Analyzing TERRORISM Threats to India's INTERNAL SECURITY



Context:

• A massive blast rocked Delhi on November 10, 2025, when a slow-moving Hyundai i20 car exploded at 6:52 p.m. near the Red Fort, killing 13 people and injuring nearly a dozen others.





1. What is Terrorism?

Definitions of Terrorism

"Terrorism is the unlawful use of force or violence against person or Property to intimidate or coerce o government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives."

- F.B.I Definition

"calculated use of unlawful violence or threat of unlawful violence to inculcate fear. It is intended to coerce or intimidate governments or societies ... [to attain] political, religious, or ideological goals."

- U.S. Army Manual

"Terrorism is the use or threatened use of force designed to bring about political change."

Brian Jenkins



Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)	• Under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) , the definition of a "terrorist act" is provided in Section 113.
	• A person is said to have committed a terrorist act if they commit any act with the intention to:
	 Threaten the unity, integrity, sovereignty, security or economic security of India.
	 Intimidate the general public or any section of the people in India or a foreign country.
	 Disturb public order.
United Nations	• The UN has not adopted a single, comprehensive legal definition of terrorism, but the General Assembly's 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism defines it as "criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for political purposes".
	• These acts are considered unjustifiable by any political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, or religious motivation.

2. Mention about different types of Terrorism?



Types of Terrorism	About
Ethno-Nationalist Terrorism	• Ethno-Nationalist Terrorism refers to the use of violence by ethnic or regional groups seeking political autonomy, independence, or a separate homeland.
	• It arises when a community feels alienated , discriminated against , or culturally suppressed by the dominant state or group.



Ethno-nationalist terrorism is a form of terrorism motivated by ultranationalism. They seek self-determination in some form, which may take the form of gaining greater autonomy, establishing a completely independent state, or joining another existing sovereign state with which the nationalists identify.

- In India, such terrorism has been witnessed in regions like Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, and the Northeast, where groups like ULFA, NSCN, and Khalistani militants pursued secessionist goals.
- Rooted in ethnic identity and political grievances rather than religion, this form of terrorism poses a serious challenge to India's unity and internal security, though peace accords and developmental initiatives have helped reduce its intensity in recent years.

Cross-Border Terrorism

• Cross-Border Terrorism refers to terrorist activities that are planned, supported, or carried out from across a country's borders, often with the backing of foreign states or non-state actors.



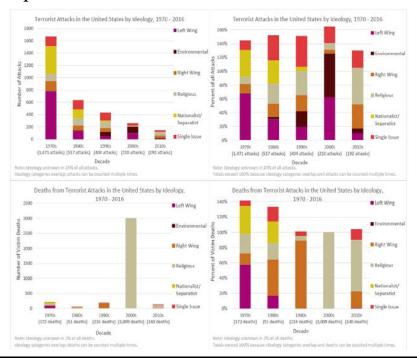
• In India's context, it mainly involves from Pakistanoriginating terrorism occupied territories and other neighboring regions, where militant groups receive training, funding, and weapons to attack targets in India. • The 26/11 Mumbai attacks, the Pathankot and Pulwama incidents are major examples. • This form of terrorism threatens national security, disrupts peace in border areas like Jammu & Kashmir, and strains diplomatic relations. • India counters it through strong border management, intelligence sharing, surgical strikes. and international diplomatic efforts to isolate state sponsors of terrorism. **Ideology Oriented** • Ideology-Oriented Terrorism refers to the Terrorism use of violence driven by rigid ideological beliefs such as political, religious, or social aimed at transforming society according to a specific doctrine or worldview. • Such terrorism is not based on ethnicity or territory, but on an attempt to impose an ideology on others. • In India, examples include Left-Wing Extremism (Naxalism) inspired by Marxistideology, and religious Leninist fundamentalist terrorism motivated by extremist interpretations of faith.



- These groups justify violence as a **means to** achieve ideological purity or socio-political change.
- Ideology-oriented terrorism poses a grave threat as it targets the democratic framework, spreads radicalization, and polarizes society.
- Countering it requires not just security measures but also deradicalization, education, and inclusive development to address the root causes of discontent and prevent the spread of extremist beliefs.

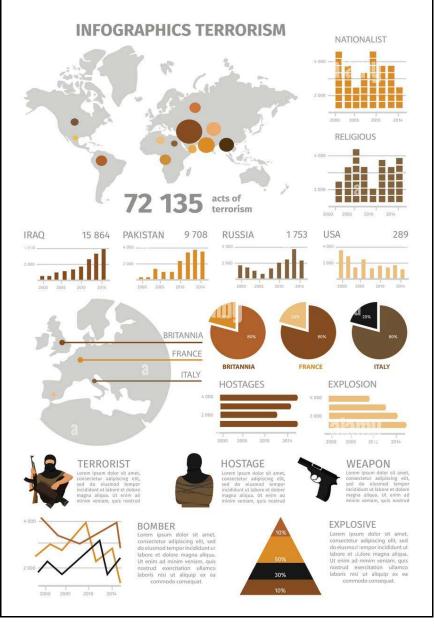
Religious Terrorism

• Religious Terrorism refers to acts of violence carried out in the name of religion, where perpetrators believe their actions are divinely justified to defend or promote their faith.





- It arises from extremist interpretations of religious teachings and aims to impose religious dominance or punish those seen as "enemies" of the faith.
- In India, incidents linked to groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and Indian Mujahideen reflect this form of terrorism, often influenced by cross-border networks.





•	Religious	terrorism	is	highly	dan	gerous
	because it	exploits fait	h, a	deeply	emo	otional
	aspect of	identity –	- to	justify	vi vi	olence,
	causing	communal	ha	tred a	nd	social
	division.					

• It requires a multi-pronged approach combining strong law enforcement, intelligence coordination, community engagement, and promotion of interfaith harmony to counter radicalization and maintain secular unity.

State-sponsored Terrorism

• State-Sponsored Terrorism refers to terrorism that is directly or indirectly supported by a government to achieve its political, military, or strategic objectives.



- In this form, a state provides funding, training, weapons, intelligence, or safe havens to terrorist groups that operate against another country.
- The aim is often to **destabilize**, **intimidate**, **or weaken the target nation** without engaging in open warfare.



Bio-Terrorism

• Bio-Terrorism refers to the deliberate use of biological agents such as bacteria, viruses, or toxins to cause illness, death, or fear among people, animals, or plants for political or ideological purposes.



- Unlike conventional weapons, biological agents can spread rapidly, cause mass casualties, and overwhelm public health systems.
- Examples include the use of anthrax spores (as seen in the 2001 U.S. anthrax attacks) or potential threats like smallpox, plague, and botulinum toxin.

Narcoterrorism

- Narcoterrorism refers to the use of drug trafficking and narcotics trade to fund or sustain terrorist activities.
- It involves a nexus between **terrorist organizations and drug cartels**, where the **profits from illegal drugs are used to purchase weapons**, **recruit members**, and **finance violent operations**.



- In some cases, terrorist groups themselves engage in drug production and smuggling to maintain their networks.
- In India, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, and the Northeast are particularly vulnerable due to their proximity to the Golden Crescent (Afghanistan-Pakistan-Iran) and Golden Triangle (Myanmar-Laos-Thailand) are major global drug-producing regions.
- Groups involved in **cross-border terrorism often use drug money** to finance insurgency and separatist movements.
- Narcoterrorism not only endangers national security but also destroys social fabric through addiction.

Lone Wolf Attacks

 Lone-Wolf Attacks are acts of terrorism carried out by individuals who plan and execute violent attacks alone, without direct orders, funding, or operational support from an organized group.





