

### Pulwama Attack

*Syllabus: Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.*

#### **In News**

- At least 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) paramilitary troopers were killed in the deadliest terror attack witnessed in three decades of Kashmir's insurgency.
- It was a surprise attack by a Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) suicide bomber.

#### **Analysis**

- Suicide attacks are one of the most potent and effective options available to terrorists. However, **frequency of suicide attacks** in India has **been lower**.
- India has lost more security forces personnel in Jammu and Kashmir over the last three decades than in any single war fought against adversaries.
- This is because, the prolonged character of **hybrid conflicts** (unlike conventional war) induces a **sense of complacency**.
- In other words, once such conflicts achieve a degree of normality, it becomes business as usual.
- The immediate aftermath of such attacks is marked by an **inadvertent misrepresentation** of the source of terrorist attacks.
- The attack itself is often described in a way that reinforces the message that terror groups seek to convey.
- Public debates tend to demand extreme military and diplomatic measures, irrespective of whether these can be realistically executed.
- There is also an **upsurge in articulation of popular support** for the security forces, often with a **limited shelf-life**.
- We must remember that battles are fought not **merely in the operational domain**, but in the **psychological domain** as well.
- In this context, as a component of counter terrorism measures, India must focus on formulating an effective strategic communication in order to achieve the desired national objectives.

#### **What Could Be The Key Elements In Strategic Communications**

- **Word fidayeen** has a **religious connotation** and must not be included to address these bombers. Instead, India needs to highlight the fact that suicide is a sin in Islam.
- The hybrid war which India is fighting in Kashmir includes terrorism in conjunction with other elements such as firing along the Line of Control (LoC), subversion of Kashmir's population, and pumping fake currency notes into India.
- This cannot be a handiwork of JeM or any other terrorist groups. Hence, India need to communicate the role of Pakistan in an effective manner.
- **Disharmony in India** is an asset for Pakistan. Diversity of views on this issue reflects disharmony and it gives a chance to an adversary looking to exploit fissures within the target society.
- Hence, the strategic communication **must not give a perception** of divided house which would be disservice to the ends of National security.
- The value of a message **lies in its implementation**. Hence, in order to remain effective, messaging must be backed up by action.
- Selection of platform, target and the desired end state should guide strategic communications.

- In other words, strategic messaging is not a one-size-fits-all instrument. Its impact on Pakistan, its armed forces and the Pakistani people should be distinctive.

### About CRPF

- Raised in 1939 as ‘**Crown Representative Police**’, to assist the then British government in dealing with political disturbances, the force was redesignated CRPF in 1947.
- With nearly 3.25 lakh personnel, it is **the largest central armed police force**, and is engaged in various duties from internal security and polls to rescue and relief.
- States prefer it over other central forces due to its **skills at crowd management**.
- For the first time in the history of para-military Forces in India, thirteen companies of CRPF including a detachment of women were airlifted to join the Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka to fight the militant cadets.
- Besides, CRPF personnel were also sent to Haiti, Namibia, Somalia and Maldives to deal with law and order situation there, as a part of the UN Peace Keeping Force.

### Current CRPF Deployment Map:

- **9 LWE-hit states:** 90 battalions\*, maximum in Chhattisgarh (30 battalions)
- **J&K:** 62 battalions
- **7 Northeast states:** 28 battalions
- **VIP duty:** 4 battalions across India, mostly in Delhi
- **Rapid Action Force teams:** 15 battalions, in Delhi, Aligarh, Meerut, Allahabad, Hyderabad, Coimbatore, Bhopal, Jamshedpur, Jaipur

### Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act

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#### In News

- The Union Home Ministry has banned the Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen (TuM) under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for its alleged **involvement in a series of terror acts**.
- Set up in 1990s, TuM claims that it has been fighting for “liberation of Kashmir”.
- **41 terrorist organisations** have been banned under the UAPA so far.

#### About UAPA

- The UAPA, 1967 essentially and primarily dealt with “**unlawful activity**”.
- It was introduced as a legislation to set out **reasonable restrictions** on the freedoms under Article 19(1) of Constitution, such as freedom of speech, right to assemble peacefully etc.
- Over the years, terror specific legislations like Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA) and Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) were repealed after running into legal trouble, and the UAPA became the primary anti-terror legislation in India.
- Its main objective is **to make powers available for dealing with activities directed against the integrity and sovereignty of India**.
- Offences include – Terrorist acts, membership of terrorist organizations, funding, support and recruitment for terrorist organization.

- The Act makes it a **crime to support any secessionist movement** or to support claims by a foreign power to what India claims as its territory.
- UAPA has been amended twice: in 20018 and in 2012.

### **Criticism**

- The provisions of UAPA have an extremely wide ambit, which makes it possible to use them against not just criminals and terrorists, but even authors, academics, lawyers for alleged terrorists, and human rights activist.
- The definition of unlawful activities includes terms which are vague and broad. For instance, under section 2(o) of the UAPA, questioning the territorial integrity of India is an unlawful activity.
- Similarly, it is also an unlawful activity to cause “**disaffection against India**” with no definition in the UAPA itself.
- There is no definition of membership in the UAPA, making it susceptible to misuse.
- Although, SC in 2011 had ruled that **mere membership** of a banned organization **will not make a person a criminal** unless he resorts to violence or creates public disorder by violence.
- However, under UAPA, if one is found to be a member of banned organisations, he/she **could be imprisoned for life**.
- Some of the provisions such as **extended detention periods, no anticipatory bail, no bail if case seems prima facie true** etc. have been termed as draconian.
- It authorises the **creation of special courts**, with wide discretion to hold in-camera proceedings (closed-door hearings) and use secret witnesses but contains no sunset clause and provisions for mandatory periodic review.

### **Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures Self Protection Suites**

#### **In News**

- The US State Department has approved sale of two **Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures (LAIRCM) Self Protection Suites (SPS)** for Boeing aircraft to be used in India.
- The proposed sale is expected to improve India’s capability to deter regional threats with the SPS facilitating a more robust capability into areas of increased missile threats.
- Two Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures (LAIRCM) Self Protection Suites (SPS) is installed on aircraft to **protect them against missiles**.
- The system detects incoming threats then dispenses flares to distract a missile’s sensors.

#### **India – US Defence Cooperation: In Nut Shell**

- US has already recognised India as a “**Major Defense Partner**”, a status that which commits the US to facilitate technology sharing with India and is also the second-largest arms supplier to India.
- The two countries have already inked the **Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)** in 2016 and the General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) in 2002.
- The LEMOA agreement allows the use of each other’s land, air and naval bases for repair and resupply, a step toward building defence relations.
- In 2018, US granted India **Strategic Trade Authorisation-1 (STA-1)**. India is the only south asian country to get STA1 and 3rd Asian country after Japan and South Korea.
- Last year during the **2+2 dialogue**, India and US signed the **Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)** which will help New Delhi get access to advanced US defense systems and enable it to utilize its existing US-origin platforms.



