



TERROR TRACKER

Newsletter by Counter Terrorism Centre



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES
मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान



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INDIA, EGYPT HOLD MEET ON COUNTER-TERRORISM

3rd JOINT WORKING GROUP MEETING ON COUNTER-TERROR IN NEW DELHI



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi. – PTI

On 16 February 2023, India and Egypt's Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism held its third meeting in New Delhi. On the one hand, the Indian delegation was chaired by Mr. Mahaveer Singhvi, the Joint Secretary for Counter-Terrorism, Ministry of External Affairs.

On the other hand, Mr. Mohamed Fouad Ahmed, the Director of Counter-Terrorism Unit at, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, chaired the Egyptian delegation. Both sides denounced terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism, agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation and capacity-building efforts, and explored avenues to enhance the Global Counterterrorism Forum's effectiveness.

The joint press release underscored further the key security concerns and objectives for both sides – “The two sides reviewed threats posed by terrorist groups globally and in their respective countries and regions. They shared their respective counter-terrorism priorities and actions undertaken to counter terrorism, violent extremism conducive to terrorism, radicalisation, and terror financing...The two sides underscored the need for taking concerted actions against all the UNSC designated terrorist entities.

“They called upon all countries to take immediate, sustained, irreversible, and verifiable actions to ensure that no territory under their control is used as a terrorist safe haven and to bring to justice perpetrators of terrorist attacks. They further called upon all countries to work towards rooting out terrorist networks, infrastructures, their financing channels, and preventing cross-border movement of terrorists.” – [Mint](#), [The Kootneeti](#)

STATES GIVING
SHELTER TO
TERRORISTS
SHOULD BE
CALLED OUT:
INDIA AT UN



India's Permanent
Representative to the UN
Ruchira Kamboj

India has voiced concern over the spread of terrorism, particularly in Africa and Asia and asserted that those states which provide shelter to terrorists should be called out and held accountable for their deeds, in a veiled reference to Pakistan.

"The threat of terrorism is serious and real. Regrettably, despite best efforts aimed towards transnational cooperation, it continues to spread, particularly in the regions of Africa and Asia," India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ruchira Kamboj, said.

She added that India strongly condemns all kinds of terrorist attacks irrespective of religion, faith, culture, or caste. — [PTI](#)

PERFUME IED FOUND ON 'TEACHER' TERRORIST



The perfume IED recovered (L), Arif Ahmed who was working for LeT for the past three years (R), source: The Tribune

On 2 February 2023, the Jammu and Kashmir Police Director General, Mr. Dilbag Singh, announced to the media that his officers found a schoolteacher, Arif Ahmed (in reality a Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist), with a 'perfume IED, the first of its kind.' The police discovered this device during their investigations into an IED blast that occurred in Jammu on 21 January 2023.

He added, "We have seen previously that various types of IEDs have been used by terrorists with explosive materials, sticky bombs, and time-fitted ones, but this time we have recovered a new type of IED, but this time we recovered a new type of IED... this IED is like a perfume bottle but contains explosive material." – [WION](#)

HOME MINISTER UPSET OVER AJNALA INCIDENT: REPORT

AMIT SHAH MEETS PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER, DISCUSSES LAW AND ORDER



Followers of the Amritpal Singh-led Waris Punjab De clash with the police with breaking through the barricades in protest at the filing of an FIR in Ainala in Amritsar on 23 February. — PTI

Concerned over the Ajnala incident in Amritsar on 23 February 2023 — during which radical Sikh leader Amritpal Singh and his supporters, armed with swords and guns, had barged into a police station to demand the release of his aide accused of kidnapping — and similar attempts by pro-Khalistan forces to whip up separatist sentiments in the state, Home Minister Amit Shah recently met Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann in New Delhi and emphasised upon the need for the state police to deal with such groups firmly.

The Home Minister's meeting with Mr. Mann was also attended by the Punjab home secretary, DGP, and intelligence officers. Soon after meeting the Home Minister, Mr. Mann tweeted that the Centre and Punjab state government will "work together on the issue of law and order". He said issues like drug trafficking and drone threat were also discussed.

Sources told the esteemed daily *Times of India* that Mr. Amit Shah expressed his displeasure over the police handling of the Ajnala incident, in which Amritpal's aide Lovepreet Singh walked free. Sources state that central intelligence agencies had been warning the Punjab police about Amritpal Singh's meteoric rise as a pro-Khalistan icon. Initial alerts date back to the time he was made chief of Waris Punjab De, which Deep Sidhu earlier led. – [The Times of India](#)

NSA DISCUSSES AFGHANISTAN AT REGIONAL MEET IN RUSSIA

NO STATE SHOULD EXPLOIT AFGHAN TERRITORY TO EXPORT TERROR: DOVAL



National Security Advisor Ajit Doval attending a meeting of Russian President Vladimir Putin with heads of delegations taking part in the multilateral consultations of the secretaries of the security councils and national security advisors on Afghanistan, in Moscow. — *Livemint*

On 8 February 2023, India's National Security Advisor, Mr. Ajit Doval, participated in the 5th Regional Dialogue on Afghanistan in Moscow. Apart from India, Iran, China, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan also sent their representatives to the meeting.

Mr. Doval reiterated the significance of the UNSC Resolution No. 2593 (2021), as per which no country should exploit the Afghan territory to 'export terrorism and radicalisation.' He reassured those present that considering India and Afghanistan's 'historical and special relationship,' Afghans would never be abandoned. He also communicated that "The well-being and humanitarian needs of people in Afghanistan is India's foremost priority. This will continue to guide our (India's) approach." In addition, he extended India's support towards "collective efforts to help Afghan people build a prosperous and vibrant nation once again."

