



# Narco-Terrorism – An Emerging Threat To National Security In Reference To Jammu And Kashmir

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## ARTICLE INFO ABSTRACT

One of the most pressing problems in the security domain has been Narcoterrorism. The incidence of organised crime is on the rise, impacting the international dynamics of both politics and the economy. India is situated geographically between the Golden Triangle and Golden Crescent, which are the primary opium and drug-producing regions. Indian security authorities are concerned about combating the black market for drugs. The black money produced by Indian drug cartels causes irreversible harm to the country's financial stability and hinders its economy. Consequently, it is clear that drug trafficking is becoming more and more important to our country's security.

The present article is aimed at giving an overview of security issues relating to narco-terrorism as well as effect of demonetization on the same and required countermeasures to fight is real.

**Key Words:** Narcoterrorism, golden crescent, golden triangle, Security issues.

## 1. Introduction

The use of violence to engender fear or terror in the service of politics, religion, or ideology is the broadest definition of terrorism. Additionally, it offers a void for a variety of illicit activities, encompassing both white-collar and blue-collar crimes. One of the primary illicit activities that provides financial support to terrorist organizations is acknowledged to be drug trafficking. Drug trafficking is distinct from other crimes such as abduction, extortion, and document falsification since it involves a large number of criminals and victims. The term "narco-terrorism" refers to drug trafficking carried out with the goal of providing funding to terrorist organisations.

The name was originally used by Peruvian President Belaunde Terry in 1993 to refer to terrorist attacks by Sendero Luminoso against police personnel. There is ample evidence of the connections between international terrorist organisations and drug trafficking groups.

One such group is the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), also called the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, and they deal in drugs with the intention of installing a socialist dictatorship. The FARC uses killings, bombs, and armed assaults to erode the authority of the government.

Afghanistan is a major source of heroin to the global market. Reports of a link between Sunni radicals and both al-Qaida and drug trafficking have been verified by investigations. Following the terrorist attacks of 9/11, Colombia's president, Alvaro Uribe, raised the insurgency as an indication of terrorism. Attorney General John Ashcroft then made the comparison between drug trafficking and terrorism.

Subsequently, it gave context to counterinsurgency, which is now recognized as the War against Terrorism instead of the War on Drugs.

Drug trafficking is therefore a serious national security issue as well as a worldwide menace. The issue's reach is enormous, encompassing economies, political ideologies, and international financial transactions. The traditional idea of these two groups having separate roles is far less hazardous and serious than the combination of terrorists and crackers. Therefore, narco-terrorism needs to be researched and examined in order to understand the links between drugs and terrorism.

In Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), the number of drug seizures related to heroin rose from 3,000 to over 10,000 between 2017 and 2022, a 2000% rise. Most recently, in August 2022, the Border Security Force (BSF) discovered eight parcels of heroin worth Rs 8 crores in the Samba district, following the escape of a wounded terrorist back to Pakistan. This year alone, the J&K police have seized hundreds of crores worth of illicit consignments, primarily from Shopian and Pulwama.

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), there was a drop of over 75% in net cross-border infiltration between 2018 and 2021, and over 80% in terrorist occurrences within that same time frame. The drug threat has not decreased despite the security forces' attempts to eradicate individuals who are compromising the Line of Control.

## **2. Drug Trafficking and Terrorism:**

There are terrorist groups operating in Central Asia that are hostile to secular and democratic social institutions. Terrorism is used in Central Asia and neighboring countries to overthrow secular governments. One of the most pervasive terrorist organizations in the area is the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU). An estimated 70 percent of the illicit narcotics in the area, including opium and heroin, are delivered and distributed by IMU. In order to conduct kidnapping missions through Tajikistan, the IMU invaded Kazakhstan. In an effort to foment jihad in Chechnya, radical Islamists have also taken advantage of Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, and Georgia as a logistics base for attacking the Russian troops.

