



# Jammu & Kashmir

## SECURITY TRACKER

JANUARY - MARCH 2021



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SOUMYA CHATURVEDI

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# INTRODUCTION

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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 the security scenario of November and December 2020 was discussed. The current report provides an update on the months of January, February, and March 2021. The parameters for observation and the methodology of research and data collection have been described in detail in the first report.

In this third update report, incident-wise observations have been made for terrorist attacks, arrests, encounter operations, busting terrorist hideout, destroying IED, IED blast, detecting tunnels and unprovoked ceasefire violation. District-wise observations include seventeen districts, namely – Anantnag, Bandipora, Baramulla, Budgam, Doda, Jammu, Kathua, Kishtwar, Kulgam, Kupwara, Punch, Pulwama, Rajouri, Riasi, 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, Hizbul Mujahideen, Jaish-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Mustafa, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Muslim Janbaaz Force, Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen and The Resistance Front.

# SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

## SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

The overall security scenario of Jammu & Kashmir has improved in the first quarter of 2021, i.e., January–March when compared to the situation in the previous quarter of October–December 2020. Remarkable improvement is also observed when the current statistics is compared with the situation in first quarter of 2019 and 2020. The total number of terrorist attacks (aimed at both civilians and security forces) stood at 13 in the first quarter of 2021, whereas in the previous quarter, 20 terrorist attacks were orchestrated. In the first quarter of 2019, there were 33 terrorist attacks and 13 in 2020. A total of 66 terrorists were arrested between January-March 2021. This statistic stood at 39 in the previous quarter, 14 in the first quarter of 2019 and 81 in the first quarter of 2020. The trend of increase in arrests and decrease in neutralisation of terrorists has sustained in the current quarter, where 19 terrorists were neutralised. 45 terrorists were neutralised in the previous quarter, 66 in the first quarter of 2019 and 35 in the first quarter of 2020.

On February 15, 2021, India and Pakistan agreed to observe ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC). This massive development in the otherwise frozen relationship of the two countries had a direct effect on peace in the region. The abrogation of Article 370 had led to unprecedented increase in unprovoked ceasefire violations by Pakistan which continued till January 2021 which witnessed multiple ceasefire violations on 12 days of the month. Post the agreement between both the countries, there have been no ceasefire violations.

The last political assassination in Jammu & Kashmir was seen on October 30, 2020, when three workers of Bharatiya Janata Party were killed by Lashkar-e-Taiba in Kulgam. On March 29, 2021, another political assassination was orchestrated by Lashkar-e-Taiba wherein two councillors from Municipal Corporation were killed in Baramulla. The current quarter witnessed another terrorist attack targeted on civilians when the foreign envoys were on a visit organised by the government in Srinagar. Anantnag, Baramulla and Pulwama districts continued to be the violent hotspots, while an increase was seen in the successful encounter operations in Shopian district. On the brighter side, improvement was seen in the security scenario of Jammu, Kupwara and Punch districts when compared to the previous quarter. Additionally, Ramban district was declared terrorism-free by the state police.

Viewed in terms of the quantum of arrests and encounters with terrorist organisations,

the most dominant terrorist groups in the current quarter were Hizbul Mujahideen, Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba. The other active terrorist groups in this quarter were Al Badr, Muslim Janbaaz Force, Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen, The Resistance Front and Lashkar-e-Mustafa. The increased arrests, with other relevant factors have possibly resulted in the increased busting of terrorist hideouts and unearthing of tunnels across the International Border between India and Pakistan used for smuggling arms, ammunitions, and terrorists into India.

An improved security scenario and increasing developmental programmes in Jammu & Kashmir shares a symbiotic relationship. Unprecedented tourism influx was seen after the snowfall. Great enthusiasm was also seen for the Khelo India National Winter Games in the Valley. Successful initiatives on skill development, youth engagement, agriculture, promoting entrepreneurship, sports, education, etc. were undertaken by the Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha and the Indian security forces. This was supplemented by nearly Rs 5000 crore worth investment for an 850 MW Ratle Hydro Power Project in Kishtwar district and other financial and developmental support by the central government. These positive developments also reflect the growing confidence of the residents of Jammu & Kashmir in the state institutions.

Despite these achievements, certain red flags are also raised when the developments of this quarter are critically analysed. Over 78 gelatine sticks with explosives were found by the Indian security forces, suggesting emerging threats in Jammu & Kashmir. Moreover, a man in Bihar was arrested for supplying arms and ammunitions to the chief of Lashkar-e-Mustafa in Kashmir. This development calls for critically analysing the terrorism nexus within India and the preparedness and coordination between the different state-level security institutions.

**Prognosis:** The current observation along with the trends from previous years suggest that in the coming summer, an increase in arrests and encounter operations in the next quarter (April–June 2021) is likely. Traditionally, summers have been ideal for infiltration of terrorists. But with the ceasefire agreement in force, we must wait and see if Pakistan will attempt to push in terrorists into India, as hitherto fore.

