



# AN ANALYSIS OF CROSS-BORDER TERRORISM BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN: STRATEGIES AND CHALLENGES

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## ABSTRACT

The history of conflict between India and Pakistan indeed stems from the partition in 1947, which led to the creation of two separate nations based on religious lines. The region of Jammu and Kashmir has been a focal point of contention between the two countries, leading to several conflicts, including three major wars. The Kashmir issue has not only fueled tensions between India and Pakistan but has also had broader implications, including the proliferation of terrorism. Various militant groups have operated in the region, with some receiving support or sanctuary from elements within Pakistan. This has led to cross-border terrorism, with attacks in India being orchestrated or supported from across the border. The escalation of conflicts between India and Pakistan has contributed to a nuclear arms race in the region, raising concerns about nuclear proliferation and the potential for a catastrophic conflict with global ramifications. Efforts to address the root causes of the conflict and promote peace between India and Pakistan are crucial for regional stability and global security. Policy alternatives could include diplomatic dialogue, confidence-building measures, and efforts to address the underlying grievances of both sides. Confidence-building measures could include measures to reduce military tensions, such as agreements on border security and communication channels to prevent misunderstandings or miscalculations. Furthermore, addressing the Kashmir issue in a manner that respects the aspirations of the Kashmiri people while addressing the concerns of both India and Pakistan is essential. This could involve dialogue between the stakeholders, including India, Pakistan, and representatives of the Kashmiri people, to find a mutually acceptable solution. Ultimately, sustained efforts from both India and Pakistan, supported by the international community, will be necessary to achieve lasting peace and security in the region.

**KEYWORDS:** Conflict, Government Policies and strategies, International Peace, Kashmir Issues.

## INTRODUCTION

The complex web of terrorism and security concerns in South Asia, particularly between India and Pakistan, is deeply rooted in historical, religious, and geopolitical factors. Since their independence in 1947, both countries have grappled with various forms of internal and external threats, including cross-border terrorism, religious extremism, and separatist insurgencies. The partition of British India along religious lines created a legacy of conflict, with the issue of Jammu and Kashmir becoming a focal point of contention between India and Pakistan. This dispute has fueled cross-border terrorism, with militant groups operating in the region with varying degrees of support from elements within Pakistan. India faces a range of security challenges, including communal violence, separatist insurgencies in the northeast, and Naxalite extremism. Additionally, external threats such as the unresolved boundary dispute with China and cross-border jihadist terrorism sponsored by Pakistan add further complexities to the security landscape. Pakistan-based Islamist fundamentalist organizations like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad have been implicated in various terrorist attacks in India, with alleged support from Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). These groups have ties to international jihadist organizations such as the Taliban and Al-Qaeda,

adding a transnational dimension to the security threat. Furthermore, the threat from Bangladesh, while not as prominent as the India-Pakistan dynamic, also presents challenges, particularly in terms of illegal immigration, border security, and potential radicalization.

Addressing these multifaceted security challenges requires comprehensive strategies that include diplomatic dialogue, counterterrorism cooperation, efforts to address underlying grievances, and regional cooperation mechanisms. Sustainable peace and security in the region will depend on the willingness of all stakeholders to engage in meaningful dialogue and address the root causes of conflict and extremism. The evolving nature of terrorism and security challenges in India, particularly in regions like the northeast and along the India-Bangladesh border, underscores the complexities faced by the country. The presence of insurgent groups like ULFA and Naga factions in the northeast, along with ISI-sponsored infiltration of terrorists from Bangladesh, exacerbates the security situation. The specter of nuclear threat, both from neighbouring states and jihadist groups, further heightens security concerns. The China-Pakistan nuclear nexus adds a significant dimension to the nuclear threat faced by India and the region as a whole.



Terrorism can be classified into political and non-political categories, with the former driven by political objectives and the latter motivated by individual or collective gain. India's diverse population, along with varying ideological and religious aspirations, adds layers of complexity to the security landscape, as seen in historical instances of terrorism in Punjab, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, and more recently, Maoist insurgency in states like Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, and Orissa. Border security and defence are crucial aspects of national sovereignty, and boundary disputes can escalate into conflicts. In Asia, border issues are particularly significant, with leaders striving to formulate foreign policy objectives aimed at resolving these disputes through cooperation or conflict resolution mechanisms. Cross-border terrorism remains a pressing challenge for India, with various factors contributing to the perpetuation of such threats. Understanding the reasons behind cross-border terrorism is essential for formulating effective strategies to address and mitigate these threats, thereby safeguarding the lives and security of citizens.

