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STUDENT NOTE

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1. STATE AND NON-STATE ACTORS

1.1. Left Wing Extremism (LWE)

- ◆ **Status:** There has been **81% reduction** in incidents of LWE violence between 2010 and 2024.
- ◆ **Causes for LWE:** Jal, Jungle, Jameen, Land law violations, Poor health and Education facilities, PESA, 1996 non-implementation

Reasons for decline in LWE in India	
Strategic: National Policy and Action Plan (2015), SAMADHAN Strategy	Developmental: 178 Eklavya Model Residential Schools in LWE-affected districts, Special Central Assistance (SCA), Financial Inclusion, etc.

Challenges persist to control LWE

- ◆ Misuse of technology (dark web, virtual currencies for money laundering),
- ◆ Difficult terrain (forests of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha),
- ◆ Limited security infrastructure/intelligence coordination.

Way ahead

Bridging trust deficit: Bandyopadhyay Committee recommendation for land acquisition and rehabilitation	Strengthen security and capacity building (modernizing local police, Greyhounds),	Centre-state coordination in eliminating radicalization and clear delineation of roles and responsibilities
--	---	--

1.1.1. Urban Naxalism

- ◆ **Definition:** Maoists operating in cities through seemingly legitimate front organizations that support the CPI (Maoist) party.
 - ▶ They spread Maoist ideology covertly, especially among youth, students, women, and minorities, by promoting a sense of victimhood.
- ◆ **Functions:**
 - ▶ Recruitment of 'professional revolutionaries,'
 - ▶ Fund-raising,
 - ▶ creating urban shelters
 - ▶ Providing legal assistance
 - ▶ Mass-mobilization through agitation.
- ◆ **Conclusion:** Urban Naxalism hinders national progress. Inclusive development and peaceful democratic engagement are crucial for countering this threat.

1.2. Insurgency in north east

Reasons Behind Insurgency in Northeast			
Large scale migration/ ethnic rivalries . E.g. Meiteis Vs Kukis in Manipur	Porous international borders . E.g. Manipur-Myanmar	Lack of effective governance and economic activities .	Sense of alienation from mainstream due to AFSPA

- ◆ **Steps taken**
 - ▶ Peace Deals like National Liberation Front of Tripura Agreement
 - ▶ **Strategic Connectivity** like UDAN Scheme
 - ▶ Infrastructure including National Sports University (Manipur)

► Cultural connect (**Moidams of Choraideo – UNESCO** list), etc.

◆ **Way ahead:** De-securitisation, **Santosh Hegde Committee** (2013) and **Justice Verma Committee** (2013) recommendations for AFSPA.

1.3. Armed Force Special Power Act 1958

Ministry of Home Affairs **reimposed AFSPA** in “disturbed areas” of Manipur, including Jiribam.

Key provisions of AFSPA			
Disturbed areas declaration to restore order	Immunity to Armed forces personnel	Treatment of arrested person with least possible delay	Applicable in parts of Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh.

Concerns with imposition of AFSPA

- ◆ Violation of Fundamental Rights,
- ◆ Lack of Accountability,
- ◆ **Militarization of Governance,**
- ◆ Contravention of International Law, etc.

SC Judgements:

- ◆ Use of deadly force only in specific situation (**Naga People’s Movement Case, 1997**),
- ◆ Armed forces can be investigated for excesses, even in disturbed areas (**Extra Judicial Execution Case, 2016**)

Committees Recommendations:

- ◆ Scrap AFSPA (**Justice B.P. Jeevan Reddy Committee, 2004**),
- ◆ Review of the Act every six-month (**Santosh Hegde Committee, 2013**)
- ◆ Keep sexual violence against women by armed forces to regular criminal law (**Justice Verma Committee, 2013**)


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2. THREATS TO INTERNAL SECURITY

2.1. Technology and Internal Security

2.1.1. Online Radicalisation

Key factors behind radicalisation	
Push Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Economic: Unemployment, poverty ◆ Social: Marginalization, discrimination ◆ Political: Loss of faith in political institutions 	Pull Factors (Attracting Forces) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Monetary Incentives ◆ Online Propaganda ◆ Exploiting Crises: e.g., Israel-Gaza conflict

◆ **Factors facilitating online radicalisation:** Echo Chamber; Micro-Targeting & Profiling; Cybercrime as a Tool; Terror Financing

◆ **Challenges:** Easy Digital Access (around 67% global population is online); Anonymity & Secrecy; Psychological Manipulation; Legal Gaps

◆ **Key initiatives to curb online radicalisation:**

- ▶ **India** – IT Act 2000; I4C; MeitY; Sahi Raasta; Operation SADBHAVANA; Operation Pigeon
- ▶ **Global** – Tech Against Terrorism; Christchurch Call; INTERPOL; Bharatpol
- ▶ **Way Forward:** Build counter-narratives, ensure accountability (e.g., Germany's Netz law), rehabilitation support for victims, and enhance global cooperation.

