

Anti-Terror Laws in India: A Bibliometric and Systematic Literature Review

Preetinder Pal Sodhi^{1*}

^{1*}University of Jammu. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Road, Tawi, Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir 180006.
Email: preetisodhi2@gmail.com

Abstract: This study analyzes the evolution of anti-terror legislation in India through a combined bibliometric and systematic literature review. Over the past two decades, the counter-terror legal regime in India, primarily anchored in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), has undergone significant transformations, which have given rise to a scholarly debate about the implications for national security, civil liberties, and human rights. This research aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the academic work related to anti-terror legislation in India by mapping the intellectual structure, methodological approaches, and thematic developments within this field. An original dataset that includes 104 documents indexed in Scopus undergoes bibliometric analysis using VOSviewer and Biblioshiny, along with a systematic literature review that aims to synthesize both doctrinal and empirical insights. The bibliometric analysis illustrated that the study of laws concerning counterterrorism has been developing continuously during the last ten years, with more and more publications being made in legal and security studies. The systematic review reveals that even though counter-terror measures in India have strengthened the State's control, they frequently bring up the same issues of procedural rights, civil liberties, and democratic supervision. Future research should examine how policy formulation is influenced by political, institutional, and social forces, particularly the role of religion and ideological narratives in shaping legislative outcomes.

Keywords: Anti-terror laws, UAPA, India, Bibliometric analysis, Systematic review, Human rights.

1. Introduction

India's anti-terrorism legal framework is arguably among the most complicated and extensively changing legal structures for counterterrorism law worldwide. The change from the all-encompassing Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) of 1967 to the present counterterrorism system illustrates the challenge for a country to not only meet the requirements of national security but also to ensure the protection of fundamental human rights at all times (Mahawar, 2020). The very first point of this change was the UAPA in 1967, which mainly focused on separatist movements and anti-national activities. Nevertheless, as terrorism has become a much more complex global issue, the constraints of the UAPA have gradually been recognized (Chakraborty & Deshpande, 2021). The introduction of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA) in 1987 moved away from the regular criminal law, which was different from it, by allowing the authorities to have such powers that it was cause for great concern about the possible violation of human rights (Mahmood, 2021).

POTA 2002 was the next step in legislation after 9/11 and the subsequent terrorist attacks in India. The act got most of its provisions from already existing acts in India (Daruwala & Chaltine, 2007). Like TADA, POTA kept the most controversial part of the act about the police confession 'evidence,' which is a considerable change in the evidential standards of Indian criminal law. POTA was repealed in 2004 because of documented abuse and significant public opposition. The amended Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) incorporated many articles of POTA. The changes served to keep controversial pieces of legislation under the guise of legality, while appearing to address human rights concerns. The anti-terrorism legislation has now evolved through amendments in 2008, 2012, and 2019 (Raza, 2021). Most recently, the amendments made in 2019 to the UAPA are exceedingly controversial. The amendments grant the Central Government the unusual discretion to list an individual as a terrorist, without any judicial oversight. The clause was negatively received by scholars, human rights organizations, and eight UN Special Rapporteurs, who emphasized that the clause was inconsistent with international human rights standards. The debate around the UAPA 2019 amendments represented an enormous contentiousness (Mathur, 2021).

1.1 Rising Importance: Legal and Policy Debates on National Security vs. Human Rights

The tension surrounding national integrity and human rights has increasingly been discussed in recent times owing to the terrorist incidents happening in India. The bomb blasts in Mumbai on March 12, 1993, at



various places in the city, leading to 257 deaths and about 1400 casualties, were regarded as the first major urban terrorist incident in India (Kamble, 2025). These synchronic bomb explosions clearly showed the unsafe nature of the Indian cities in relation to terrorist incidents. They were the cause of more stringent antiterrorist laws in the country (Rao, 2007). The recent Pahalgam incident of April 22, 2025, which resulted in the death of 26 innocent people, has also started another round of discussions about the existence of adequate legal measures against terrorism (Press Information Bureau, 2025). The event was caused by "The Resistance Front" (T.R.F.), a group of Lashkar-e-Taiba, which started "Operation Sindoor." The purpose of this operation was to target terrorist training camps. This event indicates the next chapter in the way the terrorists use their methods. Thus, it causes great concern about the issue of cross-border terrorism and multiple problems related to it, which in turn endanger the present security situation (*Operation Sindoor*, 2025).

The accusations about possible conflicts between constitutional rights and the right to legal redress have hardly been acknowledged. In fact, legal scholars have demonstrated that these laws should be understood as laws for preventive detention rather than for convicting the accused. Conviction rates remain surprisingly low. As per the recent report by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) titled "Crime in India 2023," the country has witnessed a substantial decrease in the number of cases related to extremist, insurgent, and terrorist violence. The number of such incidents has been significantly reduced, from 446 in 2022 to 163 in 2023, representing a total drop of 63%. In particular, the number of cases related to jihadi activities has decreased by 87%, from 126 to 15 (NCRB, 2024). The trend suggests that terror-related activities have declined considerably, which is in line with the continuous focus on national security and counterterrorism measures.

Nevertheless, this circumstance prompts essential questions about the effectiveness of these actions and the socio-political goals of their proportionality as compared to the violation of individual rights. The present security environment, especially in relation to terrorism, has gone beyond simple and clear distinctions. The Supreme Court's efforts to create a system for assessing the effectiveness of rights-restricting measures are apparently full of contradictions and confusion. Academics in the legal field have noted that these actions very often do not have the necessary administrative or judicial safeguards, which makes it easier for enforcement to be conducted in a manner that is arbitrary or biased and that enforcement is referred to as if it were inevitable (Singh, 2021).

The study compiled on anti-terrorism laws in India lacks academic unity and has methodological issues. While numerous local studies exploring specific facets of counterterrorism legislation have emerged, a complete bibliometric integration of the research, coupled with systematic literature reviews to recognize the trends, gaps, and patterns of the evolution, is still missing. The most recent work in the field still seems to ignore some of the most critical issues. There is the problem of definitional ambiguity with key terms such as 'terrorism' and 'effectiveness', which makes the operationalization and understanding of the issues and the interests of the various stakeholders impossible. In the absence of clearly defined terms for legal, policy, and judicial contexts, interpretive challenges are likely to persist. Questions regarding the methodologies for assessing the effectiveness of counterterrorism measures and their broader implications remain unresolved, particularly concerning psychological effects and human rights implications. Moreover, the operational scientific definitions of the essential counterterrorism concepts "radicalization" and "terrorism" continue to be a matter of debate among terrorism researchers.

The current literature in this field is inadequately integrated, necessitating a bibliometric and systematic review mapping exercise, the identification of research clusters and gaps, and the tracking of trends to enable a quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the publication corpus, citation networks, and thematic evolution. The integrated approach is used in other areas of law and policy, but it is missing in research on anti-terrorism law. "Anti-Terror Laws in India: A Bibliometric and Systematic Literature Review" undertakes research from the perspective of bibliometrics and systematic literature review, seeking to provide this duality of analysis. The bibliometric analysis is geared to address the "what", "who", and "where" of the literature, which should provide a high-level quantitative and visual 'macro-map,' serving to offer a 'macro' understanding of the literature's structure and circulation as well as the literature as a whole. This map assists in the identification of publication trends, citation patterns of leading authors/sources, and the key thematic clusters of the literature. This is accomplished through the use of mapping tools such as VOSviewer and Biblioshiny.

