



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

**24th April 2025**



# Terrorism in Kashmir

## CONTEXT: Pahalgam Terror Attack

### Pahalgam & Pakistan Role

#### Some Facts regarding Pakistan's Miserable Situation

- No Leverage of Kabul post US pullout
- Gulf States fatigued
- China's patience running out - corruption, inefficiency, stalled projects, broken security promises
- Taliban regime not a client state
- Restive Iran Border

#### In pursuit

Operation is on to track the militants who fled into the Baisaran forest ranges in Pahalgam after the attack



Sketches released by the J&K Police of three men suspected to be involved in Tuesday's attack. PTI

- 1 More than 1,000 tourists were present in the area at the time of attack
- 2 No security camp at the site as tourists are not usually targeted in the Valley
- 3 Attackers mingled with tourists and engaged them in short conversations, say eyewitnesses
- 4 Security personnel took an hour to reach the site of attack which had no road access
- 5 Hundreds of former overground workers and ex-militants are being questioned in Kashmir

- **General Strain Theory (Agnew, 2001)**
  - Collective unjust strain
- **Relative Deprivation Theory (Merton, 1938; Gurr, 1970)**
  - Perceived (economic/political/social)
- **Rational Choice Theory (Cornish & Clarke, 1997; Crenshaw, 1990)**
  - planned strategically (e.g., timing, symbolism)
  - Better to die for a cause (Martyr)
- **Social Identity Theory (Tajfel et al., 1979; Waller, 2002)**
  - "Us vs. Them" mentality
- **Subculture of Violence Theory (Ferracutti & Wolfgang, 1967)**
  - ethno-nationalist terrorism
- **Conflict Theory (Dalton, 2013)**
  - Misguidance, illiteracy

### Pahalgam Rationale?

- **Frustration-Aggression Theory (Dollard et al., 1939; Berkowitz, 1989)**
  - Terrorism = displaced aggression due to frustration
- **Social Learning Theory (Bandura, 1977)**
  - observation/imitation
- **Narcissistic Rage Theory (Pearlstein, 1991; Hudson, 1999)**
  - Grandiose self-image + blocked goals → rage/aggression
- **Authoritarian Personality Theory (Adorno et al., 1950)**
  - Harsh upbringing = intolerant, conservative adults

### Terrorism: Basics

- **Definition**
  - West - internal problem of third world
  - Freedom fighters?
  - Goodin
  - UAPA - act with intent to threaten SUI or security
- **History**
  - Ancient - Jewish zealots
  - Medieval - Thugees
  - Present - 3rd world anti colonial struggles, Japanese Red Army, IS



## CONTEXT: Pahalgam Terror Attack

### • Kinds of Terror

- **States Terrorism - from above**
  - i. State performed
  - ii. State sponsored
  - iii. Internal Repression
- **Non State Terror - from below**
  - i. Political Ideology
  - ii. Ethno nationalistic - SL
  - iii. Religious - Al Qaeda
- **Bio Terrorism**
  - i. Tokyo
- **Cyber Terror**

### • Approaches

- **Legal** - UAPA
- **Organisational**
- **Military**
  - i. Domestic
  - ii. International
- **Financial**
  - i. Terror Funding & Fake currency cell
  - ii. FEMA, AML-CFT compliance with FATF
- **International**
  - i. International Conventions for the suppression of
    1. Terrorist Bombings
    2. Financing of Terrorism
    3. Acts of Nuclear Terror

### • Models to counter

- Intelligence Model
- War Model
- Criminal Justice Model
- Expanded Criminal Justice Model

### • Suggestions

- Definition
- Identifying Root
- International Cooperation - Diplomacy, Extradition treaties, Info sharing
- CCIT
- NCTC
- Anti Terror training for Armed Forces
- Public campaigns
- Models
  - i. Neighbourhood watch
  - ii. Internet Imams

### MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

Terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir has remained a persistent internal security challenge for India. Examine the key causes behind terrorism in the region. Analyze the approaches adopted by India to counter terrorism and suggest a multi-pronged strategy for a sustainable solution.





