
Military Security-Paramount And Indispensable For National Security

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Abstract

This paper examines military security as the fundamental iron fist in enforcing national security. The use of military force for resolving a dispute may seem as a thing of the past due to rapid enhancement in international laws but in the end the national security of any nation depends on its military advancement, self-sufficiency, technical know-how and proper utilisation of available military infrastructure in the time of conflict. An effort has been made to describe and relate the meaning of security, national security and military security. Military supremacy is at the core of a secure state and its importance has been recognised in India since the ages and the references can be found in Chanakya's *Arthashastra* also. An insight to the legislation governing military security in India is stated. The challenges including military expenditure, strained relationship with neighbouring countries, changing allies, changing geopolitical position of India and conquering of security threats in view of national security are also discussed.

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I. Introduction

In the modern globalized world, it appears that use of force to resolve international disputes is an absolute method. All the diplomatic endeavors, bilateral-multilaterals, international treaties, peace pacts and other instruments of modern international law under the shadow of United Nations, regional and multilateral organizations exhibit a paper tiger which creates a deception that physical war is a thing of the past but sadly the things have hardly changed. Legally the use of force to resolve international disputes is prohibited by international law but it is well recognized that military power can be used for collective or self-defense and with the consent of the UN Security Council. Therefore, each country can legally maintain armed forces for defense.¹

II. Basic Concepts: Security, National Security And Military Security

To understand Military security, we should familiarize ourselves with the words, “security” and “national security”. “Security is the state of a lack of threat, of confidence, of personal safety, of safety of the country and its citizens; a sense of security; to ensure the safety of anyone; to watch over someone’s safety; not to violate someone’s safety”.² In social sciences, security is a state (condition) variable in time that determines the ability to meet the social needs of existence and development of the subject despite the presence of real or potential threats. It also includes the awareness of the condition in question as well as all activities aimed at achieving the desired level of security. “National security is a state (condition) variable in time that determines the ability to meet the social needs of existence and development of the nation despite the presence of real or potential threats. It also includes the awareness of the condition in question as well as all activities aimed at achieving the desired level of security”.³

¹ Ryszard Szypra, *Military Security within the Framework of Security Studies: Research Results, Connections*, Vol. 13, No. 3 (Summer 2014), Pg 66.

² *Uniwersalny słownik języka polskiego A-J* (Warsaw: PNW, 2006), 235.

³ Ryszard Szypra, *supra* note 1, at Pg 63.

“The term “military security” usually denotes the ability of a state to defend and/or deter military aggression. Alternatively, “military security” refers to the ability of the state to enforce its policy decisions using military force. The term “military security” is considered synonymous with “security” in a number of ways.”⁴

The Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms defines “security” as

*“A condition that results from protective measures being established and maintained, whereby a condition of inviolability from hostile acts or influences is ensured”.*⁵ *Military Security is the undisputedly, the earliest recognized form of national security.*⁶ *Today, however, “the scope of military security has expanded from conventional forms of conflict between nation-states to the struggle between states and non-state actors”.*⁷

“Military security of a state is mostly derived from the existence of the subject, the state and the international environment surrounding it. It is also inextricably linked to the existence of the armed forces.”⁸ Thus, military security is the most basic and contemporary parameter for national security.

III. Chanakya’s View On Military Security

Vishnu Gupta popularly known as Chanakya compares a nation with the living body of a human being. “While King, Minister, Territory, Fort, Allies, Treasury, Army are important constituents of a nation, the same may be compared with important organs of the human

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms. Joint Publication 1-02. (Washington, DC: DoD, 2012), 279.

⁶ Prabhakaran Paleri, *National Security: Imperatives and Challenges* (New Delhi: Tata McGraw-Hill, 2008), 521

⁷ Ryszard Szypra, *supra* note 1, at Pg 65.

