



Global Terrorism Index 2023

For Prelims: Institute for Economics & Peace, United Nations Security Council, Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT).

For Mains: Global Terrorism Index (GTI), Major Challenges Related to Terrorism Globally.

Why in News?

India ranks **13th** on The **Global Terrorism Index (GTI)**. The report shows that **Afghanistan continues to be the country most affected by terrorism** for the 4th year in a row, even though attacks and deaths decreased.

What are the Major Highlights of the GTI?

- The **GTI report is produced by the [Institute for Economics & Peace \(IEP\)](#), a think tank**, using data from TerrorismTracker and other sources.
 - **Terrorism Tracker** provides event records on terrorist attacks since 1 January 2007.
 - The dataset contains almost **66,000 terrorist incidents for the period 2007 to 2022**.
- Globally, **deaths from terrorism fell by 9%** to 6,701 deaths, marking a **38% decrease from its peak in 2015**.
- Pakistan **recorded the second largest surge in terror-related deaths worldwide** in 2022, the toll increasing significantly to 643.
- **South Asia** remains the region with the worst average GTI score.
 - **South Asia** recorded 1,354 deaths from terrorism in 2022.
- **Islamic State (IS)** and its affiliates were the **deadliest terror group globally for the eighth consecutive year**, recording the most attacks and deaths of any group in **2022**.

What are the Major Challenges Related to Terrorism Globally?

- **Terror Financing:** According to the **[International Monetary Fund \(IMF\)](#)** and **[World Bank](#)**, criminals are estimated to launder up to **four trillion dollars a year**. Fund movements by terrorists have also been concealed through charities and alternative remittance methods.
 - It taints the **international financial system** and erodes public trust in the integrity of the system.
- **Politicisation of Countering Terrorism:** The members of the **[United Nations Security Council \(P5\)](#)** have exercised the **veto power** to varying degrees when it comes to identifying terrorists.
 - Also, **absence of universally accepted definitions** for what constitutes terrorism provides terrorists with an edge and **allows some countries to remain silent and veto any action at global institutions**.
- **Use of Emerging Technology by Terrorists:** Innovations in computing and telecommunications like widespread **internet access, end-to-end encryption**, and **[virtual private network \(VPN\)](#)** have made new types of operations possible for a higher number of **radicalised individuals** across the globe, contributing to the threat.

Way Forward

- **Re-energizing Counter Terrorism Agenda:** It is necessary to re-energize the global agenda of counter-terrorism by **emphasising the need for unity**, and checking the **veto power of P5** when it comes to identifying terrorists worldwide.
- **Adopting a Universal Definition of Terrorism:** A universal definition of terrorism is needed so that all members of the [United Nations General Assembly \(UNGA\)](#) can incorporate it into their own criminal laws, **banning terror groups, prosecuting terrorists under special laws**, and making cross-border terrorism an extraditable offence worldwide.
 - In 1986, India proposed a draft document on the [Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism \(CCIT\)](#) at the UN. However, it is yet to be adopted by the UNGA.
- **Curbing Terror Funding:** There is a need for stronger laws that **require banks to perform due diligence on clients** and to report suspicious transactions to prevent terrorism.
 - Also, India can move towards **regulating [cryptocurrency](#)**.

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 the 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)

Source: IE