Nepal is the main drug trafficking hub in Asia. Since the state and other organisations started battling each other in 1996, insurgent groupings have changed. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or LTTE, also uses funding to carry out terrorist attacks such as political assassinations and suicide bombings. They are currently also engaged in the drug trade. The fact that the LTTE receives weaponry if they pose as heroine transporters in Europe and India indicates that Sri Lanka is one of the most popular destinations for these drug shifts. Additionally, there is a hint that the LTTE collaborates with organised crime gangs in India. The LTTE receives its narcotics supplies from Indian traffickers. Reports state that Libya paid the Abu Sayyaf a ransom for their alleged involvement in a major kidnapping of Westerners. Abu Sayyaf is believed to be in charge of marijuana cultivation in the Philippines in addition to kidnappings.

### **A. Drug Trafficking and Terrorism in India**

Classic security problems like internal, external, and military security have grown easier to understand than non-traditional security concerns like drug trafficking after the end of the Cold War. Because unconventional obligations like these have the potential to completely destroy a country's social, political, and economic base. The region of India most impacted by drug trafficking is the northeast.

These seven states have porous borders with Burma, Bangladesh, China, and Nepal: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, and Mizoram. International business so becomes a necessary problem in his scenario.

For a very long time, state-sponsored terrorism has targeted India. Without a doubt, the Pakistani government and the ISI are coordinating the flow of small guns and drugs to finance Indian terrorists. Backward Muslims reside in Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Assam, Manipur, and other regions, and Pakistan has long attempted to instigate them in order to jeopardize the integrity of the nation.

**The main goal of the ISI is to recruit these group of impoverished Muslims to participate in the illegal drug trade and support terrorism in India. The following are the causes of this:**

- (a) Terrorism needs profound finances to operate.
- (b) Pakistan is economically weak to create a pipeline for such funds.
- (c) Area surrounding Golden Crescent produces a large amount of opium.
- (d) Pakistan government has been using drug trackers in the border areas to fulfill their foreign policy goals in India.

### **B. Narco-terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir**

The drug trade used to only impact Punjab and the northeastern states. Jammu & Kashmir has seen a dramatic rise in drug-related terrorism since 2021. Since drug smuggling is directly linked to terrorism in the region, security forces are more worried about the use of heroin in Jammu and Kashmir and the rise in drug-related incidents.

Pakistan has frequently employed drug terrorism as a tactic to stir up trouble in Indian areas that border Pakistan. Drug-dependent adolescents undergo cognitive impairment and get caught up in a cycle of drug abuse. Pakistan quickly exploits the depressing conditions drug users endure since cognitive impairment encourages and speeds up the radicalization of young Kashmiris. An AIMS assessment states that the drug pandemic has affected six lakh people in Kashmir. Since waiting will eventually tip the odds in Pakistan's favour, they need immediate response.

- **Exploring the Nexus between Narcotics and Terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir:**

Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has long been embroiled in a complex web of political unrest and insurgency. Amidst this turmoil, another significant threat has emerged – the nexus between narcotics and terrorism. This paper aims to delve into the intertwining dynamics of drug trafficking and terrorist activities in J&K, exploring their origins, manifestations, impacts, and the strategies employed to address this multifaceted challenge. The origins of the nexus between narcotics and terrorism in J&K can be traced back to the tumultuous

geopolitical landscape of the region. With its porous borders and rugged terrain, J&K became a fertile ground for both drug traffickers and terrorist groups seeking to exploit the vulnerabilities of the region. The insurgency that erupted in the late 1980s provided a conducive environment for the convergence of these illicit activities.

- **Patterns of Cooperation:**

The nexus between narcotics and terrorism in J&K manifests through various patterns of cooperation and collaboration. Terrorist groups often engage in drug trafficking to finance their operations, exploiting existing smuggling routes and networks. In return, drug traffickers seek protection and logistical support from terrorist organizations, leveraging their influence and coercive power in the region.

