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INTERNAL SECURITY

Mains Value Addition Material
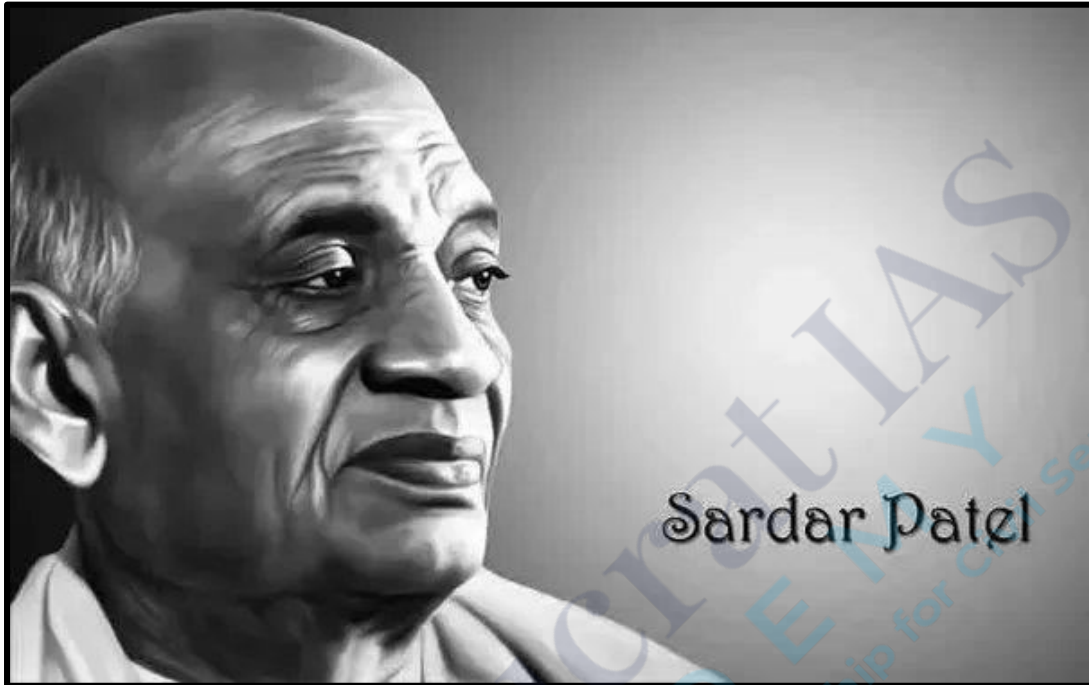
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"Yours (Police) is the responsibility to maintain the prestige of the Government and protect the honour of the citizens. It is not enough if you only detect crime and bring offenders to book. You must also try to win the affection of the people. A police officer or policeman who loses his head in handling a situation is not fit to be a member of the police force."

Sardar Patel

Attributes of Internal Security

- Secure **territorial integrity** and protect internal sovereignty
- Maintain domestic peace
- Prevalence of law and order
- The **rule of law and equality before the law**—the law of the land, should protect everyone irrespective of status
- The absence of fear implies individual freedom for people as guaranteed by the Constitution
- **Peaceful co-existence** and communal harmony.

1. Linkages Between Development & Spread of Extremism

"The fundamental source of conflict in the world today is the socioeconomic deprivation of billions of people across the globe, coexisting with islands of enormous wealth and prosperity within and among countries."

Thabo Mbeki, Former President of South Africa

"What is it that seduces some young people to terrorism? It simplifies things. The fanatic has no questions, only answers. Education is the way to eliminate terrorism."

Elie Wiesel

a. CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

Terrorism, radicalization, and extremism are **subjective concepts** that have different meanings for different people. Furthermore, their meanings are constantly evolving as they manifest themselves in different ways in different parts of the world, exploiting new vulnerabilities, technologies, and approaches.

Terrorism
Acts committed with the objective of seriously intimidating a population, destabilizing or destroying structures of a country or international organisation, or making a Government abstain from performing actions.

Extremism
Extremism can be defined as **any ideology considered to be far outside the mainstream attitudes of a society or to violate common moral standards**. It means an ideology deflected from the mainstream of common moral standards which can be perceived as good or bad depending upon the political and philosophical values.

An **insurgency is a violent, armed rebellion against authority when those taking part in the rebellion are not recognized as belligerents (lawful combatants).**

Radicalization
Like terrorism and violent extremism, radicalization is a contested term with various definitions. It is commonly understood, however, as the **social and psychological process of incrementally experienced commitment to extremist political and religious ideologies.** It does not necessarily mean that those affected will become violent. However, when a decision is made that fear, terror, and violence are justified to achieve ideological, political, or social change, radicalization to violent extremism occurs.

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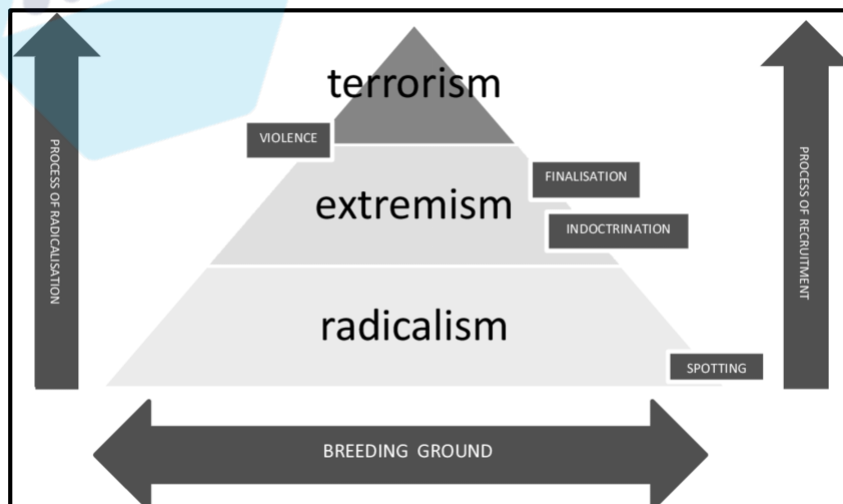
b. India's Internal Security Situation

The **internal security challenges in India**, which have the **greatest impact on state security**, are **poverty and unemployment**. Mired in inequalities the consequences of poverty and unemployment are the armed internal challenges like **Naxalism and Northeastern insurgencies**. These are a few examples where the **conflict between development and extremism is clearly visible**. There is a **cause-and-effect relationship between the components of development and extremism.** The absence of development creates the breeding ground for extremism in society, thereby creating a threat to the internal security of India. This, in turn, prevents further development of the region as can be seen in Naxalism-infested regions of Eastern India.

The internal security situation in the country can broadly be categorized as under:

a) Terrorism in the hinterland of the country.
b) Cross-Border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir.
c) Insurgency in the North Eastern States.
d) Left Wing Extremism in India.

c. Left Wing Extremism (Naxalism) in India

Origin and Evolution

The birth of Naxalism is pinpointed to the Naxalbari uprising of spring 1967. Naxalbari, the village that gave its name to the movement, was the **site of a peasant revolt, instigated by communist leaders against land owners of the State**. While at this point, India had been independent from the British for 20 years, the country had retained the colonial land tenancy system. Under the British imperial system, indigenous landlords were granted pieces of land in return for their collection of tax revenue and as in Medieval European feudal systems, these landlords subleased their land to peasants for half their yield. As shown by the **1971 census, nearly 60% of the population was landless, the lion's share of land being owned by the richest 4%.**

While **this event marked the beginning of the Naxalite movement** as we know it today, it is important to understand that its emergence is a result of the various fragmentations of communist ideologies in India over time.

Different Phases of LWE

Phase 1 (1967–1973) – the formative phase:

The Naxalbari incident could be seen as the trigger that launched the transformation of a primarily political and socio-economic agrarian movement into an armed struggle. The incident was a fall-out of the underground efforts undertaken by the radical hardline Communist leaders like **Charu Majumdar, Jangal Santhal, and Kanu Sanyal** who were able to **motivate and mobilize the landless peasants** to forcibly occupy the land belonging to the landlords **whom they called "class enemies".**

Under the influence of Mao in China, **radical Communists from different parts of the country rallied around Charu Majumdar as their leader**. In 1967, **the All India Coordination Committee of Communist Revolutionaries (AICCCR)** was formed to reconcile the differences within the CPI (M) party. It failed and the radical leaders were expelled from the party. They then **formed a new party called the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) i.e. the CPI (ML), on April 22, 1969**. The party was to follow the Maoist line to achieve revolution.

During 1969-72, fierce battles raged between CPI (ML) and Government authorities, resulting in large-scale violence and bloodshed. The Government also seriously undertook land reforms. With the coming into power of the **Congress-supported government in Bengal in the year 1971, a major operation named "Steeplechase ''was launched** in which the **military, paramilitary, and state forces participated jointly in the Naxal-affected areas**. The extremist movement was brought under control within two months. **The movement finally died out** after the arrest and death of Charu Majumdar in July 1972. In other parts of the country as well, the movement died out gradually and there was a lull for about a decade. Even though the

"Naxalbari uprising" was a failure, it marked the beginning of the violent LWE movement in India, and the terms "Naxalism" and "Naxalite" were born.

Identification of revolutionary politics with the name of a village, and not with the name of the leader is unique in history. During this phase, the movement could not win the support of the poor peasants, Share croppers, agricultural laborers, urban middle class, and the workers at large as they did not view it as a struggle for their own cause. Besides, **the masses were not mentally prepared to go in for an "armed struggle."** The excessive identification with China robbed the extremists of a nationalistic image and this factor, to a large extent, was responsible for their isolation from the common people. The movement was based on an over-optimistic evaluation of the possibility of advancing rapidly and the underestimation of the state's strength. Devoid of broader mass support, the movement, notwithstanding the courage, sacrifice, and motivation of the activists and the protagonists, gradually petered away. However, the leaders succeeded in providing both an ideological veneer and cutting- edge militancy to the nascent Marxist-Leninist movement. They also succeeded in attracting some of the best minds among the idealistic youth of the country.

Phase 2 (1970s -2000) - Post Charu Phase:

Charu Majumdar's death came as a blow to the Naxalites across the country. Thereafter, the CPI(ML) disintegrated into innumerable groups and subgroups which were engaged in internecine squabbles and accusing each other of betrayal and pursuing the wrong line of thought and action. **The 1970s and 1980s were witness to bitter polemics which divided these groups,** but, at the same time, there were efforts to rebuild the Maoist movement as a whole.

In **1971, Satyanarain Singh** revolted against **Charu Majumdar's "annihilation" policy** and started his **own group called the CPI (ML) Satyanarayan Singh Group (SNS).** Similarly, during the 1971 Indo-Pak War, **Ashim Chatterjee and Santosh Rana** also left the CPI (ML) due to Charu Majumdar's opposition to the Indian government's position. **Mahadev Mukherjee and B N Sharma assumed the leadership of the CPI (ML) after the death of Charu Majumdar**. But the unity did not last long as Mahadev Mukherjee expelled Sharma. Another split in the Mahadev Mukherjee camp came when CPI (ML) split between pro-Lin Biao and anti-Lin Biao groups.

Vinod Mishra was elected as **General Secretary of "Liberation" in 1975**. Although he claimed to follow the Charu Majumdar line, he was the **first Naxal leader to recognize the futility of armed rebellion against the Indian Government.** Without explicitly renouncing the methods of Charu Majumdar, he **started a "rectification movement"** which was aimed at rectifying the shortcomings and lapses in the armed rebellion. As a part of this new line of thinking, **"Liberation" joined the mass mobilization and jumped into electoral politics in 1982** through a f**ront organization called the Indian People's Front (IPF).** The IPF was envisioned as a nationwide alternative to the Congress Party. In the year **1989, IPF won a seat in the parliamentary elections and the first Naxalite member entered the Indian Parliament.**

Phase 3 (2004 – Present) - Emergence of the CPI (Maoist):

Maoist insurgency doctrine, as elicited from copious documents recovered from their hideouts during several raids and encounters, is based on the glorification of the extreme left ideology. It legitimizes the use of violence to overwhelm the existing socio-economic and political structure.

Based on this ideology, **the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army was created as an armed wing of the Communist Party of India – Maoists (CPI-M).** The movement got stre**ngthened in 2004 with the merger of the People's War Group (PWG) which was influential in Andhra Pradesh, the Maoist Communist Centre of India (MCCI)** with a stronghold in the central Indian states, and the CPI-M. This merger significantly upgraded the combat capabilities of LWE groups together.

Over the decades since, the **LWE movement is assessed to have impacted 40 percent of India's territory and 35 percent of its population**. In 2018, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), 60 districts in 10 states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal, were intensely affected by the LWE movement.

Based on the **intensity of insurgency, 30 of the 108 districts spread over the ten States** mentioned above

have been **classified as most affected LWE districts**.

Currently, **the lethality of the LWE movement has increased multifold,** establishing a complex web across the **10 states of India**. It is estimated that these extremist out its now have around 9,000-10,000 armed fighters with access to about 6,500 firearms. In addition, there are estimates of about 40,000 full-time cadres (Government of India 2017).

The objective of LWE in India

- The **core objective** of the LWE movement is the est**ablishment of the People's Revolutionary State,** which is supposed to be **achieved by establishing a 'Red Corridor'**, stretching from the Nepal border through Central India to Karnataka in the South.
- This objective is to be achieved **by using armed struggle as the prime tool to garner the support of the oppressed and the exploited**. The violent protracted struggle is therefore expected to continue to help the movement consolidate and extend the Corridor.
- Naxal leaders support various issues like **protecting people's rights of Jal (water),Jungle (Forest), and Jamin (Land) (JJJ).** These are prominent concerns of the people mainly in rural India as most of the people depend on agriculture and forest for their livelihood. Thus, **any threat to these three elements is seen as a threat to their livelihood** and triggers a high level of anxiety.
- In addition to building up an effective web of armed operatives to spread terror**, Naxals also recruit influential local tribal leaders to maintain their firm grip over villagers** in remote locations, like in the dense forests of Chhattisgarh and eastern states of India.

Causes for the Spread of Left Extremism

While the **goal of the left extremists** was to **actualise their own vision of the State through 'revolution'**,they chose to usher that revolution by **enlisting the support of the deprived and exploited sections of society** particularly in areas where such sections constituted a significant part of the population.

Land Related Factors

- **Failure of land reforms**, for example, evasion of land ceiling laws.
- Existence of special land tenures (enjoying exemptions under ceiling laws).
- Encroachment and occupation of Government and Community lands (even the water-bodies) by powerful sections of society.
- Lack of title to public land cultivated by the landless poor.
- Poor implementation of laws prohibiting **transfer of tribal land to non-tribals in the Fifth Schedule areas.**
- Non-regularisation of traditional land rights.

Displacement and Forced Evictions

- Eviction from lands traditionally used by tribals.
- Large-scale land acquisition and **displacement for 'public purposes'** without appropriate compensation or rehabilitation.

Livelihood Related Causes

- Lack of food security due to factors such as **corruption in the Public Distribution System**.
- Disruption of traditional occupations and lack of alternative work opportunities.
- Deprivation of traditional rights in common property resources.

Social Exclusion

- Continued practice, in some areas, of **untouchability** in various forms leading to a **denial of dignity**.
- Poor implementation of special laws such as the **Scheduled Caste and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, and Bonded Labour System**

(Abolition) Act, 1976, etc.

Governance Related Factors

- Corruption and **poor provision/non-provision of essential public services** including primary health care and education.
- Incompetent, ill-trained, and poorly motivated public personnel who are alleged to be mostly absent from their place of posting.
- Misuse of powers by the police and violations of the norms of law.
- Perversion of electoral politics and unsatisfactory working of local government institutions.

The Government of India's Approach

- The Government of India believes in a **holistic long-term policy in the areas of security, development, ensuring rights and entitlements of local communities, and improving governance** and perception management to combat LWE.
- Most of the security-related measures, apart from the deployment of CAPFs, are **aimed at assisting capacity building by the State forces**.
- On the development front, an **Integrated Action Plan** (now called Additional Central Assistance to LWE-affected districts) covering **88 affected districts aims at providing public infrastructure and services** and is under implementation since 2010. Further, an ambitious Road Development Plan has been envisaged for LWE areas.
- An Empowered Group of Officers closely monitors the progress of flagship schemes. Special emphasis is being laid on the **implementation of the Forest Rights Act** and ensuring entitlement of local communities over Minor Forest Produce.

'Police' and 'Public Order' being **State subjects**, action on maintenance of law and order lies primarily in the domain of the State Governments. The Central Government closely monitors the situation and supplements and coordinates their efforts in several ways. **These include:**

- Providing **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)** and Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA)
- Sanction of India Reserve (IR) battalions, setting up of **Counter Insurgency and Anti Terrorism (CIAT) schools**
- Modernization and upgradation of the State Police and their Intelligence apparatus under the Scheme for **Modernization of State Police Forces (MPF scheme)**
- Reimbursement of security related expenditure under the **Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme**
- Providing helicopters for anti-naxal operations, assistance in training of State Police through the Ministry of Defence, the Central Police Organisations and the Bureau of Police Research and Development
- Sharing of Intelligence; facilitating inter-State coordination; assistance in community policing and civic action programmes etc.

Schemes for LWE-affected districts

In order to holistically address the LWE problem in an effective manner, **Government has formulated National Policy and Action Plan adopting a multi-pronged strategy in the areas of security, development, ensuring rights & entitlement of local communities, etc.,**
- **Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme:** This Scheme is being implemented as a **sub-scheme of the Umbrella Scheme 'Modernization of Police Forces.** Under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme, **the Central Govt. reimburses the State Governments of 10 LWE affected States Security Related Expenditure of 70 districts** relating to training and operational needs of security forces, ex-gratia payment to the family of civilians/security forces killed/injured in LWE violence, compensation to Left Wing Extremist cadres who surrendered in accordance with the surrender and rehabilitation policy of the concerned State Government, community policing, Security related infrastructure for village defense committees and publicity materials.

- **Special Central Assistance (SCA) for most LWE-affected districts:** The **main objective of the Scheme is to fill the critical gaps in Public Infrastructure and Services**, which are of emergent nature.
- **Special Infrastructure Scheme (SIS):** Under the scheme, funds are provided to States for strengthening the infrastructure related to Security.
- **Scheme of Fortified Police stations:** Under the scheme, **400 Fortified Police Stations** have been constructed in 10 LWE-affected States.
- **Assistance to Central Agencies for LWE management Scheme:** Under the Scheme, assistance is provided to **Central Agencies (CAPFs/IAF, etc.)** for strengthening infrastructure and hiring charges for Helicopters.
- **Civic Action Programme (CAP):** This Scheme is being implemented to **bridge the gaps between Security Forces and local people** through personal interaction and bring the human face of SFs before the local population.
- **Media Plan:** Under the scheme activities like **Tribal Youth Exchange programs** organized by NYKS, radio jingles, documentaries, pamphlets, etc. are being conducted.
- **Road Requirement Plan-I (RRP-I) for LWE-affected areas:** This Scheme is being implemented by the **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways** for improving road connectivity in **34 LWE-affected districts of 8 States** i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Uttar Pradesh.
- **LWE Mobile Tower Project:** To improve mobile connectivity in the LWE areas
- **Aspirational District:** The **Ministry of Home Affairs** has been tasked with the monitoring Aspirational districts program in 35 LWE-affected districts.
- **GIS Mapping**: The project has been initiated for mapping of financial services, schools, post offices, health facilities, mobile towers, PDS services, roads, security features, etc. in a time bound manner. This will help the stakeholder to make informed decisions on developmental and security related issues.

- **SAMADHAN Scheme**

#NaxalSAMADHAN

S Smart Leadership

A Aggressive strategy

M Motivation and training

A Actionable intelligence

D Dashboard based Kpls

H Harness technology

A Action plan for each theatre

N No access to financing

8 Pillars of fighting Left Wing Extremism

Outcomes of the coordinated Center-State Strategy

The outcome of a coordinated strategy is telling. **Coordinated and concerted efforts from the Centre and Maoist affected states have brought down Maoist sponsored violence to drastic levels**, have resulted in elimination of many important leaders of the insurgent organisation, and reduced the dominance to a handful of tri-junction districts in **Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha**.

- The MHA removed 44 districts from Naxal affected list, while the **'worst-affected category'** was **reduced from 36 to 30**.
- They have **captured more than 7,000 active cadres** in the last three years, while an equal number of Maoists have surrendered before authorities in various states.
- Incidents of LWE violence down from 2258 in 2009 to 833 in 2018
- Number of deaths dropped from 1005 in 2009 to 240 in 2018 (Civilian deaths declined from 466 in 2004 to 150 in 2019)
- Districts affected by naxal violence reduced from 96 in 2010 to 60 in 2018
- The **attacks on economic infrastructure have steadily declined** from 365 in 2010 to 64 in 2019

Factors that Sustain the Movement

- **An Appealing Ideology** - Naxal ideology visualizes and propagates that i**mperialism is heading toward total collapse.** This belief is the driving force of the movement.
- **Organisational Strength of Extremists Groups -** The ideological dedication, **the cadre-based organizational set-up**, and **understanding of the micro socio-economic situation** in the various regions of India makes the extremists plan, operate and implement their strategies efficiently.
- **Funding Sources –** To finance their activities, the **Naxalites "accept contributions" in the form of "taxes and levies," loot government treasuries and banks,** and also extort vast amounts from businesses, industries, political leaders, government officials, rich landlords and professionals.
- **Continuous Availability of Recruits - Lack of employment opportunities for the youth lures them towards the Naxals.** Apart from economic security, it gives them a sense of empowerment and dignity.
- **Lack of an Adequately Assessed and Coordinated Response from the Government -** An appropriate assessment of any problem is the key to conceptualizing, developing, and implementing appropriate strategies to counter it. It has been observed that there is no clear understanding of the nature and enormity of the threat that LWE poses. **Intrusive and insensitive security forces action in the Naxal-affected regions also poses a threat to the socio-political and economic structures** of those regions.

The Phenomena of Urban Naxal

The term Urban naxals is not well-defined, and the source of the word can be traced to the book and a few essays by **filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri Urban naxals: The Making of Buddha in a Traffic Jam.** 'Urban Naxal' is often used by some segments of the political spectrum to describe sympathisers of the Naxalism cause as well as certain social activists.

Various Instances of Urban Naxalism

- In 2004, a CPI (Maoist) document titled '**Urban Perspective: Our Work in Urban Areas'** explained the Urban naxalism strategy:
- It **emphasised mobilising urban poor people** and industrial workers, establishing front organisations, **building 'tactical united fronts' of like-minded organisations** including students, middle-class employees, intellectuals, women, Dalits and religious minorities, and elaborating on gaining leadership and expertise from urban regions.

- **Urban naxalism is also posing a threat**. It is an old Maoist strategy to focus on urban centres for leadership, organise masses, build a united front and engage in military tasks such as providing personnel, material and infrastructure.
- Many **Indian cities have active front organizations**: Front organizations promoting 'Urban Naxalism are active in a number of cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chandigarh, Ranchi, Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam, Madurai, Thiruvananthapuram, Nagpur, and Pune, according to an intelligence report.
- Often the **Indian Government has blamed "Urban Naxals'' and "some global institutions and foundations'' for stopping "modern infrastructure'' projects** that can raise the standard of living of people in the country.

It is the belief of the **Government of India that through a holistic approach focussing on development and security-related interventions, the LWE problem can be successfully tackled**. However, it is clear that the Maoists do not want root causes like under-development to be addressed in a meaningful manner since they resort to targeting school buildings, roads, railways, bridges, health infrastructure, communication facilities etc. in a major way. They wish to keep the **population in their areas of influence marginalized to perpetuate their outdated ideology.**

Consequently, the process of development has been set back by decades in many parts of the country under LWE influence. This needs to be recognized by **civil society and the media to build pressure on the Maoists to eschew violence**, join the mainstream and recognise the fact that the socio-economic and political dynamics and aspirations of 21st Century India are far removed from the Maoist worldview. Further, **an ideology based on violence and annihilation is doomed to fail in a democracy** which offers legitimate forums of grievance redressal.

d. North-East Insurgency

At the **time of independence, the state of Assam covered most of the North-eastern part of India,** representing a plethora of culturally distinct populations of people. Over time, the Indian government organized the region into smaller states along ethnic and tribal lines, **creating the so-called 'Seven Sister' states of the Northeast.** These new states were created, among other factors, in response to sometimes violent disputes that sprang up along ethnic divisions in this isolated region, but this did not entirely subdue the disputes.

Historical Background

Present day Assam was **ruled by the Ahom kings from 1228 till 1826**. Due to incursion by the then Burmese kingdom into Assam, the Ahom kings requested the British East India Company for help.

As a result, the British defeated the Burmese and then **signed the Treaty of Yandaboo on 24 Feb 1826** thereby **ending the reign of Ahom Kings** and amalgamating Assam into British India. Thereafter, **Assam was a province ruled by the British till Independence**.

During the British era, Tribal groups constituted an overwhelming majority of the population in most of the areas they inhabited. The **British** had generally **followed a policy of non-interference in these areas**. They gave **special administrative status to these areas**, did not disturb their socio-political structure, and followed a deliberate policy of excluding outsiders.

Hence, their allegiance to the newly formed Indian nation-state was somewhat lacking from the beginning – accentuated by the creation of East Pakistan (today's Bangladesh) – which meant the loss of a major chunk of the physical connection between mainland India and Northeast India. **Interestingly, 99 percent of the Northeast's boundary is international and only one percent is domestic boundary.**

Causes for NE Insurgency

- According to the **Report of the 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission** the Northeast represents a **state of stable anarchy** where the rule of law and other institutions of governance are subverted directly or through collusive arrangements to serve personal or partisan ends of the militants.
- **Regional issues:** The **inter-tribal conflicts**, the **youth unemployment** and the inability to compete with non-tribal businesses, **illegal migration** from neighbouring States and countries leading to the competition of resources and land have led to various conflicts and demands of secession/ autonomy.
- **Gaps at national level:** The **broad racial differences** between India and its Northeast and the **tenuous geographical link** (the chicken neck Siliguri Corridor) contributed to a **sense of alienation, a feeling of 'otherness'** that subsequently gave rise to a political culture of violent separatism.

- **Ethnic tensions:** Northeast India is **home to more than 50 ethnic rebel groups** – a few demanding complete secession from India, others fighting for ethnic identities and homelands and some running the insurgency as an industry to spin easy money without any political ideology.
- Militants in their formative years **voiced genuine grievances** of the people such as **poor governance, alienation, lack of development and an apathetic attitude from the central government in New Delhi.** However, with time and opportunist motives, these have taken forms of insurgencies across the region.
- **Other factors include** – Control over local resources, governance issues and a widespread feeling of exploitation and alienation have resulted in violence and diverse demands by various Indian Insurgent Groups (IIGs). The demands vary from sovereignty in some cases to independent State or Homeland or simply better conditions for ethnic groups they claim to represent.

MAJOR INSURGENT GROUPS OPERATING IN NORTH EASTERN STATES AND DECLARED AS "UNLAWFUL ASSOCIATIONS" AND "TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS" UNDER UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) ACT, 1967

Name of the Group	Listed Declared as
Assam	
United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA)	Terrorist organization and unlawful association
National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB)	Terrorist organization and unlawful association
Kamtapur Liberation Organization (KLO)	Terrorist organization
Manipur	
People's Liberation Army(PLA) and its political wing the Revolutionary People's Front(RPF)	Terrorist organization and unlawful association
United National Liberation Front(UNLF) and its Armed wing the Manipur People's Army(MPA)	Terrorist organization and unlawful association
Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP)	Terrorist organization and unlawful association
Manipur People's Liberation Front(MPLF)	Terrorist organization
Alliance for Socialist Unity Kangleipak (ASUK)	Unlawful association
Peoples' Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK)	Terrorist organization and unlawful association
Meghalaya	
Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council (HNLC)	Unlawful association
Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA)	Terrorist organization
Tripura	
All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF)	Terrorist organization and unlawful association
National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT)	Terrorist organization and unlawful association

NAGALAND	
The National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang) [NSCN/K]	Terrorist organization and unlawful association

Reasons for the Existence of the Armed Ethnic Groups
- **Political motivation -** Most insurgent groups garner popular support for their violent activities by citing a political cause.
- **Availability of Arms -** Insurgent groups utilize violent means for political ends when the opportunity for armed rebellion exists in a given situation. The feasibility hypothesis argues that "where rebellion is materially feasible, it will occur". The material conditions for an armed rebellion to exist are financial and military. The **easy availability of arms in Northeast India enables the NSCN (K), NSCN (IM), the ULFA, the UNLF, and the PLA to sustain their armed movements.**
- **Popular Support Base -** Since insurgent groups portray themselves as representatives of a particular ethnic group or community, popular support adds to the legitimacy of the group.
- **Geographical terrain -** The geography and terrain of a particular place is critical for the continuation of insurgent movements. Without supportive terrain, lightly armed, highly mobile insurgent cadres stand little chance to offset the technological superiority of the stronger power.
- **External Support -** Support from neighbouring countries like **China in the form of political, moral, military, economic, territorial, or cultural support has fanned extremism** in the north-east.
- **Strategy and Nature of these Outfits -** The **NSCN (IM), ULFA, UNLF, and the PLA have a declared strategy of protracted armed conflict**. Interestingly, ceasefires are seen as phases to re-group, recruit, finance, and re-arm. This has happened in most cases. The **ULFA and the NSCN (IM) have decidedly re-armed and re-grouped during the ceasefire phase.**

Who wants what

Nagaland

- Being a part of the larger state of Assam, it was the **first to experience militancy in pursuit of a grant of autonomy**. Under the leadership of the **Naga National Council** (N.N.C.), headed by **A.Z. Phizo, Nagas** declared independence around 1951.
- The N.N.C. split to form National Socialist Council of Nagaland (N.S.C.N.). The N.S.C.N. further broke into two factions: **Isak-Muivah faction (N.S.C.N.-I.M.)** and **the Khaplang faction (N.S.C.N.-K.)**.

