



Date: 02/06/2026

TERRORISM

SYLLABUS:

GS 3 > Internal Security >> Role of External State and Non-state Actors in creating challenges to Internal Security.

REFERENCE NEWS:

Operation to locate terrorists in forests of Rajouri are continuing their pursuit of a group of terrorists reported to be holed up in the forests of Rajouri, in the Pir Panjal Valley. An alert has been issued in Poonch district after “suspicious movements” were spotted.

Operation Sheruwali is a major counter-terrorism operation underway in the **Manjakote sector of Rajouri district, Jammu & Kashmir**, targeting terrorists hiding in the dense forests of the **Rajouri-Poonch belt**.

- In recent years, terrorists have shifted from the heavily guarded Kashmir Valley to the forested and mountainous areas of Rajouri and Poonch. These regions have thick forests and rugged terrain, are close to the **Line of Control (LoC)** and offer natural hideouts and infiltration routes.
- The operation was launched to:
 - Locate and neutralize terrorists.
 - Destroy their hideouts and supply networks.
 - Prevent further infiltration from across the border.
 - Restore security in the Pir Panjal region.
- It is a **joint operation** involving Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Intelligence agencies including the Intelligence Bureau. This reflects the modern approach of **multi-agency counter-terrorism**, where intelligence gathering and military action are coordinated.

How is the operation being carried out?

- **Intelligence-Based Search:** The operation began after intelligence inputs indicated the presence of terrorists in the forest area. Security agencies first identified possible hideouts, mapped movement routes and tracked local support networks.
- **Cordon and Search Operations (CASO):** The forces surround the suspected area, seal escape routes and conduct systematic searches. This prevents militants from slipping away through forest trails.
- **Use of Advanced Technology:** Unlike older operations relying mainly on ground patrols, Operation Sheruwali uses drones for aerial surveillance, thermal imagers to detect heat signatures at night, helicopters for

Hyderabad

9966436875, 6309078111

CSB IAS ACADEMY, Bala Latha's Tushara building,
Ashok Nagar, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500080.
www.csbias.com | Email: csbiasacademy@gmail.com

Vijayawada

9963378333, 9989589222

CSB IAS ACADEMY, Lagadapati's Block, Andhra Loyola College,
Veterinary Colony, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh - 520008
www.csbias.com | Email: csbiasacademy@gmail.com

reconnaissance and logistics, sniffer dogs to locate hidden camps, weapons, and explosives. This improves operational effectiveness in difficult terrain.

- **Destruction of Terror Infrastructure:** The objective is not merely to eliminate individual terrorists but also to dismantle their ecosystem by targeting hideouts, arms caches, food and supply dumps and communication networks. This weakens the ability of terrorist groups to sustain long-term operations.

TERRORISM IN INDIA:

India's Definition (UAPA, 1967, Section 15): "Any act done with the intent to threaten or likely to threaten the unity, integrity, security, economic security, or sovereignty of India or to strike terror in the people... by use of bombs, firearms, poisonous gases, or any other means."

Terrorism refers to criminal acts intended to cause death or serious injury to civilians with the purpose of intimidating a population or compelling a government or international organisation to act or refrain from acting." Sourced from **UNSC Resolution 1566, 2004**

India continues to face **multidimensional terrorist threats**, cross-border infiltration, urban terror, radicalization, cyberterrorism, and maritime threats making it one of the world's most persistently targeted nations.

- According to the **Global Terrorism Index 2025**, India ranks **14th globally** in terms of the impact of terrorism, reflecting both a **declining trend in incidents** and the **persistence of strategic vulnerabilities**.
- As per **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** data, India recorded around **7,217 terrorist incidents between 2004–2014**, which **declined to about 2,242 incidents during 2014–2024**, marking a **69% reduction** in major terror attacks.
- Despite this decline, incidents like the **April 2025 Pahalgam attack** and the **November 2025 Red Fort car blast** reveal the **evolving nature of terror threats** shifting from large-scale bombings to **urban, symbolic, and tech-enabled attacks**.

Cross-Border Terrorism (Pakistan-Based Threats)

- Pakistan-sponsored groups such as **Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)** and **Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM)** continue to infiltrate through the **Line of Control (LoC)** and international border.
- Intelligence reports indicate **continued proxy operations and infiltration attempts and presence of sleeper cells within the borders**, despite improved fencing and surveillance.
- Over **90% of cross-border attacks in Jammu & Kashmir since 1990** have been attributed to Pakistan-based outfits (*MHA 2024*). India's **counter-terror operations** have reduced infiltration by 65% since 2016, but sleeper cells remain active.

