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CHALLENGES TO INTERNAL SECURITY

1. EMERGING NEW THREATS

Context: India faces a wide array of challenges to its internal security that include not only traditional military and nuclear threats, but a vast type of threats such as **terrorism, cyber security, and other demographic challenges.**

Emerging Threats

- **Cyber security:** The cybercrimes transcend geographical boundaries, which make it tough to track criminals. As per the **CERT-In data**, cyber security incidents related to government has increased significantly. **Recent example:**-Cyber-attack on AIIMS and cyber-attack on twitter handle of **Ministry of Jal Shakti**. **Various Challenges to Cyber Security:**
 - ▶ **Cyber Terrorism:** Cyberterrorism is the use of the Internet to conduct violent acts that result in, or threaten, the loss of life or significant bodily harm, in order to achieve political or ideological gains through threat or intimidation.
 - ▶ **Digital Data threat:** Cyber criminals Besides, looking to mine data (customer information, results of product surveys, and generic market information), try to create intellectual property that is in itself an attractive target.
 - ▶ **Cyber warfare:** Cyber warfare involves the actions by a nation-state or international organization to attack and attempt to damage another nation's computers or information networks through, for example, computer viruses or denial-of-service attacks.
- **Climate change as a destabilising threat:** One of the most critical issues concerning India's security is climate change and its impact. Dwindling freshwater resources has led to many inter-state water tussles, one of which was witnessed in the **Cauvery row**. Such endeavours may not only affect the environment but also lead to a threat to internal security.
- **New form of Terrorism:** Terrorism is taking new shape with increased incidents of lone wolf attacks. They are neither limited by territorial boundaries, nor do they recognise the concept of sovereignty. The use of suicide bombers, sophisticated technology and tactics such as leaderless movements, sleeper cells networks have made it increasingly difficult for the governments to get rid of terrorist groups.
- **New technologies:** New technologies like drones, transparent cameras, robotics etc. have the potential of snooping into India's security set up. For Example-Pakistani drone was recently fired down by Indian army in Rajasthan.
- **Internal security challenges:** India faces a range of internal security challenges, including insurgencies in some states, communal violence, and extremist movements. These challenges pose a threat to India's social cohesion and stability.
- **Border disputes:** India shares borders with several neighboring countries, including China and Pakistan, with whom it has ongoing territorial disputes. These disputes have the potential to escalate into military conflicts, posing a threat to India's security.

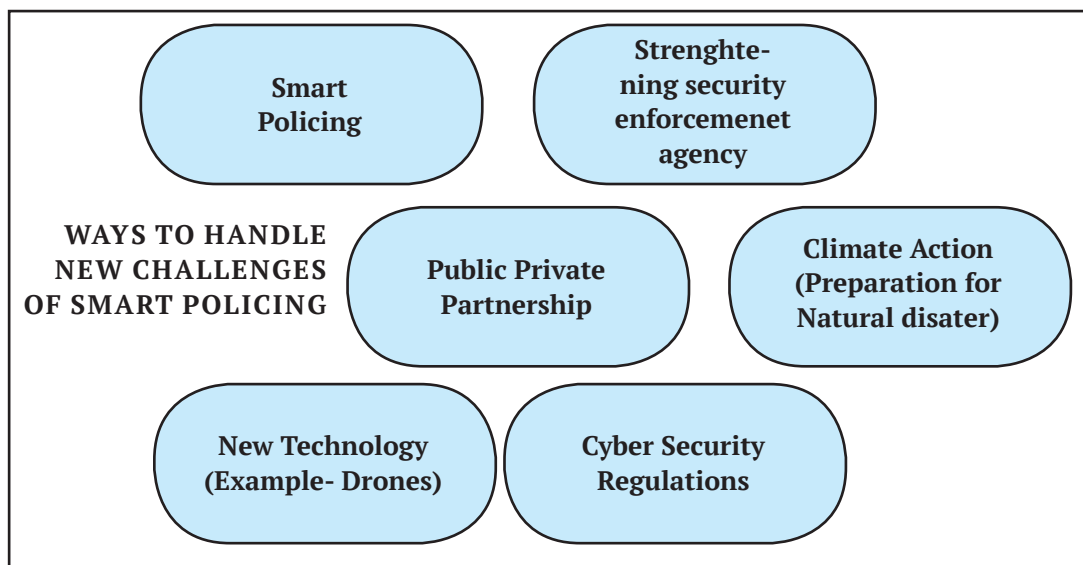
Government measures to strengthen India's security

The Indian government has undertaken a range of measures to strengthen India's security. Here are some of the key initiatives:

- **Modernization of the armed forces:** The Indian government has undertaken a major modernization program to upgrade the capabilities of its armed forces. This includes the acquisition of new weapons and equipment, as well as the development of indigenous defense technologies.
- **Border infrastructure development:** The government has undertaken a major infrastructure development program along India's border with China and Pakistan. This includes the construction of roads, bridges, and tunnels to improve connectivity and mobility for Indian troops in border areas.
- **Intelligence and surveillance:** The Indian government has invested in strengthening its intelligence and surveillance capabilities to better track and respond to security threats. This includes the establishment of new intelligence agencies and the deployment of advanced surveillance technologies.
- **Counterterrorism measures:** The government has taken several measures to counter terrorism, including strengthening anti-terrorism laws, enhancing border security, and improving intelligence sharing and cooperation with other countries.
- **Cybersecurity:** The government has taken several steps to enhance India's cybersecurity, including the establishment of a national cybersecurity agency and the development of a cybersecurity strategy.
- **Strategic partnerships:** The Indian government has strengthened strategic partnerships with other countries to enhance its security. This includes defense agreements and partnerships with countries such as the United States, Russia, and Israel.

Major Steps taken by India to strengthen cyber security

- **Computer security through CERT-IN:** - CERT-In responds to computer security incidents, report on vulnerabilities and promote effective IT security practices throughout the country.
- **National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC):** - NCCC is an operational cybersecurity and e-surveillance agency in India.
- **National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC):** - It functions under the National Technical Research Organization (NTRO).
- **Section 66F of ITA:** - It covers denial of access, unauthorized access, introduction of computer contaminant leading to harm to persons, property, critical infrastructure, disruption of supplies, 'sensitive data' thefts.



Practice Question

Q. There is also growing concerns in cyber threats to critical infrastructure. Evaluate the preparedness of India in dealing with these threats.

PYQ

Q. Cyberwarfare is considered by some defence analysts to be a larger threat than even Al Qaeda or terrorism. What do you understand by Cyberwarfare? Outline the cyber threats which India is vulnerable to and bring out the state of the country's preparedness to deal with the same. (2013)

2. THE RISE OF 'COMMUNALISM', A THREAT TO INDIA

Context Intolerance may cause India to devolve from a secular to a communal state, threatening the fraternity, integrity and security of India.

Factors responsible for Communalism's emergence in India

- **Communal Parties' Presence:** Religion has become a key means of political socialisation in India, responsible for the creation of communalism, either directly or indirectly.
- **A Legacy of the Past:** India was partitioned based on Jinnah's "Two Nation" doctrine. Communal politics played an ugly game.
- **Poverty:** Poverty a major cause of backwardness, illiteracy, and ignorance, among other things. Religious fundamentalists and fanatics readily trap the unemployed youth of both populations. They use them to incite communal unrest.
- **Social Concern:** Social and cultural diversity playing a role in increase in grudges in society for social and cultural rights of the people.
- **Communalisation of Politics:** Political parties have communalised their political agenda to secure votes and position.
- **Governmental failure:** Both the federal and state governments frequently fail to prevent communalism in the country. They fail to take any preventative precautions due to a lack of prior information. As a result, communal violence has the potential to kill innocent people and destroy property.

Consequences of Communalism:

- **Genocides:** The poor are the true victims of **mass killings**, as they lose their homes, their loved ones, their lives, their livelihood, and so on. It infringes on human rights in every way. When children lose their parents, they may become orphans for the rest of their lives.
- **Emigration:** Sudden increases in violence against a community result in **mass emigration and stampedes**, which result in the deaths of a large number of people.
- **Dangerous to nation's unity:** It is a danger to **Indian constitutional ideals**, which promote secularism and religious tolerance, in addition to having an impact on society. Citizens fail to fulfil their fundamental duties to the nation in this scenario, posing a threat to the nation's unity and integrity as a whole.
- **Separation of people and society:** It just fosters feelings of animosity in all directions, separating society along communal lines.
- **Barrier to development:** Communal activities that occur regularly hurt the country's human resource and economy.

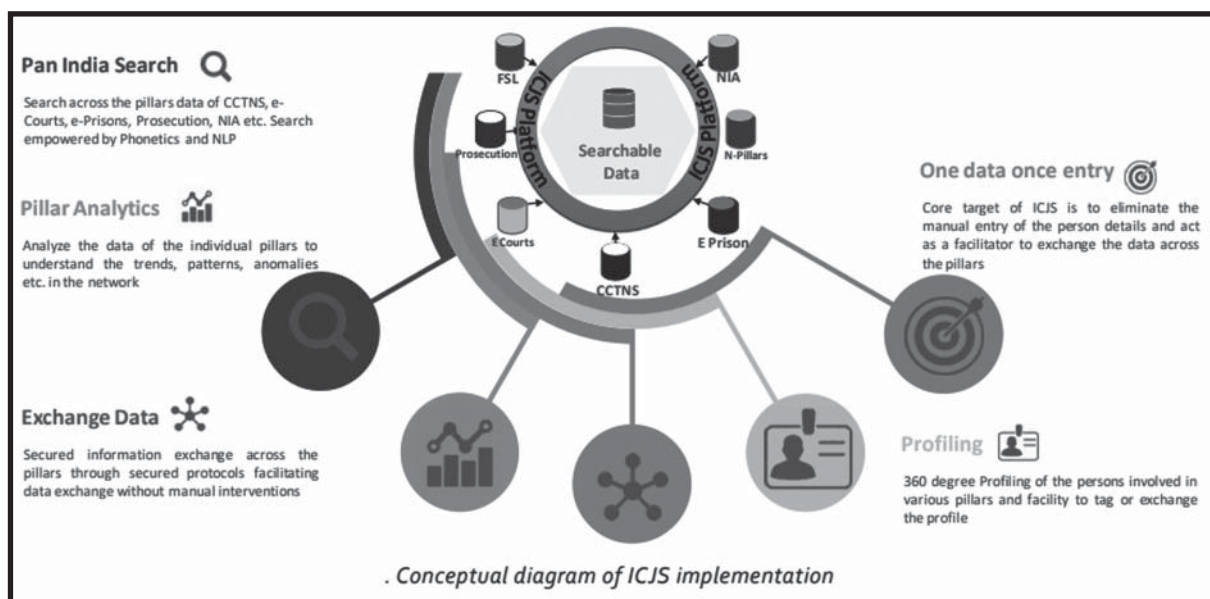
3. INTEROPERABLE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Context The Centre approved the implementation of **Phase II** of the **Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)** project by the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.

About Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS):

- Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) is a **national platform** for **enabling integration of the main IT system** used for delivery of Criminal Justice in the country by **five pillars namely:-**
 - Police (Crime and Criminal Tracking and Network Systems)
 - e-Forensics for Forensic Labs
 - e-Courts for Courts
 - e-Prosecution for Public Prosecutors
 - E-Prisons for Prisons
- In **Phase-I** of the ICJS project, individual IT systems have been implemented and stabilized; also search of records have been enabled on these systems.
- Under **Phase-II**, the system is being built on the principle of '**one data one entry**' whereby data is entered only once in one pillar and the same is then available in all other pillars without the need to re-enter the data in each pillar.

- **Implementing Agency:** National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) will be responsible for the implementation of the project in association with the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- The project will be implemented in collaboration with the States and Union Territories.
- The ICJS system would be made available through a dedicated and secure **cloud-based infrastructure** with **high speed connectivity**.



