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## Vienna Attack

### Why in news?

The attack in Vienna that killed four people underscores the transnational threat European countries face from Islamist terrorists.

### What had happened?

- In Vienna, the suspected gunman, who is of Albanian origin, was a dual citizen of Austria and North Macedonia.
- He had a previous terrorism conviction.
- In 2019, he was imprisoned after he tried to join the Islamic State.
- But, he was released because of his age.

### What are the questions that arise?

- The immediate question the Austrian authorities face would be about the failure in preventing the attack.
- There is a question about how did a terrorism convict slip off the security radar and launch an attack in the capital city.
- Austria will also have to plug the security loopholes as several countries in the continent have raised the threat levels.
- The larger challenge is how to address the issue of radicalisation among youth and counter attempts to disrupt the social cohesion of the continent.

### What are the terrorists trying to do?

- Jihadists use violence to create **social discord**.
- They unleash violence on the public in the name of Islam.
- In response, the rising Islamophobic, nationalist parties in Europe seize on such incidents to bolster their fortunes.
- This is a two-front attack on the democratic and secular values Europe stands for — and that is what the terrorists want.

### What could be done?

- Leaders of France, Austria and other terror-hit countries should not allow the jihadists to have their way.
- They should clamp down on terror networks, isolate and punish the jihadists.
- They should counter the ideology of political Islamists and build on the values of pluralism, secularism, democracy and equality.
- Deradicalisation efforts should be step up with help from communities.

**Source: The Hindu**



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