



Strategising for Handling New Age Terror

What is the issue?

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- The rise of 'Lone Wolf' attacks to prominence has signalled the emergence of a new pattern in the expression of terror.
- This necessitates an overhaul in counter attack strategies - of which police forces figure prominently.

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How are lone wolf attacks different?

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- Unlike conventional attacks, 'Lone Wolf' mode does not involve trained and armed terrorists attacking pre-determined targets.
- It is not constrained by physical border & need for weapons.
- Rather it is a more a psychological warfare where radicalization of a person in the target country is made online.
- They usually target large gatherings & any object of daily use could potentially become their weapon.
- Such attributes make lone wolf attackers lesser detectable by intelligence agencies until after the attack.

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What are the ways to improve local police?

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- Local police posts are the first responders to any security threat & also the nerve centre for law enforcement, intelligence gathering.

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- **Training** - Indian police force in general is a courageous & brave one but they need to be trained and equipped.

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- Post the 2008 Mumbai attack, some progress has been made in this regard but these needs more vigour.

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- **Staff shortage** - Currently, they are severely understaffed, which calls for immediate attention.

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- Unfortunately, the limited resources of the government are being mindlessly spent in rapidly expanding the para-military forces.

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- Also, large number of policemen continue to be deployed on VIP security duties.

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- **Other Aspects** - The working of the police force needs to be Audited regularly and obstacles must be addressed with urgency.

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- Mock drills should factor in changing nature of threats and tactics of the enemy.

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- The masses need to be educated about the security challenges and encourage to contribute to strengthen state's efforts.

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Source: Indian Express

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