Defence & Security · GS - III

The banning of 'Jammat-e-Islami' 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 influence of OGWs.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2019	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Logistical support; intelligence gathering; recruitment; financing; propaganda; local networks; intelligence-led policing; community trust; legal safeguards

Model Answer

Introduction

Over-ground workers (OGWs) are individuals who allegedly support militant or terrorist organisations without necessarily participating directly in armed attacks. Their activities can sustain insurgencies by providing support networks.

Role in Insurgency-Affected Areas

- Arrange shelter, transport, food, communication equipment and other logistical assistance.
- Gather and relay information about security-force movements.
- Facilitate recruitment, financing and movement of weapons or supplies.
- Spread propaganda, intimidation and misinformation to influence local populations.

- Provide local contacts and help militants evade detection.

Measures to Neutralise Their Influence

- Strengthen human intelligence, cyber monitoring and inter-agency information sharing within the law.
- Disrupt terrorist financing, illegal arms networks and logistical channels.
- Improve witness protection and encourage confidential community reporting.
- Counter extremist propaganda through credible local voices and digital literacy.
- Promote employment, education and grievance-redress mechanisms to reduce militant recruitment.
- Ensure evidence-based investigations, judicial oversight and protection against arbitrary detention.

Conclusion

Effective counter-insurgency requires dismantling support networks through intelligence, community cooperation and financial disruption while protecting civil liberties and avoiding the alienation of innocent residents.

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