

Research Paper

A Study on Etiology of Terrorism in India

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ABSTRACT

Terrorism in India has been a significant threat to the nation's security and stability for many decades. Our study primarily focusses on the causes and effects of terrorism in India. The employment of technology in counter-terrorism operations is becoming an increasingly vital component of India's national security. This study examines the implementation of technology in India's counterterrorism efforts, paying particular attention to surveillance, cybersecurity, and intelligence gathering. The research examines the usefulness of technology in detecting, preventing, and responding to terrorist threats, as well as the difficulties and limitations of over-reliance on technology. The report also evaluates the Indian government's actions and regulations promoting the use of technology in counterterrorism operations, as well as the role of the private sector in delivering technology solutions. Using contemporary technology to identify and stop terrorist activity has become a more important part of counterterrorism operations in India. This article analyses the causes of terrorism in India and considers how technology may be used to reduce the threat. The study looks on the surveillance, cybersecurity, and intelligence collecting technologies utilised by Indian security services in counterterrorism operations. It also looks at these technologies' benefits and drawbacks as well as how they affect counterterrorism efforts in India. In order to effectively combat the threat of terrorism in India, the study's conclusion emphasises the necessity for ongoing technological innovation and enhanced coordination between government institutions. The study concludes with suggestions for enhancing the use of technology in counterterrorism operations in India and a look at probable future advances in this area. The study is founded on a review of pertinent literature, case studies, and the opinions of subject-matter specialist. Both primary and secondary victim's perspectives and experiences were studied through secondary data. An online survey comprising of 15 questions was circulated among individuals of age group 18-60. The survey results are analysed and interpreted.

Keywords: *Etiology, Terrorism, Technology, Cyber security, Surveillance, India*

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Definitions of Terrorism: The word "terrorism" comes from the French "terrorism," which is derived from the Roman verb *terrere*, which means "to induce tremor." The Oxford English Dictionary Second Edition defines the 1989 terrorism as a strategy used to intimidate or sow fear. According to the Encyclopaedia Britannica, terrorism is the systematic use of violence to instill a general feeling of fear among a people and thereby advance particular political objectives. Terrorism is the use of violence or other destructive actions against civilians for political or other ideological reasons.

The European Union defines terrorism as "the use of violence, or the threat of violence, by a group or an individual, against people or property, with the intention of intimidating or coercing societies or governments, often for ideological or political reasons." Federal Bureau of Investigation: "Terrorism is the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives." United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: "Terrorism is the deliberate use of violence, or the threat of violence, against innocent civilians, with the aim of creating fear and intimidation in pursuit of political, religious, or ideological objectives."

European Union: "Terrorism means the intentional commission of acts of violence for political or religious reasons, aimed at spreading terror among the population or compelling national or international authorities to act or abstain from action." (Source: Council of the European Union. (2002). Framework Decision on Combating Terrorism). North Atlantic Treaty Organization: "Terrorism is the use or threatened use of violence against civilians or against civilian targets, in order to attain political, religious or ideological aims." (Source: North Atlantic Treaty Organization. (2018). Terrorism)

Terrorism in India

Terrorism has been a significant issue in India for many decades. There have been numerous terrorist attacks carried out by various groups in different parts of the country, resulting in the loss of many lives and causing significant damage to property.

One of the most prominent terrorist groups in India is the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), which is based in Pakistan and has been responsible for several attacks in India, including the 2008 Mumbai attacks, which killed over 160 people. The Indian Mujahideen, another terrorist group, has been responsible for a number of bombings in various Indian cities. The government of India has taken several measures to counter terrorism, including strengthening its security forces, improving intelligence gathering, and increasing cooperation with other countries in the region. The government has also enacted several laws to combat terrorism, including the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the National Investigation Agency Act. Despite these efforts, terrorism remains a significant threat in India, and there have been several recent attacks, including the 2019 Pulwama attack in which over 40 Indian soldiers were killed. The government of India continues to work towards strengthening its counter-terrorism measures and cooperating with other countries to prevent and combat terrorism.