Domestic Radicalization and Ideological Extremism

- Rise of **homegrown extremist cells**, driven by online propaganda and local grievances.

Hyderabad

9966436875, 6309078111

CSB IAS ACADEMY, Bala Latha's Tushara building,
Ashok Nagar, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500080.
www.csbias.com | Email: csbiasacademy@gmail.com

Vijayawada

9963378333, 9989589222

CSB IAS ACADEMY, Lagadapati's Block, Andhra Loyola College,
Veterinary Colony, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh - 520008
www.csbias.com | Email: csbiasacademy@gmail.com

- According to the **Centre for Study of Society and Secularism (CSSS)**, **communal riots rose by 84% in 2024**, with **59 incidents** compared to **32 in 2023**, reflecting the interplay between terror, social division, and communal polarization.
- **White-collar terrorism** involving educated professionals with cyber and financial expertise is an emerging pattern (e.g., **Umar Nabi case, 2025**, linked to LeT).

Decline but Persistence of Insurgencies

- **Left-Wing Extremism (LWE)** incidents have declined by **over 77% since 2010**, and LWE-affected districts reduced from **96 in 2010 to 45 in 2025** (*MHA data*).
- **North-East insurgencies** have sharply reduced after peace accords with **NLFT (Tripura)**, **Bodo**, and **Naga** groups, though **small factions** remain active in Manipur and Nagaland.
- **J&K militancy** remains the focal point of terrorism, now increasingly **hybridized with cyber and drone-based tactics**.

Maritime and Cyberterror Threats

- With **7,500 km coastline**, India faces **maritime terrorism** risks similar to the 26/11 Mumbai attacks.
- In **2024**, the **Indian Navy** intercepted vessels carrying arms through the Arabian Sea indicating renewed efforts by non-state actors to exploit sea routes.
- **Cyberterrorism**: CERT-In and **National Cyber Security Coordinator (2025)** noted **ransomware and phishing campaigns** linked to terror groups. **Drones used by northeastern insurgents (2024–25)** for cross-border supply illustrate **hybrid and tech-enabled threats**.

Urban Terrorism and Symbolic Attacks

- The **Red Fort car blast (2025)** typifies **urban terrorism**, targeting symbolic sites to instill fear.
- Use of **ammonium nitrate-based explosives** and locally assembled devices reflects **shift from rural to urban theatres**.
- Such attacks expose gaps in **urban surveillance, forensic readiness, and crowd intelligence mechanisms**.

Global Dimensions and State-Sponsored Terrorism

- India continues to face **state-sponsored terrorism** from Pakistan, aided by **Chinese diplomatic shielding** at the **UN Security Council (UNSC)**.
- **China vetoed at least 5 Indian proposals (2022)** to blacklist Pakistan-based terrorists under the **UNSC 1267 sanctions list**.
- Despite **Pakistan's FATF grey-listing (2018–2022)**, terror financing networks remain active through **cryptocurrency and hawala routes**.
- **Global Terrorism Deaths** fell **13% in 2024** (7,555 deaths globally), but **Sahel region** became new epicentre indicating terrorism's geographical shift.

GLOBAL DRIVERS OF RISING TERRORISM:

Political Instability, Civil Wars & Power Vacuums

Hyderabad

9966436875, 6309078111

CSB IAS ACADEMY, Bala Latha's Tushara building,
Ashok Nagar, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500080.
www.csbias.com | Email: csbiasacademy@gmail.com

Vijayawada

9963378333, 9989589222

CSB IAS ACADEMY, Lagadapati's Block, Andhra Loyola College,
Veterinary Colony, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh - 520008
www.csbias.com | Email: csbiasacademy@gmail.com

- Terrorist organisations thrive in regions with weak governance (UN Global Terrorism Index 2025).
- **Sahel region** became the **epicentre of global terrorism** in 2024, accounting for **over 50%** of global terror deaths.
- State collapse in **Syria, Somalia, Afghanistan** allowed groups like ISIS and Al-Shabaab to expand.

