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## 1. India's no first use policy under so much strain

- What is the Nuclear Doctrine of India?
- What are the salient features of India's nuclear doctrine?
- What are the drawbacks of present Indian nuclear doctrine?
- What could be the implications if India changes its nuclear doctrine from NO FIRST USE POLICY TO COUNTERFORCE STRATEGY?

### GS paper 3 (Security challenges and their management in border areas)

In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.

The above article has been retrieved from:

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. ( 2019, January , 11). Why is India's no first use policy under so much strain?. Hindustan times. Retrieved from <https://www.hindustantimes.com/analysis/why-is-india-s-no-first-use-policy-under-so-much-strain/story-tbjRJj1fXb9UzDZCbymu6I.html>

### What is the context about?

- In 2014, the election manifesto of the BJP included a promise to “revise and update” India's nuclear doctrine.
- It gave rise to speculations that the Narendra Modi government, upon being elected, would consider

revoking India's pledge of no first use (NFU) of nuclear weapons.

- ❑ In an interview to ANI, Modi quelled those speculations by asserting that NFU won't be revoked.
- ❑ "No first use is a reflection of our cultural inheritance," Modi added.



### **What is the Nuclear Doctrine of India?**

- ❑ India has had its first nuclear test in May 1974 during the government of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The name of this nuclear test was "Smiling Buddha". After this, the Pokhran-II test was a part of the series of five nuclear tests conducted between 11 and 13 May, 1998 in the Pokhran test range.
- ❑ Owing to the nuclear tests; India's recognition around the world increased. India became the first nuclear powered country without signing the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

- ❑ After the nuclear tests, the world community had imposed many restrictions on India. India had explained to the world community that India is a responsible country and its nuclear warheads are just to secure the sovereignty and boundaries of the country not to invade any country. And thus created its own nuclear doctrine.

### **What are the salient features of India's nuclear doctrine?**

India had made its Nuclear Doctrine in 2003 and the characteristics of India's Nuclear Doctrine are as follows;

1. The basic principle of India's nuclear doctrine is "No First Use". According to this policy, nuclear weapons will only be used in retaliation against a nuclear attack on Indian Territory or on Indian forces anywhere.

### **India needs to build and maintain a Credible Minimum Deterrent. This includes;**

- ✓ Sufficient and survivable nuclear forces to inflict unacceptable damage to the enemy.
  - ✓ Nuclear Forces must be operationally prepared at all times.
  - ✓ Effective Intelligence and Early Warning Capabilities.
  - ✓ Communication of Deterrence Capability to the enemy.
- ❑ If a country invades India by nuclear missile, its retaliation will be this much massive and terrible that the enemy experience an unacceptable damage and would not be able to recover easily.

- ❑ Nuclear weapons will not be used against non-nuclear state. It means India believes in the theory of "Tit for tat."
- ❑ If there is any chemical or biological attack against India or Indian security forces, then India will keep the option of nuclear attack open in its response.
- ❑ A continuance of strict controls on export of nuclear and missile related materials and technologies, participation in the fissile material Cut off Treaty negotiations and continued observance of the moratorium on nuclear tests.

### **What are the drawbacks of present Indian nuclear doctrine?**

Present Indian nuclear doctrine and problems:

1. No first use policy: it removes the opportunity of surprise strike in case of war.
2. Minimum credible deterrence: the criteria has to be updated to match the capabilities of adversaries.
3. Massive retaliation: Nation should secure enough nuclear bombs, sustained chain of command to enable this. The chain of command may broke after first attack on the country.

### **What could be the implications if India changes its nuclear doctrine from NO FIRST USE POLICY TO COUNTERFORCE STRATEGY?**

**Implication of changing the policy:**

1. Any change in the policy will lead to roll back of benefits got so far. These include civil nuclear agreements with many countries, membership in export control regimes(MICR), attempts at getting NSG.
2. Adversaries like Pakistan will further increase their capabilities openly citing change in policy. It leads to arms race.
3. Change in policy requires considerable resources which is hard to come given other needs.