



Jammu & Kashmir

SECURITY TRACKER

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2020



SOUMYA CHATURVEDI



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INTRODUCTION

Jammu & Kashmir [J&K] has been the epicentre of terrorism related violence for nearly three decades. The Jammu & Kashmir Security Tracker aims to track the trajectory of the security scenario in the newly formed Union Territory [UT]. The observations reported maybe useful for experts, practitioners, academics, and scholars in understanding the security trends in the UT of J&K that will be beneficial for scholarly research and policy prescription.

The first report in the series was the comparative analysis of the security scenario in the one-year before and after the decision to remove the special status of J&K on August 5, 2019. In the previous report an update on the security scenario for August, September and October 2020 was discussed. The current report provides an update on the months of November and December 2020. The parameters for observation and the methodology of research and data collection have been described in detail in the first report.

In this second update report incident-wise observations have been made for terrorist attacks, arrests, encounter operations, busting terrorist hideout, destroying IED, spotting drones, detecting tunnels and unprovoked ceasefire violation. District-wise observations include fourteen districts, namely – Anantnag, Baramulla, Budgam, Ganderbal, Jammu, Kathua, Kulgam, Kupwara, Punch, Pulwama, Rajouri, Samba, Shopian and Srinagar. As an addition, the activities of different terror-outfits have also been quantified to the extent possible. These outfits include Al-Badr, Ansar Gazwat ul Hind, Hizbul Mujahideen, Jaish-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Taiba and The Resistance Front.

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

Over November and December 2020, direct elections to the District Development Councils [DDC] were successfully concluded in eight phases. This was the first major political exercise in the UT after the removal of the special status of J&K in 2019. It is instructive to note that the terror outfits were overall unsuccessful in instigating violence, calling for boycott, or deterring people from exercising their right to vote. There were relatively fewer incidents of terrorism-induced violence than the preceding months and people turned out in large numbers, both in the Jammu region and in the valley to be a part of the democratic process.

In a departure from the previous quarter of August-October 2020, there were no direct attacks, targeted on the civilians in November and December 2020. Based on the mode of attack, there were more grenade attacks on the security personnel in the two months as compared to the previous quarter. The number of terrorists arrested, encounter operations undertaken, and unprovoked ceasefire violations initiated by Pakistan have largely remained constant in the last five months. However, when the same period is observed in the previous years, there has been a marginal surge in unprovoked ceasefire violations, arrests, and terrorist attacks targeted at the security forces. Thus, it is evident that there was an attempt to disrupt peace in the region and possibly the electoral process. It also indicates that the security forces were prepared with information and resources to act swiftly against the terror outfits, thereby ensuring a safe election. The observation suggests that hardships created by winters do not create hinderance in the functioning of the terrorists.

The Nagrota encounter in Jammu District on November 19, 2020 was one of the most important and successful encounter operations. 4 Jaish terrorists were neutralised in this operation and unprecedented seizure was seen. The security forces suggested that a major terrorist attack has been averted. This attack was being planned by the terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed to mark the anniversary of 26/11 terror attack.

The two months also saw most arrests and neutralising of terrorist affiliated with Jaish-e-Mohammed, followed by Al-Badr and Lashkar-e-Taiba. Most of these arrest and encounter operations were undertaken in Pulwama district. Pulwama also registered the

lowest voter turnout in the DDC elections. While there were no civilian deaths in Pulwama district, the low turnout can be attributed to the grenade attacks and firing incidents by the terrorist groups on the security forces.

Further, in the previous quarter a tunnel was detected along the international border of Samba district. In the months of November and December 2020, two more such tunnels were unearthed in Jammu and Samba district. These hidden tunnels have facilitated the infiltration of terrorists, weapons, and other such illegal things into India. It is evident that the Indian security infrastructure not only has credible information, but also the proactive will to act on it. Additionally, at least in three separate incidents unauthorised drones were spotted flying in the Indian air space, which suggests that Pakistan is looking for innovative ways to promote terror in India as the earlier means used for infiltration of terrorists and for the supply of weapons and explosives is being effectively curtailed.

In the two months, the security scenario appears to have improved in Budgam, Kulgam, and Shopian districts as compared to the previous months. A near status quo was observed in Anantnag, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Punch, Rajouri, Srinagar and Pulwama district. A trend has been observed over the past two years of increasing unprovoked ceasefire violations in Kupwara district and particularly over the last few months several infiltration bids have been foiled by the Indian security forces. It may be argued that Pakistan is finding it difficult to infiltrate terrorists and weapons through the traditional channels in Pulwama, Rajouri and Samba district due to increased vigilance by the Indian security architecture. They are instead exploring opportunities in other border districts such as Kupwara.

Prognosis: The current observation along with the trends from previous years suggest that with the advent of summers, there will be a surge in the unprovoked ceasefire violations by Pakistan. The interrogations with increasing arrests of terrorists and raids by NIA and other agencies suggest that there maybe an increase in arrests and encounter operations in the next quarter (January – March 2021). With the discovery of secret tunnels and terrorist hideouts, there is a possibility that new technologies and means will be deployed by Pakistan and terrorist organisations in the coming months.

ANALYSIS - I

INCIDENT-WISE

- Terrorist Attack
- Arrest
- Encounter
- Busted terrorist hideout, Destroyed IED, Drones spotted, Tunnel detected
- Unprovoked Ceasefire violation

