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# **VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE**

## **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION**

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**VIDHVATH IAS ACADEMY**



## 1. Modi Flags Weaponisation of Tech, Critical Minerals

### Key Highlights & Summary

- **Warning Against Weaponisation:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi cautioned against the "weaponisation" of technology and critical mineral access, stating it hinders shared global progress.
- **Focus on Concrete Actions:** Entering its third decade, the 11-member BRICS grouping must shift from "merely ideas" to delivering concrete results and commitments.
- **Global South Engagement:** Confidence of Global South nations in BRICS has expanded as their voices are heard and solutions are co-developed rather than imposed.
- **Supply Chain Resilience:** New initiatives were highlighted to strengthen supply chains against global disruptions, pandemics, and climate disasters.
- **Interconnected Vulnerabilities:** Emphasised that in an interconnected world, regional crises, climate challenges, and disruptions impact ordinary lives globally.

### Essential Definitions

- **Critical Minerals:** Non-fuel mineral elements (e.g., lithium, cobalt, rare earth elements) vital for modern technology, clean energy transitions, national security, and industrial supply chains.
- **Weaponisation of Technology/Minerals:** The strategic practice of leveraging tech monopolies or critical mineral supply dominance as political tools to exert pressure on other nations.
- **Global South:** A geopolitical term referring broadly to developing, emerging, or economically disadvantaged nations predominantly located in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Oceania.

### Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 51 (Directive Principles of State Policy):** Mandates the promotion of international peace, security, and just, honourable relations between nations.
- **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2023:** Empowers the Indian government to exclusively auction and develop critical and strategic minerals to secure domestic supply chains.
- **National Critical Minerals Mission:** India's domestic policy framework aimed at enhancing exploration, processing, recycling, and foreign acquisition of critical mineral assets.



**Conclusion** Addressing tech and critical mineral weaponisation requires multilateral cooperation and inclusive governance. As BRICS expands its footprint, prioritizing resilient supply chains and equitable technology access remains pivotal for safeguarding global economic stability and supporting Global South development.

### UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** International Relations (Bilateral, regional, and global groupings involving India; Effect of policies of developed/developing countries on India's interests).
- **GS Paper III:** Economy & Security (Infrastructure, Supply Chain Resilience, Industrial Growth, Mineral Resources, and Technology Transfer).



## 2. BRICS Call Against Double Standards & Proposal for Grain Trade

### Key Highlights & Summary

- **Rejection of Double Standards:** Chinese President Xi Jinping urged BRICS nations to "rally the Global South" and work toward an international order free from double standards amidst growing global volatility.
- **Five-Point Tech Initiative:** Xi proposed a five-point artificial intelligence (AI) and smart manufacturing initiative aimed at driving the digital future of the BRICS grouping.
- **Proposal for Grain Market:** Facing Western sanctions, Russian President Vladimir Putin suggested creating a collaborative BRICS grain exchange to ensure food security across member countries and the Global South.
- **Alternative Financial & Logistics Routes:** Putin advocated establishing an independent BRICS insurance mechanism alongside autonomous channels for capital, labour, and technology movement to bypass external trade curbs.
- **Stabilising Global Force:** Member leaders reiterated that BRICS must act as an active, positive, and multilateral force to navigate international economic risks and external geopolitical pressures.



### Essential Definitions

- **Double Standards in Diplomacy:** The application of different sets of principles or rules for similar geopolitical situations, typically favoring powerful nations over developing ones.
- **Grain Exchange / Trade Mechanism:** A specialized trading platform designed to facilitate institutional commerce in agricultural commodities like wheat and corn, ensuring price stability and food supply resilience.
- **Multilateralism:** A framework of global governance where multiple countries pursue coordinated action, adhering to shared rules rather than unilateral power dynamics.

### Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 51 of the Indian Constitution (DPSP):** Directs the State to promote international peace and security, foster respect for international law, and encourage settlement of international disputes by arbitration.
- **Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992:** Governing statute regulating India's foreign trade policies, export-import controls, and integration into multilateral commodity platforms.
- **UN Charter Principles of Sovereign Equality (Article 2):** Core legal principle under international law mandating equal rights and non-interference among all member states regardless of size or power.