# ANALYSIS - I

## INCIDENT-WISE

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



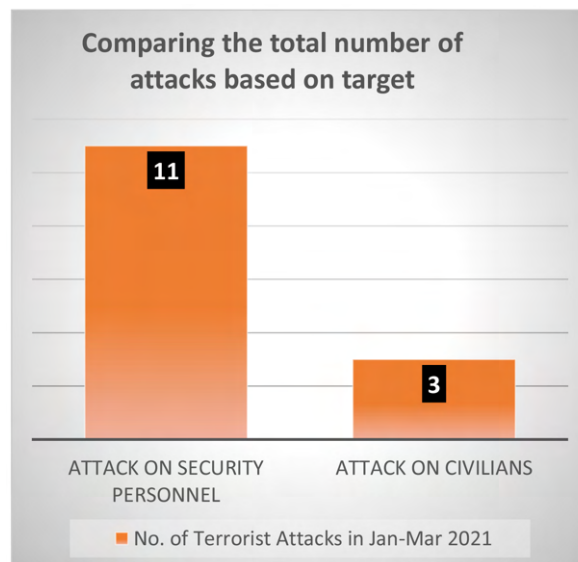
# ANALYSIS - I

## INCIDENT-WISE

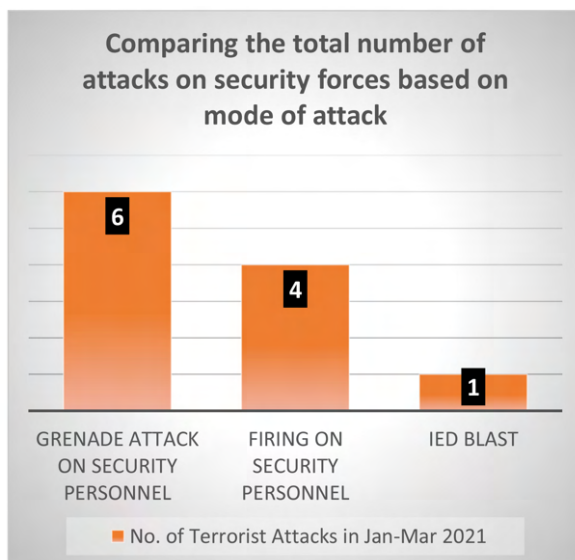
- **Terrorist Attack**

The terrorist attacks in Jammu & Kashmir have been analysed based on (a) target of attack and (b) the mode of attack.

Based on the target of attack, there were three terrorist attacks targeted on the civilian, while 11 terrorist attacks were targeted on the security forces. In one of the terrorist attacks, one civilian shopkeeper was shot dead by terrorists in Srinagar. In another incident of shooting in Krishna Dhaba, a popular restaurant in Srinagar, one civilian was killed, and few others were injured. The third terrorist attack targeted on civilians was a political killing where two newly elected councillors and the personal security officer of one of the councillors was killed by Lashkar-e-Taiba.

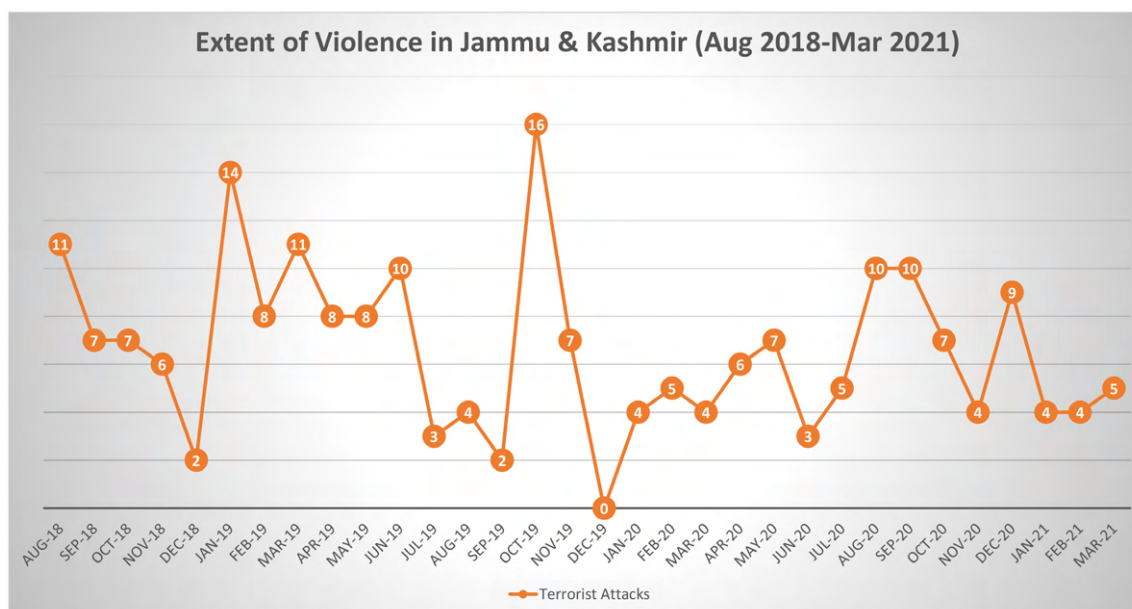


Based on the mode of attack, the terrorist attack on security forces have been divided into (i) grenade attack, (ii) incident of firing, and (iii) IED blast. Between January and March 2021, there were six grenade attacks, four firing incidents targeted on the security forces



and one IED blast. The grenade attacks left six security personnel and ten civilians injured. The incidents of firing on security forces resulted in five security personnel killed-in-action (KIA) and four being injured. There were no casualties in the IED blast.

The extent of terrorist attacks in Jammu & Kashmir has been on a progressive decline when compared to situation since the second half of 2018. January and February 2021 observed four terrorist attacks each, while there were five attacks in March 2021.



