



**ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER**

**Political Science**

**INDO-US PARTNERSHIP ON COUNTERING TERRORISM**

**KEY WORDS:** Terrorism, Intelligence, NATO, International Community, International Security, Counterterrorism evaluation, War, Machine Learning, Privacy and security Dilemma, Government Strategies.

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**ABSTRACT**

India and United States are the world's two largest democratic countries with expertise in scientific and technical fields. India-US bilateral relationships have developed into a global strategic partnership over a period of time, Indo-US cooperation underwent a paradigm shift, especially after the 9/11 incident with the issue of terrorism being a major focus area. Cooperation in counter-terrorism has seen considerable progress with intelligence sharing, information exchange, operational cooperation, counter-terrorism technology, and equipment. India-US Counter-Terrorism Cooperation Initiative was signed in 2010 to expand collaboration on counter-terrorism, information sharing, and capacity building. India's US cooperation in countering terrorism is the summary of this paper. This paper describes nuclear facilities, security, chemical confidentiality, and other critical infrastructures for monitoring emergency responses against terrorism. This paper also elaborates on the promising areas for further Indo-US cooperation. The current Taliban takeover of Afghanistan is another opportunity to build the Indo-US counter-terrorism pillar in an active mode. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Aug 17, met UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and discussed the situation in war-torn Afghanistan. Members of the US Congress, including many of President Joe Biden's fellow democrats, said they were increasingly frustrated with issues in Afghanistan and they vowed to investigate what went wrong. India and the US need to make use of the trust and confidence that they have built in their bilateral relationship and understand each other's core national security interests that shape their respective anti-terrorism goals.

**INTRODUCTION**

The study of terrorism has emerged as one of the most important research in International Politics in recent times. As the incident of terrorism has increased in the past decade, the phenomenon of terrorism has become one of concern to governments and increasing interest to scholars. The term "terrorism" has no precise or widely-accepted definition. The problem of defining terrorism is compounded by the fact that terrorism has recently become a fad word that is often applied to a variety of acts of violence that are not strictly terrorism. The Rand chronology of terrorist activities has been a useful tool in assessing the magnitude of the terrorist problem. Results have shown that the level of international terrorism perceived by the public is frequently determined by the quality of the incidents, location, and degree of media coverage, not by the level of violence. RAND Corporation is an American nonprofit global organization that was created in 1948 to offer research and analysis to the US armed force.

The India-US bilateral relationship is multi-dimensional. The US is now India's second-largest arms provider and the Indian armed forces conduct more joint exercises with the US military than with any other country in the world. Just two decades ago, the scenario was almost diametrically opposite: in 1998, the US had suspended military exercises with India and also had imposed several sanctions on account of its nuclear program. In 2002, the US Ambassador to India Robert Black will complain that US trade flows to India were as "flat as a chapati." By 2005, the US Congress had paved the way for India's acquisition of the first US-built warship. Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's characterization of India and the US as "natural allies" is often reiterated by a succession of officials to assert a convergence of values between the two old democracies even before there was a unity in their interests. After the attacks on us soil on 11 September 2001, the George W. Bush administration recognized the potential of engagement with India. This realization was strengthened after the terror attacks on the Indian Parliament, just two months after 9/11.

This article presents an extensive review of the field of terrorism studies. Its goal is to assess whether the numerous methodological concerns raised over the past decades continue to exert an influence on contemporary literature. Are there signs that the field is moving beyond these limitations or are there grounds for continued sepsis regarding the

prospects for its maturation? To address these questions, a database was constructed using all articles published from 2007 to 2016 in nine academic journals on terrorism. Also, this article explains the list of activities that are carried out by both India and the US to reduce international terrorism for a secure future for mankind.

