



CURRENT AFFAIRS



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TERRORISM : MENACE ON HUMANITY

WHY IN THE NEWS?

The Union Government convened an all-party meeting in response to a deadly terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, which claimed 26 lives and left several injured. The incident has drawn widespread national condemnation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while addressing a rally in Madhubani, Bihar, assured the nation that those responsible for the attack, including the conspirators, would be punished beyond their imagination. The government's response underscores its commitment to national security and a zero-tolerance approach towards terrorism.

WHAT IS TERRORISM?

Terrorism is the unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, to achieve political, religious, or ideological objectives. It is a deliberate act aimed at creating fear and chaos in society, often targeting innocent people to draw attention to a cause or to coerce governments into taking or refraining from certain actions. Terrorist groups operate across national and international borders, exploiting vulnerabilities in security systems and communication networks. Unlike conventional warfare, terrorism does not follow the rules of armed conflict and often strikes without warning, making it a grave threat to peace, stability, and human rights. The impact of terrorism extends beyond immediate casualties, as it destabilises societies, hampers development, creates mistrust among communities, and burdens nations with economic and psychological trauma.



RECENT TERRORIST ATTACKS IN INDIA

Date	Location	Casualties	Details
April 2025	Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir	26 killed, several injured	A terrorist attack targeting civilians sparked national outrage and a response.
May 2023	Rajouri, J&K	5 civilians killed	Attack on a village; suspected Pakistan-based terror outfit involved.
April 2023	Poonch, J&K	5 soldiers killed	Militants ambushed an army vehicle; a suspected cross-border group was involved.
March 2022	Sunjuwan, Jammu	2 killed, 4 injured	A suicide attack near an army camp by Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists.
February 2019	Pulwama, J&K	40 CRPF personnel killed	Suicide bombing on a convoy, carried out by Jaish-e-Mohammed.
November 2008	Mumbai, Maharashtra	166 killed, 300+ injured	Coordinated attack by Lashkar-e-Taiba; involved multiple locations.

TERRORISM AS A THREAT TO INDIA’S NATIONAL SECURITY

- 1. Human Loss & Trauma:** Terror attacks like Pulwama (2019) cause heavy casualties and widespread psychological distress.
- 2. Internal Security Disruption:** Persistent militancy in J&K and Maoist violence weaken internal stability; over 230 terror incidents were reported in J&K (2022).
- 3. Cross-Border Terrorism:** Groups like JeM and LeT operate from across the border, with Pakistan’s role frequently highlighted in international forums.
- 4. Economic Impact:** Attacks reduce investor confidence and tourism; estimated losses of ₹1,500–2,000 crore per major incident.
- 5. Communal Tensions:** Terrorism seeks to divide communities, disturbing social harmony, as seen in attacks like 26/11 Mumbai.
- 6. Security Burden:** Huge expenditure on defence and counter-terror efforts; 2024–25 defence budget stands at ₹6.21 lakh crore.
- 7. Cyber Threats & Radicalisation:** Increasing use of online platforms for recruiting and spreading extremism, particularly among youth.
- 8. Global Standing:** Repeated attacks impact India’s global image; India continues to push for the UN’s Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

COUNTER-TERRORISM MEASURES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

- 1. Strengthening Legal Framework:** Enactment of strict laws like the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and amendments to give more teeth to investigating agencies.
- 2. Empowering Investigative Agencies:** Strengthening of agencies like the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for dealing with terror cases across states.
- 3. Intelligence Coordination:** Establishment of the Multi-Agency Centre (MAC) for seamless intelligence sharing among central and state agencies.

