



CIVIL SERVICES ACHIEVERS' POINT

CSAP's SMART BOOK

INTERNAL SECURITY

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNAL SECURITY IN INDIA

The concept of internal security may seem a modern construct but, unlike the common wisdom, it is as old as the construct of states. The earliest treatise of statecraft – Arthashastra by Kautilya – had references to management of security of state from internal as well as external threats. Kautilya in his Arthashastra places threats into four categories:

- **Internal**
- **External**
- **Internally aided external**
- **Externally aided internal**

In modern times, the form and number of threats to a country's security **internal as well as external** – has become more challenging than ever. **It has become very important for a country to maintain its sovereignty in international statecraft as well as to ensure free will of the citizens.**

A country has to employ a suitable mix of policies with respect to economic, strategic, military and diplomatic powers at its disposal in order to secure the interest of the country and its citizens.

Challenges to internal security of India are numerous. **The extent and scope of threats are complex, varied and vast. No other country in the world confronts so many**

threats, with so much intensity, at the same time.

Overall, more than 50 per cent of India is said to be affected by one or the other of these **threats**, which are not just 'law and order' problems. They have external dimension falsifying conventional wisdom that internal security threats are caused mainly by internal sources.

Internal and External Security

The aspects of internal and external security threats are so inter-twinned that it is difficult to differentiate between the two. However, some broad difference could be considered.

- **Internal security is the security of a country within its borders.** This implies maintenance of peace and law and order, and upholding the sovereignty of the country within its territory.
- Internal security is different from external security to the extent that **external security is security against aggression by a foreign country. External security is solely the responsibility of the armed forces of the country, while internal security comes under the purview of the police, which can be supported by the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), if required.**
- In India, the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) takes care of internal security, while external security comes under the Ministry of Defence.** In many countries, MHA is also called the Ministry of Internal Affairs or Ministry of Homeland Security.

External Security Threats	Internal Security Threats
Threat originates from foreign soil	Threat originates from within country's territory
Aggression by foreign country	Internal disturbances and law and order problems
These impact the sovereignty of the country	Impact credibility of the government

These affect international relations	Affect relationship of the citizens with government
Mainly dealt by Armed forces and Diplomats	Dealt by Ministry of Home Affairs and State Police

What is National Security?

Today's definition of security acknowledges the political, economic, environmental, social and human thread, among other strands that impact the concept of security. It is the concern for security of the lowest common denominator of every society, namely the 'human being', which has resulted in the development of the concept of 'human security', with a focus on the individual and the people. Therefore, **the definition of security is related to the ability of the state to perform the function of protecting the well-being of its people. Internal security has been defined as the process of keeping peace and maintaining safety within a nation or state.**

National Security, in a more traditional sense, refers to the **preservation of the state, its territorial integrity, political institutions, and national sovereignty** from physical threats. But in the modern times the definitions have broadened to include following facets:

- **Economic threats:** They indirectly threaten the developmental dynamics by disturbing the economic processes.
- **Technology driven threats:** Threats like cyber-terrorism, space warfare etc. have assumed increased importance in recent times.
- **Health Security:** Diseases like Tuberculosis, Malaria and HIV are seen as threats to human security because of the enormous loss of life they cause.

The former Prime Minister, **Dr. Manmohan Singh, in 2005 identified- terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, low intensity conflicts, and threats to the security of sea-lanes as threats to national security.**

A close examination of the threats to national security will reveal that each one of them is connected to one or more other threats. For example, the threat of terrorism is connected to the threat of proliferation of arms including weapons of mass destruction. The threat to the security of our sea-lanes is connected to the threat to energy security.

The government of the day is duty bound to protect its boundaries as well as maintain law and order. Safe internal security scenario is very important for growth and development of the country. This aspect was highlighted by the former PM of India, **Dr.**

Manmohan Singh, who said: "...Without effective law and order, economic development would be impossible. We must not, therefore, neglect this aspect."

The challenges posed by Internal Security scenario are priority for the nation as emphasised many a times by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Addressing the Inter-State Council meeting, in **2016**, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi told the Chief Ministers that **"we should focus on how we can make our country prepared to counter challenges to our internal security"**. He asked states to focus on intelligence sharing which will help the country stay **"alert" and "updated"** in countering internal security challenges.