**2. Theory And Definition**

The use of violence especially against civilians or governments in the pursuit of political aims or to highlight an organization's demand can be named terrorism. Terrorism may not be a threat to "our way of life but it is a real threat to some individual's actual lives". If "our way of life" means to go about one's business and daily life without the threat of being killed, then yes, there's a threat against it, to a greater or lesser extent. Terrorism affects by the creation of terror. Individuals, society, and nations all get affected. Terrorists restart to the violence of different magnitude and hence they adopt means that help them defeat the purpose of terrorism, Counterterrorism acts are there means that states adopt for the purpose. Terrorism United States, Counter-Terrorism Policy consists of four main principles. These are; 1. The government makes no concessions to or agreements with terrorists; 2. Terrorists must be brought to justice for their crimes; 3. States that sponsor terrorists and terrorism must be isolated and pressured to force a change of behavior; 4. And the counterterrorism capabilities of countries allied with the United States and those that require assistance in fighting terrorism must be bolstered.

**2.1. Basic causes of Terrorism**

Four basic causes influence terrorism.

1. Ethno-nationalism
2. Discrimination
3. Religion
4. Political Grievances

**Ethno-Nationalism** is the desire of a population to break away from a government or ruling power and create a state of their own. It can cause the formation of terrorist groups.

**Discrimination** is the prejudicial treatment of different categories of people, especially on the grounds of ethnicity, language, region age, sex, or disability. One problem with discrimination is that people can internalize others' negative beliefs, even when they're false. You may start to believe you're

not good enough. But family and friends can remind you of your worth and help you reframe those faulty beliefs.

**Religion:** Religious extremists have been the main source of some terrorism, and religious belief has sometimes influenced people to get enter into this terrorism. Terrorism in much of the twentieth century was aimed at achieving political or nationalistic goals and was rarely caused by religious differences. People choose terrorism when they are trying to right what they perceive to be a social or political or historical wrong when they have been stripped of their land or rights or denied these.

**Political Grievances:** The most popular theory is that poverty causes terrorism when people are deprived of certain resources and opportunities; poverty can create resentment and cause some to turn to terrorism in order to express their outrage. Sometimes the ruling leader also promotes terrorism so as to diminish the opposition to make it more influential.

**2.2. Some Indo – US acts of Counter-terrorism measures**

India has been a victim of terrorism for nearly fifty years now. But the US became a victim in the beginning. Counterterrorism cooperation between India and the US began at the turn of the century. However, even after two decades, the pace of policy outcomes in this area has been modest at best. The 123 Agreement signed between the United States of America and the Republic of India is known as the U.S.–India Civil Nuclear Agreement or Indo-US nuclear deal. The framework for this agreement was a July 18, 2005, joint statement by then-Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and then-U.S. President George W. Bush, under which India agreed to separate its civil and military nuclear facilities and to place all its civil nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards and, in exchange, the United States agreed to work toward full civil nuclear cooperation with India. This U.S.-India deal took more than three years to come to fruition as it had to go through several complex stages, including amendment of U.S. domestic law, especially the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, a civil-military nuclear *Separation Plan* in India, an India-IAEA safeguards (inspections) agreement and the grant of an exemption for India by the Nuclear Suppliers Group, an export-control cartel that had been formed mainly in response to India's first nuclear test in 1974. After India brought this agreement into force, inspections began in a phased manner on the 35 civilian nuclear installations India has identified in its Separation Plan. The deal is seen as a watershed in U.S.-India relations and introduces a new aspect to international nonproliferation efforts. On August 1, 2008, the IAEA approved the safeguards agreement with India, after which the United States approached the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) to grant a waiver to India to commence civilian nuclear trade. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the bill to approve the deal on September 28, 2008. Two days later, India and France inked a similar nuclear pact making France the first country to have such an agreement with India. On October 1, 2008, the U.S. Senate also approved the civilian nuclear agreement allowing India to purchase nuclear fuel and technology from—and sell them to—the United States. U.S. president, George W. Bush, signed the legislation on the Indo-US nuclear deal, approved by the U.S. Congress, into law, now called the United States-India Nuclear Cooperation Approval and Non-proliferation Enhancement Act, on October 8, 2008. The agreement was signed by then-Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee and his counterpart then Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, on October 10.