Terrorism has been a danger not only to India's democracy but to countries worldwide affecting the enjoyment of rights of people. Terrorism has slammed and affected almost every sphere of human life, be it financial or political, or social life. India has been consistently working towards battling the menace of terrorism on both the global and nation front, consequently embracing specific measures at the level teeth. At the global level,

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India has a proposed Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) at United Nations General Assembly which is under negotiation.

Economics has proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that terrorism, conflict, and political unrest significantly harm the economies of the countries in which they occur. This article is aimed into the effects of terrorism as well as the processes that turn it into financial harm. The goal of this study is to examine several facets of how terrorism affects India's economic development on a macroeconomic level. The most well-known transnational terrorist outfit that has utilised the internet and social media to unite and organise like-minded organisations and cadres against perceived common enemies is Al-Qaida. Similar to this, ISIS, also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, has been carrying out its own international terror campaign through a variety of terrorist organisations that share some of its ideological tenets.

Today's technology has the power to prevent terrorist acts from happening by detecting them, as well as allowing intelligence and security personnel to find terrorists and their networks. Technology allows us to recognise both internal enemies and external proxies. Technology is a facilitator and provides the state with a protective barrier against new terrorist threats. However, in the fight against terrorism, relying solely on a single technology is unlikely to produce the intended outcomes. To find and foil terrorists' plans, it would always be necessary to use surveillance, tracking, and AI-based identification technologies.

The use of contemporary technology in counterterrorism operations has grown in importance as part of the fight against terrorism. Particularly in India, the potential of terrorist attacks has risen, leading to the adoption of numerous technical counterterrorism measures. The detection and prevention of terrorist actions have been made possible by the use of technology in surveillance, cybersecurity, and information collection.

The significance of this subject stems from the fact that terrorism poses a serious risk to national security and that technology can be an essential tool in avoiding and combatting it. The most recent technical developments enable India's law enforcement organisations to more effectively locate, monitor, and eliminate possible terrorist threats.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Aysegul Corakci Eruygur and Tolga Omay (2014), investigated the effects of terrorism activities, by employing nonlinear models. The results showed that terrorism had a statistically significant negative effect on the stock index when the intensity of terrorist activities passed a certain threshold level⁴. The study entitled, "The Impact and Cost of International Terrorism on the Economies of the United States and the European Union", by Inga Grote, examined the international business in Pakistan. Terrorism not only affected the stock market of Pakistan but also other sectors like education, banking sector, finance sector, and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Terrorism activities did affect the economy of the country and due to this reason, the economy of Pakistan was declining.¹⁵ Thus, the literature documented the effects of the terrorist attack on stock markets, at the national and global levels. The study considered different terrorist attacks and the outcome was found to be different for each study. In other words, different events have different effects on stock markets. Therefore, it becomes essential to study any unlikely events and their effects on stock markets to understand the reaction of investors from time to time. Hence the present study considered five major terrorist attacks in India during the study period, based on the

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number of people injured and fatalities, and evaluated their effects on the index movements of the Bombay Stock Exchange of India Limited. The results of the study provided a useful understanding of investors' response to terrorist attacks in India, which could facilitate the technical analysts in stock price prediction.

Review of Literature Agarwal, Ghosh P. & Haibei Zhaoviii (2018) in their paper "Violence and investor behavior: Evidence from terrorist attacks" examined the effect of violence on investors' trading behavior in the stock market. The findings show that the investors located in the areas near the attacks tend to trade less and performed worse compared with their peers. decrease in trading activity is on account of the loss of cognitive abilities due to stress and fear after the attack. Lastly, institutional trading activity is not affected by exposure to violence.

Chaudhry et.al. ix (2018) in their article "Impact of terrorism on stock markets: empirical evidence from the SAARC region" examine the impact of terrorism on stock markets in SAARC countries from 2000–to 2015. The study found that terrorism produces adverse effects on the stock markets of the SAARC countries.

Stelios Markoulis & Savvas Katsikidesx (2018) "The Effect of Terrorism on Stock Markets: Evidence from the 21st Century" This paper has attempted analyses ZZ 0A Xn,"[the impact of 11 major terrorist attacks in the 21st century. The results show that earlier attacks have more impact as compared to recent attacks. Moreover, recent attacks have no impact on the local or worldwide market.