- **Financial Implications:**

The financial implications of narco-terrorism are profound, fueling the activities of terrorist groups while perpetuating the cycle of violence and instability in J&K. Revenue generated from drug trafficking provides terrorist organizations with a steady stream of income, enabling them to procure arms, recruit fighters, and sustain their insurgency against the Indian state. This symbiotic relationship between narcotics and terrorism exacerbates security challenges in the region.

- **Socio-Economic Factors:**

Several socio-economic factors contribute to the proliferation of narco-terrorism in J&K. Poverty, unemployment, and marginalization create fertile ground for recruitment by both terrorist groups and drug trafficking networks. Transnational criminal organizations exploit these vulnerabilities, offering economic incentives to individuals susceptible to radicalization and criminality. Additionally, corruption and governance challenges further exacerbate the problem, undermining efforts to combat narco-terrorism effectively.

- **Impact on Security Dynamics:**

The nexus between narcotics and terrorism poses significant challenges to security dynamics in J&K and the broader region. The influx of illicit drugs not only undermines public health but also fuels organized crime and violence, eroding the rule of law and destabilizing communities. Moreover, the proceeds from drug trafficking strengthen the capabilities of terrorist groups, enabling them to launch attacks against security forces and civilian targets with greater impunity.

- **Countermeasures and Challenges:**

Addressing the nexus between narcotics and terrorism requires a comprehensive and multifaceted approach. Strengthening law enforcement and border control mechanisms is crucial to disrupting drug trafficking networks and interdicting the flow of illicit drugs. Intelligence cooperation and information sharing among security agencies are essential for identifying and dismantling terrorist cells involved in narco-terrorism activities. Additionally, socio-economic development initiatives aimed at addressing root causes of vulnerability can help mitigate the lure of extremism and criminality in J&K. However, implementing these countermeasures faces numerous challenges, including the entrenched nature of illicit networks, cross-border dimensions of the problem, and political obstacles to cooperation between India and its neighbors.

The nexus between narcotics and terrorism presents a formidable challenge to security and stability in Jammu and Kashmir. Understanding the origins, manifestations, and impacts of this phenomenon is essential for devising effective strategies to combat it. By addressing the underlying socio-economic factors, strengthening law enforcement capabilities, and enhancing regional cooperation, it is possible to disrupt the nexus between narcotics and terrorism and mitigate its adverse effects on the region. However, concerted efforts and sustained commitment from all stakeholders are required to confront this complex and evolving threat effectively.

**Patients received by SMHS De-addiction Centre, Srinagar: 2014-19**



**Case Study 1: The Hizbul Mujahideen and Drug Trafficking**

The Hizbul Mujahideen, one of the most prominent militant groups operating in Jammu and Kashmir, has been implicated in various criminal activities, including drug trafficking. This case study sheds light on the nexus between this terrorist organization and the narcotics trade.

**Background:**

The Hizbul Mujahideen, founded in 1989, aims to establish an Islamic state in Jammu and Kashmir and has been actively involved in insurgency against Indian security forces. Over the years, the group has diversified its funding sources, with drug trafficking emerging as a significant revenue stream.

**Case Details:**

In 2018, Indian security forces intercepted a consignment of heroin worth millions of dollars in North Kashmir. Upon investigation, it was revealed that the drugs were being transported by militants affiliated with the Hizbul Mujahideen. The seizure highlighted the group's involvement in narco-terrorism, using proceeds from drug trafficking to finance its militant activities.

**Implications:**

The case underscores the financial implications of narco-terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, with terrorist organizations like the Hizbul Mujahideen exploiting the narcotics trade to fund their insurgency. The interception of the drug consignment underscores the need for enhanced law enforcement efforts to disrupt these illicit networks and prevent them from fueling further violence and instability in the region.

