Strategising for Handling New Age Terror

What is the issue?

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- The rise of ‘Lone Wolf’ attacks to prominence has signalled the emergence of a new pattern in the expression of terror.
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- This necessitates an overhaul in couter attack strategies – of which police forces figure prominantly.
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How are lone wolf attacks different?

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- Unlike conventional attacks, ‘Lone Wolf’ mode does not involve trained and armed terrorists attacking pre-determined targets.
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- It is not constrained by physical border & need for weapons.
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- Rather it is a more a psychological warfare were radicalization of a person in the target country is made online.
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- They usually target large gatherings & any object of daily use could potentially become their weapon.
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- Such attributes make lone wolf attackers lesser detectable by intelligence agencies until after the attack.
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What are the ways to improve local police?

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- Local police posts are the first responders to any security threat & also the

nerve centre for law enforcement, intelligence gathering.
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- **Training -** Indian police force in general is a courageous & brave one but they need to be trained and equipped.
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- Post the 2008 Mumbai attack, some progress has been made in this regard but these needs more vigour.
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- **Staff shortage -** Currently, they are severely understaffed, which calls for immediate attention.
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- Unfortunately, the limited resources of the government are being mindlessly spent in rapidly expanding the para-military forces.
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- Also, large number of policemen continue to be deployed on VIP security duties.
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- **Other Aspects –** The working of the police force needs to be Audited regularly and obstacles must be addressed with urgency.
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- Mock drills should factor in changing nature of threats and tactics of the enemy.
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- The masses need to be educated about the security challenges and encourage to contribute to strengthen state's efforts.
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Source: Indian Express

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