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GS-III: INTERNAL SECURITY

Previous Year Questions

UPSC Mains 2013 – 2024

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01. Linkages between Development and Spread of Extremism

Sub-Theme	UPSC PYQs (GS-III Internal Security)	Year	Marks
Left-Wing Extremism, Naxalism & North-East Insurgency	Article 244 of Indian Constitution relates to Administration of Scheduled areas and tribal areas. Analyze the impact of non-implementation of the provisions of fifth schedule on the growth of Left Wing Extremism.	2013	**10**
	Left Wing Extremism (LWE) is showing a downward trend, but still affects many parts of the country. Briefly explain the Government of India's approach to counter the challenges posed by LWE.	2018	**10**
	Naxalism is a social, economic and developmental issue manifesting as a violent internal security threat. In this context, discuss the emerging issues gest a multi-layered strategy to tackle the menace of Naxalism.	2022	**15**
	The persisting drives of the government for development of large industries in backward areas have resulted in isolating the tribal population and the farmers who face multiple displacements with Malkangiri and naxalbari foci, discuss the corrective strategies needed to win the left wing extremism (LWE) doctrine affected citizens back into the mainstream of social and economic growth.	2015	**12.5**
	What are the sound determinants of left-wing extremism in Eastern part of India? What strategy should Government of India, civil administration and security forces adopt to counter the threat in the affected areas?	2020	**15**
	The north-eastern region of India has been infested with insurgency for a very long time. Analyze the major reasons for the survival of armed insurgency in this region.	2017	**10**

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02. Role of External State and Non-State Actors in Creating Challenges to Internal Security

Sub-Theme	UPSC PYQs (GS-III Internal Security)	Year	Marks
Radicalism, Non-State Actors & Online Subversion	Analyse the multidimensional challenges posed by external state and non-state actors, to the internal security of India. Also discuss measures required to take to be taken to combat the threats.	2021	**15**
	The diverse nature of India as a multireligious and multi-ethnic society is not immune to the impact of radicalism which has been in her neighbourhood. Discuss along with the strategies to be adopted to counter this environment.	2014	**12.5**
	Use of Internet and social media by non-state actors for subversive activities is a major concern. How have these have misused in the recent past? Suggest effective guidelines to curb the above threat.	2016	**12.5**
China-Pakistan: State-Sponsored Threats & CPEC	China and Pakistan have entered into an agreement for development of an economic corridor. What thread does it dispose for India's security? Critically examine.	2014	**12.5**
	The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is viewed as a cardinal subset of China's larger 'One Belt One Road' initiative. Give a brief description of CPEC and enumerate the reasons why India has distanced itself from the same.	2018	**10**

03. Challenges to Internal Security through Communication Networks, Role of Media and Social Networking Sites; Basics of Cyber Security; Money-Laundering and Its Prevention

Sub-Theme	UPSC PYQs (GS-III Internal Security)	Year	Marks
Cyber Security, Data Protection & Cyber Warfare	Describe the context and salient features of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023	2024	**10**
	Considering the threats cyberspace poses for the country, India needs a "Digital Armed Force" to prevent crimes. Critically evaluate the National Cyber Security Policy, 2013 outlining the challenges perceived in its effective implementation.	2015	**12.5**
	Cyber warfare is considered by some defense analysts to be a larger threat than even Al Qaeda or terrorism. What do you understand by Cyber warfare? Outline the cyber threats which India is vulnerable to and bring out the state of the country's preparedness to deal with the same.	2013	**10**
	Data security has assumed significant importance in the digitized world due to rising cyber crimes. The Justice B. N. Srikrishna Committee Report addresses issues related to data security. What, in your view, are the strengths and weakness of the Report relating to protection of personal data in cyber space?	2018	**15**
	Discuss different types of cyber crimes and measures required to be taken to fight the menace.	2020	**10**

	Discuss the potential threats of Cyber attack and the security framework to prevent it.	2017	**10**
	Keeping in view India's internal security, analyse the impact of cross-border cyber attacks. Also discuss defensive measures against these sophisticated attacks.	2021	**10**
	What are the different elements of cyber security? Keeping in view the challenges in cyber security, examine the extent to which India has successfully developed a comprehensive National Cyber Security Strategy.	2022	**15**
	What is the CyberDome Project? Explain how it can be useful in controlling internet crimes in India.	2019	**10**
Drug Trafficking, Money Laundering & Financial Crimes	India's proximity to two of the world's biggest illicit opium-growing states has enhanced her internal security concerns. Explain the linkages between drug trafficking and other illicit activities such as gunrunning, money laundering and human trafficking. What counter-measures should be taken to prevent the same?	2018	**15**
	Discuss how emerging technologies and globalisation contribute to money laundering. Elaborate measures to tackle the problem of money laundering both at national and international levels.	2021	**10**
	Money laundering poses a serious threat to country's economic sovereignty. What is its significance for India and what steps are required to be taken to control this menace?	2013	**10**
Social Media, Digital Radicalization & Mob Violence	Religious indoctrination via digital media has resulted in Indian youth joining the ISIS. What is ISIS and its mission? How can ISIS be dangerous for the internal security of our country?	2015	**12.5**
	Social media and encrypting messaging services pose a serious security challenge. What measures have been adopted at various levels to address the security implications of social media? Also suggest any other remedies to address the problem.	2024	**15**
	What are social networking site and what security implications do these sites present?	2013	**10**
	Mob violence is emerging as a serious law and order problem in India. By giving suitable examples, analyze the causes and consequences of such violence.	2017	**15**