2.1.2. Social Media Influencers' And National Security

Influencer **Jyoti Malhotra** booked under the Official Secrets Act of 1923 and Section 152 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Social Media Influencers as National Security Threat			
Psychological Warfare (spreading fake news, foreign narratives)	Espionage (sharing sensitive info)	polarization & communal tensions (hate speech, inciting violence)	secessionist agenda, and terror propaganda (radicalizing youth)

◆ **Steps taken by India:** IT Act 2000 – Section 69A; IT Rules 2021; PIB Fact Check Unit (FCU)

2.1.3. Crypto Currency Hawala Nexus

Supreme Court observed Bitcoin trading resembles a refined form of hawala.

Crypto-Hawala Nexus		
Cryptocurrency: Digital currency secured by cryptography (e.g., Bitcoin)	Hawala System: Informal money transfer via agents; linked to laundering, terror financing.	Functioning of Nexus: Nexus: Blockchain nodes are analogous to hawaladars.

Concerns

- ◆ Enables illicit use (money laundering, terror financing, tax evasion)
- ◆ Avoids traditional banking, hard to trace (stealth addresses, ring signatures)
- ◆ Global reach, and regulatory gaps in India.

Way Forward: Global Cooperation, UN Programme, Tech Compliance, Blockchain Analytics, VTAC, TRM Labs, Stronger Regulations, **FATF, EU MiCA, Holistic Strategy**, AI, Machine Learning

2.1.4. Role Of Quantum Computing In National Security

NITI Aayog released a paper on “Quantum Computing: National Security Implications & Strategic Preparedness”.

- ◆ **About Quantum Computing:** Uses quantum mechanics to solve problems beyond classical computers. Qubits are fundamental building blocks.

Quantum Computing Reshaping National Security			
Could break current encryption, making internet security obsolete.	Enhance signals intelligence (SIGINT) for intercepting/decoding communications	Optimize logistics, strategy; power autonomous drones/robotics	Economic Warfare (destabilize financial markets, compromise banking, facilitate IP theft).

- ◆ **India's Key Initiatives:** National Quantum Mission (NQM), **QuEST Program (DST)**, IIT Madras Centre for Quantum Computing (CQuICC), QNu Labs, C-DOT Quantum Lab, Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)
- ◆ **Way Forward:** Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC), Quantum Task Force, Cryptographic Intelligence Audits, Global Collaboration – India-EU, Early Warning Systems, Crypto Agility Framework, Flexible R&D Funding

2.2. Data Protection

2.2.1 Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDP), 2023

Meity released draft Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025 to implement DPDP Act, 2023.

Key Provisions of DPDP Act 2023			
Mandatory consent and clear notices for data use	Data breach reporting	Regulated cross-border data transfers	Grievance redressal and time-bound data deletion

- ◆ **Issues:** State exemptions risk privacy, **no right to data portability** or erasure, loosely regulated cross-border transfers, unaddressed harms (e.g. identity theft), weak independence of Data Protection Board
- ◆ **Way Forward:** Global **best practices (EU-US framework)**, bilateral data agreements, AI-Privacy task force for regulatory updates, clear definitions for exemptions and sovereignty

2.2.2. Facial Recognition Technology (FRT)

NITI Aayog's White Paper on Responsible AI for All explores FRT.

- ◆ **About FRT:** AI-based system using images or video for identification

Applications of FRT	
Security	Law Enforcement, Crowd Monitoring, Missing Persons
Non-Security	Identity Verification, Contactless Services, Education Access

- ◆ **Concerns:** Bias & Misidentification, Privacy Violations, Lack of Accountability, Security Risks
- ◆ **NITI Aayog Recommendation:** Privacy & Legality, Governance, Privacy by Design, Accountability, ethics committee to review and guide.

2.3. Cyber Security

- ◆ **Definition:** Convergence of people, processes, and technology to protect organizations/individuals/networks from digital attacks.

Need for Cybersecurity			
Weaponization of internet (terrorist recruitment/funding)	Cyberspace warfare (disabling essential services, stealing data)	Emerging technologies (AI/ML dual use)	Protecting vulnerable sections

- ◆ **Existing Mechanisms for Ensuring Cybersecurity**

- ▶ **Legal/Policy: Joint Doctrine for Cyberspace Operations 2024**, National Cyber Security Policy, IT Act 2000 (Amended 2008), National Digital Communication Policy
- ▶ **Institutional:** CERT-In, NCIIPC, **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre**
- ◆ **Challenges:** Huge investment needed, policy issues (lack of comprehensive national architecture), transboundary nature, data colonialism (overseas data custody).
- ◆ **Way Forward**
 - ▶ Data localisation (**Justice B.N. Srikrishna committee**)
 - ▶ PPP Model for cybersecurity
 - ▶ Setting up Information Sharing and Analysis Centres (ISACs),
 - ▶ Learning from global best practices (Tallinn Manual 2.0)

2.3.1. United Nations Convention on Cybercrime

UN Convention on Cybercrime is the **first legally binding** global treaty on cybercrime.

- ◆ **Objective,** Support to combat cybercrime, especially in developing countries

Key Provisions				
International Cooperation (mutual legal aid, extradition)	Procedural Measures (preserving/seizing electronic data)	Data Protection (privacy laws, safeguards)	Human Rights protection	Criminalization of key offenses (unauthorized access, child sexual abuse, money laundering from cybercrime).