Muneeswaran & Babuxi (2017) in their paper "Impact of Terrorism on Indian Capital Market: An Empirical Study" offers to check the impact of terrorist attacks on the stock markets of India. The five major terrorist attack events, over the period 2005 to 2009 were taken into consideration. The findings of the recommended that investors need to wait and should not take immediate investment decisions during abnormal events in the market.

Ali Hashmat et.al xiii. (2017) in their paper "How Different Terrorist Attacks Affect Stock Returns Evidence from Pakistan Stock Exchange" The aim of the study was to find the impact of terrorism on others and Karachi stock exchange. The study has been conducted by examining ten out of 995 major terrorist attacks in Pakistan during the period 2007-2014. The finding shows that the news of terrorist attacks has resulted in a negative impact on Karachi Stock Exchange (KSE).

Schepers Mxiii. (2016) in his master thesis "Effect of terror attacks on the bond and stock market of European countries" investigated the effects of terror attacks on the stock and bond market of five European countries. The period under study is 1994-2014. The finding shows a sign on the bond market of those countries. No significant impact was found in the stock market.

Sushma Devi Parmar conducted a study on "Cybersecurity in India: An Evolving Concern for National Security", Telecommunications Policy, 41(10), 1004-1018. In the age of information, communication, and technology, cybersecurity has evolved into a complex and rapidly evolving security concern (ICT). Cyber-threats seem likely to infiltrate every nook and cranny of national economies and infrastructure as ICT dependence spreads around the world; in fact, the increased use of computers and Internet-based networking has been accompanied by an increase in cyberattack incidents worldwide that target people,

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companies, and governments. ICT is also increasingly being viewed by certain countries as a battlefield where strategic wars can be fought as well as a strategic asset to be used for the reasons of national security. In order to further the analysis and assess the importance of cybersecurity in the current security discussion, this article analyses cybersecurity from the viewpoint of India.

Brig Narender Kumar, SM, VSM, conducted a study on “Use of Modern Technology to Counter Terrorism” Terrorism will increase instability on a global scale, and the situation could get worse, especially in fragile governments. Violent extremist themes will keep radicalising young people online and through social media. Terrorist organisations can remotely coordinate assaults thanks to communication technologies, frequently using encrypted conversations. Because terrorists "leave no entry point unexploited," technology abuse by terrorists will become more common than it was previously. Artificial intelligence, autonomous or semi-autonomous weapon systems, and dirty bombs could be used by terrorists to wreak unprecedented collateral damage as a result of new technologies. Investment in technology is required to address the growing dangers from terrorism because it is nearly difficult to design anti-terrorist methods solely based on human abilities and intuition.

Analysts studying counterterrorism trends increasingly agree that standard security measures are no longer sufficient for thwarting terrorist attacks. Thus, incorporating and adapting technology will be necessary to create capabilities for detecting, preventing, pre-empting, and eliminating terrorists through a multi-layered technical wall and technological spear.

METHODOLOGY

The objectivity of the study is to identify the etiology of terrorism in India. This study is a descriptive research study using the survey method for primary data collection. A questionnaire of 12 questions was prepared using google forms regarding the topic – “The etiology of terrorism in India”. The questionnaire was issued to general public of the age groups 18 to 60. The survey results were analysed to know the public opinion on the causes and effects of terrorism in India. A qualitative analysis was conducted. 100 responses were collected for the survey and the overall perspective of the people on the social impact, cultural impact, and economic impact of terrorist attacks in India is listed below in a pie chart let's study each of them in detail.

