Today's Prelims Topics

Article – 142

Context

Recently The Supreme Court invoked Article 142 of the Constitution to protect 250 students from facing hurdles in education due to the shifting of their institute's campus in Mangluru.

Key Features of Article 142

- **Complete Justice:** The primary aim of this Article is to ensure that justice is served comprehensively, addressing situations where statutory provisions may fall short.
- **Discretionary Nature:** The powers under this article are discretionary, meaning the Court can choose when and how to exercise them based on the specifics of each case.

Recent Supreme Court Judgments Involving Article 142

- **Governor of Tamil Nadu inaction on Bills case (2025):**
  - **Context:** The Supreme Court dealt with a constitutional crisis where the Governor of Tamil Nadu had indefinitely withheld assent on 10 Bills passed by the State Legislature.
  - The Governor had reserved these Bills for the President's consideration but failed to act upon them for an extended period, effectively stalling the legislative process in the state.
  - **Significance:** The Supreme Court invoked Article 142 to ensure "complete justice" and held that the Governor's prolonged inaction was unconstitutional.
- **Shilpa Sailesh v Varun Sreenivasan (2023):**
  - **Context:** The Supreme Court ruled that it could directly grant a divorce on the grounds of "irretrievable breakdown of marriage" under Article 142.
  - **Significance:** This judgement allows the Supreme Court to bypass the usual procedural requirements set by the Hindu Marriage Act, which typically involves a cooling-off period for mutual consent divorces.
- **Chandigarh Municipal Corporation Elections (2023)**
  - **Context:** In this case the Supreme Court overturned election results and ensured electoral democracy was upheld.
  - **Significance:** This case illustrates how Article 142 can be used to rectify procedural irregularities in electoral processes.

UPSC PYQ

Q. With reference to the Constitution of India, prohibitions or limitations or provisions contained in ordinary laws cannot act as prohibitions or limitations on the constitutional powers under Article 142. It could mean which one of the following? **(2019)**

(a) The decisions taken by the. Election Commission of India while discharging its duties cannot be challenged in any court of law.

(b) The Supreme Court of India is not constrained in the exercise of its powers by the laws made by Parliament.

(c) In the event of a grave financial crisis in the country, the President of India can declare a Financial Emergency without the counsel from the Cabinet.

(d) State Legislatures cannot make laws on certain matters without the concurrence of the Union Legislature.

Answer: B

Source:

- **Indian Express - 142**

Relief to Tobacco Farmers

Context
The government has amended the **Tobacco Board Rules, 1976**, to extend the **registration validity for Virginia tobacco growers** from **one year to three years**.

About Tobacco
- Tobacco cultivation in India was introduced by the **Portuguese in 1605.**
- It is one of the important **commercial crops cultivated in India.**
- **Tobacco types cultivated in India:** Flue-cured Virginia (FCV), Burley, Bidi, Chewing, Natu, Oriental, HDBRG, Lanka, Hookah, Motihari and Jati tobaccos etc.
- **Ideal conditions for growth:**
  - **Frost-Free Climate:** Tobacco requires about 100 to 120 days of frost-free climate to mature.
  - **Temperature:** An average temperature of around 80°F (27°C)
  - **Soil:** Tobacco is grown in warm climates with rich, well-drained soil.
- India is the only country which produces tobacco in **2 seasons.**
- **Highest Production in India:** (1) Gujarat (41%) (2) Andhra Pradesh (22%) (3) Uttar Pradesh
- **Highest Production Worldwide:** (1) China (2) India (3) Brazil

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Tobacco Board of India
- It was **established in 1976 as a statutory body** under Section (4) of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975. **(HQ - Guntur, Andhra Pradesh)**
- **Nodal Ministry:** Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- **Functions:**
  - To promote the export of tobacco and its related products.
  - To ensure that tobacco growers receive fair and remunerative prices for their produce.

