

1. Explain the evolving nexus between organised crime and terrorism. How does the symbiosis work? Illustrate.

Introduction

Organised crime (OC) is serious crime planned, coordinated and conducted by people working together on a continuing basis. Their motivation is often, but not always, financial gain. Terrorism is defined as the unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims. Earlier, the problems of organized crime and terrorism were considered as separate phenomena but after horrified incident of September 11th attacks, researchers have started linking these two as terrorized occurrences.

Body

Evolving nexus between OC and Terrorism:

OC and Terrorism have been aiding each other with the tactics and methods to achieve their goals. Sometimes they get transformed from the one to the other, like OC to Terrorist organization and vice-versa. The evolving nexus can be observed in the case of Drug trafficking and terrorism, Illegal firearms trafficking, Cybercrimes and terrorism, money laundering, fake currency, human trafficking etc. Below given is a case study that explains the evolving nexus in Drug trafficking and Terrorism.

A case study of global nexus: Drug Trafficking and Terrorism

- Afghanistan survey report of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) estimates indicate that in 2017, opium poppy cultivation increased sharply to an unprecedented record high of 3,28,000 hectares from an estimated 2,01,000 hectares in 2016.
- It is also evident from the report that the markets in Europe and the US, which are the most important consumption source for high quality drugs, have also become the indirect facilitators of terrorism.
- The profits that drug sales help generate for criminal and terrorist groups, allow organisations like the Taliban to emerge as amongst the best funded and richest terror groups in the world.
- UNODC report indicates that, Drug trafficking groups in Europe are frequently also involved in the counterfeiting of goods, trafficking in human beings, smuggling of migrants and trafficking in weapons.
- This reinforces the trend of mutual benefit between criminal groups in Europe and the Taliban.

Symbiosis between OC and Terrorism:

This can be better understood with the help of examples:

- **Africa:** Groups such as Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab have taken advantage of regional dynamics, weak state structures and widespread corruption to engage in criminal activities such as Kidnapping for ransom, drug trafficking, and exploitation, to parlay their activities into political influence and military and financial power, even at the expense of moving away from their ideological aims.
- **Afghanistan and Pakistan region:** A combination of corruption, porous borders and weak rule of law, has created an environment in which criminals and terrorists can engage in KFR, drug trafficking and extortion to finance their organisations and networks, allowing each to engage in specific nodes within illicit supply chains. Groups such as the Taliban and Haqqani network have been known to cooperate in order to achieve mutual objectives.
- **Turkey:** PKK (Kurdistan Workers Party) has been known to toe the line between terrorism and organised crime, engaging in a number of illegal economic operations such as humans, drugs and cigarettes smuggling and other forms of organised crime, including extortion and money laundering, among its profit generating activities.
- **Europe:** The decline in traditional organised criminal use of terrorist tactics is being replaced with a growing trend of individual small-time criminals carrying out terrorist attacks.

Organised crime and terrorism in India:

- In the Northeast, extortion is the fundamental basis for funding all forms of terrorism. In addition to this, kidnapping has been used extensively for spreading terror and raising funds. Human trafficking, drug trafficking and gun running are some of the other criminal activities that have been common in these areas.
- In J&K, counterfeit currency has been a major source of funding terrorism.
- Terrorism in Punjab has been aided by the drug trafficking.
- In the Maoist terror movements, extortion is yet again a common phenomenon. They have also indulged in illegal firearms trafficking to fund their movement. There have also been reports of cuts being enforced on drug yielding crops in the region.
- There are also a number of insurgent groups which over a period of time have morphed into crime syndicates.
- What began as an ideological movement is now merely a means of generating profit This is especially the case with insurgent groups in Northeast India.

Conclusion:

The evolving relationship between terrorism and crime poses significant challenges to the international community. There is a need to develop effective and tailor-made responses to the organised crime and terrorism, which address the underlying causes of the convergence at all levels, based on strong evidence, engagement with local actors, good governance, enhanced services delivery and capacity building and the incorporation of normative frameworks.