## II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

**Evans' (2000)** analysis from sheds light on the complex dynamics surrounding the Kashmir problem during that time. The infiltration of militants supported by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency exacerbated the conflict in Kashmir. However, Indian countermeasures and the 1996 elections in Kashmir marked a turning point, leading to some improvements in the situation. Despite these positive developments, the tourism industry in Kashmir faced significant challenges. From 1990 to 1999, the region witnessed a decline in tourist activity due to the security concerns stemming from the conflict. However, there was a glimmer of hope in 1999 as tourist interest began to revive. Unfortunately, the Kargil intrusion later that year dampened the optimism, leading to a decline in tourist numbers once again. The knowledge possessed by militants about the organization, structure, and safety measures of security forces enabled them to launch attacks on security force bases with increasing frequency and sophistication. The inability of the state government to implement expected changes, combined with incidents like the IC 814 hijacking in December 1999 and the subsequent release of hardcore militants further exacerbated the situation. Moreover, the failure to achieve normalization through counterterrorism policies, a perceived lack of political will, and continued support from Pakistan contributed to the escalation of terrorist activities in Kashmir, further deteriorating the security situation in the region. These factors underscore the challenges faced by both India and Kashmir in addressing the complex issues surrounding terrorism and insurgency in the region.

**Basrur's (2002)** highlights the shift in Indian strategic thinking following the Kargil conflict in 1999, particularly regarding approaches to addressing Pakistani intervention in Kashmir. The Kargil conflict served as a wake-up call, prompting India to reassess its strategies and policies in dealing with cross-border tensions. Post-Kargil, India pursued a range of initiatives aimed at improving the political environment, including the Agra summit. However, despite

these efforts, the depth of Pakistani involvement in Kashmir persisted, indicating the challenges in achieving lasting peace and stability in the region. One significant change in the strategic landscape was the recognition that India's conventional military advantage could be neutralized by Pakistan's possession of nuclear weapons. This realization underscored the need for alternative approaches to address security challenges in the region, beyond traditional military means. Basrur's commentary suggests that clinging to outdated notions of limited war and strategic space may not be conducive to the region's future stability. Instead, there is a need for innovative and adaptive strategies that take into account the evolving security dynamics, including the nuclear factor, and seek to address the root causes of conflict in Kashmir through diplomatic engagement and confidence-building measures.

**Henderson's (2003)** provides insights into the repercussions of the Bali bombing on the tourism sector and the subsequent efforts to revive tourism in the region. The bombing had a profound impact, leading to a decline in tourist arrivals as travellers, operators, and investors avoided areas perceived as dangerous. In response to the crisis, tourism marketing and development agencies played a crucial role in devising and implementing strategies to attract tourists back to Bali. Despite efforts to entice visitors from around the globe, the immediate aftermath of the bombing resulted in significant aftershocks for the tourism industry. Travel advisories, reduced air transport services, and decreased occupancy rates in large hotels contributed to the decline in tourist arrivals. The impact of the bombing extended beyond major establishments, affecting various sectors such as small enterprises, taxi drivers, garment and souvenir sellers, tour guides, craftsmen, hawkers, and vendors. Recognizing the importance of reviving tourism, the government prioritized efforts to stimulate the domestic tourism sector. Central to the government's approach was the emphasis on safety and security as key marketing themes. Measures were implemented to address safety concerns and handle complex situations effectively, thereby instilling confidence among tourists and stakeholders. Henderson's assessment underscores the resilience of the tourism sector in the face of adversity and the importance of proactive measures to mitigate the impact of security threats on the industry. By focusing on domestic tourism and prioritizing safety and security, Bali was able to gradually recover from the fallout of the bombing and restore confidence among tourists.

**Chen & Chen (2003)** attempted to assess terrorism effects on travel arrangements and tourism practices after September 11 WTC twin tower attack in USA. Airlines suffered decline in passenger load, followed by slump in hotel Occupancy rate and heavy security deployment at highly raise buildings, heavily crowded public places, and in commercial complexes. Casinos, sporting events, state tourism, and international tourism received setback to maximum extent and US stock Values went down by seven percent. People showed less interest in visiting New York and rather liked to visit beaches to avoid terror attacks. People feared to use air Transportation. When the fear of terror attack persists, new marketing ideas



centered on community based tourism may reduce the impact of terror effect on travel business.