In contrast, the SLR methodology provides the 'micro-analysis' or 'how' and 'why,' concentrating exclusively on a carefully chosen, quality subset of the literature to conduct a qualitative, in-depth, Systematic Synthesis. The study extends beyond merely identifying the volumes, impacts, and key research areas through bibliometric analysis. It also systematically assesses the methodological quality and extracts specific findings and gaps, thereby facilitating a comprehensive evidence-based conclusion regarding the complex issue of anti-terror law jurisprudence in India.

2. Research Methodology

2.1 Research Questions or Objectives

In this research, the visualization of similarities (VOS) mapping technique provided by the VOS viewer software is utilized for visualization in an integrated manner with the bibliometric analysis. Hence, the specific research questions that guide this study are:

"RQ1: What are the publication trends, growth patterns, and key characteristics of research on anti-terror laws and legislation in India?"

"RQ2: Which journals, sources, and individual papers have the highest local and global citation impact in the study of anti-terror laws/legislation in India?"

"RQ3: Which countries, institutions (affiliations), and authors are the most prolific and influential in the research on anti-terror laws/legislation in India?"

"RQ5: What are the predominant research themes, concepts, and subject areas explored in the literature on anti-terror laws/legislation in India, and how have these areas evolved?"

"RQ6: What are the predominant research and methodological approaches (e.g., doctrinal, empirical, comparative, legal analysis, socio-legal) used in the study of anti-terror laws/legislation in India?"

2.2 Research Methodology

The purpose of this section is to explain the comprehensive method carried out to screen and select the relevant literature about India's anti-terror laws. This method was designed to provide the best quality and ensure that the final dataset is focused and appropriate for bibliometric and Systematic Literature Review (SLR) analysis.

Step 1: Initial Database Search and Keyword Formulation

The initial literature search was conducted on the Scopus database.

Rationale for Choosing Scopus Database: Scopus is a highly regarded interdisciplinary abstract and citation database for its extensive coverage of peer-reviewed literature in journals, books, and conference proceedings within the fields of science, technology, medicine, social sciences, arts, and humanities (Schotten et al., 2017; Pranckutė, 2021). Choosing Scopus ensures:

- **Broad Coverage:** Comprehensively covering various scholarly discourses on the social and legal implications of anti-terror regulation (Singh, 2021).
- **Quality Control:** Indexing functions almost entirely on peer-reviewed sources, thus establishing the sufficiency of the quality of the bibliometric and SLR analysis.
- **Reliable Data:** A continual and comprehensive supply of metadata is essential as it enables an accurate bibliometric investigation (Kumpulainen & Seppänen, 2022).

Search Strategy: A specific search was constructed using the relevant terms involved in the research involving anti-terror legislation in an Indian context. The search words were used in the TITLE- ABS-KEY sections - Title, Abstract, and Keywords. Thus, ensuring the search returned the maximum relevant rendering of the study.

Search Query: (TITLE-ABS-KEY ("anti-terror*" OR "anti terror*" OR "counter-terror*" OR "counter terror*" OR "terrorism ") AND TITLE-ABS-KEY ("law" OR "legislat*") AND TITLE-ABS-KEY ("India" OR "Indian"))

Initial Result: The comprehensive search in the first instance produced *N=229 documents*.

Step 2: Data Filtering and Refinement

After the initial search, additional filters were systematically applied to refine the dataset to the included literature that aligned with the objective of the study and the criteria for quality.

a) Document Type (Article)

Filter Applied: (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE, "ar"))

Rationale: The filter has been implemented to restrict the sample to "articles" (i.e., peer-reviewed journal articles), which assures original and quality rigorous peer-reviewed research, which is necessary for a comprehensive bibliometric analysis as well as a systematic literature review with rigor and detail. This was done

to eliminate less formal and less substantive document types such as Book Chapters, Conference Papers, Editorials, and Notes.

b) Publication Stage (Final)

Filter Applied: (LIMIT-TO (PUBSTAGE, "final"))

Rationale: The "final" publication stage signifies that the articles are wholly published and citable. The "final" publication stage does not include "Articles in Press" or preprints, as those are often revised or withdrawn in the publication process. The research findings used in the analysis are stable and final.

c) Language (English)

Filter Applied: (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE, "English"))

Rationale: The decision to focus only on English stems from practical issues of whether the research team had the comprehension, assessment of literature, and summarizing capabilities. This approach maximizes attention to detail and accuracy when reviewing and critiquing while mitigating interpretative issues due to translation.

Final Sample and Complete Query

After applying all the aforesaid screening and selection criteria, the dataset was reduced.

(TITLE-ABS-KEY ("anti-terror*" OR "anti terror*" OR "counter-terror*" OR "counter terror*" OR "terrorism ") AND TITLE-ABS-KEY ("law" OR "legislat*") AND TITLE-ABS-KEY ("India" OR "Indian")) AND (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE , "ar")) AND (LIMIT-TO (PUBSTAGE , "final")) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE , "English"))

2.3 Final Sample Size:

The application of the filters resulted in a final sample of N=104 articles. This sample of articles will serve as the foundation for the bibliometric analysis and for the Systematic Literature Review about anti-terror laws in India.

Table 1: Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Criterion	Inclusion	Exclusion
Document Type	Articles	Reviews, conference papers, book chapters, editorials, notes
Language	English-language publications	Non-English languages
Publication Stage	Final (fully peer-reviewed and published)	In-press, early access, preprints

