

# EFFORTS MADE BY UN TO CONTROL THE MENACE OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

Written by *Vaibhav Bhardwaj*

*2nd year BA LLB Student, Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla, India*

---

## ABSTRACT

Understanding what terrorism means is the main objective of this essay . The origins of terrorism are rooted in history. How terrorism affected human life ? How has the growing breadth of globalisation contributed significantly to the rise in terrorist actions in society ? What are some of the different reasons why people engage in terrorist activities ? How terrorism is a threat to the sea ? What part does the United States of America ( the USA ) play in lessening the effects of terrorism on society ? India's position regarding terrorism . What counter terrorism measures have SAARC nations ( South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation ) taken ? Does terrorism impact on society lessen as a result of various arms control treaties and agreements ? What position have the UNO ( United Nations Organization ) and other international organisations taken in light of the growing reach of terrorism worldwide ? and what actions does it take ? What part does the government play in preventing terrorism ? What does the idea of good terrorism and bad terrorism mean in today's culture , where it is spreading quickly ? What additional measures can be implemented moving forward to combat the sensitive problem of terrorism ? Last but not least , here is my view point on this highly divisive and pervasive social topic .

**Keywords:** Treaties , Terrorism , Globalisation , Positive and Negative Terrorism, Menace to Sea .

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Before examining the actions the UN ( the United Nations ) has done to combat the threat of global terrorism . Why is it crucial to comprehend what terrorism is ? The word “ terrorism ” itself is a broad concept with no clear definition . However , I tried o give two or three definitions of terrorism in the introduction , and they are as follows . In plain English , terrorism is the illegal use of force and intimidation against people by some non – state actors in furtherance of political objectives . “ Terrorism is an act which intends to cause death and serious physical harm to civilian or non – combatants with the purpose of intimidating a population or forcing a government or an international organisation to do or abstain from doing any act ”, according to a definition provided by a UN ( United Nations ) panel on March 17 , 2005 . Some of the most notable instances of a terrorist activity include the Pulwama attack in Jammu and Kashmir ( J and K ) on February 14 , 2018 which claimed nearly 40 Indian lives , and the 9/11 attack in the United States of America ( the USA ) . In the later incident , a plane was hijacked by a group of terrorists , and Congress buildings ( the US parliament ) were targeted and attacked . Al Qaeda , Jaish e Mohammad , the Taliban , and other well – known terrorist organisations are only a few . <sup>i</sup>

## EMERGENCE OF TERRORISM – HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

The idea and practise of terrorism or terrorist activities are not new idea or ideas that have been around for 50 or 100 years . Since the first century AD , terrorism has played a part in human history . The Jewish and Roman conflict that followed Judea’s rebellion against Roman’s control provides a clear example of terrorism in an action . In the sixth century AD , Jewish factions worked with the Romans to execute Zealots during this conflict . At first of the first century AD , this battle began on a smaller scale . However , this battle waged on a very small scale during that time . This battle contributed to the development of terrorist actions and the term “ terrorism ” which is still used widely in society today . The Jacobin club first coined the term “ terrorism ” during the French Revolution , also known as “ the Regime of Terror ” . An Italian patriot detonated three bombs in January 1858 with the purpose of killing French

Emperor Napoleon . The episode was a major factor in the emergence of the first terrorist actions . With the introduction of the new word “ target killing ”, the definition of terrorism was expanded . This phrase was coined after an anarchist group murdered some opposition leaders in Russia . Following these significant events , terrorism’s roots quickly extended around the globe , posing a significant menace to the entire planet even today . This was the historical analysis of how terrorism first appeared .