Practice Question

Q. Discuss the need for interoperable criminal justice system in India. What are the challenges in deploying this technology in policing?

4. INTEGRATION OF CENTRAL AGENCY WITH CRIME AND CRIMINAL TRACKING NETWORK SYSTEM (CCTNS)

Syllabus: Challenges to internal security through communication Networks, the role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security;

Context Union Home Minister Amit Shah has stated that the data of Central agencies such as CBI, NIA etc., should be integrated with **Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS)**.

What is Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System?

- CCTNS is a programme through which around 16,000 police stations all over India have been connected so that their data could be shared.
- This programme was implemented by **National Crime Records Bureau**.

What will be the benefit of integrating the data of Central agencies with CCTNS?

- **Data collection** of criminals and criminal activities in India would be complete.
- This will make **tracing the criminals and their crime history** easy.

The second phase of ICJS

- The **second phase of the Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)** will be implemented by the Centre Government by the year 2026.
- ICJS is an initiative of the Ministry of Home Affairs to **enable seamless transfer of data and information among different pillars of the criminal justice system**, like courts, police, jails and forensic science laboratories, from one platform.

What are the features of ICJS?

- The ICJS system would be made available through a **dedicated and secure cloud-based infrastructure with high speed connectivity**.
- Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) is a national platform for **enabling integration of the main IT system used for delivery of Criminal Justice** in the country by five pillars namely:-
 - Police (Crime and Criminal Tracking and Network Systems)
 - e-Forensics for Forensic Labs
 - e-Courts for Courts
 - e-Prosecution for Public Prosecutors
 - e-Prisons for Prisons
- In **Phase-I of the ICJS project (2018-2022)**, individual IT systems have been implemented and stabilized; also search of records have been enabled on these systems.
- Under **Phase-II (2022-23 to 2025-26)**, the system is being built on the principle of '**one data one entry**' whereby data is entered only once in one pillar and the same is then available in all other pillars without the need to re-enter the data in each pillar.

Which is the implementing agency of ICJS?

- **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** will be responsible for the implementation of the project in association with **National Informatics Centre (NIC)**.
- The project will be implemented in collaboration with the States and Union Territories.

What will be the benefits of ICJS?

- **Easy accessibility:** With the aid of the ICJS platform, the metadata of FIR and charge sheet can be accessed by all the High Courts and subordinate courts.
- **Easing it for courts:** Documents like FIR, case diary and charge sheet are uploaded by police in PDF format for utilization by the courts.
- **Real-time information:** The ICJS platform is an effective tool for the case and court management, as all the relevant information of a case will be available in real-time for use by the courts.
- **Effective compliance:** Compliance of judicial orders and summons can also be achieved expeditiously, ensuring effective time management.
- **Enhanced productivity:** The ICJS is going to be a milestone to enhance the productivity of the criminal justice system both qualitatively and quantitatively.

Practice Question

Q. What is Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS)? How will CCTNS help in creating effective policing in India?

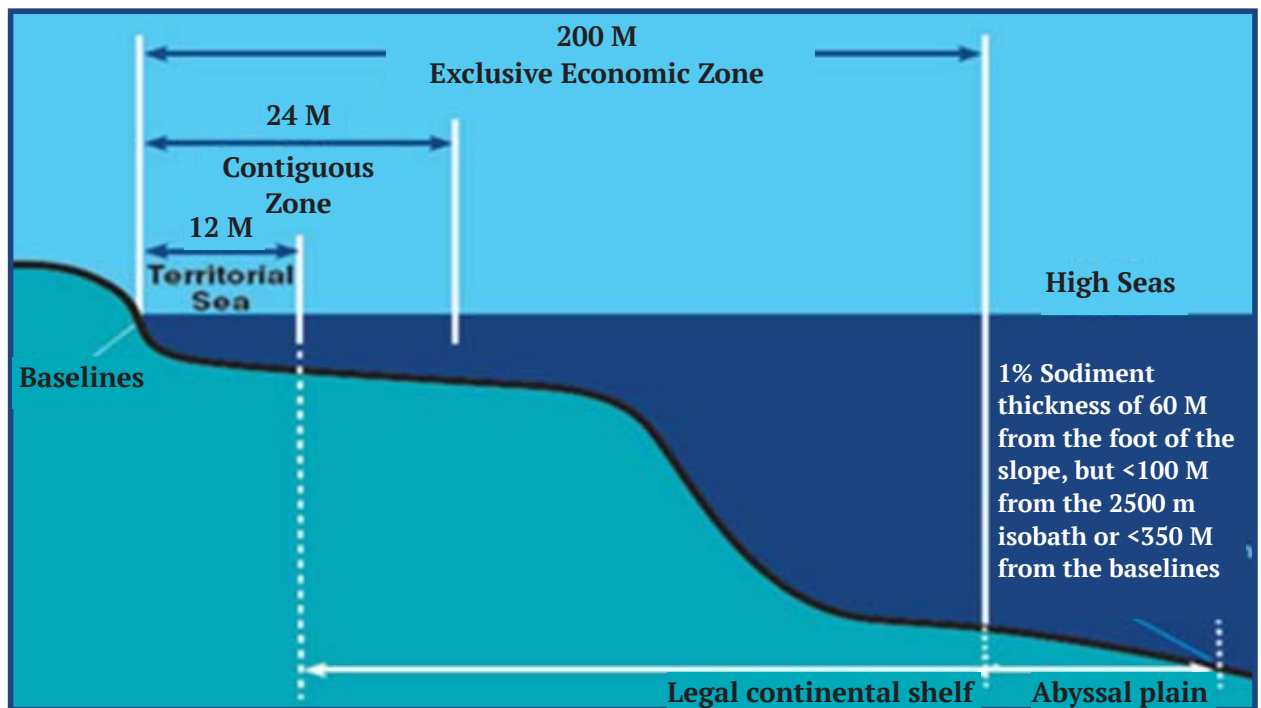
5. EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE & INDIA'S MARITIME GOVERNANCE

Context

According to the Indian Navy, more than **200 Chinese fishing vessels** have been monitored in the Indian Ocean in the year 2022, which further highlights the **illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU)** activities to continue beyond India's **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)**.

What is an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)?

- The EEZ is an area that is adjacent to and beyond the territorial sea. It can extend to a **maximum of 200 nautical miles from the baseline**.
- The baseline is normally measured is the low-water line along the coast as indicated on large-scale charts officially approved by the coastal state.
- The EEZ does not include the territorial sea and also does not include the **continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles**.



Threats for India

- **India territory with huge coastline** is vulnerable to the threats emerging from maritime domain.
- **Maritime terrorism** (Mumbai attack of 26/11)
- **China** is rising, emerging as a serious challenger.
- **Other issues:** Piracy, Terrorism, Illegal migration, Transnational Organised crimes, Environmental Concern

Governance of coastal security:

Currently, coastal security of India is governed by a three-tiered structure.

- **Indian Navy** patrols the **International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL)**
- **Indian Coastal Guard** is mandated to do patrolling and surveillance up to **200 nautical miles (i.e., EEZ)**.
- **State Coastal/Marine Police (SC/MP)** performs boat patrolling in **shallow coastal areas (12 nautical miles)**.

Why maritime security is important for India?

- **Water for trade:** India's major import and exports is carried out through the maritime water, thus enhancing the importance of securing coastlines is imperative of economic growth.
- **Maritime threats:** India's huge coastlines, around 7000km, increases the vulnerability to maritime threats as testified by **26/11 Mumbai attacks**.
- **Blue economy:** One of the major economic activities of the coastal states of India, comprising around 4% of the Indian economy, with an immense future potential.
- **Strategic Factor:** Increasing Chinese influence and assertiveness in the Indian Ocean Region providing a potential threat to the India's regional interest.
- **Ocean resource security and management of resources.**

Mechanism available for combating maritime security:

- **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)** provides a framework regarding rights and responsibility of the nations over international waters.
- **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) Doctrine:** Indian initiative, aims to deepen the economic and security cooperation with its maritime neighbours, along with enhancing their security capabilities.

- **Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative (IPOI)**
- **QUAD initiative** to ensure safe, secure and free Indo-Pacific region.

Practice Question

Q. Why do Indian Coasts remain vulnerable to seaborne threats? Examine the mechanism available for combating maritime security in India.

6. INSURGENCY IN NORTH EAST

Context In the current security scenario of India's northeast region, the insurgency in the northeast has become more of a political than security challenge and therefore requires a different approach.

How the Army is changing?

- The emergence of the Chinese threat pushed "the Indian army to reorient itself along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Arunachal Pradesh."
- Meanwhile, the reorientation will significantly impact the role of state police forces and paramilitary forces deployed in the region, especially the **Assam Rifles**.
 - Functioning under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Assam Rifles are also known as 'Sentinels of the Northeast,' and are tasked with maintaining border security and counter-insurgency in the region.

What is an insurgency?

- An insurgency is an armed rebellion against a constituted authority when those taking part in the rebellion are not recognized as belligerents. In case of Indian scenario, it can be seen as armed rebellion and violent protests against Indian Government or authority.

What are the reasons of insurgency in North East India?

- **Geographical region:-**North East India is connected to the Indian mainland by a narrow stretch of land called Siliguri Corridor (or Chicken's neck) which is only few kilometers wide.
- **Difficult terrain:-**The Northeast terrain is hilly and not easily accessible because of incessant rain during the months of April to July. Moreover the terrain is densely forested and weather conditions are extreme.
- **Socio-cultural:-Cultural differences:-**The tribes of the Northeast are mostly of Mongoloid stock and they view themselves as different from the Aryan and Dravidian races of India.
- **Ethnic or factional conflict:-**All north eastern states except the Arunachal Pradesh have been inflicted with ethnic violence at one time or another in recent history.
- **Presence of draconian laws:-**Laws such as AFSPA have escalated the conflict by bringing it on a military level. There are regular allegations of violation of human rights by the Indian Army.
- **Porous international border:-**The 4500 kilometer long international border of India in this region is porous. Due to the porous border, the insurgents can easily flee to neighboring countries such as Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh and also establish their underground insurgent bases.

How insurgency can be handled efficiently?

- **Greater coordination:** - Greater coordination between central forces and state forces for better tactical response.
- **Greater cultural interaction:** - Greater cultural interaction with the rest of the country and socio-economic development that includes a holistic inclusive development.
- **Decentralization:-**Decentralisation with alertness, improving administrative efficiency, pro-people governance and coping up with regional aspirations.
- **Work Permit:-**A system of work permit should be issued so that the illegal Bangladeshi migrants do not end up as Indian citizens.
- **Enhance communication and connectivity:** Enhance communication and connectivity infrastructure improvement for better integration of the region with the mainland.
- **Stringent law and Criminal Justice System:** - Stringent law and Criminal Justice System and fast criminal justice system for quick disposal of insurgents attack cases.

- **ADC:-**The Autonomous District Councils should be empowered.
- **Merge DoNER with NEC:-**The Ministry of the Development of the North East region (DoNER) should be merged with the North East Council (NEC) for better strategic planning and coordination of various developmental projects in the region.
- **Local tourism** should be promoted. Tourists residing in the eight North Eastern states should be encouraged to travel within the region.
- **Look East Policy:-**Greater awareness about the Look East Policy and its benefits to the North East should be generated among the policymakers and the intelligentsia of the region.
- **Special economic zones:-**Special economic zone along with India-Bangladesh border, especially in Meghalaya and Assam should be set up.

The ceasefire agreements have led to a reduction in the militancy-related fatalities in their respective states, a road map toward a situation of a permanent agreement is desired from GoI. It will develop a conducive environment for investments in the region and will solve the socio-economic backwardness of the region.