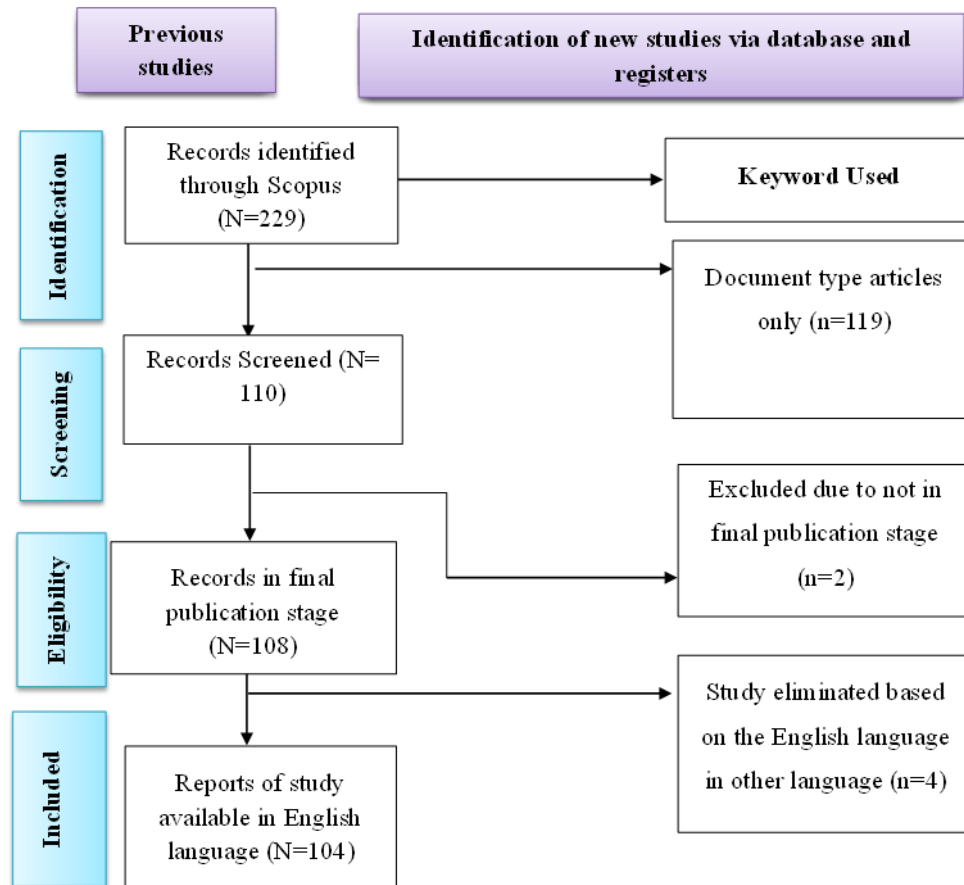


Figure 1: Flowchart of Screening

Source: Author's Own Elaboration

The study draws on two complementary tools for analysis. The first entails constructing bibliometric maps in VOSviewer 1.6.20 and Biblioshiny 4.2, wherein the tools' bibliometric routines for keyword co-occurrence, co-citation analysis, and detection of co-authorship patterns were used (Ninova et. al., 2024). This first part quantitatively maps the knowledge in the field by identifying clusters of related terms and documents, the most influential papers and authors, and the primary collaborative networks that underpin the published works. In the second part, a systematic review is conducted on the filtered corpus of 104 articles, wherein thematic coding is used to derive deep qualitative insights related to specific behavioral biases that influence decisions in asset allocation and the strategies that have been proposed to mitigate those biases. This integrated the visual networks output of VOSviewer & Biblioshiny with the narrative synthesis from the coded documents to link objective, data-driven mappings and qualitative deep dives on the phenomena of bias and the effect of the proposed solutions (Dodge, et. al., 2011).

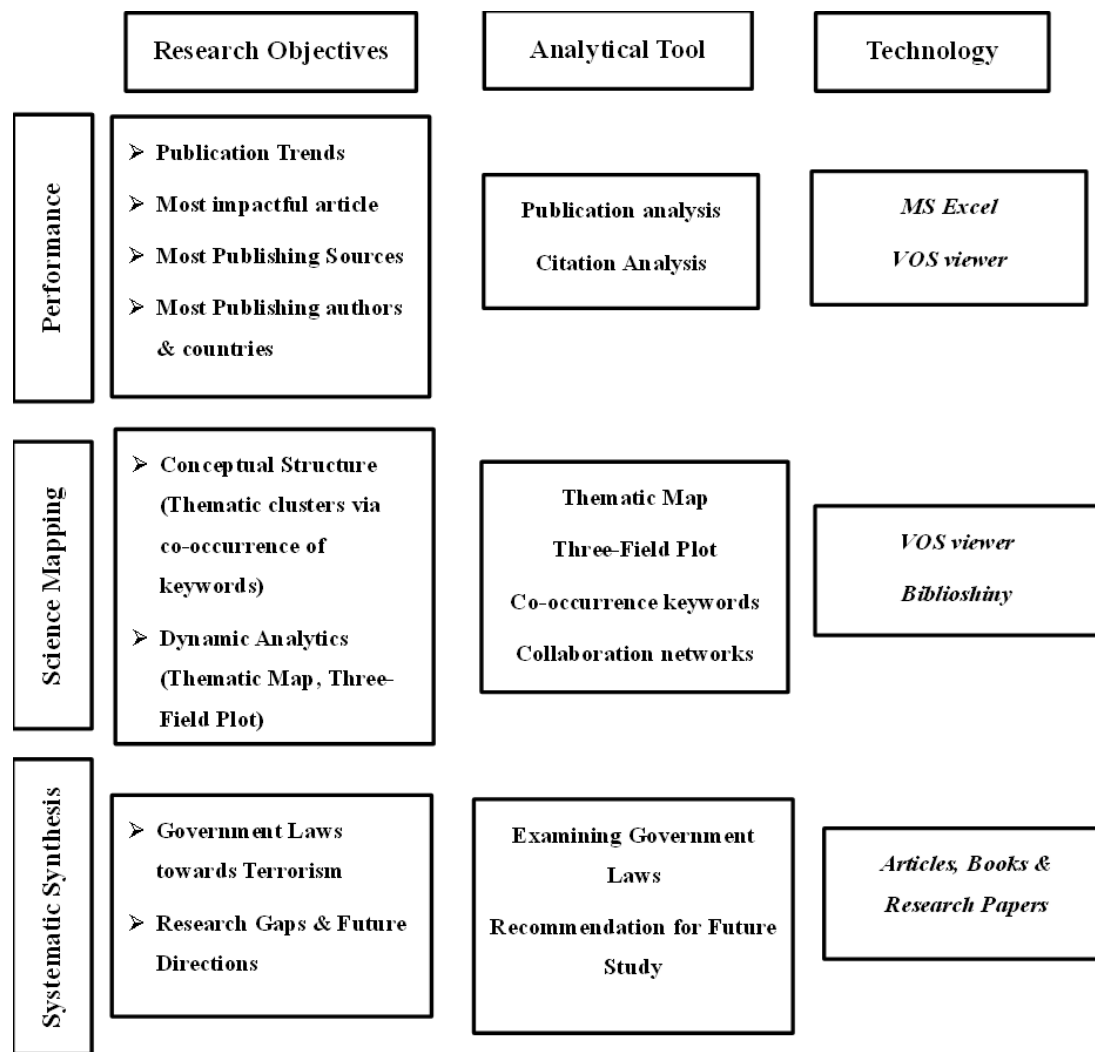


Figure 2: Overview of Methods

Source: Author's Elaboration

For better analytical quality, importantly, preprocessing of Scopus metadata was thoroughly carried out to maximize reduction of randomness and maximize consistency: removal of duplicate records, standardizing author names and affiliations, correcting missing or malformed fields when possible, normalizing keywords and document types. The initial search yielded 229 records, and the final corpus consisted of *104 English-language peer-reviewed journal articles* after a series of filters were applied (document type, language, publication stage). All metadata were exported from Scopus in CSV format and cleaned using Microsoft Excel (Microsoft 365). After treating the data, bibliometric analyses and science-mapping were carried out using VOSviewer v1.6.20 and Biblioshiny (Bibliometrix R package) to develop co-authorship, co-citation, bibliographic coupling, and co-word networks and visualizations. The systematic literature review was a PRISMA procedure-assisted one, with full-text coding of each study done manually to extract study aims, study designs, outcome measures, and evidence on effectiveness, engagement, retention, and equity.

3. Results

This section provides a concise overview of the research's results. The primary discoveries are discussed, and recommendations for future investigation are provided. Table 2 displays a succinct summary of the outcomes.