Constituents of Internal Security

There are myriad attributes that constitute internal security of the country. These could be enumerated as:

- **Maintenance of Law and Order:** Ensuring law and order is the prime responsibility of any government to make sure 'Rule of law' prevails and law-

abiding citizens are not aggrieved in anyway.

- **Safeguarding Sovereignty of the Nation:** The challenges posed by the state and non-state actors in the form of terrorism, naxalism etc, need to be neutralised in order to protect the sovereignty of the nation.
- **Ensuring Domestic Peace and Tranquillity:** Incidents such as Communal violence, Ethnic clashes, Mob violence etc. need to be checked to ensure peace and tranquillity in the nation.
- **Equality:** Article 14 of the Constitution of India entails a responsibility on the state to ensure equality before law and equal protection of law, state should ensure such rights are protected.
- **Freedom from Fear:** There should be an environment where people can express their views and thoughts without fear. Dissent is important in democracy and differences between sections of people could be resolved through dialogues.
- **Non-discrimination:** There should be no discrimination (which includes exploitation and oppression) of any strata of citizens at the hands of State or society at large. The weak needs to be protected and should enjoy freedom and rights.
- **Social Harmony and Fraternity:** Social harmony between various castes, communities, regions etc. is imperative to prevent and resolve internal security threats.

Factors Contributing to Internal Security Challenges

Former Prime minister of India, **Dr. Manmohan Singh** once said: **“India is unique and a land of contradictions”**. These contradictions interact and give rise to factors that contribute to the internal security problems in India.

These factors could be enumerated as:

- **Poverty**
- **Unemployment**
- **Inequitable Growth**
- **Resource Distribution**
- **Corruption**
- **Nexus between the criminals, police and politician in organised crime**
- **Lack of development**
- **Prolonged Judicial System**
- **Poor Conviction Rate**
- **Caste consciousness**
- **Communal Discord**
- **Hostile Neighbours**
- **Living in isolation**
- **Difficult Terrain in some regions**

Poverty

- **There is a positive correlation between poverty and law and order problems.**
- Numerous studies demonstrate that **declining national income, low GDP per capita, primary commodity or natural resource dependence, and slow economic growth increase the risk and length of civil conflict.**
- Widespread poverty may also weaken state capacity to provide essential human services, and thereby, render states more vulnerable to predation by terrorist networks.
- Citizens living in deprived environments become disenchanted with the political and administrative systems.
- **There is no surprise that the some of the most backward and poor districts in India are grappling with the menace of Naxal violence.**

Unemployment

- Unemployment leads to energy of the work-force go unutilised which could have been used for the economic development instead. In India, **unemployment rate hover around 5%.**
- The more worrying sign is the quality of jobs on offer to graduates, **about 60 per cent of 8lakh engineering graduates remain unemployed.**
- When the aspirations of the youth are not

met, they get disgruntled, lose faith in the Government and may turn to use disruptive tendencies.

- The **volatile nature of the youth may lead to expression of anger, frustration and may cause social unrest.**

Inequitable Growth

- Income of Indians is becoming more and more inequitable.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has warned that both India and China face the social risk of growing inequality.
- **India's Gini coefficient rose to 0.51 by 2013, from 0.45 in 1990, mainly on account of rising inequality between urban and rural areas as well as within urban areas.**
- **The richest 1% of Indians now own around 33% of wealth.** These indicators highlight that growing inequality is a reality in India and it is a cause of concern, as citizens' discontent may become challenge to the Government vis-a-vis internal security.

Resource Distribution

- **Resource distribution is based on the principle of common good.** Fruits of economic growth when distributed unevenly, only selected few reaping the benefits, and a large population gets left behind in the process.
- India has chosen the policy of increasing the economic growth after independence. It was envisioned that the increased development will uplift the poor and destitute from the lower pedestal to higher through equitable development.
- While India has seen development of industries in mineral rich areas in central India, the economic development in these areas is not akin to rest of the country.
- These areas have now become what is called as the 'Red Corridor' because here, local population is involved in Left wing Extremism, primarily owing to lack of socio-economic development of the people.