Practice Questions

Q. Highlight the characteristics of insurgency in North East which differs from that of Naxalism in eastern India. Also, evaluate the success of India in dealing with the insurgency.

PYQ

- Q. 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)**
- Q. 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. (2017)**
- Q. 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. (2018)**
- Q. 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. (2019)**
- Q. What are the determinants of left-wing extremism in the Eastern part of India? What strategy should the Government of India, civil administration and security forces adopt to counter the threat in the affected areas? (2020)**

7. MANIPUR TRIBAL ISSUE

Context: An ethnic clash is unfolding in Manipur between the two large communities—the largely Hindu Meiteis, who live in the plains, and the Christian majority Kukis, who dominate the hills.

Background

- Manipur is a border state of India in the northeast and shares a long border with Myanmar in its east.
- Ethnic riots are not new to Manipur, caused by the lingering tension between the inhabitants of the hills and the valley, often on account of claims and counter claims regarding land, revenue and economic opportunities.
- **Massive infiltration from Myanmar:** One of the reasons behind the ongoing conflict is the widespread infiltration of Kukis from neighbouring Myanmar, with which Manipur shares a 550 km-long border.

Knowing about the tribes

- Manipur's population has evolved through several waves of immigration from groups originating from both East and West of the region.
- The origin of the state's diverse population to be primarily of the Tibeto-Burman stock.

Who are Meiteis?	Who are Kukis?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meiteis (also called Manipuris) are the most numerous of all the ethnic groups in the state and largely inhabit the fertile Imphal valley that sits at the centre of the state. Meiteis were originally a set of four different tribes — Khuman, Luwang, Moirang and Meitei. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kukis in the state (called Khongjais in Meiteilon) refers to the Chin tribes that inhabit the Southern Hills and the Kangpokpi region in the Northern Hills. They are culturally closer to the Mizos of Mizoram and the Chin tribes of Myanmar. They are relatively much later migrants to the state compared to the Nagas and the Meiteis. Nagas in Manipur refers to a collection of tribes that live North of the Imphal valley. There are 16 major tribes such as Angami, Ao, Chakhesang, Chang, Khemungan, Konyak, Lotha, Phom, Pochury, Rengma, Sangtam, Sema, Yimchunger and Zeliang.

Coverage of the tribes

- The Meiteis make up 53 per cent of the population of the state and the Kukis and the Nagas, who are Scheduled Tribes, constitute 40 per cent.
- The valley, dominated by the Meiteis, constitutes just about a tenth of Manipur's total land area, but it is the most fertile region of the state.
- The Meiteis also dominate the state's sociopolitical and economic landscape.

Why are Tribes against the ST status for Meitei?

- Tribals including **Nagas, Zomis, and Kukis** against the ST status for Meitei. They comprise around 40 per cent of the state's population.
- The Meitei community are already classified under Scheduled Castes (SC) or Other Backward Classes (OBC) and is privy to opportunities that are afforded by that tag.
- The ST communities of Manipur fear the loss of job opportunities and other affirmative actions granted to STs by the Constitution of India to a much-advanced community like the Meitei.
- Apart from being the majority community, Meiteis also have more representation in Manipur Assembly.
- That's because 40 of the 60 Assembly seats in the state are from the Imphal Valley region – the area that is mostly inhabited by the Meiteis.

Push for Scheduled Tribe status

- As of today, 34 sub-tribes of the Naga and Kuki-Zomi tribes are on the government's list of Scheduled Tribes, but the Meiteis are not.
- However, the Meiteis have long been demanding Scheduled Tribe status, arguing that it needs to be protected from the influx of outsiders and "infiltration".

Claims made by Meiteis Community

- The Meiteis blame their troubles on "large-scale illegal immigration" from Myanmar and Bangladesh and have sought ST status.

Security Implications

- Security in the Northeast cannot be looked at in isolation from any particular state. The history of the North East from the Indian independence is full of strife and insurgent movements. There is an insurgency in all seven states of the northeast. The reasons can be traced to the British, who gave these states the status of 'Excluded Areas', giving them a belief that they were not inclusive of the Indian identity.
- When the British left India, these areas expected to get autonomous status, if not complete independence. Nothing like that happened, and they were all made inclusive of the Indian Union. This inclusion caused heartburn in many politicians and activists in these states. They demanded independence, and when it was not forthcoming, they resorted to violence to secure their political aims. Consequent to the British legacy, insurgent groups in all seven states asked for either independence or autonomy.
- The oldest amongst them are the Naga insurgent groups. The NNC (Naga National Council) was formed in 1946, even before Indian independence.

- The security concerns for all states bordering Myanmar remain a cause for worry, despite India's attempt to improve ties with Myanmar.

Practice Question

Q. Analyze the causes and consequences of tribal conflict in Northeast India, and suggest measures to promote peace and harmony in the region.





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ROLE OF MEDIA & SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES IN INTERNAL SECURITY CHALLENGES

1. SOCIAL MEDIA & RISKS ASSOCIATED

Context: Social media has dramatically transformed the communication scene for all and sundry. Despite the advantages of social media, there are certain risks associated to the internal security of the nation in various forms. Instances of cyber terrorism, fraud, crime, cyber bullying and misinformation etc., are increasing at an alarming rate.

Negative usage of social media

- National subversive groups (Marxist-Leninist groups, anarchist-insurrection list groups)
- National criminal organizations (mafia)
- Opposing movements/extra-parliamentary forces (no global movement, environmental associations, anti-nuclear groups, xenophobic groups, extremist supporters, far right groups)
- Cracker groups (predominantly acting within a state).
- Rise of religious sects
- Hacker groups
- Riots, inciting communal violence, misinformation, false opinion building
- Terrorism, anti-national activities
- Addiction

Challenges in adapting social media into policing

- Lack of clarity on how to use the technology
- Absence of adequate internet infrastructure
- Lack of immediate availability of talent
- Shortage of personnel and soft skills required to deal with a medium like social media at local levels
- Multiplicity of languages in India require further customization of technology which, in turn, requires investment, both human and capital as well as redrawing of budget plans.
- **Challenges of social media monitoring**
 - Server Location and Laws of Different Countries
 - Encrypted Message and privacy issue
 - Complicated Networks
 - Accountability issues
 - Anonymity

Ways to address the challenge of social media

- Digital Education
- Strengthening cyber intelligence
- Accountability on social media platforms

- Smart policing
- Mining Social Media for Intelligence

Syllabus: Challenges to internal security through communication Networks, the role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security.

2. BIG TECH WEAPONIZING INTERNET AMID CONFLICT

Context: Amid the continued “**weaponization**” of the internet by some Big Tech platforms during the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict bringing back the focus on the **sweeping powers of social media platforms**, India is readying a **new cybersecurity and data governance framework**.

How Big Tech firms are weaponizing internet and why it is a troubling precedent?

- Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, **companies, countries, Big Tech platforms and intermediaries** have announced a slew of sanctions which have either stopped or cut off services being provided by them to Russia and its citizens.
 - ▶ Some of these measures include **stoppage of payment services**, refusal by intermediaries to operate in Russia and not allowing their citizens to post.
- The actions by Big Tech companies and intermediaries **violate** basic principles of **net neutrality** and basic idea of openness of internet as they have now become “**gatekeepers**”.
- Two phenomenon are very visible:
 - ▶ **Weaponisation of the internet**
 - ▶ **Phenomenon of the splinter-net:** The internet is increasingly being splintered, driven by power of some Western countries.

What is splinter-net?

- The splinternet (also referred to as **cyber-balkanization or internet balkanization**) is a characterization of the Internet as splintering and dividing due to various factors, such as **technology, commerce, politics, nationalism, religion, and divergent national interests**.
- In this, internet is controlled by **autonomous political blocs** or any other **controlling power** with diverging national interests tied to nationalism or religion.
- In its original form, the internet transcended borders and allowed people unfettered access to virtually everything, while the **splinternet limits citizens’ access to data, forces businesses to keep data within borders**, and even **changes how they operate within a state**.

Examples:

- The **Chinese government** erected the “**Great Firewall**” for political reasons, and **Russia** has enacted the
- **Sovereign Internet Law** that allows it to partition itself from the rest of the Internet.
- **US** and **Australia**, discuss plans to create a similar firewall to block child pornography or weapon-making Instructions.
- Russia has accelerated **domestic online censorship** amid Russia-Ukraine crisis. A Russian court banned Facebook and Instagram as “**extremist**” - part of efforts by Moscow to crack down on social media during the conflict in Ukraine.

Learning for India in dealing with Cyberspace:

These recent events **strengthen India’s case for**

- Data localization
- Resilient internet network architecture
- Native open **APIs** (application programming interface)
- A strong cyber security command centre.
- It is validating our thinking in terms of a **new digital law**, the need for a **data governance framework** which will have the **data protection law**, a **digital law** and other **cyber security statutes**.

- Architecturally, there is need to build the **cyberspace jurisprudence** rather than doing it piecemeal or in catch up mode.

These Big Tech companies, which initially rallied on government support to become the behemoths that they are today, are now presiding over splinter-net and the balkanisation of internet by imposing sanctions on the countries.

Practice Question

Q. Continuing weaponisation of internet by some big tech platforms needs new cyber security laws and data governance. Examine.



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TERRORISM

1. ANTI-TERROR LAWS IN INDIA AND ITS REPEAL

Context: India's anti-terrorism legislation has long been a **source of intense debate**. One of the basic reasons for contention is that these regulations violate citizens' basic freedoms, which are protected by **Part III of the Constitution**.

India's anti-terror laws

- There has been a frequent changes in anti-terror laws. TADA lapsed in 1995 and POTA was repealed in 2004.
- The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act of 1967 and the National Security Act of 1980 are the laws now in effect in India to combat terrorism.
- UAPA has been the primary legislation preventing terrorist activities in India.
 - ▶ The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act is an amendment to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) 1967, which is an anti-terrorism law in India. The law was amended in 2019 giving law enforcement authorities absolute power to designate individuals as "terrorists" even before their crime is proven in court.

How Anti-terror laws safeguard India's national security?

- **Counteracting Terrorist Threats:** They provide the legal framework to counter and prevent terrorist activities by equipping law enforcement agencies with necessary powers to investigate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals involved in terrorism-related offenses.
- **International Cooperation:** India's anti-terror legal framework aligns with international conventions.
- **Deterrence and Prevention**
- **Protection of Citizens and Infrastructure**
- **Disrupting Terrorist Financing**

How Anti-terror laws in India pose a threat to the very goal they seek to achieve?

Anti-terror laws in India, while enacted with the objective of safeguarding national security, can inadvertently pose a threat to the very goal they seek to achieve.

- **Erosion of Civil Liberties:** Stringent anti-terror laws often grant wide-ranging powers to law enforcement agencies that can lead to the erosion of civil liberties, including the right to privacy, freedom of speech and expression, and the right to a fair trial
- **Risk of Misuse and Abuse:** Anti-terror laws are susceptible to misuse and abuse, which can harm innocent individuals and groups.
- **Poor press freedom in India**

In the **World Press Freedom Index 2022** compiled by rights organization **Reporters Without Borders (RSF)**, India ranked 150th among 180 countries — the South Asian nation's lowest ranking ever.

- **Undermining Trust and Cooperation:** Heavy-handed enforcement of anti-terror laws can breed mistrust and resentment among communities. Building trust and maintaining cooperation from communities is crucial for effective counter-terrorism strategies.
- **Focus on Symptom rather than Root Causes:** Overreliance on punitive measures under anti-terror laws may divert attention from addressing the root causes of terrorism, such as socio-economic inequalities, political grievances, and radicalization.

The vague nature of anti-terror laws and violation of human rights of the convicts needs to be addressed so that havoc of draconian laws could get minimised.

Practice Question

Q: There has been a frequent change in anti-terror laws in India. Explain the reasons behind such changes and highlight the measures to be undertaken for effective implementation of the present anti-terror laws.

