

International Terrorism and India

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- India has battled terrorism for three decades; continues to face serious threat from Islamic militancy/jihad
- No longer confined to limited pockets; entire country is under threat
- Targets have expanded : places of worship, markets, railway and bus stations, cinema halls, hotels, govt offices, courts, public transport and even hospitals.
- Recent major strikes: Mumbai 26/11/2008; German Bakery Pune & aid mission Kabul (2009); Indian Embassy Kabul (2008 & 2009)

Prominent features :

- **Cross-border nature** - groups are raised, financed, trained and directed from beyond our borders. Vulnerabilities in India's vast land and maritime borders are exploited to commit acts of terror in India
- Jihadi groups recruiting from Indian Diaspora.
- Over the years, local support structure of foreign jihadi groups (sleeper cells) has been created across India. They help in planning, logistics, surveillance, and local hospitality.

- **Deniability:** Terrorists from outside carry fake Indian identities, local SIM cards, training in Indian accents, local religious symbols, false GPS feeds – all to make them appear homegrown. E.g. Mumbai 26/11 attack – student ID from a city of South India; wore a Hindu prayer thread; Indian SIM cards; identity of surviving terrorist is established as Ajmal Kasab, from Pakistani Punjab province.

- **Technological sophistication** – IEDs, automatic weapons, GPS, VoIP, Google maps, Thuraya satellite phones.
- **Linkage with organized crime** – terrorists use networks and infrastructure of crime syndicates (smugglers, human and drug traffickers, extortionists, prostitution and gambling rackets)
- **Meticulous planning and training.** In Mumbai 26/11, it was clear that they were well trained in using :
 - (a) Automatic firearms such as AK-47
 - (b) Explosives such as RDX
 - (c) Navigation and survival techniques at sea
 - (d) Hostage taking
 - (e) Use of GPS, VoIP and satellite phones

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL TERROR GROUPS

Lashkar-e-Taiba/Jamaat-ud-Dawa(LeT/JuD)

Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM)

Harkat-ul-Mujahedeen (HuM)

Harkat-ul-Jihad-e-Islami (HuJI)

Hizb-ul-Mujahedeen

Al-Badr

**Pakistan based with branches in many
countries – UAE, Bangladesh, Nepal etc.**

COMMON FEATURE

Radical Sunni Muslim groups simultaneously fighting:

- Internal sectarian jihads (directed at Shias, Ahmadiyas etc.),
- Regional jihads in Afghanistan and India, and
- Global jihad against the West
- Ideological and operational linkages to Taliban and Al-Qaeda

Most significant and dangerous : LeT

- Pakistan-based group with strong links to Al-Qaeda
- Highly motivated, well trained and armed; capability to stage spectacular attacks like Mumbai 26/11
- Banned in Pakistan in 2002; name changed to JuD
- UNSCR 1267 Committee listed JuD and its leaders Hafiz Saeed, Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, Haji Mohd Ashraf (finance chief) , Mahmud Ahmad Bahaziq (fund raiser) in December 2008 following Mumbai

- Activities continue unhindered; JuD holds public meetings inciting people to jihad; raises funds; runs training camps
- In last two years, several LeT/JuD modules have been interdicted in India's neighbourhood.
- However, LeT/JuD has been making serious efforts to revive networks in these countries (Bangladesh, Nepal, Maldives, Sri Lanka).
- After Mumbai 2008, next major strike was German Bakery in Pune on February 13, 2010; suspected to be the handiwork of LeT-affiliated proxy groups

Front organisations/charities

- Conscious effort to project charitable aspect through front relief organizations (tsunami in SL, earthquake in Kashmir, IDPs in Swat, 2007 cyclone in Bangladesh) to build goodwill and recruit
- Trading companies in Bangladesh, Nepal, etc. as fronts to transfer funds, obtain visas and facilitate infiltration of men and material into India.

Domestic counter measures

Legislative

- Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967 (amended 2008)
- Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002 (amended 2009)
- National Investigation Agency Act 2008
- State acts such as MCOCA
- Other acts – Indian Penal Code, Arms Act, IT Act, Anti-hijacking Act, Extradition Act

Institutional

- Ministry of Home Affairs - Intelligence agencies, NSG, NIA, NCTC
- State Police
- Central Police Forces
- FIU

International cooperation and implementation of UN instruments

- UNGCTS 2006 (A/RES/60/288)
- UN Conventions and Protocols; CCIT
- FATF evaluation in December 2009; FIU ~ Egmont
- Bilateral CT-JWG
- Agency to agency cooperation
- Extradition and MLAT – treaties with 31 and 26 countries

S/RES/1267 & 1373

- Visit of joint CTED/1267/UNODC team in 2006 & 1267 MT in 2009
- Implementation issues - problems
- Non-compliance by countries
- UA(P)A [schedule, section 51A]
- UN(SC) Act 1947 - Prevention & Suppression of Terrorism order 2007

S/RES/1540

- WMD Act 2005
- CWC Act 2000
- AE Act 1962
- Foreign Trade Act, Customs Act, Arms Act
- SCOMET (List of Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment and Technologies)
- Periodic submission of reports

Terror Finance

- Hawala
- Counterfeit Currency (FICN)
- Use of NGO/charities
- Transfer through third-party accounts
- FATF evaluation and membership

Other features

- Groups like LeT and JeM operate in 15 countries and target not only India but others. Increasing presence of LeT in Afghanistan (Kunar, Nangarhar)
- Mumbai (26/11) demonstrated that irrespective of their stated agenda, Islamic terror groups today have an inherent global character and their ideology is against global peace, security & communal harmony.

- Joint training camps of LeT, HuM, HuJI with other groups such as AQ&T, Pakistani Taliban ; cross-fertilization & common use of infrastructure. [e.g. AQ #3 Abu Zubayda captured in LeT safe house Faisalabad Pakistan 2002]
- Safe haven and infrastructure issue is critical because radical elements cannot become terrorists and seek shelter

Need of the hour

- Real-time sharing of information and analysis across countries
- Capacity building – institutional, human, technical, infrastructural
- Most importantly – international sanction and political will to act against states which provide safe havens to terrorists and fail in implementing their obligations arising out of international legal instruments

Thank you!