◆ Need

- ▶ Growing cyber threats (rising in SE Asia, affecting economies/infrastructure)
- ▶ Cross-border investigations (global nature of crime)
- ▶ Fast-paced tech evolution (AI, 3D printing)

2.4. Geospatial Data And National Security

Definition, Earth-related data with location, attribute, and time elements.

Significance of Geospatial Data for National Security				
intelligence and surveillance via GPS	Maritime and situational awareness (e.g., UAVs)	Military logistics and tactical planning	Security modernization (e.g., crime prediction, guided weapons)	Tackling hybrid warfare and cyber threats

- ◆ **Challenges:** Skill shortage, limited high-resolution data, low research funding, **scattered research**, data security risks, **privacy gaps**, poor inter-governmental coordination
- ◆ **Steps by India:** National Geospatial Policy 2022, National Map Policy, Earth Observation Satellites, Bharatmaps, Bhuvan, **PM Gati Shakti**, **SVAMITVA**, etc.

2.5. Money Laundering and Smuggling

2.5.1 Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing (ML/TF)

FATF released “**Comprehensive Update on Terrorist Financing Risks (2025)**”, acknowledging state sponsorship of terrorism as a TF threat.

Concepts		
Money Laundering (ML)	Making illegally-gained proceeds appear legal . Can be used for arms dealing, organized crime, terror financing, drug/sex trafficking	Methods: hawala, cryptocurrencies, shell companies, bulk cash smuggling

Terrorist Financing (TF)	Financing terrorist activities from legitimate (businesses, charities) or criminal sources (drug trade, arms smuggling, kidnapping).	Methods: Online crowdfunding (disguised as charity), microfinancing by lone actors, gaming platforms, etc.
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◆ **Challenges:** 69% countries lack enforcement; **ED conviction rate** under PMLA is just 4.6%; VDAs enable anonymous transfers; tax havens, weak coordination, low political will.

◆ **Initiatives:**

- ▶ **India:** Black Money Act, 2015, PMLA, 2002, Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND), taxing VDAs (30% income tax, 1% TDS on crypto).
- ▶ **Global:** FATF, Vienna Convention, Global Programme against Money Laundering.

◆ **Way Forward:**

- ▶ Enforce FATF Standards globally
- ▶ Tackle crypto havens (regulate VASPs)
- ▶ International cooperation (Palermo Convention, UNCAC)
- ▶ Adopt technology (AI, blockchain), improve coordination

ML/TF exploits weak links; a strong, tech-enabled, globally coordinated public-private approach is essential.

2.5.2 Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

FATF report on “**Complex Proliferation Financing and Sanctions Evasion Schemes**” reveals new ways to **bypass global sanctions** on proliferation financing.

About FATF

- ◆ **Established in 1989 during G7 Paris Summit.** Sets international standards to track/act against illicit funds. Identifies jurisdictions with weak measures.
- ◆ **Lists:** Grey List (countries addressing deficiencies), Blacklist (serious deficiencies).
- ◆ **Members:** 40 (including India). 200+ countries commit to FATF Standards.

FATF is Less Effective Due to:				
Perceived lack of objectivity (consensus decisions)	Focus on technical compliance over real action (e.g., Pakistan removed from grey list)	Weakness in listing regime (lack of flexible response)	Marginalization of Global South voices (lack resources)	Emerging sources of terror financing (cryptocurrencies).

◆ **Way Forward**

- ▶ **Improve transparency** (open appointments, job independence)
- ▶ **Categorization within grey list** (based on willingness)
- ▶ Support for poor nations
- ▶ **Build capacity for emerging threats** (virtual assets), and boost global cooperation (UN, IMF, World Bank, regional groups).

2.5.3 Drug Trafficking

- ◆ **Status:** 292 million people used drugs in 2022, a **20% increase** in 10 years (World Drug Report 2024).

Key Issues associated with drug trafficking	
National security threat	narco-terrorism , terrorism funding, and LWE
Social crime spike	Youth addiction and public health impact, Institutional corruption by drug
Environmental damage	Due to illegal farming (e.g. cannabis in Uttarakhand),

◆ Challenges:

- ▶ India is a **"Transit Hub"** between **Death Triangle** (Myanmar, Thailand, Laos) and **Death Crescent** (Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan).
- ▶ **Cyber-enabled trafficking** (dark web, crypto-markets)
- ▶ Proliferation of **illegal online pharmacies**.

◆ Measures Taken to curb:

- ▶ Legal framework under NDPS Act, 1985,
- ▶ Databases like **SIMS** and **NIDAAN**
- ▶ State-level **Anti-Narcotics Task Forces (ANTF)**
- ▶ International cooperation via UN conventions (1961 Narcotics, UNCAC, UNTOC)

◆ Way Forward

- ▶ **Enhance inter-agency coordination** and data sharing
- ▶ Leverage tech to regulate crypto and online drug markets
- ▶ **Strengthen NDPS enforcement** and expand impact of **Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan**. Terrorism

2.6 Terrorism In India

◆ India ranked 14th on **Global Terrorism Index 2025**.

