

# An Analytical Review of India's National Security and National Development in 21<sup>st</sup> Century



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## Abstract

National Security primarily, gets challenges from two directions, internal and external. Internally, it is the destabilising influences that pose a threat to the cohesion integrity and development of the nation. Externally, it is a threat to the security of the physical environment as well as the national goals and core values, posed by outside forces. These challenges can effectively be met by a well-formulated and well-pursued domestic policy as well as a corresponding foreign policy. Therefore, national security of a country goes hand-in-hand with national development.

Security of a nation is one of the three minimum essential components of the national interest of a nation-state. The other two are national development and world order. These components are interconnected to an extent. National Development is actually the main responsibility of the state directly or indirectly, and National Security provides a minimum guarantee for it. Only a nation which is internally stable (socially, economically and politically) can withstand the numerous pressures of the present day international system. Hence, focus of the entire issue of security is national development. And, it is the ability of a country to function in the internal and external environment, without destabilising influences predominating, that ensures a nation's security.

**Keywords:** National Security, National Development, Governance, Types of Security.

## Introduction

The renowned American scholar, Arnold Wolfers, pointed out in his book 'Discord and Collaboration' it may mean different things to different nations in different circumstances. A number of scholars quote Walter Lippmann's definition of national security: A nation has security when it does not have to sacrifice its legitimate interests to avoid war and is able challenged to maintain them by war. This definition lays stress on war as an important tool of preserving the legitimate interest of a nation. But, today, war has acquired a secondary role in international relations. The definitions given by the scholars like Michael Louw and Orvik lay greater stress on effective measures from external threats based on physical violence. According to Michael Louw, national security is 'the condition of freedom from external physical threat. National Security does not merely mean safeguarding territorial integrity. It means also ensuring that the country is industrialised rapidly and has a cohesive egalitarian and technological society. Anything which comes in the way of this development, internally or externally, is a threat to (India's) national security.

There are many definitions given by the scholars and writers defining national security from different perspectives. However, none seems complete in every respect. Nevertheless, for the purpose of this paper, an explanation given below looks pertinent. It is based on writers like J. Bandyopadhyay, Coulombis and Frankel etc.

The Security of a nation is no longer a defensive reaction to external threats. In a somewhat passive approach, it can be defined as 'defence against challenges to a nation's vital interests'. In a more dynamic formulation it may be explained as promoting national values and ethos in a positive manner within the nation and in the external environment. Both approaches are relevant and may overlap. At a period when national consolidation is more important, the earlier approach may predominate. After consolidation, the promotion of positive values and interests become

more relevant. In any case, there has to be a clear formulation of the goals of a country and an identification of the core values of a nation. It is only after that the challenges to a nation can be perceived in their correct perspective.

The core values of a nation, on the other hand, represent the basic beliefs and the conscious aspiration of the collective will. In a way, it outlines the path that the nation should follow to achieve the goal. In our case, these values were crystallized during the years of our freedom struggle and are enshrined in the Preamble to our Constitution, which reflects the 'Will of the People' and core values. First of these is democracy: an effective participation of the people in their own governance. Second, secularism, which is not an absence of religion, but a dynamic concept of a tolerant, multi-religious society. Third, is socialism, a framework for economic development and social equality. Lastly, federalism; where the constituent units of the nation have maximum freedom of action. In its external dimension, there are additional values that are important. From the national goals and core values described above, follow specific interests, which have to be protected and enhanced to ensure national security. This again has two dimensions, the internal and the external.

#### **Internal Security**

1. To promote a just social and democratic order in the country based on secularism and equality of opportunity.
2. To promote economic development that meets the aspirations of the people, within a national framework.
3. Acquire, adapt and develop scientific inventions and technological innovations that will ensure the nation to achieve self-reliance.
4. To foster true federalism with effective decentralisation of power to the village level, that will ensure strong constituent units, developing according to their own genius, within the framework of national unity.
5. Ensure harmonious and equitable development of all regions and people maintaining their individual characteristics and identities.

#### **External Security**

1. To ensure the security of the physical environment of the nation from external aggression.
2. To promote regional relationship with our immediate neighbourhood based on furthering mutual co-operation.
3. To support international movements for enhancing peace and security in the world, through disarmament, peaceful settlement of disputes and removal of social and economic inequities.

National interests are the touchstones for testing national security. Threats and challenges that seriously impinge on national interest, threaten national security. National strategy must, therefore, evolve around measures that will strengthen and enhance these interests and protect them from hostile influences. Ultimately, it is the ability of a country to function in the internal and external environment,

without destabilising influences predominating, that ensures a nation's security.

#### **Challenges to National Security**

National security is challenged from forces primarily from two directions, internal and external. Internally, it is the destabilising influences that pose threat to the cohesion and integrity of the nation. The important ones being: population explosion, environment degradation, economic backwardness, absence of moral values, inadequate national consolidation, regional and linguistic strife, religious fanaticism and above all domestic political and bureaucratic corruption. Externally, it is a threat to the security of the physical environment as well as to national values, which are posed by outside forces.

Only a nation that is internally stable and economically self-reliant can withstand the numerous pressures of the present-day international system. Hence, central to the entire issue of security is national development. The ultimate goal of national strategy is to secure national interests and objective. Therefore, success can be measured only after a period of time. If social cohesion is strengthened and economic self-reliance is enhanced national power will grow and will enable the nation to find her rightful place in the comity of nations.

