

Jammu & Kashmir



SECURITY TRACKER

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2022



SOUMYA CHATURVEDI

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INTRODUCTION

Jammu & Kashmir [J&K] has been regarded as the epi-center of terrorism related violence in India for nearly three decades. The Jammu & Kashmir Security Tracker aims to track the trajectory of the security scenario in the Union Territory [UT] of J&K. The observations reported maybe useful for experts, practitioners, academics, and scholars in understanding the security trends in the UT of J&K. The findings could be beneficial for scholarly research and evidence-based policy prescription.

The first report in the series was a 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. The subsequent reports covered the security scenario between August 2020 to December 2021. The current edition would cover the findings and analysis of the period between January and December 2022. The parameters for observation, methodology of research, data collection and consequently the limitation of the research have been described in detail in the first report and is available on the institution's website.

In this sixth update report, incident-wise observations have been made for terrorist attacks, arrests, anti-terrorist operations, busting terrorist hideouts and recovery of arms, ammunitions and incriminating material, destroying explosives, suspicious drone activities and unprovoked ceasefire violations.

District-wise observations include all the twenty districts in J&K, namely – Anantnag, Bandipora, Baramulla, Budgam, Doda, Ganderbal, Jammu, Kathua, Kishtwar, Kulgam, Kupwara, Punch, Pulwama, Rajouri, Ramban, Riasi, Samba, Shopian, Srinagar and Udhampur.

Additionally, the activities of different terror-outfits have also been quantified and analysed. However, since some outfits are offshoots of the other, often there are discrepancies in reporting. Nonetheless, the activities have been quantified to the extent possible. These outfits include al Badr, al Qaeda, Ansar Gazwat ul Hind, Hizbul Mujahideen, J&K Ghaznavi Force, Jaish-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Toiba, Mujahideen Gazwat ul Hind and The Resistance Front.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Incidents of terrorism-induced violence in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) have witnessed a decline in 2022 from the levels in 2021, reaching the levels of 2020. However, it is pertinent to note that this decline is attributed to decreased number of

attacks targeting the security forces, as the number of attacks on civilians, particularly minorities and migrants have largely remained constant with an increase by two incidents. Of the 32 attacks targeted on civilians, 12 were targeted on non-local migrant labour, four on Kashmiri Pandits, three on political leaders (panch/sarpanch), and two on female working professionals. As regards attacks on security personnel, there was drastic decrease in the number of firing incidents and a marginal decrease in grenade attacks. The number of security personnel killed-in-action as well as injured due to terror attacks, have been lower than the preceding year.

The number of terrorists arrested, including associates, over ground workers, fresh recruits and others, have shown an increase from the previous year. Lashkar-e-Toiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, The Resistance Front and Hizbul Mujahideen have continued to report the most number of arrests. As regards terrorists neutralised in anti-terrorist operations, the data remains nearly the same as in 2021. The first half of 2022 recorded nearly 72% of total number of terrorists neutralised in the year, with the months of April, May and June recording the highest number of killings. The first half of 2022 also reported more terrorist attacks and arrests in J&K. It is important to note that several top commanders and foreign terrorists have been neutralised by the security forces in 2022.

The use of drones by Pakistan to supply weapons, ammunition and drugs to terrorist outfits in India remains a source of concern. Similar use of drones was also made in 2021, largely in the border districts of Jammu, Kathua and Samba of the Jammu Division. The pattern has remained the same in 2022. The security forces reacted promptly against the intrusion of drones from across the border and in most cases, these drones were shot down.

During 2022, many terrorist hideouts were busted leading to the recovery of huge quantities of arms and ammunition. In addition, 16 improvised explosive devices (IED) were detected and diffused, which could potentially have led to huge loss of life. Barring one incident, no

unprovoked ceasefire violations were reported from the India-Pakistan border areas. However, Pakistan continues to use drones to drop arms, ammunition, and drugs into India. Additionally, the infiltration bids from Pakistani side of the border have continued, most of which were successfully foiled by the Indian security forces.

While incidents of terror related violence in 2022 have decreased since 2021, three changes have been observed which merit further attention and analysis. The first of these relate to Udhampur district, which had seen no incidences of violence since 2018. However, in 2022, there were three targeted attacks on civilians in the district, of which at least two were orchestrated by Lashkar-e-Toiba. One civilian was killed in the above attacks while 14 were injured. Additionally, a Lashkar terrorist was also apprehended in the district. While it could be a desperate attempt of the terror outfits to make their presence felt in Udhampur district, the incidents warrant stronger vigilance.

Second, Samba district had in the past, reported bare minimum terror incidents. However, over the course of the last two years, several tunnels/tunnel-like structures have been unearthed along the border with Pakistan, including one in 2022. This suggests the use of tunnels to facilitate the infiltration of terrorists and for smuggling of arms and ammunition. It points to a nefarious strategy of intentionally keeping terror activities to minimum, while building up the capability of terror groups. But the fact that such structures were detected, is indicative of reliable and strong intelligence, along with the determination of Indian security forces and political leadership to eradicate terrorism.

Third, the year has shown an increase in attacks on migrants and non-locals. As opposed to random grenade attacks in civilian areas such as markets, there is growing tendency of targeted civilian attacks in J&K. While they were largely restricted to minorities and political assassinations in the previous years, it has expanded to non-local migrant labour in the past two years. There were two attacks on civilians in Anantnag district and both were on non-local migrant workers. Likewise, the only attack on civilians in Bandipora district, and six of seven attacks on civilians in Pulwama district, were on non-local migrant labour. In Shopian district, three of the six attacks on civilians were on Kashmiri Hindus. While the Indian security forces successfully nabbed the terrorists behind these incidents, it is evident that the terror outfits are intentionally trying to derail the efforts of the government of fostering growth and development of J&K. There is a need for targeted policy interventions by the government to ensure the safety and security of the most vulnerable in the Union Territory.

In terms of district-wise analysis, all 20 districts of J&K reported at least one incident of terrorism over 2022. Due to increased number of attacks, particularly on civilians, situation

in Budgam, Kulgam, Pulwama and Shopian districts were relatively more tensed in 2022 as compared 2021. However, the situation in Baramulla, Jammu, Kupwara, Punch, and Srinagar districts has seen remarkable improvement. There was a near status quo in the situation of Anantnag and Bandipora district. The *fidayeen* attack in Rajouri district however raises serious concerns.

In terms of terrorist outfits, 2022 was largely dominated by the elimination of terrorists affiliated with Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), followed by Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and The Resistance Front (TRF). It must be noted that the smaller terrorist outfits such as TRF are directly or indirectly with larger outfits such as the LeT and thus, while reporting the incidents, the affiliations of the terrorists are not clear. Therefore, there may be some discrepancy in the statistics in terrorist outfit-wise analysis.

Prognosis: The top leadership of terror outfits are increasingly being eliminated, leaving behind cadres without the skill to plan or orchestrate attacks. This, along with increased vigilance and targeted operations by the security forces, weakening of local support to terrorist outfits from within the UT of J&K as well as by their sponsors from abroad could result in more arrests and anti-terrorist operations. The threat of drones, weapons left behind in Afghanistan, and narcoterrorism being used by terrorist groups will however remain a cause of concern.

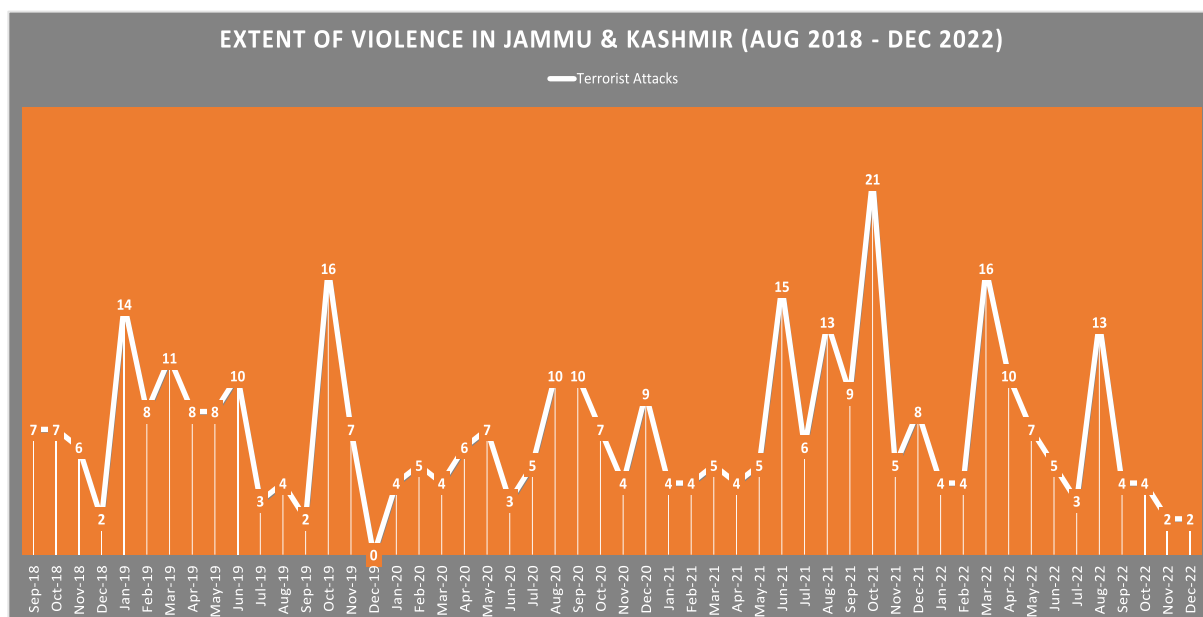
The forthcoming General Elections in 2024 and possible state elections in J&K could be used by terrorist groups to strike at civilian and military targets to create fear and panic amongst the public and to discredit the democratic process. This would need to be carefully monitored. The developments in Pakistan would also need to be watched as this could have an impact on the security situation in India. How India engages with the Afghan Taliban could also influence in part, the developing security narrative in the UT of J&K.