- 4. Modernisation of Police and CAPFs:** Upgrading weapons, surveillance systems, and training under schemes like Modernisation of Police Forces (MPF).
- 5. Border Security Enhancement:** Deployment of advanced tech like drones, sensors, and fencing along the India-Pakistan and India-Bangladesh borders.
- 6. Cybersecurity Measures:** Strengthening of cyber intelligence and surveillance by CERT-In, and monitoring of online radicalization and terror financing.
- 7. Financial Action Against Terror Funding:** Coordination with FATF, stricter rules under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), and freezing of terror-linked accounts.
- 8. Public Awareness and Community Policing:** Encouraging community participation through intelligence tip-offs and counter-radicalisation campaigns, especially in vulnerable areas.
- 9. International Cooperation:** Bilateral and multilateral agreements on counter-terrorism, intelligence sharing, and participation in global forums like the UN, SCO, FATF.

CHALLENGES IN TACKLING TERRORISM

- 1. Cross-Border Support for Terrorism:** Terror outfits receive backing from foreign soil, making it difficult to dismantle their infrastructure completely.
- 2. Intelligence Gaps and Coordination Issues:** Lack of seamless real-time intelligence sharing between agencies and states can delay preventive action.
- 3. Use of Modern Technology by Terrorists:** Encrypted messaging apps, drones, and cyber tools are increasingly used, making detection and interception harder.
- 4. Radicalisation and Online Propaganda:** Youth, especially in vulnerable regions, are radicalised via social media and extremist online content.
- 5. Terror Financing and Hawala Networks:** Despite regulatory efforts, illegal funding channels like hawala and fake charities continue to support terror operations.
- 6. Judicial Delays and Legal Complexities:** Long trials, lack of evidence admissibility, and procedural delays weaken the effectiveness of anti-terror laws.
- 7. Human Rights vs Security Dilemma:** Balancing civil liberties with stringent security measures often leads to public backlash or misuse of power.
- 8. Porous Borders and Terrain Challenges:** Difficult terrain in border areas, especially in J&K and the Northeast, aids infiltration and arms smuggling.
- 9. State-Level Preparedness Gaps:** Variations in capabilities, training, and resources among state police forces hinder a unified national response.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. Enhance Intelligence Sharing:** Improve coordination between central and state agencies through real-time intelligence and integrated command centres.
- 2. Modernise Security Infrastructure:** Invest in advanced surveillance technology, cyber intelligence tools, and AI-driven threat detection systems.
- 3. Strengthen Border Management:** Seal vulnerable borders with smart fencing, motion sensors, and drone surveillance, especially in J&K and the Northeast.
- 4. Counter Radicalisation Initiatives:** Launch targeted de-radicalisation programs in prisons and vulnerable communities, and monitor extremist online content.
- 5. Speedy Judicial Processes:** Set up special fast-track courts for terror cases with trained judges to ensure timely justice.
- 6. Cut Terror Financing:** Tighten monitoring of NGOs, shell companies, and hawala operations; strengthen cooperation with global bodies like FATF.

7. Capacity Building of Police Forces: Provide continuous training, modern equipment, and inter-state collaboration platforms for police and paramilitary forces.

8. Promote Community Policing: Build trust with local communities for early warning systems and encourage citizen reporting of suspicious activity.

9. Push for Global Anti-Terror Cooperation: Revive efforts to get international backing for the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) at the UN.

CONCLUSION

Terrorism continues to be one of the gravest threats to India's national security, social cohesion, and economic progress. The recent attacks, particularly in sensitive regions like Jammu & Kashmir, highlight the evolving and persistent nature of this menace. While the Indian government has taken robust steps—ranging from strengthening legal frameworks to enhancing intelligence and international cooperation—challenges like cross-border terror, radicalisation, and technology misuse persist. A holistic approach combining stringent security measures, inclusive development, regional diplomacy, and community engagement is essential. India must continue to lead global efforts for a unified fight against terrorism, while ensuring justice, peace, and resilience at home.

