

Domestic and External Influence of Terrorism in India

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ABSTRACT: The aim of this paper is to explore and examine the concept of terrorism. Terrorism is not new and though it was seen since the beginning of record history it is hard to define. Over last decade, terrorism has become the single most important menace facing the countries across the world. Terrorism has today become the latest threat to the world peace and particularly to India's national security. The menace of terrorism whether perpetrated by individuals, groups or states force is a crime against humanity which wounded societies all over the world. The terrorist has not only threatened the ideals of democracy and freedom but also caused a serious challenge to the existence, progress and development of mankind. The modern technology has further added a new dimension to terrorism. The highly sophisticated weapons are now easily available to the terrorist groups as well. India is even not exempt from this phenomenon. Ironically, India's acceptance of secularism, plurality and tolerance for multiple faith and beliefs has made it a fertile group for many terror groups. Thus, terrorism must be confronted intelligently, wisely and relentlessly and without fear and favour. The paper begins by clarifying the more basic concept of terrorism and its domestic and external influence.

KEYWORDS: Terrorism, Jihad, Ethno Nationalist, Fundamentalism.

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I. Introduction:

Terrorism is not new and though it was seen since the beginning of recorded history it is hard to define. The earliest known organization was the Zealots of Judea. The Assassins were the next group to show recognizable characteristics of terrorism, as we know today. Though both Zealots and Assassins operated in antiquity, they are significant today as forerunners of modern terrorists in aspect of motivation, organization, targeting and goal and although both were ultimate failures still they are remembered hundreds of years later. Terrorism has today become the latest threat to world peace and particularly to India's national security. The menace of terrorism whether perpetrated by individuals, groups or state forces is a crime against humanity which has wounded societies all over the world. The terrorist has not only susceptible the ideals of democracy and freedom but also caused a serious challenge to the existence, progress and development of mankind. The modern technology has further added a new dimension to terrorism as the highly sophisticated weapons are now easily available to the terrorist groups as well. All over the world there are various terrorist organizations that are existing actively on their own apart from other international terrorist organizations. The alarming increase in terrorist attacks in this century is a cause of serious concern.

II. Aims And Objectives Of The Paper:

- To highlight the concept of terrorism.
- The paper attempt to focus and examine the impact of terrorism in India with special reference to domestic and external influence.
- The paper also torch light on the root causes of terrorism.
- The paper also try to give the permanent solution of the problem of terrorism

III. Methodology:

The paper is descriptive in nature, presented from the philosophical standpoint of view. The paper is based on secondary data. Secondary data has been collected from relevant sources such as articles and periodicals published in reputed journals, books and internet.

IV. Findings And Discussion:

1. Meaning of Terrorism:

To describe a person, a group or a party as 'terrorist' it is necessary to know what 'terrorism' is .The term 'terrorism' comes from the French word '*terrorisme*' which is based on the latin verb '*terrere*' meaning 'to cause to tremble.' According to Oxford English Dictionary, terrorism is the unofficial or unauthorized use of

violence and intimidation in the attempt to achieve political aims. The Encyclopaedia Britannica defines terrorism as the systematic use of violence to create a general climate of fear in a population and thereby to bring about particular political objectives. Terrorism is violence or other harmful acts committed (or threatened) against civilians for political or other ideological goals. The European Union defines terrorism as an act with the aim of “destabilising or destroying the fundamental political, constitutional, economic or social structures of a country.”

Terrorism is generally defined as the unlawful act done by a group of people by the use of violence to directly create terror and fear among common people for achieving their targets including personal, social, religious, political and ideological aims. There is no universally accepted definition of terrorism. It is commonly defined as the deliberate use of violence and intimidation (fear) directed to a large audience to coerce a community into concluding politically and ideologically motivated demands. The technical goals of terrorism are----

- Gaining publicity and media attention.
- Destabilizing polity.
- Damaging economy.

2. **Causes of Terrorism:**

On proper analysis the following causes for the various insurgent/terrorist movements in India can be deduced –

□ **Political Causes:** In Assam and Tripura it is seen that due to the failure of the government to control large scale illegal immigration of Muslims from Bangladesh, to fulfill the demand of economic benefits for the sons and daughters of the soil etc.

□ **Economic Causes:** Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Bihar and West Bengal are prime examples. The economic factors include the absence of land reform, rural unemployment, exploitation of landless labourers, etc. These economic grievances and gross social injustice have given rise to ideological terrorist groups such as Maoist groups operating under different names.

