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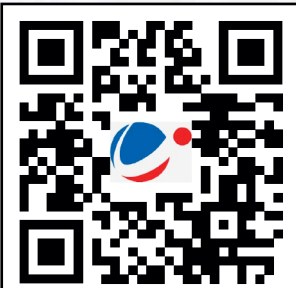
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Dear Students,



In the competitive landscape of the UPSC Mains examination, the **significance of integrating data, facts, examples and government initiatives** into your answers cannot be overstated.



These elements serve as the backbone of a compelling and persuasive response, **elevating your answer from a generic narrative to a well-substantiated argument.**



To support you, we have **distilled essential information from the VisionIAS Mains 365 resources** which are renowned for their comprehensive coverage of current affairs. This document **provides a concentrated source of high-quality data, facts, examples and government initiatives.**



The layout of this document is designed for **quick reference and easy integration into your answer.**



Leveraging this distilled information will help you **craft comprehensive, informative, and compelling answers** essential for securing higher marks.

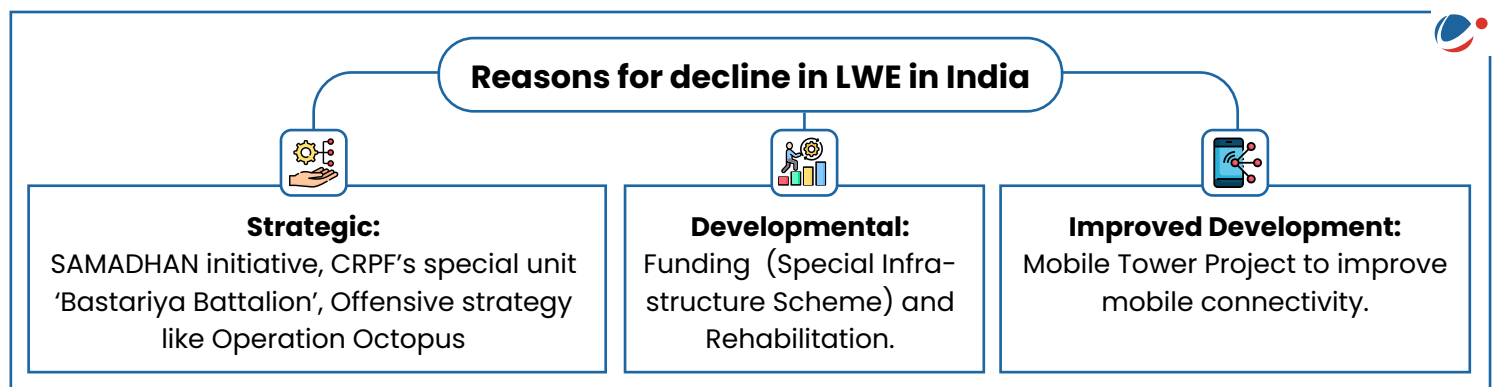
1. STATE AND NON-STATE ACTORS

1.1 Left Wing Extremism (LWE)

About LWE in India: Incidents of LWE violence have **reduced** by **76% from 2010– 2022**.

Factors responsible for emergence of LWE

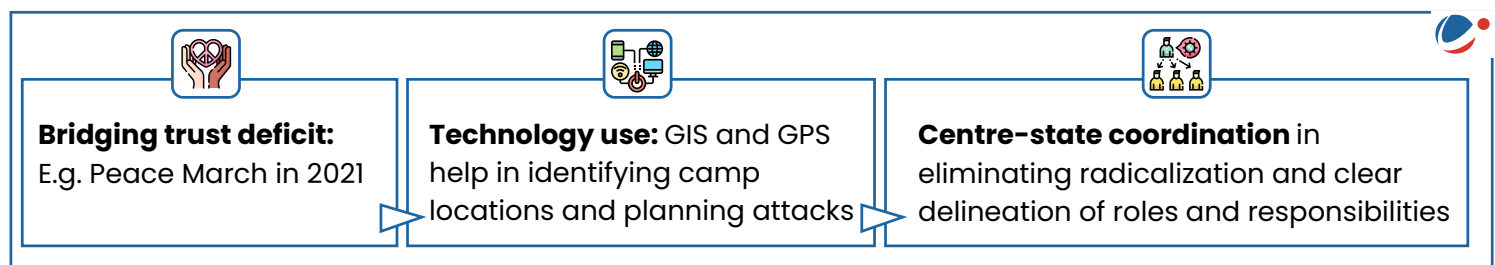
- ◇ Expropriation of resources by outsiders, evasion of land ceiling laws
- ◇ **Socio-Economic Inequalities:**
 - » **Lack of employment:** Jharkhand’s Youth Unemployment Rate (15–29 years) was 4.7% (PLFS– 2022–23).
 - » **Absence of healthcare amenities:** No blood banks in nine district hospitals in Bihar (CAG report 2021).
- ◇ **Inadequate implementation of government policies:** Jharkhand is yet to implement PESA



Challenges persist to control LWE

- ◇ **Difficult Geographical Location.**
- ◇ **Security Challenges: E.g. Munger district (Bihar).**
- ◇ **Ideological Appeal** to join Naxalites.
- ◇ **Misuse of technology**

Way ahead



1.2 Insurgency In Northeast

Reasons Behind Insurgency in Northeast



Large scale migration/**ethnic rivalries**. E.g. Meitei and Naga



Porous international borders. E.g. Manipur- Myanmar



Poor connectivity and **limited infrastructure**.



Lack of effective governance and **economic activities**.





Sense of alienation from mainstream

Significance of maintaining Peace in Northeast for country

- ◇ **National security**
- ◇ **Act** as a bridge to Southeast Asia.
- ◇ **Economic Significance:** Rich natural resources
- ◇ **National integration and unity:** Harmony within northeast can create a role model

Initiatives taken by India to restore Peace and bring Prosperity in Northeast

- ◇ Bodo Peace Accord, Karbi Anglong Peace Agreement.
- ◇ **Fencing of borders:** E.g., 95% of 856 km Indo-Bangladesh border in Tripura is fenced.
- ◇ **Connectivity initiatives** like-**UDAN 4.0., Maitri Setu and Bogibeel Bridge**
- ◇ **Development of Northeast** under **Act East Policy** via, **IMT Trilateral Highway**.
- ◇ **Celebration of local festivals** like Hornbill Festival
- ◇ **Aspirational District programme.**

 Challenges to Peace and Prosperity Initiatives	 Way ahead
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Un-demarcated borders with difficult terrain. E.g. McMahon Line ◇ Limited FDI inflows and predominance of Informal Economy E.g. ~0.018% of overall foreign investment (October 2019 to March 2022) ◇ Territorial Conflicts: E.g. Assam-Mizoram Border Dispute. ◇ Ethnic Conflicts e.g. Manipur violence ◇ Rivalry in militant groups: E.g., the rivalry of the NSCN Muivah faction and the Khaplang factions has been complicating the Naga negotiations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Cultural Exchange Programs. ◇ National Security Level: Continue with peace efforts with continued counter insurgency operations. ◇ Political Level: Amendments to North Eastern Council Act, 1971 to restore the original 'conflict resolution provision'.

1.3 Manipur Violence

Reasons for outbreak of violence in Manipur

- ◇ **Demand of Meitei community for Scheduled Tribe (ST) Status**
- ◇ **Instability in Myanmar:** about 4,000 refugees are said to have entered Manipur due to coup in Myanmar
- ◇ **Rise in Poppy cultivation** due to illegal immigration of Chins from Myanmar
- ◇ **Demands for separate homeland:** Kukis demand **separate State or UT**, while Kuki Zo community seek **separate administration**.
- ◇ **Governance deficit:** Autonomous District Councils have limited legislative and judiciary powers
- ◇ **Uneven distribution of resources:** Nagas and Kukis fear that **granting ST status to Meiteis would give them land monopoly**, further strengthening their dominance over political and economic resources.
- ◇ **Asymmetric representation:** Nagas, Kukis, and others have **19 seats** in Manipur legislative assembly, whereas **Meiteis have 40 seats**.
- ◇ **Uneven development:** Infrastructure development has been **recorded largely in Valley**. Budget allocation for **Imphal valley was INR 21,481 crores** whereas for **hills**, it was **far INR 419 crores only** (2017-20)

Measures taken

- ◇ **Inner Line Permit (ILP)** in 2022
- ◇ **Suspension of Operations (SoS) agreement** to cease hostilities.

Way ahead

- ◇ **Examine five criteria laid down by Lokur Committee for identification to be ST**
- ◇ **Implementing National Register for Citizens (NRC)**
- ◇ Central government should **complete the fencing of open Myanmar border** to end FMR
- ◇ State must streamline legislative assembly constituencies to **bridge gap between hills and valley**.

1.4 Separatism

◇ Different Forms of Separatism

Insurgency	◇ Example: Ideological or Maoist insurgency in central and eastern India.
Statehood movement	◇ E.g.: demand for Bhil State.
Autonomy movement	◇ E.g., Bodoland and Karbis and Dimasa Kacharis accepted autonomy within Assam.
Secessionist movement	◇ E.g. demand for greater Nagalim.

Concerns:

- ◇ **International and Financial Support** for Nagalim Movement
- ◇ **Linkages with organized crimes** as seen in Kashmir.
- ◇ Effect on **international relations** as seen with **Canada**
- ◇ **Disruption of peace**

India’s approach to separatist movements and other regional aspirations

- ◇ **Democratic negotiations: E.g. signing Mizo accord to bring peace in Mizoram.**
- ◇ **Power sharing.**
- ◇ **Backward areas development: Aspirational District Programmes.**
- ◇ **Flexibility of Constitution: Sixth Schedule.**
- ◇ **Use of force** against groups such as **United Liberation Front of Assam** for maintaining peace in region.

1.5 Illegal Migration

Reasons for illegal migration

- ◇ Poverty and promise of the American Dream.
- ◇ **Human Trafficking networks.**
- ◇ **Political and religious persecution in from Tibet, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.**
- ◇ **Natural Disasters:** E.g Amphan in 2020 in **Bangladesh** force migration of people to India.
- ◇ **Other Reasons:** Lack of data on illegal migrants, porous borders, poor regulation of travel agencies, etc.

Impacts of Illegal Migration

- ◇ **Undocumented migrants** are prone to forced labour. **E.g. Construction Sector.**
- ◇ Vulnerable to **crimes like** assault, rape or extortion
- ◇ **Fear of being deported and mistreated:** poor living conditions in **Detention centers of US**
- ◇ **Social Tensions: E.g. Threat to Assamese identity** due to illegal migration from Bangladesh
- ◇ **Facilitates Organized Crimes: e.g. US–Mexico Border**

India’s Initiatives to counter illegal migration

- ◇ **‘Surakshit Jayen Prashikshit Jayen’ campaign**
- ◇ **Migration and mobility partnership agreements** with countries (e.g., France)
- ◇ **Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS)**

Global Initiatives

- ◇ **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration** under IOM
- ◇ **Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air**, under UNTOC.
- ◇ **INTERPOL**

Way Forward

- ◇ **International Cooperation.**
- ◇ **Combat human trafficking**
- ◇ **Capacity development of local law enforcement**
- ◇ **Countering Organized crime**
- ◇ **Demarcate between Refugees and Illegal migrant.**

1.6 Free Movement Regime (FMR)

FMR between India and Myanmar

- ◇ **Formalized in 2018** as part of **India's Act East Policy.**
- ◇ Allows visa-free travel within **16 km of border for residents.**
- ◇ **Reason for FMR regime:** ethnic and familial ties across the border; trans-border commerce through customs and border haats.

Reasons for Scrapping FMR:

- ◇ **Uncontrolled immigration** from Myanmar leading to demographic changes.
- ◇ **Meitei-Kuki tensions** linked to perceived illegal migration of tribal Kuki-Chin communities.
- ◇ **Exodus of junta soldiers** seeking sanctuary in Mizoram.
- ◇ **UNODC** says Myanmar's political unrest fuels regional narcotics surge.

Way Forward

- ◇ Give the Assam Rifles the single mandate of guarding border and Expedite **construction of Integrated Check Posts (ICPs)** along with other infrastructure.
- ◇ **Need of diplomatic agility** in India's engagement with Myanmar.
- ◇ **Community engagement:** Involve tribal communities in decision making.

1.7 Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) 1958

Government has extended **AFSPA in parts of Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh** by another 6 months.

