



## General Studies-3; Topic: Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.

### Global Response to tackle Organised Crime

#### Introduction

- The COVID-19 crisis is raising a new set of challenges for national authorities, as criminals seek to exploit vulnerabilities created by lockdowns and shifting travel patterns.
- Building the capacities to deal with these threats is now a key part of United Nations Office on Drugs And Crime (UNODC)'s focus.

#### Personal connections, mutual interests

- There are range of links, often in connection with the financing of terrorism.
- **Terrorists and organized criminals cooperate on the basis of shared territory or mutual interest**, often drawing on personal connections forged in prisons.
- Terrorists benefit from organized criminal activities such as people trafficking, migrant smuggling, kidnapping for ransom and illicit drug trafficking.

#### Money laundering, strengthening borders

- Need for ratifying legal instruments, such as the **Convention against Transnational Organized Crime**, and various international drug control conventions.
- Need to fight money laundering - by complying with UN resolutions and building public-private partnerships.
- **Strengthening border security** - in particular by analyzing flight passenger data.
- Improving prison management to prevent radicalization and developing whole-of-society approaches to countering violent extremism.

- Cross-border cooperation through regional platforms, bilateral agreements, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and mutual legal assistance treaties.
- National legal frameworks could be updated to include precise definitions of terrorism.
- More resources could be directed towards criminal justice coordination.
- Establishing specialized units, as well as greater focus on **intelligence-led policing, and evidence collection**.

### Rise in phishing scams

- Terrorists are generating funds from illicit trafficking in drugs, goods, natural resources and antiquities, as well as kidnapping for ransom, extorting and committing other heinous crimes.
- There is a **significant rise in cybercrime** in recent months, with a 350 per cent increase in phishing websites in the first quarter of 2020 – many targeting hospitals and health care systems.
- Therefore it is important to **address the nexus between terrorism and organized crime**.

### Terrorists, crime networks exploiting COVID-19

- Terrorists are exploiting the significant disruption and economic hardships caused by COVID-19 to spread fear, hate and division and radicalize and recruit new followers.
- Efforts must be made to study how the links between terrorism and organized crime evolve - without automatically conflating both threats.

### Address local grievances, poor governance

- Countries are focused on tackling the health crisis caused by COVID-19. But we must not be complacent about the continuing threat of terrorism.
- In many parts of the world, terrorists are exploiting local grievances and poor governance to regroup and assert their control.
- **Collective action and international cooperation are needed now more than ever.**