Radicalisation via Digital Media

- Over **90 terrorist groups** use encrypted apps and social media for propaganda (UN Counter-Terrorism Office, 2023).
- ISIS disseminates multi-language content, enabling “lone wolf” attacks **93% of fatal attacks in the West in 2020–24** were lone-wolf incidents.

State-Sponsored Terrorism

- Countries use terror groups as geopolitical tools. **Pakistan’s support to LeT and JeM** continues to cause instability in South Asia.
- FATF reports highlight persistent terror financing networks operating through hawala and cryptocurrencies.

Economic Inequality & Marginalisation

- High unemployment, lack of state services, and social exclusion create fertile ground for recruitment.
- Boko Haram and ISIS recruit from impoverished communities in Africa and Middle East.

Ideological and Religious Extremism

- Extremist interpretations and identity-based grievances contribute significantly.
- ISIS remains the **deadliest global terrorist organisation in 2024** (1,805 deaths; GTI 2025).

Weak Global Consensus & Selective Counterterrorism

- China blocked India’s proposals to list Pakistan-based terrorists **five times in 2022** at UNSC 1267.
- Global fragmentation reduces coordinated action, enabling terror sanctuaries.

REASONS FOR RISING TERRORISM IN INDIA:

Cross-Border Terrorism from Pakistan

- Pakistan-backed LeT, JeM continue infiltration attempts.
- **Over 90% of terror attacks in J&K since 1990** are attributed to Pakistan-based groups (MHA).
- **The April 2025 Pahalgam attack and Red Fort blast (Nov 2025)** show continued proxy operations.

Hyderabad

9966436875, 6309078111

CSB IAS ACADEMY, Bala Latha's Tushara building,
Ashok Nagar, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500080.
www.csbias.com | Email: csbiasacademy@gmail.com

Vijayawada

9963378333, 9989589222

CSB IAS ACADEMY, Lagadapati's Block, Andhra Loyola College,
Veterinary Colony, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh - 520008
www.csbias.com | Email: csbiasacademy@gmail.com

Domestic Radicalisation & Online Extremism

- National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) flagged over **2,000 radicalisation-linked posts in 2024**.
- Arrests of IS-inspired “white-collar” radicals like **Umar Nabi (2025)** show growing sophistication.

Communal Polarisation & Identity Conflicts

- Terror outfits exploit communal divides to fuel domestic extremism.
- India saw **59 communal riots in 2024**, an **84% increase** from 2023 (CSSS dataset).

Technological Enablers: Drones, Crypto & Dark Web

- Drones used for arms dropping along Punjab and J&K borders (BSF, 2024).
- Cryptocurrency channels used for terror financing; cases registered by NIA doubled between 2021–2024.
- The **foiled 2025 UP chemical weapons plot** signals rising ambitions for unconventional terror.

CHALLENGES OF TERRORISM TO THE NATION:

National Security & Strategic Challenges

- **Cross-Border Terrorism:** Pakistan-backed groups such as **LeT and JeM** continue infiltration attempts along the LoC.
- **Hybrid Warfare & Proxy Conflicts:** China–Pakistan nexus uses **terror proxies, cyber tools, drones, and disinformation** to destabilize India. Increased UAV intrusions along Punjab and J&K borders (BSF, 2024).

Social & Communal Harmony Challenges

- **Communal Polarisation:** Terror groups exploit religious fault lines to trigger communal riots. India witnessed **59 communal riots in 2024**, an **84% increase** from 2023
- **Fear and Psychosocial Impact:** Terror attacks create a climate of fear, leading to social fragmentation and mistrust.

Economic Challenges

- **Impact on Tourism & Investment:** Tourism-dependent regions like J&K suffer large losses after major attacks. The 2025 Pahalgam attack led to a decline in tourist arrivals and cancellation of bookings.
- **Cost of Counterterrorism Security:** India spends billions annually on counterterrorism, border fencing, intelligence, and coastal security. National security budgets for CAPFs increased by over 15% between 2020–24 (MoF).
- **Damage to Infrastructure:** Attacks on railways, communication systems, and power grids strain development.

