



# **DAILY NEWSPAPER ANALYSIS**

**THE HINDU**

**(16<sup>th</sup> February, 2019)**

**Topic: GS3 : Internal Security**



**THE HINDU**  
**Daily News Paper**

## Pulwama terror attack

### Context:-

- As India mourns the death of 40 CRPF(Central Reserve Police Force) personnel in recent terrorist strike in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district orchestrated by **Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM)**, the Pakistan-based terrorist organisation, it is clear that the attack was meant to provoke.
- JeM is also reportedly behind the **2001 Indian Parliament attack**, **2016 Pathankot airbase attack** that killed 7 security personnel, and **2016 Uri attack** that killed 20 soldiers.
- Recent Attack is now the highest toll of security forces in any attack in the State.

### India's Immediate Action to Curb and Respond to Such Attack:-

- Finding the Loopholes in Security Architecture:- Investigations should yield a better picture, but it is a matter of extreme concern that a suicide bomber could time his attack to hit a security convoy.
  - Early details indicate that a sports utility vehicle laden with a huge quantity of explosives targeted the convoy of 78 buses carrying about 2,500 soldiers from Jammu to Kashmir.
  - The video of the presumed suicide bomber too hints at an altered standard operating procedure meant to provoke and escalate tensions.
  - Forensics teams have already begun work and answers to the disturbing questions the **attack has raised on intelligence gathering, dissemination and coordination in the Valley must be pieced together.**

## State of Democracy In India:-

- **Required Deft and Effective Diplomacy To curb Export of Terrorism:-** There is no question that Pakistan bears the onus to explain why **Masood Azhar, the leader of the Jaish-e-Mohammed**, enjoys such freedoms on its territory, if not outright support from the establishment.
  - Certainly, **diplomatic backing by Pakistan and China** has been crucial in defeating efforts at the United Nations to put Azhar on the list of banned terrorists.
  - However, if the terrorists have acted from an updated playbook, **New Delhi's response must not play into their plans with reflexive and precipitate official action.**
  - **Isolation of Pakistan to Curb Export of Terrorism:-** India has **withdrawn the Most Favoured Nation status** to Pakistan in a signal that it will not wait for preliminaries in the effort to isolate Pakistan.
    - It was also indicated that the **Ministry of External Affairs** would **initiate all possible diplomatic steps to ensure that Pakistan is isolated from the international community.**
    - **Analysis of Such Step-** Coercive diplomacy is likely to continue, but to be effective the effort needs a wider net, especially at a time when the **U.S. is seeking Pakistan's help in firming up a deal with the Afghan Taliban.**

- **Diplomatically holding Accountable to China:-** Beijing too must not, and cannot, evade qu about its previous blocking of action at the UN, specifically against Azhar.
  - The most recent effort began after India blamed Jaish for the attack on the Indian Air Force base in Pathankot in 2016. China intervened at the request of Pakistan and placed a technical hold on India's move in various instances.
  - It subsequently used its veto power to block the proposal in UNSC in December 2016.
  - China also blocked a proposal put forward by the US, the UK and France in January, 2017 to designate Azhar as a terrorist.
- **Retributive Cross Border Strikes-** Post-Uri, after terrorist attacks the air is always thick with calls for retributive cross-border strikes.
  - However, the past history of limited, if any, returns from such precipitate action must serve as a cautionary check.
  - Instead, the **effort must be to isolate Pakistan for its support to the Jaish and seek substantive action, to effectively upgrade intelligence and plug security gaps, and to win the confidence of the local population in the Valley.**

### **Conclusion:-**

- Pulwama attack was meant to provoke and polarise the country. **New Delhi's response must, instead, be to isolate the perpetrators and keep the peace on Indian territory.**