PrepAlpine

The Next-Generation UPSC Institution

Where Research Meets Mentorship & Precision

Preparation Meets Precision

A Next-Generation Learning Institution

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED 09.05.2026

GS Paper II: Current Affairs

1. NITI Aayog Flags Low Student Retention and Learning Outcomes

a. Introduction

A recent report by NITI Aayog titled *School Education System in India – Temporal Analysis and Policy Roadmap for Quality Enhancement* has highlighted major structural weaknesses in India's school education system. The report identifies high dropout rates at the secondary stage, declining learning outcomes despite improved enrolment, and significant infrastructure and teacher-capacity gaps.

The report recommends restructuring the schooling system through "cylindrical schooling" and expanding composite schools that provide uninterrupted education from Grades 1 to 12.

b. Background and Constitutional Context

Education remains central to India's developmental and social justice framework. It is directly linked to governance quality, social empowerment, ethical public administration, and long-term human capital formation.

Constitutional and Policy Linkages

Provision / Policy	Relevance
Article 21A	Fundamental Right to Education for children aged 6–14 years
Articles 41, 45 and 46	Directive Principles promoting education and protection of weaker sections
National Education Policy (NEP) 2020	Holistic, multidisciplinary and flexible school education
Sustainable Development Goal 4	Inclusive and equitable quality education

Broader Governance Significance

Education policy today is no longer confined merely to enrolment expansion. It is increasingly connected to:

- demographic dividend utilisation,
- labour-force productivity,
- social mobility, and
- inclusive economic growth.

Thus, weaknesses in school education directly affect India's long-term developmental trajectory.

The constitutional commitment to universal education has improved school access over the years. However, the latest findings reveal that access alone is insufficient without retention, continuity, and quality learning outcomes.

c. Major Findings of the Report

Aspect	Findings
Total Schools	14.71 lakh schools
Student Enrolment	24.69 crore students
Primary Schools	7.3 lakh
Higher Secondary Schools	Only 1.64 lakh
Dropout Crisis	Nearly 40 percent students leave before higher secondary completion
Composite Schools	Only 5.4 percent provide uninterrupted Grade 1–12 education
Zero-Enrolment Schools	7,993 schools
Electricity Gap	1.19 lakh schools lack functional electricity
Water Access Deficit	14,505 schools lack water facilities
Handwashing Facilities	59,829 schools lack proper facilities
Reading Proficiency	Grade 8 reading ability declined from 74.7 percent in 2014 to 71.1 percent in 2024
Mathematics Skills	Only 45.8 percent students can solve basic division problems

Interpretation of the Findings

The data indicates that India's education challenge has shifted from:

- school access, to
- educational continuity and quality.

Despite near-universal enrolment at the elementary stage, large numbers of students continue to drop out before completing secondary education.

The report's findings naturally lead to a deeper structural concern regarding the design of India's school system itself, described as the "pyramid problem."

d. The "Pyramid Problem" in Indian Schooling

Meaning of the Pyramid Structure

The report describes India's school structure as a "sharp pyramid."

At the primary level, schools are widely available. However, the number of institutions sharply declines at the secondary and higher secondary stages. Consequently, students are forced to repeatedly transition between schools after primary and middle education.

Major Consequences

This structure creates multiple barriers:

- higher transportation costs,
- increased financial burden on families,
- social insecurity for girls, and
- reduced educational continuity.

