



TERROR TRACKER

Newsletter by Counter Terrorism Centre



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



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38 SENTENCED TO DEATH IN AHMEDABAD BLAST CASE

SPECIAL COURT GIVES 11 OTHERS LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR 2008 BOMBINGS



Picture showing the devastating aftermath of one of the several blasts that rocked Ahmedabad on July 16, 2008. — Amar Ujala (file pic)

A special court in Ahmedabad sentenced 38 Indian Mujahideen (IM) fighters to death, while 11 received life imprisonment on 18 February 2022, for their role in the July 26, 2008 suicide bomb blasts that wreaked havoc in the city. A series of about 20 synchronised blasts had resulted in the death of more than 50 people while over 200 were wounded.

The attack outside the Civil Hospital's Trauma Centre was the first time that a hospital came under attack by any terrorist group in India and resulted in maximum casualties, as 37 people lost their lives there. . IM, a proscribed terrorist outfit, had attributed these blasts as reprisals for riots which occurred in Gujrat in 2002.

The offenders participated in hearings from eight prisons in Delhi, Mumbai, Kerela, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Bhopal, Gaya, and Bengaluru. Safdar Nagori, Zahid Shaikh, and Shamsuddin Sheikh are three of terrosits to be hanged to death, while Mohammed Mansoor Asghar Peerbhoy, believed to be the leader of IM's media wing, was one of the 28 individuals acquitted.

Terming the case as "rarest of rare," the special court also ordered monetary compensation, Rs 1 lakh to the families of those who died in the blast, Rs. 50,000 to those who suffered gravely wounded, and Rs 25,000 to those expereinedc minor injuries. According to the Public Prosecutor, Amit Patel, "This is the highest number of convicts awarded death sentence in a criminal case. Earlier, the highest number of 26 convicts were [awarded death penalty] in an assassination [PM Rajiv Gandhi's] case." — [The Times of India](#), [The Indian Express](#), [The Hindu](#)

INDIA, UAE
STAND UNITED
IN FIGHTING
TERROR: PM



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will stand shoulder to shoulder against terrorism, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on 18 February at a virtual summit with Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. "We strongly condemn the recent terrorist attacks in the UAE. India and the UAE will stand shoulder to shoulder against terrorism," the Prime Minister said. Mr Modi also complimented the UAE for showing interest in investing in Jammu and Kashmir. "Following the successful visit of the lieutenant governor of Jammu and Kashmir to the UAE last month, several Emirati companies have shown interest in investing in Jammu and Kashmir," he said. "We welcome investment by UAE in all sectors, including logistics, healthcare, hospitality in Jammu and Kashmir," he added. — [The Times of India](#)

DISTINGUISH DEMOCRATIC PARTIES FROM TERRORISTS, INDIA AT UN



India's Permanent Representative
to the UN, T.S. Tirumurti

Speaking at the United Nations' (U.N.) Counter-Terrorism Annual Briefing, India's Permanent Representative to the U.N., T.S. Tirumurti delivered an important address. He called on the international community to differentiate between political ideologies such as left-wing, and right-wing which form a part of democratic societies on the one hand, and radical ideologies proscribing to terrorism on the other hand. He said that attempts to paint both sides with the same brush is "counter-productive". Additionally, he emphasized the need to refrain from regressing to the era of "your terrorist" and "my terrorist." This is because such categorisation weakens resolve of combating terrorism. – [The Hindu](#)

TERRORISTS WITH 36 KILOS OF HEROIN KILLED IN J&K

HAUL FROM THREE SLAIN PAKISTANI MILITANTS WORTH RS. 180 CRORES



Security forces displaying the seized heroin and weapons found on the bodies of the terrorists. - ANI

Border Security Forces gunned down three Pakistani militants, who possessed more than 36 kilograms of heroin (estimated to be worth Rs. 180 crores in the international market), in Bainglard area along the International Border in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, on February 7, 2022.

