Reshaping the Responses to Terror Matrix

Why in news?

The world has been witnessing a flurry of meetings to counter terrorism such as the meeting of the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, No Money for Terror Conference, Interpol Conference, etc.

How prominent are terror attacks?

- The **September 11, 2001 terror attack** in New York, and the **November 26, 2008 attacks** on multiple targets in Mumbai, in their own way reflected the evolving changes in the practice of violence.
- The 9/11 attack came to be regarded as '**new age terrorism'**, while Mumbai underscored the dangers of state-sponsored terrorism.
- The attacks on the **Charlie Hebdo offices** in Paris (2015) and on the **Bardo Museum** in Tunis (2015), signals the rise of new terrorist entities such as the Islamic State (IS) and al Qaeda.
- While Europe and Asia remain in the cross hairs of different terrorist groups, Africa and northwest Asia appear to have become the main hunting ground of the al-Qaeda and IS terrorists.
- Al-Qaeda's activities are becoming more decentralised.
- It is finding fertile grounds in the Sahel region of Africa and in Eastern Africa, apart from its prominence in Afghanistan.
- The **Haqqani Network** within the new Taliban government provides an opportunity for al-Qaeda for a greater pull across the region.
- The intensity has declined to an extent, but there are indications of new complicated patterns of relationships among various terrorist conglomerates.

What has been neglected in such meetings?

- There have been very little discussions at these meetings on how to deal with the spate of newer terror groups whose ambit of activities had widened.
- The meetings did not note the fact that ideology intertwined with religious extremism had become a more potent threat than earlier.
- The declining level of serious terrorist incidents do not, however, translate into a decline in terrorism.
- The counter-terrorism experts across India did not read the proper meanings into terror attacks, such as the one in Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) and Mangaluru (Karnataka) attacks
- The incidents indicate the growing radicalisation and a sizeable base being built in the southern region, which could lead to the creation of organisations on the model of **Indian Mujahideen** (of 2000s).

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What measures need to be taken?

- **Role of world leaders** - The world leaders need not accept all declarations of a decline in levels of terrorism at face value.
- They should not treat some terrorists as good and others as bad, based on each nation's preferences.
- The proposal for the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) that was first proposed by India in the 1990s need to be reactivated.
- **Role of Counter-terrorism agencies** - Counter-terrorism agencies need to sharpen their skills and capabilities in countering new age terrorism.
- There is a need for counter-terrorism agencies across the world to function in coordination, exchanging both intelligence and tactics.
- They need to look into the newer patterns of terror such as enabled terrorism and remote control terrorism, putting forward the dangers of Internet-enabled terrorism.

Quick facts

Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC)

- The UN Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 1373** (2001), which established the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC).
- The CTC is assisted by an Executive Directorate (CTED), which carries out its policy decisions and conducts expert assessments of the 193 United Nations Member States.
- The Committee is composed of **15 Member States** including **India.**

No Money for Terror (NMFT) Conference

- In 2018, **France** mobilized countries determined to identify and drain all the sources of terrorist financing, thus started NMFT.
- It offers a unique platform to deliberate on the effectiveness of the current international regime on Counter Terrorism Financing as well as steps required to address emerging challenges.
- **India** hosted the 3rd conference of NMFT at New Delhi.

References

1. The Hindu | Reshaping the world's responses to the terror matrix
2. United Nations | Counter-Terrorism Committee



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