



The terrorist attacks on 9/11 changed the way the U.S. and India joined forces against global terror

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMBATING CRIME

POST-9/11, U.S. and Indian law enforcement agencies have increased the depth and scope of their cooperation, yielding some impressive results. It is an image that has come to dominate modern-day perceptions and concerns—the masked terrorist armed with an AK-47 is no longer a filmmaker's stereotype, but a malevolent force that threatens the security of the global community. For some countries, it is a relatively recent phenomenon. Yet, other countries, like India, have experienced terrorism's mindless cycle of violence for well over a decade. Inevitably, as terrorist networks have grown and established international links, collaboration between countries has expanded to tackle the threats posed by these networks. The U.S. and India represent a classic example of this cooperation.

However, due to the nature of collaboration in the fields of law enforcement and anti-terrorism, many of the initiatives are not well known. The Indian public, for instance, is largely unaware that the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has set up an office in India. Or, that its Indian counterpart, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), has a similar presence in the U.S. Other American law enforcement agencies, such as the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) also have bureaus in India. Together, these bodies, along with the Department of State's Bureau of Diplomatic Security, are cooperating on a wide range of law enforcement issues that affect both countries—one of the most notable issues being terrorism. As U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell

COMMON GOALS

AREAS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN INDIA AND THE U.S.

- Cyber Crime
- Narcotics Smuggling
- Terrorist Cells
- Credit Card Fraud
- Money Laundering
- Trafficking in Persons
- Alien Smuggling
- Trade Fraud

AP PHOTO/CHAO SOI CHEONG

ANTI-TERRORISM ASSISTANCE

TRAINING FOR A SAFER FUTURE

THE DIPLOMATIC SECURITY SERVICE (DSS) AND INDIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO FIGHT TERRORISM.

As a leader in the fight against international terrorism, the Department of State's Bureau of Diplomatic Security has built a large international coalition to help in the fight against terrorism and prevent terrorist attacks. And India is becoming an increasingly important partner in this global fight. The Department of State's Anti-Terrorism Assistance Program (ATA) is a key component of anti-terrorism efforts. The ATA has been active in India since 1998, and has been on an accelerated path since 2001. The U.S. has spent over Rs 18 crore (\$4 million) on this effort, and joint training exercises have taken place in India and at DSS training centers in Washington, D.C., Louisiana and New Mexico. The coordinator for the ATA Program in India is the DSS representative at the U.S. Embassy, also known as the Regional Security Officer.

The ATA Program provides valuable skills, support equipment and technical advice to partner countries on a range of topics. Seminar and course topics include: response blast investigation, hostage negotiation, critical incident management,



Indian officials train in a hostage negotiation simulation with USG counterparts

anti-terrorism, counter-terrorism legislation, explosive incident counter measures, mass casualties, VIP protection, economic and computer crime investigation and a number of courses designed to combat weapons of mass destruction. U.S. and Indian participants share a wealth of information during the interactive courses and the experience gained builds the knowledge and capability of both sides. As a testimony to the program's success, the Indian Government is modifying and replicating many of the courses for use in its national academy structure and in other training efforts. By working together to strengthen anti-terrorism capabilities, the U.S. and India are protecting the lives of their citizens, both at home and abroad.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE DIPLOMATIC SECURITY

put it succinctly during his 2001 New Delhi visit, "The U.S. and India are united against terrorism, that includes terrorism that has been directed against India as well."

The most recent and public example of this collaborative approach occurred in September 2003 and involved India's most wanted terrorist-criminal, Dawood Ibrahim. Ibrahim, a Mafia don who the Indian Government believes masterminded the horrific Mumbai bomb blasts of March 1993 that took the lives of over 250 innocent people and left scores injured, had set up base in Dubai to control his criminal empire. Extradition attempts proved futile, but Indian intelligence agencies had gathered sufficient evidence indicating that Ibrahim was using a Pakistani passport and had clandestinely acquired property there. This information was passed on to U.S. intelligence agencies, along with evidence of Ibrahim's larger role in the international terrorist network as a key financier of certain terrorist groups.