## **FACTORS WHICH LEADS TO INVOLVEMENT OF HUMANS IN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES**

As the time ges on and the planet gets bigger and bigger . Every day there are more activities taking place in the world . In a similar vein , since 1858 , there has been a sharp increase in terrorist actions around the globe . The number of terrorist attacks worldwide has increased for a number of reasons and reasons . The following are these factors :-

- The exploitation of individuals based on their gender , ethnicity , sex , caste , or religion . This is one of the most significant factors contributing to a rise in terrorist activity worldwide . Because the past world was ruled by monarchies and dictatorships . Due to the deprivation of the rights and freedoms of the common people , they used to protest ( both peacefully and violently ) or rebel against their leaders , which lead to the introduction of powerful weapons that were occasionally used improperly and a rise in terrorist activities .
- People occasionally engage in criminal activity as a result of mental or psychological stress brought on by society , family , friends , or relatives , which can even lead them to commit terrorist attacks .
- Political parties today utilise the religion card to win elections , which leads to the marginalisation and poor treatment of those who belong to lower castes or other religions . For instance : The majority of terrorist attacks in today’s world are thought to be carried out by members of the Islamic faith , who feel excluded from society as a result . These organisations engage in horrific acts or terrorist activities as a result .

These three main variables all contributed significantly to the rise in terrorist activity worldwide . These elements fall under the categories of psychological , socio economic, and ideological influences .

## **TERRORISM AND GLOBALISATION**

The idea of globalisation and its implementation have been key factors in the world's rapid expansion and development . At this moment , terrorist activity strategies and methods have changed significantly as a result of globalisation . There can be noticeable distinction between conventional terrorism and it after the Second World War . International politics is currently filled with rumours that terrorist organisations are in possession of highly destructive weaponry. It is anticipated that in the near future , terrorism would take on a drastically different appearance m which could cause grave issues for society . Today , terrorist organisations have their own websites where they promote their ideologies . They also rely on the media , particularly electronic media , and make their viewers public , which makes it simple for them to instill a sense of dread and fear among the populace . Al Queda and other terrorist organisations generally employ these techniques . The current high risk of terrorist strikes in any part of the world is a result of new technological development . The advent of the internet, transport , and communication has made it simple for terrorist organisations to get and comprehend information about the creation of highly destructive instruments and weapons that can cause havoc anywhere in the world . There are a few key reasons why it is clear that globalisation has significantly contributed to an increase in the terrorist activities around the world . The following are these factors . :-

- Increased cross – border activities , such as the flow of products , people , ideas , and money , have been a major factor in the growth of terrorist activity through out the state.
- The ease with which people can investigate greater options in every area of life is a result of globalisation . As a result , there was an increase in international migration ( the movement of people between nations ) . As a result , it has added in the growth of terrorist organisations . The diaspora can contribute significantly to finance . Political militancy has increased as a result of which pressure was brought on by globalisation in the over all activities and working of the world .

These are the main elements that explain how globalisation can be viewed as a significant role in the rise in terrorist actions world wide .

## **INDIA'S STAND AND ROLE ON TERRORISM**

Similar to other developed or developing countries around the world . India is significantly impacted by terrorism as well . For instance , it is evident that different attacks are launched within Indian borders to disturb the tranquil atmosphere of the country due to the disagreement between India and Pakistan over Jammu and Kashmir . Occasionally , several terrorist organisations from Pakistan have attempted to enter India in an effort to endanger the lives , and liberties of citizens there . The incident in Pulwama on February 14 , 2018 , the terrorist attacks in Mumbai in 2008 , and others are some of the most notable examples of terrorist strikes in India . India has actively contributed to the creation of a UN consensus on these very difficult topic since these tragic events . However , India presented a resolution in 1994 that was discussed at the 51<sup>st</sup> UN General Assembly session . This resolution is concerned with ways to fight global terrorism . In accordance with the resolution , the only way to combat terrorism is for all nations to collectively stop supporting it and act against it . Before the US tragedy of 9/11 , this resolution was not given more weight . After the devastating events of 9/11 in the USA ( the United States of America ) , however , the world's perspective on terrorism altered and it was seen as a significant problem . NAM ( Non – Aligned Movement ) , G-8 nations and G – 15 nations all backed this idea . There has been a significant shift in India's approach to combating terrorism in recent years . Previously , the country concentrated on discouraging terrorist activity by forbidding nations and people from participating in such destructive attacks . However , following significant attacks in 2008 and occurrences like the attack in Pulwama , India has come to believe in the idea of retaliation and prompt response to such an attack . As a result , the nation's military and defence system has been improved , and several militaries academies have been established to provide army personnel with suitable training in the wake of the US , Russia , and China . India is rated fourth in the world for military spending . The world was extremely impressed with India's response and counter attack in Balakot following the Pulwama assault . India firmly opposed countries that support terrorism and worked to urge the rest of the world to cease aiding them by cutting of trade and

business relations with them and withholding financial support from them . This was India's stance on terrorism and the steps it took to combat it .

