

CounTer2022 Report

Cooperation & Innovation for Counter Terrorism

3 Day Virtual Counter Terrorism Expo

January 28-30, 2022



CounTer EXPO

ENGAGEMENT
ENFORCEMENT &
ENTREPRENEURSHIP



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TRADECRAFTING INFORMATION INTO SOLUTIONS

Company Profile

CounTer2022 report is a comprehensive report on a company's flagship program of Counter Terrorism Expo conducted between January 28-30,2022.

Covert Overt Intelligence Solutions, COVINTS, is an Indian defense company, focused on delivering customized turnkey solutions from risk analysis, defense systems and equipment to training, tailored to our customers' most challenging needs.

At COVINTS we pride ourselves on our ability to work under critical situations, whilst maintaining superlative standards and delivering optimal solutions.

From Military Equipment to Training, Defense and Crime Science Studies to Research, High-tech Surveillance and Intelligence Solutions to Access Control, Perimeter and Ingress Solutions to Ancillary Installation Materials, all integrated with leading edge Command & Control Intelligence Systems, our teams are focused on delivering essential Counter-Terrorism, Cyber Operations, Intelligence, Crime Science, and C4ISR Solutions to our clientele in the national and international security community.

Vision

Establish an international defense strategic centrum, administering state-of-the-art tactical training for operational solutions.

Mission

We thrive on challenges. We build trust and integrity by offering high skilled innovative training and consultancy to our global participants and partners.

CEO's Take & Forward

Every year around Republic Day COVINTS Organises a program that highlights the pressing issues in the security domain. Its with great satisfaction I can take pride in organising this year's 3 day Counter Terrorism Expo hosting some of the hard-hitting & groundbreaking ideas, products & policy frameworks that will surely contribute positively in the areas of national security and counter terrorism, Cyber security, Counter intelligence and Counter terrorism.

Terrorism is a global menace requiring global solutions. The ever increasing severity of terrorism demands wholesome global cooperation in countering terrorism. Emergence of transnational & new-age threats have come to define the future challenges facing the security interests of any nation. And to face these threats head on, COVINTS aims to unite professionals from Industry, Government, and Policing to explore the fast-evolving realm of Tech and Defense solutions focussed on countering terrorism. And this 3 day Counter Terrorism Expo was designed as a platform for relevant stakeholders to seek knowledge, share expertise, and promote innovations through Dedicated and Thematic sessions.

As a CEO of COVINTS, it gives me great satisfaction that we have managed to take some solid strides into developing an ecosystem of dynamic defense & security professionals & technology who can contribute towards fostering global cooperation in counter terrorism.



**SWAPNIL KISHORE
FOUNDER & CEO
COVERT OVERT
INTELLIGENCE
SOLUTIONS (COVINTS)**

I would like to thank all our global partners & collaborators whose inputs & expertise contributed immensely towards the success of the EXPO.

Team COVINTS is pleased to present the key-takeways, insights and innovative ideas discussed on the forum of Counter Terrorism Expo in the form of this report for all the keen researchers, innovators and practitioners in the domain of Counter Terrorism Solutions.

I am confident that this report would be as rewarding to you as it has been to all of team COVINTS. At COVINTS we are always striving for operational solutions and innovative ideas for a secure and peaceful world. And I would encourage you all to reach-out to us with your inputs and takeaways. We are looking forward to hearing from you!

Executive Summary of Counter Expo 2022

Terrorism has emerged as one of the most pressing security challenges. Violent extremism and terrorism have evolved beyond their erstwhile domestic character to become a major transnational threat not just for homeland security, but also to foreign policy preferences and economic and political stability. Hence, it has become paramount than ever for nations to cooperate with its various allies and stakeholders to face the challenges head-on and stay ahead of the curve.

With the pandemic prolonging into its second year, governments across the world are stretched for resources to monitor the various fringe elements on the spectrum of extremism- growing both domestically and internationally. The emerging transnational nature of terrorism, and the effective use of new age technology & tactics have come to define the future challenges facing the security interests of any nation. Cooperation on a global scale is the only viable solution to this challenge.

Over the years, India has played a crucial role within South Asia and the world at large in creating a unified forum for combatting terrorism. COVINTS's 3 day Counter Terrorism Expo too is an initiative to forge wider global cooperation to further innovation in Counter Terrorism. The expo and the presentations therein aim to build constructive dialogue while exploring the key issues of terrorism and counterterrorism. Focused on **ENGAGEMENT, ENFORCEMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP**, the expo brought together leading global private & governmental stakeholders to deliberate upon emerging trends, seek knowledge, share expertise and further promote global cooperation.

The expo focused on both conventional & non-conventional approaches to understanding terrorism. It hosted discussions focused on issues such as understanding the operational capabilities of terrorist groups, phenomenon of radicalization, terrorist propaganda. At the same time, the expo had elaborated presentations on the emerging domains of cyber security in counter terrorism & CBRN preparedness.

Sessions on 'Women in Security' and 'Students in Security' highlighted the importance of diversity and fresh perspectives in tackling the complex security threats facing us today.

The Expo extensively explored the new age challenges of Cyber Terrorism. The nature and current challenges faced from online radicalization and hate speech were discussed by leading Cybersecurity experts. The Expo drove Thought Leadership and Innovation aimed at developing creative solutions to counter the growing challenges of terrorism and extremism.

Through the course of the three days, the expo featured professional experts exploring key topics such as Contemporary developments in Terrorism, Terror Financing, Cyber Terrorism, and Counterterrorism trends; along with specialised Wargames and Simulations. Engaging with the wide scope and opportunities provided in the Expo, stakeholders and participants had an opportunity to interact with Policy Makers, while developing the necessary networking and partnerships to maneuver through a plethora of market opportunities.

CounTer EXPO

ENGAGEMENT

ENFORCEMENT

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

**2022 JANUARY
28 TO 30**

Cooperation & Innovation for
Counter Terrorism

10+
World Class
Defense Product
Showcasing

12+
Panel Discussions
with leading
Entrepreneurs &
Analysts

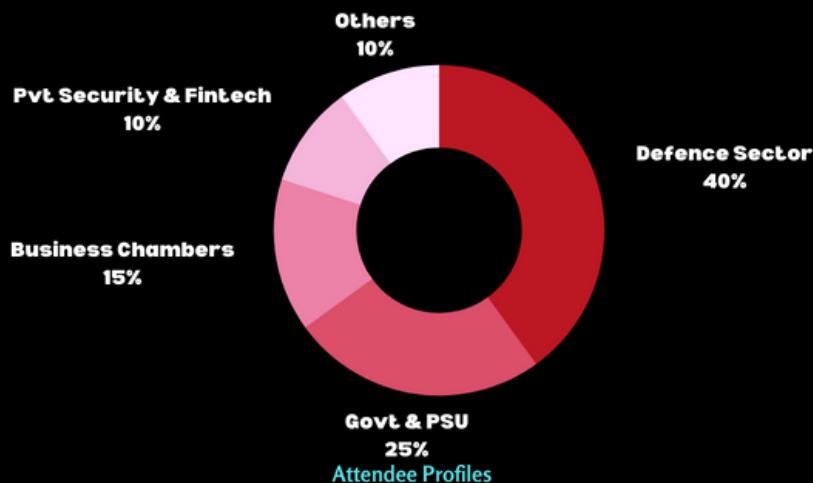
15+
Representatives
from 15+
countries

8+
Global
Universities &
Institutes
Networking

380+
World-renowned
Defense &
Security
Professionals

35+
World Class
Speakers,
Trainers &
Presenters

COUNTER2022 EXPO HIGHLIGHTS



We are pleased to announce the successful completion of our annual flagship event Counter Terrorism Expo, CounTer2022. Team COVINTS would like to thank all our global partners & collaborators whose inputs & expertise contributed immensely towards the success of the EXPO.