Mizoram

- It was a **part of the state of Assam** before it was **granted statehood in 1987**, experienced militancy after the Union government failed to respond positively to its demand for assistance during the massive **"Mautam famine"**.
- The **Mizo National Front (M.N.F.),** led by the legendary leader **Laldenga,** demanded independence for Mizoram in 1966.

Tripura

- Migration of Hindus from the British-ruled East Bengal is believed to have been responsible for **reducing the indigenous tribal people in the state to minority status**; this development sparked a violent backlash among the indigenous people.
- Militant groups sprang up in the state demanding the **restoration of the tribal rights from the Bengali population.**

Assam

- A movement that started demanding the deportation of the illegal migrants also witnessed the birth of the militant outfit the **United Liberation Front of Assam (U.L.F.A.)** in 1979.
- The other groups that formed are **Bodo Liberation Tigers, National Democratic Front of Bodoland (N.D.F.B.),** the **United People's Democratic Solidarity (U.P.D.S.)**.

Manipur

- Militancy originated in protest against the forcible merger of the former Manipur Kingdom with India.
- **United National Liberation Front** formed in **1964**, with an objective of ending the discrimination against Manipur, which was **accorded statehood only in 1972** nearly 23 years after its merger.

Meghalaya

- The Meghalaya state was carved out of the Assam state, with an aim to address the unique needs of the major tribes in the region: **the Garos, the Jaintias and the Khasis**.
- The rise of aspirations of tribal autonomy led to the emergence of several insurgent groups in the state, like **Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA)** and **Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council (HNLC)**.

Arunachal Pradesh

- The state remains under peace more or less in history but the **proximity of state with Myanmar and Nagaland border** is gradually being afflicting insurgency in recent time.
- The only case of indigenous insurgency movement in Arunachal Pradesh was the rise of the **Arunachal Dragon Force (ADF),** which was rechristened as **East India Liberation Front (EALF)** in 2001.

Administrative arrangements

Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER)
- It is responsible for the matters relating to the **planning, execution and monitoring of development schemes** and **projects in the North Eastern Region**, to accelerate the pace of socio-economic development of the region.

Inner Line Permit (ILP)
- Restrictions are imposed on the **entry of outsiders to maintain the original identity of indigenous people** of Mizoram, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh entry of outsiders are not allowed without ILP.

Constitutional provision
- **Article 244 (1)** provides that – **Provisions of the 5th schedule** shall apply to the admin. or control of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes.
- **Article 244 (2)** provides that – **Provisions of the 6th schedule** shall apply to the admin. or control of schedule areas, in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram to create Autonomous Districts Councils in these states.
- In pursuance of these provisions, the various autonomous district has been created to contain the demands of various ethnic groups like **Karbi Anglong, Khasi hill district, Chakma district** etc.
- Under **Article 371 (A) Nagaland** has been **accorded special status**.

Role of the Neighbours

- Neighbouring countries like **China and Myanmar** are accused of promoting insurgency in the region.
- **Pakistan**, through its **intelligence agency the I.S.I.,** is believed to have assisted the militant groups in terms of training and finance.
- **China** has provided some assistance to groups such as the **N.S.C.N. in the 1980**s.
- Militant camps in Nagaland, as well as Manipur, exist in the bordering areas of Myanmar. Outfits like U.**L.F.A. and the N.D.F.B**. have reportedly used the facilities.

- **Bhutan remains the only country** that successfully **dislodged several militant camps of the northeastern groups** through a military operation launched in **December 2003.**

Consequences of Violence

- According to the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, severe fatalities have been reported from **northeast including both civilians and security forces.**
- In the **oil-rich Assam**, militants have periodically targeted oil and gas pipelines for sabotage, alleging that **India is exploiting the natural resources of the state**.
- **National projects such as the extension of the rail lines** have either been stalled or have moved with a tardy pace after militants attacked the construction sites and abducted workers.
- Militancy has also stalled the **prospect of linking the economy of the northeast with the neighbouring Southeast Asian countries.**
- **Tourism**, which could have flourished in the scenic northeast, has suffered a lot due to **instability in the region.**
- The **education sector too has been affected by militancy**. A number of schools in states like Tripura's interior areas have been shut as teachers avoid the areas due to fear of militant strikes.
- Extortion by the militant groups on the national highways that connect the different states with mainland India has shot up the prices of essential commodities.

Government Initiatives Towards North East Insurgency

State Response to Armed Ethnic Insurgencies in the Northeast can be located within three conceptual parameters.

1. Proportionate use of force.

2. Use of dialogue and negotiations.

3. Structural changes.

Various dimensions for the same are as follows:

- **AFSPA**: **Violence became the way of life in north-eastern States of India**. State administration became incapable to maintain its internal disturbance. The Act enabled certain **special powers to be conferred upon members of the armed forces in disturbed areas** in the State of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.

- **Peace Process in the North-East Region**: Keeping in view the multiplicity of diverse ethnic groups and the resultant complex situation in the North-East region, **the Central Government has been pursuing a policy for talks/ negotiation with such groups which abjure violence, lay down arms and seeks solutions peacefully for their problems within the framework of the Constitution of India.** As a result, a number of out its have come forward or taken with the government and have entered into **Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreements** and some of them have signed **Memorandum of Settlements (MoS)** and have dissolved themselves.

- **Scheme for Surrender-cum-Rehabilitation of militants in North East**: The **objective is to wean away the misguided youth** and hardcore militants who stray into the fold of militancy and later find themselves trapped into that net. The Scheme also seeks to ensure that the militants, who have surrendered, do not find it attractive to join militancy again.

- **Reimbursement of Security Related Expenditure (SRE):** The Central Government has been implementing a **Non-Plan scheme for reimbursement of Security Related Expenditure (SRE) for the States seriously affected by militancy/insurgency**. Eg Raising of India Reserve Battalions, logistics provided to the CAPFs/Army deployed in the State, etc.

- **Civic Action Programme in the North Eastern States:** Under this Programme, **various welfare/developmental activities are undertaken** viz. holding of medical camps, sanitation drives, sports meets, distribution of study material to children, minor repairs of school buildings, roads, bridges and running adult education centers etc.

- **Advertisement and Publicity:** Ministry of Home Affairs implements a **scheme of Advertisement and Publicity in North Eastern States** with a view to highlight the activities being undertaken by the Government for peace in the region and also with a view to convey that "Peace pays".

- **Modernisation of Police Force:** modernization of the State Police Forces, especially for meeting

the emerging challenges to internal security in the form of terrorism, naxalism etc.

What needs to be done

- Meeting the political aspirations of groups by giving them autonomy. **Implementing sixth schedule provisions** in these areas will help them to **preserve their identity and culture** while giving them greater autonomy.
- Improving Governance and delivery mechanisms of the government and administration.
- Coordinating operations with the neighbouring countries and use of force only when needed **Draconian laws like AFSPA should be repealed** as it is one of the causes for inflating insurgency in the north east.
- Centre and states should coordinate in decision making.
- **Alternative Conflict resolution**- Whenever tempers rise on perceived transgression, there are no social groups that can mediate to cool down the tempers to maintain peace. Under such circumstances, **alternative conflict resolution and building capacity for peace through informal initiatives** assume significance.
- **Bezbaruah Committee recommendations on racial discrimination against North-Eastern Indians in metros needs to be adopted** such as New law against Discrimination, Fast-track Courts and Special Police Squads, Interventions in Education, Social Media outreach and Legal Awareness Campaigns and using the Bonding Power of Sports

Major Initiatives/Achievements

- **Security Situation in the whole NE region has substantially improved over the last six years -** Insurgency incidents declined by 70%, Casualties of security personnel declined by 78%, While **States of Tripura, Mizoram and Sikkim are completely free from insurgency**, there has been a substantial improvement in the situation of other state
- **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act in the NER -** To deal with armed insurgency, entire states of Nagaland, Assam and Manipur (except for Imphal Municipal Area) are under the Act, AFSPA has been completely removed from Meghalaya and has been reduced to 4 police stations/outputs and 3 districts of Tirap, Changlang and Longding in Arunachal Pradesh
- **Banning of insurgent Groups in the North-East -** 17 insurgent groups operating in the North East have been banned declared as "unlawful organisations" and/or "terrorist organisations" under the UAPA, 1967.
- **Constitution of HLC for the implementation of Clause 6 of the Assam Accord -** HLC under the Chairmanship of Biplab Kumar Sarma for the assessment of the actions taken since 1985 to implement clause 6 of the Accord
- **Tripartite Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) signed with NLFT of Tripura**
- **Home Minister Level talks between India and Bangladesh -** regarding security related issues and mutual cooperation between countries, including confidence building measures, etc.
- **Signing of agreement for the settlement of Bru migrant in Tripura**
- **Surrender of 644 cadre of NE militant outfits in the starting of 2020**
- **Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) with Bodo groups** - Putting an end to 50 years of Bodo crisis, a tripartite MoS has been signed between Central government, Assam government and the Bodo groups

Miscellaneous Issues

a. Assam NRC

1) The **issue of updating NRC update** assumed importance as Assam witnessed large-scale illegal migration from erstwhile East Pakistan and, after **1971, from present-day Bangladesh.**

- This led to the **six-year-long Assam movement** from 1979 to 1985, for deporting illegal migrants.

2) The **All Assam Students' Union (AASU)** led the movement that demanded the updating of the NRC and the deportation of all illegal migrants who had entered Assam after 1951.

- The movement culminated in the **signing of the Assam Accord in 1985**.

3) It set **March 25, 1971**, as the cut-off date for the deportation of illegal migrants.

- Since the cut-off date prescribed under **articles 5 and 6 of the Constitution** was **July 19, 1949** - to give force to the new date, an amendment was made to **the Citizenship Act, 1955**, and a new section was introduced. It was made applicable only to Assam.

4) There had been intermittent demands from **AASU and other organisations in Assam** for updating the **NRC**, an Assam based NGO filed a petition at the Supreme Court.

- In **December 2014**, a division bench of the apex court ordered that the NRC be updated in a time-bound manner.
- The **NRC of 1951 and the Electoral Roll of 1971** (up to midnight of 24 March 1971) are together called **Legacy Data**. Persons and their descendants whose names appeared in these documents are certified as Indian citizens.

Currently, Assam is the **only State in the northeast India that undertook an exercise to update the NRC of 1951 with 24ᵗʰ March, 1971**, as the cut-off date for citizenship of a person.

Issues involved

- The people not only had to establish that their ancestors lived in Assam prior to 1971 but also their relationship with the ancestor
- **A large number of D - voters:** D voters or doubtful voters are people who had their **voting rights suspended by the Election Commission** because their citizenship was suddenly in doubt
- Several laws have been identified in the **appeal to Foreign Tribunals**, from the lack of legal aid to ex parte orders declaring people foreigners without even a trial.
- No clarity on what happens to those who lose their cases in the Foreigners' Tribunals, whether they will be detained, deported, or allowed to stay on without the rights and privileges of citizenship
- **No repatriation treaty** under which they can be deported to Bangladesh.
- Bengali Muslims felt that they were under greater scrutiny than other groups

Naga Peace Talks

The process has been **ongoing since mid-1997** when the **NSCN (I-M)** declared a ceasefire with the armed forces. Other groups began opting for talks in 2001. However, it has been put in a **"cold storage"** since the **Framework Agreement was signed on August 3, 2015.**

How old is the Naga political issue?

1. Pre-independence

- The British annexed **Assam in 1826** and in **1881, the Naga Hills too became part of British India**. The first sign of Naga resistance was seen in the formation of the **Naga Club in 1918**, which told the Simon Commission in 1929 "to leave us alone to determine for ourselves as in ancient times."
- In 1946 came the Naga National Council (NNC), which declared **Nagaland an independent state on August 14, 1947.**

- The NNC resolved to establish a **"sovereign Naga state"** and conducted a **"referendum" in 1951,** in which "99 per cent" supported an "independent" Nagaland.

2. Post independence:

- On **March 22. 1952, the Naga Federal Government (NFG) and the Naga Federal Army (NFA) were formed**. The Government of India sent in the Army to crush the insurgency and, in 1958, enacted the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act.

Agreement in this regard:

- The **NSCN (IM)** entered into **a ceasefire agreement with the Centre in 1997** and the two have been holding talks since then, while a conglomerate of seven different Naga national political groups (NNPGs) also got into separate talks with the Center since 2017.
- The Center signed **a "framework agreement" with NSCN (IM) in 2015**, and an "agreed position" with the NNPGs in 2017. However, the NSCN (IM)'s demand for **a separate Naga flag and Constitution** has been a delaying factor in signing a final deal on the protracted Naga political issue.

The 2015 'agreement':

After years of negotiations with successive Governments, the NSCN (IM) had on August 3, 2015 signed a framework agreement with the BJP-led Centre. The 'agreement" was based on the idea of **"shared sovereignty"** for the Nagas, a community comprising more than 60 tribes (the exact number is unclear) spread across the Northeast and parts of neighbouring Myanmar.

- **Shared sovereignty** denotes **sharing of administrative and legislative power** between India and 'Nagalim"

Under this arrangement, the **Naga Hoho, the apex body of all Naga tribes**, would look after the welfare of all Naga-inhabited areas, irrespective of their integration with the proposed 'Nagalim".

Bodoland issue

Demand of Separate State: The **first organised demand for a Bodo state** came in 1967-68 under the banner of the political party called **Plains Tribals Council of Assam.**

Assam Accord: In 1985, when the Assam Movement culminated in the Assam Accord, many Bodos saw it as essentially **focusing on the interests of the Assamese-speaking community.**

As a result of this, several Bodo groups led by the **All Bodo Students Union (ABSU)** and **National Democratic Front of Bodoland** have been demanding separate land for the ethnic community, a movement that has claimed nearly 4,000 lives.

Displacement of People: Between **1993 and 2014**, more than 970 Bengali-speaking Muslims, Adivasis and Bodos died in clashes triggered by indiscriminate shooting by extremist groups, primarily the **now-disbanded National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB).**

Some of the 8.4 lakh people displaced by the violence have remained in shabby relief camps while others relocated to areas beyond present-day BTR. Over 2.5 lakh peoplewere displaced in the Bodo-Santhal conflict.

Bodo Accord:

First Bodo Accord: After years of violent clashes, the first Bodo Accord was **signed with the ABSU in 1993**, leading to the creation of a **Bodoland Autonomous Council** with limited political powers.

Second Bodo Accord: Under this, it was agreed to create a self-governing body for the Bodo Areas in the State of Assam.

In pursuance of this, the **Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC)** was created in 2003 with some more financial and other powers.

Third Bodo Accord: The **agreement** was signed in **2020**, it renamed the BTAD as **Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR).**

- It promises more legislative, executive and administrative autonomy under the **Sixth Schedule** to **Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC)** and **expansion of the BTC territory** in lieu of statehood.
- It provides for **alteration of the area of BTAD** and provisions for Bodos outside BTAD.
- BTR includes the villages which are dominated by Bodos but are outside BTAD presently.

b. Jammu and Kashmir Insurgency

History

Jammu and Kashmir was **largest of the Indian Princely States.** The Hindu maharaja of Kashmir ruled over a heterogeneous population of 4 million of which 77 percent was Muslim, but since his state bordered both dominions of Pakistan and India, Maharaja thought he could play off one country against the other, join neither of them, and make his state wholly independent.

On **15 August 1947, Maharaja Hari Singh** offered to sign a **Standstill Agreement** with **Pakistan** as well as **India**, which **Pakistan signed but India did not**. Pakistan wanted to merge Kashmir with itself. So, it sent raiders to back the Muslims in southwest Kashmir to revolt against the maharaja.

Since Maharaja knew that he might need to turn to Nehru for help, **on September 29, 1947, he released National Conference Party (NCP) leader Sheikh Abdullah**, the nationalist Muslim leader from jail in order to gain popular support. In October 1947, thousands of Pathan tribesmen from northwest Pakistan, armed and guided by the Pakistani army, entered Kashmir; on October 24, when the raiders were well within the state and closing in on Srinagar, the Maharaja asked Delhi to provide military assistance; Abdullah also urged that Delhi do so.

Nehru stated that unless some agreement is signed, India couldn't send its army to a state where it has no legal standing. Accordingly, **a treaty of accession was drafted with the promise of Article 370 in Indian Constitution to safeguard interests of the people of the state**. According to the accession treaty**, India was to look after only four subjects viz. defense, external affairs, communication and currency;** while the **local assembly was given powers to decide on all other matters**. Similarly, **the provisions of part VI of Indian Constitution were not to be made applicable to Jammu & Kashmir and it was allowed to have its own Constitution**. On the basis of such accession, around 100 fighter planes of Indian Air Force came into action to drive out the raiders. India was able to take back Srinagar as well as valley, however, by that time; Pakistan had already taken one third of Kashmir. The struggle continued for months and there was a fear of full-fledged war.

Here, **Nehru made a strategic mistake** and on the basis of suggestion by Lord Mountbatten, **he referred the Kashmir problem to United Nations Security Council on 30 December 1947**, requesting the UNSC for vacation of aggression by Pakistan. This decision was a blunder because instead of taking note of aggression; the UNSC sided with Pakistan and rechristened the problem as India-Pakistan dispute.

The UN passed some resolutions. **On the basis of one such resolution; India and Pakistan accepted a ceasefire on 31 December 1948 which still prevails and the state was effectively divided along the ceasefire line.** Nehru later blamed the dirty game played by Britain and US, behind the scene.

Meanwhile, **Sheikh Abdullah was installed as head of a reconstituted Government of Kashmir.** In 1951, the UN passed a resolution, which asked for a referendum under UN supervision so that the people of Kashmir could decide their own fate. But one of the conditions of the referendum was that Pakistan had to withdraw its troops from the part of Kashmir under its control. Pakistan refused to withdraw its forces and India refused to hold any referendum. Since then, **India has successively amended its constitution to make Kashmir as its integral part.**

The Jammu & Kashmir council of ministers was to be headed by a Prime Minister (in place of Chief Minister of Indian states) and the constitutional head of the state was Sadar-i-Riyasat. In due course, the Prim**e minister was changed to Chief Minister and Sadar-e-Riyasat was changed to Governor** and gradually the reach of Indian constitution was extended to Jammu & Kashmir. The Pakistan occupied Kashmir, though named Azad Kashmir, has remained dependent practically in all matters on Pakistan.

A **UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)** still continues to supervise the ceasefire line and report the violation of ceasefire. After 1971 war, **India and Pakistan had signed Shimla Agreement in 1972.** The agreement had formalized the **1949 UN ceasefire line** with minor changes as 'Line of Control'.

Insurgency in Kashmir

After its humiliating defeat in 1971 war, **Pakistan adopted the strategy of proxy war with India by promoting insurgency in Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir**. Till 1987, the insurgency in Kashmir was low intensity warfare. In 1987 assembly elections, an eleven party oppositional alliance won only four seats despite its popular support, and a dispute started about rigging in the elections. This dispute had set the stage for birth of insurgency in the Kashmir valley in 1989. Within no time, it was escalated and the armed insurgent groups demanded sovereignty and freedom the Indian state.
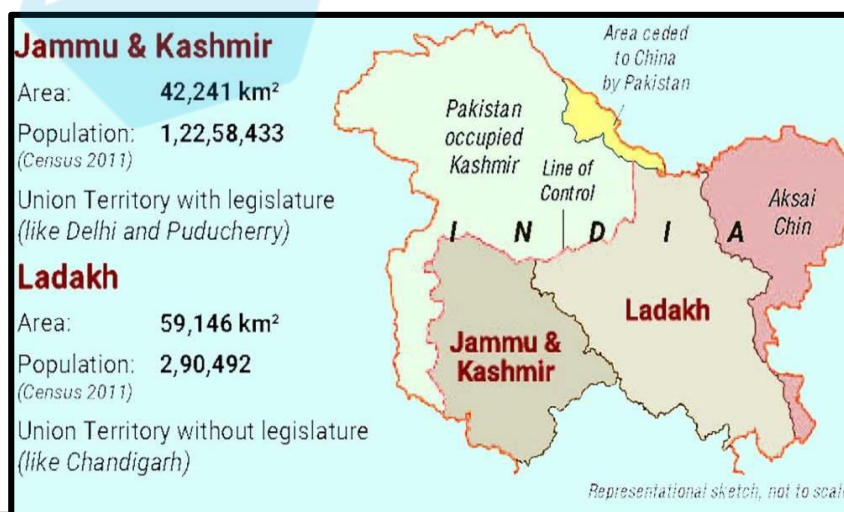
Key Players in Kashmir Insurgency

In the beginning, two main groups of the armed insurgents were the **Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) and the Hizbul-Mujahideen.**

Two Dimensions of the Kashmir Conundrum

- The external dimension, due to Pakistani involvement and its claims over the erstwhile state of J&K;
- The internal dimension, due to the socio-political demands of the people of J&K from the Indian state.

The **external dimension** has **resulted in four conventional wars, several near-wars, and disquieting nuclear rattles between India and Pakistan**. The extension of a proxy war by Pakistan against India through Kashmir has kept our internal security situation constantly on the boil. Besides alienating J&K from the national mainstream, it is a serious bug in India's growth story. It has been a continuous drain on the county's resources, resulting in enhanced defence expenditure. It has also become **an impediment in India's proclamation of being a great world power due to allegations of human rights violations** and other social restrictions, thus undermining it's otherwise flourishing democracy.

The **internal dimension** of J&K, on the other hand, is a **complex interplay between religion and region as well as multi-ethnicity/multi-cultural and political issues**. There are several layers of complexities in it. Protests, agitations, and shutdowns demanding greater autonomy and exclusive rights have, time and again, brought the state to a standstill, and highlighted the unsettled nature of its polity.

Jammu & Kashmir
Area: 42,241 km²
Population: 1,22,58,433
(Census 2011)
Union Territory with legislature
(like Delhi and Puducherry)

Ladakh
Area: 59,146 km²
Population: 2,90,492
(Census 2011)
Union Territory without legislature
(like Chandigarh)

Area ceded to China by Pakistan
Pakistan occupied Kashmir
Line of Control
Aksai Chin
I N D I A
Ladakh
Jammu & Kashmir

Representational sketch, not to scale

Reasons for J & K Insurgency

- **Rigging of 1987 Assembly elections-**The insurgency was sparked by the alleged rigging of state elections in 1987. This has contributed to **anti-Government sentiment**. A Government report found that **almost half of all Kashmiri Panchayat Raj positions were vacant** and the reason for this was the **destabilizing effect of the conflict**. The report also noted that their ability to effectively govern was "crippled."
- **ISI's role-** The **Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence has allegedly encouraged and aided the Kashmir independence movement through an insurgency** due to its dispute on the legitimacy of Indian rule in Kashmir, with the insurgency as an easy way to keep Indian troops distracted and cause international condemnation of India.
- **Mujahideen influence-**After the invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union, **Mujahideen fighters, with the aid of Pakistan**, slowly infiltrated Kashmir with the goal of spreading a radical Islamist ideology.
- **Sense of Alienation-**Jammu and Kashmir is the **only Muslim majority state in Hindu-majority India.** While India itself is a secular state, Muslims are politically, culturally and economically marginalised when compared to Hindus in India as a whole. The Government's decision **to transfer 99 acres of forest land to a Hindu organization** solidified this feeling and led to **one of the largest protest rallies in Jammu and Kashmir**.
- **Humanitarian abuses-** After insurgency started in Kashmir valley because of above reasons in late 1980s, Indian troops entered in Kashmir valley to control the insurgency. The troops have been accused of **humanitarian abuses** and have **engaged in extrajudicial killings**. Military forces in Jammu and Kashmir operate under emergency powers granted to them by the Central Government. These powers allow the military to curtail civil liberties, creating further support for the insurgency.

Government's Approach Towards Insurgency in J & K

The response of the Indian state towards the political insurgency in Kashmir during the last two decades has gone through various stages. In the final outcome, **New Delhi's response** to the insurgency has moved **from a heavy-handed approach devoid of non-violent means** for the most part to **an active search for dialogue and broader peaceful interventions.**

UDAAN Scheme: Udaan, the Special Industry Initiative (SII) for J&K is funded by the **Ministry of Home Affairs and implemented by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).** The programme is a part of the overall initiative for addressing economic issues and the needs of the educated unemployed in J&K. **UDAAN has two objectives:**

1. To provide exposure to the graduates and post graduates of Jammu and Kashmir to the best of corporate India and
2. To provide corporate India with exposure to the rich talent pool available in the state

NISHTHA Scheme: National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA) has been launched in **the UT of Jammu and Kashmir**. It is a **capacity building programme** for "Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training

Himayat Mission: The project aim**s to generate sustainable livelihood opportunities through self-employment for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir** by the crosscutting approaches of holistic entrepreneurship development programs.

Rehabilitation Policy: The objective of this Rehabilitation Policy is **to offer facility to those terrorists who undergo a change of heart and eschew the path of violence** and who also accept the integrity of India and Indian Constitution to encourage them join the mainstream and lead a normal life.

Surrender Policy: The policy is intended to **facilitate the return of ex-militants** who belong to J&K state and had crossed over the PoK/Pakistan for training in insurgency but have **given up insurgent activities due to a**

change of heart and are willing to return to the State.

Other Initiatives: Placement of Special Police officers for their services in the state, Subsidised Helicopter services in the state, Scheme for providing financial assistance to the families of displacedpersons of Pakistan Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, Central scheme for assistance towards damaged immovable/movable property during action by CPMFs and army in Jammu and Kashmir.

Article 370 and its Assessment

On 5th August 2019, President of India in the exercise of the powers conferred by Clause (1) of Article370 of **the Constitution had issued the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019**. Through this, Government of India has made modifications in Article 370 itself **(not revoked it)**.

With this, the Government of India has dramatically **altered the relationship between the state of Jammu and Kashmir and the Indian Union**.

Background

- On October 17, 1949, **Article 370** was added to the Indian constitution, as a **'temporary provision'**, which exempted Jammu & Kashmir, permitting it to draft its own Constitution and restricting the Indian Parliament's legislative powers in the state.

  o It was introduced into the draft constitution by **N Gopalaswami Ayyangar as Article 306A.**

- **Under Article 370:** The Constituent Assembly of Jammu & Kashmir was empowered to recommend which articles of the Indian Constitution should apply to the state,

  o The J&K Constituent Assembly was dissolved after it drafted the state's Constitution. **Clause 3 of the article 370** gives the President of India the power to amend its provisions and scope.

- **Article 35A** stems from **Article 370** and was introduced through a **Presidential Order in 1954**,on the recommendation of the J&K Constituent Assembly.

  o Article 35A empowers the Jammu & Kashmir legislature to define the **permanent residents of the state**, and their special rights and privileges.

  o **It appears in Appendix I of the Constitution.**

Key Changes

- The Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019 **has replaced Presidential Order of 1954**.

- Subsequently, **the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019**, passed by Parliament divides the **state of Jammu and Kashmir into two new Union Territories (UTs): Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh**.

  o **This is the first time that a state has been converted into a UT.**

  o Of the **six Lok Sabha seats** currently with the state of Jammu and Kashmir, **five** will remain with the **union territory of Jammu and Kashmir**, while **one** will be allotted to **Ladakh**.

  o **The UT of Jammu and Kashmir will have an Assembly, like in Delhi and Puducherry.**

  o Instead of 29, **India will now have 28 states**. Kashmir will no longer have a Governor, rather a Lieutenant Governor like in Delhi or Puducherry.

- **Status of J&K Union Territory**

  o J&K Assembly will have a **five-year term, not six**, as was the earlier case.

  o **Section 32 of the J&K 2019** Bill proposes that the Assembly can make laws on any subjects

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in the State and Concurrent lists **except on state subjects relating to "public order" and "police"**.