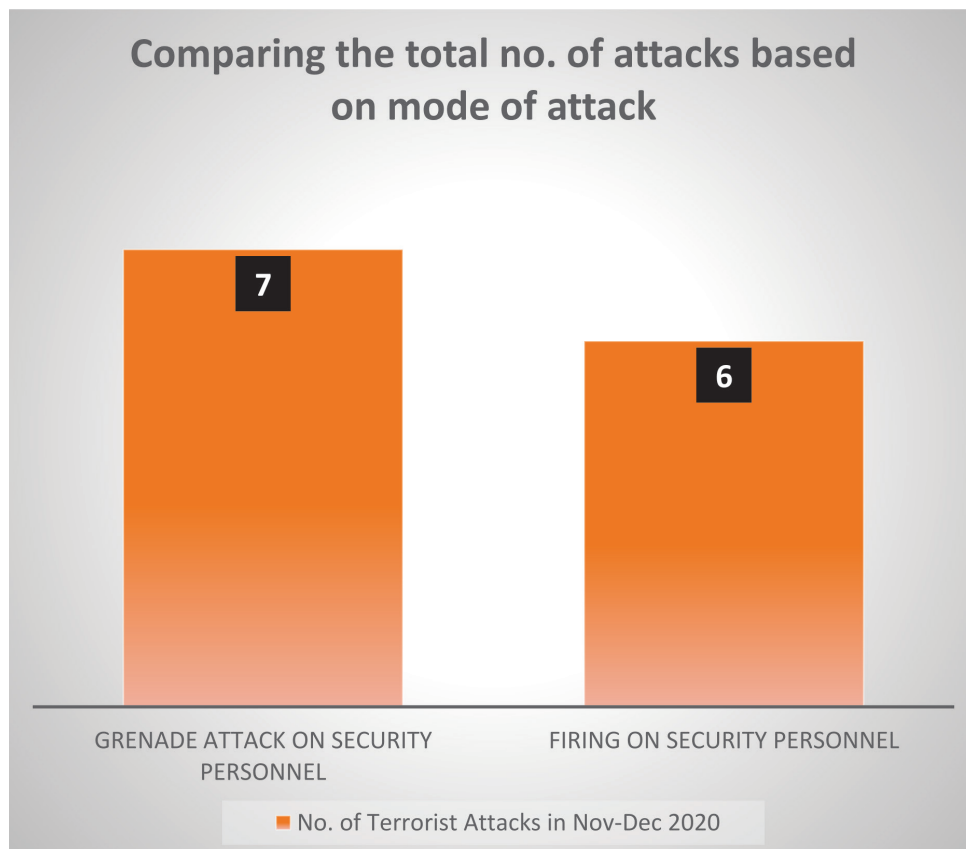
ANALYSIS - I

INCIDENT-WISE

- **Terrorist Attack**

The terrorist attacks in Jammu & Kashmir have been analysed based on the mode of attack. Since there were no direct attacks on the civilians in November and December 2020, the classification based on the nature of the target has been avoided.

Based on the mode of attack, the terrorist attack on security forces have been divided into (a) grenade attack and (b) incident of firing. Between November and December 2020, there were 7 grenade attacks and 6 firing incidents targeted on the security forces. In the two modes combined, 5 security personnel were killed-in-action and 1 terrorist was neutralised in retaliation of firing exchanges. Nearly 20 civilians were injured in the grenade attacks targeted towards security personnel.



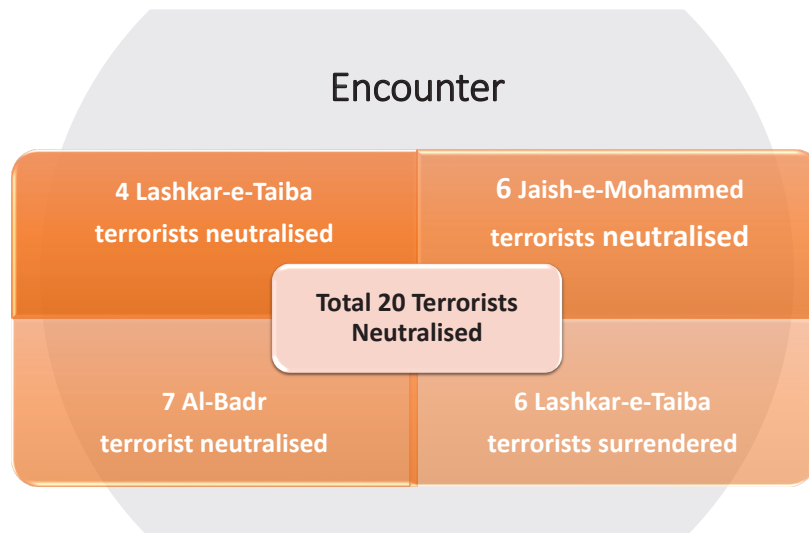
- ## Arrest

In the two months of November and December 2020, 34 terrorists have been arrested. Out of these 3 belonged to Hizbul Mujahideen, 3 to Lashkar-e-Taiba, 14 to Jaish-e-Mohammed, 4 to Al-Badr, 2 to The Resistance Front and 1 to Ansar Gazwat ul Hind. The affiliation of 7 terrorists was unidentified at the time the arrest was reported in media.



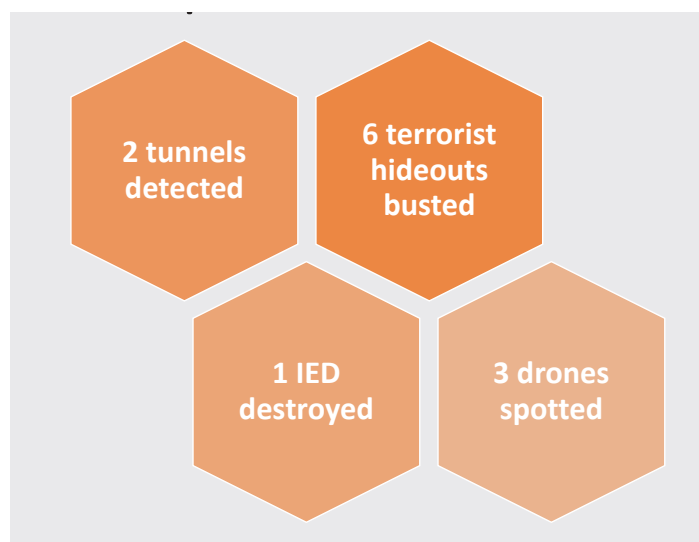
- ## Encounter

The security forces neutralised 20 terrorists in 9 encounter operation in the two months. Out of the 20 terrorists, 4 were affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba, 6 with Jaish-e-Mohammed and 7 with Al-Badr. Over the encounter operations, 6 Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists also surrendered to the Indian security forces.



