STUDY NOTES · BASIC CONCEPT

1. What is the Kashmir Conflict? 2. What is Operation Sindoor 2.0? 3. What is Information Warfare and Cyber Warfare?

International Relations

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1. What is the Kashmir Conflict? 2. What is Operation Sindoor 2.0? 3. What is Information Warfare and Cyber Warfare?

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What is the Kashmir Conflict?

- The Kashmir Conflict is a long-running territorial dispute mainly between India and Pakistan, with China also involved to a smaller extent. It began in 1947, after British India was partitioned into India and Pakistan.
- Jammu & Kashmir was a princely state ruled by Maharaja Hari Singh. When Pakistan-backed tribal fighters invaded the region, the ruler acceded to India, after which Indian forces entered Kashmir.
- This led to the first India–Pakistan war (1947–48). A UN-brokered ceasefire divided Kashmir along what later became the Line of Control (LoC).
- India administers about two-thirds of Kashmir, while Pakistan controls the rest (PoK).
- Pakistan claims Kashmir on religious grounds, while India considers Kashmir an integral part based on legal accession.
- The issue has caused multiple wars, cross-border terrorism, ceasefire violations, and diplomatic tensions.
- China controls Aksai Chin, adding a third dimension to the conflict.

What is Operation Sindoor 2.0?

- **Operation Sindoor 2.0** is a proposed/anticipated follow-up military response by India, discussed by defence experts, in the context of renewed Pakistan-backed terrorism, Kashmir-related provocations, and external support to Pakistan (especially from China).
- **Background:** In 2025, India carried out Operation Sindoor, a limited and targeted action aimed at neutralising terrorist infrastructure operating from Pakistan-occupied areas.

What is Information Warfare and Cyber Warfare?

- **Information Warfare:** Information warfare means using information as a weapon to influence people, governments, or international opinion.
- **It includes:**

1. Spreading fake news and propaganda
2. Manipulating social media to shape public opinion
3. Misleading narratives to create fear, confusion, or distrust
4. Damaging the image of a country, g**overnment, or military**

Example:

After a border clash, false stories are spread online to portray a country as aggressive or unstable, influencing global opinion against it.

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- **Cyber Warfare: Cyber warfare involves attacking digital systems using computers and the internet.**
- **It includes:**

1. Hacking government or military networks
2. Disrupting **power grids, banking systems, airports, or telecom networks**
3. Stealing sensitive military or strategic data
4. Jamming or spoofing GPS and communication systems

Example: During a conflict, a country may disable the enemy's power supply or air traffic control systems through cyber attacks.