UPSC PYQ

Q. With reference to the "Tea Board" in India, consider the following statements: **(2022)**
1. The Tea Board is a statutory body.
2. It is a regulatory body attached to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
3. The Tea Board's Head Office is situated in Bengaluru.
4. The Board has overseas offices at Dubai and Moscow.

Which of the statements given above are correct? (2022)
- (a) 1 and 3
- (b) 2 and 4
- (c) 3 and 4
- (d) 1 and 4

Answer: D

Source:
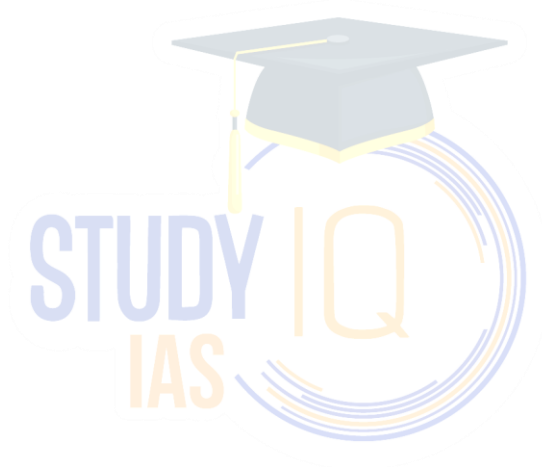- **PIB - Tobacco**

Places in News

Sea of Marmara
● Recently a 6.2-magnitude earthquake struck the Marmara Sea.

● It is an inland sea partly separating the Asian and European parts of Turkey.
● It is entirely within the **borders of Turkey.**
● The **Bosporus strait connects it with Black Sea** & **Dardanelles strait** connects it with the **Aegean Sea.**

Source:
● **The Hindu - Marmara**

News in short

Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)

- SDF has completed three years of its launch. It is part of the Reserve Bank of India's liquidity management framework.

About Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)
- It is a monetary policy tool of the RBI to absorb excess liquidity in the banking system.
- It allows banks to deposit their surplus funds with the RBI without requiring them to provide collateral in return.
- It helps **reduce inflationary pressure** by **absorbing extra money**.
- Any entity eligible for the **Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) can also utilize the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF).**

Source:
- **Economic Times - SDF**

Global Capability Centres (GCC)

- During a recent Nasscom Summit, Secretary to the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology stated that facilitating growth of GCC in the country is a priority for the government.

What are GCC's ?
- It is a strategic outpost/branch set up by multinational corporations (MNCs) to perform specialised functions for their parent organisation.
- **Functions of GCC:**
  - **Driving Innovation:** Create new products or services, and conduct research.
  - **Managing Technology:** Handling IT systems, software development, cybersecurity, and other tech needs.
  - **Handling Back-Office Tasks:** They take care of finance, human resources, procurement, and customer support.
  - **Ensuring Compliance:** They make sure the company meets legal requirements and manages risks in global operations.
- In India, GCCs have evolved into **Innovation Hubs and Centers of Excellence (CoEs).**
- **Top Destinations for setting up GCCs in India:** Bengaluru, Gurugram, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Delhi-NCR, and GIFT City

Source:
- **The Hindu - GCC**

Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)

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- It is a multi-disciplinary organization that investigates corporate fraud in India.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- It was established in 2003 in response to major failures in the financial sector, the stock market scam, and the phenomenon of vanishing companies.
- SFIO is headed by a **Director** who is a Joint Secretary to the Government of India
- It has regional offices in **Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and Kolkata.**

- **Functions:**
  - Detects and prosecutes white-collar crimes and frauds
  - Investigates complex cases with multi-disciplinary ramifications
  - Investigates cases involving public interest
  - Investigates cases that could improve systems, laws, or procedures

Source:
- **The Hindu - SFIO**

Antibiotic Pollution in Rivers

- According to a recent study **6 million km of rivers worldwide** are exposed to **antibiotic concentrations** exceeding safety thresholds for ecosystems.

