

UPSC Syllabus Topic : GS Paper 3 Indian Economy – Infrastructure

Challenges of India's Shipbuilding Industry – India's stationary course in the shipping value chain

India's shipping industry once held promise, but its development hasn't matched China's progress, leading to a lag in global maritime influence. Here are the key factors behind this discrepancy:

Historical Focus on Labor Supply: India, despite early advantages in modern ship-owning and ties with the International Maritime Organization, shifted focus towards labor supply, mirroring government policies aiming for increased foreign exchange earnings. Mumbai and Kolkata were hubs for seafarer training and employment. However, this emphasis on seafarers overshadowed ship owning, chartering, financing, and building.

Government Policy Gap: Maritime agendas like Maritime Agenda 2020 and Maritime India Vision 2030 have overlooked the crucial need for advancing shipbuilding and ownership. Despite a strategic coastal advantage, India hasn't leveraged these strengths effectively in the global maritime domain.

Contrasting Chinese Policies: China's dedicated government plans propelled it into a dominant position in shipbuilding, crafting half of the world's ships by 2020. The strong partnership between Chinese shipowners and state-owned yards exemplifies China's aggressive approach in this sector.

Path Forward for India: To bolster its global maritime presence, India must redirect its focus toward ship owning, chartering, financing, and building. This shift can not only strengthen India's position in international trade but also augment its strategic and military capabilities.

By refocusing on these crucial aspects of the shipping industry, India can revitalize its maritime potential, carving out a more prominent role on the global stage and reinforcing its strategic and economic significance.

UPSC Syllabus Topic : GS Paper 3 Internal Security – Security challenges and their management in border areas.

On Civilian deaths in Kashmir

The recent deaths of three civilians allegedly in military custody following the Poonch ambush, attributed to the People's Anti-Fascist Front (PAFF), pose a setback in the military's efforts to counter terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir. This incident risks undermining the populace's support for the security forces.

The Rajouri and Poonch districts in the Jammu region have a complex social and political landscape marked by religious, ethnic, and linguistic diversity.

History of Cross-Border Terrorism:

1. **1990s Militancy Emergence:** The districts were exploited for concealed movement, providing access to the Valley.
2. **Post-1996:** Served as a fallback area for terror groups when driven from the Kashmir Valley.
3. **Late '90s to Early 2000s:** Witnessed increased terror activities. Operation Sarp Vinash in 2003 dealt a significant blow to militant bases, with active support from the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities.
4. **Current Scenario:** In 2023, these districts saw 55 deaths, including security personnel and terrorists. They remain a fertile ground for terrorist activities, enabling control assertion.

Reasons for Terrorist Bases:

1. **Messaging Support:** Striking outside the Valley showcases perceived mass appeal.
2. **Terrain Advantage:** Treacherous landscape aids survival without requiring mass support, allowing terrorists to sustain themselves.

3. **Neglected Development:** Focus on the Kashmir Valley neglects Rajouri-Poonch in terms of funds, government programs, and infrastructure, impacting local support.

Military Strategy:

1. **Innovative Countermeasures:** Adopt bold and imaginative initiatives beyond conventional operations.
2. **Non-Kinetic Approaches:** Embrace non-military means like diplomatic, economic, political, and cyber strategies to prevent terrorist activities. Non-kinetic warfare involves actions against adversaries without direct military engagement.

In addressing the cross-border terrorism in Rajouri and Poonch, the Indian military should broaden its approach, incorporating innovative strategies and non-military tactics for more effective countermeasures.