PRELIMS QUESTIONS

Q. Consider the following statements about terrorism in India:

1. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) was constituted under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).
2. The Multi-Agency Centre (MAC) is responsible for intelligence coordination among central and state agencies.
3. The 26/11 Mumbai attacks were carried out by Jaish-e-Mohammed.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B

MAINS QUESTIONS

Q. Terrorism poses a persistent threat to India's internal security and global image. Analyse the challenges faced in tackling terrorism in India. What measures have been taken by the government to counter this threat? Suggest further steps to strengthen the national response.

(250 words, 15 marks)

STRENGTHENING BRICS COOPERATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

WHY IN THE NEWS?

India has called on the BRICS group to unite behind the "Baku to Belem Roadmap" to mobilize \$1.3 trillion annually by 2035 for climate action goals. At the 11th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting in Brasilia, India

emphasized the need for stronger climate financing mechanisms and urged developed nations to fulfill their commitments. Highlighting shared environmental challenges like desertification and biodiversity loss, India called for collective action within BRICS. India also reiterated its leadership in conservation through initiatives like the International Big Cat Alliance, positioning itself as a key advocate for global climate governance at forums like COP30.



BRICS & GOVERNANCE:

BRICS, representing Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, is an influential economic and political bloc with growing significance in the global arena. These nations represent over 40% of the world's population and nearly 25% of global GDP. Their governance model, characterized by mutual respect, cooperation, and the pursuit of common goals, aims to tackle key global challenges. BRICS has grown in prominence in the context of addressing economic disparities, geopolitical tensions, and environmental crises like climate change.

BRICS 2 MEETING: A MILESTONE IN COOPERATION

1. Purpose and Significance: The BRICS 2 meeting, held in [insert year], marked a pivotal point in strengthening cooperation between these emerging markets. The bloc continued to promote a collective vision for a multi-polar world order, asserting its relevance in a rapidly changing global landscape.

2. Key Objectives: The primary goal of the BRICS 2 meeting was to enhance economic collaboration, improve trade, and tackle global issues like climate change and sustainable development. Leaders emphasized the need for better coordination and shared investments across the BRICS nations.

3. Reaffirmation of Core Principles: The meeting reaffirmed the founding principles of BRICS—sovereignty, equality, and non-interference in the domestic affairs of member countries. This approach reflects BRICS' desire to challenge the dominance of Western powers in global governance.

4. Economic Development Focus: One of the key topics discussed was economic resilience in the face of global uncertainties. The BRICS nations recognized the need for increased trade within the bloc and the importance of mutual investment in infrastructure development.

5. Geopolitical Context: The BRICS 2 meeting underscored the rise of multipolarity and how the bloc can contribute to maintaining global peace and stability. The members recognized the growing importance of South-South cooperation in maintaining peace.

6. Climate Change Agenda: The BRICS countries agreed to promote clean energy and implement climate-resilient practices. In 2021, Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa collectively accounted for over 40% of global carbon dioxide emissions, making their cooperation essential in addressing climate change.

7. Expansion of BRICS: BRICS also discussed the possibility of expanding the group to include more nations, particularly those from the Global South, in a bid to increase the representation of developing countries in global decision-making forums.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MEETING

1. Strengthened Economic Ties: BRICS members agreed to increase intra-BRICS trade. The bloc's collective share of global trade reached \$6.5 trillion in 2020, which constitutes about 16% of world trade. Efforts were made to enhance cooperation in infrastructure, finance, and trade.

2. Sustainability and Green Energy: One of the major outcomes was a commitment to accelerate the transition to green energy. The BRICS nations pledged to reduce their collective carbon footprint and invest in renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, and hydropower. China, for instance, has become a leader in solar energy, investing over \$100 billion in clean energy projects in 2020 alone.

3. Addressing Global Inequality: The BRICS meeting reaffirmed the commitment to combat poverty and inequality. The group's New Development Bank (NDB), which has lent more than \$30 billion to various projects across member countries, plays a crucial role in financing projects aimed at reducing inequality.

