

Re-evaluating Policies for Countering Terrorism

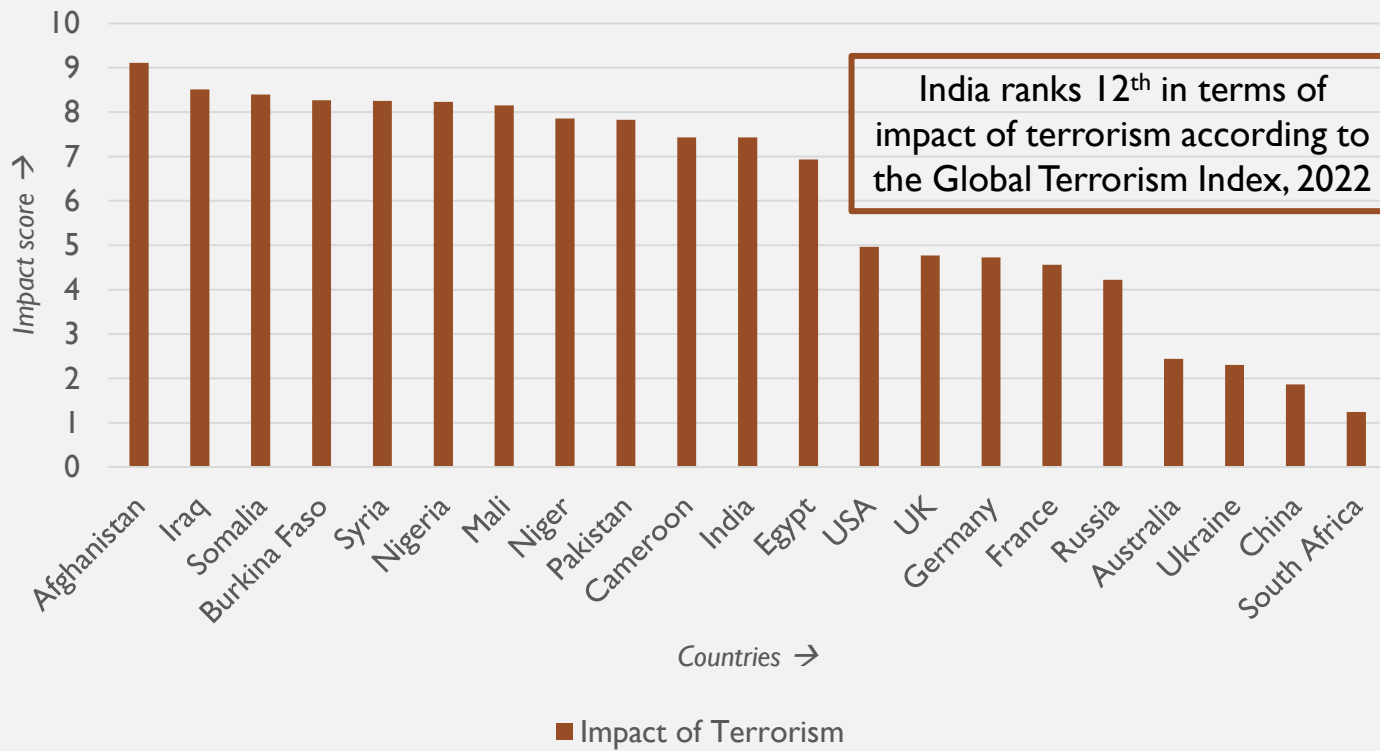
SANKHYA (संख्या)

“There cannot be a good plan for economic progress without adequate data and there cannot be adequate data without a good plan for collecting them...”

P.C Mahalanobis, Member, First Planning Commission of India & Scientist

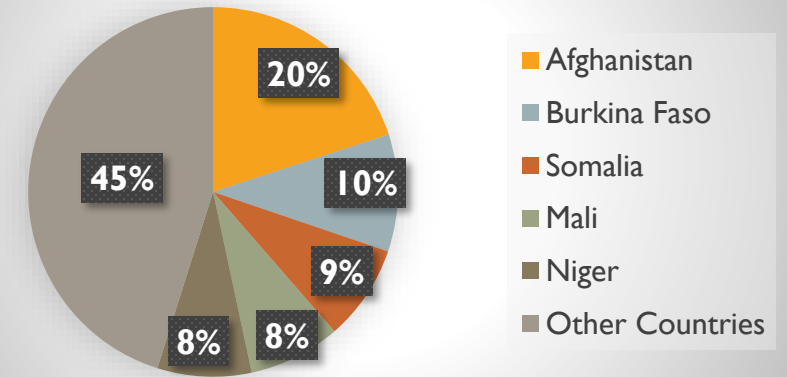
IMPACT OF TERRORISM IN GLOBAL DOMAIN

Global Terrorism Index - 2022



Source: Global Terrorism Index 2022,
Institute of Economics & Peace

Deaths due to terrorism in 2021



- Total deaths ascribable to terrorism fell by 1.2% from 2020 to 2021.
- Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Somalia, Mali and Niger, in that order, are the most impacted countries.
- Out of 163 countries that were assessed, 105 countries did not record any terrorist attacks or deaths.