⁸ *Ibid.*

body like head, eyes, feet, hands, ears, mouth and heart".⁹ As the human body becomes crippled on failure of any of such organs, a nation's health gets adversely affected if any of its constituents mentioned above fail to deliver. Chanakya symbolizes army with the human organ heart, which has simple interpretation that army, which is nation's might, is indispensable but not everything. "Military-Might is most important for a nation whether it is peacetime or wartime. He says if the military strength is sound and strategy is correct, it will create an atmosphere that potential enemies will not dare to harm the state and the king."¹⁰

Military-might is bedrock for a nation. In other words, it could be interpreted that during military operations with enemy nations, functioning of all parts of the body became dependent on the survival of the heart i.e., the military-might. Chanakya was fully justified at least, during the war operations, to hold the view that military strength alone forms the bedrock of the whole imperial structure.

IV. Legislation Governing Military

In India there is a plethora of legislation to govern the military or armed forces which include Air Force Act, 1950; Armed Forces Tribunal Act 2007; Army Act, 1950; Auxiliary Force Act, 1920; Border Security Force Act, 1968; Cantonments (House Accommodation) Act, 1923; Civil Defence Act, 1968; Coast Guard Act, 1978; Commanders-In-Chief (Change In Designation) Act, 1955; Essential Defence Services Act, 2021; Indian Defence Force Act, 1917; Indian Territorial Force Act, 1920; Indo- Tibetan Border Police Force Act, 1992; Lok Sahayak Sena Act, 1956; Manoeuvres Field Firing And Artillery Practice Act, 1938; National Cadet Corps Act, 1948; Naval And Aircraft Prize Act, 1971; Navy Act, 1957; Reserve And Auxiliary Air Forces Act 1952; Sashastra Seema Bal Act 2007; Special Protection Group Act 1988; Territorial Army Act, 1948. Despite the various

⁹ Meenakshi Saxena, Importance of Military Might in Chanakya's Arthashastra, *The Indian Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 75, No. 2 (April - June, 2014), Pg 431.

¹⁰ Meenakshi Saxena, *ibid*, Pg 432.

legislative acts there are numerous rules and regulations which supplement the respective acts. It is desirable if all the legislation pertaining to military and armed forces is reduced into a parent code.

V. Domestic Deployment Of The Military

Military is not only reserved to counter foreign threats but is essential to control internal disturbances which are dealt by domestic deployment of the Military. "Legislation granting the executive, greater power to use force than is allowed under the CrPC¹¹, was also passed in September 1958 by the Indian Parliament in the form of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act¹² (AFSPA). It enhanced the domestic and civilian powers of the armed forces. AFSPA empowered the military to act alongside the police in designated "disturbed areas," while giving soldiers greater power to use force against civilians than the police were allowed to use. Originally, the national government enacted the AFSPA in response to separatist movements in Nagaland,¹³ a state in northeast India. By 1972, it was extended to all seven states in India's northeast.¹⁴ From 1983 to 1997, the national government applied an iteration of the law to the state of Punjab,¹⁵ and in 1990, a similar iteration to the then northern state of Jammu & Kashmir¹⁶ respectively."¹⁷

¹¹ The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

¹² The Armed Forces (Assam and Manipur) Special Powers, 1958, No. 28, Acts of Parliament, 1958 (India) [hereinafter AFSPA].

¹³ Human Rights Watch, *Getting Away with Murder: 50 Years of The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (2008)* at 13.

¹⁴ These include the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura.

¹⁵ The Armed Forces (Punjab and Chandigarh) Special Powers Act, 1983, No. 34, Acts of Parliament, 1983 (India). This state-specific iteration has the same provisions as AFSPA 1958.

¹⁶ The Armed Forces (Jammu and Kashmir) Special Powers Act, 1990, No. 21, Acts of Parliament, 1990 (India). This state-specific iteration has the same provisions as AFSPA 1958.

¹⁷ National Security Laws in India: The Unraveling of Constitutional Constraints, by Surabhi Chopra, available at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/278157994_National_Security_Laws_in_India_The_Unraveling_of_Constitutional_Constraints

VI. Challenges to Military Security

India faces substantial, unique, multi-domain challenges and disputed borders with nuclear neighbors, coupled with state-sponsored proxy war which has stretched its security apparatus and resources. To the diversity of security threats in all domains, non-contact and grey-zone warfare also pose a major security challenge.