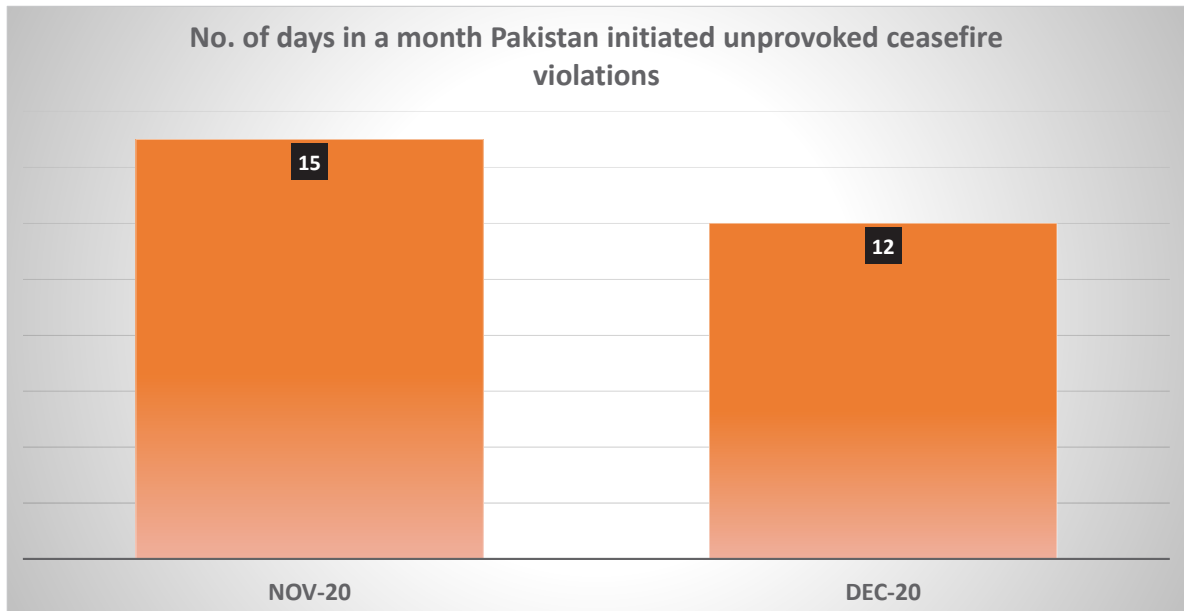
- ## Busted Terrorist Hideout, IED Destroyed, Drones Spotted, Tunnel Detected

The security forces busted at least 6 terrorist hideouts and destroyed 1 IED bomb. In the two months. They also unearthed a tunnel and a tunnel-like structure. 3 unauthorised suspicious drones were also spotted flying in the Indian air space by the security forces.



- ## Unprovoked Ceasefire Violation

Out of the total of 61 days in November and December 2020, Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violations on at least 27 days. Of the two months, November saw the most violations on 15 days of the month, while December saw 12 days of the violations. Pakistani security forces killed at least 10 Indian security personnel and injured several Indian civilians.

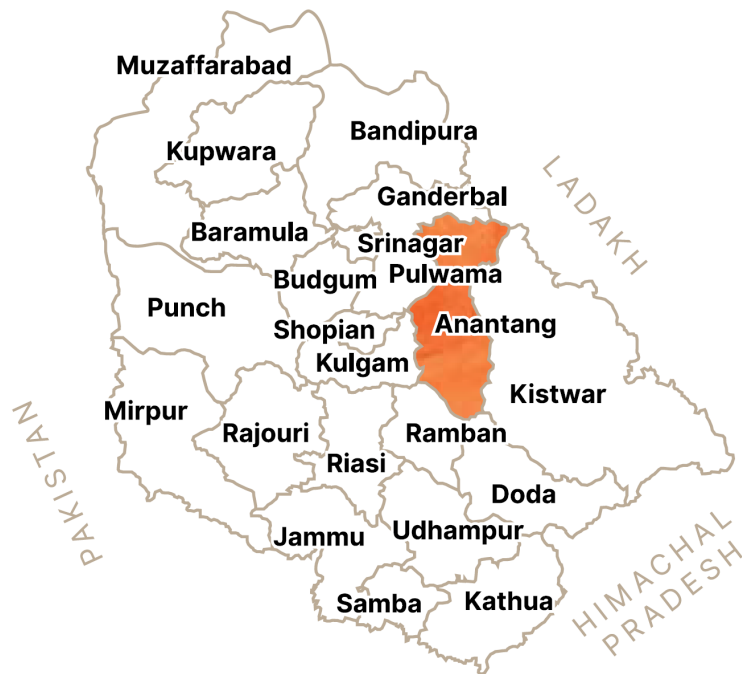


ANALYSIS - II

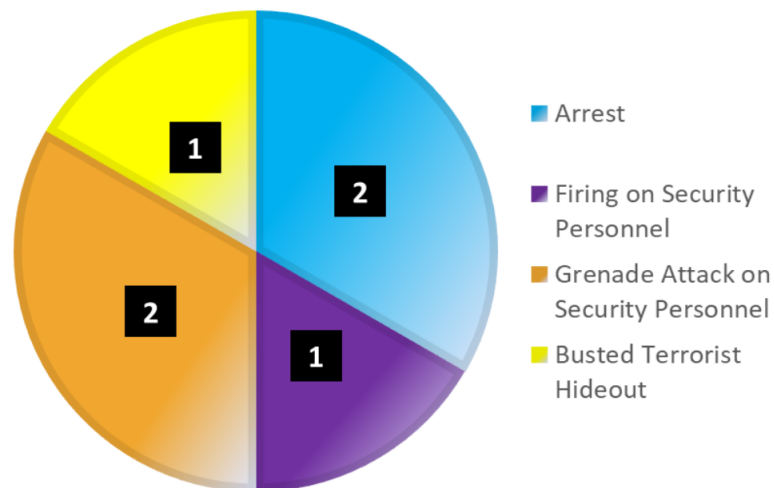
DISTRICT-WISE

- Anantnag
- Baramulla
- Budgam
- Ganderbal
- Jammu
- Kathua
- Kulgam
- Kupwara
- Punch
- Pulwama
- Rajouri
- Samba
- Shopian
- Srinagar

