

COUNTERTERRORISM COOPERATION BETWEEN INDIA AND THE UNITED STATES: CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES

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Abstract

This research looks at how the United States, India, and other nations collaborated to fight terrorism and how the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) was established. Within the context of international collaboration and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, important facets of global counterterrorism efforts—such as information sharing, capacity development, and preventative measures—are examined. Notwithstanding advancements, obstacles still exist in tackling the dynamic character of terrorist risks and guaranteeing ongoing collaboration. In order to successfully lessen the danger of terrorism, the report emphasizes the significance of ongoing efforts to fortify alliances, improve technology capabilities, and address basic reasons.

Keywords: *United Nations, Counter-Terrorism, UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, International Cooperation.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The last ten years of the 20th century saw profound transformations in world politics and international relations. Bipolarity was ended with the fall of the Soviet Association and the communist coalition, which debilitated the overall influence and made a unipolar world. Albeit the foundation of the "New World Request" and America's remaining as the main superpower were viewed as triumphs, the breakdown of bipolarity prompted the development of vital

vulnerability. India became a balancer to preserve strategic balance as a result of the changing circumstances, which increased US intrusive participation in controlling China's growing might. It was not unexpected in this case that the US adapted its security philosophy and expanded role in the world to reflect this new stance. In order to achieve certain goals, the US and India formed a strategic alliance after investigating the several areas of interest convergence. These objectives were:

- The US has significant strategic interests in the Middle East, the Gulf area, and South Asia, which contain the world's greatest energy reserves. India is well positioned to connect the Pacific and Indian oceans.
- The opportunity of the great oceans, particularly the ocean paths that branch out in the West and East and rise up out of the Hormuz Waterways, is one more shared esteem. The US military endeavoured to safeguard its inclinations in South Asia by assuming control over the base offices nearby.
- The greatest energy reserves are found in the Asia-Pacific area, where Chinese military might is seen as a threat to US hegemony. India views China as a security threat to its vital interests due to the latter's superior military power and arsenal of nuclear weapons. China's help to Pakistan in developing missiles has improved Pakistan's standing in South Asia, according to India.
- Geo-economic and geostrategic factors have a major role in world politics, and collaboration in these areas may strengthen national positions. The objective of the Indo-American vital union is to expand the scope of interests. While India supports the US in fending off the growing dangers in the area, the US gives strategically rich possibilities to India for becoming a great country.

The aforementioned factors collectively prompted the two nations to pursue a closer relationship and increased cooperation in a wider range of areas, including high technology, cyber security, cyber defence, civil nuclear energy, health and education, commerce and investment, and information technology, among others. Bipartisan support in both nations contributed to the further vitalization and strengthening of the bilateral relationship via the exchange of high-level official visits.

Changing Position of Indo-US Relations

The first meeting between US and Indian high-ranking military personnel in the post-Cold War era took place in New Delhi in January 1992. During this encounter, the US expressed its worries over the emergence of "Militant Islam" in South Asia and military cooperation was the topic of discussion.⁴ India was the US's sole choice to protect its interests in the Islamic Crescent, which stretches from Turkey to Malaysia, as the US considered South Asia to be the most unstable region in the globe. In 1992, the two fleets created a combined Steering Committee and conducted combined naval exercises. An "Agreed Minute on Defence Relations" was signed in January 1995 to carry out cooperative commerce and joint military exercises. Under this pact, India started to receive military and economic assistance.

Terrorist Attacks and Indian Position

The most heinous acts since Pearl Harbor, when Japanese aircraft attacked the American navy on December 7, 1941, drawing the country into World War II, occurred on September 11, 2001, in the United States. Following the 9/11 attacks, US strategy abruptly shifted to a Middle East and South Asia focus, with the goal of removing the criminals from power in these regions. A new America emerged, exercising its might and allowing no one to stand in the path of exacting revenge for this horrible deed. Citing identical grounds, the US attacked both Afghanistan, the purported safe haven for the 9/11 mastermind, and Iraq later. A lot of this was accomplished on its own initiative without seeking or needing agreement from other countries. India was situated in the area where this worldwide issue created an unstable order. With great anticipation, New Delhi worked tirelessly to persuade the US to sever ties with Pakistan so that India could join the diplomatic elite. India provided both unwavering and conflicting assistance to ensure the American agenda's success.

