

## 16. War and Terrorism

### BVES-151: Environmental Studies

#### Unit 4: Disaster Management: Natural and Man-Made Hazards

##### Topic: War and Terrorism

### □ What Are War and Terrorism?

**War** and **terrorism** are man-made disasters caused by **intentional human conflict**. Unlike natural disasters, these events are planned or provoked, and they often lead to **large-scale destruction**, fear, and long-term instability in affected regions.

- **War** is an armed conflict between nations or groups within a country.
- **Terrorism** involves deliberate acts of violence meant to create fear for political, religious, or ideological goals.

### □ Types of War and Terrorism

Type of Disaster	Description
<b>Conventional War</b> Example: India-Pakistan Kargil War (1999)	Armed conflict using guns, tanks, and missiles between countries or political groups.
<b>Civil War</b> Example: Syrian Civil War	Internal conflict within a country between different groups.
<b>Terrorist Attack</b> Example: 26/11 Mumbai Attacks (2008)	Sudden violent acts like bombings, shootings, or hijackings by extremist groups.
<b>Cyberterrorism</b>	Use of digital attacks on national infrastructure (banks, power grids, data systems).
<b>Biological or Chemical Terrorism</b>	Use of harmful pathogens or toxic chemicals to harm people or environments.

### ☠ Impact of War and Terrorism

Area Affected	Impact
<b>Human Life</b>	Massive loss of life, injuries, disabilities, trauma.
<b>Health</b>	Spread of diseases due to lack of hygiene, overcrowding, poor medical care.
<b>Environment</b>	Destruction of land, air and water pollution, loss of biodiversity.
<b>Economy</b>	Collapse of industries, infrastructure, food supply.
<b>Society</b>	Fear, displacement, refugee crises, loss of education and healthcare.

### □ Consequences for the Environment

- **Air Pollution** from explosives and burning.
- **Water Contamination** due to chemicals and damaged sewage systems.
- **Soil Degradation** from bombs and toxic waste.



- **Loss of Wildlife and Forests** due to destruction of habitats.
- **Radiation Exposure** in case of nuclear weapons (e.g., Hiroshima & Nagasaki).

## □ India and Terrorism: Major Incidents

Event	Year	Description
<b>26/11 Mumbai Attacks</b>	2008	Coordinated shooting and bombing by terrorists; over 170 killed.
<b>Pulwama Attack</b>	2019	Suicide bombing killed 40 CRPF jawans; triggered military response.
<b>Parliament Attack</b>	2001	Terrorists stormed Indian Parliament; major national security breach.

## □ Disaster Management: Response to War & Terrorism

### □ Prevention

- Strengthening national security, intelligence, and surveillance.
- International cooperation to fight terrorism.
- Public awareness and education on emergency procedures.

### □ Emergency Response

- Rapid deployment of armed forces, medical aid, and rescue teams.
- Evacuation of affected areas.
- Handling bomb threats, hostage situations, and public panic.

### □ Recovery

- Rehabilitation of victims and war-affected regions.
- Psychological counseling for trauma and PTSD.
- Rebuilding infrastructure, schools, and hospitals.
- Peacebuilding efforts and conflict resolution.

## □ Important Terms to Know

Term	Meaning
<b>PTSD</b> (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder)	Mental health condition caused by exposure to violence or trauma.
<b>Refugee</b>	A person forced to flee their country due to war or persecution.
<b>Ceasefire</b>	An agreement to stop fighting temporarily or permanently.
<b>Radicalization</b>	Process by which individuals adopt extremist beliefs.

## □ Quick Self-Check Questions

1. What is the difference between war and terrorism?
2. Mention two effects of war on the environment.
3. What happened during the 26/11 Mumbai attacks?
4. List one health and one economic impact of war.
5. What are some ways to prevent terrorism?



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## □ Summary: War and Terrorism

- War and terrorism are deliberate acts of violence causing loss of life, fear, and destruction.
  - Their effects extend beyond humans to **economies, ecosystems, and infrastructure**.
  - **Preparedness, strong governance, and international cooperation** are vital to prevent and respond to such man-made disasters.
  - Peace, education, and dialogue are key to long-term solutions.
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