



Curbing the Menace of Terrorism

This editorial is based on [“How we can further our efforts in curbing terror financing”](#) which was published in Indian Express on 16/11/2022. It talks about the Terror financing and challenges related to it.

For Prelims: Lone Wolf Attacks, National Investigation Agency, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) , United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Crypto currency, Bioterrorism, No Money for Terror Conference.

For Mains: Challenges Related to Terrorism in India, International Initiatives to Counter Terrorism.

Terrorism looms large over the world today. **Amorphous terror groups, newer cyber linked terrorism, increasing lone wolf attacks** are all adding to the ominous threats of violence. India has borne the **brunt of terrorism** and has witnessed serious **loss of life and property** in senseless violent explosions in large cities in the past few decades.

As the world shrinks with technological and communication changes, **terrorists, weapons and funds** are also able to move across national boundaries easily. **International co-operation between law enforcement authorities** in this area is a sine qua non for combating such cross border challenges.

What is India Doing to Combat the Threat of Terrorism?

- In the wake of the [26/11 terrorist attack](#). In January 2009, the [National Investigation Agency](#) was established to deal with terrorist crimes.
- In India, the [Unlawful Activities \(Prevention\) Amendment Act](#) is the primary anti-terrorism law.
- To gather information related to security, the [National Intelligence Grid \(NATGRID\)](#) has been established.
- An operational hub has been created for the [National Security Guard](#) to ensure a rapid response to terrorist attacks.

What are the International Initiatives to Counter Terrorism?

- [United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism \(UNOCT\)](#)
- [Terrorism Prevention Branch \(TPB\) of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime \(UNODC\)](#)
- [Financial Action Task Force \(FATF\)](#)
- [India’s Annual Resolution on Counter-Terror](#)

What are the Challenges Related to Terrorism in India?

- **No Global Definition of Terrorism:** There are no universally accepted definitions for what constitutes terrorism, so it is **hard to classify a particular activity as a terrorist activity**, which provides terrorists with an edge and allows some countries to remain silent and veto any action at global institutions.
- **Expanding Web of Terrorism:** The [Internet](#) provides a relatively **unregulated and unrestricted place** where terrorists can craft and disseminate propaganda through seemingly limitless numbers of **websites and social media platforms**, tailoring their pitch so as to **target thousands of potential new recruits** to join their organization and **further their cause**.
- **Terror Financing:** According to the [International Monetary Fund \(IMF\)](#) and [World Bank](#), criminals launder an estimated two to nearly four trillion dollars each year. Fund movements by terrorists have also been concealed through **charities and alternative remittance systems**.
 - It **taints the international financial system** and **erodes public trust** in the integrity of the system.
 - Furthermore, the **lack of regulation of [crypto currency](#)** could make it a breeding ground for terrorists.
- **Bio-Terrorism:** [Biotechnology](#) is boon for mankind but it is also a **substantial threat** because **small amounts of biotic agents can be effortlessly hidden, transported and discharged into vulnerable populations**.
 - Tropical agricultural pathogens or pests can also be used as **anticrop agents** to **hamper [food security](#)** worldwide.
- **Cyber Attack:** The world is moving towards a **digital village** where **[data is the new oil](#)**, terrorists use unlawful attacks in a country's cyberspace, networks and **use the information to intimidate or coerce a government** or its people in furtherance of **political or social objectives**.

What Should be the Way Forward?

- **Developing Cyber-Defence Mechanism:** A holistic approach for dealing with cyber terrorism is necessary, whether it's **conducting cyber search operations** or **extending the scope of countermeasures against cyber attacks**.
 - A clear public posture on [cyber defence](#) will boost citizen confidence in the government thus enabling a more **engaging, stable and secure cyber ecosystem**.
- **Global Counter Terrorism Measures:** Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations should be condemned. The international community should **rise above political differences** and defeat the challenge of terrorism.
 - **Accepting a universal definition of terrorism** and **global sanctions against nations** that are state sponsors of terrorism can pave a way for peaceful world order.
- **Capacity Building:** India should move in the direction of [specialisation of military](#) to **fight cross-border terrorism ensuring** co-ordination among the **intelligence and security agencies** to check infiltration of terror activity.
 - Also in order to have speedy trials, India also needs to enhance its [National Criminal Justice system](#) and **implement strict legal protocol against terrorism**
- **Curbing Terror Financing:** There is a need to strengthen laws that require banks to perform **due diligence on their customers** and to **report suspicious transactions** to prevent terrorism. Also, India can move towards regulating cryptocurrency.
 - India to host **"No Money for Terror" Conference** in Delhi would be a step in this direction.
- **Reducing Youth's Exposure to Terrorism:** Given the important role of educational establishments in promoting the values of [non-violence](#), peaceful coexistence and tolerance, **education must feature prominently in counter radicalization programs**.
 - Also, undertaking policies to tackle economic and social inequalities will help in **detering disgruntled youth from being lured towards terrorism**.

Drishti Mains Question

Discuss the evolution of terrorism with technological advancement. Also, suggest measures that should be adopted to curb the menace of Terrorism.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. Hand-in-Hand 2007' a joint anti-terrorism military training was held by the officers of the Indian Army and officers of Army of which one of the following countries? (2008)

- (a) China
- (b) Japan
- (c) Russia
- (d) USA

Ans: (a)

Mains

Q. The scourge of terrorism is a grave challenge to national security. What solutions do you suggest to curb this growing menace? What are the major sources of terrorist funding? (2017)