

TERRORISM IN INDIA

* Dr. Ashok Sonkamble

Terrorism in India can be attributed to many low intensity conflicts within its borders. The regions with long term terrorist activities today are Jammu And Kashmir, Mumbai, Central India (Naxalis) and seyen jzister states (independence and autonomy movements). In this the past, the Punjab insurgency led to militant activates in the Indian state of Punjab as well as. The national capital Delhi (Delhi serial blasts, anti-sikh, note) As of 2006, at least 232 of the countries 608 districts were afflicted, Mumbai has been the most preferred target for most terrorist organizations, primarily the separatist forces from Kashmir over the past few years a series of attacks including explosions in local trains in July 2006, to the most recent and unprecedented attacks of 26th November, 2008, where two of the prime hotels and another building, in south Mumbai, were sieged A joint of operation of India's most elite forces like the NGS and MARCOS are currently involved in dealing with it.

Terrorist attacks in Mumbai include- • 12th March 1993-series of 13 bombs Goff killing 257. • December 2002-bomb goes off in a bus in Ghatkopar killing 2- • 27th January 2003-bomb goes often a bicycle in vile parle killing 1. • 14th March 2003-bomb goes often train in Mulund killing 10. • 28th July 2003-bomb goes off in a bus in Ghatkopar killing 4. • 25th August 2003-two bombs go off in cars the gateway of India and Zaveri Bazar killing 50. • 11th July 2006-Series of seven bombs go off in trains killing 20g. • 26th November 2008 to 29th November 2008-co-ordinated series of attacks killing at least 172.

Bihar-Although terrorism is not considered a major issue in the state, existence of certain groups like the CPI-ML, peoples war, MCC flanvir sena and balbir militias is A major concern as they frequently attacks local policemen and politicians poor governance and the law and order system in Bihar have helped increase the menace caused by the militias. The Ranvir Sena is a militia of forward caste land owners which is taking on the might of powerful Naxalits in the area. The police remained a mute witness to these killings as it lacked the means to take any action. However now the Ranvir Sena has significantly weakened with the arrest of its top brass. The other groups are still active. There have been

arrests in various parts of the country, particularly those made by the Delhi and Mumbai. Pouce in the recent past, indicating that extremist/terrorist outfits have been spreading their networks in this state.

However, in recent years these attacks by various caste groups have come down with better government being practiced, Punjab during the 1970s, the Indian green revolution brought increased economic prosperity for the skin community in Punjab, this propensity kindled an age old fear in the skin community-that of being absorbed into the Hindu fold and led to the rise of skin militants. The insurgency intensified during 1980s when the movement turned violent and sought independence from the Indian union. Led by Arnali Singh Bhindranwale who, though not in the creation of Kha. O stan but also was not against it, began using militancy to stress the movement's demands soon things turned bloody with India alleging that neighboring Pakistan supported these militants, who, by 1983-84, had began to enjoy widespread support among Sikhs. In 1984, operation, blue star was conducted by the Indian government to stem out the movement it involved an assault on the golden temple complex, which Sant Bhndranwale had fortified in preparation of an army assault. Indira Gandhi, India's them Prime Minister, ordered the military to storm the temple, who eventfully had to use tanks, he ucppter, gunslups artillery and chemical, weapons. After a seventy-four hour firelight, the army successfully took control of the temple in doing so, it completely damaged some portions of the Akal Takht. The Sikh reference library and some damaged to the golden temple itself. According to Indian government sources, eighty-three army personnel were killed and 249 injured, militant casualties were 493 killed and eighty-six injured.

Sikh terrorists bombed an alr India flight from Canada to India, killing all 329 people on board. At India flight-182. It is the worst terrorist Act in Canada's history. The ending of Sikh militancy and the desire for a Kahalistan Catalyzed when the them-Prime Minister of Pakistan benazir bhutto handed all intelligence material concerning Punjab militancy to the Indian government as a goodwill gesture the Indian government used that intelligence to put an end to those who were behind attacks in India and

militancy. The ending of overt Sikh militancy in 1993 led to a period of relative calm, punctuated by militant acts (i.e. that assassination of Punjab cm, beant Singh in 1995) attributed to half a dozen or so operating Sikh organizations include babbar_Khalsa_internation as Khalistan commando force, Khalistan Liberation force and Khalistan Zondabad force. Support for Khalistan is still widespread among Sikh Communities in Canada and the united kingdom.