Table 2: Summary of Data

Outcomes	Total Number
final sample (papers)	104
Authors	159

Sources	91
Keywords	624
Citations	595
Countries	26
Affiliations	103

Source: Author's Elaboration

3.1 Publication Trends

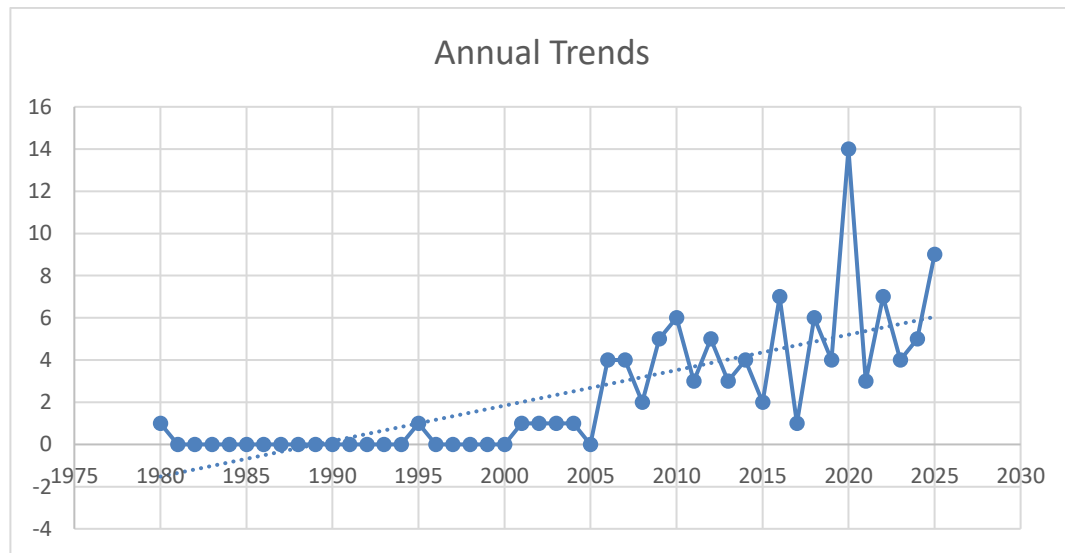


Figure 3: Publication Trends

Source: Self-prepared by Author

Figure 3 shows annual publication trends. Overall, the yearly series depicts a lengthy low baseline (1980–1994), sporadic returns during the mid-1990s and early 2000s, and an increased sustained activity from the mid-2000s with peaks during 2006–07, 2009–10, 2016, 2020, and 2025. The early years of quiet activity are likely due to limited indexed scholarship pertaining to counter-terror legislation. The slight increases in scholarship around 1995 and 2001–04 correlate with the litigation and policy debates of the TADA-era, the 2001 Parliament attack, and policymaking around POTA. The significant increases post-2005 coincide with the scholarship surge on POTA repeal and shifts in the UAPA. The 2008 Mumbai attacks were a substantial contributor to the rise of critiques on the legality and human rights for the 2009–10 publications. The 2011–15 fluctuations are a reflection of the operational/security literature, which was a shift from the peaks. The sharp increase in 2016 corresponds to high-profile incidents (e.g., the Uri attack) and the renewed focus on legislation, while the 2017 decline is likely due to the clustering of publications within a cycle.

The 2020 spike can be attributed to the 2019 Pulwama Attack, followed by the August 2019 UAPA amendment expanding counterterrorism laws, which drew widespread doctrinal, socio-legal, and empirical attention, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, which explains part of the 2021 trough due to disrupted workflows. The 2022 and 2025 increases in attention also relate to the continued 'in-the-sands' litigation and policy debate, as well as the 'indexing' lag of late publications in the dataset. The declines in focus on the dataset are due to the normal "settling" post-peak, publication lags, dataset coverage constraints (Scopus indexing, English language), and a scholarly shift in the focus of attention away from the law and toward operational or security studies.

3.2 Most Cited Documents

To highlight the top 10 most cited documents among the 104 papers analyzed, the study set the minimum number of citations in VOSviewer to 15, as shown in Table 3:

Table 3: Highly Cited Documents

Authors	Title	Year	Source title	Cited
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				by
Patra, P.; Prakash, J.; Patra, B.; Khanna, P.	Intimate partner violence: Wounds are deeper	2018	Indian Journal of Psychiatry	66
Verma, S.K.	Energy geopolitics and the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline	2007	Energy Policy	45
Berda, Y.	Managing "dangerous populations": How colonial emergency laws shape citizenship	2020	Security Dialogue	30
Sauer, T.	A second nuclear revolution: From nuclear primacy to post-existential deterrence	2009	Journal of Strategic Studies	24
Piazza, J.A.	Terrorism and party systems in the states of India	2010	Security Studies	23
Mehmood, W.; Din, S.; Aman-Ullah, A.; Khan, A.B.; Fareed, M.	Institutional quality and economic growth: Evidence from South-Asian countries	2023	Journal of Public Affairs	22
Passas, N.	Demystifying hawala: A look into its social organization and mechanics ¹	2006	Journal of Scandinavian Studies in Criminology and Crime Prevention	21
Vicziany, M.	State responses to Islamic terrorism in western China and their impact on South Asia	2003	Contemporary South Asia	20
Schmidt, D.R.; Trenta, L.	Changes in the law of self-defence? Drones, imminence, and international norm dynamics	2018	Journal on the Use of Force and International Law	16
Naujoks, D.	The securitization of dual citizenship. National security concerns and the making of the overseas citizenship of India	2015	Diaspora Studies	15

Table 3 made by using VOSviewer's ≥ 15 -citation cutoff, the top ten works — Patra et al. (2018) *Intimate partner violence: Wounds are deeper* (66); Verma (2007) *Energy geopolitics and Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline* (45); Berda (2020) *Managing 'dangerous populations'* (30); Sauer (2009) *A second nuclear revolution* (24); Piazza (2010) *Terrorism and party systems in the states of India* (23); Mehmood et al. (2023) *Institutional quality and economic growth* (22); Passas (2006) *Demystifying hawala* (21); Vicziany (2003) *State responses to Islamic terrorism in western China* (20); Schmidt & Trenta (2018) *Changes in the law of self-defence?* (16), and Naujoks (2015), *The securitization of dual citizenship* (15) — reveal an explicitly interdisciplinary foundation for anti-terror law scholarship in India. High citations for Patra and Verma show that violence studies and geopolitical risk frame legal debates; Passas and Naujoks demonstrate sustained concern with illicit finance and citizenship securitization as legal security issues; Berda and Vicziany bring colonial and regional comparative perspectives that shape statutory interpretation; Sauer, Piazza and Schmidt & Trenta connect strategic doctrine, political systems, and international-law norms to domestic legislation. Together, these documents indicate that doctrinal critique of statutes like UAPA is heavily informed by empirical, political, financial and international-law literatures, arguing for integrated mixed-method research linking legal texts to political economy, migration, and security practices.

