



TERROR TRACKER

Newsletter by Counter Terrorism Centre



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



TTP LAUNCHES OFFENSIVE AS PEACE TALKS FAIL

Over 20 Strikes on Pakistan Security Forces Since End of Truce

SRINAGAR BUS SHOOTING KILLS 3 POLICEMEN

Indian Security Forces Gun Down Four Terrorists

PAKISTAN SLAMS SAUDI BAN ON TABLEEGHI JAMAAT

Punjab Assembly Resolution Ignores its Own 2016 Ban on Group

+ MORE NEWS & ANALYSES

TTP LAUNCHES OFFENSIVE AS PEACE TALKS COLLAPSE

OVER 20 STRIKES ON PAKISTAN SECURITY FORCES SINCE END OF TRUCE



- Republic World

On 22 December 2021, Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) bombed a military vehicle within the limits of Drabin police station in Dera Ismail Khan district in the Pakistani province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, injuring two soldiers. In the 21st attack by TTP following the end of the ceasefire agreement, TTP also targeted a policeman and killed in the Gandapur area of DI Khan on 19 December 2021.

Earlier on 9 December 2021, the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) unilaterally called off the month-long ceasefire with PM Imran Khan's government. The TTP terrorists accused the federal government of backtracking on key promises made over a month ago during the talks negotiated by the Afghan Taliban. The two parties, i.e., the Pakistani state, and the TTP had been involved in a protracted and violent confrontation since 2007.

Among its primary accusations, the TTP called out the government on refusing to release over 100 of its foot soldiers, violating the conditions of the ceasefire by imprisoning its members and conducting raids in areas, including Dir, Bajaur, Swabi, Dera Ismail Khan, and Lakki Marwat. Mufti Noor Wali Mahsud, the Emir of the TTP, called upon his fighters to resume attacks against the government via a radio announcement, since there had been an absence of communication from the government.

Analysts such as Madiha Afzal claim that the diplomatic approach could have emboldened the TTP, and "done great harm, because it (government) has not made an attempt to provide a counter-narrative to the group's ideology and demands. – [AP](#), [DAWN](#), [Al Jazeera](#)

PAK DRONE STRIKE FAILS TO TAKE OUT TTP LEADER



Maulvi Faqir Mohammed

Pakistani government's response to the breakdown of the ceasefire has reportedly come in the form of a drone strike in the eastern province of Kunar on 16 December, 2021.

Two TTP leaders claim that the Pakistan government carried out a drone strike with the intent of eliminating the Deputy Chief of the jihadist group, Maulvi Faqir Mohammed.

However, he is believed to have been absent from the target site. However, two other TTP fighters were reportedly wounded in the strike.

The area where the alleged Pakistan drone strike was carried out is used for crossing over into Afghanistan. It is said that the strike was conducted to mark the seventh anniversary of the TTP's attack on an army school in Peshawar. –

– [DAWN](#), [Hindustan Times](#), [India Today](#)

FORCES TAKE DOWN FOUR TERRORISTS IN GUNFIGHTS



Indian security forces in the middle of a gunfight with terrorists in Kashmir. – file photo

Four terrorists were killed in two separate encounters in the districts of Shopian and Pulwama on 25 December 2021, according to police sources.

During the encounter in Shopian two terrorists of Laskar-i-Taiba, Sajad Ahmad Chak and Raja Basit Yaqoob , were killed.

In the second encounter in Hardumir area of Pulwama, Nadim Bhat and Rasool, alias Adil, who belonged to the terror group Ansar Ghazwatul Hind, were slain in a shootout with the police.

“During the operation (in Shopian), the terrorists were given the opportunity to surrender.

“However, they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party. In the ensuing encounter, two militants were killed,” a police spokesperson said.

— [The Hindustan Times](#)

SRINAGAR BUS SHOOTING KILLS THREE POLICEMEN

11 MORE INJURED AS JAISH TERRORISTS ATTACK BUS FROM THREE SIDES



The bus carrying police personnel was fired at from three sides. – Photo by Amar Ujala

Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), the Pakistan-based terrorist group, has fomented the rise of offshoot groups such as ‘Kashmir Tigers’ in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

On 13 December 2021, Kashmir Tiger-affiliated terrorists opened heavy gunfire on a bus carrying personnel from the Jammu and Kashmir Armed Police’s 9th Battalion.