CounTer 2022 Attendee Profile



Government officials

Police &
Law EnforcementIntelligence &
Covert ServicesCounter-terrorism
Response UnitsDiplomats &
Policy-makersCBRN &
HazmatArmed forces
Army-Navy-AirforceDefence
Equipment
manufacturersBanking &
financial
institutionsCyber Security &
Ethical hackingUniversities &
Research institutesPrivate Security
companies



DAY-1 KEYNOTE ADDRESS

NATIONAL SECURITY CONTOURS & COUNTER TERRORISM CONSTRUCT - INDIA

Lt Gen AB Shivane, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd)

**CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF CHAIR OF EXCELLENCE AND DISTINGUISHED
FELLOW AT CENTRE FOR LAND WARFARE STUDIES**

"Today the world has to accept what India has been saying about terrorism. India has suffered a lot from the hands of terrorism, losses suffered by humanity and the world has now recognised that"- PM Narendra Modi

Terrorism has become a major challenge for the world community of nations. When one looks at the global terrorism index it is found that eighty three percent of the countries in this world are impacted in some way or the other by the actions of terrorist organisations and allied actors. The nature of conflict which has manifested in multiple forms has along with terrorism played a major part in contributing a substantial number of deaths which have taken place in the last decade. One of the major causes in defeating terrorism remains the loose nature and a lack of a global consensus in defining terrorism. The challenges associated with defining terrorism revolves around predominance of national interests of nation states over that of the global effort in defeating terrorism. One manifestation is the definitions of classifying "good terrorist" and "bad terrorist" which has proven to be a challenging in building a counter-terrorism strategy.

India faces serious challenges to its national security from various quarters. Threats generally have emerged in the form of traditional methods such as proxy wars, insurgency, terrorism, transgression, limited war, and standoffs. A relook at India's borders gives us an understanding of the complex geopolitical situation we are in. Over the period, we have witnessed China's belligerence on our borders. These incremental encroachments have resulted in confrontation as standoffs as witnessed in the recent encounters in the Himalayas. The nature of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir is also closely intertwined with the challenges of insurgencies. India faces the challenge in Kashmir on two fronts, namely the localised governance distortion by state government actors, ground-level radicalization, and actions of Pakistan deep state.

South Asia has become the center of gravity of future conflicts, be it on the land frontiers of the Himalayas or the Indian Ocean, there's scope for turbulence. Pakistan continues to remain the fountainhead of terrorism in the region. Pakistan's infamous strategy of 'Thousand cuts' has been instrumental in the acts of terrorism in India. Its

adoption of terrorism as a state policy has been often overlooked due to its strategic relevance at the time of ongoing conflicts.

It is prudent to note the national security objectives of states need to find a proper definition to understand a comprehensive Counter Terrorism strategy. In India's context there are three main cardinal principles the nation follows in terms of its objectives. 1) India does not have extra-territorial ambitions, as India is not a revisionist state, 2) India does not enforce any ideology on others, 3) Though India is not part of any strategic military alliance, it does collaborate with other states in global commerce to bring about peace, stability, and growth.

Further to the above elucidation national security in India's context revolves around five issues. 1) Defence of the national territory and resources 2) Peaceful and secure internal environment 3) Empowering the people and its economy 4) Strengthening India's position in Asia and Indian Ocean Region to bring in growth collaboration, mutual benefits 5) Harnessing the role of India in the global community.

Over the years, India's counterterrorism strategy has evolved from that of tolerance to zero-tolerance. Today India's counter-terrorism strategy has Three pillars to it 1) Terrorism and insurgency must be resolved through a political solution. The military can only bring down the level of terrorist activities to such a level and that law and order exist for governments to function. 2) Distinguishing between a proxy war and local insurgents and a strategy of proportionate response. People remain the center of gravity, with minimal collateral damage. 3) Conflict Resolution Approach focused on making potential terrorists realize the fatality of the cause. It would have a higher impact on counter-terrorism.

"The targeting of 3 M's of the terrorism such Men (recruitment), Material and Money along with counter radical approach in social media and other factors such are important."

INDIA'S COUNTER TERRORISM STRATEGY AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Day 1 : January 28 Panel Discussion

Knowledge Partner: Forum for Integrated National Security (FINS)



SHRI.PRAVEEN DIXIT

EX.DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE , MAHARASHTRA STATE

DR. ALVITE NINGTHOUJAM

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AT SYMBIOSIS SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

DR.NANDA KISHOR

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AT DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, PONDICHERRY UNIVERSITY

COL.PRABIR SENGUPTA, VSM

DIRECTOR, PROGRESSIO MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY PVT LTD.

PROF.RAJIV GUPTA

EMERITUS PROFESSOR

RASHTRIYA RAKSHA UNIVERSITY,

SENIOR FELLOW, VPM CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
FORUM FOR INTEGRATED NATIONAL SECURITY(FINS), MUMBAI,



जनरल रिपोर्ट



Initiate Interact Influence

FORUM FOR INTEGRATED NATIONAL SECURITY (FINS) IS AN APOLITICAL THINK TANK TO INITIATE, DISCUSS & PROPAGATE ISSUES OF NATIONAL SECURITY, GEOPOLITICS.

OUR VISION

Build a strong, secure and prosperous nation through a united and awakened society.

OUR MISSION

Analyse and evolve policies and solutions on National Security with a three-pronged approach of Initiate – Interact – Influence by engaging all stakeholders related with integrated national security.

The session focusing on 'India's Counter Terrorism Strategy and National Security' illustrated a good diversity in thoughts on issues ranging from national security and its definitive aspects and the broader issue of terrorism and counter terror strategy within the ambit of the nation states. The speakers touched upon some key factors leading to the culmination of an extensive definition and some consensus of the role of civil society in tackling issues relating to counter terrorism. In defining national security, it was elaborated that national security is a wide and all-encompassing subject with multiple layers and does not restrict itself to border security or terrorism. The dynamic nature of terrorism remains a key challenge for all nation states engaged in altering the balance in favor of the rising security concerns. The panel had a consensus on the need for a comprehensive, innovative, and coordinated counter terrorism strategy meeting the requirements of the state apparatus. It was elaborated that new approaches to counter terrorism and strategies of terrorists are the need of the hour as strategies used a decade ago for instance needs to change with the change of strategy with the terrorist groups.

India's challenges as a diverse society provide a unique perspective towards counter terrorism. As it was highlighted by one of the panelists makes it a "soft target" for terror groups. The multicultural and multi-ethnic nature of the society and the following questions on diversity and internal contradictions are at times used against the nation. In this context importantly the panelists pointed out the role of the civil society and important role it can play in nipping the rise of terrorism in the bud. It was elaborate that civil society needs to be educated, strengthened, made part and parcel of any counter-terrorism strategy and a comprehensive strategy to counter terrorism should move beyond the number of attacks that happened and were prevented and assess and fight against the hidden threats and smokescreens. It was noted that a concerted strategy should be executed on convincing parties about-state sponsored cross border terrorism and wider approaches on integrating the approaches talking about globalization, geopolitics, and the

transnational nature of terrorism.