- This is **similar to Article 239 A** of the Constitution that is applicable to Union Territories of Puducherry and Delhi.
- However, **by insertion of Article 239AA** and by virtue of the **69th Constitutional Amendment, the Delhi Assembly cannot legislate on matters in entry 18 of the State List, i.e. land.**
- **In the case of J&K, the Assembly can make laws on land.**

☐ **The special status provided to J&K under Article 370 will be abolished.**

- Jammu & Kashmir will **no longer have the separate constitution, flag or anthem**.
- The citizens of Jammu and Kashmir will **not have dual citizenship**.
- As the new union territory of Jammu and Kashmir will be subject to the Indian Constitution, **its citizens will now have the Fundamental Rights** enshrined in the **Indian constitution**.
- Article 360, which can be used to declare a **Financial Emergency, will now also be applicable**.
- **All laws passed by Parliament** will be applicable in Jammu and Kashmir, including the **Right to Information Act and the Right to Education Act**.
- **The Indian Penal Code will replace the Ranbir Penal Code of Jammu and Kashmir.**
- **Article 35A,** which originates from the provisions of Article 370 **stands null and void**.
  - Since Presidential Order has extended all provisions of the Constitution to Jammu and Kashmir, including the chapter on Fundamental Rights, **the discriminatory provisions under Article 35A will now be unconstitutional**.

The Need for Changes

☐ Article 370 was added in the Indian constitution to **provide autonomy to J&K**.

- However, it failed to address the well-being of Kashmiris who have now endured **two generations of insurgency and violence**.
- It **contributed to the gap** between Kashmir and the rest of the nation.

☐ **International events**

- The situation emerging in the western neighbourhood and the possible **re-ascendance of the Taliban in Afghanistan** call for greater attention and care.
- More so, the emerging geopolitical dynamics in Afghanistan and the resultant **United States-Pakistan rapprochement** could have potentially led to more heat on the Kashmir situation in the months ahead.

Challenges

☐ **Constitutional challenges**

- Presidential order that sought to abrogate of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, according to Article 370 (3) the President would **require the recommendation of the constituent assembly of Jammu and Kashmir to make such a change**.
- However, **the 2019 Presidential order adds a sub-clause to Article 367, replacing** the terms:
  - **"Constituent Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir" to mean "legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir".**
  - **"Government of Jammu and Kashmir" to mean "Governor of Jammu and Kashmir**

acting on the aid and advice of the council of ministers".

- o The Government sought to dilute the autonomy under Article 370 **without bringing a Constitutional Amendment** that would require a two-thirds majority in the Parliament.

  - This provision is currently under challenge in the Supreme Court on the ground that it added article **35A in the Indian Constitution** only through a **Presidential Order**.

- Conversion of Jammu and Kashmir into a Union Territory is in **violation of Article 3, as the Bill was not referred to the President by the State Assembly**.

  - o In the reorganisation of the state, the Presidential order also requires the concurrence of the government of the state. However, since Jammu & Kashmir is **currently under Governor's rule, the Governor's concurrence is deemed to be the government's concurrence**.

- **Federalism issue:**

  - o The **Instrument of Accession** was like a treaty between two sovereign countries that had decided to work together.

    - The **maxim of pacta sunt servanda** in international law, which governs contracts or treaties between states, asks that promises must be honoured.

  - o In Santosh Kumar v. State of J&K & ors (2017), the **SC said that due to historical reasons, Jammu and Kashmir had a special status**.

  - o In SBI v Zaffar Ullah Nehru (2016), the SC held that **Article 370 cannot be repealed without the concurrence of the Constituent Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir**.

Possible Consequences

- **Rise in Militancy:** Article 370 was seen by Kashmiris as a marker of their **separate identity and autonomy**.

  - o There is a **possibility of widespread protests and violence** as a reaction to the dilution of Article 370.

  - o **Terror elements in Pakistan** would find Kashmir to be the most fertile ground for breeding terrorism.

  - o The unrest can affect the democratic progress that has been made so far.

What needs to be done?

- **Dialogue:** Unconditional continuous dialogue between state and non-state actors.
- **Demilitarisation:** Essential to move the process of dialogue and reconciliation ahead.
- **Devolution:** Devolution of power and bringing all **three regions of Jammu, Ladakh and Kashmir together**. Reconciliation is imperative to prevent polarization on communal lines.
- **Development:** Through the participation of the people of Kashmir.
- Undertake **counter-terrorist operations** with a human face
- Reduce the presence of uniformed men in population centres.
- Increase **emphasis on surgical operations**, based on specific intelligence.
- Employment of **Territorial Army (Home and Hearth) units** to fill the deployment gaps.
- Training of CPOs to undertake operations with a human face.
- Transparency in operations and zero tolerance for human rights abuses.
- Rehabilitations of surrendered militants and implementation of cohesive policy for surrender.
- Constructive engagement and employment of youths to insulate them form the lure of militancy.
- Certainty of convictions, with speedy disposal of cases against all those involved in terrorist activities.
- Reh**abilitation of Kashmiri Pandits, and border migrants** and protection of their lives and property after rehabilitation.

- Implementation and monitoring of the **reconstruction plan of J&K** to ensure inclusive development
- Constructive role of the media towards the reconciliation, reconstruction and development of J&K and highlighting the contribution of the Indian Army and sacrifices made by the security forces to defeat the evil designs of Pakistan.
- **Revival of Kashmiriyat and Sufism** through public debates and programmes.
- Engagement of all parties and sections of society for conflict resolution within the framework of the constitution.
- Need to expose the double-speak of Pakistan and their brutal methodology of handing counter-terrorist operations in SWAT and Waziristan.

Role of Over Ground Workers (OGWs)

Over ground workers (OGWs) are **people who help militants, or terrorists, with logistical support, cash, shelter, and other infrastructure** with which armed groups and insurgency movements such as **Hizbul Mujaheddin and Jaish-e-Muhammad** in Jammu and Kashmir can operate. OGWs play a **vital role in militant attacks, providing real-time information and support to the tactical elements**. Over ground workers have diversified into other roles such as stone-pelting, mob-rioting, ideological support, radicalisation, and recruitment of militants.

Role Played by OGWs

- Previously, **OGWs were primarily involved in logistics support and intelligence gathering**. Of late the distinction has blurred considerably with OGW also capable of carrying out small scale strikes while retaining the capability to mix rapidly with the population.
- OGWs also become a **significant tool for strategic communication** and recruitment by their handlers in J&K.
- OGWs can constantly work towards the **development of a negative sentiment in the minds of the so-called grey population** or fence sitters in an insurgency. They instigate people on trivial grounds in order to demoralize and discredit the security forces.
- They mobilise mass support for implementing their work, m**asses are brain washed and mobilised for terror support**. OGWs provides hide out and escape routes, as they are well aware of local geography, etc.
- They collect enough support through local elections and mobilize resource and officials to help terrorists and insurgent organisations.

The Kashmir Pandit tragedy

It is **30 years** since the "**exodus**" from the Valley of its minority Hindu Kashmiri Pandit community.

The run-up: 1980s to 1990

- Sheikh Abdullah had died in 1982, and the leadership of the National Conference passed on to his son **Farooq Abdullah**, who won the **1983 election**.
- But within two years, the Centre broke up the NC, and installed d**issident Ghulam Mohammed Shah as Chief Minister.** This led to huge disaffection and political instability.
- The Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) stepped up its activities, and the **hanging** of the **militant leader Maqbool Bhat in 1984** added to the sense of foreboding.
- In **1986**, after the **Rajiv Gandhi Government opened the Babri Masjid locks** to enable Hindus to offer prayers there, ripples were felt in Kashmir too.
- In Anantnag, the constituency of then Congress leader **Mufti Mohammad Sayeed**, there was a **series of attacks on Hindu temples, and shops and properties of Kashmiri Pandits**, blamed on separatist and secessionists.
- Pandits had begun to be targeted. Eminent persons of the community were being shot dead.

The night of January 19, 1990

- Matters came to a head on **January 19**. By then, the **Farooq Abdullah Government had been dismissed and Governor's Rule imposed**.
- According to accounts published by many eminent Kashmiri Pandits, there were threatening slogans over loudspeakers from mosques, and on the streets.
- Speeches were made **extolling Pakistan and the supremacy of Islam, and against Hinduism.** Finally, the Kashmiri Pandit community decided to leave.

The Gawkadal Massacre

- On **January 20**, the first stream began leaving the Valley with hastily packed belongings in whatever transport they could find. A second, larger wave left in March and April, after more Pandits were killed.
- On **January 21**, the CRPF gunned down 160 Kashmiri Muslim protesters at the Gawkadal Bridge, which has come to be known as **the worst massacre in the long history of the conflictin Kashmir.**
- The two events — **the flight of the Pandits and the Gawkadal massacre** — took place within 48 hours.

How many Pandits left?

- According to some estimates, notably by **the Kashmiri Pandit Sangharsh Samiti (KPSS)**, of 75,343 Kashmiri Pandit families in January 1990, more than 70,000 fled between 1990 and 1992 and continued until 2000.
- The KPSS has placed the number of Kashmiri Pandits killed by militants from 1990 to 2011 at 399, the majority during 1989-90.
- Some 800 families have remained in the Valley through these three decades.

Role of the administration

- The other contentious question about the exodus is the **role played by the administration**, and more specifically that of the **J&K Governor, Jagmohan**.
- Newly appointed, he had arrived in **Srinagar** on **January 19**.
- The Kashmiri Muslim view of the exodus is that he encouraged the Pandits to leave the Valley and thus gave a **communal colour** to what was until then a **non-religious Kashmiri cause.**
- The Kashmiri Hindu view is that this is a disingenuous interpretation.
- They believe that Kashmiri Muslims, with whom they had lived amicably for centuries, drove them out with a vengeance in a **frenzy of Islamism** that they could not have imagined even months earlier.
- The truth, many commentators have concluded, may have been somewhere in the middle.

The question of return

- Those who had means rebuilt their lives elsewhere in the country — **Delhi, Pune, Mumbai and Ahmedabad have Pandit populations**, also **Jaipur and Lucknow** — or went abroad.
- The fleeing Pandits did not think they would never return to the Valley. But **as the situationin Kashmir spiraled into a full-blown militancy,** return began to look remote if not impossible.
- The longing to return to the Valley did not diminish over the years, though it may have **become more an idea than a real ambition**.
- Successive Governments have promised that they will help this process, but the situation on the ground in Kashmir has meant this remains only an intention.
- There is an acute realization in the community that the Valley is no longer the same that they left behind in 1990.

- In many cases, their properties were either immediately vandalised or sold quickly by the owners to Kashmiri Muslims. Many fell into disrepair.

Previous Year Questions

1. The banning of 'Jamaat-e – islaami' in Jammu and Kashmir brought into focus the role of over-ground workers (OGWs) in assisting terrorist organizations. Examine the role played by OGWs in assisting terrorist organizations in insurgency affected areas. Discuss measures to neutralize the influence of OGWs. (UPSC 2019)

2. The Indian government has recently strengthened the anti-terrorism laws by amending the unlawful activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967 and the NIA Act. Analyze the changes in the context of prevailing security environment while discussing the scope and reasons for opposing the UAPA by human rights organizations. (UPSC 2019)

3. Left Wing Extremism (LWE) is showing a downward trend, but still affects many parts of the country. Briefly explain the Government of India's approach to counter the challenges posed by LWE. (UPSC 2018)

4. Mob violence is emerging as a serious law and order problem in India. By giving suitable examples, analyze the causes and consequences of such violence. (UPSC 2017)

5. The north-eastern region of India has been infested with insurgency for a very long time. Analyze the major reasons for the survival of armed insurgency in this region. (UPSC 201)

6. The persisting drives of the government for development of large industries in backward areas have resulted in isolating the tribal population and the farmers who face multiple displacements with Malkangiri and Naxalbari foci, discuss the corrective strategies needed to win the left wing extremism (LWE) doctrine affected citizens back into the mainstream of social and economic growth. (UPSC 2015)

7. Cross-border movement of insurgents is only one of the several security challenges facing the policing of the border in North-East India. Examine the various challenges currently emanating across the India-Myanmar border. Also, discuss the steps to counter the challenges. (UPSC 2019)

8. Article 244 of Indian Constitution relates to Administration of Scheduled areas and tribal areas. Analyze the impact of non-implementation of the provisions of fifth schedule on the growth of Left Wing Extremism. (UPSC 2013)

2. Role of external state and non-state actors increasing challenges to internal security

"What is it that seduces some young people to terrorism? It simplifiesthings. The fanatic has no questions, only answers. Education is the way to eliminate terrorism."

— *Elie Wiesel*

"With guns you can kill terrorists, with education you can kill terrorism."

— *Malala Yousafzai*

India's internal security problems are a **manifestation of internal weaknesses and external attempts at waging a proxy war**. Inadequate socio-economic development, apathy towards the genuine grievances of the people, and political brinkmanship amongst other reasons, have created internal contradictions, which have led to decades of internal strife. Similarly**, a number of internal security challenges faced today are fuelled and controlled by Pakistan.** The presence of hostile neighbours allows internal conflicts to get external support, which includes money, arms, and sanctuaries. The vested interests exploit these conditions to pursue their own scheme.

According to some experts**, India does not face an external threat in the conventional sense, but only internal security threats from external sources**. These external sources, consist of **both state and non-state actors**, combined with those anti-state forces within India, have made the situation more intricate.

Challenges posed by External State Actors

1. Support of various insurgent groups such as **Naxalites or separatist groups in Northeast by China**
   a. Historically, China has provided financial support, arms and sanctuaries to **Naga, Mizo and Meitei extremists** to fuel instability in India's internal security.
   b. China has its interests in the North-East as well as Left- Wing extremism in India, and uses it as a leverage to brew internal security challenges in the India.
2. **Instability in Jammu and Kashmir by the Pakistan**
   a. The issues in Jammu and Kashmir and Terrorism in the hinterland are a direct manifestation of Pakistan's influence. It is **part of Pakistan's state policy to bleed India** through a thousand cuts, given its obvious disadvantages on the conventional war fighting front.
   b. The **use of non-state actors** is essentially the employment of a proxy element, which gives the state of Pakistan a degree of deniability.
   c. The **close linkages of the ISI and proxy groups** are well documented as is their directinvolvement in **attacks like 26/11**. These groups aim to not only create instability in states like J&K, they also have a larger aim of destabilising the country.
3. External state actors may also indulge in **cyber-attacks**, thus **affecting national security**.(e.g. cyber-attacks emanating from China)
4. **Bangladesh**
   a. The **issue of illegal migration** has been the source of **communal and ethnic tension in India**, resulting in large scale demographic changes in the North-East region.
   b. The **trans-border relocation** has been the cause of **social and economic insecurity** for the local communities, which has often erupted in communal violence.
   c. While there is **no evidence of direct state involvement** in this case, it is its in activityto resolve the issue that is concerning.

Challenges posed by Non-State actors

1. **Drug Trafficking:** Proximity to the largest producers of **heroin and hashish-the Golden Triangle**

and **Golden Crescent (Afghanistan-Pakistan-Iran)** has made India's border vulnerable to drug trafficking. Trafficking of drugs takes place overwhelmingly through land borders followed by sea and air routes.

2. **Human Trafficking:** Human trafficking in India, although illegal under Indian law, remains a significant problem. People are frequently illegally trafficked through India for the **purposes of commercial sexual exploitation.** NGOs estimate this problem affects 20 to 65 million Indians.

3. **Left-Wing Extremism:** It is one of the **major security threats faced by the nation**, which **prevents developmental processes in the least developed regions of the country** and misguide the people through its propaganda.

4. **Insurgency in the Northeast: Inter-tribal conflicts, unemployed youth, illegal migration** from across the border has provided a breeding ground for non-state actors to run insurgency like an industry in the region.

5. **Terrorism: South Asia Terrorism Portal** has listed **180 terrorist groups** that have operated within India over the last 20 years, many of them **co-listed as transnational transnational terror networks** operating in or from the **neighbouring South-Asian countries** such as Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan.

6. **Civil Society Organisations:** Serious charges of **misuse and misappropriation of funds received as grants-in-aid from governments**, foreign donors and their involvement in riling up discontentment in the local communities against developmental projects has **raised questions on these organisations working as foreign policy tool of foreign governments**

a. Terrorism

Although there is no current agreement regarding a universal legal definition of the term, there has been some debate about the possible existence of an, at least partial, customary definition of terrorism. The difficulty in defining "terrorism" is in agreeing on a basis for determining when the use of violence (directed at whom, by whom, for what ends) is legitimate; therefore, the modern definition of terrorism is inherently controversial. **The use of violence for the achievement of political ends is common to state and non-state groups.**

Critics accuse the United States of terrorism for backing not only the Israeli occupation, but other repressive regimes willing to terrorize their own citizens to maintain power. Palestinian militants call Israel terrorist, Kurdish militants call Turkey terrorist and the nation-states call the militants who oppose their regimes "terrorists". Like "beauty", "terrorism" is in the eye of the beholder. One man's freedom fighter is another man's terrorist. Hence, the difficulty in defining Terrorism.

India currently uses the **definition proposed by Schmid and Jongman in 1988**, just like many of the Western nations.

The definition is as follows –

 "Terrorism is an anxiety-inspiring method of repeated violent action, employed by (semi-) clandestine individual, group or state actors, for idiosyncratic, criminal, political reasons, whereby the direct targets of violence are not the main targets. The immediate human victims of violence are generally chosen randomly (targets of opportunity) or selectively (representative or symbolic targets) from a target population, and serves as message generators. Threat and violence-based communication processes between terrorist organisation, victims, and main targets are used to manipulate the main target (audience(s)), turning it into a target of terror, a target of demands, or a target of attention, depending on whether intimidation, coercion, or propaganda is primarily sought."

What are the types of terrorism in India?
According to **the eighth report of the Second Administrative Reform,** terrorism is classified as follows:

1. Ethno-Nationalist Terrorism:

- This type of terrorism is motivated by **ethno-nationalist and separatist goals**.
- It gained global prominence during the **post-Second World War era** until religious terrorism gained the centre stage.
- According to Daniel Byman, **ethnic terrorism** is defined as **deliberate violence by a subnational ethnic group to advance its cause.**
- Such terrorism gives high emphasis to either for the creation of a separate state or on the elevation of the status of one ethnic group over others.
- **Liberation Tiger of Tamil Eelam in Sri Lanka** and **insurgent groups in North East India** aresome examples of this type of terrorism.

2. Religious Terrorism:

- Currently, **most of the terrorist activities** are motivated by **religious ideas**.
- The practitioners of this type of terrorism consider the **act of violence** as either **divine duty** or a **sacramental act.**
- It often **embraces and justifies extreme acts of violence**, making it far more destructive in nature.
- **Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and Al-Qaeda** are some of the examples of this type of terrorism.

3. Ideology Oriented Terrorism:

- This type of terrorism **use ideology to support violence** and acts of terror.
- It is further classified into two groups:
- **Left-wing terrorism** involves the **violence against the ruling elite mostly by the peasant class to promote leftist ideologies**. These ideologies are mostly based on ideas of **thinkers like Marx, Engels, Lenin, Mao Tse-tung**, etc. The leftist ideologies believe that all existing social relations and state structures in the capitalist society are exploitative and a revolutionary change through violence is essential. The examples of this type of terrorism include the **Maoist groups in India and Nepal, Red Brigades in Italy, etc.**
- **Right-wing groups** often aim to **maintain the status quo** or return to some past situation which they feel they should conserve. Sometimes they even **endorse ethnic/racist/religious character too**. They may also force the government to acquire territory or to intervene to protect the rights of an "oppressed" minority in the neighbouring country. Violence against migrants also comes under this category. **The examples for this type include Nazism, Fascism**, white supremacy movement in the US known as Ku Klux Klan (KKK), etc.

4. State-sponsored terrorism:

- Also known as **warfare by proxy**, State-sponsored terrorism is as old as the history of military conflict.
- It has **gained prominence in international politics** between the 1960s and 1970s.
- Currently, some countries have embraced terrorism as a **deliberate instrument of foreign policy**.
- One distinction that separates this type of terrorism from others is that it is **undertaken to achieve the defined foreign policy objectives** rather than grabbing media attention or targeting a specific audience.
- India has been facing this problem **since independence** due to **Pakistan's state-sponsored terrorism.**

5. Narco-terrorism:

- It can either fall under in the **category of "types of terrorism" or "means of terrorism",** depending on how it is defined.
- The term was **first used by the former President of Peru in 1983** to describe the campaigns by drug traffickers using terrorist methods like bombing, assassination, and kidnapping against the anti-narcotics police in Columbia and Peru.
- Though this term was initially used to describe the drug trafficking-related terrorism in South

America, it has **now come to be associated with terrorist groups and activities** around the world and more so in the Central and South-East Asia.

- The **Canadian Security Intelligence Service** defines it as "the attempt by narcotic traffickers to influence the policies of the government by systematic threat or use of violence".
- However, it can also be used to describe as a means of terrorism or at any rate as a means of funding terrorism.
- It **combines two illegal activities** – drug trafficking and terrorist activities.
- It is mainly motivated by economic reasons as it helps them fund other terrorist activities.
- According to a **survey conducted by the UN, the links between drug traffickers and terrorist groups were observed in 19 out of 38 countries**. These countries include Algeria, Colombia, Comoros, Ecuador, Germany, Guernsey, India, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Mauritius, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, UK, USA, Uzbekistan, and Yemen.
- **The major terrorist groups involved in this activity include** Al Qaeda, PKK (Kurdistan Workers Party) in Turkey, Hizballah in Lebanon, Islamic terrorist groups in India, etc.

6. Bio-Terrorism

Biological toxins are used to hurt and frighten innocent citizens, in the name of a political or other cause. The U.S. Center for Disease Control has categorized the viruses, bacteria and toxins that could be used in an attack They are: **Anthrax, Botulism, The Plague, Small Pox, Tularemia.**

Terrorism in India – a critical analysis:

According to an annual report by the Sydney-based Institute for Economics and Peace, **India is the 7th most affected country by terrorism**. As per the report,

- 350 Indians were killed and 540 were injured in 748 terrorist incidents in 2018.
- In this report, **Afghanistan is the most affected country terrorism**, followed by the order of Iraq, Nigeria, Syria, Pakistan, and Somalia.
- The report states **that 8,473 Indians have died due to terrorism since 2001.**
- However, in 2018, the death toll was 10% lower than in 2017, and 53% lower than in 2009.
- However, **the number of terrorist attacks has increased by 14%** over the same period, peaking in 2016 at over 900.
- Based on this analysis, the report states that compared to other countries in the top ten most impacted, **India faces a wider range of active terrorist groups** – Islamist, communist and separatist groups.
- As per the report, **Jammu and Kashmir are the most impacted in India**, with 321 attacks and 123 causalities, mostly perpetrated by the **Hizbul Mujahideen (HM), Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and Laskar-e-Taiba (LeT).**
- **India's second most impacted is Chhattisgarh in the centre of the communist "Red Corridor".** It faced 138 attacks and 123 deaths in 2018 in the hands of Maoist extremists. Though the attacks were few when compared to Kashmir, the death toll in Chhattisgarh is almost equal.

Terrorism in the Age of Technology

The modern terrorism is instantaneous and unpredictable, a global threat that hit its targets, but at same time hits a wide audience due to use of technology. **Terrorists have been using cyberspace** to find resources, make propaganda activities and from which it is possible to launch the attacks against enemies everywhere in the world.

Social media is an essential element of modern terrorism; these powerful platforms allow terrorists to communicate, to make propaganda and recruit new sympathizers at the same time maintaining anonymity to the user.

How technology is being used in propagating extremism?

- Propaganda
- Financing
- Training

- Planning
- Execution
- Cyber-attacks

Terror Financing

Terrorist activities in most cases require substantial financial support. In fact, **Terrorism Finance (TF)can be termed as the lifeblood of terrorism**, one of the most important factors sustaining its continuing threat, both from within and without. **They use the following methods to raise funding for terrorists' activities:**

- Terrorists gets funds by involving in **illegal operations**
- Funding could also be sourced even from the proceeds of lawful activities. Supporters of a militant ideology could well make financial contributions to terrorist organizations from their known sources of income.
- By resorting to or working in concert with cartels involved in **drug trafficking, narcotics trade** etc.
- Funding could also involve **counterfeiting of currency, currency smuggling** etc.
- International organized crime makes use of a wide range of methods and networking totransfer funds with a view to launder the proceeds of crime.
- Terrorist organizations also take **recourse to bulk cash smuggling and use of informal channels of transfer of money (like hawala).**
- Defrauding financial institutions and the public at large.
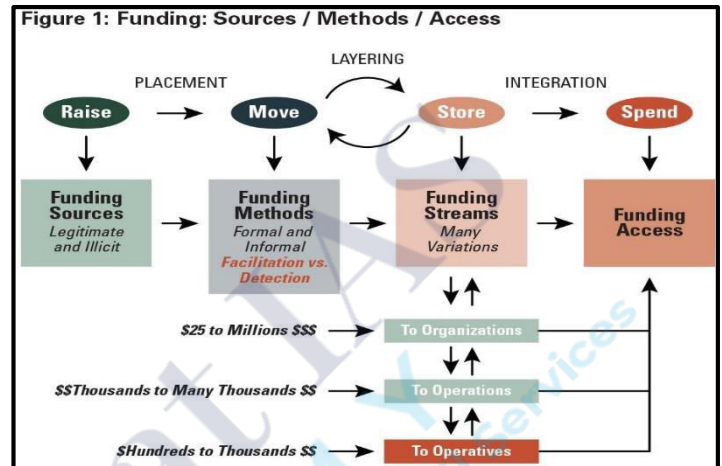
Urban Terrorism

Urban terrorism is the **use of terrorism in cities and other urban areas**, targeting the urban populace. **Urban terrorism in South Asia is a relatively new phenomenon.** In recent years, terrorists are visibly moving away from activities near the borders to the cities and towns. **Reasons for increase in such attacks**

1. Easy Targets
2. Scope for Anonymity
3. Availability of facilities
4. Easier Recruitment
5. Attacking credibility of the government
6. Protection from indiscriminate counter terrorism operations
7. Less demanding operations
8. Easy spread of fear
9. Vulnerabilities due to internet

Lone-Wolf Attacks

A "lone wolf" is a **person who prepares and commits violent acts alone, outside of any command structure and without material assistance from any group**. It is an efficient way of spreading terror in hard-to-access places for organised terrorist groups. **Prominent recent examples across the globe include: Boston marathon bombing of 2013, Sydney hostage crisis of 2014, recent attacks in New York and London where vehicles were used to run over and kill a number of people.**

Volatile neighbourhoods of India acting as terror hotbeds, fast growing population especially youth with

access to mass media and social media, heavy concentration of people in public areas with limited security and inadequate capacities of local police increase India's vulnerability to lone wolf attacks.

However various other factors tend to pose challenges in growth of lone wolf attacks in India:

- Unlike in the US where sophisticated weapons can be easily bought by ordinary citizens, gaining **access to such weaponry in India is difficult**.
- Indians have **not displayed the psychological willingness to undertake high risk attacks**.
- The absence of past examples of lone wolf attacks in India inculcates the fear of the unknown in the minds of potential volunteers.

What are the measures taken by the Indian government to counter-terrorism?

India's counter-terrorism laws:

- **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019** was passed in the Parliament this year and it **repeals the UAPA, 1967**. The amended Act gives the power to the centre to declare individuals/organisations as terrorists if it commits/participates, prepares, promotes, or involves in terrorism.
- **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958** allows the use of any kinds of force that is necessary against a person who is "acting to disrupt the law and order". This is applicable only if the warning is given by the security personnel.
- **The other Acts** to deal with terrorism includes the **Prevention of Corruption Act**, **Maharashtra Control of Organised Crimes Act (MCOCA), NIA (Amendment) Act, 2019**
- These laws have seen limited success in curbing terrorism. Many such laws were **repealed due to their draconian nature.**
- The **current UAPA, 2019** is challenged in the apex court for its **violation of Article 14** (Right to Equality), **19** (Right to Free Speech and Expression) and **21** (Right to Life) **of the Constitution**.

India's counter-terrorism agencies:

- The counter-terrorism activities are mostly **undertaken by the intelligence agencies, military, paramilitary and police forces.**
- Army participates in the counter-terrorism operations only as a last resort.
- Paramilitary forces are given specialised training in counter-terrorism. These forces include **BSF, CRPF, NSG, etc.**
- India's intelligence agencies monitor the terrorist activities and give a warning about the imminent attacks to prevent it from taking place. These agencies include **Intelligence Bureau (IB), Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), etc.**

International collaborations:

- India has been, for a very long time, vociferous against terrorism, especially **state-sponsored terrorism.**
- India has signed various deals and agreements with **several like-minded countries for sharing intelligence, preventing organised crimes**, removing support to the terrorist organisations and isolating those countries that are sponsoring terrorism.
- However, despite these proactive endeavours, India is not able to materialise these collaborations and cooperation and has to deal with terrorism on its own most of the time.

Institutional framework to tackle terrorism

- **NATGRID:** It seeks to become the **one-stop destination for security and intelligence agencies** to access database related to immigration entry and exit, banking and telephone details of a suspect on a "secured platform".
- **National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC)** has been established as a **cyber security and e-surveillance agency in India.**

India's Involvement at the UN

- India has prioritised the adoption of an **intergovernmental framework to combat terrorism**. India introduced the **Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) in 1996** that defined terrorism and enhanced "normative processes for the prosecution and extradition of terrorists."
- Active participation in several counter-terrorism discussions, such as
    a. Drafting a **Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in the General Assembly in 2006**,
    b. Serving as a **founding members** of **the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF)**

What are the key challenges faced by India's counter-terrorism apparatus?