The U.S. response was decisive. In late September 2003, U.S. Treasury Secretary John Snow flew to Islamabad for discussions with Pakistani authorities. The main item on the agenda was Dawood Ibrahim. Just one month after Snow's visit, the Treasury Department designated Ibrahim "a global terrorist" suspected of financing outlawed militant groups, including the Lashkar-i-Taiba, a terrorist outfit responsible for a myriad of attacks on Indian soil. As a result of this initiative, Ibrahim's assets in the U.S. were frozen.

For New Delhi, this was a major step forward in its 10-year campaign to bring Ibrahim to justice

and curtail his global operations. More importantly, it was a defining moment in the U.S.-India partnership in the global war on terrorism and fight against transnational crime. Even though the history of U.S.-India cooperation in law enforcement dates back to 1972, the year when the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) set up an office in New Delhi, joint efforts to tackle terrorist threats and activities were given a major impetus after the tragic events of 9/11. Prior to that, the focus of cooperation had been confined to fighting drug trafficking and narco-terrorism, a major area of concern, since India is sandwiched between the notorious heroin-producing regions of the Golden

REUTERS/STR



Former Deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani (right) with FBI Director Robert Mueller in the U.S.

Crescent to the west and the Golden Triangle to the east.

The terrorist strikes on New York's World Trade Center, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. and Pennsylvania in September 2001 enhanced the level of bilateral cooperation immediately and dramatically. India contributed valuable information and expertise that it had gained in its own fight against terrorism. The U.S. shared its financial resources and technological know-how. New Delhi and Washington quickly moved closer on a range of law enforcement issues.

The benefits of this new relationship became evident in the most dramatic of circumstances. In January 2002, terrorists

on motorcycles sprayed bullets at the American Center in Calcutta, killing four policemen who were guarding the building and injuring 14 others. The attack took place on the day FBI Director Robert Mueller was in India. Mueller's presence facilitated interaction that same evening between FBI personnel and Calcutta police. Investigations revealed that underworld gangster Aftab Ansari, based in the United Arab Emirates, had orchestrated the attack. Armed with evidence, the U.S. took up Ansari's arrest and deportation directly with the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Mueller himself went to the UAE and, shortly thereafter, the FBI arranged Ansari's deportation to India.

Even more dramatic was the terrorist strike on December 13, 2001, this time aimed at the heart of India's democracy, the Indian Parliament House. Within hours of the episode, then U.S. Ambassador to India, Robert Blackwill, informed India's Deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani that the FBI would provide full support to Indian agencies to locate and identify the terrorists associated with the crime. In close coordination with the Indian police and intelligence services, the FBI helped analyze the communications made by militants prior to the attack and several arrests followed.

U.S. and Indian law enforcement cooperation is not just confined to events taking place within India's borders. In September 2002, Abu Salem Ansari, wanted in India on several counts of extortion, kidnapping, organized crime and involvement in the Mumbai blasts of 1993, was arrested in Portugal. Once again, the FBI's assistance helped to track him down. And DHS/ICE worked closely with its

THE WONG CASE

A GLOBAL OPERATION BRINGS DOWN HEROIN CZAR

When U.S. and Chinese authorities arrested heroin czar Kin Cheung Wong and members of his network in China and the U.S. in May 2003, there was little indication that his footprints could be traced to India. However, on May 17, 2003, with the help of intelligence supplied by the DEA, the NCB raided a flat in Calcutta and arrested five Burmese nationals. In addition, a significant quantity of chemicals used in the production of amphetamines was seized. Wong's men were in the process of setting up an illicit production facility in India.

Wong's arrest, the culmination of 20 months of investigation, is considered the most ambitious joint effort by the law enforcement agencies of the U.S., China and India. Agents worked across several time zones and grappled with multiple languages before apprehending criminals who took aliases such as Four Eyes, Cuttlefish and Lazy Man.

