Defence & Security · GS - III

Winning of ‘Hearts and Minds’ in terrorism-affected areas is an essential step in restoring the trust of the population. Discuss the measures adopted by the Government in this respect as part of the conflict resolution in Jammu and Kashmir.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2023	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Counter-terrorism requires legitimacy alongside force; winning public trust depends on development, responsive governance, protection of rights, employment, infrastructure and opportunities that reduce alienation and weaken support for violence.

Model Answer

Introduction

In terrorism-affected regions, security operations alone cannot produce durable peace. Winning the confidence of local communities is essential for reducing alienation, improving intelligence cooperation and creating conditions for sustainable development.

Body

Government Measures in Jammu and Kashmir

Development initiatives: Infrastructure projects, roads, electricity, healthcare and educational facilities seek to address developmental deficits.

Employment and entrepreneurship: Skill-development, self-employment and entrepreneurship programmes provide economic opportunities for youth.

Improved governance: Greater emphasis on public-service delivery, digital governance and administrative accessibility can reduce citizens' grievances.

Tourism promotion: Tourism development creates employment and strengthens interaction between communities and the wider economy.

Youth engagement: Sports, educational initiatives and community programmes provide constructive avenues for youth participation.

Rehabilitation measures: Government programmes have sought to facilitate rehabilitation and reintegration of persons affected by conflict.

Security with civilian focus: Security forces have increasingly emphasised community engagement and protection of civilians alongside counter-terrorism operations.

Connectivity: Better road, telecom and digital connectivity integrates remote areas with broader economic and administrative networks.

Challenges

Militancy, cross-border terrorism, misinformation, unemployment, political alienation and occasional allegations of rights violations can undermine trust.

Way Forward

Effective grievance redressal, credible local participation, protection of civil liberties, youth employment and sustained dialogue should complement security measures.

Conclusion

Winning hearts and minds requires **security to be accompanied by dignity, development, justice and responsive governance**. Such a multidimensional approach can convert short-term conflict management into sustainable peace.