#### **National Development**

The three components of national interest namely security, national development and world order, are all interconnected to a certain extent. Development is actually the main responsibility of the state, directly or indirectly, and national security is only a minimum guarantee for it. In sense, security is, in fact, only an intermediate value, relative to the ultimate value of national development.

All nations have to weigh the relative importance of their major national interests. Limited national means must be so distributed that reasonable balance is maintained between the needs of national security and the goal of economic development and social progress. Nations and their leaders must determine what portion of their national resources and energies, (10%, 50% or 75%) should be allocated for nuclear-tipped missiles what portion for hospitals, schools, anti-poverty programs, hydroelectric dams, reforestation, and support of the arts.

Economic Development also means development of infrastructure facilities such as transport and communications, irrigation, power, education, health, housing, water supply: financial institutions (commercial banks, regional rural banks, Unit Trust of India, Industrial Finance Corporation of India, Industrial Development Bank of India and State Financial Corporations, entrepreneurial skills (improvement in the level of education and skills of the labour force). It also implies changes in the institutional framework necessary to distribute gains in real income among all sections of the society. Thus, growth involves a stress on quantitative measures such as gross national product and real output per capita. Economic development implies economic growth along with changes in the distribution of the gross national product and in the economic structure.

According to C.P. Kindleberger and Bruce Herrick, "Economic growth means more output, while economic development implies both more output and changes in the technical and institutional arrangements by which it is produced and distributed. Growth may well involve not only more output derived from greater amounts of inputs but also greater efficiency. During the process of economic development, a shift in the proportions of working population engaged in various sectors takes place along with improvement in the skill and productivity of labour. In other words, economic development means changes in technological and institutional organisation of population and distributive pattern of income.

#### **Various Types of Securities and National Development**

Development and security have inextricable relationship. Needless to say, human development can foster only in an environment of security. From the angle of human development, security has many dimensions namely: environment security, food security, social security and personal security. India being a highly populated country faces problem in all the four types of securities mentioned below.

#### **Environmental Security**

Environment Security implies clean environment so that people can enjoy a good quality of life. It would be in order to mention here that strict enforcement of environment laws and implementation of rehabilitation packages are essential for upgradation of environment. It would be a better strategy to address ecological problems, which have contributed to the deterioration of environment. For good results there is a need to switch to participative planning and implementation of projects at the grass root level. Prescriptive planning has not succeeded in India because of its size and variety of local factors.

#### **Food Security**

However, when we are thinking in terms of converting our people into high value capital assets, we have to plan for providing them with nutrition security, which is more cost effective in real terms. It may not be possible for the Government to subsidize nutrition, because of the cost involved in procurement and distribution. A better option would be to invest in activities that create opportunities for the people to earn enough to sustain themselves,

#### **Social Security**

Social Security is also important for human development. Every citizen should be assured that in case of adversity, the social safety net would protect him. Thus, physically handicapped, destitute and senior citizens who have no support, can also enjoy a reasonably good quality of life. This aspect of social planning needs to be emphasized much more than is being done today. There should also be a safety net for people who may be temporarily out of employment. Health problems like drug abuse and HIV/AIDS have to be appropriately addressed on the social plane. This would require close partnership between government and social and non governmental organizations. It may be noted that both these problems are very serious and have to be tackled on a war footing.

#### **Personal Security**

Personal security is directly linked with the quality of life. Life cannot be smooth if there is always a lurking danger to personal safety. This implies strict

enforcement of law and order. It also requires a system where law is blindly enforced without any fear or favour. Security is an issue of governance. It is time to re-look at governance comprehensively. Governance implies discipline in various instruments of government, namely legislature, executive and judiciary. This discipline should imply objectivity and selflessness. It also implies transparency in working and honesty in transactions. Over the last fifty years, many of our institutions have declined, resulting in loss of confidence of the people in our systems.

#### **Internal Challenges**

The dimensions of internal security have been viewed by the scholars differently. There is one school that lays greater emphasis on maintenance of law and order inside the country. It emphasises terrorism and militancy as the foremost threats to be tackled by stern actions so as to maintain a formidable internal security environment. Many books written by defence personnel and police officers reveal this fact. There vision is strictly confined to the use of force in curbing violent militant and terrorist activities. Here it should be pointed out that while it becomes quite necessary to use the force in such circumstances, there must be an attempt to analyse the root causes behind such internal disturbances to find out effective solution. Merely curbing violence through state violence is not the suitable answer. Therefore, the dimensions of internal security very clearly stretch beyond maintenance of law and order. In fact, national development is the key to internal security management. Since development is the responsibility of the state, the state must take care of it.

#### **Conclusion**

To achieve higher level of national development, the value of all the available resources, including the human resources, is necessary. The quality of human resource determines the national character, which must remain of highest order for any aspect of development. We may see the example of Japan in this regard. This comes only through the maintenance of highest level of national integration, social harmony, religious compassion, constructive political system that keeps national interest foremost, smooth centre –state relations, good governance, sound economy, poverty alleviation and highest man-management, curbing population growth and fulfilment of people's aspirations and above all, problem-free relations with the neighbouring countries and the countries of the rest of the world.

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