

TERROR TRACKER

Newsletter by Counter Terrorism Centre



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



FIGHT TERROR FINANCE SANS AMBIGUITY: PM

India Moots Permanent Secretariat to Curb Terror Funding

ISIS CALIPH KILLED, NEW LEADER NAMED

End of ISIS' third and the Most Mysterious 'Caliph'

COLORADO 'HATE SHOOTING' CLAIMS 5 LIVES, INJURES 13

NIA Files Charge Sheets Against D-Company

+ MORE NEWS & ANALYSES

FIGHT TERROR FINANCING WITHOUT AMBIGUITY: PM

REPRESENTATIVES FROM MORE THAN 70 COUNTRIES ATTENDED EVENT



— Pic from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's YouTube Channel @ NarendraModi

India hosted the third edition of the No Money for Terror Financing Conference in New Delhi from 18 to 19 November 2022. Representatives from more than 70 countries attended the event, which spanned four thematic sessions – international cooperation to address challenges in combatting terrorist financing; global trends in terrorism and terrorist financing; use of formal and informal channels for terrorism; and emerging technologies and terrorist financing.

During his inaugural address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi warned against any ambiguity in related discussions, emphasised how the poor and local economies are worst affected by terrorism. In such an instance, adopting a “larger, proactive, and systemic response” is vital to eliminate this scourge. In addition, the Prime Minister implicitly called out Pakistan for its policy of state-sponsored terrorism, requested the international leaders to be more aware of proxy conflicts, and highlighted the link between organised crime and terrorism.

Throwing light on the difference between fighting a terrorist and fighting terrorism, the Prime Minister said that a terrorist might be neutralised with weapons, but such tactical gains will soon be lost without a larger strategy to hurt their finances. Shri Modi said, “A terrorist is an individual, but terrorism is about a network of individuals.” – [PMINDIA](#), [PIB](#), [The Hindu](#)

INDIA MOOTS PERMANENT SECRETARIAT TO COMBAT TERRORISM FUNDING



MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS
AMIT SHAH

Delivering the Chair’s address at the conclusion of the ‘No Money for Terror’ (NMFT) conference, the Indian Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. Amit Shah, proposed the establishment of a permanent secretariat to sustain the continued global focus on counter-terrorism financing. In addition, he said that “India will circulate a discussion paper to all participating jurisdictions for their valuable comments (in this regard).”

Mr. Shah also stressed India’s position that all countries agree to one standard definition of ‘terrorism’ and ‘terror financing’ and added, “it should not become a political issue.” He said the Government of India has also decided to develop national and global databases on terrorism, narcotics, and economic offences. – [The Hindu](#)

END OF ISIS’ THIRD AND THE MOST MYSTERIOUS ‘CALIPH’



ABU HASAN AL-HASHMI AL-
QURASHI

Little is known about Hasan Al Hashmi Al-Qurashi, the third slain terrorist leader of ISIS, who was an Iraqi terrorist and the Islamic State’s third “caliph.”

With a shadowy past, Abu Hasan al-Hashmi al-Qurashi was made ‘caliph’ by ISIS on March 10, 2022, a month after former ISIS leader Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurashi blew himself up by detonating his suicide vest to avert capture by US soldiers in Idlib province of Northern Syria.

For his part, Abu Ibrahim was named the ISIS leader after the death of his predecessor Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. The founder of ISIS and first caliph, Baghdadi, died during a US raid in Idlib province in October 2019. Qurashi refers to a tribe of the Prophet Mohammed, from whom ISIS leaders must claim descent. –

[Al Jazeera](#), [The Hindustan Times](#)

ISIS ANNOUNCES DEATH OF LEADER, NAMES SUCCESSOR

US MILITARY CLAIMS TERROR HONCHO KILLED BY FREE SYRIAN ARMY



The shattered dome of a mosque in war-torn Syria. - Representation image

On Wednesday, 30 November 2022, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) admitted that its top leader Abu Hasan-al-Hashmi al-Qurashi had been killed in a clash. In an audio message on Telegram, a spokesperson of the terrorist organisation Abu Omar al-Muhajir said Hashmi was killed “in combat with enemies of Allah.” However, the audio did not reveal the date and circumstances of Hashmi’s death. According to the ISIS spokesperson, Abu-al-Husseini-al-Qurashi has been selected as the new leader of the terrorist outfit.

