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Tribal women lead protests over Ken-Betwa project

Mehul Malpani

BHOPAL

Tribal villagers on Friday escalated their agitation against the Ken-Betwa river-linking project in Chhatarpur district after talks with officials failed to reach a consensus.

Protesters, mostly women, have launched a symbolic agitation by placing noose around their necks. The protest that has been going on the banks of the Barana river near Kupi village has entered its fifth day on Friday.

Earlier in April, the protesters demonstrated for days by lying on symbolic pyres over water, which had gained national attention.

The protesters complained of inadequate rehabilitation package. Several villagers have also been left



Tribal woman during a symbolic “hanging satyagraha” against the Ken-Betwa project in Chhatarpur on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

out of the rehabilitation plan of the Ken-Betwa project, and Majhgaon and Runjh irrigation projects. They are demanding that their rehabilitation package be increased from ₹12.5 lakh to ₹25 lakh.

Chhatarpur Collector Parth Jaiswal, however, told *The Hindu* that the people protesting “are not being

impacted by the Ken-Betwa project”.

“There are about 100 people protesting now and all of them are from Panna. None of them are impacted by Ken-Betwa, but by the other two irrigation projects. They are demanding that their rehabilitation package should be like the Ken-Betwa. We have sent

teams of officials from both districts to talk to them,” he said. Mr. Jaiswal said after the April protest, a fresh survey was conducted and about 750 families were added to the rehabilitation plan of Majhgaon and Runjh projects.

“The State Cabinet this week has passed a resolution to increase the amount of rehabilitation package [for Majhgaon and Runjh projects] by about ₹300 crore. Their compensation has been increased from ₹5 lakh to ₹12.5 lakh. We have communicated it to them,” he said.

Mr. Jaiswal also said that the villagers are “being misled” by some local activists who are using the site of Ken-Betwa project for the protests. “The demands that are being raised now are not valid,” he added.

Flagged off by Prime Mi-

nister Narendra Modi on December 25, 2024, the Ken-Betwa link project is the first of 30 such link projects under a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for water resources development and interlinking of rivers with ‘surplus water’ to those with ‘deficit water’.

However, residents of several villages in Chhatarpur and Panna districts have long been protesting the projects over fears of displacement and demanding better rehabilitation and improved compensation. Various environmentalists, including Former Union Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh, have also expressed concerns over its potential impact on environment, local ecology and wildlife as a large part of the project falls inside the Panna National Park and Tiger Reserve.

Context (GS-3: Water Resources | Infrastructure | Environment) : Tribal communities in Madhya Pradesh have renewed protests over the Ken–Betwa River Linking Project, demanding better rehabilitation and compensation for project-affected families.

Ken–Betwa River Linking Project

I. About

- * Approved by the Union Cabinet in 2021.
- * **India's first river interlinking project under the National Perspective Plan (NPP).**
- * Implemented in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

II. Objective

- * Transfer water from the Ken River to the Betwa River.
- * Improve irrigation, drinking water supply and hydropower in the drought-prone Bundelkhand region.

III. Key Components

- * Daudhan Dam on the Ken River.
- * Ken–Betwa Link Canal and associated irrigation infrastructure.

IV. Key Concerns

- * Displacement and rehabilitation of affected families.
- * Ecological impact on the Panna Tiger Reserve and forest ecosystem.

Conservation projects for river dolphins, 3 other species approved

The Hindu Bureau

COIMBATORE

The governing body of the National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) on Friday gave nod to four new conservation projects for river dolphins, snow leopards, wild water buffalo, and Indian rhinoceros.

The projects approved are studies on the conservation and recovery action plan for river dolphins,



The governing body of National CAMPA approved a new scheme with an initial corpus of ₹3,000 crore over five years.

Project Snow Leopard Phase-II (including second cycle of population estimation), the conservation ac-

tion plan for the Indian Rhinoceros, and a pan-India conservation approach for the wild water buffalo.

