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Dear Students,

In the competitive landscape of the UPSC Mains examination, the significance of integrating data, facts, and examples into your answers cannot be overstated.

These elements serve as the backbone of a compelling and persuasive response, **elevating your answer from a generic narrative to a well-substantiated argument.**

To support you, we have **distilled essential information from the VisionIAS Mains 365 resources** which are renowned for their comprehensive coverage of current affairs. This document **provides a concentrated source of high-quality data, facts, and examples.**

The layout of this document is designed for **quick reference and easy integration into your answer.**

Leveraging this distilled information will help you **craft comprehensive, informative, and compelling answers** essential for securing higher marks.

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Key Data and Facts

☝️ | Left Wing Extremism (LWE)

◇ **Current Spread (2025):** 6 districts most affected, 18 Naxal-affected (down from 35 and 126 in 2014).

◇ **Violence Reduction:** 81% reduction between 2010 and 2024.

◇ **Reasons for Decline:** Strengthened Security (National Policy & Action Plan 2015, SAMADHAN Strategy), Developmental initiatives (178 Eklavya Model Residential Schools), Community Engagement (Civic Action Programme).

💡 | Insurgency in Northeast

◇ **Reasons:** Ethnic rivalries (Meitei vs Kukis), alienation (AFSPA), territorial conflicts, porous borders.

◇ **Peace Initiatives:** Peace deals (NLFT, Bodo, Karbi Anglong Accords), Strategic Connectivity (UDAN, Rail upgrades), Infrastructure (National Sports University, AIIMS), Cultural Connect (Moidams of Choraideo, Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav).

📜 | Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) 1958

◇ **Powers:** Armed forces can open fire, arrest/search without warrant, immunity from prosecution (with Central Govt. sanction).

◇ **Applicability:** Parts of Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh.

◇ **Recommendations:** Justice B.P. Jeevan Reddy Committee (2004) to scrap; Santosh Hegde Committee (2013) to review every six months.

☝️ | Technology and Internal Security

◇ **Online Radicalisation:** Driven by growing internet access, fast spread of extreme ideas.
  » Facilitating Factors: Echo Chambers, Micro-Targeting, Cybercrime/Terror Financing.
  » Indian Initiatives: IT Act 2000 (blocking harmful content), I4C & MeitY (monitoring URLs).

◇ **Social Media Influencers & National Security:** Influencers can spread fake news, foreign narratives, incite violence, promote secessionism, and aid terror propaganda.
  » **Indian Laws:** Official Secrets Act 1923, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) Section 152, IT Act 2000 (Sec. 69A to block content), IT Rules 2021.

◇ **Crypto Currency Hawala Nexus:** Bitcoin trading resembles hawala.
  » **Concern:** Enables money laundering, terror financing, tax evasion; hard to trace due to anonymity features.
  » **Way Forward:** Global cooperation (UN Global Programme against Money Laundering), strong regulations (FATF, EU's MiCA).

◇ **Quantum Computing in National Security:**

» **Impact:** Could break current encryption, enhance intelligence/surveillance (SIGINT), optimize military logistics, enable economic warfare (IP theft).

» **India's Steps:** National Quantum Mission, QuEST Program, IIT Madras Centre for Quantum Computing (CQuICC).

🗄️ | Data Protection

◇ **Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDP) 2023:** Establishes framework for protection/processing of personal data.

» **Key Features:** Consent-based, establishes Data Protection Board of India (DPBI), rights/duties for data principals, obligations for fiduciaries.

» **Issues:** Broad state exemptions, missing data portability/right to be forgotten, weak board independence.

◇ **Interception in India:** Telecommunications (Procedures and Safeguards for Lawful Interception of Messages) Rules, 2024.

» **Legal Basis:** Telecommunication Act 2023, IT Act 2000 (Sec. 69).

» **Concerns:** Broad definitions, vague terms ("public emergency"), concentration of power in executive, indefinite data retention.

◇ **Facial Recognition Technology (FRT):**

» **Risks:** Bias/misidentification (women, darker skin tones), privacy/security threats (hacking, misuse), lack of accountability.

» **NITI Aayog Recommendations:** Privacy & Security, Governance Framework, Ethical Oversight.

🔒 | Cyber Security

◇ **Need:** Weaponisation of Internet (India 2nd largest user base), strategic importance of cyberspace, emerging technologies (AI, ML), protecting vulnerable sections, and Critical Information Infrastructure (CII)

◇ **Mechanisms:** Joint Doctrine for Cyberspace Operations (2024), National Cyber Security Policy, IT Act 2000, CERT-In, NCIIPC, I4C.

◇ **Challenges:** Transboundary nature, funding, lack of national comprehensive architecture, data colonialism.

☑️🔒 | Geospatial Data & National Security

◇ **Significance:** Enhances intelligence/surveillance, situational awareness, military operations, crime prediction.

◇ **India's Capabilities:** National Geospatial Policy 2022, EOS-07 satellites, NAVIC, Bharatmaps, Bhuvan, PM Gati Shakti, SVAMITVA.