Hyderabad

9966436875, 6309078111

CSB IAS ACADEMY, Bala Latha's Tushara building,
Ashok Nagar, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500080.
www.csbias.com | Email: csbiasacademy@gmail.com

Vijayawada

9963378333, 9989589222

CSB IAS ACADEMY, Lagadapati's Block, Andhra Loyola College,
Veterinary Colony, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh - 520008
www.csbias.com | Email: csbiasacademy@gmail.com

Technological & Cyber Challenges

- **Cyberterrorism & Online Propaganda:** UNCTC reports over **90 terror groups** use encrypted apps for recruitment. India's National Cyber Security Coordinator (2025) noted rising terror-linked ransomware.
- **Use of Drones and Emerging Technologies:** Drones used by Pakistan handlers for dropping arms and drugs across borders (BSF, 2024).
- **Dark Web Terror Financing:** NIA investigations (2021–24) revealed increased use of cryptocurrency for funding terror modules.

Governance & Intelligence Challenges

- **Coordination Deficits:** Over **20 intelligence agencies** operate with overlapping mandates.
- **Inadequate Capacity of State Police Forces:** Many state police units lack advanced cyber-forensic training. Uneven adoption of AI-based surveillance across states.
- **Legal and Procedural Delays:** Low conviction rates in terror cases due to lack of forensic readiness and procedural loopholes.

Diplomatic & Foreign Policy Challenges

- **Global Double Standards:** China **blocked India's proposals 5 times in 2022** to list Pakistan-based terrorists at UNSC 1267. Western nations often adopt selective definitions of terrorism, affecting cooperation.
- **FATF Grey Listing of Pakistan Not Enough:** Despite Pakistan's grey-listing (2018–22), terror financing networks persist.
- **Geopolitical Complexity:** Terrorism intertwined with Afghanistan instability, Middle East tensions, and global radical networks.

WAY FORWARD:

India requires a **holistic, multi-layered counterterrorism strategy** combining legal, intelligence, technological, diplomatic, and community-based interventions.

Strengthening Intelligence Architecture

- **Create a Statutory Multi-Agency Centre (MAC 2.0):** Convert MAC (currently under IB via executive order) into a **statutory body** with clear mandates. Recommended by **Naresh Chandra Task Force (2012)** and **Ramakrishna Committee on Intelligence (2000)**.
- **Establish National & State Fusion Centres:** Similar to **U.S. Fusion Centers**, integrating real-time data from IB, RAW, NIA, NTRO, NCRB, and state police. Helps in early warning, predictive analysis, and **360° threat mapping**.
- **Strengthen Intelligence Training:** Upgrade Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy & state academies with cyber, drone, crypto, and OSINT modules. **Malimath Committee on Criminal Justice (2003)** recommended modern investigative training.

Hyderabad

9966436875, 6309078111

CSB IAS ACADEMY, Bala Latha's Tushara building,
Ashok Nagar, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500080.
www.csbias.com | Email: csbiasacademy@gmail.com

Vijayawada

9963378333, 9989589222

CSB IAS ACADEMY, Lagadapati's Block, Andhra Loyola College,
Veterinary Colony, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh - 520008
www.csbias.com | Email: csbiasacademy@gmail.com

Technological Modernisation

- **Expand AI, Facial Recognition, and Big Data Analytics:** Use predictive policing tools like Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS), Integrated Criminal Justice System (ICJS), AI-enabled terror hotspot prediction
- **Strengthen Cybersecurity Framework:** Expand **I4C (Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre)** for counter-radicalisation monitoring. CERT-In must collaborate with global CT cyber units. Mandatory reporting of crypto transactions to combat terror financing.
- **Anti-Drone Systems Deployment:** Adopt anti-drone technologies used in **NSG's 2025 India-EU counter-drone training.**

Hardening Borders and Maritime Security

- **Smart Fencing & Integrated Surveillance:** Expand **CIBMS (Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System)** along J&K and Punjab borders.
- **Coastal Security Strengthening:** Implement full Phase-III of the **Coastal Surveillance Network.** Improve coordination between Navy–Coast Guard–State Marine Police. Inspired by **Israel's integrated maritime grid.**

Legal and Judicial Reforms

- **Strengthen UAPA Safeguards + Efficiency:** Ensure balance between national security and due process.
- **Improve Conviction Rates:** Invest in forensic labs: DNA, cyber-forensics, explosives analysis. **Malimath Committee** recommended higher forensic capacity, Witness protection and greater interagency coordination
- **Community Policing Models:** Adopt best practices from **Singapore's Religious Rehabilitation Group (RRG), Saudi Arabia's Sakina Program, UK Channel Programme**
- India can expand **Manipur's community vigilance committees, Kerala's Cyberdome surveillance for online radicalisation**

Countering Terror Financing

- **Strengthen Enforcement Directorate (ED) & FIU:** Identify hawala–crypto networks. Comply fully with **FATF recommendations.**
- **Regulation of Crowdfunding, Crypto, NGOs:** Mandatory KYC + audit trails for digital platforms.