The increasing use of technology and the advances have posed serious challenges to governments, The use of technology by terror groups has led to serious discussions among the strategic community on how to approach online radicalization and other acts which are aiding terror organisations. It was pointed out that the use of social media in terrorism has moved way beyond entertainment and networking. The rampant use by terror groups has led to a social dilemma for countries as signs of increased surveillance has also been seen as highly intrusive to personal freedoms.

Panelists also noted the importance of the private sector in aiding governments and consumers. It was noted that the civil society cannot progress whether in economic, financial, educational or culture without a prosperous and secure nation. There need to be a collaboration of media, technology firms, civil society, and nations to counter-terrorism.

There was an overall consensus among the panelists that the diversity of terror attacks which India faced required a concerted effort. The increasing sophistication in the modus operandi of the terror outfits was a cause of concern. On the topic of sophistication of attacks, one of the speakers also highlighted the new ways and methodologies terror outfits are using to radicalize and recruit new agents through social media and the dark web. It was further pointed out that there was a need to develop a comprehensive national security document. Highlighting the importance of incorporating the geopolitical environment while considering India's Counter-Terrorism Strategy was a point of convergence among most speakers.

In conclusion, it was highlighted that there is a need to move beyond thinking of terrorism in terms of the number of attacks and incorporate the new globalized and transnational nature of terrorism in counter terror strategies. The importance of incorporating 3Bs was also suggested. They were 1) 'BE ALERT, BE AWARE & BE PREPARED,'. This incorporation into the counter-terrorism strategy it was noted would provide success in incorporating some amount of civil society collaboration which is necessary for success.

SPECIAL ADDRESS

Day 1 : January 28, 2022



DR. NIRMALYA BHOWMICK
FOUNDER/CHAIRMAN,
THE AKRIBIS GROUP

Dr. Nirmalya Bhowmick has over 35 years of experience in the arena of National Security and strategic Security and have served in multiple nations and continents. An original founder and Special Adviser to Henley Putnam University of Strategic Security, now the Henley Putnam School of Strategic Security under National American University.

Dr. Bhowmick is also the founder/chairman of the Akribis Group, a highly qualified Think Tank group, specializing in the areas of National Security and Intelligence and Counter-terrorism that provides classified and non classified comprehensive services for various national and international governments, military, law enforcement, private security organizations, Fortune 500 companies and private VIP's in need of solutions for complex, "high-risk" environments and services around the world.

Terrorism has changed the way we think & act. We need to understand the way terrorism has impacted our way of life. There is often little attention is paid to how terrorism & state response to the same is impacting our freedom & privacy while complicating the way we live.

Fighting and dealing with terrorism has become a huge financial burden for many governments around the world making it increasingly unsustainable. There is a need for the private sector to get into the business of providing education in the field of national security. In the recent 20+years, terrorism has changed our lifestyle, invading our freedom and privacy as per the government's new cyber security laws in areas of traveling across borders have been tedious, time-consuming, etc.

In short, all the regulations came into effect after the 9/11 attacks. Counterterrorism has been a financial burden to many countries, a large section of the GDP could be used for other sectors apart from defense such as education, general welfare, agriculture, etc.

In the sphere of national security, everything is measured as quantity sometimes quality. The more freedom, the less security and vice-versa.

TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS IN COUNTER TERRORISM

Day 1 : January 28 Panel Discussion

In Collaboration with: The Defence & Security Circle (DSC) of the National Liberal Club, United Kingdom



**PROFESSOR SASCHA-DOMINIK
BACHMAN**
NATIONAL SECURITY HUB, CANBERRA,
AUSTRALIA



KRISHNA SASHANK TADIMETI
MANAGER - OT/IOT CYBERSECURITY,
PROTIVITI CONSULTANTS, LONDON
UK



NOEL HADJIMICHAEL
CHAIR DEFENCE & SECURITY CIRCLE
NATIONAL LIBERAL CLUB, UK

This special session organized in collaboration with: the National Liberal Club, United Kingdom discussed the most pressing issue of new-age terror, namely the use of technology in both terrorism & counter-terrorism operations.

The session started with the remarks highlighting the involvement of three countries (India, UK & Australia) sharing heritage, common beliefs, and common goals to fight terrorism. The discussion was commenced by expressing the need to apprehend the role of technology in propagating terror and how does the other side utilizes the technology in advancing the terror attacks. Speakers further mentioned that the approach is to propagate the message through media to the public at large and use technology to deliver the payload. Speakers agreed that conventional warfare is getting a facelift. Previously geographical territory or cities were at the threat in terms of a terror attack but, “today it is virtually possible for people sitting thousands of miles away to effect the territory without being near to the vicinity”.

The first speaker shared his views on the threats concerning warfare strategies. He enunciated that the biggest threat is the utility of UAV and Drone technology which is ubiquitously available and thus terrorist can easily get their hand over it to gather information, intel, and deliver payloads.

The second speaker began with a remark that as soon as nation-states are evolving in terms of technology, terrorists are observing that and copying it too. Furthermore, he expressed his concern where emotional, moral, and legal consideration comes in is the information warfare domain which is becoming the biggest threat to deal with. It was mentioned that the use of information is what allows terrorist groups to show this world that they are much more powerful than we think. The events of 9/11 have become the moment in our human perception of terrorism. Lastly, he touched upon some solutions that we as a global society can implement like entering into bi-national agreements or International conventions to keep a check on malicious cyber-attacks. He said that there has to be an interaction between institutional and practitioner perspectives. We need to work more on the boundaries between private industries, government, civil societies, and the terror groups because the terror group comes from the society as they are driven by ideologies, political traditions, and tribalism. However, he firmly believes that we don't live in a segmented global environment but we live in a very close interrelated environment with very fast information warfare opportunities for both good guys and bad people to use the technologies.

Continuing the topic of technology, the first speaker categorically stated that contemporary terror and other criminal organizations tend to work much similar to any other professional organizations and people who are highly motivated & skilled. They are people who have regular office schedules like regular lunch breaks, 9-5 jobs. It has a similar structure to corporate settings. He emphasized that now since the threat is that diverse so it is vital to bring all people on the same page in terms of defending.

Towards the conclusion, the second speaker called out the need to be the confluence of ideas and thoughts from all the sectors to reach a common goal. We need a holistic approach where government, academia, citizens, the executive needs to work together. He emphasized that the new generation can be brought into this by working on their incentives and training them by big cyber companies. Speaker lastly mentioned the necessity to identify the stakeholders and then try to rope them in to deal with the threats.

Additionally, it was also stated that people need to be convinced that there is a need to defend the digital space. He asserted that you can only talk about the issue if you work towards awareness.

Speakers concluded the session by answering the question raised by someone in the audience about the threat caused by AI-driven drones. They answered the question by stating that AI-driven drones can take autonomous decisions in real-time. Previously you need somebody to manually control the flights and there was a certain range that the radio-frequency could transmit the signals. Today capturing the drone from the net and bringing them down involves a risk. Now experts are looking into safer hacking which is radio-frequency hacking (RF Hacking).