2. How is drug abuse a serious security threat in India? Explain. Which regions of India are the worst affected? What measures can be taken to address drug abuse? Suggest.

Introduction:

Drug menace is a global problem. Drug abuse refers to the habit of regular intake of illegal drugs characterized by misuse of drugs. There is a thin line of difference between Drug abuse and addiction. In the case of drug abuse, the person may or may not be addicted to these harmful drugs. However, in the case of drug addiction, the person is severely addicted to these drugs. Thus, drug abuse may often lead to drug addiction.

Body:

According to the NCRB report, some of the drugs are Ganja, Methaqualone, Ephedrine/Pseudo Ephedrine, Hashish and Heroin. Apart from these, the abuse of pharmaceutical drugs is also on the rise.

India is situated between two important drug supply centres: Golden Crescent (Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan) and the Golden Triangle (Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and Myanmar). Because of this, India has always been in transit as well as gradually a consumption point. So it is difficult to say that drug abuse has come down in India.

Reasons for growing drug abuse in India:

- Presence of Golden crescent and triangle in the neighbourhood.
- Siphoning of drugs in the market even by the officials.
- Porous border and trafficking, illegal migrants.
- A large amount of black money in the market also helps in flourishing illegal businesses.
- The 'dark net' trend, although illegal, had raised concerns of attracting a new population of drug users as it avoids direct contact with criminals and law-enforcing authorities.
- Jobless growth and prevalence of unemployment.
- No proper implementation of laws.
- Corruption

Drug abuse a serious security threat in India:

Drugs smuggled from across the border poses a serious threat to India's internal security preparedness in the following ways:-

- The involvement of various terrorist groups and syndicates in drug trafficking leads to threats to the national security and sovereignty of states by the way of narco-terrorism.
- Provide finance for the terror activities in the country.
- Same links and sources can also be used for smuggling arms and creating terror in the area.
- Youth once engulfed into drugs are more vulnerable towards committing crimes for a small amount of money to afford drugs.
- It is considered to be the originator of petty offences as well as heinous crimes like smuggling of arms and ammunition and money laundering.
- Threat to the nation as it involves usage and generation of black money.

Regions of India are the worst affected:

Several drug-related crimes under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act has been on a rise. Of the total cases, more than half of them are contributed by states like Punjab, Maharashtra, Assam, Delhi, Haryana, Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh.

Measures can be taken to address drug abuse:

- **Secured Border:** Increased security on border areas and fencing to ensure that drugs don't enter India.
- **International Collaboration:** Need to effectively use SAARC and ASEAN platform for joint coordinated action against drugs trafficking.
- **Govt. Vigilantism:** The Anti-Narcotic Squads and Drug Enforcement Agencies should be more vigilant in controlling drug trafficking.
- **Legal Measures:** The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, should be enacted with stringent provisions to curb this menace. However, effective implementation and time-bound judicial process are the need of the hour.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Anti-drug consumption campaign could be launched. NCB in collaboration with state agencies and concerned ministries should organize awareness campaigns.
- **Role of Media:** Mass media should play an important role in spreading awareness about the menace of drug abuse and not glorifying drug abuse.
- **Role of NGOs:** Govt. should fund more NGOs to work in this field.
- **De-addiction centres:** Make necessary and sufficient counselling and rehabilitation centres with required resources and trained health workers.

Conclusion:

The impact of drug abuse is huge on the youth and it will also impact national security. So the government should work in tandem with the civil society to tame the menace of drug network in India and to save the future of young India.

3. How serious is the problem of cross border smuggling in India? What are the associated security threats? Discuss.

Introduction:

India shares border with Bangladesh, China, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. Border management becomes more important for the fact that India is like island of democracy between interrupted-stability facing countries.

Body:

There is cross border smuggling problem of drugs, cattle, humans, artefacts, fake currency note etc. which continuously contribute directly or indirectly to economic, social and political stability of our country.

