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**DAILY EDITORIAL
ANALYSIS**

TOPIC

**On Militancy in Jammu and
Kashmir**

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ON MILITANCY IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

In Context

- Recently, there has been a sharp rise in militant attacks in Jammu and Kashmir.

Present scenario

- The Jammu region has seen a rise in militant attacks over the past three years, notably in the **Chenab Valley and areas south of the Pir Panjal**.
 - ♦ The region was a hotbed of insurgency in the late 1990s and early 2000s but was controlled by Operation Sarp Vinash in 2003 with local support.
- **Data:**
 - ♦ **Jammu Region:** 31 incidents Since 2021,, resulting in 47 security forces and 19 civilians killed, and 48 terrorists killed.
 - ♦ On July 8, 2024 terrorists ambushed an Army convoy in Badnota village, killing five Indian Army personnel.
 - ♦ **June 2023:** Attack on pilgrims in Reasi, resulting in 10 deaths.
 - ♦ **Kashmir Valley:** 263 incidents Since 2021,, resulting in 68 security forces and 75 civilians killed, and 417 terrorists killed.

Reasons for Increased Militancy

- **Troop Redeployment:** The counter-terrorism efforts have been weakened due to the re-deployment of troops to the **Line of Actual Control (LAC) following the Galwan incident in June 2020**.
- **Militant Activity:** Estimates suggest 20-25 militants have infiltrated from Pakistan, operating in specific regions such as Poonch-Rajouri and Kathua-Doda.
 - ♦ Challenges include difficult terrain and poor connectivity.
- **Local Support** :A shift towards using local militants to give a more home-grown face to the insurgency.
- **Emergence of new terror groups** claiming responsibility for attacks.
- **Increased use of modern technology** by terrorists.
- Gap in local intelligence.

Challenges and Impacts

- **Instability:** The region has seen a rise in militant activities, with various groups operating in the area.
 - ♦ This has led to ongoing violence and instability.
- **Casualties : Recurring ambushes** have resulted in unacceptable casualties for the Indian Army.
 - ♦ Terrorist attacks often result in civilian casualties, either directly through attacks or indirectly through crossfire or military operations.
- **Curfews:** There is a heavy military presence in Kashmir, which can lead to frequent curfews, roadblocks, and heightened tension among the local population.
- **Displacement:** Ongoing violence and instability have led to the displacement of families and individuals, creating a refugee crisis and disrupting lives.
- **Psychological:** The constant threat of violence and the experience of attacks have significant psychological effects on the population, including trauma, anxiety, and depression.
- **Disrupted Economy:** Frequent attacks and instability disrupt economic activities, including trade, tourism, and local businesses.
 - ♦ The economic downturn exacerbates poverty and unemployment.
 - Terrorist activities often result in the destruction of infrastructure
- Terrorist attacks can deepen **social and ethnic divisions**, creating mistrust and animosity among different communities within the region.

Steps of India to tackle militancy in Jammu and Kashmir

- **Counter-Terrorism Operations:** The Indian Army and paramilitary forces conduct regular operations to neutralize militants and disrupt their activities.
 - ♦ To address the security vacuum, around 3,000 Army troops and 500 Special Forces have been deployed to Jammu.
 - ♦ **Assam Rifles troops** are being inducted into Jammu to enhance counter-terror operations, replacing CRPF battalions in Manipur.
 - Assam Rifles have previously been successful in Jammu and Kashmir, with Operation Dudhi in 1991 being a notable example of successful counter-terrorism efforts
- **Reorganisation:** The abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 led to the reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories (Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh), aimed at better administration and integration.
- A **New Central Sector Scheme** has been notified on 19/02/2021 for the Industrial Development of the UT of J&K,
- **Public Safety Act (PSA):** Aimed at detaining individuals involved in militancy or anti-national activities.
- **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA):** Strengthening legal frameworks to deal with terrorism and other unlawful activities.
- Government is promoting education and awareness to counter radical ideologies and provide alternative narratives.
 - ♦ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu and Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu have been made functional.

Suggestions and Way Forward

- **Strengthen Intelligence Networks:** Refurbish intelligence networks and integrate the Special Operations Group (SOG) with Rashtriya Rifles (RR) to leverage their strengths.
 - ♦ Additional troops should be deployed in a way that integrates them with existing forces and allows them adequate time to adapt and establish control, rather than focusing on immediate numerical increases.
- **Foster Community Relations:** Establish and reiterate a sound relationship with the local populace to garner support for counter-terrorism efforts.
 - ♦ Efforts to rebuild trust with local communities and revive Village Defence Guards (VDGs) are ongoing.
- **Border Security:** Strengthening the security along the Line of Control (LoC) to prevent infiltration from across the border. **Smart fencing** will be set up across the India-Pakistan borders to tackle the infiltration across borders.
- **Investments in infrastructure,** such as roads, schools, and hospitals, to improve living conditions and provide employment opportunities.
 - ♦ Efforts to rehabilitate former militants and their families, including providing education, employment, and financial assistance.

Source:TH



Mains Practice Question

[Q] What are the key causes behind the evolving trends in militancy in Jammu and Kashmir, and what impact have these trends had on the region's stability?