Consider the following statements :

1. As per law, the **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority** exists at both National and State levels.
2. People's participation is mandatory in the compensatory afforestation programmes carried out under the **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Context (GS-3: Biodiversity | Wildlife Conservation) : The National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) has approved ₹3,000 crore (2025–30) for conservation of the Ganges River Dolphin, Snow Leopard, Greater One-horned Rhinoceros and Wild Water Buffalo, focusing on habitat restoration and species recovery.

I. Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)

- i. Constituted under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act, 2016; functions under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- ii. Utilises funds collected for diversion of forest land towards compensatory afforestation, habitat restoration and wildlife conservation.

II. Species Covered

- i. **Ganges River Dolphin (National Aquatic Animal)** – IUCN: Endangered | WPA: Schedule I | Habitat: Ganga–Brahmaputra river system.
- ii. **Snow Leopard** – IUCN: Vulnerable | WPA: Schedule I | Habitat: Trans-Himalayan region (Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim & Arunachal Pradesh).
- iii. **Greater One-horned Rhinoceros** – IUCN: Vulnerable | WPA: Schedule I | Habitat: Assam, West Bengal & Dudhwa National Park (Uttar Pradesh).
- iv. **Wild Water Buffalo** – IUCN: Endangered | WPA: Schedule I | Habitat: Mainly Assam; smaller populations in Chhattisgarh & Arunachal Pradesh.

Terrorism's data retreat hides emerging global threats

At first glance, the macroeconomic indicators of global security offer a rare moment of statistical comfort. Recent reports suggest that global terrorism experienced a noteworthy decline in 2025, with fatalities across the world falling to 5,582 across 2,944 recorded incidents – representing a 28% drop in deaths and a 22% reduction in overall attacks. With as many as 81 nations registering measurable improvements in their domestic security landscapes, a superficial reading of the data might suggest that the international community is finally turning the tide against terror, or as the strategists prefer to call it, asymmetric warfare.

Beyond statistical comfort

Yet, there lies a far more unsettling reality: the world is not necessarily becoming safer; it is becoming unevenly unsafe. The aggregate reduction in violence masks a profound structural mutation in how terror operates, where it thrives, and how we, as a global society, perceive it.

It raises a haunting philosophical and strategic question: have we begun to subconsciously accept terrorism not as a horrific aberration to be entirely eradicated, but as a “normal” tax on modern civilisation?

There is an insidious trap in treating aggregate declines as a triumph. When violence becomes highly concentrated, it risks becoming invisible to the global conscience. The data show that nearly 70% of all terrorism-related deaths are now compressed into five countries: Pakistan, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Niger, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Sub-Saharan Africa, particularly the volatile Sahel region, alone accounts for over half of all global fatalities.

Because the vast majority of this devastation occurs within these specific, vulnerable geographies, the wealthier and more stable quarters of the world are prone to a dangerous complacency. When terrorism is confined to nations already beset by chronic systemic fragility, the international community tends to relegate it to background noise – a tragic feature of post-colonial states.

This regional containment fosters a false sense of security. Not every terror incident is a Pahalgaon: organised, ruthlessly planned and flawlessly executed. The rise of decentralised, transnational, and rapid digital recruitment has facilitated lone-actor attacks in many countries. When the methodology of terror shifts from massive, complex operations to low-tech, high-impact individual strikes incited on online echo-chambers, the threat becomes an



Shashi Tharoor

Fourth-term Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) for Thiruvananthapuram (Congress party), the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs and the Sahitya Akademi Award-winning author of 29 books, including 'Pax Indica: India and the World of the 21st Century'

While the world may be recording fewer terrorist attacks, it is simultaneously confronting a far more resilient and adaptive adversary

internalised, ambient hazard of modern pluralistic societies. By treating these as an unavoidable operational hazard of the 21st century, we risk normalising the unacceptable.

Reaction to prevention

To prevent terrorism from metastasising further, counter-terrorism strategy must move away from reactive responses and toward addressing the structural ecology of extremist violence. There are two critical arenas where this intervention must take place: the blurring line between state conflict and terrorism, and the specific vulnerability of international frontiers.