**3. Development Stages Of India – Us Hgcounterterrorism Cooperation**

- In the Indo-US Statement of the joint working group on counterterrorism in 2000, Interagency teams from the US and India "agreed on a range of measures to combat

international terrorism. And the two sides would share experience, exchange information, and coordinate approached and action".

- Indo-US Counterterrorism joint working group in 2002 launched a bilateral cyber-security forum with “a wide range program of action to address challenges of cyber terrorism and information security.”
- In 2006 Indian Army and US Marines, Joint Exercise EX Shatrujeet, The Indian Army, and the US Marine Corps conducted "training in semi-urban terrain to enhance interoperability at a functional level and share the experience of CT operations along with OOTW (Operations Other Than War) training and operations of an Infantry/Marine company as part of an Infantry Marine Battalion."
- In the 2010 India–US Strategic Dialogue, a Joint statement "reiterated the continued U.S. commitment to provide full cooperation and support in ongoing counterterrorism investigations including through continued exchanges of information between designated agencies and by bringing the perpetrators of the 2008 Mumbai terror attack to justice."
- In 2011 India–US Homeland Security Dialogue The two sides "decided to strengthen agency-to-agency engagement, including in the areas of intellectual exchange, information sharing, forensics and investigation, access and sharing of data relating to terrorism, security of infrastructure, transportation and trade, conducting joint needs assessments, combating counterfeit currency, countering illicit financing and transnational crime. They agreed that the two sides shall designate points of contact and establish protocols for engagement."
- In 2015 India–US Joint Declaration on combating terrorism recognized the threat posed by “entities such as Al-Qaida and its affiliates, Lashkar-e-Tayibba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, D Company, and the Haqqani Network, and other regional groups that seek to undermine stability in South Asia.”
- In 2016 India–US Cooperation between the Ministry of Home Affairs and the US Terrorist Screening Centre, India and the US sign the agreement to exchange terrorism-screening information between the US Federal Bureau of Investigation and India's Intelligence Bureau.
- In 2018 India–US Homeland Security Presidential Directive-6 India formally entered into the US Homeland Security Presidential Directive-6 (HSPD-6), to enable it to access unclassified biographic information of known and suspected terrorists in real-time.
- Again in the 2018 Joint Statement on inaugural India–US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue The two sides "committed to enhance their ongoing cooperation in multilateral fora such as the UN and FATF."
- In Exercise Yudh Abhyas in 2019 Exercise between the armies of India and the US focused on "specialized drills and procedures involved in counter insurgency & counter terrorist operations in an urban environment."
- In 2019 in Counterterrorism Tabletop Exercise (CT-TTX) for QUAD countries Assessed and validated “CT response mechanisms in the light of emerging terrorist threats as well as to provide opportunities to share best practices and to explore areas for enhanced cooperation amongst participating countries.”
- Again in the 2019 Joint Statement on the Second India–US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue The two sides took note of "the judicial cooperation on terrorism cases between the National Judicial Academy in Bhopal, India and the U.S. Federal Judicial Center" and committed to "facilitate further cooperation between them in new areas and through joint judicial workshops for third-country partners."

The above discussion gives a clear picture of the developments that have taken place between the two countries in recent times.

#### 4. Afghan And Taliban Conflict

Specter of terrorism has emerged after the Taliban the militant group that ruled Afghanistan in the late 1990s, reclaimed power in Afghanistan just a few months back after the United States withdrew its troops. Afghan security personnel that was trained and equipped by the US and its allies ran away and the insurgents rushed over the nation, taking all major cities in a couple of days. As the Taliban surged throughout the country, President Ashraf Ghani made few public pronouncements but later he fled the country. He departed Afghanistan as the Taliban approached Kabul claiming that he chose to leave to avoid further violence. Over the last two decades, the United States and its NATO allies spent billions of dollars training and equipping Afghan security personnel. But the Western-backed regime, on the other hand, was riddled with corruption. To siphon off resources, commanders inflated the number of soldiers, and troops in the field frequently lacked ammunition, supplies, and even food. When it became evident that the United States was leaving, their morale plummeted even more. In recent days, as the Taliban advanced fast, entire units surrendered after brief battles, and Kabul and some adjacent states fell to the Taliban without a fight.

