Nuclear dynamics of India

What is the issue?

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- Pakistan, in recent days, is showing an aggressive military strategy and continues to expand the size of its nuclear arsenal.
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- It has refused to adopt the No First Use (NFU) policy, and takes undue advantage of its nuclear shield to support and sponsor terrorism.
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- All these call for India to focus on its nuclear principles and respond appropriately.
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What lies before India?

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- India’s nuclear strategy builds on the principles of restraint - credible minimum deterrence, No-First-Use (NFU) policy, non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states, etc.
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- Besides, despite being a non-signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), its policies are consistent with provisions of NPT.
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- However, the recent developments necessitate that India should reconsider Minimum Deterrence and respond cautiously to Pakistan’s tactical nuclear weapons.
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- India's **nuclear readiness** should be improved.
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- Also, new **arms control measures** should be considered for nuclear de-escalation by other countries.
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- Indian **defence planning** should incorporate an expanded role for nuclear weapons but without affecting ‘credible minimum deterrence’.

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- It should assess all conventional and un-conventional approaches to formulate a right response for any challenges and security risks.
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- India should be aware that any sign of threat from Pakistan is also a potential one from China, a greater security challenge.
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- It should thus move stronger in **persuading other countries** to restrain Pakistan’s offensive behaviour in terms of nuclear policies and state-sponsored terrorism.
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- And make Pakistan understand that nuclear weapons are merely to deter, and not to initiate, a nuclear war.
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Source: IDSA

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