First, the data establishes an overwhelming correlation between political instability and violent extremism: an estimated 99% of all terrorism-related deaths occur in nations already entangled in armed conflict. Terrorism is rarely an isolated phenomenon generated in a vacuum; it is the ultimate by-product of institutional or diplomatic collapse. Where state capacity is hollowed out, extremist groups swiftly step into the vacuum, offering alternative forms of primitive security, or ideological certainty to disillusioned populations.

Second, the geography of modern terror has become distinctly granular. Over 60% of attacks now take place within 100 kilometres of international borders. These frontier zones, frequently neglected (or weaponised) by central governments, offer ideal operational sanctuaries. In these porous margins, terrorist syndicates manage cross-border movements, establish illicit supply lines, and conduct recruitment enabled or unhindered by state authority.

Curbing this threat requires an intentional re-investment in state capacity, development and border sovereignty. If central authorities continue to treat borderlands as secondary priorities, they leave the door open for non-state actors to entrench themselves. Furthermore, development assistance must be strategically aligned with security imperatives, treating the reinforcement of judicial systems, localised policing, and basic administrative services as the primary bulwarks against extremist encroachment.

Whether the statistical downward trend recorded in 2025 will endure remains an open and highly precarious question. The contemporary security landscape is caught in a tug-of-war between institutional stabilisation efforts and powerful destabilising catalysts.

The constriction of violent extremism to a smaller pool of actors – specifically the five dominant networks (Islamic State, Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimin (JNIM), Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Lashkar-e-Taiba and al-Shabaab)

– means that counter-terrorism forces can achieve maximum impact through highly focused intelligence and interdiction efforts. As the threat becomes more localised and frontier-centric, multinational intelligence apparatuses must become equally agile, disrupting cross-border logistics before they can scale into wider insurgencies. Tech platforms and state regulatory bodies must continue to refine their capabilities to detect and dismantle decentralised digital radicalisation pipelines before they can catalyse lone-actor violence.

However, the headwinds militating against a sustained decline are formidable. The ongoing conflicts in West Asia threaten to completely reverse recent global gains. Prolonged warfare, mass displacement, and the systematic erosion of state institutions create a uniquely fertile breeding ground for extremist resurgence in 2026 and beyond. The persistence of major geopolitical conflicts, including India-Pakistan, lowers the barriers to entry for new, fragmented radical actors, further complicating the global threat matrix.

Furthermore, even within the current downward trend, the stark resilience and adaptability of organisations such as the TTP – which bucked the general decline by increasing its attacks – serve as a potent warning. Modern terrorist organisations are highly adaptive entities. When squeezed globally, they fragment, localise, and embed themselves within pre-existing domestic ethnic or political grievances, making them extraordinarily difficult to curb.

The complacency trap

The ultimate lesson of the contemporary security paradigm is that terrorism is not receding; it is simply reorganising. The international community cannot afford to be lulled into a state of complacency by declining aggregates; it is simultaneously confronting a far more complex, resilient, and adaptive adversary.

For nations such as India, navigating an immediate strategic environment surrounded by highly volatile neighbourhoods and cross-border security challenges, these transformations require a continuous, sophisticated recalibration of both domestic and regional counter-terrorism doctrines. We must not surrender the moral and strategic clarity required to defeat it. The numbers may be falling, but the structural risks are not. True security will not be achieved by celebrating statistical lulls, but by relentlessly dismantling the fault lines of conflict, governance failures, and digital radicalisation that allow the ideology of terror to survive.

CONTEXT

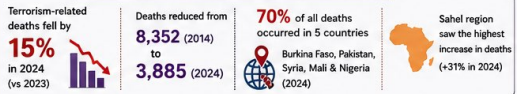
Global Terrorism Index (GTI) 2025 shows a significant decline in terrorism-related deaths. The Hindu editorial warns that terrorism is becoming more decentralised, technology-driven and borderless, making detection and prevention harder.



TERRORISM: DECLINING NUMBERS, EMERGING THREATS

Lower numbers do not mean lower risk — Terrorism is evolving, not ending

GLOBAL TERRORISM INDEX 2025 - KEY DATA



Source: Global Terrorism Index 2025, Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)

“ The threat is becoming **more localised**, **more frontier-centric** and **more automated**. Counter-terrorism must evolve with equal speed. ”

KEY TAKEAWAY

Declining numbers can create complacency. Future terrorism will be decentralised, tech-enabled, ideologically resilient and harder to detect.