◆ **Key Challenges:** No definition of terrorism, State-sponsored terrorism, Extradition delays, Radical ideologies, Anonymous financing (crypto, crowdfunding, online platforms)

◆ **India's Efforts:** New Security Doctrine 2025 (zero tolerance policy), UAPA 1967, NIA, **NATGRID**, MHA divisions (Counterterrorism, Counter-Radicalisation, Cybersecurity)

◆ **Global Initiatives:** FATF, UN CT Strategy, UNSC CTC, GCTF, **SCO-RATS**, **No Money for Terror** Conference |

2.6.1 India's New Security Doctrine

India outlined new security doctrine, **a major shift in counterterrorism strategy**

Key Pillars of India's New Security Doctrine

Pillars	Significance
Decisive retaliation on India's terms	Lowered response threshold, higher costs for terror sponsors
No tolerance for nuclear blackmail	Assertive strikes on terror havens, self-defense prioritized
No distinction between terrorists and sponsors	State sponsors treated as perpetrators of war.

2.6.2 India's Diplomatic Outreach Against State Sponsored Terrorism

India dispatched high-level multi-party delegations to over 30 countries.

Effectiveness

- ◆ Legitimizing self-defense (invoking UN Charter Article 51 for Operation Sindoor)
- ◆ Zero-tolerance policy on terror (urging CCIT adoption)
- ◆ Building global support (framing as fight against terror, not religion)
- ◆ Enhancing global standing.

Key Hurdles in Diplomatic Outreach

- ◆ **Re-hyphenation of India and Pakistan** (e.g., US mediation claim), **Lack of global coordination** (no sanctions on Pakistan)
- ◆ **Pakistan's global gains** (chairing UN committees, continued economic aid to Pakistan)
- ◆ **Short global focus** (other crises diverting attention)

2.6.3 Transnational Organised Crime

- ◆ **Transnational Organized Crimes (TNOC):** Organized criminal activities across borders for financial or material gain.

Types of TNOC						
Drug trafficking	Human trafficking	Smuggling of migrants	Money laundering	Illicit trading in firearms	Crimes that affect the environment	Cybercrime

- ◆ **Challenges in Curbing TNOCs:** Cross-Border Complexity, **Legal and Policy Gaps**, Demographic Winter, Economic Inequality
- ◆ **Steps to Address TNOCs:**
- ▶ **National:** Constitutional (Article 23) and Statutory Framework (**Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act, 1956**), Maritime Security, National Central Bureau (NCB)
 - ▶ **Global:** **UN Conventions, UN Commission on Crime Prevention** (CCPCJ), FATF, INTERPOL
- ◆ **Way Forward:** Increase accountability (for countries enabling crime), focus on rehabilitation, enhance law enforcement (specialized training, intelligence), secure financial systems.

2.7. Emerging Dimensions of Warfare

2.7.1 Adaptive Defense And Frontier Technologies In Modern Warfare

- ◆ **Adaptive Defense:** Strategic, evolving defense model to counter emerging threats
- ◆ **Frontier Technologies:** Fast-evolving innovations driven by digitalization and connectivity

Significance		
Secure the future beyond borders	Address traditional (armed aggression) and non-traditional (drug trafficking) challenges	Counter information warfare .

- ◆ **Challenges Posed by Frontier Technologies**
- ▶ **Increased risk of destabilization** (asymmetry, proliferation to non-state actors),
 - ▶ Legal gaps (lack of international laws),
 - ▶ Dual-use dilemma, AI arms races
 - ▶ Algorithmic bias, and accountability issues,
- ◆ **Steps Taken by India:** Defence AI Council and DAIPA, **Project Seeker (AI surveillance)**, **Antariksha Abhyas-2024 (space-military integration)**.

2.7.2 Hybrid Warfare

- ◆ **Definition:** It is a strategy that combines **conventional tactics (kinetic warfare)** with unconventional methods (**non-kinetic warfare**), to achieve political or strategic goals without resorting to full-scale war.
- ▶ It is a **tool of Grey Zone Warfare (GZW)** which is a broader concept and refers to **conflict tactics used between peace and full-scale war**.

Reasons for Rise in Hybrid Warfare			
Low-cost (avoids direct blame)	Psychological warfare/info war (e.g., China renaming areas in Arunachal Pradesh)	Ease of attack (cyber, AI, digital tools)	Lack of global rules

- ◆ **Factors Making India Vulnerable:** **Hostile Neighbours, Internal Unrest**, Evolving Terror Tactics, Digitalisation of Economy
- ◆ **India's Preparedness:** Defence Modernisation (**DRDO's DURGA-II**), Structural Reforms, Global Partnerships, Parliamentary Oversight.