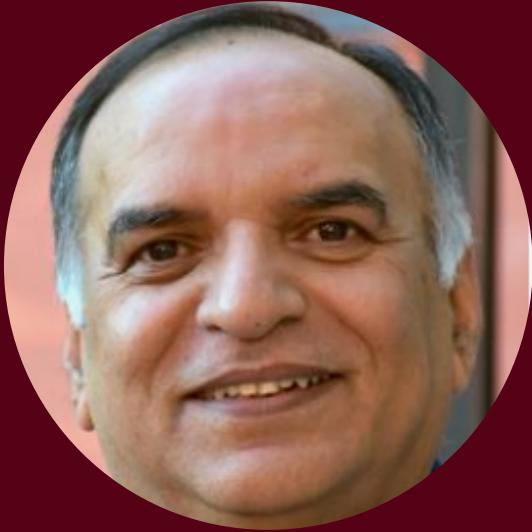
National Liberal Club
Whitehall Place
London

The Defence & Security Circle (DSC) of the National Liberal Club conducts a wide ranging series of events, talks, symposiums and seminars on matters relevant to military, political, security and commercial leaders. Our audience is drawn from across the more than 1950 members of the NLC and many hundreds of other stakeholders from organizations as diverse as NATO, the Commonwealth, the European Union and the United Nations.

“DEFENSE AND SECURITY – ECOSYSTEM”

Day 1 : January 28 Special Session

COVINTS Session with
IIT Ropar, India



PROF. RAJEEV AHUJA

DIRECTOR, INDIAN INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGY (IIT) ROPAR
PROFESSOR OF COMPUTATIONAL MATERIALS SCIENCE
AT UPPSALA UNIVERSITY, SWEDEN



**LT GEN DR. SUBRATA SAHA
PVSM UYSM YSM VSM (RETD)**

EX- DEPUTY CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF, INDIA
FOUNDING DIRECTOR SCHOOL OF MILITARY
AFFAIRS AND STRATEGY, AND FOUNDING
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE SOCIETY OF
INDIAN DEFENCE MANUFACTURERS (SIDM)



The Director of IIT announced a new collaboration with COVINTS to develop a comprehensive Defense & Security Ecosystem in India. Lt. Gen.Saha stated this collaboration aims to combine the expertise in technology & operational specializations in the security domain to further defense advancement in India

COVINTS-IIT ROPAR COLLABORATION AGENDAS

- COLLABORATING ON DEDICATED SCHOOL FOR DEFENSE & SECURITY STUDIES
- JOINT RESEARCH INITIATIVES
- COLLABORATING ORGANISATIONS OF GLOBAL REPUTE
- DEVELOPING COMPREHENSIVE ECOSYSTEM FOR DEFENSE & SECURITY ADVANCEMENT



TRADECRAFTING INFORMATION INTO SOLUTIONS

DAY-2 KEYNOTE ADDRESS

SECURING THE CYBER-SPACE CYBERSECURITY OPERATIONS IN INDIA

PROF. TRIVENI SINGH (IPS)

SP, CYBER CRIME, LUCKNOW

UTTAR PRADESH POLICE, INDIA



The use of technology for cyber security has been a key rallying point among the field of experts in industry, government, civil society, and law enforcement. The dynamics and complex evolving nature of cybercrimes along with the requirement of highly skilled personnel along with robust cyberinfrastructure and the need for effective coordination across various agencies tasked with handling such matters pose serious challenges for law enforcement agencies in tackling cybercrimes. The address titled 'Securing the Cyber-space: Cybersecurity Operations in India' laid down the current reality of cybercrimes and the overall challenges faced by police agencies in the country. The objective was to set the tone for all the discussions of the day and to understand the severity and the need for rapid evolution of policy and investigating methodologies along with the crimes being committed.

In the address it was noted that most crimes still rely on traditional methods of cyber-attacks ranging from ransomware attacks, cyberattacks on individual money wallets and banking systems aimed at financial frauds or at defaming the individuals through character assassination and so on. However, it was pointed out that there has been a diversification of attacks into more serious areas such as on critical infrastructure security such as the banking system, industry platforms, & governmental authorities. Similarly on the lines of diversification it was noted that the emergence of Cryptocurrency has seen an exponential rise in cyber theft and extortion cases with regards to a crypto wallet. A challenge pointed out was the lack of clear-cut regulations posing a challenge in dealing with the cyber cases related to crypto. Such crimes have also added to a lack of ability by agencies in keeping pace with the changing technologies which poses serious technological & legal challenges for policing agencies investigating such crimes.

On the challenge of legality of technology, it was elaborated that these issues form a key challenge to law enforcement agencies. One of the challenges noted were related to the lack of support from technology owners or platform experts. This it was noted was a serious hurdle for investigating agencies in solving complex cyber crimes involving the use of use anti-forensic tools to cover up their tracks. Elaborating the challenges further apart from the borderless nature of cybercrimes and its non-traceability cybercrimes also face jurisdictional issues at the inter state level within the country and international level. Hence the speaker highlighted that without an international organization cooperating on a global scale with every policing unit, it is very hard to curb this onslaught of cybercrimes.

The speaker also pointed out another important nature of global cybercrimes and the advantages harnessed by anti-social elements. Along with the globally interconnected nature of these crimes, there is an advantage of anonymity for cybercriminals. The easy access to technology and free access to tools has made it easy to spoof or create a deep fake to defraud any entity. Over the past year, India has seen an exponential rise in the 'Sextortion' cases caused by the effective use of deep-fake technology.

It was noted that cybercrime has also built a nexus with organized crime. The use of cyber technology, and dark web, and the network of services created poses an even more serious national security and critical infrastructure security challenge for the days to come. It was further suggested that there needs to be a collaboration between technology experts, academia, research agencies, government, service providers and banks to come on a single platform. They have to create a wholistic technology, legal, administrative policy to control this menace of cybercrimes. Pointing out that there is an urgent need for vigilant regulation and policy for policing cybercrimes in the country.

DAY-2 SPECIAL ADDRESS

CYBERSECURITY OPERATIONS IN INDIA

MR. SUMIT PRASAD
(DYSP) CYBERCRIME UNIT, JHARKHAND, INDIA



The session was designed for awareness of the mechanisms and operational steps involved in the committing of cybercrimes. Understanding the operations is an essential prerequisite for the formulation of countermeasures, regulating policy, and blanket legislations.

The speaker began by presenting the modus operandi of various cyber crimes which he had personally handled as an officer of the Cybercrime unit in Jharkhand, India. He went into a detailed discussion of the methods used to trap victims by explaining through an example of a money wallet application.

Emphasis was given on methods used by criminals to breach and access victims' private information through government-issued identification certificates (Aadhar, PAN). The major frauds, mostly based on accessing of One Time Passwords and then banking information were discussed in detail.

The speaker highlighted the ground reality of cybercrime in his jurisdiction and his experience as an investigating officer. Considering the virtual mode of cyber-crimes, along with stringent regulations, awareness campaigns amongst the general public are very important to curb these crimes. It was urged by the speaker, that people must be careful about their digital footprint and shall never blindly trust anyone over a phone call or message. Not sharing one's critical details remains to be the most effective way against such cyber-crimes.

In a particularly interactive session, participants did ask questions about the workings of niche cybercrimes such as credit card/SIM card cloning. The question regarding issues of pursuing cross-border transactions and issues faced while navigating jurisdictions allowed the speaker to expound the matter through his personal experience and provide information on the working and coordination of various agencies. Further, the challenges faced by policing agencies especially the difficulty faced in the virtual world due to the advantages of anonymity to the perpetrators were discussed.

The speaker concluded the session by answering questions related to the precautions to be taken by citizens while existing and transacting in the virtual world and cooperating with law enforcement. He reiterated his stance that crime awareness is key to creating a safer cyber environment.