3.3 Most Effective Authors

For the Author Citation Analysis in VOSviewer, the parameters were set as follows: Citation was the Type of Analysis, and Author was the Unit of Analysis. A minimum threshold of one document per Author and a minimum of 24 citations was required to identify the top 10 highly cited authors, as shown in Table 4:

Table 4: Highly Cited Authors

Author	Documents	Citations	University	H-index (Scopus)
khanna, puneet	1	66	National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bengaluru, India	2
patra, b.	1	66	Katihar Medical College, Bidar, India	1
patra, priyadarshee	1	66	Command Hospital, Kolkata, India	1
prakash, j.	1	66	Armed Forces Medical College, Pune, India	8
verma, shiv kumar	1	45	School of International Studies, New Delhi, India	1
berda, yael	1	30	Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel	3
singh, ujjwal kumar	4	29	University of Delhi, New Delhi, India	6
aman-ullah, attia	2	25	College of Business, Universiti Utara Malaysia, Sintok, Malaysia	13
mehmood, waqas	2	25	University of Sharjah, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates	15
sauer, tom	1	24	Universiteit Antwerpen, Antwerpen, Belgium	11

The top cited authors (as see in table 4) include Khanna, Puneet; Patra, B.; Patra, Priyadarshee; and Prakash, J. (each with 66 citations); Verma, Shiv Kumar (45); Berda, Yael (30); Singh, Ujjwal Kumar (29); Aman-Ullah, Attia (25); Mehmood, Waqas (25); and Sauer, Tom (24). The present study notes that four authors share the highest single-paper citation count (66), indicating a small number of highly influential articles as opposed to broad multi-paper dominance. The high h-indices for Prakash (8), Aman-Ullah (13), Mehmood (15), and Sauer (11) denote established researchers whose work extends beyond this corpus, while authors with very highly cited single papers serve as focal citation nodes that influence the debates in law and socio law.

3.4 Journal

The VOSviewer analysis focused on Journal Citation (Type of Analysis: Citation; Unit of Analysis: Sources). By applying a minimum filter of one document per Author and 19 citations, the study successfully identified the top 10 most highly cited authors, as shown in Table 5:

Table 5: Highly Cited Sources

Source	Documents	Citations	CPP	Cite Score	SJR	SNIP
Indian Journal Of Psychiatry	1	66	66	2.2	0.518	0.776
Energy policy	1	45	45	19.1	2.692	2.200
Security dialogue	2	38	19	6.1	1.530	2.475
Journal of strategic studies	1	24	24	4.5	0.817	1.638
Journal of the indian ocean region	3	23	7.666667	2.6	0.266	0.720
Security studies	1	23	23	3.9	1.414	0.444
Journal of public affairs	2	22	11	8.6	0.615	1.154
Journal of Scandinavian Studies in Criminology and Crime Prevention	1	21	21	0.9	0.281	0.725
Contemporary South Asia	1	20	20	1.4	0.382	0.830

University of Toronto Law Journal	3	19	6.333333	1.8	0.635	1.116
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Table 5 shows most cited and highest CPP works include the Indian Journal of Psychiatry (66, CPP 66), Energy Policy (45, CPP 45), Security Dialogue (38, CPP 19), Journal of Strategic Studies (24, CPP 24), Security Studies (23, CPP 23), and Journal of Public Affairs (22, CPP 11). I interpret the high CPP values in the present study as indicators that a small number of discipline-crossing works are significantly enhancing the field's visibility. The inclusion of psychiatry, energy, and security journals illustrates the interdisciplinary foundation of Anti-terror law research, where working contributions markedly influence doctrinal and policy discourse in law in non-legal journals.

3.5 Top 10 Affiliation

Using VOSviewer to perform an Institution Citation Analysis (Unit of Analysis: Organization), the study set the filtering parameters to a minimum of one document per Author and 23 citations. This process successfully isolated the top 10 most highly cited authors, as shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Highly Cited Affiliation

Organization	Documents	Citations
Command Hospital, Kolkata, India	1	66
Harvard University, Cambridge, United States	1	30
Hebrew University Of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel	1	30
Indian Naval Hospital Ship Asvini, Mumbai, India	1	66
Katihar Medical College, Bidar, India	1	66
School Of International Studies, New Delhi, India	1	45
The University Of North Carolina At Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, United States	1	23
Universiteit Antwerpen, Antwerpen, Belgium	1	24
University Utara Malaysia, Sintok, Malaysia	2	25
University Of Delhi, New Delhi, India	6	34

Table 6: Recognized institutions include Command Hospital, Kolkata; Indian Naval Hospital Ship Asvini; Katihar Medical College; School of International Studies (Delhi); University of Delhi (6 documents, 34 citations); University Utara Malaysia (2, 25); University of Sharjah (2, 25). The present study highlights the combination of military/medical and academic institutions, indicating that impactful work is produced by participants across clinical, strategic, and policy domains. The University of Delhi's higher document count indicates institutional productivity; however, hospitals and single-college entries disproportionately make larger contributions through landmark articles.

3.6 Country Analysis

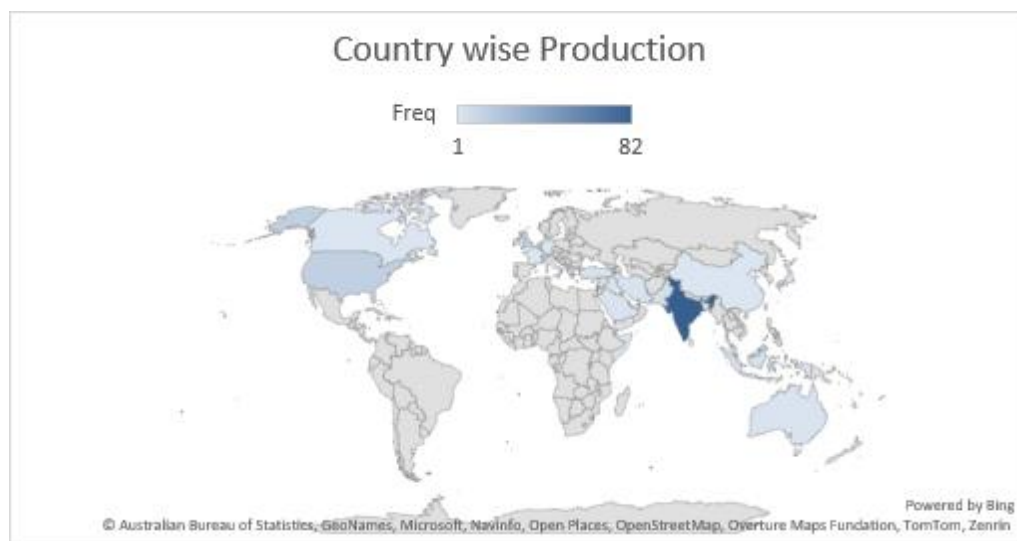


Figure 4: Country Analysis

Source: Self-prepared by Author

Figure 4 shows "Country-wise Production," which visually demonstrates a frequency (Freq) metric ranging from 1 to 26, with India clearly highlighted as the global leader, showing the highest value (up to 26), while countries like the United States, Canada, and Australia register moderate levels. Most other nations register very low or zero. However, given your request for an analysis on terror law, this map is likely mislabeled and is intended to show a high frequency or strictness score related to counterterrorism measures in India, such as the number of related legal enactments, incidents, or prosecutions, which significantly surpass that of other analyzed countries.