## **US VIEWS ON TERRORISM AND THE STEPS TAKEN BY IT TO COUNTER THIS THREAT**

Following the tragic events of 9 / 11 in the US in 2001 Then – US President George W. Bush had made it clear that his administration would battle to defend every square inch of the country and would go to any lengths to stop these terrorist operations . Following this occurrence , the US shifted its stance on terrorism and began to view it as a major threat to the country . One of Al Qaeda's most dangerous terrorist organisations has been declared at war by the US . It began a number of missions , such as operation Iraqi Freedom , in which only 6 lakh soldiers from 34 different countries attacked Iraq to stop terrorism . The US invaded Afghanistan in the wake of the 9 / 11 terrorist attacks in 2001 , carrying out its second military campaign to overthrow the Taliban regime . The US troops killed numerous Al Qaeda members during this operation , as well as numerous Taliban terrorists who were being attacked . After ten years , in 2011 , the US military carried out an air strike in Pakistan , which led to the death of Osama Bin Laden , the most wanted member of Al Qaeda . As of right now , after the Taliban retook control on August 15 , 2021 , the US cut off all funding and imposed harsh sanctions on the government . Currently , both India and the US have signed various Memorandum of Understandings ( MoUs ) to combat the growing threat of terrorism . As a result , both militaries have shared cutting edge technology and conducted numerous counter terrorism search operations . In relation to this very divisive issue , the US has recently emerged as one of India's bigger strategic allies . <sup>ii</sup>

## **STEPS TAKEN BY SAARC TO COUNTER TERRORISM**

Because of how frequently terrorism is practised , the entire planet is at risk . To combat terrorism both individual countries and international organisations are equally accountable . Differing groups , like SAARC ( South Asian Association for Regional Corporation ) , have different opinions on the growing influence of terrorism worldwide . SAARC is an organisation

made up of seven countries . These countries have come together as a sizable bloc in the Asia – Pacific region , and they have attempted to represent their ideals on all available platforms . This associations main objectives are to foster collaboration among its members and to effectively address issues like terrorism , trade , and other issues . We will examine SAARC’s contribution to the fight against the threat of global terrorism in this area . A significant amount of discussion on terrorism and what could be done to combat it took place during the third SAARC summit , which was held in Kathmandu ( Nepal ) in 1987 . A convention was signed at the summit , and participants agreed to take decisive action to make sure terrorists who carry out attacks are brought to justice and punished . The treaty was ratified while bearing in mind the debilitating consequences of terrorism and its sever impact on friendship , cooperation , and peace , which could potentially pose a danger to a nation’s sovereignty , unity , and , integrity . A second convention was ratified on November 4 , 1987 , and it went into force on August 22 , 1988 . The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam’s ( LTTE) activities in Sri Lanka were the primary driver behind the signature of this convention . The SAARC Terrorist Offences Monitoring Desk ( STROMD ) was established in Colombo in 1990 as a result of this accord . This desk’s main objective was to gather , analyse , and disseminate information about the terrorist tactics , techniques , and methods used to interfere with society’s smooth operation. These were some of the significant anti – terrorism conventions that SAARC signed . Meeting once a year to discuss many facets of the world and evaluate counter terrorism efforts is the main goal of SAARC . But the political polarisation and disagreements among the group’s members have an impact on these summits and conventions .

## **HOW TERRORISM IS A THREAT TO THE SEA?**

Before looking at how maritime terrorism has emerged . Understanding maritime terrorism is essential . The act of carrying out terrorist acts and actions inside the sea , utilising or against ships , fixed platforms of the sea ports , or against any passengers or staff , as well as against costal facilities or settlements , is known as maritime terrorism . Terrorist activities has increased as a result of global growth . Unfortunately , terrorists are now using the water as a weapon to attack any people or government of a country . Terrorists currently use the sea as a means of transportation and internal circulation for dangerous and lethal weaponry . Different