The terror attack occurred near Zewan in the Pantha Chowk area of Srinagar. Two police personnel, Sub-Inspector Ghulam Hassan and Selection Grade Constable Safique Ali died on the spot, while Constable Rameez Ahmed succumbed to his injuries, while 11 other police personnel were wounded in the attack.

In all, the bus was carrying 25 police personnel when the attack took place. The area was later cordoned off as a counter-terrorism operation was launched.

Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha and other mainstream political leaders like Omar Abdullah and Mehmooba Mufti, condemned the attack, expressed their condolences for the lives lost and prayed for the recovery of the wounded personnel.

The Prime Minister’s Office also tweeted details on this matter. This attack comes at a time when targeted killings against minority communities and migrant labourers recorded an increase in the Kashmir Valley.

According to sources, the shooting marks the seventh attack against uniformed personnel in the past few weeks. – [News18](#), [NDTV](#), [ABP](#)

PAKISTAN DECRIES SAUDI BAN ON TABLIGHI JAMAAT

PUNJAB ASSEMBLY CONTRADICTS ITS 2016 BAN ON GROUP OVER TERRORISM



File Picture of a Tablighi Jamaat Congregation

On 6 December 2021, the Saudi Minister of Islamic Affairs, Dr. Abdullah Al Sheikh issued the decree to ban the Tablighi Jamaat. He made this announcement via a tweet in which guidelines were also issued to mosques and their preachers to convey warnings about the group mentioned above during the sermons.

Two weeks after the tweet, Speaker of Pakistan's Punjab Assembly Chaudhary Pervez Elahi scheduled a special session of the House, in which legislator Khadija Umar made a motion in favour of Tablighi Jamaat. Thereafter, the assembly unanimously adopted a resolution calling Tablighi Jamaat a force for good and a non-politically peaceful organization. A passage in the resolution states: "Tablighi Jamaat is a global organization. It has nothing to do with terrorism. History has shown that these people have never been involved in such activities. They serve the goodwill of Pakistan with the preaching of Islam worldwide."

Political commentators have expressed surprise at the assembly's resolution because in 2016, the house had banned Tablighi Jamaat from universities. It had also banned it from mosques surrounding all universities, as lawmakers believed Tablighi Jamaat was sympathetic towards terrorist groups and would try to mislead young students.

However, Saudi Arabia's decision has been criticised by Darool Uloom Deoband in India. Meanwhile, President of the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, Maulana Arshad Madani also met Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to India Saud bin Mohammed Al-Sati and told him that the Saudi statement had caused great concern for Muslims all over the world. – [DAWN](#), [Al Jazeera](#)

SAUDI MINISTER CALLS GROUP AS 'ONE OF THE GATES OF TERRORISM'



Saudi Minister of Islamic Affairs Dr. Abdullatif Al-Sheikh – file pic

According to tweets issued by his ministry, Saudi Minister of Islamic Affairs, "Dr Abdullatif Al-Sheikh directed the mosques' preachers and the mosques that held Friday prayer temporary to allocate the next Friday sermon 5/6/1443 H to warn against (the Tablighi and Da'wah group) which is called (Al Ahbab)".

The tweets issued on 6 December 2021 also stated that the sermon should include a declaration of the "misguidance, deviation and danger of this group" and note that it is one of the "gates of terrorism, even if they claim otherwise," it directed. In addition, it should mention that they are a "danger to society" and "affiliation with partisan groups, including (the Tablighi and Da'wah Group) is prohibited in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia." – [The Week](#)

PAKISTAN FAILED TO PROSECUTE 26/11 TERRORISTS: US REPORT

Pakistan has failed to take adequate steps to prosecute terrorists and counter terrorism, including Jaish-e-Mohammed head Masood Azhar and Lashkar-e-Taiba's (LeT) Sajid Mir, according to a new US report.

