

The defence of the ‘territory, sovereignty and freedom of the country’ is the fundamental aspect of India’s security policy. Even though this approach to security is important, it is not the only approach to the understanding of the broad range of security issues that a nation faces. Security policy, in a wider sense, encompasses the economic, industrial, and technological base; the cohesiveness of the socio-cultural structure; the resilience and stability of the political system; and the efficacy of diplomacy. There is a need to connect the military capability approach to security policy with the domestic policy. This chapter goes beyond conventional approaches that identify security with the defence of frontiers and focuses on the emergent threat of internal security. This threat is an important challenge to India’s national security today.

The UN High Level Panel on ‘Threats, Challenges and Changes’ argues that today’s threats recognize no national boundaries but are connected, and must be addressed at the global, regional and national levels. It identifies areas of threats with which the world must be concerned:

- Economic and social threats, including poverty, infectious diseases and environmental degradation.
- Inter-State conflict.
- Internal conflict, including civil war, genocide and other large-scale atrocities.
- Nuclear, radiological, chemical and biological weapons.
- Terrorism.

### **Some Internal Security Threats to India**

This section would now focus on the following threats to India’s internal security:

1. Cross-Border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir.
2. Left Wing Extremism in certain areas.
3. Terrorism.
4. Cross border terrorism in the North Eastern region of India.

#### **1. Jammu and Kashmir**

The state of Jammu and Kashmir consists of three regions: Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir. This state shares borders with Pakistan, Afghanistan and China; thus making it a very important state of the Indian Union. You have studied the border disputes that exist between India and Pakistan and India and China in the region of Jammu and Kashmir.

You may have read about various conflicts that exist between various militant groups and Indian security forces in Kashmir. The State of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) has been affected by terrorist and separatist violence, sponsored and supported from across the border, for more than two and half decades. The militancy in the State is linked with infiltration of terrorists from across the border. Sometimes there is an increase in infiltration from the Pakistan side and the Indian security forces have to respond to ensure that the terrorists are prevented from entering Indian Territory.

There have been many instances in Kashmir where young children were used by militants to throw stones on security forces. There have also been instances where the militants have burned down several school buildings. The militants have also attacked residential cantonments of security forces that have resulted in the killing of security forces and civilians.



**Photos of Schools burned in Kashmir**

The Union Government and the State Government, has adopted a multi-pronged approach to contain cross border infiltration. This is done in the following ways :

- i. Construction of border fencing.
- ii. Improved technological surveillance.
- iii. Improved intelligence.
- iv. Discouragement of the the local youth from joining militancy.

The government has also tried to ensure that the socio-economic problems faced by the people of the state are properly looked into. To achieve this, there is a need to maintain peace and stability in the region. Therefore the government seeks to provide an opportunity to all the sections of the population to participate in the decision making process. The Government of India has launched a scheme called ‘UDAAN’ that aims at skills development of the state's unemployed youth, to enable them to seek employment in various industries.

The state of Jammu and Kashmir faces another important problem. The growth of militancy in early 1990s, resulted in the displacement of a large number of Kashmiri Pandit families along with some Sikh and Muslim families from the Kashmir Valley to Jammu,

Delhi and other parts of the country. The Indian government has been providing relief and rehabilitation to the displaced people from Kashmir.



**Border fencing in Jammu area**

## **2. Left Wing Extremism**

The origin of the left wing extremist movement otherwise called the Naxalite movement can be traced to the Telangana movement (1946-51).

**Telangana Movement :** The region, now being called Telangana, was part of the erstwhile Hyderabad state which became part of India. The Telangana movement was a rebellion by the peasant community against the feudal lords of Telangana. The Telangana movement was a product of the efforts by communist and socialist parties to organise the peasantry against injustices committed by the feudal lords.