Prior to 9/11, the US and India had engaged in a practical and fruitful debate about counterterrorism efforts, forging a lasting relationship in the process. Indian State leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee cleared up for the US Congress that "no nation has looked as savage an assault of fear-based oppressor brutality as India has in the beyond twenty years: 21,000 had been killed by unfamiliar supported psychological militant in Punjab alone and 16,000 had been killed in Jammu and Kashmir." He referred to the South Asian locale as the essential wellspring of psychological oppression. However, the Indo-Pak conflicts increased the importance of this bilateral relationship's component, and Washington refrained from openly endorsing India. The conflict, which has nuclear elements, became more intense after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. India

surprised everyone by offering complete cooperation given its long-standing non-alignment stance. In the midst of the war against Afghanistan, it readily gave US ships and aircraft transit and refuelling facilities from its bases. Perhaps a few years ago, such an offer seemed unimaginable. For obvious logistical and geopolitical considerations, the US chose to station its special troops and aircraft at Pakistani bases. Because of the military dictatorship, the US has more clout over Pakistan, and even with the BJP-led special consideration, one could never expect India to cooperate to this extent. It was anticipated that the United States would develop counterterrorism strategies in a way that would never jeopardize the territorial integrity of other countries, especially those that are most affected by this evil.

1.1. Research objectives

- To assess USA-India activities and UNO's counterterrorism policies in the fight against international terrorism, with an emphasis on information sharing, capacity development, and preventive measures.
- To assess how the USA-India alliance and UNO's leadership in counterterrorism affect global security and the fight against violent extremism.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Cogan, M. S., & Mishra, V. (2021). This study examines the history of terrorism in both nations, their internal responses to it, ongoing problems both domestically and regionally, and the developing bilateral counterterrorism partnership between India and Thailand, particularly in the areas of extradition, intelligence sharing, maritime security, and cooperative security. By assessing India-Thailand counterterrorism collaboration and exploring prospects for future bilateral interactions and multilateral opportunities within institutional entities, like as ASEAN and BIMSTEC, this research adds to the increasing body of literature on rising South-South alliances.

Parpiani, K., & Iyer, P. (2020). This analysis looks at the obstacles at the policy and environmental levels that the US and India face in implementing their counterterrorism cooperation. In fact, there hasn't been much collaboration between the two nations, despite the fact that they seem to agree on the need of successful counterterrorism. India's conception of terrorism as a danger is more defined and distinct to its area than that of the US, whose hegemon position and feeling of "American exceptionalism" imply a utilitarian understanding of the enemy. An incongruent view of the connections between transnational terror networks and

regional terror organizations is one way that this divergence shows itself in policy. Furthermore, the United States' persistent utilitarianism hinders any shift in its perspective about Pakistan.

Singh, R. (2020). To show how psychological oppression in the subcontinent falls into two particular classifications — "unadulterated psychological oppression," which is polished by what are best depicted as "hopeless fear monger gatherings," and "mixture dangers," which are basically "corrigible" gatherings' mind boggling blend of revolt and psychological warfare — this exploration talks about the rise and development of key psychological oppressor dangers in the country. The survey proceeds to make sense of how, in spite of India's language staying inside a populace driven "hearts and brains" structure all the more clearly connected with customary counterinsurgency (COIN), its powerlessness to recognize these two altogether different dangers prompts what tends towards a deadly, dynamic reaction normal for CT. One of the primary causes of India's ongoing underdevelopment, confusing, and shortsighted CT and COIN policies is the country's propensity to "act CT but speak COIN." But given the new challenges that have surfaced, India has to rapidly reevaluate and reassess these actions.

Bacon, T. (2021). Even though there are disagreements, recurring crises, and competing interests in the strategic alliance between the United States and India, counterterrorism has grown to be a key component. The counterterrorism cooperation is clearly limited, mostly because to Pakistan and agendas that don't align. Therefore, the counterterrorism partnership actually gains from a downscaling in the bilateral relationship's goals, as it has in recent years. Deprioritizing counterterrorism benefits the larger strategic alliance since neither nation has much chance of making the reforms that would strengthen the counterterrorism cooperation because such changes are not now in their interests. All things considered, both parties may still hope for and achieve gradual, steady development, particularly in areas like technical exchanges and competence building.

