Nagrota Encounter

Why in news?

Indian government has decided to step up its diplomatic campaign to hold Pakistan accountable for the Nagrota encounter.

What is the story behind?

- A planned terror strike was carried out in Jammu and Kashmir by four men, who were gunned down by security forces.
- These people were believed to be members of the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed.
- A tunnel was discovered in the Samba sector from where these men were supposed to have infiltrated into India.

What did India do?

- India's Foreign Secretary briefed a group of Ambassadors on the plot.
- The government believes that this plot was planned on the same scale as last year's Pulwama bombing, and timed for the anniversary of the 2008 Mumbai attacks.
- The envoys were part of the first batch of diplomats being briefed.
- Indian missions have also been instructed to pass on details of the "information docket" handed over.
- This includes details of the encounter in Nagrota between the suspected terrorists hiding in a truck and security forces.
- This attack is seen as an attempt to target grassroots level democratic exercises in Jammu and Kashmir.
- [The District Development Council elections is due to start on November 28, 2020.]

What is the strategy?

- By apprising the international community, it would seem the government has a multi-pronged strategy.
- The first imperative is to ensure that the full implications of the aborted attack and what could have occurred are understood worldwide.
- India should also ensure that the threat it continues to face from cross-border terror is acknowledged.

- In addition, any actions India takes against terror threats the Army perceives along the LoC this point on will be considered retaliatory.
- Secondly, Pakistan must be put squarely on notice as it has been making allegations about a terror threat from India.

What is Pakistan's position?

- Pakistan still faces the final FATF decision in February 2021 on whether it will be blacklisted.
- It is facing this difficulty due to its inability to curb terror financing and to shut down groups such as the JeM and the LeT.
- Pakistan government would be better positioned in fulfilling the action plan it has been tasked with rather than flashing unsubstantiated reports with counter-claims against India.

What should India do?

- India must also remember that invoking the international community can be a double-edged sword in its bilateral conflict with Pakistan.
- India's success lies in protecting its borders, as done in Nagrota.
- Providing a peaceful and stable environment in J&K would restart the much-delayed democratic process there, despite all attempts to derail it.

Source: The Hindu

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