**Dynamics of Changing Security Scenario and Threat of International Terrorism**

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**New Dimension of the Problem:**
The latest round of blasts in different parts of world has once again exposed our vulnerability to terror. Although there is no permanent solution to end terror, Indian security forces must develop a more mature and nuanced understanding of the beast and work on setting up a sophisticated intelligence network that can help them pre-empt terror attacks.

Here’s a roadmap on how to secure the country: first, security agencies must have enough information about terror groups, their methods of operation and their level of motivation. For gathering intelligence on the above three, they have to develop a good network of informers and improve day-to-day policing. However, we should not expect governments alone to improve the general security environment; citizens too need to do their bit. Second, we have to learn from the West’s anti-terror strategies. For example, the United States Patriot Act, 2001, gave the country’s security agencies powers to acquire information about communication networks and properties of terror suspects. Under Britain’s Prevention of Terrorism Act, 1984, security agencies can detain and imprison terror suspects for one-and-a half months without framing charges.

In India, attempts have been made to ensure implementation of anti-terror laws. But due opposition from various quarters, these Acts were allowed to lapse. The Terrorism and Disruptive Activities Act, 1987, (Tada) was not extended beyond 1995. Similarly, the Prevention of Terrorism (Pota), 2002, was not extended beyond 2004. On the other hand, states such as Maharashtra and Gujarat have made attempts to enact separate criminal acts. Although the creation of National Investigating Agency was timely, we still don’t have a federal anti-terror agency.

Third, security is an ever-changing landscape. The security apparatus and police need to diversify its activities to stay ahead the race. For this, they need to bring together

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technical and professional expertise based on many decades of experience in maintaining internal security.

However, all efforts will come to a naught unless prompt and effective amendments are introduced in the criminal judiciary system and there is political will to implement suggestions given by different panels on our security apparatus. It will be beneficial to remember that law and order problem is different from the problem of terrorism. We often make the mistake of treating both as same. In a situation where terrorist violence has become endemic there is a dilemma of human rights violation---- should anti terrorist operations be a work of simple police and para military network or a work of special force trained for counter-terrorist activities. The deployment of special forces in countering terrorists activities has become reality in many countries. In this regard the experience of the western countries could be of immense use. For example, the way British security forces handled Irish Republican Army, the manner in which the West German Police defeated the red army faction. Similarly, French army took up some measures to improve anti terrorist capabilities and which way the Italian Police had to combat a large scale terrorist violence from neo-fascist groups and the left wing challenges by the Red Brigades..

With the rapid increase in information technology the traditional set up of terrorist organization is no longer as important as it used to be a few years ago. The level of comprehension, courage, determination, right training, skill of operation and focused execution strategy what is required to make a hardcore terrorist. These terrorists are more professional, innovative, computer savvy, more educated and more financially sound then their counterparts a decade ago. The emergence of new class of high-tech terrorists has broken a well founded belief that terrorism is mainly an outcome of poverty. Their strategy and method of operation have become more discrete than terrorists during 1970’s and 1980’s. The old class of militants used to publicly take responsibility of the attacks but modern terrorists are not so keen in publicizing their actions. The form of terrorism has also undergone major change as it has become spectator sport with multiplied harmful impact. Nations and intelligence agencies are gradually employing these non state actors for fulfillment of their strategic and military aims. These days there is no scarcity of funding for terrorists. Their operations are mostly funded. Cold war and post cold war politics has created peculiar tendencies and base for the rise of such state sponsored terrorism. But gradually, the whole strategy is proving pernicious. Modern terrorists have acquired the most sophisticated weapons of mass destruction and states have merely remained spectators. 1

The rise in suicidal terrorists has made terrorists threat more lethal. The suicide bombing has increased casualty to manifold. There has been seventy eight per cent

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rise in the number of suicidal attacks by terrorists during the last two decades. Suicidal attacks show the level of motivation and fearlessness among terrorist who are willing to sacrifice their lives for a cause according to their own perception of justice. The 9/11 suicidal attacks by terrorists on World Trade Centre, USA proved that it is just impossible to stop such terrorist attacks. These terrorist attacks caused twenty times more damage than previous attacks. The level of potentiality and lethality of causing damage by such terrorist attacks make the suicidal method more popular among modern terrorists. Moreover, the rapid increase in the means of modern transportation system has rather helped terrorists in their mission.

To sustain their struggle sources of finances are very vital and for this terrorists connive with drug traffickers. Tremendous amount of revenue generated by illegal drug trafficking provide a continuous flow of support to terrorist groups. Therefore, there have been continuous efforts to eliminate drug trafficking and reduce drug abuse. Rohan Gunartna sees an obnoxious nexus between terrorism and organized crime. The increasing proximity has helped terrorists groups to be more independent and less dependent on the state sponsors. There is no dearth of domestic and international supporters for modern terrorists. The increasing proximity between narcotic dealers, arms smugglers and militant groups transformed Afghanistan into a very dangerous place. It is believed that Al Qaeda and its supporters got multiple support from Taliban, and drug producers of Afghanistan. Middle east militant organizations like Hezbollah or Hamas carried on their struggle with the support of money generated through narcotic trade in other parts of the world.

Unless we develop a high level intelligence network to anticipate any such threats the talk of combating strategies would only remain as chimera. During the last two decades, the increasing drug smuggling and the obnoxious nexus between drug smugglers and terrorists have posed a serious problem to the internal state-security networks and compelled various nations to organise themselves and wage a relentless war against such a nexus. But mere implementation of vigorous drug laws cannot become effective unless the judicial procedure is modified for ensuring speedy trials. The concept that one man’s terrorist can be another man’s freedom fighter must be done away with; local populace should cooperate with law enforcement machinery even at the cost of personal misery; prompt and strict decisions should be undertaken by various nations for controlling terrorist psychologically.

In changing environment the security apparatus and police need to diversify its activities by bringing together technical and professional expertise based on many decades of experience in maintaining internal security. In this regard the most crucial thing is to develop capability to anticipate security needs. This is possible by conducting specialized courses for monitoring security situations. Unless we attack the

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roots of terrorism, only superficial relief could be seen but terrorism would increase in the total quantum of its impact. Creation of general awareness and organisation of public support against terrorist acts could be of immense use. While it is desirable to allow police and the armed forces to employ better informed judgment about the local problems, there is of course a danger that this attempt of the government could dilute the benefits to those deemed deserving and, thus, any possibility of peace and negotiation.