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Ninth National Security Strategies Conference Opens; AI Analysis Directed Over Multi Agency Centre Intelligence

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Ninth National Security Strategies Conference Opens; AI Analysis Directed Over Multi Agency Centre Intelligence

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✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** inaugurated the **9th National Security Strategies (NSS) Conference-2026** in New Delhi on **August 24, 2026**, and directed that **AI-based analysis of information on Multi Agency Centre platforms** be used to create standard operating procedures.

THE CONFERENCE

ELEMENT	DETAIL
Edition	9th , two-day
Format	Hybrid , with over 850 participants
In person	Ministers of State for Home Affairs, the Union Home Secretary, Deputy NSAs, heads of CAPFs and CPOs
Virtual	DGsP of States and Union Territories, cutting-edge-level young police officers, domain experts

The NSSC has been held **annually in hybrid format since 2021**, on the Prime Minister's direction. The Home Minister laid a wreath at the Martyrs' Column in remembrance of Intelligence Bureau personnel before the inauguration.

Day one covered counter-terrorism response, fusion and operationalisation of intelligence through the **Multi Agency Centre (MAC)**, a vision document on narcotics control, detection and deportation of illegal migrants, and a policy framework against cyber-crime and **proxy warfare**.

Day two was to address **sub-aerial system threats** (drones and unmanned aerial systems), **securing the blue economy**, **information warfare** and a **bio-security framework**.

WHAT THE MULTI AGENCY CENTRE IS

The **MAC** is the shared intelligence-fusion platform run under the **Intelligence Bureau**. It originated in the recommendations following the **Kargil Review Committee** and the associated Group of Ministers process, and was substantially strengthened after the **26/11 Mumbai attacks**. Its function is to pool intelligence inputs across agencies that would otherwise hold them separately.

THE DIRECTIONS GIVEN

- Training for implementation of MHA's **PRAHAAR** scheme
- Expediting trials by bringing back fugitives and by using **trial in absentia** provisions
- An integrated approach to **UAPA** investigations
- **AI-based analysis of information on MAC platforms** to create SOPs

the scheme is named in the official release without expansion. This edition therefore does not spell out the acronym, because an invented expansion is worse than an unexpanded name.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS

The agenda itself is the story. Read the day-two list again: drones, maritime economic assets, information operations, bio-security. "Internal security" has widened well beyond **insurgency** and terrorism into domains where **both the legal mandate and the institutional owner are unsettled**. Who owns counter-drone authority over private property? Which ministry leads a bio-security incident? These are not rhetorical questions; they are gaps.

The sharpest thread is algorithmic triage over fused intelligence. Intelligence fusion concentrates data by design. Running AI analysis over that concentration and generating SOPs from the output raises questions of **accountability, error propagation and oversight** that India's security architecture has no **statutory** framework for, because there is **no comprehensive intelligence-oversight legislation**. An error in a fused, algorithmically triaged system propagates across every agency drawing on it, and there is no external body positioned to catch it.

Trial in absentia is an efficiency gain with a rights cost. The provision is genuinely useful against absconders who have placed themselves beyond process. It also sits in tension with fair-trial guarantees under **Article 21**, and the safeguards — adequate notice, mandatory legal representation, the right to seek retrial on return — are what determine whether it is a tool or a shortcut.

The honest framing. None of this argues against fusion or against AI. It argues that capability is being built faster than the oversight architecture around it, and that the gap is a design choice rather than an oversight.

UPSC RELEVANCE

GS Paper 3 (Internal Security): Challenges to internal security through communication networks; the role of media and social networking; basics of cyber security; linkages of organised crime with terrorism; security agencies, their mandate and structure.

Prelims focus: what MAC is and which agency runs it; its origin in the Kargil Review Committee process; the NSSC's annual hybrid format since 2021; the UAPA's 2019 amendment permitting designation of **individuals** as terrorists; trial in absentia under the **BNSS, 2023**.

Mains angle: Argue that the widening of internal security into drones, maritime and bio domains has outpaced the statutory mandate, and that intelligence fusion plus algorithmic analysis needs an oversight framework India does not have. A strong answer names the absence of comprehensive intelligence-oversight legislation rather than gesturing at "accountability".

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGE PEDIA

THE CONFERENCE:

9th National Security Strategies (NSS) Conference-2026, New Delhi, inaugurated August 24, 2026, two-day

Hybrid format, 850+ participants; held annually in hybrid format since 2021 on the Prime Minister's direction

Inaugurated by Amit Shah, who holds Home Affairs and Cooperation

Day-two themes: sub-aerial systems, blue economy security, information warfare, bio-security framework

MULTI AGENCY CENTRE:

Shared intelligence-fusion platform run under the Intelligence Bureau

Originates in the Kargil Review Committee and Group of Ministers process; strengthened after 26/11

Direction given: AI-based analysis of MAC platform information to create SOPs

LEGAL PROVISIONS REFERENCED:

UAPA = Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967; the 2019 amendment allows designation of individuals, not only organisations, as terrorists

Trial in absentia for proclaimed absconders is provided by the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, a provision absent from the old CrPC

PRAHAAR is an MHA scheme named in the release without an expansion; do not invent one

Sources: PIB, Ministry of Home Affairs

Source: Ninth National Security Strategies Conference Opens; AI Analysis Directed Over Multi Agency Centre Intelligence — Ujiyari.com | Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

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