# Internal Security of India: Challenges and Government's Response

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***Abstract:*** *India is a country which has a diverse culture, language, race, caste, religion etc. This diversity gives us a sense of pride in being citizens of our great country, on the other hand it also creates various internal security issues such as separatism, communalism etc. There are many challenge to internal security in India like Naxalism, terrorism, communalism etc. The government has taken many steps against these problems. These threats hinder the development of the nation. This article highlights challenges to internal security of India and government's response against internal security challenges.*

***Key Words****: Diversity, Naxalism, Terrorism, Security, India.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

This concept may seem a modern construct but it is as old as the construct of states. The famous book Arthashastra written by Kautilya had references to management of security of state from internal as well as external threats. Internal security is the security of a country within its borders. This basically implies maintenance of peace and law and order and upholding sovereignty of the country within its territory. In the modern period, 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. 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. In India, Naxalism, terrorism, insurgency in the North Eastern part, militancy in J&K are burgeoning alarmingly.

## 2. Difference between internal and external security threats :

There are some broad differences between internal security and external security. External security is security against aggression by a foreign country and treat originates from foreign soil and it is mainly dealt by armed forces and diplomats. While internal security threat originates from within country's territory, dealt by Ministry of Home Affairs and state police, affect relationship of the citizens with government.

## 3. Factors responsible for internal security challenges :

### 3.1 Poverty

There is a positive correlation between poverty and law and order problems. Numerous studies have shown 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. Citizens living in deprived environments become disenchanted with the political and administrative systems. There is no surprise that some of the most backward and poor districts in India are grappling with the menace of Naxal violence.

### 3.2 Unemployment

Unemployment makes the workforce unusable which could have been used for economic development instead. When the aspirations of the youth are not met, they become dissatisfied, lose faith in the Government and want to use disruptive tendencies. Unemployment can lead to expressions of anger, frustration and social unrest among youth people.

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### 3.3 Corruption

Corruption is widely recognized as a threat to the peace and security of the nation. When corruption intensifies, it weakens the development of state authority and its institutions, leaving the weak state with potentially more space for insurgents to operate. The pervasive misuse of public officers for private gain is an evil eating into vitals of the state, sapping India's strength. The extreme left forces were prosperous in the countryside due to the void created by politicians and social workers. Corrupt state apparatus has played a role in weakening the state. It is when the system collapses that some elements come to the side of the people and intervene and win their support, causing Maoism to spread.

### 3.4 Inequitable Growth

Income of Indians is becoming more and more inequitable. The top 10 per cent earned 56 per cent of the country's total income in 2019. The bottom 10 per cent earned only 3.5 per cent. These indicators highlight that growing inequality is a reality in India and it is a cause of concern, as citizens' discontent may become a challenge to the Government vis-à-vis internal security.

### 3.5 Prolonged Judicial System

About 04 crore cases are pending in various courts across the country, thus huge pendency of criminal cases and the additional delay in disposal of criminal cases are major problems. People become frustrated when they do not get fast and affordable justice. Such pendency of cases is detrimental to national security as criminals acquire a notion of impunity.

### 3.6 Resource distribution

Resource distribution is based on the principle of common good. When the fruits of economic growth are unevenly distributed, only a few get the benefits and a large population lags behind.
Process. India has adopted a policy of increasing economic growth since independence. It was envisaged that enhanced development would elevate the poor and nitute tastes from the lower to the upper through equitable development. Although India has seen the development of industry in the mineral rich areas of Central India, the economic development in this region is not on par with other parts of the country. These areas are called the 'Red Corridor'. Because here, the local people are involved in leftist extremism, mainly due to the lack of socio-economic development of the people.