**Conclusion** The proposals at the BRICS Summit underscore a decisive pivot toward strategic autonomy for the Global South. By strengthening intra-bloc trade in essentials like food grains and establishing independent financial systems, BRICS aims to insulate member nations from unilateral sanctions and institutional biases in global governance.



## UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** International Relations (Important International institutions, agencies and fora; Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests).
- **GS Paper III:** Economy & Food Security (Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System; Food security challenges).

## 3. Houthis Claim New Attacks on Saudi Arabia Amid Escalating Yemen Conflict

### Key Highlights & Summary

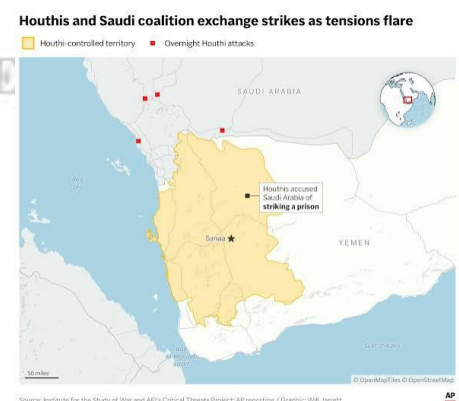
- **Cross-Border Missile & Drone Strikes:** Iran-aligned Houthi militia claimed fresh missile and drone attacks targeting Saudi Arabian military installations in Sharurah province and border areas in Najran.
- **Civilian & Infrastructure Damage:** Saudi Civil Defence confirmed a projectile strike in al-Tawwal governorate near the Red Sea border, resulting in injuries and structural damage to local infrastructure.
- **Houthi Territorial Advances:** Internationally recognised Yemeni government forces described the rebels' swift advance along the Red Sea coast as a critical and painful setback in the ongoing war.
- **Threat to Global Maritime Trade:** Houthi control over the Red Sea coast and the vital Bab el-Mandeb Strait has heightened global market volatility, driving oil prices upward due to supply chain fears.
- **Yemeni Government Mobilisation:** Sultan al-Arada of Yemen's Presidential Leadership Council stated that government forces are currently regrouping to launch counter-offensives and reclaim coastal territories.

### Essential Definitions

- **Houthi Movement (Ansar Allah):** An Iran-aligned Zaidi Shia political and armed movement in Yemen operating against the internationally recognised Yemeni government.
- **Bab el-Mandeb Strait:** A strategic maritime chokepoint connecting the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea, critical for global energy and trade routes.
- **Non-State Actors:** Groupings or individuals that hold significant political or military influence but are not affiliated with or validated by an established sovereign state.

### Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **UN Security Council Resolution 2216:** Imposes sanctions on individuals undermining the peace, security, or stability of Yemen and demands an immediate cessation of violence by Houthis.
- **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS):** Guarantees the right of innocent passage through international straits, safeguarding maritime security and commercial transit.
- **Article 51 of the Indian Constitution (DPSP):** Directs the State to promote international peace and security, foster respect for international law, and maintain just and honourable international relations.





**Conclusion** The escalation of cross-border attacks and territorial shifts in Yemen threatens wider West Asian stability and global economic security. Safeguarding critical maritime chokepoints like the Bab el-Mandeb Strait requires coordinated diplomatic intervention and adherence to international maritime law to prevent major supply chain disruptions.

### UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** International Relations (West Asia conflict, regional security, impact of global events on India's strategic interests and diaspora).
- **GS Paper III:** Economy & Security (Energy security, maritime security, vulnerability of global supply chains, and crude oil price fluctuations).

### Uniform Civil Code in All 21 NDA States Before 2029: Shah

#### Key Highlights & Summary

- **UCC Implementation Timeline:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced the resolve to enforce the Uniform Civil Code across all 21 BJP-led NDA-ruled states prior to the 2029 Lok Sabha elections.
- **Consultations on Manipur NRC:** The Central Government is actively engaging in discussions with alliance partners and regional stakeholders regarding the implementation of the National Register of Citizens in Manipur.
- **Major Gender & Legal Reforms:** Highlighted historical reform measures including the abolition of Triple Talaq to empower women and the effective enforcement of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) with a 30 percent conviction rate within one year.
- **Zero-Tolerance on Security Issues:** Reiterated the government's firm stance against Naxalism, terrorism, and border threats, citing actions like surgical strikes and Operation Sindoor to demonstrate operational grit.
- **Drive Against Illegal Immigration:** Stated a clear national policy to identify, detain, and deport all undocumented foreign individuals, specifically mentioning illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