◆ Way Ahead:

- ▶ Regular audits of critical systems,
- ▶ Hybrid Warfare Division for offensive/defensive action,
- ▶ Whole-of-Government Strategy (NSCS-led),
- ▶ Real-time tech-based response (robots, drones, smart tech)

2.8. Space Weaponization

- ◆ **Definition:** Space weaponization refers to **placing weapons in outer space** or creating weapons to destroy space targets.
- ◆ **Reasons for Space Weaponisation:** War Superiority, Satellite Protection (e.g., Mission Shakti), Dual-Use Technology, Weak Treaties.
- ◆ **Initiatives: Outer Space Treaty (1967)**, PAROS (UN Initiative), Partial Test Ban Treaty (1963), Artemis Accords.
- ◆ **Way Forward:** Legally-Binding Treaty (enforce PAROS), Space Domain Awareness (boost monitoring systems), Transparency and Trust Building (share data with UNOOSA)

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*: Pre-foundation classes are designed to provide a strong foundation in core UPSC CSE subjects, utilizing NCERTs and basic textbooks. They serve as the initial step in the comprehensive preparation journey for the UPSC Civil Services Examination by providing conceptual clarity in core GS subjects such as History, Polity, Geography, Economy, and Environment. Further, Pre-Foundation Classes act as a transition platform toward the VisionIAS Regular Foundation Course Program, 2026.



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KEY FEATURES OF SANDHAN



Extensive Collection: Access 20000+ high-quality questions prepared by VisionIAS and UPSC Previous Year Questions(PYQs).



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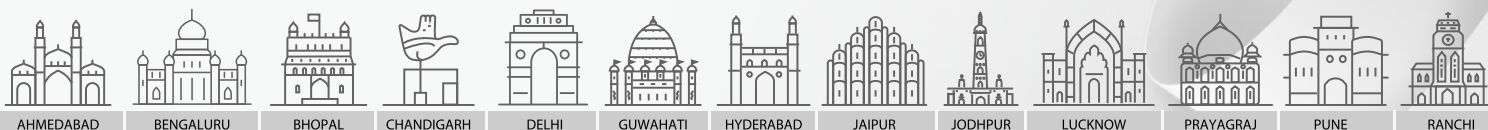
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3. SECURITY CHALLENGES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT IN BORDER AREAS

3.1. 25 years of Kargil War

Reasons for Kargil War:

- ▶ **Politico-Strategic:** Internationalize Kashmir, alter LoC, better bargaining position for trade-off against Siachen.
- ▶ **Military/Proxy War:** Interdict Srinagar-Leh road, outflank Indian defenses in Turtuk/Siachen, boost militancy in J&K

Key Issues identified by Kargil Review Committee (KRC)

Intelligence failure (Lahore Declaration overreliance)	Low tech (poor satellite, UAV, HUMINT)	Defence underfunding	no clear security policy
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Major Initiatives for Strengthening Defense Architecture (Post-Kargil)

Intelligence	National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO), Multi Agency Centre (MAC) for daily intelligence sharing.
National Security Management	National Security Council (NSC) reformed, Nuclear Command Authority (2003) with PM as head, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) created (2019).
Defense Modernization	Agnipath Scheme, Defence production/indigenization (DAP 2020, Positive Indigenisation List, SRIJAN Portal, ADITI), Defense Offset Policy.
Border Management	Smart fencing (BOLD-QIT), Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM) Scheme, Vibrant Village Programme (VVP)

- ▶ **Way Ahead (KRC Recommendations):** Create electronic & communication intelligence agency, Declassify war documents, Enhance military-media synergy, Establish civil-military liaison at all levels.

3.2. Maritime Security

- ▶ **Need:** Vulnerabilities (26/11, piracy), Geostrategic Interests, Economic Importance (80% trade, 90% energy, IOR)
- ▶ **Challenges to Maritime Security:** Piracy, maritime terrorism, geopolitical rivalries (USA vs China), Governance Gaps, Environmental Risks etc.
- ▶ **Steps Taken:**
 - ▶ **Surveillance & Coordination:** Sagar Kavach, proposal for Maritime Theatre Command (MTC), Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)
 - ▶ **Regional Cooperation (SAGAR, MAHASAGAR)**
 - ▶ Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024
- ▶ **Way Forward:**
 - ▶ **5-point framework** (free trade, dispute resolution, connectivity, threat response, environmental protection.),
 - ▶ **Strengthening unified command structure** (expedite MTC), deepen maritime cooperation (IORA, IONS, QUAD, joint naval exercises), boost Blue Economy Potential (sustainable fisheries).

4. SECURITY FORCES

4.1. Defence Modernisation

4.1.1. Modernisation of Armed Forces

- ◆ **Need:** Strategic threats (China in IOR), equipment gaps (aircraft, submarines), hybrid and cyber warfare, HADR capabilities.

Challenges in Armed forces modernisation	
Budget Allocation	Large portion for salaries/pensions, limiting capital expenditure/R&D
Slow Decision-Making	Around 7-9 years to finalize acquisition contracts.
Technological Limitations	Lack of deep ecosystem for indigenous design/manufacture of advanced systems/components
Stalled Structural Reforms	Integrated Commands delayed due to inter-service rivalries/lack of consensus.

◆ Steps Taken:

- ▶ **Year of Reforms (2025),**
- ▶ **Inter-Services Organisations Act 2023**, CDS empowered for joint orders,
- ▶ DAP 2020, Positive Indigenisation List, SRIJAN Portal, ADITI, iDEX schemes,
- ▶ 74% FDI via automatic route
- ▶ Mission DefSpace, Mission Shakti (ASAT)

◆ Way Forward:

- ▶ Non-Lapsable Defence Modernisation Fund (**15th Finance Commission**),
- ▶ BRADS (Rama Rao Committee),
- ▶ **Shekatkar Committee recommendations to rebalance defence spending**, defence-industry-academia collaboration.