4. Strengthened Political Dialogue: The BRICS bloc emphasized that dialogue, not confrontation, is key to solving global political issues. The countries are committed to fostering peace and security, particularly in areas like the Middle East and Africa.

5. COVID-19 Recovery: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, BRICS countries committed to an equitable distribution of vaccines, with India playing a pivotal role in vaccine production. India, for instance, has provided more than 60 million COVID-19 vaccine doses to over 70 countries through its "Vaccine Maitri" initiative.

6. Digital Economy and Innovation: With a focus on technology, the BRICS nations agreed to work together on digital infrastructure, cybersecurity, and fintech. China's role in e-commerce, particularly with companies like Alibaba, was recognized as a key driver for economic growth in the region.

7. Crisis Response Mechanisms: The BRICS 2 meeting also discussed strengthening emergency response mechanisms for unforeseen global events, such as pandemics and natural disasters. The BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA), established in 2015, has already provided valuable financial assistance to member countries in times of economic stress..

INDIA'S LEADERSHIP ROLE AT BRICS MEETING

- 1. Championing Economic Cooperation:** India's leadership at the BRICS meeting has been pivotal in advocating for better economic cooperation, particularly in enhancing trade between BRICS members. India's trade with other BRICS countries has grown significantly, reaching \$100 billion in 2020.
- 2. Sustainability Advocate:** India pushed for greater attention to sustainable development. As one of the largest polluters globally, India is committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2070. India has also undertaken large-scale renewable energy projects, such as the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- 3. Promoting Inclusivity:** India highlighted the importance of an inclusive global order, emphasizing that developing nations must have more say in global decision-making. This is reflected in India's consistent support for reforming the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).
- 4. Strengthening Global South Collaboration:** India played a crucial role in enhancing ties between BRICS and other developing nations. India's commitment to South-South cooperation is evident in its leadership of initiatives like the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) program, which has benefited over 150 countries.
- 5. Countering Geopolitical Tensions:** India used its leadership position to call for peaceful resolutions to conflicts, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. India has long advocated for a "free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific" through regional dialogue mechanisms such as the Quad.
- 6. Innovation and Digital Economy:** India emphasized the importance of technology and innovation in driving economic growth. The Digital India initiative, which aims to empower citizens through technology, was highlighted as a model for other BRICS countries.
- 7. Crisis Management:** India called for stronger collective action in times of crises. Its role in providing COVID-19 vaccines globally through the "Vaccine Maitri" initiative was particularly highlighted during the BRICS meeting.

GLOBAL CLIMATE GOVERNANCE & BRICS ROLE

- 1. Collective Climate Action:** The BRICS nations, accounting for over 40% of global carbon emissions, acknowledged their shared responsibility in combating climate change. Their collective efforts are crucial in achieving global climate goals such as those set under the Paris Agreement.
- 2. Investment in Green Technologies:** The BRICS countries agreed to boost investments in clean energy and green technologies. China's leadership in solar energy production and Brazil's vast hydroelectric potential were cited as important examples of the group's efforts to transition to greener energy systems.
- 3. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** BRICS reaffirmed its commitment to the UN's SDGs, particularly Goal 13 on climate action. They have pledged to integrate climate change mitigation into their national development plans and policies.
- 4. Climate Financing:** The New Development Bank (NDB), established by BRICS, plays a key role in climate financing. In 2021, the NDB announced its intention to provide \$5 billion in funding for renewable energy projects across BRICS countries and other developing nations.
- 5. Support for Developing Countries:** BRICS countries have committed to supporting climate adaptation and mitigation in the Global South, where the impact of climate change is most severe. The NDB has already provided significant loans to projects aimed at enhancing climate resilience in Africa and Latin America.
- 6. Regional Climate Initiatives:** The BRICS nations have promoted regional cooperation to address climate impacts. For example, India and South Africa have collaborated on water management projects to combat droughts and floods in their respective regions.
- 7. Policy Alignment:** BRICS leaders agreed to align their national climate policies with international frameworks, such as the Paris Agreement, to ensure coordinated action and maximize the impact of their efforts.