About the Study
- Scientists used a **global river dataset (RiverATLAS)** to estimate how much antibiotic pollution exists in the world's rivers.
- They studied **21 commonly used antibiotics** and estimated their levels in **8.5 million river segments**, covering around **36 million kilometers** of rivers worldwide.
- **Main contributing antibiotics:** Amoxicillin, Ceftriaxone & Cefixime.
- **80% of Indian rivers** are **at risk** of antibiotic contamination.
  - **Cefixime** (used to treat **bronchitis** and other infections) is the **biggest contributor** to river pollution in India
  - India is one of the **most affected countries** in the world.
- **Other High-Risk Countries:** Nigeria, Pakistan, Ethiopia and Vietnam.

How Do Rivers Get Contaminated?
- **Human Waste:** When we take antibiotics, a part of it **does not get digested** and is **excreted in urine and feces**. This waste goes into **sewage systems**.
- **Poor Wastewater Treatment:** Most wastewater treatment plants **do not remove antibiotics** effectively ➡️ Drugs **end up flowing into rivers**.

Impacts
- **Environmental Damage:** Antibiotics in rivers **harm aquatic life**.
  - They can **disrupt natural microbial ecosystems** in water.
- **Antibiotic Resistance:** The biggest threat is that **bacteria in rivers become resistant** to antibiotics. These resistant bacteria can:
  - **Enter human or animal bodies** through water or food.
  - Cause **infections that cannot be treated** by common medicines.

Source:
- **Indian Express - Antibiotic pollution**

Palmyra City, Syria

- The Syrian civil war has severely impacted Palmyra, resulting in the destruction of several important historical monuments.

About Palmyra City
- Palmyra is an ancient city in **south-central Syria** situated in an oasis within the **Syrian desert.**

- It contains the monumental ruins of a great city that was one of the most important cultural centres of the ancient world.
- It is an important center of trade and culture, blending Greco-Roman architectural styles with local traditions and Persian influences.
- It was designated 🏛 **UNESCO World Heritage Site** status in 1980.
- **Important Architecture of the city:**
  - Temple of Bel, Grand Colonnade & Roman Theater.

Source:
- **Indian Express - Palmyra**

Lipids

- **According to a new study** from the CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (Hyderabad) **lipids**—fats in cells—also guide evolution by interacting closely with proteins, especially in cell membranes.

What are Lipids ?
- **Lipids** are **fats** that make up a major part of cell membranes.
- They form the **outer layer of cells**, known as the **cell membrane**, along with proteins.
- They are essential for various functions in living organisms, including energy storage, insulation etc.
- Lipids are **insoluble in water** but soluble in non-polar solvents.
- **Types of Lipids:**
  - **Triglycerides (Fats and Oils):** Major form of stored energy.
  - **Phospholipids:** Form the main structural component of cell membranes.
  - **Steroids:** Include cholesterol, which is a precursor to hormones.
  - **Waxes:** Found in plant cuticles and animal skin
- **Lipids differ in plants and animals:**
  - **Plant lipids** have **kinkier tails** due to polyunsaturated fatty acids → offer more **flexibility**.
  - **Animal lipids** are straighter → more rigid structure.

Source:
- **The Hindu - Lipids**

Editorial Summary

Food Adulteration

Context
The prevalence of adulterated food should set alarm bells ringing in a country

Status of Health Crisis in India (National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5, 2019-21)

Indicator	Data
Stunting in children under 5	35.5%
Wasting in children under 5	19.3%
Underweight prevalence	32.1%
India's diabetic population	~77 million (adults over 18)

What is Meant by Food Adulteration
Food adulteration refers to the **intentional or unintentional** contamination of food by adding, mixing, or substituting harmful or inferior substances called **adulterants**.