#### Essential Definitions

- **Uniform Civil Code (UCC):** A single set of secular personal laws governing civil matters such as marriage, divorce, succession, adoption, and inheritance uniformly across all religious communities.
- **National Register of Citizens (NRC):** An official register containing verified details of all genuine Indian citizens, aimed at detecting and regulating undocumented foreign nationals.
- **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS):** The newly enacted statutory criminal code that replaced the Indian Penal Code, 1860, modernising criminal jurisprudence and justice delivery.

#### Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 44 of the Indian Constitution (DPSP):** Mandates that the State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a Uniform Civil Code throughout the territory of India.
- **Seventh Schedule (Entry 5, Concurrent List):** Grants dual jurisdiction to both Parliament and State Legislatures over personal laws including marriage, divorce, adoption, and succession.
- **Section 14A of the Citizenship Act, 1955:** Empowers the Central Government to compulsorily register every citizen of India and maintain a National Register of Indian Citizens.



**Conclusion** The proposed rollout of the Uniform Civil Code across multiple states, alongside strengthened internal security frameworks and citizenship registers, marks a significant shift toward legal uniformity and border governance. Balancing these systemic legal reforms with fundamental rights, regional sensibilities, and federal principles will remain essential for preserving national integration and democratic harmony.

#### UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** Polity & Governance (Article 44 DPSP, Federal Structure, Concurrent List Legislation, Electoral & Administrative Reforms, Citizenship Provisions).
- **GS Paper III:** Internal Security (Border Management, Counter-Terrorism, Mitigation of Left-Wing Extremism, Legal Reforms in Criminal Justice System).

## 4. Global South Should Jointly Advance Better Governance Structure: Putin

### Key Highlights & Summary

- **Call for Global Governance Reform:** Russian President Vladimir Putin urged Global South nations to jointly advance a better global governance structure to tackle both traditional and non-traditional security threats effectively.
- **Warning Against Weaponisation:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi cautioned against the "weaponisation of technology and critical minerals," stressing the urgent need for inclusivity and resilient supply chains.
- **Strategic Monopolization Concerns:** Modi's statements served as an implicit reference to China's dominance over critical mineral supply networks and the intensifying geopolitical technology tussle between the US and China.
- **Open-Source AI Ecosystem:** Chinese President Xi Jinping announced Beijing's plan to lead the creation of an open-source artificial intelligence ecosystem for BRICS member states as part of a five-point initiative.
- **Rejection of Unilateral Dominance:** Xi asserted that the geopolitical logic of "might makes right" must be discarded, advocating for a large integrated market comprising emerging economies.

### Essential Definitions

- **Global South:** A collective geopolitical designation for developing, emerging, and economically developing nations, primarily across Asia, Africa, and Latin America, advocating for equitable international representation.
- **Open-Source AI Ecosystem:** A collaborative framework where artificial intelligence source code, models, and architectures are publicly shared for transparent adaptation and joint technological advancement.
- **Non-Traditional Security Threats:** Security risks stemming from non-military sources, such as economic coercion, cyber warfare, climate disasters, supply chain disruption, and technology monopolies.



### Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 51 of the Indian Constitution (DPSP):** Directs the State to promote international peace and security, maintain just and honourable relations between nations, and foster respect for international law.



- **UN General Assembly Resolution 3281 (Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States):** Establishes every state's sovereign right to exercise full permanent sovereignty over its wealth, natural resources, and economic activities.
- **National Critical Minerals Mission:** India's regulatory framework designed to secure domestic supply chain integrity and reduce foreign dependency on strategic raw materials.

**Conclusion** The deliberations at the BRICS Summit highlight the imperative for a structural overhaul in global governance. Balancing technological cooperation with supply chain independence remains essential for the Global South to safeguard national security, prevent economic exploitation, and build a balanced, multipolar international framework.

#### UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** International Relations (Bilateral, regional, and global groupings involving India; Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests; Global South diplomacy).
- **GS Paper III:** Technology & Security (Indigenization of technology, Artificial Intelligence governance, Critical Minerals supply chain resilience, and Non-Traditional Security challenges).

