



1. Increased Terror Thrust in Jammu



Topic: Internal Security

In News: Within two there were two attacks on security personnels in Jammu.

More on the Topic:

- Jammu was largely seen as more peaceful of the two regions of Jammu & Kashmir. However, off late, the Jammu region has become focus of a new terror thrust.
- Experts believe that the first sign of this shift in focus came in February 2021, when the UT Police seized 15 sticky bombs (magnetic IEDs) in Samba district's Ramgarh sector along the International Border with Pakistan.
- This was followed by the dropping of two IEDs by low-flying drones at the Air Force Station, Jammu, in June 2021. The attack was the first of its kind in India.
- Analysis of data from 2021 reveals that the three districts of Jammu region have seen fewer but bloodier and more high-visibility terror attacks when compared to Kashmir Valley.
- These three districts are — Poonch, Rajouri and Jammu.

The new Shift in the strategy:

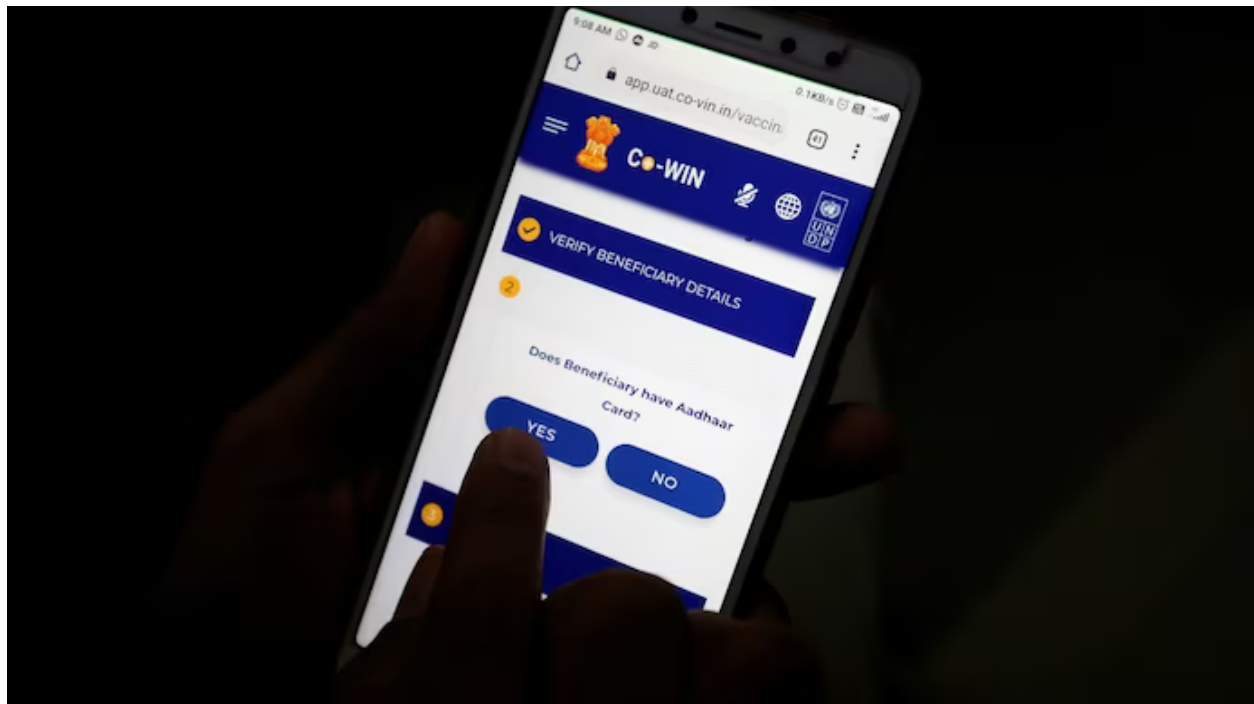
- Militants, after infiltrating into the area from across the LoC, are traditionally known to have a layover of not more than two or three days in the region before they cross the Pir Panjal range to Shopian in South Kashmir.
- So it was unlikely, many in the security establishment thought, that the militants who crossed the LoC would stay back in Jammu for longer to carry out the attacks.