ANALYSIS - I

INCIDENT-WISE

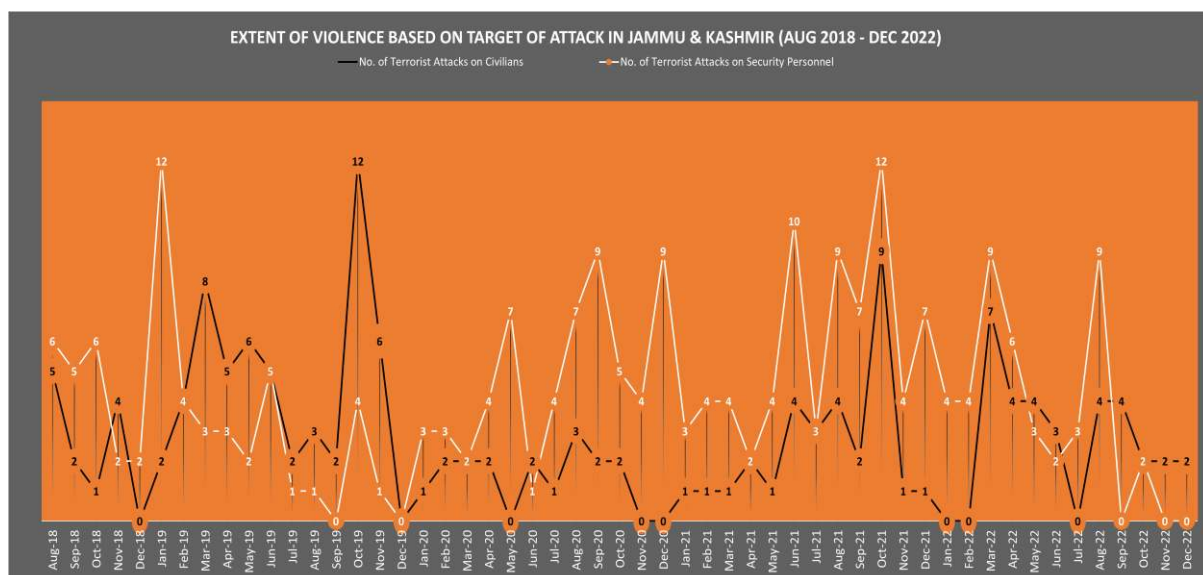
- Terrorist Attack
- Arrest
- Anti-terrorist Operations
- Miscellaneous Incidents
- Unprovoked Ceasefire violation

• Terrorist Attack



The extent of terrorist attacks in J&K in 2022 has seen a decline when compared to the situation in 2021. While nearly 74 terrorist attacks were observed in 2022, 2021 witnessed nearly 100 attacks and 2020 saw 75 attacks. These attacks included targeted attacks on civilians and security forces.

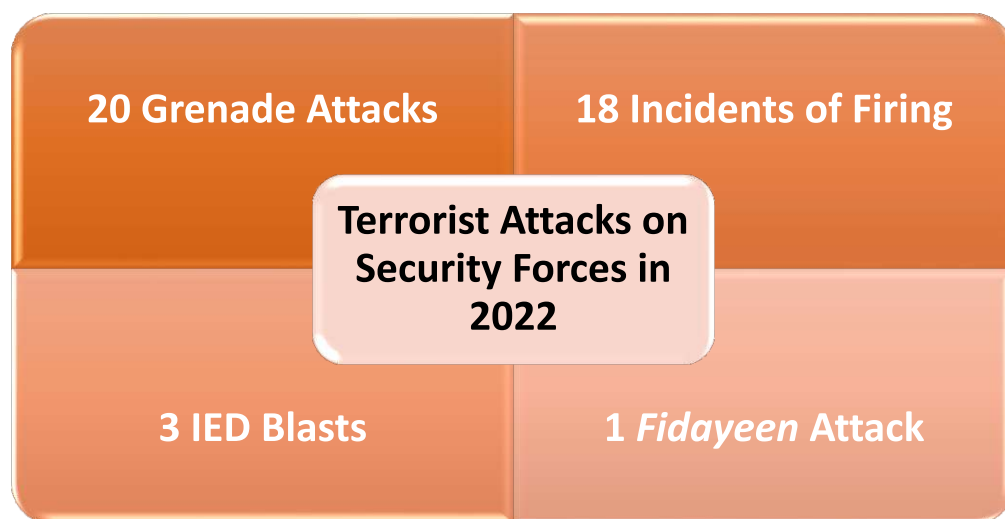
Of the twelve months in consideration in this Report, March followed by August witnessed the most number of attacks amounting to a total of 29. As evident in the graph, the third quarter of years in the past have generally been the most violent months in J&K. However, it is pertinent to note that the violence seen the first quarter of 2022, particularly that of March 2022 has been nearly double as opposed to the situation at least the past three years.



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

Based on the target of attack, there were 32 terrorist attacks targeted on the civilians in 2022. When compared to the past three years, 2022 witnessed the most number of attacks on civilians. In the 2020, the figure was 17, while in 2021 it rose to 30. In total targeted attacks on civilians in 2022, 19 civilians were killed and more than 38 were injured. The most number of attacks on civilians took place in March, wherein 5 civilians were killed and 16 were injured in 7 targeted attacks.

Of the 19 civilians killed, three were panch and sarpanch from Srinagar, Kulgam and Baramulla districts. Four were Kashmiri Pandits, of which three were attacked in Shopian and one in Budgam district. Of the 32 attacks, at least 11 were targeted on non-local migrant labourer working in Pulwama, Kulgam, Budgam, Bandipora, Shopian, and Anantnag districts, resulting in killings of 5 civilians and at least 15 were left injured. In May 2022, two attacks were orchestrated on women. In Kulgam district, a Hindu women teacher was called out by the terrorists and shot dead and in Budgam district, Lashkar-e-Toiba claimed the responsibility of killing a female Kashmiri TV artiste and injuring her nephew.



As regards targeted attacks on security forces, there have been 42 terrorist attacks in 2022. This is considerably low when compared with the nearly 70 attacks orchestrated on security forces in 2021 and 58 attacks in 2020. In the 42 attacks in 2022, at least 19 security personnel were killed and 36 were injured, 5 civilians were killed and nearly 41 were injured, and around 2 terrorists were killed while orchestrating attacks on the security forces. The casualty figures from targeted attacks on security forces in 2022 have been low as compared to the figures from 2021, wherein at least 21 security personnel were killed and 54 were injured.

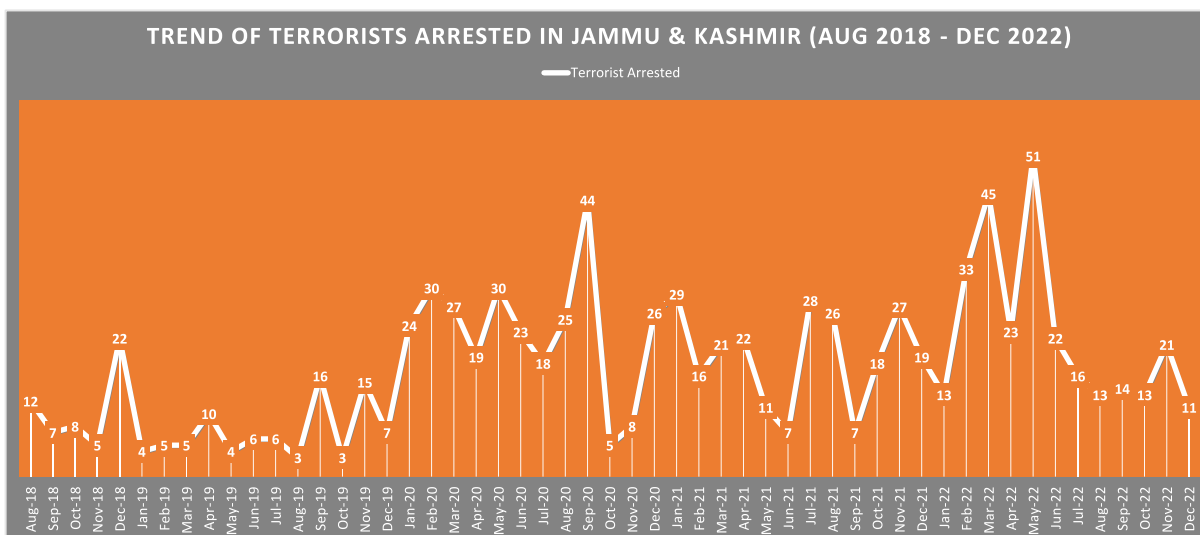
Based on the mode of attack, the terrorist attack on security forces can be divided into (i) grenade attack, (ii) incident of firing, (iii) IED blast, and (iv) *fidayeen* or suicide attack. In 2022, at least 20

grenade attacks, 18 firing incidents, 3 IED blasts and 1 *fidayeen* attack targeting the security forces were reported. In 2021, there were nearly 29 grenade attacks, 40 firing incidents and 1 IED blast. Although the total number of attacks on the security forces reduced in 2022, it is instructive to note that in both 2021 and 2022, the most number of grenade attacks and incidents of firing were reported from the Srinagar district.

● Arrest

A total of 275 terrorists were arrested in 2022. Additionally, few more terrorist associates and over-ground workers were arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in relation to narco-terrorism and terror-financing. However, an exact number could not be ascertained. Over the past three years, there has been a slight variation in the number of terrorists arrested. In 2020 the figure was around 279 and in 2021 it was 231.

