



## NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY - GS III MAINS

Q. National Security Strategy outlines India's national security objectives and priorities in dealing with global challenges. Discuss (10 marks, 150 words)

**News:** *India needs the anchor of a national security strategy*

### What's in the news?

- The newly elected National Democratic Alliance government is confronted with several longstanding and complex national security issues.

### Dynamic Geo-political Challenges and Significance:

#### 1. China's Multifaceted Challenges:

- China poses an unprecedented array of interconnected challenges, including a significant naval build-up, geoeconomic clout in South Asia, and leverage in global supply chains.

#### 2. Strategic Relations with the US:

- India must navigate its strategic partnership with the United States while managing competition with China.

#### 3. Global Conflicts Impact:

- Distant conflicts, such as those in Ukraine and Gaza, reveal new technologies and tactics of war that could spread to India's neighbourhood, influencing its strategic relations and defence strategies.

### Challenges for the Indian Government:

#### 1. Decisions on Military Investments:

- The government must decide on key defence projects, such as building another aircraft carrier and implementing theaterisation.

#### 2. Holistic National Security:

- There is a need to step back and consider national security holistically, rather than making piecemeal decisions that could waste resources and undermine national goals.

#### 3. Managing Strategic Risks:

- Addressing strategic risks like climate change, pandemics, and China's growing influence requires coordinated, long-term policy efforts.

#### 4. Synchronizing Efforts:

- Various arms of the government, including the military and national security agencies, need to synchronize their efforts more effectively.



## National Security Strategy (NSS) for Expanding Power:

### 1. Comprehensive Strategic Assessment:

- A National Security Strategy (NSS) would compel the government to thoroughly review threats, opportunities, and global security trends.

### 2. Framework for Long-Term Planning:

- An NSS would provide a coherent framework for long-term strategic planning, helping to allocate resources effectively and develop necessary military capabilities and international partnerships.

### 3. Signaling Intent to Allies and Adversaries:

- An NSS would clarify India's strategic intent, signaling its role as a net security provider in the Indian Ocean and its stance on regional security issues.

### 4. Coordinated National Security Efforts:

- An NSS would align the efforts of different national security agencies and military branches, fostering better coordination and integration.

### 5. Transparency and Accountability:

- An NSS would serve as a tool to ensure that the government's policies are transparent and accountable to Parliament and the citizens.

### 6. Adherence to Political Leadership's Intent:

- It would help ensure that the bureaucracy adheres to the political leadership's strategic direction.

### 7. Public Document:

- A strong NSS should be a public document, endorsed by the Prime Minister, to synchronize efforts across the government and signal political intent both domestically and internationally.

### 8. Rational Decision-Making:

- An NSS would help identify trade-offs and opportunity costs, enabling political leaders to make informed, rational decisions for long-term national growth and security.

Develop a coherent strategic framework within the NSS that outlines India's national security objectives, priorities, and methodologies for achieving them. This framework should guide decision-making on defense investments, international partnerships, and response strategies to global challenges like climate change and pandemics.