New Concerns to Security Entities:

- **Tech Savvy Militants:** Militants now appear to be well-trained and tech-savvy.
- Earlier, we Security establishments used to track down militants by intercepting the signals of their communication devices such as wireless sets, satellite and mobile phones.
- But now they use offline apps to communicate among themselves and with their masters across the LoC, which makes it harder for us to track them.
- They use satellite phones to decide and kill security personnel.
- **Drying up of the “human intelligence”:** Human intelligence is very important in counter-insurgency operations.
- Sources in the police attribute the dried-up human intelligence to authorities taking the “prevailing peace for guaranteed”.
- **Forces shifted out:** In 2020, amid the standoff with China along the LAC in Ladakh sector, several companies of the Rashtriya Rifles were moved from the hinterlands of Poonch, Rajouri and adjoining Reasi district in Jammu division.
- This thinning out of personnel, sources say, may have emboldened the militants.

Source: Indian Express

2. Alleged CoWIN Data Leak



Topic: Social Justice



In News: Reports emerged that a bot on the messaging platform Telegram was allegedly returning personal data of Indian citizens who registered with the COVID-19 vaccine intelligence network (CoWIN) portal for vaccination purposes. The bot spewed out personal details like name, Aadhaar and passport numbers upon entry of phone numbers.

More on the Topic:

- Manual scavenging includes the disposal of human excreta manually from dry latrines, and public streets and the maintenance and sweeping of septic tanks, sewers and gutters.

What does the CoWIN portal track?

- CoWIN is a government-owned **web portal set up in 2021 to administer and manage India's COVID-19 vaccine rollout.**
- The health register-style platform leverages existing public digital infrastructure like the **Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN).**
- The platform, on a real-time basis, **tracks vaccines and beneficiaries at the national, State, and district levels.** It monitors vaccine utilisation and wastage, and maintains an inventory of the vials.
- For citizens, **CoWIN verifies identity, helps schedule vaccine appointments, and issues a vaccine certificate.** The database captures information flowing from four separate input streams — citizen registration; health centres; vaccine inventory; and vaccine certificates.
- Each stream functions independently, and at the same time exchanges data to minimise redundancies.
- The platform is a **microservices-based, cloud-native architecture developed from the ground up on Amazon Web Services (AWS).**
- A microservice architecture is a pattern that **arranges an application as a collection of loosely linked, fine-grained services.** These services interact with each other through certain set protocols.

The background to the data breach?

- This is not the first time reports about data leaks have emerged. In January 2022, the personal data of thousands of people in India were reportedly leaked from a government server. The information included COVID-19 test results, phone numbers, names and addresses of citizens.
- Government has just denied the breaches and didn't take any actions.
- In past data breaches, cybersecurity experts have attributed data leaks to human error or negligence in setting up databases in the cloud. Misconfiguring a system, or involvement of third-party apps with limited privacy features, could have also exposed user data to unauthorised people.

Way Ahead:

- The fact remains that sensitive personal data of millions of Indian citizens who signed up for the COVID-19 vaccination is in the hands of cybercriminals.
- It is unclear how they plan to use this information.



- But such leaks reveal India's unfinished data protection business.
- **A data protection law could be a useful tool in fixing accountability and building safeguards** around the use and processing of personal data.
- In 2017, the Supreme Court of India recognised privacy as a fundamental right, highlighting the need to protect personal information. But the country is still struggling to frame a personal data protection policy.

Source: Hindu

3. India, U.S. initiative on Future Tech



Topic: Economy

In News: The Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies is a framework agreed upon by India and the U.S. for cooperation on critical and emerging technologies in areas including artificial intelligence, quantum computing, semiconductors and wireless telecommunication.

More on the Topic:

- It was launched in January this year to strengthen their strategic partnership and drive technology and defence cooperation.
- Mr. Modi and Mr. Biden first announced the framework on the sidelines of the Quad meeting in Tokyo in May 2022.

