

Global Terrorism Index 2026 | Highlights, Rankings, Analysis

Global Terrorism Index 2026

Global Terrorism Index 2026 is a structured report that measures terrorism impact across 163 countries using consistent indicators. The report shows a decline in global terrorism levels but highlights rising risks in specific regions and emerging patterns such as youth radicalisation and border-based terrorism.

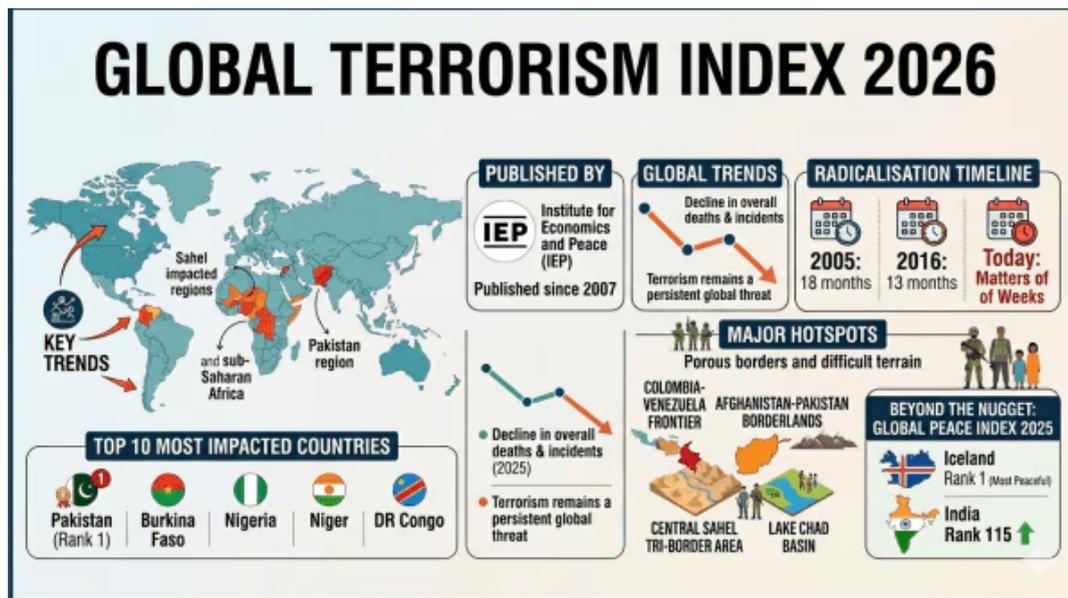
For UPSC aspirants, this report connects [internal security](#), [international relations](#), and [current affairs](#) into one analytical framework.

Key Highlights

The major findings of Global Terrorism Index 2026 are listed below:

- Global terrorism deaths fell by **28% to 5,582** in 2025
 - Terrorist incidents dropped by **22% to 2,944**
 - **Pakistan ranked 1st**, becoming the most affected country
 - **India ranked 13th** globally
 - Sub-Saharan Africa remained the **global epicentre of terrorism**
 - Western countries saw a **280% rise in fatalities**
 - Islamic State remained the **deadliest organisation**
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What is Global Terrorism Index 2026?



Global Terrorism Index is a composite index that measures the impact of [terrorism](#) across countries using four indicators: incidents, fatalities, injuries, and hostages.

It assigns scores from 0 to 10, where 0 indicates no impact and 10 indicates maximum impact.

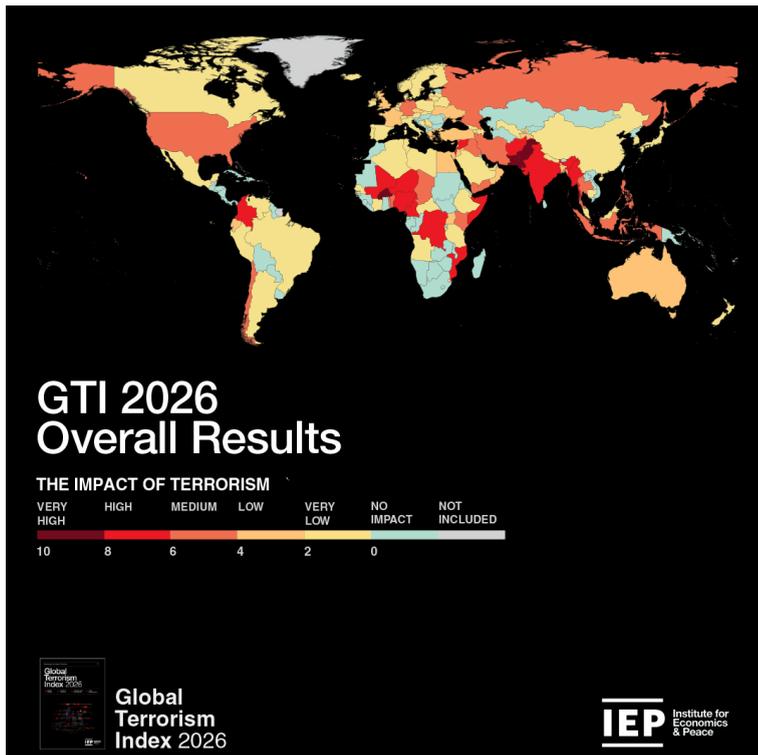
The report is published by the Institute for Economics and Peace and uses data from Terrorism Tracker and related databases.