□ **Ethnic Causes:** It is seen mainly in northeastern states such as Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur due to feelings of ethnic separatism which has given rise to terrorist groups like ULFA etc.

□ **Religious Causes:** It is seen mainly in Punjab before 1995 and in Jammu and Kashmir since 1989. In Punjab, some Sikh leaders alleged during the 1970s that the Sikhs were being ignored in Indian society. On the said backdrop in the 1980s, there was an armed movement and it turned violent. The name Khalistan

was resurfaced to that effect and sought independence from the Indian Union. The Babbar Khalsa, a Sikh terrorist group, consequently blew up Air India's aircraft killing the innocent passengers in the year 1985. In Jammu and Kashmir, Muslims belonging to different organizations created terror for religious purposes. Hizbul Mujahidin want India's Jammu and Kashmir State to be merged with Pakistan. The terror which loomed large in Jammu and Kashmir is due to feelings of anger amongst the section of the Muslim youth over the Government's perceived failure to safeguard their lives and interest or due to Pakistan's attempt to cause religious polarization.

3. **Emergence of disastrous terrorism in India:**

Accompanying with India's growth in economy, population and military, the country also witnessed the presence of insurgency. Although, India faced insurgency issues in the North East in Nagaland in the early 1950s just after independence of India, but current terrorism dates back to 1980s when the movement took its place in Khalistan. It was a Sikh religiously motivated separatist movement which wanted a separate state for them. This period, which saw the birth of modern terrorism in India, gradually transmitted to grasp in other parts of India like Jammu and Kashmir, the North-East states and the western, central and eastern parts of India. Overall, it was endemic across India. Most of these movements seek independence from India while some sought to destabilize the Indian government. External support system of India's immediate neighborhood was one of the vital factors which helped these rebellious groups to rejuvenate and aggravated their campaign against the government. The external support for terrorists comes from Pakistan, Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh. India shares land borders with all these countries. Of these, Pakistan has been the most active and vehement supporter of anti-Indian groups with even elements from the Government-owned Intelligence wing actively involved in aiding and abetting these groups. It is known to

have supported Sikh militancy in the 1980s in India and gradually created support structures for Islamic militancy in the northern state of Jammu and Kashmir. It is now documented that it is also supporting some groups in the North Eastern region of India. Bangladesh, Myanmar and Bhutan have also known to have provided safe haven to North Eastern Insurgent groups.

4. **Prevalence of Major Incidents in India:**

Terrorism is a global phenomenon which has raised the eyebrow of all nations. So in this context India is not exempt from such catastrophic menace which has dragged it to the negotiation table with other nations to vanish it from the social scenario. India is a country which confronts several types of threats from the insurgents. It may be categorized into mainly four types: those are:

1. Relating to insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir,

2. Relating to separatist movement in north eastern regions,
3. Continuance violence prevailed by the left wing extremists and
4. Terrorist incidents in urban and semi urban area.

Let's begin with the terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir. In order to understand critical condition of Kashmir it genuinely needs to overlook the historical background. During independence of India, Jammu and Kashmir was a princely state and it was accessed by the then maharaja Hari Singh on 26th October 1947 with the approval of govt. of India act 1935 and Indian independence act of 1947 and international law and was complete and irrevocable. But Pakistan consistently violate the U.N. reorganization of Kashmir to India. Even in 1963 Pakistan also offered a part of its POK territory to china. So there was a demographic change in Pakistani area and allowed non-Kashmiris to settle in that place. Moreover when the terrorist activities was sponsored by Pakistan, all the Kashmiri pundits were forced to fly to Jammu and other part of India. Being adamant on its points Pakistan has already taken four times initiative to annex Kashmir with him since 1948.

Importantly in 1999, Indian solders successfully expelled all Pakistani intruders from Kargil area. In 2000, the state Assembly adopted a resolution accepting the report of the State Autonomy Committee that recommended greater autonomy. It was summarily rejected by the Central government. In 2000, the Hizb-ul Mujahedeem offered a ceasefire to facilitate talks with the Central government.