4.2. Integrated Theatre Commands (ITCs)

- ◆ **About ITCs:** Unified tri-service organizations responsible for combat operations/internal security in specific geographic areas.
- ◆ **Current Structure:** 19 commands (17 single-service, 2 tri-service: Andaman and Nicobar, Strategic Forces).
- ◆ **Key Initiatives Supporting ITC:** Inter-Services Organisation (Command, Control, and Discipline) Rules, 2025, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), Department of Military Affairs (DMA), HQ Integrated Defence Staff (IDS).
- ◆ **Challenges:** No clear National Security Strategy, interoperability issues (different equipment), resource limitations (Air Force support), resistance from services.

ITCs aim to streamline India's military structure, increase jointness, and ensure faster, coordinated responses in modern warfare. While the intent is strong, addressing strategy, logistics, and interoperability remains crucial for successful implementation.

4.3. Global Agencies

4.3.1. INTERPOL

INTERPOL issued **Silver Notice on India's request** to track global assets of former French Embassy officer wanted in visa fraud.

About Silver Notice:

- ◆ **Newest addition** to INTERPOL's color-coded Notices (international requests for cooperation/alerts).
- ◆ **Purpose:** Tracing/gathering info on assets of fugitives/accused, even abroad.

About INTERPOL:

- ◆ Established as ICPC in 1923, became INTERPOL in 1956.

◆ **Members: 196** (India is founding member).

▶ CBI is India's **National Central Bureaus (NCBs)** for INTERPOL and has developed Bharatpol portal).

◆ **Governing Bodies:** General Assembly, Executive Committee

Need for International Police Cooperation

Cross-border crimes (money laundering, trafficking, smuggling, e.g., Operation HAECHI)	Modern threats like cybercrime, radicalization, trafficking, (e.g., Operation Serengeti, Operation FLASH-WEKA)	Counter-terrorism , legal support, resource sharing
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◆ **Obstacles in International Police Cooperation:**

- ▶ **Legal/Procedural** disparities,
- ▶ **Cultural Barriers** (language, clashes, corruption),
- ▶ **Resource Constraints** (tech disparities),
- ▶ **Political Indifference** (tensions, conflicting national interests).

Despite challenges, continuous collaboration, tech advancements, and diplomatic efforts strengthen global policing. International police cooperation is indispensable in interconnected world.



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in CURRENT AFFAIRS with

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Current affairs forms the cornerstone of civil services exam preparation, permeating all its phases – **Prelims, Mains, and the Interview**. Staying updated with current affairs equips aspirants to navigate the evolving landscape of the civil services exam. With the right resources and approach, candidates can transform this vast section into a strong advantage.

What is PT 365?

PT 365 document comprehensively covers the important and relevant current affairs of the last 1 year in a consolidated manner to aid Prelims preparation. It is devised as a revision document of the current affairs.

Features of PT365



Comprehensive Coverage

- Entire year's current affairs coverage.
- UPSC relevant subjects like Polity, Economy, S&T, Environment, IR, etc.
- Emphasis on topics likely to appear in upcoming prelims exam.



Clear and Concise Information

- Clear, concise presentation focusing on key issues.
- Information from credible sources.
- Appendices for rapid revision.



QR based Smart quiz

- Interactive feature to assess aspirant's learning and comprehension.



Infographics

- Aids in understanding and retention.
- Techniques, methods, and processes displayed.
- Strategic use of maps to enhance learning.



Government Schemes and Policies

- In-depth coverage of key government schemes, policies, and initiatives.



New Elements

- Tailored to reflect the pattern of previous year's questions.



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Significance of PT 365



Ease of Revision: Content categorisation is based on subjects or topics to make it easier for aspirants to locate and revise specific areas



Value Addition: Includes infographics, related developments, or news, ensuring comprehensive coverage of important information.



Crisp Material: Crisp points have been used in the articles. It allows aspirants to easily do multiple revisions in limited span of time.



Integrated Approach: Covers basic concepts and information of all current affairs in a lucid manner, in line with previous trends of UPSC questions. Also helps in integrating key current affairs with static knowledge.



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PT 365 is a time and tested document. In the previous years, it has helped lakhs of candidates to cover current affairs in a holistic way. It's impactful features make it easier for aspirants to understand current affairs and excel in the UPSC Civil Services examination.

5. MISCELLANEOUS

5.1. Rise in Nuclear Weapons Arsenal

SIPRI Yearbook 2024 highlights rise in nuclear weapon development/deployment.

◆ **Nuclear Stockpile trends:** China, India expanding arsenals, modernisation (all 9 nuclear-armed states upgrading in 2024).