Key highlights of AFSPA

- ◇ **Disturbed areas declaration** to restore order.
- ◇ **Immunity to Armed forces personnel**
- ◇ **Treatment of arrested person** with **least possible delay.**
- ◇ **Applicability:** Parts of Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh.

Issues with AFSPA

- ◇ **Right to life**, right to remedy, **right to be free from arbitrary deprivation** of liberty are being violated
- ◇ **Violates** UDHR, ICCPR, Convention Against Torture and UN Code of Conduct for Law

Enforcement Officials.

- ◇ **Law and order** are a state subject and thus AFSPA **undermine states' autonomy**
- ◇ Several instances reported where armed forces have allegedly **misused the powers**

Judicial pronouncements on AFSPA

- ◇ **Naga People's Movement of Human Rights v Union of India (1997)**: while declaring disturbed area, **opinion of the state government** must be taken and Act to be **reviewed every six months** by the state.
- ◇ **Extra Judicial Execution Victim Families vs Union of India & Anr (2016)**: **AFSPA is not invincible** and **ended immunity** of armed forces from prosecution under AFSPA.

Committees related to AFSPA

- ◇ **B P Jeevan Reddy committee (2005)**: **repeal of AFSPA** and Incorporate it in **UAPA, 1967**.
- ◇ **Second ARC (2007)**: **AFSPA be repealed to remove feeling of discrimination and alienation**
- ◇ **Santosh Hegde committee (2013)**: Appointed by Supreme Court to review **encounter killing** in Manipur since 1979.


Way forward

- ◇ **Ensure Accountability: abide by the guidelines set out** by Supreme Court.
- ◇ **Dialogue and engagement**
- ◇ Imposition and lifting of AFSPA on a case-by- case basis
- ◇ **Alternative approaches**: such as promoting economic development, providing basic services, etc.

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2. THREATS TO INTERNAL SECURITY

2.1. Technology And Internal Security

2.1.1. Misuse Of Social Media

Reasons for Misuse of social media

- ◇ **Internet penetration** (over 880 million as of March 2023, TRAI).
- ◇ **Anonymity** due to AI, deepfake, etc.
- ◇ **Ambiguity in law**, like on responsibility of social media platforms.
- ◇ Absence of **robust grievance redressal mechanism**

Negatives Impacts of Misuse of social media

- ◇ **Prejudiced Narratives and Trolling** due to inaccurate information.
- ◇ **Defamation and invasion of privacy** (like revenge porn).
- ◇ **Social disharmony**, incitement of violence, etc.
- ◇ Attempt to **influence judicial decisions**.
- ◇ **Financial frauds** (In 2022–2023, UPI fraud reported cases exceeded from 84,000 cases to 95,000)

Steps taken by government to curb misuse of Social Media

- ◇ Information Technology (**Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code**) Rules 2021.
- ◇ **Section 67 of IT Act, 2000** punishes transmission of **obscene materials** in electronic form
- ◇ PIB's **Fact Check Unit** under IT Rules 2021.

Way ahead

- ◇ **Invest in R&D** to improve deep fake detection techniques and Collaboration between governments, tech companies, and civil society organizations etc.

2.1.2 Online Radicalisation

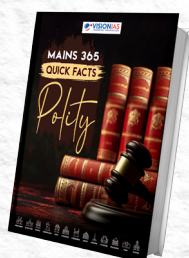
◇ Factors Responsible for Radicalisation

 Push Factors	 Pull Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Economic Factor like lack of employment opportunities for youth ◇ Socio-religious Factor: Ethnic or religious marginalization, feelings of alienation, etc. ◇ Political Factor: Loss of trust in institutions such as judiciary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Economic incentive provided by the extremists ◇ Propaganda by distorting religious philosophies ◇ Capitalising crises like Israel–Gaza conflict ◇ Ideals of alternative outlet for political engagement, Sense of adventure etc.



Quick Facts

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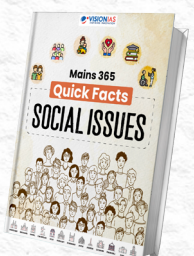
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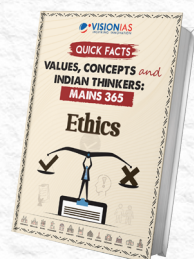
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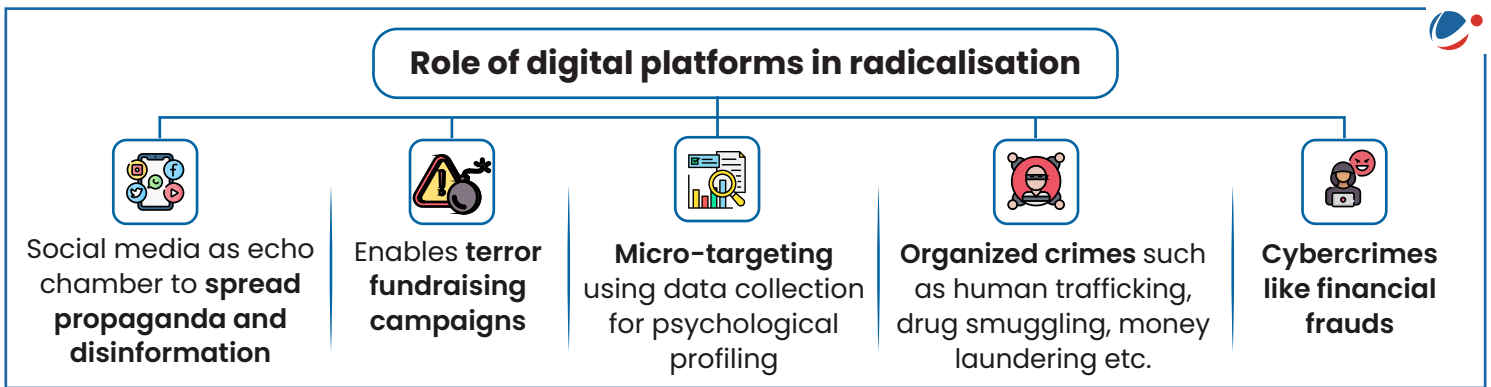
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Ethics (Values and Indian Thinkers)



- ◆ **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



 Challenges in Curbing Online Radicalisation	 Way Forward
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Rising internet penetration ◆ Encrypted messaging apps, Dark Web, etc. provides anonymity and hinder tracing of source ◆ Gamification techniques used to spread extremist ideologies, etc. ◆ Lack of standard definition ◆ Support by states E.g., Houthis supported by Iran 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Targeted counter-narrative campaigns, disrupting echo chambers. ◆ Implementing content moderation and fact-checking. ◆ Promoting international cooperation ◆ Strengthen Cybersecurity.

2.1.3. Virtual Assets And Terror Financing

Reasons for use of Virtual Assets Used in Terror Financing

- ◆ VAs are **high risk** due to anonymity and **decentralization of peer-to-peer online transactions, use of VPNs.**
- ◆ **Absence of global standard regulations:** Different AML/CFT obligations and oversight (highlighted by IMF)
- ◆ Terrorist groups leverage crowdfunding platforms and social media to solicit funds.

How do the FATF Standards apply to virtual assets?

 Countries need to:	 Virtual Assets service providers need to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Understand money laundering and terrorist financing risks Licence or register virtual asset service providers. ◆ Supervise sector as it supervises other financial institutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Implement preventive measures as financial institutions. ◆ Obtain, hold and security transmit originator and beneficiary information when making transfers.

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.

Way Forward

- ◇ **Effective global implementation of FATF standards** prevent exploiting weakly supervised jurisdictions.
- ◇ **Measures by financial institutions:** such as customer due diligence, suspicious transaction reporting (STR).
- ◇ **Strengthening Financial Intelligence** can reveal the structure of terrorist groups and individual terrorists.
- ◇ **International Cooperation** between **law enforcement authorities** and **Financial sector**
- ◇ **Technological upgradation** like **big data and artificial intelligence are required.**



2.2 Data Protection

Relevance of data usage

- ◇ Open government data can improve transparency in governance.
- ◇ Processed data is crucial for making targeted and tailored programmes (**E.g. UIDAI**)
- ◇ Real time monitoring can reduce potential leakage in welfare services.
- ◇ **NATGRID for unified intelligence database** and **DNA Databanks** for both criminal and civil matters

Need for protecting data



- ◇ **Right of individual to have control over their personal data** under Right to Privacy (**Article 21**)
- ◇ **Tremendous growth in digital infrastructure:** Digital India Program, Affordable access to the internet and rapid technological advances
- ◇ **Stop data theft, prevent data loss and cut down unnecessary litigation costs, compliance fines, etc.**

 Challenges in data protection	 Way Forward
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Cyber security: India ranked 10th globally in data breaches in 2023 ◇ Techno-colonialism: More than 80% of India's data is exported and sold back to India. ◇ Limited Funding for cross-disciplinary research. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Anonymization of personal data sets. E.g. data masking ◇ Data should be deleted immediately once purpose is met or Data principal withdraws consent. ◇ Data Rights: The right to data portability and the right to be forgotten should be provided ◇ Cross-Border Data Governance: Mechanisms like GDPR are needed. ◇ Adoption of safeguards such as Role-based Access Control (RBAC) to protect personal data

Initiatives: BN Srikrishna Committee, Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDP), 2023 based on Seven Principles, Provides for data minimization, Obligations of Data Fiduciaries

2.3 Cyber Security

◇ **World Cybercrime Index (2024) ranks India 10th as major cybercrime hotspots.**

 Need for Cyber Security	 Challenges to Cyber Security in India
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ India hosts the world’s second largest user base on the internet. ◇ Cyberspace is used in public policies to process and store sensitive and critical data. ◇ Weaponising internet includes terrorist recruitment, radicalization, etc. ◇ Digital India Initiative, startup digital push ◇ Cyber incidents of IPR theft, denials of service may alter outcomes in the battlefield. ◇ Need for cyber resilience for private sector (data breach at Taj Hotels) ◇ Protecting service delivery of critical public services like railways, banking ◇ Increasing role of advanced technology like AI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Absence of any geographical constraints. ◇ Rapidly evolving technologies. ◇ Lack of national level comprehensive architecture for cyber security like Singapore model ◇ Lack of awareness among the local police. ◇ Data colonialism ◇ Data localization in line with Justice B. N. Srikrishna Committee Report.

Government 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

Way forward

- ◇ **Setting up of Information Sharing and Analysis Centres (ISACs) for information sharing and coordination**
- ◇ **PPP Model for Cybersecurity** to fill financial gap and facilitate capacity building.
- ◇ **Learning from best practices** like **Tallinn Manual 2.0 of US**
- ◇ **Upgrading cyber labs (E.g., CyPAD Initiative of Delhi)**

2.3.1. Cyber Threats And Financial Sectors

◇ **Global Financial Stability Report 2024 by IMF** warns cyber risks as a growing threat to macro financial stability.

Key Findings of report

◇ Nearly **one-fifth of all cyber risks** affect financial firms.

- ◇ Number of **cyber-attacks has doubled** since COVID-19 pandemic.

About Financial frauds

- ◇ **Financial frauds accounts for 75% of cybercrimes** in India. (Report of Future Crime Research Foundation).
- ◇ Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System (CFCFRMS) registered around 1.1 million financial cyber fraud cases in 2023.
- ◇ **Different modes:** Phishing, identity theft, ATM skimming, Ransomware, etc.

