has shown to control the terrorist activities in the country. However, it is also the responsibility of the corporate to advise their employees who frequently travel by air and rail to remain abreast with the travel advisories issued from time to time by the security agencies.

## Food Grain Traders Call off Strike

The three-day strike of food grain traders of Jaipur abruptly ended on its second day on

28 Jan when the Rajasthan State Government assured the protesting traders of conveying their demands to the Centre. The traders in the state had gone on strike, which was supposed to continue till 29 Jan, against the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act 2006 implemented in the state recently. Under the Act, the food grain traders have to procure license from the medical, health and family welfare department at an exorbitant fees. The traders were protesting against the licensing policy.

**Assessment.** Since, the FSS Act was introduced by the Centre, the state government wrote to the Centre about the demands of traders. Though the traders have called off the strike but have decided not to give up protest and have plans to intensify their agitation against the FSS Act. It is opined that the strike in Rajasthan may trigger similar strikes in other states.

## East

### Manipur Police Kill Three Militants

Police commandos gunned down three rebels in a gunfight and detained an individual for being allegedly involved in the recent grenade explosion at the residence of legislator and Congress candidate M Oken Singh at Heirok village in Thoubal district. Manipur Police have stepped up security to counter insurgency and poll-related violence. Imphal West commandos gunned down the trio at the Langol area on 15 Jan night around 8.30 pm. The cops found one AK-47 rifle, a 9mm pistol with bullets and two hand grenades on the slain cadres whose identities are yet to be ascertained. A few days back, another three rebels were gunned

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down by commandos at different parts of the Imphal West district.

**Assessment.** The militant related activities are on the rise in the state for the last few months. It is opined that the forthcoming assembly elections in the state are likely to further aggravate the law and order situation in the state. The corporate would be well advised to keep a close watch on the security situation as well as carry out an internal security review of their establishments to ensure that there are no procedural lapses.

## **Maoists Recruited by Threat or Lure, say Surrendered Rebels**

Maoist squad members Lombodar Majhi, Bhojohari Mahato, Karan Koiborto and Sukdeb Mahato had surrendered before chief minister Mamata Banerjee in Jhargram on 12 Jan and were allowed by police to speak to the media in Midnapore on 17 Jan. They said they were disillusioned with the Maoists. It emerged that from paying off an ailing father's medical bills and eliminating sworn enemies to death threats - Maoists resort to every tactics to rope in new recruits. And if the accounts of four surrendered Maoists are any indication, it's everything but ideology that forced them to take up arms against their own people.

**Assessment.** Mass surrender of the Maoists is a major achievement during the recent times; the State Govt. has rightly projected the disillusionment of the surrendered Maoists. It is opined that maximum advantage should be taken to induce more such surrenders. The Govt. should also announce rehabilitation packages for these

people in addition to the cash rewards that have been given.

## **Top Odisha Maoist Leader Arrested in Bargarh**

Achieving a major success against red rebels, Odisha police on 24 Jan arrested top ultra leader and CPI (Maoist) Odisha state committee member, Girish from Bargarh district, about 370 km west of Bhubaneswar. Girish, 45, was arrested along with another Maoist following input regarding his movement in an area under Attabira police station. He was involved in about 40 cases including murder, extortion and arson in Odisha and equal number of cases in Jharkhand.

**Assessment.** Girish's arrest is considered to be crucial, as he is the head of a division comprising six western Odisha districts. He was a planner, organiser and motivator responsible for recruiting and training young cadres. Among the four state committee members, only Girish had been authorised to be the liaison man between CPI (Maoist)'s Saranda division in Jharkhand and Mahasamund division in Chhatisgarh as far as military planning and implementation of the organisation was concerned. The arrested rebel being key personnel is likely to divulge critical information relating to Maoist activities in Odisha, Jharkhand and Chhatisgarh which will have a big bearing on the efforts of the security forces engaged in anti – naxal operations.

## **Manipur Terror Outfit Extorted INR 150 cr in 4 Yrs**

A probe carried out by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has laid bare the thriving extortion

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industry in Manipur. It reveals that banned terror outfit United National Liberation Front (UNLF) earned around INR 150 crore between 2007 and 2010 through extortion. Besides UNLF, many other terror outfits are also extorting money in the state. According to sources, while the outfit extorted around INR 44 crore in 2007, it earned around INR 38 crore in 2008, INR 36 crore in 2009 and INR 30 crore in 2010. According to NIA sources, one part of the proceeds from extortion has been used by the outfit to procure arms and ammunition and other part was invested by it in genuine business.