◆ **Drivers of Nuclear Weapons Pursuit:**

- ▶ Security deterrence (counterbalance nuclear-armed rivals)
- ▶ Domestic pressures (military-scientific-political lobbies push arsenal growth)
- ▶ Prestige and norms

Threats Posed by Nuclear arsenal			
Rising Nuclear Risks (geopolitical tensions, disarmament delays)	Risk of Nuclear Accidents (Zaporizhzhia plant)	Emerging Challenges (cyber threats, space-based nukes causing EMPs)	India-specific threats (China's shifting posture, Pakistan's tactical nukes and lowered threshold)

◆ **Non-Proliferation Measures**

- ▶ IAEA (promotes peaceful nuclear use)
- ▶ NPT (prevents spread, India not a signatory)
- ▶ PTBT (bans atmospheric/space/underwater tests)
- ▶ CTBT (bans all tests, India not a signatory)
- ▶ TPNW (prohibits nuclear activity, India not a signatory), etc

5.2. 25 Years Of India's Nuclear Doctrine

About Doctrine: Encompasses goals/missions guiding deployment/use of nuclear weapons.

Key Features of India's Nuclear Doctrine	
Credible Minimum Deterrence	Limited but effective arsenal to deter adversaries
No First Use Policy (NFU)	Used only in response to nuclear attack on India/forces
Massive Retaliation	Any nuclear strike on India faces large-scale, devastating response
No Use Against Non-Nuclear States	Not used against non-nuclear countries
Support for Disarmament	Committed to nuclear-free world through global, verifiable, fair disarmament.

◆ **Efficacy of NFU**

- ▶ **Against NFU:** High casualties if India suffers first strike; costly BMD system needed. Ineffective against Pakistan (TNWs, lower threshold, no NFU).
- ▶ **In Favor of NFU:** Contributes to strategic restraint, enables civil nuclear cooperation/accommodation in multilateral regimes, maintains defensive/non-escalatory stance.

Way Forward for Strengthening Doctrine			
Capability boost (expand missile & tech programs)	Strategic flexibility (proportional retaliation options)	Doctrinal alignment (update as per shifting threats)	Global leadership (advocate disarmament and NFU globally)

5.3. Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)

UNODA celebrated 50th anniversary of BWC (entered into force in 1975).

About BWC

- ◆ First **multilateral disarmament treaty banning** an entire class of **Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)**.
- ◆ **Prohibits development, production, stockpiling, acquisition, transfer, use** of biological/toxin weapons.
 - ▶ **Biological Weapons** refer to tools of war **spreading harmful organisms** (bacteria, viruses, fungi, toxins) to cause disease/death in humans/animals/plants.

Membership: 188 states (including India).

Measures by India

- ◆ 1989 Rules on Hazardous Microorganisms (regulate genetically engineered organisms)
- ◆ Weapons of Mass Destruction Act, 2005 (bans unlawful WMD activities)
- ◆ SCOMET List (export control for dual-use biological items)

Challenges in Implementation			
No Verification Mechanism (dual-use nature of bioscience)	Weak Data Collection (low participation)	Limited Institutional Support (understaffed Implementation Support Unit)	Gaps in National Enforcement (e.g. no central authority in India)

Way Forward

- ◆ **Strengthen Verification** (modular approach)
- ◆ Enhance **Institutional Capacity** (rotating expert group under UN SG)
- ◆ **Improve Confidence Building Measures or CBMs** (AI tools for reporting)
- ◆ **Counter Non-State Actor** (align BWC with UNSC Resolution 1540 to block terrorist access).

5.4. Fifth-Generation Fighter Jet AMCA

Execution model for India's indigenous 5th-generation fighter jet, Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) approved.

Programme Overview

- ◆ **Purpose:** Manufacture indigenous 5th gen jet.
- ◆ **Lead Agency:** Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) under DRDO.
- ◆ **Industry tie-up:** Private/public sector (bidder must be Indian companies)

Features of India's 5th Generation Fighter Jet			
Twin-engine (higher safety)	Stealth Capabilities (LPIR, harder to detect)	Agile Airframes with Supercruise (high maneuverability, supersonic speeds)	Advanced Avionics & Integrated Computer Systems (networking, 360-degree battlefield view)

Key Operational 5th Gen Fighter Aircrafts: US (F-22, F-35), Russia (Sukhoi Su-57), China (Chengdu J-20).

Strategic Importance of AMCA

- ◆ **IAF Modernisation** (fills capability gap, restores squadron strength),
- ◆ **Regional Threat Dynamics** (counters China's J-20, Pakistan's J-10C),
- ◆ **Technological Sovereignty** (reduces foreign dependency),
- ◆ **Atmanirbhar Bharat** (boosts indigenous defense, aerospace ecosystem).

5.5. India's Air Defence System (ADS)

India's ADS successfully thwarted attacks on Western Border during Operation Sindoor.

About India's ADS

- ◆ Consists of **Integrated Counter UAS Grid**, with key **surface-to-air missile (SAM)** systems.
- ◆ **Key Technologies:**
 - ▶ **S-400 Triumf (Russia):** Also known as **Sudarshan Chakra** in India.
 - ◇ Long-range SAM with 360° coverage, multi-missile compatibility, tracks targets up to 600 km, engages at 400 km.
 - ▶ **Barak 8 (India-Israel joint):** Medium-/long-range SAM, Mach 2 speed, targets multiple aerial threats up to 100 km.
 - ▶ **Akash Weapon System (Indigenous):** Short-range SAM, ECCM-equipped, auto engagement in group/autonomous mode, up to 25 km range.

5.6. Multiple Independently Targetable Re-Entry Vehicle (MIRV) Technology

DRDO successfully tested indigenous Agni-5 missile with MIRV technology under Mission Divyastra.