### 5. Iran, Gulf Council to Discuss Hormuz Today: Pezeshkian on Iran-UAE Meet

#### Key Highlights & Summary

- **Historic Bilateral Dialogue:** Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian announced an agreement with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled to "put the past behind and look to the future" during their bilateral meeting.
- **First Meeting Since Escalation:** The interaction marks the first face-to-face meeting between Iranian and UAE leadership since the outbreak of recent West Asia hostilities.
- **BRICS Joint Declaration Consensus:** Both sides agreed to align with the BRICS joint declaration adopted in New Delhi, accommodating the regional sensibilities of both nations.
- **High-Stakes Hormuz Deliberations:** Diplomatic talks between Iran and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) focus on maritime safety, navigational security, and transit arrangements in the Strait of Hormuz.
- **Engagement with Global Powers:** Beside Gulf outreach, Iran conducted high-level discussions with Russia and China to reinforce multilateral coordination during the BRICS Summit.



#### Essential Definitions

- **Strait of Hormuz:** A critical maritime chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman, handling roughly one-fifth of global petroleum consumption.
- **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC):** A regional political and economic union comprising Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, and Bahrain.
- **De-escalation Diplomacy:** Strategic confidence-building measures and high-level dialogues aimed at reducing military tensions and preventing regional armed conflict.



## Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **UNCLOS Part III (Transit Passage):** Governs international straits, granting continuous and expeditious navigation rights to all vessels without coastal state impediment.
- **Article 51 of the Indian Constitution (DPSP):** Directs the State to promote international peace and security, foster respect for international obligations, and encourage peaceful settlement of disputes.
- **1958 Geneva Convention on the Territorial Sea:** Framework invoked by non-ratifying states regarding innocent passage rights within territorial waters.

**Conclusion** The resumption of direct diplomatic channels between Iran and the UAE, coupled with GCC-wide talks on the Strait of Hormuz, represents a crucial step toward regional stability. Securing uninterrupted maritime traffic through this vital chokepoint remains imperative for maintaining global energy markets and preventing further economic shocks.

## UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** International Relations (Bilateral and regional groupings involving India, West Asia geopolitics, diplomatic conflict resolution, and global maritime governance).
- **GS Paper III:** Security & Economy (Energy security, protection of critical sea lines of communication, global oil supply chain resilience, and maritime trade safety).

## 6. Members Call for Cooperation Over Pathogen Research, Access

### Key Highlights & Summary

- **New Delhi Declaration Mandate:** The New Delhi Declaration calls for constructive engagement in negotiating the Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS) Annex to the WHO Pandemic Agreement.
- **Reaffirmation of Sovereign Rights:** The declaration explicitly reaffirms the sovereign rights of States over their biological resources and their authority to enforce national legislation.
- **PABS Annex Bottleneck:** Following the adoption of the overall agreement, the unresolved PABS Annex remains the primary hurdle holding back full ratification by member states.
- **Roadmap for Resource Allocation:** The Annex aims to create a structured mechanism for sharing dangerous pathogens alongside vaccines, diagnostics, and treatments.
- **Core Point of Contention:** Countries remain divided on whether sharing pathogen samples must be mandatorily linked with equitable access to resulting medical benefits.

**Members call for cooperation over pathogen research, access**

**Anonna Dutt**  
New Delhi, September 13

THE NEW Delhi Declaration calls for constructive engagement in negotiations for the Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing Annex to the WHO pandemic agreement "while reaffirming sovereign rights of States over their biological resources as well as the sovereign right to legislate and implement laws, including national access and benefit-sharing legislation".

Amid Covid-19 pandemic, the WHO planned to develop a legally binding pandemic agreement for better response to any future pandemic. While the agreement was adopted during last year's World Health Assembly, one annex continues to hold the agreement hostage. Once an agreement is reached on the Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS) Annex, the pandemic agreement can be approved or ratified by member states. PABS Annex will create a roadmap for sharing of dangerous pathogens and medicines, diagnostics or vaccines developed. Countries are yet to agree on whether sharing of pathogen samples be linked mandatorily with sharing of benefits developed.

## Essential Definitions

- **Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS):** A multilateral system designed to enable prompt sharing of biological samples while ensuring equitable distribution of medical countermeasures developed from them.
- **Biological Sovereignty:** The absolute legal entitlement of a sovereign state to manage, regulate, and exercise ownership over domestic biological resources and genetic materials.