Of the 275 terrorists arrested in 2022, 125 with affiliated with Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), 44 with Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), 20 with The Resistance Front (TRF), 10 with Hizbul Mujahideen (HM), 9 with al Badr, 4 with Ansar Gazwat ul Hind (AGuH), 2 with J&K Ghaznavi Force (JKGF), 2 with al Qaeda, and 1 with Mujahideen Gazwat ul Hind (MGuH). The affiliations of nearly 58 terrorists were not ascertained at the time of reporting of



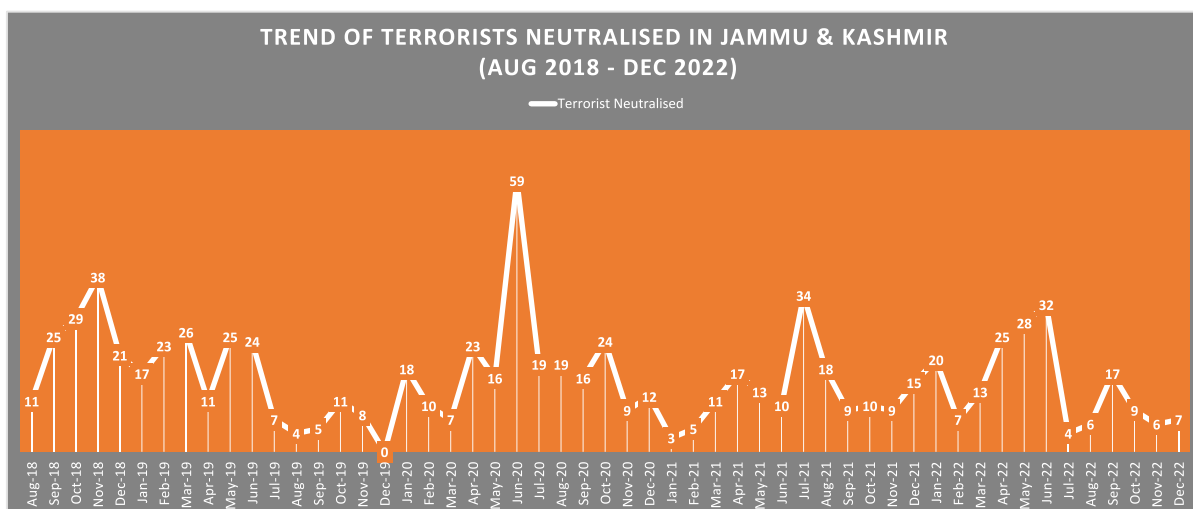
the arrests. While the arrest of 125 LeT terrorists dominated the data in 2022, in 2021 the largest chunk on terrorists arrested belonged to JeM, constituting 100 out of 231 terrorists.

A massive surge of terrorist arrests was observed in J&K since the September of 2019. Barring a few months, this momentum of arrests has continued till December 2022. While there is a slight surge in the data when compared with the figures of 2021, May 2022 recorded the most number of arrests in J&K at least since August 2018, with 51 terrorists arrested. A similar pattern of heightened arrests was also seen in the months of February and March 2022.

• Anti-terrorist Operations



The security forces neutralised around 174 terrorists in 112 anti-terrorist operations in 2022. Out of these, 13 belonged to HM, 38 to JeM, 73 to LeT, 16 to TRF, four to Al Badr, and three to Ansar Gazwat ul Hind. The affiliations of nearly 27 terrorists were not ascertained at the time of reporting of the anti-terrorist operations. Additionally, two LeT terrorists surrendered to the security forces in Kulgam district. In these operations, nine security force personnel were killed-in-action and at least 25 were injured. In the crossfires by the terrorists, two civilians were also killed, while at least eight were injured.



An analysis of terrorists neutralised in J&K since August 2018 until December 2022, suggests a downward trend, although the terrorists neutralised in 2021 and 2022 is nearly the same. The first half of 2022 recorded nearly 72% of total number of terrorists neutralised in the year, with the months of April, May and June recording the highest numbers as opposed to previous months. It was generally observed that most terrorists are neutralised between the months of March and July. The trend has continued in 2022, with drastic reduction in numbers in the following months.

• Miscellaneous Incidents

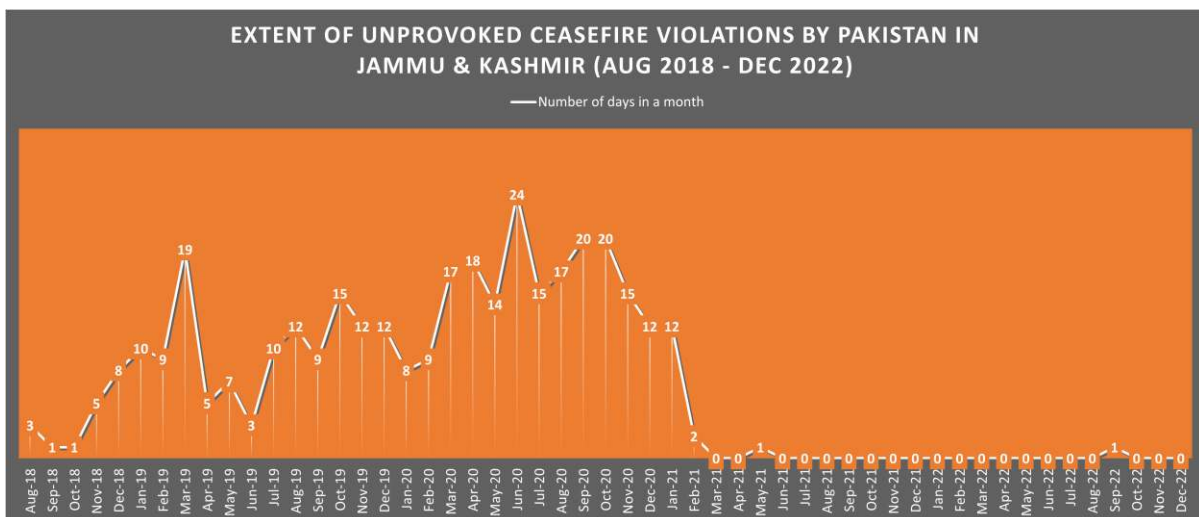
In 2022, Indian security forces busted at least 26 terrorist hideouts, and recovered arms, ammunitions, and incriminating material. Over the year, 16 explosives were diffused and destroyed. A total of 13 incidents of suspicious drone activities were also reported in J&K, of which 10 were spotted in Jammu district, 2 in Samba district and 1 in Kathu district. In the past two years, while drone activities have increased, Jammu district continues to record the most number of activities followed by Samba district. Additionally, a tunnel was also detected in Samba district. In the past three years, three tunnels and tunnel-like structures have been unearthed in Samba.

26 Terrorist Hideouts Busted

16 Explosives Diffused

13 Suspicious Drone Activities

• Unprovoked Ceasefire Violation



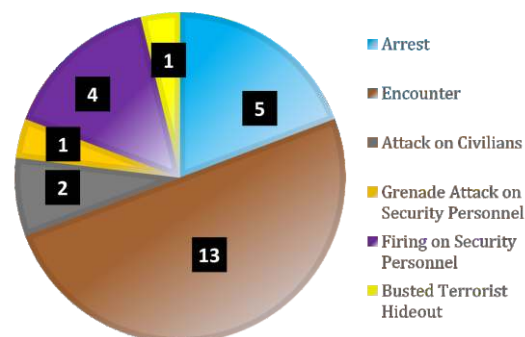
There was an unprecedented surge in the unprovoked ceasefire violation by Pakistan since October 2019. However, in the aftermath of agreement between the militaries of both the countries to observe the ceasefire agreement of 2003, the number of such violations has reduced to zero. The only exception to this was observed in Samba district where unprovoked ceasefire violations were seen on one day in the month of May 2021 and one incident in Jammu district in September 2022. However, several infiltration bids were foiled by the Indian security forces along the shared borders of Baramulla, Jammu, Kupwara, Poonch, Rajouri and Samba districts in 2022.

ANALYSIS - II

DISTRICT-WISE

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

• Anantnag



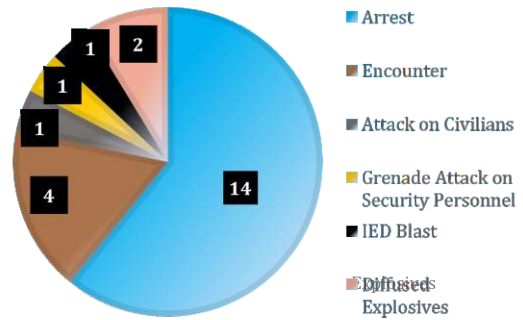
In the Anantnag district there were five incidents of arrests, in which 16 terrorists were arrested. There were 13 successful anti-terrorist operations in which 20 terrorists were neutralised and around three security personnel were injured. It is imperative to note that two of the terrorists neutralised were top commanders of Hizbul Mujahideen and one of them was also the longest surviving commander. Additionally, a top commander of Lashkar-e-Toiba was also killed in the anti-terrorist operation undertaken by the security forces in the district.

There were two terrorist attacks targeted on civilians in which four civilians were injured. All the four civilians were non-local migrant labourer working in the district. There were four incidents of firing on the security forces, in which one personnel was killed and 2 were severely injured. There was one incident of grenade attacks on the security forces, however, there were no casualties. Additionally, there was one incident of recovering arms and ammunitions in the district.

When compared with the security scenario of Anantnag district in 2021, the situation remains largely unchanged. On each of the indices explained above, the figure for 2021 is low only by an incident or two. This indicates that terrorism continues to have a comparatively strong presence in Anantnag district. Although the elimination of top commanders in 2022 in the district could have positive ramifications.

• Bandipura

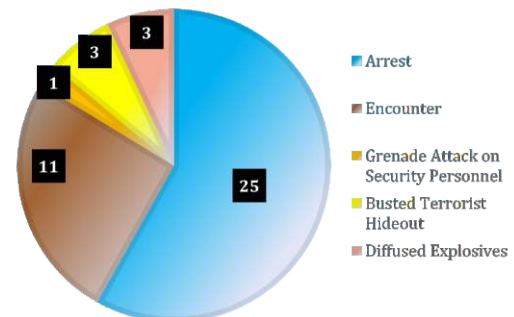
In Bandipura district there were 14 incidents of arrest in which 34 terrorists were apprehended. There were four successful anti-terrorist operations in the district in which five terrorists were neutralised. Of these five, at least two were foreign terrorists. One attack was orchestrated targeting a civilian in which one non-local migrant labour was killed.



In one incident of grenade attack targeted on the security forces, 1 security personnel was killed and around four other were injured. Additionally, there was one incident of IED blast with no reported casualty and two incidents of IEDS being diffused by the security forces.

In 2021, barring the number of terrorists arrested, there is a status quo in the security scenario of Bandipura district. In the previous year, around 17 terrorists were apprehended from the district, which half the number of 2022. Increased number of arrests along with no substantial increase in number of terrorists attacks, despite the two unfortunate events mentioned above, is indicative of the strong and reliable intelligence of the security forces in the district.