PREPARING FOR EXTREME RISKS AND BUILDING NATIONAL RESILIENCE

In Collaboration with: The Defence & Security Circle (DSC) of the National Liberal Club, United Kingdom

LORD (JAMES) ARBUTHNOT

Chairman, House of Lords Select Committee
on Risk Assessment and Risk Planning



Session Moderator

**DR MUNISH SHARMA, SENIOR CONSULTANT,
DATA SECURITY COUNCIL OF INDIA.**



We live in an era of vulnerabilities, we have an interdependent world where everything is connected. An illness first seen in a Chinese city can shut down the economy of the world. The uncertainty of the threat doesn't make it inevitable, because we are vulnerable and to be resilient even to those we are not accustomed to is now a necessity. Biosecurity, energy security, cyber security, futuristic technological advancements, terrorism are among a few factors that threaten national security; more dangerous when utilized together.

Technology is moving at a fast pace creating new challenges, all our systems cannot operate unless they are interconnected and technologically driven. And the benefits of technology have made us completely dependent on it, making it a potential vulnerability. And all of that technology is dependent on electricity. A single point of failure can disable the ability of modern society to function, the wider the area and the time of outages the more catastrophic it is.

Despite improving cyber tech nearly all information and communication that works in our systems will be at risk for years, having consequences for our defenses and moving critical national infrastructure right into the frontline. Wars that we choose to fight or that are forced upon us will no longer be conducted just far away but also within the utilities that we depend on. It can be within our financial systems, our media, our communication networks, inside our own homes, and even our bodies.

In 2014, when Hamas was sending rockets into Israel, a tweet from bomb shelter implied "as long as our internet is working we are still strong". It is a possibility to not even know who we are fighting or what fought through as they can be started by proxies on computers that are connected to networks anywhere in the world and then destroyed. With no one to take responsibility, cyberattacks are close to being entirely free of cost, free of difficulty, free of retaliation, and free of approbation. Perhaps it was executed by another state, anonymous hacktivists, terrorist organizations, or was a result of a false flag operation you can never be sure.

These attacks have a severe impact on public order, as they result in the loss of the chain of command. It creates an inability to communicate with the public about what is going on or what they need to do, an inability to organize an emergency response, and a lack of resources and money due to the lack of cash terminals and social security payments. There should be transparency to the public when these uncertainties seem to be a possibility and fear of wide-scale panic should be scrapped. It demands a lot of education, a lot of discussions, and policy and law-making that are essential to building national resilience. Black swan events have a grave magnitude of impact however less the probability and incentivizing investments for these kinds of events is rather difficult if not impossible. But there is value in preparation and value in getting as much data as possible, there is a need for international collaboration of countries, firms, and organizations. There is a need to have a long-term plan rather than addressing the threat as it approaches. There is a need to pressure stage actors and politicians to not only talk but in fact act on "Black elephants" in the room. "A plan that has not been exercised is not worth having" and improvisation in the face of battle is not a good look.

STUDENT IN SECURITY

ONE-STOP PLATFORM FOR STUDENTS TO INTERACT WITH OTHER PEERS,
PROFESSIONALS & UNIVERSITIES

Day 2: January 29 Special Segment



DR.BRIAN POLKINGHORN

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF
CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND
DISPUTE RESOLUTION



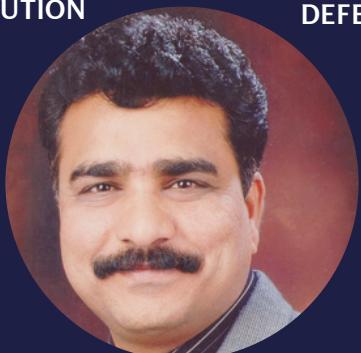
DR. V. BALAKISTA REDDY

REGISTRAR, NALSAR UNIVERSITY OF LAW
PROFESSOR OF AIR & SPACE LAW
DIRECTOR, CENTRE FOR AEROSPACE &
DEFENCE LAW (CADL)



MS. SHIVALI LAWALE

DIRECTOR, SYMBIOSIS SCHOOL
OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES



DR.VIJAY KHARE

NATIONAL CENTER OF INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AND DEFENCE ANALYSIS,
UNIVERSITY OF PUNE



DR.JASKARAN SINGH WARAICh

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR/ CHAIRPERSON
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE AND NATIONAL
SECURITY STUDIES, PANJAB UNIVERSITY



Salisbury
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This session included Prof. Brian Polkinghorn, Dr. V. Balakista Reddy, Prof. Shivani Lawale, Dr. Vijay Khare, and Dr. Jaskaran Singh Waraich as esteemed Speakers for the panel discussion. The session was focusing on the scope of Defense and Security Studies in India and around the globe.

Dr. Brian commenced the discussion by reminding the audience of the time back in the 1980s only a handful of programs related to the study of conflict analysis and defense studies were available. But today extremism and other factors leading to terrorism activity had led to the pump in academic programs. He acknowledged that after 9/11, the world saw a huge pump in academic programs related to conflict intervention, mitigation, strategic studies in the USA.

He further mentioned that there is a connection between conflict resolution and counter-terrorism. He believes that the nation-states have not spent enough time on personal introspection and there is a need to see the causes and conditions which push people to become radicalized.

Dr. Reddy who heads the center of Aerospace and Defense stated that Aerospace and Defense laws are untouched areas in the context of India and only NALSAR is the only University in India that has a unique course and the dedicated center working on the said topic.

He stated that there are 20 courses in total and the center of Aerospace and Defense entails 7 of them inclusive of Aviation law which comprises of technology law and management. He firmly believes that we live in a multi-polar world and single discipline is not going to work. The University also offers Masters in Security and Defense Laws which is a 2-year course.

He mentioned some papers which are conducted semester wise including International Security, Diplomacy and Conflict resolution, Defense Technology and Law, International Institutions and Global Governance, Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism, Cybersecurity and Cyber laws, etc.

He lastly said that the University firmly believes in the slogan "Aerospace and Defense education at the doorstep of needy with affordable cost." The purpose is to percolate the course and NALSAR strongly believes in academic social responsibility.

Ms. Lawale who is the Director of Symbiosis, Pune started by letting the audience know that there is no specialized course for defense studies in the University but it offers integrated security and security-related issues across the breadth of the program. The University offers 3 courses which are International Negotiation and Conflict resolution, She also pointed out the need to explore non-traditional security training for more gender-sensitive & inclusive academic explorations.

Dr. Khare who is the head and Professor at the Department of Defense and Strategic Studies at the University of Pune initiated his talk by elaborating upon the emergence of IR discipline during world war II. He mentioned that in 1941, there emerged the need to understand the conceptual understanding of the issues encompassing Defense and Security.

He further stated that the University has initiated the Masters program in Defense and Security after the 1962 debacle with China. The program focuses on the art of war strategic studies international relations. The University has taken the step forward to start programs related to Counterterrorism Studies and Professional CBRN Course.

He briefly told the University's strategic partnership with the Indian Army and Ministry of Defense. There are more than 20 army officers who carry their individual research sponsored by the Indian army to the department with the consultation of guides. Thus, the Department is focusing on military history, geopolitics, and military geography other issues.

The University offers 13 postgraduate diplomas, two Master's programs, and one Integrated course after class 12th. Dr. Khare stressed the need for an ecosystem to understand the issues related to global peace and security. Without such an ecosystem strategic culture thinkers in India will not flourish.

Dr. Singh who is the Chairperson and Assistant Professor at the Department of Defense and National Security Studies in Punjab University mentioned that the Department of Defense and Strategic Studies was established in 2001 and before that it was a part of critical science. The University has flagship courses like Masters in Defense and Strategic Studies which is a 2-year course. He highlighted the specialized papers conducted by the University on Area study China, Area study Pakistan, Non-Traditional threats, Military history, Strategic thought, and IR. He expressed his concern by stating that Punjab is known to be the sword arm of the country but there is a dearth of opportunities related to Defense and Security as a subject.