LONE WOLF TERROR

Attack on constables

In 2015, Abdul Malik alias Abdul Razzaq allegedly stabbed three constables who were posted outside Pusad mosque in Maharashtra's Yavatmal district. The state's Anti-Terrorism Squad arrested him. The ATS also arrested preacher Hafiz Mujibar Rehman, for allegedly radicalising Malik, and Shoeb Ahmed Khan, an alleged Students' Islamic Movement of India sympathiser



A soldier of ISIS?

Mohammed Mosiuddin alias Musa, a resident of Labhpur in West Bengal's Birbhum district was arrested by state police in 2016 for allegedly radicalising youth. The case was handed over to the National Investigation Agency. The NIA claimed Mosiuddin was planning to kill foreigners. He was radicalised online and, as per the NIA, had two handlers—ISIS India head Shafi Armar and Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh's Abu Suleman

IIT alumnus vs PAC jawans

On April 3, Murtaza Abbasi, an IIT Mumbai alumnus, tried to force entry into the Gorakhnath temple in Uttar Pradesh. He attacked and injured two provincial armed constabulary jawans with a sickle and tried to snatch their rifles. Abbasi took oath as a member of ISIS in 2020, set up a firing range at his house and practiced with small weapons. He wanted AK-47s and M4 carbines and read extensively about missile technology



Attack on CRPF personnel

In 2020, a lone attacker fired at CRPF personnel in Kashmir's Baramulla district with an AK-47. Three CRPF personnel died and two were critically injured. An outfit called the Resistance Front later claimed responsibility



Umesh Kolhe murder

On June 21, Umesh Kolhe was killed in Amravati, Maharashtra, while returning home from his medical store. Two men on a motorbike allegedly stopped him and stabbed him in the neck.

The NIA is probing "conspiracy,"

involvement of organisations and international linkages"

Kanhaiya Lal murder

Riyaz Mohammed and Ghouse Mohammed hacked Kanhaiya Lal to death on June 28 in Udaipur, Rajasthan. The NIA has made five arrests. The accused were allegedly in touch with people in Pakistan and exchanged messages and videos over social media



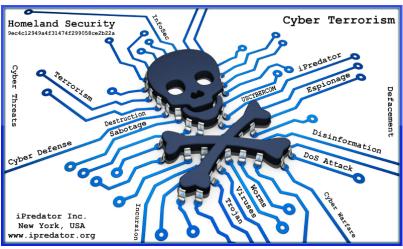




	• These attackers are often self-radicalized, frequently via the internet, social media or extremist propaganda or motivated by personal grievances, mental illness, or ideological beliefs.
	• Lone wolves are hard to detect because they leave few communication trails, do not require complex logistics, and may use low-tech weapons (knives, vehicles, small arms) or improvised devices.
	• Globally and in India, several incidents have shown how lone actors can cause sudden casualties and social panic despite limited resources.
	 Countering lone-wolf attacks requires a mix of measures: monitoring online radicalization, community policing and reporting, targeted mental-health interventions, stronger local intelligence sharing, and public awareness to spot warning signs early.
Cyberterrorism	• Cyberterrorism refers to the use of computer systems, networks, or digital technology to carry out terrorist activities that cause harm, fear, or disruption to governments, organizations, or the public.





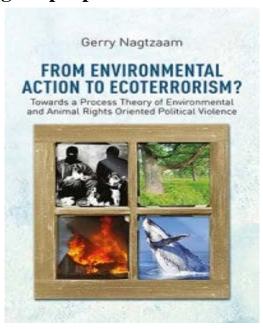


- Instead of physical violence, cyberterrorists target critical infrastructure like power grids, banking systems, defense networks, or communication channels to steal data, paralyze services, or spread propaganda.
- In India, with the rapid growth of digitalization, cyberterrorism poses a rising threat including hacking of government websites, spreading extremist content online, and launching ransomware or phishing attacks.
- Groups may use the **internet for** recruitment, funding (via crypto), and psychological warfare.



Eco-Terrorism / Environmental Terrorism

• Eco-Terrorism (or Environmental Terrorism) refers to the use or threat of violence and sabotage to protect or defend the environment, or conversely, the deliberate destruction of the environment to harm people or nations for political or ideological purposes.



- It has two main forms:
- Pro-Environmental Eco Terrorism: Involves extremist environmental groups who use violent methods such as arson, bombing, or vandalism against industries or institutions they see as harming nature (e.g., logging companies, oil pipelines).
- Anti-Environmental Terrorism: Involves the intentional destruction of natural resources (like burning forests, poisoning water, or attacking nuclear plants) to cause economic loss or public panic.



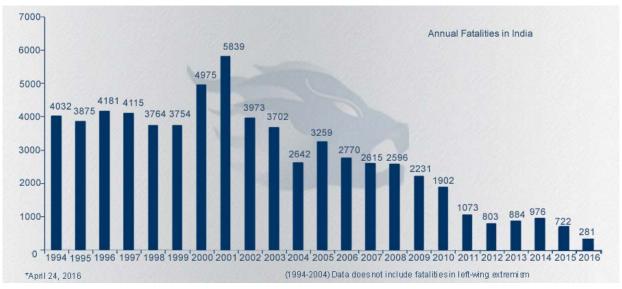
Techno-Terrorism / Drone Terrorism

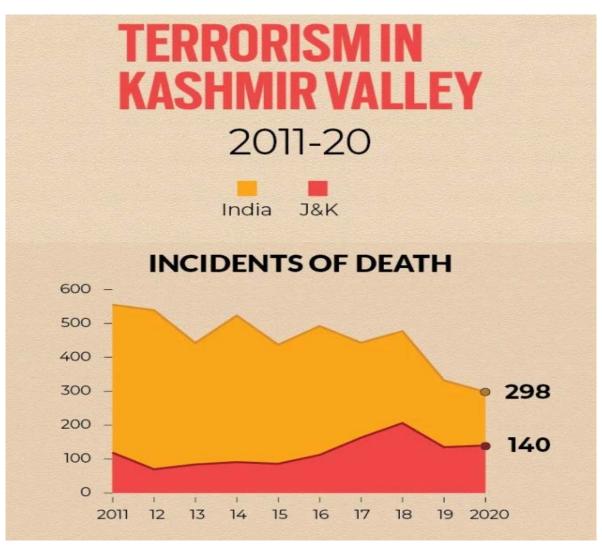
- Techno-Terrorism (or Drone Terrorism) refers to the use of advanced technologies such as drones, artificial intelligence, robotics, and cyber tools by terrorist groups to plan, execute, or amplify attacks.
- It represents a **new-age threat where** terrorists exploit modern innovations to cause mass destruction, surveillance, or psychological fear with minimal human risk.



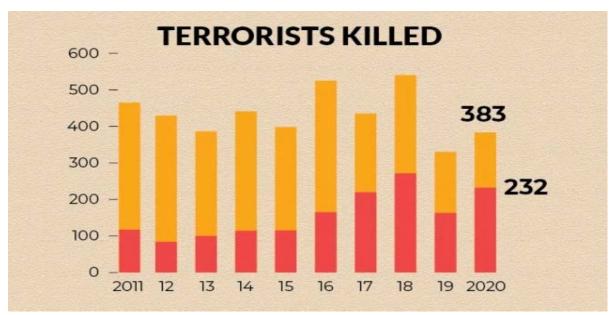
- Drone Terrorism, a subset of technoterrorism, involves the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to drop explosives, smuggle weapons or drugs, or conduct reconnaissance over sensitive areas.
- In India, incidents like the 2021 drone attack on the Jammu Air Force Station highlighted this emerging challenge.