1. DECENTRALISED & LEADERLESS

- Lone-wolf attacks
- Small autonomous cells
- Self-radicalised individuals
- Cross-border ideological influence

2. TECHNOLOGY-DRIVEN

- AI generated content & misinformation
- Encrypted communication & dark web
- Cryptocurrency based financing
- Commercial drones & weaponisation

THE NEW FACE OF TERRORISM

3. HYBRID & TRANSNATIONAL

- Links with organised crime, drug & arms trade
- Cyber attacks on critical infrastructure
- Hawala, trade based money laundering
- Exploitation of refugees & internal conflicts

4. WHY NUMBERS ARE MISLEADING

- Deaths down, but incidents remain concentrated
- High impact attacks can cause mass casualties
- Threat is global, fluid & unpredictable
- Harder detection due to decentralisation & tech

5. INDIA'S KEY CONCERNS

- Cross-border terrorism
- Digital radicalisation
- Drone infiltration
- Crypto & hawala financing
- Emerging tech misuse by extremist groups



WAY FORWARD – A MULTI-DIMENSIONAL STRATEGY

SECURITY - Intelligence-led policing - AI-based predictive threat analysis - Better border management - Anti-drone systems	TECHNOLOGY - Regulate encrypted platforms - Monitor crypto transactions - Counter online extremist narratives - Strengthen cyber security	GOVERNANCE - Capacity building of police & intel agencies - Improve inter-agency coordination - International intelligence sharing	SOCIO-ECONOMIC - Community engagement - Counter-radicalisation programmes - Education & employment in vulnerable regions - Inclusive development to prevent extremism
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INDIA'S INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

NIA	National Investigation Agency (NIA)
Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA)	
NATGRID	National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)
MAC	Multi Agency Centre (MAC)
I4C	Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)

INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK

UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2006)	
UNSC Resolution 1373 (2001)	
FATF	Financial Action Task Force (FATF) – Countering terror financing
NMFT	No Money for Terror (NMFT) Initiative

GS-III SYLLABUS LINKAGE



- Linkages between development & spread of extremism
- Role of external state & non-state actors
- Challenges to internal security through communication networks
- Cyber security & security challenges from emerging technologies
- Money laundering & terror financing
- Border management

IMPORTANT DATA (AT A GLANCE)



CONCLUSION

Terrorism is evolving faster than our systems. India must shift from reactive to proactive, from force-centric to intelligence & technology-led, and from national to global cooperation, while addressing root causes of violent extremism.



PIB ANALYSIS

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS



10 JULY 2026
FRIDAY

INFORMED TODAY
EMPOWERED TOMORROW

1 INDIA-AUSTRALIA ROADMAP FOR SPORTS COLLABORATION



Based on: 2023 MoU on Cooperation in Sports



Major Events Ahead:

- 2030 Commonwealth Games – Ahmedabad
- Brisbane 2032 Olympic & Paralympic Games
- India's Aspiration – Future Olympic Games



Capacity Building

- High Performance Sports Centres – Best practices
- Coach exchange & Train-the-Trainer model
- Para-sports cooperation – classification, coaching, performance support
- Promote Yoga & World Yogasana in Australia
- Scholarships for talented Indian sportspersons



Science, Research & Innovation

- Joint research – athlete analytics, injury prevention, nutrition, wearables, recovery techniques, Para sport
- Co-develop sports curriculums between universities
- Anti-doping cooperation with WADA & UNESCO

3 MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS



- Exhibition matches & youth events (Kabaddi, Kho Kho in Australia)
- AFL & Basketball in India)
- Shared facilities, competitions & networks for Olympic, Paralympic & Commonwealth Games
- Inaugural Big Bash League (BBL) match in Chennai (Dec 2026)
- Goal: Annual BBL matches in India

