Prevention of Lone Wolf Attacks - Social Integration

What is the issue?

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- There has been a series of terror attacks in western countries by “lone wolves” including the recent attack in New York.
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- To tackle this, countries like Canada have been focusing on assimilating migrants into their cultural mainstream.
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How can radicalism be prevented?

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- A lone wolf, lone-wolf terrorist or lone actor is someone who prepares and commits violent acts alone, outside of any command structure and without material assistance from any group.
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- It is the lack of belonging that is driving many to destroy their host countries.
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- Enhancing the “sense of belonging” among different groups rather than looking for reasons to detain or expel them could help.
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- Efforts for preventing polarisation along religious or ethnic lines through effective social integration is needed.
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- Investigators need to examine all the concrete details of the perpetrators’ lives rather than just the act of violence.
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- The root causes of radicalism should be identified and be dealt with the active support of community leaders.
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What is Canada’s immigration policy?

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- **Social Integrtaion -** Understanding the plight of migrants, their worldview and their aspirations is key to any integrationist effort.
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- Enhanced social and personal relationships contribute greatly to the development of a ‘sense of belonging’.
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- For peple to forge a new beginning in the host society, having some form of a legal status and a job are crucial.
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- Ensuring free assess to rental services, financial systems, education and healthcare opportunities are also major aspects.
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- **Cultural Integration -** Canadian Multiculturalism Act, 1988 formalized a policy to encourage cultural diversity.
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- Developing a sense of tolerance through recognition and understanding became an aspect of public policy.
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- Accommodating the language of the migrants and funding multi-cultural initiatives can help.
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- Explaining Canadian customs and legal systems to the refugees is also given importance.
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What is the way forward?

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- While enhancing surveillance and safety structures might help to an extent, they are only temporary measures.
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- Building a broader acceptance for other cultures is key to liberal democratic ethos.
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Source: The Hindu

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