- **WHO Pandemic Agreement:** A legally binding international instrument established under the World Health Organization to strengthen global pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response.

### Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Nagoya Protocol (CBD):** Supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity guaranteeing fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources.
- **International Health Regulations (IHR 2005):** Legally binding framework outlining global obligations for detecting, assessing, and responding to international public health risks.
- **Article 47 of the Indian Constitution (DPSP):** Directs the State to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people, regarding public health improvement as a primary duty.

**Conclusion** Finalizing the PABS Annex is crucial for operationalizing the WHO Pandemic Agreement and rectifying historic health inequities. Harmonizing mandatory pathogen sample sharing with guaranteed access to vaccines and therapeutics will ensure that global health emergency response mechanisms remain inclusive, transparent, and resilient against future outbreaks.

### UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** International Relations & Governance (Role of WHO, multilateral health diplomacy, Global South equity, and international treaties).
- **GS Paper III:** Science & Technology & Health (Intellectual Property Rights over genetic resources, biotechnology, biosafety, and public health infrastructure).

## 7. UN Chief Backs Demand for Expanding Security Council

### Key Highlights & Summary

- **Endorsement of UNSC Expansion:** UN Secretary-General António Guterres supported calls from the Global South to expand the UN Security Council to ensure balance and equity in global institutions.
- **India at the Forefront:** Guterres recognized India's leadership in advocating for structural reforms to make multilateral bodies reflect contemporary geopolitical realities rather than those of 1945.
- **Rule-Shaper Role for Developing Nations:** Aligning with Prime Minister Modi's call, the UN Chief emphasized transitioning the Global South from "rule-takers" to "rule-shapers" in global governance.
- **New Delhi Declaration Endorsement:** BRICS leaders reaffirmed support for comprehensive UN Security Council reforms, with China and Russia reiterating support for India and Brazil to play a greater role.
- **Bretton Woods & Financial Reforms:** Highlighted the need to reform Multilateral Development Banks to expand concessional funding and mobilize private investment for developing nations.

### Essential Definitions

- **UN Security Council (UNSC):** The principal organ of the United Nations charged with maintaining international peace and security, consisting of 5 permanent veto-wielding members and 10 non-permanent members.
- **Bretton Woods System:** The international financial architecture established in 1944, comprising institutions like the IMF and World Bank, designed to govern global monetary and economic relations.



- **Multipolarity:** A distribution of global power in which more than two nation-states or regional blocs possess significant strategic, economic, and political influence.

### Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **UN Charter Article 108:** Outlines the legal amendment process requiring a two-thirds vote in the General Assembly and ratification by two-thirds of member states, including all five permanent UNSC members.
- **Article 51 of the Indian Constitution (DPSP):** Mandates the State to promote international peace, foster respect for international law, and encourage settlement of international disputes.
- **G4 Alliance Framework:** The collective strategic coalition between India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan supporting each other's bids for permanent seats on an expanded Security Council.

**Conclusion** The explicit backing by the UN Secretary-General at the BRICS Summit reinforces the imperative to reform global governance architecture. Expanding the UN Security Council and modernizing multilateral financial institutions are critical steps toward ensuring equitable representation, reflecting contemporary multipolar realities, and amplifying the voice of the Global South.

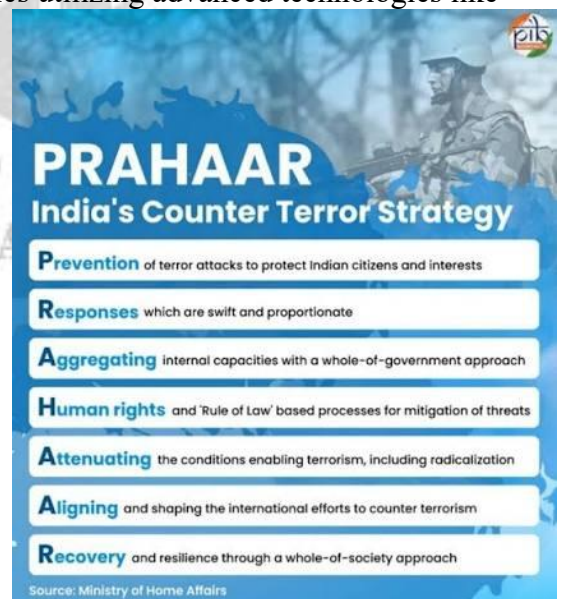
### UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** International Relations (Structure and mandates of UN bodies, UNSC reforms, role of India in global governance, Global South diplomacy, and BRICS initiatives).
- **GS Paper III:** Economy & Global Financial Architecture (Multilateral Development Banks, Bretton Woods institutions, and international financing mechanisms for developing economies).