Roy, M. I., Nawab, M. W., & Rafique, S. (2020). The research, which is qualitative in nature, looks at the terrible events of 9/11 and how they prompted the US to develop a counterterrorism policy that prioritizes homeland security and citizen safety. It includes the initiative to dismantle the people and groups who fund terrorism worldwide. The protection of the nation and its citizens became the primary factor in determining US counterterrorism strategy as soon as horrific terrorist assaults occurred. The US and its allies were able to launch a military

operation in Afghanistan against the dissidents and 9/11 attack culprits after the Washington administration presented a resolution to the UN Security Council. The United States' policy reaction to terrorist assaults on its territory became known as the "War on Terror." The horrific assaults altered American security strategy and perceptions of danger, which influenced the development of the US worldwide war on terror against al-Qaeda and its allies.

Fair, C. C. (2020). This paper analyzes the US assessment and appreciation of such perspectives while exposing the primary security problems facing New Delhi. It gives forth the cost-benefit analysis of the bilateral relations between the two nations. India lacks a formal national security policy document, in contrast to the National Security policy. The Ministry of Defence Annual Report is the most reliable open-source source on India's security perceptions for the purposes of this investigation. Washington recognizes India's worries about Pakistan's role in the internal problems and regional unrest in New Delhi. Although there is considerable disagreement between the US and India over the best course of action when it comes to Pakistan, both countries have a same vision for a transformed Afghanistan, even if their preferred alliances and surrogates for securing the country vary somewhat.

3. UNO AND COUNTER TERRORISM:

On June 15, 2017, the Overall Get together taken on goal 71/291, making the Assembled Countries Office of Counter-Psychological oppression. On June 21, 2017, Mr. Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov was named Undersecretary-General of the Workplace. The Counterterrorism Execution Team and the UN Counter-Psychological warfare Community, which were initially settled in the Division of Political Issues, were moved into another Office of Counterterrorism headed by an Under-Secretary-General, as proposed by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in his report (A/71/858) on the Capacity of the Assembled Countries to Help Part States in carrying out the Unified Countries Worldwide Counterterrorism Procedure. The newly appointed Under-Secretary General will lead counterterrorism initiatives strategically, take part in UN decision-making, and make sure that the organization's work takes into account the many causes and effects of terrorism.

The Workplace of Counter-Psychological warfare has five primary capabilities:

- (a) Exercise administration in completing the Secretary-General's counterterrorism errands as allotted by the Overall Gathering, including the entire Joined Countries association;

- (b) In request to ensure the even-handed execution of the four mainstays of the UN Worldwide Counterterrorism Procedure, (b) further develop coordination and intelligibility among the 38 Worldwide Counterterrorism Coordination Minimal (previously CTITF) Team parts;
- (c) Enhance member states' access to un capacity-building support for counterterrorism;
- (d) Raise awareness of, advocate for, and mobilize resources for un counterterrorism initiatives.;
- (e) Guarantee that the UN system as a whole accords counterterrorism the attention it deserves and that the crucial mission of combating violent extremism is deeply ingrained in the Strategy.

Through frequent travel and participation at meetings pertaining to counterterrorism, the Office will seek to establish and maintain strong relationships with Security Council bodies and Member States. The Secretary-General's first significant institutional change was the establishment of the Office.

3.1.USA-India Counterterrorism Initiatives

Top homeland security officials from the United States and India have been working on a draft plan pertaining to six areas, such as cyber security, information sharing, and counterterrorism cooperation. Senior officials discussed a draft work plan pertaining to the actions of the six sub-groups during the recent Indo-US Homeland Security Dialogue, according to an official aware of the development.

The six working groups established under the US-India homeland security conversation include

- 1) The domains of unregulated finance,
- 2) Cash smuggling that is illegal,
- 3) Financial deception and forgery,
- 4) Electronic data
- 5) The use of megapolises and
- 6) Information sharing between federal, state, and local partners; international supply chain; transportation; ports; border and marine security; upgrading technology; and capacity development.

During the current conference, emphasis was placed on cooperation in areas pertaining to counterterrorism activities and intelligence sharing. In order to improve security cooperation between the two nations, both parties committed to continuing their ongoing discussions and figuring out how to handle these concerns. In 2010, the India-US homeland security discussion was initiated as a follow-up to the counterterrorism initiative signed between the two countries. The first two-plus-two conversation between the US and India.

