

National Security of India in 21st Century: An Overview of Internal Security of India

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Abstract

The first and foremost duty of every nation is to maintain its national security. National Security can be divided into two broad categories – conventional and non-conventional security threats. Conventional security classified into two categories i.e. external and internal. Every nation seeks to maintain its national security which is safety and security of its people. In the changed international arena for India facing various threats in form of naxalism, insurgency and terrorism, it has assumed a major task to be accomplished. Internal Security is an important component of national security as currently India is facing much more internal security challenges than ever before. Internal security deals with terrorism, naxalism and issues inside the country which are a threat to the existence of the country demands a comprehensive policy approach. There is need of enhancing communication and connectivity, greater cultural interaction and infrastructure improvement for greater integration.

Keywords: National Security, Internal Security, Terrorism, Naxalism and Insurgency

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Introduction

A nation is secure to the extent to which it is not in danger of having to sacrifice core values, if it wishes to avoid war, and is able, if challenged, to maintain them by victory in such a war.

- Walter Lippmann

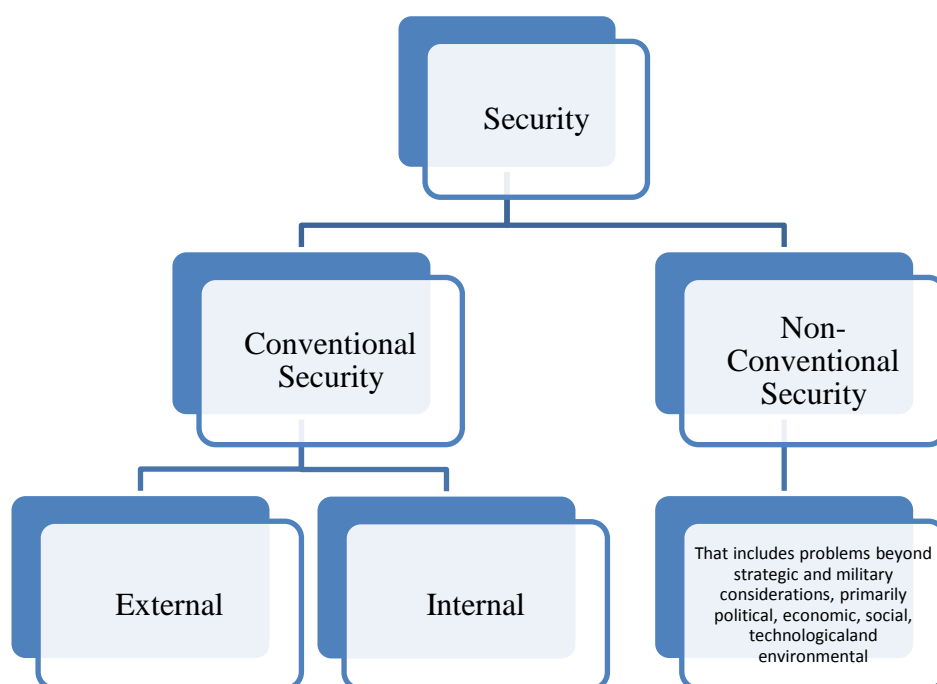
Security means “freedom from danger and risk; safety; freedom from anxiety or doubt; well-founded confidence; assurance; guarantee.” Security as a condition is the degree of resistance to, or protection from, harm. It applies to any vulnerable and valuable asset, such as a person, dwelling, community, nation, or organization. Establishing or maintaining a sufficient degree of security is the aim of the work, structures, and processes called ‘security’. Security provides ‘a form of protection where a separation is created between the assets and the threat’. These separations are called ‘controls’, and sometimes include changes to the asset or the threat. Safety, continuity and reliability are closely related to the concept of security. In the United Nations study (1986) defined security as a national condition so that countries can develop and progress safely. The different scenarios also give rise to the context in which security is maintained (Buzan, 1983, p.213):

- With respect to classified matter, the condition that prevents unauthorized persons from having access to official information that is safeguarded in the interests of national security.

- Measures taken by a military unit, an activity or installation to protect itself against all acts designed to, or which may, impair its effectiveness.