He concluded his speech by drawing attention to the need to identify all the stakeholders who would together be able to bring better opportunities for students related to this field. The ambit of national security is growing day by day and it is not limited to a particular section of the society but every citizen is a stakeholder in national security. Thus national security awareness is very important. He mentioned that at the same time we have to inculcate national security awareness in youth through our academia.

All the Speakers also made elbow room for the opportunities to have collaborations as it is the time for India to explore internal collaborations to create better employment opportunities in India per se.

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Day 2: 29th January 2022

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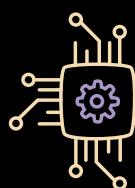
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MIMI FABE
DIRECTOR, AMAN RESEARCH
& TECHNOLOGY



SYLVIA LAKSHMI
DIRECTOR, AMAN RESEARCH
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CO-FOUNDER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CBRN ACADEMY,UK

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DAY-3 KEYNOTE ADDRESS INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN COUNTER TERRORISM DR. EYAL PINKO (ISRAEL NAVY)

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO), TERRA STRATEGIC SOLUTIONS, ISRAEL
PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR MIGRATION AND SECURITY
RESEARCH, BULGARIA**

Over the last decade, the face of terrorism has changed significantly. Developing upon the earlier tactics terror outfits are now employing new-age strategies that would intensify their actions, making them more dangerous. Most terrorist groups have a criminal wing such as drug smuggling, women smuggling, weapon smuggling to bring money to sponsor other terrorist activities. Similarly, increased use of technology is another characteristic of this New Age Terror. The use of high-tech drones, Cyber terrorism, use of Dark-Web for communications & propaganda, effective use of influence campaigns, and now the use of Cryptocurrencies for funneling the money changes the operational dynamics of today's terror outfits.

The world has to be very well aware of biological warfare like covid, and it's a serious concern terrorist also has high chances of acquiring or using such methods to wage war. The changing dynamics of terrorism demand change in the counter-terrorism attitudes. So the sharing of intelligence services amongst countries is of utmost necessity to circumvent and eliminate the threat.

Foundation of Counter Terrorism Capabilities

- **Anticipate-** Enhancing strategic intelligence, threat assessment, risk assessments, preparedness, reinforcing early detection capacity, the role of new technologies, foresight
- **Prevent-** Addressing radicalization and terrorist content online, the role of local communities, disengagement, rehabilitation, reintegration, consolidating knowledge and support

- **Respond** – strengthening Europol, Improving law enforcement, cooperation, information exchange, prosecution, support to victims
- **Protect** – Protection of public spaces, restricting access to firearms, protecting infrastructure, managing borders

To ensure the effectiveness of Counter-Terrorism capabilities, a legal foundation needs to be established between countries and organizations to foster global cooperation and share information.

The 6 pillars to build international cooperation in counter-terrorism

1. Intelligence and awareness- In most cases, countries develop intelligence capabilities to be alerted or aware of criminal terrorist activities
2. Cyber security and counter influence campaigns- sharing cyber technologies, methodologies, technological tools, and various stocks between countries to make cyber domain a safer place
3. Sharing of technological capabilities and countering technological capabilities- countering the enemy attacks
4. Protecting national infrastructure- an attack on national infrastructure is similar to shutting down a country
5. Countering chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats –terrorists are attracted to such fields to achieve their goals and this has to stop. It normally takes a lot of time to detect and control such disasters
6. Mutual commando operations- examples like mutual commando operations like US –UK commando operations in Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan to destroy targets. Cooperating with other nations to halt terrorist attacks

WOMEN IN SECURITY

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Day 3: January 30 Special Segment



**SQUADRON LEADER
PRIYANKA BHATTACHARYA**
HEAD, BUSINESS OPERATIONS -
SPICA SYSTEMS INC



MAJOR NEHA PATEL
CAPEX PROCUREMENT LEADER,
AMAZON INDIA



CYNTHIA FARAHAT
COUNTER TERRORISM EXPERT
Author- "The Secret
Apparatus: Muslim Brotherhood's
Industry of Death"



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DETE ALIAH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SERVE
INDONESIA,
Society Against Radical & Violent
Extremism



AMALINA ABDUL NASIR
GLOBAL INTELLIGENCE ANALYST,
SINGAPORE



SRWA KHALEEL
SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT,
CBRN ACADEMY,UK

CELEBRATING DYNAMIC ROLE OF WOMEN LEADERS IN SECURITY LANDSCAPES, COUNTER2022 IS AN INCLUSIVE & INNOVATIVE PLATFORM BRINGING TOGETHER GLOBAL WOMEN LEADERS IN SECURITY. FOCUSING ON INNOVATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & COOPERATION TO EXPLORE WOMEN'S ROLE & CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL SECURITY.

#EMPOWERINGHER #EMPOWERINGTHEWORLD

This panel constituted a diverse range of women security experts, including counter-terrorism/intelligence analysts, armed forces personnel, defense procurement and logistics experts, and CBRN instructors. The panel sought to discuss the challenges and experiences on venturing into a predominantly male-dominated field of work. The speakers highlighted the soaring interest among women to pursue a career in security. However, they threw spotlight on the concerns of underrepresentation of women in the security sector, and discuss the plethora of challenges and obstacles they faced. The panel of experts advocated for gender-inclusive reforms and gender sensitization in the security profession. The speakers also reflected on the journey of women's struggle for gender inclusivity and the challenges ahead. Speaking from leadership positions, the panel engaged in fruitful discussion about the policy changes required for a level playing field.

There is an consensus amongst experts that more women workforce is necessary to facilitate the inclusion of unique perspectives provided by women in order to face the dynamic challenges in security. The speakers they further reiterated the importance of gender neutrality and highlighted the unfair practices of 'gender-specific' roles. The panel agreed on the need for a merit based recruitment framework based on domain knowledge, work ethic, and vision. Moreover, the panel called on serving leaders in the security realm to be more proactive in achieving gender equality and diversity.

All the speakers strongly believed that qualified women candidates should be retained in the security sector and the persistent gender barriers to their recruitment must be identified and eliminated to promote women empowerment in this profession which will

facilitate better effectiveness, accountability, and inclusiveness of institutions.

Expanding on this argument one of the panelists reiterated the need for increased participation of women in leadership development programs and the urgent need for organizations to fund these programs to enhance their capabilities and leadership qualities. As CBRN Defense Instructor & Researcher the panelist stated that women are unwilling victims CBRN attacks. The panelist also highlighted the need to educate and train women from different sectors to impart valuable knowledge, skills, and expertise in this field so that they can utilize their skills and implement their knowledge in an hour of emergencies.

This also leads to another important aspect of a gender-sensitive professional environment. As this field is largely seen as a male bastion, women have been reeling from some infrastructural deficiencies. Eg protective gear, equipment, and the CBRN protective suits required while dealing/testing with poisonous chemical materials are not suitable for women as they are primarily designed for their male counterparts.

The speakers also recognized that diversity in leadership positions is the need of the hour and more women should be entrusted with the responsibility of managerial roles. Such diversity facilitates fresh perspectives to look at certain problems and bolsters their involvement and promotion enabling growth for women in the security sector. As only from the leadership position can their ideas can be envisioned and their opinions be voiced with a motive to drive change.

One of the speakers offered a critical perspective on the agency of women in the security sector by asserting even in the presence of the robust policies that reserve certain positions for women in this security sector, the involvement of the women experts in the government agencies is circumscribed to mere administrative capacity. The speaker preached caution in recognizing organizations that portray the involvement of women in decision making while in reality it is the men who run the show.