• Baramulla

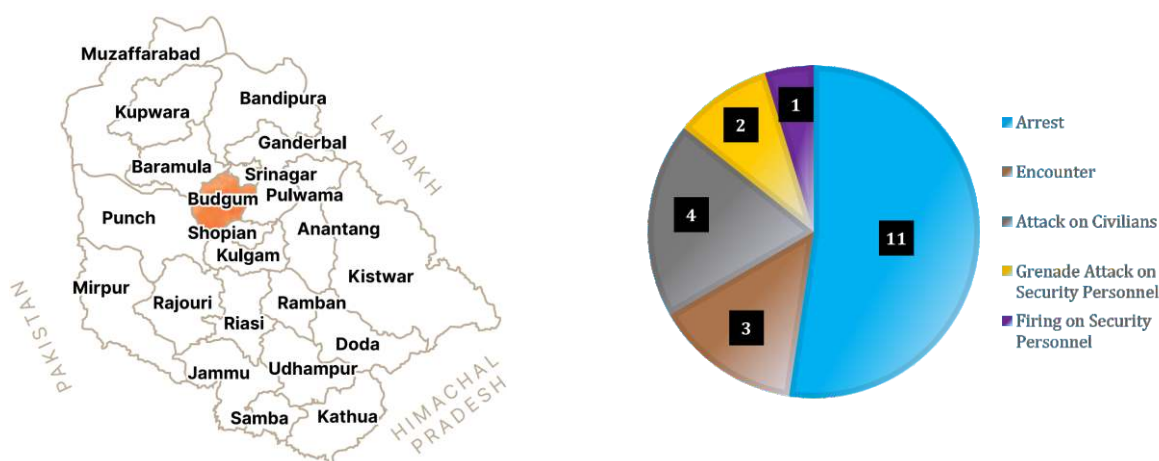


In Baramulla district there were 25 incidents of arrest in which 51 terrorists were arrested. In 11 successful anti-terrorist operation, 17 terrorists were neutralised, and one was arrested. During these operations, two security personnel were killed-in-action, around eight were injured and two civilians were also injured. There were two targeted attacks on the civilians, in which two civilians were killed and two were injured. Of the two civilians killed, one was a sarpanch elected as an independent candidate and was not affiliated with any political party. The other incident was a grenade attack on a wine shop in the Dewan Bagh area.

There was only one incident of grenade attack on security personnel, where the attacker was a burqa-clad woman, and the target was a CRPF bunker. No casualties were reported from the incident. Three incidents of busting terrorist hideouts and recovering arms, ammunitions and incriminating material were reported in 2022 from Baramulla district along with three incidents of diffusing explosives. Additionally, at least one infiltration bid was also foiled in the district and around three terrorists were killed by the Indian security forces.

When compared with the security scenario of 2021, it appears as though the terrorists are losing their grip in the Baramulla district. A substantial surge is seen in number of terrorists arrested, anti-terrorist operations undertaken, and number of terrorists neutralised. This is supplemented with a decline in number of targeted attacks on security personnel. However, it is important to note that in the past two years, the attack on the sarpanch was the third political assassination in the district. In 2021, two councilors were killed by terrorists in Baramulla district.

• Budgam



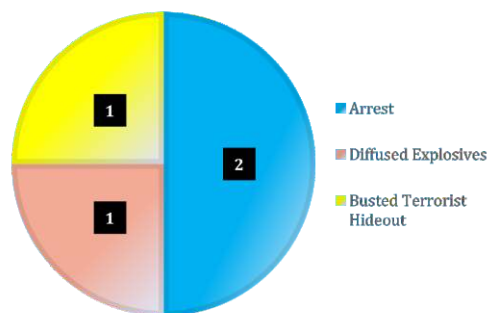
In Budgam district there were 11 incidents of arrest in which 22 terrorists were arrested. There were three successful anti-terrorist operations, and at least seven terrorists were neutralised. There were four incidents of attacks on civilians, in which four civilians were killed and another two were injured. Of the three incidents, one was a targeted attack on a Kashmiri Pandit, who was a government employee; one was a targeted attack on a female TV artiste and her nephew was injured during the firing; and one was a targeted attack on non-local migrant labours, wherein two were severely injured and eventually one succumbed to the injuries.

With regards to targeted attacks on security personnel, there were two grenade attacks and one incident of firing. In the grenade attack, one security personnel and one civilian were injured. In the firing incident, one security personnel and one civilian were killed. The deceased were a Special Police Officer and his brother, and they were fired upon by the terrorists at their residence in Chadbugh area of the district.

As opposed to the previous year, the increased number of attacks targeting civilians raises grave concerns. In 2021, one civilian was killed in a single incident of targeted attack on civilians. As

regards anti-terrorist operations, number of terrorists neutralised and firing on security personnel, there has been a marginal increase in 2022. It could be inferred that there is an attempt by terror outfits to destabilize the security of the district.

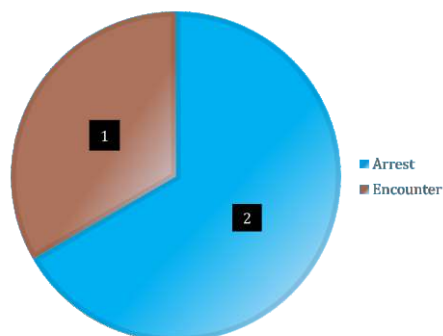
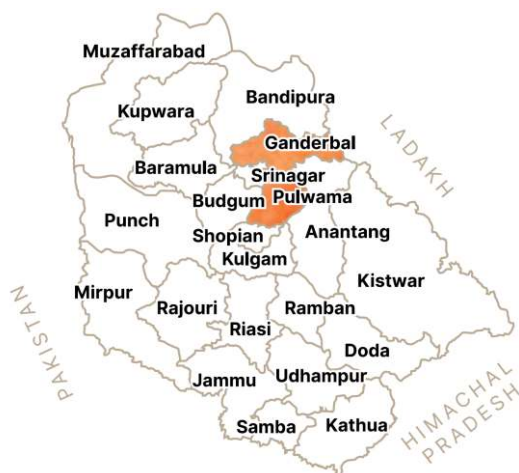
• Doda



In 2022, two terrorists were apprehended in two incidents. Additionally, one incident of busting of terrorist hideout and one incident of diffusing explosives was reported from the Doda district. It was also reported that a major tragedy was averted in the district by timely detection and diffusing of IED.

In comparison to the situation of 2021, the security scenario of the district appears to be largely contained. In the previous year, at least one incident of grenade attack targeted on security forces was reported from the district. However, no attacks were reported in 2022.

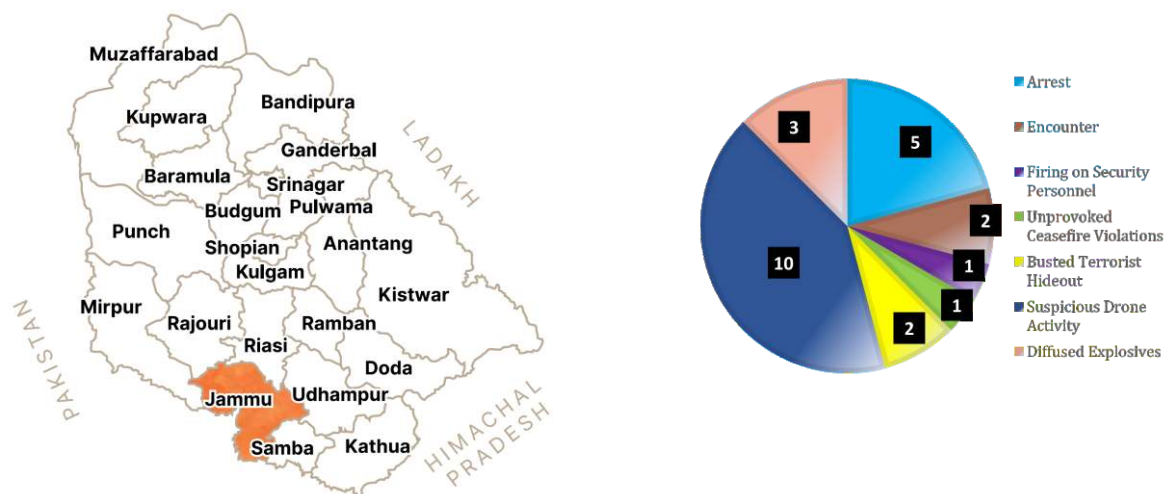
• Ganderbal



There were two incidents of arrest in the Ganderbal district, where in four terrorists were arrested by the security forces. Additionally, one successful anti-terrorist operation was undertaken in which one terrorist was killed.

After 2019, 2022 recorded the first successful anti-terrorist operation undertaken by the security forces in the Ganderbal district. This is suggestive of strong and reliable intelligence available with the local administration and their quick response.

• Jammu



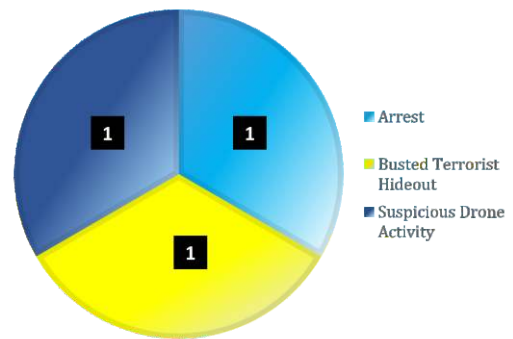
In Jammu district there were five incidents of arrest in which 13 terrorists were arrested. In two successful anti-terrorist operations, six terrorists were neutralised by the security forces. During these operations, one security personnel was killed-in-action and around four others were injured. There was one incident of firing on security forces in which one personnel was killed, while two others were severely injured.

Jammu district recorded the highest number of suspicious drone activities with 10 incidents. In at least seven instances, the Indian security forces foiled infiltration bids and neutralised at least four terrorists, while also arresting two others. Additionally, two terrorist hideouts were busted in the district and arms, ammunitions, and incriminating material were recovered.

At least three incidents of detecting and diffusing explosives were also reported from the district. On one occasion unprovoked ceasefire violation was also reported. However, it was immediately followed by a flag meeting between the Indian and Pakistani authorities, and it remained an isolated incident.