1. Intelligence and coordination:

- For any counterterrorism operation to be successful, reliable and actionable intelligence is vital. **India has the following weaknesses when it comes to intelligence**:
    o The available intelligence is **general, vague or not actionable**
    o Lack of effective communication between intelligence agencies and law enforcement agencies.
- Yet, **India currently suffers from insufficient inter-agency coordination**, which in turn, leads to a lack of effective intelligence monitoring and security response.
- Concern still exists over the fact that the **information is not dispersed among the security forces at the tactical level** at the speed and effectiveness with which it should ideally occur.

2. Social Media:

- Currently, those involved in terrorist activities are making **use of social media platforms to recruit and spread ideology among a wider audience.** They are even giving manuals on how to make explosives to the public.
- The **radicalisation of youth in India's vulnerable areas** has also become easier due to social media.
- Many of these terrorist organisations are involved in **"talent spotting" and "radicalisation"** of the youth.
- It is difficult to counter these due to the lack of clear "criminality" of these actions.

3. Maritime and coastal security in India:

- **India's ports handle 70% of external trades** in terms of values, making it vulnerable to terrorism. **26/11 and 1993 serial bomb blasts in Mumbai** exposed the vulnerability of India's maritime security.
- Sea is porous, thus is highly difficult to monitor constantly.
- Furthermore, the current port or maritime-based infrastructure is technology-dependent, making it vulnerable to cyber-attacks.

4. Cyber-security:

- There is an **increase in cashless transactions within India in recent times**. Due to the improvement in IT, most of the infrastructural and industrial capacities have become technology-driven. Most of the **citizens' personal information is digitized**, leading to higher dependence on technology.
- This makes **India highly vulnerable to cyber terrorism**.
- Currently, India does not have sufficient manpower, expertise, and technologies to deal with this emerging threat.
- The current threats in this context include **interference in the election, propaganda, fake news, digital disruption of energy assets** and transportation systems.

- This is an enormous challenge that requires structural and organisational reform with a large financial investment.

Various Global Actions for countering Terrorism

United Nations oversees various conventions that target different aspects of terrorism, including terrorist financing, hijacking, acquiring weapons of mass destruction, and hostage taking, to name afew.

- UN General Assembly unanimously adopted in **2006** the **Global Counter terrorism Strategy (GCT).**
- **Counter-terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF)-** a partnership of bodies created by UN in 2005, which now includes **more than thirty UN entities plus INTERPOL**, to streamline and coordinate counter terrorism efforts within the UN.
- The **RATS (Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure)** aims to promote better coordination among members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation on terrorism.
- Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the Group of Eight (G8) Counter terrorism Action Group (CTAG)
- **Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT)** is an industry led initiative, working in close partnership with the **UN Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate (UNCTED)**
- **Christchurch Call To Action:** It outlines collective, voluntary commitments from governments and online service providers intended to address the issue of violent extremist content online

Previous Year Questions

1. The Indian government has recently strengthened the anti-terrorism laws by amending the unlawful activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967 and the NIA Act. Analyze the changes in the context of prevailing security environment while discussing the scope and reasons for opposing the UAPA by human rights organizations.(UPSC 2019)
2. The scourge of terrorism is a grave challenge to national security. What solutions do you suggest to curb this growing menace? What are the major sources of terrorist funding? (2017)
3. "Terrorism is emerging as a competitive industry over the last few decades." Analyse the above statement. (UPSC 2016)
4. Religious indoctrination via digital media has resulted in Indian youth joining the ISIS. What is ISIS and its mission? How can ISIS be dangerous for the internal security of our country? (UPSC 2015)
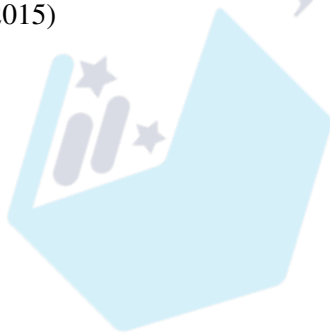
3. Challenges to Internal Security Through Communication Networks

"Cyber-related risks are a global threat of bloodless war. India can work towards giving world a shield from the threat of cyber warfare."

- **Narendra Modi**

Communication network is the **interconnection of electronic gadgets and devices that enable them to transmit information in the form of data, voice and videos**. The network infrastructure includes hardware and software resources such as mobile, laptops, sensors, servers, web applications, satellites, SCADA, LAN, WAN, Opticfiber network etc. It provides the communication path and services between users, processes, applications, services and external networks/the internet.

In **section 70 of IT Act 2000**, **Critical Information Infrastructure (CII) is defined** as: "The computer resource, the incapacitation or destruction of which, shall have debilitating impact on national security, economy, public health or safety."

The communication networks are crucial to the critical infrastructure connectivity such as

- Civil Aviation
- Shipping
- Railways
- Power
- Nuclear technology
- Finance and Banking
- Law enforcement
- Defence
- Space etc.

Role of Communication Network in Today's World

- Critical Infrastructure sectors use communication networks to perform not just auxiliary functions but also every vital function, be it **human resource management, production, project management or business analytics.**
- It **enables voice and data communication**, shrinking the time and space barriers.
- The financial sector is increasingly using digital technologies like **net banking, ATM networks** etc. which are dependent on communication network. Any breach in the communication infrastructure of the banking sector could pose danger to the financial stability of India.
- Similarly, **smart cities, smart agriculture** etc. are heavily dependent on interconnected systems.
- The government is investing huge resources in creation of e-governance infrastructure such as **National e-Governance Plan, Digital India, e-Kranti** etc.

Types of threats to Communication Networks

Natural Threats
- Natural threats encompass **floods, earthquake, tsunami, volcanic activities,** etc. These natural disasters could physically damage communication network.
- For instance, in an ICT driven smart city, if a minor earthquake snaps local telecommunication towers, it will disrupt all the ICT dependent utility services such as power, water supply etc. The local ATMs and banking services might stop functioning.
- Similarly, **solar storms might damage communication satellites orbiting earth** which will affect all the sectors dependent on satellite communications such as weather forecasting, mobile services, DTH, tele-medicine etc.

Human induced threats

Various actors may work as a threat to Communication network such as-

- Insiders in the form of disgruntled employees or compromised/socially engineered employees.
- Economic, military or adversary nation states.
- Criminal syndicates to terrorist outfits.

All of actors have different capacities and capabilities. **The threat actors exploit the underlying vulnerabilities within the application software, control systems software, hardware or even the people to get access to the desired location in the network**. Once the network is breached, they can execute commands, steal sensitive information such as design or configuration or corrupt the information flowing to the interfaces.

Terrorists and Non-state Actors

The primary objective of a terror outfit generally is to **instigate terror in the minds of the victims as well as the onlookers.** An attack on communication network – **physical or cyber**- would have crippling effects and far-reaching impact on the victims and the psychology of the witnesses, thus fulfilling the objective of terrorists.

As a matter of fact, some of the groups such as the **Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and Lashkar-e-Taiba** are known to have developed their own secure communication applications for smartphones.

Nation States

Nation states are the **most potent threat to information infrastructure** in terms of resources at their disposal. In the absence of globally agreed upon norms or legal measures to dissuade nation states from targeting each other's CII in the face of any eventuality, the CII remains a lucrative target.

Lately, **advanced persistent threats (APTs) have wholly transformed the threat landscape**. These are the state – sponsored campaigns targeted against Critical information infrastructure, especially communication network. **APTs are sophisticated, targeted and prolonged attempts of intrusion and information theft** using a wide variety of techniques, including SQL injection, malware, spyware, phishing and spam.

Examples of security threats to the communication networks

Network and Packet sniffing

Smaller packet bundles of large information are picked and processed by applications through "off-network". This kind of application that interprets the network packets is called packet sniffers. This poses a grave **threat to Government and business data flow**.

Man-in-the-middle attacks

It **refers to access to network packets coming across networks**. It implements **network sniffers and routing and transport protocols to do data theft**, gaining access to the system's internal network resources, Denial of service, the introduction of new information in existing networks to manipulate the system.

Denial of services (DoS)

This is the most infamous attack among attacks on communication networks and most difficult to eliminate. The **ease of attack and potentiality of damages** make them an important threat that deserves special attention. Distributed denial of services attack **refers to a simultaneous attack on many systems which temporarily brings down the targeted website/system.**

IP spoofing

IP spoofing is an **attack from an attacker outside the targeted network by pretending to be a trusted computer**. It can use the IP address of the targeted network or an authorized and trusted IP address. It leads to the **injection of malicious data or command structure** in the existing communication networks between

clients.

Phishing

It **refers to gaining private and personal information for identity theft, using fraudulent e-mails** making them appear to be received from legitimate sources. Luring targets to give critical information such as **Bank account, credit card details, Login ID, and passwords.**

Brute force attacks

The repeated password attacks to identify user account passwords and creating a backdoor for future access.

Virus or Trojan Horse attacks

Viruses and trojan horse applications are a threat to end-user computers. Viruses are malicious software attached to a programme to execute a directed, unwanted task on the user's workstation.

Trojan horse is an **application disguised to hide the original identity of attack tools.** It not only attacks the user system but also spreads through engaging in automatic spread to known systems.

Ransomware

It is a **type of malware that restricts access to certain information from the actual owner to demand a ransom paid to the creator of malware**. They use encryption, locking the system to deny user access to important information. A recent instance was the **attack by WannaCry ransomware**.

From the above discussion, it might have been clear that in the digital world challenges to communication network is mainly challenges in the cyberspace. **Cyberwarfare is the new age warfare that doesn't require physical presence but paralyzes the systems through cyber attacks.** Mind you, the virtual attacks can be far more destructive than the mere collapse of physical infrastructure. Cyberspace has actually become the fifth theatre of warfare after land, air, water, and space.

Challenges in Securing Communication Network

1. External sourcing of equipment and technology: Much of the software and hardware that makes up communication system is **imported from other countries (Chinese devices** account for **more than 60% of total telecom equipment imports).** These devices may contain a back-window for transmitting information.

2. Evolving nature of threats: A rapid pace of technology evolution means continuous evolution of threats to security systems. This leads to **constantly evolving security systems to thwart such attacks**, which becomes a tedious work as attackers can have the privilege of anonymity and a wide choice available as their target system.

3. Involvement of state and non-state actors: The **present-day threats are ambiguous, uncertain and indistinct in terms of their identity and goals**. While nation states have broader political or security motivation, motivation of malicious non-state actors is hard to comprehend, and could be anything from monetary gain to terrorism or even a narrow political agenda.

4. Inadequate understanding of inter-dependencies: The **lack of scientific analysis and tools for comprehending inter and intra-sector dependencies** is the primary reason for the poor preparedness of our security agencies.

5. Structural Challenges: India faces structural challenges as there is no clear demarcation of powers between Union and states along with a multiplicity of security agencies.
- **Federalism-** Cyberspace transcends geographical boundaries and spread across the country. **Cyber security as a subject is not specifically listed in any of the three lists in 7th Schedule**. Due to this, sometimes Central Government faces challenges from state governments in the form of their opposition to its several initiatives.
- **Coordination among security agencies:** Various departments and ministries of the government and private sector associations have set up **cyber security agencies, which are more aligned to serve their own mandates and interests.**

6. Lack of a national security architecture that can assess the nature of cyber threats and respond to them effectively.

7. Private sector owns and operates a significant part of the information infrastructure such as **telecom, banking, stock exchanges, energy utilities** etc. They see measures such as security auditing and regulations as addition to their operating costs.

8. The absence of data localization laws makes India's critical infrastructure information vulnerable to attacks

Building a Risk Management Strategy

Understanding Risk

Risk is defined as "the potential that a given threat will exploit vulnerabilities of an asset and thereby cause harm to the organization". From this definition, it is illustrated that **risk is a function of**

- The likelihood of a given Threat Event.
- Exercising a particular "potential" Vulnerability of an asset.
- With resulting Consequences that impact operation of the asset.

The Threat Event actually consists of components that all can significantly impact risk, including:

- Threat Source or Actor to carry out the event.
- Threat Vector to initiate the event.
- Threat Target which the event attacks.

When identifying risks, the organisation must start by understanding threats, vulnerabilities, and the consequences of their convergence.

Approach to tackle the vulnerabilities of the digital age-
The need for a four-phase approach to cyber security:

- Predict by performing an exposure analysis;
- Prevent by deploying a defensive solution to reduce the attack surface;
- Respond by determining how a breach happened and what impact it had on systems; and
- Detect by monitoring infrastructure for signs of intrusion or suspicious behaviour.

Need for a Risk Management Strategy

- Mitigating cyber risks and preventing attacks
- Reducing costs and protecting revenue
- Increased organisation's reputation
- As more of our physical world is connected to and controlled by the virtual world, and more of our business and personal information goes digital, the risks become increasingly daunting.
- Risk management is a key requirement of many information security standards and frameworks, as well as international laws such as the **GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)**

Recent Developments

India witnessed 13.91 Lakh cyber security incidents in 2022, as per Minister of State for Electronics and Information and Technology. The numbers still do not give an entire picture of cyber attacks on the country as **these statistics only include information reported to and tracked by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In).**

The number of reported cyber attacks, however, fell in 2022, down from 14.02 Lakhs in 2021. As per Government figures, 2.08 Lakh incidents were reported in 2018, 3.94 Lakh attacks were recorded in 2018 and 11.58 Lakh cyber security incidents were reported to CERT-In in 2020.

Hybrid Warfare
Hybrid warfare is a **theory of military strategy, first proposed by Frank Hoffman,** which employs **political warfare and blends conventional warfare, irregular warfare, and cyber warfare with other influencing methods, such as fake news, diplomacy, lawfare and foreign electoral intervention.** By combining kinetic

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operations with subversive efforts, the aggressor intends to avoid attribution or retribution.

Hybrid warfare has a variety of activities and covers the use of different instruments to destabilise society by influencing its decision making. **Frequent instruments are:**

- **Interference in electoral processes:** An enemy might employ a variety of tactics, including as media and social media campaigning and securing financial resources for a political party, to influence the outcome of an election in a way that suits the enemy's political objectives.
- **Disinformation and false news:** Falsehoods can be used to foster societal disintegration by an adversary who creates a parallel world. The goal is to confuse the public and make it difficult for the government to obtain public approval for a certain operation or policy.
- **Cyber-attacks:** Threats of deadly cyber assaults aimed at civilians can be used by an adversary to persuade NATO governments not to come to each other's aid in times of crisis. Attacks against hospital networks, as well as electrical and water sources, are examples.
- **Drone attacks:** Cyber attacks are comparable to this, although on a smaller scale. An adversary can inflict agony on civilians by impeding the operations of airports, air ambulances, and police helicopters using remotely controlled platforms. In the early stages of a conflict, such attacks can potentially stymie military aerial activities.

Recent case of Chinese firms- Recently, the **Chinese-only website of Zhenhua Data Information Technology Co,** was pulled down after it was caught targeting individuals and institutions in politics, government, business, technology, media, and civil society.

5G and Internal Security

5G is a wireless communication technology. It is the **next generation mobile networks technology after 4G LTE networks**. Currently 4G networks are capable of achieving the peak download speed of one gigabit per second. **With 5G the speed could be increased upto 10Gbps.**

Security risks posed include:

- A report prepared by security agencies has pointed out that **5G networks have 200 times more attack vectors, or paths to gain access to a network**, compared to their 4G predecessors.
- This network would move away from **centralized, hardware-based switching to distributed, software-defined digital routing.**
- As the 5G is **based on virtualized networks**, it would require robust protocols for security.
- It uses **common language of Internet Protocols** and well-known operating systems, hence vulnerable.
- It is **using early generation of AI** and that itself can be vulnerable. An attacker that gains control of the software managing the networks can also control the entire network. Due to shared infrastructure of 5G, it has potential for mass failure across multiple linked-networks resulting in the paralysis of the core infrastructure when any of the linked-networks is successfully attacked.
- The dramatic expansion of bandwidth itself makes 5G more vulnerable.
- **5G networks are vulnerable to mobile network mapping, or MN map attacks**. Using actual devices and networks, it can gather the information sent by the devices in plain text and create a map of devices connected to that network.
- Besides, there are supply chain security issues with platforms purchased from overseas with backdoor vulnerabilities purposely built into mobile carrier network and equipment.
- Broadly, the **5G poses a higher security threat** as there are **more vectors through which hackers and adversaries can attack**. Moreover, as the critical emergency services for smart cities and industries would be based on 5G technology, any interference with the 5G network enabling such services would be catastrophic.

What is the government doing to secure communications network?

- The **National Telecom Policy 2012** has set targets for domestic manufacturing of telecom equipment to meet 60 to 80 percent of demand.

- The **National Telecom Policy 2018** stresses on developing robust digital communications network security frameworks.
- The **Computer Emergency response team (CERT)** at both the national and state-level have been formed to respond to cyber-attacks.
- **IT Act, 2000**
    - **Section 43A-** compensation for the failure of protection of data
    - **Section 72A-** Punishment for disclosure of information in breach of lawful contract
    - **Section 67C-** Punishment with imprisonment of up to 3 years for anyone who intentionally or knowingly contravenes the provisions
    - **Section 69-** Power to issue directions for interception/monitoring/decryption of any information through any computer source.
- A number of other measures, such as making **local certification mandatory**, have been announced.
- The **Ministry of Communications and Information Technology** has also repeatedly urged telecom companies to take note of vulnerabilities in their equipment and told them they would be held responsible and subject to penalties if the vulnerabilities are not addressed
- **National critical information infrastructure protection centre (NCIIPC)-** It is a **national nodal agency for the protection of critical information infrastructure**. It helps in Coordination, sharing, monitoring, collecting, analysing and forecasting threats. It holds Responsibility to develop plans, adopt standards, share best practices and refine procurement processes.
- Exchange of knowledge and experiences with CERT-IN and other organisations is done in order to better coordinate.
- **Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre)** has been launched for providing detection of malicious programmes and free tools to remove such programmes.
- The Government has notified **National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC), under the auspices of National Technical Research Organisation**, as the nodal agency with respect to Critical Information Infrastructure Protection. The NCIIPC aims to reduce the vulnerabilities of CII against cyber terrorism, cyber warfare and other threats. **It is tasked with:**
    - Identification of all CII elements
    - Providing strategic leadership and coherence across the government
    - Coordinating, sharing, monitoring, collecting, analysing and forecasting national level threat to CII for policy guidance, expertise sharing and situational awareness.

Way forward
- Better to intensely **supervise the import value chain of communication equipment** to secure from advanced penetration of malware.
- Take measures for domestic production of critical equipment of the communications network through Make in India.
- The **critical information infrastructure must be protected** with heightened security in the wake of enhanced attacks.
- Isolating individual units can better protect it from potential attacks as it cuts the penetration pathways.
- Better measures for the **generation of the early red flag** in case of attacks to minimize the loss during the attacks
- Increase investment in research and development in securing communications networks through developing state-of-the-art security infrastructure. It is a way of being one step ahead of attack technology.
- International cooperation to **eliminate non-state actor threats to infrastructure.** Better communication can minimize misunderstandings caused by disguised attacks.

Previous Year Questions

1. Discuss the advantage and security implications of cloud hosting of server vis-a-vis in- house

machine-based hosting for government businesses. (2015)

2. Use of internet and social media by non-state actors for subversive activities is a majorsecurity concern. How have these been misused in the recent past? Suggest effective guidelines to curb the above threat. (2016)

4. Basics of Cyber Security

"The Internet is becoming the town square for the global village of tomorrow."

Bill Gates

"I dream of a Digital India where cyber security becomes an integral part of our NationalSecurity."

Narendra Modi

INTRODUCTION TO CYBER SECURITY

As per **Information Technology Act, 2000**, "Cyber security means protecting information, equipment, devices computer, computer resource, communication device and information stored therein from unauthorised access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification or destruction."

According to EY's latest Global Information Safety report**, India has one of the highest number of cyber attacks** and the **country ranks second in terms of targeted attacks**.

The accelerating pace of **globalization and digitization** fuelled a **record-breaking cybercrime with ransomware attacks rising 151% in 2021**. The World Economic Form's Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2022 released during its Davos Agenda Summit stated each cyber breach cost the organization $3.6 million past year.

Cyber threats

Cyberthreats can be disaggregated into four baskets based on the perpetrators and their motives- **Cyber Espionage, Cyber Crime, Cyber Terrorism, Cyber Warfare.**

Cyber Crime/ Cyber Attacks

Cyber-attack is "any type of offensive manoeuvre employed by individuals or whole organizations that **targets computer information systems, infrastructures, computer networks** with an **intention todamage or destroy targeted computer network or system."**

Cyber terrorism

"Cyber terrorism is the **convergence of terrorism and cyber space**. It means unlawful attacks and threats of attacks against computers, networks, and information stored to intimidate or coerce a government or its people to further political or social objectives. . Further, to qualify as cyber terrorism, **an attack should result in violence against persons or property or at least cause enough harm to generate fear.** Serious attacks against critical infrastructures could be acts of cyber terrorism depending upon their impact."

Besides, **terrorists also use cyberspace for purposes like planning terrorist attacks, recruiting sympathizers, communication purposes, command and control, spreading propaganda** in form of malicious content online for brainwashing, funding purposes etc. It is also used as a new arena for attacks in pursuit of the terrorists' political and social objectives.

Cyber warfare

"The use of computer technology to disrupt the activities of a state or organization, especially the deliberate attacking of information systems for strategic or military purposes." These hostile actions against a computer system or network can take any form. On one hand, it may be conducted with the smallest possible intervention that allows extraction of the information sought without disturbing the normal functioning of a computer system or network. This type of intervention is never noticed by the user and happens on a continuous basis. Other types may be destructive in nature which alters, disrupts, degrades, or destroy an adversary's computer systems.

Cyber Espionage

"The use of computer networks to gain illicit access to confidential information, typically that held by a government or other organization." It is generally **associated with intelligence gathering, data theft and, more recently, with analysis of public activity on social networking sites** like Facebook and Twitter. These activities could be by criminals, terrorists or nations as part of normal information gathering or security monitoring.

Examples of Cyber Espionage include- 2014 hacking of major US companies to steal trade secrets by Chinese officials; Titan Rain; Moonlight Maze; NSA surveillance Program as revealed by Edward Snowden in USA.

Methods used for cybercrime/Cyber Attack:

- **Malware,** short for malicious software refers to any kind of software that is designed to cause damage to a single computer, server, or computer network. **Ransomware, Spy ware, Worms, viruses, and Trojans** are all varieties of malware.

- **Phishing:** It is the method of trying to **gather personal information using deceptive e-mails and websites.**

- **Denial of Service attacks:** A Denial-of-Service (DoS) attack is an **attack meant to shut down a machine or network**, making it inaccessible to its intended users. DoS attacks accomplish this by flooding the target with traffic, or sending it information that triggers a crash.

- **Man-in-the-middle (MitM) attacks,** also known as **eavesdropping attacks**, occur when attackers insert themselves into a two-party transaction. Once the attackers interrupt the traffic, they can filter and steal data.

- **SQL Injection:**
  - SQL (pronounced "sequel") stands for **Structured Query Language**, a programming language used to communicate with databases.
  - Many of the servers that store critical data for websites and services use SQL to manage the data in their databases.
  - A SQL injection attack specifically targets such kind of servers, using **malicious code** to get the server **to divulge information** it normally wouldn't.

- **Cross-Site Scripting (XSS):**
  - Similar to an SQL injection attack, this attack also **involves injecting malicious code into a website**, but in this case the website itself is not being attacked.
  - Instead the malicious code the attacker has injected, only runs in the user's browser when they visit the attacked website, and it goes after the visitor directly, not the website.

- **Social engineering** is an attack that relies on **human interaction to trick users into breaking security procedures** in order to gain sensitive information that is typically protected.

Components of Cyber Security

- **Application Security:** It encompasses **measures or counter-measures that are taken during an application's development process** to protect it from threats that can come through flaws in the app design, development, deployment, upgrade or maintenance.

- **Information security:** It is related to the protection of information from an unauthorized access to avoid **identity theft and to protect privacy**.

- **Network Security:** It includes activities to protect the usability, reliability, integrity and safety of the network.

- **Disaster Recovery Planning:** It is a process that includes pe**rforming risk assessment, establishing priorities, developing recovery strategies** in case of an attack.

Need for Cyber Security

- **For Individuals:** Photos, videos and other personal information shared by an individual on social networking sites can be inappropriately used by others, leading to serious and even life-threatening incidents.
- **For Business Organizations:** Companies have a lot of data and information on their systems. **A cyber attack may lead to loss of competitive information (such as patents or original work),** loss of employees/customers private data resulting into complete loss of public trust on the integrity of the organization.
- **For Government:** A **local, state or central government maintains huge amount of confidential data** related to country (geographical, military strategic assets etc.) and citizens. Unauthorized access to the data can lead to serious threats on a country.

International Mechanisms:

- The **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** is a specialized agency within the United Nations which plays a leading role in the **standardization and development of telecommunications and cyber security issues.**
- **Budapest Convention on Cybercrime:** It is an **international treaty** that seeks to **address Internet and computer crime (cybercrime)** by harmonizing national laws, improving investigative techniques, and increasing cooperation among nations. It came into force on **1 July 2004**. **India is not a signatory to this convention**.
- **Internet Governance Forum (IGF):** It brings together all stakeholders i.e. government, private sector and civil society on the Internet governance debate. It was **first convened in October– November 2006.**
- **Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN):** It is a non-profit organization responsible for coordinating the maintenance and procedures of several databases related to the namespaces and numerical spaces of the Internet, ensuring the network's stable and secure operation. It has its **headquarters in Los Angeles, U.S.A**.
- **'Commonwealth Cyber Declaration' at the Commonwealth Summit 2018:** Commonwealth Heads of Government, commit to:
  - o World's largest inter-governmental commitments on cyber security cooperation.
  - o A cyberspace that **supports economic and social development** and rights online.
  - o Build the foundation of an **effective national cyber security response.**
  - o Promote stability in cyberspace through international cooperation. **Signed in April 2018.**
- **Paris Call -** At **UNESCO Internet Governance Forum (IGF)** meeting convened in Paris, "The Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace" was commenced.

Challenges to Cyber security in India

Structural

- Internet, by its design, has been created for openness and connectivity and not for ensuring security and protection from unauthorized access. There is an **ever increasing lag in the pace of proliferation of technology and the development of security architecture** around them.

Administrative

- Lack of best practices and statutory backing for the same, e.g.- The **norms for disclosure of cyber attacks were only put in place in 2019**, 6 years after the policy came into being.
- **Security audit does not occur periodically**, nor does it adhere to the international standards.
- The Government is yet to identify and implement measures to protect "critical information

infrastructure".

- The **appointment of National Cyber Security Coordinator in 2014** has not been supplemented by the creating liaison officers in states.

Human Resource Related

- Huge under-staffing of CERT-In.
- Attitudinal apathy of users towards issues of cyber security.
- Inadequate research in academia.

Procedural

- **Lack of awareness in local police** of various provisions of **IT Act, 2000 and also of IPC related to cybercrimes.**
- **Post-demonetisation**, there has been a **push to go 'cashless'**, without building capacity and awareness on the security of devices or transactions thus increasing vulnerability.
- Also, the core infrastructure elements of a smart city cover urban mobility, water and electricity supply, sanitation, housing, e-governance, health and education, security and sustainability, all bounded and harnessed by the power of information technology (IT).

Latest Attacks on Indian Critical Information Infrastructure

- **Coronavirus Pandemic Based Cyber Attack** – Microsoft has reported that cyber crooks are using Covid-19 situation in 2020 to defraud people through **phishing and ransomware in India and the world**
- **WannaCry** – It was a **ransomware attack** that spread rapidly in **May, 2017**. The ransomware locked users' devices and prevented them from accessing data and software until a certain ransom was paid to the criminals. **Top five cities in India (Kolkata, Delhi, Bhubaneswar, Pune and Mumbai) got impacted due to it.**
- **Mirai Botnet** – Mirai is malware that infects smart devices that run on ARC processors, turning them into a network of remotely controlled bots or zombies. This network of bots, called a botnet, is often used to launch Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks. **In September 2016, Mirai malware launched a DDoS attack on the website of a well-known security expert.**
- Attack over the **Kudankulam nuclear power station**.
- Attack over the website of national institutions
- **Petya Ransomware** – In India, the ransomware has crippled the operations at one of the terminals of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust.
- In **2017** malware attack on the **Tehri Dam in Uttarakhand**.

Case of Stuxnet:

Stuxnet, the cyber worm allegedly created by **US' National Security Agency and Israeli military** and posed a massive attack on the cyber infrastructure of **Iran's nuclear enrichment centre at Natanz.** Stuxnet exploited five distinct zero-day vulnerabilities in desktop systems, apart from vulnerabilities in PLC systems. **Indian investigators had already found Stuxnet in Indian systems in early 2012**

Government's steps toward strengthening India's Cyber Security

Government's steps

- Institutional Measures
- Legislative Measures

Institutional Measures

- **National cyber coordination centre (NCCC)** to scan internet traffic coming into the country and provide real time situational awareness and alert various security agencies.
- A new **Cyber and Information Security (CIS) Division** has been created to tackle internet crimes

such as **cyber threats, child pornography and online stalking**. Under this, Indian cyber- crime coordination centre (I4C) and Cyber Warrior Police force has also been established.