The focus areas of the initiative:



- Primarily, the iCET seeks to position India and USA as “trusted technology partners” to build supply chains and support the co-production and co-development of items.
- Key takeaways include setting up a research agency partnership to drive collaboration in areas like AI; developing a new defence industrial cooperation roadmap to accelerate technological cooperation for joint development and production; developing common standards in AI;
- Developing a roadmap to accelerate defence technological cooperation and ‘innovation bridge’ to connect defence startups; supporting the development of a semiconductor ecosystem; strengthening cooperation on human spaceflight; advancing cooperation on development in 5G and 6G; and adopting OpenRAN network technology in India.

The progress so far:

- The two countries have already put in place the **Quantum Coordination Mechanism**, launched a **public-private dialogue (PDD) on telecommunication** to drive collaboration in OpenRAN, 5G and 6G, and held “important exchanges” on AI and space.
- India and the U.S. signed an MoU on establishing a **semiconductor supply chain that paved the way for creating a semiconductor sub-committee** to review recommendations from an industry-led task force launched in connection with the iCET.
- On the defence front, the two countries are **close to concluding a mega jet engine deal**.
- In addition, a new initiative to advance cutting-edge technology cooperation, known as the **India-U.S. Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X)**, is set to be launched.
- India and the U.S. have also concluded a **roadmap for ‘Defence Industrial Cooperation’** to guide the policy direction for the next few years.
- The two countries have also established a **Strategic Trade Dialogue to remove regulatory “barriers” and review existing export control norms** to take forward strategic technology and trade collaborations envisaged under iCET.

Source: Hindu



4. Kareri Lake

Topic: Environment and Ecology



In News: Tourists were rescued from Kareri Lake.

More on the Topic:

- Kareri Lake is a shallow high elevation fresh water lake located in Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh.
- Snow melting from the **Dhauladhar range** serves as the source of the lake and a stream, Nyund is the outflow.
- Since the source is fresh melting snow and the lake is shallow, water visibility is very high and in most places, the lake bed can be seen.
- **Kareri Lake water drains into Niyund stream**, which later on drains into interconnected local water channels that subsequently drain into Maharana Pratap Sagar Reservoir situated on Pong Dam over the River Beas.
- There is a temple dedicated to Lord Shiva and Shakti on a hilltop overlooking the lake.

Source: HT

5. National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)

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Go, change the world



In News: National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) celebrated its 20th Foundation Day.

More on the Topic:

- Set in June, 2003, NIXI is a **not-for-profit company under the aegis of MeitY**.
- It is tasked to increase internet penetration and adoption in India by facilitating the various infrastructure aspects to enable the internet ecosystem to be managed and used by the masses.
- It acts as a **neutral meeting point of Internet service providers (ISPs)** with primary objective of facilitating exchange of domestic internet traffic between peering ISP members.

The four services which come under the NIXI are:

- setting IXPs, towards building Internet Exchange Points, .IN Registry towards building the .in domain digital identity,
- IRINN towards IPv4 and IPv6 addresses adoption
- Data Centre services under NIXI-CSC towards data storage services

Source: Hindu



6.Jagannath Temple

Topic: International
Relations



In News: The Puri Rath Yatra 2023 is celebrated from June 20 and devotees from across the country visit the state and the temple town during this period.

More on the Topic:

- The Shree Jagannath Temple of Puri is an important Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Jagannath, a form of Vishnu, in Puri in the state of Odisha on the eastern coast of India.
- The present temple was rebuilt from the 10th century onwards, on the site of an earlier temple, and begun by **King Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva, first of the Eastern Ganga dynasty.**
- The Puri temple is famous for its **Annual Ratha yatra, or chariot festival**, in which the three principal deities are pulled on huge and elaborately decorated temple cars.
- Unlike the stone and metal icons found in most Hindu temples, the image of Jagannath is made of wood and is **ceremoniously replaced every twelve or nineteen years by an exact replica.**

Source: Hindu