In 1967 protests were held in Naxalbari against the feudal system in India. Since the protest began in Naxalbari it has been called Naxalite movement. They are also referred to as 'Maoists' because they follow the ideology of Mao Zedong (Mao Tse-tung). This movement is known to follow violent means to promote their ideology. This has resulted in loss of lives and property.

Today the Communist Party of India (Maoist) is the most important group that is part of the Left Wing Extremism. This group has tried to establish itself in some areas of Jharkhand-Andhra Pradesh-Odisha border, tri-junction of Kerala-Karnataka-Tamil Nadu and tri-junction of Madhya Pradesh- Maharashtra-Chhattisgarh.



**Naxalbari**

### **What is Left Wing Extremism?**

In 2004, the People's War (PW), then operating in Andhra Pradesh, and the Maoist Communist Centre of India (MCCI), then operating in Bihar and adjoining areas, merged to form the CPI (Maoist) Party. The CPI (Maoist) Party, is the major Left Wing Extremist outfit that has been included in the Schedule of Terrorist Organisations along with all its formations and front organisations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. The CPI (Maoist) philosophy is to use armed insurgency to overthrow the Government.

## **3. Terrorism**

Terrorism has been defined as an application of violence or the threat to use violence with an intention to create panic in the society. It may appear to use guerrilla tactics, but it differs from guerrilla warfare. Unlike the guerrillas the terrorists do not hold on to any territory. It is called 'asymmetric warfare' because there is no pattern to the nature of violent attacks that are conducted. It is used to create panic in society by targeting the people who cannot defend themselves. Therefore the targets are called 'soft targets'. For example, there would be attacks on buses, trains, train or bus stations, cinemas, theatres, markets, malls, etc. It is deliberate and has political motivations.

The terrorists usually fight for some abstract ideology or belief. They are usually a part of some organisation that promotes these beliefs. Modern day terrorism is international in nature. Today, the terrorists and their organisations conduct terrorist acts in various countries.

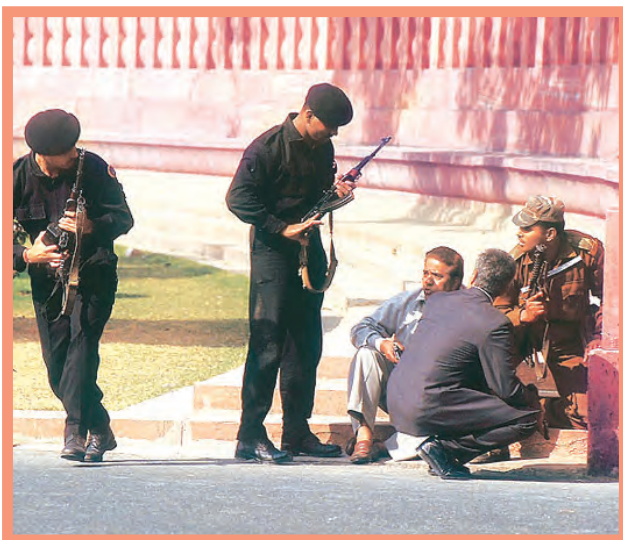


## Some of the examples of international terrorist attacks

- i. Attack in the United States (popularly called the 9/11 attack) where terrorists used airplanes to destroy American targets in New York (World Trade Center) and Washington D. C. (Pentagon) on 11 September 2001.
- ii. In 2005 there were series of terrorist suicide bomb attacks at Bali (Indonesia). Bombs exploded at two tourist sites in Jimbaran Beach Resort and in Kuta, both in south Bali.
- iii. In 2015 there were three suicide bombers that struck during a football match in the city of Paris in France. This was followed by several mass shootings and suicide bombings at cafes and restaurants
- iv. In 2017, an attack took place on the London Bridge in United Kingdom, when a van left the road and struck a number of pedestrians. After the van crashed, the terrorists ran to the nearby Borough Market area and began stabbing people in and around restaurants and pubs.