4 SPORTS INDUSTRY & INVESTMENT



- Australia-funded Sports Industry Summit in Mumbai (Dec 2026)
- Collaboration in: Sports equipment, Media & Broadcasting, Event management, Sports start-ups
- Facilitate Australian businesses in Indian market (and vice-versa)
- Expand India's export of sports goods to Australia
- Export Australian expertise in high performance sports: coaching, strength & conditioning, nutrition, psychology, athlete wellbeing

5 WOMEN IN SPORTS

- Joint initiatives on: Leadership, High performance, Health, Participation
- Bilateral women's tournaments & sports exchanges
- Sports as a pathway for women's empowerment, social inclusion & leadership



6 SPORTS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH



- Advanced analytics, biometrics, injury prevention, nutrition, wearables, recovery techniques, Para sport
- Co-develop sports curriculums between universities
- Anti-doping cooperation:
 - Sport Integrity Australia & NADA India support WADA programs via WADA Asia/Oceania Office
 - Representation on UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport

2 7TH GOVERNING BODY MEETING OF NATIONAL CAMPA



Venue: CASFOS, Coimbatore



Chaired by: Shri Bhupender Yadav
Union Minister, MoEFCC

CAMPA – Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority
Objective: Compensatory Afforestation (CA) | Forest Restoration | Wildlife Conservation
Optimal Use of Net Present Value (NPV) Funds

Digital Governance Initiatives

Digital APO (Annual Plan of Operations)



- FY 2026-27
- Fully online workflow
- Verification & approval
- Integrated dashboard
- Fund utilisation & plantation monitoring

Geospatial Monitoring & Evaluation System (GIS Lab)



- GIS platforms & field verification
- CA, NPV-funded projects &
- CAMPA schemes monitoring

Hari-SANKALP Portal



- Real-time monitoring with dashboards
- MIS for CAMPA schemes

Flagship Schemes & Financial Outlay

MSHTI

(Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes)



₹88.40 crore
Released so far
(6 States/UTs)

- Extended till 2029 (3 years)
- Additional Allocation: ₹500 crore
- Total Outlay: ₹600 crore
- Landscape-based coastal restoration

NAGAR VAN YOJANA



652

Nagar Vans/
Vatikas
Developed

₹571.50 crore
Released

Aastha Van Sanrakshan Yojana (NEW SCHEME)

- Corpus: ₹3,000 crore
- Duration: 2026-27 to 2030-31
- Target: Nearly 15,000 Sacred Groves (Aastha Vans)
- For conservation & restoration of sacred groves



GREEN CREDIT SCHEME



₹7.28 crore
Released to
ICFRE
For plantation-based
green cover expansion

Wildlife & Forestry Conservation Projects Approved



Conservation &
Recovery Action Plan
for River Dolphins



Project Snow
Leopard Phase-II
(2nd cycle
population
estimation)



Conservation
Action Plan for
Indian Rhinoceros



Pan-India
Conservation
Approach for
Wild Water Buffalo



Continued Support
for Sangai
(Manipur Brown-
Antlered Deer)

ROADMAP – HIGH VALUE PRELIMS FACTS



Based on
2023 Sports
MoU



Commonwealth
Games 2030
Ahmedabad



Brisbane 2032
Olympic &
Paralympic Games



BBL Match in
Chennai
Dec 2026



Focus Areas
Capacity, Science,
Events, Industry,
Women in Sports

INSTITUTIONS TO REMEMBER

- CAMPA – MoEFCC
- ICFRE – Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education
- FAO-India – Food & Agriculture Organization of the UN
- NADA India – National Anti-Doping Agency
- WADA – World Anti-Doping Agency

PIB SNIPPETS



Sports for Development
India-Australia partnership
with global sporting vision



For People & Planet
Restoration, conservation
& sustainable livelihoods
through CAMPA schemes

DID YOU KNOW?



- Yoga has global recognition through World Yogasana
- India aims to host future Olympic Games
- CAMPA funds are vital for ecological restoration



KEY TAKEAWAY

Strengthening sports cooperation with Australia while advancing forest restoration, biodiversity conservation and digital governance for a sustainable future.



UnderStand UPSC

What we UnderStand, We Conquer