Reasons Behind rise in cyber attacks

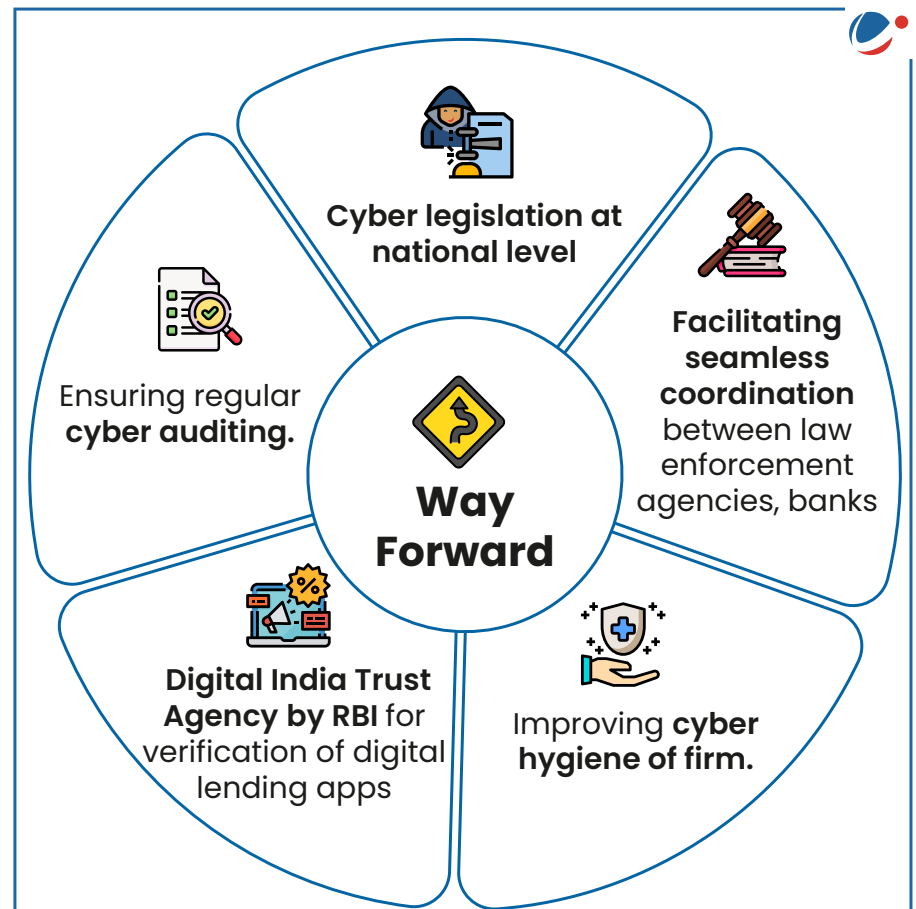
- ◇ **Rapid Digital Transformation and lack of financial literacy.**
- ◇ Mushrooming of **fraudulent apps.**
- ◇ Use of **Dark Patterns.**
- ◇ **Low regulatory compliance.**
- ◇ **Lack of swift action.**
- ◇ **Geopolitical tensions** (e.g., surge in cyber-attacks after Russia's invasion of Ukraine).

Impact of Cyber risks on Financial Systems

- ◇ Threat to operational resilience.
- ◇ Cyber run
- ◇ Affects government functioning.
- ◇ Economic losses.
- ◇ Issues related to data integrity

Challenges in dealing with Cyber Threats to Financial Systems

- ◇ **Inadequate cyber security audits** by financial institutions.
- ◇ **Inadequate** cooperation between regulators like RBI and SEBI.
- ◇ **Limited** resources such as experts related to cyber frauds etc.
- ◇ **Emerging technologies like** AI and quantum computing could further amplify cyber risks.
- ◇ **Lack of dedicated laws.**
- ◇ **Nature of Crime being remote E. g. use of mule account.**
- ◇ **Low Digital and financial literacy** (only 27% of India's population is financially literate: NCFE 2022-23)



2.3.2 Critical Information Infrastructure

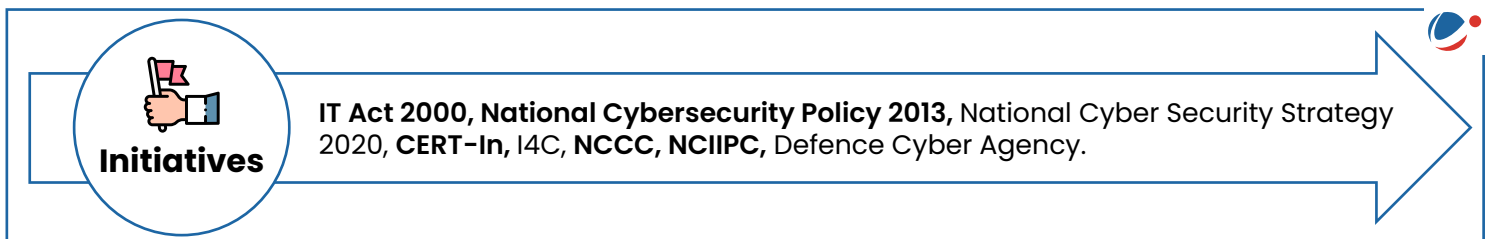
- ◇ It refers to those **essential infrastructures**, which, if disrupted/destroyed, would impact health, safety, security, economic or social well-being of nation. **E.g.** Dams, Power, Banking, etc.

Threat to Critical Infrastructure

- ◇ **Natural:** E.g. Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear power station in Japan in 2011.
- ◇ **Anthropogenic causes:** E.g. **RedEcho campaign** caused **power outage in Mumbai**.
- ◇ **Accidental/Technical:** E.g. Bhopal Gas Tragedy.

Challenges in Protecting Critical Infrastructure in India

- ◇ India **lacks indigenization** in hard and software cyber security tools
- ◇ **Inhibition** in private and public sector to **share information**.
- ◇ Many organizations do **not have enough trained security professionals**. **E.g.** 70-75% of Indian tech companies are looking to hire more cyber security profession





Way Forward

- ◇ Need to evolve a **comprehensive security policy**.
- ◇ **Need for autonomous Indian organisations** to carry out independent analysis
- ◇ Use of new methodology like **cyber kill chain** that trace stages of a cyberattack.
- ◇ **Comprehensive co-operation** and a functioning partnership between state and corporate sector.
- ◇ Establish **international norms** for protecting CII in line with Critical Infrastructure Resilience Strategy of Australia.

2.4 Money Laundering

Consequences of Money Laundering

- ◇ **Loss of Tax Revenue.** E.g. Loss of \$10.3 billion due to international corporate tax abuse
- ◇ **Distortion of markets.**
- ◇ **Facilitates crime and corruption.** E.g. **Punjab National Bank scam**.
- ◇ **Distorts economic productivity and diverts resources**
- ◇ **Erode integrity of nation's financial institutions.** E.g. Yes Bank- DHFL money laundering case

 Challenges in curbing Money Laundering	 Way Forward
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Weak enforcement mechanism. E.g. Only 2.98% cases filed against existing and Ex-MPs/MLAs ◇ Lack of definition. E.g. Word 'black money' not defined under IT Act 1961, CGST Act, 2017. ◇ Lack of political will. E.g. Saradha chit fund scam ◇ Ineffectiveness of Know Your Customer norms. ◇ Tax haven countries like Cayman Islands, Bermuda, Netherlands etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ AI, Blockchain technologies to increase efficiency. ◇ Regular Cross-Communication and sharing of information. ◇ Countries should coordinate on conventions like Palermo Convention, 2000; UN Convention against Corruption, 2003 etc. ◇ Financial institutions should be prohibited from keeping anonymous accounts ◇ Reporting suspicious transactions to FIU.

- ◇ **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.**

2.4.1 Prevention Of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002

Amendments: Enlarge types of individuals under PMLA.

- ◇ **Ownership rules:**
 - » Beneficial owner if over 10% (previously 15%) of partnership capital/profits.
 - » Control over partnership qualifies as beneficial owner.
- ◇ **Principal officer of a reporting entity:**
 - » Must be at management level (previously any officer).
 - » Trusts must disclose trustees' status/position.
 - » Keep client records for five years post-relationship/account closure.

Issues in implementation of PMLA

- ◇ **Procedural issues:** Lack of clarity over process of selection of cases by ED.
- ◇ **Burden to prove innocence:** The accused must prima facie prove that he/she is not guilty
- ◇ **Delay in Prosecution**
- ◇ **Poor Inter-Agency Co-ordination.**
- ◇ The pace at which the **technology is growing is not matched up with the enforcement capabilities.**

Key Initiatives to strengthen Anti Money Laundering Regime

- ◇ **Broadening the scope of PMLA: Non-financial sectors** such as real estate agents, dealers in precious metals and stones, VASPs were **brought under PMLA**.
- ◇ RBI, SEBI, and IRDAI are empowered to establish AML standards.
- ◇ **Complying with the recommendations of FATF.**

Way Forward




- ◇ **Properly defined, documented and consistent investigative process** is need of the hour.
- ◇ Using emerging technologies, such as AI, to conduct constant searches.
- ◇ **Regular Cross-Communication:** Banks and law enforcement can keep each other **up to date, verify any suspicions, identify possible networks.**

2.5 Drug Trafficking In India

- ◇ **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).

Drug trafficking characteristics in India

- ◇ India has become a **transit hub** and **destination for heroin and hashish** produced in **Golden triangle** and **Golden Crescent**.
- ◇ **Myanmar is world’s largest producer of opium** in 2023, overtaking Afghanistan (World Drug Report 2024).
- ◇ **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

 Issues associated with Drug Trafficking	 Way Forward 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Facilitates other organized crimes, Destabilises nation by Narco-Terrorism. ◇ Encourages drug consumption ◇ Drug cartels subvert, penetrate and further corrupt state institutions E.g. Punjab Drug Scandal, 2024. ◇ Illicit drug markets can increase carbon footprint, deforestation. E.g. Cannabis Cultivation in Uttarakhand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Develop accountability mechanism and practices. ◇ Control drug supply chain on internet. ◇ Enhancement of punishment under NDPS ◇ Creating awareness among citizens through programmes like Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan.

2.5.1. Human Trafficking

About Human Trafficking

- ◇ **Human trafficking:** Recruitment, transport, harboring by coercion, abduction, fraud.
- ◇ **Forms:** Sex, entertainment, hospitality exploitation, domestic work, forced marriages.
- ◇ **2022 Global Report:** 50,000 victims detected globally by 141 countries in 2020.

Role of Transnational Organised Crime Groups in Human Trafficking

- ◇ Transnational crime groups facilitate human trafficking globally. E.g.: **Laos case.**
- ◇ **Logistical Expertise:** High expertise in trafficking operations.
- ◇ **Corruption and Bribery:** Corrupt officials ensure smooth trafficking.
- ◇ **Money Laundering:** Profits laundered through legitimate businesses.

Measures Taken to Combat Human Trafficking: UNTOC, **GenJust initiative** to engage youth, **Article 23 of the Constitution** prohibits trafficking in human beings, Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956, Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013.

Way Forward




- ◇ **Disincentivizing criminal activity** through targeting illicit profits.
- ◇ Enhance effectiveness of crime prevention efforts.
- ◇ Countering trafficking in persons in the context of rapid technological change.
- ◇ Treatment of children associated with terrorist groups.
- ◇ **Reducing reoffending** through rehabilitation and reintegration.
- ◇ **Preventing and countering violence** against children by organized criminal groups and terrorist groups.

2.6 Terrorism

- ◇ Terrorism is a **forceful and unlawful method to achieve the desired goal** (antithesis of independence).
- ◇ **India** ranked **14th** on **Global Terrorism Index 2024** (Topped by Burkina Faso).

Factors that Cause Terrorism

- ◇ **Radical ideologies.**
- ◇ **Ethnic** or **nationalist aspirations** for self-determination (e.g. Khalistan).
- ◇ **Globalization** facilitates terrorism through increased mobility. **E.g. 2008 Mumbai attacks by Lashkar-e-Taiba.**
- ◇ **State Sponsored terrorism:** e.g Jaish-e-Mohammed (JEM) in Pakistan.
- ◇ **International Injustice.** E.g. Rise of ISIS.
- ◇ **Restriction of civic freedoms like undermining rights to fair trial,** due process, and criminalize dissent, etc

 Challenges to counter International Terrorism	 Way Forward 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Ambiguity around definition of ‘terrorism’. ◇ Lack of comprehensive international legal framework. E.g. Extradition requests for high-profile terrorists faced delays. ◇ Inadequate domestic capacity of nation. E.g. Taliban took over Afghanistan in 2021. ◇ Difficult to track cryptocurrencies due to their decentralized nature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Enhance capacity of intelligence agencies. ◇ Focus on regional and international organizations. E.g. UNSC’s Delhi Declaration on countering use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes. ◇ Protect human rights and fundamental freedoms. Kartar Singh vs. State of Punjab (1994)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Global Initiatives: UN GCTS, 2006, UNSC CTC, GCTF, FATF, SCO RATS, No Money for Terror conference ◇ Initiatives in India: UAPA 1967, NIA, NATGRID, India-U.S. Counter-Terrorism Cooperation 	

2.6.1. India’s Anti-Terrorism Approach

India’s approach to tackling terrorism

- ◇ **Development in terrorism-affected areas:** Civic Action Programme and Udaan scheme in J&K.
- ◇ **Dedicated Law enforcement agencies:** NIA, RAW, IB
- ◇ **Countering the Financing of Terrorism:** India is a member of the FATF, Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering.
- ◇ **Countering Violent Extremism (CVE):** Ministry of Home Affairs is the lead agency for CVE.
- ◇ **International and Regional Cooperation:** In 2024, India has **contributed \$500,000 to U.N. Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund**

Need for Changing the Approach toward Terrorism

- ◇ Terrorists are relying on loose affiliations, lone wolf attacks.
- ◇ Terrorist groups now use chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear (CBRN) materials.
- ◇ **New methods of Terrorism Financing:** Dedicated crowdfunding platforms or websites
- ◇ **Nexus with other organised crimes**
- ◇ **Limited cooperation and data interchange**

Way forward

- ◇ **Model anti-terrorism structure** should be established under the NIA for all states.
- ◇ **All Anti-Terrorism activities should make multidimensional and AI-based use of databases** E.g. ICJS
- ◇ **Collaboration from the global level to the grassroots,** involving various states within country.