SOURCE: TIMES OF INDIA



Burmese nationals arrested in Calcutta in May 2003

counterparts in CBI on Ansari's money laundering violations, which allegedly took place in the U.S. Another significant case involved Partho Roy Burman, a shoe baron from Calcutta who was kidnapped by Ansari's men in July 2001. His family paid close to Rs 45 lakh (\$100,000) in ransom to secure his release. The FBI provided technical assistance to Indian investigators and one of the startling conclusions of the investigation was that Ansari had channeled part of the ransom money to terror groups outside India, and some of this money even made its way to the perpetrators of the 9/11 attacks.

Human trafficking has also become an important area of U.S.-India cooperation in recent years. On a number of occasions, including in February 2003 in Mumbai, the then U.S. Ambassador to India, Robert Blackwill, drew attention to the unprecedented worldwide surge in human trafficking and to the fact that the United States had made it a priority to fight the menace. Today, the U.S. is working with nongovernmental organizations in India to find ways to address this problem and with Indian law enforcement agencies to develop antitrafficking workshops.

An estimated 50,000 women and children are trafficked into the U.S. each year—and this figure may be underestimated. A new U.S. law, the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act, allows prosecutors new tools to grant legal immigration status for victims of trafficking. At the same time it increases criminal prison terms from 10 years to 20 years. The "Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children" introduced by the Indian Government's Department of Women and Child Development provides a focused operational agenda and framework in which to continue program development at the state and central government level, working with government and NGOs.

According to a June 2003 report of the U.S. State Department, India has become the transit point and final destination for thousands of trafficked persons. "Internal trafficking of women, men and children for purposes of exploitation, domestic servitude, bonded labor, and indentured servitude is widespread," the report stated. It also highlighted the fact that India is a prime destination for sex tourists. Equally worrying, according to the report, was the growing importance of India as a transit

country for Bangladeshi women and children who are trafficked into India or transited through India en route to Pakistan and the Middle East for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor. The report also highlighted the issue of Nepalese women and girls being brought to India for commercial sexual exploitation.

The report, which was introduced by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, says that the Government of India is making significant efforts to tackle the menace despite limited resources. The report also makes note of the excellent work some Indian NGOs are doing in the realm of preventing trafficking and protecting its victims. The Karnataka Government's Stree Shakti plan is one of several programs cited as being particularly successful, and the report praises the state government's objective of empowering rural women below the poverty line to achieve financial independence through income-generating activities.

The State Department's Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) is working closely with a number of anti-trafficking NGOs throughout India to strengthen India's ability to prevent trafficking, investigate cases and arrest, prosecute and convict traffickers and other criminals associated with trafficking in humans. Indian NGOs and state governments are also working on ways to rehabilitate the victims of trafficking. In states such as Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu

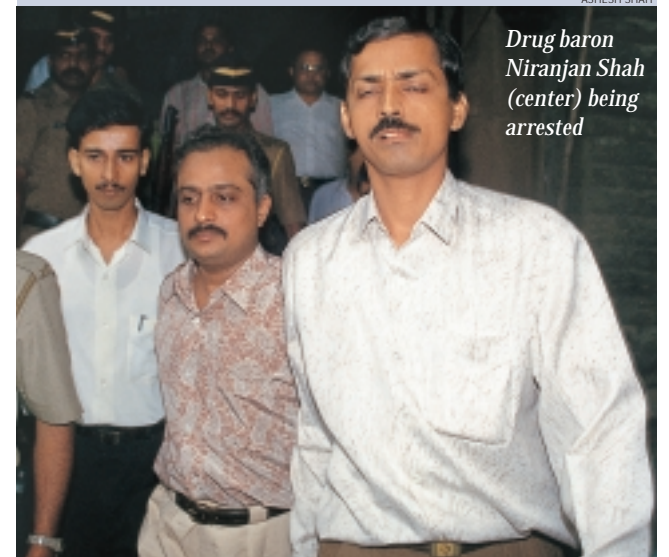
ANTI-DRUG ENFORCEMENT

ON THE TRAFFICKERS' TRAIL

COUNTER-NARCOTICS EFFORTS IN INDIA GET A BOOST WITH DEA ASSISTANCE.