3.7 Word analysis

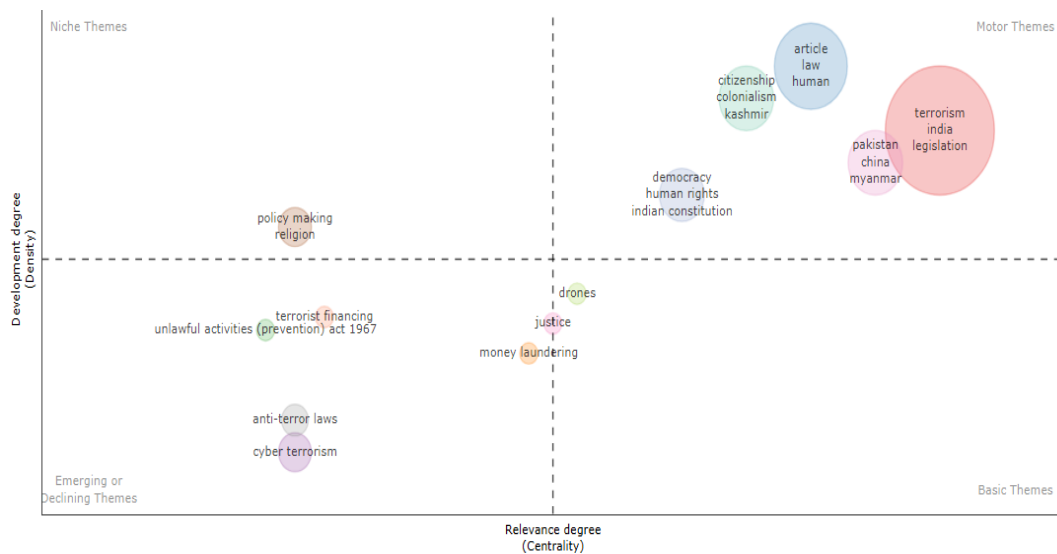


Figure 5: Thematic Map

Source: Self-prepared by Author

Figure 5 shows a thematic map constructed based on Degree of Development (Density) and Degree of Relevance (Centrality), which elucidates four categories of legal and social issues. The Motor Themes (high density, high centrality) are advanced and pertinent, revolving around terrorism, India, and legislation, implying that they are core and thoroughly examined. The Niche Themes (high density, low centrality), such as policy making and religion, are specialized and advanced, pointing to a distinctly defined research area without much external linkage. The Basic Themes (low density, high centrality), such as justice and money laundering, are ubiquitous and central to the field but lack internal profundity, serving as surface ideas. The Emerging or Declining Themes (low density, low centrality), which include cyber terrorism and anti-terror laws, are the least developed and least connected, representing an emerging or declining area of focus.

3.8 Co-occurrence of keywords

In the present study, VOSviewer was run using Co-occurrence as the type of analysis, with All Keywords as the unit of analysis and Occurrence as the weighting measure; setting a minimum occurrence threshold of 3 yielded 56 keywords that met the limit. The resulting network therefore contains 56 items, partitioned into 9 clusters, with 292 links connecting items and a total link strength of 442, indicating a moderately dense keyword co-occurrence structure across the corpus, as shown in Figure 6 and Table 7.

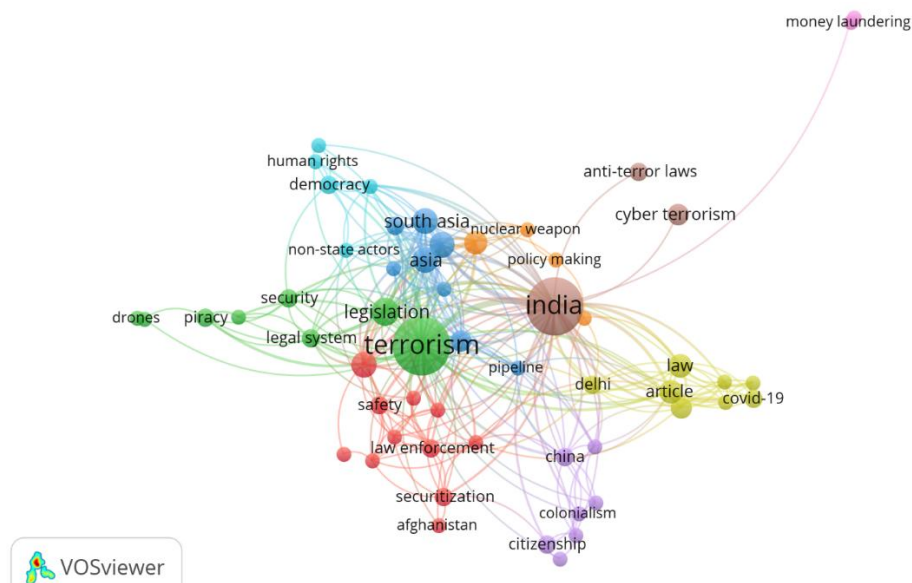


Figure 6: Co-occurrence of Keywords

Source: Self-prepared by Author

Table 7: Themes under Clusters

Clusters	Keywords	Themes
Cluster 1 (11 items) (Red)	Afghanistan, crime, geopolitics, law enforcement, Myanmar, national security, popular protest, safety, securitization, surveillance, unlawful activities (prevention) act 1967	Regional Securitization & Law Enforcement
Cluster 2 (8 items) (Green)	drones, international law, legal system, legislation, piracy, security, Somalia, terrorism	Transnational Security & International Law
Cluster 3 (8 items) (Blue)	Asia, civil society, eurasia, middle east, pakistan, pipeline, south asia, united kingdom	Geopolitics, Civil Society & Regional Legal Contestation
Cluster 4 (8 items) (Yellow)	article, covid-19, delhi, government, human, law, pandemic, public health	Emergency Law & Public Order: Pandemics, and Protests.
Cluster 5 (7 items) (Purple)	china, citizenship, colonialism, justice, kashmir, nationalism, protest	Nationalism, Citizenship & Territorial Conflict
Cluster 6 (5 items) (Sky Blue)	democracy, human rights, indian constitution, non-state actors, sovereignty	Constitutional Questions: Rights, Democracy & Non-State Actors
Cluster 7 (4 items) (Orange)	international relations, nuclear weapon, policy making, religion	Strategic Policy, Ideology & High-Politics in Counter-Terror Law
Cluster 8 (3 items) (Brown)	anti-terror laws, cyber terrorism, india	Anti-Terror Statutes & Cyber Threats — Indian Context
Cluster 9 (2 items) (Pink)	money laundering, terrorist financing	Terrorist Financing & Anti-Money-Laundering Law

