

* Govt approves study on 'status of radicalisation'

- GoI approved a research study for this
- Purpose
 - ↳ To legally define 'radicalisation'
 - ↳ Suggest amendments to the UAPA
 - ↳ Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act
- Study to be religion-neutral & will go by facts.
- Aggressive policing measures (like jail terms)
 - ↳ could be counterproductive
 - ↳ as youths who are radicalised are not the main culprits
- Maharashtra model
 - ↳ several youths deradicalised

* Terror trail

- India's EA Minister @ UNSC

- need for greater coordination b/w counter terror agencies worldwide
- need for streamlining of process of UN's top body in designating terrorists
- Methods used by terrorists to raise funds
 - ↳ extortion & money laundering
 - ↳ drugs & wildlife trafficking
 - ↳ in future will also use loopholes in digital security & "anonymity" provided by block chain tech to access finances
- Need to link actions b/w UN & FATF
 - ↳ as FATF holds countries (like Pak, who wilfully provides financial assistance & safe havens to terrorists) accountable.
 - ↳ while @ UN, India's requests to designate such terrorists is blocked by China.

- Asia Pacific Joint Group (APJG)

- ↳ a FATF committee to meet to finalise

recommendations on whether to continue Pak's 'greylisting status', downgrade it to a black list or let it off.

↳ Turkey & Malaysia have helped Pak avoid stringent measures at FATF

- In response to the scheduled meet

- Pak arrested & convicted Zaki Ullah Rehman Lakhvi & Hafiz Saeed

- warrant for JEM chief Masood Azhar

- India slammed these as just cosmetic measures to avoid further greylisting or blacklisting.

- India is watching how the international community "walks the talk" on "zero tolerance to terrorism".

* NATGRID to finally see the light of day

- PM Modi is expected to launch the National Intelligence Grid or NATGRID shortly.

- NATGRID:

- It is the integrated intelligence grid connecting databases of core security agencies of the Government of India.
- A robust intel gathering mechanism related to immigration, banking, individual taxpayers, air and train travels.
- First conceptualised in 2009, after the Mumbai terror attacks.
- NATGRID seeks to become the one-stop destination for security and intel agencies
- The data will be procured by NATGRID from 21 organisations such as telecom, tax records, bank, immigration, etc.

Drug haul: role of Pakistani elements being examined

3,000 kilograms of heroin were seized by the Indian law enforcement agencies at Gujarat's Mundra Port.

.The drugs were shipped from Afghanistan. The seized heroin was exported by a Kandahar-based trader and imported by Vijayawada-based trading company via Bandar Abbas Port, Iran to Gujarat's Mundra Port.

Role of Afghanistan in drug trafficking:

.The seizure of this large haul of heroin raises serious questions about the Taliban's promise to stop drug production and its trade

.Drug trafficking remains one of the biggest sources of income and funding for the Taliban.

- Notably, after the Taliban announced a ban on the production and supply of narcotics, the rate of heroin and opium almost doubled within a few days in the local and international markets.

- Afghanistan controls 80 to 90 per cent of opium and heroin supply in the world, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Security threat to India:

- The Indian investigators are still trying to find out the purpose of the import of such a huge quantity of heroin in India.

- Narcotics trade has been used for decades to fund terrorist activities inside India.

- On regular basis, consignments of drugs are seized at the Punjab and Jammu borders which are sent from Pakistan to fund terrorist organisations.