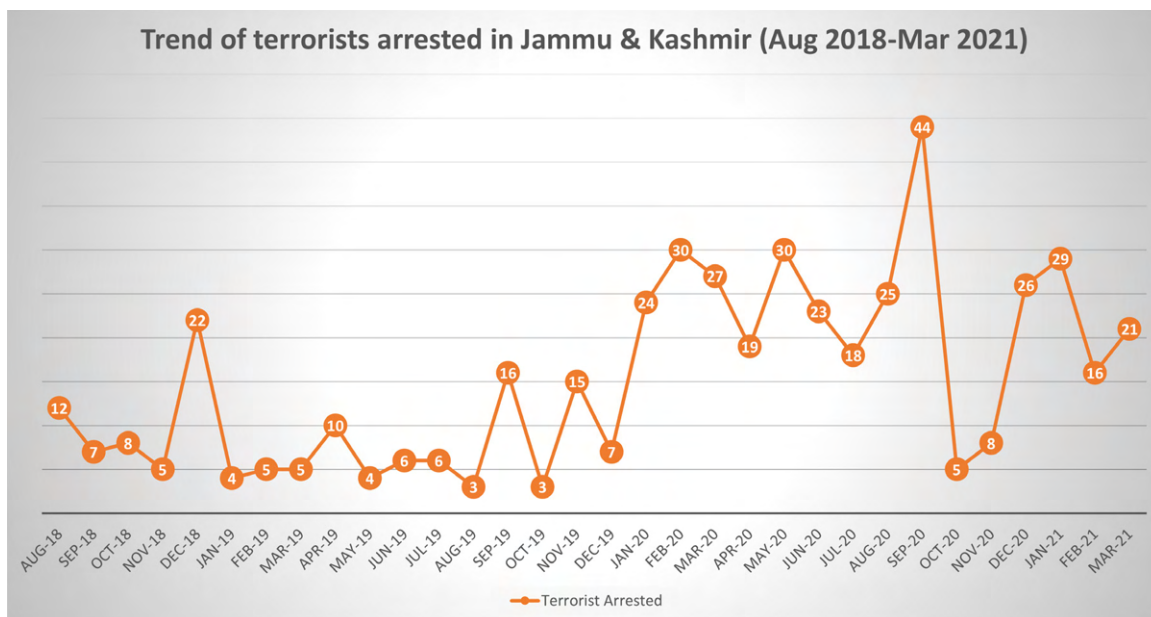
The number of terrorist attacks in the first quarter of 2021 have been significantly low when compared to the months in the last quarter of 2020. The trend of the first quarter of 2021 has been similar to that of the first quarter of 2020 vis-à-vis the terrorist attack. However, the extent of these attacks has been lower when compared to the first quarter of 2019.

## • Arrest

In the three months of January, February, and March 2021, 66 terrorists have been arrested. Out of these, eight belonged to Hizbul Mujahideen, 19 to Lashkar-e-Taiba, 22 to Jaish-e-Mohammed, one to Al-Badr, two to The Resistance Front, one to Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen, three to Muslim Janbaaz Force and one to Lashkar-e-Mustafa. The affiliation of nine terrorists were unidentified at the time the arrest was reported by the media.

Since September 2019, a massive surge has been seen in the number of terrorists arrested by the security forces in Jammu & Kashmir. 29 terrorists were arrested in the month of January, while 16 were



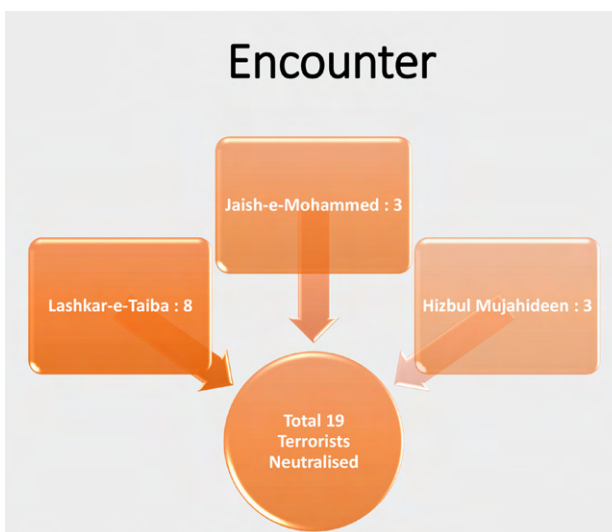


arrested in February and 21 in March. The first quarter of 2021 witnessed nearly twice the number of terrorists arrested when compared to the previous quarter. A similar surge of terrorist arrested is observed in the first quarter of 2020. On the other hand, the first quarter of 2019 saw about one-fourth of the arrests as observed in the first quarter of the following two years individually.