04. Security Challenges and Their Management in Border Areas – Linkages of Organized Crime with Terrorism

Sub-Theme	UPSC PYQs (GS-III Internal Security)	Year	Marks
Border & Maritime Security: Management & Challenges	In 2012, the longitudinal marking of the high-risk areas for piracy was moved from 65° East to 78° east in the Arabian Sea by International Maritime organisation. What impact does this have on India's maritime security concerns?	2014	12.5
	What are the maritime security challenges in India? Discuss the organisational, technical and procedural initiatives taken to improve the maritime security.	2022	10
	Border management is a complex task due to difficult terrain and hostile relations with some countries. Elucidate the challenges and strategies for effective border management.	2016	12.5
	Cross-border movement of insurgents is only one of the several security challenges facing the policing of the border in North-East India. Examine the various challenges currently emanating across the India-Myanmar border. Also, discuss the steps to counter the challenges.	2019	15
	For effective border area management, discuss the steps required to be taken to deny local support to militants and also suggest ways to manage favourable perception among locals.	2020	10
	How far are India's internal security challenges linked with border management, particularly in view of the long porous borders with most countries of South Asia and Myanmar?	2013	10
	How illegal transborder migration does pose a threat to India's security? Discuss the strategies to curb this, bring out the factors which give impetus to such migration.	2014	12.5
	India has a long and troubled border with China and Pakistan fraught with contentious issues. Examine the conflicting issues and security challenges along the border. Also give out the development being undertaken in these areas under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) and Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM) Scheme.	2024	15
	The use of unmanned aerial vehicles(UAVs) by our adversaries across the borders to ferry arms/ammunitions, drugs, etc., is a serious threat to the internal security. Comment on the measures being taken to tackle this threat.	2023	10
Organized Crime, Terrorism: Causes, Funding & Narco-Nexus	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.	2021	15
	Discuss the types of organised crimes. Describe the linkages between terrorists and organised crime that exist at the national and transnational levels.	2022	10

	Explain how narco-terrorism has emerged as a serious threat across the country. Suggest suitable measures to counter narco-terrorism.	2024	**10**
	Give out the major sources of terror funding in India and efforts being made to curtail these sources. In the light of this, also discuss the aim and objective of the 'No Money for Terror [NMFT]' Conference recently held at New Delhi in November 2022.	2023	**15**
	Terrorism is emerging as a competitive industry over the last few decades. Analyse the above statement.	2016	**12.5**
Counter- Terrorism: J&K, Surgical Strikes & Hearts-and- Minds	The banning of 'Jamaat-e - islaami' in Jammu and Kashmir brought into focus the role of over-ground workers (OGWs) in assisting terrorist organizations. Examine the role played by OGWs in assisting terrorist organizations in insurgency affected areas. Discuss measures to neutralize the influence of OGWs.	2019	**10**
	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?	2017	**15**
	The terms 'Hot Pursuit' and 'Surgical Strikes' are often used in connection with armed action against terrorist attacks. Discuss the strategic impact of such actions.	2016	**12.5**
	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.	2023	**10**

05. Various Security Forces and Agencies and Their Mandate

Sub-Theme	UPSC PYQs (GS-III Internal Security)	Year	Marks
AFSPA, UAPA & Anti- Terrorism Legislation	Human rights activists constantly highlight the view that the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) is a draconian act leading to cases of human rights abuses by the security forces. What sections of AFSPA are opposed by the activists? Critically evaluate the requirement with reference to the view held by the Apex Court.	2015	**12.5**
	The Indian government has recently strengthened the anti-terrorism laws by amending the Unlawful activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967 and the NIA Act. Analyze the changes in the context of prevailing security environment while discussing the scope and reasons for opposing the UAPA by human rights organizations.	2019	**15**
Security Forces, Intelligence Agencies & Their Mandates	Analyze internal security threats and transborder crimes along Myanmar, Bangladesh and Pakistan borders including Line of Control (LoC). Also discuss the role played by various security forces in this regard.	2020	**15**
	What are the internal security challenges being faced by India? Give out the role of Central Intelligence and Investigative Agencies tasked to counter such threats.	2023	**15**