Defence & Security · GS - III

Analyse the complexity and intensity of terrorism, its causes, linkages and obnoxious nexus. Also suggest measures required to be taken to eradicate the menace of terrorism.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2021	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Ideological extremism, political grievances, radicalisation, cross-border terrorism, state sponsorship, organised crime, narcotics trafficking, terror financing, cyber recruitment, money laundering, weapons proliferation, sleeper cells, international cooperation, intelligence-led policing, counter-radicalisation, deradicalisation, rule of law

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Model Answer

Introduction

Terrorism involves the deliberate use or threat of violence against civilians or other targets to create fear and achieve political, ideological or religious objectives. Its transnational networks and links with organised crime make it a multidimensional security challenge.

Complexity and Intensity of Terrorism

- **Ideological causes:** Extremist interpretations of political, religious or ethnic identities may justify violence and encourage recruitment.
- **Political grievances:** Exclusion, perceived injustice, conflict and weak governance can create environments in which extremist groups operate.

- **Cross-border support:** External training, weapons, logistical assistance and safe havens can increase the operational capacity of terrorist organisations.
- **Technological transformation:** Social media, encrypted communications and online propaganda facilitate recruitment, coordination and radicalisation.
- **Lone-actor terrorism:** Individuals influenced by extremist narratives may carry out attacks without direct organisational control, complicating detection.

The Obnoxious Nexus

Terrorism increasingly intersects with other illegal activities:

- **Narcotics trafficking:** Drug proceeds can finance extremist organisations.
- **Organised crime:** Smuggling networks provide weapons, forged documents and logistical support.
- **Money laundering:** Shell companies, illicit trade and digital financial channels can conceal terrorist funds.
- **Arms trafficking:** Illegal weapons supplies increase the destructive capacity of terrorist groups.
- **Cybercrime:** Online fraud, ransomware and illicit digital transactions can generate or transfer funds.
- **Radical networks:** Propaganda, recruitment and ideological support can connect local cells with transnational organisations.

Measures to Eradicate Terrorism

- **Intelligence-led prevention:** Improve human intelligence, technical surveillance and coordination among security agencies, subject to legal safeguards.
- **Disrupt financing:** Strengthen financial monitoring, asset freezing and implementation of anti-money-laundering and counter-terror-financing measures.
- **International cooperation:** Improve intelligence sharing, extradition, mutual legal assistance and coordinated enforcement against cross-border networks.
- **Secure borders:** Strengthen border surveillance, coastal security and checks on illegal arms and narcotics.
- **Counter-radicalisation:** Promote community engagement, digital literacy, credible counter-narratives and rehabilitation programmes.

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- **Professional policing and justice:** Improve forensic capabilities, prosecution and witness protection while preventing arbitrary detention and discrimination.
- **Address enabling conditions:** Reduce exclusion, strengthen governance and provide lawful channels for resolving grievances.

Conclusion

Terrorism cannot be defeated through force alone. A sustained strategy combining security operations, financial disruption, international cooperation, prevention of radicalisation and respect for the rule of law is essential to dismantle terrorist networks and build societal resilience.

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