



National Security Strategy

For Prelims: [National Security Council Secretariat \(NSCS\)](#), Comprehensive National Security, [National Security Strategy](#), National Security Policy 2022-2026

For Mains: Need for National Security Strategy amidst rising internal and external security threats in the country.

[Source: IE](#)

Why in News?

After years of deliberations, India has recently started the process of bringing in a [National Security Strategy](#) and the [National Security Council Secretariat \(NSCS\)](#) has started collating inputs from several Central ministries and departments.

What is the National Security Strategy?

- **Understanding National Security Strategy:**
 - A National Security Strategy (NSS) is a comprehensive document that lays out a **country's security objectives and the means** to achieve them.
 - The NSS is a dynamic document that **undergoes periodic updates to adapt to changing circumstances** and emerging challenges.
- **Scope of National Security Strategy:**
 - It addresses a wide range of modern challenges and threats. This includes **not only outdated threats but also newer, modern warfare issues that have become increasingly significant in today's interconnected world.**
 - It encompasses **not only traditional threats**, such as military and defense-related issues, **but also non-traditional ones** like financial and economic security, food and energy security, information warfare, **vulnerabilities in [critical information infrastructure](#), [supply chain disruptions](#), and environmental challenges.**
- **Role of National Security Strategy in India:**
 - By providing a holistic view of India's national security landscape and a roadmap to address aforementioned challenges, the National Security Strategy **will guide critical defense and security reforms**, making it an essential tool in safeguarding the nation's interests.

What is India's Need for National Security Strategy?

- **The Need for a National Security Strategy in India:**
 - A National Security Strategy for India has been a recurring topic in military discussions. However, **despite various attempts, it has yet to be formulated** and implemented due to a lack of a cohesive, whole-of-government effort, and the government has deliberately not made its national security objectives public.
- **Urgency Amid Complex Threats and Geopolitical Uncertainties:**
 - Given the multifaceted nature of emerging threats and the **increased uncertainties in**

global geopolitics, there is a pressing need to develop a national security strategy in India.

- **Calls for Revising Existing Directives and the Role of Military Reforms:**
 - Former Army Chief General has emphasized the **outdated nature of the current political direction for the Armed Forces** and the necessity of revising it.
 - The only political direction for the Armed Forces in existence is the Defence Minister's operational Directive of 2009.
 - Experts have underscored that significant military reforms like the **[theaterisation of armed forces](#)** should stem from a **comprehensive national security strategy**.
 - The absence of such a strategy has been likened to attempting military reforms without a clear roadmap.
- **Countries Having National Security Strategy:**
 - **Most developed countries with an advanced military and security infrastructure have a National Security Strategy in place**, updated from time to time.
 - The US, the UK and Russia have published national security strategies.
 - **China** also has such a strategy in place, called the Comprehensive National Security, which is closely tied to its governance structure.
 - **Pakistan**, too, has brought out a National Security Policy 2022-2026, underlining its national security objectives and priority areas.

Way Forward

- **Bringing Changes to the National Security Policy:**
 - **Clarifying the Objectives:** The National Security Strategy in the 21st century shall define what assets are required to be defended and the identity of opponents who seek to overawe the people of a target nation by unfamiliar moves to cause disorientation of people.
 - **Setting Priorities:** The national security priorities will require new departments for supporting several frontiers of innovation and technologies; **[hydrogen fuel cells](#), [desalination of seawater](#), [thorium for nuclear technology](#), [anti-computer viruses](#), and [new immunity-creating medicines](#).**
 - **Changing the Strategy:** The strategy required for the new national security Strategy will be to **anticipate the enemies in many dimensions and by demonstrative but limited pre-emptive strikes** by developing a strategy of deterrence of the enemy.
 - For India, it will be **China's cyber capability factor** which is the new threat for which it has to devise a new strategy.
- **Role of Policy Makers:**
 - The government should carve out a separate budget for **[cybersecurity](#)**.
 - Creating a central body of cyber warriors to counter state-sponsored hackers.
 - India's talent base in **software development** should be harnessed by providing career opportunities.
 - Bootstrapping the **cybersecurity capability programme** in states through central funding.
- **Defense, Deterrence and Exploitation:**
 - These are the three main components of any national strategy to combat threats:
 - **[Critical information infrastructure](#)** must be defended and individual ministries and private companies must also put procedures in place to honestly report breaches.
 - Deterrence in National Security is a hugely complex issue. For Ex- **[Nuclear deterrence](#) is successful** because there is clarity on the capability of adversaries but national security strategy lacks any such clarity.
 - The preparation for a robust strategy will have to start with the **Indian military gathering intelligence, evaluating targets and preparing the specific tools** for ensuring national security in the long term.

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims:

Q. In the Constitution of India, promotion of international peace and security is included in the (2014)

- (a) Preamble to the Constitution
- (b) Directive Principles of State Policy
- (c) Fundamental Duties
- (d) Ninth Schedule

Ans: (b)

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