

TERRORISM: AN EMERGING CHALLENGE AND INDIA'S COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGY

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The dawn of the 21st century has witnessed the rise of a most serious crisis in the form of global terrorism. Irrespective of their position, influence and progress, all nations across the globe have experienced the disastrous impact of terrorism. India has been a particular victim of this form of warfare for at least the last four decades.

What is terrorism? The term 'terrorism' derived from the French word 'terrorisme' and originally referred specially to the state terrorism as practiced by the French government during the reign of terror. Black Law dictionary defines terrorism 'as the use or threat of violence to intimidate or cause panic, esp. as a mean of affecting political conduct. in simple words terrorism is the use of violence especially murder and bombing, in order to achieve political aims or to force a government to do something.

Terrorism in India has a long and violent history going back several decades. But, in recent past it has witnessed in series of attacks in many part of the country. Last decades has witnessed that strikes on the Indian Parliament on 13 December 2001, synchronized series of attacks in the economic hub of India. Mumbai on 26 Nov. 2008, and the bomb blast in the technology, educational and real estate hub of India, Pune on 13 Feb. 2010 and on July 13, 2011 at three

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different places once again in Mumbai which killed 19 and injured hundreds proves India's security preparedness and question on whether we are serious enough to tackle terrorist attacks in near future? The other question is why is India the target of so many terrorist attacks?

India is embroiled in a number of low intensity conflicts throughout its territory. Many terrorist incidents are the products of these clashes. The region most affected is –

Jammu and Kashmir – located at the northern tip of India's territory. This state has been the focal point of a territorial dispute dating back to 1947 when British colonial rule ended involving India, Pakistan and China. India claims the entire region as its sovereign territory, though it controlled only about half of it. A third of land is controlled by Pakistan and China controls the remainder. The quarrel between India and Pakistan has touched off a number of military showdowns, since the late 1980s, the region has been home to a number of militant groups seeking independence for the region. Experts say these groups have extensive supports networks in Pakistan and some accuse Pakistan of using these insurgent groups to wage a proxy war in the region. Over the last decade, this conflict has been linked to some two thirds of all fatalities from terrorist attacks in India.

Andhra Pradesh – state along the Bay of Bengal coast has endured a number of attacks linked to a group known as Naxalites, named for the town of Naxalbari where their movement began in 1967. Naxalities are revolutionary communists. Though not all are militant, Human Rights watch estimates some 10,000 are members of armed militants, which continue to wage a low intensity insurgency that claims hundreds of Indian lives every year. In areas under Naxalite control “people's courts” prosecute individuals deemed “class enemies” or “caste oppressors”. Indian officials have reportedly organized vigilante groups to help oppose Naxalite influence, and

human rights groups have criticized the govt's methods. Over the years, the Naxalite influence has spread to thirteen of India's twenty-eight states.

The swath passes through the woods and jungles of central India where the group takes refugee and recruits from the region's impoverished population. The states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Orissa have witnessed high levels of Naxalite activity, but Chhattisgarh witnessed the most Maoist related violence in 2006 with more than 360 deaths.

North-eastern states: Violence has plagued several states in northeast India ever since the country now known as Bangladesh was partitioned off in 1947. Fighting has been particularly bad in the states of Assam and Nagaland, which over the years have received a large influx of immigrants. Shifting demographics in an area already prone to tribal friction have helped touch off a number of religious and cultural conflicts.

Poverty is endemic in the region, and many groups are demanding independence, citing neglect and discrimination on the part of the Indian government as groups for separation. Militant groups like the United Liberation Front of Assam have targeted politicians and infrastructure in an attempt to force out government influence. As per the Annual Report of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) 2009-2010, "there are subversive/extremist/terrorist activity in Jammu and Kashmir and various states in the North-Eastern region particularly Assam and Manipur. Left Wing extremism is concentrated in five or six states but is found at some places in other states also".

Militancy in Kashmir has emerged as the foremost challenge to our country's foreign policy. Because of the Kashmir dispute, India's relations with Pakistan sharply deteriorated India

accused Pak of fanning trouble through cross border terrorism in Kashmir and other part of our country.

Challenges in India's Counter-terrorism:

In case of India it faces the multiple challenges in countering terrorism from weak and poorly trained police forces. Weak intelligence – gathering, target hardening (security cover of public places) gaps in coastal security, poor response Communications, cybercrime, judiciary and delay in execution of duties allocation and use of its manpower efficiently give more options to the terrorist to plan another type of attack.

