1. What do you understand by state sponsored terrorism? How is it a threat to India's internal security? Examine.

Introduction

The term 'State-sponsored terrorism' implies a state's use or support of terrorism against another state or against its own people.
Any country that deliberately employs terrorism or aids and abets terrorist groups as an instrument of its foreign policy against another country is categorized as a state sponsor of terrorism or simply a terrorist state.

Body

The term is also used to describe a state's support of international terrorism.
Pakistan has been accused by neighbouring countries India, Afghanistan and Iran and other nations, such as the United States the United Kingdom, and France of involvement in terrorist activities in the region and beyond.
US claims that Iran provides Hezbollah and Palestinian terrorist groups with extensive funding, training, and weapons. Iranian control over Hezbollah is particularly direct and is exercised through various individuals and institutions.
State sponsoring terrorism provides support like money and logistics; safe haven for terrorists; aids in terrorist operations using state infrastructure;

How is it a threat to India's internal security:

- Large scale violent act can be carried out in India like 2008 Mumbai terror attack.
- Sustained armed revolt against the state can be carried with the help of state. Eg – Insurgencies in N-E India and in 'red corridor' allegedly with the help of China.
- Terrorists are given money and other assets, for weapons but also training, travel and accommodation to plan and execute their attacks and develop as an organisation.
- Radicalization and long term erosion of spirit of nationalism are caused by state sponsored terrorism, as had been done by Pakistan.
- In case of state sponsored terrorism, taking action against terrorist and dismantling their modus operandi become difficult due protection enjoyed by terrorists.

Conclusion

Disrupting and preventing these terrorism-related financial flows and transactions is one of the most effective ways to fight terrorism.

Not only can it prevent future attacks by disrupting their material support, the footprints of their purchases, withdrawals and other financial transactions can provide valuable information for ongoing investigations.

Countering terrorism financing is therefore an essential part of the global fight against terror threat.

As terrorists and terrorist groups continue to raise money with use of various means, countries must make it a priority to understand the risks they face from terrorist financing and develop policy responses to all aspects of it.

2. In what ways is the rise and spread of militant Islam in the Middle-East a threat to India's internal security? Explain.

Introduction

Militant Islam arises from extremist interpretation of Islam .This has led to emergence of Hamas in Palestine, al Qaeda in Iraq, Hezbollah in Lebanon, ISIS in Syria, Houthi's in Yemen.

The crisis developments in Iraq, Yemen, Libya and Syria are destabilizing countries in the Middle East. Inability of the state to counter growing militancy leads to an increase in the activities of radical elements, whose actions tries to spread its impact over regions far away such as India, Sri Lanka.

Body

Impact on India's internal security

- **Communalization of Kashmir Issue** – The people who are fighting for greater autonomy in the Kashmir Valley because of peculiar historical reasons may be misled by ISIS. This may further drive a wedge between Kashmir sections of Society and Indian Union. The Islamic State terror group has claimed to have established a new "province" in India.

- **Recruitment through propaganda** – With new forms of propaganda such as through internet, militant organization can woo youths by ideologically brainwashing them.

- Dangers of **Lone Wolf Attacks** like the ones carried out in France. Such tactics by terrorists will be difficult to tackle by investigative authorities.

- **Terror Funding** – Militant organizations have a close nexus with organized crime in the subcontinent. In order to increase its revenues there is possibility of rise in drug and human trafficking in the country.

- **Impact on social fabric** – Atmosphere of insecurity and intolerance may spread through society, which can lead to increase cases of hate crimes.

- **Possible Nexus with Naxalites** – Due to declining presence and influence of Naxalites, they will be forced to find allies in other terror organisations like ISIS which has access to rich resources like oil.

- **Radicalization of Diaspora** – Incidence of radicalization of Diaspora can easily be seen in states of Kerala, Maharashtra, Telangana and West Bengal. Kerala depends on remittances from the Gulf region for much of its economic well-being, which in turn translates into the Gulf's political influence as well.
- **Spread of militant ideology** – Enormous funding to Madrasa by extreme Islamic group may also cause spread of extreme idea of Wahhabis & Salafism etc.
- **Increased spending on Security** – This reduces the financial resources available to government to spend on capital asset creation and welfare activities.