Q. Terrorism is a complex, man-made phenomenon with repercussions for every aspect of society. Discuss along with measures taken by India toward strategic alliances with regional and international stakeholders on countering terrorism.

Q The scourge of terrorism is a grave challenge to national security. What solutions do you suggest to curb this growing menace?

PYQ

Q. 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 the prevailing security environment while discussing the scope and reasons for opposing the UAPA by human rights organizations. (2019)

2. TERRORISM THE NEW VIOLATOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Context

In a recent address at the **90th Interpol General Assembly** in New Delhi, the Home minister has mentioned the collective cooperation of members' to ensure that the **fight against terrorism** is sustained, comprehensive and continuous, for which India is committed to working with the **Interpol**.

What is Terrorism?

- For the sake of discussion, it can be described as; **according to the FBI:** *"Terrorism is the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives."*

What are the causes of Terrorism?

- **Political Terrorism:** It was originally theorized in the context of insurgency and guerrilla warfare, a form of organized political violence by a non-state army or group.
- **Strategic:** Saying that a group has a strategic cause for using terrorism is another way of saying that terrorism isn't a random or crazy choice, but is chosen as a tactic in service of a larger goal. Terrorism is typically described as a strategy of the weak seeking to gain advantage against stronger armies or political powers.
- **Religious:** Religious ideas, such as martyrdom were seen as particularly dangerous. However, as thoughtful studies and commentators have repeatedly pointed out, such groups use selectively interpret and exploit religious concepts and texts to support terrorism. Religions themselves do not "cause" terrorism.
- **Socio-Economic:** Socio-economic explanations of terrorism suggest that various forms of deprivation drive people to terrorism, or that they are more susceptible to recruitment by organizations using terrorist tactics. Poverty, lack of education or lack of political freedom are a few examples.

What issues arises of Terrorism?

- It violates human rights and weaken democracy
- Countering Terrorism can threaten the **right to life** of an individual.
- Challenges to the absolute prohibition against torture
- Transfer of individuals suspected of terrorist activity
- Liberty and security of the person is threatened
- Due process and the right to a fair trial of the suspects gets staked.
- Surveillance, data protection and the right to privacy is at risk due to terrorist activities.

What are the fundamental challenges?

- Fast evolving of terrorism
- Lack of definition of the term terrorism
- Lack of mechanisms to list terror entities
- The ease with which Islamic State (IS) attracted recruits from around the world.
- The ease with which they travelled across borders to join the so-called caliphate in Syria and Iraq.
- Increasing potential use of 3-D printing, robotics, artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, unmanned aerial systems, and synthetic biotech, for illegal ends.

Steps Taken by India

- **Comprehensive convention on International Terrorism:-**India highlighted its demand for a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) at the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA).
- **It included the following major objectives:-**
- **Universal Definition of Terrorism:** To have a universal definition of terrorism that all members would adopt into their own criminal laws.
 - To ban all terror groups and shut down terror camps.
 - To prosecute all terrorists under special laws.
 - To make cross-border terrorism an extraditable offence worldwide.
- **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967:** It enables more effective prevention of certain unlawful activities of individuals and associations and for dealing with terrorist activities, and other related matters.
- **National Investigation Agency:** It is India's counter-terrorist task force and is empowered to deal with terror related crimes across states without special permission from the states.
- **Policy of Zero-Tolerance against Terrorism:** India calls for zero-tolerance against terrorism and focuses on developing a common strategy to curb it.
- **Various Counter-Terrorism Operations**
 - **Operation Rakshak:** Counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operation in Jammu and Kashmir in 1990.
 - **Operation Sarp Vinash:** Undertaken by Indian army to flush out terrorists in the areas of the Pir Panjal range in Jammu and Kashmir in 2003.
 - **Operation All Out:** Joint offensive launched by Indian security forces to flush out militants and terrorists in Kashmir in 2017.



Bioterrorism

- Bioterrorism involves the deliberate release or spread of biological agents.
 - In the same manner, as bacteria, viruses, insects, fungi, and/or toxins are used in biological warfare, these agents can be naturally occurring or human-modified.
- **Example:** The last time plague corpses were used for biological warfare was in 1710, when Russian forces attacked Swedish troops by throwing plague-infected bodies over the city walls of Riga.

National counter-terrorism strategies should, above all, seek to prevent acts of terrorism, prosecute those responsible for such criminal acts, and promote and protect human rights and the rule of law. There is a need to invoke a cooperative approach towards countering terrorism in every possible form.

PYQ

- Q. Analyse, the complexity and intensity of terrorism, its causes, linkages, and obnoxious nexus. Also, suggest measures required to be taken to eradicate the menace of terrorism. (2021))
- Q. 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)
- Q. 'Terrorism is emerging as a competitive industry over the last few decades.' Analyse the above statement. (2016)
- Q. 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. (2016)

3. ORGANISED CRIME AND ITS NEXUS WITH TERRORISM

Context: The nexus between transnational 'organized crime and terrorism' represents a growing threat worldwide.

What is Organised Crime?

- **UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime** defines an organised criminal group as:-A group of three or more persons that were 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, financial or other material benefits.
- **Organised crime can be grouped into 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.)

Factors helping in the growth of organised crime

- Increasing demands of illegal goods in the global market like the trade of Human organs, endangered wildlife, drugs etc.
- Geographical terrain and opens borders.
- Globalisation had brought new opportunities and markets for these groups.
- Unholy nexus between politicians, bureaucrats and criminals.
- The 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.

Terrorism and organised crimes

- **For generating money:** As to carry out terrorist activity a lot of money is required so, terrorists engage in organised crime to fund their terrorist activity.
- **Safe opportunities:** Due to the transnational nature of the organised crime, they host the terrorist and create opportunities for their growth in new areas.

- **Symbiotic relationship:** Organised crime groups provide smuggled arms and explosives to terrorist groups in exchange terrorist groups provide protection, drugs etc.

Combating Organized Crimes

Suggested methods to combat nexus between organised crime and terrorism are as follow:

- Strengthening of Criminal Laws
- Improving Coordination and Setting up of Specialized Units
- Enhancing International Cooperation
- Political Commitment
- Public Awareness
- Role of Mass Media

Practice Question

Q. The nexus between organised crime and terrorism set a major threat for internal security in India. Discuss.

PYQ

Q. Analyse the complexity and intensity of terrorism, its causes, linkages and obnoxious nexus. Also suggest measures required to be taken to eradicate the menace of terrorism. (2021)

Q. 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 countermeasures should be taken to prevent the same? (2018)

4. SOLUTION TO RADICALISATION IN INDIA

Context The ban on the PFI has raised the question of the effectiveness of banning radical organizations in arresting the rise of radicalization.

About Radicalization:-

- Radicalization is the process by which an individual or a group comes to adopt increasingly radical views in opposition to a political, social, or religious status quo.
- It is when someone starts to believe or support extreme views and then participates in extremist groups or acts.

The inception of PFI:

- It is a radicalized Islamist outfit, operating for close to **three decades**.
- The PFI's has been alleged of having links with outlawed Islamist organizations such as:
 - ▶ the Students' Islamic Movement of India (SIMI)
 - ▶ the Bangladesh-based terror organization
 - ▶ Jamat-ul-Mujahideen-Bangladesh (JMB)
 - ▶ and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)
- The PFI has also been carrying out its activities in other states of India through like-minded organizations.

PFI and its activities:

- PFI and similar organizations can be seen as **not having Islamic subtitles** in their organization's names. This is purposefully done to **legitimize the PFI's official claim** as a "neo-social organization".
- They also try to **forge alliances with non-Muslim organizations** to avoid any surveillance from state agencies.
- PFI is one of the well-organized radical outfits, ensuring that it **leaves no trace or evidence of its activities behind**.

“Ban” as a solution to religious radicalism:

The Answer to the question is perhaps non-affirmative.

- **Resorting to incarnation:** The past observation shows that extremist organizations have a record of morphing from one organization to another. It's difficult to rule out the new incarnation of the same organization in the future.
- **Limitations of Politico-legal actions:** The banning of these radical outfits is undoubtedly crucial to curb violent activities, but such a measure is insufficient **given their structured approach**.
- **Investing at the social level:** Right after the ban, the government must reach out to those communities from which these radical outfits often seek support.
 - ▶ This will not only expose them but also make them aware of the nefarious ideologies of these organizations.
 - ▶ **The absence of comprehensive measures** at the social level often **nullifies the initial role of politico-legal measures**. As the **banned outfits have inherent tendencies of resurfacing** and portraying of them as messiahs to the downtrodden to further their radical agenda.
- **Supporting Minorities:** Radicalisation is usually a process, not an event. During that process, it is possible to intervene to **prevent minorities/vulnerable people** from getting radicalized.
 - ▶ The government must also work towards assuring the protection of minority communities from any attempts at victimizing and marginalizing them. This would help in curbing the very foundation of radicalism.

Prevention of radicalization:

- Countering terrorist propaganda
- Curbing hate speech
- Addressing radicalization in prisons
- Promoting inclusive society, education, and common values
- boosting research, evidence-building, monitoring, and networks

Government Initiatives:

- **Legal mechanisms:** The **National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act** was introduced in 2008 after the terrorist attacks in Mumbai (2008).
 - ▶ The **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)** was introduced in 1967. It aims to provide for the more effective prevention of certain unlawful activities of individuals and associations dealing with terrorist activities.
- **Institutional mechanisms:** **Counter-Terrorism and Counter Radicalization (CTCR) divisions** of the Ministry of Home Affairs are the key wings of the Government of India dealing with “radicalization, counter-radicalization, terrorism, and counter-terrorism”.
- **Cyber world and technology mechanisms:** **The Indian Penal Code (IPC) Sections 124A, 153A, 153B, 295A, and 505** prescribe a firm approach against any word, spoken or written, that promotes disharmony, enmity, and hatred.

Practice Question

Q. Analyse the role of the internet and social media in radicalisation. Also, suggest measures required to be taken to eradicate the menace of radicalisation in India.

PYQ

Q. Religious indoctrination via digital media has resulted in Indian youth joining ISIS. What is ISIS and its mission? How can ISIS be dangerous for the internal security of our country? (2015)

5. CHALLENGE OF RECIDIVISM TO COUNTER-RADICALISATION PROGRAMMES

Context In recent times, 'recidivism' has increased, as some of the released terrorists have carried out terrorist acts.

- Some international policy organisations have expressed concern that certain individuals receiving therapy at **counter-radicalisation centres** may have learnt the art of deceiving the psychologists and in passing the tests conducted there to procure an early release from the prisons.

What are influencing factors behind radicalism?

- Socio-psychological factors
- Socio-economic factors
- Political influence
- Social media influence
- Ideological clashes
- Cultural influence

Challenges regarding counter-radicalisation

- Persistent Socio economic inequality**
- Insufficient reach of the state in the hinterlands**
- Barriers in the developmental process**
- Democratic challenges in neighboring states**
- Easy deceiving:** Certain individuals under the therapy have learnt the art of deceiving the psychologists and get early release from prison.
- False success rate:** The success rate in the de-radicalisation process is very less and there are several instances of false successes.
- It is not a fool-proof measure**
- The terrorists portray to the authorities that they have been redeemed by the de-radicalisation programmes and have sworn off from committing terrorist offenses in the future.

The Indian state should develop and enforce de-radicalisation, counter-radicalisation and anti-radicalisation strategies at a pan-India and pan-ideology level on a war footing. Such attempts must be informed by the fact that the battle against radicalisation begins in the minds and hearts much before it manifests in terms of violence. Any programme aimed at deterring or reversing radicalisation must focus on the ideological commitment that enables the violence, rather than the violence or the justification of violence itself.