- ◇ **Focus on linkages of terrorism with other organised crimes:** E.g., in **Operation Dhvast** case, a common platform to counter-terror under **Neighbourhood First policy**.
- ◇ **Strengthening safety of digital ecosystem: Australia's 'essential 8' features for cybersecurity**

2.6.2. 15th Anniversary Of 26/11 Mumbai Attacks

Lapses that led to 26/11

- ◇ **Police related issues:**
 - » **Lack of simulated training** in facing terrorist attacks and rescuing of hostages.
 - » **India's maritime security vulnerabilities**, like absence of deep-sea surveillance
- ◇ **Intelligence Failure & security lapses**
 - » **Lack of intelligence from the central intelligence agencies** related to sea-borne terrorists.
 - » **Advanced communications like VoIP were used**, which intelligence agencies couldn't intercept.

Post attack issues

- » **Access to the CCTV cameras** private premises were not available to police.
- » **Majority of the flying squads** not available for emergency duty.
- » No NSG hub near Mumbai at that time.
- » **Availability of arms and ammunition** for Police.

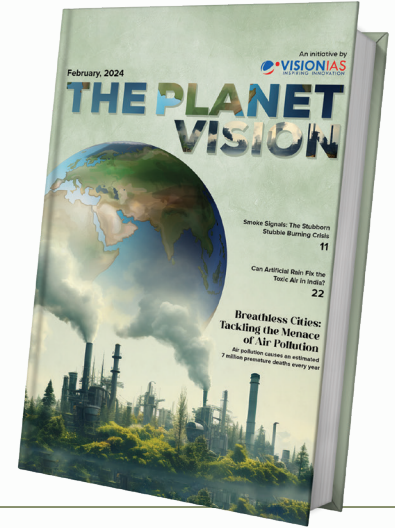
Improvements made after 26/11

- ◇ **Maritime security enhancements**
 - » **3-layered protection of Indian coastal areas:**
 - **Indian Navy was given overall in charge;** Indian Coast Guard monitors territorial waters
 - » **Sagar Prahari Bal (SPB).**
 - » **Fast Interceptor Crafts (FIC).**
 - » **Sea Vigil (2019)** exercise.
- ◇ **Better coordination and response**
 - » **Creation of National Investigation Agency (NIA).**
 - » **National Security Guard (NSG)** hubs.
 - » **IB's Multi Agency Centre (MAC)** strengthened.
- ◇ **Cooperation from West**
 - » Intelligence Sharing with Western agencies like FBI (USA) and MI6 (UK) has improved since 2008.

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- Albert Einstein



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- » **Pakistan in grey list (FATF)** which forced it to take action against the terror finance architecture of LeT
- ◇ **Modernisation of police: Construction of secure police stations, providing modern weaponry, communication equipment and forensic set-up** etc.

Role of NIA in Anti-Terrorism Efforts

- ◇ **Cooperation with States** and other investigating agencies.
- ◇ **Ensuring Speedy trial:** In 2022, **overall conviction rate was about 94%.**
- ◇ **Data collection:** creating a national database in 7 areas.
- ◇ **In-depth professional investigation.**

Steps to be taken further

- ◇ Press for Universal definition of Terrorism.
- ◇ **No Money for Terror Focus** using the FATF, UNCAC, UNODC route etc.
- ◇ **Actions for deradicalization and safe usage of internet, social media.**
- ◇ **Indian Ocean Region Security** with an arc of with Sri Lanka, Maldives and India should be done.

2.7 Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) 1967

About UAPA

- ◇ **Aim:** Prevention of certain **unlawful activities** of **individuals and associations**, for **dealing with terrorist activities**
- ◇ **2019 Amendment**
 - » Individuals can also be designated as terrorists by the Government.
 - » **Definition of Terrorist Act:** Added **International Convention for Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005)** to define terrorist acts.
 - » **Nature of Offence:** Offences are **cognizable** (arrest could be made without a warrant).
 - » **Penalty:**
 - **Death or imprisonment for life**, and shall also be liable to **a fine**.
 - **Forfeiture of proceeds of terrorism**
 - » **Tribunal for Appeal.**

Issues with UAPA

- ◇ **Unclear definition of terrorist**
- ◇ **Potential for Violation of Fundamental Rights:** No opportunity to the individual to justify his case
- ◇ **Contrary to the principle of 'innocent until proven guilty':** Act violates mandate of UDHR and ICCPR

- ◇ Section 43D (5) of UAPA imposes strict conditions for bail

Way Ahead




- ◇ Agencies are to ensure due process of law is applied while dealing with various cases under this Act.
- ◇ **K. A. Najeeb vs. Union of India (2021)**, SC held that UAPA’s bail restrictions should not override Right to Life and Personal Liberty under Article 21.
- ◇ **Compensation to** be provided to those individuals who were detained under UAPA and proven innocent.
- ◇ **Others:** Sensitization of Police, **Protection of political dissent, etc.**

2.8 Transnational Organized Crimes

TNOCs operate in two or more countries. e.g., Drug trafficking, human trafficking, smuggling, etc.

Different forms of TNOCs

- ◇ **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

 Challenges in curbing TNOCs	 Way Forward 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Geopolitical unrest such as ethnic wars in Rwanda ◇ Economic disparity will continue to bring individuals into greater proximity to organised crime. ◇ Lack of synergy between law enforcement and legislative bodies ◇ Development of the Internet. E.g. Dark web markets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Better intelligence methods to be developed ◇ Introducing new initiatives to hold countries accountable ◇ Building the capacity of embassies ◇ Reducing reoffending



- ◇ **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

2.8.1. United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organised Crimes (UNTOC)

20th Anniversary of UNTOC celebrated in Italy.

About UNTOC

- ◇ UNTOC was adopted by **UN General Assembly in 2000** and entered into force in **2003**.
 - » The first **comprehensive and global legally binding instrument** to fight transnational organized crime.
- ◇ **India's initiatives**
 - » **CBI** is the national Nodal Authority to receive and respond for transnational crimes.
 - » **Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013** wherein human trafficking has specifically been defined.

 Issues associated with UNTOC	 Way Ahead to Enhance the Effectiveness of UNTOC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Excludes more pressing issues like terrorism. ◇ Lacks strong enforcement mechanisms. ◇ Some countries, like the US, bypass the convention. ◇ Organized crime groups evolve faster than global legal frameworks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Define Organised Crime. ◇ Enhance international cooperation ◇ Establish stronger compliance mechanisms

2.9. Emerging Dimensions Of Warfare

2.9.1. Hybrid Warfare




Key Domains of Hybrid Warfare

- ◇ **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
- ◇ **Technological warfare:** E.g. Targeting software systems of a nuclear power plant via cyberattacks.
- ◇ **Economic Warfare:** by **disrupting supply chains, introducing counterfeit currency,**
- ◇ **Social warfare:** Exploiting already prevalent social issues and **vulnerabilities via propaganda** etc.

Reasons for growth of Hybrid warfare

- ◇ Hybrid Warfare domains are usually overlooked in **traditional threat assessments.**
- ◇ Target areas are **highly vulnerable where maximum damage can be caused.**

- ◇ Involves **state or non-state actors or both indulging** in different roles in a synchronized manner.
- ◇ **Scale and target of attack** can be precisely controlled by staying below certain detection threshold.
- ◇ Hybrid Warfare campaign **may not be discovered** until it is already well underway.
- ◇ **Absence of international norms and laws** regulating Grey Zone conflicts, especially cyber-warfare.

 Associated challenges for India	 Ways to combat Hybrid Warfare 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Encourages new forms of terrorism like Lone wolf attacks ◇ Privacy and data theft; Cyber espionage with China and Pakistan. ◇ Interference in electoral processes ◇ Financial influences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Real time response. ◇ Upgrading critical Fintech systems in country. ◇ Mainstreaming and integrating the issue of hybrid warfare in prevalent security dialogues.

2.9.2. Grey-Zone Warfare

About Grey-zone Warfare (GZW)

- ◇ GZW involves use of **unconventional tactics** and **strategies**, fall below threshold of **traditional warfare**.
 - » It aims to harm an adversary **without** them **feeling threatened** E.g. **Salami slicing** practice of China.
- ◇ The dividend of **GZW action may be available only after a long time.**
- ◇ **Key activities:** cyber-attack operations, support to non-state actors, economic coercion, etc.
- ◇ **Grey-zone Warfare is preferred over other methods:** The cost of conventional conflict in the nuclear era has grown too steep, and the risk of escalation too profound.

Key Initiatives to counter Grey-zone warfare

- ◇ **CDS**
- ◇ **Modernization** of war-fighting systems, leveraging iDEX initiative.
- ◇ **Self-reliance in Defence Manufacturing.**
- ◇ Agreements like GSOMIA with the US.

Measures in Tackling Grey Zone Warfare

- ◇ **Formation of Theatre Commands**
- ◇ **Enhancing informational warfare capability**
- ◇ **Other:** Counter disinformation, prevent funding to insurgent groups etc.

2.9.3. Urban Warfare

About Urban Warfare:

- ◇ Urban warfare refers to **military operations conducted in urban environments** like cities and towns.
- ◇ It can take many forms, from **guerrilla attacks to militia patrols to gang violence**.

Reasons behind Urban Warfare

- ◇ **Strategic importance:** Cities are often **political, economic, and infrastructure hubs**.
- ◇ **Ideological Motivations:** E.g. StariMost bridge in Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina reflects Bosnian community.
- ◇ **Asymmetric warfare:** can be **conducted with ordinary soldiers needing to operate tactically**.

Implications for Security in India:



- ◇ **Urbicide:** Deliberate destruction of urban areas, erasing physical structures and cultural identities.
- ◇ **Civilian Vulnerability:** E.g. Mumbai 26/11 terror attack
- ◇ **High Costs and Risks:** Loss of essential services like water, schools cause perpetual devastation
- ◇ **Multi-generational Impact:** E.g. **Nuclear attack on Hiroshima and Nagasaki**.
- ◇ **Lack of Comprehensive Doctrine:** India lacks specific guidance for city attacks.
- ◇ Concentration of networked infrastructure in urban areas makes them vulnerable to cyber-attacks.

Way Forward

- ◇ **Integrated National Defense Policy:** Strengthen both military and non-military capacities to address urban threats.
- ◇ **Defence Modernisation:** Precision weapons can reduce the collateral damage
- ◇ **Public Security and Preparedness:** public awareness campaigns and **preparedness drills** for urban threats.
- ◇ **Anticipatory Strategy:** specialized training programs for military personnel focusing on urban warfare.



2.10 Space Weaponisation

 Reasons behind Space Weaponisation	 Implications of space weaponisation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Missile defense inadequacy to stall an incoming ICBM with a nuclear warhead. ◇ Satellite protection (e.g., Mission Shakti) ◇ Give supremacy to a country in the conduct of war. E.g., Space Force of China ◇ Dual-Use Technologies: Space technologies like GPS trackers have both civilian and military applications ◇ Insufficient existing Treaties like Outer Space Treaty (OST) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Fear of War: E.g., Space race between USA and USSR during cold war. ◇ Threat to commercial/scientific interests (e.g., Starlink, Hubble) ◇ Space Debris: 40500 space debris objects (>10 cm in size), as per European Space Agency ◇ Peaceful exploration of outer space will be impacted. E.g. International Space Station ◇ Affecting Earth based critical infrastructure like potential threat to IRNSS Satellites

Initiatives: Outer Space Treaty, PAROS, Partial Test Ban Treaty (1963), Artemis Accords and Long Term Sustainability (LTS) of Outerspace Activities Guidelines of UNOOSA

Way Forward

- ◇ Space as 'Global Commons' (**Outer Space Treaty, Brundtland Commission**)
- ◇ Accessibility for all (e.g., **Artemis Accords**)
- ◇ Transparency and reporting (**UNOOSA**)
- ◇ International cooperation (**Negotiate a legally-binding treaty to prohibit weaponisation**)
- ◇ Space-domain awareness (e.g., **Combined Space Operations Initiative**)
- ◇ Mitigating space debris (e.g., **ISRO's Indian Space Situational Assessment Report**)

2.10.1 Spy (Reconnaissance) Satellite

What are Spy or Reconnaissance satellites?