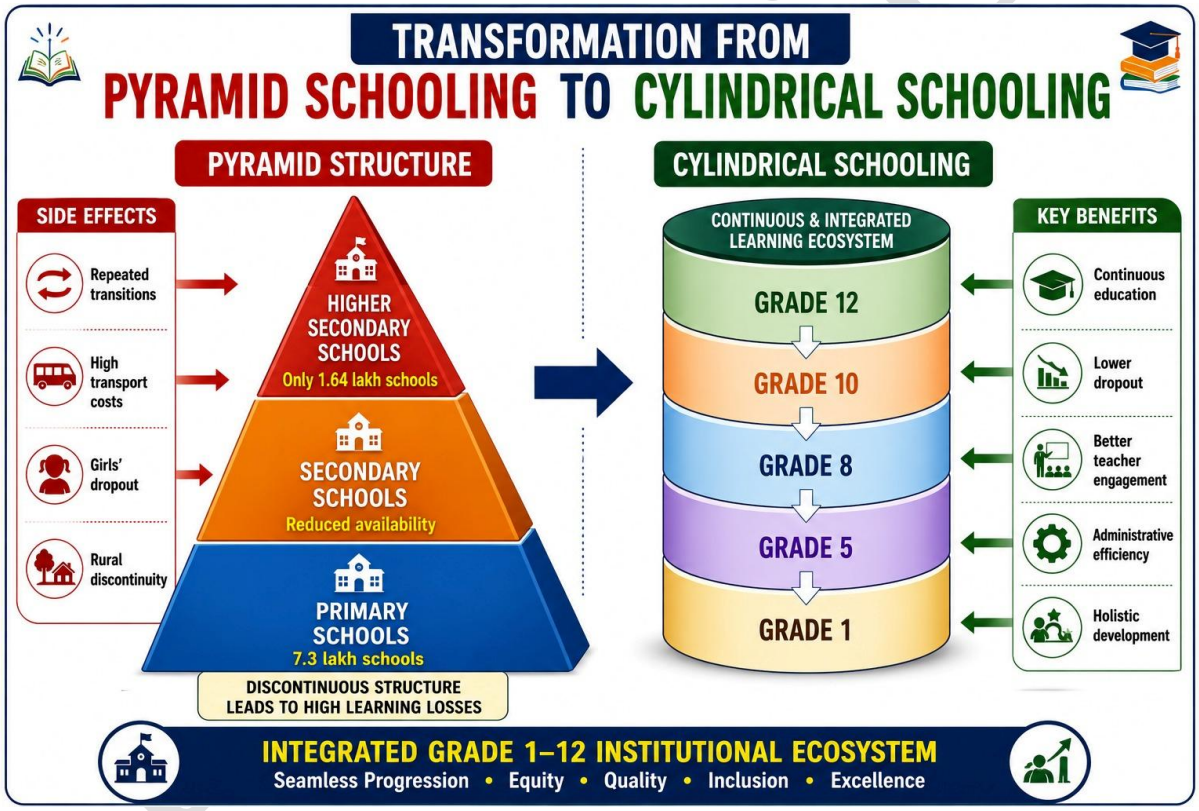
Vulnerable Groups Most Affected

The impact is particularly severe for:

- girls,
- rural students,
- economically weaker families, and
- Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

As a result, many students discontinue education before completing secondary schooling.

The structural weaknesses of the pyramid model have prompted the recommendation for a more integrated institutional framework through "cylindrical schooling."



e. Cylindrical Schooling: NITI Aayog's Reform Proposal

Concept of Composite Schools

The report recommends replacing the existing "pyramid structure" with a "cylindrical schooling model."

Under this system, students would receive uninterrupted education within the same institutional ecosystem from Grade 1 to Grade 12.

Objectives of the Reform

The proposal seeks to:

- ensure continuity in education,

- reduce dropout rates,
- improve administrative efficiency,
- enable integrated use of infrastructure and teachers, and
- support holistic learning environments.

Importance of Composite Schools

Composite schools can:

- reduce emotional disruption caused by repeated school changes,
- improve long-term teacher-student engagement, and
- strengthen institutional accountability.

The proposal aligns closely with the vision of National Education Policy 2020, which emphasises integrated and multidisciplinary education.

While institutional restructuring is important, the report simultaneously highlights a deeper crisis — declining learning outcomes despite improved enrolment.

f. Crisis in Learning Outcomes

i. Declining Foundational Skills

The report emphasises that increased enrolment has not translated into improved learning quality.

Reading Ability

- Among Grade 8 students, the proportion able to read Grade 2-level text declined from 74.7 percent in 2014 to 71.1 percent in 2024.

Mathematics Skills

- Only 45.8 percent students could perform basic division operations.

ii. Supporting Evidence from Other Studies

These findings reinforce concerns raised by:

- ASER Centre reports,
- National Achievement Surveys, and
- the World Bank Human Capital Index.

iii. Implications of Weak Learning Outcomes

Poor foundational learning has serious long-term consequences:

- weak employability,
- lower productivity,
- skill deficits,
- reduced innovation capacity, and
- erosion of demographic dividend advantages.

Thus, the crisis is not merely educational, but also economic and social in nature.

The decline in educational quality is compounded further by severe infrastructure deficiencies across schools, especially in rural India.

g. Infrastructure Deficits and Educational Inequality

Key Infrastructure Gaps

Infrastructure Gap	Impact
Lack of electricity	Restricts digital learning and smart classrooms
Poor sanitation	Reduces attendance, especially among girls
Inadequate water supply	Creates health and hygiene challenges
Lack of handwashing facilities	Increases disease vulnerability

Wider Social Implications

Infrastructure inequality deepens:

- rural-urban disparities,
- gender inequality, and
- digital exclusion.

