GS Paper 3

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS paper 3- Security- terrorism.

Unveiling the Hidden Costs: Long-Term Implications of Terror Attacks

Long-Term Impacts of Terror Attacks:

1. Economic Drain on Governments:

• Governments allocate substantial funds post-attack to enhance security, often diverting resources from critical sectors like healthcare. This shift represents a significant move away from productive investments.

2. **Inefficient Security Expenses:**

• The deployment of security equipment such as baggage scanners, metal detectors, and additional personnel incurs high operational costs. While these measures are necessary, they may be deemed inefficient responses to terror threats.

3. Indirect Economic Impacts:

• Terror attacks ripple through the economy, leading to higher insurance premiums, a decline in tourism, and reduced investor confidence. These indirect consequences have lasting economic implications.

4. Societal and Psychological Effects:

 Pervasive security measures and constant vigilance create a psychological impact on society. This contributes to a prevailing sense of fear, influencing daily life and societal dynamics.

What Should Be Done?

1. Allocate Resources Wisely:

• Balancing the allocation of funds is crucial. While enhancing security is necessary, governments should ensure that essential sectors like healthcare receive adequate attention and funding.

2. Innovate and Adapt:

• Embrace innovative technologies and strategies that enhance security efficiently. Moving away from traditional, less effective methods towards more sophisticated, data-driven approaches is essential to stay ahead of evolving threats.

3. Critical Reevaluation of Security Measures:

• Regular assessment of the effectiveness of security protocols is essential. This involves moving away from ritualistic practices, such as routine vehicle checks at hotels, that may not significantly contribute to overall security.

Addressing the long-term impacts of terror attacks requires a comprehensive approach that not only enhances security measures but also ensures a judicious allocation of resources and a critical evaluation of existing strategies to adapt to an ever-changing threat landscape.

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS paper3- Economic development- agriculture.

Evolution of Agriculture: From Traditional Factors to Technological Transformation

Addressing the long-term impacts of terror attacks requires a comprehensive approach that not only enhances security measures but also ensures a judicious allocation of resources and a critical evaluation of existing strategies to adapt to an ever-changing threat landscape.

Traditional Factors of Agricultural Production:

1. **Land:**

• Initially, agricultural growth depended on the extent of available land. In India, for example, the increase in cultivated land played a significant role in the agricultural growth from 1950-51 to 1961-62.

2. Water:

• Water availability directly influenced soil fertility and agricultural land productivity.

3. Labor:

• Traditional farming relied heavily on human labor, where more hands equated to increased production.

4. Energy:

• Before modern machinery, animal power, primarily from bullocks, was the main energy source for tasks like plowing fields in traditional agriculture.

Transformation through Technology:

1. Genetics:

• High-yielding seed varieties, developed by scientists like Henry Beachell and Gurdev Singh Khush, played a crucial role in boosting agricultural productivity.

2. Crop Nutrition:

• Transition to chemical fertilizers like Urea and di-ammonium phosphate provided nutrients more efficiently than traditional manure.

3. Crop Protection:

 Advances in crop protection chemicals safeguarded crops from pests, diseases, and weeds, ensuring higher yields.

4. Agronomic Interventions:

• Mechanization, water-saving technologies, and practices like intercropping replaced traditional labor and energy sources, enhancing efficiency and productivity.

Impact of Technology on Farming:

1. Higher Yields with Less Land:

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GS Paper 3

• Despite modest increases in farmland, technological advances significantly boosted production.

2. Growth in Agricultural Sector:

• The adoption of productivity-enhancing technologies and improvements in rural infrastructure contributed to a 3.7% annual agricultural growth rate in India from 2005-06 to 2021-22.

3. Improved Efficiency:

• Technology-driven farming has led to more output from the same or fewer resources, shifting towards efficiency-driven production.

Government Initiatives to Modernize Agriculture:

1. National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGP-A):

• Funds state and UT projects utilizing advanced technologies like AI, Machine Learning, Robotics, Drones, Data Analytics, and Blockchain.

2. Digital Public Infrastructure for Agriculture:

 Aims to provide farmers with information services for various aspects, including crop planning, health, input access, credit, insurance, crop estimation, and market intelligence.

3. Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM):

 Promotes farm mechanization, benefiting small and marginal farmers through hightech equipment and awareness programs.

4. Technological Initiatives under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana:

• Includes Yield Estimation System based on Technology (YES-Tech), Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS) portal, and the AIDE/Sahayak door-to-door enrollment app for crop insurance.

5. ICAR Mobile Apps and Kisan Sarathi:

• Offers over 100 mobile apps and a digital platform for agricultural information and advisories.

The journey from traditional factors to technological innovation has reshaped agriculture, leading to increased efficiency, higher yields, and sustainable growth.