💵 | Money Laundering

◇ **Money Laundering (ML):** Making illegal gains appear legal. Stages: Placement, Layering, Integration.

» **Consequences:** Fuels organized crime, terror financing, economic distortion, loss of confidence in markets.

» **Indian Law:** Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) 2002.

◇ **ML & Terrorist Financing (TF):** FATF lauded India's AML/CTF efforts (high technical compliance).
  » **Concerns:** Low ML convictions (28 in 5 years), weak supervision of DNFBPs, lack of specific rules for domestic Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs).

🏦 | Smuggling and Drug Trafficking

◇ **Drug Trafficking:** Global increase (292 million users in 2022, +20% in 10 years).
  » **Threat:** National security (human trafficking, narco-terrorism), social crimes (youth addiction), institutional corruption, environmental damage.
  » **Challenge:** India is a "Transit Hub" between Golden Triangle and Golden Crescent.
  » **Indian Law:** Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1985.

🧕 | Terrorism

◇ **India ranked 14th on Global Terrorism Index 2025**
◇ **Challenges:** No global definition of 'terrorism', state-sponsored terrorism (Pakistan), ineffective global cooperation, anonymity in terror financing.
  » **New Threats:** Hybrid & Virtual Terrorists, information warfare, emerging tech (drones, AI).
◇ **Indian Counter-Terrorism:** UAPA 1967, NIA, NATGRID, India's New Security Doctrine (shift to "deterrence by punishment"), diplomatic Outreach against Pakistan's Sponsoring of Terrorism.

🧑‍💻 | Transnational Organised Crimes (TNOCs)

◇ TNOCs **operate across borders** for financial/material benefit.
◇ **Types:** drug/human/migrant trafficking, money laundering, cybercrime.
◇ **Challenges:** Cross-border complexity, legal/policy gaps, economic inequality.

🗺️ | Border Security

◇ **India-China:** Disputes (Galwan, Aksai Chin, Doklam), inadequate infrastructure, water-sharing issues.
◇ **India-Pakistan:** Disputes (Sir Creek, Kashmir), infiltration, cross-border terrorism (drones).
◇ **India-Myanmar:** Drug trafficking (Golden Triangle proximity), porous border, insurgency.
◇ **Kargil War (1999)**
  » **Shortcomings (Kargil Review Committee):** Intelligence failure, low technology, defence underfunding, no clear security policy.
  » **Reforms:** National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO), Multi Agency Centre (MAC), CDS created.
◇ **Key Initiatives:** Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS), Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM) Scheme.

🚢 | Maritime Security

◇ **Need:** Vulnerable coastline (26/11, piracy), geostrategic interests (net security provider), economic development (80% external trade through IOR).

◇ **Post-26/11 Architecture:** Indian Navy, Coast Guard, BSF (creeks), CISF (ports), Sagar Suraksha Dal.

◇ **Challenges:** Piracy/terrorism in IOR, maritime border disputes, Chinese influence, state govt. issues, environmental.

◇ **Steps:** Coastal Surveillance (Sagar Kavach), Maritime Theatre Command (proposed), Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR).

⚙️ | Defence Modernisation

◇ **Need:** Challenging strategic environment, inadequate equipment, rapidly changing warfare (hybrid, cyber).

◇ **Challenges:** Budget allocation, slow decision-making, technological limitations (indigenization), stalled structural reforms.

◇ **India's Steps:** "Year of Reforms" (2025), Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020, ADITI, iDEX, Mission DefSpace, Mission Shakti (ASAT).

🛡️ | Defence Exports

◇ **Status (FY 2024-25):** ₹23,622 crore record high. Top 25 arms exporters, to >100 countries.

◇ **Steps:** iDEX, Defence Export Promotion Scheme (DEPC), Defence Industrial Corridors (DICs), Liberalised FDI Policy (74% auto route).

💣 | Nuclear Weapons

◇ **Nuclear Weapons Arsenal:** SIPRI Yearbook 2024 highlights rise. India's arsenal: 180 warheads (more than Pakistan's 170).

  » **Threats:** Geopolitical tensions, risk of accidents, emerging tech (cyber, space-based nukes).

  » **Non-Proliferation:** IAEA, NPT (India, Israel, Pakistan not joined), CTBT (India not signed).

◇ **India's Nuclear Doctrine (25 Years):** Launched 1999, formalized 2003.

  » **Key Features:** Credible Minimum Deterrence, No First Use (NFU), Massive Retaliation, No Use Against Non-Nuclear States, Disarmament support.

  » **Efficacy Debate of NFU:** Risk of initial casualties vs. strategic restraint.

🚁 | Drones for Defense

◇ Drones used for ISR, precision attack, tactical edge.

◇ **Concerns:** Weaponized drones, infrastructure disruption, overwhelming air defense (drone swarms).

◇ **India's Counter-Drone:** Counter Drone System (D4), Bhargavastra.

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