- ◇ Provides **intelligence information** on the military activities of foreign countries.
- ◇ Can be either a **communications satellite** or an **Earth observation** satellite.
- ◇ Can pick up and record radio and radar transmissions while passing over a country.
- ◇ **Major Types:**
 - » **Optical-imaging satellites:** Detects missile launches and see enemy weapons on the ground.
 - » **Radar-imaging satellites:** Observes the Earth using radar technologies even during cloud cover.

- » **Signals-intelligence or ferret satellites:** Capture the radio and microwave transmissions.
- ◇ Countries like US (Keyhole series), China (Yaogan series), Russia (Persona series) etc.
- » **Radar Imaging Satellite – 2 (RISAT-2)** is generally considered to be India's reconnaissance satellite

Concerns

- ◇ Militarization of space.
- ◇ Promotes mistrust among countries (E.g. North and South Korea).
- ◇ Can be used as **dual used technology**
- ◇ China's reconnaissance satellite can collect crucial military information about India, etc.

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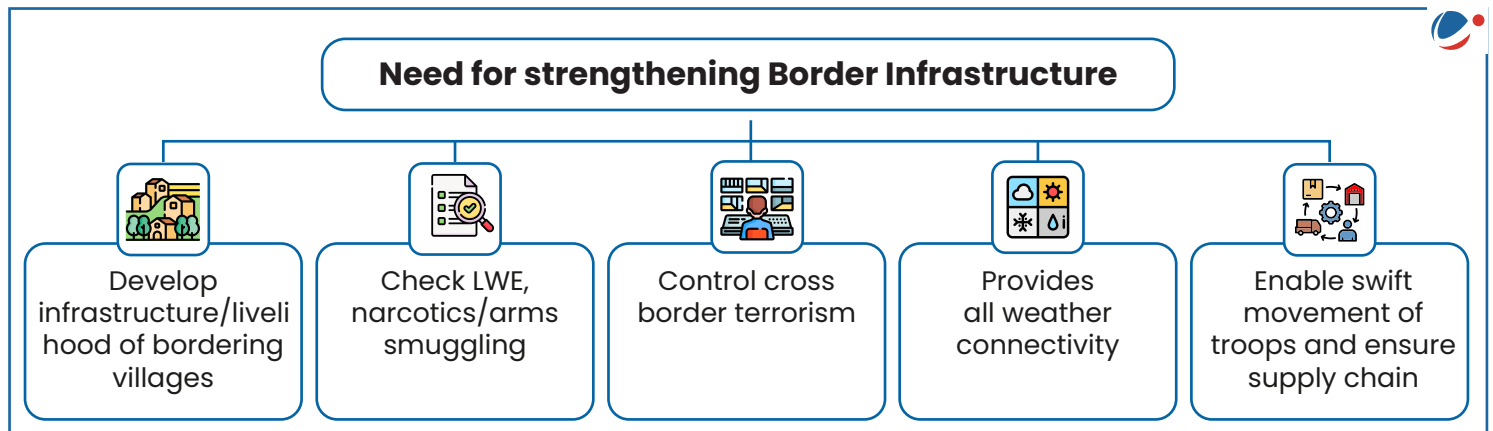
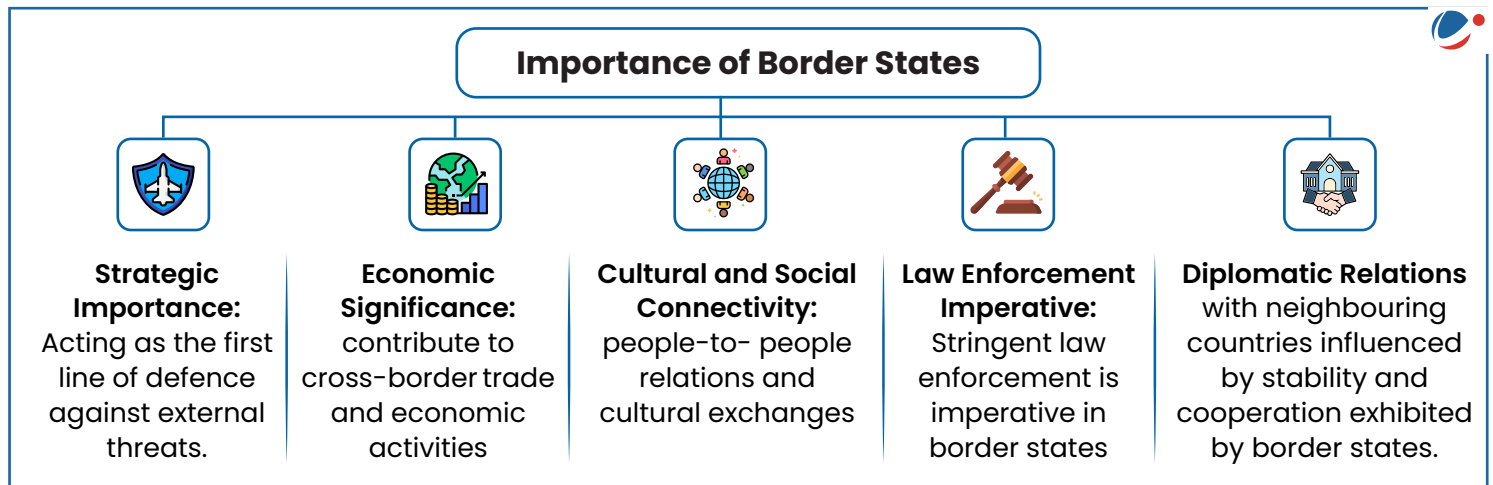
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3. SECURITY CHALLENGES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT IN BORDER



3.1. Border Infrastructure

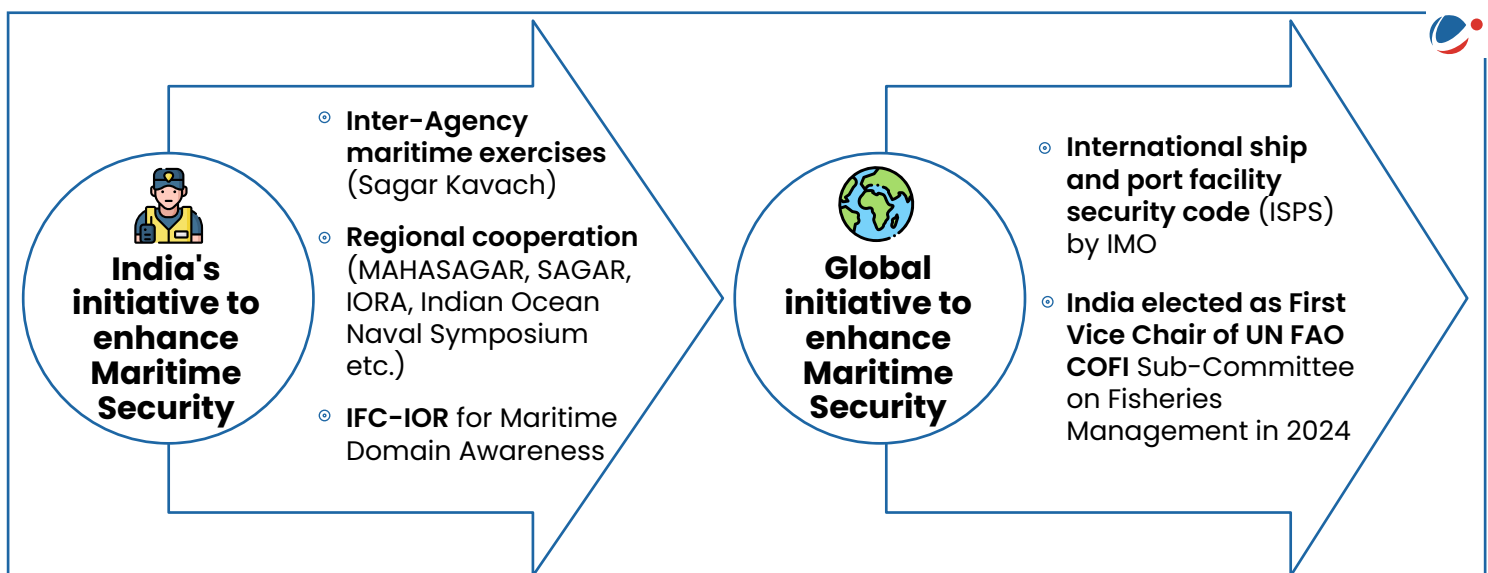


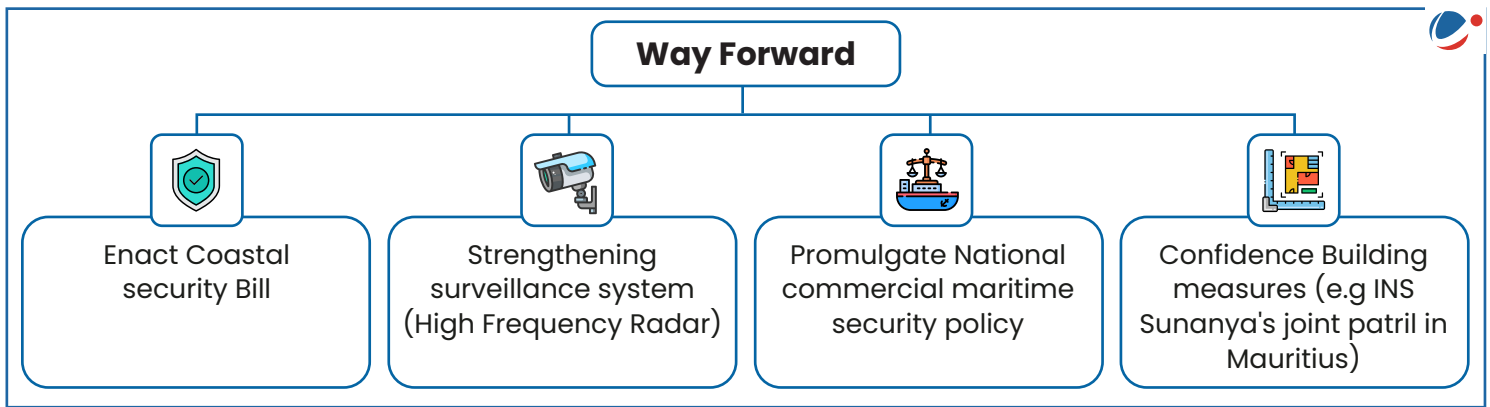
 Challenges in creating border infrastructure	 Initiatives taken to Strengthen Border infrastructure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Challenging Terrain and porous borders ◇ Political Instability in Neighboring Countries ◇ Lack of Coordination between Ministries of Home Affairs and Defence ◇ Potential Radicalization Hotspots ◇ Infrastructure projects harm biodiversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Shekatkar Committee Recommendations includes outsourcing road construction, modern construction plants, statutory clearances etc. ◇ BOLD-QIT (Border Electronically Dominated QRT Interception Technique) on Indo-Bangladesh and Pakistan border patches ◇ Technological border surveillance through Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System ◇ Vibrant villages programme ◇ All-weather roads and tunnels like Atal tunnel ◇ Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023 exempts land within 100 km of borders

 Way ahead	Integrate Local Communities for better surveillance
	Reducing Distance Between Border Outposts to curb trafficking and smuggling
	Utilise Technology like LIDAR, laser fencing, flood lighting, CCTVs, drones, and creating a Border Protection Grid
	Continuous Upgradation of equipment and accessories alongside new projects
	Encourage Private Sector Participation for technological upgrades and maintenance