**Saliq (2005)** addressed the significance of ineffective methods of fighting terrorism. He defines terrorism as the unlawful application of violence or the threat of its application for political purposes and insists that the root cause of terrorism has to be sought out and then cured by means of moral persuasion. The author clearly supports the view that terrorism is a great evil to the peace of society and has to be eliminated with lesser evil approaches.

**Rajagopalan (2007)** dealt with India's counter – insurgency strategy. Author found India views terrorism as a political problem. India adopted soft approaches with minimum force utilisation and solve it. Globally armies adopt repressive measures and this forced terrorists to follow various guerrilla tactics which in turn compels state army to deploy more strength and undertakes large operations to hold territory. When state army maintain huge force to keep insurgents away from population and economic centres, terrorists used limited capacity to harass people by attacking at unexpected place and time. The author suggests modulate use of force along with political compromises will be more effective.

**Goswami's (2009)** delves into the effectiveness of the "trust and nurture" strategy in counter-insurgency operations, highlighting its merits and demerits. According to Goswami, the primary obstacle to solving the insurgency problem is the existing distrust between security forces and the local population. The "trust and nurture" strategy involves building trust between security forces and the local population through democratic political practices, judicious military methods, the deployment of special counterinsurgency forces, and an understanding of local social and cultural dynamics. However, Goswami acknowledges that implementing this strategy requires significant changes in approach, particularly within military institutions accustomed to more traditional methods of counterinsurgency. He suggests that fostering a culture of research within the military, particularly in subjects related to counterinsurgency, can facilitate the effective implementation of the "trust and nurture" strategy.

### III. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To make an analysis on the theoretical concept of cross-border terrorism.
2. To examine the bilateral conflict has had international implications over the years.
3. To find out the problems and challenges on cross border terrorism in India.
4. To analysis the policies taken by government of India on cross border terrorism.

### IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study adopts a descriptive and analytical approach to examine the phenomenon of cross-border terrorism. Secondary data, collected from a variety of sources, forms the basis of the analysis. This secondary data includes information extracted from annual reports of key government ministries such as the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence, and Ministry of External Affairs, as well as reports from the

Government of India. Additionally, the study draws upon insights from various academic journals, periodicals, and newspapers, which provide a broader perspective on the issue of cross-border terrorism. These sources likely offer diverse viewpoints, empirical evidence, and expert analysis, enriching the understanding of the subject matter.. Overall, the descriptive and analytical nature of the study, coupled with the use of secondary data from diverse sources, enhances the rigor and depth of the research, contributing to a more nuanced understanding of the complex phenomenon of cross-border terrorism.

### V. ANALYSIS OF CROSS BORDER TERRORISM BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

Cross-border terrorism between India and Pakistan is a longstanding and complex issue that has significantly impacted the security dynamics of the region. Here, I'll provide an overview of the phenomenon, its historical context, key factors contributing to it, and efforts to address it.

#### Historical Context

The roots of cross-border terrorism between India and Pakistan can be traced back to the partition of British India in 1947, which led to the creation of the independent nations of India and Pakistan. The unresolved territorial dispute over the region of Jammu and Kashmir has been a major source of tension between the two countries, resulting in multiple conflicts and acts of violence over the years.

#### Key Factors Contributing to Cross-Border Terrorism

**Territorial Dispute:** The dispute over Kashmir has fueled cross-border terrorism, with militant groups operating in the region and receiving support from elements within Pakistan.  
**State Sponsorship:** Pakistan has been accused of providing financial, logistical, and ideological support to militant groups that carry out attacks in India, viewing them as proxies in its conflict with India over Kashmir.  
**Proxy Warfare:** Cross-border terrorism has been used as a tool of proxy warfare between India and Pakistan, with both countries seeking to advance their strategic interests and undermine each other's security.  
**Religious Extremism:** Extremist ideologies and religious fundamentalism have also played a role in motivating and justifying acts of terrorism, exacerbating tensions between the two countries.

