
**Country Weekly Report of
International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research****INDIA****Terrorism**

On 1 March 2016, Al Qaeda in The Indian Sub-Continent (AQIS), hacked a website belonging to the Indian National Railways, showcasing their presence in the region. This is the first cyber-attack conducted by the group. The hacked page displayed an 11-page document which was a message from AQIS chief, Maulana Aasim Umar, for all Indians Muslims to wage jihad against the state¹.

On 2 March 2016, Mohammad Abdul Rehman Ali Khan, who is currently in judicial custody revealed that AQIS has a far greater reach in India than what was thought to be. Khan who has a double doctorate in Arabic and Hadith, was a recruiter for Al Qaeda and Lashket-e-Taiba².

Also on the same day, the Indian Embassy in the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad, in Nangarhar Province, was attacked by a suicide bomber. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but it is believed that supporter of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) may have conducted the attack in order to challenge the Afghan Taliban on their own turf³.

On 6 March 2016, the state of Gujarat was put on high alert following an intelligence feed from Pakistan's National Security Adviser (NSA) Nasir Khan Janjua to his Indian counterpart Ajit Doval that 10 terrorists had entered the state to carry out strikes. The strikes are anticipated to be carried out on 7 March, during the Maha Shivarathri festival, a major Hindu festival⁴.

¹ Al-Qaida 'hacks' Indian Railways website - Times of India. (2016). [online] The Times of India. Available at: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/tech/tech-news/Al-Qaida-hacks-Indian-Railways-website/articleshow/51213897.cms?> [Accessed 7 Mar. 2016].

² Pandey, D. (2016). Terror network AQIS has wide reach. [online] The Hindu. Available at: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/terror-network-aqis-has-wide-reach/article8241445.ece> [Accessed 7 Mar. 2016].

³ Militants attack Indian consulate in Jalalabad - Times of India. (2016). [online] The Times of India. Available at: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Militants-attack-Indian-consulate-in-Jalalabad/articleshow/51222411.cms> [Accessed 7 Mar. 2016].

⁴ 10 terrorists have entered Gujarat: Pakistan's NSA - Times of India. (2016). [online] The Times of India. Available at: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/10-terrorists-have-entered-Gujarat-Pakistans-NSA/articleshow/51274366.cms> [Accessed 7 Mar. 2016].