While discussing the regional security challenges posed by groups like ISIS, Jaish-e-Mohammad, and Lashkar-e-Taiba with his counterparts, he is said to have underscored the need for "intensified intelligence and security cooperation between respective states and its agencies."

Finally, he laid down India's contribution towards the upliftment of Afghans in these uncertain times, besides the delivery of 40,000 megatons of wheat, 5 lakh covid vaccines, 28 tons of winter clothing, and 60,000 tones of medicines – "India's technical team is overseeing our humanitarian assistance programme...scholarships to 2, 260 Afghan students..." – [The Indian Express](#)

EX-LEADER OF AL-BADR TERRORIST GROUP KILLED IN KARACHI



SYED KHALID RAZA

On 26 February 2023, Syed Khalid Raza, the former commander of the proscribed Pakistan-backed Al-Badr organisation in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), was killed in Karachi. He headed the organisation's wing in J&K for at least eight years. Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army, a Sindhi nationalist organisation, has claimed responsibility for this targeted attack. Raza's killing is the third in the line of a string of Kashmiri-origin terrorists being neutralised recently in Pakistan or Afghanistan.

On 14 February, Aijaz Ahmad Ahangar (ISIS) was allegedly killed by the Taliban in Kunar Province. Additionally, Bashir Ahmad Peer alias Imtiaz Alam (Hizbul Mujahideen) in Rawalpindi on 20 February. – [Indian Narrative](#)

4,000 IS-K JIHADISTS ON AFGHAN-TAJIK BORDER: RUSSIA

Anatoly Sidorov, Chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Russia-led Collective Security Treaty Organization, has issued a warning that approximately 4,000 Islamic State in Khorasan (IS-K) terrorists have been mobilised along the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border. He added, “Instability in the regions is directly linked to the Taliban’s policy to repress religious and ethnic minorities, increased level of violence, and lack of unity. The Taliban-run administration is currently plagued with a serious economic and humanitarian crisis.” Analysts predict that should Moscow confront genuine threats to its security from ISKP; it could be compelled to redirect military resources deployed in the conflict zones in Ukraine.

For his part, Taliban’s Acting Foreign Affairs Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi rebuked Sirdorov’s warning: “How come thousands of such people are concentrated in one place and still no one can see them or is aware of them?” – [IntelliNews](#)

Hizbul Commander Bashir Peer Killed

On 20 February 2023, Bashir Ahmad Peer alias Imtiyaz Alam, one of India’s most-wanted designated terrorists and a top commander of the proscribed outfit Hizbul Mujahideen, was killed in Rawalpindi. Originally a resident of Jammu, he had been based in Pakistan for more than a decade.

Furthermore, he undertook online propaganda initiatives to bring together former and current terrorists from his organisation and beyond under one umbrella to bolster Hizbul’s strength. Peer was one of Syed Salahuddin’s, the organisation’s Chief’s confidants, and his designation had been attributed to his role in facilitating the infiltration of terrorists into Jammu and Kashmir and providing them logistical support. – [NDTV](#), [Hindustan Times](#)

118 Doda Terrorists Active from across Border

According to SSP Doda Abdul Qayoom, around 118 terrorists, originally from Doda, are operating out of Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. He added, “They are trying to spread militancy once again in Doda and the Jammu province. We have made the profile of 10 such militants who are most active. We have declared two individual terrorists and two as proclaimed offenders.” Furthermore, properties owned by one of the suspects have been seized by police officials. – [ANI News](#)

Australia’s First Christian Terrorist Attack

On 16 February 2023, the Queensland Police Commissioner, Tracy Linford, announced to the reporters that the shootout last year between police officers and the Train family in the town of Wieambilla was the first fundamentalist Christian terrorist attack in Australia. Gareth, Stacey, and Nathaniel Train, now deceased, were adherents of premillennialism. – [The Guardian](#)

IS-K Praises Indian PFI in E-Magazine

The e-magazine of Islamic State Khorasan (IS-K), ‘Voice of Khurasan’, has published a four-page article in its recent issue with the headline ‘Crackdown on Popular Front of India: Lessons for Indian Muslims.’

In this article, the IS-K mouthpiece has directly supported the banned Popular Front of India (PFI) and urged its cadres to join the global terror outfit under its ‘black flag’. – [Times Now](#)

Türkiye Quake Challenges Anti-ISIS Drive

As per the International Crisis Group, thousands of individuals from across the globe, who joined ISIS and were prosecuted in Türkiye, have already been or will be released shortly.

The presence of foreign fighters in the country, still reeling from the devastating earthquakes, will worsen its security and humanitarian challenges. – [International Crisis Group](#)

NATGRID Budget Increased by 108 percent

The budget allocation for the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) in the 2023-2024 union budget has increased from Rs. 96.56 crores to Rs. 200.53 crores, i.e., by 108 per cent.

This development addresses the need to bolster India’s counter-terrorism measures and access to ‘cutting-edge’ technology to facilitate information sharing between agencies. A database is being set up on hawala transactions, terrorism, arms trafficking, etc., using NATGRID in conjunction with Intelligence Bureau (IB) and National Investigation Agency. An increase of 13% allocation has also been proposed for IB, from ₹3,022 crores in the current fiscal (revised) to ₹3,418 crores. – [Hindustan Times](#)