

<b>Market Watch</b>	SENSEX	NIFTY	Gold (MCX) (Rs/10g.)	USD/INR
04:00 PM   19 Mar	21,832.86 <span style="color: green;">▲</span> 0.25	6,524.05 <span style="color: green;">▲</span> 7.40	29,954.00 <span style="color: red;">▼</span> -251.00	60.97 <span style="color: red;">▼</span> -0.23

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# Government had intelligence inputs on 26/11 Mumbai attacks, says former NSA MK Narayanan

Aman Sharma, ET Bureau Jan 21, 2014, 02:41AM IST

**Tags:** R&AW | NSA | National Security Advisor | National Investigation Agency | Mumbai terror attacks | MK Narayanan | Lashkar-e-Taiba | Intelligence Bureau | Indian Mujahideen | IM | 26/11 attacks

NEW DELHI: The government had sufficient intelligence inputs to anticipate a terrorist attack on Mumbai's five-star hotels before the November 26, 2008 strikes, the then **National Security Advisor MK Narayanan** has admitted for the first time more than five years after the carnage.

Narayan, currently the Governor of West Bengal, had offered to quit at the time but he was asked by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to stay on.



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Speaking at the **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** day function in Delhi on Monday, Narayanan also repeated NIA's assertion that had kicked up a political storm, saying the **Indian Mujahideen (IM)** terrorist group was created by the Pakistan-based **Lashkar-e-Taiba** "following the Gujarat riots of 2002" and said the IM consists of "disaffected Muslim youth".

Narayanan's admission on the **26/11 attacks** raises more questions on the government's failure at the time. "Let us take the Mumbai 26/11 attacks. I know that the intelligence agencies, **Intelligence Bureau (IB)** and **Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW)**, were anticipating an attack. Even the targets, to some extent, we had some idea...the Taj Hotel and others. The real failure on our part was to assess in what form the attack would take place," Narayanan told the country's leading police officers.

Narayanan, who has also been the IB chief, candidly admitted that the agencies "never really thought" that someone would come in "so brazenly" like the 26/11 attackers did by sea from Karachi. "We did not realise that the attack would be carried out much like a Special Forces operation... most significant (in 26/11 attacks) was the adoption of a training regime imparted by Pakistan Special Forces and the use of the sea route aimed at deception and to avoid detection," he said.

It is well-known in intelligence circles that Narayanan had offered to put in his papers, taking moral responsibility for not being able to stop the 26/11 attacks. Then US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, in her book 'No Higher Honor' wrote she had found Narayanan "shell-shocked" after the 26/11 attacks and had told him not to resign as "it was not his fault".

On Monday, he said "we are still far away from finding out when the next terror attack would take place" and admitted that India needs a 24x7 fusion centre as collaboration between agencies was "not good". Narayanan also had a piece of advice for Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde, who was the chief guest at the function.

"Both LeT and IM networks remain active, despite claims to the contrary. It would be a mistake for you, Home Minister Shinde, to think otherwise," he told Shinde, adding that IM had added Jewish institutions and foreign nations to its list of targets and a likelihood of possible suicide missions. "It would be a grievous error if a decline in the number of terrorist incidents across India in past two years, is touted as evidence of terrorism being effectively checked," Narayanan said.