Foreign dependence for advance and critical military infrastructure especially on Russia; less Military budget compared to immediate adversary i.e., China; lack of integration of robotics, automation, machine learning and artificial intelligence in military as compared to China's advancement in these technologies is a growing matter of concern for Indian military. Inability to utilize already stressed military budget in productive way and loss of substantial chunk of military spending to pensions for ex-military personnel adds to list of impediments for military to ensure national security. China's, "String of pearls" adds to maritime threats and calls for rapid military and diplomatic counter policy. The shady relationship with Pakistan coupled with its unsecured nuclear arsenal, ceasefire violations, drone attacks, drugs routes, terror funding, arms smuggling, tiffin bombs etc., are all major security concerns. The ongoing Ukraine-Russia war has reiterated that self-sufficient military power is paramount of self-preservation from foreign threats and dependence over foreign partners may not be sustainable at the time of need.

VII. Conquering The Security Threats

For the military to provide national security, only large number military personnel or high-end arms and weapon systems are not enough but what is desired is efficient use of the available resources. Strategic planning, quick decision making, strong and reliable intelligence network, synchronized use of available resources, time to time upgradation of military equipment is omnipotent to military security.

To reform and actively deal with these security concerns, the current 17 single-service¹⁸ units will come under four theater commands¹⁹, in a bid to establish a unified approach to deal with future conflicts. The theaterization reform is a start for India but China, is already much ahead of India when it comes to these big-ticket reforms. China is the world leader as far as drone technology is concerned. In the domain of technological advancements like Artificial Intelligence or blockchain, multiple areas which are going to impact warfare in the future, India has a lot of catching up to do.

The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) is adding new chapters such as information technology, artificial intelligence, and robotics in technological warfare. The capability areas for adoption AI by the armed forces include early warning, ISR²⁰, command and control, precision strike, delivery, and various non-nuclear operations.²¹ It will be required by the Armed forces to migrate to 5G networks soon to make efficient use of unmanned vehicles and artificial intelligence.

“New-age technologies such as artificial intelligence, IoT, machine learning, 5G, and quantum computing can completely transform the Indian defence capabilities. The Armed forces are slowly but steadily making progress and embarking on a new era of technological warfare. India does not want to fall behind other nations when it comes to embracing new-age technologies. It has already established the Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR)²². It has also set up a project called Energy Harvesting Based Infrared Sensor Network for Automated Human Intrusion Detection (EYESIRa) based on IoT

¹⁸ Army has 7, IAF has 7 and Navy has 3 single service commands respectively.

¹⁹ The first theatre command i.e., Western command would be responsible for the border against Pakistan, the second North theatre command would look after the border with China. The third Navy heavy theatre i.e., maritime command would be responsible for security of the Indian Ocean region. Lastly an island command called the Andaman and Nicobar command looks after the eastern Indian Ocean.

²⁰ The principal function of the intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) component of command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (C4ISR) is to find, fix, and track both friendly and hostile forces, as well as to assess damage to hostile targets in an area of interest.

²¹ Vincent Boulanin, Lora Saalman, Petr topychkanov, Fei Su and Moa Peldán Carlsson, *Artificial Intelligence, Strategic Stability and Nuclear Risk*, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (2020), Pg 32.

²² It is a DRDO lab that works in the area of R&D in AI, robotics, information and communication security.

mechanisms partially.

