



Islamic State-Khorasan

[Source: TH](#)

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.

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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 | Banned |

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| | | | attacks. | |
| 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)