ports and marine routes have developed in to a platform for the simple movement of artillery and other equipment that can be used to stir up trouble in a country . In recent years , terrorist organisations have used sea routes as a means of distributing dangerous drugs through out a state or country . If civilians purchase these drugs , the terrorist organisations will be able to make money , which will allow them to gain control over the general populace and wreak havoc on society . South Asia has been significantly impacted by the terrorists assaults at sea . The 2008 terrorist attack in Mumbai is another example of a terrorist attack through the sea , in which ten Pakistani terrorists infiltrated the city from the sea and killed a significant number of innocent people in the state . Another example of a major terrorist attack through the sea is the terrorist attack of 2014 on the PNS Zulfiqar , a Pakistan frigate , in Karachi . The rise in terrorist actions from the sea has compelled various countries to expand and fortify their military and navy capabilities at sea . One of the most potent forces in the globe , for instance, is the Navy of the United States of America ( the USA ) , Russia , China , and India . From the explanation above , it is clear that terrorist actions in the sea have significantly influenced the South Asian region and have forced every country to establish a powerful military presence there as well. <sup>iii</sup>

## **CAN ARMS CONTROL HELP IN CONTROLLING THE MENACE OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM?**

The world was split in to two main groups , east and west , after the Second World War and during the Cold War era . USSR ( Union of Soviet Socialists Republic ) , which is now Russia , headed the Eastern alliance . In contrast , the US ( the United States of America ) , which led the western group , significantly increased the arms race during the Cold War . Countries that belonged to any of these groups were constantly competing to develop more powerful , high – tech weapons that might wreak catastrophic damage on a large scale . As a result , high – tech bombs , missiles , and nuclear weapons are used against the majority of the world’s countries . This is the main reason why these tools occasionally end up in the wrong hands and are misused . However , during the 1960s and 1970s , nations including the US , UK , France , and Russia signed many weapons control and treaties like the NPT ( Non – Proliferation Treaty ) , LTBT Limited Test Ban Treaty ) , START -1 and START – 2 . Later , these treaties were



ratified by a large number of nations . These agreements have been crucial in preventing the development of lethal weapons . This has therefore contributed to a decrease in the misuse of these weapons by any state or country . These arms control accords have been extremely important in preventing terrorism up until this point . At the moment , these treaties are extremely important in keeping nations from testing their nuclear weapons and energy . The signing of such accords was a wise move given that the majority of the world's nations now possess weapons capable of wreaking havoc on a huge scale .

## **EFFORTS MADE BY UN TO CONTROL THE MENACE OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM**

The United Nations was established on October 24 , 1945 , following the conclusion of the Second World War , with the goal of fostering peace and prosperity in the wake of such widespread devastation . In the entire world , the United Nations serve as peacekeepers . The UN has implemented a number of actions and initiatives to combat the threat of global terrorism. The following are these techniques :-

- The United Nations Security Council ( UNSC ) unanimously approved a resolution on September 28 , 2001 . This resolution wasn't passed in response to any nation , state , or political leader . none the less , was implemented against both terrorism itself and terrorist attacks across the globe . One of the broadest resolution ever passed by the UN states that anyone who engages in terrorist activity or aids or finances terrorism will be prosecuted , that such acts are classified as serious crimes under domestic law and that appropriate punishment should be meted out that is commensurate with the gravity of the act .
- Following this resolution , the states were instructed to provide the Counter – Terrorism Committee ( CTC ) with reports on the resolution's implementation . In order for the committee , the United Nations and its agencies , as well as certain other governments, to give a significant amount of technical support and cooperation to enable the implementation of resolution , the committee has formed various sub – committees to assess these reports .

- On December 18 , 1972 , the United Nations 2114<sup>th</sup> preliminary meeting adopted a text on international terrorism . “ Measures to prevent international terrorism which endangered or takes the life of innocent human beings their liberty as a result of which these acts create misery , frustration , and despair , “ read the title of the document .
- In 1999 , a terrorist Prevention Branch was established in the centre for International Crime Prevention Vienna. This was carried out to strengthen the ability of the global community to combat the centre of international terrorism . The general assembly of the United Nations adopted a new resolution on October 19 , 1999 , urging its members to support and cooperate in the fight against international terrorism .

These are some of the key actions the UN has made to combat the threat of global terrorism .