3. Enlist data on Terrorism in India?



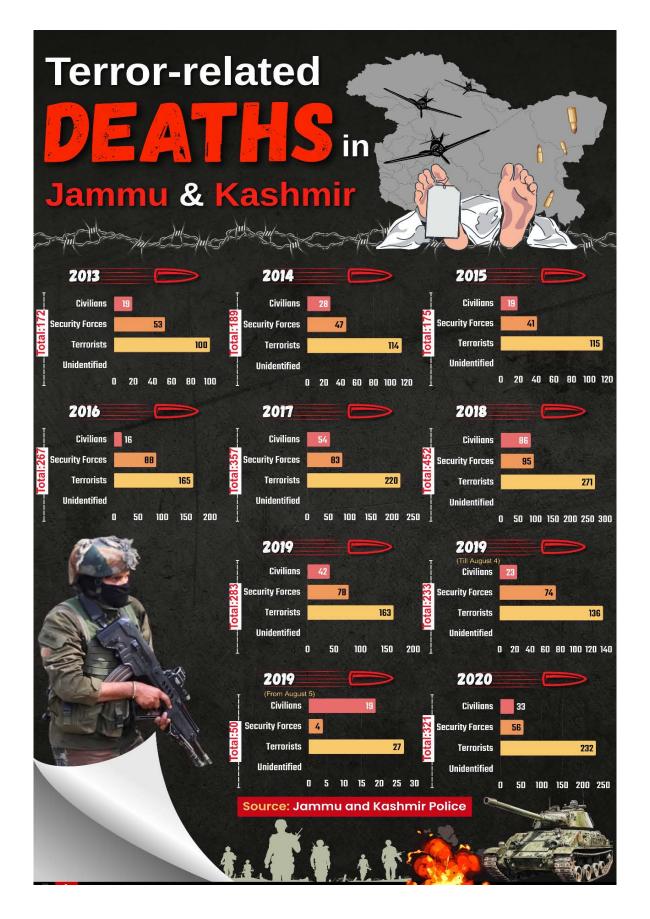


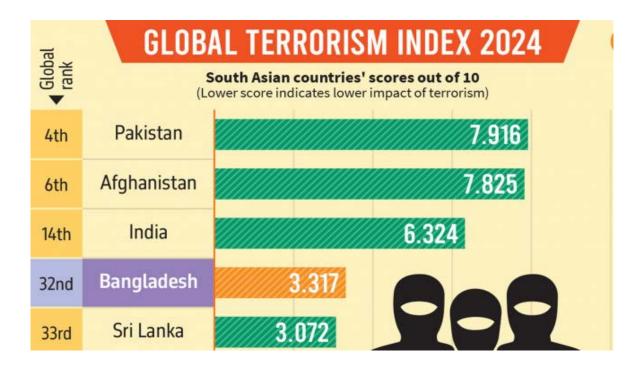




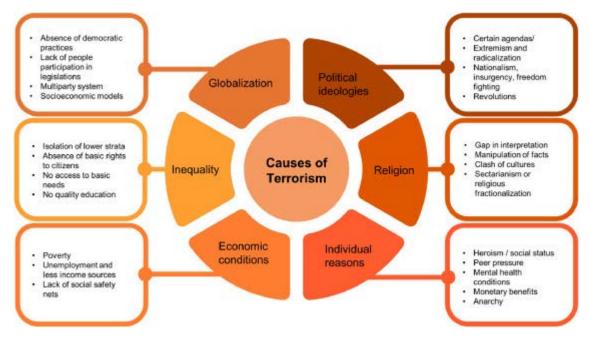








4. What are the causes of Terrorism?



- The causes of terrorism appear to be varied.
- There does not appear to be one lone factor that leads people to engage in acts of terror.
- Scholars have categorized motivations for terrorism to include psychological, ideological, and strategic.



Causes	Description		
Psychological Perspective • Those who engage in terrorism may do purely personal reasons, based on the psychological state of mind.			
	Their motivation may be nothing more than hate or the desire for power.		
	• For example, in 1893 Auguste Vaillant bombed the French Chamber of Deputies.		
	• Prior to his conviction and subsequent execution Vaillant explained his motivation in terms of hate for the middle classes.		
	• Vaillant wanted to spoil the sense of economic and social success, by tainting it with his violence. In many respects this terrorist is interested in getting attention from others for his or her act, rather than some grand ideological or strategic goal.		
Ideological Perspective	• Ideology is defined as the beliefs, values, and/or principles by which a group identifies its particular aims and goals.		
	• Ideology may encompass religion or political philosophies and programs.		
	• Examples of terrorist groups motivated by ideology include the Irish Republican Army (IRA), in Sri Lanka the Liberation Tigers of Tamal Eelam (LTTE), and the Bader Meinhoff in Germany.		
	 The IRA is motivated by a political program to oust the United Kingdom from Ireland and unite Ireland under one flag. Similarly the LTTE seek to establish a separate 		
	 philosophies and programs. Examples of terrorist groups motivated lideology include the Irish Republican Arm (IRA), in Sri Lanka the Liberation Tigers Tamal Eelam (LTTE), and the Bader Meinhoff Germany. The IRA is motivated by a political program oust the United Kingdom from Ireland and unificated under one flag. 		

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Strategic Perspective

- **Terrorism** is sometimes seen as a **logical extension** of the **failure of politics.**
- When people **seek redress of their grievances through government**, but fail to win government's attention to their plight, they may resort to violence.
- From this viewpoint, terrorism is the result of a logical analysis of the goals and objectives of a group, and their estimate of the likelihood of gaining victory. If victory seems unlikely using more traditional means of opposition, then one might calculate that terrorism is a better option.
- For example, in **South Africa the African National Congress only turned** to the use of terrorism after political avenues were explored and failed.
- States may use terrorists in the pursuit of their own strategic interests (Pakistan sponsored Terrorism)
- States may sponsor terrorist groups, especially when the objectives of the state and the terrorist group are similar.



5. What groups are involved in terrorism in India?

Groups	Description
Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)	• Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), whose name means "Army of the Pure," is a militant Islamist group operating in Pakistan as well as in Jammu and Kashmir.
	• The group reportedly received funding from Pakistan's intelligence services until 2001, when the United States designated it an FTO and Pakistan froze its assets.
	• LeT, which has ideological, but unconfirmed operational ties to al-Qaeda, aims to win sovereignty for Jammu and Kashmir and spread Islamic rule across India.
	• The group is blamed for some of the most high-profile terrorist attacks in India, including the July 11, 2006 bombing of the Mumbai commuter rail.

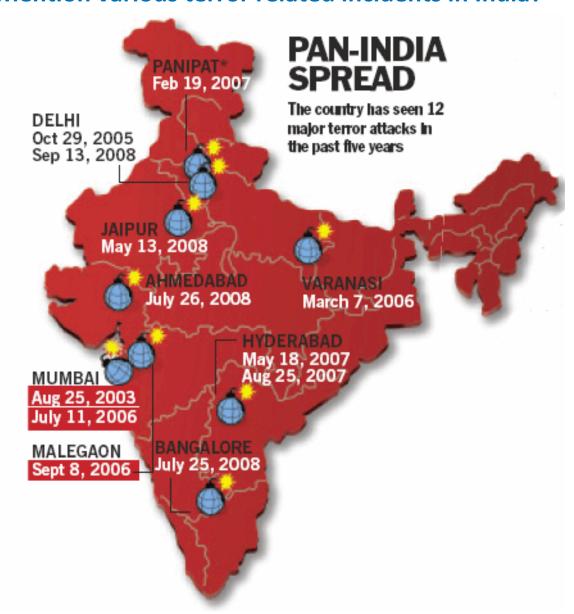


Jaish-e-• Jaish-e-Muhammad, meaning "Army Muhammad Mohammed." another Pakistan-based is terrorist group operating in Jammu and Kashmir. Founded in 2000 by the former leader of the now- defunct group Harkat-ul-Ansar. Jaish-e-Muhammed seeks to drive India out of Jammu and Kashmir and transfer control of the region to Pakistan. RISE OF JAISH-E-MOHAMMED Harakat ul-• Harakat ul-Mujahadeen (HuM), Mujahadeen "Islamic Freedom Fighters' Group," (HuM) founded 1985 as an anti-Soviet group fighting in Afghanistan. • When Soviet forces withdrew in 1989, the Pakistan-based **HuM shifted its focus** Jammu and Kashmir. • HuM seeks to battle "anti- Islamic forces" and its members have helped carry out operations as far away as Myanmar, Tajikistan, and Bosnia. Harakat ul-• Harakat ul-Jihad-I-Islami (HUJI) founded in 1980 to fight Soviets in Afghanistan Jihad-I-Islami but has since concentrated its efforts in **Jammu** and Kashmir.