## • Encounter

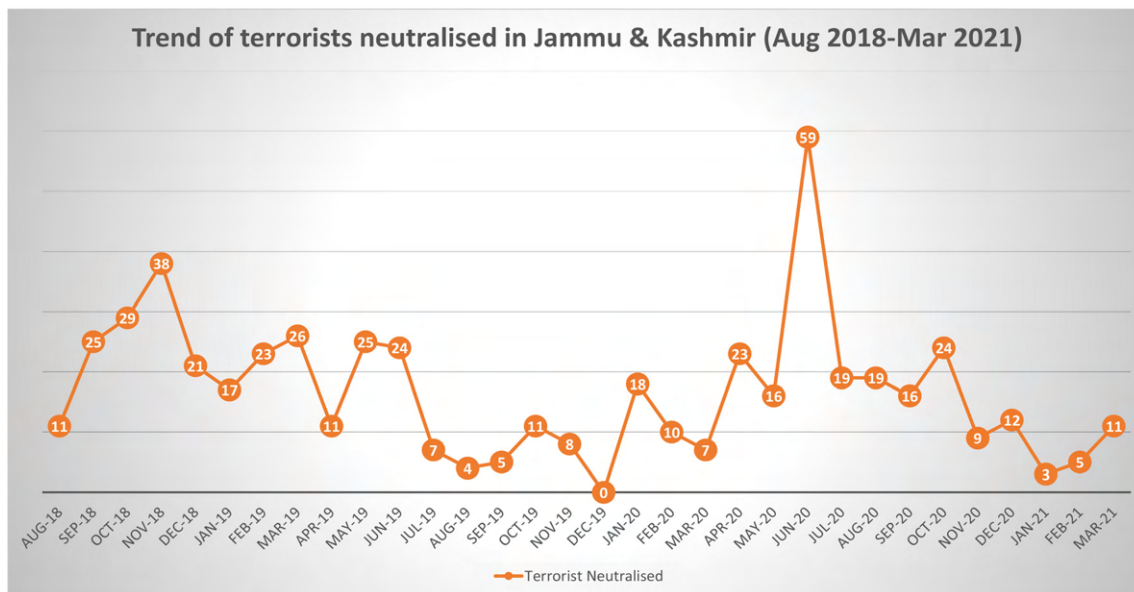
The security forces neutralised 16 terrorists in 10 encounter operation in the two months. Out of the 19 terrorists, three belonged to Hizbul Mujahideen, eight were affiliated to Lashkar-e-Taiba, three to Jaish-e-Mohammed and one to Al-Badr. After the encounter operations, two terrorists also surrendered to the Indian security forces. The affiliation of these two terrorists were unidentified at the time of reporting.

Over the last two years there has been a decline in number of terrorists neutralised by the Indian security forces in Jammu & Kashmir when compared to scenario until June 2019. In the current quarter, the number of terrorists neutralised remained low in January and February. However, more successful operations



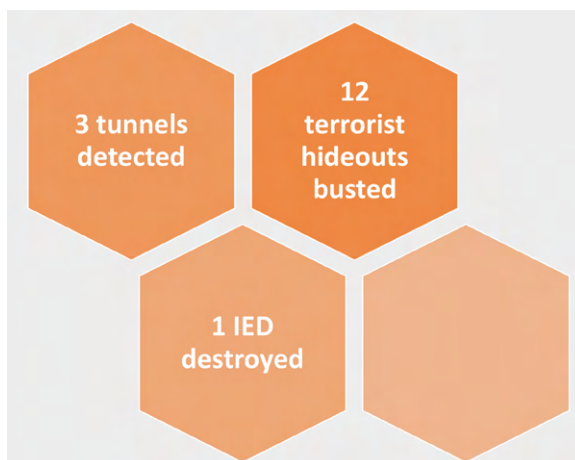


were observed in the month of March. The number of terrorists neutralised has reduced to less than half when the quarter under analysis is compared to the previous quarter, i.e., October – December 2021. Furthermore, the total number of terrorists neutralised by the Indian armed forces between January to March 2021 are far less than the number of terrorists neutralised in the same quarter in 2020 and 2019.



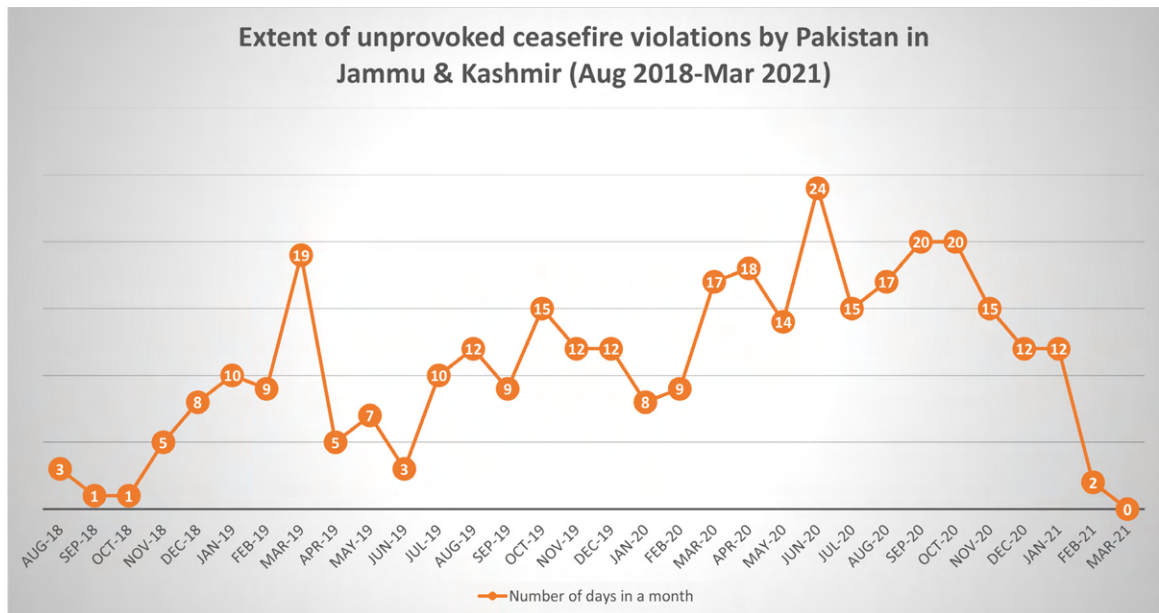
## • Busted Terrorist Hideout, IED Destroyed, Tunnels Detected

The Indian security forces busted 12 terrorist hideouts in the first quarter of 2021. At least one of the terrorist hideouts belonged to Hizbul Mujahideen one to Jaish-e-Mohammed and two to Lashkar-e-Taiba. The remaining 8 terrorist hideouts were unidentified at the time of reporting of the incidents. In the three months three tunnels were also unearthed. Two of these were unearthed in Kathua district, while one was unearthed in the Samba district. In another incident one IED was destroyed by the India security forces.



