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# DEFENCE & SECURITY ALERT

APRIL 2019 | VOLUME 10 | ISSUE 07 | ₹150

The First and Only **ISO 9001:2015 Certified** Defence and Security Magazine in India  
The Only Magazine Available On The Intranet Of Indian Air Force

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# PROXY WAR: INDIA STRIKES BACK



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DEFENCE, SECURITY AND WORLD AFFAIRS  
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EXCELLENCE





## MISSION

We endeavour to sound **ALERTS** and create **AWARENESS** about the myriad dimensions and manifestations of **DEFENCE** and **SECURITY** in India and around the world.



**The power of a King lies in his mighty arms...**

Security of the citizens at peace time is very important because State is the only saviour of the men and women who get affected only because of the negligence of the State.

- Chanakya

# DSA IS AS MUCH YOURS, AS IT IS OURS!



In stark contrast to the practice prevailing worldwide, India has gone public with an air strike on Balakote in Khyber Pakhtunwa province of Pakistan. Almost all countries that are compelled to mount clandestine raids, ground or air, tend to keep them that way, quiet and silent. This is the second action claimed by India, the previous one being a trans-Line of Control raid in September 2016. Another raid in Myanmar was initially claimed and then quietly dropped. This is quite unlike the practice of other countries, including Israel behind whom a number of Indian national security players seem to mould them.

Israel mounts more air and ground actions than most countries combined, probably. Its circumstances, a benign air defence environment, and complete technical superiority allows it to operate relatively undisturbed. Despite such ease of operations, Israel never claims its actions, not even the spectacularly successful ones. It does acknowledge when it loses a soldier or when an airman is captured. Then it would leave no stone unturned to recover them, alive or even the mortal remains. Since 11 September 2001, the United States has conducted scores of overt and covert campaigns

against terrorists. While some get acknowledged; most remain under cloaks.

This then begs two questions as regards India's actions. Firstly, what is the end purpose of the actions conducted and claimed? And secondly, how efficacious are the actions in achieving that end purpose? Answering both questions requires a calm and clinical frame of mind, devoid of emotions and sentiments. Whilst being realistic about prevailing conditions, nationally, regionally and globally.

The stated aim of both actions was to mount reprisals for terrorist actions carried out by Pakistan based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM). The first provocation was an 18 September 2016 attack on the Uri garrison that resulted in a large number of army casualties. And, the second was a suicide car bomb attack on a Central Reserve Police Force bus on 14 February 2019 which killed 40 troopers. Both were claimed by JeM, and India retaliated at a time and place of its own choosing. India declared that its Special Forces carried out a ground raid across the LOC at the end of September 2016. On 26 February 2019, India announced

that it had mounted air strikes on a JeM camp in Balakot using Mirage combat aircraft.

Nations normally never make announcements about special operations conducted. The few exceptions include the famous Operation Neptune Spear when the US Navy Seals had killed Osama Bin Laden in Abbottabad, Pakistan. The global value of that announcement far outweighs operational secrecy that governs Special Forces' tactics and skills. The targets sought to be neutralised in September 2016 could not be in the same league as Osama Bin Laden. Similarly, with the Balakot stand-off attack and the JeM camps affectively destroyed. So, the first question remains unanswered. As for the second question, a single raid or a stand-off air strike doesn't destroy terrorism infrastructure and neither does it diminish the desire to continue the policy of carrying out terrorist activities. A lot more needs to be done, for a longer period, in a myriad ways. So, a counter-question to the first one could pave the way for an answer. Was the end purpose of conducting and claiming reprisal actions aimed at influencing India, rather than the perpetrators?

**Manvendra Singh**



An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Magazine

Volume 10 | Issue 7 | April 2019

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**Defence and Security Alert is printed, published and owned by Pawan Agrawal and printed at Bosco Society For Printing, Don Bosco Technical Institute, Okhla Road, New Delhi-110025 and published at 4/19, Asaf Ali Road, New Delhi (India).  
 Editor: Manvendra Singh**

# WHAT NEXT AGAINST TERRORISM?

**F**or how long must India exercise restraint in the face of the proxy war being conducted jointly by Pakistan and China? It has been more than three decades that we have exhibited the highest level of patience and have lost more than 90,000 persons, both in uniform and civilians, to terrorist attacks. It is not that we have not countered their attempts strongly enough but we have not taken steps to inflict condign punishment on the instigators and masterminds operating from inside Pakistani held territory, both in J&K and along the International Border.

