



TERROR TRACKER

Newsletter by Counter Terrorism Centre



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
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TERRORISM MAINSTAY OF PAKISTAN POLICY: EAM

INDIA GIVES FITTING REJOINDER TO PAKISTAN ON SIDELINES OF SCO MEET



Indian External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar with Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari at the SCO meeting last month. — ANI

India's External Affairs Minister (EAM), Dr. S. Jaishankar, following the conclusion of the Foreign Ministers' Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting on 5 May 2023, issued his harshest rebuke of Pakistan's policy of state-sponsored terrorism.

This was in line with the remarks made during the event, which condemned terror financing and cross-border terror activities. Moreover, Dr. Jaishankar was firmly critical of Pakistan's Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's statement about refraining from 'weaponising terrorism for diplomatic point-scoring.' During his remarks, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had also commented on how his country had experienced terrorism's impact, citing his mother, former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's assassination.

The EAM's response to the questions posed by the journalists gathered after the meeting was brought to a close highlights India's position about Pakistan's policy of aiding, abetting, and promoting terrorism – "As a Foreign Minister of an SCO member state, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was treated accordingly. As a promoter, justifier, and a spokesperson of a terrorism industry, which is the mainstay of Pakistan, his positions were called on and they were countered including at the SCO meeting itself...You know, victims of terrorism do not sit together with perpetrators of terrorism to discuss terrorism...So, to come here and preach these hypocritical words, as though we are on the same boat, I mean, they are committing acts of terrorism."

Dr. Jaishankar also rejected the accusation about India weaponising terrorism, arguing that it is merely 'exposing Pakistan before the world.' – [The Indian Express](#), [India Today](#)

INDIA MARKS NATIONAL DAY TO COMBAT TERRORISM ON MAY 21



The National Anti-Terrorism Day was observed in India on 21 May 2023.

This is done annually to commemorate former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's assassination by a suicide bomber affiliated with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in 1991.

This remembrance was initially proposed by then Prime Minister V.P. Singh.

This day serves as a crucial reminder of the need to eliminate terrorism in all forms and manifestations.

Furthermore, it is aimed at preventing the youth from joining terrorist ranks, and underline how such violent acts are detrimental to India's national interest. Finally, it promotes peace and harmony. – [Mint](#), [MHA](#)

NIA CONDUCTS 'DHVAST' RAIDS TO COMBAT NARCO-TERROR



On 17 May 2023, the National Investigation Agency conducted searches at 324 locations, placed across six states and two union territories. This was done in tandem with Punjab and Haryana's police departments.

This initiative, termed 'Operation Dhvast' is part of the agency's wider crackdown on the nexus between terrorists, narcotics traffickers, and gangsters residing abroad, for example, in Canada and Pakistan.

Hordes of arms, ammunition, and other incriminating evidence were recovered from these raids, and several suspects were also detained.

This operation was targeted at cracking down on 'weapons suppliers, financiers, logistic providers, and hawala operators.' – [The Indian Express](#)

26/11 ATTACKS CONSPIRATOR TO BE EXTRADITED TO INDIA: US

TAWAHHUR RANA, PAK-ORIGIN CANADIAN, TRIED IN US AFTER INDIA REQUEST



Indian girls hold a painting in celebration of news that the US may extradite 26/11 conspirator Rana Tawahhur to India. — Newsable

Tahawwur Rana, a key accused in the 26/11 attacks carried out by Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists and aid of David Coleman Hedley, can now be extradited to India for due investigations and justice to be carried out.

This announcement came on the heels of a ruling given by a US District Court Judge Jacqueline Chooljian on 16 May 2023 in Central Los Angeles. Rana, a Pakistani-origin Canadian citizen, was arrested on American soil after India filed an extradition request for his involvement in the 2008 attacks in Mumbai.

The National Investigation Agency has reportedly initiated proceedings to extradite him to India through diplomatic channels.

Before Judge Chooljian issued her ruling, the American federal prosecutors argued that Rana had complete knowledge about Hedley's, a childhood friend, involvement with LeT.

Furthermore, he (Rana) was involved in planning the attacks and had access to key information, such as the meetings' agendas and some potential target sites.

Rana, on his part, provided Hedley with the cover the latter needed to carry out his subversive activities. As far as the American government is concerned, the Canadian-Pakistani terrorist had committed a 'substantive crime of commissioning a terrorist act.'

More than 160 people were killed in the 26/11 terrorist attacks carried out by ten LeT operatives across iconic locations in the city, including the Taj Hotel. – [NDTV](#)

RADICAL HIZBUT TAHREER MODULE BUSTED: 16 HELD

ACCUSED PARTICIPATED IN COMBAT, ARMS TRAINING IN JUNGLES: MP POLICE



On 9 May 2023, Madhya Pradesh's Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) arrested eleven people from within the state and five others from Hyderabad for their reportedly having ties with Hizb-Ut-Tahrir (HUT), a radical Islamist organisation.

Those based in Hyderabad were initially arrested by the Telangana Police following a tip-off by the ATS. An ATS spokesperson confirmed that a HUT module had been busted with these arrests. Those arrested had been under surveillance for several months.

As per reports, this organisation aims to overthrow the democratic system in India, believing it to be 'un-Islamic,' and this module was looking to establish its base and instigate violence in Madhya Pradesh. Furthermore, incriminating and radical literature, anti-national literature, and several types of electronic equipment, including pen drives, laptops, and hard disks, were recovered in the process.