- Anantnag



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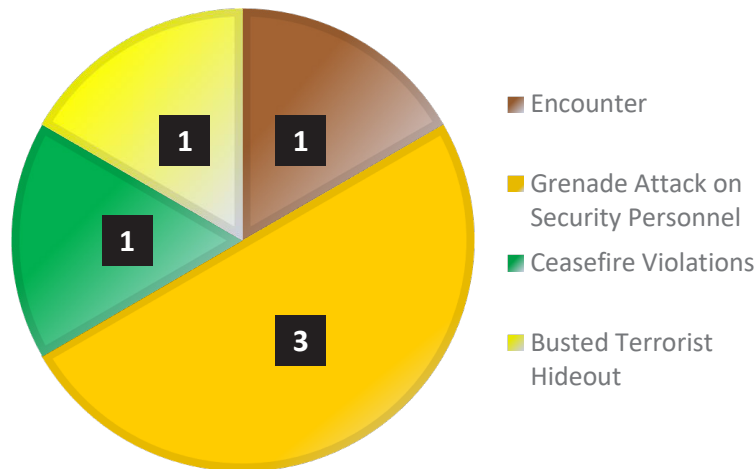


In the Anantnag district there was an incident of firing and 2 grenade attacks directed on the Indian security forces. Additionally, 1 Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist and 6 terrorists belonging to the Jaish-e-Mohammed were arrested. 1 terrorist hideout was also busted by the security establishment.

- Baramulla



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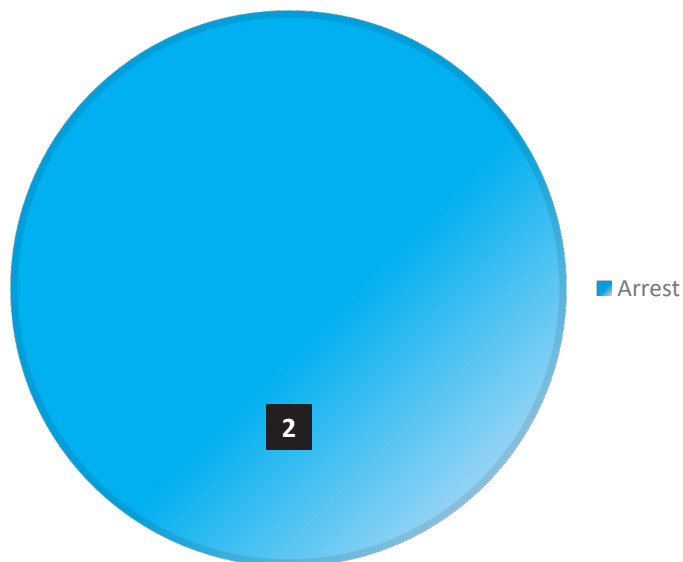


In Baramulla district, 2 Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists were neutralised by the Indian security forces in the time spanning across November and December 2020. There were 3 incidents of grenade being hurled on the security establishment which led to 8 civilians being injured. There was 1 terrorist hideout was busted in the Baramulla district. Unprovoked ceasefire violation by Pakistani forces was seen only on 1 day in the district. However, 4 security personnel were killed-in-action, while also killing 3 civilians and injuring several others.

- Budgam



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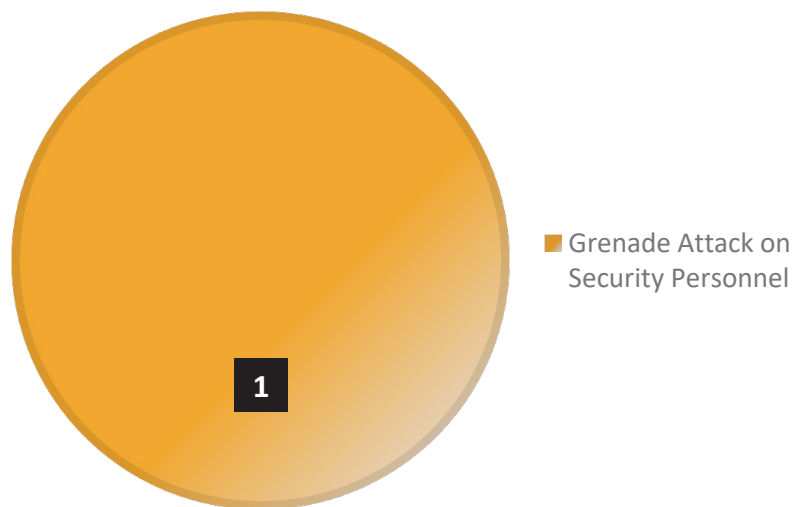


In Budgam district, the only incident relating to terrorism-induced violence was the arrest of 5 terrorists affiliated with Jaish-e-Mohammed in 2 separate incidents.

- Ganderbal

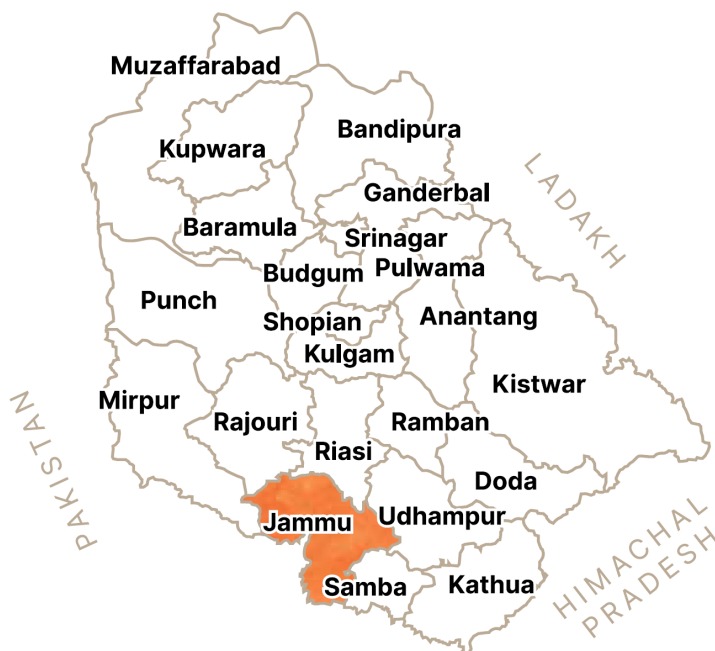


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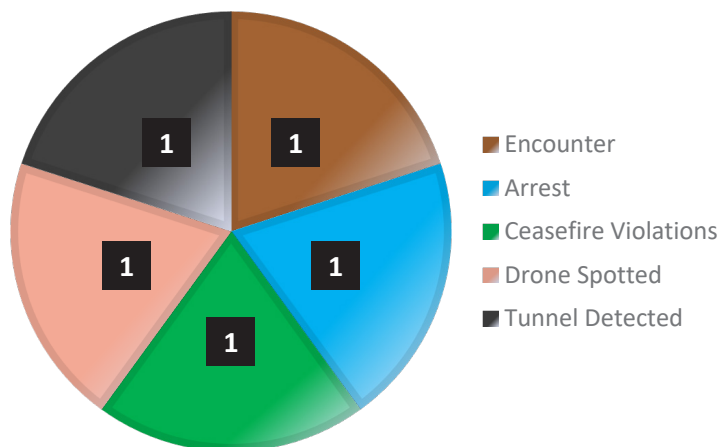


In the two months, there was an incident of grenades being hurled at the Indian security forces in the Ganderbal district. In this terrorist attack 2 personnel from the Indian security establishment were killed-in-action, while 1 was severely injured.

