

Fact Sheet on U.S.-India Counterterrorism Cooperation

Since the first bilateral discussions on counterterrorism in 2000, counterterrorism cooperation has become a pillar of the U.S.-India relationship. In the aftermath of the Mumbai terrorist attacks, the U.S. and India resolved to deepen collaborative efforts, and intensify exchanges, culminating in the signing of the Counterterrorism Cooperation Initiative (CCI) in July 2010. This landmark agreement made clear the determination of our two governments to combine efforts to combat terrorism and to work closely to ensure the security of our citizens.

Both before and after the 2008 attacks in Mumbai, the United States has regularly provided India with threat information. We take very seriously our responsibility as a partner to share information that bears on Indian security. It is our government's solemn responsibility to notify other nations of possible terrorist activity on their soil, and it is our policy and practice to share terrorism-related information promptly with foreign partners.

Programs to exchange law enforcement best practices, hold reciprocal visits of senior-level officials to discuss lessons learned, conduct joint military training exercises, and joining of forces in international fora on key counterterrorism issues, demonstrate the closeness of this cooperation. Since Mumbai, the FBI has hosted a series of visits by senior Indian forensics experts to its laboratories in Quantico and shared best-practices with senior Indian law enforcement officials at FBI facilities. Senior law enforcement officials from major U.S. municipal law enforcement agencies have visited India to share best practices on policing in mega-cities, while senior Indian rail security officials visited various American rail systems to discuss best practices in mass transit and railroad security. The State Department's Anti-Terrorism Assistance training division provided 1,630 Indian law enforcement officials 82 CT-related courses, and plans 24 more such courses by 2012. The Department of Defense hosted visiting Indian officers at a variety of its facilities, while increasing its outreach on joint exercises, interoperability, and best-practices sharing in the fields of maritime, port security, and military counterterrorism issues. In addition, the U.S. Treasury Department is actively engaged and cooperating with Indian authorities responsible for implementing India's FATF anti-money laundering/terrorist financing (AML/CFT) Action Plan.

The most recent expansion of cooperation under the CCI is the agreement of the Department of Homeland Security and the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs to conduct wide-ranging dialogue on domestic security issues under the chairmanship of DHS Secretary Napolitano and Indian Minister of Home Affairs Chidambaram.