Defence & Security · GS - III

Examine the role of intelligence coordination, inter-agency cooperation and preventive policing in countering the threat of urban terrorism in India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 22/11/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Intelligence sharing, NIA, Multi Agency Centre, NATGRID, State Police, critical infrastructure security, cyber investigation, Centre-State coordination

Model Answer

Introduction

The threat of urban terrorism involves attacks on crowded public spaces, transport networks and critical infrastructure. Recent threats against locations in Hyderabad highlight the importance of preventive security and coordinated intelligence mechanisms.

Key Institutional Mechanisms

1. **Intelligence coordination:** The Multi Agency Centre (MAC) facilitates intelligence sharing between central and state agencies.
2. **Investigation:** The NIA investigates scheduled offences under the NIA Act, 2008, including specified terrorism-related cases.
3. **Data integration:** NATGRID enables authorised agencies to access relevant databases for intelligence analysis and investigation.

4. **Preventive policing:** State Police and specialised units conduct surveillance, anti-sabotage checks, threat assessment and rapid response operations.

Major Challenges

- Fragmented intelligence and delayed information-sharing.
- Cyber anonymity, spoofed communications and cross-border networks.
- Vulnerability of railway stations, hotels and other crowded public spaces.
- Coordination gaps between central agencies and State Police.
- Risk of panic and misinformation following unverified threats.

Way Forward

- Strengthen real-time intelligence-sharing and joint threat assessment.
- Improve cyber-forensics and digital evidence capabilities.
- Conduct regular security audits of critical infrastructure.
- Enhance Centre-State coordination and emergency response preparedness.
- Ensure proportionate policing, public communication and protection of civil liberties.

Conclusion

Urban counter-terrorism requires an intelligence-led, technology-enabled and cooperative security architecture. Timely prevention and coordinated response are essential to protect citizens and critical infrastructure.

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