**Assessment.** It is opined that the most vulnerable are the contractors and corporate who execute various central and state government schemes. It is recommended that adequate security should be provided to the key personnel working in these organisations to minimise the cases of kidnapping. Also, help of the local administration is taken to ensure security at the project sites. Security of information should also be ensured so that minimum details of the ongoing project are divulged.

## **Bird Flu: 3,400 Birds Culled in Meghalaya**

More than 3,400 fowl have been culled in Meghalaya following the outbreak of the H1N1 virus or bird flu in East Garo Hills district. The culling, begun on 15 Jan and continued till 17 Jan. Bhopal-based High Security Animal Disease Laboratory confirmed bird flu at the Williamnagar farm on 11 Jan after testing blood samples. Following confirmation, the district authorities targeted some 24,000 fowls within a 10 km radius of the farm. The district authorities paid

compensation of INR 311,975 to poultry farmers after it enhanced compensation from INR 50 to INR 250 per fowl.

**Assessment.** The poultry owners are advised to keep themselves abreast with the developments during the next 2 – 3 months and at the same time take precautionary measures like vaccination and immediate segregation of birds showing symptoms of the disease.

## **Central**

### **Police Arrest Maoists, Seize Explosives in Latehar, Bokaro**

Security forces seized explosives and arrested two Maoists from separate places during anti-naxal operations in Jharkhand's Latehar and Bokaro districts, police said on 16 Jan. Seven IEDs were recovered at Barwadih in Latehar district during search operation. Also, the CRPF and Bokaro district police nabbed Maoist 'area commander' Janaki Mahato and a rebel Moti Mahato from villages situated near Jhumra foothills. The security men also seized 500 grams of gun powder, 15 metre black wire, 20 kg ammonium nitrate, a double barrel gun and one country-made gun.

**Assessment.** The security forces have intensified their operations in the Maoists affected areas of Jharkhand over the last few months leading to the recovery of a large amount of arms and ammunition. It is opined that there is likelihood of the Maoists retaliating against the security forces. The corporate are advised that they should also review their internal security and maintain a close watch on the situation to avoid disruption in their operations on account of such incidents.

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## 13 Policemen Killed in Ambush, Maoists Loot Anti-Mine Van

Thirteen police personnel were killed in an ambush by Maoists in the Saro forests of Jharkhand's Garhwa district on 22 Jan. After causing a landmine blast between the Burgar and Bhadaria Road police stations, the rebels opened fire at an anti-mine van, killing 11 jawans of the Jharkhand Armed Police-7 and two police personnel. The ultras also took away 11 INSAS rifles, two self-loading rifles and one AK-47 from the van. Two injured personnel were admitted to hospital. Additional forces were rushed to the spot, a Maoist-dominated area. Last December, 12 police personnel were killed in the same district when Maoists attacked a convoy of Inder Singh Namdhari, MP.

**Assessment.** It is opined that such incidents are a fallout of the pressure that the security forces are exerting on the Maoists in the state. MSSG advises the corporate to remain abreast with the current security situation in the state and take measures to maintain adequate redundancy to avoid disruption in their operations as a result of the control measures that are initiated by the security forces in wake of such incidents.

## South

### Transporters' Strike Hits LPG Supply

The ongoing strike by owners of tanker lorries that transport LPG has forced public sector oil marketing companies to look to the Railways for help with transportation as off-rail LPG bottling plants in southern states have also exhausted their stocks. From 16 Jan midnight, the owners of the lorries who are members of the

Southern Region Bulk LPG Transport Owners Association, have been on strike bringing a halt to transportation of LPG from ports/refineries to bottling plants in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala. The strike was called following the failure of negotiations over the rate contract for transportation of bulk LPG from 13 Jan.