Strategic Cooperation

Working groups on strategic cooperation deal with military cooperation, counterterrorism, and non-proliferation. These are a few of the initiatives that the two countries are pursuing to further their strategic partnership. Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo and Secretary of Protection James Mattis anticipate meeting with their Indian partners, Pastor of Outer Issues Sushma Swaraj and Clergyman of Safeguard Nirmala Sitharaman, to talk about reinforcing vital, security, and guard collaboration as the US and India mutually address difficulties in the Indo-Pacific locale and then some. "The U.S. assignment of India as a Significant Guard Accomplice denoted an achievement in U.S.- India safeguard participation," expressed Representative Juster. "President Trump and State head Modi are driving forward this Significant Protection Organization and our more extensive vital relationship with a common vision for harmony, security, and success in the Indo-Pacific locale." "India is a main power and key accomplice in the Indo-Pacific district," expressed Goldfein. From our Leaders, to our tactical Secretary and Priest, to our Flying corps Bosses, we're cooperating and searching for opportunities to expand the between operability of our two powers as huge military accomplices in the Indo-Pacific region.

3.2.The US and India's counterterrorism collaboration has a bright future.

The Trump organization portrayed India as a "unimaginably important and close counter-psychological warfare accomplice" and expressed that the fate of respective participation in this space is "extremely splendid." US Counterterrorism Facilitator Nathan Deals credited the "strong" association between the two nations to the gatherings between State head Narendra Modi and Trump from the get-go in the last option's term. "South Asia is one of the region of the reality where ISIS has an undeniably strong presence," he said, referring to Bangladesh for

instance. "The US is likewise following in South Asia the ISIS Khorasan partners of ISIS turning out to be progressively aggressive and expanding in number."

4. GLOBAL EFFORTS TO COMBAT TERRORISM

Many different tactics, projects, and alliances between nations, international organizations, and other global players are used in the fight against terrorism. These are some important facets of international counterterrorism initiatives:

- **International Cooperation:** Through bilateral and multilateral agreements, nations work together to exchange information, coordinate actions by law enforcement, and put policies in place to stop terrorist operations. International organizations that support international collaboration and coordination include the United Nations (UN), European Union (EU), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and Interpol.
- **United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy:** The UN Worldwide Counter-Psychological oppression Procedure, which was taken on by the UN General Gathering in 2006, offers part expresses an exhaustive structure to address the different parts of illegal intimidation, for example, forestalling and fighting illegal intimidation, improving state limit, and ensuring regard for common liberties and law and order.
- **Capacity Building:** International partners support many nations, especially those that face serious terrorist threats, in bolstering their counterterrorism capacities. This support might take the form of strengthening border security, creating plans to combat violent extremism, strengthening legislative frameworks, and training security personnel.
- **Financial Measures:** Countering the funding of terrorist groups is essential to weakening their activities. In order to fight money laundering and terrorist funding, nations and international organizations put policies into place to trace and freeze terrorist assets, control financial transactions, and strengthen international collaboration.
- **Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE):** Long-term success in the fight against terrorism depends on addressing the underlying roots of extremism and terrorism. In order to combat extremist propaganda, address socioeconomic grievances,

build community resilience, and provide alternatives to radicalization and recruitment, prevention and CVE initiatives prioritize these goals.

- **Legal Frameworks and International Law:** Global counterterrorism operations must prioritize strengthening legal frameworks and international collaboration in prosecuting terrorists and preventing terrorist organizations from finding safe havens. Systems for coordinated effort in battling violations associated with psychological warfare are given by global arrangements and shows, like the Unified Countries Show against Transnational Coordinated Wrongdoing and its conventions.
- **Technology and Information Sharing:** Technological developments, especially in fields like cybersecurity, data analytics, and surveillance, are essential for identifying and stopping terrorist activity. To detect and foil terrorist schemes, more information sharing between law enforcement agencies, intelligence services, and other pertinent organizations is essential.
- **Public Diplomacy and Counter-Narratives:** The delegitimization of terrorist ideology and the prevention of radicalization depend on initiatives to refute extremist narratives and promote diversity, tolerance, and communication. Initiatives in public diplomacy are designed to include communities, educators, religious leaders, and civil society groups in spreading themes of inclusion, resilience, and peace.

5. CONCLUSION

The creation of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and cooperative initiatives between nations like the United States and India show a determined worldwide effort to combat terrorism by utilizing a range of tactics, such as intelligence sharing, capacity building, and preventative measures. But issues like the dynamic character of terrorist threats and the ongoing need for coordination and collaboration still exist. To successfully reduce the danger presented by terrorist groups, efforts must be made to fortify international relationships, advance technology capabilities, and address the causes of terrorism.

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