	• HUJI, which is based in Pakistan and Kashmir, primarily attacks Indian military targets, but it is believed to be linked to the abduction and slaying of five Western tourists in Jammu and Kashmir in 1995.
Jamiat ul- Mujahadeen	• Jamiat ul-Mujahadeen is a small group of pro- Pakistan Kashmiri separatists operating in near Pakistan.
	• It is thought to be responsible for a pair of 2004 grenade attacks against political targets in India.
The United Liberation Front of Assam	 The United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) has sought to establish an socialist state in Assam since its founding in 1979. In the 1990s, ULFA's attacks on political leaders, security forces, and infrastructure
	provoked a harsh response from the Indian government, causing it to lose some support among the residents of Assam.
	• The U.S. State Department reports a December 2003 attack on a ULFA base by Indian forces caused the group's numbers to drop from more than 3,000 to several hundred.

6. Mention various terror related incidents in India?



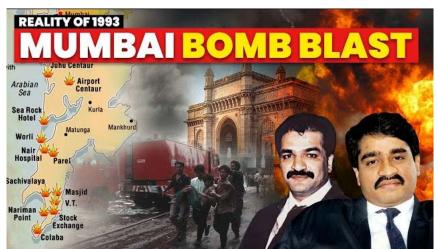
Terror incidents	Description
May 1991, Sriperumbudur	• Former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was blown up by a suicide bomber from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam during a campaign rally.





March 1993, Mumbai

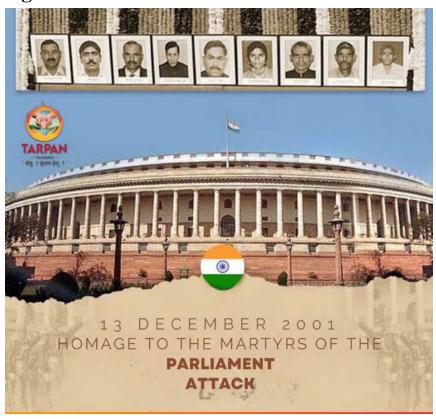
- In the single deadliest attack in independent India's history, multiple bombs exploded across the city, killing more than 250 people.
- Police blamed fugitive **Indian gangster Dawood Ibrahim** and his aides for the attack.



2001 Indian Parliament attack

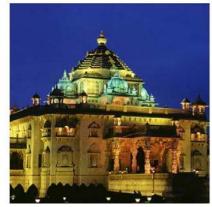
• The **2001 Indian Parliament attack** was a terrorist attack on the **Parliament of India in New Delhi, India, on 13 December 2001.**

• The attack was carried out by **five Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists** that resulted in the **deaths of six Delhi Police personnel, two Parliament Security Service** personnel, and a **gardener.**



Akshardham Temple attack,2002

- On 24 September 2002, multiple terrorists attacked the Swaminarayam Akshardham complex in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India, killing 33 and injuring more than 80.
- India's National Security Guard intervened and ended the siege the next day, killing the terrorists.









July 2006, Mumbai

• More than 200 people were killed when a series of bombs exploded on multiple trains of the suburban rail network used by millions of people daily.





September 2006, Malegaon

- Explosions near a mosque in Malegaon, a city in the western state of Maharashtra, killed at least 45 people.
- Authorities blamed Abhinav Bharat, but all the accused were later acquitted.



May 2008, Jaipur

• More than **70 people died in nine explosions** in capital of India's western state the Rajasthan.

turned hostile

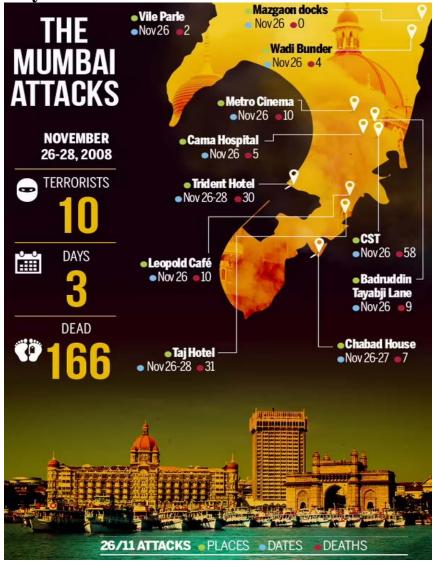
• Authorities blamed the **Indian Mujahideen**.





November 2008, Mumbai

• More than 170 people were killed and more than 300 were injured in attacks carried out by LeT.



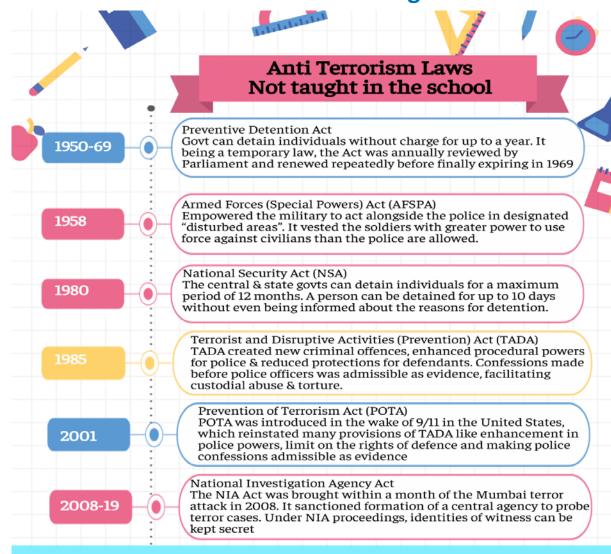


7. Highlight incidents of terrorism in Delhi?

Major blasts in Delhi	
November 10, 2025	Y
A blast occurred in a car near Red Fort on Monday evening, killing at least 13 people, and caused fire damage to several vehicles around it.	May 25, 2011
	Minor blast in a car park outside Delhi High Court, no causalities.
September 27, 2008 Three persons killed and 21 injured in a low—intensity blast at Mehrauli flower market near Qutab Minar.	
	O- September 13, 2008
	At least 25 people killed and over 100 injured in five serial blasts within 45 minutes across Connaught place
April 14, 2006	Ghaffar market in Karol Bagh and M—Block market of Greater Kailash—I in south Delhi.
At least 14 people were injured after two explosions at the courtyard of Jama Masjid in the walled city of Old	
Delhi.	October 29, 2005
	Over 59 people were killed and more than 100 injured
May 22, 2005	including some foreigners, in three explosions that rocked Sarojini Nagar and Paharganj markets and one
One person was killed and 60 injured in serial blasts in two cinema halls in Delhi.	in a bus in Govindpuri area of Delhi.
	C- June 18, 2000
July 26, 1998	Two persons, including an eight—year—old girl, were killed and about a dozen others injured in two powerful bomb blasts near the Red Fort in Delhi.
High intensity explosion in a bus parked at Kashmiri Gate of Inter—State Bus Terminal (ISBT) killed two and	
injured three persons.	December 30, 1997
	Four commuters killed and around 30 injured in a bomb explosion in a bus near Punjabi Bagh.
November 30, 1997	Q
Twin blasts in Red Fort area leave three killed and 70 injured.	1
	October 26, 1997
	Twin bomb blasts in Karol Bagh market leave one dead and 34 injured.
October 18, 1997	Q
One person killed and 23 others injured in twin bomb blasts in Rani Bagh market.	
	October 10, 1997
	One killed, 16 injured in three bomb blasts at Shantivar Kauria Pul and Kingsway Camp areas.
October 1, 1997	\bigcirc
Thirty people injured in two bomb explosions near a procession in the Sadar Bazar area.	
procession in the Sadar Bazar area.	January 9, 1997
	50 injured in bomb blast opposite the Delhi Police Headquarters at ITO

DEXTIPS

8. Enlist various Terrorism related Legislation in India?



Since 1967, Recent Amendment in 2019

Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (Amended)
Act refers to an action that supports or is intended to support secession of any part of India, or "disclaims, questions, disrupts or is intended to disrupt" the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India

It does not allow dissent. It criminalizes mere thoughts and political protests that cause "disaffection" with the state.