The speaker provided a testament to the underrepresentation of women in leadership by speaking about the first female counter-terrorism Chief of Malaysia, Norman Ishak. Her selection marked the change to a decades-long policy of male-only candidates for the position.

The speaker stressed on the importance of Mrs. Ishak's achievement, suggesting that such involvement of women will only further help to break the gender stereotypes with the potential of driving more recruitment of women in defense and security sectors. This will help further diversify and empower the contribution of women security experts in counter-terrorism efforts.

The panelists then spoke on the involvement of women in crimes, especially their involvement with terrorist organizations. The increasing role of women as front liners in terrorist organizations exhorts the involvement of female security experts CT practitioners, female psychologists, academics, and analysts to counter the phenomenon of the dramatic rise of women in violent extremism and prevent their radicalization and promote their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

Developing further on the above argument, another speaker specializing in women's

role in violent extremism discussed the case of involvement of Indonesian women by highlighting that these women were traditionally engaged in acts of terrorism only in the domestic capacity. There have been fewer instances of women undertaking military combat/ battlefield roles. Their role is primarily limited to domestic responsibilities, including raising children with puritanical, radical ideology and grooming them to become "next generation Jihadis". The rise of the Islamic State (ISIS) opened up more avenues for participation of women in other terrorist activities/ roles that were carried out by men.

This included networking, fundraising, and the deployment of women as suicide bombers in "emergencies", like when the militant group is on the back-foot and reeling from heavy battlefield losses". The terrorist groups in Malaysia and Indonesia are recruiting more women for raising funds. The terrorist groups have improvised their recruiting strategy to infiltrate various sectors and recruit women university students, housewives and even the police sector where 2 of the women have claimed to express their desire of serving as female suicide bombers.

Thanks to the new levels of involvement of women actors, governments are increasingly monitoring women person-of-interest. The speakers stressed that the consensus points to the acceptance of women as genuine threats, often equal to men. Hence the speakers advocated to avoid gender bias and viewing the threat perception emanating from men and women as equally malign and lethal.

The panel discussion was then steered to address the lack of awareness about the

importance of incorporating women from the field of STEM. Apart from driving innovation, the inclusion can also help address the glaring gender gap.

Further, the panelists stressed on the importance of having women mentors in the security sector or the counter-terrorism intelligence space. Many young women draw their inspirations from when they have just embarked on their journeys in the security profession. A well established women security practitioner in a male dominated profession transmits academic vigor, serves as an ideal role model and transmits positive intellectual energy- as a go-to person for the young women scholars/ practitioners in the global security domain.

Another speaker argued that ‘security is the state of being free from danger’. She believes that cybersecurity is pertinent and gaining its momentum from the national, financial, and personal perspectives.

Involvement of women will drive much more creative problem solving solutions which are the need of the hour.

All the panelists concluded with a firm belief that with the changing security scenarios, women will be playing an even greater part in the security infrastructure. And it's a prerogative that government, private sector & civil society start developing gender-sensitive policy & infrastructural decisions.

OPERATIONAL INNOVATIONS IN COUNTER TERRORISM

Day 3 : January 30 Special Session

COVINTS - Sabre One Panel Discussion



MAJOR GENERAL AMITABH JOSHI, V.S.M (RETD.)
ADVISOR,
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SWAPNIL KISHORE
FOUNDER & CEO COVERT
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TERRY TEMPLE
DIRECTOR, SABRE ONE

Session Moderator

DR. NITIN S. KULKARNI
MEMBER OF FINS, INDIA



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This session focusing on operational aspects of counter-terrorism (Ct) started by highlighting the four Ps used by CT agencies across the world - prevent, pursue, protect and prepare. Recalling his personal experiences in combating terrorism, the first speaker began his presentation about the forms of terrorism prevalent in society since ancient times and the origin of the definition of the term ‘terrorism’ itself. He moved forward to explaining terrorism in India post-independence right from 1952 and the difference between ethnic/nationalistic terrorism (insurgencies), religious terrorism (J&K, Punjab), and left-wing terrorism (due to economic deprivation). He listed all terrorist organisations present globally and countries affected and countries financing terrorism. He summarised the modus operandi and the movement of terrorists all over the world. Understanding the broader canvas is essential in the formation of future policy.

The second speaker then took over developing further on ideas discussed earlier. He illuminated his background is mostly in training in the counterinsurgency field and his innovation of system used in Zimbabwe - Bio Force. He explained the Counter-insurgency policy framework in African countries, the lack of which has adversely affected the continent. He discussed how vacuums are created in countries affected by terrorism where government agencies failed in governance. He concluded his talk by stating ‘counterinsurgency training is like a game of tennis’ agencies play with the enemy.

Following this discussion, the third speaker picked up the mantle of the speaker. He started by discussing why innovations in the field of CT are extremely important and why agencies have to be constantly on alert mode and not be dismissive of innovative protocols. Terrorism has changed its operational and outcome perspectives and agencies have to adapt. Governments have been reactive to incidents and threats whereas the approach needs to shift to being proactive in countering threats. Radical ideologies and narratives have become crucial in the foundations of terrorist activities. The cost of innovation needs to be seen in terms of human cost and the time required to save lives. The talk was concluded with the idea of ‘Prepare to prevent,

Some of the key questions discussed in this session include :

1. protocols existing about garnering and categorizing information from sister agencies.
2. The weight that agencies should give to the behavioral cues of individuals in intercepting threats which brought out the necessity of having the population on the side of the government and securing intelligence becomes difficult.
3. How can technology (AI, IoT) predict and prevent cyberattacks and identified white-collar individuals?

The session highlights the importance and needs for constant innovation of ideas and protocols in Countering terrorism and the direction in which technology is evolving. It called for detailed protocols to be laid out for every possible scenario/threat and to be paired with technology and Human Resources.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN COUNTER TERRORISM: OPERATIONAL ASPECTS & INSIGHTS

Day 3: January 30 Expert Panel



MIKE LYNCH
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EXECUTIVE
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ACADEMY, UK



ANNE SPECKHARD
DIRECTOR OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR
THE STUDY OF VIOLENT
EXTREMISM (ICSVE)



TONY PIETROCOLA
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TERRY TEMPLE
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MIMI FABE
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ORGANIZED CRIME, THE
NATIONAL POLICE COLLEGE,
PHILIPPINES,



NOEL HADJIMICHAEL
CHAIR DEFENCE &
SECURITY CIRCLE
NATIONAL LIBERAL
CLUB, UK



GARY MCGILL
CEO, MCGILL
SOLUTIONS LTD.

This second last session of the three days Counter Terrorism Expo 2022 was led by the panel of the world's leading counter-terrorism experts aiming to develop operational insights for counter-terrorism solutions.

The first speaker reflected on the pervasive & transnational threat of global terrorism from the world's most notoriously violent and feared terrorist group, ISIS. Following the loss of its territorial caliphate in March 2019, an ambitious global counter-narrative campaign is proving effective against ISIS jihadi propaganda and its strategic communication that lured and mobilized thousands of foreign fighters earlier.

The speaker also highlighted the potent threat posed by ISIS despite its territorial decimation. Even today, ISIS' has been mounting frequent large-scale sophisticated attacks and its insurgency has been aggressively active in theatres of Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Mozambique. The group continue to urge its virtual army of acolytes and supporters to launch attacks in the West and channel funds through crowdfunding campaigns for ISIS-linked women detained in the northeastern Syrian camps.