6. DRUG TRAFFICKING

Context: Recently, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in its **World Drug Report 2021**, has highlighting that the lockdown factor accelerating **drug trafficking** using the Internet.

Assessing threats of drug trafficking to India's national security

Drug trafficking poses a significant threat to India's national security due to its far-reaching impacts:

- Societal Impact:** The proliferation of drugs within society can destabilize communities, disrupt family structures, and contribute to an increase in crime rates, including theft, violence, and organized criminal activities.
- Economic Consequences:** Drug trafficking generates substantial illegal profits, which can be used to fund other criminal activities, including terrorism.
- Financing of Terrorism:** Drug trafficking has been linked to the financing of terrorist organizations globally.
- Border Security and Transnational Crime:** Illicit drug trade contributes to border security challenges, including smuggling, illegal migration, and the infiltration of criminal networks.

- **Public Health Crisis:** Drug trafficking contributes to a public health crisis by facilitating the availability and accessibility of illicit drugs.
- **Destabilization of Governance:** The infiltration of drug cartels and organized criminal networks can lead to corruption, undermining law enforcement agencies and compromising the justice system.

Addressing drug trafficking requires comprehensive measures that encompass law enforcement, international cooperation, public awareness, rehabilitation, and demand reduction. By combatting drug trafficking, India can protect its citizens, preserve societal harmony, ensure economic stability, and maintain national security.

PYQ

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



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BASICS OF CYBER SECURITY

1. CRYPTO CURRENCY & THREATS TO INDIA'S NATIONAL SECURITY

Context: The growing use of crypto has led to several innovations and changes in the global economic sphere. However, the anonymity of cryptos may become a serious threat to India's national security.

What is Crypto Currency?

- A crypto currency is a medium of exchange that is digital, encrypted and decentralized.
- Crypto Currency is a type of digital or **virtual currency** which is concealed, secure and impossible to counterfeit.
- It is **not a physical** source, everything is online.
- Bitcoin was the first cryptocurrency.

How is crypto currency a threat to national security?

- **Terrorism (through dark net):** The use of crypto currencies on the dark net for terror acts and drug trafficking by militant organisations is posing a severe threat to the national security and a big challenge to security agencies in India
 - ▶ Cryptocurrencies have emerged as the most advanced methods of terror financing and when it is being transacted on the dark net like TOR, Freenet, Zeronet and Perfectdark, it becomes untraceable for the security agencies.
- **Money Laundering:** Money launderers, cyber criminals and terrorists find cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin, Monero, Ripples and Zcash highly convenient because they offer anonymity and non-traceability.

Money laundering

- The **UN Vienna 1988 Convention** described Money Laundering as the conversion of property derived from any offenses for the purpose of concealing the origin.
- In India, the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)** describes money laundering as an activity connected with the process to project proceeds of a crime as untainted property.

- **Illegal game:** The legal environment of this phenomenon is not regulated.
- **Crypto currency frauds:** - Crypto frauds can take many shapes and impact a wide range of demographics. Some common frauds include:
 - ▶ **Scam Initial Coin Offerings** where scammers offer crypto currency coins to a select pool of investors and then vanish after the sale;
 - ▶ **Pump and Dump schemes** where fraud is perpetuated when a fraudulent group starts selling coins based on a show and then selling entire holdings, once the value goes up. One Coin Scam, Bit Connect fraud, Karnataka Bit coin scam are some **example**.

Dark Net

- The dark net is a deep under variable link in the area of internet where one cannot find the identity of the
- Users as the router browser keeps complete anonymity on the identity of the users.
- It keeps the user anonymous with whom he or she is interacting with because of the end-to-end encryption.
- **Popular dark net browsers:** The TOR software, Free net, Zero net, Perfect dark, are some popular dark net
- Browsers and these can be accessed only through the specialised software.

Relevance of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 in the context of virtual assets:-

- The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) forms the core of the legal framework put in place by India to combat money laundering.
- PMLA and the Rules notified there under came into force with effect from July 1, 2005.
- PMLA is an act to prevent money-laundering and to provide for confiscation of property derived from, or involved in, money-laundering and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- Recently, Finance Ministry has notified that crypto or virtual asset businesses will now be in the ambit of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).
 - **It laid out the nature of transactions to be covered under PMLA which are as follows: -**
 - Exchange between virtual digital assets and fiat currencies
 - Exchange between one or more forms of virtual digital assets
 - Transfer of virtual digital assets
 - Safekeeping or administration of virtual digital assets or instruments enabling control over virtual digital assets
 - Participation in and provision of financial services related to an issuer's offer and
 - Sale of a virtual digital asset.
- The circular also requires Indian crypto exchanges to report any suspicious activity to the **Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND)**.
- It also mandates that crypto exchanges and intermediaries dealing with **virtual digital assets (VDAs)** must have proper KYC documentation for all customers they on-board.

Effectiveness of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 in the context of virtual assets:-

- **As per the international standards:** This provision is as per the global trend of requiring digital-asset platforms to follow anti-money laundering standards applicable to banks, financial institutions and certain intermediaries in the securities and real estate markets.
- **Filling the policy regulations:** As there was a lack of regulatory framework regarding crypto currency, this policy could also be the basis for India to reconsider its tax treatment of virtual digital assets.

India has no regulatory framework on crypto currency yet, the government has introduced a new tax regime, **taxing crypto income at 30% and a 1% tax deducted at source (TDS) on crypto transactions.** Hence, a **progressive regulatory framework and proper implementation of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 in context of virtual assets will help to reduce the menace of money laundering in India.**

Practice Questions

Q. Discuss the relevance of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 in the context of virtual assets. Suggest measure to be taken to combat the challenges arising from crypto currency.

PYQ

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

Syllabus: Challenges to internal security through communication networks, the role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security;

2. INTERNAL SECURITY THREATS DUE TO SOCIAL MEDIA

Society is now conditioned to primarily function in the digital world, largely via social media. Unfortunately, bad actors of varying sophistication continue to weaponized social media, bringing grave harm to not only individuals and organizations, but also critical infrastructure.

Different Internal Security threats due to Social Media are:-

- **Cyber Terrorism:** The chat service like Skype, which includes voice and video capabilities, has become particularly popular with terrorist cells. Chat rooms and electronic forums enable the insurgent and extremists groups to communicate with members and supporters all over the world, to recruit new followers and to share information at little risk of identification by authorities.
- **Fraud:** Social networking sites also invite fraudsters to take excellent opportunity to become wealthy by applying deceiver schemes.
- **Criminal Activity and Money laundering:** Internet Media is a major resource for developing serious crime. Social networking sites also pose major challenge in financial and organized crime which destabilizes the system.
- **International users:** The other national and international users such as the political parties, NGO's, hackers pose a serious threat using the social media. For example, during the civil turmoil in the Arab Spring Uprising, the various governments were threatened through the social media.
- **Communal Violence and Fanning:** Tensions importantly, social media also seems to be playing a significant role in polarising different communities in India and compounding India's security challenges. The viral videos and false updates of communal clashes, riots and terrorists attack have created a massive impact in the life of public.
- **Hacking:** Hackers write or use ready-made computer programs to attack the target computer. By using Social Media hackers breach the national security and steal important data of defence or other strategic sectors. This can kneel the whole country without using Arms and Ammunition.

Surveillance Projects in India

e-Surveillance Projects: National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID), Central Monitoring System (CMS), Internet Spy System Network and Traffic Analysis System (NETRA) of India, National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIPC) of India, National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) of India, Tri Service Cyber Command for Armed Forces of India, Cyber Attacks Crisis Management Plan Of India.

Challenges in Monitoring Social Media

- **Server Location and Laws of Different Countries:** Lack of Geographical Boundaries makes social media regulation an arduous task. Major Complicating Factors to secure the networks and Media Much of the hardware and software that make up the communications ecosystem is sourced externally.
- **Encrypted Message:** Use of phones/what Sapp to send and receive messages, concerns the government because the communications sent via such devices and applications are encrypted and could not be monitored and consequently hinders the country's efforts to fight terrorism and crime.
- **Complicated Networks:** The task of securing the networks is also complicated by the fact that much of the infrastructure is in the hands of private companies who see measures such as security auditing and other regulations and frameworks as adding to their costs. Source of Origin is difficult to find out.

Information, as an element of soft power, is a strategic instrument within the context of grand strategy. There should be judicious use of social media. Social Media, with all its benefits and the potential for more, is definitely a boon to our world, however misuse or irresponsible usage can have negative effects on an internal security. We need to guard against the negative impact of the social media, which ought to be used in the correct manner for creative or productive purposes.

Practice Question:

Q. Social Media, with all its benefits and the potential, is a boon to our world, however misuse or irresponsible usage can have negative effects on Internal security. Discuss highlighting the challenges in monitoring social media.

PYQ

Q. What are social networking sites and what security implications do these sites present? (2013)

3. INDIA'S NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY STRATEGY

Context Coastal security is one of the major concerns for India with a coastline of 7,516.6 km. The coastline also accounts for 90% of the country's trade.

Maritime and Coastal Security:-

- Maritime security has been defined in the Indian Maritime Doctrine (IMD) as relating to freedom from threats at or from the sea.
- Although the IMD **does not define coastal security**, the *Indian Maritime Security Strategy (IMSS)*, an **official publication** of the IN defines it as a subset of maritime security, focused on the coastal waters.
- The coastal waters are considered, for the purpose of IMSS, as the water area seawards of the Indian coast up to the limit of India's Contiguous Zone (CZ) which is at 24 nautical miles from the baseline, or the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL), in case the latter is nearer.

Present Coastal Security Mechanism:-

- Currently, the coastal security of India is governed by a three-tiered structure.
- The **Indian Navy** patrols the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL), while the **Indian Coast Guard** is mandated to do patrolling and surveillance up to 200 nautical miles (i.e., EEZ).
- Simultaneously, the **State Coastal/Marine Police (SC/MP)** performs boat patrolling in shallow coastal areas.
- **Jurisdiction:** -The **State Coastal/Marine Police (SC/MP)** have jurisdiction up to **12 nautical miles from the coast**; and the Indian Coast Guard and the Indian Navy have jurisdiction over the **entire maritime zone (up to 200 nautical miles)**, including the territorial waters (with the SMP).
- The **Border Security Force (BSF)** is deployed in the creek areas of Gujarat and Sundarbans in West Bengal.

Vulnerabilities of the Indian coastline:

- **Smuggling and trafficking:** Indian coasts have been susceptible to the smuggling of items such as gold, electronic goods, narcotics, and arms.
- **Maritime terrorism:** hijacking, attacking, and sinking ships, taking hostages, sabotaging pipelines, and attacking cities and strategic installations like naval bases and petrochemical storage.
- **Infiltration, illegal migration, and refugee influx:** large-scale refugee influxes over the decades have resulted in widespread political turmoil in the Border States.
- **Discontent in fishermen's communities** interferes with the effective functioning of the coastal security architecture as fishermen are considered the 'eyes and ears of the coastal security architecture and, therefore, an integral part of it.
- **Sensitive installations along the coast:** Due to the process of industrialization along the coastal region, the existence of strategic installations by oil companies, nuclear power plants, missile, and satellite testing centres have taken place, which are high-value targets for the terrorists.

Technologies used for Coastal security and Management:-

- The surveillance sensor network serves as the eyes and ears of the system. A combination of sensors can track individuals and objects over varying distances, providing higher resolution as the target gets closer to the coastline.
- The sensor network can include a combination of the various types of technologies such as **radar, Automated Identification System (AIS), Electro-Optical/Infra-Red (EO/IR) System, Identification system, Command, and Control system, etc.**

Fundamental deficiencies in security:-

- **Conflates Policing with Maritime Border Guarding:** This erroneously conflates the responsibility of law and order (State List) with maritime border guarding (Union List).
 - This also leads to the problem of overlapping jurisdiction between the IN, ICG, and the SCP and a lack of unity of command at the ministry and force level.