Before their arrests, the accused participated in close combat and arms training in jungles, trained by instructors based in Hyderabad. In addition, they relied on encrypted chat forums such as Threema and Rocket Chat to communicate and used drones to conduct reconnaissance of potential targets.

Among the 16 individuals arrested, there were some who disguised their true identity and intent by operating as auto-rickshaw drivers, an owner of a coaching institute called Eduforum Tutorials, software engineers, tailors, and trainers at gyms. – [Rediff News](#), [NDTV](#), [WION News](#)

GUNMEN KILL KHALISTAN COMMANDO FORCE HEAD IN LAHORE



PARAMJIT SINGH PANJWAR

On 6 May 2023, Paramjit Singh Panjwar alias Malik Sardar Singh, the notorious Chief of Khalistan Commando Force, was killed by two unidentified individuals in Johar, Lahore.

He was a wanted terrorist who had assumed the organizational leadership after his cousin, Labh Singh, was neutralised by Indian security forces.

Panjwar had fled to Pakistan in 1994, where he engaged in terror financing, raising funds for Babbar Khalsa, a proscribed organisation. He masterminded the killing of Rulda Singh, Rashtriya Sikh Sangat's head. Despite his arrest in Portugal in 2015 following Interpol's Red Notice issuance, he was let go after the government turned down India's request for extradition. – [WION News](#)

China Objects to UN Blacklisting of Masood Azhar's Kin

China has raised objections to India's recent proposal to blacklist Abdul Rauf Azhar, Jaish-e-Mohammed's Chief Masood Azhar's brother, and add him to the United Nations Security Council's 1267 ISIL and Al-Qaeda Sanctions List.

In 2022, China used its veto power to put joint attempts by India and the US on hold to designate the JeM Commander as a global terrorist, thereby ensuring the implementation of a travel and arms ban and freezing his assets.

Abdul Rauf Azhar has been involved in carrying out numerous terrorist activities targeted against India, including the attacks on the IAF base in Pathankot (2016) and Indian Parliament (2001) and hijacking the Indian Airlines Aircraft (1999).

The most recent objection raised by the Chinese is a recurring trend considering the ties with its 'all-weather friend' Pakistan, where numerous proposals to designate Pak-backed terrorists have been blocked by Beijing previously. – [NDTV](#)

10 Life Terms to ISIS Truck Killer in US

On 17 May 2023, a US District Court in Manhattan, New York, sentenced Sayfullo Saipov, an Uzbek ISIS sympathiser, for killing eight people during Halloween on 31 October 2017 using his truck. Two Americans, five Argentinians, and a Belgian were among the victims. At least 18 others were wounded due to this attack.

The judge, Vernon S. Broderick, sentenced Saipov to ten life sentences and an additional 260 years in prison for his 'callous and cowardly crimes.' – [AP News](#)

Long Prison Terms for Capital Hill Rioters

On 25 May 2023, Elmer Stewart Rhodes (Founder of Oath Keepers) and Kelly Miggs (Leader of Oath Keepers' Florida Chapter) were sentenced to 18 and 12 years in prison, respectively, for their role in the Capitol Hill Riots (January 2021). They have been accused, among other things, of participating in seditious conspiracy and obstructing official proceedings.

Matthew M. Graves, a US District Attorney for D.C. hailed the sentencing, explaining that it "affirms the rule of law and imposes substantial consequences" on those who "conspired to violently attack our government and our democracy." – [US DOJ](#)

Six Pakistan soldiers, Six Baloch militants killed

On 13 May 2023, at least six Pakistani soldiers associated with the Frontier Corps, a civilian, and six terrorists were killed in a gun battle in Southwestern Balochistan. At least six others were wounded. The counter-response also involved a hostage rescue operation, with at least three families trapped in the residential area. – [Outlook](#)

Al-Shabaab Terrorists Kill 137 Ugandan Soldiers

On 26 May 2023, al-Shabaab, an al-Qaeda affiliate in Somalia, attacked an African Union base which housed Ugandan forces, who were part of a peacekeeping mission in the country. The attack occurred in Somalia's Lower Shabelle region.

The terrorist outfit claimed in a statement that at least 137 soldiers had lost their lives in deadly suicide bombings its members carried out. Anywhere between four to six explosions occurred during the dawn, after which heavy fighting broke out between the terrorists and peacekeeping forces. – [Al Jazeera](#), [VOA News](#)

Two Held for Killing Former Mirwaiz in J&K

On 16 May 2023, Jammu and Kashmir police officers arrested two terrorists – Javed Ahmed Bhat and Zahoor Bhat – affiliated with Hizbul Mujahideen, for their involvement in Mohammad Farooq Shah's (the former Mirwaiz of Srinagar's Jama Masjid) killing on 21 May 1990.

Terrorists reportedly considered him to be 'an Indian agent' and a 'peacenik.' – [The Print](#)

NIA arrests two Khalistan fund-raising suspects

The NIA has arrested Amrik Singh and Amritpal Singh alias Ammy for their association with a Canada-based listed terrorist Arsha Dhalla and for participating in a criminal conspiracy to raise funds through extortion for the proscribed Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF).

Amrik and Amritpal are also accused of participating in arms trafficking and recruiting youth to carry out terrorist activities at KTF's behest. – [The Tribune](#)