The absence of basic facilities undermines both educational access and quality.

As India modernises its education system, technology integration and Artificial Intelligence are emerging as major policy priorities.

h. Artificial Intelligence in Education: Opportunities and Risks

Government Initiative

The Ministry of Education plans to introduce Artificial Intelligence and Computational Thinking from Grade 3 onward.

Potential Benefits

The initiative may promote:

- digital literacy,
- future-ready skills,
- personalised learning tools, and
- technological adaptability.

Major Concerns

The report cautions against:

- excessive dependence on Artificial Intelligence,
- decline in independent thinking,
- insufficient teacher preparedness, and
- ethical concerns regarding early exposure to technology.

Ethical Dimension

From a governance and ethics perspective, technology integration must remain:

- human-centric,
- inclusive,
- pedagogically balanced, and
- ethically regulated.

The findings of the report therefore hold significance not only for education policy, but also for governance reform, social justice, and national development.

i. Significance of the Report

Shift from Access to Quality

The report moves beyond enrolment statistics and focuses on:

- retention,
- continuity,
- educational quality, and
- learning outcomes.

This marks an important transition in India's education policy discourse.

Reinforcement of NEP 2020

The recommendation for composite schools supports:

- holistic education,
- reduced fragmentation, and
- multidisciplinary learning.

Human Capital Development

Quality education is essential for:

- economic growth,
- innovation,
- social mobility, and
- demographic dividend utilisation.

Social Justice Perspective

Educational exclusion disproportionately affects:

- girls,
- rural populations,
- Scheduled Castes,
- Scheduled Tribes, and
- economically weaker sections.

Thus, educational reform is also a question of equity and constitutional justice.

Despite the importance of these reforms, implementation challenges remain substantial and multidimensional.

j. Key Challenges in Reform

Structural and Administrative Challenges

Challenge	Explanation
Financial Constraints	Composite schools require large capital investments
Teacher Shortages	Acute deficit in rural and secondary education
Administrative Fragmentation	Weak Centre-State coordination
Digital Divide	Unequal access to devices and connectivity

Learning Poverty	Persistent foundational literacy crisis

Governance Concerns

Successful implementation requires:

- coordinated Centre-State action,
- long-term fiscal commitment, and
- institutional accountability mechanisms.

To address these concerns effectively, India can also draw lessons from international educational models.

k. Comparative Perspective

International Lessons

Country	Key Feature
Finland	Integrated schooling with minimal transitions
Singapore	Strong foundational learning and teacher quality
South Korea	High investment in secondary education

Lessons for India

India can adapt global best practices related to:

- integrated school systems,
- teacher professionalisation,
- competency-based learning, and
- sustained public investment in education.

Drawing upon these lessons, a comprehensive and inclusive reform agenda becomes essential for improving both retention and learning quality.

l. Way Forward

Strengthen Foundational Literacy and Numeracy

- Strengthen implementation of NIPUN Bharat with a strong focus on reading and arithmetic skills.

Promote Composite Schools

- Develop integrated Grade 1–12 schools, particularly in rural and aspirational districts.

Extend Educational Support Beyond Age 14

Provide:

- scholarships,
- direct benefit transfers, and
- transport assistance for secondary education.

Improve Teacher Capacity

Ensure continuous:

- teacher training,
- digital literacy enhancement, and
- ethical Artificial Intelligence orientation.

Modernise Infrastructure

Achieve universal access to:

- electricity,
- sanitation,
- clean water, and
- digital classrooms.

Strengthen Data-Driven Governance

- Enhance the accuracy and periodic updating of UDISE+ data and rationalise zero-enrolment schools.

Align with Sustainable Development Goal 4

- Ensure inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all children in line with global commitments.

Conclusion

India's education challenge is no longer merely about getting children into schools but ensuring that they stay, learn, and thrive. The NITI Aayog report underscores the need to shift from an access-centric approach to a quality- and retention-focused model through composite schooling, stronger foundational learning, better infrastructure, and empowered teachers. Sustained reforms in these areas are essential to transform education into a true instrument of social justice, human capital development, and national progress.

GS Paper II: Current Affairs

2. AI and the Future of Education: Human Skills in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

a. Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is emerging as one of the most transformative technologies of the twenty-first century. Its rapid expansion is reshaping economies, education systems, governance structures, and labour markets across the world. AI-powered systems are increasingly capable of automating repetitive tasks, generating content, analysing vast quantities of data, and improving efficiency across multiple sectors.

This technological transformation has generated both optimism and anxiety. While AI creates opportunities for innovation, productivity, and economic growth, it has also raised concerns regarding employment security, relevance of traditional education systems, ethical governance, and the future role of human beings in an increasingly automated world.