- Jammu



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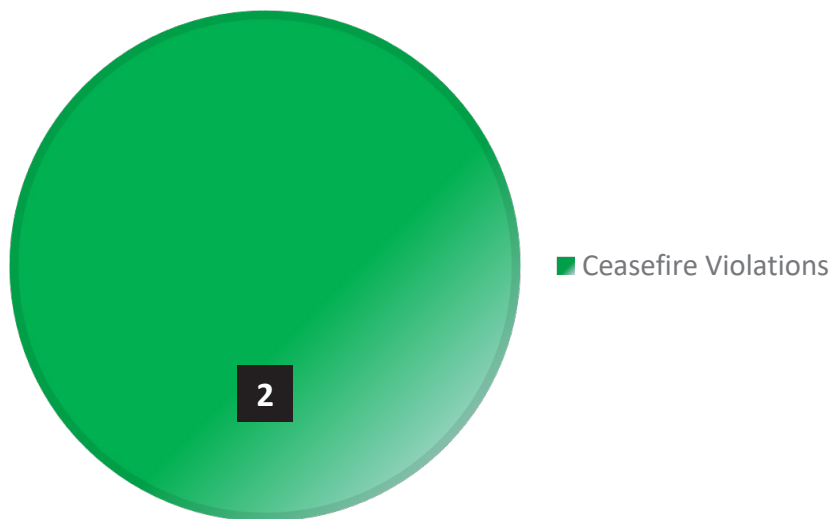


4 terrorists affiliated with Jaish-e-Mohammed were neutralised by the Indian security forces in an encounter operation in the Jammu district. In a separate incident, 2 terrorists belonging to The Resistance Front were arrested. There was also unprovoked ceasefire violation initiated by Pakistan on one day in the district. Additionally, a tunnel-like structure was unearthed by the security forces in the district and an unauthorised drone was spotted in the Indian air space.

- Kathua



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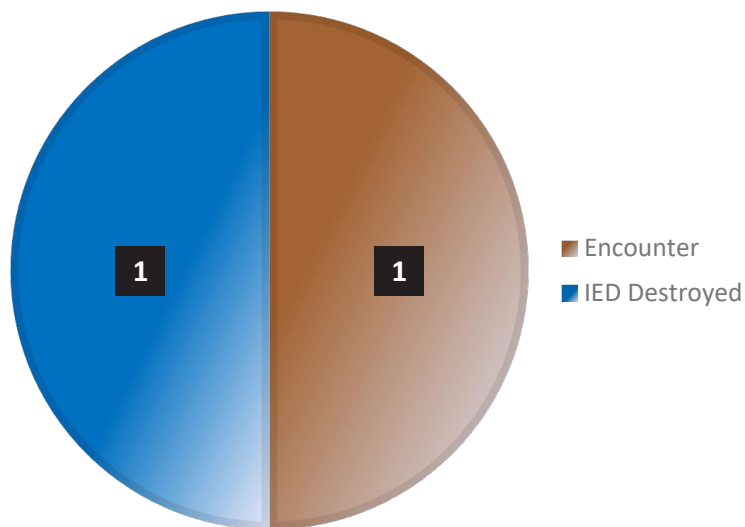


In Kathua district, unprovoked ceasefire violations were initiated by Pakistan on 2 days over November and December 2020. No casualties were reported on the Indian side.

- Kulgam



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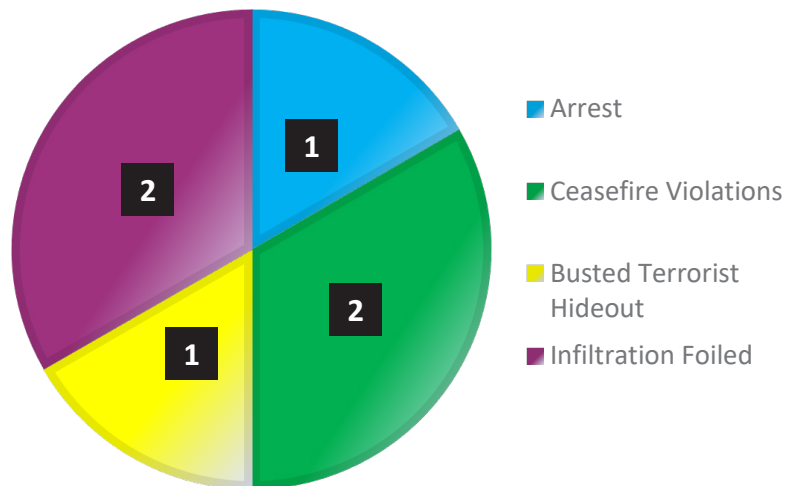


In Kulgam district, 2 Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists surrendered in a search and cordon operation undertaken by the security forces. Additionally, the security forces also destroyed an IED in a separate incident in the Kulgam district.

