

# TERROR TRACKER

*Newsletter by Counter Terrorism Centre*



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



## IRAN ATTENDS ITS FIRST COUNTER TERROR SCO MEET

*NSA Meets Russian Counterpart to Discuss Security Issues*

## KASHMIRI LEADER AT BRICS SLAM TERROR

*Rs 10 Lakh for Wanted LeT Terrorist Abu Hamza*

## HOUTHIS 'TERRORISTS' DOWN 5<sup>TH</sup> US REAPER DRONE

*Oil Tanker from Russia Bound for India Attacked*

**+ MORE NEWS & ANALYSES**

# IRAN ATTENDS ITS FIRST SCO SECRETARIES MEET IN ASTANA

INDIA CONCERNED OVER USE OF DRONES IN CROSS-BORDER NARCO-TERROR



Security Council Secretaries at their 19th SCO Meeting, held in Astana last month. — ANI

On 2 and 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024, Astana played host to the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Shanghai Security Organisation's (SCO) Security Council Secretaries. The heads of executive bodies of the security councils from SCO member states, observer states (the Republic of Belarus and Mongolia), were SCO Secretary-General Zhang Ming, and Director of the SCO RATS Executive Committee Ruslan Mirzayev were also in attendance. The Islamic Republic of Iran was represented for the first time after joining the organisation. They primarily discussed terrorism, extremism, and separatism as threats to regional security as part of an evolving landscape, undermining regional peace and security. The participants also discussed the threat posed by narcotics trafficking and the need for combating transnational organised crime.

India's National Security Advisor (NSA), Ajit Doval, expressed concerns about cross-border terrorism and called for action against those who support it, shunning double-standards attached by some actors to terrorism, as well as those who sponsor, finance, and facilitate acts of terror. He even condemned the recent terrorist attack in Moscow and reaffirmed India's commitment to working with Russia to fight terrorism. NSA Doval also spoke about the threat posed by Al Qaeda & its affiliates, ISIS & its affiliates, Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Muhammad. Furthermore, he underlined how technological advancements, i.e., drones, have been used by terrorists for cross-border smuggling of drugs and weapons. At the same time, he pointed out how India has vested security and economic interests in Afghanistan. – [The Print](#), [SCO](#), [AFINTL](#)

## NSA AJIT DOVAL DISCUSSES SECURITY ISSUES WITH RUSSIAN COUNTERPART



NSA Ajit Doval with his Russian counterpart Nikolai Patrushev

India's National Security Advisor, Ajit Doval, recently met his Russian counterpart Nikolai Patrushev in April 2024 on the side-lines of the XII International Meeting of High Ranking Officials Responsible for Security Matters in Saint Petersburg. Both reviewed India and Russia's progress in bilateral cooperation and shared views on topics of mutual interest. Furthermore, they also placed special emphasis on cooperation between Russia and India on the track of international and regional security. NSA Doval had met his counterpart earlier on the side-lines of the 19th annual meeting of the secretaries of security councils of the SCO, expressing India's solidarity with Russia to address the threat from

## J&K POLICE OFFERS Rs. 10 LAKH REWARD TO GET LeT TERRORIST



On 22 April 2024, Mohammad Razak, a government official employed with the social welfare department, was fatally shot by Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists in Rajouri District.

Two decades ago, his father - Mohammad Akbar – was also killed by terrorists after they slit his throat. He was employed by the same department as Razzak.

At least sixty-seven people have been detained in connection with the April 2024 attack.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir police officers have taken a major initiative.

They have identified Abu Hamza as one of the attackers and have announced a reward of Rs. 10 lakhs for information leading to his capture. – [Hindustan Times](#)

# KASHMIRI LEADER AT BRICS SLAMS TERROR

SYNCRETIC CULTURES ARE RESILIENT TO ADVERSITIES: MIR JUNAID



**Mir Junaid, President of the Jammu and Kashmir Workers Party, delivering his speech at the BRICS Forum held in Grozny, Russia in April 2024**

**Mir Junaid**, a political leader from Srinagar and the President of the Jammu and Kashmir Workers Party, gave a powerful speech at the BRICS Forum held in Grozny, Russia in April 2024.

He rejected all forms of cross-border terrorism, violence, aggression, and discord, while advocating for peace and prosperity.

He added that ‘As we convene in this forum dedicated to international cooperation and development, we must glean insights from the experiences of Kashmir and Chechnya. It is imperative for global platforms like BRICS to recognize and support societies defending their cohesion against divisive external forces.’

He also lauded the efforts of Prime Minister Modi President Putin and Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov in cultivating inclusivity and unity.

During his speech, Junaid underlined the importance of diversity in cultures to overcome adversity – ‘I am the son of India, a precious gem in its diverse mosaic. For centuries, this region has been a melting pot of diverse religions, ethnicities, and cultures coexisting peacefully. Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and Buddhists have not only shared neighbourhoods but also celebrated each other’s festivals and mourned each other’s losses. – [The Print](#)

# HOUTHIS 'TERRORISTS' SHOOT DOWN 5<sup>th</sup> US REAPER DRONE



The supposed wreckage of US MQ-9 Reaper drone seen allegedly after the Houthis shot it down over the northern province of Saada, Yemen. — EPA-EFE

On 28 April 2024, Yemen's Houthi fighters claimed they had shot down another MQ-9 Reaper drone operated by the American military and released some footage to back their claims.

