

**DAILY MAINS ANSWER WRITING – 1 MAY**

**“The world is becoming an increasingly unsafe place and that means security must assume topmost priority.” Discuss the statement in the light of the need of defence sector reforms in India. (250 words)**

Recently, amid escalating tensions with Pakistan has made the government take steps to secure the sovereignty of India and maintain peace and tranquillity at the borders, India needs to carry out much-needed defence reforms.

**Need for Reforms in India’s Defence Sector**

- **Absence of National Security Strategy (NSS):** India lacks a proactive security planning framework. The National Security Council (NSC), responsible for long-term strategic planning, rarely convenes, and the only significant review in recent times was post-Kargil (1999).
- **Civil-Military Disconnect:** Weak coordination between civilian policymakers and military leadership hampers integrated strategic planning.
- **Delayed Defence Acquisitions:** Despite procurement reforms, acquisition of defence equipment suffers from bureaucratic delays, leading to underutilisation of annual defence budgets.
- **R&D and Procurement Gap:** Persistent disjunction between Defence R&D (e.g. DRDO), production bodies, and armed forces. This results in indecision over indigenous development versus imports and causes cost and time overruns.
- **Low Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):** Defence sector FDI is hindered by regulatory challenges, land and labour issues, and lack of coordination between MoD and DPIIT on FDI tracking and policy clarity.

**Way Forward**

- **Comprehensive National Security Strategy (NSS):** A well-defined NSS, covering both internal and external security dimensions, is essential. A National Security Commission with statutory backing should oversee its implementation.
- **Integrated Commands & CDS Role:** With hybrid warfare becoming prominent, expanding tri-service commands and operationalising the **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** role will enhance jointness among forces.
- **Implement Naresh Chandra Committee Recommendations:** Execution of these reforms will strengthen India's preparedness and enable strategic cooperation in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region.
- **Atma-Nirbhar Bharat Reforms:** Recent initiatives under Atma-Nirbhar Abhiyan are crucial. They aim to enhance FDI, ensure timely procurement, and promote indigenous defence manufacturing.

**“विश्व लगातार असुरक्षित स्थान बनता जा रहा है तथा इसका अर्थ है कि सुरक्षा को सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता दी जानी चाहिए।” भारत में रक्षा क्षेत्र में सुधारों की आवश्यकता के मद्देनजर इस कथन पर चर्चा करें। (250 शब्द)**

हाल ही में, पाकिस्तान के साथ बढ़ते तनाव के बीच सरकार ने भारत की संप्रभुता को सुरक्षित रखने तथा सीमाओं पर शांति बनाए रखने हेतु कदम उठाए हैं, तथा भारत को महत्वपूर्ण रक्षा सुधार की आवश्यकता है।

#### **भारत के रक्षा क्षेत्र में सुधार की आवश्यकता**

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#### **आगे की राह**

- **Comprehensive National Security Strategy (NSS):** A well-defined NSS, covering both internal and external security dimensions, is essential. A National Security Commission with statutory backing should oversee its implementation.
- **Integrated Commands & CDS Role:** With hybrid warfare becoming prominent, expanding tri-service commands and operationalising the **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** role will enhance jointness among forces.
- **Implement Naresh Chandra Committee Recommendations:** Execution of these reforms will strengthen India's preparedness and enable strategic cooperation in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region.
- **आत्म-निर्भर भारत सुधार:** Recent initiatives under Atma-Nirbhar Abhiyan are crucial. They aim to enhance FDI, ensure timely procurement, and promote indigenous defence manufacturing.