- **Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard under Different Departments in MoD:** The Army, Navy, and Air Force were placed under the **Department of Military Affairs (a department created within MoD)**, and the ICG was placed under the MoD. The Group of Minister report highlighted this anomaly and noted the requirement for coordination between the IN and the ICG in both peace and war.
- **Diffused Responsibilities:** Lack of clarity in jurisdiction between the IN, ICG, and SCP.

Indian Coast Guard Initiatives:

- Promulgation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for effective coordination amongst all stakeholders.
- Coastal security exercises in coordination with the Indian Navy, SCP, and other central and state agencies.
- Special '**Operation Sajag**' training for SCP
- Community interaction programmes (CIPs)

Government Initiatives in Coastal Security Infrastructure

- **Appointment of National Maritime Security Coordinator:-**
- The appointment of the country's **first National Maritime Security Coordinator (NMSC)** reflects the serious intent of the Government of India (GoI) to address maritime security challenges.
- It aims to create an interface between the civilian and military maritime domains to enhance India's security architecture and energy security.
- **National Committee for Strengthening Maritime and Coastal Security** headed by Cabinet Secretary coordinates all matters related to Maritime and Coastal Security.
- **Coastal Security Measures Post Kargil war:-** Kargil Review Committee (KRC) constituted to study the circumstances that had led to the war has recommended several coastal security measures like:

Recent Government Interventions

- The Indian government has also drawn plans to reinforce the **NMDA via multilateral cooperation.**
- It is in talks with at least **24 countries** for exchanging information on shipping to ensure that the Seas are safe and secure for global commerce.
- India has placed maritime security high on the agenda through active participation in the Indian **Ocean Rim Association (IORA), the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), the East Asia Summit (EAS), and the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) Plus.**
- Additionally, it is in talks with other countries to institutionalize intelligence exchange among the Respective security agencies.

Recommendations

- **Self-dependency:** To develop our own AIS type which can be easily fitted on the smaller craft that operates in our coastal waters to aid detection and identification. Presently, fitment of AIS is mandated only for vessels greater than 300 Tonnage.
- **Distress Alert Transmitter (DAT)** is provided by Coast Guard to transmit emergency conditions and position location to the central hub station via the UHF transponder of INSAT for the rescue operation. This technology could be innovatively used to indicate the likely threat observed by our fishermen while at sea.
- **The use of the Aadhar card** is being propagated as the main identity document for all important purposes including financial transactions. Proving the identity of fishermen at sea has been one of the key concerns.
- **Regulation of fishing:** Fisheries often cite inadequate staff and infrastructure to regulate fishing activities. The use of modern data handling devices that can provide instant information on fishing boats, their whereabouts, and other relevant information also needs to be explored.
- Port and container terminal security can be enhanced by making use of high-speed X-ray machines, CCTV surveillance, VTMS, biometrics; etc.
- **Deployment of Unmanned platforms:** Aerial vehicles are needed which will provide for quick launch and effective surveillance for prolonged periods.
- **Modernization and Augmentation needed:** Steadily augmenting force levels for effective surveillance and optimum coverage. Multi-mission maritime aircraft, Twin engine helicopters, State of art surface platforms with modern sensors.

Review of coastal security apparatus in India is a continuous process. A three-tier coastal security ring all along our coast is provided by Marine Police, the Indian Coast Guard, and the Indian Navy. The government has initiated several measures to strengthen Coastal Security, which include improving surveillance mechanisms and enhanced patrolling by following an integrated approach. Coastal surveillance is not just technology to defend valuable assets. The coastal challenge is the prevention of access to the hinterland to all anti-nationals and nefarious elements.

Practice Question:

Q. To secure our coastal security we need to effectively use human intelligence and artificial intelligence. Discuss.

4. MEDICAL DEVICES AND CYBER-ATTACK THREATS

Context: After ransomware attacks at major hospitals expose the risk to medical records, experts warn that personal medical devices with software components are also hazards that can leak health data.

What is Ransomware?

- Ransomware is a form of malware designed to encrypt files on a device, rendering any files and the systems that rely on them unusable.
- Malicious actors then demand ransom in **exchange for decryption**.

Need for regulations:-

- The Indian population is growing at a rate of 1.6% per year and has an **elderly population** of over 100 million.
- Rapid economic growth, **rising middle class incomes** and the increased market penetration of medical devices has left the population vulnerable.

Concerns for India:-

- India currently lacks any **centralised data collection mechanism** which gives an exact cost of data corruption for the healthcare industry.
- As pharmaceutical companies continue to **embrace digital transformation**, their highly sensitive, valuable information becomes even more at risk for cyber-attacks.
- Pharma companies face their IT environment being landed with **legacy hardware and software**.
- In particular, **operational technology devices**, networks and systems that support business did not have IT security in mind when built.
- These networks and systems need to connect with **IT networks**, which expose them to an organisation's entire threat landscape and create **new opportunities for cyber criminals**.

National Medical Devices Policy 2022:-

- **Regulatory streamlining** in order to optimize regulatory processes and multiplicity of agencies for enhanced **ease of doing business**, along with **harmonization with global standards** to ensure standardization (ensuring **safety of devices**).
- **Building Competitiveness** through fiscal and financial support for stimulating the development of the local manufacturing ecosystem with private sector investments.
- **Infrastructure Development** to provide best-in-class physical foundation, including **medical devices parks** with common facilities such as testing centres, to improve cost competitiveness and enhance attraction of domestic manufacturers.
- **Facilitating R&D and Innovation** with a focus on enhanced collaboration in innovation and R&D projects, global partnerships, and joint ventures among key stakeholders to bridge the gap between academic curriculum and industry requirements.
- **Human Resource Development** to ensure relevant curriculum at higher education level, skilling of various stakeholders, creation of future-ready HR with required skill sets across the innovation value chain.

- **Awareness Creation and Brand Positioning** in creating awareness and positioning India as a hub for manufacturing of medical devices as part of the “**Make in India, Make for the World**” initiative.

Practice Question:

Q. Discuss the security concern related to medical devices in India. Do you think that implementation of National Medical Device Policy 2022 will resolve these threats in India.


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MONEY-LAUNDERING & ITS PREVENTION

1. MONEY LAUNDERING

Context: The government informed the Supreme Court that ₹18,000 crore was confiscated under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) from fugitive businessmen Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi, and returned to banks.

What is Money Laundering?

- It is a process where the **proceeds of crime** are **transformed** into apparently **legitimate money** or other assets. In simple words, it can be defined as the act of making money that comes from one source to look like it comes from another source.
- INTERPOL's definition of money laundering is: "any act or attempted act to conceal or disguise the identity of illegally obtained proceeds so that they appear to have originated from legitimate sources".

Process of Money Laundering

Money laundering is a single process however, its cycle can be broken down into three distinct stages namely, placement stage, layering stage and integration stage.

- Placement Stage:** It is the stage at which criminally derived funds are introduced in the financial system. At this stage, the launderer inserts the "dirty" money into a legitimate financial institution often in the form of cash bank deposits. This is the riskiest stage of the laundering process because large amounts of cash are pretty conspicuous, and banks are required to report high-value transactions.
- Layering Stage:** It is the stage at which complex financial transactions are carried out in order to camouflage the illegal source. At this stage, the launderer engages in a series of conversions or movements of the money in order to distant them from their source. In other words, the money is sent through various financial transactions so as to change its form and make it difficult to follow.
- Integration stage:** It is the final stage at which the 'laundered' property is re-introduced into the legitimate economy. At this stage, the launderer might choose to invest the funds into real estate, luxury assets, or business ventures. At this point, the launderer can use the money without getting caught. It's very difficult to catch a launderer during the integration stage if there is no documentation during the previous stages.

Some of the most widely used methods used to implement the above stages are:

- Structuring Deposits:** This is also known as **smurfing**, this is a method of placement whereby cash is broken into smaller deposits of money, used to defeat suspicion of money laundering and avoid anti-money laundering reporting requirements.
- Shell companies:** These are fake companies that exist for no other reason than to launder money. 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. Third party cheques and traveller's cheques are often purchased using proceeds of crime. 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.

Prevention of money laundering – global initiatives

The vienna convention

It was the first major initiative in the prevention of money laundering held in December 1988. This convention laid down the groundwork for efforts to combat money laundering by obliging the member states to criminalize the laundering of money from drug trafficking.

Basel Committee's Statement Of Principles

In December 1988, the Basel Committee on Banking Regulations and Supervisory Practices issued a statement of principles which aims at encouraging the banking sector to adopt common position in order to ensure that banks are not used to hide or launder funds acquired through criminal activities.

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

The FATF is an inter-governmental body established at the G7 summit at Paris in 1989 with the objective to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system

United Nations Global Programme Against Money Laundering (UNGPMML)

GPML was established in 1997 with a view to increase effectiveness of international action against money laundering through comprehensive technical cooperation services offered to Governments.

Prevention Of Money Laundering – Indian Initiatives

Legal Framework

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)

Institutional Framework

- The **Directorate of Enforcement** was established in the year 1956 which is responsible for enforcement of the **Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)** and certain provisions under the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act**. Work relating to investigation and prosecution of cases under the PML has been entrusted to Enforcement Directorate.
- **Financial Intelligence Unit – India** was set by the Government of India in 2004 as the central national agency responsible for receiving, processing, analysing 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.

Practice Question:

Q. Is technology helping or hindering the fight against money laundering and terror finance? Highlight the national and international measures to combat these issues.



VARIOUS SECURITY FORCES & AGENCIES AND THEIR MANDATE

1. ROLE OF CAPF IN INTERNAL SECURITY

Context: India has undergone one of the fastest expansions of paramilitary internal security forces in the world. However, with changing times and in order to combat new challenges, there is a need to upgrade these forces.

Role of CAPF in internal security

- **National Security Guard (NSG):** NSG is a federal contingency force tasked with counter-terrorism and special operations. Generally, referred as black cat commandoes, the NSG is trained to conduct counter-terrorist task including counter hijacking tasks on land, sea, and air; Bomb disposal (Post Blast Investigation (PBI), and Hostage Rescue missions.
- **Border Security Force:** BSF is a border guarding force responsible for guarding India's land borders during peace time and preventing trans-border crimes. It operates under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB):** SSB is a border guarding force tasked with guarding India's borders with Nepal and Bhutan under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP):** ITBP is a specialized mountain force responsible for guarding India's borders with China operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Assam Rifles:** Assam Rifles is a paramilitary force responsible for maintaining law and order in the northeast region of India operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Central Reserve Police Force:** The CRPF's primary role lies in assisting the State/Union Territories in police operations to maintain law and order and counter-insurgency. It is composed of Central Reserve Police Force (Regular) and Central Reserve Police Force (Auxiliary).

Steps to be taken to upgrade these forces to face new forms of challenges:-

- **Infrastructure enhancement:** The infrastructure and curriculum at CAPF training facilities urgently need to be updated. **For example**-IT, cyber security, and cybercrime, should be covered in training to face new forms of challenges. In this regard, the continuation of the "Modernization Plan-III for CAPFs (2022-2026)" is in process.
- **Good working condition:** The Standing Committee on Home Affairs had expressed concern over the working conditions of personnel of the border guarding forces. The Committee observed that they had to work 16-18 hours a day, with little time for rest or sleep. There is an acute shortage of houses in forces. Hence, there is a need to uplift working condition of forces to face new forms of challenges.
- **Cadre allocation and promotional issue:** The paramilitary forces has its own set of officers. However, all paramilitary forces DG are from Indian Police Service. This top officer posting from other service demoralise the confidence of the officers of CAPF. Moreover, there should be a timely review and proper cadre allocation in order provide the enabling environment.