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Effects of Terrorism

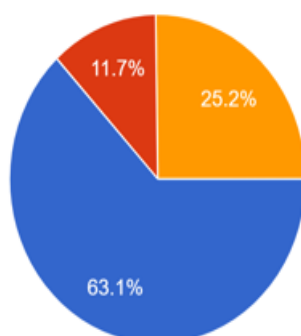


Figure-1

● YES
● No
● MAY BE

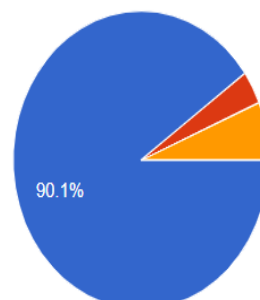


Figure-2

● YES
● NO
● MAY BE

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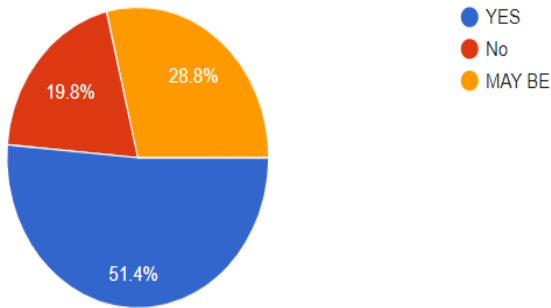


Figure-3

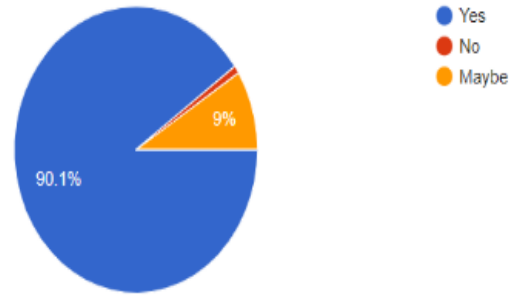


Figure-4

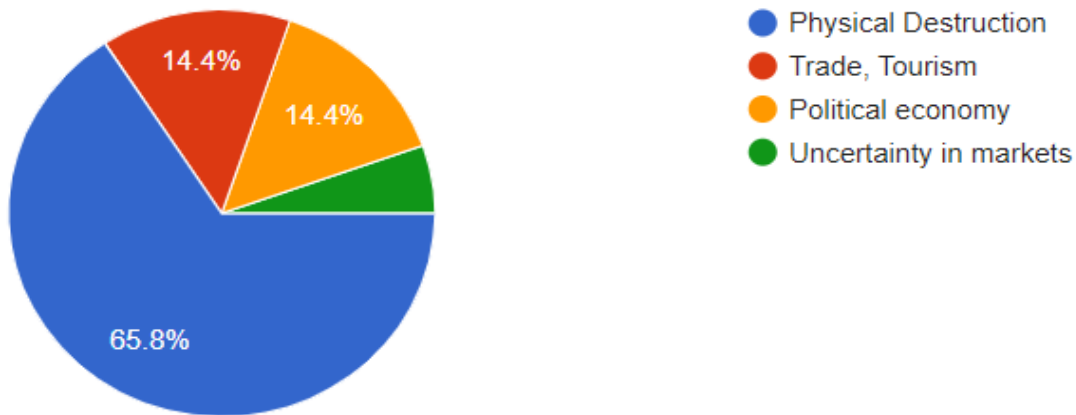


Figure-5



Figure-6

According to the survey among the respondents who are basically from south of India,

- **Figure-1** shows that 51.4% of the respondents believe that terrorist attack will affect them even if they do not live anywhere near terrorist attack. This shows that how terrorist attack effects mental health of a person.
- **Figure-2**, this figure shows that 90.1% of the responders believe that terrorism has an adverse impact on the economy of the country.
- **Figure-3**, 51.4% of the responders had agreed that terrorism affects a particular group of people more than others.
- **Figure-4**, 90.1% of the people responded that a terrorist attack at a workplace would affect the mental health of a worker.

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- **Figure-5**, it shows that 65.8% of responders have their say that physical destruction impacts the most during a terrorist attack. 14.4% of responders think that terrorist attacks show impact on trade, tourism, Political economy.
- **Figure-6**, 73% of the responders responded that terrorism impacts the economy of India through decline in foreign investments and tourism, it disrupts business activities and supply chains, it increases the cost of security measures. 12.6% responded that terrorism disrupts only business activities and supply chains.