- [ ] **Formation Defence Cyber Agency** in the realm of military cyber security under the Ministry of Defence.
- [ ] Formation of **three cyber-forensic laboratories in Bangalore, Pune and Kolkata** in association with software industry group **NASSCOM**.
- [ ] **National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC)** to battle cyber security threats in strategic areas such as air control, nuclear and space. It **will function under the National Technical Research Organisation**, a technical intelligence gathering agency controlled directly by the National Security Adviser in PMO.
- [ ] **Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-in)** to enhance the security of India's Communications and Information Infrastructure through proactive action and effective collaboration. CERT-fin has also been launched exclusively for the financial sector. **CERT-in is also operating Cyber Swachhta Kendra, a Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre.**
- [ ] On similar lines for protection of critical sectors of Indian economy **FIN-CERT for India's financial sector was launched.**
- [ ] Government inaugurated the **new body National Information Centre Computer Emergency Response Team (NIC-CERT)** to prevent and predict cyber-attacks on government utilities.
- [ ] **Cyber Surakshit Bharat Initiative** to strengthen the Cyber Security ecosystem in India. It is the **first public private partnership** of its kind and will leverage the expertise of the IT industry in cybersecurity.
- [ ] **Creation of National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre** and mandating security practices related to the design, acquisition, development, use and operation of information resources.
- [ ] **Security** – **Cyber Swachhta Kendraà** It is the Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre under the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). The **aim of Cyber Swachhta Kendra is to promote awareness among Indian citizens to secure their data in computers, mobile phones, and other electronic devices**.
- [ ] **Cyber Surakshit Bharat Initiativeà MeitY** in collaboration with National e-Governance Division (NeGD) came up with this initiative in **2018** to **build a cyber-resilient IT set up**.
- [ ] **National Cyber Security Strategy 2020** Indian Government is coming up with the National Cyber Security Strategy 2020 entailing the provisions to secure cyberspace in India. The cabinet's nod is pending and it will soon be out for the public.
- [ ] **National Informatics Center (NIC) –** The National Informatics Centre is an attached office under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in the Indian government. The NIC provides infrastructure to help support the delivery of government IT services and the delivery of some of the initiatives of Digital India.

Legislative Measures

Information Technology Act, 2000

- [ ] **Digital signature has been replaced with electronic signature** to make it a more technology neutral act.
- [ ] It elaborates on offenses, penalties, and breaches.
- [ ] It **outlines the Justice Dispensation Systems** for cyber-crimes.
- [ ] The Information Technology Act defines in a new section that cyber café is any facility from where the access to the internet is offered by any person in the ordinary course of business to the members of the public.

Shreya Singhal vs Union of India (Section 66 A)

- [ ] In **Shreya Singhal v. Union of India judgement**, Supreme Court had observed that the weakness of Section 66A lay in the fact that it had created an offence on the basis of undefined actions: such as causing "inconvenience, danger, obstruction and insult", which

do not fall among the exceptions granted under Article 19 of the Constitution, which guarantees the freedom of speech.

- ☐ The court also observed that the challenge was to identify where to draw the line traditionally, it has been drawn at incitement while terms like obstruction and insult remain subjective.
- ☐ In addition, the court had noted that **Section 66A did not have procedural safeguards** like other sections of the law with similar aims, such as :
- ☐ The need to obtain the concurrence of the Centre before action can be taken.
- ☐ Local authorities could proceed autonomously, literally on the whim of their political masters.
- ☐ The judgment had found that **Section 66A was contrary to both Articles 19 (free speech) and 21 (right to life) of the Constitution**. The entire provision was struck down by the court.

National Cyber Security Policy 2013

- ☐ Set up different bodies to tackle various levels of threats, along with a national nodal agency to coordinate all cyber security matters.
- ☐ To promote adoption of global best practices in information security.
- ☐ Create a **National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC)** Create a workforce of around 500,000 trained in cyber security.
- ☐ To **create a think tank for cyber security policy inputs**, discussion and deliberations.
- ☐ Provide fiscal benefits to businesses to adopt best security practices.
- ☐ To enhance the national and global cooperation among security agencies, CERTs, NCCC etc.
- ☐ Set up testing labs to regularly check safety of equipment being used in the country.
- ☐ **Create a cyber-ecosystem in the country**, developing effective public-private partnerships and collaborative engagements through technical and operational cooperation.
- ☐ Build indigenous security technologies through research.
- ☐ To **develop bilateral and multilateral relationships** in the area of cyber security with other countries.

Way Forward

- ☐ Real-time intelligence is required for preventing and containing cyber attacks.
- ☐ Periodical **'Backup of Data'** is a solution to ransomware.
- ☐ Using **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** for predicting and accurately identifying attacks.
- ☐ Using the knowledge gained from actual attacks that have already taken place in building effective and pragmatic defence.
- ☐ Increased awareness about cyber threats for which **digital literacy** is required first.
- ☐ India needs to secure its computing environment and IoT with current tools, patches, updates and best known methods in a timely manner.
- ☐ **The need of the hour for Indian government is to develop core skills in cyber security, data integrity and data security fields** while also setting stringent cyber security standards to protect banks and financial institutions.

Previous Year Questions

1) What is the CyberDome Project? Explain how it can be useful in controlling internet crimes in India.(UPSC 2019)
2) Keeping in view India's internal security, analyse the impact of cross-border cyber attacks. Also discuss defensive measures against these sophisticated attacks. (Answer in 150 words)(UPSC 2021)
3) Discuss different types of cybercrimes and measures required to be taken to fight the menace.(UPSC 2020)
4) Data security has assumed significant importance in the digitized world due to rising cyber crimes. The Justice B. N. Srikrishna Committee Report addresses issues related to data security. What, in your view, are the strengths and weakness of the Report relating to protection of personal data in cyber space?(UPSC 2018)
5) Discuss the potential threats of Cyber attack and the security framework to prevent it. (UPSC 2017)

6) Considering the threats cyberspace poses for the country, India needs a "Digital Armed Force" to prevent crimes. Critically evaluate the National Cyber Security Policy, 2013 outlining the challenges perceived in its effective implementation.(UPSC 2015)
7) What is digital signature? What does its authentication mean? Giver various salient built in features of a digital signature.(UPSC 2013)
8) What are social networking site and what security implications do these sites present?(UPSC 2013)
9) Cyber warfare is considered by some defense analysts to be a larger threat than even Al Qaeda or terrorism. What do you understand by Cyber warfare? Outline the cyber threats which India is vulnerable to and bring out the state of the country's preparedness to deal with the same.(UPSC 2013)

5. Money-Laundering & its Prevention

"Money laundering is giving oxygen to organised crime."
- *Enrique Peña Nieto, President of Mexico*

Introduction

Prevention of **Money-Laundering Act, 2002** defines the offence of 'Money Laundering' as, *"Whosoever directly or indirectly attempts to indulge or knowingly assists or knowingly is a party or is actually involved in any process or activity connected with the proceeds of crime and projecting it as untainted property shall be guilty of the offence of money-laundering".*

In simple terms, **Money laundering is the process of taking money earned from illicit activities, such as drug trafficking or tax evasion, and making the money appeared to be earnings from legal business activity.**

Why is Money Laundered?

Illegal arms sales, smuggling, and other organized crime, including drug trafficking and prostitution rings, can generate huge amounts of money. Corruption, embezzlement, insider trading, bribery and computer fraud schemes can also produce large profits. **The money generated from such illicit activities is considered dirty and needs to be laundered to make it look 'clean'.** The criminals need a way to deposit money in financial institutions. Yet they can do so if the money appears to come from legitimate sources. **By successfully laundering the proceeds, the proceeds can be made to appear 'clean' and the illicit gains may be enjoyed without fear of being confiscated or being penalized.**

How is Money Laundered?

The basic money laundering process has three steps:

1. **Placement:** At this point, the **launderer deposits the dirty money into a legitimate financial institution.** This is frequently in the form of cash as bank deposits. This is the **most dangerous stage of the laundering process** because large amounts of cash are visible, and banks must report high-value transactions.

Money Laundering Cycle

2. **Layering:** This entails sending money through various financial transactions in order to alter its form and make it difficult to track. **Layering can include several bank-to-bank transfers**, **wire transfers** between different accounts in different names in different countries, making deposits and withdrawals to constantly vary the amount of money in the accounts, **changing the currency of the money**, and purchasing high-value items (boats, houses, cars, diamonds) to change the form of the money. This is the **most complicated step in any laundering scheme**, and it all revolves around making the original dirty money as difficult to trace as possible.

3. **Integration:** At the integration stage, the **money appears to come from a legal transaction and re-enters the mainstream economy.** A final bank transfer into the account of a local business in which the launderer is "investing" in exchange for a cut of the profits, the sale of a yacht purchased during
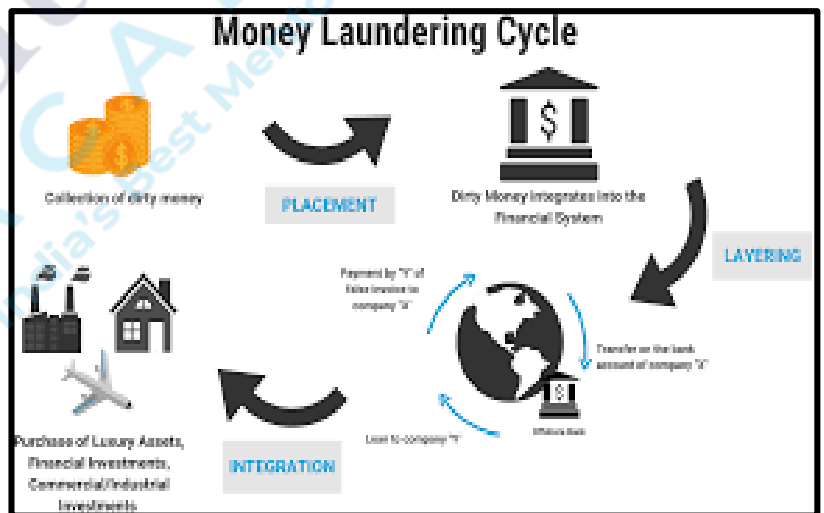
the layering stage, or the purchase of a \$10 million screwdriver from a company owned by the launderer are all examples of this. The criminal can now use the money without being caught. **If there is no documentation from the previous stages, catching a launderer during the integration stage is extremely difficult.**

Various forms of Money Laundering:

1) Structuring also called as **Smurfing**
2) Bulk Cash Smuggling
3) Cash intensive Businesses
4) Gambling
5) Trade based Laundering
6) Tax amnesties
7) Round tripping
8) Shell companies
9) Black salaries
10) Transaction laundering

Hawala and Money-Laundering:

The word "Hawala" means trust. Hawala is a **system of transferring money and property in a parallel arrangement avoiding the traditional banking system**. It is a **simple way of money laundering and is banned in India**. Hawala works by transferring money without actually moving. In a hawala transaction, no physical movement of cash is there. It is an alternative or parallel remittance system, which works outside the circle of banks and formal financial systems.

Reason why people prefer Hawala:

- ☐ The **commission rates** for transferring money through hawala are **quite low**.
- ☐ **No requirement of any id proof** and disclosure of source of income is there.
- ☐ It has **emerged as a reliable & efficient system of remittance**.
- ☐ As there is no physical movement of cash, hawala operators provide better
- ☐ Exchange rates as compared to the official exchange rates.
- ☐ It is a **simple and hassle-free process** when compared to the extensive
- ☐ Documentation being done by the banks.
- ☐ It is the **only way to transfer unaccounted income**
- ☐ This network is being used extensively across the globe **to circulate black money and to provide funds for terrorism, drug trafficking and other illegal activities.**

Various Techniques Used for Money Laundering:

- ☐ **Structuring Deposits**: This is a method of placement whereby cash is broken into smaller deposits of money which is then exchanged by many individuals (known as "smurfs") to avoid anti-money laundering reporting requirements. This is also **known as smurfing because many individuals (the "smurfs") are involved.**
- ☐ **Shell companies:** These are companies without active business operations. **They take in dirty money as "payment"** for supposed goods or services but actually provide no goods or services; **they simply create the appearance of legitimate transactions through fake invoices and balance sheets.**
- ☐ **Third-Party Cheques: Counter cheques or banker's drafts** drawn on different institutions are utilized and cleared via various third-party accounts. Since these are negotiable in many countries, the nexus with the source money is difficult to establish.
- ☐ **Bulk cash smuggling:** This **involves physically smuggling cash to another jurisdiction and depositing it in a financial institution, such as an offshore bank**, with greater bank secrecy or less rigorous money laundering enforcement.

- **Credit Cards: Clearing credit and charge card balances** at the counters of different banks. Such cards have a number of uses and can be used across international borders. For example, to purchase assets, for payment of services or goods received or in a global network of cash-dispensing machines

Cryptocurrency: The New Hawala

- Cryptocurrency like **Bitcoin** provides absolute anonymity and facilitates terror financing which was evident in the **2015 Paris terrorist attack**.
- The **Financial Action Task Force in Paris reported in 2015** that some terrorist websites encouraged sympathisers to donate in bitcoins.
- After, **demonetisation action by the Government of India in 2016**, there was noticed a **flood of such digital transactions.**
- This new Hawala has a potential to become an easy way to provide funds for terrorists and other illegal activities.
- So, there is a **need to have proper regulation over bitcoin** in the interest of the economy and the security of the country.

Impact of Money Laundering on Nation

Money laundering is a problem not only in the **world's major financial markets and offshore centers**, but also for **emerging markets**. It has potentially devastating economic, security, and social consequences for the nation.

Social Impact: It damages social institutions by following ways:

- The social impact of strong illegal businesses includes increased **drug addiction, rampant corruption**, and criminals empowered with economic powers.
- Loss of morality and ethical standards leading to weakening of social institutions.
- Transfers the economic power from the right people to the wrong ones.
- **Increased unemployment** as legitimate business companies fail to compete with operators operating through illegal money.

Economic Impact:

Microeconomic impacts of money laundering are as following:

- Potential damage to reputation of financial institutions and market.
- **Policy distortion** occurs because of measurement error.
- Legitimate businesses lose when competing, as there is no fair competition involved.
- Organised crime at the local level may flourish.
- It also leads to a higher cost of doing business, which adversely affects small businesses disproportionately.

Macroeconomic impacts of money laundering are as following:

- These include **volatility in exchange rates and interest rates** due to unanticipated transfers of funds.
- Fall in asset price due to the disposition of laundered funds.
- Misallocation of resources in relative asset commodity prices arising from money laundering activities.
- Loss of confidence in markets caused by insider trading, fraud and embezzlement.
- **Discourages foreign investors as high level of corruption** is seen as unfavourable for businesses.
- Other indirect economic effects are higher insurance premiums for those who do not make fraudulent claims and higher costs to businesses therefore generating fewer profits which

All the above points would lead to **artificial inflation, jobless growth, income inequality, poverty** etc. which culminates in the end to pose security challenges to society make it difficult to break even.

Political Impact:

Affects the **Government's capability to spend on development schemes** thereby affecting a large section of populations who could have benefitted from such spending. Legislative bodies find it difficult to quantify the negative economic effects of money laundering on economic development and its linkages with other crimes – trafficking, terrorism etc**.**

Security Impact:

The quest to legalize illicit earnings spawns money laundering, which in turn provides the required financial boost for these illegal activities to survive. **Several large-scale illegal activities such as arms dealing, organized crime, terrorist financing, as well as drug and sex trafficking**, do not just drive money laundering but thrive on it. Usually terrorist organisations receive funds from other countries, those funds cannot be transferred easily through formal banks, so terrorists use hawala transaction for receiving and sending all the funds.

Measures taken National level to tackle Money Laundering

In India, before the enactment of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) the major statutes that incorporated measures to address the problem of money laundering were:

- ☐ The Income Tax Act, 1961
- ☐ The Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 (COFEPOSA)
- ☐ The Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators Act, 1976 (SAFEMA)
- ☐ The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPSA)
- ☐ The Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988
- ☐ The Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988
- ☐ The Foreign Exchange Management Act, 2000, (FEMA)

Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)

- ☐ **Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002** was enacted to **prevent money-laundering** and to provide for confiscation of property derived from money-laundering.
- ☐ It prescribes obligation of banking companies, financial institutions and intermediaries for verification and maintenance of records of the identity of all its clients and also of all transactions and for furnishing information of such transactions in prescribed form to the **Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND).**
- ☐ It empowers the Director of FIU-IND to impose fine on banking company, financial institution or intermediary if they or any of its officers fails to comply with the provisions of the Act.
- ☐ Expanded the reach of the Act by adding many more crimes under various legislations: It lists specific offenses that would fall under this Act's purview under the **IPC, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, the Arms Act, the Wild Life (Protection) Act, the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, and the Prevention of Corruption Act.**
- ☐ In instances of cross-border money laundering, it enables the **Central Government to implement the UN Convention against Corruption's provisions** by returning the confiscated property to the requesting nation.
- ☐ It aims to include certain financial institutions in the Act's reporting requirements, including **Full Fledged Money Changers, Money Transfer Services, and Master Card.**

The Black money (undisclosed foreign income and assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015:

To deal with the menace of the black money existing in the form of undisclosed foreign income and assets by setting out the procedure for dealing with such income and assets.

Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Bill, 2015:

It aims to expand the definition of Benami Transactions and specifies the penalty to be imposed on a person entering into a Benami transaction.

Financial Intelligence Unit - India (FIU-IND)

- **Financial Intelligence Unit – India (FIU-IND)** was set by the Government of India as the **central national agency** responsible for receiving, processing, analyzing and disseminating information relating to suspect financial transactions.
- FIU-IND is also responsible for coordinating and strengthening efforts of national and international intelligence, investigation and enforcement agencies in pursuing the global efforts against money laundering and related crimes.
- FIU-IND is an **independent body reporting directly to the Economic Intelligence Council (EIC) headed by the Finance Minister.**

Enforcement Directorate

- It is a Government agency responsible for **enforcement of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)** and certain provisions under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PML).
- The Directorate is under the **administrative control of Department of Revenue** for operational purposes; the policy aspects of the FEMA, its legislation and its amendments are within the purview of the Department of Economic Affairs.

International Cooperation

- **The Financial Action Task Force (FATF):** The G7 summit in Paris in 1989 led to the creation of the FATF, an intergovernmental organization. The **Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is a "policy-making body"** that works to create the political will needed to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in order to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and other related threats to the integrity of the global financial system.
- **The Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG)** was a **self-contained regional anti-money laundering organization**. The APG's mission is to facilitate the adoption, implementation, and enforcement of internationally accepted anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing standards outlined in the Financial Action Task Force's recommendations (FATF).
- **The Vienna Convention/ United Nations Convention against Illicit Trafficking in Drugs and Psychotropic Substances:** In **December 1988, it was the first major initiative in the prevention of money laundering**. By requiring member states to criminalize the laundering of money from drug trafficking, this convention laid the groundwork for efforts to combat money laundering.
- **The Council of Europe Convention:** In 1990, this convention established a common policy on money laundering. It **establishes a common definition of money laundering as well as common measures to combat it.**
- **Basel Committee Minimum standards:** The Basel Committee on Banking Regulations and Supervisory Practices is made up of representatives from the central banks and supervisory authorities of eleven major industrialized nations as well as Luxembourg. In **1998, the committee issued a statement of principles aimed at combating money laundering.**

Challenges in Prevention of Money Laundering

- **Increased use of digital currency:** The rise of crypto currency allows money launderers to

conceal their illicit funds. Estimates suggest that **criminals have used the hyper-connected crypto currency ecosystem to launder more than $2.5 billion in dirty Bitcoin since 2009**.

- **Preference for cash over digital payments for transactions:** The use of cash will ease the process of "layering".
- **Lack of awareness about the seriousness of crimes of money laundering:** Instead of going through lengthy paperwork transactions in banks, **the poor and illiterate prefer the Hawala system, which has fewer formalities, little or no documentation, lower rates, and anonymity**.
- **Lenience from banks:** Increasing competition in the financial market is forcing banks to lower their guards, allowing money launderers to use it illicitly in furtherance of their crime.
- **Collusion by employees of financial institutions:** Financial institutions are supposed to check the source of funds, monitor account activity, and track irregular transactions, but the involvement of financial institution employees makes laundering easier.
- **Lack of comprehensive enforcement agencies:** Money laundering is no longer limited to a single area of operation, but has broadened to include many different areas of operation. **In India, there are separate wings of law enforcement dealing with money laundering, terrorist crimes, economic offenses**, and so on, and they lack coordination.
- **The widespread act of smuggling:** There are a number of black market channels in India for the purpose of selling goods, with many imported consumers buying goods such as food, electronics, and so on. Black merchants conduct cash transactions and avoid customs duties, allowing them to offer lower prices than regular merchants.
- **Tax Heaven Countries:** Strict financial secrecy laws by tax heaven countries incentivize the creation of anonymous accounts in these countries by launderers.

Way forward

1) **Role of bankers:** Bankers also has vital role and without their involvement, the operation cannot be successful.
2) **Special cell dealing with money laundering activities:** It should be created on the lines of **Economic Intelligence Council (EIC) exclusively dealing with research and development of anti- money laundering**. This Special Cell should have link with INTERPOL and other international organizations dealing with money laundering. All key stakeholders, like, RBI, SEBI etc. should be a part of this.
3) There is a requirement to have a convergence of different enforcement agencies, sharing of information is necessary.
4) **The following solutions could be implemented to tackle money laundering via crypto currency:**
   - AML procedures can be strengthened at financial institutions;
   - Transaction monitoring can be enhanced and regulations can be improved. Regardless of the level of anonymity, criminals must exchange their crypto currency for fiat currency at some point. **The monitoring of such transactions, within and across blockchains, can lead to the de-anonymization of criminals**
   - Third-party ID providers can be placed under state supervision
   - Blockchain can be used as a solution. A Blockchain-based platform will give regulators, auditors, and other stakeholders an effective and powerful set of tools to monitor complex transactions and immutably record the audit trail of suspicious transactions across the system.
5) The global nature of money laundering requires international law enforcement cooperation to effectively examine and accuse those that initiate these complex criminal organizations.
6) Money laundering must be combated mainly by penal ways and within the frameworks of international cooperation among judicial and law enforcement authorities.
7) There is a need to draw a line between financial confidentiality rules in various financial institutions and these institutions becoming money laundering havens.
8) **Implement FATF Recommendations** which sets out a comprehensive and consistent framework. **Some of them are:**
   - Identify the risks; develop policies and domestic coordination to mitigate money laundering and terrorist financing risks.

- Money laundering should be criminalized in accordance with the **Vienna Convention and the Palermo Convention,** which ensure that financial institution secrecy laws do not impede the implementation of the FATF Recommendations.
- Apply the crime of money laundering to all serious offenses, with a view to including the widest range of predicate offenses.
- Implement targeted financial sanctions regimes to **comply with UN Security Council resolutions on the prevention, suppression, and financing of terrorism.**
- Examine the sufficiency of laws and regulations governing non-profit organizations, which the country has identified as vulnerable to terrorist financing abuse.
- Apply preventive measures for the financial sector and other designated sectors.
- Financial institutions should be required to keep all necessary records on domestic and international transactions for at least five years in order to respond quickly to information requests from competent authorities.
- Establish authorities' powers and responsibilities (e.g., investigative, law enforcement, and supervisory authorities), as well as other institutional measures.
- Countries should have **anti-money laundering policies** and should designate an authority that is responsible for such policies.
- Provide mutual legal assistance in the case of money laundering and effectively carry out extradition requests in the case of money laundering and terrorist financing.

Previous Year Questions

India's proximity to two of the world's biggest illicit opium-growing states has enhanced her internal security concerns. Explain the linkages between drug trafficking and other illicit activities such as gunrunning, money laundering and human trafficking. What counter-measures should be taken to prevent the same? (UPSC 2018)

Money laundering poses a serious threat to country's economic sovereignty. What is its significance for India and what steps are required to be taken to control this menace? (UPSC 2013)

6. Security Challenges & their Management in Border Areas

"National security begins with border security. Foreign terrorists will not be able to strike America if they cannot get into our country."

Donald Trump

"Since problems spill across borders, security anywhere depends on sustainable development everywhere."

 Ban Ki-moon

Introduction

India has a **land border** of over **15,000 kms**, which it shares with **seven countries** (Pakistan, China, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Bhutan, and Afghanistan).

Further, it has a **coastline** of over **7,500 kms**. Thus, it becomes important that we develop capabilities to protect our border areas in varied terrains, with multiple countries with whom we have very different security relationships.

In the Indian case, borders are quite complex and almost every type of extreme geography is present at different borders viz. deserts, fertile lands, swampy marshes or tropical evergreen jungles. There is **cross border smuggling, the problem of drugs, cattle, humans, artefacts, fake Indian currency note (FICN), etc.**

What is Border Management

While Border Security Approach deals only with defending the borders, the **Border management is a broader term which involves not only defending the borders but also the protection of interests of the country in aligning borders.**

The **Department of Border Management** in the **Ministry of Home Affairs** focuses on **management of the international land & coastal borders, strengthening of border policing & guarding, creation of infrastructure** such as roads, fencing & flood lighting of the borders and **implementation of the Border Area Development Programme (BADP).**

Some problems currently afflicting the management of our borders including maritime boundaries are:

- Hostile elements have access to latest technology, unprecedented use of money power, organisational strength, manoeuvrability, wide choice available for selecting theatre of action for surprise strikes and strategic alliances with other like-minded groups.
- No proper demarcation of **maritime and land borders** at many places leading to conflicts.
- Artificial boundaries having difficult terrains like deserts, swampy marshes etc., which are not based on natural features thus making them extremely porous and easy to infiltrate.
- **Multiplicity of forces on the same borders leading to problems of coordination, command and control.** For example, the LAC along China is guarded by Vikas Battalions in some parts of Western and Middle sector which reports to the Cabinet Secretariat while the ITBP which mans most of the Chinese border is under Ministry of Home Affairs, making coordination difficult.
- Border Guarding Forces like Border Security Force etc. lack infrastructure. They need to be appropriately strengthened both in terms of equipment and manpower.
- Problems faced by local people due to tough measures taken during **anti-terrorism and anti-insurgency operations** generate discontent which should be addressed prudently otherwise hostile elements try to leverage this discontent to their benefit.
- **Cross-border terrorism** targeted to destabilise India.
- **Illegal migration in eastern region** causing socio-economic stress as well as demographic

changes.
- Sporadic aggression on the border with China, especially in the Western and Eastern sectors.
- Cross border safe houses for insurgent in north eastern neighbours.
- Smuggling of **arms and explosives**, **narcotics and counterfeit currency**.
- Enhanced instances of **smuggling, piracy, breach of coastal security.**

a. Indo China Border

India and China share a 3,500 km long boundary. Unfortunately, the entire boundary is disputed. The line, which delineates the boundary between the two countries, is popularly called the **McMahon line**, after its author **Sir Henry McMahon**.

India and china border can be **divided into three parts- western sector, central sector and eastern sector**. The line which separates the India and China is McMahon line however China recognizes McMahon line as illegal.

Present demarcation is informal cease-fire line between the India and China after the 1962 conflict until 1993, when officially recognized as '**line of Actual control'** in a bilateral agreement between Indian and china.

Challenges along the China Border

1) **Smuggling:** Large scale **smuggling of Chinese electronic and other consumer goods** take place through these border points.
2) **Inadequate infrastructure**: The area is characterized by high altitude terrain and thick habitation. While China has built massive rail road linkage on its side, Indian side of border was lacking robust infrastructure till recent times.
3) **Border Disputes:**
- **Western Sector - Aksai Chin -** In 1865, Johnson line which put Aksai Chin in Jammu and Kashmir but China at that time did not control Xinjiang so it was not presented to them. **By 1890, China re-established control over Xinjiang and claimed Aksai Chin**. Then, Macartney- Macdonald line was agreed to by the British government on the proposal by Chinese. However, Chinese government did not respond to the note to this effect in 1899 and the British took that as Chinese acquiescence.
- **After 1947, India used the Johnson Line as the basis for its official boundary** but in 1950s China built a road falling south of this line in the Aksai Chin region**. Intermittent clashes along the border culminated into Indo-China war in 1962** which resulted into existing line which is known **as Line of Actual Control (LAC).** The region also witnessed stand-off between India and China in Daulat Beg Oldie sector in 2013.
- **Eastern Sector - Arunachal Pradesh** -In Shimla Accord (1913-14), boundary between Tibet and British India was defined by negotiations between British India, China and Tibet. This boundary named as **MacMohan Line is disputed by China**. However, interestingly, China accepts MacMohan line as its boundary with Myanmar provided by the same agreement.
- In **the Middle Sector (Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand),** the dispute is a minor one.**Here LAC is the least controversial except for the precise alignment to be followed in the Barahoti plains**. India and China have exchanged maps on which they broadly agree.
4) **Indian side of border is being guarded by different agencies which include ITBP, Special Frontier Forces, Assam Rifles, Indian Army and proposed Sikkim Scouts** leading to lack of coordination among these agencies. On the other hand, on the Tibetan side, the entire LAC is managed by Border Guards divisions of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) under a single PLA commander of the Tibet Autonomous Region.
5) **China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC):** China's CPEC passes through parts of Jammu & Kashmir illegally occupied by Pakistan. China can use CPEC to mobilize troops in case of conflict and also will provide some cushion against choking of Strait of Malacca by India in case of conflict.

