

A Brief Study on Major Causes and Impact of Terrorism

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Abstract - India is considered as a largest democratic country in the world but the activities of terrorism has shaken the guards of democracy and freedom. Availability of modern technologies and weapons has added fuel to the activities of terrorism as weapons are easily available to the terrorists groups. Therefore for a world "war itself is a terrorism" because world needs to fight with the activities of terrorism to remove it from roots. This Article highlights the major causes and discuss in detail the impact of terrorism as it is a matter of prime concern to sustain democracy and law for peace as well as for the survival of human & humanity.

Keywords - Democracy, Terrorism, War, Social injustice, Religion, Autonomy

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INTRODUCTION

"How can we have a war on terrorism when war itself is a terrorism" Terrorism is defined as a threat caused to the general public with use of violence by individuals or group of individuals with the aim to obtain a social or political change . It refers to the killing of innocent people in order to create fear in the minds of the public. Terrorism is not new but is an old concept which is being witnessed in the domestic territory of India .Terrorism today has become the latest threat to world which destroys the harmony and peace of the world thereby imposing threat to India's National Security.

MOTIVES OF TERRORISTS

Motive plays a very important role which defines the intention of people performing acts. Terrorists possess an illegal motive to harm the society with the aim to obtain political or social change and these motives may differ which includes variety of forms like airplane hijackings, threats, bombings and suicide attacks. In order to understand the mindset of terrorists motivation is the important aspect which helps to understand why an individual becomes terrorists.

What are the things that motivate people to join terrorist groups and participate in acts of terrorism?

- **Social injustice** - An act caused to people which is unjust, unfair and not right and thus results in violation of a right. Studies have shown that social injustice is the strongest reason that motivates people to join terrorist groups because people who have suffered injustices in society often perceive themselves as victims in society and in order to

take revenge they have targeted individuals and groups of people who they thought are responsible for injustice caused to them .Therefore, it is not difficult to imagine that strongest motivation behind terrorism is "revenge" for injustices caused.

- **Religion-** Terrorism is said to be a product of religious fanaticism. To attain their impossible aims, terrorists resort to frightening the public in order to spread an ideological or religious message. Terrorists in the Muslim world use their religion as a justification and moral justification for their barbaric acts.
- **Heroism-**studies have shown that around 40% of individuals have reported to have a desire and motivation to become a hero and believes that they possess special skills and qualities which distinguish them from others by making it rare. Thus Post 15 argues that joining a terrorist group give a sense of revolutionary heroism to individuals.
- **Autonomy-**studies have shown that around 40% of people often distant themselves from their family and social network and during this lonely phase they often get influenced by organized group leaders who appear as their parental figures and action oriented messages becomes more appealing and as a result of influence this rebellion behavior makes them perform new roles without thinking consequences of their actions.

IMPACT OF TERRORISM

Terrorism is intended to create massive fear in minds of the people and thus it's a criminal activity

that has a negative impact on society. Discussed below are some of the major impacts on society because of terrorist activities.

- **Social impact-** Terrorism's societal effect refers to how individuals are affected as a result of terrorism. It has a very dangerous impact on society that negatively influences the behaviour and beliefs of the people which mean the way people view society which terrorists belong to. People feel victimized when it experiences terrorist attacks 42 which as results destroys mental peace and harmony.
- **Increase of negative stereotypes-** The threat of terrorism increases the negative stereotypes, by members of the targeted society. There have been numerous instances of this such as in Israel during the second Intifada, Israelis held extremely negative stereotypes of Palestinians, viewing them as dishonest, violent, and having little regard for human life. Same is the case of India-Pakistan; Indians have negative stereotypes of Pakistan, who is responsible for cross-border terrorism.
- **Ethnocentrism and xenophobia-** Terrorist attack leads to rise in xenophobia as a result of which group of citizens of affected nations increases its solidarity . if there is mistrust amongst groups, categories, and classifications of people, the dread caused by terrorism may be intensified. Therefore it is important to recognize that diversity in a population can be an opportunity for unity and strength.
- **Education -** Education is the most powerful weapon that the countries have which in turn shapes the minds, action and choices of future generations but Terrorist attack not only leads to PTSD in children which in turn disrupts the daily routine but also negatively affects the minds of children that negatively gets reflected in their education.
- **Health-** Healthy body leads to a healthy lifestyle therefore its very important to take care of health but when a citizens of a country suffers from terrorist attacks it not only disturbs their minds but most significantly it affects the health of the individuals resulting in significant diseases, temporary loss or permanent injury, memory loss, internal bleeding.

CAUSES OF TERRORISM IN INDIA

- **Political causes -** Success of a country depends upon its good government, if the government fails to control the affairs of the country it can lead to terrorist activities.

Eg- In Assam & Tripura due to failure of government control, Muslims migrated in large scale from

Bangladesh to fulfill demands of economic benefits for the sons & daughters of soil etc.

- **Economic causes-** Poverty , unemployment etc are some of the factors which have given rise to ideological terrorist groups in India such as Maoist groups operating under different names

Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Orissa are some of the examples where because of economic causes there was a rise in terrorist groups.

- **Ethnic causes -** Ethnic causes like feeling of separation etc have given rise to terrorist groups in India like ULFA etc. States like Nagaland , Mizoram are some of its examples .
- **Religious Causes-** Division in religion is one of the important reasons that led to rise of terrorist groups in India. India has been facing terrorism from neighboring countries like Pakistan. Pakistan has always harboured terrorist activities against India with the purpose to destroy it . India has always faced threat from Bangladesh, Sri lanka .

These causes are responsible for various types of terror attacks in India discussed below.