New Delhi- Main article: 29th October, JQos, delhibombings. Three explosions went off in the Indian Capital of Delhi on October 29, 2005 (to before the Hindu festival of Diwali) which billed more than 60 people and injured at least 200 others. The high number of casualties made the bombings the deadliest attack in India of 2005 it was followed by 5 bomb blasts on 13th September 2008.

Delhi Security Summit-Main article: 2007 Delhi Security Summit the Delhi Summit on security took place on February 14, 2007 with the Foreign Ministers of China, India, and Russia meeting in Hyderabad House, Delhi India to discuss terrorism, drug trafficking reform of the united nations, and the security situations, in Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and North Korea. Attack on Indian Parliament During-BJP rule

Terrorism on December 13, 2001 attacked parliament of India resulting in a 45-minute gun battle in which 9 policemen and parliament staffer were killed all the five terrorism were also killed by the security forces and were identified as Pakistani nations. The attack took place around 11:40 am (IST), minutes after both houses of parliament had adjourned for the day.

The suspected terrorism dressed in commando fatigues entered parliament in a car through the VIP gate of the building displaying parliament and home ministry security stickers, the vehicle entered the parliament premises the terrorists set off massive blasts and have used AK-47 rifles, explosives and grenades for the attacks senior ministers and over 200 members of parliament were inside the central hall of parliament when the attack took place security personnel sealed the entire premises which saved many lives.

Uttar Pradesh-Ayodhya crisis Main article: 2005 Janmabhomi attack in Ayodhya. The long simmering ayodhya crisis finally culminated in a Terrorist attack on the site of the 16th Century Babr Masjid-Ram... Janmbhoomi Hindu temple in Ayodhya on July-5, 2005 following the two-hour gunfight between Lashkar-e-toiba terrorists based in Pakistan and Indian police, in which six terrorist were killed, Main article: 2006 Varanasi bombings A series of blasts occurred across the Hind holy... city of Varanasi on 7 March 2006

fifteen people are reported to have been killed and as many as lot others were injured no one has accepted responsibility for the attacks but it is speculated that the bombing were carried out in retaliation of the arrest of a Lashkar-e-toiba agent in Varanasi in February 2006. On April 5, 2006 the Indian Police arrested six Islamic militants, including a cleric who helped plan bomb blasts.

Northeastern India-Northeastern India consists 7 states (also known as the seven sisters) Assam Meghalaya, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizorm, Manipur And Nagaland tensions exists between these states and the central government as well as amongst tribal people, who are natives of these states, and migrant people from part of India. The states have accused new. There is a rise of insurgent activities and regional movemens in the Northeast, especially in the states of Assam, Nagaland, Mizorum and Tripura most of these organizations demand independents state status or increased regional autonomy and sovereignty many of these are said to be china sponsored north eastern region tension have eased off late with Indian and state governments concerned effort to raise the living standards of the people in these regions however, militancy still in this region of India supported by external sources.

Nagaland-The first and perhaps the most significant insurgency was in Nagaland from the early 1950s until it was finally equaled in the early 1980s through a mixture of repression and co-optation. The National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Isak-Muivdh (NSCN-IM), demands an independent Nagaland region, According to government officials, 599 civilians, 235 security forces and 862 terrorists have lost their lives between 1992 and 2000. On June 14, 2001 a ceasefire agreement was signed between the government of India and the NSCN-IM which had received widespread approval and support in Nagaland. Terrorist outfits such as the Naga National Council federal (NNC-F) and the National council of Nagaland-Khaplang (NSCN-K) also welcomed the development. Certain neighbouring states, especially Mampjar raised serious concerns over the cease-fire.