**Case Study 2: Cross-Border Narcotics Trafficking and Terrorism**

This case study examines the cross-border dimensions of narco-terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting the transnational nature of the illicit activities and their impact on regional security.

**Background:**

Jammu and Kashmir shares porous borders with Pakistan and China, providing ample opportunities for cross-border smuggling of narcotics and weapons. Terrorist groups operating in the region often exploit these porous borders to facilitate their illicit activities.

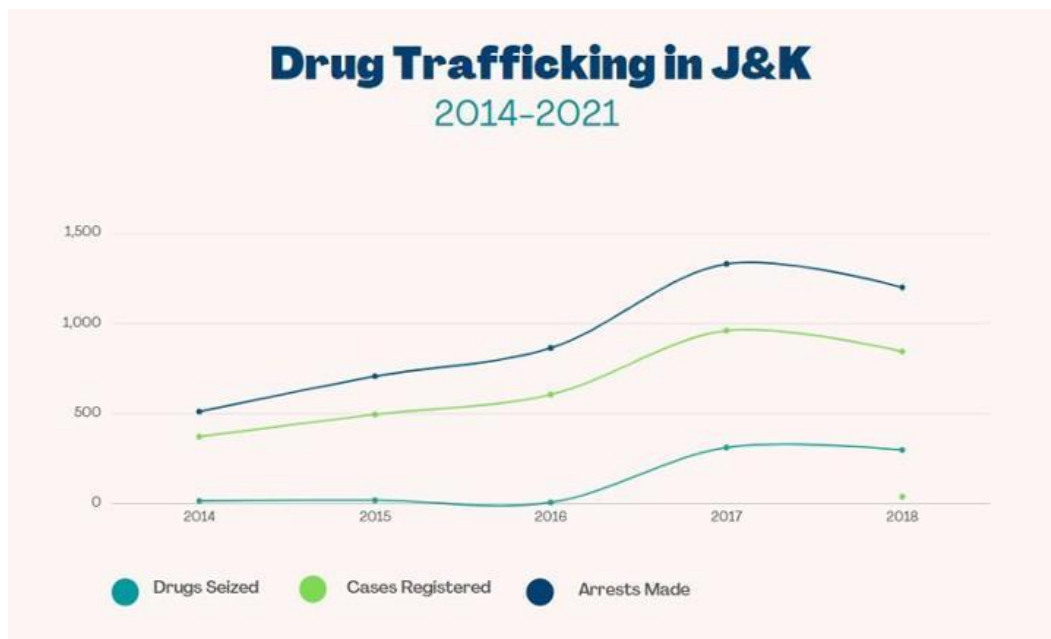
**Case Details:**

In 2019, Indian security forces conducted a joint operation with international counterparts, intercepting a large cache of drugs destined for Jammu and Kashmir. The investigation revealed the involvement of transnational criminal networks based in Pakistan in orchestrating the drug trafficking operation. These networks had established links with terrorist groups operating in J&K, providing them with financial and logistical support.

**Implications:**

The case highlights the cross-border dimensions of narco-terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, with transnational criminal networks collaborating with terrorist groups to smuggle narcotics and weapons across international borders. The involvement of external actors underscores the need for enhanced regional cooperation and intelligence sharing to disrupt these illicit networks and prevent them from destabilizing the region further.

These case studies illustrate the intricate interplay between narcotics and terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, showcasing how terrorist organizations exploit the illicit drug trade to finance their activities and perpetuate violence and instability in the region. Addressing this nexus requires a comprehensive approach, including strengthened law enforcement efforts, enhanced intelligence cooperation, and socio-economic development initiatives aimed at addressing root causes of vulnerability. Only through concerted efforts and regional cooperation can the scourge of narco-terrorism be effectively tackled in Jammu and Kashmir.