Types of Food Adulteration in India
- **Milk and Dairy Products:**
  - **Common adulterants**: Water, starch, detergent, synthetic milk, urea, caustic soda.
  - **Fake paneer**: Made using starch, synthetic milk, and non-edible acids.
  - **Health risks**: Gastrointestinal issues, kidney damage, metabolic disorders, and in extreme cases, cancer.
- **Edible Oils**
  - **Common adulterants**: Argemone oil (toxic), castor oil, mineral oil, rice bran oil.
  - **Health risks**: Glaucoma, heart problems, dropsy (swelling due to fluid retention).
- **Spices and Condiments**
  - **Common adulterants**: Artificial colors, lead chromate (in turmeric), Sudan dye (in chili powder), brick dust.
  - **Health risks**: Liver damage, cancer (due to carcinogenic dyes), anemia.
- **Vegetables and Fruits**
  - **Common adulterants**: Malachite green (leafy veggies), wax coating (apples), calcium carbide (ripening), oxytocin (to enhance size).
  - **Health risks**: Hormonal imbalance, neurological disorders, cancer.
- **Grains and Pulses**
  - **Common adulterants**: Polishing with artificial colors, mixing of stones, chalk powder.
  - **Health risks**: Digestive disorders, kidney issues.
- **Beverages and Packaged Foods**
  - **Common adulterants**: Artificial sweeteners, colors, preservatives beyond limits.
  - **Health risks**: Obesity, diabetes, cancer, allergic reactions.

Recent Incidents of Food Adulteration in India
- MDH and Everest Spices Banned (2024)
- Fake Paneer in Delhi, Noida, Mumbai (2023–2024)
- Adulterated Watermelons (2024)

Facts
- **Laws deal with food adulteration:**
  - **Adulteration of food**: Concurrent List.
  - **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006:** imposes a penalty for the possession of adulterants.

Health Risks Associated with Food Adulteration

Adulterant	Health Risks
Detergents (in milk/paneer)	Gastrointestinal issues, diarrhea, toxicity
Synthetic milk	Liver and kidney damage
Argemone oil (in mustard oil)	Epidemic dropsy (swelling, glaucoma, even death)
Ethylene oxide (in spices)	Cancer (Group 1 carcinogen), reproductive issues
Artificial colorings	Hyperactivity in children, skin allergies, cancer
Starch/glucose in milk/paneer	Increases sugar levels, harmful for diabetics
Acetic acid (in fake paneer)	Stomach ulcers, mucosal damage

What Needs to Be Done
- **Stricter FSSAI enforcement** and surprise inspections.
- **Public awareness** campaigns on food adulteration.
- **Food literacy** initiatives to teach people how to detect and avoid adulterated foods.
- **Improved supply chain monitoring**—from farming to packaging.
- **Updated permissible limits** for pesticides and contaminants in food.

Source: Indian Express: Hard To Stomach

Detailed Coverage

Terror Attack In J&K

Context
26 tourists killed in the terror attack in Pahalgam (J&K).

More In News
- The **Cabinet Committee on Security or CCS** - the country's highest-decision making body on national security has taken **some strict and punishing measures against Pakistan** over the **"cross-border linkages"** that have surfaced in the investigation.
  - **Suspended Indus Waters Treaty (1960)**
  - **Integrated Check Post at the Attari-Wagah border is to be closed** with immediate effect.
    - Individuals who have crossed into India with valid travel endorsements may return via the same route by **01 May 2025**.
  - Pakistani nationals will **no longer be permitted** to travel to India under the **SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES)**. All **previously issued** SVES visas are cancelled.
    - Pakistani nationals currently in India under this scheme must depart within **48 hours**.
  - **Military Attachés and Advisers:** Defence officials posted as naval and air advisers at the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi are declared *persona non grata* and are required to leave India within **one week**.
    - Correspondingly, India will withdraw its defence advisers from its High Commission in Islamabad.
    - These military advisory positions are henceforth annulled.
    - Additionally, five support staff members from both missions will be withdrawn immediately.
  - **Reduction in Diplomatic Staff:** The overall diplomatic staff strength at the High Commissions in both countries will be reduced from **55 to 30**, to be implemented by **01 May 2025**.