6) **Water disputes:** China recently cut off the low of a **tributary of the Brahmaputra River**, the lifeline of Bangladesh and northern India, to **build a dam as part of a major hydroelectric project in Tibet.**

Initiatives Taken for Effective Border Management

1) **Border talks:**
- The **rapprochement in 1976 after 1962 war** between the two countries led to initi**ation of High Level border talks in 1981 which broke down in 1987**.
- In 1988, following PM Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China, the **Joint Working Group (JWG)** was set up to look into border problem.
- In **2003**, **two special representatives** (one each from India and China) were appointed to find a political solution to the border dispute.
- Till **2009**, these two special representatives had held **17 rounds of talks**, but it seems they have not made much headway.

2) **Construction of roads along India-China border**
In the past decade, India has worked hard to strengthen its position on the border and its presence along the LAC. **India is close to completing a major upgrade of border roads, including a strategic military-use road** that connects an air field at Dalut Beg Oldie in the northern tip of the western sector with the villages of Shyok and Darbuk toward the south. Completed in **2019, this "DS-DBO road"** greatly **facilitates the lateral movement of Indian forces along the western sector, reducing travel time by 40%.**

3) **Spy Cam Project:**
Putting up cameras with 20-25 km range at 50 locations in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim and Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh after 21-day face-off with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China at Depsang Valley in the Ladakh region in 2013. But project failed since **weather is not favourable there as high-velocity winds and frost tend to blur the images.**

Way Forward
- Our troops should be battle ready which could well entail **delivering massive artillery fire in a minimal time-span** should the security needs at the local level so require
- There should be a **well-established logistics organisation** that can effectively support the existing deployments and any tactical operations that we may need to undertake in the areas.
- The responsibility for the **security and surveillance of the IB and the defence of the border zones along the entire length of the India-China border needs to be transferred to the Ministry of Defence** which should be designated as the 'nodal-agency' and the responsibilities in the field thence be assumed by the army.
- ITBP, a force specifically trained for border guarding duties on the India-China border, should not be used by the home Ministry for internal security duties in the **naxalite-infested areas of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Orissa**. This diversion leads to disturbing the balance and coherence in our deployments.

b. Indo-Pakistan

India shares **3323 km long boundary with Pakistan**. The border spreads across extreme climatic conditions as the boundary runs from **the hot Thar Desert in Rajasthan to the cold Himalayas in Jammu and Kashmir**. **Thus, the India-Pakistan boundary can be categorized under three different heads.**

- Radcliffe Line from Gujarat to parts of Jammu district in Jammu and Kashmir (length of 2308).
- Line of Control (LOC) runs along the district of Jammu and some portion of Leh.
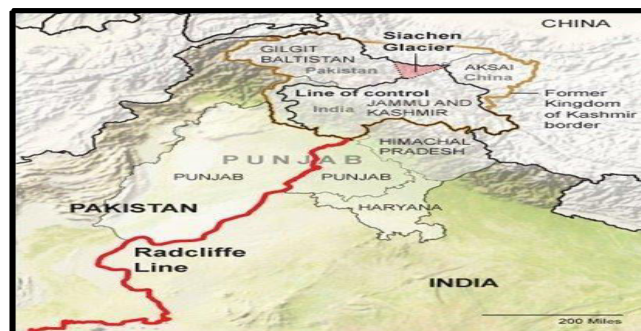
- Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL) from NJ 9842 to Indira col.

Challenges Along the Border

1) Sir Creek Dispute

Sir Creek is a **96 km tidal estuary** which opens up into the **Arabian Sea and divides the Gujarat state of India from the Sindh province of Pakistan**. The Sir Creek got its name from the British representative who negotiated the original dispute between the local rulers.

Pakistan's Position

Pakistan claims the entire Sir Creek, with its eastern bank defined by a "green line" and represented on a 1914 map belongs to it. **Accepting Pakistan's premise on the "green line" would mean loss of about 250 square miles of EEZ for India.**

India's Position

India says that the **green line is an indicative line** and felt the boundary should be defined by the "mid-channel" of the Creek as shown on a map dated 1925.**India supports its stance by citing the Thalweg doctrine in international law**. It states that river boundaries between two states may be, if the two states agree, divided by the mid- channel. Pakistan maintains that the doctrine is not applicable in this case as it most commonly applies to non-tidal rivers, and Sir Creek is a tidal estuary.

2) Siachen Dispute

Siachen is a triangular bit of land between Pakistan occupied Kashmir and the part ceded by Pakistan to China.

Reason of Dispute:

Ambiguous wording that exists in the Karanchi cease fire agreement of 1949 following 1947-48 war**. The Agreement did not delineate beyond grid reference NJ 9842,** which falls south of the Siachen glacier and indicated that the border from NJ9842 runs "thence North to the glaciers".

Pakistan argues that this means that the line should go from NJ 9842 straight to the Karakoram pass on the Sino-Indian border. India, however, insists that the line should proceed north from NJ 9842 along the Saltoro range to the border with China.

3) Gilgit Baltistan Issue

India recently opposed Pakistan's order to **integrate the region of Gilgit-Baltistan** into the federal structure of the country.

What is the dispute over Gilgit-Baltistan?

After the first Indo-Pak war over Kashmir, the UN resolutions created a temporary ceasefire line separating the state into Indian and Pakistani administered regions pending a referendum.

India, Pakistan and China all claim partial or complete ownership of Kashmir.

- **India-controlled:** One state, called Jammu and Kashmir, makes up the southern and eastern portions of the region, totalling about 45% of Kashmir
- **Pakistan-controlled:** Three areas called **Azad Kashmir (AJK), Gilgit and Baltistan** make up the northern and western portions of the region, totalling about 35% of Kashmir.
- **China-controlled:** One area called **Aksai Chin** in the north-eastern part of the region, equalling 20% of Kashmir.

Other Issues

The India-Pakistan border does not follow the geographical barrier so it runs through different climatic condition such as from desert, marshes, plains and by the peak of lofty mountain ranges these conditions along the border area has made border very porous in nature which has facilitated the various illegal activity in the region like:

- ☐ Trafficking of drugs (proximity to golden crescent) and arms.
- ☐ **Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN)**
- ☐ Activities of **money laundering** are also rampant in this border zone.
- ☐ Presence of **Hawala** networks.
- ☐ **Safe havens for terrorists** and secessionist elements.
- ☐ Indus River water sharing issue
- ☐ Along with these illegal activities, the **propaganda front which is used by Pakistan to erode the trust of people living in border areas towards the Indian Government.**
- ☐ Increased instability in the region of Jammu and Kashmir due to money and material support from Pakistan gave rise to the secessionist militants in the border region.

Initiatives Taken by Government

- ☐ **Fencing** - By 2011, almost all of the border– **along J&K, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat** – was double-row fenced on the LoC.
- ☐ **Use of technology-** The Centre approved a **five-layer elaborate plan to stop infiltration** on the 2,900-km western border with Pakistan.
- o Close Circuit Television cameras, thermal imagers and NVDs, BFSRs, underground monitoring sensors, and laser barriers will be placed along the border to track all movement from the other side.
- o The integrated setup will ensure that in the event of a transgression, if one device fails to work, another will alert the control room.
- o **Laser barriers will cover 130 unfenced sections**, including riverine and mountain terrain from Jammu and Kashmir to Gujarat, which are often used by infiltrators.
- o The **border has been electrified**, connected to a range of sensors and strewn with landmines.

- ☐ **Outposts -** There are about **700 border out posts, one Integrated Check post is there at Attari, Amritsar.**
- ☐ A program for **Optimal Utilization of Waters of Eastern Rivers of Indus River System** has also been started.
- ☐ Following **Pathankot terrorist attack**, MHA sanctioned implementation Comprehensive Management System (CIBMS) to establish an integrated security system at borders providing all round security even in adverse climatic conditions
- ☐ The Centre has decided to **deploy Indian special forces unit National Security Guard (NSG)** fortify counter terror operations by Commandos in J&K to training J&K police and other paramilitary forces in room intervention, anti-terror skills, overseeing anti-hijack operations etc.

Madhukar Gupta Committee

It was tasked give recommendations for **strengthening border protection and addressing the issue of gaps and vulnerability in border fencing along India-Pakistan Border**. It was constituted three months after the terror attack on **Pathankot IAF base** in **January 2016** by **Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorists** from Pakistan.

Recommended the **use of scientific technology in border management**. For example, use of laser fencing, ground sensors and thermal imaging where physical fencing is not feasible due to difficult terrain. It gave separate recommendations for four states as each of them has different topography and problems.

Way Forward

- Prompt and appropriate compensation to border population to stem dissatisfaction among local people.

- Study the pattern of illegal activities like money laundering and checking them.

The government also established a **Task Force on border management under the Chairmanship of Madhav God bole.** The report observed that the country's borders could not be effectively managed because of certain inherent problems such as their disputed status, artificiality, porosity etc. which give rise to multiple other problems including illegal migration, smuggling, drugs trafficking, and trans-border movement of insurgents.

Recommendations of the committee-

- A **Marine police force should be established** along with the strengthening of the **Indian CoastGuard** and setting up of an apex institution for coordinating various maritime issues.
- Accelerated development of infrastructure along the border should be taken up, especially to wean the border population from illegal activities.
- **Pending border disputes** with neighbouring countries should be resolved.

c. Indo-Nepal

Himalayan country shares about **1700 Kms border with India across five Indian States** – Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim. An estimated 6 million Nepalese live and work in India.

Indo-Nepal border is governed under **Sagauli Treaty 1816.**

India and Nepal have shared an open border since 1950. The conception of such a border can be found in the **Treaty of Peace and Friendship** that the two countries signed that year. Provisions in the treaty, wherein citizens of both countries are given equal rights in matters of residence, acquisition of property, employment and movement in each other's territory, provide for an open border between the two countries.

Which States/Union Territories Share Boundaries with Nepal?
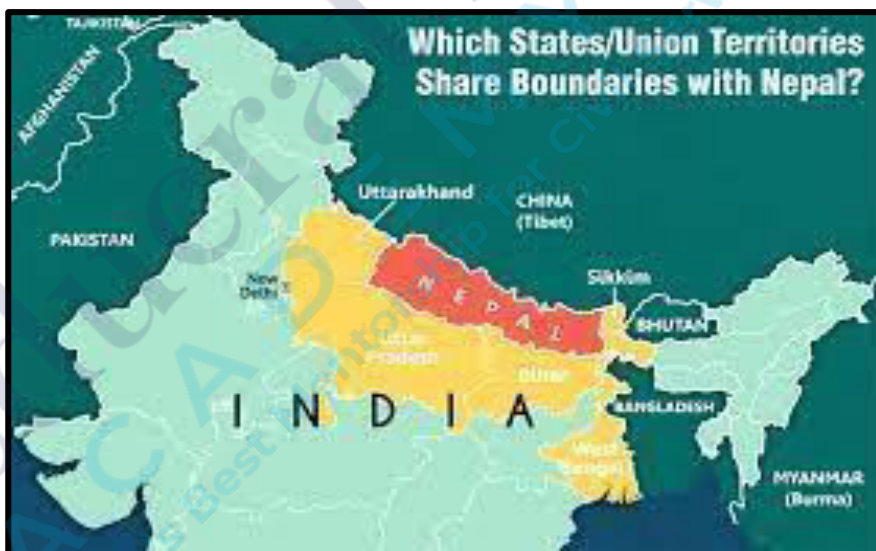
Free movement of people across the border and strong people to people tie-up. **This base of this good relationship is due friendship treaty of 1950.**

Open border has been a great facilitator of strong and unique bilateral relations. At the same time, it has given rise to many irritants and problems that raise serious concerns. Allegations of excesses such as intimidation and forcible grabbing of land by either side along the disputed border also surface from time to time.

There are dispute over the some areas due to shifting course of Himalayan rivers. **Kalapani and Susta disputes** is an example of that.

Challenges Along the Border

- Pakistan is using the open borders to carry out **anti-India activities including pushing of terrorists and fake Indian currency.**
- Fear of spread of Maoist insurgency and links with Maoists groups in India
- Issue of **land grabbing** - Allegations of excesses such as intimidation, and forcible grabbing ofland by either side along the disputed border also surface from time to time.
- **Easy escape & illegal activities** - Insurgents, terrorists, many hard-core criminals pursued byIndian

and Nepalese security forces escape across the open border.

Recent Border Dispute

Recently, Nepal unveiled a new political map that claimed strategically important **land Kalapani, Limpiyadhura and Lipulekh of Uttarakhand as part of its sovereign territory**. Nepal considers the 1816 Treaty of Sugauli (signed between Gurkha rulers of Kathmandu and the East India Company) as the only authentic document on boundary delineation.

Located in **the easternmost corner of Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district.**

- Shares a border on the north with the **Tibet Autonomous Region of China** and **Nepal** in the east and south.
- It is wedged in between **Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh and Kalapani**.
- The area is the **largest territorial dispute between Nepal and India** consisting of at least 37,000 hectares of land in the High Himalayas.

Who controls the area?

The area is in India's control but Nepal claims the region because of historical and cartographic reasons.

What is the cause of the dispute?

The **Kalapani region** derives its name from **the river Kali.** Nepal's claims to the region is based on this river as it became the marker of the boundary of the kingdom of Nepal following **the Treaty of Sugauli** signed between the **Gurkha rulers of Kathmandu and the East India Company** after **the Gurkha War/Anglo-Nepal War (1814-16).** The treaty was **ratified in 1816**.

- According to the treaty, Nepal lost the regions of **Kumaon-Garhwal** in the west and Sikkim in the east.
- According to **Article 5,** the **King of Nepal gave up his claims over the region west of the river Kali** which originates in the High Himalayas and flows into the great plains of the Indian subcontinent.
- According to the treaty, the **British rulers recognised Nepal's right** to the region that fell to the east of the river Kali.

Present issues:

- According to Nepal's experts, the **east of the Kali river should begin at the source of the river**. The source according to them is in the mountains near **Limpiyadhura**, which is higher in altitude than the rest of the river's flow.
- Nepal claims that a land mass, high in the mountains that falls to the east of the entire stretch starting from Limpiyadhura downwards, is theirs.
- India on the other hand says the **border begins at Kalapani** which India says is where the river begins.
- The dispute is mainly because of the **varying interpretation of the origin of the river and its various tributaries that slice through the mountains**.
- While Nepal's claim of the territory east of Kali is based on the **Limpiyadhura origin, India says the river actually takes the name Kali near Kalapani.**

☐ **India's Stand:** Kali river originates in springs well below the Lipu-lekh pass, and the Sugauli Treaty does not demarcate the area north of these streams. The administrative and revenue records of the nineteenth century also show that **Kalapani was on the Indian side, and counted as part of Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand.**

Initiatives Taken for Effective Border Management

☐ Establishment of a new intelligence section in **SSB at Indo-Nepal and Indo- Bhutan border** to ensure better operational efficiency.

☐ Establishment of **Border District Coordination Committee** at the level of district officials of the two countries to discuss issues of mutual concern.

☐ The Government of India has approved **construction of 1377 km of roads along Nepal border**.

☐ Development aid to Nepal to prevent **human trafficking** owing to lack of employment opportunities there

☐ **200 bed Nepal Bharat Maitri Emergency and Trauma Centre in Kathmandu**.

Way Forward

☐ Security agencies of both countries should coordinate more closely and effectively for better monitoring of the border. An increased use of technology in monitoring border movement can also help to secure the open border.

☐ A **Joint Boundary Demarcation Committee** could be appointed by both the countries to scientifically study the Maps and come to a conclusion diplomatically.

d. Indo-Bhutan

Indo-Bhutan border is demarcated except along the tri-junction with China. The process of demarcation of the India-Bhutan border started in **1961 and was completed in 2006**. This border is defined by foothills, unlike the complex topography of dense forests, rivers and populations that defines India's borders with Nepal and Bangladesh.

India has a Friendship treaty with Bhutan which was re-negotiated in 2007 under which India has a huge stake in safeguarding interests of Bhutan.

The two countries share warm bilateral ties and strong border coordination. For Bhutan, issues of hydropower and trade within the region impinge on its border cooperation. Other issues such as rupee trade and

banking facilities on both sides of the border are also important.

Challenges Along the Border

- **Border Dispute – The border is not demarcated in tri-junction area**. Thus, the conflict arises such as recent **Doklam issue**.
- **'Operation All Clear'** by Royal Bhutanese Army drove out the **Bodo and ULFA insurgents** from its territory some years ago. The border has been relatively quiet. But still fears are persistent about criminal and militant activity.
- **Smuggling** - Chinese made goods, Bhutanese cannabis, liquor and forest products are major items smuggled into India. Livestock, grocery items and fruits are smuggled out of India to Bhutan.
- **Free movement of people & vehicles** – Bhutan wants free movement of its citizens and vehicles once they enter Indian territory. During the Gorkhaland movement in West Bengal vehicles belonging to Bhutanese nationals were destroyed. From internal security perspective, **illicit establishment of camps by militant out its in the dense jungles of south- east Bhutan is a cause of concern for both the nations.**
- **Migration** –As areas bordering Bhutan are largely underdeveloped, many Indians work as manual labour in construction sites in that country, where they manage to earn more decent wages. This migration has provoked concerns of altering demographies in both countries.
- **Environmental concerns** - Migrants and infiltrators are also accused of **deforestation, poaching, and wildlife smuggling.**

Initiatives Taken

- **Deployment of forces - Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) is the main boarder** guarding force with some help from BSF.
- **Bilateral cooperation -** A **Secretary level bilateral mechanism in the shape of an India-Bhutan Group on Border Management and Security** is in existence. This mechanism has proved to bevery useful in assessing threat perception of the two countries from groups attempting to take advantage of this open border and in discussing ways of improving the security environment in border areas.
- There is also a **Border District Coordination Meeting (BDCM) Mechanism** between the bordering States and the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) to facilitate coordination onborder management and other related matters.
- **Road construction** - The Government of India has approved **construction of 313 km. road in Assam along Indo-Bhutan border**. About 60,000 Indian nationals live in Bhutan, employed mostly in the hydro-electric power construction and road industry.
- The Union environment ministry has given a "general approval" for the diversion of forestland for major border infrastructure projects along the eastern border with **Bhutan, Myanmar and Nepal**.

e. Indo-Bangladesh

The Indian side of the **Indo-Bangladesh border** passes through **5 Indian states- West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.** The entire stretch consists of plains, riverine belts, hills and jungles. The area is heavily populated and is cultivated right upto the border. **India and Bangladesh share 54 trans-boundary rivers.**

India and Bangladesh have been able to solve some contentious issues through negotiations which experts consider as the best example of border management such as:

- India and Bangladesh successfully **resolved issue of enclaves** through mutual agreement and India **enacting 100th Constitutional Amendment Act** to this effect.
- **Sharing of Ganga water through a 1996 Agreement between the two countries**. However, Bangladesh has expressed concerns over **Farakka Barrage which diverts water to the Hooghly river** claiming that it does not get a fair share in dry season and gets flooded when India releases water.
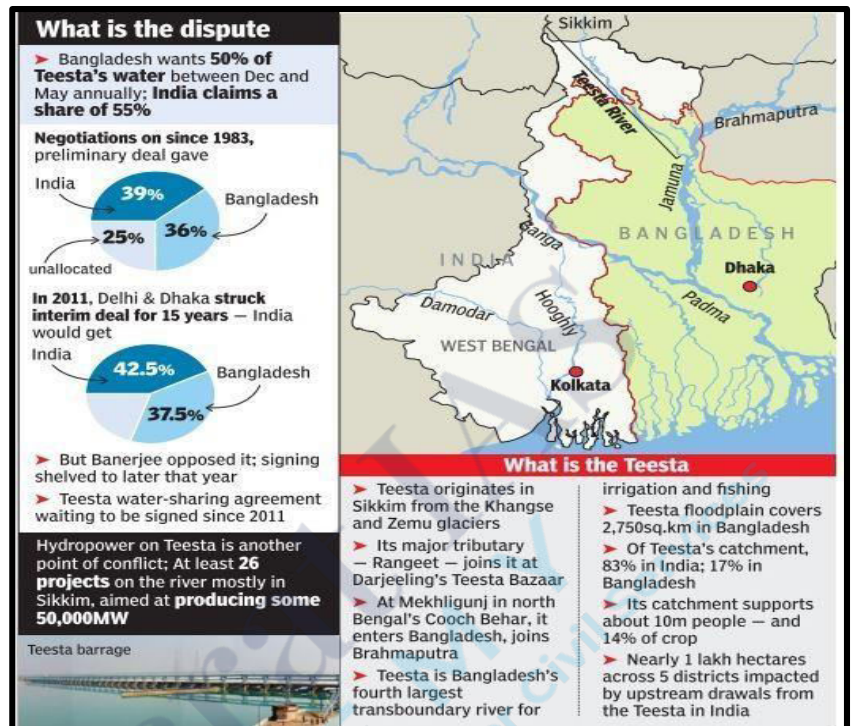
- **Maritime disputes:** In **2009**, Bangladesh instituted **arbitral proceedings for the delimitation of the maritime boundary with India under UNCLOS**, the verdict of which settled the dispute in 2014.

Outstanding Issues between the two neighbours:

- **Teesta River Water Dispute:** Teesta River originates from the **Pahunri (or Teesta Kangse) glacier** in **Sikkim**, lows through the northern parts of West Bengal before entering Bangladesh. It merges with the Brahmaputra River (or Jamuna in Bangladesh). The river is **a major source of irrigation** to the paddy growing greater **Rangpur region of Bangladesh**.
- **Tipaimukh Hydro- Electric Power Project** on the **Barak River**- Bangladesh is opposing the project as it says that the **dam will disrupt the seasonal rhythm of the river and have an adverse effect on downstream agriculture, fisheries and ecology of the region.** Indian government has assured Bangladesh that it will not take any unilateral decision on the Project which may adversely affect Bangladesh.

What is the dispute

- Bangladesh wants **50% of Teesta's water** between Dec and May annually; India claims a **share of 55%**

Negotiations on since 1983, preliminary deal gave

India 39% — Bangladesh 36% — 25% unallocated

In 2011, Delhi & Dhaka **struck interim deal for 15 years** — India would get 42.5% India — Bangladesh 37.5%

- But Banerjee opposed it; signing shelved to later that year
- Teesta water-sharing agreement waiting to be signed since 2011

Hydropower on Teesta is another point of conflict; At least **26 projects** on the river mostly in Sikkim, aimed at **producing some 50,000MW**

Teesta barrage

What is the Teesta

- Teesta originates in Sikkim from the Khangse and Zemu glaciers
- Its major tributary — Rangeet — joins it at Darjeeling's Teesta Bazaar
- At Mekhligunj in north Bengal's Cooch Behar, it enters Bangladesh, joins Brahmaputra
- Teesta is Bangladesh's fourth largest transboundary river for irrigation and fishing
- Teesta floodplain covers 2,750sq.km in Bangladesh
- Of Teesta's catchment, 83% in India; 17% in Bangladesh
- Its catchment supports about 10m people — and 14% of crop
- Nearly 1 lakh hectares across 5 districts impacted by upstream drawals from the Teesta in India

- Due to high degree of porosity of Indo-Bangladesh Border, millions of **Bangladeshi immigrant mostly illegal have poured into India**.
- **Border fencing issue -** There have been some **problems in construction of fencing** in certain stretches on this border due to:
  - o Riverine/ low-lying areas,
  - o Population residing within 150 yards of the border,
  - o Pending land acquisition cases and
  - o Protests by border population, which has led to delay in completion of the project.
- **Unauthorised cross-border trade in goods such as jamdani sarees, rice, salt and diesel** has flourished, despite the presence of strict trade regulations and barriers. Although India and Bangladesh officially trade goods worth $7 billion, illegal trade between the two countries is estimated to be double the figure.
- **Cattle smuggling and killing of smugglers** -Cattle confiscated on border alone are around one lakh annually thus a loss of revenue of around 10000 crore annually for the government. A large number of Bangladeshi nationals who are caught smuggling cattle across the border are killed. While the number of recorded deaths has reduced significantly after **India introduced a new policy of having only non-lethal weapons for BSF's use, the measure has emboldened criminals and led to an increase in attacks on BSF personnel.**
- **Increasing radicalisation:** Presence of groups like **Harkat-al-Jihad-al-Islami (HUJI) and Jamaat- e-Islami** fuel Anti-India sentiments in Bangladesh. Their propaganda could spill across border.

Initiatives Taken

- ☐ **Deployment of force** – The **BSF and BGB** have also been raising awareness among the locals regarding crime prevention in the border area.
- ☐ **Information and Technology Wing of BSF undertook the project BOLD-QIT** (Border Electronically Dominated QRT Interception Technique) to **install technical systems** which enable BSF to equip Indo-Bangla borders with different kind of sensors in the unfenced riverine area of the Brahmaputra and its tributaries.
- ☐ Government has announced the **establishment of Border Protection Grid (BPG)** with Indo-Bangladesh Border States.
- ☐ **Fencing -** India has constructed a **barbed-wire fence and improved lighting along the border** to prevent illegal immigrant and other anti-national activities.
- ☐ **Road construction** - In addition, 3,585.53 km of border patrol roads have been constructed out of a sanctioned length of 4,407.11 km. A **border management department** has also been set up to oversee **developmental work in the bordering areas** and upgraded infrastructure at major entry and exit points.
- ☐ **Strengthening vigilance and regulation** - Steps have been taken to strengthen border vigil through enhancement of border guards. **India is also establishing integrated check posts (ICP) at its land borders** which will house, under one roof all regulatory activities such as immigration, security and customs. For e.g. **Sutarkandi in Assam, Ghojadanga in West Bengal- integrated check posts along Bangladesh border.**
- ☐ Installation of **Border surveillance devices** such as closed-circuit cameras, searchlights, thermal imaging devices and drones to keep a tight vigil.
- ☐ **Land Boundary Agreement, 2015:** The 2015 LBA implements the unresolved issues stemming from the un-demarcated land boundary—approximately 6.1-km long—in three sectors, viz. **Daikhata-56 (West Bengal), Muhuri River–Belonia (Tripura) and Lathitila–Dumabari (Assam);** exchange of enclaves; and adverse possessions, which were first addressed in the 2011 Protocol. It is important to note that in the land swap, Bangladesh gained more territory than India did.

f. Indo-Myanmar

India shares **1,643 km long border** with **Myanmar. Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram** are the four States, which share the border with Myanmar. India and Myanmar permit a **Free Movement Regime (FMR**) for tribes residing along the border to travel upto 16 km across the border. While the FMR has helped the tribes continue maintain their age old ties, it has also become a cause of concern for the security establishment. The insurgents have been taking advantage of the FMR and have been crossing over to Myanmar to receive training in arms, establish safe havens and re-enter India to carry out subversive attacks.

Challenges at Indo-Myanmar border

Though the boundary is properly demarcated, there are a few pockets that are disputed. **The major issues along the border are as follows:**

- ☐ **Free movement Regime:** Insurgents are misusing FMR to cross-over to Myanmar and receive training and acquire arms.
- ☐ **Rugged terrain –** It makes movement and the overall development of the area difficult.
- ☐ **Weak vigilance -** There is practically no physical barrier along the border either in the form offences or border outposts and roads to ensure strict vigil.
- ☐ **Insurgency -** Insurgents make use of the poorly guarded border and flee across when pursued by Indian security forces. Close ethnic ties among the tribes such as **Nagas, Kukis, Chin, etc**., who live astride the border help these insurgents in finding safe haven in Myanmar. These cross-border ethnic ties have facilitated in creation of safe havens for various northeast insurgent groups in Myanmar.
- ☐ **Drugs menace-** The location of the boundary at the edge of the **"Drugs golden triangle" facilitates the unrestricted illegal flows of drugs into Indian territory**. Heroin is the main item of drug trafficking. The bulk of heroin enters India through the border town of Moreh in Manipur.

- **Boundary dispute -** Even though the international boundary between the two countries had been formally delimited and demarcated following the 1967 Boundary agreement, the boundary has not crystallised on the ground as lines separating two sovereign countries.
- **Lack of attention -** The policy makers in Delhi have not given adequate attention to the India-Myanmar border and as a result it continues to be poorly managed.
- **Lack of support from military Junta Govt. in Myanmar: India's patchy engagement with the military junta in Myanmar** and its initial **support to the democratic movement** in that country have been largely responsible for Myanmar's reluctance to cooperate with India.

Initiatives

- **13 new Integrated Check Posts (ICPs)** to encourage **India's engagement with SAARC countries along with Thailand and Myanmar**. ICP is able to interdict such elements while facilitating legitimate trade and commerce.
- Indian government along with the government of Myanmar trying to curb these illegal activities in the north-east. Deployment of Assam rifles to this border.
- Along with the ongoing peace deal in region and effort of Indian army.