"The three Pakistani smugglers, who were trying to smuggle narcotics via Samba border, challenged the security forces and were eventually neutralized," BSF, Jammu Frontier, inspector general (IG), DK Boora said. "This is the fourth such bid foiled by the BSF troops along the border this year, while a total of nine Pakistani intruders have been eliminated in such attempts in the past one year," the official said.

In addition to the 36 packets of confiscated narcotics, security forces also recovered a foreign made 9-mm pistol, one magazine, a knife, a plastic pipe and one bottle of Pakistan made cough syrup, he added.

Meanwhile, the Director General of Police of Jammu and Kashmir Dilbag Singh said that the surge in narcotics trafficking has become a significantly greater security threat than terrorism because it provides "oxygen" to terrorists and threatens to undermine the social fabric, having negative impact on the youth.

According to him, terrorists followed a similar playbook in Punjab. Although it is not a new phenomenon, Pakistan has relied on funds generated from the sale of drugs, already a widespread problem in J&K, to generate revenue for terrorism-related activities. Heroin is one of the most widely used drugs among the people in the region. Shopian, famously referred to as the "apple bowl," is situated just 50 kilometres from Srinagar. It has emerged as center for the surge in narco-terrorism, with a reported increase in terrorist activities in the area since the death of Burhan Wani, a Hizbul commander, in July 2016. – [The Hindustan Times](#), [The Times of India](#)

TTP, BALOCH MILITANTS BLEED PAKISTAN ARMY

13 BALOCH FIGHTING 'CHINA PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR' KILLED



On 3rd February 2022, Pakistani forces engaged in armed battles with terrorist affiliated with the proscribed Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) in the restive Balochistan province's Panjgur and Noshki districts. There continues to be widespread opposition to the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, which is housed in this province.

According to the official reports, 13 terrorists and 7 army personnel were killed during this confrontation. The Prime Minister, Imran Khan, and the Interior Minister, Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed congratulated the security forces for foiling these attacks. These armed confrontations came on the heels of a series of targeted attacks against the armed forces, all of which have been claimed by the BLA. 10 soldiers lost had lost their lives in armed attack a week before this incident, while on 13 January 2022, at least 17 individuals suffered injuries as a result of a grenade attack in Dera Allahyar, Jaffarabad.

There are voices from within the Pakistani society that have called upon the state to "curb this menace" before the Baloch terrorists stage an attack similar to the massacre at an army school by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in December 2014.

Meanwhile, TTP has released fresh video featuring sniper attacks against Pakistani troops in Bajaur and South Waziristan districts. The attacks were said to be carried out using thermal night vision placed on long-range rifles. The video was released just a few days after five Pakistani soldiers were killed by fire coming in from a post close to the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. This was the second such attack reported to have occurred since the coming of Taliban to power in Afghanistan. —

[ANI](#), [The Indian Express](#)

ANTI-INDIA BRANCH OF TTP APPEARS ON INTERNET



-Daily Outlook Afghanistan

Pakistan's Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP) has reportedly set up its Indian branch Tehreek-e-Taliban India (TTI). The newly formed branch's supposed parent organization, the TTP, has been designated as a terrorist organization by Pakistan, US and other countries. It is said to be responsible for violent attacks in Pakistan. It Twitter account, which was reportedly created in January 2021, published its first post on February 9, 2022.

Later, the so-called TTI announced the name of their first head or 'Emir' as a certain Maulana Al Qureshi. The TTI claimed in a tweet that Taliban is a common name and it has nothing to do with Taliban in Afghanistan or Pakistan. Indian agencies have approached Twitter to ban the TTI's Twitter account.