#### Efforts to Address Cross-Border Terrorism

**Diplomatic Dialogue:** Both India and Pakistan have engaged in diplomatic dialogue to address their differences and find peaceful resolutions to the Kashmir dispute. However, progress has been slow and often derailed by incidents of violence.

**Counterterrorism Cooperation:** Efforts to enhance cooperation on counterterrorism between India and Pakistan have been sporadic and hindered by mutual distrust. Limited cooperation has been observed in areas such as intelligence sharing and border security.

**International Mediation:** The international community, including organizations like the United Nations, has called for dialogue and mediation to reduce tensions and prevent



escalation between India and Pakistan. However, meaningful progress has been elusive.

**Bilateral Agreements:** Various bilateral agreements and confidence-building measures have been proposed and implemented to promote peace and stability between India and Pakistan. However, their effectiveness has been limited by the underlying political and security challenges. Despite these efforts, cross-border terrorism remains a persistent challenge and a significant obstacle to peace and stability in the region. Addressing this issue will require sustained political will, constructive dialogue, and comprehensive measures to tackle the root causes of terrorism and extremism.

The emergence of cross-border terrorism poses a significant threat to the security, democracy, and sovereignty of India. This form of terrorism, originating from neighboring countries, aims to destabilize India's peace and undermine its governance structures. The term "terrorism" itself is laden with political controversy, as it carries a deeply negative connotation due to its association with violence and the targeting of innocent civilians. Indeed, the definition of terrorism is subjective and varies based on political perspectives. What one group may consider an act of terrorism, another may view as legitimate resistance or a fight for freedom. This ambiguity complicates efforts to address and combat terrorism effectively. However, despite the lack of a universal definition, experts generally agree on common elements of terrorist acts. Terrorism often involves violence perpetrated by non-state actors who lack conventional political power but seek to influence or change policies they perceive as unjust or intolerable. In many cases, terrorist groups resort to extreme measures due to perceived grievances or to advance their ideological agendas. The intensification of Middle Eastern terrorism in the 1970s provides a historical context for understanding the roots of modern terrorism. This period saw the rise of militant groups opposed to peace initiatives and diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving conflicts, particularly the Arab-Israeli conflict over Palestine. As some Arab nations pursued peace agreements with Israel, militant factions within these countries turned to terrorism as a means of opposing what they saw as capitulation to the enemy.

In the context of India, cross-border terrorism reflects similar dynamics, with extremist groups exploiting regional conflicts, grievances, and geopolitical tensions to advance their agendas. These groups often operate from sanctuaries across the border, making it challenging for Indian authorities to counter their activities effectively. Addressing cross-border terrorism requires a multifaceted approach, including robust border security measures, intelligence cooperation with neighbouring countries, diplomatic initiatives to address root causes of conflict, and efforts to counter radicalization and extremist ideologies within society. By understanding the complexities and historical context of terrorism, India can develop more effective strategies to safeguard its security and sovereignty. The tactics employed by terrorists are often aimed at maximizing psychological impact on society or government, with the goal of coercing policy changes through fear and disruption. Terrorist attacks are meticulously planned to create

situations where governments feel compelled to alter their policies to prevent further violence or chaos. To achieve these objectives, terrorists often resort to mass destruction methods such as bombings and target transportation hubs or crowded public places to in still widespread anxiety and fear among the population.

The attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, exemplified the devastating consequences of transnational terrorism, also known as cross-border terrorism. These attacks drew global attention to the threat posed by terrorist organizations that operate across national boundaries, exploiting the interconnectedness of the modern world to carry out their nefarious activities. Cross-border terror groups exhibit a global orientation, with the ability to move funds, personnel, and materials across borders with relative ease. They do not confine themselves territorially or ideologically to a particular country or region. Examples of such groups include Palestinian nationalist organizations and the Irish Republican Army (IRA), both of which have engaged in attacks, arms smuggling, and seeking refuge across state borders. For instance, the IRA obtained weapons from Libya and conducted attacks in Britain, as well as plotted assaults on British forces in Gibraltar. Similarly, Palestinian terrorists crossed into Israeli territory or what they considered Palestinian territory, seeking refuge in neighbouring states like Egypt and Syria. They executed high-profile acts of terrorism such as hijacking airplanes, taking hostages at the 1972 Olympics in Munich, and infamous incidents like the hijacking of an Italian cruise ship in 1985. These examples underscore the transnational nature of terrorism and the challenges it poses to national and international security. Addressing cross-border terrorism requires coordinated efforts, intelligence sharing, and cooperation among nations to disrupt terrorist networks, dismantle their infrastructure, and prevent further attacks. Additionally, addressing underlying grievances and promoting peace and stability in conflict-affected regions are crucial for long-term solutions to terrorism. You're correct in pointing out that despite their cross-border activities, groups like the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and Palestinian nationalist organizations maintained strong political and organizational ties to specific territories. While they operated transnationally, their goals and objectives were often rooted in territorial disputes or nationalist movements focused on specific regions.