The ISIS leader is believed to have died in Daraa province, which is mostly controlled by Syrian government forces and rebels who have reached understanding with the regime. In mid-October, Damascus said it had launched a joint operation against ISIS with former rebels south of the province. However, the United States military’s CENTCOM said the Free Syrian Army killed Abu Hasan al-Hashimi al-Qurashi. “This operation was conducted by The Free Syrian Army in Dar’a province in Syria. ISIS remains a threat to the region. CENTCOM and our partners remain focused on the enduring defeat of ISIS,” CENTCOM spokesman Colonel Joe Buccino said in a statement.

The deaths of successive leaders mark a blow to the armed group, which a US-led coalition said it had defeated in Iraq in 2017 and in Syria two years later. However, sleeper cells of the armed group still carry out attacks in both countries. [The Hindustan Times](#), [Outlook India](#)

COLORADO 'HATE' SHOOTING CLAIMS 5 LIVES, INJURES 13

22-YEAR-OLD ALLEGEDLY FIRED SEMI-AUTOMATIC WEAPON AT LGBTQ CLUB



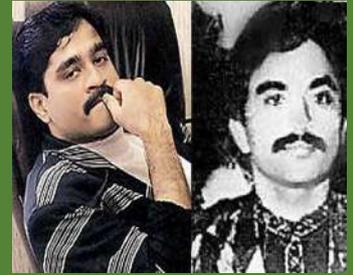
Portraits of the victims of the mass shooting at the Club Q nightclub are displayed at a memorial, Nov. 22, 2022, in Colorado Springs, Colo. — AP

On 19 November 2022, 22-year-old Anderson Lee Aldrich attacked Club Q, an LGBTQ club in Colorado, using an AR-15-style semiautomatic weapon. The mass shooting killed five people – Raymond Green Vance (22); Ashley Paugh (35); Daniel Aston (28); Kelly Loving (40); and Derrick Rump (38). Thirteen others were wounded and had to be hospitalised for treatment. Aldrich was apprehended by authorities after two patrons used physical force to disarm and subdue him.

The perpetrator, currently hospitalised, faces five charges of committing a hate crime and five murder charges. Additional charges might be levied once he is released and the case gets underway. At the moment, these informal charges are contingent on prosecutors proving that the shooting was motivated by Aldrich's bias against the victims' gender or sexual identities. The deadly incident occurred a day before the Transgender Day of Remembrance on 20 November 2022. Observers have drawn parallels with another shooting at an LGBTQ club in Orlando, where the perpetrator killed at least 49 individuals while injuring 53 others.

Colorado's Governor Jared Polis announced for flags at public buildings to be lowered for five days to remember those who lost their lives in the 'senseless tragedy' and for the pride flag to be flown from the State Capitol. In light of the recent events, Club Q's website announced that it will remain closed 'until further notice.' – [AP News](#), [CNN](#)

NIA FILES CHARGE SHEETS AGAINST D-COMPANY



File pics of Dawood Ibrahim (left) and Chhota Shakeel

On 5 November 2022, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) announced that it had filed charges in a terror financing case against Dawood Ibrahim and his close aid, Shakeel Shaikh alias Chhota Shakeel.

The NIA placed Rs. 25 lakhs bounty on Dawood Ibrahim's head in August 2022.