**CONTEXT:** Criticism of a series of recent judgments

## Judicial Activism

- Constitutional Basis:
  - Article 13
  - Article 32/226
- *Kesavananda Bharati (1973)*
- *Maneka Gandhi (1978)*
- Evolution through PIL
- **Article 142 – “Complete Justice”**
  - Critics – “nuclear missile”
  - Invoked in:
    - i. Babri Masjid case
    - ii. Mob lynching guidelines
    - iii. Divorce via irretrievable breakdown
  - used cautiously and judiciously
- **Role of Judiciary in Sensitive Issues**
  - Abrogation of Article 370
  - J&K statehood
  - balance peace and constitutional propriety

## Democracy vs Judicial Supremacy

- Criticism: Unelected judges overruling
- Rebuttal
  - Constitution > Parliament
  - Judges protect FR
  - Governor/President & democratic norms
  - Judiciary’s Track Record
    - i. Upheld demonetisation, Rafale deal, NRC
    - ii. Rejected same-sex marriage, strict on bail

## Judicial Activism around the Globe

- **Judicial Activism in the United States**
  - *Marbury v. Madison (1803)* – SCOTUS can strike down unconstitutional laws
  - *New York Times v. U.S. (1971)* – press freedom
  - *Roe v. Wade (1973)* – abortion as a privacy right
- **Judicial Activism in Australia**
  - No explicit Bill of Rights; common law
  - *Australian Communist Party v. Commonwealth (1951)*: rule of *Marbury*
  - *Dixonian Legalism* (restraint) vs. *Mason Court* (activism)
- **Judicial Activism in the United Kingdom**
  - *Human Rights Act (1998)*: Enhanced judicial protection of rights
  - Courts interpret laws liberally
  - Balances common law principles with statutory interpretation
- **Judicial Activism in Canada**
  - Pre-Charter Era:
    - Focused on federalism disputes
  - *Charter of Rights and Freedoms, 1982*
  - *Living Tree Doctrine*



# Judicial Despotism



**CONTEXT:** Criticism of a series of recent judgments

- **Judicial Activism in France**
  - Constitutional Council:  
Non-judicial body reviewing legislation pre-enactment
  - Activism Through Interpretation:  
Expanded rights protection
- **Judicial Activism in Israel**
  - Judge-made Bill of Rights (e.g., free speech, press freedom).
  - Deference in security matters but activism in civil rights.

## Issues

- Spirit of Constitution
- Tyranny of Unelected
- Personal Bias
- Public Trust
- Lack of Expertise
- Overburdened Judiciary

## MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

Judicial activism has played a crucial role in shaping India's constitutional democracy, yet it raises concerns about judicial overreach and separation of powers. Discuss these concerns and compare the Indian approach to judicial activism with that of other major democracies.

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# Suspension of Indus Water Treaty

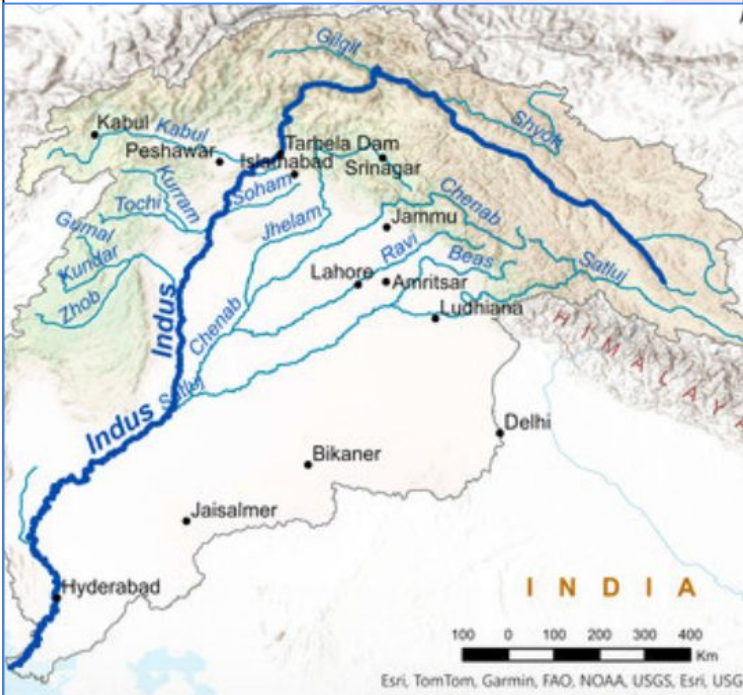


**SYLLABUS:** GS Paper 3: India and its Neighborhood- Relations

**Newspaper :** The Indian Express **Page No :** 19

## Background

- **IWT**
  - Signed: 1960 (Karachi)
  - India unrestricted use of Eastern Rivers
  - Pakistan - Western Rivers
  - No exit clause - Cannot be unilaterally terminated
- suspended first time since 1960
- Until Pakistan "credibly and irrevocably" ends cross-border terror support
- **Other Diplomatic Measures**
  - Attari border post closed
  - Visas cancelled
  - Pakistani officials expelled