### 3.7 Hostile Neighbors

India shares a significant portion of its border with Pakistan and China and has strained relations with its eastern and western neighbors. India and Pakistan have been in conflict since independence from British rule. Control over Kashmir is a major bone of contention between the two countries. Pakistan is involved in proxy war with India through border terrorism, fake Indian currency notes (FICN), drug trafficking etc. India and China relations have been contentious due to an unsettled boundary dispute between them. There was also a war in 1962 to settle the boundary dispute. The Maoists in India want ideological support from china. Neighbors have always wanted to create problems for India's security.

### 3.8 Low Conviction Rate

The conviction rate for serious crimes is very low in India. In 2019, it was only 50.4 per cent in India. It has encouraged crime. Violence and organized crimes have become the order of the day.

### 4. Challenges to internal security :

### 4.1 Naxalism

The problem of Naxalism first appeared at Naxalbari village in West Bengal. It was a revolt of peasants led by CPM (Maoist) against local landowners. Gradually it turned violent and spread from West Bengal to other states. The socio-economic conditions prevailing in the tribal areas of Jharkhand, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, etc., helped to enrich the rebellion and strengthen its roots. At the expense of displacement and exploitation of the tribal population, the tribal area was not only occupied for mining, dams and other heavy industries, but the colonial forest rules also allowed corrupt government employees to harass them in the name of forest protection. As a result, the

residents of the tribal areas are deeply affected economically and socially.  The government did not pay attention to their plight until Naxalism turned the discontent of the people into a complete revolution against the Indian government and our democratic management which posed a grave threat to our national unity.  Due to lack of infrastructure and funds, the concerned state government could not prevent this crisis.  The weak and equipped police system in the state failed to examine the impact and spread of Naxalism and in many cases some police officers connived with the Naxalites.  On the other hand many politicians have built relationships with Naxal for their electoral benefit.  In addition, the lack of cooperation between the state and central governments due to different party governments exacerbates the problem.  Their lack of cooperation was also visible in law enforcement, security and intelligence agencies.

## 4.2 Insurgency in North-East

From the very beginning of the post-independence period, insurgency in the North-East area has played a key role in security concerns. The Naga insurgency started way back in the early 1950s. Since then insurgencies in this region have increased and spread to many new areas. This region, which is highly diverse and strategically sensitive, has different causes of ethnic upheaval and insurgencies in different states.  Some want  secession from the Indian Union, some want separate states and others want greater autonomy within the existing state. Thousands have died in insurgent-related violence. The insurgency has severely affected the economic life of the region. The whole process is being severely hampered by this retenless violence. The roots of many of these insurgencies in the Northeast lie deep in its history and geography.  But, it would be wrong to consider it as a common problem, or a homogeneous region with social systems and customs.  Even geographically, the region can be divided into three broad regions - mountains, plateaus and plains. Many ethnic groups, speaking different languages and dialects, who live in this remote part of the country, consider themselves to be separate people with little in common with people in other parts of the country.  The lack of physical, cultural and emotional connection has encouraged this feeling of separation. The partition of the country has severely severed the old communication system with serious demographic consequences.  At the heart of the problem, however, is the urge to assert their identities among new political consciousness and especially among extremist independent tribal communities.  The partition cordoned off the whole region, and even the old roads, railways and rivers and waterways were cut off from the rest of the country as they all passed through East Pakistan (now Bangladesh).  New rail connectivity circuits through North Bengal are very long and expensive to easily enter this region.  Air connectivity is not only expensive, but also unreliable due to the climate.  People will have to bear the additional transportation cost for all their supplies.  The arrival of migrants from East Pakistan and now continuing from Bangladesh has created another complex problem.  Initially it was limited to Hindus leaving East Pakistan due to insecurity, but later due to intense population pressure even Muslims started migrating.  The fear that the immigrant population will one day dominate them has kept many insurgency and separatist movements alive.