##### 4.1. Reasons Behind Afghans Leaving Their Country

The people of Afghanistan were running away from their home country as they were concerned that the country would devolve into disorder, or that the Taliban will take harsh revenge against individuals who worked with the Americans or the government. Many people were also concerned that the Taliban would reintroduce the strict interpretation of Islamic law that they used when they ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001. Women were not allowed to go to school or work outside the home at the time. When they went outside, they had to wear the all-encompassing burqa and be accompanied by a male relative.

##### 4.2. Reasons Why The Taliban Took Over Afghanistan At This Time

Most likely because US forces are scheduled to leave at the end of the month. For several years, the United States had been attempting to exit Afghanistan, its longest war until now. When American troops invaded to root out Al-Qaida, which coordinated the 9/11 attacks while being harbored by the Taliban, they did it in a couple of months. Holding land and rebuilding a nation devastated by wars proved more challenging. As the United States' focus went to Iraq, the Taliban regrouped and, in recent years, took control of much of Afghanistan's countryside.

Last year, President Donald Trump announced his intention to withdraw and signed an agreement with the Taliban that limited US military operations against them. President Joe Biden then announced that the last troops would leave by the end of August. As the deadline approached, the Taliban launched a rapid onslaught, capturing city after city.

##### 4.3. Impact Of Afghanistan Taliban Issue On India And Its Future Aspect

India's UN Ambassador T.S. Tirumurti has noted that there were "a few opportunities" amidst the challenges in the current situation in Afghanistan. He also reportedly stated that "If there is a zero-tolerance for terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and it is ensured that the territory of Afghanistan is not used by terrorist groups to threaten or attack any other country, then Afghanistan's neighbors and the region would feel safer". Pakistan PM Imran Khan has virtually welcomed the Taliban to Kabul, and Iran President Ibrahim Raisi has spoken of US withdrawal as restoring life, security, and lasting peace in Afghanistan. Clearly, there is a celebratory atmosphere connected with the Taliban's victory, although Afghanistan's public – and especially its female population – is sure to be seriously and viciously abused. In these circumstances, the repercussions of the Taliban's victory over India need a closer look.

- Perhaps the most important factor is Pakistan's renewed ability to further its Kashmir policy and bleed India "with a thousand cuts". This gets a boost because Pakistan can enable Taliban fighters to ingress into POK with logistics and other support along the LOC.
- Pakistan's calculation to take advantage of India's domestic political commitments, especially State and general elections in India.
- Pakistan's and China's assessment of India's strengths and weaknesses.
- Pakistan's renewed Kashmir initiative will surely trigger increased attention of our military (Army, Navy & Air Force) towards Pakistan, necessitating increased force deployment or re-deployment.

#### 5.0. Findings

The participants of both countries shared best practices on countering terrorism financing and use of the internet for terrorist purposes and decided to continue counter-terrorism cooperation on a multilateral base. Both sides emphasized the importance of upholding international standards on anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism by all countries. They also discussed mutual legal and extradition assistance and opportunities for bilateral law enforcement training, including at the Central Academy for Police Training in Hyderabad, India.

5.1 The United States has put a commitment to standing together with the people and government of India in the fight against terrorism. Both sides strongly condemned any use of terrorist proxies and cross-border terrorism in all its forms and called for the perpetrators of the 26/11 Mumbai attack to be brought to justice. They also called for concerted action against all terrorist groups, including groups proscribed by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) 1267 Sanctions Committee, such as al-Qa'ida, ISIS/Daesh, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT), and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM).

