



Islamic State-Khorasan

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Why in News?

Recently, a terror attack at **Moscow's Crocus City Hall** claimed over 137 lives, reigniting concerns about the resurgence of the **Islamic State (IS)** and its growing terror capabilities.

- Experts believe the attack was likely carried out by **IS Khorasan (IS-K), the group's Afghanistan-Pakistan branch.**

What is the Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K)?

- **IS-K:**
 - **IS-K, the Afghanistan-based arm of the IS,** has been responsible for recent attacks, including the twin bombings in Kerman, Iran.
 - Established in Afghanistan's Nangarhar province in 2015, IS-K comprises **Central Asian militants** and has gained prominence since the Taliban's return to power in August 2021.
 - IS-K targets **Afghanistan's Shia minority** and seeks to recruit radicalised youths from Central Asia and Afghanistan's Tajik and Uzbek minorities.
 - IS-K utilises **anti-Russian and anti-Iranian propaganda** to recruit among Central Asians, Afghans, and Pakistanis.
 - Geopolitical instability in Afghanistan and parts of West Asia provides fertile ground for IS-K to regroup and launch attacks.
- **Security Challenges for Russia:**
 - Russia, hosting thousands of Central Asian migrant labourers, faces a serious security challenge due to IS-K's activities.
 - Russia faces pressure to enhance security measures and address the root causes fueling IS-K's resurgence.



Islamic State:

- The Islamic State (IS) also known as the **Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)** and the **Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)**, is a **Salafi-Jihadist militant organisation**.
- It is a **transnational Sunni insurgent group** operating primarily in western Iraq and eastern Syria that seeks to establish an **Islamic caliphate in Iraq and Syria** and to create a global Salafi-Jihadist movement.
- IS claimed the establishment of a **“province” in India called “Wilayah of Hind”**.
- ISIS is recognised as an **unlawful organisation in India under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967**. The Central Government has included ISIS in the First Schedule of the Act.

Prominent India-Centric Terror Organizations in Pakistan

Name	Formation	FTO Designation	About	Status in India as per the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967
Lashkar-e-Taiba (LET)	Late 1980s	2001	Responsible for major 2008 attacks in Mumbai and numerous other high-profile attacks.	Banned

Jaish-e-Mohammed (JEM)	2000	2001	Along with LET, it was responsible for the 2001 attack on the Indian parliament.	Banned
Harakat-ul Jihad Islami (HUJI)	1980	2010	Initially formed to fight the Soviet army, later redirected efforts toward India. Operates in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and India, seeking annexation of Kashmir into Pakistan.	Banned
Harkat-ul-Mujahideen (HUM)	1985	1997	Operates mainly from Pak-Occupied Kashmir and some Pakistani cities.	Banned
Hizb-ul Mujahideen	1989	2017	The militant wing of Pakistan's largest Islamist political party , and is one of the largest and oldest militant groups operating in Jammu and Kashmir.	Banned
Al Qaeda	1988	1999	Operates primarily from former Federally Administered Tribal Areas in Karachi, and Afghanistan.	Banned

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. Hand-in-Hand 2007' a joint anti-terrorism military training was held by the officers of the Indian Army and officers of the Army of which one of the following countries? (2008)

- (a) China
- (b) Japan
- (c) Russia
- (d) USA

Ans: (a)