MAJOR TERRORIST ATTACKS IN INDIA

Terrorism is the deliberate use of violence against innocent people, usually in the form of a surprise assault. Political, religious, and even ideological motivations might be at play in this brutal assault. Violent attacks are sometimes staged for political reasons as well. India has also been the target of severe terror acts that have resulted in extensive property damage and the deaths of many people.

Date	Incident	State	Death	Injured
August 2, 1984	Meenambakka m bomb blast	Tamilnadu	30	25
December 30, 1996	Brahmaputra Mail train bombing	Tamilnadu	33	150
12 March 1993	Bombay bombing	Mumbai	257	1400
December 6, 2002	2002 Mumbai bus bombing	Mumbai	2	50
September 10, 2002	Rafiganj train disaster	N/A	130	300
March 13, 2003	2003 Mumbai train bombing	Mumbai	11	-
August 25, 2003	25 August 2003	Mumbai	52	-

July 28, 2005	2005 Jaunpur train bombing	N/A	13	50
October 29, 2005	29 October 2005 Delhi bombings		70	250
July 11, 2006	2006 Mumbai train series bombings	Mumbai	209	500
September 8, 2006	2006 Malegaon series bombing	Maharashtra	37	125
February 18, 2007	2007 Samjhauta Express bombings	Haryana	68	-
August	25 August 2007	Hyderabad	42	-
13 December	Parliament attack in 2001	New Delhi	9	
13 May, 2008	Jaipur Blasts in 2008	jaipur	80	170
26 November, 2008	26/11 Mumbai attack in 2008	Mumbai	166	300
18 September 2016	Uri Attack in 2016	Uri in Kashmir	70	20
14 February, 2019	Pulwama Attack in 2019	Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir	40 CRPF personnel	-

LAWS RELATED TO TERRORISM IN INDIA

India has been greatly impacted by terrorism. Terrorism in India may have a wide range of causes, ranging from religious extremism to economic deprivation, unemployment, and a lack of development, for example. According to Kartar Singh v. State of Punjab, the Indian Supreme Court noted that the nation had been locked in a vicious cycle of terrorist violence and was on the verge of a bloodbath.

There has always been a lot of debate over India's anti-terrorism legislation. Part III of the Constitution guarantees people's basic rights, which some claim these regulations violate. The legislature has passed and the court has supported anti-terrorist legislation in the past, but it was not without opposition. The goal was to pass these laws and keep them in effect until things got better. Not all of the harsh restrictions that were put in place were meant to be a permanent part of the legislation. In light of recent terrorist attacks, the legislation has been revived, but with certain alterations.

The National Security Act, 1980, and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, are now in place in India to combat terrorism. This nation has had several anti-terrorism legislation in effect at various times in time. These are the rules of measurement

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967

It was created to deal with groups and actions that challenged India's territorial integrity. Only the threat to India's territorial integrity was included in the scope of the Act's application. Lawsuits against separatist organizations were adjudicated in court, and the government had control over their money and workplaces, as well as the penalties for its members. The Act has always been implemented as a whole and

falls within the Constitution's core list in the 7th Schedule.

Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1987 (TADA)

The Terrorist & Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act 1987, which went into effect on the same day as the UAPA, was drafted particularly to address terrorist activities in India. TADA was declared unlawful by the country's Apex Court after it was passed. Kartar Singh vs State of Punjab (1994) 3 SCC 569, the Supreme Court of India affirmed the constitutional legality of this draconian statute by presuming that those entrusted with it would operate honestly and in the best interests of the public. However, there were several cases when authority was used for unintended consequences. As a result, law enforcement officers began abusing the statute's strict requirements. TADA was repealed in 1995.

Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002

To cope with cross-border terrorism and Pakistan's continuing offensive strategy to destabilize India after the September 11 attacks, a specific legislation was needed. Since that time, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002 (POTA, 2002) was signed into law and made public on March 28 of this year.

Section 3 of the POTA, 2002 defines terrorist acts and terrorists, and affords investigators unique powers under the Act. Legally, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002, was debated in the People's Union for Civil Liberties Vs. Union of India (UOI) case of 2004 (9 SCC 580). The Supreme Court ruled that the Parliament has the authority to pass the Act under Article 248 and article 97 of the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution. This is a question of public policy, and the court has no authority to weigh in on it. As a result, protections have been included into the Act to prevent abuse of these authorities and human rights violations from taking place. The following are only a few of them:

1. The Central Government or the State Government must provide their prior approval before any offense under the Act may be prosecuted by a court.
2. Only Deputy Superintendents of the Police are allowed to investigate crimes under the Act.
3. As long as the individual who confessed before a police officer who is not a superintendent of police is brought before a magistrate within 48 hours, his confessional statement is admissible as evidence.
4. The Act stipulates that any official who misuses his or her authority will be punished. A person who has been unfairly or deliberately punished under the Act is entitled to compensation.

Section 3, Sub-Section (1) of the POTA, 2002 is a special statute for the prevention and dealing with terrorist activities, and specifically defines terrorist acts and terrorists. Our battle against terrorists is strengthened by this legislation, but it is not designed to be used as a replacement for criminal prosecutions.

CONCLUSION

Terrorism is an act of cowardice carried out by terrorists in order to achieve their political and social goals. Terrorism in India comes in numerous forms, and it's important to remember that. There have been many instances of terrorism in India from blatant terrorist attack from outside to airplane hijacking, the Pulwama incident is also the greatest example of terrorism. Terrorism has always shaken the pillars of democracy.

Terrorism knows no religion; it can be done with and without purpose. In this article we have learnt about terrorism, factors which built motivation in the minds of people to become terrorists and its impact on society. Thus, it's very important to eliminate the issue of terrorism from its roots in order to maintain peace and harmony in the country which can be done by preventing radicalization, reducing access to dangerous weapons, cutting the finances of terrorism, proper security control at borders.

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