Introduction
- Terrorism has evolved across centuries—from **state-sponsored violence** to **ideological extremism**—reflecting the changing nature of power, politics, and conflict.
- Its earliest traces lie in the **Reign of Terror during the French Revolution (1793–94)**, where the state used **fear as a political tool.**
- Ancient groups like the **Sicarii** (1st century CE) and **Assassins** (11th century) marked the beginning of **targeted killings for religious or political ends.**
- In the **19th century**, terrorism became associated with **anarchist and revolutionary movements**—notably the **Narodnaya Volya** in Russia, which assassinated Tsar Alexander II in 1881.
- The **20th century** witnessed a surge in **nationalist and separatist terrorism**, as seen in the activities of the **IRA in Ireland**, **FLN in Algeria**, and **ETA in Spain**.
- The **21st century** has seen a shift to **transnational religious terrorism**, driven by networks like **al-Qaeda** and **ISIS**, employing modern communication tools and decentralized strategies to spread fear globally.
- Thus, terrorism has transformed from localized political violence to a **global asymmetric threat**, impacting national and international security alike.

Is Terrorism a Crime or a War?

● Terrorism is primarily a **crime**, but it can also function as a **tactic in war**, especially in asymmetric or non-state conflicts.
● Although there are nearly 200 definitions of terrorism globally, **no universally binding legal definition exists under international law**, including within the **United Nations system**.
● However, terrorism is widely recognized as a deliberate use of violence aimed at creating fear to achieve political or ideological goals.
● Terrorist acts—such as **hijacking, murder, arson, and hostage-taking**—are criminal in nature.
● What distinguishes them as terrorism is the **intent to intimidate or coerce** a government or civilian population for political or social ends.
● States have also indirectly supported terrorist activities during warfare. For example, **Iran's support to Hamas and Hezbollah** in their conflict against Israel reflects how terrorism can serve as a **strategy within war**, particularly by proxy actors.

Definitions of Terroris

● **FBI (United States):** "Terrorism is the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives."
● **U.S. Department of State:** "Premeditated, politically-motivated violence perpetrated against non-combatant targets by sub-national groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience."
● **United Nations (UN):** While the UN lacks a single comprehensive definition, it has developed 18 universal instruments to address specific terrorist acts (like hijacking, hostage-taking, financing terrorism, etc.) under international law.
● **European Union:** Terrorist offences are defined as serious criminal acts which, by their nature or context, aim to:
   ○ Intimidate a population,
   ○ Unduly compel a government or international organization to act or abstain,
   ○ Destabilize or destroy a country's fundamental political, constitutional, economic, or social structures.
● **India – 8th Report of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC): (Adapted from Schmid and Jongman, 1988):** "Terrorism is an anxiety-inspiring method of repeated violent action, employed by (semi-) clandestine individuals, groups or state actors, for criminal or political purposes. The immediate human victims are not the main targets; rather, they are symbolic representatives, chosen either randomly or selectively, to communicate a broader message. The violence is intended to influence the actual target audience through intimidation, coercion, or propaganda."