When compared with the security scenario of the district in 2021, the issue of suspicious drone spotting continues to be a challenge as even in 2021, 11 such incidents were reported. In February 2022, timely response by the security forces resulted in averting a major terror plot. A huge consignment of arms and ammunition dropped by drones was recovered by the forces and for first time it was found that chemical in liquid form was part of the consignment. It is also interesting to note that after 2020, the first anti-terrorist operation undertaken in the district was in April 2022, when the Indian security forces neutralised two JeM terrorists who were involved the plan of sabotaging the first visit of the hon'ble Prime Minister to the J&K after the abrogation of the special status of J&K.

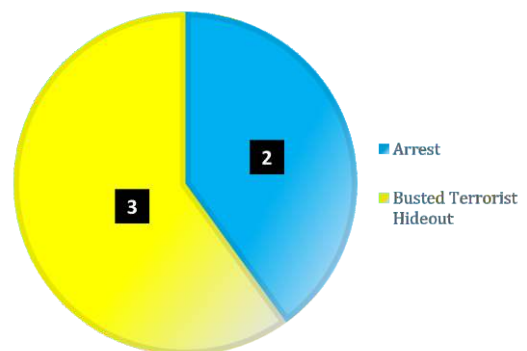
- Kathua



In 2022, at least two terrorists were arrested in two incidents from the district. A single incident of suspicious drone spotting was also recorded. Additionally, one incident of busting of terrorist hideout and recovery of arms, ammunitions and incriminating material was recorded in the Kathua district.

Kathua has remained a near 'terrorism-free' district, even when compared with the security scenario of the district in 2021. In 2021, two tunnels were detected in the district and one suspicious drone activity was spotted. No attacks or anti-terrorist operations have been reported from the district, at least since August 2018.

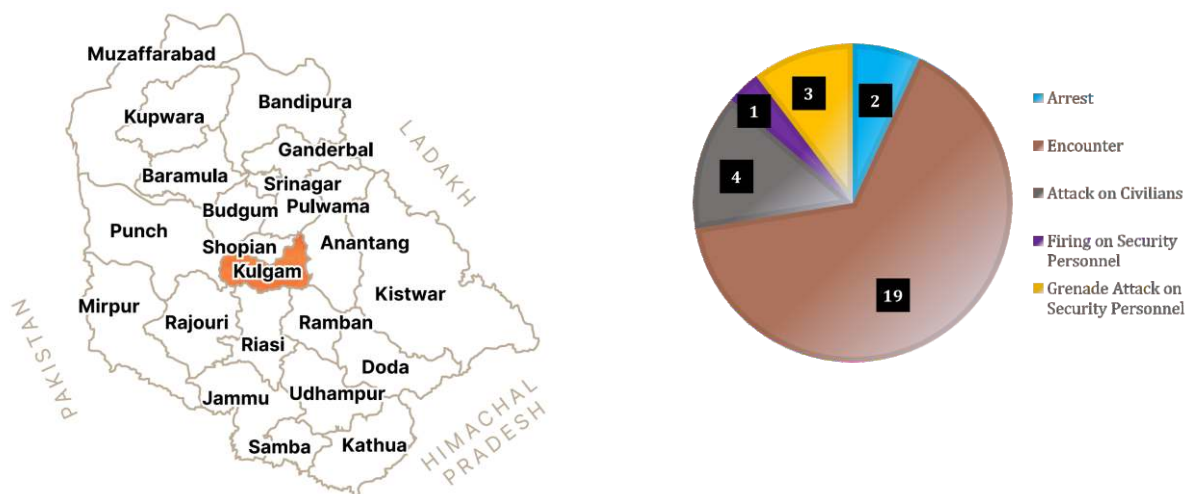
- Kishtwar



In Kishtwar district, there were two incidents of arrest in which two terrorists were apprehended. Additionally, three incidents of busting of terrorist hideouts and recovery of arms, ammunitions and incriminating material was recorded in the district.

Terrorism related incidents have rarely been witnessed in Kishtwar district since January 2021 when the last attack was reported. It was grenade attack targeted on the security forces with no casualties. Since then, arrests and busting of terrorist hideouts have been the only kind of activities reported from Kishtwar district.

• Kulgam

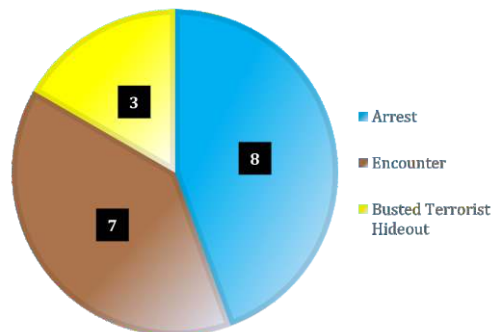


In Kulgam district there were two incidents of arrest in which four terrorists were arrested. There were 19 successful anti-terrorist operations in the district in which 23 terrorists were neutralised and two other terrorists had surrendered. During the operations, one security personnel was killed-in-action and at least five other personnel were severely injured. In the indiscriminate firing by the terrorists during the operations, one civilian was also killed and around four other received injuries.

There were four incidents of terrorist attacks targeted on civilians in which three civilians were killed and one was severely injured. Of the three civilians killed, one was the sarpanch of Audora area and another was a Hindu female teacher from Gopalpora area. The severely injured civilian was a non-local migrant bank manager working in Kulgam district. As regards the targeted attacks on the security forces, there was one incident of firing on the forces, however, a civilian was killed in it. There were also three grenade attacks, in which one security personnel was killed-in action and three civilians were injured.

Targeted attacks on civilians is a serious concern in the Kulgam district. Since 2021 and 2022, there have been three political assassinations and four attacks on non-local migrant labours. 2022 also witnessed a substantial surge in not just the number of successful anti-terrorist operations, but also in the number of terrorists being neutralised by the security forces. As regards the targeted attacks on the security forces, by and large the number of attacks were constant at 5 attacks in both 2021 and 2022.

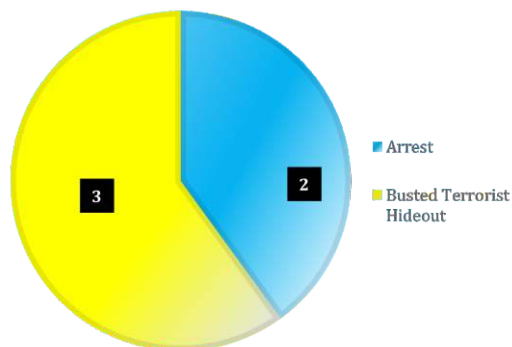
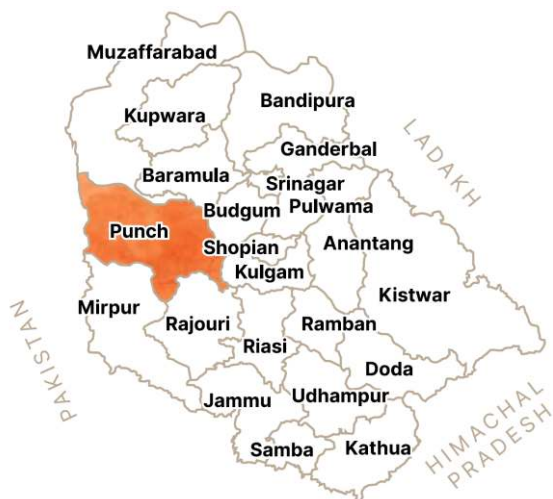
- Kupwara



In Kupwara district there were eight incidents of arrests in which 20 terrorists were arrested. There were seven successful anti-terrorist operations in the district in which 13 terrorists were neutralised and one security personnel was killed-in-action. Three terrorist hideouts were also busted by the security forces and arms, ammunitions and incriminating material were recovered. Additionally, at least five infiltration bids were foiled by the Indian security forces and around eight terrorists were neutralised.

In terms of terrorist attacks, whether targeted on civilians or security personnel, the figures had been low in 2021 and zero incidents were reported in 2022. As regards, successful anti-terrorist operations and number of terrorists neutralised, there has been substantial increase in 2022. This along with busting of hideouts and foiling of infiltration bids indicates strong and reliable intelligence with the security forces.

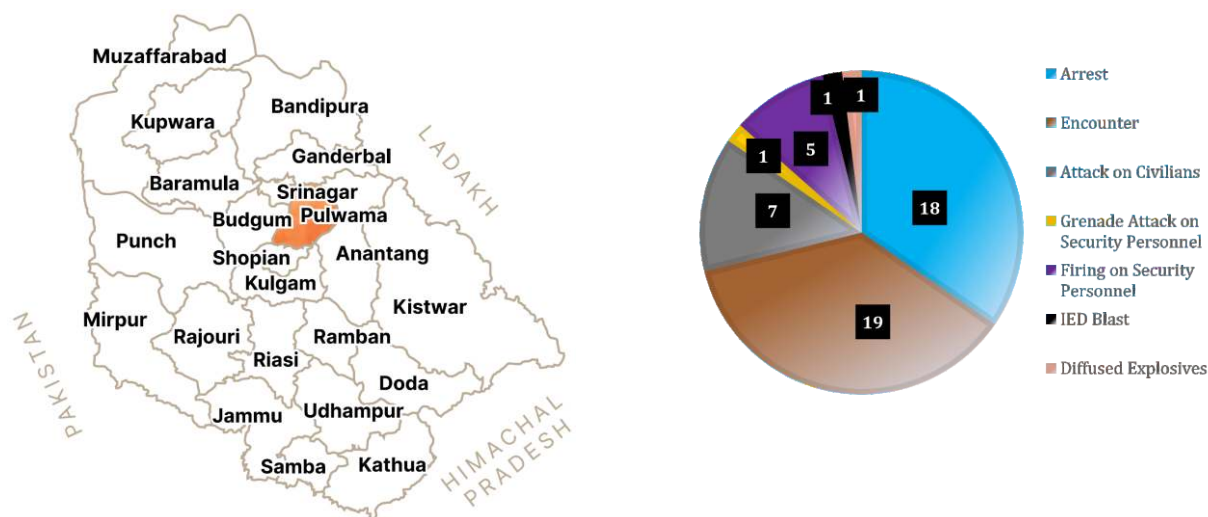
- Punch



In Punch district two incidents of arrests were reported in which two terrorists were arrested. At least three infiltration bids were foiled by the Indian security forces and one terrorist was neutralised. Additionally, three terrorist hideouts were busted, and huge cache of arms and ammunitions were recovered from the district.