In this context, the central challenge before education systems is not merely technological adaptation, but redefining the purpose of education itself. The future increasingly belongs not to those who compete with machines in routine functions, but to those who possess uniquely human capacities such as critical thinking, creativity, ethical reasoning, emotional intelligence, and adaptability.

b. Understanding Artificial Intelligence

Meaning of Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence refers to the capability of machines and computer systems to perform tasks that normally require human intelligence.

These tasks include:

- Learning from data
- Problem-solving
- Language processing
- Pattern recognition
- Decision-making

AI systems function through algorithms, machine learning models, training datasets, and predictive computation.

Major Applications of AI

Artificial Intelligence is increasingly used in:

- Healthcare
- Education
- Banking and finance
- Governance
- Manufacturing
- Transportation
- Agriculture

The widespread application of AI is fundamentally transforming the nature of work, learning, and governance.

c. Artificial Intelligence and the Changing Nature of Work

Transformation of Employment Structures

Modern AI systems are capable of:

- Data analysis
- Content generation
- Coding assistance
- Workflow automation
- Predictive modelling
- Decision-support functions

As a result, workplaces are undergoing rapid transformation.

Emerging Trend	Impact
Automation of routine work	Reduction in repetitive and mechanical tasks
Higher productivity expectations	Faster delivery and increased efficiency
Human-AI collaboration	Smaller teams performing larger tasks
Continuous reskilling	Dynamic and evolving labour markets

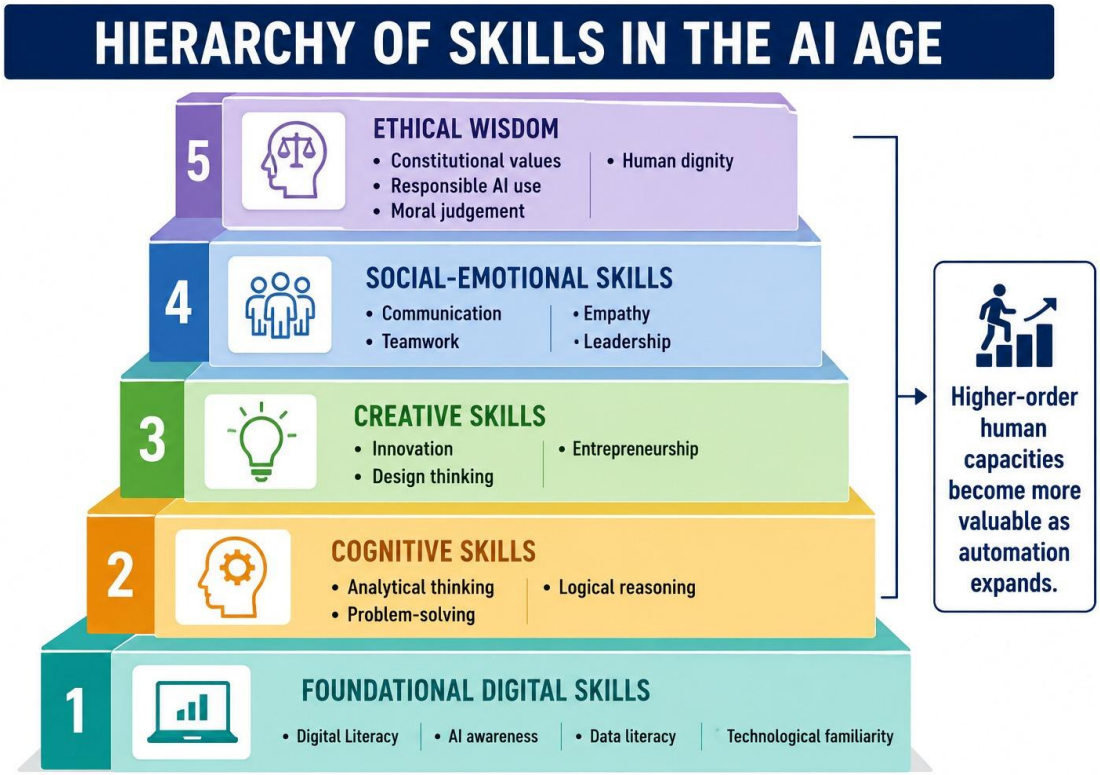
Interdisciplinary work culture	Integration of technology with traditional domains

Future of Careers

The nature of careers is becoming increasingly fluid because:

- Technology evolves rapidly
- Skills become obsolete faster
- Job roles continuously transform
- New sectors emerge regularly

Therefore, future employability will depend less on static qualifications and more on adaptability and lifelong learning.



d. Why Human Skills Remain Central

Despite rapid technological progress, AI systems remain fundamentally dependent on human direction, values, and judgement.

