

Pakistan Focused. Independent Questions. Independent Answers.



Focusing Pakistan on the issues of:

- Democratic Governance
- Security and Terrorism
- Environmental Issues

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54,969 Indians killed by Indian militants

Indians killing Indians: Over the 14-year period from 1994 to 2008 (first 11 months), a total of 54,969 Indians have lost their lives because of terrorist-related violence undertaken by indigenous Indian militant groups. Compare that, for instance, that the Indian Army had lost 3,128 soldiers in the Sino-Indian War of 1962 and 3,263 soldiers in the Indo-Pakistan War of 1965 (according to an official Government of India Statement giving numbers of Killed-in-Action). Over the post-March 2003 period, Iraq has indeed been getting all the headlines on terrorist-related fatalities while terrorist-related fatalities in India have often been higher.

Mammoth Security Apparatus & Failure: The Intelligence Bureau (IB), India's internal intelligence agency at state as well as the national level, has been failing to protect Indians from Indians. Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), India's external intelligence agency, formed 3 years after the Indo-Pakistan War of 1965, has also failed to protect Indian lives from militant non-state actors outside of India and insurgents from within. At one level, IB's massive failure is political in nature whereby Class I (gazette) IB officers have long complained of heavy-handed political interference to drag or halt investigations into minority-related militant entities for fear of losing electoral support. At another level, IB becomes a tool in the hands of the ruling party and thus ends up spending considerable time and effort to target the opposition. At yet another level, India's colossal intelligence failure is strategic in nature resulting from an overwhelming focus on militant entities based in Pakistan.

In 1985, the Indian Parliament created the National Security Guards (NSG) specifically for counter-terrorism.

India has little or no military option. The country suffers from \$100 billion trade deficit and this year the Bombay Stock Exchange has come down from 21,000 points to around 8,000; a hefty loss of 60 percent.

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NSG, whose members are known as Black Cats because of their black coveralls,

operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs but Black Cats have widely been used for VIP security.

Heat of the Election: India must hold general elections to the

15th Lok Sabha by May 2009 and BJP's post-attack clash with the Indian National Congress has now made everything—including forensic toxicology, accounting and psychology—almost totally subservient to raw politics. Indian politicians are now in competition with each other to extract political mileage from this awful human tragedy. And, this competition is bound to thoroughly pollute the results of all post-attack investigations.

India Shining? India has little or no military option. The country suffers from \$100 billion trade deficit and this year the Bombay Stock Exchange has come down from 21,000 points to around 8,000; a hefty loss of 60 percent. India's balance of payments is heavily dependent on foreign investment while exports are feeling the impact of the global slowdown. My prediction is that sooner rather than latter India would be forced to seek IMF's Short-Term Liquidity Facility (STLF).

Pakistan-bashing Serves All (but): Post-Mumbai India is in a political-economic mess the like of which India has never seen before. BJP is bent upon forcing an early election and the Indian National Congress is bent upon proving to the electorate that it is not soft on terrorism. The easiest and the most convenient target is Pakistan *but* accelerating hostilities with Pakistan would mean drying up the foreign investment pipeline and without the annual \$40 billion foreign injection India will be in deeper trouble than it already is.