

## Change in terror matrix

- The world has been witnessing a flurry of meetings and conferences on the issue of countering terrorism worldwide.
- The list resembles an alphabetic soup, viz., meetings of the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, the No Money for Terror Conference, and an Interpol Conference in which terrorism figured prominently.
- The recurring theme has been the need to wage a coordinated fight against terrorism
- Terrorism remains the omnipresent threat that it has always been.
- The locales may shift but the threat remains.
- 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-Qaida and IS terrorists.
- Linkages among terrorist groups, have if anything, become strengthened,
- What is also becoming evident is that al-Qaeda's activities in particular are becoming more decentralized.
- It is finding fertile ground in the Sahel region of Africa and in Eastern Africa, apart from its salience in Afghanistan.
- The declining level of serious terrorist incidents does not, however, translate into a decline in terrorism
- Symptomatic of growing radicalization and suggestive of the fact that a sizeable base is being built in the southern region.

## Steps

- Not to accept all declarations of a decline in levels of terrorism at face value and, at another level, not to treat some terrorists as good and others as bad, based on each nation's predilections.
- The next step is to reactivate the proposal for the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) that has been languishing in the offices of the UN (since India first proposed this in the 1990s), and finalize the list of items needed to check terrorism globally.
- Counter-terrorism agencies the world over need to hone their skills and capabilities on how best to counter 'new age terrorism'.
- There is also a clear need for counter-terrorism agencies across the world to function in a more coordinated manner, exchanging both intelligence and tactics.

- They need to take stock of the newer patterns of terror such as 'enabled terrorism' and 'remote control terrorism', viz., violence conceived and guided by controllers thousands of miles away, positing the dangers of Internet-enabled terrorism.

**THE HINDU**

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### **US and WTO**

- In a significant development in international trade law, four separate World Trade Organization (WTO) Panel reports have ruled that the tariffs of 25% and 10% on steel and aluminium, respectively that the United States (U.S.) had imposed during the presidency of Donald Trump are inconsistent with WTO law.
- The cases were brought by China, Norway, Switzerland, and Turkey.
- The WTO panellists held that these tariff rates breached the U.S.'s obligations under Article II.1 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which obligates countries not to impose tariffs beyond bound rates.
- Article XXI(b)(iii) of GATT allows a country to take any action 'which it considers necessary for the protection of its essential security interests taken in time of war or

other 'emergency in international relations

- Neoliberalism is based on principles such as non-discrimination in international economic relations and a peaceful settlement of disputes through neutral international courts.
- It champions interdependence. These principles are achieved by legalizing the neoliberal order through the creation of global institutions such as the WTO and a plethora of free trade and investment treaties.
- International economic order today is moving away from the post- Cold War neoliberal order toward a new geoeconomics order.
- As the difference between the size of the Chinese and American economies began to shrink at a rapid pace, the U.S. seems to be giving up on championing free trade and swiftly embracing protectionism.
- The Trumpian tariffs wrapped in the cloth of national security, which the Joe Biden administration also backed.
- Geoeconomics order will inevitably lead to 'international trade lawlessness'.
- Geoeconomics is the use of economic tools to advance geopolitical objectives.

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## Uncontrolled re-entry

- Uncontrolled re-entries the phenomenon of rocket parts falling back to earth in an unguided fashion once their missions are complete.

### What is an uncontrolled re-entry?

- In an uncontrolled re-entry, the rocket stage simply falls. Its path down is determined by its shape, angle of descent, air currents, and other characteristics.
- It will also disintegrate as it falls.
- As the smaller pieces fan out, the potential radius of impact will increase on the ground.
- Some pieces burn up entirely while others don't.
- But because of the speed at which they're traveling, debris can be deadly.
- Parts of a SpaceX Falcon 9 that fell down in Indonesia in 2016 included two "refrigerator-sized fuel tanks".
- If re-entering stages still hold fuel, atmospheric and terrestrial chemical contamination is another risk.
- Casualty risk from uncontrolled rocket body re-entries as being on the order of 10% in the next decade" and that countries in the 'Global

South' face a "disproportionately higher" risk of casualties.