AI may generate answers, but human beings continue to define the questions worth asking.

Limitations of Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence operates through:

- Algorithms
- Training data
- Statistical prediction
- Human-generated prompts

However, AI lacks:

- Moral consciousness
- Emotional understanding

- Ethical responsibility
- Human empathy
- Contextual wisdom

Human Capacities Becoming More Valuable

Human Skill	Relevance
Critical thinking	Evaluating evidence and identifying meaningful problems
Creativity	Innovation beyond algorithmic patterns
Ethical reasoning	Assessing social consequences of technology
Communication	Persuasion and collaboration
Emotional intelligence	Human-centred leadership and interaction
Intellectual humility	Openness to continuous learning
Leadership	Building social trust and collective vision

Thus, while machines may process information rapidly, human beings remain indispensable for providing meaning, morality, wisdom, and social direction.

The growing importance of these capacities highlights the need to rethink educational priorities.

e. Role of Education in the Age of AI

Changing Purpose of Education

Traditionally, education systems often focused on:

- Memorisation
- Examination performance
- Information reproduction

However, in the AI era, information is increasingly accessible through digital systems and AI tools.

Therefore, education must focus more on:

- Analytical thinking
- Conceptual understanding
- Creativity
- Problem-solving
- Ethical judgement

Education as Human Development

Education should nurture:

- Intellectual growth
- Emotional maturity
- Civic responsibility
- Social awareness

- Democratic values

The true purpose of education is therefore not merely employability, but the cultivation of thoughtful and responsible citizens.

f. Role of Universities in the AI Era

Universities as Spaces of Intellectual Formation

Universities contribute to:

- Independent thinking
- Exposure to diverse perspectives
- Debate and dialogue
- Interdisciplinary understanding
- Civic awareness

Importance of Campus Ecosystems

University environments help develop:

- Resilience
- Patience
- Collaboration
- Social sensitivity
- Emotional intelligence

These dimensions of personality formation cannot be fully replicated through AI systems or digital platforms.

Thus, higher education remains essential not only for professional preparation but also for democratic and social development.

g. Challenges in Indian Higher Education

Structural Weaknesses

Challenge	Explanation
Rote learning culture	Weak conceptual understanding
Outdated curricula	Slow adaptation to technological change
Examination-centric system	Limited analytical abilities
Employability gaps	Disconnect between academia and industry
Narrow specialisation	Lack of interdisciplinary exposure

Need for Educational Transformation

India's demographic dividend can become a major national strength only if educational reforms successfully combine:

- Technological capability
- Human creativity

- Ethical leadership
- Research and innovation

Therefore, educational reform is increasingly becoming a strategic national priority.

h. What Should Education Focus On?

Holistic and Interdisciplinary Learning

Education should combine:

- Sciences
- Humanities
- Ethics
- Technology
- Communication skills

The separation between technical and humanistic education is becoming increasingly unsustainable.

Critical Reasoning and Independent Thought

Students must develop:

- Logical reasoning
- Evidence-based analysis
- Questioning ability
- Independent judgement

These capacities are especially important in an era of misinformation and AI-generated content.

AI Literacy

Students should acquire understanding of:

- AI tools and systems
- Data literacy
- Algorithmic bias
- Digital ethics
- Responsible technology use

AI literacy is becoming an essential component of modern education.

Lifelong Learning

Future careers will increasingly require:

- Continuous reskilling
- Adaptability
- Constant knowledge acquisition

Education systems must therefore prepare individuals for lifelong learning rather than one-time certification.

These educational reforms are also necessary for addressing the ethical challenges associated with emerging technologies.

i. Ethical Concerns Associated with Artificial Intelligence

Major Ethical Challenges

Artificial Intelligence raises concerns relating to:

- Algorithmic bias
- Misinformation
- Surveillance
- Privacy violations
- Job displacement
- Accountability deficits

Unchecked technological expansion may deepen social inequalities and undermine democratic institutions.

Importance of Ethical Governance

Technological advancement must remain guided by:

- Constitutional morality
- Human dignity
- Social welfare
- Ethical responsibility

The relationship between technology and ethics will become one of the defining questions of the twenty-first century.