Ray Takeyh and Nikolas Gvosdev's assessment highlights the nuanced nature of these groups' motivations and strategies. While they engaged in cross-border activities, such as seeking refuge, obtaining weapons, or launching attacks in multiple countries, their ultimate goals were often tied to specific territorial claims or political agendas. For example, the IRA's struggle for Irish independence cantered on Northern Ireland, and their attacks in Britain and elsewhere were aimed at furthering this cause. Similarly, Palestinian nationalist groups' actions, including hijackings and attacks on Israeli targets, were driven by their aspirations for Palestinian statehood and sovereignty over disputed territories. Despite their global reach, these groups maintained a strong territorial focus and sought to achieve their political objectives within specific



geographic contexts. Understanding this dynamic is essential for developing effective strategies to address cross-border terrorism while also addressing underlying political grievances and territorial disputes.

The landscape of cross-border terrorism has evolved significantly in recent years, with contemporary groups demonstrating a distinct departure from traditional armed movements. According to experts like Ray Takeyh and Nikolas Gvosdev, today's cross-border terror groups exhibit explicitly global characteristics, with broadly anti-Western ideologies and members drawn from diverse states rather than distinct communities. Unlike the armed groups of the past, which often sought to build or reshape nation-states, modern cross-border terrorists thrive in environments where state authority is weak or fragmented. They exploit the breakdown of state structures, moving fluidly between failed or unstable states to organize their activities and launch attacks. Moreover, while earlier armed movements typically focused on achieving localized objectives, contemporary terror groups espouse a broader agenda of spreading jihad or radical Islamist ideologies on a global scale. This shift reflects a departure from traditional notions of territoriality and the emergence of non-state actors as significant players in international security dynamics. Some analysts argue that Western intervention in the post-Cold War era, particularly through humanitarian interventions in the Third World, inadvertently facilitated the rise of modern cross-border terrorists. By undermining state authority and sovereignty, these interventions created fertile ground for non-state actors to operate and flourish. Additionally, internationalizing local conflicts through Western intervention blurred traditional borders and facilitated the movement of armed groups across territories.

This analysis underscores the complex interplay between geopolitics, state sovereignty, and the dynamics of terrorism in the contemporary world. Understanding these dynamics is essential for developing effective strategies to counter cross-border terrorism while also addressing the root causes and underlying grievances that fuel its proliferation. The concept proposed by Dr. Thomas P.M. Barnett offers a framework for understanding the global landscape based on the level of globalization and stability within states. According to Barnett, the world can be divided into three categories: core states, seam states, and gap states.

**Core States:** These are regions characterized by high levels of globalization, network connectivity, economic development, and stable governance. Core states typically experience rising standards of living and are integrated into global economic and political networks. Examples include North America, much of South America, the European Union, Russia, Japan, China, India, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. Despite some internal challenges, core states generally have robust institutions and security mechanisms in place.

**Gap States:** Gap states are regions where globalization is limited or absent, and governance is often weak or unstable. These states are plagued by poverty, disease, political repression, and chronic conflicts that serve as breeding

grounds for terrorism and extremism. Gap states lack the infrastructure and resources to effectively address internal security challenges, making them vulnerable to exploitation by non-state actors. Examples of gap states include countries in the Middle East, parts of Africa, and certain areas of Asia.

**Seam States:** Seam states lie between the core and gap states and are in transition towards full globalization. These regions are characterized by varying degrees of connectivity, economic development, and political stability. Seam states may experience both the benefits and challenges of globalization, including increased trade and investment opportunities, as well as social, economic, and political tensions. Examples of seam states include Mexico, Brazil, South Africa, Morocco, Algeria, Greece, Turkey, Pakistan, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Indonesia.