Security can be pursued either by taking action to reduce vulnerability, or by trying to eliminate or reduce the threats by addressing their causes. First, the national security strategy, it is based largely within the threatened state. Second, the international security strategy, it depends on the adjustment of relations between the states (Buzan, 1983, p.218). For any State ensuring the security of life, limb and property of the citizens is most important task. By ensuring all these state or government can seek claim to govern its people. The factors determining India's national security environment such as complex interplay of its geographical attributes, historical legacy, and socio-economic circumstances. It is also attributed to developments taking place at regional and global level. National security can be divided into two broad categories – conventional and non-conventional security threats. Conventional security divided into two categories i.e. external and internal security. External security includes matters related to relationship and issues related to different countries and also include all the discriminatory treaties imposed by technologically advanced countries in the field of technology transfer, nuclear and space technology. Internal security deal with terrorism, naxalism and issues inside the country which are a threat to the existence of the country as a secular democracy envisaged in Indian constitution. Non-conventional security threat includes problems beyond strategic and military considerations, primarily political, economic, social, technological and environmental factors related to food, water, poverty, environment etc. These factors may lead to disparity in the society which can lead to a threat to the national security.

Types of Security



Following are the implications of the external and internal factors affecting our security environment: firstly, international developments play an enormously significant role in determining our national security environment which not many in India recognize adequately; and secondly, the internal conflicts in our country can lead to situations of grave threats to our security, lending themselves to manipulation by external forces, as they often do (Singh and Subrahmanyam 1984, p.104). National Security is necessary to maintain the survival of the state through the use of economic power, diplomacy, power projection and political power. The term National Security is widely used and it is an ambiguous one. The different authors have interpreted it differently. The term 'National Security' has always been used by leaders of the country and politicians in quite a dramatic manner and for military

objectives. The traditional definition of National Security was 'protection of a nation against external threats and attacks'.

India's National Security Challenges

National Security of India can be understood in the context of its place in South-Asian region. The entire region has its own history in terms of geographical, socio-cultural, and ethnic linkages. South Asian security as the tension existing between India's natural weight in the regional polity and its neighbours' resistance to India's alleged 'hegemonistic' ambitions as defined by an essential Indo-centricity. Insecurity can affect other part of the subcontinent (Chari, 2000, p.46). South Asia is a very violent place and has remained a fragile region. A long history of its constituent countries like South Asia has providing moral and material assistance to support dissidence in their neighbours; indeed, aggravating the security problems of their neighbours has become not an uncommon instrument of their foreign policies (Chari, 2001, p.10). India's immediate neighbourhood has significantly changed the social, economic and political landscape since the end of the Cold War. In the global order a power transition is under way. The bipolar world has given way to a non-polar world in which several new powers have emerged. The centre of gravity of power is shifting towards the Asia-Pacific. The simultaneous rise of India and China is a great significance of development. The traditional concept of national security is being broadened gradually to include human security concerns. The non-military issues such as climate change, energy security, competition for scarce resources, food and water security, pandemics, migrations, etc., are getting securitized (Dahiya and Behuria, 2012, p.9). The major threats perceived in neighbourhood by India are from Pakistan and China.

Pakistan

Pakistan was born in an ambience of chaos and carnage that was precipitated by the British retreat from empire and London's decision to partition its once-vaunted colony to form simultaneously the independent states of India and Pakistan (Ziring, 2005, p.168). Since 1947 there has been external aggression by Pakistan and which eventually resulted into four full-fledged wars between the two countries. Other than wars certain challenges posed by Pakistan are such as Islamic extremism and has manifested itself vividly in intra-Islamic sectarian violence within the country and Jihad against India in Jammu and Kashmir (Kumar, 2005, p. 230).

