1. India must adopt a comprehensive, integrated security doctrine to redefine its national security priorities in light of evolving hybrid threats such as cyber warfare, disinformation, and economic coercion without compromising its traditional territorial defence focus.

The core strategy should be one of integration, not replacement. Territorial defence remains paramount, requiring continuous modernization of conventional forces and border infrastructure. However, the nation’s security architecture must be expanded to treat non-conventional domains as equally critical theatres of conflict.

Cyber-Deterrence and Resilience: Elevate cyber security to a top-tier national security priority. This requires establishing a unified National Cyber Command with offensive and defensive capabilities. Critical infrastructure (power grids, finance, communication) must be made cyber-resilient through a public-private partnership framework.

Countering disinformation and propaganda requires developing robust strategic communication capabilities. This includes real-time threat intelligence gathering on foreign-backed influence operations and investing in media literacy to build societal resilience.

Economic Security as a Shield: Recognize economic coercion as a security threat. This involves diversifying supply chains, protecting sensitive technologies, and using economic statecraft proactively to safeguard national interests and secure resource dependency.

The defence establishment must foster 'jointness' across all domains land, sea, air, space, and cyber. A central National Security Fused Command should coordinate responses, ensuring that traditional military assets can be leveraged to defend against, and retaliate for, non-conventional attacks.

Reference -

Subrahmanyam, K. Report of the Kargil Review Committee. Ministry of Defence, Government of India, 1999.

Pant, Harsh V. and Kartik Bommakanti. "India’s Strategic Response to Hybrid Warfare." Observer Research Foundation (ORF) Issue Brief, January 2023

3.

India is the world's third-largest energy consumer, importing over 85% of its crude oil and a substantial portion of its natural gas. This dependence creates a critical strategic vulnerability, making the nation susceptible to price shocks, supply disruptions due to geopolitical instability (e.g., in the Middle East or Russia-Ukraine conflict), or economic coercion by major energy exporters. Any severe energy crisis could cripple the military, industrial base, and public services, undermining national resilience.

Strategic Frameworks to Reduce Dependencies

To strengthen Economic and Energy Security, India must adopt a dual strategy of diversification and domestic capability building (Aatmanirbharta):

Energy Transition and Diversification:

Accelerate Renewable Energy: Aggressively pursue targets for solar, wind, and green hydrogen to reduce fossil fuel import demand.

Strategic Stockpiling: Increase the capacity and utilization of Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) to provide a buffer against short-term global supply shocks.

Geographical Diversification: Forge long-term import contracts with a wider range of politically stable nations to mitigate geopolitical risk from single regions.

Supply Chain Resilience:

Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes: Expand and refine schemes to incentivize domestic manufacturing of strategic goods like semiconductors and critical medical supplies, reducing foreign dependency.

Source -

Government Reports/Policy Documents:

NITI Aayog. Strategy for New India Government of India, 2018

Government of India. Guidelines for Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes.

Dholakia, R. H., and A. B. L. Srivastava. "Impact of Global Supply Chain Disruptions on Indian Economy and Policy Response