**Assessment.** The State's LPG requirement for domestic, commercial as well as autorickshaws, is about 85,000 tonnes a month. Brought by road, rail and pipelines from Chennai, Visakhapatnam and Mangalore, LPG is bottled in 10 plants across the State. The State Government has blamed the Centre for the delay in supply of LPG cylinders to households. Addressing presspersons on 16 Jan, Transport and Home Minister R. Ashok said the State Government would write to the Union ministries concerned about the delay. It is opined that the impasse will be resolved in the coming week, however it will take minimum one month for the supplies to stabilise.

### Blaze Destroys Khalsa Mahal: 1 Fireman Dead

A major fire broke out in Khalsa Mahal, part of the Chepauk Palace, Tamil Nadu, a heritage building, destroying the offices of the directorates of Social Welfare, and Industries and Commerce, in the early hours of 17 Jan. One fireman was killed and three others, including a Divisional Fire Officer, were injured when the roof of the 18<sup>th</sup> century structure came crashing down during the five-hour fire fighting operations. The fire, in which important government documents and papers were charred, was suspected to be due to an electrical short circuit, sources in the Fire and Rescue Services said.

**Assessment.** There have been major building fires for the last couple of months. Each of the fire has been due to electrical short circuiting. The need to review the fire fighting arrangements and periodic maintenance of the electrical lines cannot be over emphasized. The corporate would be well advised to

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review their fire fighting arrangements especially if they are housed in old buildings

## **INR 24 lakh Worth Ornaments Looted at Knife-point**

Miscreants looted gold ornaments worth INR 24 lakh from a private finance company at Anakapalle on 18 Jan. The four miscreants entered the company office posing as auditors. Only the manager and office boy were present in the office. They sent out the office boy on some errand and whipped out a knife. They forced the manager to open the safe and take out the gold ornaments. They inflicted injuries on the manager's finger and nose before fleeing with the ornaments.

**Assessment.** The incident highlights the need for installing security equipment irrespective to the size of business to deter the occurrence of such type of crime. The management should also ensure that counting of cash/ valuables do not follow a predictive pattern since the perpetrators of such crime usually gain information by observing these activities over a period of time.

## **Expert Group on Kudankulam Nuclear Plant Sets out to Create a 'Win-Win Situation' for All**

The 15-member Central Expert Group constituted by the Union government on the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant in the wake of protests is looking forward to reaching out to a cross section of people and create a 'win-win situation' for all. An internal/closed-door meeting of the central panel whose members are drawn from various disciplines including oceanography, radiation safety, oncology and fisheries took place at Kanyakumari for two days, on 29 and 30 Jan,

to discuss the strategy forward for winning public confidence and convince people on Kudankulam project's safety. The mandate of the Central expert committee is to allay fears about the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant. It will reach out to more people and already answers were given to the safety/livelihood concerns raised by the opposing group. If any further clarifications are needed on technical/scientific or safety issues, the members will give the answers.

**Assessment.** The issue of the Kudankulam has been in the news for the last few months in wake of widespread protests by the local population on safety issues leading to disruptions of routine business activities. The Govt. has been actively involved in resolving the issue, earlier, the Central panel had submitted a 71-page report giving answers to questions raised by those who are opposing the Kudankulam nuclear plant. The expert committee members once again went through the objections of People's Movement against Nuclear Energy (PMANE) which is leading the protests against Kudankulam plant. All their questions on safety of reactors, marine life and radiation were answered. It is opined that the issue may take some time before an acceptable solution is arrived at and normalcy returns to the region.

## **One Dead, Five Injured in Mangalore Refinery Blast**

One worker was killed and five were injured in a blast inside the Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) here on 22 Jan morning. There were different accounts of what caused the blast. According to the workers, one worker, Nagesh was carrying out welding work on a pump in a pit related to the Oil Water Sewer (OWS) when the explosion took place. Another worker said that the blast also caused a fire which was put

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out by the MRPL's fire tender. According to MRPL's Deputy General Manager (Corporate Communications), Lekshmi Kumaran, the blast and fire had occurred in a pit next to the Sulphur Recovery Unit II.

**Assessment.** Although, MRPL was awarded the "Unnatha Suraksha Puraskar" in 2009 and 2010 by the Karnataka Chapter of the National Safety Council of India, the incident once again highlights the need to maintain a high standard of fire safety at these critical assets of national importance. The periodic checks of fire alarms need to be ensured. The fire fighting organization should be practiced on the contingencies which may arise. It has been experienced that although the fire fighting rehearsals take place, however the observations are not recorded and normally conveyed verbally. The lessons learnt over a period of time are critical to deal with such incidents and if no written records are maintained, there are bound to be avoidable lapses.

