



STUDY GUIDE: ICC (INDIAN CRISIS CABINET)

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Contents

Topic	Pg.no
1. Letter From the Executive Board	1
2. About the Committee	3
3. Introduction	4
4. Timeline	5
5. The History of Terrorism in India	12
6. Events during the 26/11 Attack	15
7. Where the committee stands	17



Letter From the Executive Board

Greetings delegates,

Welcome to the Indian Crisis Cabinet. We are in the aftermath of one of the deadliest terror attacks India has ever seen. The task at hand is not easy, and your actions must be swift and impactful. Research remains key, and due to this being a crisis committee, it will be an ongoing process, not something you just do before the committee begins.

This study guide is exactly what it claims to be, a guide. Your research is by no means complete after reading it and there is always more to educate oneself on. However, please make sure that all the research you rely on was published before the start date of this committee, and is from sources the Indian government has faith in.

What will be of utmost importance in this committee, is the ability to think on your feet. Be prepared to answer questions, make tough decisions, and prevent events of the past from repeating themselves.

Events like these affect more than just what meets the eye, and so there's always enough to do for everyone.

All the best.

Soham Gupta - Director

Saksham Jha - Director

Om Rajkumar - Assistant Director



Soham Gupta
sohamgupta@aol.com
9769418091

Saksham Jha
saksham9jha@gmail.com
8850774577

Om Rajkumar
omchakravarthyrajkumar@gmail.com
9324196031



About the Committee

The Indian Crisis Cabinet is formed by the most powerful people in the country. Its main purpose is to find solutions and uncover the truth behind the nation's biggest happenings and threats. Every person in the Cabinet is the head of some fundamental and important aspect of the nation. Full of people with their own opinions and political party views, the Indian Crisis Cabinet is sure to be a thrilling committee.



Introduction

The past three days have been a frenzy. Never before has India seen a terror attack of this magnitude, and it is your responsibility to ensure that it will never see one again. Every single person reading this has an obligation to the Indian people, one that may be directly linked to your current position, or one that stems from a sense of patriotism – the very reason for which you have chosen to serve your country. This is a high-level emergency meeting, convened by our honourable Prime Minister, Shri Manmohan Singh, and every member of this meeting is present here by invitation only.

The objective of this meeting is manifold, but it primarily revolves around three things:

1. Understanding the cause behind the attacks.
2. Establishing measures to prevent such attacks from taking place in the future.
3. Controlling the social, political, and economic fallout from the attacks.

Time is of the essence, and conclusive steps must be taken in this meeting to ensure that these or other pertinent goals are fulfilled. We have responded to the terrorists, but what always remains far more important, is responding to the people and restoring their trust in the Indian government.

Don't take too long. The wound is still fresh and needs to be tended to immediately.

Jai Hind.



Timeline

November 21, 2008:
(Evening)

A group of 10 terrorists leave Karachi, Pakistan, and travel for 38 hours without being detected by the Indian Navy.

November 23, 2008:

The terrorists hijack an Indian fishing vessel, the Kuber, and kill 4 of the 5 fishermen. The only person left alive is the captain, whom they force to sail to the coast of Mumbai. Each one of them is now armed with an AK-47 assault rifle, an automatic loading revolver, 6-7 magazines of 30 rounds each, 400 unloaded rounds, 8 hand grenades, credit cards, and a supply of dry fruits.

November 26, 2008:
(Dusk)

Within 4 nautical miles of Mumbai, they kill the captain and board 3 inflatable speed boats, heading towards the Colaba jetty.

(20:10)

6 terrorists disembark at Macchimar Nagar, while the rest keep sailing along the coastline.

(20:30)

The 4 remaining men disembark at Badhwar Park, reportedly telling local Marathi-speaking fishermen to mind their own business when they inquire.



(21:21)

The first group of terrorists enter Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus(CST) railway station and open fire. Mohammed Ajmal Kasab and Ismail Khan fire indiscriminately into crowds, killing 58 people and injuring over 100. The attack lasts 90 minutes.

(21:30)

The terrorists blow up a gas station near the Nariman House - a business and residential complex housing the Jewish Chabad Lubavitch outreach centre, to divert attention. Terrorists draw near the windows and fire upon the residents, killing a Kosher food inspector and subsequently taking the rabbi, his wife, and 5 Israelis hostage.