Indian Bangladesh border:

- India shares 4096.7 Km of its land border with Bangladesh. West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram are the States which share the border with Bangladesh.
- Cattle and other Smuggling: Cattle from as far as Haryana, UP, Bihar is taken to borders for grazing and then smuggled to Bangladesh. Bangladesh also imposes custom duty on these imports. Cattle confiscated on border alone are around one lakh annually. This way government is losing revenue of around 10000 crore annually.
- Along with cattle, smuggling of arms, and other essential items such as sugar, salt and diesel, human and narcotics trafficking, counterfeit Indian currency, kidnapping, and thefts are quite rampant along the India–Bangladesh border.

India Pakistan Border:

- The boundary runs from the hot Thar Desert in Rajasthan to the cold Himalayas in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Despite of fencing smuggling of drugs, mainly of Heroine is rampant at border of Punjab. It happens because villagers at both sides of border are accomplice to such activities. Further, involvement of local politicians is also there in these cases.
- Illegal arms trading, fake currency notes have been a recurring problem along this border contributing majorly to the instability of this region.

India China Border:

- Large scale smuggling of Chinese electronic and other consumer goods take place through these border points.
- Supply of arms and money to trigger violence and terror acts are also witnessed here.

India Myanmar Boundary:

- The location of the boundary at the edge of the “Drugs golden triangle” facilitates the unrestricted illegal flows of drugs into Indian Territory. Heroin is the main item of drug trafficking. The bulk of heroin enters India through the border town of Moreh in Manipur. It is reported that the local insurgent groups are actively involved in drugs and arms trafficking.

India-Nepal border:

- Apart from insurgents and terrorists, many hard-core criminals pursued by Indian and Nepalese security forces escape across the open border. These anti-national elements indulge in illegal activities, such as smuggling of essential items and fake Indian currency, gun-running, and drugs and human trafficking.
- Wiki Leaks documents have revealed that the ISI has created a number of terrorist fronts in Nepal and has also pushed in men and explosives through the border to carry out terror attacks in India.

India Bhutan Border:

- Chinese made goods, Bhutanese cannabis, liquor and forest products are major items smuggled into India. Livestock, grocery items and fruits are smuggled out of India to Bhutan.

Associated security threats of cross border smuggling:

- Augmented cross-border terrorism, penetration and ex-filtration of armed militants.
- Smugglers, drug-traffickers are often in association with local offenders, lower rung political leaders and police officials and thus heavily impact the stability of the region.
- Sense of dissatisfaction is created and misused by hostile elements to create a feeling of ill will against the security forces and the Government.
- Vulnerable youth population is influenced and made to be hooked to drugs in exchange for unlawful activities.
- Girls and women are illegally trafficked with no facilities to call for help or contact family.
- Farmers shifting to poppy cultivation for better financial prospects.

- India's internal security challenges are increasingly being impacted by border security issues. Indian rebellious groups have for long been provided shelter across the nation's borders by hostile neighbours.

Measures taken:

- **Border area development programme:** The Department of Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs has been executing a Border Area Development Programme (BADP) through convergence of Central/State/BADP/Local schemes and participatory approach and to develop security and wellbeing among the border populace.
- **Border security forces and guarding forces** have been employed all across the borders for better management and to check infiltration.
- **Coordination committees between nations:** These mechanisms serve as platforms for discussing issues of mutual concern like containing cross-border crimes, smuggling, and situation arising out of terrorist activities, at national and regional/local levels correspondingly.
- **Awareness programs** to alert youth and residents of the region. Various government schemes too have been implemented to provide employment and encourage beneficial growth.

Conclusion:

A comprehensive approach to the Border Management, which focuses on socio-economic development of the people and promotion of wellbeing and a security environment in the border areas, is an immediate need being addressed by the government. Involving all stakeholders and responsible implementation of measures should be strengthened to effectively tackle these threats.

4. What are paramilitary forces? What role do various paramilitary forces play in India's internal security? Explain.**Introduction**

A paramilitary is a semi-militarized force whose organizational structure, tactics, training, subculture, and (often) function are similar to those of a professional military. The term "Paramilitary forces" in India has not been defined in any acts or by authorities officially.