This ethical dimension makes AI not merely a technological issue, but also a societal and governance challenge.

j. Way Forward

Educational Reforms Needed

India must undertake reforms through:

- Integration of AI literacy into curricula
- Promotion of interdisciplinary education
- Shift from rote learning to analytical learning
- Strengthening industry-academia collaboration
- Encouragement of research and innovation culture

Human Skills Students Must Cultivate

Students should focus on developing:

- Curiosity
- Creativity
- Adaptability
- Ethical judgement
- Communication abilities
- Emotional intelligence
- Leadership qualities

These skills will remain valuable irrespective of technological transformation.

Conclusion

Artificial Intelligence is transforming the manner in which human beings learn, work, and solve problems. However, the defining capacities of the future remain deeply human: the ability to ask meaningful questions, exercise ethical judgement, connect ideas across disciplines, and work toward larger social goals.

The challenge before education systems is therefore not merely to produce efficient users of Artificial Intelligence, but to nurture thoughtful, creative, and responsible citizens capable of shaping technology for human welfare.

Machines may process information with extraordinary speed, but only human beings can provide wisdom, morality, empathy, purpose, and vision.

GS Paper III: Security

3. Evolution of India's Defence Doctrine after Operation Sindoor

a. Introduction

India's national security doctrine has undergone a gradual but significant transformation in response to changing security threats, especially cross-border terrorism, hybrid warfare, regional instability, and technological changes in warfare. Over the decades, India moved from a largely defensive and restrained security posture toward a doctrine centred on proactive deterrence, calibrated military response, integrated warfare capability, and strategic signalling.

The evolution became particularly visible after operations such as the 2016 Surgical Strikes, the 2019 Balakot Air Strikes, and later Operation Sindoor in 2025. These developments reflected India's willingness to impose military costs on terror infrastructure while managing escalation under nuclear conditions.

India's evolving doctrine therefore reflects not only military transformation, but also broader changes in political resolve, technological preparedness, defence reforms, and strategic thinking in a rapidly changing geopolitical environment.

b. Understanding Defence Doctrine

Meaning of Defence Doctrine

A defence doctrine refers to a set of strategic principles guiding a nation's military and security responses.

It defines:

- Perception of threats
- Military objectives
- Nature of deterrence
- Use of force
- Strategic priorities

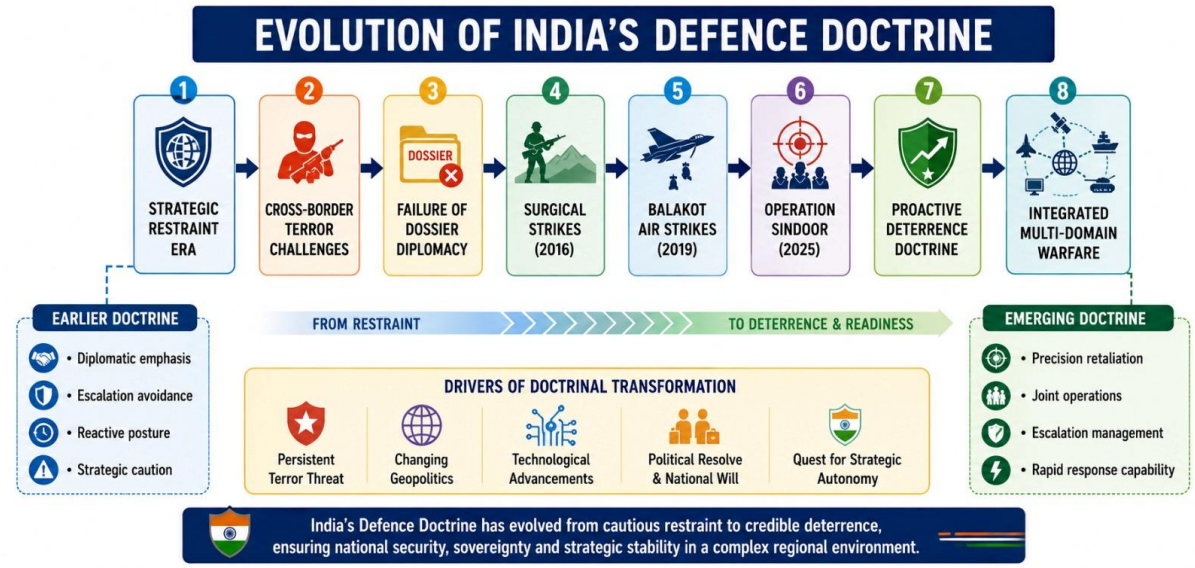
Defence doctrines evolve according to geopolitical conditions, technological developments, and national security requirements.