We thought that our first surgical strike on terrorist camps close to the Line of Control would have a deterrent effect but the Pakistan Army and the Inter-Services Intelligence continued to escalate attacks on India. The recent killing of 40 CRPF personnel in the car-bomb attack on a convoy in Pulwama had traumatised the whole nation and the government was compelled to conduct an air strike on 26 February 2019 which was the first of its kind in Indian history. The Indian Air Force bombed the terrorist base camps in Balakot in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province (former NWFP) and killed hundreds of terrorists.

With this, India had shown to the world that we are strong enough to counter any further attacks on our national security. The entire world was with us on this air strike and, more importantly, the five Permanent Members of the UN Security Council — US, Russia, UK, France and China — did not oppose our action against terrorism. This action was a great diplomatic victory for India. Later, US, France and UK laid a resolution in the UN Security Council to declare Masood Azhar, founder of the Jaish-e-Mohammad, an international terrorist but unfortunately China used its veto power for the fourth time to prevent any punitive action against this arch terrorist.

Hopefully, India is not going to stop here. Though we are in the process of the parliamentary elections, our defence and security forces, police and the intelligence agencies are on high alert to counter any folly by Pakistan.

But here I would like to mention that what-ever has been done so far is not enough and we have to sustain our pressure on Pakistan while applying unrelenting pressure on internal agents who are playing proxies for the Pakistan-China clique.

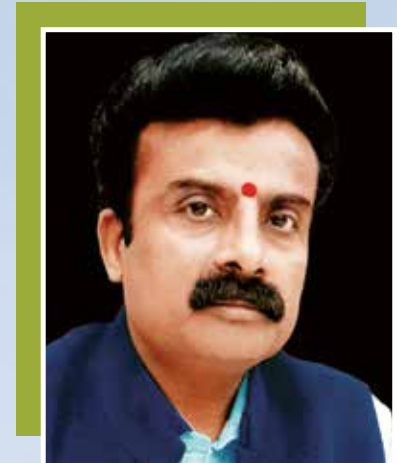
Just the air strike is not the final act in India's counter-terror policy. India must take below mentioned measures to ensure that terrorism is eradicated at the grassroots just as was done against the Khalistan movement in Punjab:

1. Shift all the pro-Pak elements like Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Mirwaiz Farooq, Shabeer Shah and others to Tamil Nadu jails immediately.
2. Discontinue all the business, commercial, cultural and games related programmes with Pakistan.
3. Close down Indian Embassy and its consulates in Pakistan and same closure of Pakistan's Embassy and consulates in India immediately.
4. No further talks with Pakistan at any level till it hands over Masood Azhar, Hafiz Sayeed and other terror masterminds to Indian government and close down all the terrorist camps in Pakistan especially those hidden in the madrassas strewn all over Pakistan.
5. Create pressure in UNSC at all levels to expose Pakistan as a terrorist State.
6. Generate pressure on US and other countries to stop all financial grants to Pakistan.
7. Create strong bonding with other countries suffering from terrorism for a common agenda.
8. More strict measures on the international borders to stop any cross-border activities.
9. More aggressive search operations and counter-

terror operations in the Kashmir Valley to be started immediately.

10. Check the funding to the various organisations in the Kashmir Valley involved in surrogate activities of social work but actually funding the terrorism activities.
11. Special funds should be arranged for counter-terrorism in the country.
12. Special training to be imparted to our forces for a better performance.
13. Special surveillance teams to be created equipped with helicopters and drones.
14. Central command should be established at the earliest for the sharing of information about all the terrorist outfits, each individual and their modus operandi.

We also need to give more powers to our defence, security, police and the intelligence forces to counter the terrorist attacks and eliminate the terrorists from our land. Simultaneously, we also need to equip our forces with all the latest arms, ammunitions and gadgets to counter any terrorist actions by any group. It has been observed that at times the terrorists are equipped with very sophisticated arms, ammunition and the tele-communication gadgets



and our forces are sometime unable to counter them well due to lack of the latest gadgets. So, it is very important that our forces countering terrorism should be well equipped and prepared.

I am sure that if the above-mentioned measures are taken in a serious and sincere manner, we will be able to save lives of our people, secure our national security and eliminate the terrorists and terrorism. We need to have a sustainable methodology against terrorism. Just one surgical strike or another air strike cannot save us from terrorism and its after-effects which we have been facing for the past few decades. We need to operate externally as well as internally simultaneously and without that, things cannot be controlled the way they are currently.

This edition is focussed on this very urgent issue and our esteemed contributors have highlighted the nuances in dealing with it. Our intention is to promote brainstorming so that we can collectively contribute to the elimination of terrorism in India.

Jai Hind!



**Pawan Agrawal**





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