In late 1970's onwards, the Islamism in Pakistan became an instrument of state policy which was first used against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan and then against India in Kashmir (Kumar, 2005, p. 231). The cross-border terrorism sponsored by Pakistan has to be situated in the broader context of the burgeoning terrorism that has plagued contemporary Pakistan. On the one hand, the links between army personnel, bureaucrats and political leaders, and on the other, terrorists and drug barons have acquired a measure of legitimacy under the banner of Islam and Jihad. The transnational links of terrorist outfits also necessitate international coalitions to weed out terrorism (Harshe, 2005, p.246). India is facing a major threat from Pakistan for continual support to anti-India forces, harbouring terrorist camps and has been a safe heaven for perpetrators of crime in India.

China

The ever growing military might of China is posing challenges its neighbours Russia, Japan, the Korea and India. Its dramatic military building over the last several decades is perhaps the single most important challenge in strategic affairs today. For long the bilateral relations between the two countries had remained conflictual as the warmth of Hindi-Chini bhai-bhai did not lasted for long. However, in past few years India's relationship with China is moving in the positive direction because of growing economic relation and sustained talks on boundary related issues. However, some steps of China, like continuous modernization of military with sustained double-digit growth in its defence budget for over a decade and development of infrastructure in the India-China border areas need to be monitored closely. On the nuclear front, in addition to continued upgradation of its own nuclear and missile assets, China is growing its links with some of India's neighbours. Most importantly, the Chinese assistance to Pakistan's nuclear and missile programme has adversely impacted India's national security

environment. The recent destruction of one of its own satellites by China, in its polar orbit through direct ascent anti-satellite test also creates a cause of worry for its neighbours like India. China's ambitious plans to build dams over Brahmaputra have been a cause of concern for India. Moreover, as per its 'String of Pearls' policy, China has developed Gwadar port in Pakistan, Habantotta in Srilanka, Chittgong in Bangladesh and Sittwe in Myanmar. Developing these ports will not only help China in protecting its oil import route along Indian Ocean but it will also give it definite edge in keeping watch on Indian Ocean route and along with giving it strategic advantage in the zone.

Maritime Security

India lies at a strategic location in the Indian Ocean and has 7516 km long coastline. This region has always remained caught attention of the super-powers during the cold-war period of international relations and continues to be so. This region for its all whether route and a connecting link with much of the world has been a commercial artery at regional and global level. The maritime security situation in this region is complex as there is presence of interstate and intrastate conflicts. The region is facing problems of Sea Piracy, Terrorism, Illegal trade of arms, Drug-smuggling, Human Trafficking etc. The continued threats from Soamli Coast pirates and China's ambition in India Ocean are issues confronting India. However, for all the littoral states sustained trafficking of illicit narcotics, weapons, and people within, and via, the Indian Ocean will persist for the medium to long-term for several key reasons (Michel and Sticklor, 2012).

Internal Security of India: An Overview

Internal Security is a vital component of national security. That is, external security can no longer be separated from internal security (Marwah, 1999, p.289). As far as the internal security is concerned, the two sides of the same coin as development and internal security. Unevenness in development creates divide between regions, leading to dissatisfaction between people. Therefore, in addition to developing sophisticated system of surveillance, preventive systems, proper investigation and prosecution of cases of terror, it is also very much required to ensure all round development of the country as a whole. Importance of all inclusive development can be seen from the fact that a large proportion of the recruits of extremist groups come from deprived or marginalized section. The internal security aspects of the nation include terrorism, naxalism and insurgency which pose threat to unity and integration of the country.

Naxalism

The general direction of the Congress is to intensify the people's war and to take the war to all fronts. Revolution proceeds along a zig-zag course and not along a straight line (Mead, 2010, p.145).

Naxalism is an aggressive communist's organization and also called as CPI (MAOIST). After India's independence the communist-extremist started armed violence activities first time in 1948 but because of lack of public support the movement could not get velocity. To achieve power of the state through violent revolution was the aim of the naxalites. They forced the local people for abatement of land revenue, tax etc. Naxalism is violent and revolutionary activities started from the Naxalbari village of Darjeeling (West Bengal) in 1967, and the supporters of the Naxalism called as Naxalites. Charu Mazumdar was founder of the naxalism.