Names of three other members of the D-Company have been included in the charge sheets – Mohammed Salim Qureshi alias Salim Fruit, Arif Abubakar Shaikh alias Arif Bhaijaan, and Shabbir Abubakar Shaikh. As per released details, these individuals had been raising vast amounts of money through 'hawala' and extortion to carry out terrorist activities in Mumbai and elsewhere in India. – [Hindustan Times](#), [The Indian Express](#)

INDIAN, INDONESIAN ULEMA SHOULD PROMOTE PEACE: NSA

On 29 November 2022, Indian National Security Advisor (NSA), Mr. Ajit Doval addressed a conference in New Delhi about the role ulema play in cultivating social harmony and interfaith peace in Indonesia and India. Their contribution is considered necessary to counter radicalisation, extremism, and terrorism. Dr. Mohammad Mahfud Mahmodi, the Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal, and Security Affairs, accompanied by a high-level delegation of ulema, travelled to India at Mr. Doval's invitation.

The NSA warned about the dangers caused by cross-border terrorism as part of his address. He also emphasised that the misuse of religion, violent extremism, and radicalism cannot be legitimised in any form or manner. Finally, he added that "cooperation of the civil society is essential in countering the threat from ISIS-inspired terror cells and returnees from theatres like Syria and Afghanistan." – [*The Economic Times*](#), [*NDTV*](#)

Attempted IED Blast in Temple Fails

On 19 November 2022, a suspect named Mohammed Shariq failed to detonate an IED device at a temple in Kadri, Mangaluru. It reported that the device accidentally went off inside an auto in which Shariq was travelling, wounding him and the driver. The suspect is said to have used cryptocurrency to purchase materials to make the IED bomb. A little-known Islamic Resistance Council has claimed responsibility for the attempt. Meanwhile, the state government has handed over the case to the NIA, even as investigations are underway to capture absconding co-conspirators – Abdul Mateen Taha, Arafath Ali, and Musabbhir Hussain. – [*The Indian Express*](#), [*India Today*](#), [*The Tribune*](#)

NIA Arrests Khalistani Terrorist

On 18 November 2022, the NIA arrested Kulwinderjit Singh alias Khanpuria, one of its most-wanted terrorists, after he arrived from Bangkok, three years after Interpol issued a Red Corner Notice against him. He had a bounty of Rs. 5 lakhs on his head. Associated with organisations like Khalsa Liberation Front and Babbar Khalsa International, he is believed to have been involved in several terrorist cases, including a bomb blast case in Connaught Place during the 1990s. – [*NDTV*](#)

Taliban Told to Eradicate Terrorism

On 16 November 2022, under the Moscow Format, India and other participating countries called on Afghanistan's interim government to take necessary measures to 'firmly fight, dismantle, and eliminate' terrorist organisations operating from its soil. – [*Business Standard*](#)

ISIS Raises Millions Through Dating App

The terror group ISIS has reportedly been using Tinder in South Africa for crowdfunding purposes and has raised over \$1 million to be transferred to its regional affiliates.

The terrorist group reportedly uses photographs of little-known models and artists to trap their victims on the dating site and then blackmail them into sending them money. Meanwhile, Tinder has warned people to be wary of individuals asking for money. – [*Alarabiya News*](#)

TTP Calls Off Ceasefire Agreement

On 28 November 2022, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) announced the end of its June ceasefire agreement with the federal government. It accused the armed forces of undermining the negotiations by carrying out military operations and called on its fighters to carry out attacks throughout Pakistan.

For over a decade, the TTP has carried out deadly attacks in Pakistan, the worst being the army school massacre in December 2014. – [*Al Jazeera*](#)

North-East Militant Attacks Fall by 80pc: MHA

On 13 November 2022, the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs released a document that highlights the successes of the armed forces in reducing militancy in the North-East.

Since 2014, there has been an 80 per cent reduction in militant attacks, while at least 6,000 insurgents have surrendered their arms.

Moreover, the lowest number of civilian and security forces deaths were recorded in 2019 and 2020.

Finally, four peace agreements have also been signed post-2014. – [*Deccan Herald*](#)