



TERRORISM - GS III MAINS

Q. Terrorism is the worst form of human rights violation. Discuss the challenges faced by India in tackling terrorism. (15 marks, 250 words)

News: *India can hit terror networks across border if need arises: Rajnath Singh*

What's in the news?

- India is getting more powerful and can hit terror networks on this side of the border as well as across it if the need arises, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said asserting that the world has understood the meaning of zero tolerance for terrorism through the country's actions.

Impacts of terrorism:

1. Political impact:

- **Security problem:** Terrorism aims to create terror, a feeling of insecurity, and the idea that sovereign leaders can no longer protect those they lead.
- **Rise of separatist movements:** These political implications relate first and foremost to democracy and the separation of powers, and can lead to the discontent and abuse of existing structures.

2. Cultural impact:

- If the impact of terrorism is lasting, it becomes cultural and individuals change their habits and behaviours.
- They learn not to be passive in the event of a terrorist attack and live in a mental agony that a terrorist attack could take place.
- They also consume differently, which has a number of effects, including considerable economic ones. Terrorism changes people's understanding of reality.

3. Economic impact:

- **Direct destruction:** The most immediate and measurable impact of terrorism is physical destruction. Terrorists destroy existing plants, machines, transportation systems and other economic resources. On smaller scales, acts of terrorism may blow up different public places, markets or religious places.
- **Increased market uncertainty:** Markets hate uncertainty and terrorist attack create a lot of it. The real threat of global terrorism from an investor's perspective is about the broader picture, not individual incidents. International investment and cooperation are lower in a world full of terrorism.
- **Insurance, Trade, Tourism, and FDI:** There are two obvious industries especially vulnerable to the effects of terrorism: insurance and tourism. On a broader scale, terrorism hurts international trade.



Key challenges faced by India's counter-terrorism apparatus:

- 1. Lack of Coordination:** Lack of effective communication between intelligence agencies and law enforcement agencies.
- 2.** Concern still exists over the fact that the information is not dispersed among the security forces at the tactical level at the speed and effectiveness with which it should ideally occur.
- 3. Evolution of social media:** Currently, those involved in terrorist activities are making use of social media platforms to recruit and spread ideology among a wider audience. They are even giving manuals on how to make explosives to the public. Communication has also become easier for these individuals.
- 4.** The **radicalisation of youth** in India's vulnerable areas has also become easier due to social media.
- 5. Cyber security:** Due to the improvement in IT, most of the infrastructural and industrial capacities have become technology-driven. Most of the citizen's personal information is digitized, leading to higher dependence on technology. This makes India highly vulnerable to cyber terrorism. Currently, India does not have sufficient manpower, expertise, and technologies to deal with this emerging threat.

WAY FORWARD:

- 1. Strong and Reformed Institutions:** Multilateral institutions and mechanisms need to be strengthened and reformed to be able to deal with these emerging challenges effectively.
- 2. Timely and Appropriate Action:** Intelligence gathering and sharing are not enough, timely and appropriate action is required on the intelligence received. Intelligence agencies have to be empowered both monetarily and through modern infrastructure to be able to respond in time.
- 3. Collaboration between the government, media and the public** is a need of the hour. This will ensure quick and efficient sharing of information about suspicious activities to the law enforcement agencies while also ensuring inclusive growth among the people. Media and government can also ensure the de-radicalization of the youth in vulnerable areas.
- 4. Institutionalizing swift decision-making** is necessary to address security issues. Efficient counterterrorism strategies must be formulated in an integrated and multidimensional manner for these decisions to be successful. These decisions must be quick and proactive with no delays.

Terrorism is one of the biggest dangers to national security and has become a global threat which needs to be controlled through combined effort at the international level.