India's Prime Minister declared in 2006 that the single greatest threat to the country's security was Left-Wing-Extremism, with 165 out of 604 districts under the control of Maoists. Latest estimates suggest that 40 % of India's geographical area and 35% of the population is under the influence of extremist groups (Mead, 2010, p.145). India could suppress the first phase of the Left-wing Extremist (LWE) Naxalite movement with relative ease. However, under the banner of the Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-Maoist), the narrative on the LWE's current phase has been one of continuous expansion by the extremists and consequent retreat of the state. In Southern State of Andhra Pradesh, the movement has suffered a setback, but continues to be at its most fierce in parts of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Bihar and Maharashtra. In 2001, according to the Ministry of Home

Affairs (MHA), the Maoists were present in fifty-four districts of the state. LWE violence was reported from areas under 270 police stations in 64 districts of eight states in 2011. According to the Former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, the challenge posed by the extremists remains critical and has been repeatedly described as the 'biggest internal security challenge' to the country (Routray, 2013, p. 58).

Like Pakistan sponsored militancy in Kashmir, Naxalism or Left Wing Extremism, poses as a biggest threat to internal security of India. The problem of naxalism has grown exponentially in past few years and has increased their attacks on security personnel and civilians. In a Maoist ambush in Dantewada District of Chhattisgarh in April 2010, seventy CRPF Jawans were killed and several injured.

The states strongly affected by militant Maoist activities are categorized as Red Corridor states such as Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. While dealing with the threat emanating from Naxalism, there is need of centre-state coordination. Rather than treating it as mere law and order problem, the States need to adequately arm and modernize its police forces and central government should take offensive measures to take on Naxals. There has been a lack of lucid analysis and consistency in formulating and implementing a viable strategy. In January 2010 central government launched "Operation Green Hunt" with an aim was to restore the Rule of Law in the Red Corridor region. In this operation a total of 42 battalions of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and over 60,000 armed forces are involved in the action.

Insurgency

Insurgency could be considered an extra-constitutional and variegated struggle launched against the incumbent authority by the consciously mobilized sections of indigenous masses for the fulfillment of certain conceptual goals manifesting emancipation. The features of insurgency can be categorized as under:

- it is a struggle against the ruling government,
- mobilized by the consciously organized sections of indigenous population,
- for the fulfillment of certain defined goals,
- mobilized through extra constitutional means.

Insurgency in the North East can be classified under the broad category of 'political movement'. Without entering into definition game, what we generally understand by social movement in the sociological tradition is 'sustained, collective mobilization through either informal or formal organization' which is "generally oriented towards bringing about change, either partial or total, in the existing system of relationships, values and norms" (Datta, 1992, p. 49). In this sense, insurgency is nothing but a particular form or type of movement – the only difference being that in most movements; arms and violence do not play an important role as they play in insurgency, though "even the most non-violent agitations rarely manage to remain entirely free from some strains of insurgency" (Datta, 1992, p.49). The North-east insurgency exploits disparities in income and wealth, and is also sustained by the sanctuaries provided to the leaders of insurgent movements by neighbouring countries. The insurgency in the Naga Hills started almost immediately after India became independent and is the oldest case provided by Nagaland.

India's North-East comprises of seven states i.e. Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura. According to 2001 census, the region constitutes 8.06 percent of the total land area of India and accounts for 3.78 percent of its population. The area represents enormous cultural diversity and is inhabited by nearly 200 different ethnic communities. This region is linked with rest of India by a narrow 21 kilometer 'Siliguri Corridor' and 99 percent of its border is surrounded by international boundaries – Tibet, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Bhutan. The reasons behind the feeling of separation are attributed to the lack of physical, cultural and emotional links of the region with rest of the India (Arora, 2007, pp. 7-8).

The nature of conflict in North-Eastern India can be categorized as national conflict which involves demands for separation or secession from India, ethnic conflicts leading to demand of separate state, and demands for autonomy within the existing state. In early 1950s the Naga insurgency led by ZA Phizo challenged their integration with India. It led to emergence of more insurgent groups in others North-Eastern states such as the Mizo National Front, ULFA, Bodo Liberation Tiger, Garo National Liberation Army (Marwah, 2003). Till the 1970s, China was supporting the insurgencies in the North-East.

