

fell to the hands of the technologically advanced Central Asian invaders and European imperialists whenever it lacked military capabilities.

**Following recent events have also highlighted that the nations with weak militaries cannot sustain themselves:**

- **Takeover of Afghanistan:** As soon as the US withdrew from Afghanistan, the deterrence posed by a superior military was gone. The weak Afghan army did not even show the will to fight, as it knew that it would not be able to give a tough resistance to the well-trained and motivated Taliban forces.
- **Rise of ISIL and civil unrest after Iraq war:** Iraq was attacked by the much technologically advanced USA on the alleged premise of possessing weapons of mass destruction. After the end of the dictatorial regime of Saddam Hussein, civil war has become a continuous phenomenon and Iraq has been living under constant threat of the insurgents like ISIL who have acquired military grade weapons.
- **Chinese aggression:** Under its One China Policy, the technologically advanced and aggressive People's Republic of China (PRC) was able to subjugate militarily weaker autonomous regions of Tibet, Hongkong and Xinjiang, and the potential of military conflict with Taiwan always remains high.
- **Ukraine conflict:** The militarily advanced Russia was able to acquire Crimea in 2014 and despite several efforts by Ukraine in multiple forums, nothing could be changed. The recent attacks and belief of Russia that Ukraine has no genuine history, puts the sovereignty of the entire nation under threat.

**These crises provide following lessons to India:**

- **No third country is going to come to New Delhi's aid**, militarily, in case a war is forced upon by China or Pakistan. While a lot of global verbal condemnation can be expected in favour of India, like what is happening against Russia, the US and the European powers will arguably stay away from any direct intervention.
- While Russia has been a close ally of India for decades, in the new global scenario, Moscow and Beijing are enjoying proximity. Hence, **any possibility of the Russians playing an active role on behalf of India cannot be expected.**
- **India may not be able to carry on with its balancing act in geopolitics for long.** As the world gets divided afresh into blocks - the US, China and Russia, India has to strategically decide who it wants to be close to. Also, considering such a scenario, India needs to enhance its own defence capabilities and cannot rely on another country to cater its defence needs.
- In the absence of strong military capabilities, if India faces an external attack, **it may also have to face internal resistance** from insurgent groups, or a rise in the left-wing extremism or influence of terrorist groups like ISIS, which can threaten the sovereignty of India.

Thus, in view of the aforementioned lessons and changing war dynamics, the government should strongly push for its own R&D to develop a strong military.

13. ***The dark web can be an ideal platform for several criminal and terrorist activities. Discuss with examples. Also, suggest measures to tackle the misuse of dark web.*** (250 words) 15

**Approach:**

- Define dark web in the introduction.
- With examples, explain how the dark web can be an ideal platform for planning and coordinating dangerous criminal and terrorist activities.
- Suggest measures that can be taken to tackle the misuse of dark web.
- Conclude accordingly.

**Answer:**

Dark web is that part of the World Wide Web (WWW) that is only accessible by means of special software, allowing users and website operators to remain anonymous or untraceable. It is also known as the invisible or the hidden web.