

## Discombobulator

*Prelims: Current events of national and international importance*

### Why in News?

*The US reportedly used a weapon system called the “Discombobulator” during a military strike on Venezuela, which led to the capture of President Nicolas Maduro and his wife.*

- **Discombobulator-** It is a **U.S.-classified weapon system**.
- It is designed to disable enemy defensive infrastructure and disorient personnel.
- **Developed by** - United States military; the exact developer or manufacturer has not been publicly disclosed.
- **Objective** -
  - To incapacitate personnel through disorientation and physiological effects.
  - To support stealth operations by neutralizing electronic and physical defence capabilities.
- **Features - Electronic Neutralisation (Soft Kill)** -
- Uses pulse-modulated high-power microwave energy to disable electronics, causing logic gates to latch up and semiconductors to freeze without physical destruction.
- **Directed Energy Effects** - May **use high-intensity acoustic waves or sonic energy** to disorient personnel.
- **Microwave Auditory Effect/Frey Effect** - Creates phantom sounds inside a target’s head, contributing to confusion.
- **Physiological Impact** - Personnel reportedly suffered nausea, vertigo, nosebleeds, vomiting, and collapse.
- Capable of disrupting radars, communications, missile guidance systems, and electrical power grids.
- **Operation - Electronic Disruption** - Made Venezuelan radars, communications, and missile guidance systems inoperable during the raid.
- **Stealth Support** - Helped support the operation by knocking out lights

and power in Caracas, aiding surprise entry.

- The weapon is likely a combination of electronic warfare, sonic/directed energy and non-lethal disorientation tools.

## References

1. [IE | Discombobulator](#)
2. [Business Today | Discombobulator](#)

