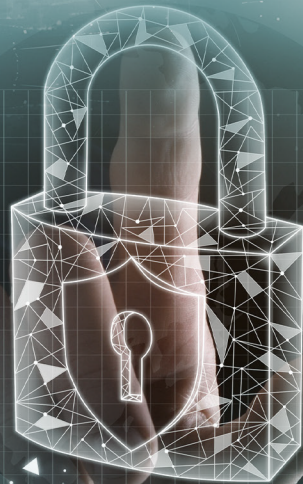


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CONTENTS

1. State And Non-State Actors	4
2. Threats To Internal Security.	5
3. Security Challenges And Their Management In Border Areas	10
4. Security Forces.	12
5. Miscellaneous	14

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State And Non-State Actors

Left Wing Extremism

- ◆ **Incidents of LWE violence** have **reduced by 76%** from **2010- 2022**.
- ◆ **Initiatives: SAMADHAN, 'Bastariya Battalion' of CRPF, Operation Octopus, Developmental Funding via Special Infrastructure Scheme, Industrial Training Institutes and Skill Development Centres.**

Insurgency in Northeast

- ◆ **Initiatives: Peace deals like** Bodo Peace Accord, Karbi Anglong Peace Agreement, Regional/local connectivity projects like **UDAN 4.0., Maitri Setu, Bogibeel Bridge, Development of Northeast** under **'Act East Policy'** and **Aspirational District programme.**

Manipur Violence

- ◆ There are **33 recognized tribes of Manipur that either falls** under Nagas or Kukis.
- ◆ **Initiatives:** Inner Line Permit (ILP), Suspension of Operations (SoS) agreement, Peace Agreement with United National Liberation Front (UNLF) and **Lokur Committee.**

Separatism

- ◆ **Different forms:** Insurgency, Statehood movement, Autonomy movement, Secessionist movement.
- ◆ **Initiatives:** Sixth Schedule, Mizo accord to bring peace in Mizoram, the Aspirational District Programmes and Force is used against groups such as **United Liberation Front of Assam.**

Illegal Migration

- ◆ As of October 2023, 2925 illegal agents have been notified in India through e-Migrate portal.
- ◆ **Initiatives:** 'Surakshit Jayen Prashikshit Jayen' campaign, Migration and mobility partnership agreements (France), CIBMS, **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, INTERPOL, etc.**

Free Movement Regime (FMR) Scrapped

- ◆ **Formalized in 2018** as part of **India's Act East Policy.**
- ◆ Allows visa-free travel within **16 km of border for residents.**

Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) 1958

- ◆ AFSPA **grants special powers to armed forces** to bring back order in **"disturbed areas"**.
- ◆ **Judicial pronouncements: Naga People's Movement of Human Rights v Union of India (1997), Extra Judicial Execution Victim Families vs Union of India & Anr (2016)**
- ◆ **AFSPA be repealed: B P Jeevan Reddy committee (2005) and Second ARC (2007)**



Threats To Internal Security

Misuse of Social Media

- ◆ **Internet penetration** (over 880 million as of March 2023, TRAI).
- ◆ **Initiatives:** Information Technology (**Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code**) Rules 2021, **Section 67 of IT Act, 2000** and PIB's **Fact Check Unit** under IT Rules 2021.

Online Radicalisation

- ◆ It involves **radicalize youth and solicit support through social media** for their political agenda.
- ◆ **Rising internet penetration:** In 2023, grew 8% year-on-year (Internet in India 2023 Report).
- ◆ **Global Initiatives:** UN **Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy**, EU's **Digital Services Act (DSA)**, **Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT)**, **Tech Against Terrorism**
- ◆ **Indian Initiatives:** UAPA 1967, IT Act 2000, I4C, **Sahi Raasta programme** and **Operation SADBHAVANA**

Virtual Assets and Terror Financing

- ◆ VAs refer to any digital representation of value that can be digitally traded, transferred or used for payment. E.g. **Bitcoin**, **Litecoin**.
- ◆ **VASPs:** Entities conducting transactions (exchanges, transfers) between virtual assets or fiat currencies.
- ◆ **Regulations in India:** **AML-CFT regulations of PMLA 2002**, **'travel rule' for VASPs, VDASPs to register with FIU IND** and India **proposed a permanent secretariat** to fight terror funding.