- Kupwara



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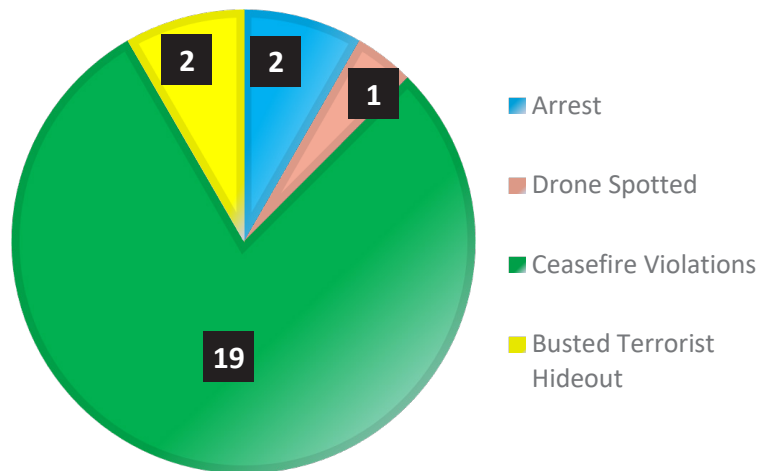


In the two months, a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist was arrested in the Kupwara district. On 2 days Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violations in the district and there were at least 2 bids of infiltration foiled by the Indian security forces. During these bids, at least 3 terrorists were neutralised, and 3 Indian security personnel were martyred. Additionally, 1 terrorist hideout was also busted by the security forces.

- Punch



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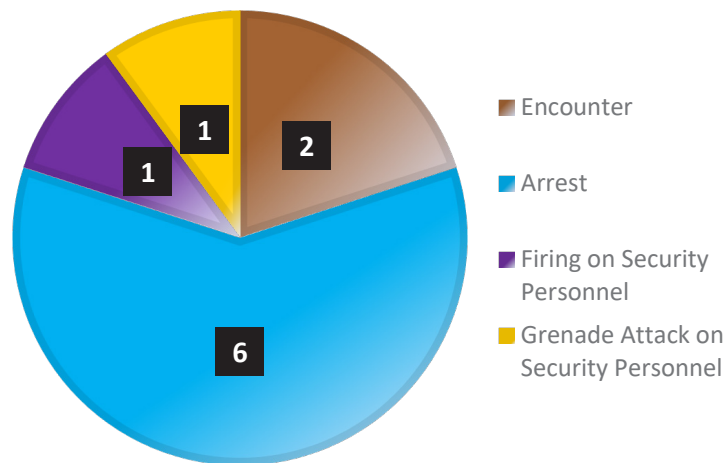


Over the two months, there were unprovoked ceasefire violations initiated by Pakistan on 19 days in the Punch district. 2 Indian security personnel were killed-in-action and 6 civilians were severely injured in these violations. In two separate incidents, 4 terrorists were arrested, of which 3 were affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba. Additionally, 2 terrorist hideouts were busted, and an unauthorised drone was spotted in the Indian air space in the Punch district.

- Pulwama



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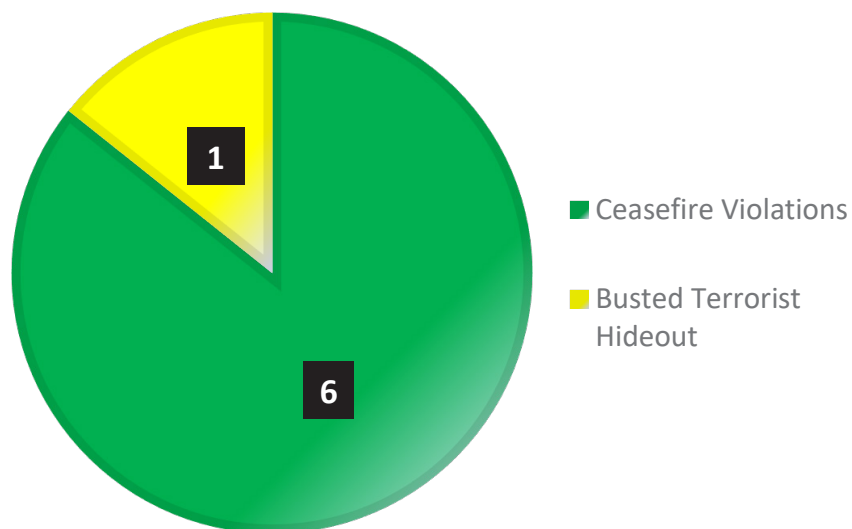


In Pulwama district, 5 terrorists were neutralised, and 1 terrorist surrendered in two encounter operations undertaken by the Indian security forces. Of the 5 terrorists neutralised, 2 were affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba and 3 with Al-Badr. In six separate incidents, 10 terrorists were arrested. Out of the 10 terrorists, 3 were affiliated with Jaish-e-Mohammed, 4 with Al-Badr and 1 with Ansar Gazwat ul Hind. There were also two terrorist attacks on the Indian security establishment. While one was an incident of firing, the other was a grenade attack in which 12 civilians were injured.

