



## 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)**

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