

### Abstract

There is a great concern that terrorists could obtain nuclear or radiological weapons and detonate them in a large city. In today's world, a threat to one is a threat to all. And the erosion of State capacity anywhere in the world weakens the protection of every State against transnational threats such as terrorism and organized crime. Every State requires international cooperation to make it secure. Former United Nations (UN) Secretary General Mr. Kofi Annan created the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change to generate new ideas about the kinds of policies and institutions required for the UN to be effective in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This panel identified nuclear, radiological, chemical, biological weapons and terrorism could be two global security threats in the future. Hence the author analyses about nuclear security and terrorism, with special reference to South Asia. The author has taken a qualitative approach, including certain participants from UN too. Author argues that terrorism has become one of the major security challenges irrespective of regions and what could be the outcome if these terrorists have the access to destructive nuclear weapons capability? The study then focuses on the specific situation in Pakistan and India, examining their respective political conditions, the terrorist threats faced by them, and their vulnerabilities to nuclear terrorism. It concludes with a series of recommendations on how Pakistan and India can tackle these threats individually as well as through bilateral cooperation based on mutual interests. The role of the United Nations in strengthening this cooperation and that of the global community in providing a framework for multilateral cooperation are also highlighted.

**Key Words:** Security challenges, nuclear terrorism, transnational threats, terrorism.