- Rajouri

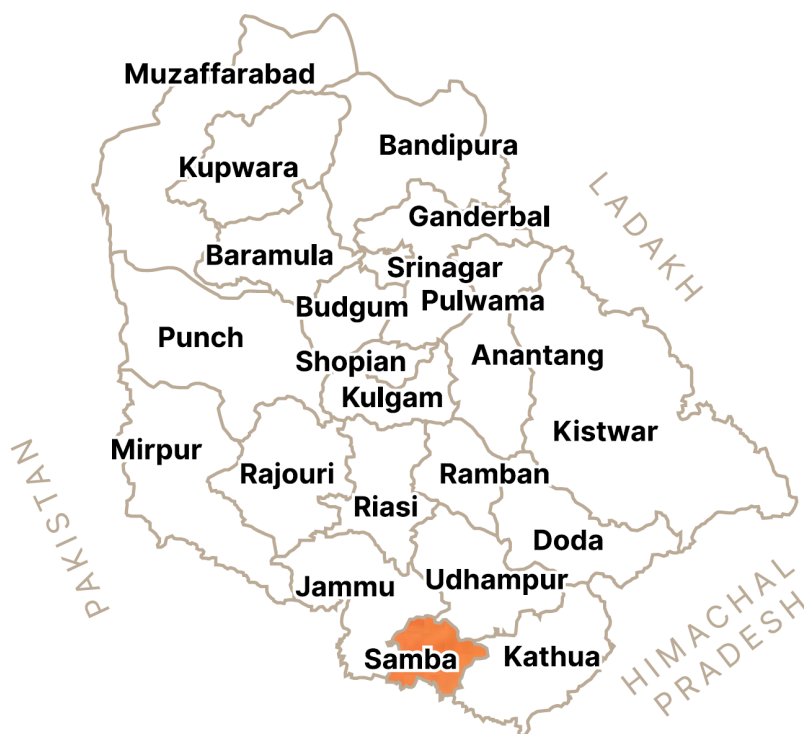


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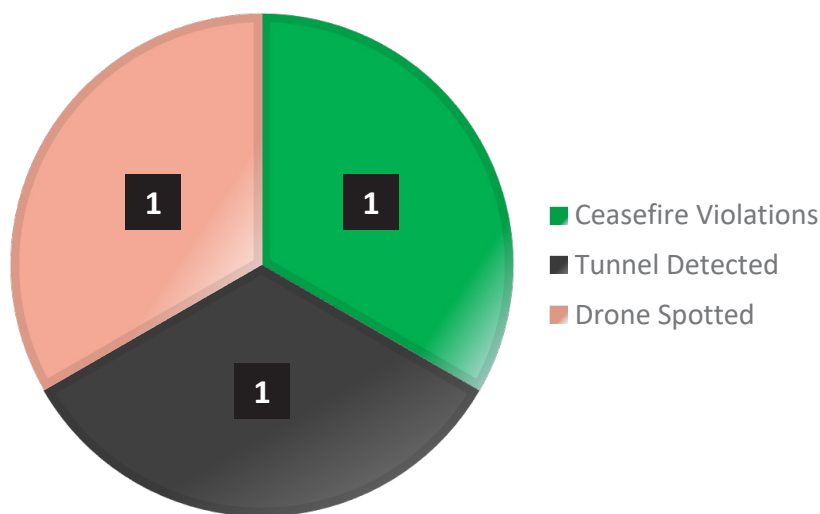


In Rajouri district, there unprovoked ceasefire violations initiated by the Pakistani security forces on 6 days over the two months in which 4 Indian security personnel were killed-in-action. There was a terrorist hideout that was busted by the Indian security forces.

- Samba



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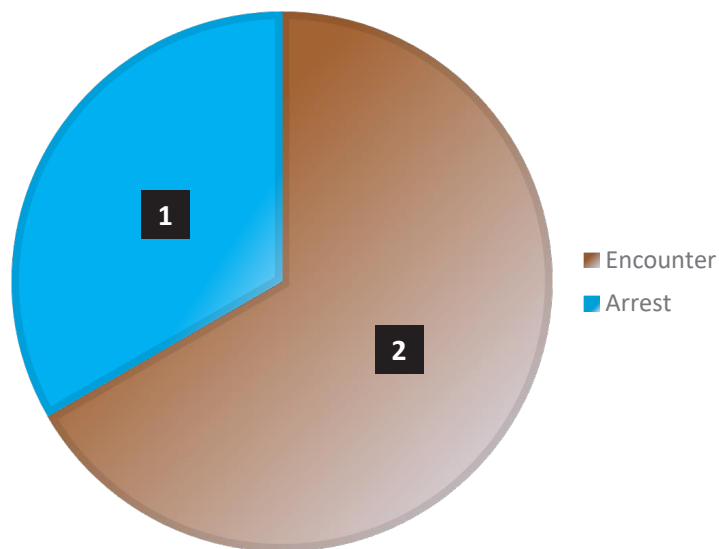


In Samba district, a tunnel was unearthed by the security establishment that was potentially used for smuggling terrorists and weapons. An unauthorised drone was also spotted flying in the district. There were several unprovoked ceasefire violations initiated by Pakistan on one day in the Samba district.

- Shopian



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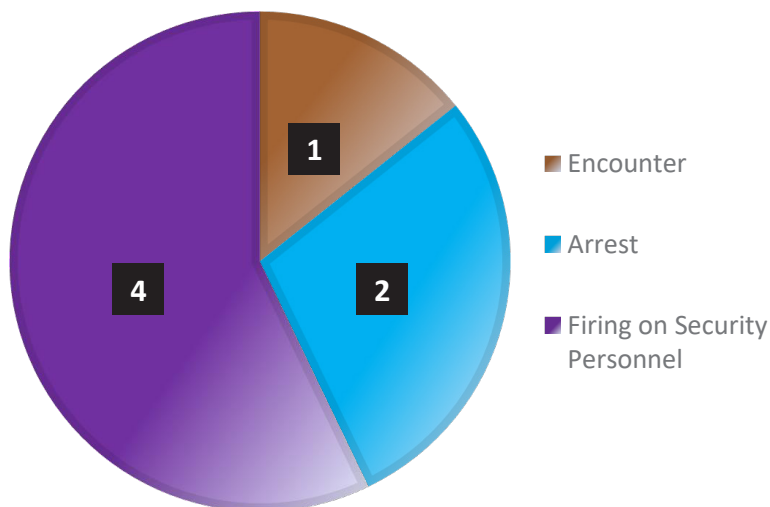


4 terrorists affiliated with Al-Badr were neutralised by the security forces in two encounter operations. Additionally, on account of transporting terrorists a member of the Congress party was arrested in the Shopian district.