The released footage featured several close-ups on parts of the drone that included the logo of General Atomics, which manufactures the drone, and serial numbers corresponding with known parts made by the company.

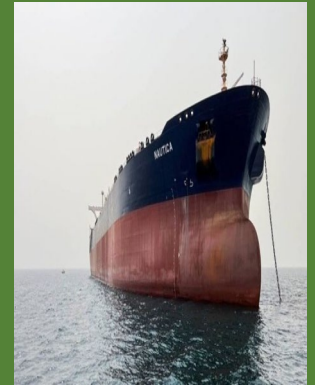
The drone was shot down using a surface-to-air missile as part of their renewed attacks after a lull in the Red Sea crisis. A man off-camera recited the Houthi's slogan after the drone was hit – 'God is the greatest; death to America; death to Israel; curse the Jews; victory to Islam.'

Since Sana'a was captured in 2014, the United States has lost approximately five drones as a result of attacks carried out by Houthi rebels in 2017, 2019, 2023 and this year. Notably, these drones cost \$30 million apiece, can fly at altitudes up to 50,000 feet, and have an endurance of up to 24 hours before needing to land.

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Bryon J. McGarry, a Defense Department spokesperson, confirmed that "a U.S. Air Force MQ-9 drone crashed in Yemen." He said an investigation was underway, without elaborating further.

The renewed attack carried out by the rebels occurred as the conflict between Israel and Hamas has escalated, killing at least 34,000 Palestinians since the war erupted on 7 October. – [AP News](#), [The Economic Times](#)

## OIL TANKER FROM RUSSIA BOUND FOR INDIA ATTACKED



ANDROMEDA STAR

On 27 April 2024, a vessel bound for India - Andromeda Star oil tanker in the Red Sea - was attacked by Houthis. While the rebel forces' spokesperson, Yahya Sarea, claimed the ship was owned by a British company, the records indicate it was recently sold.

Its current owner is supposed to be registered in Seychelles. Moreover, the ship is involved in Russian trade. It was en route from Primorsk (Russia) to Vladivostok (Russia) when it came under fire.

Additionally, the ship's master reported damage to the vessel. The attack on Andromeda Star came after a brief period of lull in the Red Sea maritime crisis. – [The Hindu Business Line](#)

## INDIA, FRANCE HOLD JOINT WORKING GROUP ON COUNTER TERRORISM

India and France held their Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism Meeting on 15 April 2024 in New Delhi. Joint Secretary of External Affairs of India, K.D. Dewal, and Assistant High Commissioner for Counter Terrorism and Organized Crime of the French delegation, Olivier Caron, headed the meeting.

The two sides discussed the terrorist threats such as state-sponsored terrorism in South Asia, Africa, and West Asia, as well as terror activities in the Af-Pak region.

The two sides also exchanged views on the use of new and emerging technologies by terrorists, the misuse of the internet for terrorist purposes, radicalisation, and terror financing. They agreed to work together by sharing information, training, and collaborating in international organisations. – [The Print](#)

### UN, African States Hold Counter Terror Meet

Nigeria played host to a high-level counter-terrorism summit in collaboration with the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT). The event was attended by representatives from nearly all African countries, barring Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger.

Nigerian President Bola Tinubu emphasised that terrorism “seeks to frighten the farmer from his field, children from their schools, women from the marketplace and families from their very homes. We must therefore fight this threat together, combining determined national effort with well-tailored and regional and international collaboration”. – [VOA News](#)

### Knife Attack in Sydney Church

On 15 April 2024, Assyrian Bishop Mar Mari Emmanuel and a priest were injured in a knife attack during a live streaming service inside Christ the Good Shepherd Church (Sydney). A 16-year-old and his associates were arrested on terrorism charges in connection with this event. As per authorities, they were driven by a religiously motivated violent extremist ideology and electronic material was seized from devices recovered after 13 raids were conducted throughout the city. – [AP News](#), [Deccan Herald](#)

### High number of Tajiks in ISIS-K

Terrorism and counter-terrorism experts have made a shocking revelation after the Moscow attacks – More than 50% of ISKP recruits are Tajiks. There numbers are said to be in the hundreds. – [NYT](#)

### UK Considers Banning Neo-Fascist Network

On 22 April 2024, the United Kingdom announced that it would proscribe Terrorgram collective.

Terrorgram collective is an extreme right-wing collective network and the Home Office has described it as a group of neo-fascists, adding that the network “spreads vile propaganda and aims to radicalise young people to conduct heinous terrorist acts”.

This makes the network the first online group to be banned and places it in the same league as ISIS and Hamas. – [The Print](#)

### US Teenager Held for Planning Church Attack

Alexander Mercurio, an 18-year-old teenager based in Idaho (United States of America), has been arrested for attempting to attack churchgoers close to his Coeur d'Alene home using a metal pipe, butane fuel, a machete and, his father's guns.

Authorities have also accused him of attempting to provide material support to a designated foreign terror organisation (in this instance, ISIS). He is said to have even reportedly communicated with FBI informants posing as ISIS supporters for two years. – [Hindustan Times](#)

### ISIS Threatens to Attack European Soccer Stadia

The pro-ISIS online media outlet Al Azaim Foundation has threatened to attack soccer stadiums across Europe ahead of major games in the quarterfinals of the UEFA Champions League — European soccer's biggest club competition. – [CBS News](#)