

**Opening Statement of the Home Minister at the Press Conference  
on  
January 31, 2009**

Today, I complete two months in office as Home Minister. I promised to present a report at the end of every month. This is my second report.

2. I reiterate what I said at the Chief Ministers' Conference on January 6, 2008. We have set for ourselves two goals:

- First, to raise the level of preparedness to meet the increasingly sophisticated terrorist threats.
- Second, to enhance the speed and decisiveness of the response to a terrorist threat or a terrorist attack.

3. Having regard to the new priorities of MHA, I have made some important organizational changes. The Internal Security division and the Police division have been strengthened. There are now two Joint Secretaries in each of the two divisions.

4. A dossier on the Mumbai terrorist attacks was prepared and given to the External Affairs Minister on January 1, 2009. Subsequently, the dossier was shared by MEA with many countries, including Pakistan.

5. A Conference of Chief Ministers on Internal Security was held on January 6, 2009.

6. A Conference of Chief Ministers of the seven States affected by left wing extremism was held on January 7, 2009.

7. Republic Day Celebrations passed off peacefully throughout the country. In Delhi, for the first time, we successfully implemented the "park and ride" scheme.

8. The Multi Agency Centre (MAC) is now fully operational. All agencies have nominated their representatives to MAC. I reviewed the work of MAC on January 27, 2009 and I was happy to learn that all agencies have found the MAC arrangement extremely beneficial.

9. The next step is to connect MAC, the S-MACs in the States and the Special Branches of the State police establishments. Work has been taken up to create a dedicated network, and establish connectivity and a database. Approval has been granted to the Intelligence Bureau (IB) for an expenditure of Rs.147.80 crore.

10. Shri R.V. Raju, IPS has been appointed the first DG of NIA. He is in the process of recruiting officers/personnel at other levels.

11. I visited Assam on January 1-2, 2009 to review the internal security situation in that State with special reference to Indian insurgent groups. I met with the Unified Command. A follow up meeting was held in Delhi on January 12, 2009. A comprehensive plan of action has been drawn up and is being implemented by the security forces. The security forces have been able to apprehend a number of militants. 63 militants belonging to ULFA and NDFB have since surrendered. Following these meetings, orders have been issued for continued deployment of 14 companies; 17 more companies have been provided to Assam for counter insurgency operations.

12. On January 6, 2009, the Suspension of Operations agreement with National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) was extended up to June 30, 2009. Revised and stricter ground rules have been incorporated and will be enforced.

13. I visited Chhattisgarh on January 19, 2009 to review the internal security situation in that State with special reference to left wing

extremism. I offered the State Government support in its efforts to combat left wing extremism. A number of measures in this behalf are underway.

14. As you are aware, President's Rule was imposed in Jharkhand with effect from January 19, 2009. I visited Jharkhand today (January 31, 2009). After reviewing the security situation, a comprehensive policy and a plan of action have been worked out and this will be implemented by the State Government.

15. The progress of the talks with NSCN(IM) was reviewed on January 29, 2009. The Government of India representative Shri K. Padmanabhaiah has been asked to continue the talks towards a positive political solution, while emphasizing and ensuring that the cease fire ground rules are strictly implemented and enforced.

16. The CISF (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009 was promulgated on January 10, 2009. Official amendments to the Bill pending in Parliament will be introduced in order to replace the Ordinance. The Ordinance will enable the CISF to provide security to establishments/undertakings in the joint and private sectors.

17. Possession was taken on January 14, 2009 of 5 acres of land at IGI Airport along Dwarka Expressway to locate the Quick Reaction Teams of NSG commandos.

18. Notifications were made on January 22 & 23, 2009 empowering the Government and, under powers delegated by the Government, the NSG to requisition aircraft from registered operators in the interest of public safety.

19. The next National Census and preparing the National Population Register are scheduled to be undertaken and completed in 2010-11.

Multipurpose National Identity Cards (MNICs) will be issued thereafter. However, having regard to the urgency of the matter, we have decided to take up the work of issuing MNICs to the population living in coastal areas in all the nine coastal States and four UTs by 2010. In addition, the entire population of Andaman & Nicobar Islands will be issued MNICs by 2010. Pilots will be launched in February 2009 and the entire scheme will be rolled out and completed in one year.

20. On January 13, 2009, the High Level Empowered Committee (HLEC) approved the cost estimates of border fencing, roads and flood lighting works along Indo-Bangladesh and Indo-Pakistan borders. The estimated cost will be Rs.956.37 crore. Works related to fencing, which are part of the ongoing projects, will be completed by March 2010. Floodlighting work along the Indo-Bangladesh border, which has started recently, is scheduled to be completed by March 2011.