Practice Question:

Q. In ensuring the security of India, the central armed police forces have played a vital role in almost all the critical matters of internal security. Elaborate. Suggest steps to be taken to upgrade these forces to face new forms of challenges.

2. ARMED FORCES SPECIAL POWER ACT

Context: AFSPA is now applicable fully only in 4 Northeast states. However, the law is seen as draconian in nature (leading to violation of human rights) thus, calls are on rise to repeal it.

What is AFSPA?

- AFSPA gives armed forces the power to maintain public order in “disturbed areas”.
- They have the authority to prohibit a gathering of five or more persons in an area, can use force or even open fire after giving due warning if they feel a person is in contravention of the law.
- If reasonable suspicion exists, the army can also arrest a person without a warrant; enter or search premises without a warrant; and ban the possession of firearms.
- Any person arrested or taken into custody may be handed over to the officer in charge of the nearest police station along with a report detailing the circumstances that led to the arrest.

How AFSPA succeeded in controlling terrorism:-

- Handling armed attacks:-** AFSPA helps to control terrorism by destroying any arms dump, hide-outs, and training camp from which armed attacks are made by the armed volunteers or absconders wanted for any offence.
- Arrest without warrant:-** AFSPA provides power to arrest without a warrant anyone who has committed cognizable offences or is reasonably suspected of having done so and may use force if needed for the arrest thus, helps in combating terrorism.
- Search any premise:-** AFSPA allows to enter and search any premise to combat terrorism in order to make such arrests, or to recover any person wrongfully restrained or any arms, ammunition or explosive substances and seize it.

AFSPA should be repealed due to charges of Human Rights Violations:-

- Misuse of Power:-** Due to AFSPA, the immunity granted by the act has led the armed forces to misuse the powers given to them and commit offences like fake encounters and sexual assault.
- Suspension of Fundamental Rights:** AFSPA has led to the suspension of fundamental rights and liberties guaranteed to the citizens by the constitution. Thus it weakens democracy.
- Failed in restoring normalcy:** Many critics argue that this act has failed in its objective of restoring normalcy in many disturbed areas although being in existence for about 50 years.
- Removal of absolute immunity:** Both **Justice Verma Committee** and **Jeevan Reddy Committee** have recommended the removal of absolute immunity under AFSPA thus indicating towards the act to be repealed.
- 2nd ARC recommendation:** The **Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC)** in its report on “Public Order,” recommended to repeal Armed Forces Special Powers Act. It commented that its scrapping would remove sentiments of discrimination and alienation among the people of the North East India.
- Inserting a new chapter:** A high-power commission headed by the **retired Supreme Court judge, N. Santosh Hedge** recommended to amend AFSPA inserting a new chapter to deploy the armed forces of the Union in the North eastern States.

AFSPA has helped to combat terrorism at greater extent. However, to prevent this act being draconian which leads to human rights violation (example-Human Rights breaches in Manipur) status quo needs to be repealed. **Former home secretary G K Pillai has also advised to repeal AFSPA law** due to its power being abused.

Practice Question

Q. Should AFSPA be repealed due to charges of Human Rights Violations? Discuss.

3. CHINA ‘KEEN’ TO RECRUIT GURKHA SOLDIERS INTO PLA

Context Communist China, which has long been intrigued by the motivation behind Nepalese youth joining the Indian Army, may seek the Communist government in Nepal to allow the **Gurkhas** to join the **People’s Liberation Army (PLA)**.

Who are Gurkhas?

- Gurkhas are the Nepali Soldiers that form a significant part of the **Indian Army's legendary Gurkha regiment**.
- They come from four main communities of **Magar, Gurung, Rai and Limbu**.
- **Pre-Independence:** They first encountered the British in 1814, when the British East India Company fought against them during the Anglo-Nepalese War.
- British forces admired the Gurkhas' military abilities and honourable tactics, and first recruited Gurkha troops in 1815 (**Nasiri regiment**).
 - ▶ The Nepali Gurkhas played a crucial role in the consolidation of the British Empire in India. They fought during the **Gurkha-Sikh War, Anglo-Sikh wars, and the Afghan wars**.
- **Post-Independence:** After India gained independence, a **Tripartite Agreement (Britain-India-Nepal)** was signed by which the regiments were split between the Indian armies and the British.
 - ▶ Currently, Gurkha regiments make up Indian Army's 43 Battalions with soldiers from both Nepal and India in seven Gurkha regiments – 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 8th, 9th and the 11th.

Recruitment in different countries

The Gurkha units are recruited for the-

- Nepali Army
- Indian Army
- British Army
- Gurkha Contingent Singapore
- Gurkha Reserve Unit Brunei
- UN peacekeeping forces and in war zones around the world

Khukri, the national weapon of Nepal

- Their signature weapon of Gurkhas, **Khukri**, forms part of the Gurkha regimental insignia in Britain and India as well.
- The khukri is a **traditional multipurpose knife** of the Nepalese people used for regular cutting, clearing, chopping firewood, digging, slaughtering animals for food etc.



Gorkha pullout

- Gurkhas are some of the best fighters in the world, however, the newly introduced **Agnipath Scheme** threatens to break this arrangement.
- Nepal urged India to suspend the recruitment of Gurkhas to the Indian Army under this new plan.

Agnipath is a tour of duty scheme introduced by India in June 2022 for recruitment of soldiers below the rank of commissioned officers into the three services of the armed forces. All recruits are to be hired for a four-year period.

4. POONCH ATTACK

Context There has been a terrorist attack on an army vehicle in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch, in which the country has lost 5 of its brave soldiers in this terrorist attack.

Who is responsible for the attack?

- The attack was carried out by the People's Anti-Fascist Front (PAFF), a terror organisation supported by the Jaish.

What is the People's Anti-Fascist Front (PAFF)?

- The People's Anti-Fascist Front (PAFF) is a military group engaged in the current conflict in Jammu and Kashmir between Kashmiri separatists and Indian security forces.
- India asserts that it's a division of the Lashkra-e-taiba.
- PAFF organisation was discussed for the first time when Article 370 was removed in J&K in 2019.

Increasing terrorism in India

- India ranks **13th** on **The Global Terrorism Index (GTI)**. The GTI report is produced by the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP), a think tank, using data from Terrorism Tracker and other sources.

Framework for Combating Terrorism in India:

- India recently hosted a special meeting of the UNSC's **Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC)**, with theme of 'Countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes'.
- India also hosted the meeting of "**No Money For Terror**", which was initiative of the **French government**, to specifically focus on **cooperation between countries to choke terror funding**.
- In August 2019, the **Unlawful Activities Prevention Act of 1967** was revised to include the ability to label individuals as terrorists.
- **National Investigation Agency** is the lead law enforcement investigative agency to combat terrorism.
- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act of 2008 has been **amended** by the Indian Parliament to give NIA the ability to investigate terrorism cases overseas.

Why erasing terror is becoming a challenge?

- **Increased freelancers:** Radicalised individuals, also called 'lone wolves', 'DIY' or 'freelancer' terrorists are now committing random acts of terrorist violence.
- **Dark net:** Terrorist have expanded the use of The Onion Router (TOR)-enabled darknet for propaganda, and recruitment on encrypted chat forums and platforms beyond the gaze of the security agencies.
- **Evolving tech, evolving terror:** Advancing and emerging technologies like autonomous systems, 3D printing and deep fake potentially offer the terrorists prospects for weaponisation.

5. WOMEN GET COMMAND ROLES IN THE INDIAN ARMY

Context For the first time, the Indian army had begun the process for selection of women officers for command postings in the rank of Colonel, which has so far been the domain of male officers.

About

- 80 women officers in the Indian Army **have been cleared for the rank of Colonel (selection grade)**, making **them eligible to command units** in their respective arms and services for the first time.
- The Women Officers were selected by the **Special No. 3 Selection Board** for promotion from the rank of **Lt Colonel to Colonel** to bring them on a **par with their male counterparts**.
- Women officers were selected from the **batch of 1992 to 2006** in **various arms and services**, including Engineers, Signals, Army Air Defence, Intelligence Corps, Army Service Corps, Army Ordnance Corps and Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.
- The **Corps of Engineers** has the **maximum vacancy** followed by the Army Ordnance Corps and Electrical and Mechanical Engineering.

Women Induction in Army: A battle long fought

- **1992:** Women were **first inducted into the Indian Army** as officers in **non-medical roles** while the Indian Army Medical Corps started inducting them from 1993.
- **2010:** Delhi High Court ruled that the Indian Army's **policy of not allowing women** to serve in combat roles was **discriminatory and violative** of the Constitution.
- **2013:** Supreme Court **upheld the decision of the Indian Army to exclude women** from certain **combat roles**, stating that the Indian Army was not ready for women in combat roles due to societal attitudes and lack of infrastructure.

- **2016:** Indian Army announced that it would begin inducting women into combat roles in select military units, starting with the **Corps of Military Police**.
- **2017:** **Supreme Court** stated that **women should be given equal opportunities** in the Army, **including in combat roles**.
- **2020:** Indian Army announced that it **would open up all positions** to women, including those in **combat roles**.
- **2021:** The Indian army starts to induct women in **short service commission as fighter pilots**.

Violation of Rights:

- **Right to equality (Article 14):** The exclusion of women from certain roles in the Indian Army has been seen as a violation of this right, as it discriminates against women on the basis of their gender.
- **Right to work (Article 15):** The exclusion of women denies them the opportunity to work in certain roles based solely on their gender.
- **Right to non-discrimination (Article 16):** The exclusion of women from certain roles in the Indian Army is a violation of the right to non-discrimination, as it discriminates against women on the basis of their gender.
- **Right to life and personal liberty (Article 21):** The exclusion of women is a violation of the right to life and personal liberty, as it denies women the opportunity to serve their country and defend their rights and liberties.
- **Right to education (Article 21):** Exclusion from certain roles in the Indian Army is a violation of the right to education, as it denies women the opportunity to pursue education and training in certain fields.
- **Right to freedom of expression (Article 19):** The exclusion of women denies women the opportunity to express themselves and their capabilities through their work.

Advantages of women in Army	Challenges of women in Army
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Increased diversity: Women bring a different perspective and set of skills to the military, which can enhance overall military effectiveness and decision-making. ◦ Improved operational effectiveness: Women can be effective in combat roles as they can improve the overall operational effectiveness of the military. ◦ Better representation of society: The Indian Army is meant to serve and protect the entire population, and by having a more representative force, it can better understand and serve the needs of the society. ◦ Better retention and recruitment: By providing opportunities for women, the Indian Army can attract and retain a larger pool of talented individuals. ◦ Breaking stereotypes: Induction of women challenges the societal stereotypes that women are weak and less capable. ◦ Improved morale: Women's induction can improve morale among female soldiers and can lead to a more inclusive and supportive environment for all soldiers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Societal attitudes: Women in the Indian Army have faced resistance from societal attitudes that view women as less capable or less suited for roles in the military. ◦ Physical demands: The physical demands of military service can be challenging for women, and there have been concerns about whether women can meet the same physical standards as men. ◦ Limited opportunities: There have been limited opportunities for women in the Indian Army, particularly in combat roles, which has limited their career advancement. ◦ Lack of support: Women in the Indian Army have reported lack of support from their male colleagues and superiors, which can make it difficult to succeed in their roles.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Better support for women: The Indian Army has taken steps to create a more supportive environment for women, such as increasing the number of women-only barracks and providing childcare facilities. ◦ Cost-effective: As the number of women in the Indian Army increases, it can be cost-effective in terms of recruitment and training, as it would increase the pool of eligible candidates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Harassment and discrimination: Women in the Indian Army have reported experiencing harassment and discrimination on the basis of their gender. ◦ Limited facilities: Women in the Indian army face limited facilities in terms of women-only barracks, toilets and other amenities. ◦ Limited representation: Women are under-represented in leadership positions in the Indian Army, and there is a lack of female role models for women to look up to.
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Way Ahead:

- Although allowing women on equal footing in the army is a progressive step, the Indian Army should take steps to **create a more supportive environment** for women, such as increasing the number of **women-only barracks** and **providing childcare facilities**.
- While there have been challenges with the induction of women into the Indian Army, there is a need to promote the overall trend as **many women have succeeded** in their roles and made **valuable contributions to the military**.