## Some examples of terrorist activities in India

- i. **Attack on the Indian Parliament On 13 December 2001 :** Five heavily-armed terrorists, allegedly belonging to terror groups Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, attacked the Parliament complex in New Delhi and opened fire indiscriminately.
- ii. **Attack in Mumbai :** On 26 November 2008 a series of terrorist attacks took place in Mumbai. The places where the attacks took place included the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Railway Terminal, the Oberoi Trident and Taj Palace Hotels, Leopold Café, Cama Hospital, Nariman House, Metro Cinema, and some other places. The attacks were conducted by members of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, an organisation based in Pakistan.



**Parliament Attack**



**Mumbai Attack**

## **How does one protect oneself from terrorism?**

The fight against terrorism has to be a coordinated effort. Good governance will result in ensuring that the various services and facilities that the government provides to the citizens, reach those who need them the most. The intelligence and law enforcement agencies have to anticipate, identify, track and destroy terrorism. It is also necessary for the civil society to ensure that they do not promote any kind of terrorist activity. They should also educate the public about the possible threats and how to handle them. One needs to be vigilant about one's own surroundings and note anything that looks abnormal. If one sees any suspicious person or unattended bag or items the police should be informed immediately. It is wrong to encourage terrorists out of fear or for monetary gain.

## **4. North East Region**

The North Eastern Region comprises eight States, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. This region has more than 200 ethnic groups which have distinct languages, dialects and sociocultural identities. The North East holds an important position from a strategic point of view as these states share their borders with other countries like Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar and China.

The security situation in the North Eastern States has remained complex because of diverse demands of ethnic groups and various militant outfits. This is a remote and relatively under developed region with a deprived population which feels neglected. This has been a source of insurgency. This has been supported by China and insurgents have taken refuge in Myanmar and Bangladesh. Some of the major militant groups include the United Liberation Front of Assam, National Democratic Front of Bodoland, Mizo National Front, National Socialist Council of Nagaland and the Karbi Peoples Liberation Tigers.

The North Eastern Council was set up as an advisory body in 1972. Today it functions as the Regional Planning Body for the North Eastern Region. It has taken up several infrastructure and social sector projects of critical importance for socio-economic progress of the region.

## **Role of the Armed Forces in internal security situations**

India has faced several challenges to national integration from within and without. The Indian army has been called to assist the civilian authority for the maintenance of law and order, maintenance of essential services, assistance during natural calamities, etc. The task of maintaining internal security is essentially that of the Police Force, but under some critical circumstances it becomes necessary for the government to deploy the Armed Forces. The Armed Forces have been called in to help to maintain security in Kashmir and the North East India.

There are certain rules and regulations that govern the use of Armed Forces when they act in aid of the civil authority. They are based on the following principles: Necessity, Minimum Force, Impartiality and Good Faith. Thus there should be justification for every action that the troops take while acting in this role. It is expected that the least amount of force be used. The force to be used would depend on the situation and the professional judgement of

the concerned Commander. Further, the troops are not to take sides in any conflict situation, especially in the context of religious/caste conflicts; and these principles are to be followed in good faith.

### Have you heard of a 'Flag March' by the Army?

When there is a severe riot and unrest and the police and the paramilitary is unable to handle the situation, the army is called to restore peace in the area disturbed by the riots. At such times, the Army conducts a parade in the streets to show their presence and indicate to the people that they are ready to ensure that there is peace and order in the area.

## Activities

1. Write names of some of the terrorist groups that operate in Jammu and Kashmir. Can you also name the leaders of these groups?

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2. Paste a newspaper report on any terrorist attack in India and discuss it in the class.

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3. On the map of India look at the 'Red Corridor' that describes the region affected by the Naxalite militancy. Identify the districts in Maharashtra that are part of the 'Red Corridor'.

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4. Discuss in the classroom and write a note: Can problems be resolved by peaceful means? Is it necessary to use violent means to get our demands satisfied?

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5. List the examples of international terror attacks?

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6. List the precautionary measures for terrorist attacks?

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