Defence & Security · GS - III

The scourge of terrorism is a grave challenge to national security. What solutions do you suggest to curb this growing menace? What are the major sources of terrorist funding?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2017	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Intelligence coordination; border management; counter-radicalisation; terror financing; money laundering; international cooperation; community resilience

Model Answer

Introduction

Terrorism threatens human life, social stability, economic development and national sovereignty. Effective counterterrorism requires a combination of intelligence, law enforcement, financial controls, international cooperation and measures addressing radicalisation.

Solutions to Curb Terrorism

- **Intelligence coordination:** Improve information-sharing among central and State agencies and strengthen threat assessment.
- **Border security:** Enhance surveillance, secure vulnerable routes and prevent cross-border infiltration.
- **Law enforcement:** Conduct professional investigations, strengthen prosecution and protect witnesses while safeguarding due process.
- **Counter-radicalisation:** Work with communities, educators and civil society to prevent extremist recruitment.

- **Cybersecurity:** Monitor lawful threat indicators and disrupt online recruitment, propaganda and operational coordination.
- **International cooperation:** Strengthen extradition, intelligence exchange and joint action against transnational networks.
- **Community resilience:** Improve public reporting mechanisms and protect vulnerable populations from extremist targeting.

Major Sources of Terrorist Funding

- **State sponsorship:** Financial, logistical or material support from state-linked actors in some cases.
- **Illegal trafficking:** Drugs, weapons, wildlife and other contraband.
- **Extortion and kidnapping:** Ransom demands, coercive taxation and protection payments.
- **Money laundering:** Use of shell entities, front businesses and concealed financial transactions.
- **Donations and charities:** Diversion of legitimate donations through fraudulent or extremist-linked organisations.
- **Digital and informal transfers:** Abuse of digital payment systems, cryptocurrencies and informal value-transfer networks.

Measures Against Terror Financing

Enforce anti-money-laundering laws, improve financial intelligence, monitor suspicious transactions, implement targeted sanctions and cooperate through international frameworks such as the Financial Action Task Force.

Conclusion

Counterterrorism is most effective when security measures are intelligence-led, financially targeted and consistent with the rule of law. Disrupting funding networks and preventing recruitment are as important as responding to attacks.