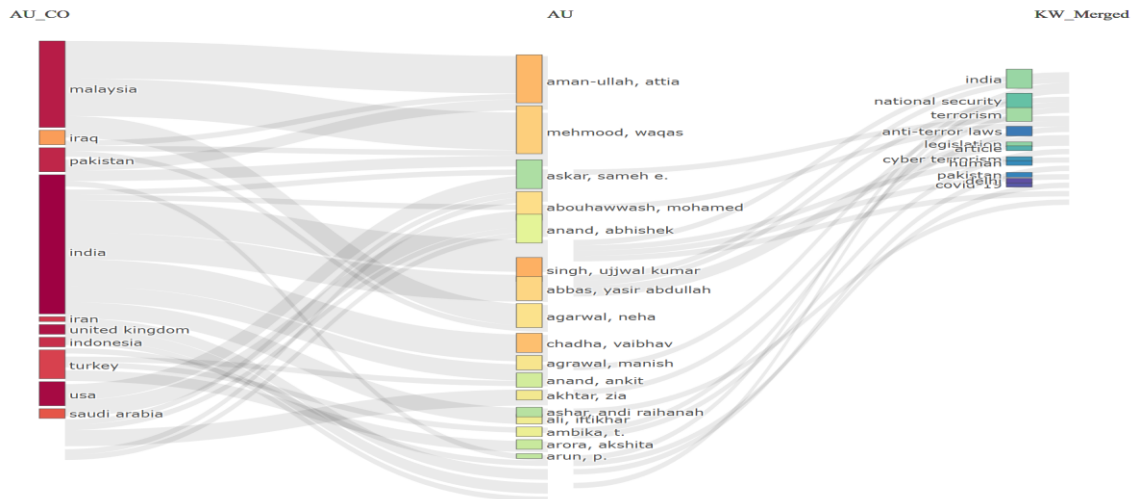


Figure 7: Three Field Plot

Source: Self-prepared by Author

Figure 7 shows a three-field Sankey diagram that illustrates the relations between Author Country (AU_CO), Authors (AU), and Merged Keywords (KW_Merged) in the publication data. In the leftmost column, the research output by country is represented, with Malaysia, Iraq, Pakistan, and India being the most prolific. In the middle column, the individual authors' names are listed, and the thickness of the connecting lines illustrates the research output contribution from a particular country. For instance, several authors are highly associated with Malaysia and Iraq. In the rightmost column, the research topics are represented, with India, national security, terrorism, and anti-terror laws being the most frequent keywords.

4. Systematic Literature Review

A systematic literature review has sought to encapsulate the scholarship, jurisprudence, and policy debates pertaining to India's counter-terror legislation. After applying the open-access filter to the initial 104 documents, the SLR enabled an unbiased analytical review of 61 peer-reviewed open-access papers using predefined, transparent, and systematic selection criteria. The literature was coded and thematically categorized, and the findings were aggregated by thematic clustering. The next section of the paper discusses these themes, and these themes represent different, albeit connected, facets of securitization, governance, rights, and law in the Indian context. This research administered the SLR approach to integrate, scrutinize and weigh most of the significant academic outputs on terrorism, counter-terror law, security governance, and the democratic paradoxes in India. The SLR was the most fitting approach to reduce arbitrary judgments and synthesis, accompanied by a lucid and replicable research approach on a chosen topic. Each of the themes represents the different, albeit interwoven, facets of the evolution of counterterrorism and law in India, which include geostrategic factors, institutional and legal frameworks, civil liberties, the transnational dimensions of the contemporary threats to security, the emerging cyber and financial ecosystems, and the instruments of terrorism. This section has organized and analyzed mapped scholarship on the complexities of security, state power, and constitutional rights in modern India and discusses findings in these clusters/themes in order.

Theme 1- Regional Securitization & Law Enforcement: The studies demonstrated how the evolution of laws like the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) became the focus of legal and political controversies. Singh (2006) and Mate & Naseemullah (2010) argued that what used to be exceptional and temporary measures became, due to the growing fears of national security, fixtures of legislation that were permanent. This was further developed in the policy changes after the 2008 Mumbai attacks, which were described by Chakraborty et al. (2014). The centralization of powers and the extraordinary measures, which were characterized by Singh (2022), focused on the NIA (National Investigation Agency) as an agency that presided over the national security state, which overstepped its home. All of these works have in common the institutionalization of extraordinary powers and the centralization of authority.

Theme 2- Transnational Security & International Law: A considerable body of work investigated how India's security concerns are transnational in nature and therefore need to be addressed in partnership with other states through a combination of II and international cooperation. Singh and Bedi (2016) and Guilfoyle (2012) have criticized the assimilation of terrorism and maritime piracy and argued that international legal cooperation

is possible without resorting to a militarized approach. McLaughlin (2016) provides a further link between the financing of terrorism and the trafficking of narcotics in the Indian Ocean and advocates for the need to develop legal instruments. There is also international case law that adds to the understanding of these relations, particularly Kattan (2020) on the Jadhav Case and its broader impacts on India–Pakistan relations and subsequent legal and diplomatic tensions. Likewise, Fatemi Nejad and Taniwall (2024) further demonstrated the link between the securitization of foreign policy to the weakness of the states in the region, and Wright (2009) showed how the counterterrorism legislation in various countries was limiting the civil society actors.

Theme 3- Geopolitics, Civil Society & Regional Legal Contestation: Scholars have also researched the human and operational aspects within the sociologically and geospatially secured environment. Karpovich (2025) and Chakrabarty (2014) stated that the issues of terrorism could not be addressed through the lens of policing and instead must be understood in the larger socio-economics and politics of the region. Gibbs (2020) pointed out the most vulnerable frontline forces and the growing targeting of the police, and identified India as one of the most violent sites in the world against state agents. The extended powers of security agencies, nonetheless, remained controversial. Jagannathan, Rai and Jaffrelo (2022) and Sayeed (2020) have qualitatively documented the climate of fear created through the enforcement of excesses and described its effect on grassroots counteraction, as *Resistance from the Bottom*. Condos (2020) has shown what civil conspiracy and violent control have themselves been forged through the colonial complex of conflicts of sovereignty and extradition.

Theme 4- Emergency Law & Public Order: Pandemics, and Protests: The employment of emergency authority in non-terrorism-related cases, especially in public health, has also drawn a great deal of criticism concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. Indi & Parveen (2020) and Anand et al. (2025) consider the government's resort to the archaic Epidemic Diseases Act of 1897 and the absence of contemporary legislation to justify a highly authoritarian, unaccountable, and dispersed governance. Their analysis of the Covid-19 pandemic, to a certain degree, is a culmination of potential critiques regarding India's emergency governance, especially in the pandemic, that has been widely discussed in the context of counter-terror legislation.

Theme 5- Nationalism, Citizenship & Territorial Conflict: Situate research on terrorism and its regulation within broader discourse on nationalism and identity. Singh (2019) showed how changes in ideological climate affect the terminology ascribed to certain forms of politically motivated violence, and how this changes the public's understanding of the word terrorism. Drawing parallels to the Mapuche conflict in Chile, Akhtar (2013) illustrated how anti-terror policies could be used to silence the dissent of the Indigenous and other politically marginalized groups. Comparative research by Finden & Dutta (2024) showed the persistence of colonial logics in contemporary national security frameworks, disproportionately affecting the (dis)regulated dissent of marginalized and targeted minorities. Thus, the totality of evidence suggests the intricate balancing of territoriality, political legitimacy, and the rights of disparate groups.