Data Protection

- ◆ **Data refers to** unprocessed facts and figures which could be **'personal' or 'non-personal'**
- ◆ **Cyber security as** India ranked 10th globally in data breaches in 2023.
- ◆ **Initiatives:** **BN Srikrishna Committee**, **Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDP), 2023**

Cyber Security

- ◆ **World Cybercrime Index (2024)** ranks **India 10th** as major cybercrime hotspots.
- ◆ **Initiatives:** **IT Act 2000**, **Joint Doctrine for Cyberspace Operations (2024)**, **National Cybersecurity Policy 2013**, **CERT-In**, **I4C**, **National Cybersecurity Coordination Centre (NCCC)**, **NCIIPC**, **Cyber Swachta Kendra**

Cyber Threats and Financial Sectors

- ◆ **Global Financial Stability Report 2024** of IMF: Nearly **one-fifth of all cyber risks** affect financial firms.
- ◆ **Financial frauds accounts for 75% of cybercrimes** in India
- ◆ CFCFRMS registered around **1.1 million financial cyber fraud cases in 2023**.

Critical Information Infrastructure

- ◆ It refers to those essential infrastructures, which, if disrupted/destroyed, would impact health, safety, security, economic or social well-being of nation. **E.g.** Dams, Power, Banking, etc.
- ◆ **Initiatives: IT Act 2000, National Cybersecurity Policy 2013, National Cyber Security Strategy 2020, CERT-In, I4C, NCCC, NCIIPC, Defence Cyber Agency.**

Geospatial Data and National Security

- ◆ **Geospatial data** is information that describes objects, events or other features with location on/near Earth's surface.
- ◆ **Initiatives: National Geospatial Policy, 2022, National Map Policy, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, National Spatial Data Infrastructure** like Bharatmaps, **NAVIC, Geospatial data gathering like SVAMITVA.**

Money Laundering

- ◆ It is the **process of making illegally-gained proceeds** (Dirty Money) appears legal (Clean).
- ◆ **Three stages of Money Laundering: Placement, Layering, and Integration**
- ◆ **Initiatives: PMLA 2002 and Amendment 2023, FIU-IND, Economic Offences Wing, RBI, SEBI, CBI, FATF, Vienna Convention, Global Programme against Money Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and financing of Terrorism.**

Drug Trafficking

- ◆ **Highest Possession of drugs for trafficking: Punjab** (maximum), followed by UP, TN. (NCRB 2022 report).
- ◆ India is **one of the world's single largest opiate markets** in terms of users (World Drugs report 2022).
- ◆ **Initiatives: Operation Samudragupt, Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, CIBMS, Seizure Information Management System (SIMS) and National Integrated Database on Arrested Narco-offenders (NIDAAN) portals, UN Single Convention on Narcotics Drugs 1961**

Human Trafficking

- ◆ **Human trafficking:** Recruitment, transport, harboring by coercion, abduction, fraud.
- ◆ **2022 Global Report:** 50,000 victims detected globally by 141 countries in 2020
- ◆ **Initiatives:** UNTOC, GenJust initiative to engage youth, Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956, Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013, CBI, **Anti-Human Trafficking nodal officer and Cri-MAC.**

Terrorism

- ◆ **India** ranked **14th** on **Global Terrorism Index 2024** (Topped by Burkina Faso).
- ◆ **Global Initiatives: UN GCTS, 2006, UNSC CTC, GCTF, FATF, SCO RATS, No Money for Terror conference**
- ◆ **Indian Initiatives: UAPA 1967, NIA, NATGRID, India-U.S. Counter-Terrorism Cooperation**

India's Anti-Terrorism Approach

- ◆ Civic Action Programme and Udaan scheme, NIA, RAW, IB, **Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)**
- ◆ In 2024, India has **contributed \$500,000 to U.N. Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund**

15th Anniversary of 26/11 Mumbai Attacks

- ◆ **3-layered protection of Indian coasts:** Marine police (upto 12 NM), Coast Guard (12 to 200 NM), Indian Navy beyond 200 NM
- ◆ **Improvement made after 26/11:** Sagar Prahari Bal, Fast Interceptor Crafts, Sea Vigil (2019), NIA, NSG, Pakistan in grey list (FATF)
- ◆ **NIA:** In 2022, overall conviction rate was about **94%**.

