

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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FOUR ISIS-K TERRORISTS ARRESTED IN GUJARAT

RADICALS INTENDED TO TARGET RSS LEADERS, JEWS AND CHRISTIANS



It is alleged that the four arrested people were sending secret information of Gujarat to ISIS. — Indian Express

On 20 May 2024, Gujrat's Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) arrested four ISIS terrorists - Mohammad Nusrat (35), Mohammad Faarukh (35), Mohammad Nafran (27) and Mohammad Rasdeen (43) – from the Ahmedabad airport after their arrival via an Indigo flight from Chennai to Ahmedabad.

They intended to target RSS leaders, Jews, and Christians. The arrest days after the airport received a bomb threat.

The terrorists (who sought to join ISIS) had been communicating with ISIS leaders through Proton, a high end-to-end encryption email service. Furthermore, they had been in touch with a Pakistani handler known as Abu.

Weapons and ammunition such as Pakistan-origin pistols and 20 cartridges were recovered by police officials from a location in Nana Chiloda (Gandhinagar).

According to Vikash Sahay (Director General of Police, Gujrat) 'Abu encouraged them to carry out a terror attack in India. They were so radicalised that they also agreed to suicide bombing. Pakistani resident Abu also gave them ₹ 4 lakh in Sri Lankan currency.'

The arrested terrorists have been taken into a fourteen-day police remand by ATS officials and are now being thoroughly questioned by authorities about their detailed agenda and information about the individuals they had been in touch with in India. – [NDTV](#), [The Economic Times](#), [The Indian Express](#), [TOI](#)

INDIA GIVES
\$500,000 TO UN
TO COMBAT
TERRORISM



RUCHIRA KAMBOJ

India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ms. Ruchira Kamboj, handed over \$500,000 to Under Secretary General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) Vladimir Voronkov as part of India's voluntary financial contribution towards the U.N. Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund (CTTF) on May 2024.

Furthermore, India's Permanent Mission to the UN released a statement that "India places great significance on the mandate and the work undertaken by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism... The latest contribution reaffirms India's unwavering commitment to supporting multilateral efforts led by the United Nations in the global fight against the scourge of terrorism." – [The Hindu](#)

LeT TERRORIST, BASIT DAR, NEUTRALISED



BASIT DAR

On 7 May 2024, Basit Dar, an active operative of the Resistance Front, a front organisation of the proscribed Lashkar-e-Taiba, was one of the two terrorists neutralised by the armed forces in an encounter in the Kulgam District. Dar, an A-category terrorist, had a standing bounty of Rs. 10 lakh for his involvement in over 18 cases of killing of police personnel and civilians.

Armed forces launched an operation to neutralise other terrorists in the area. A+, A, B and C etc., are the categories determined by the Jammu and Kashmir Police based on operatives' nationality, training, exclusivity, duration of activation, number of terror attacks carried, weapons in their possession, and popularity. –[India Today](#)

MASSIVE SEARCH LAUNCHED FOR LeT-LINKED TERRORISTS

₹ 10 LAKH ANNOUNCED FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO HAMZA'S ARREST

TERRORISTS ATTACK IAF CONVOY IN POONCH



Two pictures of the vehicle that came under attack.

On 4 May 2024, an Indian Air Force (IAF) convoy was ambushed by terrorists – Illiyas, a former Pakistan Army commando, a Pakistani terrorist called Hadoon (or Hadun), and Abu Hamza, the code-name of commander of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba near Shahsitar in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch District.

A reward of ₹ 10 lakh has been announced for information leading to Hamza's arrest. Furthermore, photographs from the CCTV footage of the abovementioned terrorists have been released by authorities.

Terrorists used high-powered assault rifles, United States-made M4s and Russian-made AK-47s, in the attack.

This incident marked the first major terrorist attack in a year in this area.

An IAF Corporal, Vikky Pahade, was killed and four other persons were wounded in this terrorist attack. Corporal Pahade had re-joined service a little over two weeks after being away on an extended vacation to celebrate his sister's wedding.

His sister, Geeta Pahade, expressed her pride about her brother and issued a call for justice.

IAF's official handle also tweeted 'The CAS Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari and all personnel of (the) Indian Air Force salute the braveheart Corporal Vikky Pahade, who made the supreme sacrifice in (the) Poonch Sector, in the service of the nation. Our deepest condolences to the bereaved family. We stand firmly by your side in this hour of grief.' -

[Hindustan Times](#), [NDTV](#)

NSG, ELITE US TROOPS CONDUCT JOINT COUNTER TERROR DRILL



The seventh edition of Tarkash, the counter-terror exercise (focused on conducting coordinated operations in urban counter terrorism contingencies) jointly carried out by National Security Guard (NSG) and the U.S. Special Operations Forces (SOF), took place from 22 April 2024 to 15 May 2024, concluding in Kolkata.

This exercise is central to the bilateral mutual counter terrorism capacity building initiatives and mechanism. The previous edition of the exercise was conducted in Chennai last year.