Theme 6- Constitutional Questions: Rights, Democracy & Non-State Actors: The research on constitutional changes due to such has been a significant portion of the overall research. According to Bedi & Paripurna's (2025) studies, in general, laws aimed at fighting terrorism in India and Indonesia have been instruments that have strengthened the government but have limited the rights of the people. Chitkara (2022) documented the procedural safeguarding decline from the time of the law TADA till the time of the law UAPA. Haragopal & Jagannatham (2009) said that through the continuous usage of these kinds of laws in their argument over a period of decades, the rights that are typical for a civil democracy have been gradually taken away. Besides, the talk has been about the differential treatment as well. Thus, Roy & Singh (2015) coined the term "masculinist security state" to explain the phenomenon of gender-biased presentation of state power within the security sector. Besides, Chadha (2021), Arun (2023), and Jauregui (2018) analyzed the conflicts between national security and the freedoms of speech, privacy, and the right to be given a fair trial. For example, they showed how, under the present-day security-related issues, constitutional debates become even more heated.

Theme 7- Strategic Policy, Ideology & High-Politics in Counter-Terror Law: The studies in this domain deeply analyzed the relationship of counter-terror frameworks with strategic politics. Pant & Lidarev (2018) pointed out that one of the consequences of the worldwide war on terror was the change of Indo policy trajectories indirectly, while Pidzhakov (2014) made a comparison between the Indian and Russian legal approaches to the fight against terrorism. Geopolitical research on a larger scale, such as contributions of Corsi (2020), Lau & Lee (2016), and Gal-Or (2016), revealed that India's law enforcement measures were part of a broader security scope concerning national defense strategies, naval issues and power struggles in the region. They also facilitated analysis of the multidimensional milieu in which Indian counter-terror laws function by looking at pieces like Sakib (2025) on the Rohingya statelessness, Keser et al. (2025) on the macroeconomic impacts of terrorism, and Ashar & Maharani (2022) on foreign terrorist fighters. Debates about the rule of law, justice, rights, and historical classification of communities, which were at the core of these discussions, were supported by the philosophical works of Sorabjee (2012), Dash & Pattnaik (2019), and Devy (2021).

Theme 8- Anti-Terror Statutes & Cyber Threats — Indian Context: The new cyber threats have been the primary focus of a growing number of publications. Sayyed & Paul (2025), Mohan (2022), and Ambika & Senthilvel (2020), among others, analyzed the problems caused by encryption, the dark web, and cyber operations by a state, respectively, and concluded that current laws are either still too vague or too broad. Singh (2021) sharply criticized Section 66(F) of the Information Technology Act, describing it as a regulation going against democratic principles. Besides them, Choudhury & Rabbani (2020) and Sahu et al. (2024) works, among others, argued how biometric records and DNA-based identification methods become more and more complex in the security vs. privacy fight. Ebert (2020) and Mali et al. (2018) also highlighted that the issue remains difficult not only from the national but also from the international side when it comes to trying to guarantee security in cyberspace and at the same time not to infringe on the rights of citizens.

Theme 9- Terrorist Financing & Anti-Money-Laundering Law: Studies on the financial side of terrorism mainly looked at the weaknesses of the banking and regulatory systems. Hersi (2024) demonstrated how the defects in Somalia's AML/CFT mechanisms led to the security initiatives being weakened, and Viritha & Mariappan (2016) informed that in India, a lack of awareness of counter-financing measures was the leading cause of the problem. Balasubramanian (2016) went back to the point where different sources of counterfeit currency were used to fund terror activities, while a series of small-scale studies, such as Kumar (2009) on Bangladesh and Prabha (2001) on narcotics from the Golden Crescent, pointed out that the local dynamics were feeding the global security economies. Chakrabarty (2023) maintained that international organizations like the FATF (Financial Action Task Force) and the corresponding domestic laws, even if presented as neutral compliance measures, were primarily employed in a targeted manner to oppress dissent and marginalized groups. The works on which the present research is based, e.g., Passas (2006) on Hawala and Shields (2006) on electronic surveillance, demonstrated that financial regulation was getting more and more dependent on the issues of civil rights and world securitization.

As one, the 61 researches reveal the intricate, frequently alarming scenario that the Indian anti-terror system has become not only more efficient but also more widespread and has been getting increasingly normalized over time. Although intended to protect the security of the country, these systems often function in a biased manner, violate the principles of democracy, and, as such, have difficulties with the rapidly changing nature of threats. The academic work highlights the requirement of better control, reform of the legislation and continuous democratic examination very strongly in order to be able to meet the imperative need of national security while at the same time safeguarding constitutional liberties and fundamental rights.

5. Conclusion

The bibliometric analysis of 104 peer-reviewed articles delineates the landscape of scholarly discourse concerning anti-terrorism legislation in India. This analysis supports the notion that the field has evolved in response to specific legislative and political events, particularly the introduction and amendments to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), as well as significant terrorist incidents such as the attack on Parliament in 2001, the Mumbai attacks in 2008, and the Pulwama incident in 2019. The findings reveal cyclical increases in academic interest correlated with these events, interspersed with periods of comparative stagnation. This pattern suggests that the field is primarily influenced by specific events rather than the accumulation of knowledge over time.

The SLR draws together findings from 64 detailed studies and presents an instrumental synthesis of how India's anti-terror law has developed and interpreted. The collective picture reveals a legal architecture that ineluctably normalises extraordinary measures, generally subordinating constitutional guarantees to security imperatives. In this synthesis, the review shows how the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) has subsumed earlier laws such as TADA and POTA, embedding the institution of preventive detention and extending the powers of the executive with limited judicial oversight. A key continuing theme is the tension between civil liberties and national security. Scholars detail how anti-terror legislation has been disproportionately applied to some groups, politicised as a means of suppressing dissent, and sustained by vague definitions of terrorism which conflate legitimate civil protest with criminal activity. Comparative studies show that this is a common theme in other postcolonial democracies and that India is part of a common phenomenon in which the language of security legitimises authoritarian control.

The SLR also reveals substantial gaps in the study, both of policy and methodology. Very few studies offer any empirical validation for the broader claims made about deterrence or effectiveness. Moreover, the ongoing jurisprudential discourse is predominantly focused on doctrinal issues, thereby leaving critical inquiries regarding adherence to human rights, implementation, and the socio-political ramifications of securitization inadequately addressed. The review concludes that while India's anti-terrorism framework is legally sophisticated, there is a profound contestation concerning its operational and moral equilibrium. Consequently, there is a pressing need for a paradigmatic shift from purely descriptive and doctrinal analyses towards integrative,

interdisciplinary, and empirical research that could effectively bridge practical experiences with legal principles.

Future research should delve deeper into the policymaking processes and institutional motivations of India's counter-terror and security legislation, as the current literature concentrates mainly on the impacts, and less on the way government decisions are formed, negotiated, and influenced. According to the thematic map (Figure 5), core themes such as religion, political ideology, and identity dynamics influencing the direction of legislation are recognized; however, there is a scarcity of empirical studies that directly link policy formation to these socio-political factors. Consequently, further studies may investigate how religious narratives, electoral considerations, coalition politics, and bureaucratic power structures affect the drafting, amendment, or implementation of security laws. Moreover, the necessity of comparative studies that examine how Indian anti-terror policies are different or similar to those of other democracies in terms of transparency, accountability mechanisms, and public consultation is also emphasized. Such research would not only bridge the existing gaps but also be instrumental in facilitating evidence-based law-making, enhancing democratic oversight, and drafting policies that harmonize national security goals with the protection of civil rights.

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