SECURITY CHALLENGES & THEIR MANAGEMENT IN BORDER AREAS

1. SMART FENCING

Challenges of India's border management

- **India –Pakistan:** There are disputed areas like the **Sir Creek** and the **Line Of Control (LoC)**. It has frequent ceasefire violation. Moreover, the POK provides a major threat for border management.
- **India China border management:** The unsettled borders and the disputed territories like **Aksai Chin**, **LAC** poses a serious security threat. Indian army and ITBP has been given the responsibility to guard the border here.
- **India-Bangladesh Border Management:-** Varied topography and rifting course of Brahmaputra provides a deeper challenge to the security forces. Moreover, influx of **Rohingya minority** has posed a threat to the border.
- **Myanmar border:** India shares 1643 km border with Myanmar. Which is mainly defined by the Naga Hills and Chittagong hill tracts.
- **India Nepal Bhutan border:** The matter of security in the region are handled by the **SSB (Sashastra Seema Bal)**. However, due to border being porous, there is a challenge from security region as there has been frequent smuggling in these areas.

Smart fencing is a boon for monitoring security situations in border areas:

- **Reduce causality:** With this smart fencing, the number of casualties of soldiers on borders would get minimised and the stress level among them too is expected to reduce to a large extent.
- **Double row fencing:-** The double-row fencing on the **India- Pakistan border (LoC)** is meant to keep out militants, separatists, smugglers and other infiltrators, For this purpose, it has been electrified, connected to a range of sensors.
- **Project BOLD-QIT:** Smart fencing on Indo Bangladesh border has been a boon.
 - ▶ **For example:-** Project **BOLD-QIT (Border Electronically Dominated QRT Interception Technique)** under **Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS)** in Dhubri district of Assam is enabling.

Hence, smart wall will boost better surveillance in rugged terrain, and real time alert, less deployment time as compared to physical barrier thus creating a massive boon in border areas.

Practice Question

Q. Discuss the challenges of India's border management? How smart fencing helps in monitoring security situation in border areas?

PYQ

- Q. Keeping in view India's internal security, analyse the impact of cross-border cyber attacks. Also discuss defensive measures against these sophisticated attacks. (2021)**
- Q. China and Pakistan have entered into an agreement for the development of an economic corridor. What threat does it dispose of for India's security? Critically examine. (2014)**
- Q. 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? (2013)**

2. INFILTRATION:

Context India shares a 15,106 km international border with its neighbours, which is lengthy and porous, with some disputed borders. These border characteristics pose substantial and distinct challenges for India.

Causes of Infiltration:

- Failure of constitutional machinery and democracy in the neighboring states.
- Violation of human rights
- Food security
- Alienation and social violence
- Development deficit
- Social inequality

Infiltration and Its Consequences

- **Illegal Migration:** Illegal migration from Bangladesh and other adjacent nations is an issue in India. It puts a strain on resources, which might lead to violence in India. Illegal migration has also sparked ethnic strife in the north east, since local populations have been reduced to minorities in many states, leading to feelings of insecurity and, as a result, ethnic violence.
- **Terrorism:** India has been a significant victim of Pakistan-sponsored cross-border terrorism, which is usually carried out through cross-border infiltration. The attacks in Uri highlight the security threat posed by infiltration.
- **Insurgency and Left-Wing Extremism:** Infiltration is being used by external forces to help the insurgency in the North East by supplying weaponry and ammunition. Infiltration is sometimes used by left-wing extremist groups to gain external support.
- **Import of counterfeit cash and drug smuggling:** Due to simple cross-border infiltration, India confronts a huge threat of counterfeit currency and drug smuggling.

In order to address the problem of infiltration, India needs adopt an integrated and holistic approach:

- **Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System:**
- It's a Border Management System with a Wide Range of Functions. The planned **CIBMS** is built as a more robust and integrated system capable of filling weaknesses in the current border security system by seamlessly merging human resources, weapons, and high-tech surveillance equipment. It is made up of three primary parts:
 - ▶ Sensors, detectors, cameras, ground-based radar systems, micro-aerostats, lasers, and other high-tech surveillance devices, as well as existing equipment, for round-the-clock observation of the international boundary;
 - ▶ For transmitting data collected by these many high-tech monitoring and detection devices, an efficient and dedicated communication network, including fibre optic cables and satellite communication.
 - ▶ The data will be sent to a command and control centre, which will inform top commanders on what is happening on the ground and provide a composite picture of the international border.
- India has begun construction of critical roadways, an upgraded landing air runway, a new infantry battalion, and a strike corps, as well as revamping border checkpoints.
- Building socioeconomic infrastructure is essential for border security since the border population is a strategic asset. As a result, programmes like the **Border Area Development Plan and Border Infrastructure and Management** must be efficiently executed.
- The government can promote the use of space technology in border management through promoting island development, border security, **communication and navigation, GIS & Operations Planning System**, and border infrastructure development.
- Following the successful implementation of the high-tech **BOLD-QIT (Border Electronically Dominated QRT Interception Technique)** on patches of the Indo-Bangla border in Assam, the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) is moving forward with plans to extend it to the sensitive Bangla border in Northern West Bengal.

PYQ

Q. 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. (2014)

Syllabus: Challenges to internal security through communication Networks, the role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security;

3. DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM IN BORDER AREAS

Context: Recent study at AIIMS has found that around 5 crore Indians reported to have used cannabis and opioids at the time of the survey.

Reasons for drug abuse

- **Experimentation and identity forming:** The incidence of drug abuse among children and adolescents is higher than the general population. This is notably because youth is a time for experimentation and identity forming. Changing cultural values, increasing economic stress are some other reasons leading to initiation into drugs use.
- **Glorification in media:** Quite often it so happens that doing drugs is romanticized and some fictional positive aspects of the same are shown.
- **Neurotic pleasure:** Abused drugs interact with the neurochemistry of the brain to produce feelings of pleasure. The intensity of this euphoria differs by the type of drug and how it is used.
- **To feel better:** Some people suffer from depression, social anxiety, stress-related disorders, and physical pain. Using drugs may be an attempt to lessen these feelings of distress. Stress especially plays a significant role in starting and continuing drug use as well as returning to drug use (relapsing) for those recovering from an addiction.
- **To boost performance:** Ours is a very competitive society, in which the pressure to perform athletically and academically can be intense. Some people may turn to certain drugs like illegal or prescription stimulants because they think those substances will enhance or improve their performance.
- **Changing traditional societal values:** The processes of industrialization, urbanization and migration have led to loosening of the traditional methods of social control rendering an individual vulnerable to the stresses and strains of modern life.
- **To be accepted by peers:** Many people use drugs "because others are doing it"—or they think others are doing it—and they fear not being accepted in a social circle that includes drug-using peers. It soon reaches a stage where this need becomes much more than other needs in life and the person begins to believe their survival depends on those drugs.
- **Lack of effective policing:** Police sometimes turn blind eyes for the sake of their own profit. Police need to remain alert on surveillance so as to curb this drug syndicate.

Impact of Drug Abuse

- Drug abuse leads to physical, psychological, moral and intellectual decay. This means **wastage of economic potential** of young generation.
- Drug addiction **causes immense human distress**. Incidence of eve-teasing, group clashes, assault and impulsive murders increase with drug abuse.
- Drug use can lead to **social and emotional problems** and can **affect relationships with family and friends**.
- Problems with memory, attention and decision-making, which make daily living more difficult.
- Illegal production and distribution of drugs have **spawned crime and violence worldwide**.
- Increase in **incidences of HIV, hepatitis B and C and tuberculosis due to addiction** adds the reservoir of infection in the community burdening the health care system further.
- **Women in India** face greater problems from drug abuse. The consequences include domestic violence and infection with HIV, as **well as the financial burden**.

Solutions to Drug Problem

- **Society based Solutions:** Prevention programmes involving entities such as families, schools and the immediate communities are important in this regard. Media – especially the entertainment segment – also needs to understand its role in this context, glorification of drug use should completely stop. Role of NGO's is also important to fight this menace.

- **Legal Measures:** The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, were enacted with stringent provisions to curb this menace. The Act has been further amended by making provisions for the forfeiture of properties derived from illicit drugs trafficking. However, effective implementation and time bound judicial process are the need of the hour.
- **International effort:** India lies between two major drugs producing areas in the world i.e. Golden Crescent (Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan) and Golden Triangle (Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and Myanmar). In order to stop supply of drugs from these areas International coordination is very important. We need to **effectively use SAARC and ASEAN platform** for joint coordinated action against drugs trafficking.
- Also, India is signatory to the **following treaties and conventions**. U.N. Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961), U.N. Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971), U.N. Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988), Transnational Crime Convention (2000).
- Manipur is exploring possibility **to legalise cannabis, or marijuana** growing and use it for medicinal and industrial usage. This may allow proper regulations and thereby curb illegal usage of drugs

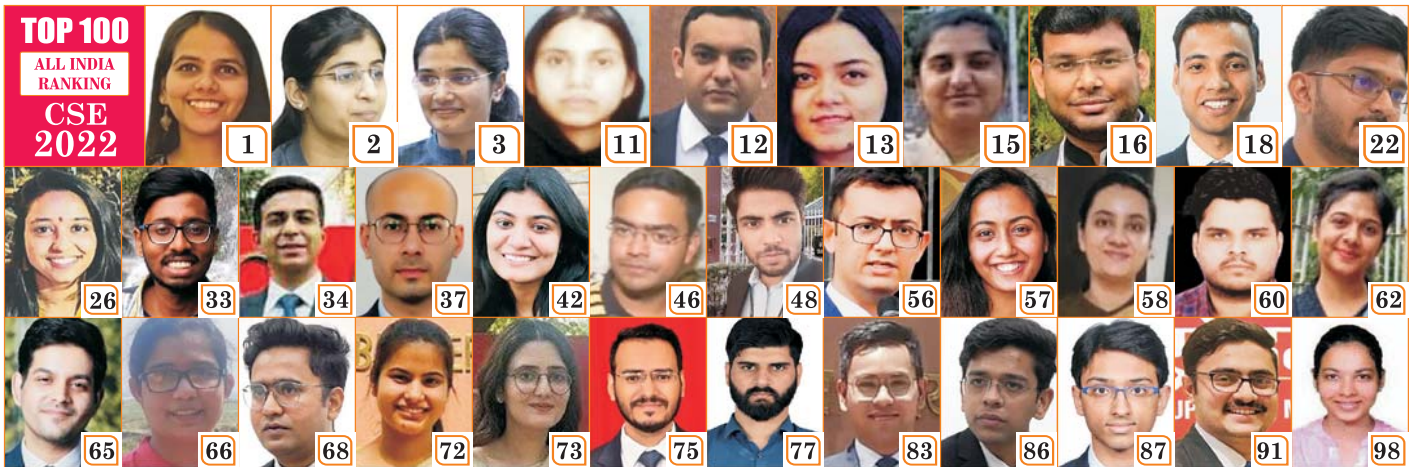
Conclusion

- Considering the wider perspective of the threat the drug menace presents, India has to spread more awareness among the public particularly among youth about ill effects of drug abuse and need to create adequate infrastructure for treatment, rehabilitation and harm reduction for the victim of the drug abuse.

Practice Question

Q. Why is India vulnerable to narcotic drug trafficking? Suggest the ways through which menace of drug trafficking could be combated.





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