Steps taken by government

- **Deployment of force – Assam Rifles mans this border since 2002** with some help from Indian Army. However, Assam Rifles has deployed 31 of its 46 battalions for counter insurgency operations and only 15 battalions for guarding the border thus functioning more like a counter insurgency force rather than a border guarding force.
- **Panel to study free movement regime –** To stop insurgents like NSCN-K from misusing FMR for receiving training in arms, establish safe havens and re-enter India to carry out subversive attacks.
- Cabinet recently proposed to set up **13 new Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) to encourage India's engagement with SAARC countries along with Thailand and Myanmar**. ICP is able to interdict such elements while facilitating legitimate trade and commerce.

Way Ahead

Given that the vulnerability of the India-Myanmar border is posing a serious challenge to the internal security of the country, the Government of India should pay immediate attention to effectively manage this border.

- It should first **strengthen the security of the border** by either giving the **Assam Rifles the single mandate of guarding the border** or **deploying another border guarding force** such as the Border Security Force (BSF).
- It should initiate a **revision of the FMR** and reduce the permitted distance of unrestricted travel.
- The construction of the ICP along with other infrastructure should be expedited.
- Finally, India should endeavour to meaningfully engage with Myanmar and solicit its cooperation in resolving all outstanding issues and better manage their mutual border.

g. Indo-Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka shares **maritime border with India** and is a very important country strategically placed in Indian Ocean for India's security.

Challenges along the border

1. Katchatheevu Island
India ceded the uninhabited island to its southern neighbour in 1974 under a conditional accord. However, **Indian fishermen considered it to be their traditional fishing area** and want **Katchatheevu** to be used as

fishing grounds for India as well.

2. Fishermen Issue

Trespassing by Indian fisher men in Sri Lankan waters takes place regularly. Here, the issue is not of an unsettled maritime boundary but the refusal of Indian fisher men to recognise the maritime boundary between India and Sri Lanka, especially in the Palk Bay. **The Palk Bay has traditionally been a common fishing ground for fishermen on both the sides.** However, the delineation of the maritime boundary has divided the Palk Bay, and stipulates that Indian fishermen cannot fish beyond the international boundary**. Recently, Sri Lanka has introduced tougher laws banning bottom-trawling andput heavy fines for trespassing foreign vessels.**

Initiatives Taken Regarding fishermen issue

Steps have been taken to ensure the safety of fishermen, and to prevent the undetected entry of any fishing trawler in the coastal waters. For this purpose, **all big fishing trawlers (20 meters and above) are being installed with AIS transponders**. As for small fishing vessels, a proposal to it them with the Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) is under consideration.

Furthermore, **Distress Alert Transmitters (DATs)** are being provided to fisher men so that they can alert the ICG if they are in distress at sea. For the safety of fishermen at sea, the government has implemented a scheme of **providing a subsidised kit to the fisher men which includes a Global Positioning System (GPS), communication equipment, echo-sounder and a search and rescue beacon.**

Way Forward

The following steps can be considered to resolve the disputes and challenges between the two countries:

- ☐ **Sustainable fishing and alternate livelihood –** There is a glaring need for institutionalisation of fishing in Indian waters by the government of India so that alternative means of livelihood are provided.
- ☐ **Institutional mechanism -** Last year, the two countries agreed on establishing a **Joint Working Group (JWG) on fisheries to help resolve the dispute, setting up a hotline between the Coast Guards of India and Sri Lanka**, convening of the JWG once in three months, and meetings of the fisheries ministers every half-year were the components of the mechanismto be put in place.
- ☐ Indian Navy or Coast Guard should join the Sri Lankan Navy in jointly patrolling the international boundary to prevent trespassing.

General Recommendations for Better Border Management

Border Area Development Programme

- ☐ **The Department of Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs** has been implementing **a Border Area Development Programme (BADP)** through the State Governments as part of a comprehensive approach to Border Management. Its **aim is to meet the special developmental needs of the people living in remote and inaccessible areas situated near the international border and to saturate the border areas with essential infrastructure** through convergence of Central/State/BADP/Local schemes and participatory approach and to promote a sense of security and well-being among the border population.
- ☐ BADP covers all the villages which are located within **the 0-10 Km of the International Border**.
- ☐ Funds are provided to the States as a non-lapsable **Special Central Assistance (SCA)** for execution of projects relating to infrastructure, livelihood, education, health, agriculture and allied sectors.
- ☐ **BADP covers specific planned socioeconomic and infrastructure development in areas such as:** Road connectivity, Water and Power supply, Social Infrastructure including Health & Education, Sports activities, Agriculture & allied sectors, Skill development etc.

Development of Integrated Check Posts (ICPs)

Border Out Posts (BOPs) are **designated entry and exit points on the international border** of the country through which cross border movement of persons, goods and traffic takes place. **Inter-alia, the BOPs are meant to provide appropriate show of force to deter trans-border criminals, infiltrators and the hostile elements from indulging in the activities of intrusion / encroachment and border violations**. Each BOP is provided with the necessary infrastructure for accommodation, logistic supports and combat functions. It also facilitates trade & commerce.

Existing infrastructure available with Customs, Immigration and other regulatory agencies at these points on our land borders needs to be upgraded. Support facilities like warehouses, parking lots, banks, hotels, etc. needs to be increased in numbers.

A **Statutory Authority called 'Land Ports Authority of India' (LPAI)** has been set up to oversee and regulate the construction, management and maintenance of the ICPs.

The LPAI has been envisaged as a lean, oversight body aimed at **providing better administration and cohesive management of cross-border movement of people and goods.** It would be vested with powers on the lines of similar bodies like **the Airports Authority of India.**

- ☐ The principle of **'Single Point Control' Or "One-Force-One-Border" principle** must be followed if the borders are to be effectively managed. Divided responsibilities never result in effective control
- ☐ The **advances in surveillance technology, particularly satellite and aerial imagery**, can help to maintain a constant vigil along the LAC and make it possible to reduce physical deployment as and when modern surveillance assets can be provided on a regular basis to the formations deployed forward.
- ☐ Similarly, the availability of a l**arger number of helicopter units will enhance the quality of aerial surveillance** and the ability to move troops to quickly occupy defensive positions when it becomes necessary.
- ☐ The recent nomination of the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) as the national-level counter insurgency force** should enable the other central para-military forces (CPMFs) like BSF and ITBP to return to their primary role of better border management.
- ☐ It is also recommended that all **Para-military forces** managing unsettled borders should operate directly under the control of the army.
- ☐ There should be **lateral induction from the army to the para-military forces** so as to enhance their operational effectiveness.
- ☐ External threats to India's security are not the only border management issue dealt with at present by the national security apparatus. In recent past, **India's rate of growth has far outpaced that of most of its neighbours and this has generated problems like mass migrations into India.**

Limitations in Developing Border Infrastructure:

- ☐ **Poor implementation:** In 2017, CAG pointed out that of the 73 roads allotted in border areas, only 22 roads were completed by March 2016. Similar was the case with 14 strategic railway lines.
- ☐ **Lack of monitoring** resulting in **defective construction of roads** including faulty design, poor riding conditions, inadequate drainage facilities etc.
- ☐ **Multiple authorities managing the border:** India has Army, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Border Security Force and Assam Rifles for border management, unlike China which has one command for its security forces managing border, indicating cohesiveness.
- ☐ **Lack of unity of command:** Management becomes slightly inefficient because in some places the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is responsible and in other places the Ministry of Defence (MoD) is responsible.
- ☐ **Staff deficiency and lack of modern equipments:** BRO is battling staff deficiency, lacks skilled workforce, too much dependence on local contractors.
- ☐ Lack of **adequate allocation of funds** for infrastructure, even pointed out by army.

Role of Technology in addressing Border Management Issues:

- ☐ **Upgrading existing system:** Technology can be integrated with the existing systems to

facilitate better detection and interception by the man behind the machine. At present**, border guarding is almost fully dependent on human surveillance**. This makes border management a time-consuming and complex task.

- ☐ **Checking infiltration:** It can be help to detect infiltration via land, underwater, air and tunnels by deploying close circuit television cameras, thermal imagers and night vision devices etc.
- ☐ **Facilitate Cross Border Trade:** For example: Blockchain technology can help quickly and securely process transactions, it also makes much easier to identify and trace illegitimate trade.
- ☐ **Improved Intelligence inputs and Surveillance:** Through **Remote sensing satellites, radar satellites and satellites with synthetic aperture radar (SAR)** sensors which are capable of providing day and night All terrain and all-weather inputs.
- ☐ **Madhukar Gupta Committee** on border protection had recommended the Union Government to strengthen border protection and address vulnerabilities in fencing along the Indo-Pakistan border. This led to **implementation of CIBMS in 2015**.

Way Forward

- ☐ **Dispute resolution**– Government should resolve pending border disputes with the neighbouring countries, as they later become matters of national-security threat.
- ☐ **No diversion of security forces**– The border-guarding force should not be distracted from its principal task and deployed for other internal security duties. For e.g.-**ITBP, a force specifically trained for India- China border should not be used in the Naxalite-infested areas.**
- ☐ **Involvement of army –** It is felt that the responsibility for unsettled and disputed borders, such as the LoC in J&K and the LAC on the Indo-Tibetan border, should be that of the Indian Army while the BSF should be responsible for all settled borders.
- ☐ **Developing Infrastructure**-Accelerated development of infrastructure along the border, especially to wean the border population from illegal activities.

Coastal Security

India has a shoreline of 7,516.6 km which includes 5,422 km of coastline in the mainland and 2,094 km of coastline bordering the islands**. There are nine States** Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal and **four Union Territories** viz. Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep, Puducherry and Andaman & Nicobar Islands **situated on the coast**.

India's long coast line offerings a variety of security concerns that include **landing of arms and explosives at isolated spots on the coast, infiltration/ ex-filtration of anti-national elements, use of the sea and off shore islands for criminal activities, smuggling of consumer and intermediate goods through sea routes** etc.

Several cases of the smuggling of goods, gold, narcotics, explosives, arms and ammunition as well as the infiltration of terrorists into the country through these coasts have been reported over the years.

The smuggling of explosives through the Raigad coast in Maharashtra and their use in the 1993 serial blasts in Mumbai, and the **infiltration of the ten Pakistani terrorists through the sea route** who carried out the multiple coordinated attacks in **Mumbai on November 26, 2008.**

Factors for vulnerability:

- ☐ India's coasts are **characterised by a various range of topography** such as creeks, small bays, back waters, rivulets, lagoons, estuaries, swamps, mudflats, as well as hills, rocky outcrops, sandbars, beaches and small islands (inhabited as well as uninhabited).
- ☐ The **physical closeness of India's coasts to politically volatile, economically depressed and unfriendly countries** such as Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Gulf countries adds to its susceptibility.
- ☐ Unsettled maritime boundaries not only pose grave security challenges but also hinder offshore development.

- India's maritime boundaries with **Pakistan and Bangladesh are not delineated** because of overlapping claims.

Maritime Security & Threats:

India faces a number of threats and challenges that created from the sea and which are mainly sub conventional in nature. **These threats are**:

- Maritime terrorism;
- Piracy and armed robbery;
- Smuggling and trafficking;
- Infiltration, illegal migration and refugee influx;
- The straying of fishermen beyond the maritime boundary.

Maritime Terrorism:

- Maritime terrorism is defined as '…the undertaking of terrorist acts and actions within the maritime environment, using or against vessels or fixed platforms at sea or in port, or against any one of their passengers or personnel, against coastal facilities or settlements, including tourist resorts, port areas and port towns or cities'.
- Sea based terrorism is not a new marvel. Nevertheless, according to a RAND terrorism database, **sea borne attacks** have constituted **only two per cent of all international terrorist related events over the last 30 years.**

Piracy and Armed Robbery:

- **Piracy and armed robbery** pose a major threat to sea navigation. Piracy by definition takes place on the high seas and, therefore, does not fall under the ambit of coastal security. However, in the case of India, the **shallow waters of the Sundarbans have been witnessing 'acts of violence and detention' by gangs of criminals that are akin to piracy**
- Indian coasts have been vulnerable to smuggling. Gold, electronic goods, narcotics and arms have been smuggled through the sea for a long time.
- The **Gujarat-Maharashtra coast** has always been **susceptible to smuggling**. Physical nearness to the Gulf countries as well as Pakistan, a highly indented shoreline, a well-established criminal network, etc. have favoured wide scale smuggling through these coasts.

Infiltration, Illegal Migration and the Refugee Influx:

- **India's land boundaries have always been permeable to infiltration by terrorists/militants and large-scale unlawful migration**. These large-scale influxes over the decades have resulted in widespread political turmoil in the Border States.

Straying of Fishermen beyond the Maritime Boundary

- The frequent straying of fishermen into neighbouring country waters has not only jeopardised the safety of the fishermen but has also **raised national security concerns**.
- There is a general notion that since some of the maritime boundaries of India are disputed and therefore not clearly demarcated, fisher men inadvertently cross into the waters of neighbouring countries. In reality, however, it has been observed that the fishermen are aware of the maritime boundary but knowingly trespass into the neighbour's territorial waters for a good catch
- **Trespassing by Indian fisher men in Sri Lankan waters also takes place regularly**.

Various Issues Regarding Coastal Security In India

- **Lack of a cooperative mechanism**– Many agencies like **Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Police and other authorities** are tasked with coastal security. Hence the information sharing and coordination is a main problem.
- **Multiplicity of authority**– Bureaucratic power struggle has led to multiplicity of authorities from the union, the states as well as private actors. It leads to delay in decision making while security threats require quick decisions.
- **Lack of effective surveillance mechanisms**– The government has **installed the coastal radar**

systems, sensors and electronic surveillance systems to secure the coastal areas. Still we are incapable to use technology innovatively in coastal security.

- ☐ **Unavailability of necessary infrastructure–** The marine police stations are not working effectively due to shortage of manpower and lack of interceptor boats.
- ☐ **Lack of suitable training in counterterrorism** – Though marine police is tasked with overall coastal security but they are not skilled for counterterrorism.
- ☐ Non-existent of maintenance and operational mechanisms for existing naval assets.

Initiatives in Coastal Security Architecture

Since 2008, coastal and maritime security has been strengthened substantially by successful implementation of technical, organisational and procedural initiatives, by all maritime security agencies. Plugging gaps, where identified, is continuous process that is being addressed appropriately. **The Indian Navy has been the lead agency** in this regard and is **assisted in this task by the Indian Coast Guard, Marine Police and other Central and state agencies.**

Steps taken are:

- ☐ **Indian Maritime Security Strategy (IMSS) 2015 of Indian Navy:** It envisages greater coordination between different maritime agencies;
- ☐ **Coastal Security Scheme (CSS)** is being implemented to strengthen security infrastructure of **Marine Police Force in coastal states/UTs**. It aims to strengthen Surveillance through **Automatic Identification System (AIS)** receivers and a chain of overlapping coastal radars,
- ☐ **Coordination-** At the apex level the National Committee for Strengthening Maritime and Coastal Security (NCSMCS), headed by the Cabinet Secretary, coordinates all matters related to Maritime and Coastal Security.
- ☐ **Joint Operations Centres (JOCs)** - are set up by the Navy as command and control hubs for coastal security at **Mumbai, Visakhapatnam, Kochi and Port Blair** are fully operational.
- ☐ Coastal Surveillance Network, comprising of static sensors along coasts, automatic identification systems (AIS), long range tracking, day-night cameras and communication devices has been put in place.
- ☐ **Operation Sagar Kavach** was put in operation **post 26/11** to improve coordination between security agencies including **Indian Navy, Coast Guard and the local police.**
- ☐ **Training -** The Navy and Coast Guard have also provided periodic maritime training to marine police in all coastal states.
- ☐ Electronic Surveillance to provide near gapless surveillance of the entire coastline as well as prevent the intrusion of undetected vessels under the coastal surveillance network project. The network comprises the **Coastal Radar Chain, the Automatic Identification System (AIS), and VTMS.**

Way Forward

- ☐ Use of technology–satellite-guided friend or foe identification system of the **Indian Space Research Organisation** with a two-way messaging system in all local languages.
- ☐ Recruit sailors who are about to retire, to man the state maritime police forces.
- ☐ **Involvement of Fishermen and coastal communities** in the comprehensive coastal security plan as **'eyes and ears' of security agencies**.
- ☐ **Capacity building of the maritime police force** both in terms of training as well as resources should be done at equivalence with other maritime security agencies like **Navy and Coast Guard**.
- ☐ Upgradation of coastal security infrastructure with modern equipment's and gadgets.
- ☐ There is a suggestion that the Coast Guard, which comes under the Defence Ministry's jurisdiction, will now be placed under the Union Home Ministry and designated as the National Maritime Police (NMP).

Previous Year Questions

1. Cross-border movement of insurgents is only one of the several security challenges facing the

policing of the border in North-East India. Examine the various challenges currently emanating across the India-Myanmar border. Also, discuss the steps to counter the challenges. (UPSC 2019)

2. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is viewed as a cardinal subset of China's larger 'One Belt One Road' initiative. Give a brief description of CPEC and enumerate the reasons why India has distanced itself from the same.(UPSC 2018)

3. The terms 'Hot Pursuit' and 'Surgical Strikes' are often used in connection with armed action against terrorist attacks. Discuss the strategic impact of such actions.(UPSC 2016)

4. Border management is a complex task due to difficult terrain and hostile relations with some countries. Elucidate the challenges and strategies for effective border management.(UPSC 2016)

5. International civil aviation laws provide all countries complete and exclusive sovereignty over the airspace above the territory. What do you understand by airspace? What are the implications of these laws on the space above this airspace? Discuss the challenges which this poses and suggests ways to contain the threat (UPSC 2014)

6. The diverse nature of India as a multi religious and multi-ethnic society is not immune to the impact of radicalism which has been in her neighbourhood. Discuss along with the strategies to be adopted to counter this environment.(UPSC 2014)

7. How illegal transborder migration does pose a threat to India's security? Discuss the strategies to curb this, bring out the factors which give impetus to such migration.(UPSC2014)

8. In 2012, the longitudinal marking of the high-risk areas for piracy was moved from 65° East to 78° east in the Arabian Sea by International Maritime organisation. What impact does this have on India's maritime security concerns?(UPSC 2014)

9. China and Pakistan have entered into an agreement for development of an economic corridor. What thread does it dispose for India's security? Critically examine.(UPSC 2014)

10. How far are India's internal security challenges linked with border management, particularly in view of the long porous borders with most countries of South Asia and Myanmar?(UPSC 2013)

7. Linkages of Organized Crime with Terrorism

"It ought to concern every person, because it is a debasement of our common humanity. It ought to concern every community, because it tears at our social fabric. It ought to concern every business, because it distorts markets. It ought to concern every nation, because it endangers public health and fuels violence and organized crime. I'm talking about the injustice, the outrage, of human trafficking, which must be called by its true name - modern slavery." ~ Barack Obama

What is an Organized Crime?

Understanding the organised criminal group as per **UN convention against Transnational Organised Crime** defines organised criminal group as:

A group of three or more persons that was not randomly formed; existing for a period of time; acting in concert with the aim of committing at least one crime punishable by at least four years' incarceration;

In order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit. **Organised crimes are done with the motive of monetary gains by illegal means**. Organised crimes are **transnational in nature**. Their presence is a great threat for the country's security.

Definition of organised crime as per **Maharashtra control of organised crime act, 1999.**" Organised crime" means any continuing unlawful activity by an individual, singly or jointly, either as a member of an organised crime syndicate or on behalf of such syndicate by using violence or threat of violence or intimidation or coercion, or other unlawful means, with the objective of gaining pecuniary benefits, or gaining undue economic or other advantage for himself or any person or promoting insurgency.

Interpol has defined organised crime as "Any group having a corporate structure whose primary objective is to obtain money through illegal activities, often surviving on fear and corruption"

Organised crime (OC) is highly sophisticated, diversified, and widespread activity that annually drains billions of dollars from the global economy by unlawful conduct and illegal use of force, fraud, and corruption. Organised criminal activities weaken the stability of the nation's economic system, harm innocent investors and competing organisations, interfere with free competition, seriously burdens interstate and foreign commerce, threaten the domestic security and undermine the general welfare of the nation and its citizen.

Organised crime can be grouped to two parts as-

- **Traditional organised crime** (illicit liquor trade, betting, gambling, extortion etc.).
- **Non-traditional organised crime** (money laundering, circulation of fake currency, Hawala transfer etc.)

Factor helping in growth of organised crime

- Increasing demands of illegal goods in global market like trade of Human organs, endangered wild life, drugs etc.
- Geographical terrain and opens borders.
- Globalisation had brought new opportunity and market for these groups.
- Unholy nexus between politicians, bureaucrats and criminals
- Criminalisation of politics.
- Technology also helped them to operate safely hence reducing their risk.
- Return compared to the risk factor is very high.
- India's proximity with drug producing regions like **Golden Crescent in the West and Golden Triangle in the East.**
- The globalisation of the economy has definitely helped the crime syndicates carry out their illegal activities across the borders with great ease. This has been further facilitated by the phenomenon of 'digital money'. Such organisations, very conveniently find safe havens outside the country.

Variants of organised crime

1. Arms trafficking.
2. Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking
3. Narcotics trafficking
4. Human smuggling
5. Money laundering
6. Illegal Immigration
7. Contract Killings
8. Prostitution
9. Fake currency
10. Gold smuggling
11. Maritime piracy
12. Extortion
13. Cybercrime

Similarities between organized Crime and Terrorism

- ☐ A similar personality profile of members belonging to a terrorist or an organized crime group. **Both entities seem to be recruiting their members from the marginal social groups exposed to and burdened by social or political frustrations**. They are the persons attracted by excitement, thrill and risk taking, who despise socially accepted norms.
- ☐ They are **both punishable by law**. Their illegal activities often involve the abuse of the latest technological developments and entail novel high-tech forms of criminal activity.
- ☐ Another common characteristic is a **detailed planning and preparation of their illegal activities**. Both criminal groups display a respect of strict discipline, which includes rigorous rules of behavior and an internal system of punishment for any form of disobedience.
- ☐ **Organized crime and terrorism are also characterized by secrecy and confidentiality of their activities, use of violence** for the purpose of accomplishing certain goals or interests and intimidating the surroundings.

Differences between organized Crime and Terrorism

- ☐ Criminology traditionally defines that the basic difference between organized crime and terrorism **lies in different motives of perpetrators**. Terrorists are supposed to act out of idealistic goals aimed at reforming social reality, immaterial of a particular terrorist organization's vision of that reform and transformation. On the other hand, members of organized crime are believed to act with the aim of gaining personal criminal profit.
- ☐ Terrorist acts are **aimed at accomplishing particular political goals with the help of forbidden and socially unacceptable means**. On the other hand, the goals of organized crime are **predominantly economical, devoid of any political dimension, aimed at gaining and enlarging their own profit**. Their goal is the ultimate economic power followed by the legalization of the acquired profit.
- ☐ These two entities differ regarding the **"visibility" of their activities**. **Organized crime groups do not reveal their goals publicly,** never show their political aspirations openly and aspire to keep their activities fairly "invisible". **Terrorists**, on the other hand, **not only declare their goals openly but they do that in order to gain support from particular target groups** of people so that their determination in accomplishing their goal becomes clear to everyone.
- ☐ **Terrorist organizations claim responsibility for terrorist attacks**, whereas members of the **organized crime groups never assume any responsibility** for their criminal acts.
- ☐ Although it is frequently said that **terrorism and organized crime have the same enemy: the state,** their relationship towards the state is another distinctive feature. While terrorism is characterized by a

constant confrontation with the existing establishment and an attempt to change the government, organized crime is known for its infiltration, bribery of state officials and a selective antagonism towards certain levels of government.

Linkages of Organized Crime with Terrorism

The importance of examining the connection between these two phenomena coincides with the importance of the fight against terrorism and organized crime. **Adequate anti-terrorist and anti- criminal policy at the national and international level** largely depends on understanding each problem separately as well as on understanding their versatile correlations. Despite the obvious organizational and operational characteristics common to both actors, who thereby acquire similar methods as well, they have divergent ultimate goals. The connection between the two may exist as an association, union, cooperation, symbiosis, convergence and metamorphosis. **One of the most obvious aspects of their inter-relatedness is the functional one, which implies putting organized crime in service of terrorism by engaging in criminal activity and financing terrorism from the proceeds of organized crime.**

Financing Terrorism

The global war on terrorism constricted the flow of financial support to terror groups and, in order to circumvent international measures, transnational terrorist organizations moved deeper into the sphere of organized crime.

The link between terrorism and organized crime is thoroughly analyzed and monitored by the **UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC),** which has pointed out that the profit from criminal activity is increasingly used to finance terrorist acts, and that the arms trade and money laundering, as forms of organized crime, have become an integral part of terrorism.

Some of the commonly used examples would be the **financing of the Taliban through opium production in Afghanistan** and **trafficking in cocaine, kidnapping and extortion to finance activities of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).**

Narco-Terrorism

According to the **US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)**, narco-terrorism is "a subset of terrorism," where groups or individuals participate directly or indirectly in the cultivation, manufacture, transportation or distribution of controlled substances and the money derived from these activities".

The very concept is of a **dual nature**, depending on whether the **emphasis is put on drug trafficking or on terrorism.**

Financing terrorism through money laundering

Financing terrorism through money laundering is a very **complex process** involving various relations that are aimed at attempting or a successful ensuring or collecting funds or property, with the intention of using it, in whole or in part, for carrying out a terrorist act.

Human Trafficking and Terrorism

The link between terrorism and drug trafficking has been the matter of analysis for a long time, but only recent activities by **ISIS and Boko Haram** have drawn the attention of the international community to human trafficking.

Human trafficking is used to form military units that serve terrorist organizations. According to the **UN reports, in the last decade**, there has been an **increase in the number of recruited child soldiers and girls** who were subsequently sexually exploited and/or used as logistic support or informants.

Intellectual Property Crime and Terrorism

Intellectual Property Crime (IPC) includes the manufacturing, transporting, storage and sale of counterfeit or pirated goods where the consent of the rights holder has not been obtained. It usually takes the form of

trademark, patent, trade dress or copyright infringement, although these are not mutually exclusive.

In 2016, terrorist organizations in North Africa were allegedly responsible for a contraband tobacco trade valued at $1 billion (Institute for Economics and Peace, 2016). The **smuggling of both cigarettes and counterfeit products is also reported as a significant source of funding for Al-Qaeda.**

Linkages in the Indian Context

North-East India

In the Northeast, **extortion is the fundamental basis for funding all forms of terrorism**. In addition to this, kidnapping has been used extensively for spreading terror and raising funds. **Human trafficking, drug trafficking and gun running** are some of the other criminal activities that have been common in these areas. Government officials in conflict zones are either threatened or bribed to award contracts to individuals patronised by the militant groups.

Contracts apart, **essential commodities like rice and fuel reach the militant groups directly which are then sold to the public at much higher prices. This phenomenon is a clear example of the linkage between organized crime and terrorism in India.**

Jammu and Kashmir
Unlike in the North-East, **reliance on funds from extortion and kidnapping is minimal**. However, external funds compensate for the inadequate internal resource mobilisation. **Cross-border mobilisation of funds from Pakistan and Gulf countries** to select organisations and individuals in Kashmir finally reach the militants. **Money Laundering and Hawala transactions** play a critical role in the transfer of these funds.

In J&K, **counterfeit currency has been a major source of funding terrorism**. Terrorists are the main couriers of Indian counterfeit currency in Kashmir, which then spreads to the rest of India.

Maoist affected regions

In the **Maoist terror movements**, **extortion is yet again a common phenomenon.** They have also indulged in robberies of banks to fund their movement. There have also been reports of cuts beingenforced on drug yielding crops in the region.

Steps taken to tackle organized crime

Indian Initiatives

- ☐ **Anti-Trafficking Nodal Cell** has been set up by **MHA** to act as a **focal point for communicating various decisions**. The government has also signed agreements with Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bahrain etc. to curb trafficking.
- ☐ **Drug trafficking** - Statutory Measures: India has enacted Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS Act) and Prevention of Illicit Trafficking of Narcotics Drug and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988 through which the country is addressing various aspectsof drug problem
- ☐ **International Convention**s: India is signatory to all three UN Conventions namely , the Single Convention on Narcotics Drugs, 1962, the 1971 UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the 1988 UN Convention against Illicit Trafficking of Narcotics Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and has also supported the global efforts led by UN office on drug and crime (UNODC) to curb perpetrating drug menace
- ☐ The government introduced "**The Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018" in Lok Sabha** with the following features:
    - o Establishment of investigation and rehabilitation authorities at the district, state andnational level. Anti-Trafficking Units will be established to rescue victims and investigate cases of trafficking.
    - o Rehabilitation Committees will provide care and rehabilitation to the rescuedvictims.

Previous Year Questions

India's proximity to two of the world's biggest illicit opium-growing states has enhanced her internal security concerns. Explain the linkages between drug trafficking and other illicit activities such as gunrunning, money laundering and human trafficking. What counter-measures should be taken to prevent the same? (UPSC 2018)

Money laundering poses a serious threat to country's economic sovereignty. What is its significance for India and what steps are required to be taken to control this menace? (UPSC 2013)

8. Various Security Forces & Agencies & Their Mandate

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the clouds of war, it is humanity hanging on a cross of iron."
— **Dwight D. Eisenhower**

"We sleep safely at night because rough men stand ready to visit violence on those who would harm us."