Objectives of a Defence Doctrine

A defence doctrine aims to:

- Protect national sovereignty
- Ensure territorial integrity
- Deter external aggression
- Respond to security threats
- Maintain strategic stability

India's evolving doctrine reflects adaptation to new forms of warfare and regional security challenges.



c. India's Traditional Doctrine of Strategic Restraint

Background of Strategic Restraint

For several decades after independence, India largely followed a doctrine of strategic restraint in dealing with cross-border terrorism and hostile regional actors.

This approach was shaped by:

- Diplomatic engagement
- Avoidance of escalation
- Preference for stability
- Reliance on international opinion

Features of the Earlier Doctrine

Feature	Explanation
Reactive posture	Direct military retaliation was generally avoided
Diplomatic emphasis	Reliance on international pressure and negotiations
Escalation concerns	Fear of nuclear confrontation with Pakistan
Strategic caution	Preference for preserving regional stability

"Dossier Diplomacy" Approach

Following major terror attacks, India often relied upon:

- Diplomatic mobilisation
- Presentation of evidence against terror groups
- International pressure mechanisms

This came to be described as the "dossier approach."

However, critics increasingly argued that such restraint failed to establish credible deterrence against repeated cross-border terrorism.

This growing dissatisfaction gradually contributed to the emergence of a more assertive security posture.

d. Shift in India's Defence Doctrine

Emergence of a Proactive Security Posture

A doctrinal shift became visible after:

- Surgical Strikes (2016)
- Balakot Air Strikes (2019)
- Operation Sindoor (2025)

These operations demonstrated India's willingness to conduct calibrated cross-border military action below the threshold of full-scale war.

Emergence of a Zero-Tolerance Framework

India's evolving doctrine increasingly emphasises:

- Proactive deterrence
- Punitive retaliation
- Precision operations
- Political-military coordination
- Rapid response capability

Core Features of the New Doctrine

Element	Description
Proactive deterrence	Preventive and punitive military response
Integrated operations	Coordination among Army, Navy, and Air Force
Escalation management	Controlled but firm retaliation
Political-military synergy	Clear political mandate to armed forces
Rapid response capability	Precision targeting and operational readiness

The doctrine reflects India's attempt to challenge terrorism conducted under the protection of nuclear deterrence.

This transformation also highlights the growing importance of integrated warfare in modern security strategy.

e. Integrated Warfare and Jointness

Changing Nature of Modern Warfare

Modern warfare increasingly involves coordination across:

- Land domain
- Air domain
- Maritime domain
- Cyber domain

- Space domain
- Information domain

Traditional service-specific operations are gradually giving way to integrated warfare structures.

Importance of Jointness

India's evolving doctrine stresses:

- Interoperability among armed forces
- Real-time intelligence sharing
- Network-centric warfare
- Integrated targeting systems
- Unified command structures

Chief of Defence Staff and Theatre Commands

The establishment of the Chief of Defence Staff reflects efforts to improve:

- Tri-service coordination
- Resource optimisation
- Operational efficiency

The proposed integrated theatre command system seeks to further strengthen unified military response during crises.

Integrated warfare capability is now viewed as essential for effective deterrence and rapid response.

f. Escalation Control under Nuclear Conditions

Nuclear Deterrence Environment

India's security doctrine operates within a nuclearised regional environment involving Pakistan and China.

This creates challenges relating to:

- Escalation management
- Strategic signalling
- Crisis stability

Limited War under Nuclear Overhang

India's evolving doctrine reflects the idea of "limited war under nuclear overhang."

This means:

- Conducting calibrated conventional military operations
- Avoiding uncontrolled escalation
- Remaining below nuclear thresholds

Importance of Escalation Management

Such a doctrine requires:

- Political judgement
- Accurate intelligence
- Precision military capability
- Crisis communication mechanisms

Thus, India seeks to combine deterrence credibility with strategic restraint.

This balance has become increasingly dependent upon technological superiority and precision warfare capabilities.

g. Role of Air Power and Emerging Technology

Technological Transformation of Warfare

Modern conflicts increasingly rely upon:

- Precision-guided munitions
- Drones and unmanned systems
- Surveillance technologies
- Cyber warfare
- Electronic warfare
- Advanced air defence systems

Air Power as Strategic Deterrence

Air power provides:

- Rapid response capability
- Deep-strike potential
- Precision engagement
- Escalation control

Operations such as Balakot demonstrated the strategic value of air power in signalling political resolve.

Information and Cyber Warfare

Modern security challenges increasingly involve:

- Cyber attacks
- Misinformation campaigns
- Psychological warfare
- Information manipulation

National security now extends beyond conventional battlefields into digital and cognitive domains.