Before the meeting of Indian and Pakistani authorities to uphold the ceasefire agreement, the district used to record unparalleled ceasefire violations, particularly after the abrogation of the special status of J&K. However, with the no unprovoked ceasefire violations, the security scenario of the district has become more stable. While an isolated incident of firing on security personnel was recorded in the last quarter of 2021, no attacks, either on civilians or security personnel, were recorded in 2022.

• Pulwama



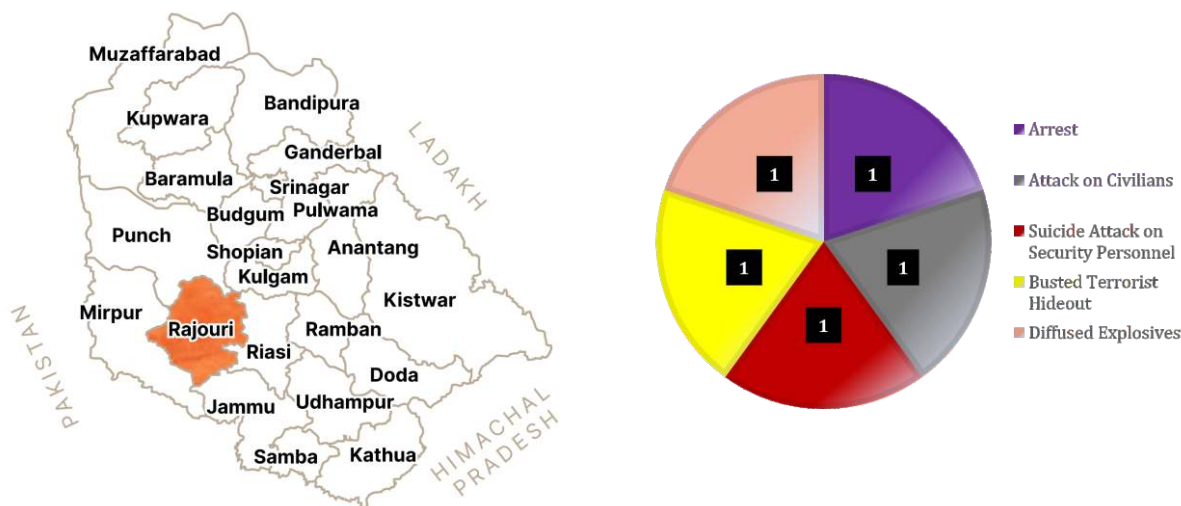
In Pulwama district there were 18 incidents of arrest in which 52 terrorists were arrested. In 19 successful anti-terrorist operations, 37 terrorists were neutralised, and one security personnel was injured. There were seven terrorist attacks on civilians in which one civilian was killed and nearly ten were injured. Except for one attack which was targeted on a bank employee, all the attacks were targeted on non-local migrant labours working in different areas within the Pulwama district.

There were five incidents of firing on the security forces, in which five security personnel were killed-in-action and another three were injured. One incident of grenade attacks targeted on security forces left two security personnel injured. An IED blast also took place in the district, in which two security personnel were severely injured. Two incidents of timely detecting and diffusing of explosives by the security forces were also reported from Pulwama district.

The security scenario of Pulwama has continued to remain tensed, when compared with situation in 2021. While the arrests and terrorists neutralised have remained unchanged, the figures are one of the highest when compared with the other districts. It is pertinent to note that

while the incidents targeted attacks on civilian increased from 4 in 2021 to 7 in 2022, there were more civilian injuries than killings in 2022. Moreover, while in 2021 there were attacks on political leaders and former special police officers, in 2022 there was an overwhelming number of attacks on non-local migrants in the district.

• Rajouri



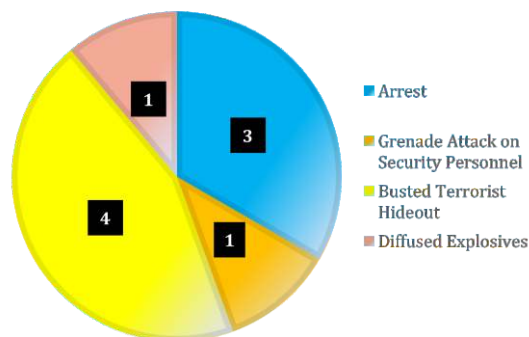
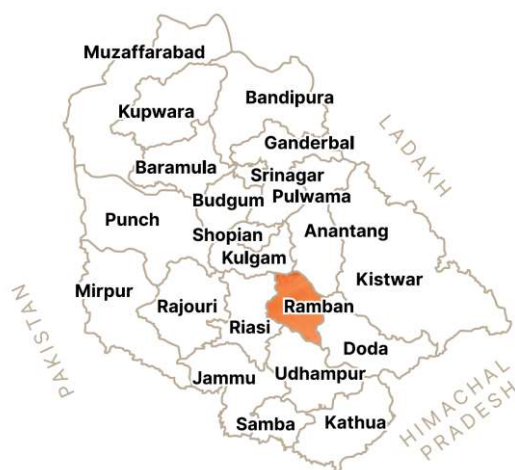
In Rajouri district, there was one incident of arrest in which two terrorists were apprehended. In one incident of targeted attack on security personnel, two civilians were killed near the military hospital. It is pertinent to note that an incident fidayeen or suicide attack targeted on security forces was also orchestrated in the district in 2022. Three security personnel were killed-in-action, another three were severely injured and the terrorist orchestrating the attack were killed in it.

An incident of busting of terrorist hideout and recovering arms, ammunitions and incriminating material was reported from Rajouri. One incident of timely detection and diffusing of explosives by the security forces also took place in the district. Additionally, at least four incidents of foiling of infiltration bid were also reported, in which around five terrorists were killed.

Up until the meeting between the Indian and Pakistani authorities to uphold the 2003 ceasefire agreement, number of unprovoked ceasefire violations and casualties due to it were high in Rajouri district. Zero ceasefire violations in 2022, along with other factors have decreased the security tensions in Rajouri district. However, the fidayeen attack raises serious concerns.

• Ramban

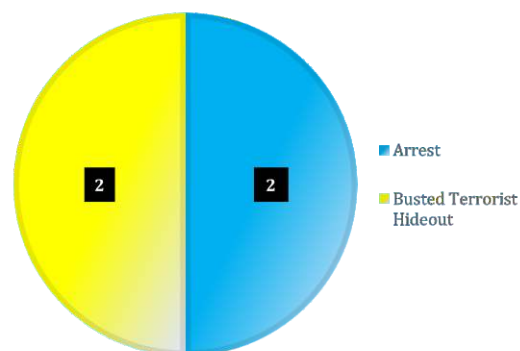
In Ramban district, there were three incidents of arrest in which five terrorists were apprehended. There was one incident of grenade attack targeted on security personnel. However, no casualties were reported. Four incidents of busting terrorist hideouts and recovering arms,



ammunitions and incriminating material were reported from the district. Additionally, one incident of timely detection and diffusing of explosives by the security forces was also reported.

Since August 2018, barely any significant terror incident has taken place in Ramban district. In 2019 there was successful anti-terrorist operation in the district. No incidents were reported from the district in 2020. In 2021, one incident of grenade attack on security personnel was reported. Given these incidents and the situation in 2022, it may be possible that there is an attempt by the terror outfits to make their presence felt in Ramban district. However, timely action by the Indian security forces has contained their activities.

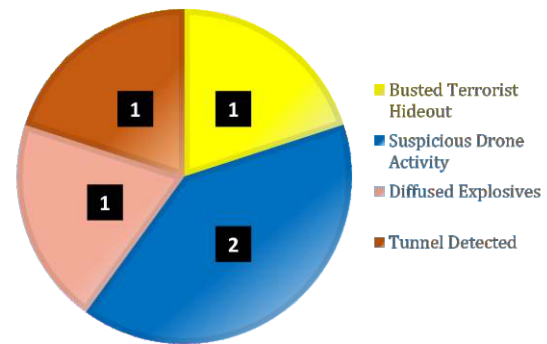
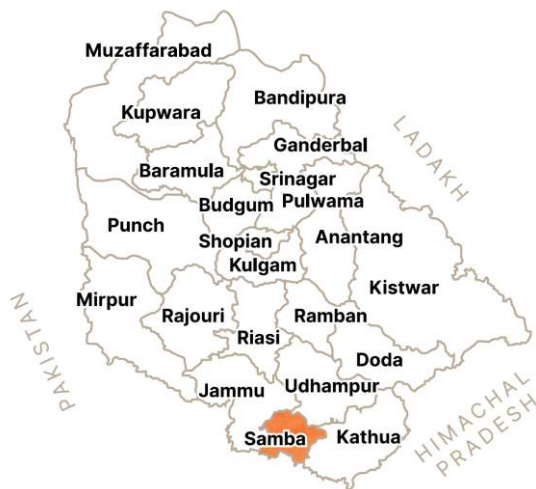
- Riasi



Three terrorists were apprehended in two incidents of arrest in Riasi district. Additionally, three terrorist hideouts were busted by the Indian security forces and arms, ammunitions and incriminating materials were recovered.

Since 2020, only terror-related incidents reported from Riasi district have been occasional arrests and busting of terrorist hideouts. Thus, Riasi has largely been a terrorism-free district.

• Samba

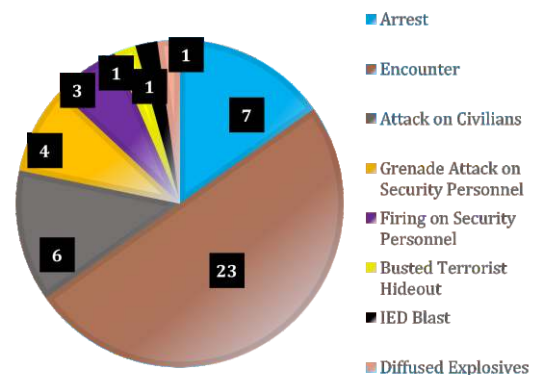


In Samba district there were two instances in which suspicious activities of drones were spotted by the Indian security forces. Following the arrest of two terrorists in Jammu district, the security forces unearthed a tunnel in Samba district that was possibly used by the terrorist to infiltrate into the Indian territory.

