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Q8

Case study. Raman is a senior IPS officer and has recently been posted as D.G. of a state. Among the various issues and problems/challenges which needed his immediate attention, the issue relating to recruitment of unemployed youth by an unknown terrorist group, was a matter of grave concern. Unemployment was relatively high in the state. A new terrorist group has emerged at the global level and launched a massive drive to recruit young unemployed people, with special focus on a particular community. Discrete inquiries through the Cyber Cell revealed that good numbers of unemployed youth are very active on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, spending 6-8 hours each day, showing sympathy and endorsing messages from contact persons of that global terrorist group. (a) What are the options available to Raman to tackle the above situation? (b) What measures would you suggest for strengthening the existing set-up to ensure that such groups do not succeed in penetrating and vitiating the atmosphere in the state? (c) In the above scenario, what action plan would you advise for enhancing the intelligence gathering mechanism of the police force?

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2024 · GS IV · 20 marks · Ethics Case Studies

Case Studies on above issues.

Core demand of the question

- (a) List Raman's options in full sentences, from denial to community-plus-cyber disruption
- (b) Measures to strengthen the set-up so a global group cannot penetrate and poison the atmosphere
- (c) An intelligence-gathering plan that is lawful, community-rooted and not a communal witch-hunt

Revision summary

Options range from waiting for a blast, to a communal round-up, to a lawful mix of cyber disruption, targeted cases and livelihood outreach.

The right bundle is evidence-led disruption plus jobs and counselling, briefed to the civilian government.

The set-up needs range-level cyber skill, platform liaison, beat trust, force hygiene and a public line that the State will not hunt a community.

Intelligence should map handlers and tasked youth with audit logs, lawful intercept and financial trails.

A boy who liked a video is not the same file as a handler who sends a task.

Introduction

Raman is a **new Director General of Police**. Unemployment in the State is **high**. A **global terrorist brand** is **recruiting unemployed youth**, with **special focus on one community**. The **Cyber Cell** finds many of those youth **six to eight hours a day on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter**, **endorsing** handlers. This is **security, livelihood, speech and fraternity** on the same desk. A clumsy communal sweep will **gift the recruiter a story**. A sleepy DG will **gift him a cohort**.

Body

(a) Options available to Raman

First, he can **treat it as ordinary crime statistics** and wait for the first **blast**, which is **omission**. **Second**, he can **order a mass communal round-up** of the targeted community's youth, which is **fast, illegal in spirit, and excellent propaganda** for the group. **Third**, he can **shut the State's internet** for weeks, which **punishes farmers and students** and **drives the traffic to darker apps**. **Fourth**, he can **build a lawful disruption package: cyber take-down and tracing with MHA/CERT and platforms, financial intelligence on handlers, targeted arrests where conspiracy is evidenced, and open political communication** that **unemployment is the State's wound, not a community's guilt**. **Fifth**, he can **pair police work with livelihood and counselling: employment fairs, campus and madrasa/youth-club outreach with credible community voices, exit ramps** for the merely **curious**, and **hard cases** for the **already tasked**. **Sixth**, he can **ask for a central force and sit back**, which **abdicates a DG's role morality**. The serious bundle is **fourth plus fifth**, sequenced, **recorded**, and **briefed to the Chief Secretary and the elected government** without becoming a **partisan tool**.

(b) Strengthening the set-up against penetration

People. Specialised **cyber and OSINT** cells in **every range**, not one tired team in the capital; **language skills** of the **recruiter's tongue**; **women officers** for **family outreach**. **Law**. Standard operating procedures that **separate sympathy, incitement, and conspiracy**; **UAPA and ordinary law** used with **file-able facts**, not **mood**. **Platforms**. **24-hour liaison, hash-sharing** of known terrorist content, **rapid legal process** for **account data**. **Community**. **Beat officers** who **already know the youth**, not a **new communal census**; **parents and teachers** as **partners**, not **informers of last resort only**. **Livelihood**. A **written ask** to the **labour and skill departments** so **police are not fake employment exchanges**, but **jobs still arrive**. **Internal hygiene**. **Watch the force** for **communal bias and for penetration**; **rotate** sensitive desks; **mental health** for officers who **live online hate**. **Narrative**. A **DG who speaks once, calmly**, that **this State will not hunt a community** and **will not tolerate a handler**. **Fraternity** (Preamble) is **operational**, not a **civics slide**.

(c) Intelligence-gathering plan

Aim: **early, lawful, precise** knowledge of **who is tasked, who is only angry**, and **which account is a handler**. **Open source**: **cyber cell** maps **public endorsements, time patterns** (the 6-8 hours), **cross-platform identities**, with **audit logs** so the unit **cannot freelance a communal list**. **Human**: **beat-level trust, prison intelligence** on **older**

modules, family counselling that is **not a trap** for every worried mother. **Technical: lawful interception** only with **statutory sanction; no bulk scrape of a whole faith.** **Financial: small hawala and wallet trails.** **Coordination: IB, NIA as needed, neighbouring SPs, university deans for campus rumours.** **Ethics: Kant** forbids using a **boy as a mere sensor** without **care for his future**; **Mill** allows **harm prevention** when **violence is near.** **Do not pay a communal entrepreneur to invent a module.** **Debrief in writing. Protect sources. Share with the government** what is **threat**, not what is **vote.** The plan succeeds if the **first arrest is of a handler**, not of a **boy who liked a video.**

Flow diagram

Global recruiter -> Unemployed youth
Six to eight hours social media -> Unemployed youth
Raman DG -> Lawful cyber disruption
Raman DG -> Skill and outreach
Raman DG -> Precision intelligence
Lawful cyber disruption -> Handler not whole community

Conclusion

Raman should disrupt the handler online and on the money trail, arrest on evidence, and treat unemployment as a State duty rather than a community stain. A communal sweep and a long internet ban would recruit for the other side. Intelligence must be lawful, local and aimed at the tasking adult, not at a faith.

Facts & figures

Role of a DG

The Director General is the professional head of the State police; he can advise and operate, but communal policy still sits with the elected government.

Sympathy versus conspiracy

Liking or forwarding can be foolish or even punishable in some frames; a terrorist module needs tasking, money and intent that a court can test.

UAPA caution

Special anti-terror law is a heavy tool; using it as a community net destroys both trials and fraternity.

OSINT

Open-source intelligence from public posts; it still needs audit so a cell cannot build a private enemy list.

Preamble fraternity

The constitutional friendship among citizens; a security plan that brands one community as the problem fails this value in operation.

Lawful interception

Phone and data intercept only under statutory sanction; bulk faith-based scraping is the opposite of professional intelligence.

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