Provisions in the UAPA are stricter than the domestic criminal law

The punishment for unlawful activity may extend upto seven years

Government can declare certain organisations as "unlawful associations" or "terrorist organisations". Even being a member of such organisation is a criminal offence

Under the law, the police are allowed a time period of 180 days for investigation as opposed to 60 to 90 days under criminal law

Police to detain an accused for six months at a stretch without producing any evidence against the

It also allows the accused to be remanded to police custody for 30 days which is double the amount under criminal law.

Legislation	Description	
Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA),	• The "TADA Act" refers to the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1987, an Indian anti-terrorism law that was in force from 1985 to 1995.	
1987	• It provided special powers to the police for dealing with terrorist activities and included controversial provisions like making confessions to police officers admissible in court and restricting bail for those accused of terrorism-related offenses.	
	• The Act was allowed to lapse in 1995 due to widespread concerns about its misuse.	
Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA), 2002	• The Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA), 2002, was an Indian anti-terrorism law enacted to combat the increasing threat of terrorism after events like the 2001 Parliament attack.	
	• It provided a stringent legal framework and special powers to law enforcement agencies but was later repealed in 2004 due to widespread allegations of misuse and human rights violations.	
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The Unlawful • The **UAPA gives powers** to the government to **Activities** probe and prosecute people for acts of terrorism, (Prevention) and to designate an organization as an "unlawful Act, 1967 association" or a "terrorist organization", or an (UAPA) individual as a "terrorist". It was enacted on the **recommendation of the** National Integration Council, set up in 1961 to find ways to counter problems that were dividing the country. • This is the current, main anti-terrorism law in India. • In 2004, the Act was amended for the first time, with "and for dealing with terrorist activities" added to its title. The National • The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act, 2008 **Investigation** enacted in response to the 2008 Mumbai attacks, Agency (NIA) this Act established the National Investigation Act, 2008 Agency (NIA) as a specialized central agency to investigate and prosecute offenses under scheduled Acts, including the UAPA. • The 2019 amendment to the NIA Act gave the agency wider jurisdiction to investigate terror cases across state borders without needing state government permission and allowed NIA officers of inspector rank and above to seize property related to terror probes with the **Director** General's approval. **State-specific** • Some states have their own stringent laws to deal with organized crime and terrorism, most notably Laws the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act, 1999 (MCOCA), which has also been extended to Delhi.

9. Enlist agencies involved in combating Terrorism in India?

Agencies	About
National Investigation Agency (NIA) OUT OF THE PROPERTY OF TH	NIA is India's premier counter-terrorism law enforcement agency, similar to the FBI in the USA. It investigates and prosecutes offenses affecting the sovereignty, security, and integrity of India. Investigate terrorism-related cases and offenses under Acts such as: "Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) Atomic Energy Act Anti-Hijacking Act Weapons of Mass Destruction Act Coordinate with state police and intelligence agencies. Maintain data on terrorist activities and networks. Prosecute individuals involved in terrorism and organized crime linked to national security.
Intelligence Bureau (IB) Intelligence Bureau खुकिया विभाग India भारत	 The Intelligence Bureau is India's domestic intelligence, counter-intelligence, and internal security agency similar to the FBI (USA) or MI5 (UK). Key Functions: Internal Security: Collects intelligence on threats within India – terrorism, extremism, separatism, and espionage.



- Counter-Intelligence: Prevents infiltration or spying by foreign intelligence agencies.
- Political Intelligence: Monitors potential internal political instability or anti-national activities.
- Border Security Coordination: Works with RAW, NIA, and paramilitary forces to manage security along sensitive borders.
- Security Clearances: Conducts background checks for government appointments and sensitive positions.
- Cyber & Communication Surveillance: Tracks online radicalization, cyber threats, and communication intercepts (under lawful authority).

Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW)

The Research & Analysis Wing (R&AW) is the foreign intelligence agency of the Government of India.



It is responsible for the collection, processing and assessment of intelligence outside India's borders deemed vital for the advancement of the country's national security interests.

Key Functions:

- Foreign Intelligence Collection: Gathers information on political, strategic, military, and economic developments in other countries.
- Counter-Terrorism & Counter-Intelligence: Tracks foreign terror networks and prevents cross-border threats to India.



- Strategic & Covert Operations: Conducts covert missions to protect India's national interests abroad.
- Security of India's Interests Overseas: Protects Indian embassies, diplomats, and assets in foreign nations.
- Nuclear Security Intelligence: Monitors activities related to nuclear proliferation and technology transfers.
- Intelligence Liaison: Maintains cooperation with global intelligence agencies for mutual security.

National Security Guard (NSG)



The **NSG** is a special forces unit under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).**

It is trained for **counter-terrorism**, **anti-hijacking**, **and hostage rescue operations** – similar to **SWAT** (USA) or SAS (UK).



Key Functions:

• Counter-Terrorism Operations: Neutralize terrorists, rescue hostages, and defuse explosives.



- Anti-Hijacking Operations: Respond to aircraft hijackings and similar crises.
- Bomb Disposal & EOD Operations: Detect and defuse bombs or IEDs.
- VIP Security: Protect select high-risk dignitaries (e.g., Prime Minister, top political leaders).
- Disaster Response Support: Occasionally assists during emergencies like explosions or terror threats.

National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO)



NTRO is a technical intelligence agency that gathers signals, imagery, cyber, and satellite intelligence.

It is not a law enforcement or field agency.

It works mainly through **technology-based intelligence collection.**

Key Functions:

- Satellite Surveillance (IMINT): Collects imagery intelligence using satellites for defense and border monitoring.
- Signals Intelligence (SIGINT): Monitors radio, radar, communication, and electronic signals from hostile entities.
- Cyber Intelligence & Security: Tracks cyber espionage, hacking attempts, and digital warfare threats against India.
- Aerial Reconnaissance: Uses drones, aircraft, and satellites for strategic surveillance.
- Technical Support to Other Agencies: Assists RAW, IB, DRDO, Armed Forces, and NIA with high-end tech data.



• Infrastructure Protection: Monitors and secures critical information infrastructure – power grids, satellites, defense systems, etc.

Anti-Terrorism Squads (ATS)

An Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) is an Indian **special counterterrorism unit** present in several police agencies including state of India Maharashtra Police, Gujarat Police, Kerala Police, Uttar Pradesh Police, Rajasthan Police, Bihar Police, Jharkhand Police, Tamil Nadu Police, Madhya **Pradesh Police** and **Chhattisgarh Police.**

These units are frequently involved in the investigative, intelligence and emergency response aspects related to terrorism and cooperate with other branches of their police departments, police forces from other states, and national agencies such as the Intelligence Bureau and the National Investigation Agency.



Key Functions of ATS

• Counter-Terrorism Operations: Detect, prevent, and investigate terrorist activities within the state.