Causes of Terrorism in India:

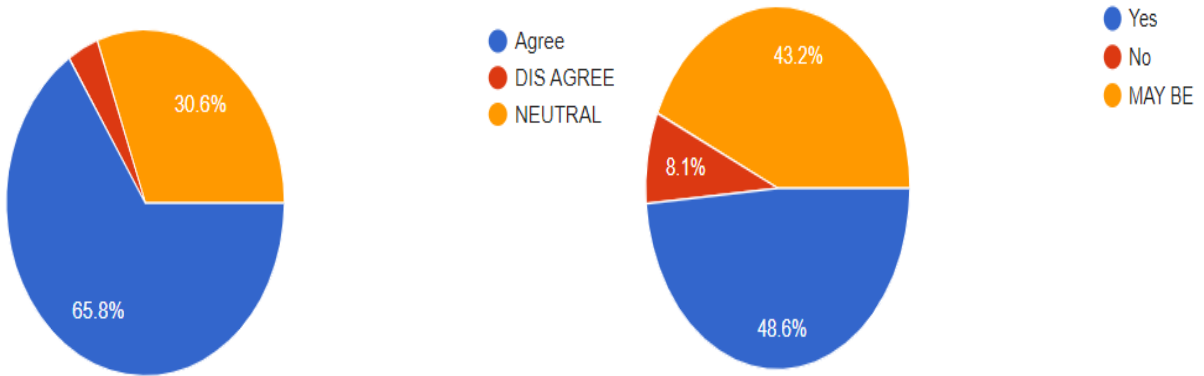


Figure-7

Figure-8

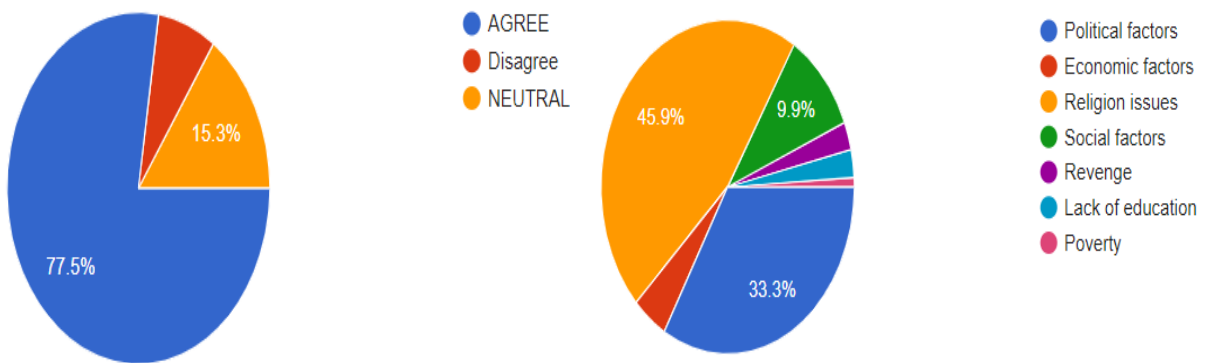
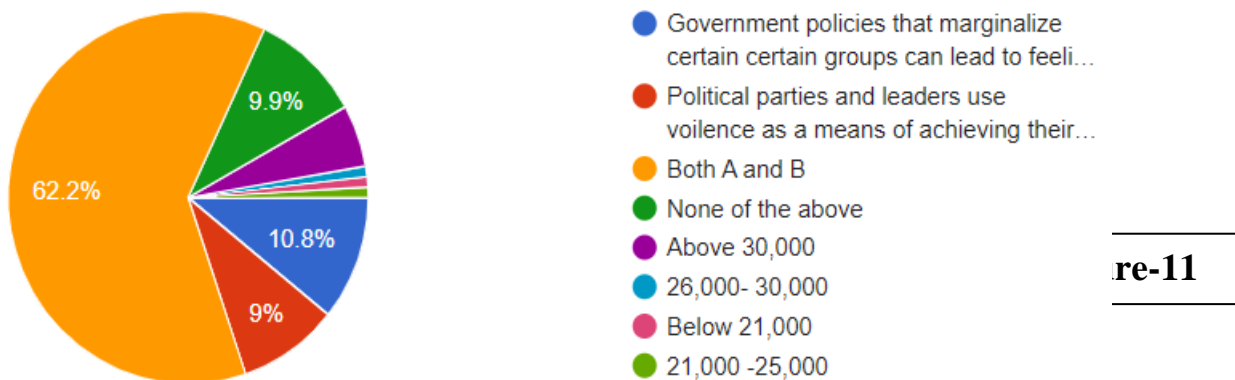


