

## Terrorist Attack in Egypt

### What is the issue?

\n\n

\n

- A deadly terror attack took place at a Sufi mosque in the Sinai Peninsula (Egypt) that killed at least 305 people.

\n

- Egypt has faced several attacks in the recent past by a local arm of the Islamic State is under grave threat.

\n

\n\n

### What are the challenges for Egypt?

\n\n



\n\n

\n

- Home grown Sunni extremists have been targeting Christians, who constitute 10% of the population, and minority sects within Islam.

\n

- They've also allied with IS and plan to deepen the sectarian divisions and exploit these to win over hard-line Sunni segments.

\n

- **Eastern Treat** - IS allied groups has been active in the Sinai Peninsula, a region that has been historically neglected by Cairo.

\n

- Also, after the recent collapse of IS in Iraq & Syria, some fighting in those countries are suspected to have shifted operations to Sinai.  
\n
- Its vast desertic terrain, mountain stretches and long coasts, also provides for a secured operational base for the IS.  
\n
- **Western Treat** - The Egyptian military has also come under strain on its western border due to instability in Libya.  
\n
- After the fall of Qadhafi in Lybia, the black market trade in weapons from there has increased, which has aided militants.  
\n

\n\n

## What has been the aftermath?

\n\n

- This is the bloodiest attack in modern Egypt's history and the ease at which it was carried out has raised alarm.  
\n
- President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, has vowed to respond with "brutal force", in keeping with his promise of stability & security.  
\n
- But repeated attacks have called into question General Sisi's counter-insurgency strategy.  
\n
- **Way Forward** - Cairo has to now defeat the militants and disrupt the supply of weapons.  
\n
- The long-term grievances of the Sinai's population also need to be addressed to deny militants local sympathy or support.  
\n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: The Hindu**

\n



**SHANKAR**  
**IAS PARLIAMENT**  
*Information is Empowering*