- Unprovoked Ceasefire Violation

There was a significant surge in the unprovoked ceasefire violation by Pakistan since October 2019 with 15 days in the month up until January 2021 with 12 days in the month. This has been followed by a sharp decline with 2 days of unprovoked ceasefire violations in February 2021 and none in March 2021. In the first quarter of 2021, five Indian security personnel were killed-in-action and three were injured due to these violations. Additionally, a few civilians were also injured due to the action of Pakistani security forces.



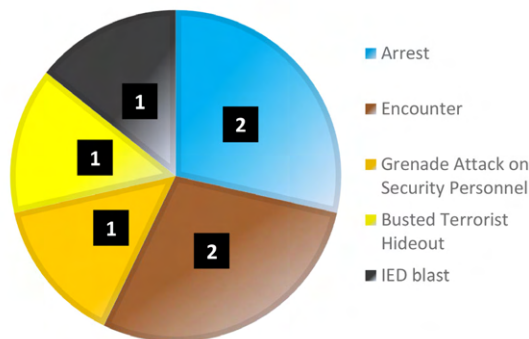


# ANALYSIS - II

## DISTRICT-WISE

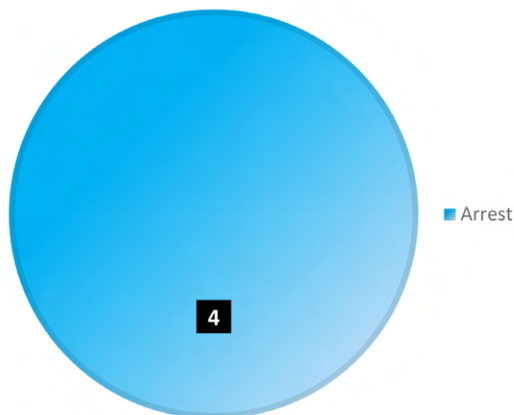
- Anantnag
- Bandipura
- Baramulla
- Budgam
- Doda
- Jammu
- Kathua
- Kishtwar
- Kulgam
- Kupwara
- Punch
- Pulwama
- Rajouri
- Riasi
- Samba
- Shopian
- Srinagar

## • Anantnag



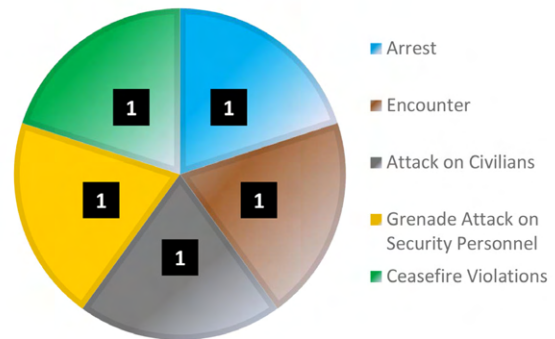
In the Anantnag district there two incidents of arrest in which eight Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists were arrested. In two successful encounter operations, four terrorists were neutralised, two of which belonged to Jaish-e-Mohammed. There was one incident of grenade attack on the security personnel and one IED blast. Additionally, one terrorist hideout was also busted by the security forces in the district.

## • Bandipura



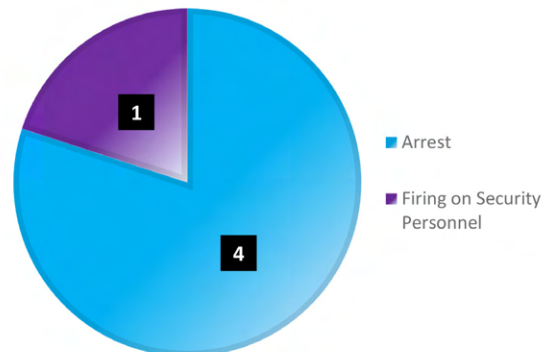
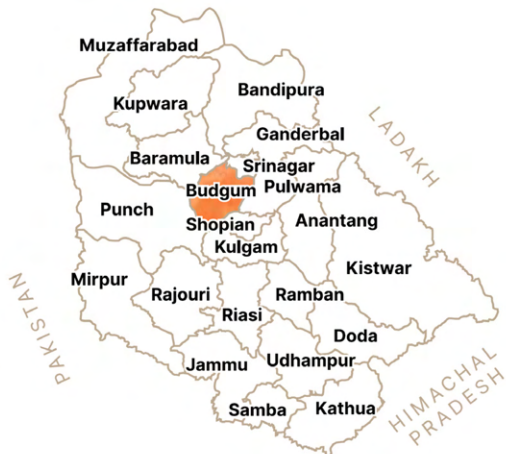
In Bandipura district there were four incidents of arrest in which six terrorists were arrested. Three of these terrorists were affiliated to Jaish-e-Mohammed and two were affiliated to Lashkar-e-Taiba. The affiliation of one terrorist was unidentified at the time of reporting the arrest.