- **Implications of Suspension**
  - Stop sharing water flow data
  - No restrictions on using Western Rivers' waters

- Build storage facilities on IJC
- Halt Pakistani inspections of Kishenganga & Ratle hydro projects
- No immediate water stoppage

## Pakistan's Legal Recourse

- **No direct arbitration** for treaty suspension
- **Dispute resolution mechanism (Article IX):** Permanent Indus Commission → Neutral Expert → Court of Arbitration
- **Recent India-Pakistan Disputes Over IWT**
  - **Kishenganga & Ratle HEPs** - Pakistan alleges design violations.
  - **India's Notices to Pakistan:**
    - Jan 2023: First-ever notice for treaty "modification" citing Pak "intransigence"
    - Sep 2024: Sought "review and modification" (hinting at renegotiation)
- **Why This Move Matters**
  - **Strategic leverage** - Water as a pressure tool
  - **Long-term impact** - Potential renegotiation
  - **Precedent-setting** - First suspension in 64 years despite wars & tensions



**SYLLABUS:** GS Paper 2: Health

**Newspaper :** The Indian Express Page No : 12

- **NFHS-5 (2019-21):**
  - a. 35.5% stunting <5
  - b. 19.3% wasting, 32.1% underweight
- **Diabetes Epidemic:**
  - a. 77 million adults - highest globally
  - b. fried, ultra-processed foods, and adulterated oils

### Rampant Food Adulteration

- **Milk (2011 survey):**
  - 70% samples failed safety standards
  - Adulterants: Water, salt, detergents, glucose
- **Other Adulterated Foods:**
  - **Paneer:** Starch, synthetic milk, acetic acid
  - **Spices:** Ethylene oxide (cancer-causing pesticide)
  - **Mustard Oil:** Rice bran oil, argemone oil

### Concerns

- **Health Risks:**
  - Food poisoning, chronic diseases, cancer
- **Global Impact & Reputation**
  - **Hong Kong (2024):** Banned MDH & Everest spices as ethylene oxide
  - **EU:** Banned 400 Indian food items (2019-24) for contamination+ Flagged chili peppers & peppercorns for pesticide residues
- **Weak Regulatory Response**
- **FSSAI Actions:**

- Raids, sample tests, license cancellations
- Advises citizens to "check labels" and "eat homemade food" - Shifts responsibility from state
- challenges for poor & uneducated population