Terrorism

Terrorism has today emerged as one of the greatest threats not only because of the severity of the damages created by it but also due to the reason whole world has still not discovered a remedy that is successful against it. Both military and police, which were raised for different types of duties to perform, have their own doctrines, organizational structures, training and strategies that have proved inadequate for this type of fourth generation warfare. Terrorism involves the use of violence for infliction of physical and mental damage on its direct victims. Besides it puts psychological effect on the target society at large. It is addressed to the leadership of the state. Terrorism also denotes the emotions and motivations of the terrorist group. Terrorism comprises violence aimed at brutal and random intimidation, coercion, destruction of human lives and property. This is generally resorted to by anti-national groups to obtain political goals (Singh, 2000, p.3).

In last few decades terrorist have made lethal attacks on the Indian Parliament on 13 December 2001, followed by a series of attacks in the economic capital of India, Mumbai on 26 November 2008, bomb blast in Pune on 13 February 2010, and the bomb blast at the place of worship in religious city, Varanasi on 08 December 2010. It is not out of place that terrorism emerged as one of the greatest threats to India's internal security. The government policy makers and strategic community continue their efforts to counter the menace of terrorism.

Jammu and Kashmir

Internal security has always remained a challenging issue in Jammu and Kashmir. The J&K problem is not possible to find a particular date or even the year of the beginning of security problems in Kashmir. By mid 1980's the insurgency movement was developed in the state but the signs of insurgency were visible for the first time in 1988 when the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) started attacking government officials and government property in Kashmir. When JKLF remained steadfast with its objective of Kashmir's independence, Pakistan developed nexus with other terrorist groups in Kashmir like *Hizbul Mujahideen* to counter the objectives of JKLF. The *Hizbul Mujahideen* was formed in 1989, started an armed struggle for the secession of Kashmir from India and its merger with Pakistan. Thus, the insurgency that erupted in late 1980s changed the dynamics of Kashmir issue with the influx of militancy and made it a more complex problem (Patankar, 2009, pp. 67-68).

The government has taken steps to solve Kashmir problem through both militarization as well as dialogue with both the internal and external forces. In 2002, the coalition government led by People's Democratic Party (PDP) was established in the state under the leadership of Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, which was replaced by Ghulam Nabi Azad of the Congress in 2005 according to the coalition agreement (Arora, 2007, p.19). With the established of democratic institutions and good governance normalcy returned to the state but the separatist's demands remained there although their intensity lowered largely. The people started becoming hopeless about 'Azadi' and Pakistan's help in fulfilling their dream. They understood the fact that Pakistan has used the sacrifice of thousands of innocent Kashmiris only to realize their quest for territory (Khajooria, 2003).

In 2008, the situation became violent in the state over the issue of Amarnath land row, which paralyzed the state administration and since then anti-Indian agitations are going on there every year. Both separatists and political parties only use the people in the valley to fulfill their causes (Haider, 2010). Therefore, there is need of winning the hearts and minds of the people in the Valley to keep them away from the nefarious designs of secessionists and to convince them that they can find the solutions to their problems within the Indian democratic structure.

After coming to power in 2014, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi government has followed a policy of zero-tolerance towards terrorism, which has resulted in elimination of terror networks in Jammu and Kashmir. The separatist's groups were sympathizing with Pakistan have become silent; the incidents of stone pelting have almost come to an end.

Conclusion

This paper clearly throws light on the need of internal cohesion as by enhancing the spirits of the people, strengthens national feelings and safeguard its national security. Every nation tries to be secure by putting much emphasis on internal security. It's important for every ruling dispensation to ensure security of its citizens by removing hurdles of national integration and reducing threats from external forces. Internal conflicts and disorder can damage national interests, may lead breakdown of law and order, endanger lives of its citizens. In order to ensure security of its citizens Indian government have kept several provisions in the constitution, demands of various ethnic groups have been accommodated in form of granting of statehood, autonomous councils. For strengthening security of the nation, there is need of enhancing communication and connectivity, greater cultural interaction and infrastructure improvement for greater integration.

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