Currently , international organisations have sophisticated measures in place to combat the terrorist actions being practised all over the world .

International organisations are aware that in the modern world , every country is concerned with achieving better economic development . Consequently , a number of committees , like the FATF ( Financial Action Task Force ) are established . This army monitors the amount of loans supplied by one nation to another for their growth . This force places countries on different lists , such as the grey list and black list . A country may be placed on the “ black list ” if it supports terrorism , which means that it won’t receive financial aid or other support from the outside world . These actions instil fear in the hearts of neighbouring nations , making them reluctant to support terrorism within their borders . For instance , a recent example is Pakistan , which is currently on the grey list but may soon be put on the black list if it continues to support terrorism . An organisation is granted a set period of time during this process to discontinue these operations within it’s borders . If they don’t , then something happens against them .<sup>iv</sup>

## **WHAT IS THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN FIGHTING AGAINST TERRORISM ?**

Every state or country , as well as international organisations like the United Nations ( UN ) , the South Asian Association for Regional Co – operation ( SAARC ) , the G – 7 ( Group of the seven most powerful nations in the world ) , and the G – 20 ( Group of top 20 nations in the world ) , are required to take steps to combat terrorism . The government is crucial in fighting against the terrorism . Currently , the government needs to take the following additional actions :-

- Through various channels , such as electronic media , social media , etc. , people should be made aware of the negative effects of engaging in terrorist acts .
- More strict rules should be implemented to instil fear in those groups about the sever repercussions they may experience if they engage in significant terrorists acts .
- To combat terrorism , laws like the UAPA ( Unlawful Assembly and Prevention Act ) should be widely adopted .

Here are a few of the most important actions the government can take to combat terrorism .

## **GOOD TERRORISM AND BAD TERRORISM**

Currently , there are two basic categories of terrorism : - good terrorism and evil terrorism . Good terrorism refers to an act carried out by a group of individuals in good faith , either via the use of force or through non violent protest , for the benefit of society and to protect individual rights and liberties . For example :- Revolt of 1857 by Indian military for getting independence from British rule can be stated as an example of good terrorism . On the other hand , bad terrorism refers to actions taken by a group of people in order to cause commotion and interfere with society's normal functioning . The idea of bad terrorism is used to advance one's political position in society . The main instance of effective terrorism is the fight for freedom . However , the greatest example of bad terrorism is the use of violence to take over a country , as in Myanmar , where the militarism overthrew the democratically elected government in order to seize power by illegal methods . Another illustration of bad terrorism

is the Taliban's use of force and revolution to remove the democratically elected government in Afghanistan. This notion and study of good and poor terrorism was presented.

## CONCLUSION

We can infer from the arguments above that terrorism represents a significant threat to the entire world. In my opinion, everyone in the globe should band together, regardless of differences, to battle this devil who always tries to obstruct the peaceful advancement of civilization.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The primary source of information for this article are various journals cited in google scholar which have been thoroughly analysed and understood to facilitate an objective understanding of the research topic. The article has also been written by consulting relevant secondary sources. Research papers published in various journals were referred to which contained analysis about the topic. Further more, newspaper reports and blog posts were consulted to understand the problems which is caused by terrorism in the entire world. Thus, in general, descriptive and exploratory research methodology was used in the preparation of this article.

## ENDNOTES

---

<sup>i</sup> Mussarat Jabeen & Ishtiaq A. Choudhry, Role of SAARC for Countering Terrorism In South Asia, 282 SAS 389 – 403, 390 (2013).

<sup>ii</sup> Manish Kumar Yadav, Global War on Terrorism a Clear and Present Danger, India's Stand on It in the United Nations and Other Forums With a South Asia Perspective, 2 IJSSR 74 – 85, 77 (2014).

<sup>iii</sup> Terrance G. Lichtenwald, Mara H. Steinhour, and Frank S. Perri, A Maritime Threat Assessment of Sea Based Criminal Organizations and Terrorist Operations, 8 HSA 1-24, 13 (2012).

<sup>iv</sup> Manish Kumar Yadav, Global War on Terrorism a Clear and Present danger India's Stand on It in the United Nations and other Forums With a South Asian Perspective, 2 IJSSR 74 – 85, 79-80 (2014).