21. The original schedule to procure 204 boats for coastal security has been compressed. Goa Shipyard Limited has compressed the schedule by six months and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited has compressed the schedule by five months. Delivery of boats will begin in April 2009 and will be completed between April and September 2010.

22. The financial powers delegated to the DGs and Special DGs of the CPMFs and the Director, IB have been significantly enhanced. This will enable the heads of these organizations to speedily procure vehicles, arms and ammunition, stores, machinery and equipment, clothing and tentage etc.

23. Sanctions for a total sum of Rs.184.72 crore were issued to the different CPMFs for creation of infrastructure.

24. Orders were placed on January 16, 2009 to procure 20,000 bullet proof jackets on an emergent basis. Delivery will be completed by April 16, 2009.

25. Orders were issued authorizing the DG, BSF and DG, CRPF to procure 5.56 mm carbines through a global tender.

26. CPMFs have been instructed to submit their procurement plans for the next year by February 28, 2009 so that sanctions can be accorded before March 31, 2009 and the process of procurement can begin at the start of the financial year 2009-10.

27. Government has approved the raising of an additional 29 battalions to augment the strength of the BSF on the Indo-Bangladesh border. Besides, approval has been granted to create 7 more sector headquarters and 3 more frontier headquarters.

28. One IR battalion has been sanctioned to each of the four States/UT of Chandigarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka and Maharashtra.

29. The Key Location Plans of 10 CoBRA battalions have been finalized. Possession was taken on January 12, 2009 of 302 acres of land in Orissa. (Earlier, possession was taken in October 2008 of 100 acres of land in Chhattisgarh.)

30. On January 2, 2009, sanction was issued for releasing special assistance for setting up eight Counter Insurgency and Anti Terrorism Schools in the States of:

Assam	-	1
Bihar	-	1
Chhattisgarh	-	2
Jharkhand	-	2
Orissa	-	2

31. A meeting of the Island Development Authority was held on January 19, 2009 under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister. As promised at the meeting, a number of decisions have been taken and communicated to the Lt. Governor, A&N Islands on January 27, 2009. These include the following:

- Enhanced financial powers have been given to the LG for purchases, contracts etc.
- 495 daily rated/temporary status mazdoors working in the Electricity Board have been regularized.
- Two boats will be delivered to the A&N Administration in April, 2009 under the Coastal Security Scheme. The A&N Administration has been authorized to hire more boats locally.
- Sanction has been accorded to pay cash compensation of Rs.24.91 lakhs for the loss of 53 hodies/boats.
- The Rutland Water Project to augment supply of drinking water to Port Blair has been cleared.

32. A three-member UT Finance Commission was constituted for the Union Territories of A&N Islands, Lakshadweep, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli. The Commission has been requested to submit its report within nine months from February 1, 2009.

33. Delhi Police was given approval (in December, 2008) for an expenditure of Rs.5.68 crore to procure 68 vehicles. Another approval was granted this month to incur an expenditure of Rs.5.65 crore to procure 72 more vehicles.

34. I reviewed the internal security situation in Delhi on January 5, 2009. Following the review, Delhi Police have initiated a number of measures. In particular, I have advised Delhi Police to take immediate steps to ensure the safety of senior citizens, verify tenants and verify domestic helps. Delhi Police has also been advised to enforce traffic rules

and regulations strictly. A pilot project to install CCTVs in 58 markets and 27 border points has been approved and is being implemented.

35. On January 17, 2009, the President granted assent to:

- The Delhi Prevention of Defacement of Property Bill, 2007
- The Delhi Fire Service Bill, 2007

36. Rs.3,57,43,000 was released to three State Governments under the Scheme of Modernisation of Prisons:

Assam	-	Rs.71,38,000
Manipur	-	Rs.16,47,000
West Bengal	-	Rs.2,69,58,000

37. Rs.90.36 crore was released under National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) to two States:

Tamil Nadu	-	Rs.61.59 crore
Himachal Pradesh	-	Rs.28.77 crore

38. Rs.37.32 crore was released to the Government of Puducherry as relief for damages caused by floods and cyclone 'Nisha'.

39. In conclusion, I would like to say that there are a number of terrorist, extremist and insurgent groups which continue to pose a serious threat to the security of the country. Government of India has sensitized State Governments and has asked them to remain at the highest level of alertness. I seek the cooperation of the people in preventing and countering terrorist threats. I appeal to the people to report suspicious activities and movement of suspicious persons in their neighborhood to the local police. This can be done by calling the police control room at the district/city level or, where the service is available, by calling the toll free number 1090.

Thank you.