## • Baramulla



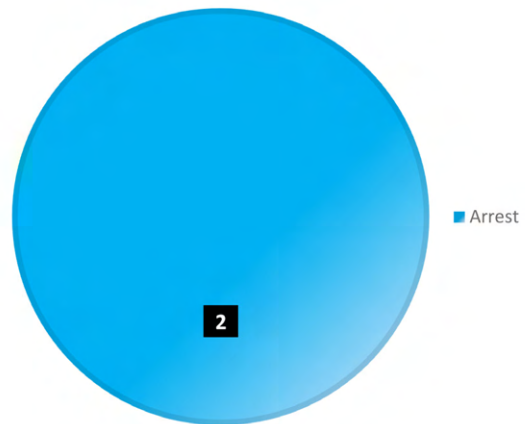
In Baramulla district there was one incident of arrest in which one terrorist affiliated to The Resistance Front was arrested by the armed forces. In one successful encounter operation, one terrorist belonging to the Al Badr terrorist group was neutralised. There was also a terrorist attack targeting two newly elected councillors. Both the councillors along with one personal security officer scammed to their injuries in this attack. There was also a grenade attack aimed at security forces in which two security personnel were injured. Additionally, there were multiple unprovoked ceasefire violations by Pakistan on one day in the district.

## • Budgam



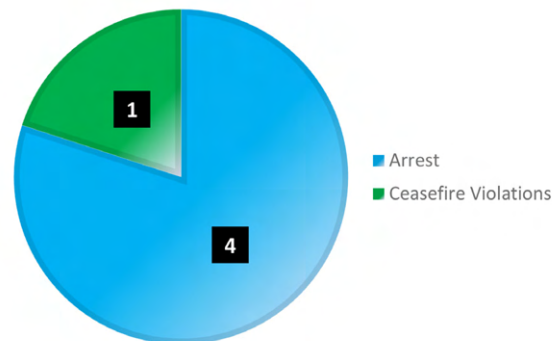
In Budgam district there were four incidents of arrest in which six Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists and one Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen terrorist were arrested. There was also an incident of firing on the security forces in which one security personnel was killed-in-action and one was injured.

- Doda



There were two incidents of arrest in Doda district in which two terrorists were arrested. The affiliation of both the terrorists was unidentified at the time of reporting of the incident.

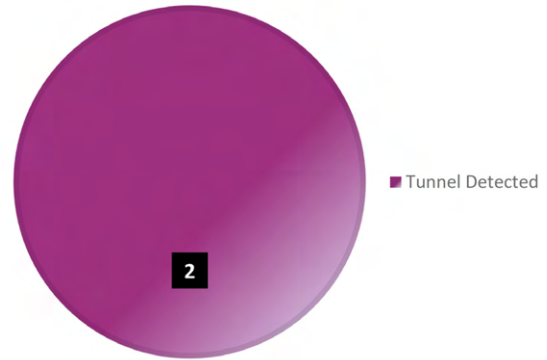
- Jammu



In Jammu district there were four incidents of arrest in which a total of five terrorists were arrested. Three of terrorists were affiliated to Jaish-e-Mohammed, one to Al Badr and one to Lashkar-e-Mustafa. Additionally, there were multiple ceasefire violations on one day in the district, over the three months.

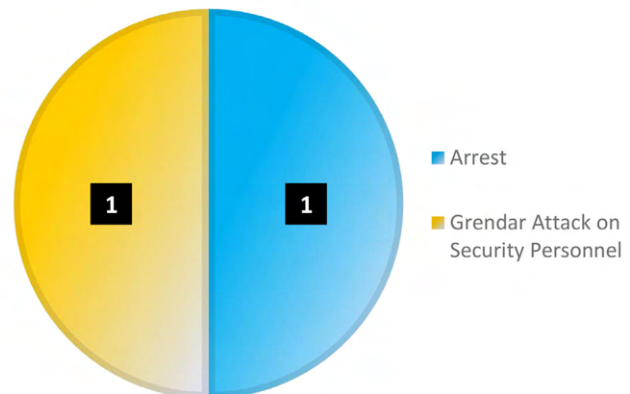


- Kathua



Two tunnels were unearthed by the Indian security forces in the Kathu district. Preliminary reports suggest that it was used for smuggling arms, ammunitions, and terrorists across the border into the Indian territory from Pakistan.

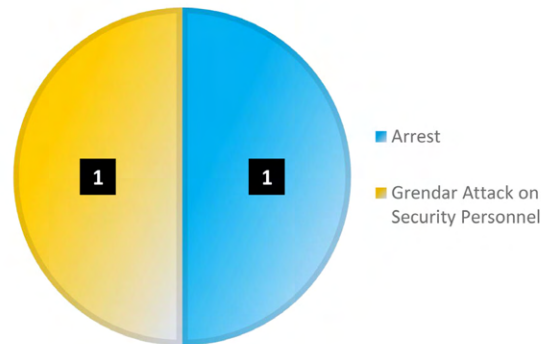
- Kishtwar



There was one incident of arrest in Kishtwar district where one terrorist affiliated with Hizbul Mujahideen was arrested by the Indian security forces. Additionally, in the first quarter of 2021 there was a grenade attack aimed at the security forces. However, no casualties were reported.

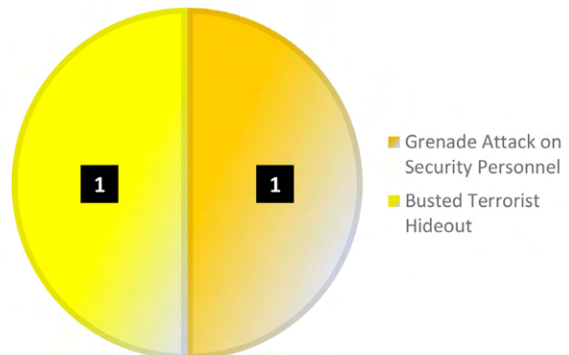


- Kulgam



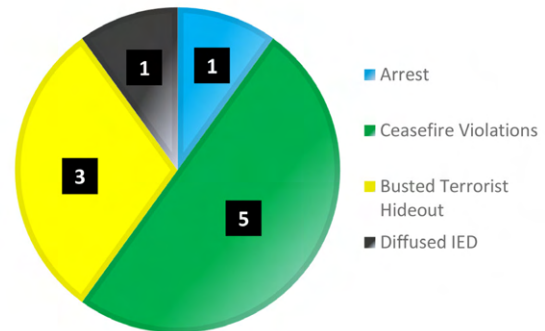
In Kulgam district there was one incident of arrest in which one Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist was arrested. Additionally, there was one incident of grenade attack targeted at the security forces in which one security personnel was severely injured.