## 8. Evolution of Global Terrorism and Shift in India's Counter-Terror Strategy

### Key Highlights & Summary

- **Evolution of Global Security Dynamics:** Post-9/11, global terrorism morphed from centralized, large-scale networks into decentralized, autonomous entities utilizing advanced technologies like drones, cyber systems, and AI.
- **Transition from Passive Restraint to Proactive Response:** India's counter-terrorism doctrine shifted from defensive non-retaliation following major historic attacks to executing high-impact cross-border strikes, including Uri (2016), Balakot (2019), and Operation Sindoor (2025).
- **Redefining Strategic Thresholds:** Post-Operation Sindoor, India codified three core stances: treating cross-border terror as an 'act of war', rejecting nuclear blackmail, and imposing direct costs for state-sponsored proxy warfare.
- **Institutionalisation of Counter-Terror Architecture:** India unveiled its first comprehensive National Counter-Terrorism Policy and Strategy ('PRAHAAR') in February 2026, establishing a unified "whole-of-government" and "whole-of-society" framework.





- **Four-Fold Internal & External Action:** India's updated tactical framework focuses on neutralizing local networks, pre-emptive strikes on launchpads, systematic de-radicalisation initiatives, and choking terror-financing channels through global cooperation.

### Essential Definitions

- **Cross-Border Terrorism:** State-sponsored or state-facilitated proxy warfare where militant groups operate from foreign territories to carry out armed attacks in another nation.
- **Pre-emptive Military Action:** Defensive military strikes executed against imminent security threats or active terrorist launchpads to prevent planned attacks before execution.
- **PRAHAAR Policy:** India's national counter-terrorism framework designed to streamline prevention, tactical response, anti-radicalisation, and institutional inter-agency coordination.

### Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019:** Enhances the statutory framework by empowering the Central Government to designate individual terrorists alongside organizations and confiscate terror-linked assets.
- **National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act, 2008:** Established a specialized federal investigative agency with extraterritorial jurisdiction to investigate terror offenses affecting national sovereignty.
- **Article 51 of the Indian Constitution (DPSP):** Directs the State to promote international peace, maintain security, and foster adherence to international law against transnational violence.

**Conclusion** India's counter-terrorism posture has transformed from passive diplomatic appeals to decisive, active deterrence backed by comprehensive statutory frameworks like PRAHAAR. By dismantling financial infrastructure, rejecting strategic ambiguity, and enforcing cross-border accountability, India continues to lead the global consensus against using terrorism as an instrument of state policy.

### UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** International Relations (India's foreign policy, cross-border security challenges, role of multilateral platforms like SCO and BRICS in combating terror).
- **GS Paper III:** Internal Security (Linkages between state/non-state actors, evolution of counter-terror strategies, border management, PRAHAAR policy, and legal counter-terror instruments).

## 9. Pakistan's Westward Turn — Strategic Depth or Overstretch

### Key Highlights & Summary

- **Expanding Footprint in West Asia:** Pakistan signed a defence agreement with Kuwait on August 27, 2026, building upon its participation in the Saudi Arabia-Türkiye-Pakistan trilateral arrangement.
- **Institutionalisation via Makkah Pact:** Signed on August 7, the Makkah Agreement introduced a collective-defence clause treating an attack on one member as an attack on all, complemented by a permanent secretariat in Saudi Arabia headed by a Pakistani Secretary-General.
- **Deepening Defence Cooperation:** The trilateral alliance focuses on boosting military interoperability, joint technological development, and co-production of defence equipment.
- **Emerging Diplomatic Dilemma:** Escalating Houthi drone/missile attacks on Saudi Arabia and maritime disruption at Bab al-Mandeb force Pakistan to balance its collective defence duties to Riyadh against its diplomatic ties with Iran.