Assam-After Nagaland, Assam is the most volatile state in the region. Beginning 1979, the indigenous people of Assam demanded that the illegal immigrants who had emigrated from Bangladesh to Assam be detected and deported. The movement lead by All Assam students Union began non-violently with satvagraha boycotts, picketing and courting arrests. Those protesting frequently came under police action. In 1983 an election was conducted which was opposed by the movement leaders. A November 1985 amendment to the Indian citizenship law allows

non citizens who entered Assam between 1961 and 1971 to have all the rights of citizenship except the right to vote for a period of ten years. New Delhi also gave special administration autonomy to the bodos in the state however the bodos demanded for a separate bodoland which led to a clash between the bengalis, the bodos and the Indian military resulting in hundreds of deaths. There are several organizations which advocate the independence of Assam. The most prominent of which is the ULFA (United Liberation Front of Assam) formed in 1971, the ULFA has two main goals the independence of Assam and the establishment of a socialist government the ULFA has carried out several terrorist attacks in the region to getting the India military and non-combatants. The groups assassinate political opponents Attacks others infrastructure facilities. The ULFA is believed to have strong links with nationalist (NSCN), moists and the naxaltes it is also believed that they carry out most of their operations from the kingdom of Bhutan because of ULFA's increased visibility, the India government outlawed the group in 1986 and declared Assam a troubled area under pressure from New Delhi Bhutan carried a massive operation to drive out the ULFA militants from its territory. Backed by the Indian army, thimphy was successful in killing more than a thousand terrorists and extraditing many more to India while sustaining only 120 casualties the Indian military undertook several successful operations aimed at countering future ULFA continues to be active in the region in 2004, the ULFA targeted a public school in Assam killing 19 children and adults. On September 18, 2005, a soldier was killed in Jiribam, Manipur near the Manipur Assam border by members of the ULFA.

Andhra Pradesh-Andhra Pradesh is one of the few southern states affected by terrorism, although of a far different kind and on a much smaller scale the terrorism in Andhra Pradesh stems from the people's war group or pwg Popularly known as Naxalites the pwg, has been operating in India for over two decades with most of its operations in the tesdagoma region in Andhra Pradesh. The group is also active in Orissa and Bihar unlike the Kashmir insurgents and ULFA. PWG is a maoist terrorist organization and labor rights is one of its primary goals these ideological extremists aim to create equality in the society by attacking the rich and powerful landlords having failed to capture popular support in the elections, they resorted to violence as a means to voice their opinions. The group

targets Indian i. ce, multina-Honal copmanies, landlords and other influential institutions in the name of the rights of landlords labori PWG officials, including the attempted assassination of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu it reportedly has a strength of 800 to 1,000 well armed militants and is believed to have close links with the Maoists in Nepal and the LTTE of Sri Lanka. According to the Indian Government, on an average, more than 60 civilians, 60 Naxal rebels and a dozen policemen are killed every year because of PWG led insurgency. Currently the ban on the Naxalites has been lifted in the state which has led to a drastic drop in killings.

Tamil Nadu-Tamil Nadu had LTTE Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam Militants operating in state Tamil Nadu up until the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, LTTE had given many speeches in state Tamil Nadu led by Velupillai Prabhakaran, Tamilselvan and other Eelam members. Tamil Tigers, now a banned organization, have been receiving many donations and support from India in the past, the following banned in India • Black Tigers • Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam • Tamil Tigers and Major listed incidents • Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Tamil Nadu also faced terrorist attacks orchestrated by Muslim fundamentalists. For more information refer, 1998 coimbatore bombings.

Indian Railways-India has hundreds of thousands of miles of railway track, and over 14,000 trains criss-cross the country every day. These are tempting targets for many of the groups described above, and attacks on trains, whether direct assaults, bombings or deliberate derailing through sabotage are common.

Air India Flight -Main article: Air India Flight 182 Air India flight 182 was an Air India flight operating on the Montreal-London-Delhi-Bombay route. On 23rd June 1985 the Boeing 747-237B operating on the route was bombed over Irish airspace, killing all onboard. Until 11th September 2001, the Air India bombing was the single deadliest terrorist attack involving aircraft. It remains to this day the largest mass murder in Canadian history. The incident occurred within an hour of the Narita Airport Bombing. The Plane, a Boeing 747-237B (c/n 21473/330, reg VT-EFO) named Emperor Kanshka exploded at an altitude of 31,000 feet (9500m), crashing into the Atlantic Ocean killing all 329 people on board, of whom 280 were Canadian citizens and 22 were Indian nationals.