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

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