## 4.3 Militancy in Jammu and Kashmir

Jammu and Kashmir became an integral part of the Indian Union when the then ruler of state, Raja hari Singh, in 1947, unconditionally signed the instrument of accession in accordance with the legal framework provided for all the Princely States of British India to accede either to India or to Pakistan. Pakistan is pursuing a multi-pronged strategy to destabilize India and annex Jammu and Kashmir. Militancy is a direct consequence of the unremitting efforts of Pakistan's covert agencies to exploit the prevailing discontent and destabilize the established authority by creating an anarchic situation. Militancy has caused enormous human and economic problems in the State and shattered its economy. The Kashmir issue is complicated by a number of mistakes on the part of the Indian government, while Pakistan, on the other hand, aggravates this sense of separatism by sending troops to Kashmir and supporting separatist elements such as the Hurriyat Conference by raising the Kashmir issue internationally. Jammu & Kashmir is a long breeding ground for separatist ambitions. Some insurgency groups in Kashmir support complete independence, while others want to join Pakistan. Article 370 was an important reason to keep alive the feeling of separation in Kashmiri people. The Government of India revokes this article in 2019.

## 4.4 Communalism

Communalism is a major challenge to our internal security. After partition the government of India made many efforts to curb communal tendency but the political motives of parties helped the communal ideology to regain its lost place and the nation faced various communal riots which are still seen. Many people die of communal riots every year while social media is a medium of fast spread of information with a major caveat that information can be false or true. Thus social media can damage the secular and plural fabric of our society. The position of central and state governments is strict on communal riots but electoral motives often dispel their intention. Almost every party supports communal

ideology or granting special favor to minority communities. Moreover, the government should protect the cultural and religious rights of minorities  but should never give them unreasonable favors that cause dissatisfaction of the majority. Political parties must understand that politics can not be played at the cost of the  nation, so they must refrain from using communal elements for electoral gain.

## 4.5 Terrorism

Terrorism is a big internal security challenge to Indian nation state. In the global terrorism index 2020, India has been ranked at 8th place in the list of countries most affected by terrorism. Terrorism is a cowardly act by the terrorist groups who wish to disturb the peace of the country. It aims to create a state of panic amongst the people. There are many terrorist cells that are operating in India and they have to an extent successfully created an atmosphere of tension amongst the citizens. Jammu and Kashmir is much more peaceful now than it was in the mid-90s. Still sporadic terrorist attacks on army personnel often occupy the headlines.

## 4.6 Special Threats

Special threats such as counterfeit currency, illegal immigrants, drug trafficking and cyber attack are big challenge to internal security. Counterfeit currency is likely to disrupt the nation's economic stability.  It is also used in source services of unsatisfactory ingredients against the nation at very cheap cost.  Illegal immigrants continue to be a source of tension, especially in Assam where violent outbreaks have paralyzed the local economy and suppressed NH-32 as the only way to connect the Northeast with the rest of the nation. Illegal migration has resulted in periodic clashes between the citizens of India and migrants. India is sandwiched between the 'Golden Triangle' and the 'Golden Crescent' of the illicit opium trade.  It not only weakens the youth of the nation but the money earned from it is used to finance crime syndicates and terrorist activities.  Cyber attack is the biggest emerging challenge to internal security.  Our whole financial system and business is based on data transportation based on computer. Cyber attack from inside or outside country can endanger the pace of development of economy. Obscure boundaries and the privacy responsibilities provided by cyberspace make it difficult to determine responsibilities.  The weapon is therefore used by the Nation States to wage proxy wars against each other.