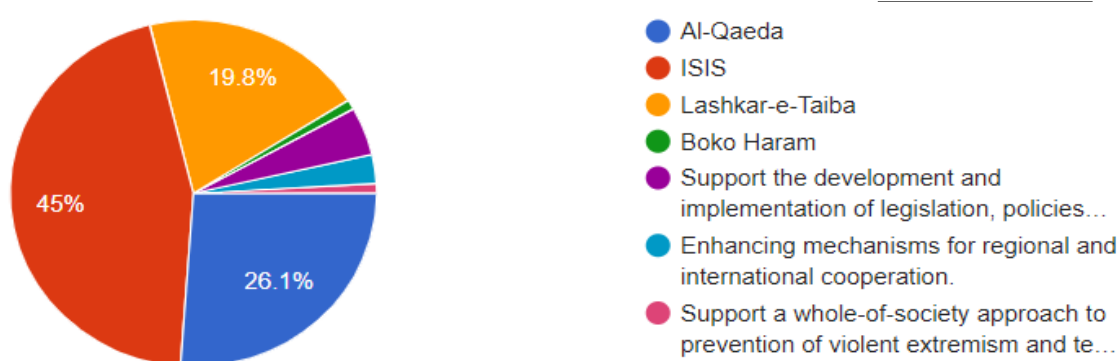
Figure-9

Figure-10



re-11

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- **Figure 7**, 65.8% agreed that frequent acts of terrorism in a society creates political problems as governments struggle to maintain a semblance of order and legitimacy.
- **Figure 8**, 48.6% responders think that social norms change for living with consistent presence of terrorism. 8.1% responders believe that social norms doesn't change for living with consistent presence of terrorism.
- **Figure 9**, 77.5% responders agreed that terrorism represents a permanent threat to tourist and touristical infrastructures.
- **Figure 10**, 45.9% of the responders believe that religion issues are the major cause of terrorism in India, 33.3% think that political factors are the major cause of terrorism in India.
- **Figure 11**, this shows that 62.2% of the responders agreed that government policies that marginalize certain groups and political parties or leaders use violence to achieve their goals, these kind of political factors contribute to the prevalence of terrorism in India.
- **Figure 12**, according to the responders ISIS is the extremist/terrorist group is responsible for a most of significant portion of terrorist activity in India with 45%.

Major Findings of the Study

Rapid population growth, Politics, Social and Economic problems, dissatisfaction of people with the country's / government system, lack of proper education, corruption, racism, economic inequality, linguistic differences, all these are the major and primary elements of terrorism, and terrorism flourishes after them.

1. **Religious issues:** India is such a diverse country with multiple religions, and unfortunately, religious extremism has been a major cause of terrorism in the country. Some extremist groups believe that their religion is superior to others and use terrorism to impose their beliefs on others.
2. **Political grievances:** Many terrorist groups in India claim to be fighting for political causes, such as separatism or autonomy for a particular region. These groups often feel that their grievances are not being addressed by the government and resort to terrorism as a means of achieving their goals.
3. **Socioeconomic factors:** Poverty, unemployment, and inequality can create a breeding ground for terrorism. Some terrorist groups in India have exploited the economic and social grievances of marginalized communities to recruit new members and gain support.

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- 4. External factors:** India's proximity to countries with a history of terrorism, such as Pakistan and Afghanistan, has made it vulnerable to cross-border terrorism. Some terrorist groups have received support and training from outside India, which has facilitated their activities.
- 5. Failure of the justice system:** In some cases, the failure of the justice system to address grievances or to hold perpetrators accountable has led to frustration and a sense of injustice, which can fuel terrorism.

It is important to note that terrorism is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon, and the causes can vary depending on the specific context and circumstances. Addressing the root causes of terrorism requires a multifaceted approach that addresses the underlying grievances and promotes social, economic, and political inclusion and stability.

