India : Challenges and Threats regarding National Security

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ABSTRACT

This article deals with national security- related challenges and threats to Indian security. The threat can be conventional and non-conventional, and internal as well as external. Many Indians lost their lives due to non-conventional war but India has not come with a mechanism which can counter non-conventional threats effectively. Here the article tries to put emphasis on those reasons which are playing the role of hurdle and also prescribes for tentative solutions. This article will put a larger picture of Indian security problems in a simple way by which they can easily understand the complexity of national security and make a sound opinion about it.

Keywords : National security, Conventional security, Non-conventional security, Mechanism, Indian security.

INTRODUCTION

Mid night independence of India has brought so many extraordinary problems. India got an independence gift in the form of a newly created state that is Pakistan. India fought conventional war with Pakistan on the very independence where after Pakistan encroached in Jammu & Kashmir. Emergence of the People's Republic of China resulted in a new threat for India. In 1962 China declared war on India and occupied a considerable part of India. In the 1962 war, India lost a part of land in northern and eastern region. Both these nations have capable nuked weapons which is a potential threat for India. It is said that Chinese submarine with nuclear capabilities surveillance the Indian border of ocean and land mass. It is assumed that Pakistani nuclear submarine can join or assist the Chinese submarine. If this prediction comes true, it will be a nightmare for the Indian national security. India on security policy put herself more engaged in land border areas and in order to secure land mass Indian government has not given expected concern over naval power. Unlike India, China understands the importance of navy in coming future and invests properly in its research and development especially in naval forces. Apart from above cited concerns, there are many non-conventional threats which are more dangerous because it tries to make India bleed internally. Many innocent Indian lost their lives due to these non-conventional threats like terrorism, cyber warfare, riots, left wing extremism or naxalism among the few. It is very necessary for India to come with a proper comprehensive national security policy otherwise India shall not cope from these threats effectively.

Both the neighboring countries, China and Pakistan are equipped with nuked weapon and both these countries have a cordial relation with each other. Since Pakistan did not get much success in conventional

war with India, Pakistan changed its strategy. Now they are working on bleed India into thousands cut. Islamic terrorism is their new weapon and it is actively working in India as well. Many Pakistan's Former President and Army General have accepted that they have planned terrorist attack in India. In these terrorist attacks, many innocent Indian lost their lives. According to US state department in 2012 India was 8th in the rank of total civilian deaths by terrorist attack. In 26/11 terrorist attack of Mumbai, many people died and injured including foreign nationals. This attack had been laid by Lashkar-e-toyba; a Pakistan based Islamic terrorist organization headed by Hafij Saeed. India has sent a detailed evidence of these attacks to Pakistan but no action took place and they have refused to act on it arguing that the evidences are insufficient. While Hafij Saeed is a UN designated terrorist who lived in Pakistan. Pulwama attack was recent terrorist attack in India in which Indian intelligence found a clear involvement of Pakistan. Khalistan movement was an attempt to unstable India and it resulted into the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and affected the country's internal balance with Sikh riots. India is still facing Pakistan sponsored terrorism. Left wing extremism or naxalism also affects India badly. It began in Naxalbari village of Darjeeling district of West Bengal. These are communist who want an armed revolution thereby occupying control of the country. According to latest data given by Home Minister in 2018, around 12,000 Indian people have lost their life due to naxal violence in which 2700 were security personnel. According to Home Ministry, 90% of naxali movement is limited to 35 districts, but if all the clusters are clubbed together, it has spread into around 68 districts of 10 states. After 50 years of struggle, they have still managed to maintain their pocket in 68 districts.

The 2007 Annual Virtual Criminology Report authored by McAfee warned that international cyber espionage would be the single biggest threat to national security in 2008. This report claimed that it is already 120 countries on the web espionage bandwagon. Report suggests that United States of America, Russia and China have acquired considerable capabilities in this domain. A country like China who is capable in web espionage bandwagon and immense wealth power to affect the internal matter of other country is our neighbor and we had a conventional war with one another. Now-a-days, Chinese goods are flooding in Indian market and affecting the interest of Indian small and medium business man. In electronic and technology sector of Indian market, China is a giant player and it is not a good sign for any country. Recognizing the importance of cyberspace, the Prime Minister's office created the position of National Cyber Coordinator in 2014, which is a welcoming first step. There is no national security architecture today that can observe the nature of cyber threats and respond to them effectively. India's civilian institutions have their own agencies and Indian armed forces have their own platform to counter cyber-attacks. The asymmetric character of digital warfare requires a technically equipped multiagency organization based on sound strategy and regular policy inputs.

In India there are many sources which have worked for them and use constitutional and democratic mechanism to assist these forces. Naxalites killed so many innocent Indian but peoples living in cities and hold a prominent status to come forward with a theory of exploitation, discrimination etc. We, Indian as a society, have failed to come on a conclusion on security. These prominent intellectuals (unconventional organizations) have resources and people everywhere. Many of them use NGO and their foreign access to affect the decision of Indian government. Many of them started man-to-man talk with Pakistan and have performed many programs in India and in Pakistan too. It is Chinese policy that they put a heavy flow of money in a country and invest in institutions and get their advertisement done. Nexus of politician and criminal is one of the prominent reasons which escalate into an internal turmoil.

CONCLUSION

It is known that in coming future Navy is going to play a major role in any country's national security. And importance of Indian Ocean is very crucial. Both nuke-capable states, China and Pakistan are developing their ties with each other. Pakistan has gifted a piece of land of Pakistan occupied Kashmir to China which is an illegal occupation. Inefficiency of India's defence procurement and modernization processes, particularly those pertaining to the navy, is a major structural constraint. The Indian naval fleet is old enough and it is hard to meet the demand of navy by Indian shipbuilding industry. The Indian Navy has been the smallest and least resourced of three military services. This is because of land centric mentality of Indian political class. Observers believe that there is lack of long-term strategic planning in Indian politician and statesman. According to Arun Prakash, former Chief of Naval Staff, "Every military operation since independence has been guided more by political rhetoric than strategic direction." However, the navy has sought to fill the vacuum by developing its own strategic framework. Some experts believed that the current Indian political leadership better understands the importance of strategic thought in national security and the roles of the government and military forces. Nevertheless, several other hidden factors are still not considered. These include coordination between the police, paramilitary and military forces, people's involvement, technically sound and non-easily identifiable communication systems, etc. For example, in the US, every police force is connected through a network. The above points must be highlighted today to deal with terrorist activities in the future. Otherwise, the basic system may prove inadequate for protecting the nation as a whole. Budgetary allocations towards the intelligence system must be enhanced to identify and eradicate threats to the country India does not have an effective and well-defined policy of national security. Without having a clear policy no country can treat these threats effectively. Indian government will have to come with a concrete, defined, effective security policy which can deal external security as well as internal security too.

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