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) 1967

- ◆ **2019 Amendment:** Individuals can be designated as terrorists
- ◆ **Definition: International Convention for Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005)** to define terrorist acts.
- ◆ **Offences are cognizable, Tribunal for appeal**

Transnational Organised Crimes

- ◆ **Drug trafficking:** Nearly 300 mn drug users globally and increase in trafficking (UNODC).
- ◆ **Human trafficking:** 50 mn people globally may be subject to various forms of exploitation (UNODC).
- ◆ **Smuggling of migrants:** More than 8,000 people dying along migration routes globally
- ◆ **Global Initiatives:** UNTOC, Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, INTERPOL's Organized Crime Unit and Project Millennium, FATF, UN CCPCJ
- ◆ **Initiatives in India: Article 23** of the Constitution, **Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act, 1956** and **Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013**, joined **combined maritime forces** in 2022

United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crimes (UNTOC)

- ◆ Adopted by **UN General Assembly in 2000** and entered into force in **2003**
- ◆ **Members:** Signatories-147 and Parties-191 (India ratified it in 2011).
- ◆ Convention is further supplemented by **three Protocols**

Hybrid Warfare

- ◆ Hybrid warfare entails an **interplay or fusion of conventional as well as unconventional instruments** of power and tools of subversion.
- ◆ **Political warfare:** 2016 US election and UK Brexit vote are suspected to have been influenced by Russia
- ◆ **Military Warfare:** E.g. Israel used cluster bombs in Israel-Hezbollah War, 2006

Grey-zone Warfare

- ◇ GZW involves use of **unconventional tactics and strategies** that fall below threshold of **traditional warfare**.
- ◇ **Initiatives:** CDS, DAP 2020, Agreements like **GSOMIA with the US**, FCRA regulation for foreign NGOs funding, **CERT-In** for cyber security, **iDEX** for modernisation in defense.

Urban Warfare

- ◇ Urban warfare refers to **military operations conducted in urban environments** like cities and towns.
- ◇ **Initiatives:** NSG, Smart Cities Mission, NDRF

Space weaponisation

- ◇ It includes **placing weapons in outer space** as well as creating weapons that will destroy targets in space.
- ◇ **Initiatives:** Outer Space Treaty, PAROS, Partial Test Ban Treaty (1963), Artemis Accords and Long Term Sustainability (LTS) of Outerspace Activities Guidelines of UNOOSA

Spy Reconnaissance Satellite

- ◇ It provides intelligence information on the military activities of foreign countries.
- ◇ **Reconnaissance satellites:** US (Keyhole series), China (Yaogan series), Russia (Persona series), India (**RISAT-2**)

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Security Challenges And Their Management In Border Areas

India- China

- ◆ **Issues: Border disputes** at Galwan Valley, Aksai Chin, Doklam etc.; **Large scale smuggling** of Chinese goods (E.g. Gold worth Rs 82 crore smuggled in eastern Ladakh in July 2024); **Water-sharing issues** (e.g. Brahmaputra River) etc.
- ◆ **Initiatives: Infrastructure** to reduce time for troop movement (e.g. Dhola- Sadiya Bridge); **Development of North East Region** (e.g. Border Area Development Programme); **Vibrant village programme** for border village development etc.

India-Pakistan

- ◆ **Issues: Border dispute** at Sir Creek and Kashmir; **Water sharing issue** at Indus River; **Cross-border terrorism.** E.g. Uri and Pulwama attack etc.
- ◆ **Initiatives:** Implementation of **Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS)**; Deploying National Security Guard commandos in J&K etc.

India- Nepal

- ◆ **Issues: Border dispute** at Kalapani, Limpiyadhura and Lipulekh; **Chinese investment in core sector of Nepal** like infrastructure, hydro energy, etc.; **Fear of spread of Maoist insurgency** due to links of Nepal's Maoists in India etc.
- ◆ **Initiatives: Border District Coordination Committee; Security related infrastructure development** like Fatehpur Border out Post; **Development aid to Nepal** (In FY 2024-25, India allocated Rs. 700 crore in aid to Nepal) etc.