- Intelligence Gathering:Collect information on terrorist sleeper cells, radical networks, and illegal arms trade.
- Coordination with Central Agencies: Share intelligence and support operations with NIA, IB, and NSG.
- Cyber Surveillance: Track online radicalization, fake news, and terror funding through digital means.
- Explosives and Bomb Disposal: Handle cases involving Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and bomb threats.
- Arms & Narcotics Control: Bust arms smuggling, counterfeit currency, and terror funding networks.

10. How India responded to recent terror attacks?

10. How mala responded to recent terror attacks:

Uri Attack:

Attack

- The 2016 Uri attack was carried out on 18 September 2016 by four militants from Jaish-e-Mohammed against an Indian Army brigade headquarters near the town of Uri in the Indian Jammu and Kashmir.
- 19 Indian soldiers were killed in the attack, and 19–30 others were injured.

India's Response

On September 29, 2016, the Indian Army conducted "surgical strikes" against militant launch pads across the Line of Control (LoC) in Pakistani-administered Kashmir in retaliation for the Uri attack.





Pulwama attack:

• The 2019 Pulwama attack occurred on 14 February 2019, when a convoy of vehicles carrying Indian security personnel on the Jammu–Srinagar National Highway was attacked by a vehicle-borne suicide bomber at Lethapora in the Pulwama district of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

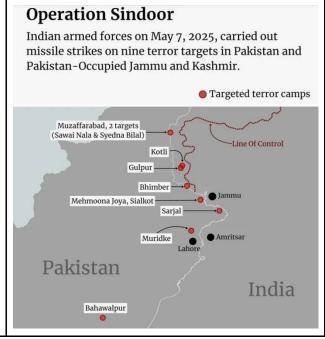






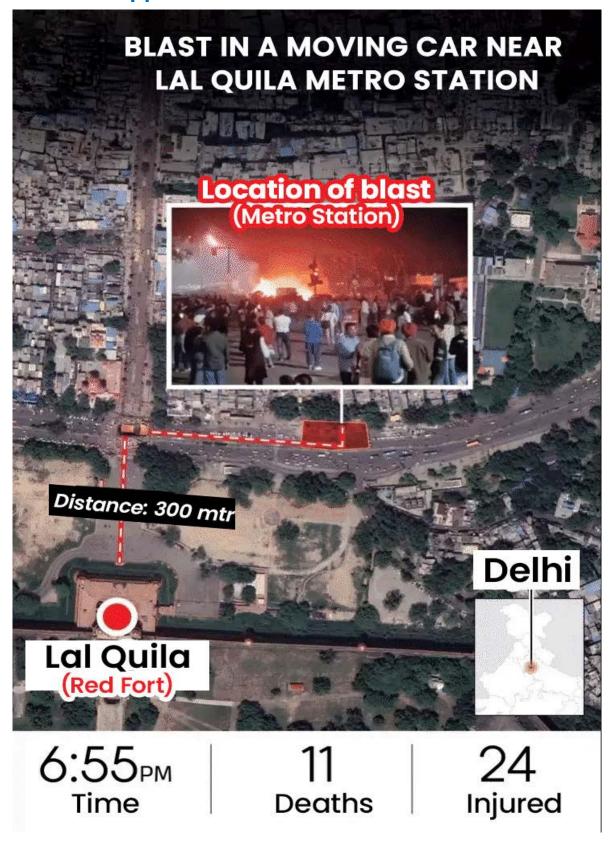
Pahalgam attack:

The 2025 Pahalgam attack was a terrorist attack on tourists by at least three armed terrorists near Pahalgam in India's Jammu and Kashmir in which 26 civilians were killed on 22 April 2025.





11. What happened in Delhi?









What

A powerful blast in an i20 car, 9 people dead, more than 10 cars caught fire, over 20 injured being treated at LNJP hospital.



Where it happened

According to media reports, the car blast happened on November 10 in the evening around 6:52 PM. Delhi Fire Department received a call at 7:16 PM.

Who was affected

Victims: Street vendors, shoppers, and people passing by the spot.



Response teams: Delhi Police, Special Cell, Fire Brigade, NSG/Bomb Squad arrived at the scene. The area was put on high alert.



happened

The reason is still unclear; investigation is underway.

Two main theories:





Note: Updates ongoing; all details are based on initial media reports.

- On 10 November, 2025(6:52pm), a powerful, high-intensity blast tore through a crowded neighbourhood during the evening rush hour.
- According to the Delhi police, the explosion originated in a moving Hyundai i20 car.
- "A slow-moving vehicle stopped at a red light. An explosion happened in that vehicle, and due to the explosion, nearby vehicles were also damaged," Delhi Police Commissioner Satish Golcha told reporters.
- Police later detained the original owner of the car, identified as Mohammad Salman, in the adjoining city of Gurugram in Haryana state who bought the vehicle in 2013.
- Investigators said Salman had subsequently sold the vehicle to another man in New Delhi, who in turn sold the car recently. The person Salman sold the car to has also been arrested.
- However, the car was still registered in Salman's name and carried a Haryana number plate, according to local media reports.
- Delhi police have invoked India's primary "counterterrorism" law, registering a case under Sections 16 and 18 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, or UAPA, along with provisions of the Explosives Act.

12. Where did the blast happen?

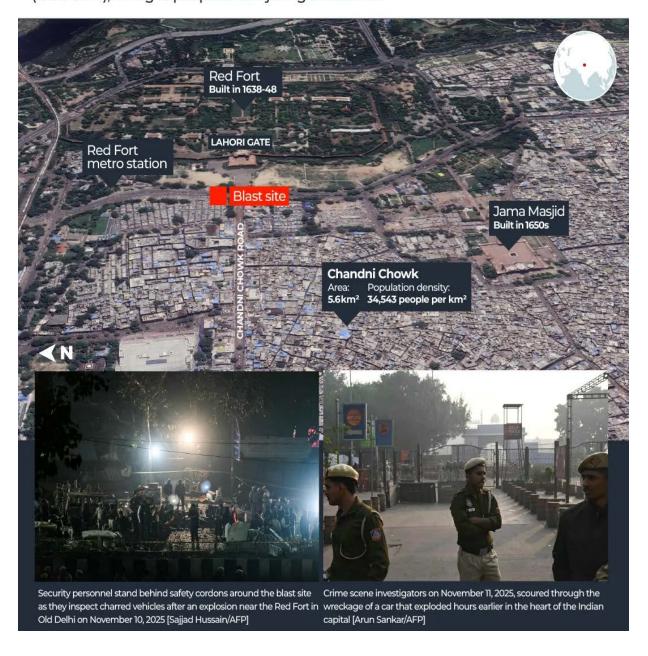
- The explosion occurred in a densely populated part of Old Delhi, near the Red Fort Metro Station.
- The blast took place at a traffic signal close to the entrance of the metro station serving the **Red Fort**, **locally known as Lal Qila**, one of the city's most renowned Mughal-era monuments.
- The site lies at a busy intersection linking the Red Fort with the bustling **Chandni Chowk Market**, where the impact of the explosion was felt.



