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India's Annual Resolution on Counter-Terror

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Why in News

Recently, India's **annual resolution on the issue of counter-terrorism** was adopted by consensus in the First Committee of the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**.

Key Points

- India's resolution '**Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction**' was **co-sponsored by more than 75 countries** and adopted by **consensus without a vote**.
 - India, a victim of state-sponsored cross-border terrorism, has been at the forefront in highlighting the serious threat to international peace and security emanating from acquisition of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) by terrorist groups.
- India's resolution predates the adoption of **resolution 1540** by the Security Council. In **resolution 1540 of the year 2004**, the Security Council decided that all States shall refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes.
- It needs to be noted that **the UN has not agreed on a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT)** yet.
 - In 1996, with the objective of providing a comprehensible legal framework to counter terrorism, India proposed to the UNGA the adoption of the "Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism" (CCIT).
 - CCIT seeks a universal definition of terrorism, prosecution of terrorists under special laws, making cross-border terrorism an extraditable offence worldwide, among others.

- **Weapon of Mass Destruction:**

- WMD refers to a weapon with the capacity to inflict death and destruction on such a massive scale and so indiscriminately that its very presence in the hands of a hostile power can be considered a grievous threat.
- Modern weapons of mass destruction are either nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons—frequently referred to collectively as **NBC weapons**.
- Efforts to control the spread of WMD are enshrined in international agreements such as the **Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty of 1968**, the **Biological Weapons Convention of 1972**, and the **Chemical Weapons Convention of 1993**.

India is not a signatory to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty of 1968.

- India has enacted an act to prohibit unlawful activities, in relation to weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems which is known as **The Weapons of Mass Destruction and Their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of unlawful activities) Act, 2005**.

United Nations General Assembly

UNGA is **one of the six principal organs of the United Nations**, serving as the main deliberative, policy-making, and representative organ of the UN.

- UN is an international organization founded in 1945. It is currently made up of 193 Member States.
- The **other five organs** of the UN are: Security Council, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the UN Secretariat.

First Committee of the UNGA

- The **First Committee (Disarmament and International security)** deals with disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community and seeks out solutions to the challenges in the international security regime.
- The Committee works in close cooperation with the **United Nations Disarmament Commission** and the **Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament**. It is the **only Main Committee** of the General Assembly entitled to **verbatim records coverage**.

Source:IE