VISHNU I A S
MODERN GURUKUL FOR CIVIL SERVICES
TSPSC G 1 | UPSC - CSE | APPSC G 1
DAILY MAINS ANSWER WRITING
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(MODEL ANSWER)

Q. Discuss the need for a National Security Strategy (NSS) in India in the context of contemporary security challenges. Elaborate on the potential benefits of a well-crafted NSS, considering strategic, economic, and geopolitical dimensions.

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Answer Template:

Introduction:

- A National Security Strategy (NSS) is a comprehensive framework that outlines a country's approach to ensuring its national security, addressing threats, and capitalizing on opportunities in the global arena.
- Despite being a major power, India lacks a formal NSS.
- As of 2023, India faces myriad security challenges, including geopolitical tensions, economic competition, and evolving global threats.
- For India, having a well-crafted NSS is essential given the complex geopolitical landscape and evolving security challenges.

Body:

- **Importance of a National Security Strategy:**
  - <u>Comprehensive Decision-Making</u>: An NSS provides a structured approach to decision-making, enabling coherent and coordinated responses to security challenges.
  - <u>Long-Term Planning</u>: It facilitates long-term strategic planning, ensuring preparedness for future threats.
  - <u>Consistency in Policy Implementation</u>: An NSS ensures continuity and consistency in security policies across different governments.
- **Current Challenges for India's Security:**
  - <u>Geopolitical Tensions</u>: India's strategic competition with China, including naval build-ups and border disputes, requires a comprehensive strategy.
  - <u>Strategic Relations with the US</u>: Balancing relations with global powers like the US amidst shifting alliances necessitates a clear NSS.
  - <u>Climate Change and Pandemics</u>: These non-traditional threats demand a multidisciplinary approach encompassed in an NSS.
- **Need for National Security Strategy (NSS)**
  - <u>Strategic Imperatives</u>
    - Border Security and Territorial Integrity:
      - India shares borders with multiple countries, each presenting unique security challenges. Border skirmishes with adverse neighbours highlight the critical need for a cohesive strategy to safeguard territorial integrity.
      - *Example: The 2017 **Doklam standoff** underscored the importance of diplomatic maneuvers and military preparedness in managing border disputes.*

- Counterterrorism and Internal Security:
  - India has been a target of cross-border terrorism, with incidents like the 2008 Mumbai attacks and the 2019 Pulwama attack revealing vulnerabilities in national security.
  - *Example: The **National Investigation Agency** (NIA) has played a crucial role in investigating and prosecuting terrorism cases, emphasizing the need for a robust counterterrorism strategy.*
- Nuclear Deterrence and Strategic Stability:
  - As a nuclear-armed state, India's NSS outlines principles such as 'No First Use' and 'Minimum Credible Deterrence' to maintain strategic stability in the region.
  - *Example: The successful development of **Agni and Prithvi missile systems** demonstrates India's commitment to maintaining credible deterrence capabilities.*
- Resource Management and Economic Security:
  - NSS prioritizes resource allocation for defence and security sectors, ensuring optimal utilization of economic resources amidst competing demands.
  - *Example: The **Defence Budget Allocation** has steadily increased, reflecting a strategic commitment to enhancing defence capabilities.*
- Critical Infrastructure Protection and Cyber Security:
  - With increasing digitization, protecting critical infrastructure and combating cyber threats are integral to NSS.
  - *Example: Initiatives like the **National Cyber Security Policy** focus on enhancing cybersecurity measures across public and private sectors.*
- Strategic Partnerships and Alliances:
  - NSS fosters strategic partnerships with countries like the United States, Russia, and ASEAN nations to enhance defence cooperation and regional stability.
  - *Example: The **Quad initiative** involving India, the US, Japan, and Australia aims to uphold a rules-based international order in the Indo-Pacific region.*

- **Benefits of a Well-Crafted NSS**
  - Strategic Benefits
    - Enhanced Military Preparedness and Modernization:
      - A well-defined NSS accelerates military modernization efforts, enhancing capabilities across air, land, sea, and space domains.
      - *Example: The induction of **Rafale fighter** jets and advancements in missile technology bolster India's defense preparedness.*
    - Integrated Intelligence and Counterterrorism Efforts:
      - NSS facilitates coordination among intelligence agencies, improving pre-emptive capabilities against security threats.

- - - *Example: Joint operations by intelligence agencies led to the neutralization of terrorist networks, preventing potential attacks.*
  - o Economic Benefits
    - ▪ Stimulated Defence Industry and Innovation:
      - • NSS stimulates indigenous defence production and innovation through policies like 'Make in India' and technology transfers.
      - • *Example: Collaborative projects with global defence manufacturers enhance local manufacturing capabilities*.
    - ▪ Infrastructure Development and Job Creation:
      - • Defence and security initiatives under NSS contribute to infrastructure development and job creation in related sectors.
      - • *Example: The development of defence corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu aims to boost local economies*.
  - o **Geopolitical Benefits**
    - ▪ Enhanced Global Standing and Soft Power:
      - • A coherent NSS enhances India's global standing through proactive diplomacy and strategic partnerships.
      - • *Example: Participation in international forums and peacekeeping missions enhances India's role as a responsible global actor.*
    - ▪ Regional Influence and Stability:
      - • NSS fosters regional stability through collaborative security mechanisms and conflict resolution efforts.

Conclusion

- A well-crafted National Security Strategy not only addresses immediate security challenges but also prepares India to navigate future uncertainties effectively.
- According to a survey by the **Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses** (IDSA), 78% of respondents believe that a comprehensive NSS enhances national resilience and strategic foresight.
- Moving forward, integrating emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and biotechnology into NSS frameworks will further bolster India's security preparedness, as highlighted by the NITI Aayog.