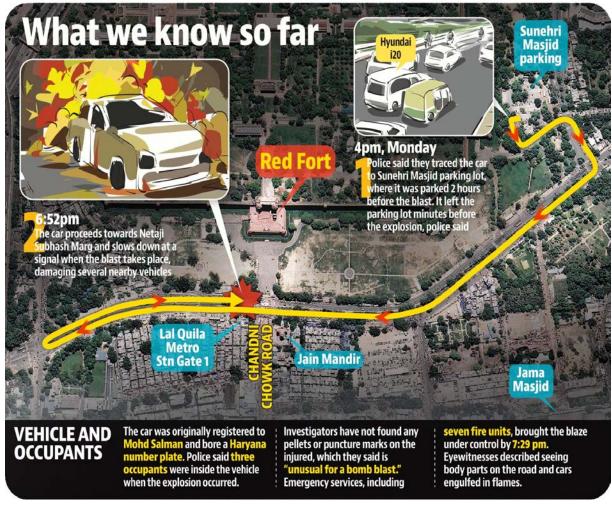
INDIA

New Delhi Red Fort blast kills 13

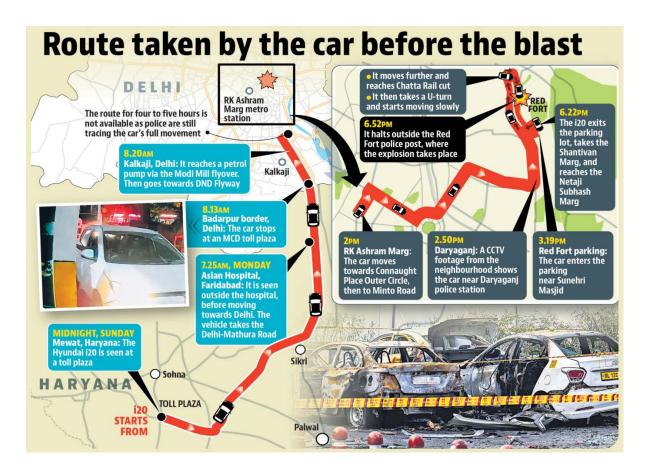
Indian police are investigating a deadly car explosion that took place in a crowded part of New Delhi near the Red Fort (Lal Qila) metro station shortly before 7pm (13:30 GMT), killing 13 people and injuring at least 20.











13. What's the backdrop to the explosion?

 The explosion occurred hours after police revealed they had arrested a Kashmiri doctor from Faridabad, also in Haryana, on charges of plotting a "terrorist" attack.



- Haryana police said in a statement that they had **found 2,900kg** (6,393lb) of explosives, 20 timers, two dozen remote controls, a rifle, and dozens of live rounds from the premises of the house where the doctor lived.
- Seven other people accused of helping the doctor were also arrested.
- Indian authorities have so far not confirmed any link between the arrested doctor and the explosion on 10 November, 2025.
- However, CCTV footage obtained by Indian media companies from a tollgate that the car passed through before the explosion showed another Kashmiri doctor driving the vehicle, his face apparently masked.

14. What do we know about the victims?

According to local media reports, police have identified several of the victims.



Among them are:

- **Ashok Kumar, 34,** a bus conductor with the government-run Delhi Transport Corporation.
- A 22-year-old cosmetic shop owner from Uttar Pradesh, Nouman, and his cousin, Aman.

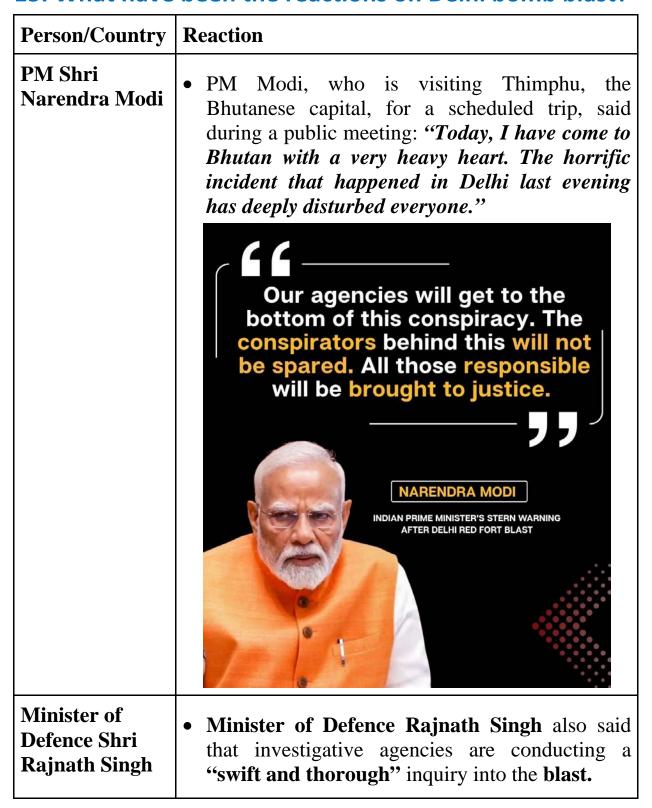


- **Dinesh Mishra**, **32**, from Ganeshpur village in the Shravasti district, who had been working at a printing press in Delhi's Chawri Bazar.
- Mohsin, 32, who had moved to Delhi two years ago to earn a living as an e-rickshaw driver.

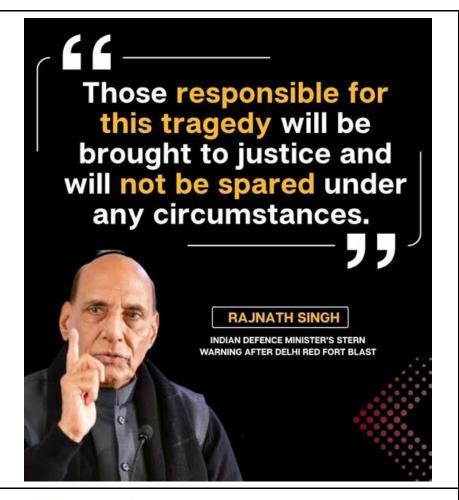
LIST OF BROUGHT DEAD						
S No	Name	Age	MLC No	Remarks		
1	Unknown	35	20250287139	Dead		
2	Ashok Kumar S/O Jagbansh Singh, R/O The-Hasanpur, Mangolra, Amroha, UP	34	20250287153	Dead		
3	Amar Kataria S/O Jagdish Kataria, R/O N-17, 1st Floor, Sriniwaspuri, Delhi Mob No 7988996769 (Identified)	35	20250287156	Dead		
4	Unknown	52	20250287159	Dead		
5	Unknown	58	20250287160	Dead		
6	Unknown	28	20250287161	Dead		
7	Unknown	30	20250287162	Dead		
8	Unknown	35	20250287164	Dead		
9	Unknown (Body Part)	0	20250287172	Dead		

	LIST OF INJURED			
S No	Name	Age	MLC No	Remarks
1.	Shaina Parveen D/O Mohd Saifullah, R/O H No P-31, Khawa Basti, Mirdard road, Shakur ki Dnadi, Delhi	23	20250287131	Injured
2.	Harshul S/O Sanjeev Sethi, R/O Gadarpur, UK	28	20250287133	Injured
3.	Shiva Jaiswal S/O Unknown, R/O Devaria, UP	32	20250287135	Injured
4.	Mr Sameer S/O Unknown, Mandawali Delhi	26	20250287136	Injured
5.	Joginder S/O Unknown, R/O Nand Nagri, Dilshad Garden, Delhi	28	20250287137	Injured
6.	Mr Bhawani Sahnkar Sahmra S/O Unknown, R/O Sangam Vihar Delhi	30	20250287138	Injured
7.	Ms Geeta D/O Shiv Prasad, R/O Krishna Vihar, Delhi	26	20250287140	Injured
8.	Vinay Pathak S/O Rama Kant Pathak, R/O Aya Nagar, Delhi	50	20250287141	Injured
9.	Pappu S/O Dudhwi Ram, R/O Agra UP	53	20250287142	Injured
10.	Mr Vinod S/O Vishal Singh, R/O Baitjeet Nagaqr Delhil	55	20250287143	Injured
11.	Shivam Jha S/O Santosh Jha, R/O Usmanpur Delhi	21	20250287145	Injured
12.	Unknown Aman	26	20250287147	Injured
13.	Mohd Sahnwaz S/O Lt Ahmad Jamman, Daryaganj Delhi	35	20250287149	Injured
14.	Ankush Sharma S/O Sudhir Sharma, R/O 1/6321, East Rohitash Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi	28	20250287150	Injured
15.	Mohd Farukh S/O Abdul Qdir, R/O H No 2180, Mirparwar, Uncha Chalan, Daryaganj, Delhi	55	20250287157	Injured
16.	Tilak Raj S/O Kishan Chand, R/O Hamirpur, HP	45	20250287158	Injured
17.	Mohd Safwan S/O Mohd Gufran, R/O B-76, Gali Katra Gokul Shah, Sita Ram Bazar, Delhi	28	20250287163	Injured
18.	Mohd Daud S/O Januddin, R/O Ashok Vihar, Loni, GZB, UP	31	20250287165	Injured
19.	Mr Kishori Lal S/O Mohan Lal, R/O Yamuna Bazar, Kashmiri Gate Delhi	42	20250287167	Injured
20.	Azad S/O Rasuddin, R/O 5th Pusta, Kartar Nagar, Delhi	34	20250287168	Injured