- Srinagar



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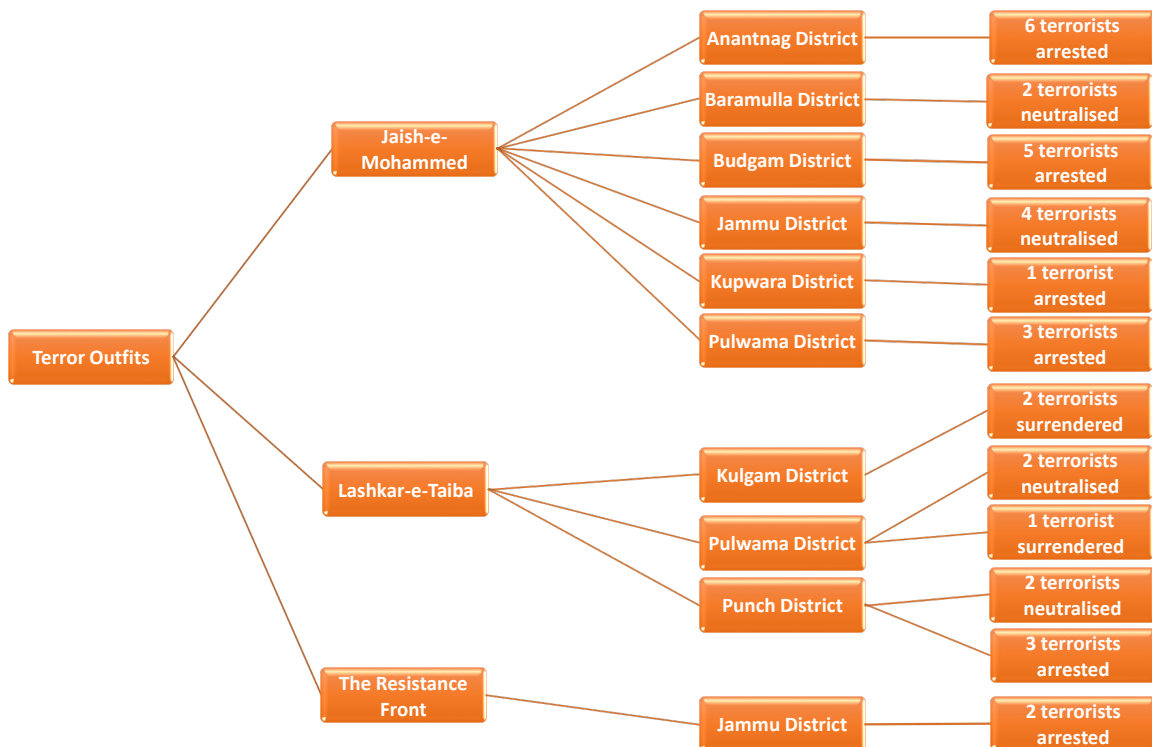
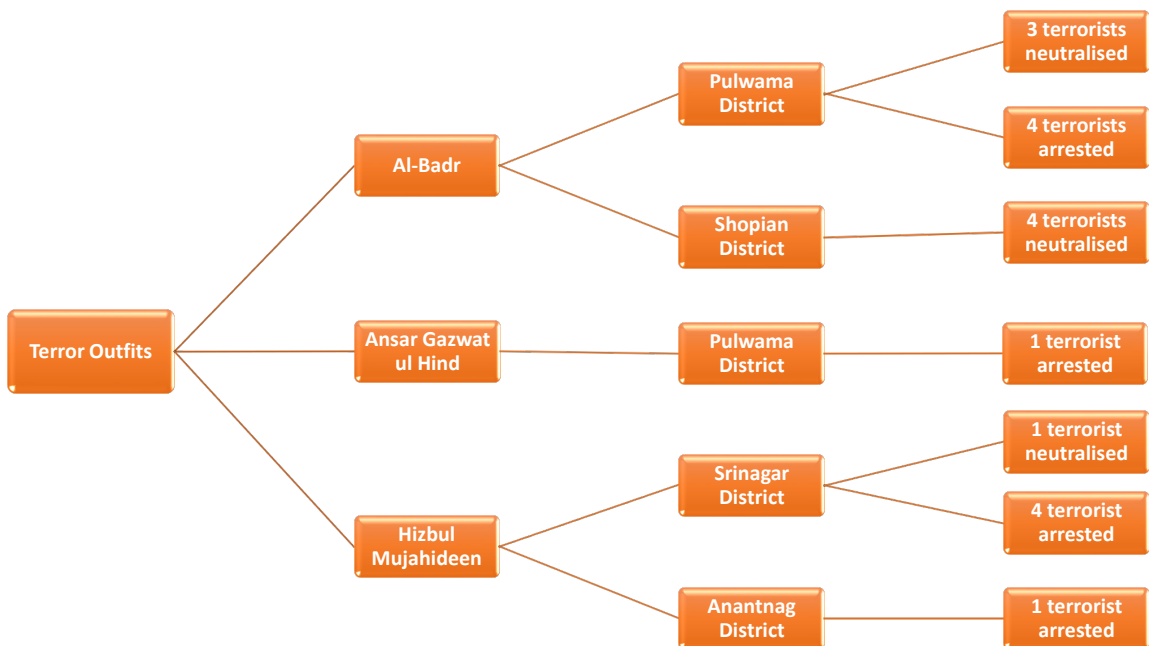
In Srinagar district, there were 4 incidents of firing on the security personnel by terrorists in which 3 security personnel were killed-in-action and 1 was severely injured. In the exchange of fires, a terrorist was also neutralised. In another incident of encounter operation undertaken, 3 terrorists were neutralised by the security forces. 4 terrorists affiliated with Hizbul Mujahideen were arrested in two separate incidents.

ANALYSIS - III

TERROR OUTFIT-WISE

- Al-Badr
- Ansar Gazwat ul Hind
- Hizbul Mujahideen
- Jaish-e-Mohammed
- Lashkar-e-Taiba
- The Resistance Front

SUMMARY



TERROR OUTFIT-WISE ANALYSIS

- **Al-Badr:** 7 terrorists belonging to Al-Badr were neutralised and 4 were arrested over the two months. Out of the 7, 4 were neutralised in Shopian district and 3 in Pulwama district. All the 4 arrests were also made in Pulwama district.
- **Ansar Gazwat ul Hind:** 1 terrorist affiliated with the Ansar Gazwat ul Hind was arrested by the security forces in Pulwama district.
- **Hizbul Mujahideen:** 5 terrorists affiliated with Hizbul Mujahideen were arrested and 1 was neutralised over November and December 2020. Out of the 5, 1 terrorist was arrested in Anantnag district while the remaining 4 were arrested in Srinagar district. The encounter of 1 Hizbul terrorist was in Srinagar district.
- **Jaish-e-Mohammed:** A total of 6 Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist were neutralised over the two months. Out of these, 4 were in Jammu district and 2 in Baramulla district. Out of the 15 Jaish terrorists arrested, 3 arrests were made in Pulwama district, 1 in Kupwara district, 5 in Budgam district and 6 in Anantnag district.
- **Lashkar-e-Taiba:** 4 Lashkar terrorists were neutralised, of which 2 were in Pulwama district and 2 in Punch district. 3 terrorists were arrested in Punch district. 3 Lashkar terrorists surrendered, of which 1 surrendered in Pulwama district and the remaining 2 in Kulgam district.
- **The Resistance Front:** 2 terrorists affiliated with The Resistance Front were arrested in Jammu district in the time spanning over November and December 2020



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