3.2. Maritime Security

 Significance of Maritime Security for India	 Challenges to Maritime Security
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Vulnerabilities of coastline (26/11 Mumbai attack, Piracy etc.) ◇ Geostrategic Interest (Countering Chinese influence) ◇ Economic development (80% of India's external trade and 90% of energy trade through IOR) ◇ Climate Security (Indian ocean warmed faster than any other ocean since 1950s- IPCC report 2021) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Piracy and Maritime Terrorism in IOR (Bulgarian vessel 'Ruen' hijacked in 2024) ◇ Maritime Cyber Threats (In 2023, Nagoya Port attacked by Russian hackers Lockbit 3.0) ◇ Delays in creation of shore-based infrastructure, etc. (CAG Report) ◇ Rising Influence of USA and China (Chinese facilities in Myanmar and Sri Lanka)





3.3. Securing Maritime Trade Routes

<p>Recent incidents that raised concerns regarding security of maritime trade routes</p> <p> Houthi Attacks in Red Sea due to Israel's actions in Gaza. (E.g. MV Chem Pluto drone attack)</p> <p> Piracy in Arabian Sea (E.g. MV Ruen hijacking)</p>	<p> Importance of Red Sea Trade Route</p> <p>Crucial for international trade and energy shipments</p> <p>10% of seaborne cargo, including Asian trade with Europe, passes through Red Sea</p> <p>US and China have naval bases in Djibouti, indicating geostrategic importance</p>	<p> Challenges of Piracy</p> <p> Deter trade along global shipping chokepoints and disrupt supply chains</p> <p> Increases shipping costs</p>
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Impacts of recent threats to maritime routes	Way forward
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Geopolitical Tension: Potential for war as Houthi groups oppose Western nations and Israel ◆ Inflation: Disruption in Red Sea route can increase Indian agricultural prices by 10-20%. ◆ Disruption in Global Supply Chain: 80% of global goods trade passes through sea ◆ Environmental Impact: Increased CO2 emissions from longer routes ◆ Risk India's Energy Security: 65% of India's crude oil imports pass through Suez Canal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Enhancing resilience and global trade infrastructure ◆ Acknowledging Non-State Actors' Roles like Houthis, adapting maritime security strategies) ◆ Global Collaboration ◆ Leveraging good relations with Middle Eastern players for peace mediation

3.4. Great Nicobar Island Project

About Holistic Development of Great Nicobar Island (GNI) Project



Includes **international container transshipment terminal, international airport, power plants, and greenfield cities**



Opposed due to **potential adverse impacts on Shompen tribe, and Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve**



Crucial for **India's security as it facilitates India project power**

Significance of A&N in India's security



First Line of Maritime Defence



Maritime Domain Awareness



Control of Maritime Chokepoints



(Countering China's String of Pearls)



Disaster Response Capabilities

Challenges associated with Development of A&N



Historical Preoccupations with Western Indian Ocean: Neglecting Eastern Indian Ocean in its security planning



Maritime Remoteness



Environmental Diversity: Inhabits PVTGs and exotic flora/fauna



Geological Sensitivity: Located in seismic zone-V



Perception in Neighbourhood: Regional countries (Malaysia) view India's development as dominance attempts

Initiatives taken for Strengthening Security of A&N



Established **A&N Command**, a joint tri-service command (2001)




Announced **INR 100,000-million plan** to develop islands as a maritime hub (2015)




Inaugurated **Chennai-Andaman and Nicobar undersea internet cable** (2020)




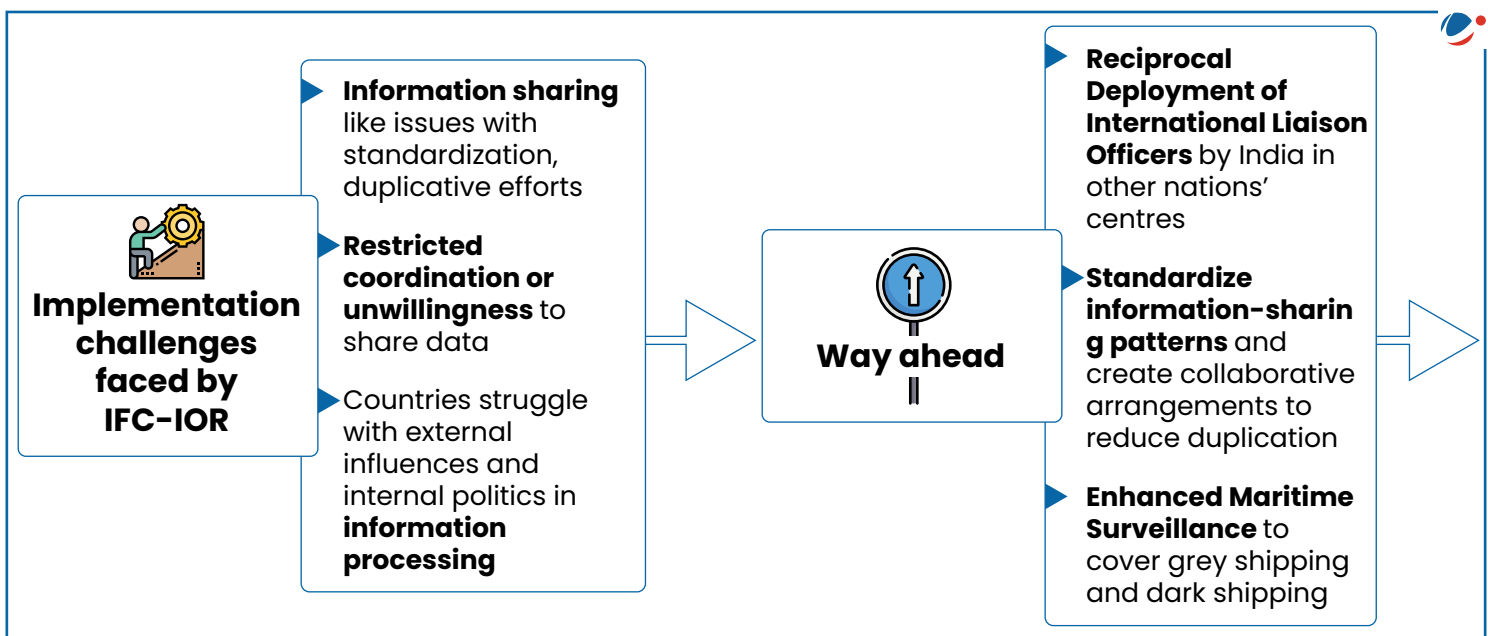
India-Indonesia task force to enhance connectivity between ANI and Sabang (2018)

 Way forward	Unbiased review of project
	Addressing A&N Command security needs independently of project's development aspects
	Exploring other islands in Nicobar group, like Little Nicobar and Kamorta for project accommodation

3.5. Information Fusion Centre For Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)

 About IFC-IOR	
Established in 2018 hosted by Indian Navy & Indian Coast Guard	Aims at strengthening maritime security in region using White Shipping Agreements

 Significance of IFC-IOR	In line with India's vision of SAGAR
	Checking Piracy & Armed Robbery
	Reduce logistical and bureaucratic processes
	Strengthening Neighbourhood relations
	Monthly Weather forecasts and hosted weather warnings



Building Mental Resilience for UPSC CSE with VisionIAS Student Wellness Cell

The UPSC Civil Services Examination is one of the most prestigious exams in the country, bringing immense professional and personal satisfaction. However, the journey often involves overcoming loneliness, intense competition pressure, anxiety, and other psychological challenges. These issues can impact both your preparation and overall well-being.

At **VisionIAS**, we recognize the multifaceted nature of this journey. To support our students comprehensively, we have established a dedicated Student Wellness Cell. Since April 2024, our highly professional psychologists and experienced professionals have provided confidential and mindful support as per student needs.

From Stress Management to Academic Excellence



Enhancing Academic Performance:

Effective stress management contributes to better academic outcomes.



Professional Mental Health Support:

Seeking professional help is crucial for success in UPSC preparation.



Well-Supported Mind for Excellence:

Mental well-being is essential for achieving success in UPSC exams.



Comprehensive Wellness Cell:

Addressing various issues impacting mental health and academic performance.



Safe and Non-Judgmental Environment:

A space for students to discuss issues and receive personalized support.



Confidential and Structured Support:

Multiple, structured sessions based on the severity of the issues.

Common Issues and Our Approach

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.

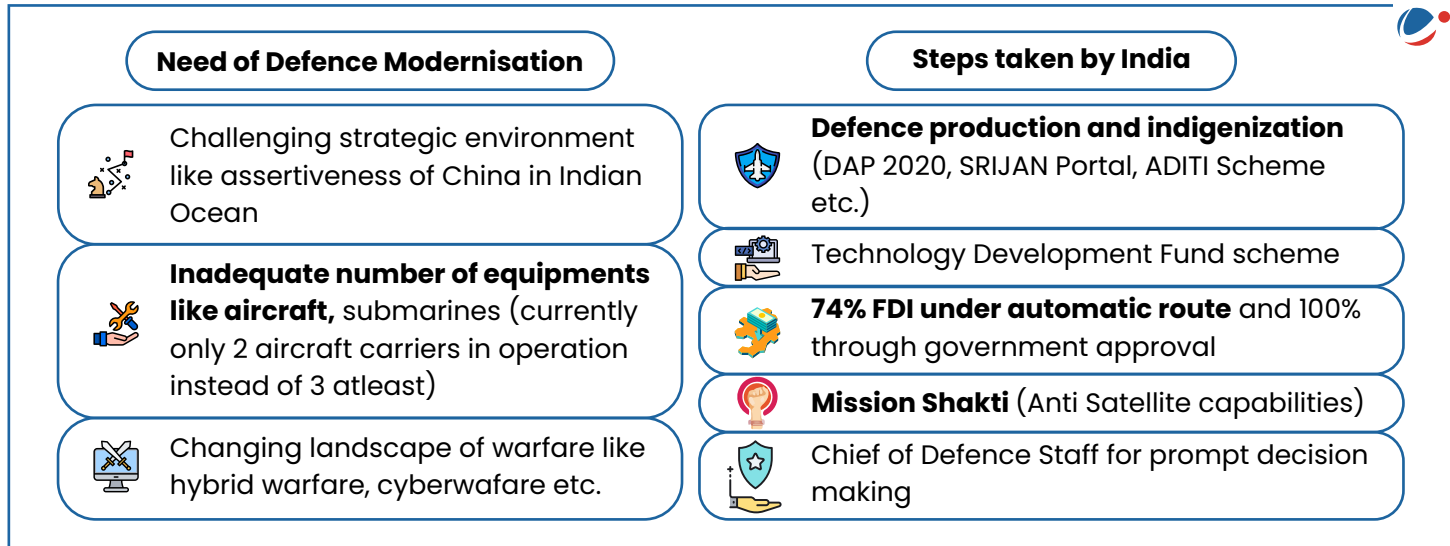




To support the larger student community, **VisionIAS** is now extending our counseling and wellness support to all students preparing for UPSC CSE, regardless of their coaching institute affiliation. Schedule a session by visiting our office at Apsara Arcade near Karol Bagh Metro Station or emailing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

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

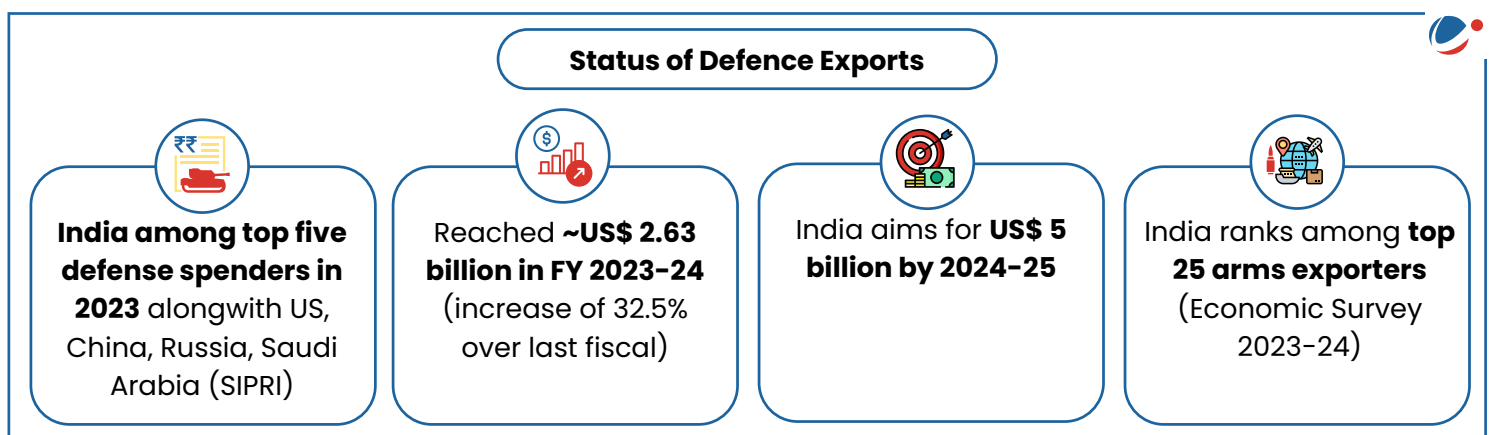
4. SECURITY FORCES












4.1. Modernisation Of Armed Forces



 Challenges in defence modernisation	 Way forward
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production and acquisition contracts take 7 to 9 years for finalization Inadequate allocation for defense R&D Lack of depth to design/manufacture critical parts etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fostering innovation through Board of Research for Advance Defence sciences (suggested by Rama Rao Committee) Non-lapsable Defence Modernisation Fund (15th Finance Commission) Development of industry-defence-academia linkages Reorienting Make in India initiative to develop domestic military industrial base