Effects of Terrorism in India

- 1. Loss of life:** The most immediate and visible effect of terrorism is the loss of human life and property. Terrorist attacks in India have claimed the lives of many innocent people.
- 2. Physical Destruction:** loss of infrastructure is one of the major effect.
- 3. Effecting Mental Health (Fear and Anxiety):** Terrorism creates a sense of fear and insecurity among the general public. People are afraid to go about their daily lives and may avoid crowded places or public transportation for fear of another attack.
- 4. Impact on Economy:** Terrorism can have a significant economic impact on a country. It can deter foreign investment, disrupt business activities, and cause significant damage to infrastructure, leading to economic losses.
- 5. Social and cultural impact:** Terrorism can also have a social and cultural impact, as it can create divisions and fuel intolerance and prejudice against particular communities.
- 6. Political instability:** Terrorism can also lead to political instability as the government may be seen as unable to provide security and protect its citizens. This can lead to unrest and protests, and may also result in a loss of public trust in the government.
- 7. Security measures:** Terrorism often leads to increased security measures, such as increased surveillance and restrictions on civil liberties. While these measures may be necessary to prevent further attacks, they can also be intrusive and limit personal freedoms.
- 8. Effect on tourism:** Terrorism has had a significant impact on tourism in India. One of the major cause is decrease in tourism, this leads to lowering the funds and economy of tourism.

Overall, terrorism has had a significant and negative impact on India, affecting various aspects of society and causing immense harm to innocent people.

Preventive Measures against Terrorism in India:

Preventing terrorism in India requires a proper and well-organized approach that addresses the underlying factors that contribute to terrorism. Some preventive measures against terrorism in India are:

- 1. Promoting religious and cultural tolerance:** Promoting religious and cultural tolerance can help to reduce the appeal of extremist ideologies. The government can take steps to promote interfaith dialogue and foster greater understanding between different communities.

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2. Enhancing or developing law enforcement: Improving law enforcement can help to prevent terrorism by making it more difficult for terrorist groups to operate. The government can take steps to improve the training and capacity of law enforcement agencies and ensure that they are equipped with the necessary resources to combat terrorism.
3. Improving security measures: The Indian government can take steps to strengthen security measures to prevent terrorist attacks. This can include increasing surveillance, improving intelligence gathering, and enhancing border security.
4. Addressing social and economic grievances: Addressing social and economic grievances can help to prevent individuals from being drawn towards terrorist activities. The government can take steps to reduce poverty and inequality and promote social and economic inclusion.
5. Spreading Awareness using moderate way: The Indian government can work in spreading awareness and promote moderate voices. This can include using social media and other communication channels to spread messages of peace and tolerance.
6. Strengthening international cooperation: Terrorism is a global problem, and the Indian government can work with other countries to share intelligence and coordinate efforts to prevent terrorism.

Technology has been used by terrorist groups all around the world to carry out their operations and accomplish their goals.

By establishing connections with like-minded willing cadres through the internet and social media, technology has even allowed terrorists to overcome demographic and geographical obstacles.

The most well-known transnational terrorist outfit that has utilised the internet and social media to unite and organise like-minded organisations and cadres against perceived common enemies is Al-Qaida. Similar to this, ISIS, also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, has been carrying out its own international terror campaign through a variety of terrorist organisations that share some of its ideological tenets.

Today's technology has the power to prevent terrorist acts from happening by detecting them, as well as allowing intelligence and security personnel to find terrorists and their networks. Technology allows us to recognise both internal enemies and external proxies. Technology is a facilitator and provides the state with a protective barrier against new terrorist threats. However, in the fight against terrorism, relying solely on a single technology is unlikely to produce the intended outcomes. To find and foil terrorists' plans, it would always be necessary to use surveillance, tracking, and AI-based identification technologies.

The use of contemporary technology in counterterrorism operations has grown in importance as part of the fight against terrorism. Particularly in India, the potential of terrorist attacks has risen, leading to the adoption of numerous technical counterterrorism measures. The detection and prevention of terrorist actions have been made possible by the use of technology in surveillance, cybersecurity, and information collection.

The significance of this subject stems from the fact that terrorism poses a serious risk to national security and that technology can be an essential tool in avoiding and combatting it.

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The most recent technical developments enable India's law enforcement organisations to more effectively locate, monitor, and eliminate possible terrorist threats.