(21:30 - 21:48)

2 terrorists attack Leopold Cafe, spraying bullets onto the people inside before fleeing. 10 people are killed and several are injured. Terrorists also plant bombs in two taxis, killing 5 people and wounding 15 others

21:35 - 21:45)

Two terrorists (Shoib and Umer), who attacked the Leopold Cafe, enter the grounds of the Taj Mahal hotel by breaking down a side door. The first attack guests around the swimming pool and then make their way into the bars and restaurants of the hotel. Two other terrorists - Abdul Rehman Bada and Abu Ali enter the hotel through the front entrance, open fire and throw grenades. A small team of the Indian Navy's marine commandos (MARCOS) enter the hotel and fight the terrorists.



(22:30)

Ajmal Kasab and Ismail Khan then proceed to the Cama Hospital. The hospital staff, noticing their approach, lock all of the patients' rooms. The two men start shooting on reaching the hospital. ATS chief Hemant Karkare attempts to chase them in a jeep, but is gunned down, along with three of his men. 6 police officers are killed in total. The terrorists then hijack the jeep and drive away, but are intercepted by a team from the Gamdevi police station near the pedestrian bridge at Girgaum Chowpatty. Khan is killed and Kasab is arrested.

November 27, 2008:

(00:00)

Mumbai Police surround the Taj Hotel. The Rapid Action Force positions itself around the Oberoi-Trident Hotel.

(01:00)

There's a massive blast in the Central Dome of the Taj Mahal Hotel, causing a fire to break out in the building.

(02:30 - 03:00)

2 trucks of army soldiers arrive at the scene followed by the fire engines. The soldiers make their way into the heritage building from where shooting can be heard. Fire rages on.



(04:00 - 04:30)

Firemen evacuate over 200 people, thereby rescuing them from the hands of the terrorists, who have now reportedly moved from the central dome to the new tower of the Taj.

(05:00 - 05:30)

NSG Commandos and Bomb squad arrive at the Taj Mahal Hotel. Fire is brought under control but terrorists are holed up in the new tower with 100-150 hostages. Police increase pressure.

(06:30)

NSG Commandos arrive at the Oberoi Trident Hotel and take over operations at the Taj and the Trident. The government gives orders to storm the hotels.

(07:00)

Police begin evacuating adjacent buildings at the Nariman House.

(08:00)

People are moved out of the Lobby and Chambers Club of the Taj.



(11:00)

The terrorists and police exchange fire at Nariman House and one terrorist is injured. Meanwhile, gunfire is heard at the Oberoi Trident and the Taj.

(12:00)

50 people are rescued from the Taj.

(13:30 - 14:45)

2 small explosions take place at the Oberoi-Trident. Terrorists throw a grenade into a nearby lane at the Nariman House, but no casualties are observed.

(16:40)

30 Hostages are freed from the Oberoi Trident Hotel.

(18:45)

An explosion is heard at the Oberoi Trident. Two NSG guards and 25 army personnel are injured.

(19:20)

More NSG Commandos arrive at the Taj and enter it.

(23:00)

Commandos rescue 8 hostages from Nariman House.



November 28, 2008:

(07:30)

NSG commandos are deployed on the roof of Nariman house via fast-rope from helicopters. Snipers are positioned in the buildings nearby.

(10:00)

35-40 hostages are rescued from the Oberoi Trident Hotel.

(15:00)

Commando operations at the Oberoi Trident Hotel are declared over, with 24 bodies recovered and 143 hostages rescued alive. 2 terrorists are shot dead.

(16:00)

Ten grenade explosions occur at the Taj Mahal Hotel. Marine Commandos recover explosives from the Taj, while the Naval commandos recover 12-15 bodies at the same hotel. Only one terrorist remains alive.

(19:30)

After a long-drawn-out battle between the terrorists and the Commandos, Nariman House is secured and the siege is brought to an end. The rabbi, his wife, and the 5 Israelis previously taken hostage are found, tortured, and murdered.

(20:30)

NSG Commandos kill the 2 terrorists at Nariman House in a gun battle and declare the operation over.



November 29, 2008:

(04:00)

5 explosions rock the Taj Hotel yet again, one terrorist still remains. A fire rages on the first floor, while black smoke engulfs the second floor. Gunfire is heard.

(08:00)

NSG Commandos declare the Taj Hotel under control after killing the last terrorist. Room-to-room searches still proceed.



The History of Terrorism in India

Like most countries, even India is susceptible to terrorism with the first signs dating back to 1947. The religion-based partition ripped the Indian sub-continent into two countries, viz. India and Pakistan. The most horrifying ethnic riots in the subcontinent's modern history were recorded during this period.

Following the Partition, the then Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir formally acceded to India after a brief spell of neutrality. However, this act of accession continues to be unrecognised by Pakistan which lays claims to the Muslim majority in the land.

Further, India views Pakistan as a nation that perpetuates the ongoing cross-border conflict and sponsors militant activity in a bid to destabilise the state of J&K in specific, and other parts of the country in general.