A terrorist hideout was busted, and arms, ammunitions, and incriminating materials were recovered in the district. One incident of timely detection and diffusing of explosives was reported. Additionally, at least one incident of foiling of infiltration bid was reported from the Samba district, wherein three terrorists were killed by the Indian security forces.

Incidents like spotting of suspicious drone activities and unearthing of tunnels have been reported in the past from Samba district. Barring an isolated incident of grenade attack, no terrorist attacks have been reported. It could be inferred that terrorists have used Samba district for the purposes of infiltration, while purposefully avoiding escalation of tensions to avoid detection. However, quick response of the Indian security forces has disrupted such nefarious designs.

• Shopian

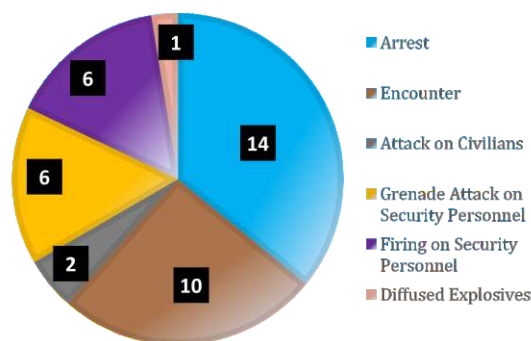


In Shopian district there were seven incidents of arrest, where 12 terrorists were apprehended. In 23 successful anti-terrorist operations, 27 terrorists were neutralised, two security personnel were killed-in-action, and one civilian lost their life due to the indiscriminate firing by the terrorists. There were six incidents of targeted attacks on civilians in which four civilians were killed and another three were injured. Of the six attacks, three were targeted on Kashmiri Pandits, in which two were killed and two sustained severe injuries. One attack was targeted on two non-local migrant labours, both of whom were killed in the attack.

As regards attacks targeted on security personnel, there three incidents of firing, four grenade attacks, and one IED blast. One security personnel was injured in the grenade attacks. In the IED blast, one security personnel was killed-in-action and two others were injured. In the firing incidents, one security personnel and one civilian were killed, and one personnel and one civilian were injured. Additionally, one busting of terrorist hideout and one timely detection and diffusing of explosives was reported from Shopian district.

When compared with the situation in 2021, an increase is seen in terrorist attacks targeted on both, civilians and security forces. In 2021, there was one attack on civilians, which rose to six in 2022. Likewise, there were four attacks on security forces in 2021, which rose to eight in 2022. It indicates that terror outfits continue to hold a relatively stronger presence in Shopian district, as opposed to other districts in J&K.

• Srinagar



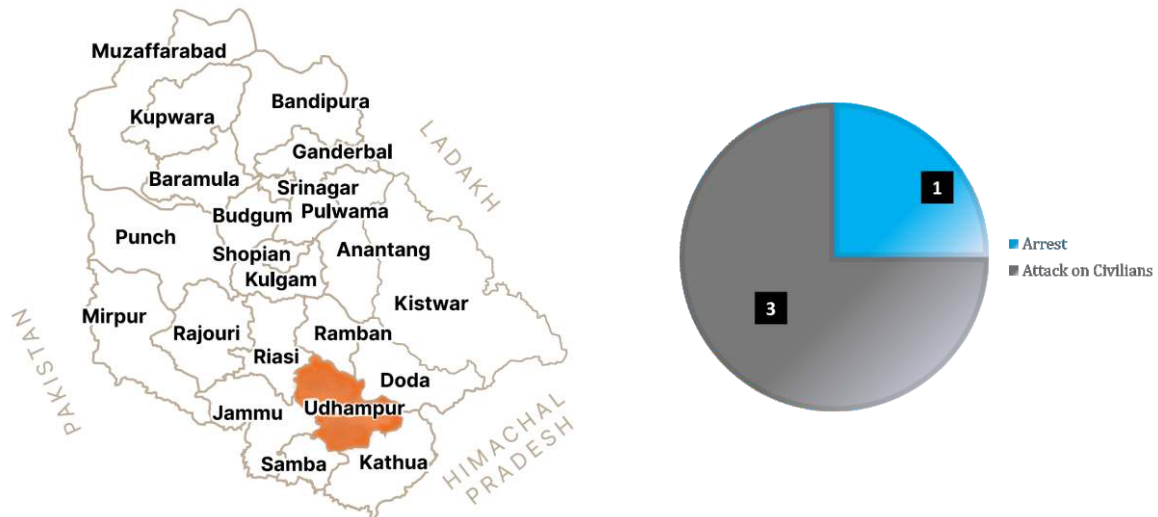
In Srinagar district there were 14 instances of arrests in which 27 terrorists were arrested. There were 10 successful anti-terrorist operations in which 16 terrorists were neutralised and two security personnel were killed-in-action. There were two attacks targeted on the civilians in which a sarpanch from the Khonmoh area was killed and several civilians were injured.

In six grenade attacks targeted on the security forces, around eight security personnel were injured, two civilians were killed, about around 36 were injured. Six firing incidents targeting security forces were reported, in which four security personnel were killed-in action, and

another four were injured. One instance of timely detection and diffusing of explosives was also reported from Srinagar district.

A drastic reduction in terrorism-induced violence has been observed in Srinagar district. In 2021, there were 13 attacks targeted on civilians and 23 attacks on security personnel, which reduced to 2 and 12 respectively. This along with sustained number of arrests and anti-terrorists is indicative of weakening presence of terror outfits in Srinagar district.

• Udhampur



Three attacks targeted on civilians were reported from Udhampur district in 2022. The first attack took place in March, when a low intensity IED blast resulted in killing of one civilian and another 14 being injured. The second and third attack were orchestrated by LeT on 29 September, when almost simultaneous blasts took place in two empty buses, resulting in two civilians being injured. Additionally, one Lashkar terrorist was also apprehended by the Indian security forces and huge cache of arms and ammunitions were recovered.

At least since August 2018 zero terror-related incidents were reported from Udhampur district. The incidents of 2022 are suggestive of the desperate attempts by terror-outfits to find newer places to conduct their operations and keep the threat of their organization alive.

ANALYSIS - III

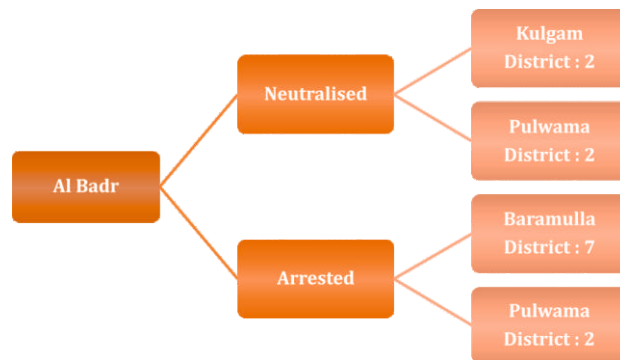
TERROR OUTFIT-WISE

- Al Badr
- Al Qaeda
- Ansar Gazwat ul Hind
- Hizbul Mujahideen
- J&K Ghaznavi Force
- Jaish-e-Mohammed
- Lashkar-e-Toiba
- Mujahideen Gazwat ul Hind
- The Resistance Front

- ## Al Badr

Al Badr was formed in 1998 with the agenda of merging J&K with Pakistan and has been active in J&K since its inception. It was proscribed under the Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance 2001 by the Government of India in 2002.

In 2022, two terrorists affiliated with al Badr were neutralised in a successful anti-terrorist operation undertaken by the security forces in Kulgam district and two in Pulwama district. Seven al Badr terrorists were arrested in Baramulla district and two in Pulwama district.



- ## Al Qaeda

Formed in 1988, al Qaeda is a terrorist organization of Salafi jihadists who aim to establish supra-national Islamic state, also known as the Caliphate. In 2014, the leader of al Qaeda, Ayman al-Zawahiri, had announced the establishment of a new branch of al Qaeda for the Indian subcontinent.

Two al Qaeda terrorists were arrested from Budgam and Ramban districts in J&K. While the National Investigation Agency had arrested one such terrorist from Budgam, the one arrested from Ramban was reported to have hailed from West Bengal.



- ## Ansar Gazwat ul Hind

Ansar Gazwat ul Hind is an offshoot of al Qaeda and has been operational in J&K since 2017. Their stated objective is to create an independent Islamic state of Kashmir and wage jihad against India. Their last known leader, Gazi Khalid Ibrahim, was killed in an anti-terrorist in Shopian in April 2021.

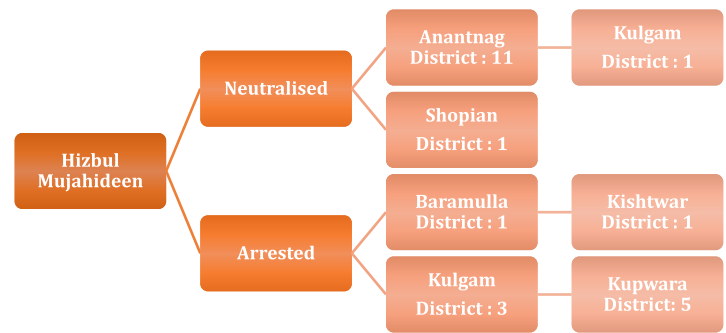
In 2022, two terrorists affiliated with the organization were neutralised in an anti-terrorist operation in Srinagar district and one in Pulwama district. Additionally, two terrorists were arrested from Budgam district and two from Anantnag district.



- ## Hizbul Mujahideen

Formed in 1989, Hizbul Mujahideen is operational in J&K with the aim of separating Kashmir from India and merging it with Pakistan. Since its inception, it has been one of the more dominant outfits responsible for terrorism in J&K. Over the years, top commanders of the outfits have

been eliminated by the Indian security forces. In a recent development, on 20 February 2023 it was reported that one of the founders of the outfit - Bashir Ahmad Peer, who was also the second-in-command in the organization, was killed by unidentified people in Pakistan.