The concept of core, seam, and gap states provides a useful framework for analysing the dynamics of globalization, security, and terrorism on a global scale. It highlights the interconnectedness between economic development, governance, and security, and underscores the importance of addressing the root causes of instability and conflict in order to effectively combat terrorism and promote global security and prosperity.

## VI. THE POLICIES AND STRATEGY ON CROSS BORDER TERRORISM

1. India needs to formulate a comprehensive national anti-terror strategy which must address many issues – defence, law enforcement, intelligence, diplomacy, economic development, education, promotion of socio-political justice within the context of policies promoting national security.
2. Reforming Domestic Anti-Terror Apparatus:
  - a) Immediately beef up NIA
  - b) To create a strong NCTC (National Counter Terrorism Centre)
  - c) ensure that terrorism fighting organizations are equipped with adequate physical infrastructure, manned with suitably trained manpower and do not face a cash crunch; Most importantly, the agencies must be least in number and have a mechanism to seamlessly communicate and strike whenever needed, without jurisdictional conflicts.
3. Military Options: A strong state with the ability to give as well as it gets is a pre-requisite for peace. Military options like the recent surgical strikes across LoC not only enhance the deterrence in place against such attacks, but also ensure that the state-jihadi nexus is constricted.
4. Diplomatic Dialogue- Henry Kissinger, an American political scientist has written that nations cooperate for long periods only when they share common political goals and that policy must focus on these goals rather than on the mechanisms used to reach them. Thus, India must diplomatically engage not only Pakistan, but also Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar, so as to formulate policies for cooperation in economic, military, cultural and terrorism fields and ensure mutual quest for regional peace, prosperity and stability.
5. International Support– to further a policy of non-violent compellence.



a) India must designate Pakistan as a state sponsor of terrorism and continue its efforts to isolate Pakistan internationally as it has successfully done in South Asia (SAARC). To impose further political isolation, India could convince its partners to postpone bilateral meetings with Pakistan or delay visa processing

b) In more tangible economic terms, India and its partners could seek to raise the prominence of anti-terrorism issues at the IMF to condition further financing for Pakistan on cracking down on terrorist groups that attack other states.

c) Furthermore, India could seek an advance commitment from the United States and other major powers to cut security assistance to Pakistan in case of a future terrorist attack in India. Such agreements would raise the costs for any authorities that would subsequently violate them. China and U.S. both have great interests in stability between Pakistan and India. Both could be expected to press India and Pakistan to uphold any agreements and to contribute to fact-finding if there are disputes over compliance.

6. Internal Stability—India needs to understand the importance of maintaining peace and harmony amongst all religions and communities in India, with special reference to Muslim and people belonging to NE states and the RED CORRIDOR (Maoism). Pakistan has for decades exploited the dissatisfaction and given covert and overt assistance in fuelling insurgency in these regions. The intelligence agencies have an important role to play as the eyes and ears of the government in different communities to detect feelings of anger and alienation which need immediate attention.

7. Solving border issues with wider consultation, initiating confidence building measures and more and more people to people contact along with improved trade across the border would help.

8. Use of the latest surveillance technologies available such drones, unmanned Aerial vehicle such as Nishant, Rustam-1 etc. to detect the presence of unwarranted activities across the border whether land or maritime.

## VII. CONCLUSION

The passage highlights terrorism as a significant contemporary challenge, often described as the "cancer of the modern world." It underscores the multifaceted impact of terrorism, including its detrimental effects on societal order, economic development, political stability, and democratic institutions. Furthermore, the passage criticizes the Indian government's approach to tackling terrorism, particularly its cooperation with Pakistan. It suggests that before engaging with Pakistan on counterterrorism efforts, India should prioritize formulating its own comprehensive strategy to address internal security challenges. This includes dealing with terrorism perpetrated by extremist outfits such as the Naxal movements, which pose significant threats within the country. The passage advocates for India to rely on its own mechanisms and resources rather than seeking support from external actors like the United States or the military rulers of Pakistan. This reflects a call for greater self-reliance and autonomy in addressing security threats, as well as a recognition of the complexities and sensitivities involved in external partnerships on counterterrorism. Overall, the passage emphasizes the importance of a proactive and self-reliant approach to

combating terrorism, grounded in a thorough understanding of internal security dynamics and a commitment to upholding human rights, stability, and democratic principles.

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