Modern Warfare

Why in news?

Recent Israel-Palestine conflict showed that even in today's digital age, militaries need to be prepared to fight analogue wars without relying on state-of-the-art technology.

What is the need for modern warfare?

> *Modern warfare is a term that refers to the use of advanced technology and strategies to conduct war in the 20th and 21st centuries.*

- **Dynamic war nature**- To keep pace with the changing nature of war and the emergence of new technologies, such as hypersonic weapons, artificial intelligence, and space capabilities
- **Counter threats-** To counter the asymmetrical and unconventional threats from non-state actors, who use guerrilla tactics, cyberattacks, and weapons of mass destruction
- **Efficiency**- To enhance the precision, speed, and efficiency of weapons and operations, reducing the collateral damage and human costs of war
- **Increase compliance**- To comply with the legal and ethical constraints on the use of force and the protection of human rights

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What are the limitations of modern warfare?

- **High cost-** It is expensive and requires a lot of resources to develop, maintain and operate.
- **Inaccuracy-** It is unreliable and may fail or malfunction in harsh or unpredictable environments.
- **Vulnerability**- It is dependent on external agencies such as satellites, networks, power grids, etc. that may be disrupted or hacked by adversaries.
- **Ethical constraints**- It may create ethical, legal and moral dilemmas for the users and decision-makers.
- **Disrupt human resource**- It may reduce the human skills, creativity and judgment that are essential for warfare.
- **Compromise training**- The focus of training syllabi shifts to operating these gadgets thus compromising both operator and maintainer training.
- **Unconventional threats**- Technology cannot always counter the low-tech or unconventional methods that use technologies to exploit the vulnerabilities of the conventional forces.
- **Constant upgradation**- It requires constant innovation and transformation of military

organizations, doctrines and concepts to keep pace with the changing nature of war and the emergence of new technologies.
- **Unprepared for analogue war**- Militaries that rely too much on technology may lose the ability to fight without it.

What lies ahead?

- Militaries need to rethink their approach to warfare and balance the use of technology with simplicity, robustness, security and reliability.
- They must prepare for a range of options from sticks and stones to strategic deterrence.
- The armed forces should retain the ability to fight without depending on high-tech equipment.

Reference

Indian Express- Fighting analogue wars in digital age

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