Cooperation between the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Indian law enforcement agencies is at an all time high. Success on the ground is clearly visible, a prime example being the arrest of drug baron Niranjana Shah in Mumbai in April 2003 for the shipment of 500 kilograms of hashish to the U.S. The Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, with the cooperation of DEA and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), is funding six major drug-related law enforcement

ASHESH SHAH



Drug baron Niranjana Shah (center) being arrested

projects. These projects take a closer look at narcotics law enforcement, intelligence infrastructure enhancement, drug-testing laboratory training, technical equipment and capability upgrades.

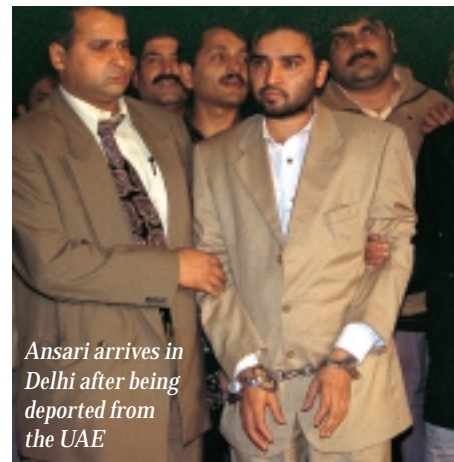
All of the projects are aimed at improving enforcement capabilities of Indian agencies like the Narcotics Control Bureau and the Central Narcotics Bureau. Under these projects, Indian agencies will receive vehicles, computers, radios, audiovisual transmission devices, cameras, drug-test kits, chemical laboratory equipment, global positioning systems (GPS) and night-vision equipment. India's northeastern states, bordering four countries, provide enormous opportunities for narcotics smuggling. To counter this, India will get lightweight scanners and bulletproof jackets, among other items. This assistance is symbolic of the new ties of cooperation that the DEA has forged with its Indian counterparts.

and Gujarat one such measure is to provide economic assistance to poor and vulnerable populations, which are specifically targeted by traffickers. Improving the living standards and prospects of women and children afflicted by poverty reduces their chances of falling victim to trafficking. There is also monitoring of transit locations, including border posts, bus and train stations and airports, aimed at rescuing victims from the traffickers who escort them. Efforts are also being made to make the laws against traffickers, and those who aid and abet them, more stringent.

The arrest of Lakireddy Bali Reddy is one example of U.S.-India cooperation in the fight against human trafficking. The San Francisco restaurateur ran a lucrative human trafficking racket for years. Reddy provided fake documents to obtain visas and lured poor, young girls from Indian villages to the U.S. promising them a bright future. Once in the U.S. Reddy's men enslaved these girls as sex slaves and commercially exploited them. In early 2001, the FBI, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) and India's CBI began joint investigations into the racket. Key witnesses were sent to the U.S. from India and by March 2001, two of the accused were convicted and Reddy himself pled guilty in June the same year.

Other cases are under investigation, arrests are taking place and efforts continue to catch people involved in human trafficking and child pornography. However, the menace continues and the threat to a large section of human society remains. As Secretary of State Powell observed grimly, "It is incomprehensible that trafficking in persons should be taking place in the 21st century. But it is true, very true."