India-Bhutan

- ◆ **Issues: Insurgency** (E.g. United Liberation Front of Asom camps in Bhutan); **Smuggling of goods** like Bhutanese cannabis; **Open Cross-Border Movement etc.**
- ◆ **Initiatives: Operation All Clear** (Royal Bhutan Army) to remove insurgent camps; **Establishing new border posts in Sikkim; General approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land** for infrastructure projects etc.

India-Myanmar

- ◆ **Issues: No physical barrier along border** increases insurgent's incidents (e.g. 563 insurgents have been arrested during 2015- 2018) etc.
- ◆ **Initiatives:** In 2017, Cabinet **proposed to set up 13 new Integrated Check Posts** to encourage India's engagement with SAARC countries along with Thailand and Myanmar.

Border Infrastructure

- ◆ **Need for strengthening Border Infrastructure:** Check LWE, narcotics/arms smuggling; Control cross border terrorism; provides all weather connectivity; etc.
- ◆ **Challenges in creating border infrastructure: Challenging Terrain** (Marshy lands, deserts etc. **Political instability in neighboring countries; funds under-utilisation** etc.
- ◆ **Initiatives taken: BOLD-QIT** on Indo-Bangladesh and Pakistan border; **Atal tunnel** (Manali to Lahaul-Spiti) and tunnel at **Shinku-La (all-weather road to Ladakh)**; etc.
- ◆ **Way Forward: Integrate local communities** in border management; **Utilise Technology**, like LIDAR, Laser Fencing, flood lightings, CCTVs; **Upgradation** of present inventory of equipment etc.

Maritime Security

- ◆ **Significance of Maritime Security for India:** Vulnerabilities of coastline (26/11 Mumbai attack); **Countering Chinese influence**; India's high dependence on Indian Ocean for trade etc.
- ◆ **Challenges to Maritime Security:** Piracy and **Maritime Terrorism** in IOR; Maritime **Cyber Threats**; **Delays** in creation of **shore-based infrastructure**, etc.
- ◆ **Initiatives to enhance Maritime Security:** Inter-Agency maritime exercises (Sagar Kavach); Regional cooperation (MAHASAGAR, SAGAR, etc.); **IFC-IOR for Maritime Domain Awareness**.
- ◆ **Way forward:** Enact Coastal security Bill; strengthening surveillance system (High Frequency Radar); Promulgate National commercial maritime security policy etc.

Securing Maritime Trade Routes

- ◆ **Key Maritime Choke Points: Suez canal** (representing ~12% of global trade); **Panama Canal** (represents approximately 6% of world trade).
- ◆ **Initiatives taken for stability in Red Sea: 'Operation Prosperity Guardian'; Djibouti Code of Conduct (2009); Operation Aspides** by EU etc.
- ◆ **Impact of threats to maritime routes:** Inflation due to increase in cost of trading; disruption in global supply chain; **increase CO2 emissions** for each ship by 20% to 35% on longer routes; etc.
- ◆ **Way forward:** Diversification of supply chains; acknowledging Non-State Actors' Roles; restoration of stability in regional maritime routes, securing choke points etc.

Great Nicobar Island (GNI) Project

- ◆ **Significance of A&N in India's security:** Control of Maritime Chokepoints (Malacca Strait); **counter foreign power consolidation** (China's String of Pearls to encircle India); **enhance capabilities** to respond to natural disasters etc.
- ◆ **Challenges associated with Development of A&N:** Region identified under seismic zone-V; inhabits PVTGs like Onge; remoteness from main land, etc.
- ◆ **Way forward:** Impartial Review of project; Alternative Locations for Development (Little Nicobar and Kamorta) etc.

Information Fusion Centre for Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)

- ◆ **Significance of IFC-IOR:** Enhance maritime security in IOR in line with India's vision of SAGAR; Reduce logistical and bureaucratic processes in information dissemination; Strengthening Neighbourhood relations, etc.
- ◆ **Challenges faced by IFC-IOR:** Information sharing like issues with standardization, duplicative efforts; restricted coordination or unwillingness to share data equitably etc.
- ◆ **Way forward:** Standardize information-sharing patterns; Enhanced Maritime Surveillance to cover grey shipping; Reciprocal Deployment of International Liaison Officers by India in other nations' centres etc.