Conclusion

A well operated online intelligence, neighborhood cooperation, joint operation and database convergence could help to check influence of militant Islamic group.

3. What are the threats emanating from external state and non-state actors in the Jammu & Kashmir region? Discuss.

Introduction

External State actors refer to those entities which have formal backing of a sovereign state for carrying out any intended action. Non state actors on the other hand, have a considerable power of influencing international events but they do not have formal state backing. Examples of state actors are the army, bureaucracy, intelligence agencies etc. whereas non state actors would be NGOs, civil society organizations, extremist outfits, multinational companies etc.

Body

Challenge to internal security from external State actors in the Jammu & Kashmir region

- Through political backing, economic assistance, logistic support, military training or arms supplies external State actors have varyingly contributed to the ongoing violence in Jammu & Kashmir region
- The state may carry out a limited war against Indian state and this might have ramifications for our internal security too.
- They might support the various insurgent groups, Naxalites, or separatist groups through funding, training or logistics.
- There have been instances where state actors have been responsible for carrying out cyber warfare through hacking and other espionage.

Challenge to internal security from external State actors in the Jammu & Kashmir region

- Insurgency and terrorism are carried out by Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad in the state.
- Non state actor - sponsored terrorism, often motivated by fundamentalist ideologies, backed by secretive but efficient financial networks, use of IT, clandestine access to chemical-biological and nuclear materials, and illicit drug trafficking, has emerged as a major threat to international stability.
- These groups aim to not only create instability in states like J&K, they also have a larger aim of destabilizing the country. This is done through sporadic terrorist strikes, which spreads terror and panic. This could also adversely affect the ability of the Indian state to pursue economic modernization.
- Drug trafficking – Inter and Intra state trafficking takes place, through golden crescent and golden triangle routes.
- Drugs from Golden Crescent (Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran) have affected J&K and Punjab.
- Counterfeit currency – It corrodes economy from inside, by facilitating black money and money laundering activities as well as funding terrorism, which itself creates a demand for fake currency, thereby creating a positive feedback loop. This is the issue arising especially from Pakistan.
- Communalism – Propagandas are run and funded by enemy country and other non-state actors (NGOs and CSOs) to destabilize India by damaging the socio-religious fabric and ensure riots.

Conclusion

Both state and non-state factors from outside have created problems in our internal security framework. Hence while it is imperative to guard our borders and strengthen our diplomacy, on the other hand, we need to check the various non-state actors who come in hidden forms. There is a need for a national internal security doctrine to deal with various challenges.

4. The China-Pakistan axis is a geo-strategic and security headache for India. Do you agree? Substantiate.

Introduction:

The navies of China and Pakistan held their sixth bilateral naval exercise, titled Sea Guardians-2020, in the northern Arabian Sea. Such military exercises are expected to strengthen security cooperation between the two countries, who are already "iron brothers." The growing bonhomie between China-Pakistan is beyond symbolism require India to adopt more vigilant and cautious approach.

Body:

The China-Pakistan axis has many underlying principles explained by Samuel Huntington as sinic-islamist alliance of power and culture along with traditional anti-India synergies.

Challenges posed by China-Pakistan axis at geostrategic horizon:

- China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: China is using Indian land area illegally occupied by Pakistan violating sovereignty of India. Though China always maintained Jammu and Kashmir is a bilateral issue, India has concerns over the internationalization of the Kashmir issue, reflected in criticism of removal of article 370.
- String of Pearls: Gwadar port of Pakistan can become outpost for PLA navy eventually along with massive port development surrounding India in Sri-Lanka, Bangladesh. Growing influence of China in the Indian Ocean major cause of worry for India.
- Afghanistan Peace process: China and Pakistan working in close cooperation to bring Taliban to table and exclude India from the political solution in Afghanistan, which will undermine Indian efforts, infrastructure and investments in Afghanistan.
- Threats to Indian interests overseas: China consistently blocking India's membership in Nuclear Supplier Group at the haste of Pakistan, first time 'informal consultations' on India-Pakistan dispute after 1971 due to Chinese initiative.