### Needed Reforms

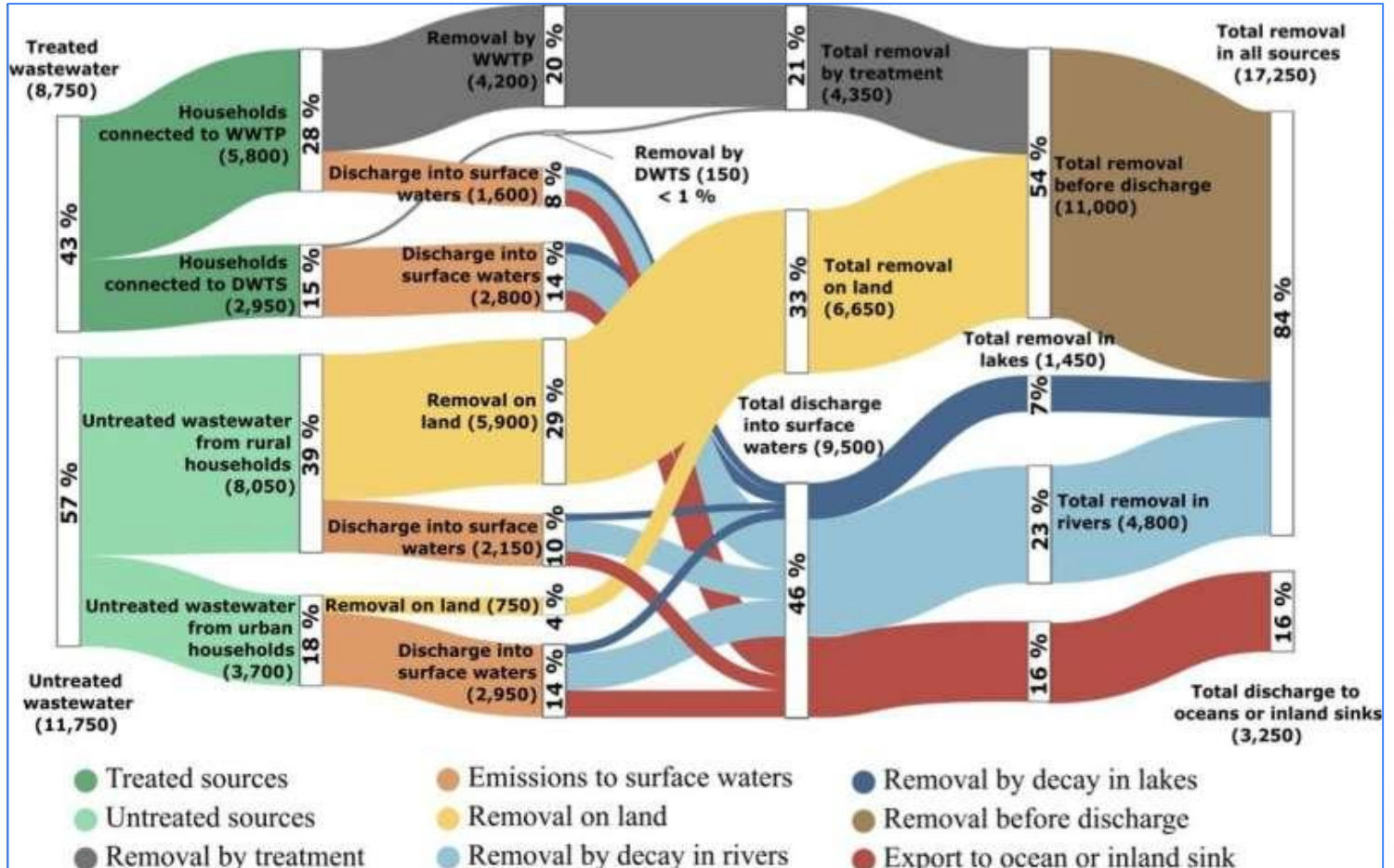
- **Stricter Enforcement:**
  - Uniform FSSAI implementation
  - Upgrade testing infrastructure
- **Farm-to-Table Safety:**
  - Better farming, processing, and packaging practices
  - Training for producers on safe food handling
- **Policy Revisions:**
  - Re-evaluate permissible pesticide levels
  - Promote food literacy for health awareness

Food Product	Adulterants	Health Risk
Turmeric powder, spices, Saffron	Metanil yellow (restricted colour)	Tumor, cancer
Ghee	Vanaspati or dalda	Cancer, acute renal failure
Sugar and Salt	Chalk powder, white sand	Stomach infection
Chilli powder	Sudan Red, Brick powder	Stomach disorder; cancer
Fruits	Arsenic spray	Dizziness, cramps, paralysis





**SYLLABUS:** GS Paper 3: Environment; GS Paper 2: Health  
**Newspaper :** The Indian Express **Page No :** 19



## AntiBiotic Pollution from Manufacturing

- Wastewater discharge - residual AB, API => drug resistant bacteria
- Solid Waste
- Leaks and Spills
- Runoff
- Poor recycling, treatment
- 80% of total length of India's rivers posing risk
- India, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Vietnam, and Pakistan
- Antibiotics
  - not completely metabolised while passing through the body,

- nor completely destroyed or removed by wastewater treatment facilities
- 1/3 enters world's rivers
- 11% - oceans and lakes
- High-risk areas
  - where AB readily available without prescription
  - sometimes used preventively
- Human consumption increased by 65 % between 2000 and 2015
- Major contributions - amoxicillin, ceftriaxone, **cefexime** (treat bronchitis)





**SYLLABUS:** GS Paper 2: Governance

**Newspaper :** The Indian Express **Page No :** 13

- **DPIs:** Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker, ONDC
- **Impact:**
  - **Aadhaar:** Linked to 1,206 schemes, saved ₹3 lakh crore (till 2023)
  - **UPI:** Dominates digital payments (80% market share by 2 players)
  - **DigiLocker:** 47 crore users, fully subsidized
  - **ONDC:** Growing but ₹19,5 cr deficit (2023-24)
- **Pricing Challenges**
  - **Aadhaar Authentication:**
    - Free for govt, ₹1-₹3 for private entities
    - Revenue covers <40% of op costs
  - **UPI:**
    - **0 fees** for P2P/merchant transactions
    - **High costs:** marketing, incentives (188% rise)
  - **DigiLocker & ONDC:**
    - **Fully free** despite potential for monetization

