



## The forgotten fact of China-Occupied Kashmir

### GS III: Role of External State and Non-state Actors in creating challenges to Internal Security.

**Context:** China's support for Pakistan is motivated by a desire to perpetuate its own territorial grab in the trans-Karakoram Shaksgam Tract of Kashmir. The anniversary of the Instrument of Accession last month is a reminder of China's illegal territorial occupation.

#### Legitimately India's

1. China has no locus standi to comment on India's internal affairs since the erstwhile princely State of J&K acceded to India through the Instrument of Accession on October 26, 1947.
2. The Shaksgam Valley in the trans-Karakoram tract, part of PoK, was handed over by Pakistan to China through an illegal border agreement on March 2, 1963. However, the continuing Chinese occupation of Kashmir's territory does not find adequate mention in the contemporary discourse surrounding this issue.
3. China occupies 5,180 square kilometres in the Shaksgam Valley in addition to approximately 38,000 square kilometres in Aksai Chin. China and Pakistan have colluded to obfuscate these facts, even as they brazenly promote the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which runs through parts of Indian territory under their respective occupation.

#### The Pakistan connection

1. The shaksgam valley was blatantly compromised by Pakistan in its so-called agreement with China on March 2, 1963.
2. By giving in to China's expansionist designs and spurious claims to a boundary along with the Karakoram range, Pakistan not only compromised India's traditional frontier along with the Kunlun range to the north-west of the Karakoram Pass but also enabled China to extrapolate a claim line eastwards along with the Karakoram range in Ladakh.
3. This collusion allowed China to claim the whole of Aksai Chin in which it had no historical presence.



## As a party to the dispute

1. The provisional nature of the territorial settlement between China and Pakistan is evident in the 1963 agreement.
2. Nonetheless, this agreement has established China as a party to the dispute. It has a vested interest in legitimising its illegitimate gains in the trans-Karakoram tract.

## Learn Through Graphics:



## Vienna's woes

**GS III: Challenges to Internal Security through Communication Networks, Role of Media and Social Networking Sites in Internal Security Challenges**

**Bottom line:** The attack in Vienna that killed four people on Monday night underscores the transnational threat European countries face from Islamist terrorists. While stopping terror, authorities should build on values of pluralism and secularism.

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<http://www.sriramsias.com>

## Highlights:

1. Austria will also have to plug the security loopholes as several countries in the continent, including France and the U.K., have raised the threat levels.
2. The larger challenge is how to address the issue of radicalisation among youth and counter attempts to disrupt the social cohesion of the continent.
3. Problems of politics on islamophobia: France's Marine Le Pen, with an eye on the 2022 presidential election, has called for a ban on immigrants from some Muslim countries and declared "a war" to "evict Islamism by force from our country".
4. This is a two-front attack on the democratic and secular values Europe stands for — and that is what the terrorists want.

## Conclusion:

Leaders of France, Austria and other terror-hit countries should not allow the jihadists to have their way. They should clamp down on terror networks, isolate and punish the jihadists, counter the ideology of political Islamists and build on the values of pluralism, secularism, democracy and equality, and step up deradicalization efforts with help from communities. This is a fight they cannot afford to lose.

## International Initiatives against Radicalization:

1. The Aqaba Process is an initiative launched by Jordan in 2015 to strengthen international and regional cooperation against the dangers of terrorism, radicalization, and violent extremism through a holistic approach.
2. *Prevent* and *Desistance and Disengagement Programme (DDP)* programs of the UK.

## Mains:

What is *the whole-of-society* approach to deal with Radicalization?



## Learn Through Graphics:



Source: GAO analysis of information from the White House, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS); FBI (adapted photographs); Art Explosion (clip art). | GAO-17-300

1. The Counter-terrorism is a security approach, which is reactionary and short term
2. The Counter radicalization is a social approach, which is preventive and long-term approach

## The crucial expertise of CAPFs

### GS III: Various Security Forces and Agencies and their Mandate.

**Bottom line:** CAPFs comprise the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force, Central Industrial Security Force, Sashastra Seema Bal, Assam Rifles and the ITBP. The multifarious experience of security forces has helped greatly in combating COVID-19.

