

# Nuclear Doctrine of India

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## Why in news?

- The Indian Nuclear Doctrine is a well-stitched, rational nuclear policy which has been a promise of Indians not to be the first to use nuclear weapons in conflict, after a 1998 nuclear test (No First Use Policy).
- Rajnath Singh, the Defense Minister said that this doctrine is subject to change in later stages in the light of tensions between India and Pakistan.

## About the doctrine:

- India's strategy is entirely retaliatory and not negative.
- "Nuclear weapons are only used to repress a nuclear attack in Indian territory or any part on Indian forces," was the key in the doctrine.
- However, the doctrine made it clear that the "nuclear repressive-nuclear strike in India" is massive and aimed at inflicting intolerable damage.
- China, too, has a NFU program and there is no cause for concern about the Chinese-Indian nuclear situation.
- On the other hand, Pakistan is continually trying to make nuclear threats more prominent in order to contain India's terrorist reaction and at the same time call international attention.

## The initial use of Nuclear Weapons:

- The initial use of nuclear weapons will require massive growth of the capacity of India to supply nuclear weapons.
- There is currently no evidence that the production of Indian missiles has dramatically increased in recent times.

- Ultimately, the surveillance, tracking and reconstruction (ISR) capabilities of India's infrastructure should be improved to such a degree that India is assured of taking the majority of its opponent's arms out.
- India's nuclear alerting protocol should be significantly altered.
- The main advantage of NFU is that it minimizes the likelihood of nuclear use.
- This is because the probability of resolving the crisis is increased by miscommunications, misjudgement, misunderstanding and fog of war.
- Instead, if the two powers are NFUs, there's a greater likelihood of politicians stepping back from the edge because they know that a nuclear war can not be won.
- NFU also offers an opportunity to cooperate with China for a Global No First Use order (GNFU). Instead of raising doubts about own adherence, India should take the lead in seeking a GNFU policy.
- Given that the strategic climate in India is developing rapidly, all strategic issues must be considered clearly.