Types Of Terrorism

Type of Terrorism	Definition / Motivation	Example
Religious Terrorism	Motivated by religious ideologies or belief in divine duty	ISIS, Al-Qaeda attacks
Ethno-Nationalist Terrorism	Driven by ethnic identity or the desire for a separate homeland	Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in Sri Lanka
Left-Wing Terrorism	Aims to overthrow capitalist systems; inspired by communist or socialist ideologies	Naxal-Maoist insurgency in India
Right-Wing Terrorism	Based on ultra-nationalism, racism, or anti-immigration sentiment	Christchurch mosque shooting (2019), New Zealand

State-Sponsored Terrorism	Terrorist activities supported or financed by a sovereign state	Pakistan's alleged support to LeT (Lashkar-e-Taiba), JeM (Jaish-e-Mohammed)
Narcoterrorism	Use of violence by drug cartels to influence governments or eliminate opposition	Colombian drug cartels
Cyber Terrorism	Use of cyberspace to cause disruption or spread fear	ISIS's cyber propaganda and recruitment
Environmental Terrorism	Violence in the name of environmental or animal rights causes	Earth Liberation Front (ELF) in the U.S.
Lone-Wolf Terrorism	Individual acts of terrorism without direct links to any organization	Orlando nightclub shooting (2016), USA

Means of Terrorism

- **Bombings and Explosives:** Terrorists often use IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices) and car bombs to cause mass casualties and destruction.
    - **E.g.,** 2008 **Mumbai Attacks** – Series of coordinated bombings and shootings by Lashkar-e-Taiba operatives.
- **Hijackings:** Seizing control of vehicles (planes, trains, ships) to make political demands or inflict mass fear.
    - **E.g., Indian Airlines Flight IC-814 (1999)** hijacked by Pakistani terrorists to demand the release of militants.
- **Cyberterrorism:** Use of digital means to disrupt critical infrastructure, hack systems, or spread propaganda.
    - **E.g.,** Suspected **cyberattacks on Estonia (2007)** crippled banking and government websites, linked to political motives.
- **Assassinations:** Targeted killing of political figures, security officials, or community leaders to spread fear or destabilize governance.
    - **E.g., Rajiv Gandhi assassination (1991)** by LTTE suicide bomber.
- **Kidnappings and Hostage-taking:** Abducting civilians, diplomats, or foreigners to pressure governments or gain ransom/favors.
    - **E.g., 2004 Beslan school siege (Russia)** – over 1,000 hostages taken by Chechen terrorists; over 300 killed.
- **Bioterrorism and Chemical Attacks:** Using harmful biological or chemical agents to cause panic, illness, or death.
    - **E.g., 1995 Tokyo subway sarin gas attack** by Aum Shinrikyo cult killed 13 and injured over 5,000.
- **Lone Wolf Attacks:** Acts of terror carried out by individuals without direct connection to terrorist organizations but influenced by their ideologies.
    - **E.g., 2016 Nice truck attack (France)** – Individual drove a truck into a crowd, killing 86 people.
- **Financing and Propaganda:** Funding terror networks and spreading radical ideologies through social media or underground networks.
    - **E.g., ISIS using Telegram and dark web** platforms to recruit foreign fighters and raise cryptocurrency-based funding.

Why Kashmir Valley Remains a Terrorism Hotspot

- **Historical Grievances:** The **1947 Partition** of British India left Kashmir's status unresolved, leading to **multiple wars between India and Pakistan**.
    - The **accession of Kashmir to India** was contested by Pakistan, which continues to claim it.
    - The **disputed 1987 elections** disillusioned many Kashmiris, pushing youth toward militancy.