### Recent Incidents

#### • Baramulla

A charge sheet was presented in April 2022 to a special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court in Baramulla, accusing nine individuals—six operatives in Kashmir and three handlers from Pakistan. The lawsuit dealt with the widespread seizure of firearms, ammunition, and drugs in 2021. According to court documents, the people in custody were a part of a network that imported drugs, firearms, and ammunition from over the border.

#### • Kupwara

Three people, including a woman, were arrested in Kupwara in May 2022 as part of a joint operation between the Rashtriya Rifles and the local police for the possession of two IEDs and seven kilograms of drugs, mostly heroin. The purpose of moving these commodities to other areas of the Kashmir valley was to aid and abet terrorism.

#### • Border Area

In June 2022, J&K officials busted a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) group that was giving money to its terrorist colleagues through the sale of drugs. The authorities also retrieved the terrorists' trucks, guns, and ammo. Drones have also been used to deliver opium across the border into J&K.

### Decoding the Role of Pakistan

As the security forces have foiled several attempts to smuggle narcotics into the state, Pakistan has stepped up its efforts to push drugs in Jammu and Kashmir. Eighty percent of drugs that entered J&K in 2019 came from Pakistan, according to a European report. Additionally, the drug trade assists Pakistan and radicals in funding terror operations throughout the area. Lastly, it lessens the youth's cognitive behavior that could influence Kashmiris to engage in illegal activity.

Earlier in December 2020, Delhi Police detained five individuals on suspicion of being involved in drug-related terrorism; three of them were Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) militants from Kashmir, and the other two were from Punjab. Reportedly, Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) was collaborating with terrorists from that nation and had established a "K-2 (Kashmir-Khalistani) desk" to advance its proxy war.

Three of the five people who were apprehended by Delhi Police earlier in December 2020 were Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) militants from Kashmir, and the other two were from Punjab. The five were suspected of being involved in drug-related terrorism. According to reports, Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) had set up a "K-2 (Kashmir-Khalistani) desk" in order to further its proxy war and was working with terrorists from that country.

The same conclusion has been reached by all Kashmiri law enforcement agencies: terrorist organisations with roots in Pakistan are now smuggling drugs into the region in order to support their operations.

Approximately Rs 5 lakh in South Asia and nearly Rs 5 crore outside is the cost of one kilogramme of heroin that originates in Afghanistan and passes through Pakistan. Not all of the drugs that come from Pakistan end up on the black market in Kashmir; the rest are transferred to other parts of India.

**C. Pulwama and Shopian are the epicenters of Kashmir's narco-terror racket:** Every law enforcement agency in Kashmir has arrived at the same conclusion: terrorist organizations operating out of

Pakistan are now smuggling drugs into the region in order to support their operations. The cost of one kilogramme of heroin that originates in Afghanistan and passes through Pakistan is approximately Rs 5 lakh in South Asia and nearly Rs 5 crore internationally. Only a small portion of the drugs that are brought in from Pakistan are sold in Kashmir; the majority are sent to different parts of India. The infiltration of the Valley by proficient terrorists was the primary reason behind Pakistan's proxy war in Kashmir. To fund these terrorist outfits, it has started smuggling drugs and drug money into Jammu and Kashmir. It is evident that Afghan-type drugs are being trafficked into Pakistan via Jammu, where they are subsequently transported into Kashmir and Punjab. Kashmiri farmers are also pressured into producing poppies in order to generate funds for terrorist attacks and public disturbances.

Organized crime, insurgency, the smuggling of weapons, and the trafficking of illegal drugs are often linked. The illegal drug and weapon trade generates billions of dollars for the shadow economy and serves as a major financing source for insurgencies, terrorism, and organized crime, all of which have an effect on other nations. Pakistan uses drones and tunnels to smuggle narcotics and weapons into Jammu and Kashmir. It would not be viable to fight them without simultaneously taking on the threat posed by drug trafficking. Narco-terrorism is like "killing two birds with one stone" for Pakistan because it helps the state's security forces and finances terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir. Narco-terrorism is impossible to execute without the Pakistani army's and ISI's assistance because of the substantial logistical and intelligence support required.