4.2. Defence Exports







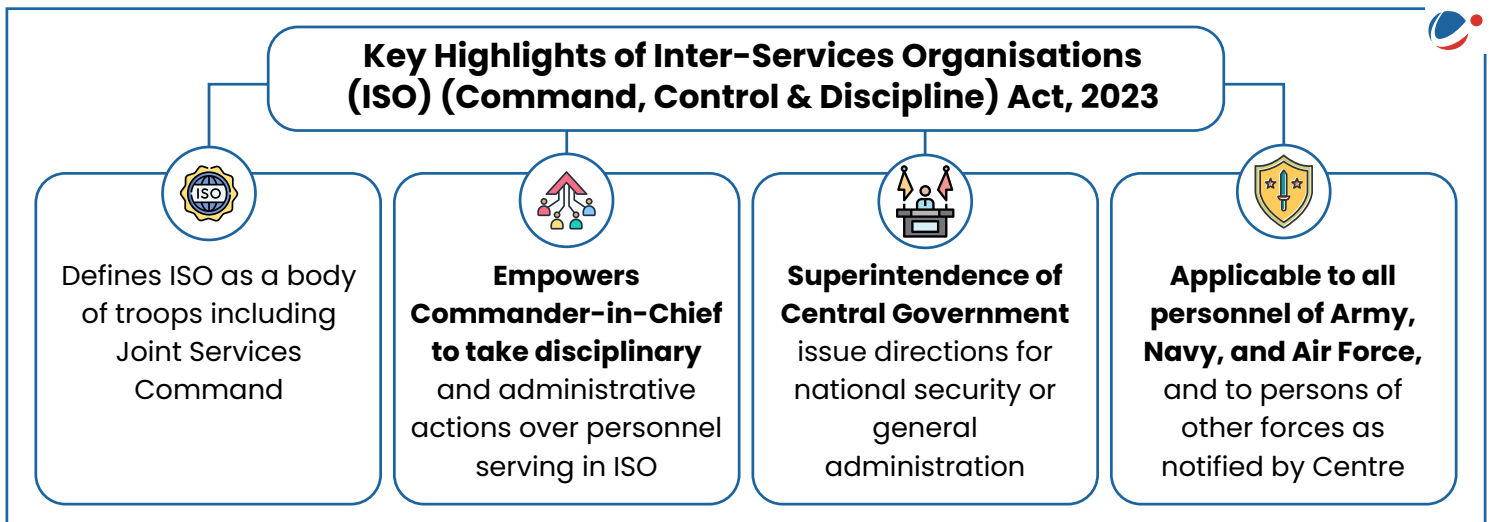
Challenges	Steps taken to boost Defence Exports	Way forward
<p> Red tapism (E.g. HAL took longer time to produce Su-30MKI aircraft)</p> <p> IPR issues (India manufactures weapon platforms like Tank T-90 with IPR held by foreign OEMs)</p> <p> High competition (Malaysia preferred South Korea's LCA over India's LCA Tejas fighter jet)</p>	<p> Mobilising finance via FDI</p> <p> 25% of defence R&D budget earmarked for it</p> <p> 75% of defence capital procurement budget earmarked for domestic industry in FY 2023-24</p> <p> Simplified defence industrial licensing for ease of doing business</p>	<p> Focusing on new markets by enhancing role of Defence Attaches</p> <p> Promotion of defence products through initiatives like DefExpo 2024</p> <p> Establish Defence Export promotion/facilitation agency</p> <p> Quality Assurance & testing infrastructure development</p>

4.3. Joint Culture In Armed Forces

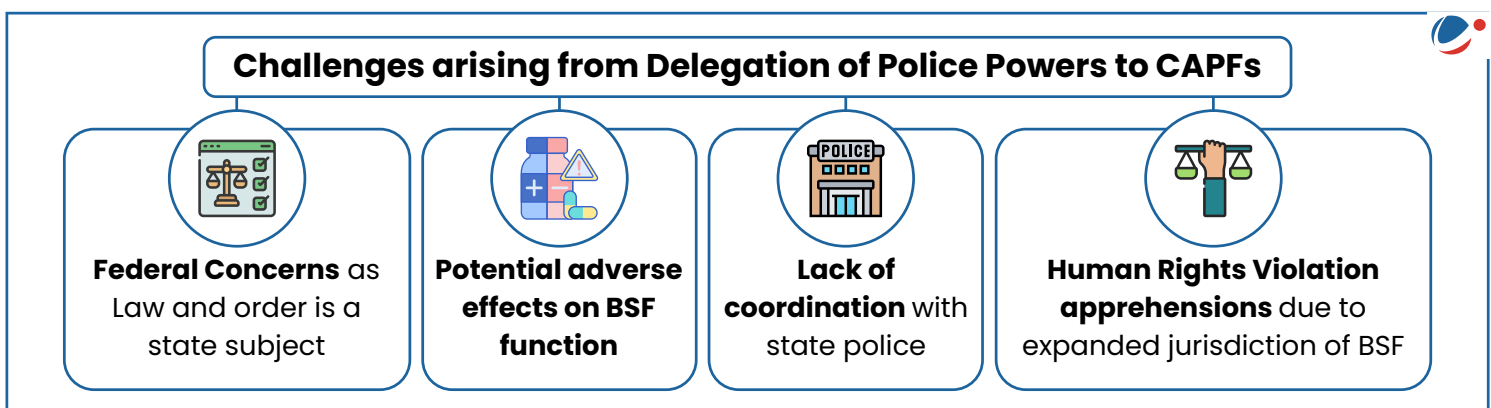
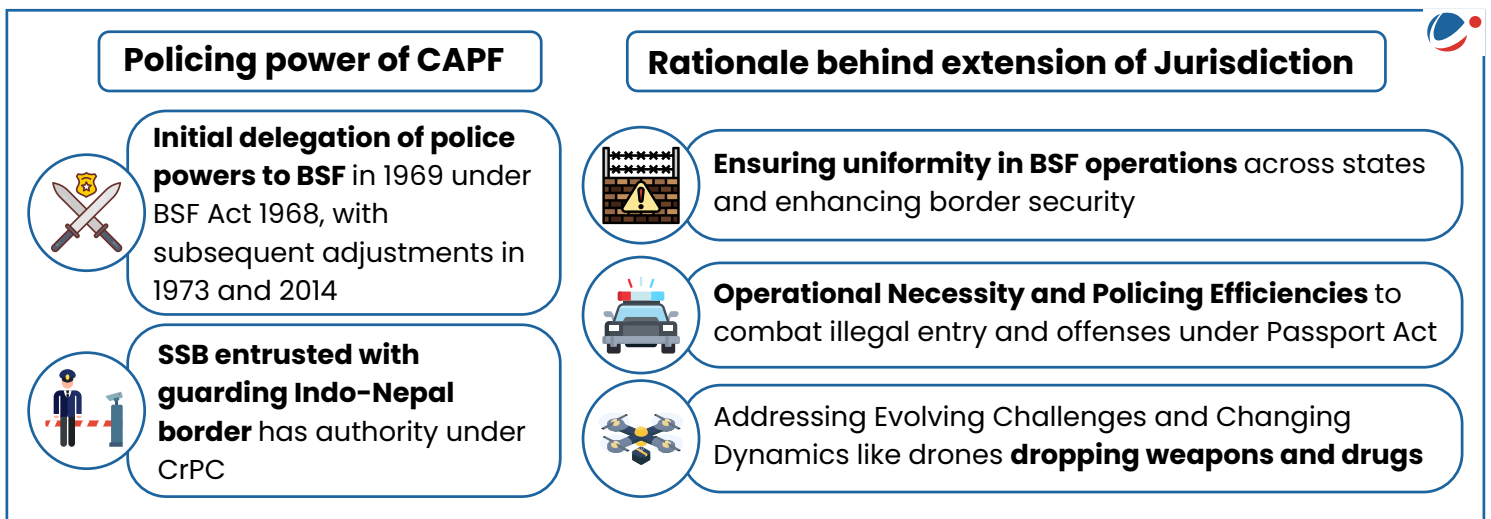
About Integrated Theatre Commands (ITCs)

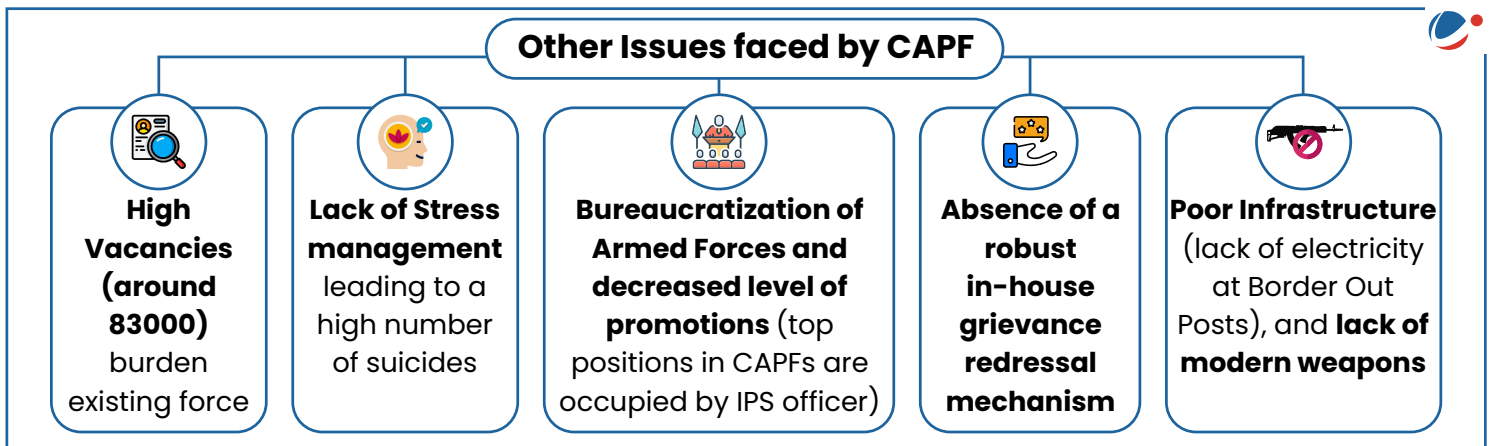
<p> Theaterisation: One commander takes unified command of three services for security concerns in a particular geographical theatre</p>	<p> Jointness: Assets from all services under theatre commander for operational planning synergy</p>	<p> Command Structure: Separates 'operational' functions From Raise-train-sustain (RTS) and administrative functions</p>
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Challenges in creation of ITCs	Steps taken for Integration of Armed Forces
<p> Lack of coherent National Security Strategy</p> <p> Limited resources, particularly with Air Force, to different land-based theatres, maritime theatre etc.</p>	<p> Institutional: Appointment of CDS, creation of Department of Military Affairs under Ministry of Defence to promote jointness in procurement, training, etc.</p> <p> Legislative: Enactment of Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control & Discipline) Act, 2023</p>



4.4. Policing Power To Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)
























 Steps to enhance their performance	Develop Special Forces in States with adequate training and equipment
	Enhancing training methods in line with latest requirements
	Ensure 10% reservation for Agniveers in all CAPFs and enhance recruitment drives to fill vacancies
	Increase representation of women in CAPF and a separate training curriculum
	Implement an efficient grievance redressal mechanism to address delayed promotions, personnel clashes etc.
	Introduce scientific methods and special intermittent training to reduce stress and improve morale