## Risks of Free Models

- **Tragedy of the Commons:**
  - Overuse/misuse (e.g., UPI micro-transactions strain infrastructure)

- **Market Distortions:**
  - **Duopoly control** (PhonePe, Google Pay) due to zero-fee cross-subsidization
  - Stifles competition from smaller players
- **Sustainability Concerns:**
  - **High operational costs** require continued govt funding

## Global Lessons

- **Singapore's PayNow:** Flexible merchant fees with small-vendor incentives
- **Jordan's CliQ: 1% merchant fee** ensures infrastructure efficiency

## Path Forward

- **Adopt Strategic Pricing:**
  - **Multi-sided market principles:** Differentiate fees for users (e.g., merchants vs. consumers)
  - **Partial subsidization:** Balance inclusion with viability
- **Policy Actions Needed:**
  - **RBI's 2022 discussion paper** hints at merchant fees for UPI
  - **Aadhaar Rules 2025:** Scope expansion may prompt fee revisions
  - **Entity DigiLocker:** Pilot paid services for enterprises



**SYLLABUS:** GS Paper 3: Indian Economy

**Newspaper :** The Hindu **Page No :** 15

- Economic indicator from monthly business surveys
- **Measures:** Business conditions (expansion/contraction/stability)
- >50: Economic expansion
- <50: Economic contraction

**Significance of PMI**

- Early indicator of economic trends (before GDP data)
- Monetary policy tool for central banks
- Boosts investor confidence in markets
- Enhances economic competitiveness

**Limitations of PMI**

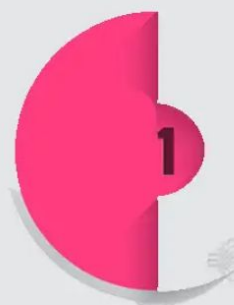
- Excludes informal sector
- Limited to manufacturing/services (no agriculture)

- Short-term focus (not long-term growth)
- Subjective survey data
- No direct GDP correlation
- Lacks detailed employment insights

Type	Coverage	Key Metrics
<b>Manufacturing PMI</b>	Industrial & factory sectors	Production, new orders, employment, inventory
<b>Services PMI</b>	Finance, healthcare, IT, retail	Business activity, input costs
<b>Composite PMI</b>	Combined manufacturing + services	Overall private sector performance

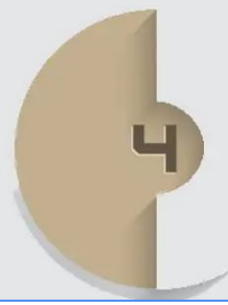
Purchasing Managers Index (PMI)

The PMI is a diffusion index, which means that it is calculated based on a survey of purchasing managers across different industries



The PMI is used by investors to gauge the overall health of the manufacturing sector and the broader economy

The PMI is also used by policymakers to make decisions about monetary policy



The PMI is not a perfect measure of the health of the manufacturing sector or the broader economy



**Q1. Regarding India's counter-terrorism framework, consider the following statements?**

1. The Fake Indian Currency Notes coordination centre operates under the Ministry of Finance.
2. India is a party to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.
3. India's compliance with FATF standards is monitored through the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, not FEMA.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1, 2, and 3
- d) None

**Answer: b**

**Q2. Regarding Judicial Activism in India, consider the following statements:**

1. The concept evolved significantly through Public Interest Litigations.
2. Judicial Activism always implies judicial overreach.

**Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?**

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: b**

**Q3. Regarding the Indus Water Treaty, consider the following statements:**

1. It allocated the waters of all six Indus basin rivers entirely to India and Pakistan in a 3:3 ratio.
2. The World Bank acted as a mediator and signatory to the treaty.

1. The Permanent Indus Commission was mandated to meet every ten years.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

**Answer: a**

**Q4. Consider the following pairs of food products and their common adulterants:**

1. Fruits – Arsenic spray
2. Turmeric powder – Vanaspati
3. Ice cream – Washing soda
4. Black pepper – Dried papaya seeds

**How many of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

**Answer: c**

**Q5. Regarding the Digital Public Infrastructure in India, consider the following statements:**

1. DPI platforms in India are exclusively operated by the central government.
2. India Stack includes layers such as identity, payments, and data empowerment.
3. Open Network for Digital Commerce is a private-led initiative under NITI Aayog.

**Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 only
- c) 2 only
- d) 2 and 3 only

**Answer: d**







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