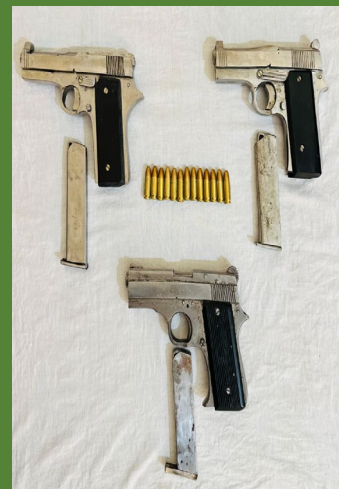
A statement was released regarding the counter-terror exercise: ‘The three-week exercise encompassed intense training and mock drills in urban counter terrorism scenarios. The primary objective of the bilateral exercise is to build functional relation and enhance interoperability between the two special forces in conducting coordinated counter terror operations in urban counter terrorism contingencies. The exercise is also aimed at improving bilateral cooperation between India and the U.S. in matters relating to combating terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations.’

Furthermore, it emphasised that ‘‘During joint exercise, both special forces conducted joint mock counter terror drills at multiple locations in Kolkata, to enhance interoperability and coordination between the two special forces.’

Finally, it was underlined that ‘The joint exercise also involved sharing of best practices, tactics, techniques and procedures, over a wide spectrum of counter terror operations, in urban environment including close quarter battle, building intervention drills, hostage rescue operations, surveillance, long range sniping and planning complex operations involving multiple targets in multiple locations.’

India’s NSG and the United States of America’s Special Operations Forces carry out frequent and regular exchanges to bolster their counter-terrorism capabilities and participate in capacity building. – [The Hindu](#)

NOTORIOUS FOUR-MEMBER MODULE BUSTED IN PUNJAB



Punjab Police’s Anti-Gangster Task Force has arrested four individuals (including a key operative) associated with a terror module in the state. They planned to commit sensational crimes in Punjab. Three pistols and 13 live cartridges were recovered from the arrested persons. Gurwinder Singh alias Shera is the key operative involved in the module’s operations.

The remaining members who were arrested by the task force are Gurpreet Singh of Patiala, Ranjit Singh alias Sonu and Jagjit Singh alias Jashan. Iqbalpreet Singh alias Buchi, a close associate of Ramandeep Bagga alias Canadian who is lodged in Tihar Jail under UAPA charges in case of targeted killings in Punjab in 2016-2017, masterminded the busted module’s operations.

– [India TV News](#)

HOUTHİ, HEZBOLLAH MEMBERS OWN PROPERTY IN DUBAI: PROBE

As per the data obtained by the Center for Advanced Defense Studies (C4ADS), several individuals associated with Hezbollah and Houthi rebel forces (groups proscribed by the United States of America) have brought real estate in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. These findings are the outcome of a joint investigation by 74 media organizations across 58 countries, highlighting how sanctioned individuals or organisations often find loopholes to launder money globally. Real estate developer and alleged Hezbollah member Adham Tabaja is listed in the property data and was sanctioned by the then-American administration in 2015. Reportedly, he owns a massive property on the outskirts of Dubai. Furthermore, Ali Osseiran (sanctioned for allegedly facilitating money laundering for Hezbollah through art businesses), was named as an owner of a property in Dubai's Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest skyscraper. - [Nikkei Asia](#)

US-Tajik MoI on Tailing Terrorists

On 8 May 2024, the Prosecutor General's Office of Tajikistan and the United States of America signed a Memorandum of Intent (MoI) for Cooperation on the implementation of the Personal Information Comparison and Evaluation System (PISCES).

This MoI was signed following a meeting between Yusuf Rahmon, the Prosecutor General of Tajikistan, and Manuel Micaller, the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic. The PISCES system has been introduced to regulate the movement of terrorists, enabling extensive technological surveillance to track the movements of individuals involved in terrorist activities. - [Daryo](#)

Russian Soldiers with Ties to ISIS

On 16 May 2024, a Russian soldier in the Karachay-Cherkess Republic was neutralised by Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) while resisting arrest. The 25-year-old soldier in question allegedly had ties to ISIS and the authorities recovered an improvised explosive device and a Kalashnikov assault weapon.

Reportedly, he wanted to target Russian law enforcement personnel and was in touch with foreign handlers. - [WION News](#)

Egyptian held for killing Jewish businessman

On 8 May 2024, Egyptian authorities detained an individual in connection with the killing of a Jewish businessman, Ziv Kipper, a day before in Alexandria. The detention took place amid conflicting reports about the involvement of Vanguard of Liberation - Martyr Mohammed Salah Groups in Kipper's death. - [TOI, Times of Israel](#)

TTP Torture Hijacked Bus Passengers

On 25 May 2024, terrorists affiliated with Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan forced bus passengers travelling from Drazinda to Dera Ismail Khan in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province to disembark.

Following that, the passengers were tortured and threatened for supporting the government, and the bus razed to the ground after being set on fire.

The police officers released information about this incident the next day. - [Deccan Herald](#)

Convert to ISIS Jihad Faces Six Terror Charges

Neil Christopher Prakash, a jihadi and radicalised convert to Islam, faced Melbourne's (Australia) Magistrates Court on 13 May 2024 for six terrorism-related offences.

He had reportedly been influenced by an extremist sermon preached within the walls of Al-Furqan mosque in Springvale South and some worshippers present on the day he decided to convert in 2010.

He had also been a member of ISIS from 2014 to 2016. - [The Guardian](#)

2 Al-Qaeda Terrorists arrested in Guwahati

On 13 May 2024, Assamese police officials announced that two suspected Bangladeshi Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent terrorists - Bahar Mia and Rasel Mia - had been arrested from the Guwahati Railway Station and fake documents had been recovered from their possession. Bahar and Rasel had planned to spread the terror network in Assam. - [NDTV](#)