- Kupwara



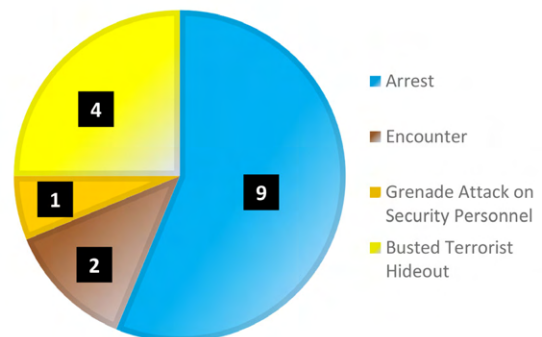
In Kupwara district there was an incident of grenade attack targeted at the security forces. However, no casualties were reported. Additionally, one terrorist hideout was busted in the district.

## • Punch



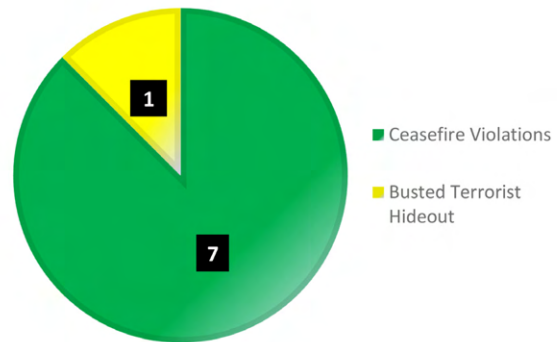
In Punch district there was one incident of arrest in which one terrorist was arrested. There were multiple ceasefire violations in the district on five days. Two security personnel were killed-in-action, there were injured, and a few civilians were also injured due to these violations. Three terrorist hideouts were busted by the armed forces in Punch district. Additionally, one IED was also found and diffused by the forces.

## • Pulwama



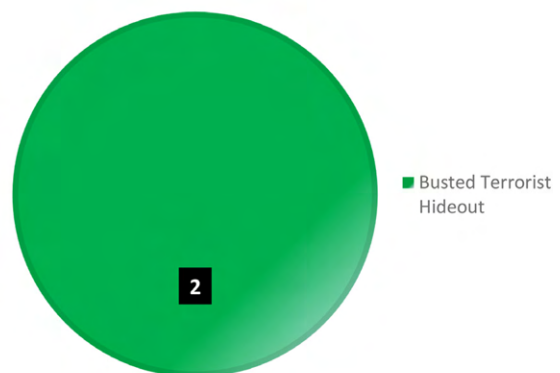
In Pulwama district there were nine incidents of arrests in which a total of 19 terrorists were arrested. Out of these, six were affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba, eight with Jaish-e-Mohammed and the affiliations of five were unidentified at the time of reporting. In two successful encounter operations, three Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists were neutralised by the Indian forces. There was one incident of grenade attack targeted at the security forces in which eight civilians were injured. Additionally, four terrorist hideouts were busted by the forces. Out of which two belonged to Lashkar-e-Taiba, one to Jaish-e-Mohammed and one to Hizbul Mujahideen.

- Rajouri



In Rajouri district there were multiple ceasefire violations on seven days in Rajouri district in the first quarter of 2021. Three Indian security personnel were killed-in-action due to these violations. One terrorist hideout was also busted in the Rajouri district in the period under analysis.

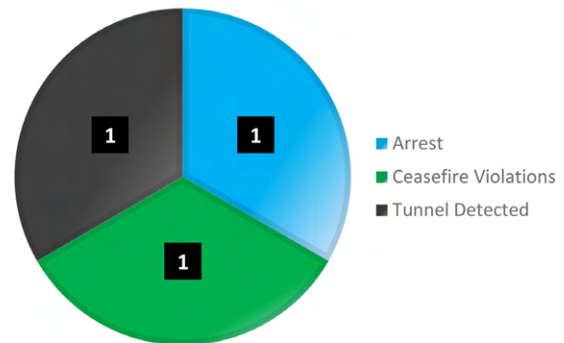
- Riasi



Two terrorist hideouts were busted by the Indian security forces in Riasi district in the first quarter of 2021.