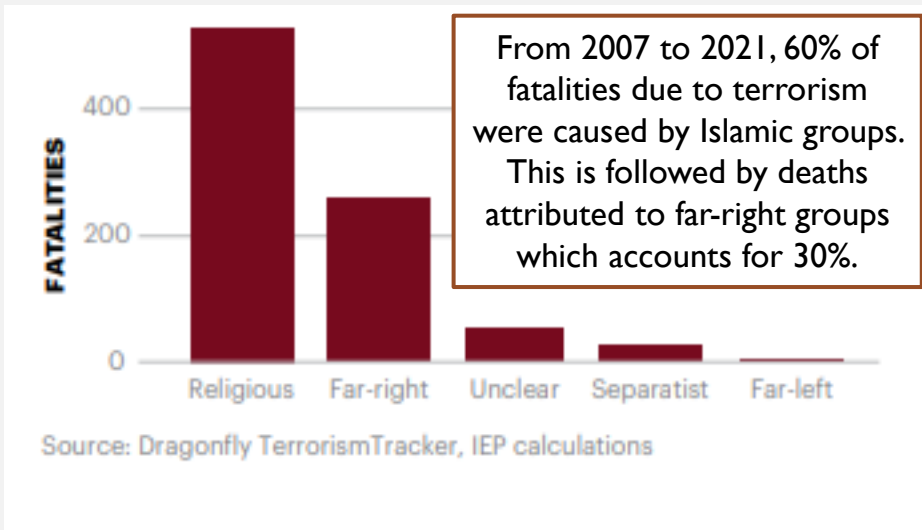
REGIONAL TRENDS OF TERRORISM VIS-À-VIS IDEOLOGIES



Between 2007 and 2021, there were 126,740 deaths from terrorism globally. Of these, 865 occurred in the West, which is just 0.68%. However, terrorism in the West is notable as it occurs outside the context of an ongoing conflict. In rest of the world, 92% of all deaths from terrorism took place due to an ongoing conflict.

"80% of all terrorist incidents have occurred within 50 kilometers of a zone where a conflict is taking place."... **Global Terrorism Index, 2022**

Terrorist fatalities in the West



Terrorist fatalities in South Asia

- South Asian region predominantly falls victim to Religious Terrorism.
- Afghanistan is the most impacted country by terrorism in the world owing to Taliban's invasion.
- In 2021, 23 terror groups were active in the region, with the Taliban accounting for the most attacks
- From 2000 to 2022, India has faced a total of 67,985 incidents related to terrorism.
- As of August 16, 2022, there were a total of 295 fatalities reported in India, out of which 197 were incidents of killing.

GLOBAL PRACTICES FOR DEFEATING TERRORISM AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Pro-active and coordinated action by nations

Terrorism thrives in conflict affected areas which calls for the need of interventions by governmental and inter-governmental agencies to establish an effective framework which is implemented stringently.

Collective investment on de-radicalisation programs

De-radicalisation has proved to be comparatively more effective method for suppressing terrorism. Hence, there ought to be more investments by states on such programmes.

Rethinking the strategy of leadership decapitation

Removal of leaders as a counterterrorism policy has not always been fruitful as it is dependent on organizational structure, resilience and modus operandi. Thus, decapitation strategy ought to be reconsidered and reworked on a case to case basis.

Discouraging targeted Criminal Profiling

Criminal Profiling is ineffective as terrorists often conceal their behavioural or physical traits to avoid drawing attention. Further, it discriminates against communities, particularly religious or racial communities. Therefore, this strategy should be discontinued in the absence on any substantive leads.

Criminal Profiling

Criminal Profiling involves identification of a set of psychological, behavioural or personality traits of terrorists based on past experiences and using them as indicators to identify terrorists even before they could act on their goals.

De-Radicalisation

De-radicalization is a social or psychological program or process, wherein individuals or groups affiliated to terrorist organizations are counselled to disengage from radical or extremist groups

Leadership decapitation strategy

Leadership Decapitation is a strategy in which the key leaders or individuals of a terrorist organization are arrested or killed as a measure to disintegrate the terrorist faction.

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questions*

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Sankhya* is an initiative of Bridge Policy Think Tank to create interface snapshots in statistics and policy analysis while promoting critical thinking and analysis.

** Sankhya means numbers and is also a school of rationalist Indian philosophy. According to Sankhya philosophy reliable knowledge comes from only three pramanas (proofs)- pratyakṣa ('perception'), anumāṇa ('inference') and śabda (āptavacana, meaning, 'word/testimony of reliable sources').*