PRACTICE QUESTION:

Q. Discuss the changing nature of terrorism in India and evaluate the effectiveness of recent counter-terrorism measures. Suggest a comprehensive strategy to address emerging threats. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Hyderabad

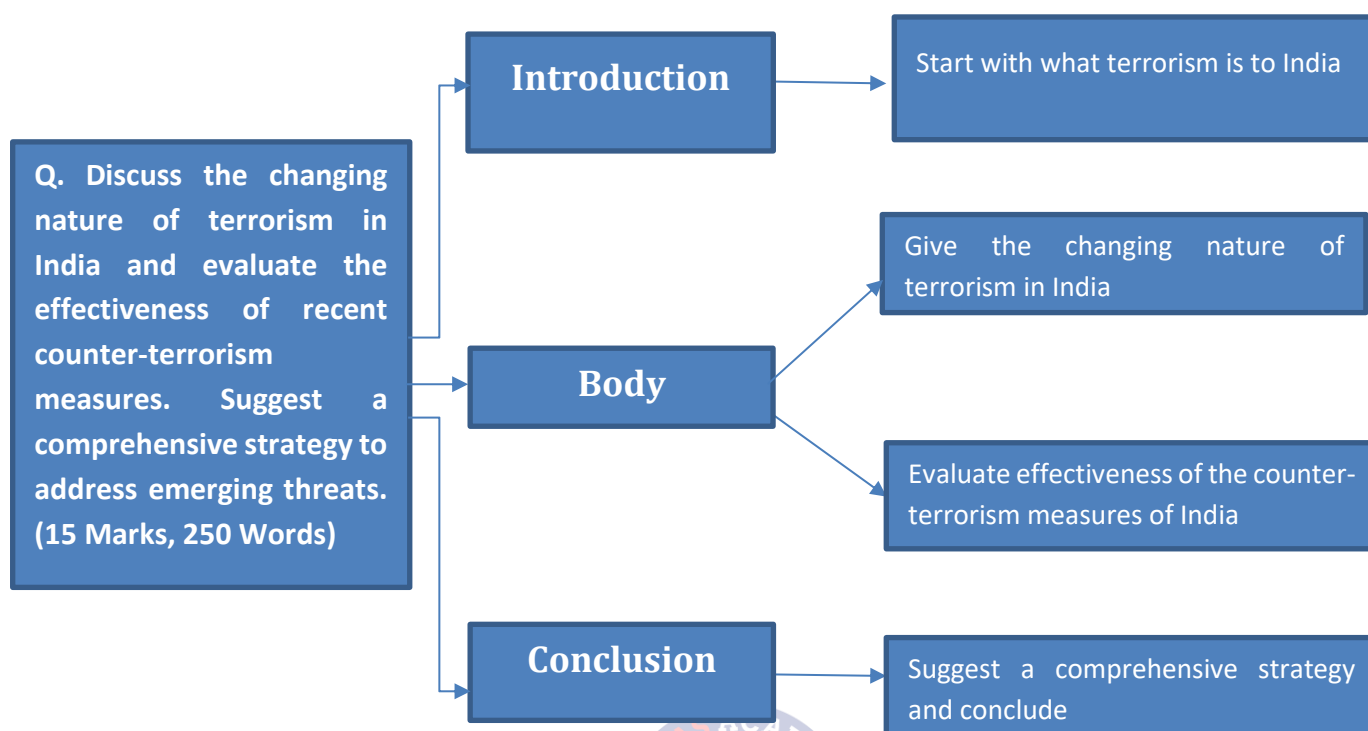
9966436875, 6309078111

CSB IAS ACADEMY, Bala Latha's Tushara building,
Ashok Nagar, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500080.
www.csbias.com | Email: csbiasacademy@gmail.com

Vijayawada

9963378333, 9989589222

CSB IAS ACADEMY, Lagadapati's Block, Andhra Loyola College,
Veterinary Colony, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh - 520008
www.csbias.com | Email: csbiasacademy@gmail.com

APPROACH:**MODEL ANSWER:**

India continues to face complex security threats arising from cross-border terrorism, radicalisation, cyberterrorism, maritime vulnerabilities, and emerging technology-enabled terror networks. While terrorist incidents have declined by nearly 69% between 2014–2024, recent attacks such as the Pahalgam attack (2025) indicate that the threat remains dynamic and evolving.