— **Winston S. Churchill**

"An army of sheep led by a lion is better than an army of lions led by a sheep."
— **Alexander the Great**

National Security Architecture of India

Functions of various Organisations

Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)

- It is the **apex body** for executive action on matters of **national security**. CCS is responsible for **Political oversight and decision making on national security** ensuring the democratic principle of civilian and political control of the apparatus.
- Both National Security Council and CCS have a common membership which helps in easier decision making and implementation.

Strategic Policy Group (SPG)
- It is mandated to **publish National Defence Review**- a draft of short term and long-term security threats and defence matters for consideration of NSC. The SPG shall be **the principal mechanism for inter-ministerial coordination** and **integration of relevant inputs in the formulation of national security policies**.
- The Cabinet Secretary will coordinate the implementation of SPG decisions by the Union Ministries and departments and State governments.

Defence Planning Committee
- It is tasked to recommend policy measures to **improve India's defence capability and preparedness**, and national security in general.
- To assist in the creation of national security strategy, international defence engagement strategy, roadmap to build a defence manufacturing ecosystem, strategy to boost defence exports, and priority capability development plans.
- Indian Armed Forces, which consist of Defence Forces, Paramilitary Forces and Strategic Force Command plays a major role in ensuring national security.

Law and order is a state subject of the state, therefore the bulk of the policing lies with the respective states and territories of India. Larger cities also operate metropolitan police forces (MPF) under respective state governments. The majority of federal law enforcement agencies are controlled by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Security forces in India can be broadly classified into two:

- Indian Armed Forces
- Central Armed Police Force(CAPF)

Security forces dealing with internal threats

There are many divisions of CAPF:

1. Assam Riffles
2. Border Security Force (BSF)
3. Central Industrial Security Force
4. Central Reserve Police Force
5. Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
6. National Security Guard
7. Sashastra Seema Dal (SSB)

a. Assam Rifles

Role and Tasks:
- **Conduct counter insurgency operations in the north-east** and other areas where deemed necessary, under control of the army.
- During peace and 'proxy war', ensure security of the Indo-China and Indo-Myanmar borders. During war, rear area security in the TBA.
- **Act as penultimate interventionist force of the Central Government** in internal security situation, under the control of army; when the situation goes beyond the control of central paramilitary operations.

History:

The Assam Rifles **came into being in 1835**, as a militia called the '**Cachar Levy'**. This Force was formed to primarily protect British Tea estates and their settlements against tribal raids. Subsequently, all these Forces were reorganised and **renamed as the 'Frontier Force'** as their role was increased to conduct of punitive expeditions across the borders of Assam. This Force significantly contributed in opening the region to administration and commerce and over time they **came to be known as the "right arm of the civil and left arm of the military".** The 'Darrang' Battalion was raised just before the onset of World War–I. **In 1917, recognising their work during the Great War (WW-I), fighting shoulder to shoulder with Rifle Regiments of the regular British Army, the name of the Force was changed to 'Assam Rifles'.** The Post-Independence role of the Assam Rifles continued to evolve ranging from conventional combat role during Sino-India War 1962, operating in foreign land as part of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) to Sri Lanka in 1987 (Op Pawan) to peacekeeping role in the North-Eastern areas of India in the face of growing tribal unrest and insurgency wherein the maintenance of law and order, countering insurgency and reassuring the people of the region became important tasks for the Assam Rifles.

Today the Force remains deployed in some of the most remote and under developed areas and provides security to locals. **Assam Rifles has grown substantially over the years** from 17 battalions in 1960 to 46 battalions at present. The Force also has a Training Centre and a number of Logistics Units. Through its long deployment in the tribal belt, the **Assam Rifles has earned the complete confidence of the locals and has helped considerably in bringing the people of this region into the national main stream.** The humane, just and ever helpful approach of the men of Assam Rifles has truly managed to win hearts and minds earning the Assam Rifles the sobriquet of 'Friends of the North East'.

Fondly called '**Friends of the North East People',** the Force is the highest awarded and decorated Para Military Force of the Republic of India.

- It is **under the control of the MHA** and they perform many roles including the provision of internal security under the control of the army through the conduct of counter insurgency and border security operations, provision of aid to the civilians in times of emergency, and the provision of communications, medical assistance and education in remote areas.
- In times of war they can also be **used as a combat force to secure rear areas** if needed.
- Since **2002** it has been **guarding the Indo–Myanmar barrier** as per the government policy "one border one force".
- Assam Rifles Act 2006 and rules 2010 gives it statutory status, powers, functions, roles,

operations etc.

b. The Border Security Force

The BSF, in its 54th years of existence, has emerged as an **elite force of the country** having excelled with **distinction in the 1971 & Kargil war with Pakistan**. Mission of BSF is "**Any task, Anytime, Anywhere".** The Officers and men have given blood and sweat to uphold its motto "**Jeevan Paryant Kartavya".**

History:

Till 1965 India's borders with Pakistan were manned by the State Armed Police Battalion. **Pakistan attacked Sardar Post, Chhar Bet and Beria Bet on 9 April, 1965 in Kutch**. This exposed the inadequacy of the State Armed Police to cope with armed aggression due to which the Government of India felt the need for a specialized centrally controlled BSF, which would be **armed and trained to man the International Border with Pakistan.** As a result of the recommendations of the Committee of Secretaries, **the Border Security Force came into existence on 01 Dec 1965**, and **Shri K F Rustamji** was **the first chief and founding father of BSF.**

The tasks of the BSF are divided as follow:

Peace time:

- Promote a **sense of security** among the people living in the border areas.
- **Prevent trans-border crimes**, unauthorized entry into or exit from the territory of India.
- Prevent smuggling and any other illegal activity.

War Time:

- Holding ground in less threatened sectors so long as the main attack does not develop in a particular sector and it is felt that the local situation is within the capability of BSF to deal with.
- Protection of vital installations particular air-fields against enemy commandoes/para troopers or raids. The role can be entrusted to the BSF Units which are placed under the Army's operational Control.
- Providing extension to the flanks of main defence line by the holding of strong points in conjunction with other units.
- Limited Aggressive action against para military or irregular forces of the enemy within the overall plan of the Armed Forces.
- Performing special tasks connected with intelligence including raids. These are tasks which might be entrusted to BSF Units by the Army in a war situation according to local necessity.
- Acting as guides in an area of responsibility where routes are known.
- Maintenance of law and order in enemy territory administrated under the control of Army.
- Provision of escorts.
- Guarding of prisoners of war
- Assistance in control of refugees. It is the intention to utilise civil police force and armed Home Guards etc. for these tasks but again depending upon local exigencies, the BSF might be entrusted with these tasks.
- Anti-infiltration duties in specified area. This is an important responsibility which will have to be performed by security forces. The exact responsibility of the BSF in this matter is still under consideration and separate instructions are expected to be issued.

c. CISF

- CISF is an **armed force of the Union** established under an Act of Parliament, "Central

Industrial Security Force Act, 1968".

- In the year 1969, the strength of the force established with the help of 3129 personnel, was increased to 1,41,421 as of 01.03.2020.
- **CISF has 12 reserve battalions, 08 training institutes and 63 other formations.**
- According to the mandate, **CISF provides security to the premises staff along with the security of property and establishments.**
- CISF is providing security to the strategic establishment, including the **Department of Space, the Department of Atomic Energy, the Airports, the Delhi Metro, the ports, the historical monuments and the basic areas of Indian economy** such as petroleum and natural gas, electricity, coal, steel and mining.
- CISF is providing protection to some private sector units and important government buildings in Delhi.
- Presently, CISF is also providing security to the protected persons classified as Z Plus, Z, X, Y.
- **CISF is the only force with a customized and dedicated fire wing**.
- CISF is a compensatory cost force.

History

The CISF came into existence in **1969**, following a **major fire incident in HEC, Ranchi.** Over the last 50 years the force has seen many ups and downs, given the unique mandate with which the force came into existence i.e. to give protection and security to the employees and the property of the Public Sector Undertakings. In keeping with changing demands of the dynamic nature of security, the force has evolved, re-oriented and updated the nature of professional services rendered and metamorphosized from **being an industrial security force into a multi-talented, multi-tasking and multi-faceted force, ready to face newer challenges in the future.**

The Ethos, Values and Ethics policy of an CISF:

- Shape its "Character"
- Create a desired "Identity"
- Lay out principles that guide organization's policies and strategies
- Help set clear "organizational goals"
- Establish "standards for organizational performance"

Consultancy services offered by CISF:

- Threat Perception & Risk analysis
- Access Control & Perimeter protection
- Assessment of Manpower requirements
- Security systems applications
- Security & Fire Audit
- Document security
- Procedures for material Security.
- Internal intelligence.
- Fire protection measures
- Crisis management schemes
- Executive Protection.
- Crowd control and management procedures
- Training in security & fire protection matters to the officers and men of the organization & Security Wing.

d. ITBP:

- Indo-Tibetan Border Police was raised on **October 24, 1962** for reorganizing the frontier intelligence and security set up along the Indo-Tibetan border.
- In 1992, parliament enacted the ITBPF Act and the rules there under were framed in 1994.
- With additional tasks entrusted to ITBP from time to time on border guarding, counter insurgency and internal security roles, the number of ITBP Battalions increased gradually and **ITBP presently has 56 service Battalions, 4 Specialist Battalions, 17 Training Centres and 07 logistics establishments with a total strength of 90,000 personnel.**
- In the year 2004, in pursuance of **GoM recommendations on "One Border One Force",** the entire stretch of India-China Border comprising 3488 Kms was assigned to the ITBP for Border Guarding duty and, accordingly, ITBP, replaced Assam Rifles in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh in 2004.
- The motto of the Force is "**Shaurya-Dridhata-Karma Nishtha"** (Valour – Determination – Devotion to Duty).

Tasks of ITBP:

Presently ITBP has been **guarding India-China border in Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh states** from **the Karakoram Pass in Jammu & Kashmir to Jechap La in Arunachal Pradesh.** The altitude of ITBP BOPs ranges from 9,000 ft to 18,750 ft where temperature dips to (-) 45 degree Celsius.

- Vigil on the northern borders, detection and prevention of border violations, and promotion of the sense of security among the local populace.
- Check illegal immigration, trans-border smuggling and crimes.
- Security to sensitive installations, banks and protected persons.
- Restore and preserve order in any area in the event of disturbance.
- ITBP Battalions are also providing security to various installations of national importance throughout the country, which includes **Rashtrapati Bhawan, Vice President House, Rumtek Monastery (Sikkim), Tihar Jail (N Delhi), LBSNAA (UKD) and various sensitive installations in Chandigarh (Punjab) & Jammu (J&K).**
- At present, a well-equipped and highly trained team of elite commandos are deployed in Afghanistan for providing security to the Indian Embassy in Kabul and 4 Consulates General.
- **ITBP has also excelled in UN peacekeeping operations**. The Force personnel were deployed for peacekeeping operations in Angola, Namibia, Cambodia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Mozambique and Kosovo.
- ITBP is also providing security, communication and medical cover to the pilgrims during the **Annual Kailash Mansarovar Yatra since 1981**.
- Being the **first responder for natural Disaster in Himalayas**, ITBP was the **first to establish 7 Regional Response Centres** and carried out numerous rescue and relief operations in all disaster situations, which took place in our areas of responsibility as well as other parts of the country. In a historic rescue and relief operation in 2013, the ITBP saved 33,009 pilgrims from grave situation from char dham yatra routes in Uttarakhand in the 15 day rescue effort by the Force.
- ITBP conducts a large number of **medical civic action programmes in remote border and terrorist/naxal affected areas** to provide free and expert medical, health and hygiene care to the civilian population in remote villages.
- ITBP is at **the forefront of movement for the preservation of Himalayan environment & ecology.** ITBP has taken up in a big way the task of greening the Himalayan regions especially in Inner Himalayas.

e. National Security Guards:

NSG is **Federal Contingency World Class Zero Error Force** to deal with anti-terrorist activities in all its manifestation. The NSG is a Force specially equipped and trained to deal with specific situations and is therefore, to be used only in exceptional circumstances to thwart serious acts of terrorism.

Ethos:

- Pursuit for excellence
- Lead from the front.
- Zero Error.
- Speed, surprise, stealth, precision and accuracy are its hall marks.

History of NSG:

- The Union Cabinet in **1984** took a decision to create a **Federal Contingency Force** comprising of personnel who are highly motivated, specially equipped and well trained to tackle the various manifestations of terrorism.
- In June 1984, a nucleus consisting of the **Director General of NSG and other essential elements** were sanctioned and steps were initiated to raise the Force.
- A bill for creation of this Organization was introduced in the **Parliament in August 1986 and it received the assent of the President on September 22, 1986 and the National Security Guard (NSG) formally came into being from that date.**
- The **basic philosophy of NSG is swift and speedy strike and immediate withdrawal from the theatre of action.** National Security Guard has been given the Specific Role to handle all facets of terrorism in any part of the country as a Federal Contingency Force.
- The NSG was **modelled on the pattern of the SAS of the UK and GSG-9 of Germany**. It is a task-oriented Force and has two complementary elements in the form of the Special Action Group (SAG) comprising Army personnel and the Special Ranger Groups (SRG), comprising personnel drawn from the Central Armed Police Forces / State Police Forces.

 The specific objectives of the NSG commandos are:
a. Neutralisation of specific terrorist threats.
b. Handling hijacking situations in the air and on the land.
c. Engaging and neutralising terrorists in specific situations.
d. Bomb disposal (search, detection and neutralisation of IEDs).
e. Post Blast Investigation (PBI).
f. Rescue of hostages in kidnap situation.

The National Security Guard Commandos are **trained for high - risk tasks like counter-terrorism, counter-hijack and bomb disposal operations.** They are also assigned the task of providing 'close protection' to designated protectees.

Immediate Back Up Security Operations (IBUS) - NSG Task Forces (TFs) are deployed for IBUS operations as part of security arrangements **during the events of national importance, including Republic Day and Independence Day celebrations, to thwart any terror strike**. During the year, 49 events have been covered by the NSG.

f. Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

- In the wake of the **Chinese conflict in 1962, it was felt that the borders of the country could not be protected with the force of rifles alone**. It required the backing and resolute will of a committed border population. In addition, **it needed an in-depth understanding and familiarity of the terrain as well as the culture and ethos of the border population**. A need was, therefore, realized for the creation of a unique, unconventional yet specialized organization, which would function in the far, flung, vulnerable, strategic, remote, climatically and topographically difficult border areas and motivate the border population across several states towards the cause of protecting our national sovereignty.
- The **Special Service Bureau (now Sashastra Seema Bal)** was thus conceived in **November 1962** and eventually created in March 1963 with the sole objective of achieving 'Total security preparedness' in the remote border areas for performing a 'stay-behind' role in the event of a war.
- **SSB was started in North Assam, North Bengal, hill districts of Uttar Pradesh (now Uttarakhand), Himachal Pradesh, part of Punjab and Ladakh area of J&K.**
- Later, the jurisdiction of SSB was extended to Manipur, Tripura and Jammu (1965), Meghalaya (1975), Sikkim (1976), Rajasthan (1985), South Bengal, Nagaland and Mizoram(1989).
- **Its area of coverage included 15 states**. SSB in the erstwhile role was covering a population of more than 5.73 crores living in about 80,000 villages and about 9917 Kms of India's international borders.

After the Kargil war, the **Subramanayam Committee's Report** was considered by a Group of Ministers for **relocation of all Para-military forces** to achieve optimum efficiency by assigning one border for each force.

- SSB was declared as a **Border Guarding Force** in **15th January, 2001** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs** and renamed as **"Sashastra Seema Bal"** on 15th December, 2003.
- In 2001 SSB was given the **mandate to guard the Indo-Nepal Border** (1751 Kms) and was declared the **Lead Intelligence Agency** for that area.
- The added responsibility of guarding **Indo – Bhutan Border was given to SSB in 2004** along with being declared the Lead Intelligence Agency for that border

SSB's present charter of duties is to:

- Safeguard the **security of assigned borders of India** and promote sense of security among the people living in border areas.
- **Prevent trans-border crimes**, smuggling and any other illegal activities.
- Prevent unauthorized entry into or exit from the territory of India.
- Carry out **civic action programme** in the area of responsibility.
- Perform any other duty assigned by the Central Government.

g. CRPF

Initially raised as the 'Crown Representative Police' in 1939 at Neemuch, Madhya Pradesh, **the Force was rechristened as Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) after Independence**. Since then, the Force has grown in its strength and capabilities.

The mission of the Central Reserve Police Force shall be to enable the government to **maintain Rule of Law, Public Order and Internal Security effectively and efficiently, to Preserve National Integrity and Promote Social Harmony and Development** by upholding supremacy of the Constitution.

Broad duties being performed by the CRPF are:

- Crowd control

- Riot control
- Counter Militancy / Insurgency operations.
- Dealing with Left Wing Extremism
- Overall co-ordination of large scale security arrangement specially with regard to elections in disturbed areas.
- Fighting enemy in the event of War.
- Participating in UN Peace Keeping Mission as per Govt. policy.
- Rescue and Relief operations at the time of Natural Calamities and disasters.

Issues with CAPF functioning

- **Working Conditions:** The Standing Committee on Home Affairs in the year 2017 had expressed concern over the working conditions of personnel of the border guarding forces.

o The Committee observed that they had to **work 16-18 hours a day**, with little time for rest or sleep.

o The personnel were also **not satisfied with medical facilities** that had been provided at border locations.

o In addition, the Standing Committee observed that **personnel of the CAPFs have not been treated at par with the Armed Forces, in terms of pay and allowances**.

- **Operational Bottlenecks:** All CAPFs have set up training institutions to meet their training requirements and impart professional skills on specialised topics.

o However, there is an urgent need to upgrade the curriculum and infrastructure in these training institutes.

- **Impediments to Modernisation:** The MHA has been making **efforts to provide modern arms, ammunition, and vehicles to the CAPFs**. In this regard, the Modernization Plan-II, for the period 2012-17, was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security.

o The Plan aims to provide financial support to CAPFs for modernisation in areas of arms, clothing, and equipment.

o However, the Estimates Committee observed that the procurement process under the Plan was cumbersome and time consuming.

- **Burdened By States' Responsibilities:** There is heavy dependence of states on central armed police forces (CAPFs), even for everyday law and order issues.
o This affects the **anti-insurgency and border guarding operations**, besides curtailing the training needs of these forces.

- **Cadre Management Issue:** Each of the seven has its own cadre of officers, but they are headed by officers of the Indian Police Service.

o This has a demoralizing effect on the officers of the CAPFs, and impacts the effectiveness of the forces.

o In addition, there was frustration in CAPFs due to stagnation in promotions and lack of cadre review.

Way Forward

- **Modernising the CAPFs:** MHA should ensure the bottlenecks in procurement should be identified and corrective action should be taken.

o Further, the government should engage in negotiations with ordnance factories and manufacturers in the public or private sector, to ensure an uninterrupted supply of equipment and other infrastructure.

o While purchasing the latest equipment, training needs should also be taken care of, and if required, should be included in the purchase agreement itself.

- Moreover, given the **evolution of hybrid warfare**, the contents of training should be a **mix of conventional matters as well as latest technologies** such as ICT, and cyber security.
- **Augmenting States' Capacity:** States must develop their own systems, and augment their police forces by providing adequate training and equipment.
  - The central government should supplement the efforts of state governments by providing financial assistance and other help needed by states for capacity building of their forces.
- **Corrective Measures in Cadre Policy:** Citing the dissatisfaction in Cadre policy, **Joshi Committee recommended that top positions should be filled from the respective cadre of the CAPF.**
  - Further, the Committee recommended that cadre review of all the CAPFs should be carried out within a defined timeline.
  - It is high time to implement these recommendations as soon as possible.
- **Personnel Reforms: Workshops on stress management** should regularly be undertaken, and **yoga and meditation** be made part of the daily exercise for CAPF personnel.
  - Further, the provision of accommodation near the deployment of the respective force, to enable personnel to meet their family members, can also be explored.
- **Martyr status** when they die fighting
- Need of a **separate grievance redressal** mechanism and a **separate tribunal for paramilitary** forces.
- For equivalence in allowance **"one area, one allowance"** should be implemented. It gives same **allowance for both military and paramilitary** deployed in same area.

Measures Taken by Government to improve functioning of CAPF

- Improved dispute resolution, communication facility in field areas, yoga etc. have been introduced.
- **Increased communication between jawans and officers** were part of the 14 measures undertaken by government to boost morale.
- In 2015, Delhi HC ordered government to give **pay upgrade to Group A officers of paramilitary according to 6th Central Pay Commission.**
- To improve gender equality in the paramilitary –
- The government permitted **reservation of 33% women at the constable rank in CRPF and CISF**.
- It also set a **15% share in the border forces BSF, SSB and ITBP for women**.

Integrated Theatre Command:

An integrated theatre command **envisages a unified command of the three Services**, **under a single commander, for geographical theatres (areas) that are of strategic and security concern**. The commander of such a force will be able to bear all resources at his disposal — from the Army, the Indian Air Force, and the Navy — with seamless efficacy.

The integrated theatre commander will not be answerable to individual Services. Integration and jointness of the three forces will avoid duplication of resources. The resources available under each service will be available to other services too. The services will get to know one another better, strengthening cohesion in the defence establishment.

The **Shekatkar committee has recommended the creation of 3 integrated theatre commands**
— northern for the China border, western for the Pakistan border, and southern for the maritime role.

Advantages of an Integrated Theatre Command

- An integrated theatre command is one that enables the pooling of resources of all three services under a single commander, towards securing a particular geographical area.
- A **military commander in charge of a joint command will have the resources of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force** at his disposal in the face of a national security threat.
- The commander can also carry out joint training while benefiting from the logistics of all three services.
- The **concept of an integrated theatre command originated in the US**. The US has eleven unified commands. In 2016, China, emulating the US, reorganised its military into five joint theatre commands.
- Given that **India has the fourth-largest military in the world**, with each service acting independent of the other, the creation of integrated theatre commands is the need of the hour.
- Integrated Theatres will also optimise resource utilisation and would certainly involve savings that can be utilised for force modernisation.

Integrated Theatre Command Challenges

Some of the challenges faced in the implementation of the integrated theatre commands are discussed below.

- **Structure of command:** Who will report to who within the tri-services and joint theatre command configurations, and who will have operational command over personnel and machinery, service chiefs or theatre commanders is a question to be pondered over.
- **Shortage of resources within the Indian Air Force (IAF):** The IAS has only 31 operational squadrons against the sanctioned strength of 42. This would make it difficult for the IAF to permanently station assets in a particular command with territorial boundaries.
- **Inter-services competition:** Each service zealously oversees its own assets and strives for a greater share of the defence budget and influence, this might prove to be an obstacle in creating synergy among the services.
- **Limited experience:** India's lack of enough experience in integrated theatre commands will mean that as such commands evolve, some course corrections might be required.

The Indian military of the 21st century must be equipped to cope with the challenges with which it is likely to be confronted, **not only with hardware and manpower of the desired quantity and quality but equally with structures** that will exploit these capabilities in the most efficient and economical way.

h. Chief of Defense Staff

What is Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)?

- **Background:** Its creation was recommended in 2001 by a Group of Ministers (GoM) that was tasked with studying the **Kargil Review Committee (1999) report.**
- After the GoM recommendations, in preparation for the post of CDS, the Government created the **Integrated Defence Staff** in **2002**, which was to eventually serve as the **CDS's Secretariat**.
- In 2012, the Naresh Chandra Committee recommended the appointment of a Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee as a midway to eliminate apprehensions over the CDS.
- Finally, **the post of CDS was created in 2019** on the recommendations of a committee of defence experts headed by **Lt General DB Shekatkar**.
- **General Bipin Rawat was the first CDS in the country** and was appointed on December 31, 2019.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- His core function will be to foster greater operational synergy between the three service branches of the Indian military and keep inter-service frictions to a minimum.
- He also **heads the newly created Department of Military Affairs (DMA)** in the Ministry of Defence.

- **The CDS will be the single-point military adviser to the Defence Minister** on matters involving all three services and the service chiefs will be obliged to confine their counsel to issues pertaining to their respective services.
- As the head of DMA, **CDS is vested with the authority in prioritising inter-service procurement decisions** as Permanent Chairman-Chiefs of Staff Committee.
- The CDS is also vested with the authority to provide directives to the three chiefs. However, he does not enjoy any command authority over any of the forces.
- **CDS is first among equals**, he enjoys the **rank of Secretary within the DoD** (Department of Defence) and his powers will be confined to only the revenue budget.
- He will also perform an **advisory role in the Nuclear Command Authority (NCA).**

Significance:

1. **Synergy between Armed forces and Government: CDS' role is not simply about tri-service** (Army, Navy and Indian Air Force) cooperation, it is **equally about fostering better cooperation between the Ministry of Defense bureaucracy and the Armed services.**

- Since 1947, there have been **three Service Headquarters (SHQ) designated as "Attached Offices"** of the Department of Defense (DoD). Due to this, communication between SHQ and DoD takes place largely through the medium of files.
- With the creation of CDS as Principal Military Adviser (PMA) to Defense Minister, the process of decision-making will be accelerated.

2. **Jointness in operations:** The Chiefs of Staff Committee-COSC (predecessor of CDS), has been dysfunctional because its chairmanship is held by one of the three chiefs on a part-time rotational basis.

- Historically, the chairman COSC lacked the authority as well as capacity and inclination to tackle tri-service issues of substance.
- With the **CDS now being designated as "permanent chairman of COSC"**, he will be able to devote undivided attention to the administration of tri-service organisations.

3. **Operationalisation of Theatre Command:** Creation of DMA will facilitate the operationalisation of joint/theatre command.

- Although a successful template for joint operations was created in the Andaman & Nicobar Command, the lack of political direction and indifference of the COSC has led to inactivity of this joint command.
- Theatre commands would need staff with the knowledge and experience to deploy land, maritime and air forces. Given the disruptive impact of each of these measures, they would best be implemented by the CDS.

4. **CDS as a key functionary in the nuclear command chain will also administer the Strategic Forces Command.**

- This measure will go a long way in enhancing the credibility of India's nuclear deterrent.
- The CDS would also initiate an early review of India's Nuclear Doctrine.

In the approaching era of dwindling defence budgets, a crucial function of CDS will be "prioritising" the capital acquisition proposals of individual services.

Women in combat role

Recently, the **Indian army has invited applications from eligible women candidates for recruitment of Soldier in Women Military Police**.

- Army has an **eventual aim to constitute 20% of the military police cadre from their ranks.**

- The armed forces have till now **inducted women only as officers** and have not allowed them to join the "fighting arms" like the infantry, armored corps, and artillery or serve on operational warships.

Women in Defense Forces

- The government had announced that **women would be inducted as soldiers or Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR)** in the military police from 2019 onwards.

- Currently, only Indian Air Force inducts women in a combat role as fighter pilots.

- The **Air Force has 13.09% of women officers,** the highest among all three forces.

- The **Army has 3.80% of women officers**, while the **Navy has 6% of women officers.**

Cons of Women in Combat Role

- **Physical Ability:** While the majority of jobs in the armed forces are open equally to men and women, there are some to which women are just not physically suited.

  o The standards of physical fitness have been set to suit men, and women attempting to reach them will over-stretch themselves.

- **Morale & Cohesion:** Having women serving in direct combat will hamper mission effectiveness by hurting unit morale and cohesion.

- **Military readiness:** Pregnancy can affect the deployability of a unit when the unit has a disproportionate number of women or is understaffed.

- **Tradition**: Men, especially those likely to enlist, maintain traditional gender roles. Harassment and resentment of the presence of women in a hyper-masculine military subculture would likely become a problem.

- **Abuse by Enemy:** Both male and female prisoners are at risk of torture and rape, but misogynistic societies may be more willing to abuse women prisoners.

Pros of Women in Combat Role

- **Gender is not a hindrance:** As long as an applicant is qualified for a position, one's gender is arbitrary. It is easy to recruit and deploy women who are in better shape than many men sent into combat.

- **Military Readiness:** Allowing a mixed gender force keeps the military strong. The armed forces are severely troubled by falling retention and recruitment rates. This can be addressed by allowing women in the combat role.

- **Effectiveness:** The blanket restriction for women limits the ability of commanders in theater to pick the most capable person for the job.

- **Tradition:** Training will be required to facilitate the integration of women into combat units. Cultures change over time and the masculine subculture can evolve too.

- **Cultural Differences & Demographics:** Women are more effective in some circumstances than men. Allowing women to serve doubles the talent pool for delicate and sensitive jobs that require interpersonal skills, not every soldier has.

Previous Year Questions

1. Human rights activists constantly highlight the view that the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) is a draconian act leading to cases of human rights abuses by the security forces. What sections of AFSPA are opposed by the activists? Critically evaluate the requirement with reference to the view held by the Apex Court.(2015)

2. Central Armed Forces give a semblance of existence of government administration even in the remotest corners of the country. However, there are many issues that hamper their functioning. Comment.