15. What have been the reactions on Delhi bomb blast?





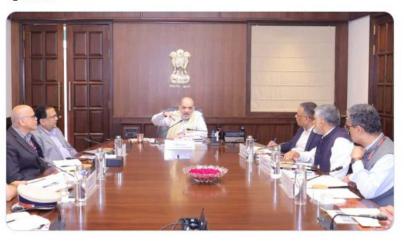


Home Minister Shri Amit Shah



Ø ...

Chaired review meetings on the Delhi car blast with the senior officials. Instructed them to hunt down each and every culprit behind this incident. Everyone involved in this act will face the full wrath of our agencies.







16. Mention initiatives taken to curb Terrorism in India?



- As per the seventh schedule to the Constitution of India, 'Police' and 'Public Order' are the subjects of the States.
- However, to deal with the challenges of internal and border security and to combat internal as well as cross-border terrorism, Government of India follows a multi- dimensional strategy, which entails various measures.

Measures	Description	
Strengthening internal & border security	 Enhancement of counter insurgency grid. Deployment of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs). Special focus on modernization and attractable prince of governity agreement. 	
	 strengthening of security equipment. Organizing various capacity building programs for State Police Forces, Law Enforcement Agencies and Cyber Investigative Agencies. 	
	• Augmenting intelligence capabilities and strengthening law enforcement agencies and ensuring sharing of intelligence inputs on a real-time basis, amongst all security forces.	
	• Implementation of the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS), incorporating sensors, cameras, ground surveillance radars and command-control systems.	
	• Deployment of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), Drones and Satellite Surveillance in vulnerable border areas.	
	• Construction of strategic roads, tunnels and bridges in border areas under the Bharatmala and Border Road Organization initiatives.	



- Day & night area domination.
- Round-the-clock Nakas at strategic points.
- Construction of fences, floodlighting, Border Out Posts/ Company Operating Bases, building roads and Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) at various locations on the international borders and measures to strengthen the Coastal Security.
- Regular **Border-Coordination meetings** and joint patrolling with neighboring countries like **Bangladesh**, **Nepal and Myanmar**.

Preventing internal and cross-border terrorism

- While adopting 'Zero-Tolerance' policy against terrorism, following key measures have been taken -
 - Effective, continuous and sustained actions against terrorists and support structures.
 - Dismantling of terror ecosystem using whole of government approach.
 - Preventive operations through Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), Indian Army and State Police Forces involving identification of strategic supporters of terrorism and initiating investigations through NIA to expose their mechanisms of aiding and abetting terrorism.
 - Strengthening legal regime like Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 and National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 for effective prosecution of terrorist organizations and individual terrorists.



	 Use of Artificial Intelligence, Big Data Analytics and Facial Recognition Tools to detect terrorist networks and activities. Monitoring of social media and cyberspace to prevent online radicalization.
Stop financial support to terrorist	• A "Combating Financing of Terrorism (CFT) Cell" has been established in the Ministry of Home Affairs since 2011 to coordinate with various intelligence/enforcement agencies to prevent financing of terrorism.
	• A Terror Funding and Fake Currency Cell (TFFC) has also been established in the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to investigate and prosecute terrorist funding and Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) cases.
	• A FICN Co-ordination Centre (FCORD) is also functioning to share the intelligence/ information amongst the different security agencies of Centre/States to counter the circulation of Fake Indian
	Currency Notes within the Country.
	 Monitoring of suspicious financial transactions, NGOs and hawala channels through coordinated actions with financial intelligence agencies.





Global And Regional Peace

Factors behind terrorism Prevention and Countermeasures Capacity building Protection of Human Rights Pillars of Counterterrorism

17. What is the relevance of the topic for UPSC CSE?

- **Prelims:** Organized crime, insurgency in India's northeastern states, National Investigation Agency, National Security Guard, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967, National Security Act (NSA), 1980.
- Mains: Issues Related to Terrorism in India, Internal Security Architecture in India.

Some previous years prelims questions.

- Q1. Consider the following statements: (2023)
 - 1. According to the Constitution of India, the Central Government has a duty to protect States from internal disturbances.
 - 2. The Constitution of India exempts the States from providing legal counsel to a person being held for preventive detention?
 - 3. According to the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002, confession of the accused before the police cannot be used as evidence.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Ans: (b)

Some previous years mains questions.

Q1. Terrorism is a global scourge. How has it manifested in India? Elaborate with contemporary examples. What are the counter measures adopted by the State? Explain. (2025-10 Marks)

Q2. Explain how narco-terrorism has emerged as a serious threat across the country. Suggest suitable measures to counter narco-terrorism. (2024-10 Marks)

Some questions from this year and previous years interview transcripts.

Board Sanjay Verma sir:

• How to deal with pakistan on terrorism?

Board Sanjay Verma sir:

- What is nuclear deterrence?
- Does nuclear deterrence work only for other NWS or non NWS also?
- What is extended deterrence?
- Has nuclear deterrence worked in the case of India Pakistan?

Board Sheel Vardhan sir:

- Tell me the difference between insurgency and terrorism?
- What is naxalism- insurgency or terrorism?

Board Sheel Vardhan Singh sir:

- What is economic terrorism?
- How can India counter this economic terrorism?

Board BB Swain sir:

- What is Narco Terrorism?
- What are various internal security problems of India?

Board Dinesh Dasa sir:

• What is legal terrorism? Can you give any example?

Some questions for QUIZ.

- Q1. Consider the following statements regarding NATGRID.
 - 1. The National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) functions under the Ministry of Defence
 - 2. The headquarters of NATGRID is located in Bengaluru
 - 3. NATGRID was conceptualized after 2001 Parliament Attack. How many of the above statements is/are correct?
 - (a) Only one
 - (b) Only two
 - (c) All three
 - (d) None

Answer: D

Some questions for POLL.

- Q1. Do you think terrorism in India is primarily driven by cross-border factors?
 - (a) YES
 - (b) NO
 - (c) Can't say.
- Q2. Can social media be considered a major tool for spreading terrorism and radicalization?
 - (a) YES
 - (b) NO
 - (c) Can't say.
- Q3. Is internal (home-grown) terrorism a bigger threat to India than external terrorism?
 - (a) YES
 - (b) NO
 - (c) Can't say.

- Q4. Has India's counter-terrorism framework become stronger after the 26/11 Mumbai attacks?
 - (a) YES
 - (b) NO
 - (c) Can't say.
- Q5. Do you think poverty and unemployment are the root causes of terrorism in India?
 - (a) YES
 - (b) NO
 - (c) Can't say.
- Q6. Is deradicalization more effective than military action in combating terrorism?
 - (a) YES
 - (b) NO
 - (c) Can't say.
- Q7. Can technology (AI, surveillance, cyber tools) effectively curb terrorism in India?
 - (a) YES
 - (b) NO
 - (c) Can't say.