These developments have increased the importance of indigenous technological capability and defence innovation.

h. Defence Technology and Indigenisation

Strategic Importance of Indigenisation

India's evolving defence doctrine is closely linked with efforts to strengthen indigenous defence production.

This aligns with the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence manufacturing.

Why Indigenisation Matters

Strategic Need	Importance
Reduced import dependence	Greater strategic autonomy
Faster modernisation	Improved operational readiness

Indigenous innovation ecosystem	Technological advancement
Economic benefits	Expansion of defence manufacturing

Priority Areas of Defence Technology

India is increasingly investing in:

- Aerospace technology
- Artificial Intelligence-enabled warfare
- Drone systems
- Cyber warfare capability
- Missile technology
- Space-based surveillance

Institutions such as Defence Research and Development Organisation play a central role in this transformation.

Indigenisation is therefore viewed not merely as an economic objective, but as a critical pillar of national security.

i. Emerging Challenges for India

Operational Preparedness

India must maintain constant readiness due to:

- Hybrid warfare tactics
- Cross-border terrorism
- Regional instability
- Technological warfare

Escalation Risks

Military operations between nuclear-armed neighbours involve risks such as:

- Strategic miscalculation
- Diplomatic pressure
- Unintended escalation

Balancing deterrence with restraint remains a major challenge.

Defence Modernisation Gaps

Despite reforms, India continues to face:

- Procurement delays
- Import dependence
- Capability gaps in advanced systems

Accelerated military modernisation therefore remains essential.

These challenges demonstrate that military capability alone cannot guarantee long-term strategic stability.

j. Broader Strategic Implications

Regional Security Implications

India's evolving doctrine signals:

- Stronger deterrence capability
- Reduced tolerance toward terrorism
- Willingness for calibrated military response

This may alter regional strategic calculations and strengthen deterrence credibility.

Global Strategic Perception

India increasingly projects itself as:

- A responsible regional power
- A capable military actor
- A nation willing to defend its strategic interests decisively

The evolving doctrine also aligns with India's growing role in Indo-Pacific security and global strategic affairs.

k. Way Forward

Military Reforms

India must continue to:

- Accelerate theatre command integration
- Strengthen tri-service coordination
- Expand cyber and space warfare capability

Defence Manufacturing Reforms

India should promote:

- Indigenous research and development
- Private sector participation
- Defence startups and MSMEs
- Technology innovation ecosystems

Diplomatic and Strategic Measures

India must continue building:

- International consensus against terrorism
- Indo-Pacific strategic partnerships
- Defence cooperation with like-minded countries

Technological Preparedness

Future preparedness requires investment in:

- AI-enabled systems
- Drone warfare
- Surveillance technologies
- Next-generation air defence networks

Technological superiority will increasingly determine deterrence capability and strategic effectiveness.

Conclusion

India's evolving defence doctrine reflects a major transformation in its strategic outlook. The transition from reactive restraint toward calibrated proactive deterrence demonstrates greater political resolve, military integration, and technological confidence.

However, long-term national security will depend not only on military strength, but equally on strategic maturity, indigenous innovation, institutional reforms, diplomatic balance, and responsible statecraft.

In an increasingly complex geopolitical environment, India's challenge is to combine strength with restraint, deterrence with responsibility, and military preparedness with strategic wisdom.

Reader's Note — About This Current Affairs Compilation

Dear Aspirant,

This document is part of the PrepAlpine Current Affairs Series — designed to bring clarity, structure, and precision to your daily UPSC learning.

While every effort has been made to balance depth with brevity, please keep the following in mind:

1. Orientation & Purpose

This compilation is curated primarily from the UPSC Mains perspective — with emphasis on conceptual clarity, analytical depth, and interlinkages across GS papers.

However, the PrepAlpine team is simultaneously developing a dedicated Prelims-focused Current Affairs Series, designed for:

- factual coverage
- data recall
- Prelims-style MCQs
- objective pattern analysis

This Prelims Edition will be released separately as a standalone publication.

2. Content Length

Some sections may feel shorter or longer depending on topic relevance and news density.
To fit your personal preference, you may freely resize or summarize sections using any LLM tool (ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, etc.) at your convenience.

3. Format Flexibility

The formatting combines:

- paragraphs
- lists
- tables
- visual cues

—all optimised for retention.

If you prefer a specific style (lists → paras, paras → tables, etc.), feel free to convert using any free LLM.

4. Monthly Current Affairs Release

The complete Monthly Current Affairs Module will be released soon, optimized to a compact 100–150 pages — comprehensive yet concise, exam-ready, and revision-efficient.