

Multi-Dimensional Strategy to Counter Internal and Cross-Border Terrorism

NEWS: The Ministry of Home Affairs has outlined comprehensive initiatives undertaken by the Government of India to curb terrorism, both internal and cross-border, through integrated security, legislative, and technological frameworks.

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

Constitutional Position and Centre-State Division

- **Police & Public Order as State Subjects:** According to the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution, 'Police' and 'Public Order' fall under the State List (List-II), giving state governments the primary responsibility for maintaining internal law and order.
- **Union Government's Complementary Role:** Despite the federal division, the Union Government undertakes proactive, multi-dimensional counter-terror strategies, particularly where terrorism poses national security threats or affects cross-border dynamics.

II. Measures for Strengthening Internal and Border Security

A. Operational & Infrastructure Upgradation

- **Deployment of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs):** Forces like BSF, CRPF, and ITBP are deployed in terrorism-prone and border areas to assist state police and provide strategic depth.
- **Border Infrastructure through Bharatmala and BRO:** Construction of all-weather roads, tunnels, and bridges in vulnerable border belts helps facilitate troop movement, logistics, and area domination.
- **Integrated Border Infrastructure:** Establishment of Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) and fortified Border Out Posts (BOPs) enables constant vigilance and better logistical control in sensitive regions.

B. Technology-Driven Surveillance

- **CIBMS Deployment:** The Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) uses a combination of thermal sensors, night-vision cameras, ground radars, and command-control systems for automated border monitoring.
- **UAVs and Satellite Surveillance:** Real-time aerial surveillance through drones and satellites enhances situational awareness, allowing rapid response to infiltration attempts.

III. Capacity Building & Intelligence Sharing

- **Specialized Police Training:** Regular training for State police forces and cyber units in counter-terror tactics, explosives detection, intelligence gathering, and digital forensics.
- **Multi-Agency Coordination:** The Multi Agency Centre (MAC) under the Intelligence Bureau acts as a central hub for sharing intelligence among agencies, with State MACs enabling vertical coordination.

IV. Preventive Measures Against Terrorism

A. Proactive Counter-Terror Operations

- **Zero-Tolerance Approach:** India maintains a strict stance against all forms of terrorism, with no distinction between state-sponsored and non-state actors.
- **Joint Anti-Terror Operations:** Coordinated missions by CAPFs, Indian Army, and State Police focus on dismantling terror networks, eliminating safe havens, and preventing recruitment.
- **Role of NIA:** The National Investigation Agency investigates cases related to terrorism funding, logistics networks, and sleeper cells under UAPA and NIA Act.

B. Strengthening Legislative Framework

- **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA):** Key anti-terror law allowing designation of individuals as terrorists, seizure of properties, and preventive detention.
- **National Investigation Agency Act, 2008:** Empowers the NIA with jurisdiction across states in matters concerning terrorism, counterfeiting, and attacks on critical infrastructure.
- **Asset Freezing & Movement Restrictions:** UAPA's Section 51A aligns with UNSC resolutions to impose travel bans and asset seizures on designated terrorists.

C. Use of Advanced Technologies

- **AI and Big Data Analytics:** Applied to process large volumes of data for detecting unusual behavioural patterns and predicting possible threats.
- **Facial Recognition & Cyber Monitoring:** Helps track suspects, detect forged identities, and identify online radicalization content on social media platforms.

V. Combating Terror Financing

A. Institutional Mechanisms

- **CFT Cell in MHA:** Facilitates coordination among agencies like ED, FIU-IND, and NIA to disrupt terror funding networks.
- **Terror Funding & Fake Currency Cell (TFFC):** Operates under NIA to investigate and prosecute cases involving counterfeit currency and terror finances.
- **FICN Coordination Centre (FCORD):** Coordinates efforts to curb Fake Indian Currency Notes, often linked to cross-border terror financing.

B. Global Alignment & Surveillance

- **Compliance with UNSC Resolutions:** India implements UN Security Council Resolutions 1267 and 1373 to impose sanctions on international terrorists.

- **Monitoring NGOs and Hawala Channels:** Financial Intelligence Units track suspicious donations, illegal remittances, and cash flow through informal networks.

VI. International Cooperation

- **Bilateral Joint Working Groups (JWGs):** India has institutional counter-terror partnerships with 26 countries for information sharing, policy coordination, and joint training.
- **Multilateral Forums Participation:** India engages with ASEAN, BIMSTEC, BRICS, the European Union, and QUAD to advance global counter-terror norms and tech sharing.
- **Stand-alone Dialogue:** For instance, India maintains a specific counter-terror dialogue with Tunisia to deepen bilateral cooperation.

VII. Way Forward

- **Unified National Counter-Terrorism Strategy:** Develop an integrated national doctrine encompassing real-time intelligence, rapid response, cyber security, and foreign collaboration.
- **Expansion of Cyber Surveillance Capabilities:** Invest in AI-powered tools, multilingual content monitoring, and takedown mechanisms for extremist content online.
- **Legal and Judicial Reforms:** Update existing laws to ensure alignment with international human rights standards and address emerging threats such as bio-terrorism and lone wolf attacks.
- **Strengthening Grassroots Intelligence:** Build robust human intelligence (HUMINT) networks by empowering local police, community watch groups, and Panchayati Raj institutions in vulnerable regions.

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