# Defence & Security · GS - III

**How do intelligence-led joint operations contribute to preventing terrorism and dismantling terror networks in India? Discuss the institutional and operational challenges involved.**

| EXAM YEAR | PAPER | SUBJECT |
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| MARKS | WORD LIMIT |
|---|---|
| 15 | ~250 words |

## Answer Hint

**Intelligence coordination, inter-agency cooperation, surveillance, terror financing, interstate networks, federal coordination, cybersecurity, capacity building**

## Model Answer

Terrorism increasingly operates through decentralised networks that cross geographical and organisational boundaries. Intelligence-led joint operations are therefore essential for identifying threats before they materialise.

**Contribution to counter-terrorism:**

1. **Early threat detection:** Intelligence inputs help identify suspicious activities, individuals and potential attacks before execution.

2. **Network disruption:** Arrests and subsequent investigations can reveal financial channels, logistical support and connections with other operatives.

3. **Inter-agency coordination:** Cooperation among central agencies, state police and intelligence organisations enables information-sharing and coordinated action.

4. **Preventive security:** Targeted operations reduce the operational capacity of terrorist organisations and help protect vulnerable locations.

**Major challenges:**

- Fragmented intelligence databases and delayed information-sharing.
- Coordination difficulties across state boundaries.
- Use of encrypted communication and digital platforms by terrorist networks.
- Cross-border linkages and illicit financial flows.
- Balancing national security requirements with due process and civil liberties.

**The way ahead:** India needs integrated intelligence databases, specialised cyber-investigation capabilities, regular inter-agency exercises and stronger forensic infrastructure. Accountability and judicial oversight must accompany counter-terrorism operations.

The arrest of a suspected terrorist in Vadodara highlights the importance of intelligence coordination and sustained investigation to identify wider networks rather than limiting action to individual arrests.

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