5.2 The US Administration is committed to keeping pace with the changing landscape through a clear-eyed recognition that the terrorist threats we faced in 2001 are not the same as the threats we face today. The threats of tomorrow will also undoubtedly pose new challenges, and we must remain flexible and agile to meet them.

5.3 Defense relationship has emerged as a major pillar of the India-U.S. Strategic Partnership with intensification in defense trade, joint exercises, personnel exchanges, and cooperation in maritime security and counter-piracy.

5.4 Counterterrorism cooperation has seen considerable progress with enhanced intelligence sharing, information exchange, and operational cooperation. The bilateral Joint Working Groups on Counter-Terrorism is an important mechanism.

5.5 Using India as a staging post for aerial strikes in Afghanistan is only an excuse. The US wants to attach India closely to it to enhance its presence in South Asia and prepare for any military actions in the Indo-Pacific region, especially the Indian Ocean. The ultimate goal of the US is not Afghanistan; it aims to target China and divide Asia. Many US strategists, as well as US President Joe Biden, have admitted that the withdrawal from Afghanistan will help the US focus its defenses on other security problems. This includes China and Russia.

#### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the evolving terrorist landscape requires flexibility and a continued commitment to working together to effectively prevent radicalization and terrorist violence. While the lessons we have learned over the previous decades will play a key role moving forward, we must remain vigilant and be able to adapt quickly if we are to successfully meet the

threats of tomorrow. India is the most important country in the Indian Ocean region to coordinate with US strategies. US' request to use India as a staging post is within the logistics exchange agreement. India is likely to give the green light. If so, there is more political significance than military substance. It shows that India has decided to align with the US. On the surface, India sticks to its non-alignment principle. But in real practice, New Delhi has formed a quasi-alliance with Washington.

India has its own agenda to pursue. Its attempts to form this quasi-alliance relationship with the US are mainly aimed at dealing with China. The strategic confrontations between China and India will hardly change. With a lack of confidence, India has to rest on the US to contest China. Furthermore, New Delhi hopes Washington will alienate Pakistan. Between 2007 and 2016, the field of terrorism studies has undergone significant developments with regard to many of the methodological issues that have plagued it for decades. Above all, the use of primary data has increased considerably and appears to be continuing to do so.

The rapidly evolving nature of global terrorism, including its transnational scope, links to organized crime, the possible use of WMDs, and the flow of small arms and light weapons, make the need for international cooperation on this issue particularly urgent. The potential impact of terrorism on the socioeconomic stability of developing—and developed—states, as well as its potential to destabilize fragile political systems and jeopardize delicate diplomatic relationships, make it a critical issue for the UN and its partners.

However, the quality and efficacy of the UN's initiatives to counter-terrorism will depend primarily on member states and their willingness to strengthen their multilateral capacity to address the terrorist threat. During the review of the GCT Strategy, the member states reaffirmed their primary responsibility for its implementation. Consequently, the future role of the UN in countering global terrorism will depend on its members' weighing the cost of inaction against the costs and benefits of empowering the United Nations and the multilateral system to maintain international peace and security in the face of transnational security challenges like global terrorism.

At various points, the group discussed the growing phenomenon of suicide terrorism. It is noted that India has already had at least 60 documented instances of suicide bombings. Unlike the suicide bombers in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict who target public places, many of the targets now are fortified camps, making locations with nuclear fissile material a highly likely target. Additionally, chemical and biological laboratories are increasingly visible targets, as more and more publicity is given to biological warfare and the use of dangerous pathogens. The suicide bomber who does not care whether he or she dies in the process of releasing smallpox or anthrax is going to be a significant threat. Volunteering for a suicide mission for every 1 person selected, and if this is true for India, it is equally true for the rest of the world. This is a problem that cannot be ignored.

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