Later that year, the security forces suspended combat operation against rebels during the holy month of Ramadan. The ceasefire continued for six months till 23 May 2001. All these turmoil, violence and riot subsided from 2002 onwards. But again the state entered into the civil unrest when the state government decided to transfer 100 acres forest land to Shree Amaranth shrine board in 2008. The civil unrest broke out again in 2010 between civilian protestors and security forces and lasted over three months (June to September) killing over 150 people. Though it is unnoticed but the urban and semi urban areas have registered the highest loss of life and property by the terrorist and armed revolution of the state. From March 1993 to the end of 2010, 62 incidents were recorded. A total of 1467 persons were killed and 4497 persons were injured. All these incidents primarily occurred in the states of Andhra Pradesh (A.P.), Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, New Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh (UP) and West Bengal (WB), Delhi, Maharashtra Uttar Pradesh and so on.

5. Influence of domestic terrorist group:

Indian society is broadly splited into several religion, culture, ethnic groups and language community. All these factors provide a conducive fertile ground for domestic terrorism across India. Among all, religious groups and political party use it as the safety weapons to satisfy their self-interest. Looking at the domestic terrorist incidents happened during 1998 to 2006, India ranks on third next to Iraq, Israel and Palestine. In terms of victims of domestic terrorist attacks India ranks second than to Iraq with 10,926 casualties. In countries with deep social segmentation, parties play polarization and radicalization instead of moderation and inclusion. Mainly parties and political systems generate such condition under which the local politician urges violent and terrorist activities. The root cause of domestic terrorism in a democratic country is the lack of liberties, segregation of power distribution and poor rule of law. Moreover, rapid growth of modernization, privatization and industrialization give a scope for emergence of ideological terrorism. Large group of highly educated people with few scope for employment within the blocked system tend to feel alienated and frustrated. So these socially excluded groups being harassed by the state entered into the hell of terrorism in search for better alternative career. Religion and terrorism share an age old history. Terrorism basically on religion basis has two dimensions. One is secular terrorist and other one is religious terrorist whose constituent and ideologies are contradict to each other. Secular terrorist on one hand regard indiscriminate violence is immoral and unproductive and religious terrorist consider this violence is not only moral but also indispensable for attainment of the goal.

6. External terrorist linkage in India:

Pakistan is the highest antagonistic neighbour which shares half of the border of western side of India. Among all the neighboring, he is the most disturbing state that always creates unrest in the nation. Many terrorist groups are being nurtured in the border of these two nations. LeT is the most furious organization which has created a havoc across the world generally and in India particularly. Other radicalist groups which have been intriguing to jihad in Kashmir are JeM, Al- Qaeda who are prominently active. Apart from Pakistan sponsored terrorist, India also faces the same worst situation from the north eastern side. Terrorist from north-eastern have established their camp in Bhutan. There are 30 largest terrorist camp in that small country with the united liberation front of India (ULFA) itself owning 13, the national democratic front of Bodoland (NDFB) has 12 and Kamtapur liberation organization controlling 5 camps (Banerjee: 2004). The Bhutanese government has attempted many times to flee these anti-Indian terrorist groups from their land but could not succeeded yet. Although some fled from the land finally took the shelter in Bangladesh and Myanmar who has already been hosting some other extremist group in their territory. Bangladesh on the other hand has given refugee to anti-

Indian insurgent as early as 1985 groups like ULFA. However India's neighbour support to terrorism against India for several reasons. Pakistan assist terrorism as a state policy, where Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar like countries allow the refugee out of their domestic political compulsion.

V. Conclusion:

It needs a tough single-minded and challenging duty to fight against terrorist. For which constant efforts are mandatory by various responsible agencies, both national and international. To fight a successful war against irritable border terrorism, an international political support and collaboration and coordination among the neighbouring States is dreadful required. But it is peculiar that instead of prohibition various states are fostering irritable border terrorism. And even the International Law regarding the limitations and annihilation of these acts are not as strong as it should be. India-Pakistan relations have already deteriorated over period of time even though consistent efforts by both nations are being initiated for peace, harmony and tranquility. However, due to ideological, religion and historical differences not much has been gained by both sides. More importantly, Pakistan policy to degrade India's conservative superiority is the main stumbling block in all peace process. And ISI of Pakistan is laying a enmity role and urge one point agenda of spreading terrorism in India by all means, and unless India takes all necessary actions to check its activities now, the threat of nuclear terrorism looms ahead.

Lastly I say that the permanent solution of terrorism is self realization. No other government policies can solve the problem of terrorism. If terrorist understand the value of human beings then they cannot do any kind of violent act. They should realize the value of human being; they also should realize the feeling of suffering otherwise no one can solve the problem of terrorism.

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