### 3. Why is drug terrorism rising in J&K?

❖ **Crackdown on terror funding-** Terrorist groups and separatists in Kashmir employ a range of tactics to generate funds for their objectives. These include operating hawala rackets, buying and selling real estate, and dealing in drugs. The business model of terrorist and separatist groups, which involves them purchasing and selling properties in J&K and utilizing the earnings to finance their nefarious endeavor's, was recently disrupted by security forces. Furthermore, Pakistan has been providing funds to terrorist organisations and madrasas in Kashmir in an effort to radicalize, incite, and mislead the region's youth. Since the repeal of Article 370, security agencies have frozen or seized the assets of terrorist organisations and separatists in order to cut off funding for terrorism.

❖ **Covid 19-** Covid-19 has a hitherto unheard-of effect on Jammu and Kashmir's socioeconomic structure. People may have been driven to use drugs by lockdown and unemployment to soothe their pain and easily make money. It becomes difficult for them to break free from the drug addiction and narco-trade, nevertheless, if they become engaged in the latter.

❖ **Disruption of hawala rackets-** The hawala racket, one of the most well-known value transfer networks, is mostly used by terrorist groups and other criminals to transfer money for their illicit activities. Pakistan and the UAE smuggle money through the hawala network to fund terrorist organisations, separatists, and Madaras who recruit young people and fund terrorism in J&K. Through the hawala system, money is smuggled into India through dormant businesses and given to separatist and terror groups to fuel their operations. The hawala network has been heavily targeted in an effort to halt the flow of illegal money and the financing of narco-terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

❖ **Increased drug production in Afghanistan-** One of the world's biggest producers of opium is Afghanistan. The UNODC's data indicates that in 2021, drug output in Afghanistan increased by 38%. Afghanistan smuggles illicit substances into neighboring nations through India. It's possible that Pakistan is using this channel to supply drugs to terrorists in J&K.

#### A. An emerging trend in Narco-terrorism

❖ **Use of crypto currency-** The tough and successful crackdown on terrorists' financial sources by law enforcement and security services forces them to find new ways to raise money for their illicit operations. The terrorist organisation makes use of the internet to generate money, keep their identities secret, and fund their terrorist activities. Though there isn't much concrete proof to back up the usage of crypto currency for narco-terrorism, a number of media sites stress that terrorist outfits can finance their operations with the help of digital money sources like bit coins.

❖ **Crypto currencies are extensively used for narco-** Trade Company since it does not require an intermediary. For those engaged in the drug trade, cyberspace is an easier and profitable place to make money because there is no middleman involved, meaning that considerably more money is made. Therefore, there's a good chance that the drug trade for terrorism will move from the open to the virtual world.

#### B. Implications

India is the meeting point of the "Golden Triangle" and the "Golden Crescent," two of the most significant

opium-producing and trading regions that connect South Asia and South East Asia. Drug trafficking has increased due to the weak institutional structure in these bordering countries and the support of state-sponsored organisations. Narco-terrorism is a significant weapon that Pakistan might employ to undermine efforts to restore peace in the valley. It has also been reported that terrorists use drug money to fund disinformation campaigns. The Resistance Front (TRF), a front group for the LeT, has become stronger in the Valley and has been actively executing migrant workers and members of marginalized communities, including as Sikhs and Kashmiri Pandits, in recent years. Organizations like the TRF are at the forefront of misinformation campaigns to 'secularize' militancy in the valley.

Reports state that more than 52,000 people have been addicted to heroin. This implies a health crisis in addition to the implications for national security. The extent to which the state's youth are fully integrated into the political system will undoubtedly be impacted by the rise in the percentage of drug abusers. It will be increasingly difficult for them to assimilate into society and stimulate the economy the more people fall into this trap.