- ◆ **About:** Carries multiple nuclear warheads targeting different locations, releases them at varied angles and speeds, and is **launchable** from land or submarines.

Need FOR MIRV			
Strengthen second-strike capability	Counter MIRV threats from China and Pakistan	Ensure credible deterrence under No First Use doctrine	Enhance global strategic standing

- ◆ **Challenges associated with MIRV:**
 - ▶ **Land-based vulnerability** risking loss of multiple warheads
 - ▶ **Arms race escalation** due to first-strike temptations
 - ▶ **Technical hurdles** like warhead miniaturization
 - ▶ **Precision guidance**, and fissile material requirements

5.7 Directed Energy Weapons (DEWs)

India has made major investments in DEWs.

About DEWs

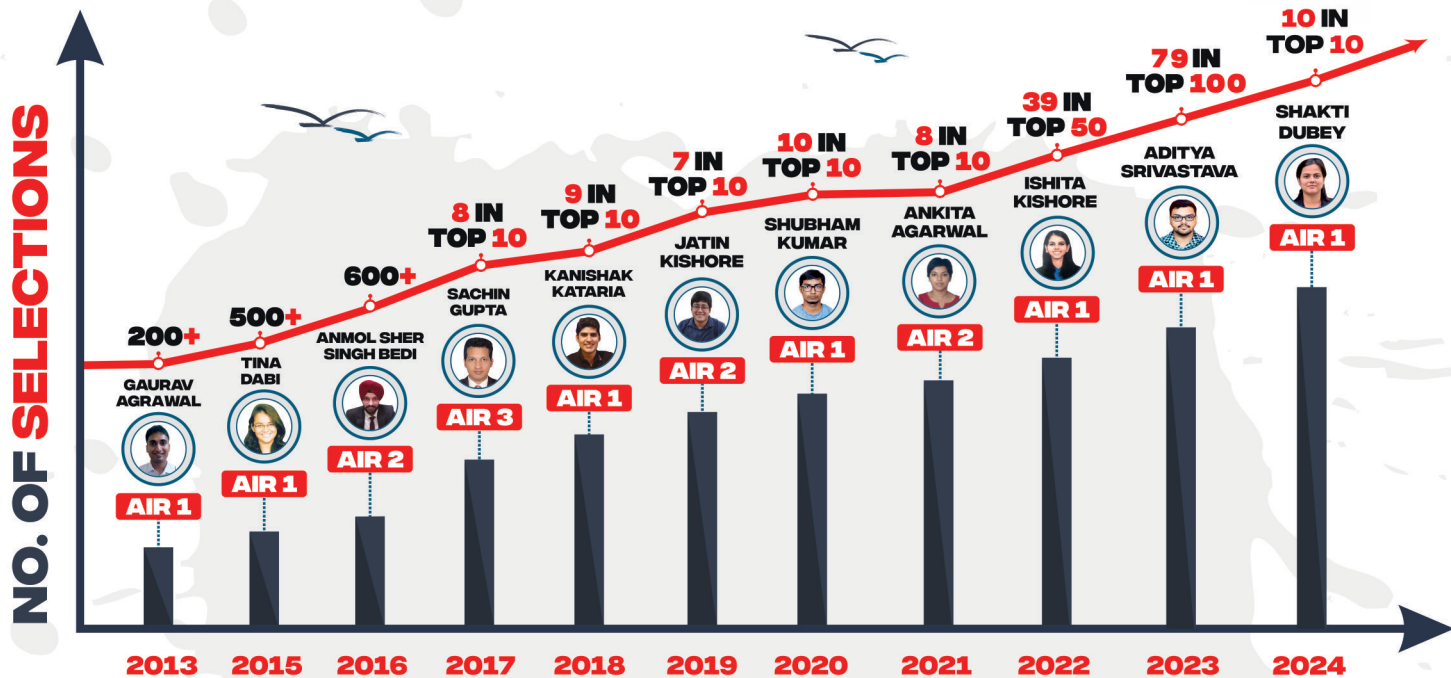
- ◆ **Definition:** DEWs are ranged weapons that **use concentrated energy** from **electromagnetic or particle technology**, rather than **kinetic energy** to disable or destroy enemy equipment.
- ◆ **Applications:** Used to shoot down missiles/drones, control crowds **non-lethally**, and protect satellites from threats.

Advantages of DEWs				
Stealth (silent, invisible)	Speed & Cost-Effectiveness (fire at light speed, faster response)	Simplified Logistics (no ammunition, only power source)	Flexible & Scalable Use (non-lethal to lethal)	Eco-Friendly (reduces explosives/fuel, lowers carbon footprint)

- ◆ **Challenges associated with DEWs**
 - ▶ Weather conditions reduce laser performance
 - ▶ **Debris and component aging** impact output consistency
 - ▶ Risk of affecting **friendly assets** (especially with HPM)
 - ▶ Unclear long-term health and legal implications.

Steps Taken: **DURGA-II project by DRDO** for 100-kW lightweight DEW, 2-kW system by BEL for drone threats, LASTECH developing core laser technologies, **KALI** accelerator for missile targeting and EM disruption

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