### Highlights:

1. When disaster strikes our country in any manner, be it natural or man-made, the government summons the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) to carry out the task of overcoming the disaster, by not only carrying out rescue and relief operations but also mitigating the pains and problems arising out of the disaster.



- For COVID-19 10,000-bed quarantine, the centre was established in Chhatarpur in New Delhi by the ITBP. This is the largest quarantine centre in the world.
- The expertise acquired by ITBP personnel and the Standard Operating Procedure prepared by the ITBP came handy for the States and other police forces in establishing their own quarantine centres and COVID-19 hospitals.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had directed the CAPFs to establish 5,400-bedded quarantine centres with 75 isolation wards, spread over 37 centres across the country.

### Role of NDRF

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has been actively involved in combating the spread of COVID-19. Along with its parent body, the National Disaster Management Authority, of which the Prime Minister is the Chairman, the NDRF has trained over 30,000 personnel in disaster management across the country. NDRF is made up of deputed personnel from all the CAPFs.

### Conclusion:

It is these CAPF personnel who give a semblance of the existence of government administration even in the remotest corners of the country. Their versatile experience can be utilised to the nation's advantage.

### Learn Through Graphics:

4 border guardian forces: AR, BSF, ITBP, SSB

1 for internal security: CRPF

1 For Industrial Security: CISF

1 for counterterrorism: NSG





## Do recent indicators hint at a real economic revival?

### GS III: Indian Economy and issues relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development and Employment.

**Crux:** After India's economy collapsed in the first quarter of 2020-21 following the nationwide lockdown imposed to curb the COVID-19 pandemic, some economic indicators from September and October, from power consumption to GST collections, suggest that things are improving. The government must come up with an effective fiscal package to help stressed sectors.

#### Highlights:

1. Some sectors have picked up post lockdown and some are still struggling, like pharmaceuticals and chemicals, food and beverages, tractors, two-wheelers, consumer durables are all reporting good performance.
2. On the other hand, we are still seeing three very employment-intensive sectors — travel and tourism, construction and real estate, and retail — really struggling.

#### Assessment of Economic situation today

The economy had already been slowing down when the lockdown was announced, and investments had been coming down. Now, we have a huge problem of low investment; banks are not willing to lend as the banking crisis has not been addressed in any satisfactory manner, and, on top of it, we had a lockdown.

The Atma Nirbhar package only provided liquidity to the economy. So, investment continues to be slow, which has long-term implications, and we do have a problem with fiscal space. The entire additional spending, so far, was just about 1.5% of the GDP, and the second stimulus package basically provided white-collar workers, who were already spending.

#### Reforms needed:

1. Most of the construction material — whether it is cement or steel or paint — are all subject to 28% GST, but they are not sin goods. This is the time for the government to come up and really reduce those rates to help the economy.
2. The government should pay its bills — there are large outstanding dues to small and large companies, including from public sector companies and state



governments. The Union Minister Nitin Gadkari mentioned dues are as much as ₹5 lakh crore. That is the biggest stimulus the government can give.

3. Investment in infrastructure, which will not show up in immediate activity on the ground, but [it] is the most productive thing that we can do to trigger long-term growth. One way this can be spurred is [by] the Union Government paying the States their GST dues upfront, because a lot of infrastructure projects are actually stagnant for want of finance from States.
4. Investment in public health systems, which would require working very closely with the States. But [its] benefits will flow to society in the long run.

### Challenges:

One reason the government has not been doing it is to contain the fiscal deficit. Despite that, the government should really come out with a substantial spending plan, particularly for the stressed sectors. Generate demand through cash transfers, expedite disinvestment, and push infrastructure projects. But the fear of credit rating agencies seems to continue to weigh on policymakers.