## **Naxalites Recruiting Young Boys and Girls, Says Jairam Ramesh**

Union Minister for Rural Development, Mr Jairam Ramesh noted with concern the disturbing trend of naxalites recruiting young boys and girls during a seminar organised by the M. Venkatarangaiya Foundation in Hyderabad on 22 Jan. He was speaking at the function held to mark the completion of 20 years of the M. Venkatarangaiya Foundation, which is working in the field of child labour eradication. Mr. Ramesh called for a combination of political activism, developmental intervention, effective intelligence gathering and police action to tackle Naxalism. He suggested a determined political activity aimed at giving the tribal population a life of dignity.

**Assessment.** It is opined that one of the main reasons for the spread of Naxalite ideology in central India, forest and tribal areas in the last five decades has been the periodic loss of livelihood on account of relocations due to the various power, mining and irrigation projects. There is need for the government to counter this by creating job opportunities for the tribal people. The corporate on their part are advised to run welfare programs for the local population in the areas where their facilities are located.

## **Strict Norms for Security Agencies**

The mushrooming of unauthorized security agencies has prompted the Police to strictly enforce the provisions of the Kerala Private Security Agencies Rules, 2010, that require all private security agencies in the State to obtain a license for running the business. As per the rules, which have been framed on the basis of the Private Security Agencies Regulation Act, 2005 (PSARA), security agencies should obtain the sanction of the Controlling Authority (Joint Secretary of the Home Department) to recruit guards and supervisors and engage them for security operations. The Controlling Authority grants the license or renewal of license only after obtaining a no-objection certificate (NOC) from the Superintendent of Police or Commissioner of Police.

**Assessment.** The corporate are advised that they should carry out a close scrutiny of the documents of the security agency employed by them to ensure that they are PSARA compliant. The SP or City Police Commissioner has to issue the NOC. Also, before a person is employed or engaged as a security guard or supervisor, the agency should satisfy itself about the character and antecedents of such person. Any person who wants employment as security guard or supervisor should submit his particulars to the agency. If the person has resided in more than one district during the preceding five years, the number

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of forms should be as many as the number of districts. The agency should pay a fee of INR 250 a person to the Police Department if he is a resident outside the State.

## State Keeps Vigil Against Poultry Diseases

The government has stepped up surveillance against avian influenza and Ranikhet disease in Kerala to prevent an outbreak of the dreaded poultry diseases. The Department of Animal Husbandry has intensified vigil at border checkpoints following an outbreak of Ranikhet disease in a poultry farm at Andipatty in Theni district of Tamil Nadu. Vigilance squads and rapid action teams have been deployed to inspect vehicles bringing poultry from across the border. By routes used by truck operators to smuggle poultry consignments into the State are also being closely monitored.

**Assessment.** Though India was declared an avian flu-free country in 2009, precautionary measures mandated by the Central government still continue. Officials said no cases of avian influenza had been reported from Southern India so far. The poultry owners are advised to keep themselves abreast with the developments during the next 2 – 3 months and at the same time take precautionary measures like vaccination and immediate segregation of birds showing symptoms of the disease.

## Pre Emptive Policing on the Cards

Bangalore Police are hoping for a quantum leap in their case-cracking abilities with a crime mapping or crime grid project undertaken by the force. The project aims to create a real-time crime map of the city, which will go a long way in

detecting patterns in various types of crime, locate vulnerable areas and identify contributory factors. Police believe this knowledge could be the game changer in cracking crime, as it will not only help in pre-emptive action but also in proactive policing. The project is in a developmental stage. All investigative officers have been ordered to record the GPS location of the crime as part of investigation evidence. The data so generated will be used as a bank for the project.

**Assessment.** The fact that crime happens in an area suggests that there are certain underlying factors that promote it are present. Crime mapping will help identify these areas and these factors. Eventually, the factors that promote crime can be used to predict it and can be acted well in advance to prevent it. The initiative taken by the police will be a major step in ensuring safe cities.



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