

## **Executive Summary**

**University Grants Commission Major Research Project under XI plan for the period 2013-2015, Ref. No: F.5-6/2013 (HRP)**

**Title: *26/11 and the Emerging Anti-Terrorism Architecture of India***

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The word 'terrorism' has now become most common in the vocabulary of people across the globe. Today "war on terrorism" has become "war without borders", as with globalization terrorism has crossed the borders of a nation-state thus making it a global challenge. The challenge is so complex that internationally for experts and scholars it has been difficult to arrive at a common unanimously accepted definition of terrorism. The definition of terrorism has been evolving over the years its techniques or methods are different in every period of history but what is common is its effects-death, destruction and fear.

The 21<sup>st</sup> century has seen some dreaded terrorist attacks that have created shock waves all over the world. All these attacks globally brought a major paradigm shift in the way security was viewed. Consensus regarding an integrated global approach to address the challenge of terrorism was accepted widely. Outcome of this was that India for the first time extensively experienced the international cooperation in counter-terrorism in the aftermath of the Mumbai terror attack of 2008.

The 26 November 2008 also known as 26/11 attack, was a terrorist attack on the iconic symbols of the financial hub of India, Mumbai, which led to the death of about 166 people and injury to approximately 300 marked a watershed in India's chequered history of fighting terrorism. India has a long history of terrorism but the magnitude and intensity of 26/11 attack compelled the

Indians to raise doubts about its security agencies preparedness to tackle terror carnage of such extent.

The feeling of insecurity that griped the urban India after 2008 terror attack led to some pertinent questions as to whether India's response to terrorism have been episodic or does India have any long term strategy or doctrine to deal with terrorism? Besides, people raised disturbing but basic question like "Are we safe today in the city of Mumbai?"

Did the government learn any lessons from the 2008 Mumbai terror attack? Did the government take any new concrete measures to upgrade its capability to deal with the menace of 'new age terrorism' as well as tighten-up its existing security apparatus? This research work is probing answers to some these questions.

The present project work examines the various initiatives taken in the aftermath of 26/11 by the Union Home Ministry for effectively countering terrorism in India. It specifically analyses whether the policy of counter terrorism declared by the government following 26/11 strikes has fully translated into action. Has the promises been delivered? What is the ground reality today? Whether in the last seven years the government has been able to address the gaps in India's internal security?

The conclusion of the research are-

India has made efforts to some extent to upgrade its security apparatus. But it has only traveled the road halfway through. India needs to develop a bottom up approach for designing its counter terrorism strategy. Police reforms, coastal security are areas in which still major work needs to be done. But the biggest missing link in the evolving anti-terrorism strategy of India is the citizen's participation. As long as there is apathy of the citizenry and the society is tolerant to corruption, citizens violating the laws and all kinds of crime, terrorist attacks will continue. Terrorism is a disease of which the people are victims. Thus without involving them no treatment can be successful in curing the disease.

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