It was further discussed that the internet and social media predominantly act as the first avenue for interaction and a point of contact between the group and its supporters or people lured radicalized by ISIS propaganda.

Thus, there remains a pressing need for the consolidated effort of Tech companies and robust cybercrime legislation of various states in curbing the spread of ISIS's expanding propaganda outreach on encrypted and social media platforms.

There is also a need to penalize those who support the group. The speakers stressed the importance of taking advantage of the fast, effective, easily accessible outreach of social media for framing and propagation of coherent persuasive & lucid counter-narrative messages.

They added that counter-narrative communication should challenge the extremist propaganda messaging, and strategic communication of the group in such a way that credible voices such as former extremists, defectors of the group, victims should be at the forefront of any counter-messaging communication strategies counter the everyday messaging of violent extremist organizations.

Another speaker offered insights into the importance of developing international strategic partnerships/collaborations with security-centric research institutes, defense companies, defense think tanks of various states to amplify the influence and awareness amongst stakeholders.

Varied security challenges emanating from terrorism can be addressed/ combated effectively when such productive strategic collaborations and partnerships in the realm of security facilitate the pooling and mobilizing of academic, intellectual/ financial resources, i.e. CT related subject expertise, scale, financial assets, which in turn boost the effectiveness of these strategies. It also helps in raising the level of advancement in defense research therefore making the most of the mutually shared beneficial knowledge and expertise

Yet another speaker highlighted the role influencers play through their widely established contacts and networking in various sectors that help socially connect like-minded professionals. Such diversifying and expanding social outreach, helps in opening up new avenues for international cooperation. Reliable networks and diversified contacts that influencers have across multiple sectors play a prominent role in fostering global collaboration- cooperation amongst various stakeholders in public and private defense, counter-terrorism and security sector.

The experts asserted that the lack of interest or, to be specific, lack of literacy and social discourse, and absence of informed critical debates about the diverse national defense issues in public forum in civil society, have constantly reduced public understanding of deep rooted problems like terrorism.

Despite the state's burgeoning military power, the lack of an active, robust "national security conscious citizenry" that fails to understand and thus support the national security policy and defense interests/ priorities of the nations might prove detrimental to countering the national security threats.

So the operational leaders in policing defense and intelligence should understand the imperative of advocating a more informed, intellectually stimulating discourse and increasing intellectual awareness from the civil society actors at the grassroots level about the critical national security issues that would contribute to the more illuminating vibrant debates on the subject of counter-terrorism.

The discussion then focused on the growing threats posed by cyberattacks. Monitoring and detecting cyberattacks before the breach occurs is the only way to mitigate the lethal impact of cyber warfare. It can not be denied that with the increasing proliferation and the mainstreaming of the use of cryptocurrency for conducting financial transactions and its anonymous trading on the digital ledger known as blockchain has been leveraged by cybercrime groups. These virtual currencies have bolstered the development of novel cyberattacks. As we become more digitized, unlike kinetic force/ military warfare on the physical battlefield, virtual or digital space offers a level playing field for all actors due to the easy access to the internet and widespread knowledge about hacking and increasing computer literacy across the globe due to which the threat posed by cyberterrorism has provoked considerable alarm.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN COUNTER TERRORISM: ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Day 3: January 30 Concluding Panel



ARUN GANDHI
PEACE FARMER & FIFTH
GRANDSON OF
MAHATMA GANDHI



SWAPNIL KISHORE
FOUNDER & CEO COVERT
OVERT INTELLIGENCE
SOLUTIONS (COVINTS)



MITZI PERDUE
BUSINESSWOMAN,
MEDIA PERSON &
COLUMNIST



DR. BRIAN POLKINGHORN
DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF CONFLICT
ANALYSIS AND DISPUTE
RESOLUTION



DR. ALVITE NINGTHOUJAM
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AT
SYMBIOSIS SCHOOL OF
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

This being the concluding session of the three days Counter Terrorism Expo, the esteemed panel delves deep into the root causes of terrorism and various alternative approaches to combating terrorism and enriches our understanding of how the menace of terrorism could be fought effectively and eliminated through multilateral international cooperation.

Discussing this topic on the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the first speaker echoed his ideas/ principles i.e. of nonviolence peace and his conviction for the moral/ intellectual development of the society calling for the strong sense of morality. He reiterated the underlying cause of today's myriad miseries and evils plaguing our communities, i.e. conflicts, poverty and ultimately terrorism is rooted in materialism. Subscription to materialistic pursuits of life and the increasing obsession with material possessions triggers more hunger for amassing abundance wealth and power, thereby jeopardizing a personal sense of morality / ethical judgments. The absence of such ethics has led to humankind to relentlessly engage in committing various crimes and often resorting to the use of violence for fulfilling their worldly/ materialistic pleasures. This greed in turn impacts cooperation to tackle major global issues the world is grappling with such as conflicts, wars, poverty, and organized crime like human trafficking, forgery, cyber crimes, unemployment, corruption climate change, and ultimately, terrorism.

Followed by this, the second speaker talked in-depth about the nexus between human trafficking and terrorism and how terrorism thrives on the war

chests and financial treasurers seized through deeply entrenched well established global human trafficking networks making it a whooping \$ 50 billion dollar industry. Global cooperation is the only way out of these heinous activities. In this way vast pool of academic knowledge, research, financial resources from international bodies and UN organizations, training personnel, and the required infrastructure and education funded by UN-funded programs and agencies mobilized to stamp out human trafficking in one country that can serve as an ideal roadmap to fighting this menace on an international level/ internationally.

The third speaker reflected on how the terrorist groups or any other organizations radicalize/ lure- disillusioned/ lost/ disenfranchised individuals and how after these perpetrators of violence, after undergoing various de-radicalization and rehabilitation programs, act as credible stakeholders/ advocates for various counter-radicalization campaigns. By adding a more human touch to the debate of terrorism, he insists on following and living a non-violent life by example to prevent the rise of violent extremism.

Next Speaker explored the impact of geopolitical power play on the dynamic of terrorism and conflict resolution by reiterating that increasingly heated geopolitical rivalries and power competition between the significant, influential players (US, China, Russia) in the international realm have a detrimental impact on the unified synergized fight against terrorism.

Instead of new approaches to conflict resolution, innovation should be brought into the already traditional/ conventional conflict resolution mechanisms like negotiation, mediation, third party interference.

The role of an already polarized international system and the UN organs organizations/ bodies such as UNSC meant to address, eliminate, broker mediation of warring parties in the various conflict theatres are rendered ineffective/paralyzed as it is hostage to the power politics and the intensified strategic power competition between the veto-wielding powers US Russia and China thus yielding greater risk of building no consensus on peaceful resolutions to any conflicts undercutting council diplomacy. Any conflict resolution approach should consider keeping in mind the dynamic and fluid nature of geopolitical contours.

This panel's final speaker threw light on the imperative to incorporating robust training mechanisms for law enforcement agencies and armed forces and advocated for revamping and

an overhauling of their soft skills to enhance emotional intelligence and emotional literacy, cognitive skills.

This will help facilitate their communication and negotiation with the alleged offenders/ criminal suspects and builds credible trust whereby an accommodative less hostile contact with the suspect can facilitate communication with the profiler.

He might open up to the interrogating party that might encourage persuade the suspect to divulge more sensitive, credible, or helpful information to draw a social and psychological picture of the offender. These strategies also help provide law enforcement agencies with strategies and suggestions for the suspect and facilitate in making inferences about the emotional, psychological, physical, habitual, and even vocational characteristics of a suspect.



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