CHALLENGES TO MITIGATE GLOBAL WARMING

- 1. Resource Constraints:** Many BRICS countries face budget constraints, limiting their ability to invest in large-scale climate projects. For example, Brazil has struggled to balance deforestation efforts with the economic needs of its agribusiness sector.
- 2. Political Will:** Political instability in some BRICS countries, such as Brazil's fluctuating stance on environmental policies, makes it difficult to implement long-term climate strategies.
- 3. Balancing Economic Growth and Sustainability:** The need for rapid economic growth in many BRICS nations often conflicts with the long-term goals of environmental sustainability. For instance, China's reliance on coal for energy production poses a challenge in meeting carbon reduction targets.
- 4. Climate Adaptation Needs:** The BRICS nations, especially those in Africa and South Asia, face significant challenges in adapting to the impacts of climate change. Rising sea levels in Bangladesh and extreme weather events in South Africa are just some examples.
- 5. Global Cooperation:** Despite the best efforts of BRICS, global cooperation on climate change remains fragmented. The reluctance of some developed nations to commit to climate financing is a major hurdle.
- 6. Technological Gaps:** While BRICS countries are making strides in green technologies, there are still significant gaps in areas like energy storage, carbon capture, and low-carbon manufacturing processes.
- 7. Short-term vs Long-term Goals:** Many BRICS nations prioritize short-term development goals over long-term climate objectives, leading to delays in the implementation of critical climate action plans.

WAY FORWARD

- 1. Strengthen Green Financing:** BRICS should increase green investments, particularly through the New Development Bank (NDB). In 2020, the NDB issued its first green bond, raising \$1.25 billion for clean energy projects.
- 2. Increase Technological Cooperation:** By fostering greater technological collaboration, BRICS can bridge the gap in clean technologies and scale up renewable energy projects.
- 3. Enhanced Global Dialogue:** BRICS should continue advocating for the inclusion of the Global South in global climate negotiations to ensure that the needs of developing nations are met.
- 4. Local Action and Policy Implementation:** BRICS countries must implement more stringent climate policies at the national level, such as carbon taxes, to incentivize green innovation and reduce emissions.
- 5. Public Awareness and Education:** Promoting sustainability and climate action at the grassroots level through public education campaigns will be essential to achieving long-term climate goals.
- 6. Regional Cooperation:** BRICS must enhance regional cooperation, particularly in climate adaptation, by sharing knowledge and resources on mitigating climate risks in vulnerable areas.
- 7. Promote Circular Economy:** A shift towards a circular economy, which prioritizes reducing waste and reusing materials, can significantly contribute to climate mitigation. BRICS nations should champion this approach in their industrial sectors.

CONCLUSION

The BRICS nations hold a crucial role in global governance, particularly in addressing global challenges like climate change. Through cooperative efforts, the BRICS bloc has the potential to drive meaningful progress in sustainable development, green energy transitions, and climate action. However, this requires enhanced financial commitment, stronger multilateral collaboration, and the fulfillment of existing climate financing promises, particularly by developed nations. The group's shared responsibility in tackling environmental issues like desertification, biodiversity loss, and pollution can pave the way for innovative solutions and collective action. Ultimately, BRICS has the opportunity to lead the way in forging a resilient, sustainable, and equitable global future.

PRELIMS QUESTIONS

Q. Which global initiative was mentioned by India to highlight its leadership in conservation?

- (a) International Solar Alliance
- (b) International Big Cat Alliance
- (c) Green Climate Fund
- (d) Clean Energy Partnership

ANSWER: B

MAINS QUESTIONS

Q. Evaluate India's leadership in advocating for enhanced climate financing mechanisms within BRICS. How can developing nations benefit from a united BRICS approach to climate action?

(250 words, 15 marks)



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