Security headache:

- Nuclear terrorism: China and Pakistan being nuclear states on the northern and western border make India country with one of the most hostile neighbours with Pakistan, India has unresolved Kashmir issue and with China India do not have mutually agreed boundary settlement. It necessities India to develop resilient security apparatus.
- Proxy war in Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Punjab: Pakistan has continuously tried to destabilize India internally, with support to separatists.
- Moral support and Training to North-east militancy groups and Left wing extremism: China in the post provided safe havens, arms and training to northeast militant groups and moral support to left wing extremism.
- Radicalization and Fundamentalism: Pakistan has been the center of Islamic fundamentalism and terrorism of the world. It has indulged in many terror attacks on Indian cities and China supported Pakistan in UN repeatedly reflected in repeated technical hold to designate JeM head Massod Azhar as terrorist who eventually declared so with consistent diplomatic efforts.

Indian response to China-Pakistan Axis:

- India has taken strong action against both China and Pakistan in the recent past with border stand-off with China in dock-lam and surgical strike and air strike in Pakistan.
- India refused to participate in Belt and Road Initiative of China becoming the only major economy.
- India increased Strategic relationship with US reflected in the development of Quad to counter China.
- India's proactive diplomacy in West Asia has dented support to Pakistan from Islamic world.

However, India has experienced the similar challenge in the US-Pakistan axis for more than five decade which eventually became blur with the consistent efforts of Indian diplomacy, economic might and changing global order.

Conclusion:

India cannot have idealistic view of China as if the economic interest in India will dominate the geostrategic and security ambitions vis-e-vis relationship with India. Indian approach should be to develop more deep relationship with China to make Pakistan more responsible state and at the same time focus on building economic power and strategic alliances across the globe to increase deterrence.

5. The giants in the field of internet and social media like Google, Amazon, Facebook etc are based out of India. How does it pose a security threat to India?

Introduction:

Social media has emerged as one of the national security concern in India during Assam riots and mass exodus of northeast Indian from major Indian cities to the recent violent student protests and mob lynching incidents in India. It has been observed that foreign base of internet and social media giants pose challenge to efficient monitoring and deterrence against security threats to India.

Body:

India has faced many security issues with the use of Social Media in recent past like rioting, lynching, recruitment for terror organization and radicalization by fundamental group.

Security threats due to out of India Internet and Social Media giants:

- Indian laws are ill-equipped to deal with social media giants due to their location. At most India can only censure the giants and ask cooperation, taking hasty steps to ban such multinationals like China way will dent India's image as vibrant democracy and liberal economy.

- India neither has technology infrastructure nor sufficient able manpower to categories private, sensitive data of Indians and control outward flow.
- Indian data highways are outward directed due to exponential increase of social media use with more than one billion mobile phones and increasing digital inclusion create threat of profiling Indian citizen data for various purposes like economic and social behavior of India by foreign country.
- Major Complicating Factors to secure the networks and Media Much of the hardware and software that make up the communications ecosystem is sourced externally.
- End to End encryption used in phones to send and receive messages, restricts the government's ability to monitor and increases the threat of terrorism and crimes of trafficking, smuggling.
- Open source intelligence creation for foreign intelligence networks with optimal processing.

However, India has taken various measures to increase surveillance and monitoring such as – National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID), National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) of India. It has also appointed BN Srikrishna Committee to review data protection in India.

Need to follow principle of Data Localization:
- As per BN Srikrishna committee recommendation, Personal data will need to be stored on servers located within India, and transfers outside the country will need to be subject to safeguards. Critical personal data, however, will only be processed in India.
- Cross border transfer of data must be subject to model contract clauses on the lines of General Data Protection Regulation of EU.

Conclusion:

There is need to increase digital literacy of Indians and increase awareness about potential threats posed by cyber security to both individual and nation as a whole. India should focus its energy on development of critical technologies to monitor data flow and become pioneer in new technology development with economic capacity to establish its own social media and internet giants.