Security Forces

Modernisation of Armed Forces

- ◆ **Need:** Assertiveness of China; **Inadequate number of equipments like aircraft**, submarines etc.
- ◆ **Steps taken:** SRIJAN Portal, ADITI Scheme, iDEX, Technology Development Fund scheme; **74% FDI under automatic route**; Chief of Defence Staff for prompt decision making etc.
- ◆ **Challenges in defence modernisation:** Contracts **take 7 to 9 years for finalization**; Inadequate allocation for defense R&D; **Lack of depth** to design/manufacture critical parts etc.
- ◆ **Way forward:** **Fostering innovation**; **Non-lapsable Defence Modernisation Fund**; Development of industry-defence-academia linkages etc.

Defence Exports

- ◆ **Status:** India was among top five defense spenders in 2023 and among top 25 arms exporters.
- ◆ **Challenges in defence export:** Red tapism; IPR Issues; high competition; etc.
- ◆ **Steps taken:** R&D promotion, simplified defence industrial licensing, line of credit to African countries for import, etc.
- ◆ **Way forward:** **Focusing on new markets**; **Promotion** through initiatives like DefExpo; **Quality Assurance & testing infrastructure development** etc.

Joint Culture in Armed Forces

- ◆ **Challenges in creation of ITCs:** Lack of coherent **National Security Strategy**; limited resources, particularly with Air Force, to different land-based theatres, maritime theatre, etc.
- ◆ **Steps taken for Integration of Armed Forces:** Appointment of CDS, creation of Department of Military Affairs under Ministry of Defence; **Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control & Discipline) Act, 2023**; Defence Space Agency under HQ Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS), etc.

Policing Power to Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)

- ◆ **Challenges arising from Delegation of Police Powers to CAPFs:** Federal Concerns (law and order is a state subject); Lack of coordination with state police; Human rights violation Apprehensions.
- ◆ **Issues faced by CAPF:** High Vacancies; Lack of stress management; Bureaucratization of Armed Forces and decreased level of promotions; Poor Infrastructure; etc.
- ◆ **Way ahead: Enhancing training methods** in line with latest requirements; **Increase representation of women** in CAPF; **Efficient grievance redressal mechanism**, etc.

Technology Absorption in Defence

- ◆ **Need:** To compete with USA and China; Project India as Net Security Provider; enhanced operational efficiency etc.
- ◆ **Challenges:** Low Defence R&D Expenditure; **High initial costs** for procurement and development; **Import dependency; Administrative Issues** (civil-military fusion) etc.
- ◆ **Measures taken for tech-Absorption:** Signals Technology Evaluation and Adaptation Group; Indian Naval Indigenisation Plan (2015-2030); Project Akashteer; ADITI scheme etc.
- ◆ **Way forward: Prof K Vijay Raghavan Committee Recommendations** (Creation of "Department of Defence Science, Technology, and Innovation; Establishment of "Defence Technology Council"); Streamlining Regulatory and Procurement Processes; Prioritizing technology over cost; etc.

Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO)

- ◆ **Reasons for inefficient delivery by DRDO:** Lack of harmonisation (Delay of LCA Tejas due to failure of DRDO to develop the Kaveri engine); Working on obsolete technologies; Bureaucratisation of DRDO etc.
- ◆ **Recommendations by K. VijayRaghavan Committee:** Create an Architecturally New Defence Techno-Industrial Consortium; **Create a tri-service division** for integrated defence R&D; **Wind up redundant DRDO labs/projects** to monetise assets and fund innovation etc.

Interpol

- ◆ **Issues:** No influence over its member states; Politically Motivated Arrests like arrest of Ukrainian politician; Emergence of transnational, cyber and organised crime (E.g. WannaCry Ransomware Attack 2017); Corruption etc.
- ◆ **Way forward:** Possess Powers to ensure smooth execution of decisions; **Delete Red Notice** for those who were granted refugee status as per 1951 Refugee Convention etc.