- **Implications for India:** While Pakistan gains theoretical strategic depth through Arab capital and Turkish tech, its involvement in complex West Asian rivalries risks strategic overstretch and resource diversion from its eastern border.

### Essential Definitions

- **Strategic Depth:** The geographical or geopolitical buffer a nation leverages to enhance its security, absorb initial military setbacks, and sustain long-term operational resilience.
- **Strategic Overstretch:** A vulnerability occurring when a state commits its military, diplomatic, and financial resources across too many international fronts beyond its operational capacity.
- **Collective Defence Clause:** A formal treaty provision stipulating that an armed attack against any individual signatory state is legally considered an attack against all member nations.

### Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 51 of the Indian Constitution (DPSP):** Mandates the State to promote international peace, maintain just relations between nations, and foster respect for international treaty obligations.
- **UN Charter Article 51:** Recognizes the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations until the Security Council acts.
- **Central Treaty Organization (CENTO Framework):** Historical Cold War-era mutual security pact (formerly Baghdad Pact) that previously linked Pakistan, Iran, Türkiye, and the UK.

**Conclusion** Pakistan's expanding security commitments in West Asia present a dual-edged sword. While institutionalising ties with Gulf nations provides tactical depth and leverage, navigating conflicting regional alliances risks diplomatic entanglement and strategic overstretch, allowing India to leverage its economic partnerships across the region to maintain regional balance.

### UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** International Relations (India's neighbourhood policy, West Asia diplomacy, impact of foreign policies on India's strategic security, and bilateral/multilateral agreements).
- **GS Paper III:** Internal & External Security (Geopolitical challenges along borders, maritime security around Bab al-Mandeb/Strait of Hormuz, and strategic defense planning).

## 10. At BRICS, India Must Bank on the NDB

### Key Highlights & Summary

- **Economic-Governance Mismatch:** Expanded BRICS accounts for nearly 40% of global GDP and 55% of global population, yet its voting share at the IMF remains disproportionately low.
- **Divergent Geopolitical Identities:** The grouping lacks a unified geopolitical stance, split between an anti-West axis (Russia, China, Iran) and a non-West orientation (India, Brazil, South Africa).
- **Performance Gap of the NDB:** Established in 2015, the New Development Bank (NDB) has approved \$43 billion across 139 projects with \$20 billion disbursed, lagging behind the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) which committed \$69 billion across 350 projects.





- **Capital and Sanctions Bottleneck:** Western sanctions on Russia limit capital expansion and strain credit ratings. Equality in founder voting shares (minimum 55% collective threshold) creates governance bottlenecks.
- **Promoting Rupee-Denominated Bonds:** India seeks to push the long-delayed ₹25,000 crore five-year rupee bond programme to expand local-currency financing and counter Renminbi dominance in NDB issuances.

### Essential Definitions

- **New Development Bank (NDB):** A multilateral development bank established by BRICS nations in 2015 to mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in emerging economies.
- **Local-Currency Lending:** The practice of issuing loans and bonds in member nations' domestic currencies rather than hard currencies like the US dollar, mitigating foreign exchange risks.
- **De-dollarisation:** The strategic policy aimed at reducing reliance on the US dollar in international trade, reserve holdings, and cross-border financial settlements.

### Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Agreement on the New Development Bank (2014):** The foundational treaty governing the NDB, mandating equal voting power among original founding members and regulating capital allocation.
- **Article 51 of the Indian Constitution (DPSP):** Mandates that the State shall foster respect for international law and treaty obligations, encouraging peaceful international trade and financial cooperation.
- **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999:** Statutory framework regulating external commercial borrowings, foreign investments, and cross-border rupee-denominated bond issuances.

**Conclusion** Strengthening the NDB provides India with a pragmatic avenue to maximize BRICS' economic potential without aiding China's geopolitical hegemony. Operationalizing local-currency mechanisms like rupee bonds will enhance financial stability for developing nations and fortify multilateral development institutions.

### UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** International Relations (BRICS, global South diplomacy, reform of multilateral financial bodies, and international treaty frameworks).
- **GS Paper III:** Indian Economy & Infrastructure (Multilateral Development Banks, currency risk management, local currency trade settlement, and infrastructure financing).