4.5. Technology Absorption In Defence

Need of Technology Absorption in Defence for India	Challenges related to technology adoption in defence
<p> Military Superiority: Compete with USA and China</p> <p> Regional Security: Project India as a 'Net Security Provider'</p> <p> Operational Efficiency: Free soldiers for strategic tasks</p> <p> Defence Production Targets: Achieve Rs 3 lakh crore in production, Rs 50,000 crore in exports by 2028-29</p>	<p> Low Defence R&D Expenditure (Rs. 18,669.66 crore spent in 2021-22 against Rs. 20,757.44 crore budgets- Parliamentary standing committee on defence).</p> <p> High initial costs for procurement and development.</p> <p> Import dependency on foreign technology for advanced weapons</p> <p> Technology Integration (Obsolescence, long service life, and compatibility issues)</p> <p> Cyber Security Vulnerability (risks from imported communication equipment)</p>

Measures taken by India for tech-Absorption	Way Forward
<p> Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme</p> <p> 2022 Amendment to Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 mandates all modernisation requirements to be indigenously sourced</p> <p> Indian Naval Indigenisation Plan (2015-2030)</p> <p> Project Akashteer (Automated air defence system inducted by Indian Army)</p> <p> Signals Technology Evaluation and Adaptation Group (STEAG) for researching futuristic technologies like 6G, AI</p>	<p> Prof K Vijay Raghavan Committee Recommendations (Creation of Department of Defence Science, Technology, and Innovation; Establishment of Defence Technology Council)</p> <p> Streamlining Regulatory and Procurement Processes by simplifying documentation requirements</p> <p> Prioritizing technology over cost to encourage selection of advanced and niche technologies</p> <p> Promoting private sector participation in manufacturing</p> <p> Creation of specialist officers and specialised cadres like cyber experts by providing specific training</p>

4.6. Defense Research And Development Organization (DRDO)

- ◇ About: Ministry of Defense constituted **Prof. K Vijay Raghavan committee** to review functioning of DRDO and suggest restructuring and redefining its role.

 Reasons for inefficient delivery by DRDO	 Key Recommendations by K. VijayRaghavan Committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Lack of harmonization among multiple agencies (E.g. Delay of LCA Tejas due to failure of DRDO to develop Kaveri engine) ◇ Inadequate monitoring in prototypes trial ◇ Working on redundant technologies ◇ Bureaucratisation of DRDO with more focus on procedural aspects than outcome ◇ Monopoly and lack of competition due to limited involvement of private sector ◇ Limited scalability of projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Create an Architecturally New Defence Techno-Industrial Consortium (DTIC) for integrated defence R&D ◇ Form Defense R&D council with top military leaders and scientists for capability development plans ◇ Create a tri-service division within Department of Military Affairs for capability development ◇ Modify prototypes, not production models; establish synchronisation for multi-agency projects ◇ Wind up redundant DRDO labs/projects to monetise assets and fund innovation



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5. MISCELLANEOUS

5.1. Nuclear Disarmament

5.1.1. Pokhran-I

India is celebrating 50 years landmark of its **first nuclear tests in Pokhran, Rajasthan.**

- ◇ **Operation Smiling Buddha (Pokhran I)**, conducted on **18th May 1974**, described as a peaceful nuclear explosion.
- ◇ India became **the first nation apart from P5 countries** to conduct the test.
- ◇ **Importance**
 - » Raised **India's credible deterrence and national security.**
 - » It highlighted **India's technological prowess in nuclear research.**
 - » It is a key event in **evolution of India's nuclear programme.**

Impact of the test

- ◇ **Technological Apartheid with India:** US Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act halted nuclear assistance to India. **E.g.: USA had forced Russia** to not transfer **cryogenic engine** technology to ISRO.
- ◇ **Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) 1974:** Established post-India's 1974 nuclear test to prevent nuclear exports for weapon-making; **India seeks membership** for nuclear power capacity and raw materials.
- ◇ **Responsible Nuclear Power:** India's nuclear capability affirmed with Pokhran-II in 1998. **After Pokhran II India** also declared '**No First Use policy**'.
- ◇ **123 Nuclear Agreement with USA** for peaceful uses of Nuclear Energy.

Conclusion

India has not joined the NPT, but the status of India as a responsible nuclear power has been largely accepted by the world

5.1.2. Global Nuclear Regulation

International regulations regarding nuclear weapons

CTBT	◇ Prohibits all nuclear explosions; India did not sign.
NPT, 1968	◇ Aimed at limiting spread of nuclear weapons. » India did not sign the treaty due to biases.
Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)	◇ First legally binding agreement to ban nuclear weapons. ◇ India did not sign as it does not contribute to set new standards.

Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZ)	◇ Regional approach to strengthen global nuclear nonproliferation.
Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)	◇ Seeks to limit the risks of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) .
Outer Space Treaty (OST)	◇ Prohibits placing of nuclear weapons in space .

Effectiveness of Global Nuclear Regulations

- ◇ **Consensus Building:** Achieved on IAEA safety standards against ionizing radiation effects.
- ◇ **Reduction in Nuclear Stockpile:** Over three-fourths reduction since mid-1980s
- ◇ **Peaceful Use:** Nuclear technology for energy, medicine, agriculture, research
- ◇ **Limited nuclear testing:** Only North Korea tested in the 21st century
- ◇ **Response Mechanisms:** IAEA emergency preparedness and response

Limitations of Global Nuclear Regulations

- ◇ **Concerns about illicit nuclear material trafficking.**
- ◇ **Rapid Technology Advancements.**
- ◇ **Noncompliance:** Iran’s alleged NPT violations
- ◇ **Limited focus on disarmament**
- ◇ **Dual-Use Technology.**

Way forward

- ◇ **Increasing IAEA budget** and reforming its safeguards, security, and personnel systems.
- ◇ **Negotiating non-discriminatory nuclear arms control treaties** for complete nuclear disarmament.
- ◇ **Revisit safeguards and constraints placed on the production of fissile material**
- ◇ **UN should advance international peace** through pursuit of elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

5.2 Drones In India

Security Concerns with Drones

- ◇ **Threat to national security:** e.g., Punjab border
- ◇ Conventional systems like radars can’t detect low-flying drones (e.g., drone on Britain’s warship)
- ◇ **Terrorist access** e.g., ISIS drone attack
- ◇ **Cost-effectiveness:** e.g., Saudi Aramco oil facility attack

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.

Way Forward:

- ◇ **International standards:** Define limits for drone use/possession
- ◇ **National laws:** Support innovation, restrict privacy infringement, airspace misuse
- ◇ **UAS classification:** Shift from weight-based to performance-based criteria
- ◇ **Incremental approach** in integrating drones in armed forces.

5.2.1 Drones For Defense

Significance of Drones for Defense

- ◇ **Intelligence gathering:** Used to identify enemy positions, assess the terrain, and track movements.
- ◇ **Precision strike:** Equipped with precision-guided munitions to target enemy positions.
- ◇ Used to locate and rescue personnel in hazardous or inaccessible areas.
- ◇ **Faster and easier to deploy** as they provide operational flexibility.
- ◇ Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) through real-time visuals to aid decision-making.
- ◇ **Tactical: Precision strikes with minimal collateral damage, improved logistics in challenging terrain**

Challenges to India's Drone Potential

- ◇ **Lack of R&D:** E.g. India's gross expenditure on R&D at 0.65% of GDP, lower than that of top 10 economies
- ◇ **Lack of component ecosystem for drones:** dependency on imported material from US, Israel
- ◇ **Lack of testing facility diminishes organisational efficiency and escalating costs.**
- ◇ **Shortage of drone pilots,** software engineers, quality inspectors, service engineers and drone engineers.

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.

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

About MIRV technology

- ◇ It allows a single missile to **carry multiple nuclear warheads**, each capable of striking different targets independently.
 - » Warheads can be released from the missile at different speeds and in different directions.
- ◇ **First country:** USA to develop MIRV technology.
- ◇ **Launch Platforms:** Land or sea (submarines)

» **Submarine MIRVs:** Less destabilizing, harder to locate.

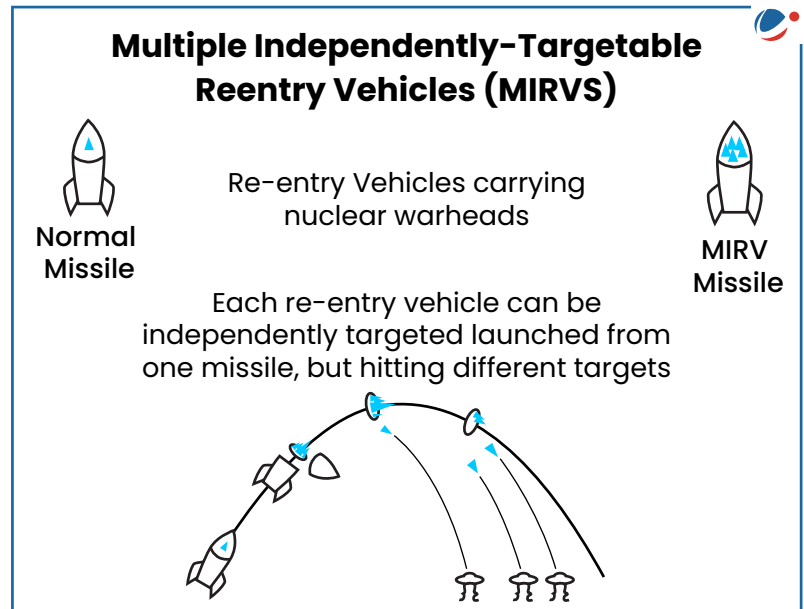
◇ **BMD Countermeasures:** Effective against Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) systems

Challenges in MIRV technology

◇ **Vulnerability:** Land-based MIRVs are more vulnerable to attacks

◇ **Arms Race:** Potential for a first-strike capability, exacerbating arms race and crisis instability

◇ **Other Challenges:** Warhead miniaturization, advanced guidance systems, need for more fissile material (e.g., plutonium)



5.4. Directed Energy Weapons

About Directed Energy Weapons (DEWs)

◇ **DEWs:** Use concentrated energy (electromagnetic or particle) to incapacitate, damage, or destroy targets

Applications of DEWs

» **Military Defense:** Intercept missiles, neutralize drones, disable electronics

» **Law Enforcement/Border Security:** Non-lethal DEWs (e.g., microwaves, lasers) for crowd control, border security

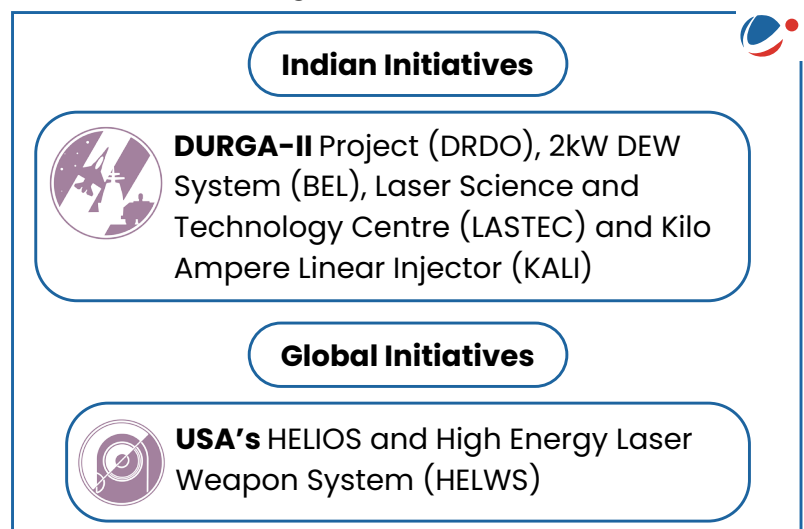
» **Space Operations:** Protect satellites from debris, anti-satellite weapons

Advantages of DEWs

- ◇ **Complementary to Conventional Weapons:** Faster, less costly (energy fired at speed of light)
- ◇ **Logistics:** No need for traditional ammunition, relies on power sources
- ◇ **Precision:** Unaffected by gravity, wind, Coriolis force, highly accurate targeting
- ◇ **Stealth:** Silent, invisible operation (especially outside the visible spectrum)

Challenges of DEWs

- ◇ **Technological Limitations:** Weather conditions (fog, storms) can reduce effectiveness
- ◇ **Battlefield Use: Wider beam DEWs can affect all assets in an area (friend or foe)**
- ◇ **Ethical/Health Concerns:** Long-term health effects, ethical questions about usage











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