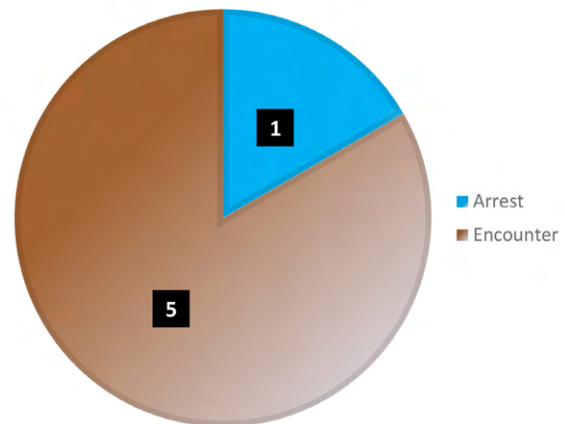


- Samba



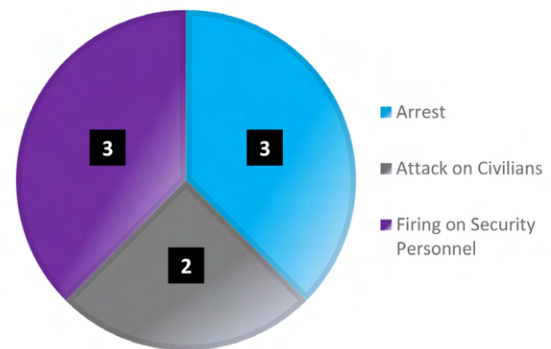
In Samba district there was one incident of arrest in which one terrorist affiliated with The Resistance Force was arrested by the security forces. There were multiple ceasefire violations on one day in Samba district. Additionally, one tunnel was unearthed by the Indian security forces. On preliminary investigation it has been suggested that this tunnel was used for smuggling by the terrorists into the Indian territory.

- Shopian



In Shopian district there was one incident of arrest in which seven Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists were arrested by the security forces. In five successful encounter operations, eleven terrorists were neutralised by the forces. One security personnel were martyred, and another was severely injured during these operations.

- Srinagar



In Srinagar district there were three incidents of arrest in which seven terrorists were arrested by the security forces. Four of these terrorists were affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba and three with Muslim Janbaaz Force. There were two terrorist attacks targeted on civilians in which two civilians were killed. Additionally, there were three incidents of firing on security personnel by the terrorists, two of which were orchestrated by Lashkar-e-Taiba. Four security personnel were killed-in-action and three were severely injured in these firing incidents.

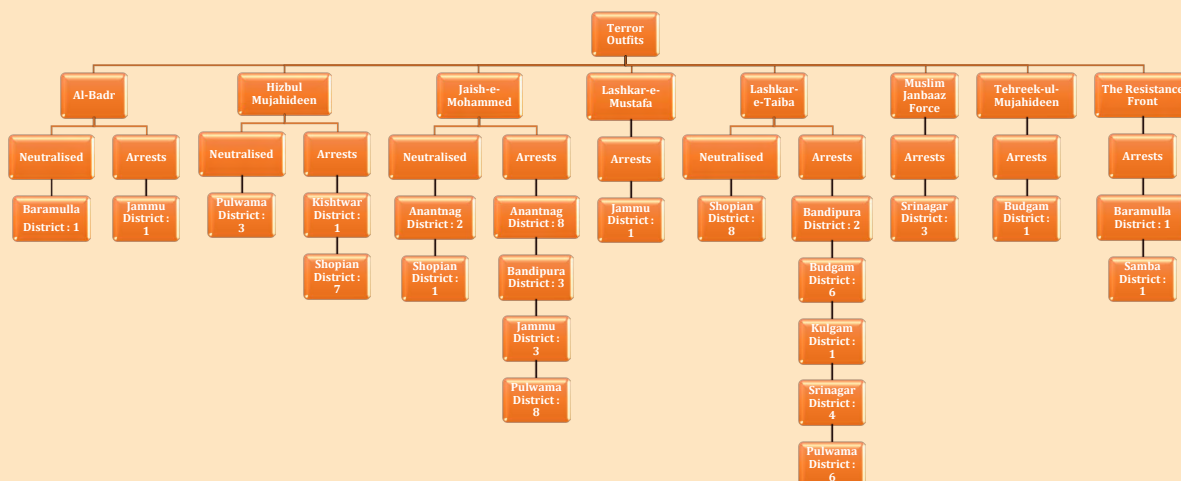


# ANALYSIS - III

## TERROR OUTFIT-WISE

- Al-Badr
- Hizbul Mujahideen
- Jaish-e-Mohammed
- Lashkar-e-Mustafa
- The Resistance Front
- Lashkar-e-Taiba
- Muslim Janbaaz Force
- Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen

# TERROR OUTFIT-WISE ANALYSIS



- **Al Badr** : One terrorist belonging to the Al Badr was neutralised and one was arrested over the three months. The encounter operation concluded in Baramulla district and the arrest was made in Jammu district.
- **Hizbul Mujahideen** : Eight terrorists affiliated with Hizbul Mujahideen were arrested and three were neutralised over January, February, and March 2021. Out of the eight, one terrorist was arrested in Kishtwar district while the remaining seven were arrested in Shopian district. The encounter of three Hizbul terrorist was in Pulwama district.
- **Jaish-e-Mohammed** : A total of three Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist were neutralised over the three months. Out of these, two were in Anantnag district and one in Shopian district. Out of the 22 Jaish terrorists arrested, eight arrests were made in Anantnag district, eight in Pulwama district, three in Bandipura district and three in Jammu district.

- **Lashkar-e-Taiba** : Eight Lashkar terrorists were neutralised, all of which were in Shopian district. A total of 19 Lashkar terrorists were arrested. Two were arrested in Bandipura district, six in Budgam district, one in Kulgam district, four in Srinagar district and six in Pulwama district.
- **The Resistance Front** : One terrorist affiliated with The Resistance Front was arrested in Samba district and another one in Baramulla district in the time spanning over the first quarter of 2021.
- **Lashkar-e-Mustafa** : One terrorist belonging to Lashkar-e-Mustafa was arrested in Jammu district.
- **Muslim Janbaaz Force** : Three terrorist belonging to Muslim Janbaaz Force was arrested in Srinagar district.
- **Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen** : One terrorist belonging to Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen was arrested in Budgam district.





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