Body**Different paramilitary forces:**

- **The Assam Rifles (AR) - led by Indian Army officers reporting to the Ministry of Home Affairs:** they perform many roles including the provision of internal

security under the control of the army through the conduct of counter insurgency and border security operations, provision of aid to the civilians in times of emergency, and the provision of communications, medical assistance and education in remote areas

- **The Special Frontier Force-led by Indian Army officers reporting to Indian Intelligence:** SFF was raised with covert operations in mind, mainly along the Indo-China border, however SFF has been fielded by R&AW and the Indian government in various covert and overt operation theatres.
- **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF):** It is India's largest Central Armed Police Force and also considered to be World's largest Paramilitary Force. It functions under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) of the Government of India. The CRPF has played an increasingly large role in India's general elections.
- **Border Security Force (BSF):** It is a Central Armed Police Force charged with guarding India's land border during peacetime and preventing transnational crime at the same, it has various active roles during an outbreak of war. It is a Union Government Agency under the administrative control of Ministry of Home Affairs
- **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP):** It is one of the CRPF. The ITBP was intended for deployment along India's border with Tibet
- **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF):** its duties are guarding sensitive governmental buildings, the Delhi Metro, and providing airport security. It is directly under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB):** It is mandated with significant role of guarding and intelligence across borders, especially India-Nepal and India-Bhutan
- **National Security Guard (NSG):** It is a counter terrorism unit under the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs. The NSG is trained to conduct counter terrorist task to including counter hijacking tasks on land, sea, and air; Bomb disposal (search, detection and neutralization of IEDs); PBI (Post Blast Investigation) and Hostage Rescue missions.
- **Special Protection Group (SPG):** It is an armed force of the Union for providing proximate security to the Prime Minister of India and former Prime Ministers of India and members of their immediate families wherever in the world they are.

Conclusion

Paramilitary forces play their role in almost all the critical matters of internal security, from riots and insurgency to terrorism and smuggling. They are also an important part of defence intelligence required for internal security and integrity of India.

5. Which agencies are responsible to detect and investigate financial frauds of serious nature? Discuss their constitution and mandate.

Introduction

Misappropriation of funds, employee theft and embezzlement, ponzi schemes, payoffs and kickbacks, credit and debit card fraud, card skimming, investment schemes, mortgage and lending fraud, fake charity donations, internet fraud, consumer scams are some of the few financial frauds.

Body

Agencies responsible to detect and investigate financial frauds:

- **The Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT):** It provides a network that enables financial institutions worldwide to send and receive information about financial transactions in a secure, standardized and reliable environment.
- **Financial Action Task Force:** to develop policies to combat money laundering and curb terrorism financing.
- **Interpol:** Its broad mandate covers virtually every kind of crime, including crimes against humanity, child pornography, drug trafficking and production, political corruption, copyright infringement, and white-collar crime.

Agencies responsible to detect and investigate financial frauds in India:

- Reserve bank of India: banking fraud and mismatch in banking accounts are considered and investigated.
- Securities and exchanges board of India: Regulator Sebi has sought powers to conduct inspection of books of accounts of listed companies for contravention of any securities law and also to take direct action against the fraudsters. Sebi has proposed a heavy penalty for altering, destroying, mutilating, concealing or falsifying records and documents or other tangible objects with intent to obstruct, impede or influence a legal investigation.
- Financial intelligence unit: FIU-IND is the central national agency of India responsible for receiving, processing, analyzing and disseminating information relating to suspect financial transactions.
- Serious Fraud Investigation Office: The Government in the backdrop of major failure of non-banking financial institutions, phenomenon of vanishing companies, plantation companies and the recent stock market scam had decided to set up Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO), a multi-disciplinary organization to investigate corporate frauds.
- Directorate of Enforcement (ED): It is a law enforcement agency and economic intelligence agency responsible for enforcing economic laws and fighting economic crime in India. It is part of the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
- Central bureau of investigation: Many investigations, raids related finance and bank frauds can be taken with the consent of government.

Conclusion

With increasing bank frauds, online thefts, micro and macro finance theft there is a sheer necessity for robust legal framework on financial frauds.