Corruption

- **Corruption is widely recognised as a threat to peace and security in the nation.** When corruption becomes entrenched, it undermines the development of state authority and its institutions, leaving a weak state with potentially more space for insurgents to operate.
- While the poor often suffer the most, this cycle of impunity leaves ordinary people disempowered, unable to seek justice in courts or hold politicians to account. This makes them further impoverished, but also sows the seeds of conflict by dissolving any ties of loyalty between people and a state seemingly captured by private interests.
- In contrast, people with a stake in society are more likely to reject those who preach violence to achieve their ends. It is not surprising therefore, that we see a constant and sad correlation between corruption and conflict.
- **The pervasive misuse of public office for private gain is an evil eating into the vitals of the state, sapping India's strength.** When important decisions, from arms procurement to policy changes, are often tainted by corrupt considerations, it is inevitable that internal security will get compromised.
- **Ultra Left forces were thriving in rural areas because of the vacuum created by politicians and social activists. The corrupt state machinery has contributed to the weakening of the state.** It is when the system is subverted that certain elements step in and intervene in favour of the people and win their support, leading to spread to Maoism.

Prolonged Judicial System

- **The Malimath Committee on Criminal Justice System Reforms noted: "It is common knowledge that the two major problems besieging the Criminal Justice System are huge pendency of criminal cases and the inordinate delay in disposal of criminal cases."**
- **About 47 million cases are pending in**

various courts across the country. Of them, **87.4% are pending in subordinate courts, and 12.4% in High Courts**, thus huge pendency of criminal cases and the inordinate delay in disposal of criminal cases are major problems.

- People get disenchanted when they do not get quick and affordable justice. Such pendency of cases is detrimental to the national security as criminals acquire notion of impunity.

Low Conviction Rate

- **With lot of pendency of cases in courts, on an average the judges have 2 to 6 minutes to hear the case.** Consequently, there is very low rate of conviction in cases involving serious crimes (only 47% in 2015). This has encouraged crime.
- **Violence and organised crimes have become the order of the day. As chances of convictions are low, crime has become a profitable business.**
- Law and order situation has deteriorated over the years and citizens have lost confidence in the Criminal Justice System.

Hostile Neighbours

- **India shares a significant part of its border with Pakistan and China, and have had strained relationship with its eastern as well as western neighbours.**
- India and Pakistan have been at loggerheads ever since they got independence from British Rule. The neighbours even entered four times into war since partition of India in 1947.
- Control over Kashmir has been a major bone of contention between the two countries. Pakistan is involved in a proxy-war with India through cross border terrorism, pumping fake Indian currency notes (FICN), drug trafficking etc.

- **India and China relations have been contentious owing to unsettled boundary dispute between them. China disputes validity of treaty signed between British India and Tibet in 1914. A war was also fought to settle the boundary dispute in 1962.**
- In present times, Maoists in India look towards China for ideological support, China has been following a policy of **“String of Pearls”** – acquiring rights to use ports for naval operations in Indian Ocean – encircling India. In addition, China and Pakistan have a nexus and proposed **China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)** passes through Pakistan occupied Kashmir and India has reservations with that.

Difficult terrain in Some Regions

- **Difficult terrain in border areas in the North East and Northern region of India makes management of border a challenging task.**
- The presence of insurgents in North East region, militants in Jammu and Kashmir region and Maoist in hilly tract of central India make the task of security agencies more complex and challenging as they have to deal with twin challenges of the hostilities of these groups and difficult terrain.

Communal Discord

- **Lack of communal harmony and intolerance is leading to communal discord. Hindu- Muslim conflicts are common in India; however, the country has also seen the Anti-Sikh riots in 1984.**
- **According to the Ministry of Home Affairs communal incidents occurred in the country from 2011 to October, 2015 on an average of 58 incidents a month.**
- In addition, riots result in substantial property damage, loss of livelihood and residential segregation. Certain vested interests benefit tremendously from the various divides in our society.
- These vested interests have carried on a communal propaganda over the years to