India has experienced almost all forms of terrorist attacks:

- Hijacking and blowing up of aircrafts.
- Sabotaging railway tracks.
- Kidnapping hostages for meeting political demands.
- Suicide attacks.
- The assassination of two of its Prime Ministers.
- Attacks on places of worship, transportation systems, security forces, and financial hubs.
- Communal riots were followed by extreme violence.
- Attacks by both religious and non-religious terrorist groups.

The modus operandi of terrorism has remained dynamic for the achievement of its goals and objectives.

Quite often, incidents relating to a particular religious or ethnic group act as a catalyst. They also act as initiators to indoctrinate or radicalise youth (not necessarily the poor and marginalised only) to indulge in extreme forms of violence and terrorism.

Considering the fact that the intensity of violence due to religious terrorism has always been of extreme measures, strict laws should be framed expeditiously against those delivering 'hate speeches' that incite a religious/ ethnic community's passions.

India also remains highly vulnerable to terrorism by foreign terrorists due to its porous borders with all its neighbours and a long coastline. This acts as an advantage to the terrorists and insurgents, who continue to receive material support and funds from many sources.

The primary causes of terrorism and insurgency in India are based on political, religious, ethnic, ideological, identity-driven, linguistic, or socio-economic grievances.

One of the first major terrorist attacks on India was a bomb blast that occurred in Delhi's Lajpat Nagar market on 21 May, 1996, killing 13 civilians and injuring 39 others. The blast was followed a day later by another attack. Six members of the militant organisation - Jammu Kashmir Islamic (Liberation) Front were convicted for the blasts.



Another infamous terrorist attack was the 2001 attack on the Indian Parliament, in which 9 deaths took place. The perpetrators belonged to the terrorist organisations - Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed.

The history of terrorism in India is more severe than in the majority of countries. It is up to the Indian Crisis Cabinet to solve the current crisis keeping in mind the past situations which India had to deal with.



Events during the 26/11 Attack

The 10 Lashkar terrorists arrived in Mumbai from Karachi on speedboats. In the late evening, first reports began circulating from the metropolis, stating that a 'gang war' is going on. However, it soon became clear that this was a terrorist attack.

The terrorists hijack cars, including a police van, and split into different groups to carry out the attacks. Automatic weapons and grenades were used to storm the sites. The Chhatrapati Shivaji terminus marks the site of the first attack. The attack which commenced at 9:20 p.m. (Indian Standard Time), lasted about 90 minutes, leaving 58 people dead and over 100 injured.

The second attack was reported about 8-10 minutes later at the Nariman House business and residential complex housing the Jewish Chabad Lubavitch outreach centre.

Before attacking it, the terrorists blew up a gas station. At around 9.40 p.m., four terrorists struck the upscale and popular Leopold Cafe, where they sprayed gunfire on the diners, killing 10 of them. The attack lasted between 10 to 15 minutes. The terrorists also planted bombs in two taxis that killed five people and injured 15 others.

The 4 terrorists arrived at the Taj Mahal Palace and Tower Hotel. They first attacked guests around the swimming pool and then moved inside to the bars and restaurants.



Two of the terrorists entered the hotel through the front door, opening fire and throwing grenades. At least 31 people were killed in this four-day siege.

The terrorists planted bombs under the central dome of the Taj Mahal hotel, setting off a massive fire, which later raged through the hotel's top floors.

The Oberoi-Trident Hotel was attacked by two terrorists who entered the hotel through the restaurant and fired on the crowd. After attacking CST railway station, Kasab and his fellow terrorist Ismail Khan targeted the Cama Hospital. They arrived at the back gate of the hospital, but the alert hospital staff had locked all the doors. The two men then ambushed a police team outside the hospital, killing six of them, including ATS chief Hemant Karkare, and hijacked their jeep.

Kasab and the other terrorist, Ismail Khan were intercepted near Girgaum Chowpatty, where police constable Tukaram Omble grabbed the barrel of their rifle. This gave the police team time to overpower Kasab and capture him. The other terrorist was killed.



Where the committee stands-

26/11 is the most devastating terror attack India has suffered in the history of its existence. On the night of 26th November 2008, the city of Mumbai experienced unspeakable horror at the hands of 10 terrorists, who shook the country to its foundations.

This day will live on in history as the anniversary of one of the vilest, most malicious, and cruel acts of crime ever committed.

The world is watching as the largest democracy in the world enters one of its most trying phases. You hold the power. You hold the chance to change history.

Everything written in this study guide is to be taken as a fact. The committee will commence on the morning of 30th November 2008, right after the last of the rescue operations end.