- **Pakistan's Proxy War Strategy:** Pakistan uses **terrorism as a low-cost, high-impact strategy** to keep Kashmir unstable without open warfare.
  - Its intelligence agency, the **ISI**, has supported and trained militant groups like **Lashkar-e-Taiba** and **Jaish-e-Mohammad**.
  - It recruits, arms, and infiltrates militants across the **Line of Control (LoC)** to sustain unrest.
- **Rise of Religious Radicalization:** Initially, the insurgency was about **political autonomy** and Kashmiri identity.
  - After the **Soviet-Afghan war**, radicalized fighters and **jihadi ideology** flooded into Kashmir.
  - The conflict was reframed from a nationalist struggle to **Islamic jihad**, which attracted more foreign fighters and funding.
- **Geography and Border Porosity:** Kashmir's **mountainous terrain** makes it difficult to monitor and secure borders.
  - This allows **infiltration** of militants, movement of arms, and establishment of hideouts.
  - Terrain also helps militants **evade Indian security operations**.
- **Political Instability and Governance Deficit:** Periods of **governor's rule**, **frequent clampdowns**, and limited democratic participation have alienated locals.
  - Political uncertainty creates **power vacuums** that militant groups exploit.
  - Even after the **abrogation of Article 370 in 2019**, alienation and distrust linger among some segments.
- **Shifting Strategy of Militants:** With tighter security in the Kashmir Valley, **terror attacks are now spreading into Jammu region**.
  - Attacks on **civilians and tourists**, like the **Pahalgam attack (2025)**, aim to disrupt normalcy and tourism.
  - These attacks are **calculated moves** to signal that Kashmir is still unstable.

What Are The Shortfalls Highlighted by Recent Attacks?
- **Intelligence Failure:** Despite the known **terror threat landscape** in the region, intelligence agencies failed to intercept communication or detect movements.
  - The **failure to track groups like The Resistance Front**, a known proxy of Lashkar-e-Taiba, indicates inadequate surveillance and HUMINT (human intelligence).
- **Underutilization of Surveillance Infrastructure: Inadequate use of drones and electronic surveillance** tools, especially in high-footfall tourist zones like Pahalgam.
  - India has invested heavily in tech-driven surveillance, yet its absence in a hotspot like Baisaran points to **deployment and coordination gaps**.
- **Complacency in Security Preparedness:** The Valley was experiencing **increased tourist inflow**, making it a **soft target**.
  - Security forces appear to have **lowered their guard**, assuming a return to normalcy.
  - **Amarnath Yatra route proximity** should have warranted heightened vigilance, which was clearly lacking.
- **Reactive Rather Than Preventive Policing:** The response to the attack was **after-the-fact**, showing a **lack of proactive threat anticipation**.
  - Absence of **pre-emptive patrolling, area sanitization**, and **alert systems for tourists** points to a **gulf between strategy and execution**.
- **Poor Inter-agency Coordination:** There seems to be a **disconnect between central and local intelligence, police, and paramilitary forces**.
  - The **integration of intelligence inputs** and ground-level operations was insufficient, leading to **blind spots** in security coverage.
- **Failure to Protect Symbolic Targets: Tourism is a key symbol of peace and normalcy** in Kashmir — making it an obvious strategic target for terrorists.

○ The attack shows a **failure to identify and secure symbolic/publicly significant zones** that represent economic and psychological recovery in Kashmir.

Way Forward

● **Enhanced Intelligence and Surveillance**: Strengthen intelligence gathering through **human intelligence (HUMINT)**, advanced **drones, CCTV**, and **electronic surveillance** systems to monitor high-risk areas like tourist spots and the **Line of Control (LoC)**.

● **Improved Security Forces and Rapid Response**: Deploy more **security personnel** along critical tourist routes and **establish rapid reaction teams (QRTs)** to ensure quick, effective responses to attacks.

● **Strengthening Civil Society and Social Movements**: Kashmir's **civil society** must rise above condemnation and engage in proactive peace-building efforts. A **people's initiative for peace** needs to be built on **conviction and values**, not just political ideologies. Social movements that advocate for **tolerance**, **liberalism**, and **coexistence** must be encouraged, with grassroots involvement ensuring sustained engagement over generations.

● **International and Diplomatic Pressure on Pakistan**: Continue diplomatic efforts to **isolate Pakistan** on international platforms, pressuring it to end its support for cross-border terrorism and strengthen counter-terrorism measures.

● **Economic and Social Development**: Invest in **economic development** in Kashmir, focusing on **employment opportunities, education, and infrastructure**, to address the root causes of radicalization and ensure long-term peace and stability.

Source: The Hindu: Responding to the terror attack in Pahalgam