Changing Nature of Terrorism in India

- **Cross-Border Terrorism Persists:** Pakistan-backed groups such as LeT and JeM continue infiltration attempts through the LoC and international borders.
- **Shift from Large-scale Attacks to Hybrid Warfare:** Terror groups increasingly combine physical attacks with cyber operations, drones and disinformation campaigns.
- **Rise of Home-grown Radicalisation:** Online propaganda and local grievances are facilitating recruitment of self-radicalised individuals.
- **Emergence of White-Collar Terrorism:** Educated professionals with expertise in technology, finance and cyber tools are increasingly involved in terror networks.
- **Increasing Use of Technology:** Terrorists employ drones, encrypted communication platforms, cryptocurrency and the dark web for logistics and financing.
- **Urban and Symbolic Terrorism:** Attacks increasingly target iconic locations and urban centres to maximise psychological impact.
- **Maritime and Cyber Terror Threats:** Vulnerabilities along India's coastline and cyberspace have expanded the scope of terrorism beyond traditional battlefields.

Hyderabad**9966436875, 6309078111**

CSB IAS ACADEMY, Bala Latha's Tushara building,
Ashok Nagar, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500080.
www.csbias.com | Email: csbiasacademy@gmail.com

Vijayawada**9963378333, 9989589222**

CSB IAS ACADEMY, Lagadapati's Block, Andhra Loyola College,
Veterinary Colony, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh - 520008
www.csbias.com | Email: csbiasacademy@gmail.com

Effectiveness of India's Counter-Terrorism Measures:

- **Significant Reduction in Terror Incidents:** Terror incidents declined by nearly 69% between 2014–2024 compared to the previous decade.
- **Improved Border Management:** Enhanced fencing, surveillance systems and counter-infiltration operations have reduced infiltration attempts.
- **Success Against Left-Wing Extremism:** LWE incidents declined by over 77%, with affected districts reducing significantly.
- **Decline in North-East Insurgencies:** Peace accords with Bodo, NLFT and Naga groups have improved security conditions.
- **Technology-driven Operations:** Operations such as Operation Sheruwali demonstrate effective use of drones, thermal imaging and intelligence-led targeting.
- **Strong Legal and Institutional Framework:** Laws such as UAPA, NIA investigations and specialised anti-terror agencies have strengthened response capabilities.
- **Persistent Gaps Remain:** Coordination deficits among agencies, low conviction rates, cyber vulnerabilities and active sleeper cells continue to challenge effectiveness.

Comprehensive Strategy to Address Emerging Threats:

- **Strengthen Intelligence Architecture:** Establish a statutory Multi-Agency Centre (MAC 2.0) and integrated intelligence fusion centres.
- **Harness Advanced Technology:** Expand AI-enabled surveillance, predictive policing, facial recognition and big-data analytics.
- **Enhance Cyber and Counter-Radicalisation Efforts:** Strengthen I4C, CERT-In and online monitoring to prevent digital radicalisation.
- **Secure Borders and Coastlines:** Expand smart fencing, integrated border management systems and coastal surveillance networks.
- **Strengthen Legal and Forensic Capacity:** Improve forensic infrastructure, witness protection mechanisms and judicial efficiency.
- **Counter Terror Financing and Promote Community Participation:** Crack down on hawala, cryptocurrency networks and strengthen community policing and deradicalisation programmes.

Terrorism in India has evolved from conventional cross-border infiltration to a hybrid threat combining technology, radicalisation, cyber capabilities and proxy warfare. A coordinated strategy integrating intelligence, technology, legal reforms, diplomacy and community participation is essential to ensure long-term national security and resilience.

Hyderabad

9966436875, 6309078111

CSB IAS ACADEMY, Bala Latha's Tushara building,
Ashok Nagar, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500080.
www.csbias.com | Email: csbiasacademy@gmail.com

Vijayawada

9963378333, 9989589222

CSB IAS ACADEMY, Lagadapati's Block, Andhra Loyola College,
Veterinary Colony, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh - 520008
www.csbias.com | Email: csbiasacademy@gmail.com