In the larger context, different agencies like the DEA, FBI, DSS, DHS/ICE and INL provide the cutting edge to U.S.-India law enforcement cooperation. Policy-making, however, is done at the level of the Counterterrorism Joint Working Group (CTJWG) established in January 2000. The U.S. and India are also working on a mutual legal assistance treaty to give the CTJWG more impetus in its efforts to tackle terrorism and criminal activities. Information and intelligence are crucial weapons in the war against terror, as exemplified by the broad-based exchange of information between India and the U.S. and the assessment of international and regional terror incidents, terrorist groups and their strategies. In order to strengthen intelligence and investigative cooperation, the U.S., through the Department of State's Bureau of Diplomatic Security's ATA Program, regularly sponsors training programs designed to enhance the capabilities of Indian law enforcement officials. Due to its expertise in information and telecommunications technology, the U.S. was instrumental in the creation of a cyber-security forum designed to enhance information security and address the challenges posed by cyber-terrorism. The CTJWG has also initiated a dialogue on homeland and internal security, covering such topics as terror-financing networks, forensic sciences, transportation security and border control, thereby enhancing the ability of authorities to track the activities of suspected terrorists. In support of this dialogue, DHS/ICE, DHS/CBP and Indian customs will sign a customs mutual assistance treaty,



Ansari arrives in Delhi after being deported from the UAE

SIPRA DAS / INDIA TODAY

FBI - CBI COOPERATION

THE POWER OF TWO

AFTER 9/11, U.S.-INDIA COOPERATION IN COMBATING TERRORISM ACQUIRES A NEW DIMENSION. ANSARI'S EXTRADITION IS A HIGH POINT OF THE SUCCESS STORY.

While the FBI has been closely working with its Indian counterparts in investigating acts of terrorism, international crimes, money laundering and customs violation for years, in the post-9/11 world this bilateral cooperation has acquired a new dimension. This clearly led to one of the biggest success stories of U.S.-India collaboration, the extradition of underworld gangster Aftab Ansari from the UAE to India in February 2002. Ansari was the man who, sitting in Dubai, masterminded the attack on the American Center in Calcutta.

Away from the headlines, the FBI is working closely with the CBI in tracking cyber crime. FBI specialists in the investigation and interdiction of e-crimes have been leading regular workshops for CBI officers. This cooperation has helped on



FBI agents training Indian police officers

YASBANT NEGI / INDIA TODAY

critical occasions. On Christmas Eve 1999, when Indian Airlines flight IC 814 was hijacked, the FBI joined the investigations because Jeanne Marie Moore, one of the passengers on board, was an American citizen. The FBI office in India has not only been supporting the Indian probe into the hijacking and its perpetrators, but has also conducted an independent investigation of its own. Teamwork is a continuous process and both countries are aware of the fact that it is by cooperation alone that the world can be made a safer place.

formalizing their cooperation on a range of customs and border issues.

While terror and human trafficking are high on the agenda for both the U.S. and India, the solid foundation laid by DEA's presence on Indian soil since 1972 underscores the joint efforts to combat drug trafficking as well. The DEA's relationship with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), its counterpart in India, has strengthened over the years. Reflecting the greater cooperation between the two organizations, the State Department's Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs has funded commodities for the Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN), which regulates illicit opium growth and processing and precursor chemical import/export, and the Indian Customs' counter-narcotics programs over the past three years. This includes donating 100 vehicles, communication equipment and computers pursuant to Letters of Agreement signed with the Ministry of Finance over the past four years. A Letter of Agreement amendment signed in September 2003 provides Rs 9.82 crore (\$2.18 million) for projects to strengthen the infrastructures of NCB, CBN and Indian Customs. The projects include improving the intelligence-gathering capacity for NCB, training for all three agencies, strengthening the Government of India's (GOI) drug laboratory testing facilities, the exchange of ideas and solutions on customs-specific issues and providing commodities to assist GOI law enforcement agencies in investigating, prosecuting and convicting traffickers in illicit drugs and precursor chemicals.

From terror attacks to human trafficking, narcotics peddling to cyber forensics, the range of cooperation between the U.S. and Indian law enforcement agencies continues to increase. More than ever before, both countries realize the importance of working closely to meet the new and serious challenges posed by terrorists and criminals who operate across international frontiers.