#### 4. Threat to the security of India

**The impact of terrorism on security in Jammu and Kashmir has been profound and multifaceted, affecting various aspects of governance, law enforcement, and public safety. Here are some key dimensions of this impact:**

**1. Destabilization of Law and Order:** It has significantly destabilized law and order in Jammu and Kashmir, leading to a breakdown of normalcy in many parts of the region. Persistent threats from militant groups have forced authorities to implement stringent security measures, including curfews, checkpoints, and restrictions on movement, impacting the daily lives of residents and hindering economic activities.

**2. Proliferation of Arms and Funding:** The nexus between terrorism and cross-border infiltration has facilitated the proliferation of arms, ammunition, and explosives in Jammu and Kashmir. Militant groups have access to sophisticated weaponry, including assault rifles, grenades, and improvised explosive devices (IEDs), which they use to carry out attacks on security forces and civilians. Additionally, proceeds from illicit activities such as drug trafficking and extortion provide funding for terrorist organizations, enabling them to sustain their operations and recruit new members.

**3. Challenges for Counter-Terrorism Efforts:** The prevalence of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir poses significant challenges for counter-terrorism efforts by security forces. The rugged terrain, porous borders, and support from local sympathizers make it difficult to detect and neutralize terrorist cells. Moreover, the use of asymmetric tactics, such as suicide bombings and ambushes, presents unique challenges for security personnel, who must balance the need to maintain public order with respect for human rights and rule of law.

**4. Psychological Impact:** Terrorism has also had a profound psychological impact on the population of Jammu and Kashmir, instilling fear, trauma, and a sense of insecurity among civilians. Frequent incidents of violence, including bombings, shootings, and grenade attacks, have created a climate of uncertainty and distrust, leading to social fragmentation and inter-communal tensions. The fear of reprisal attacks has further polarized communities, exacerbating ethnic and religious divisions in the region.

**5. International Ramifications:** The security situation in Jammu and Kashmir has broader international ramifications, particularly in the context of Indo-Pakistani relations and regional stability. Cross-border terrorism originating from Pakistan has been a major source of tension between the two countries, leading to periodic escalation of hostilities and diplomatic standoffs. The presence of terrorist groups in Jammu and Kashmir also poses a threat to regional peace and security, with the potential for spillover into neighboring countries.

Overall, the impact of terrorism on security in Jammu and Kashmir underscores the urgent need for comprehensive counter-terrorism strategies that address the root causes of the conflict, strengthen border security, promote socio-economic development, and foster dialogue and reconciliation among different stakeholders. By addressing these underlying issues, it may be possible to mitigate the security challenges posed by terrorism and pave the way for sustainable peace and stability in the region

**6. Extremism among Kashmiri Muslim youth-**Regular drug users lose their ability to think clearly and make rational decisions. There have been other instances where drug users started consuming religious propaganda and extreme beliefs. A person who lacks the ability to discern what is good and wrong for themselves will always choose the path of violence. After all, exposure to extremist content pushes a person towards religious violence. More drug addicts in the country and state means more people who could become extremists. Violent extremism will force youth to arm themselves and protect their nation.

**7. Increase in the number of terror attacks-** Terrorist funding increases are positively connected with an increase in terror attacks. Excessive finance gives terrorist organizations more power to gravely hurt civilians as well as members of the security forces. Terrorist groups may use substantial financial resources to acquire weapons and recruit young people as new members in order to carry out their terrorist activities in the state of Jammu & Kashmir.

### **8. Impact on Health**

There is proof that the protracted conflict has had a detrimental impact on a sizable number of Kashmiris' mental health. A survey conducted by the international humanitarian organisation Medicines Sans Frontiers, also referred to as Doctors without Borders (MSF), found that as many as 45 percent of Kashmir Valley residents suffer from mental anguish. Depression is beginning to manifest itself in the rising use of medications as a coping method for mental health issues. A Greater Kashmir evaluation from December 2021 states that almost 80% of drug addicts actually misuse heroin by using needles.