In their counterterrorism activities, Indian security agencies frequently employ surveillance technologies. These tools can be used to monitor suspicious activity, acquire intelligence, and keep an eye out for prospective dangers. In India, a few of the surveillance technologies in use are:

- **CCTV cameras:** CCTV devices are frequently employed to monitor and record suspicious activity in public spaces, transport systems and essential infrastructure.
- **Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs):** Also known as drones, are utilised more frequently for surveillance and reconnaissance tasks, notably in border regions and areas of armed conflict.
- **Satellite Imagery:** Inaccessible or remote locations, such as terrorist training grounds or hideouts, can be monitored in real time using satellite images.
- **Communication monitoring systems:** These programmes can keep an eye on social media posts, emails, and phone conversations made or received by individuals or organisations.
- **Biometrics:** With biometric technology, such as fingerprint and facial recognition, it is possible to identify suspects and follow their whereabouts.

Surveillance technologies are advantageous in counterterrorism operations because they allow for the gathering of intelligence, the prevention of terrorist actions, and the identification and tracking of prospective threats. The likelihood of false positives and wrong identifications, privacy violations, the potential for exploitation by security personnel, and other drawbacks are also present. The use of surveillance technologies in counterterrorism operations can generally be a useful tool, but it is important to strike a balance between those concerns and worries about civil liberties and individual rights. In order to guarantee that these technologies are used in a responsible and ethical manner, adequate protections and supervision procedures must be in place.

In order to obtain information on potential terrorist threats, Indian security agencies use a variety of intelligence gathering techniques. These methods consist of:

- **Human intelligence (HUMINT)** is the use of human sources to learn about the networks, plans, and activities of terrorists
 - Interception and analysis of electronic communications, including as emails, phone calls, and social media posts, is known as signals intelligence (SIGINT).
- **Imagery intelligence (IMINT)** is the process of gathering information on terrorist movements and activities through the use of satellite and aerial images.
- **Open-source intelligence (OSINT)** is the gathering and examination of data that is readily accessible to the general public, including posts on social media, blogs, and online discussion forums
- **Cyber intelligence (CYBINT)** is the gathering and analysis of data pertaining to online dangers, such as malware, hacking attempts, and online attacks.

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There are a number of difficulties and restrictions associated with using technology in counterterrorism operations in India. They consist of:

➤ **Privacy issues:** The use of surveillance technologies like drones, CCTV cameras, and phone tapping may infringe on the privacy of those who are not involved in any illegal behaviour.

➤ **High prices:** Smaller security firms may find it prohibitively expensive to purchase and maintain cutting-edge technologies like cyber threat intelligence platforms and facial recognition software.

➤ **Technical Limitations:** Concerns such as inadequate network connectivity, out-of-date software, and a lack of system compatibility may hinder the efficiency of surveillance and cybersecurity technology.

➤ **Human rights violations:** Human rights may be violated and innocent people may be harassed and persecuted as a result of the usage of technologies that breach privacy and civil liberties.

It is necessary to take a balanced strategy that puts both security and individual rights first in order to address these difficulties and constraints. This entails transparent data collection and utilisation, proper control and regulation of technology use in counterterrorism operations, and initiatives to address discrimination and prejudice concerns.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, while India has made significant approaches in preventing terrorism, the threat remains a serious challenge. A comprehensive approach that addresses both the symptoms and the root causes of terrorism is necessary to effectively address this issue. India has faced various forms of terrorism, including religious extremism, separatist movements, and domestic terrorism. These acts of violence have caused significant loss of life and economic damage, and have posed significant challenges to India's security and stability. Over the years, the Indian government has taken several measures to combat terrorism, including strengthening intelligence gathering and coordination among security agencies, modernizing law enforcement agencies, and building international partnerships to enhance counterterrorism efforts. While progress has been made in curbing terrorism, the threat remains persistent, and new forms of terrorism have emerged. Factors such as poverty, unemployment, religious extremism, and political instability have contributed to the growth of terrorism in India. Addressing these underlying issues requires a long-term approach that involves a combination of political, economic, and social interventions.

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Conflict of Interest

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

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