- There is no international binding agreement to ensure rocket stages always perform controlled re-entries nor on the technologies with which to do so.
- The Liability Convention 1972 requires countries to pay for damages, not prevent them.
- Advances in electronics and fabrication have made way for smaller satellites, which are easier to build and launch in large numbers.
- These satellites experience more atmospheric drag than if they had been bigger, but they are also likelier to burn up during re-entry.

## THE HINDU

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### Sahitya academy awards

- Tamil author M. Rajendran, Telugu writer Madhuranthakam Narendra and Sanskrit poet Janardan Prasad Pandey 'Mani' are among the 23 authors who won the Sahitya Akademi awards for 2022
- Anuradha Roy has been selected for her English novel All the lives we never lived.
- The Bhasha Samman will be given to Udaya Nath Jha for his contribution to the field of classical and medieval literature in the eastern region.

- In the Assamese language, Manoj Kumar Goswami won the award for his collection of short stories Bhool Satya.
- Gulam Mohammad Shaikh won in Gujarati for Gher Jatan, a collection of autobiographical essays, while Mr. Rajendran won in Tamil for his novel Kala Pani.
- Other languages Winners in other languages are Maya Anil Kharangate (Konkani), Praveen Dashrath Bandekar (Marathi), Mr. Madhuranthakam Narendra (Telugu), Anis Ashfaq (Urdu), Veena Gupta (Dogri), Kamal Ranga (Rajasthani), K.B. Nepali (Nepali), Farooq Fayaz (Kashmiri) and Rashmi Choudhury (Bodo).
- M. Thomas Mathew won the award in Malayalam for his work on literary criticism, Ashaante Seethayanam, while Mudnakudu Chinnaswamy won in Kannada for a collection of articles, Bahutvada Bhaarata mattu Bouddha Taatvikate.
- The award for Bengali works will be announced later.
- The Sahitya Akademi 'Yuva Puraskar' was awarded to Pawan Nalat for his Marathi poetry collection Mi Sandarbha Pokharatoy.
- The Bal Sahitya Puraskar has been given to Ganesh Marandi for his Santali book Hapan Mai.

## THE HINDU

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### J&K Land Grant rule

#### What do new land laws entail?

- According to the new land laws, the leases of current landowners will not be extended in case of their lease expiry.
- It reads that all leases, except the subsisting or expired residential leases, expired or determined prior to the coming into force of these rules or issued under these rules shall not be renewed and shall stand determined.
- Unlike the previous up to 99 years of lease, the lease period has been reduced to 40 years.

#### What is the L-G administration's plan for lease now?

- An expert committee will enlist all properties where the lease had ended. It will be e-auctioned afresh.
- The rules open bidding to "any person legally competent under Section 11 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872."
- These rules deem a person or an entity in default of Government Revenue accrued to the government under the J&K Land Grant Act, 1960, or a Government convicted under the Prevention of Money Laundering

Act, 2002 shall not be eligible for participation in the auction.

- According to now- repealed land laws, no such land shall be granted on lease to the person, who is not a permanent residence of the State; except where the Government, for the reasons to be recorded, relax this restriction in the interest of industrial or commercial development or in the favour of a registered charitable society.

## **THE HINDU**

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### **Japan's new nuclear plan**

- Japan on adopted a new policy promoting greater use of nuclear energy to ensure a stable power supply amid global fuel shortages and to reduce carbon emissions, in a major reversal of its phase- out plan following the Fukushima crisis.
- The new policy says Japan must maximize the use of existing nuclear reactors by restarting as many of them as possible and prolonging the operating life of old reactors beyond their 60-year limit, and by developing next generation reactors to replace them.
- Anti-nuclear sentiment and safety concerns rose sharply in Japan after the 2011 Fukushima disaster, and restart approvals have since come

slowly under stricter safety standards.

## **Greenwashing**

### **What Is Greenwashing?**

- Greenwashing is the process of conveying a false impression or misleading information about how a company's products are environmentally sound.
- Greenwashing involves making an unsubstantiated claim to deceive consumers into believing that a company's products are environmentally friendly or have a greater positive environmental impact than they actually do.
- Performed through the use of environmental imagery, misleading labels, and hiding tradeoffs.
- Also known as "green sheen," greenwashing is an attempt to capitalize on the growing demand for environmentally sound products, whether that means they are more natural, healthier, free of chemicals, recyclable, or less wasteful of natural resources.

## **THE HINDU**

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