One of the most expensive drugs, it ruins the user's family and the fabric of society at large in addition to the user.

### **Some recommendations to curb narco-terrorism in J&K:-**

**1. Improving and extending the jurisdiction of ED-** To track terrorist activity and impede their goals, military intelligence is crucial. In order to identify their funding and financial sources, economic intelligence is also required. Narcotic financing, dealing, and transportation need to be immediately observed and stopped beforehand. The Enforcement Directorate (ED), which investigates allegations of money laundering and infractions of foreign exchange laws, gets engaged in this case. The underpinnings of the hawala network controlled by Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates might be destroyed by the Enforcement Directorate.

**2. Anti-Drone Technology-** Pakistan uses drones to supply medication in J&K. Despite the fact that LOC still keeps an anti-drone facility, many drones manage to elude detection because there is insufficient anti-drone equipment along the border. Another issue with the present anti-drone system is that parts are frequently unavailable, necessitating periodic replacements from their original positions. Moreover, the technology is insufficient and does not help identify or eliminate drones. It is essential that domestic anti-drone system production be hastened with the aid of the DRDO and private enterprises in order to have adequate anti-drone technology on the Line of Control and the international border between India and Pakistan.

### **Conclusion**

Drugs intended for transshipment have always been allowed to enter India through its borders. The young people of Kashmir are being exposed to a risky combination of violent extremism and drug addiction due to increased home usage and easy availability to drugs. J&K requires a strong counter-narcotics policy in addition to counterterrorism, since the latter does not negate the former. If narco-terrorism is not tackled at the society level in conjunction with security measures, the consequences could be severe.

In conclusion, the nexus between narcotics and terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir poses significant challenges to security, stability, and socio-economic development in the region. This paper has highlighted the intricate interplay between drug trafficking and terrorist activities, shedding light on their origins, manifestations, impacts, and countermeasures. The historical context of conflict in J&K has provided fertile ground for the convergence of these illicit activities, with terrorist organizations exploiting the narcotics trade to finance their insurgency against the Indian state. The financial implications of narco-terrorism are profound, fueling the activities of terrorist groups while perpetuating the cycle of violence and instability in the region.

Socio-economic factors such as poverty, unemployment, and marginalization exacerbate the problem, creating vulnerabilities that are exploited by both terrorist groups and drug trafficking networks. Transnational criminal organizations further complicate the issue, exploiting porous borders and corrupt governance structures to facilitate the flow of illicit drugs and weapons. The impact of narco-terrorism on security dynamics in Jammu and Kashmir is profound, undermining public health, eroding the rule of law, and destabilizing communities. The influx of illicit drugs not only fuels organized crime and violence but also strengthens the capabilities of terrorist groups, enabling them to launch attacks with greater impunity.

Addressing the nexus between narcotics and terrorism requires a comprehensive and multifaceted approach. Strengthening law enforcement and border control mechanisms is crucial to disrupting drug trafficking networks and interdicting the flow of illicit drugs. Intelligence cooperation and information sharing among security agencies are essential for identifying and dismantling terrorist cells involved in narco-terrorism activities. Additionally, socio-economic development initiatives aimed at addressing root causes of vulnerability can help mitigate the lure of extremism and criminality in Jammu and Kashmir. However, implementing these countermeasures faces numerous challenges, including the entrenched nature of illicit networks, cross-border dimensions of the problem, and political obstacles to cooperation between India and its neighbors. Despite these challenges, concerted efforts and sustained commitment from all stakeholders are



essential to confront this complex and evolving threat effectively.

In conclusion, tackling the nexus between narcotics and terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir requires a coordinated and collaborative approach, encompassing law enforcement, intelligence cooperation, and socio-economic development initiatives. Only through such concerted efforts can the region hope to address the scourge of narco-terrorism and pave the way for lasting peace and stability.

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