The same basic problem of the limitation of counter-terrorism strategy in India is the beginning of the confusion of the concept of terrorism due to various reasons as one of them, states that “one man's freedom fighter is another man's terrorist”.

Second in the case of India is the change in a nature of strategy and tactics by terrorist with the use of modern technology as the use of internet for proliferation of terror related news and recruitments, cyber attacks on government sites, all come under the same umbrella to questions on counter terrorism strategy effectiveness in order to prevent not only the terrorist but the problem in security matters the government are using technology specially computerized machines. For these purpose mostly they are using chips and other items made by china. our government are ignoring the most important things that there may be some type of virus which can destroy our system in future.

Third factor to prevent not only the terrorist activities as such which occurs in the coastal water of Indian ocean but it also has to deal with piracy, illegal fishing, drug trafficking, smuggling,

exploring of natural resources and many more which makes in more challenging for the Maritime forces to secure the coastal borders.

Another problem lays at the judiciary level neither TADA nor POTA were passed as laws targeting the Indian Muslim Communist. They were targeted generally against any individual or group aiming to disrupt the peace and harmony of the Indian Republic.

Lastly a case of delivery of advanced technology and weapons required for security forces gets delayed due to the defence procurement policy.

India's present counter-terrorism strategy

India's counter terrorism architecture came into being in the 1980 as stated by R. Raman and expert on terrorism. As the attack of 26/11 was carried out using the sea route, the prime focus of the policy makers and security forces was to bring more momentum to the coastal security scheme launched in 2005-06 of the Coastal Security scheme which included the setting up of 73 coastal police stations, 97 check-posts, 58 outposts and 30 operational barracks, along with 204 boats, 153 jeeps and 312 motorcycles.

Coastal Security Scheme phase II, for April 2011 at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,580 crore, has been approved and it includes setting up of more police stations, acquiring boats, vehicles and other equipment, and constructing jetties. The boats, to be procured under the (CS) Phase II, will be distributed among nine coastal states as Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal and four Union Territories, as the Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep, Pondicherry and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

In setting up the coastal radar chain, the government is now finally scrambling to kick-start the static coastal radar chain and the national AIS (automatic identification system) network to

dynamically detect and track suspicious vessels entering Indian waters. All such long-range identification and tracking systems will mesh together under the upcoming National C3I (command, control, communication and intelligence) Network, Linking 51 nodes of Navy and Coastal Guard to achieve a “common operational picture”, this comprehensive maritime intelligence grid is slated for completion by 2012-2013.

Another such initiative is the coming of setting up NATGRID, called the National Intelligence Grade, A eleven “user” Enteral agencies will be able to electronically access 21 sensitive databases, now held in several areas like banks, credit card, internet, cell phones, immigration, motor vehicle departments, and railways, National Crime Records Bureau, SEBI and Income Tax Department. Along with the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS), which will integrate the Central and state crime data, NATGRID will give a suspect’s “360 degree” profile.

The settings up of National Investigation Agency, the amendment in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, the setting up of major hubs at different locations in India for the National Security Guards, NSG for quick response, the are some of the major initiatives taken by the centre post 26/11.

But above all, the final question that comes to every body’s mind is whether these measures are sufficient enough to counter terrorism in near future or will help to avoid another 26/11?

Recommendations

First of all we need to be technically stronger and it is not only possible if the government of India encourage youth to use their brain for the sake of our country.

Secondly we will have to stop our internal problem like Naxalites and Northeastern states and Jammu and Kashmir problem first. Because if we fail to do it then outsiders will take advantage of it and they will try to break our unity.

Lastly we ourselves must be aware of our surroundings and if we get anythings suspicious then we should inform the police and the higher authority about it. I mean we (every individual) should help our government to sort out the problem as much as possible.

Conclusion

The main cause of terrorism in India is poverty, illiteracy, inefficient judicial system, land disputes, one's personal mentality, religion, corrupt politicians and there are so many reasons also.

For shield and secure to country against future terror, I examined the role and contribution of youth in the success of counter-terrorism. India is credited with having the world's second largest population and with more than 50% below 35 years of age; the country has the potential to become a hub of trained manpower provided this young population is given the right education and training in security matters.

Indian policy maker should not forget the role of youth in development and security initiatives it can provide and contribute toward in the 21st century. Though dealing with these issues which are sensitive to tackle the contribution of young experts from the field of security studies.

Educating the youths of today in security matters and making them understand the importance of defence and security issues will be more effective tool, as increase in the subject of security studies at various levels, and could use their own strengths to form a high level intelligence

gathering groups that could use all kinds of available technological resources or develop their own will help in support for nation building and tackling counter-terrorism.

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