In 2022, 13 Hizbul terrorists were neutralised by Indian security forces, 11 of which were in Anantnag district and one each from Kulgam and Shopian district. Additionally, 10 Hizbul terrorists were arrested over the year. Of the 10, five were arrested from Kupwara district, three from Kulgam district, and one each from Baramulla and Kishtwar district.

- ## J&K Ghaznavi Force

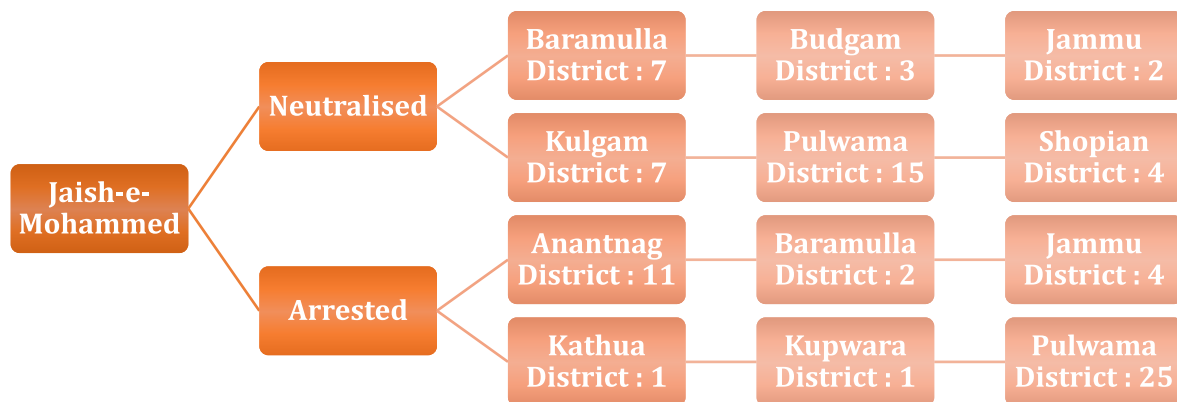


Surfaced as a terrorist organization in 2020, J&K Ghaznavi Force has been drawing cadre from Lashkar, Jaish, and other such organizations. Apart from issuing threats, they are also responsible inciting people of J&K to join terrorist outfits against India.

In 2022, two terrorists affiliated with the organization were arrested in Ramban district. Even in the previous year, terrorists from the outfit were arrested from Jammu district and Punch district of the Jammu division.

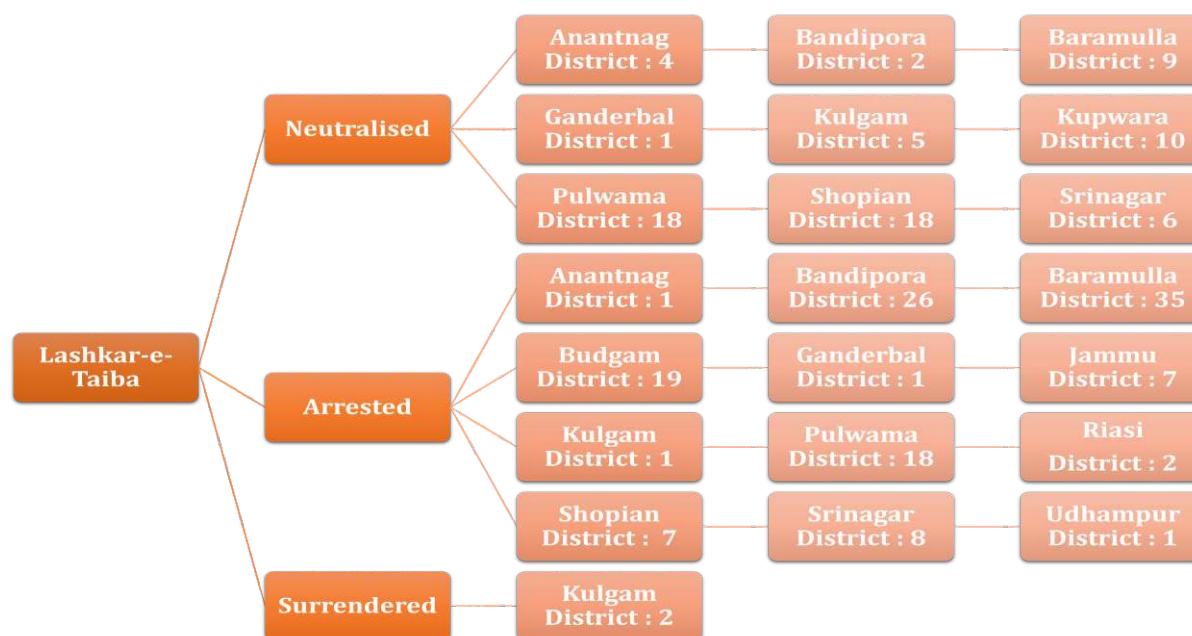
- ## Jaish-e-Mohammed

Launched in 2000 by Maulana Masood Azhar, Jaish-e-Mohammed aims to unite Kashmir with Pakistan. While they are largely operational in J&K, they were also responsible for the Parliament attack in New Delhi on December 13, 2001. Jaish also took the responsibility of the fidayeen attack in Pulwama district, which was one of the deadliest attacks in India in the recent years. Occasionally, they have also been arrested or neutralised in states other than J&K by the Indian security forces.



In 2022, at least 38 Jaish terrorist were neutralised by the security forces. Of the 38, 15 were in Pulwama district, seven each in Baramulla and Kulgam district, four in Shopian district, three in Budgam district, and two in Jammu district. 44 Jaish terrorists were arrested, of which 25 were from Pulwama district, 11 from Anantnag district, four from Jammu district, two from Baramulla district, and one each from Kathua and Kupwara district. As for 2021 and 2022, most of the Jaish casualties were reported from Pulwama and Anantnag district, indicating their widespread in both Kashmir and Jammu division of J&K.

- Lashkar-e-Toiba



Founded in 1985-86 by mujahedeen such as Hafiz Saeed and Abdullah Azzam, Lashkar-e-Toiba's stated objective is to merge Kashmir with Pakistan. Lashkar has been responsible for several attacks throughout the country including the Mumbai 26/11 attacks (2008), 2005 Delhi bombings, 2006 Varanasi bombings, and 2003 Nadimarg massacre. Several scholars have commented that Lashkar is one of the more prolific producers of jihadi literature.

While Lashkar had maintained a strong presence in J&K since its inception, over the years several of their top commanders have been neutralised by the Indian security forces and they have also lost a sizeable cadre. In 2022, at least 73 Lashkar terrorists were neutralised. Of the 73, 18 were from Pulwama and Shopian districts each, 10 were from Kupwara district, nine from Baramulla district, six from Srinagar district, five from Kulgam district, four from Anantnag district, two from Bandipora district and one from Ganderbal district. 126 Lashkar terrorists were also arrested, of which 35 were from Baramulla district, 26 from Bandipora district, 19 from Budgam district, 18 from Pulwama district, eight from Srinagar district, seven from Shopian and Jammu districts each, two from Riasi district and one each from Anantnag, Ganderbal, Kulgam, Udhampur districts. Additionally, two terrorists had also surrendered in Kulgam district.

It is pertinent to note that while Lashkar has a stronger presence in Kashmir division of J&K, they are also spread in Jammu division. Furthermore, as mentioned previously, their desperate attempt to expand their presence is evident from the activities they undertook in Udhampur district.

• Mujahideen Gazwat ul Hind

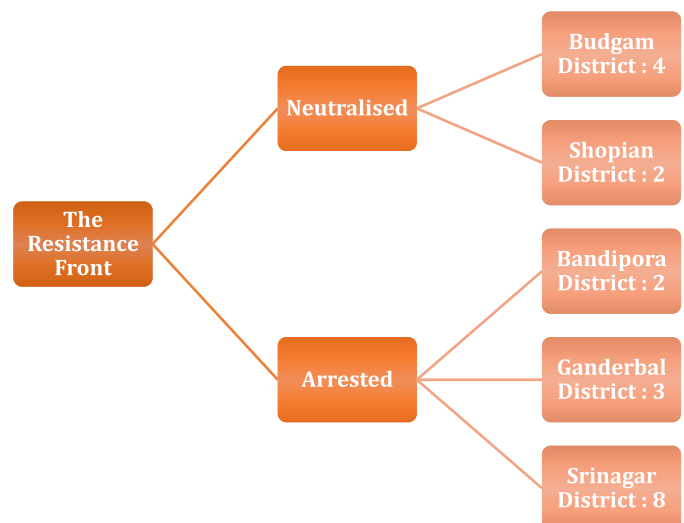


Media reports suggest that Mujahideen Gazwat ul Hind is also an al Qaeda-affiliated terrorist group active in J&K. While some suspect it to be the same as Ansar Gazwat ul Hind or its offshoot due to similar ideologies, there is no conclusive understanding in this regard.

In 2022, one terrorist affiliated with the organization was arrested by the Indian security forces from Srinagar district.

• The Resistance Front

The Resistance Front (TRF) is one of the newly formed terror outfits active in J&K. Formed in 2020 after the abrogation of J&K's special status, it is considered to be an offshoot of Lashkar-e-Toiba and amalgamation of other outfits such as Tehreek-e-Millat Islamia and Ghaznavi Hind. Several speculations have emerged as regards the origin of the outfit. While some suggest it is a proxy floated to avoid Financial Action Task Force



scrutiny, others suggest TRF was formed to create a narrative of 'indigenous Kashmiri militancy', not necessarily connected with the religious connotations of other outfits such as Lashkar and Jaish.

In the past two years, their active presence has been reported from J&K. In 2022, at least 16 TRF terrorists were neutralised in anti-terrorist operations. Of the 16, eight were from Srinagar district, four from Budgam district, and two each from Kulgam and Shopian district. 20 terrorists were also arrested, of which at least eight were from Srinagar district, four from Baramulla district, three from Ganderbal district, two from Bandipora district and one from Pulwama district. The data is suggestive of their relatively stronger presence in Kashmir division, as opposed to Jammu division.



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