

CONCEPT NOTE: CBRN SEMINAR

EMERGING THREATS & CHALLENGES

1. CBRN has remained a front-runner amongst all strategic issues globally in the recent past. Major contributors to the growing concern over CBRN issues include COVID-19, alleged employment of chemical weapons by few countries despite international conventions and the renewed focus on nuclear weapons amidst current dynamic global security environment.
2. The catastrophic effects of a tiny pathogen during the COVID-19 pandemic have converted the ages old 'Gun vs Bread' debate into a 'Missile vs Microbe' paradigm. In the nuclear domain, Russia-Ukraine war, North Korea's unabated tests and China's nuclear expansion seems to have encouraged other vulnerable nations to no longer acquiesce to non- proliferation regimes and seek nuclear weapons in their own national interests. Chemical weapons have also gained limelight due to few targeted attacks and alleged use in Russia-Ukraine war.
3. The technological breakthroughs in the CBRN domain and weapon delivery means due to disruptive technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Drones and Hypersonic Weapons have increased the security challenges multi fold. The trans-national terrorism and hybrid nature of current conflicts further complicates the global security environment.
4. Therefore, considering the catastrophic impacts of a CBRN contingency and unique security environment due to the two nuclear powered collaborating adversaries, India needs to develop capabilities for defending its national interests and its citizens from CBRN threats.