Miscellaneous

Pokhran-I

- ◆ 'Smiling Buddha' operation conducted on **18th May 1974**.
- ◆ **Impact of the test:** Technological apartheid with India, **Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) 1974, Pokhran-II** in 1998 and **123 Nuclear Agreement with USA**

Global Nuclear Regulation

- ◆ **Regulations:** CTBT, NPT (1968), Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, MTCR, Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT), and Outer Space Treaty (OST)

Drones in India

- ◆ **Drones:** Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) **which is intended to operate with no pilot on board**
- ◆ **Initiatives: Drone (Amendment) Rules, 2022**, National Counter Rogue Drones Guidelines in 2019, Guidelines for anti-drone guns, **D4S technology**, Digital Sky platform, and **banned the import of drones** except for R&D and defence.

Drones for Defense

- ◆ **Defense drones (DRDO):** LAKSHYA and NISHANT, Black kite (Mini UAV), NETRA and RUSTOM
- ◆ **Initiatives: Drone Shakti scheme, PLI scheme for drones, India's Drone Rules 2021, MQ-9B SkyGuardian drones (USA), Hermes-900 from Israel, Anti-drone (Vajra sentinel system) under iDEX**

Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) Technology

- ◆ It allows a single missile to **carry multiple nuclear warheads**, each capable of striking different targets independently
- ◆ **Countries having MIRV:** USA (first), Russia, UK, France, China, India and Pakistan (reportedly tested)

Directed Energy Weapons

- ◆ **DEWs** are ranged weapons that **use concentrated energy** from **electromagnetic** or **particle technology** to incapacitate, damage, or destroy enemy equipment, facilities, and/or personnel.
- ◆ **Indian Initiatives:** DURGA-II Project (DRDO), 2kW DEW System (BEL), LASTEC) and Kilo Ampere Linear Injector (KALI)
- ◆ **Global initiatives:** **USA's** HELIOS and High Energy Laser Weapon System (HELWS)

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Our counseling services have addressed a variety of issues, including:



Anxiety and Hopelessness: Using Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) to promote positive thinking.



Lack of Motivation and Focus: Introducing time management strategies and SMART goal-setting.



Emotional Struggles: Providing a safe space for expression and techniques such as journaling and progressive muscle relaxation.



Social Isolation and Loneliness: Encouraging healthy social interactions and setting personal boundaries.



Family and Personal Issues: Offering advice on coping with family dynamics, personal loss, and significant life stressors.



To support the larger student community, **VisionIAS** is now extending our counseling and wellness support to all students preparing for UPSC CSE, regardless of their coaching institute affiliation. Schedule a session by visiting our office at Apsara Arcade near Karol Bagh Metro Station or emailing student.wellness@visionias.in.

Remember, seeking help is a sign of strength, not weakness.

Heartiest Congratulations

to all Successful Candidates



1
AIR

Aditya Srivastava

16

in TOP 20 Selections in CSE 2023

from various programs of Vision IAS



2
AIR
**Animesh
Pradhan**



5
AIR
Ruhani



6
AIR
**Srishti
Dabas**



7
AIR
Anmol



9
AIR
Nausheen



10
AIR
**Aishwaryam
Prajapati**

39

Selections

in TOP 50

in CSE 20 22



1
AIR
**Ishita
Kishore**



2
AIR
**Garima
Lohia**



3
AIR
**Uma
Harathi N**

1
AIR



SHUBHAM KUMAR
CIVIL SERVICES
EXAMINATION 2020



HEAD OFFICE

Apsara Arcade, 1/8-B 1st Floor,
Near Gate-6 Karol Bagh
Metro Station

DELHI

MUKHERJEE NAGAR CENTER

Plot No. 857, Ground Floor,
Mukherjee Nagar, Opposite Punjab
& Sindh Bank, Mukherjee Nagar

GTB NAGAR CENTER

Classroom & Enquiry Office,
above Gate No. 2, GTB Nagar
Metro Building, Delhi - 110009

FOR DETAILED ENQUIRY

Please Call:
+91 8468022022,
+91 9019066066

enquiry@visionias.in

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