## 5. Government's Response :

About Naxalism, Government's response to this challenge is based on two pronged strategies of security and development. On development side implementation of panchayat extension to scheduled areas act and forest rights act along with various schemes like MGNREGA, surrender cum rehabilitation etc schemes work wonders. These acts not only eliminated the rigid activities of the colonial age but also laid the foundation for grassroots government and people's participation in local governance in tribal areas. It not only recognized the special privileges of the tribal people in managing their local resources but also protected them from exploitation by corrupt government officials. On security side, government deployed paramilitary forces in this area and strengthened police presence through modernization. It has also raised special commando forces such as the COBRA, Greyhounds, Indian Reserve Battalion etc. The Multi-Agency Center (MAC) was set up to ensure co-operation between state and central agencies which is playing an effective role against Naxalism. In the case of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir, Government's response to this challenge has been to put firmly that Kashmir is an integral part of India whose safety and security is the responsibility of the whole country. Government has started many skill development and job provision schemes, and the election commission has played a vital role by conducting peaceful elections in the valley. Indian security response in Kashmir is through the agency of the army as well as paramilitary forces. Under 'Watan Ko Jano', 'Operation Sadbhavana' schemes , young people of Jammu and Kashmir  were sent to different parts of India to increase their familiarity with the nation, schools-clinics have been set up. Prime Minister Reconstruction Plan (PMRP) has been introduced in Jammu and Kashmir to develop infrastructure rapidly. "UDAAN" has started to give vocational training to a few in the Kashmir valley to make them job enabled. Attractive rehabilitation package has been announced for the terrorists who are willing to surrender & shun the path of  violence. In the area of insurgency in North-East, The Government has responded to this challenge in two strands. First is to grant regional autonomy through the fifth and sixth schedule and carving out separate states for example Nagaland in 1963, Mizoram and Tripura in 1972, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya in 1987. Second response of the government is to put security forces in north east. Its success can be gauged from the state of Mizoram whose democratically elected chief minister was once leader of insurgents. Government's response to terrorism has been to strengthen intelligence sharing, operational effectiveness and international collaboration. India has formulated many laws like UAPA, POTA, TADA to deal with terrorism and has a number of intelligence agencies like RAW, IB, NIA that monitor terrorist activies. Military and police organizations within the Indian government contribute to

counterterrorism. These include state-run police forces, special security forces to guard high profile targets, and paramilitary forces that patrol the borders and assist the police when necessary. Regarding communalism, The government has responded to this serious issue by setting up intelligence apparatus to find out any grievances. The government has the power to effectively monitor online communication. The government is working as a strong effective grievance redressal mechanism.

Overall, the government adopted a triangular approach of political accommodation, developmental initiatives and kinetic measures. The political accommodation strategy is based on the pacifists stand of considering internal security problems as a political problem. Based on this understanding, various steps are being taken in consultation with disgruntled groups in North-East and Kashmir. These arrangements have worked in North-East where demands have been met through political autonomy and conduct of election. Programs like 'Sadbhavana' and 'Samaritan' run by Indian Army also try to win the hearts and minds of  the people. On developmental front, various governmental programmes like ICDS, IAY, MGNREGA, AIBP, DPAP etc are pursued as a means of ensuring redistributive justice. Various skill development programmes and social security programmes are also being run by the government. The government formulates various policies to rehabilitate the surrendered militants. Kinetic responses include slew of measures inflict direct injury on the threats. The objective is to improve deterrent effect of security forces based on realistic ideology. Various special forces like COBRA, C-60, GREYHOUND etc are being created to maximize the impact of direct attack. These measures are supported by a set of special laws such as POTA, TADA, UAPA, MISA, etc. to provide a continuum to the kinetic approach.

## 6. CONCLUSION:

India has faced internal security problems since independence and there are still many problems.  In order to maintain India's security and integrity, it needs to tackle internal security issues with a heavy hand. However challenges can be effectively addressed and controlled if we have the doctrine of proper internal security and it is properly implemented. So we should enhance communication and connectivity, infrastructure improvement for better integration of the region with the mainland, stringent law and fast criminal justice system quick disposal of insurgents attack cases, greater coordination between central forces and state forces for better tactical response, greater cultural interaction with the rest of the country and socio economic development that includes a holistic inclusive development, decentralization with alertness, Improving administrative efficiency, pro-people governance and coping up with regional aspirations. We must build a sense of 'Nation First' in the heart of each and every citizen, then we will succeed in getting rid of the threat of internal security. It is hopeful that Indian nation state will one day attain the dream of Mahatma Gandhi whose base will be non violence and whose aim will be peace.

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