— [OpIndia](#), [IANS](#)

STRENGTH OF ISIS-KHORASAN RISING: UN REPORT

A recently released report of the UN Secretary General states that terrorist groups are currently enjoying “greater freedom in Afghanistan than at any time in recent history”. The report also revealed that Osama bin Laden’s son, Abdallah, visited Afghanistan to meet the Taliban in October 2021 and that Amin Muhammad ul Haq Saam Khan, former security aide of Bin Laden, returned to his home in Afghanistan last August. The report noted that the strength of ISIS-Khorasan had risen from 2,200 to nearly 4000, in the wake of the release of several thousand prisoners during the time of Taliban’s takeover of the country last year. It also observed that “there are no recent signs that the Taliban has taken steps to limit the activities of foreign terrorist fighters in the country.” However, it observed that Taliban has reined in anti-China group ETIM by relocating its members from Badakhshan Province on the Chinese border to Baghlan, Takhar and other provinces. Meanwhile, the US announced a reward of up to \$10 million on 7 February 2022 for information on ISIS-Khorasan leader Sanaullah Ghafari and those responsible for last year’s attack on Kabul international airport that killed at least 185 people. — [Hindustan Times](#), [PTI](#)

MQM’s Altaf Hussain acquitted of terror charges

Altaf Hussain, the founder of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (Pakistan), was acquitted of terrorism charges by an English court on 15th February, 2022. He had been accused of inciting terrorism based on two speeches delivered from London in August 2016.

His defence lawyer stated that the yardstick for measuring terrorism differs in the UK and Pakistan. The verdict has drawn condemnation in some sections of the Pakistani media, with an editorial in DAWN pointing out “the surreal disconnect between the verdict... and the lived reality of millions who call Karachi home.” —

[DAWN](#), [The Print](#)

Ontario’s terrorist trucker to face trial

Nathaniel Veltman, a 21-year-old- Canadian, who was arrested for the deliberate terrorism-related murders of four members of a Muslim family in London, Ontario, will face trial, with his next court presence scheduled for April 2022. The announcement was made on 9th February, 2022. Nathaniel has been accused of intentionally driving his truck into Salman Afzal, his wife, daughter, and mother, in June 2021, resulting in their death. — [The Star](#)

Siberian teenagers sentenced over a Minecraft game

A Russian military court has handed out sentences to three teenagers — Nikita Uvarov, Denis Mikhailenko and Bogdan Andreyev — for plotting to blow up a Virtual Federal Security Services Building (FSB) in a minecraft game. Uvarov received a sentence of 5 years in a penal colony, while Mikhailenko and Andreyev got 3 and 4 years of house arrest, respectively. Furthermore, they stand accused of placing leaflets in a FSB office, referring to it as a terrorist organisation. — [Moscow Times](#)

NIA Uncovers ‘Lashkar Mole’

A decorated IPS officer and former Superintendent of Police at the National Investigation Agency was arrested by agency officials on 18th February 2022 for allegedly leaking confidential documents to a Lashkar-e-Taiba’s “overground worker”. The case against the arrested official had been registered on 6th November 2021. The officer had been involved with the agency for over a decade.

The IPS officer is said to be previously involved in carrying out sensitive security operations, such as searches of NGOs suspected of colluding with terrorists, and investigating funding sources of separatist Hurriyat leaders in 2017, for which had even received a gallantry award. — [Hindustan Times](#)

Terrorist attacks in Benin National Park

Three IEDs cumulatively detonated on 8th and 9th February, 2022 at a park in the West African state of Benin, which resulted in the death of 9 individuals, including a French citizen, 2 park officials, a soldier, and 5 park rangers.

French authorities claim that these were retributive attacks conducted to avenge air strikes, which had killed 40 terrorists in Burkina Faso. — [France 24](#), [VOA](#)

Shoot first, ask questions later: Labour’s Deputy

Angela Rayner, the UK’s Labour Party’s Deputy Leader, sparked massive outrage with her comment on 17th February, 2022, on how counter-terrorism police should shoot terrorists first and question them later. Both Tory and Liberal MPs have condemned her controversial remark. Labour MP, anonymously criticized Rayner’s comments as “lynch mob mentality.” Rayner has also called on the police to be “more pro-active” in their investigation of thefts. — [Independent](#)