Global Terrorism Index 2026 Rankings

The top 10 most affected countries include:

1. Pakistan
2. Burkina Faso
3. Niger
4. Nigeria
5. Mali
6. Syria
7. Somalia
8. Democratic Republic of Congo
9. Colombia
10. Israel

Pakistan recorded **1,139 deaths and 1,045 incidents in 2025**, marking the highest impact in over a decade.



Global Terrorism Index 2026 India Rank

India is ranked **13th** in the **Global Terrorism Index 2026**.

India's score reflects moderate impact compared to highly affected regions like the Sahel and parts of Africa.

Is India improving in the global terror index?

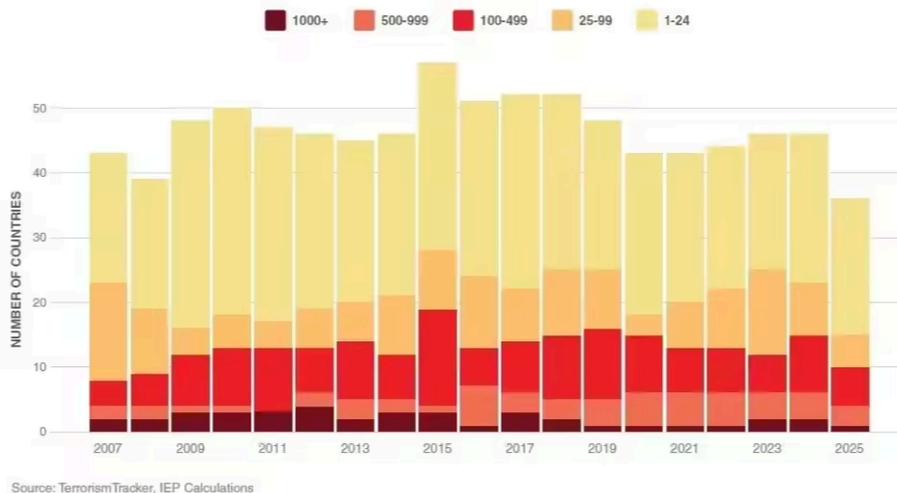
Yes. India's position shows relative stability compared to countries with rising conflict zones, while global terrorism has become more concentrated in fewer regions.

Global Trends in Terrorism (2026)

- **Decline in Global Terrorism**
 - Global terrorism showed improvement with **81 countries recording better scores** and only 19 countries deteriorating.
- **Rise in Western Terrorism**
 - Western countries recorded a **280% increase in deaths**, mainly linked to political and ideological violence.
- **Concentration of Terrorism**
 - Around **70% of global terrorism deaths occurred in five countries**: Pakistan, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Niger, and DRC.

Distribution of terrorism deaths intensity, 2007-2025

Fewer than 40 countries recorded at least one death from terrorism in 2025



Regional Analysis: Where is Terrorism Concentrated?

- **Sub-Saharan Africa**

Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for the highest share of terrorism deaths, with the Sahel region alone contributing more than half of global fatalities.

- **Borderland Terrorism**

Over **64% of attacks occur within 100 km of international borders**, showing the role of weak state control in border areas.

Is terrorism shifting geographically?

Yes. The centre of terrorism has shifted from the Middle East to the Sahel region over the past decade.

Emerging Patterns in Global Terrorism

Youth Radicalisation

Youth involvement in terrorism has increased sharply:

- Youth accounts for **42% of terror investigations in the West**
- Radicalisation can now occur within weeks
- Online propaganda drives recruitment

Lone-Wolf Attacks

Lone actors carried out **93% of fatal attacks in Western countries**.

Is lone-wolf terrorism increasing?

Yes. Individual attackers now dominate terrorism patterns in developed countries.

Major Terrorist Organisations (2026)

The most active terrorist groups include:

- Islamic State (IS)
- Jamaat Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimeen (JNIM)
- Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)
- Al-Shabaab

These groups together caused **70% of global terrorism deaths**.

Why Global Terrorism Index Matters for UPSC

Global Terrorism Index is relevant for:

- [GS Paper 3](#) (Internal Security)
- [GS Paper 2](#) (International Relations)
- Essay and [interview preparation](#)

It helps you understand:

- Terrorism trends
 - Regional conflicts
 - Security challenges
 - Policy implications
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Conclusion

Global Terrorism Index 2026 shows a decline in overall terrorism levels with deaths falling to 5,582 and incidents to 2,944. Pakistan ranks first while India stands at 13th position. Terrorism is now concentrated in fewer regions, mainly sub-Saharan Africa, with new risks emerging from youth radicalisation and border-based operations.

FAQs

1. What is Global Terrorism Index 2026?

It is a global report that measures terrorism impact across 163 countries using indicators like deaths and incidents.

2. What is India's rank in Global Terrorism Index 2026?

India is ranked **13th** in the 2026 report.

3. Which country tops Global Terrorism Index 2026?

Pakistan is ranked **1st** with the highest terrorism impact.

4. Which region is the most affected by terrorism?

Sub-Saharan Africa, especially the Sahel region, is the most affected.

5. Has global terrorism increased or decreased?

Global terrorism has decreased, with deaths falling by 28% in 2025.

Sources

- Institute for Economics & Peace, Global Terrorism Index 2026 Report, March 2026
<https://visionofhumanity.org/resources>
- Vision of Humanity GTI Data Portal, 2026