The U.S. State Department's 2020 Country Reports on Terrorism observed, "Pakistan made limited progress on the most difficult aspects of its 2015 National Action Plan to counter-terrorism, specifically in its pledge to dismantle all terrorist organizations without delay or discrimination"

Still, it emphasized: "Pakistan did not, however, take steps under its domestic authorities to prosecute terrorist leaders residing in Pakistan, such as JeM founder Masood Azhar and LeT's Sajid Mir, mastermind of the 2008 Mumbai attacks." The report also praised India's effectiveness in countering terrorist threats. — [Jagran English](#), [NDTV](#)

Hezbollah, Hamas, Taliban Chiefs 'Top Terrorists'

Experts of the US-based think-tank, Counter Extremist Project have issued a list of 20 most dangerous terrorists of the world in late December 2021.

Number one on the list is Hezbollah General Secretary Hassan Nasrallah, whereas Ismail Haniyeh (the political leader of Hamas) is on the number two spot.

Haibatullah Akhundzada, supreme leader of Taliban is on number four and Sirajuddin Haqqani, deputy emir of Taliban, finds the fifth spot. Amir Muhammad Said Abdal Rahman Al Mawla (ISIS Caliph), chief of Al Qaeda Ayman Al Zawahiri, head of ISIS-K Shahab Al-Muhajir are in the sixth, seventh and eighth positions respectively. British hate preacher Anjem Chaudary is on the tenth spot in the list of terrorists. — [The Sun](#)

U.S. School Shooter Charged with Terrorism

The decision to charge a 15-year-old teenager for a shooting at Oxford High School in Michigan on charges of terrorism is being hailed by many. The other charges levelled against the accused include, four counts of first-degree murder, 12 counts of possession of a firearm, and seven counts of assault with intent.

The assailant Ethan Crumbley killed four people, and wounded seven others. This is the first time a gun-violence-related incident has been termed as terrorism.

It is stated that even students not physically hurt in the shooting will have to live with the trauma and so the crime is equivalent to terrorism. — [NYT](#), [NBC News](#)

Jihadists kills 41 in Burkina Faso

Jihadists killed 41 people in northern Burkina Faso, including the prominent leader of a volunteer group helping the country's military, the government said.

A government spokesman announced two days of mourning for the deceased following the deadly ambush on a convoy in Lorum province on 24 December 2021. — [AP](#), [Al Jazeera](#)

US Soldiers to be Punished for 'Liking' Extremism

In an upgrade of its policy on 23 December 2021, Pentagon has expanded the scope of the word "extremism" to include terrorism. "The term 'extremist activities; means.... Advocating, engaging in, or supporting terrorism, within the US or abroad."

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has reviewed the policy to find the "extent of extremism within the ranks" and how to prevent people in uniform from "espousing" extremist views. The policy introduces rules that specifically govern troops' activities on social media. Under the new policy, "liking" extremist content could result in military punishment. —

[Business Standard](#)

India-Central Asia Dialogue 2021

The Foreign Ministers from India and the Central Asia countries have released a joint statement, condemning all manifestations of terrorism on 19 December 2021.

They emphasized that "dissemination of a radical ideology, arms and drug trafficking, abuse of cyber space to spread disinformation and incite violence, terror-financing, cross-border terrorism, violates the fundamental principle of international relations and humanity. The participating countries also highlighted the need to implement UNSC resolutions at FATF standards. — [The Tribune](#), [MEA](#)

3 IS-K Terrorists who Killed a Sikh Shot Dead

Three terrorists of the Islamic State (Khorasan) or IS-K were killed in police operation in Pakistan on 21 December 2021. Police Officer Abbas Ahsan told reporters that the three were not only responsible for a wide range of crimes, such as targeted killings, bombings, extortions, and improvised explosive attacks, but had murdered a traditional Sikh physician Satnam Singh in Faqirabad earlier in September 2021. The slain terrorists were identified as Abdullah, Suliman and Hayat. — [DAWN](#)