The Indian Army has established the Quantum Lab at Military College of Telecommunication with support from National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS). At the same institution, it has set up the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre with support from industry and academia.”²³

VIII. Military Security: Paramount For National Security But Not The End In Itself

In the words of Chanakya, the role of army is like the organ heart, keeps body alive and controls all actions without being visible to all. And in similar manner all activities in a nation appear to be smooth if all are aware that king and nation have strong army to support and defend it. “It can be very well accepted that in the body, heart is the director of all the activities of the parts of the body. The King feels proud and powerful with a powerful army. Ministers can talk fearlessly with foreign representatives on any topic of the nation. Treasury is quite safe if nation possesses a strong army. The nation with efficient army is never short of friends and international relations remain healthy. Territory and capital are always safe in the presence of the strong army. It is the reason Chanakya has called the Army to be the bedrock of the nation.”²⁴ But it is also true that a body remains fit only when all the parts of the body are well fed, well cared and healthy.

National security cannot depend on the military alone. Strong economy plays a major role in development, modernization, self-dependence and sustainability of military or armed forces. The economic dependence of India on China also becomes a hurdle despite China’s outnumbered military infrastructure and equipment in taking any concrete action against China by Indian Military.

²³ DRDO, newspaper clippings, Vol:47, Issue:13, available at- <https://www.drdo.gov.in/sites/default/files/drdo-news-documents/NPC19Jan2022.pdf?cv=1>

²⁴ Meenakshi Saxena, *supra* note 8, at Pg 433.

Moreover, Russia's ever-increasing friendship and partnership with China is a serious geopolitical and diplomatic challenge which may affect the military ties of India and Russia in the most unprecedented way. "In the 2+2 meetings with Russia, which is India's principal source for military equipment and spares, the Indian side has made it clear that the future of the relationship lay in Moscow investing in make in India projects like AK-203 rifles in Amethi. Similarly, the Brahmos model is being cited as another way forward as India has concluded its first Brahmos export deal with the Philippines."²⁵

It has become increasingly difficult of India to remain non-aligned as China poses immediate security threat along the territory like Galwan valley clash²⁶ and abroad by funding anti-India protests like 'India Out' campaign in the Maldives²⁷. In case of full hot war, India may not be able to defend itself without support of its allies which includes support in form of military aid. The new untrustworthy allies like America are notoriously famous throughout the world for abandoning their allies in the time of need and the seasoned allies like Russia may not be willing to jeopardize its own ties with the only influential international support in the form of China at various international forms despite its irrevocable economic ties.

In the time of war, the international support of allies is likely to be jeopardized by the conflicting interest of allies, so the military supremacy backed by indigenously developed weapon systems and advanced military infrastructure seems to the iron fist in securing India's military- might to provide National security.

²⁵ Armed forces spent 64% FY22 funds on India-made equipment, Jan 31, 2022, at: https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/armed-forces-spent-64-fy22-funds-on-india-made-equipment/articleshow/89233516.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

²⁶ On June 15, 2020; military clashes in the Galwan Valley and the Ladakh region along the LAC, 20 Indian soldiers and 43 Chinese PLA were presumed killed in action.

²⁷ Meera Srinivasan, The 'India Out' campaign in the Maldives, THE HINDU, December 27, 2021, <HTTPS://WWW.THEHINDU.COM/NEWS/INTERNATIONAL/THE-INDIA-OUT-CAMPAIGN-IN-THE-MALDIVES/ARTICLE38046584.ECE>

It is true that for the military to be effective, it needs to be free from political influence but it must be kept under strict control of fair democratic institutions at all times. Thankfully, military coup is not even a remote possibility in India but our neighborhood especially Pakistan and Myanmar are not strangers to military coup.

IX. Conclusion

Chanakya's, Arthashastra leads us to conclude that military-might never meant more quantity of army but might could also be assessed with fine strategy, intelligence, courage, innovation and motivation. He always believed that more is military-might more will be effectiveness to deal with other kings or nations.²⁸ Perhaps, these conditions been solid reasons that Chanakya believed that, the military-might is the bedrock of the whole imperial structure. Despite a number of profound changes that have taken place in the international situation, a military force is still one of the most important instruments of international policies carried out by states to protect their vital as well as less important interests. Thus, military power has a significant impact on countries' possibility of uninterrupted existence and development, which directly shapes their security.²⁹

²⁸ Misra, Acharya Rajeshwar: (2011), Malian Chanakya - Jeevani and Samagra Sahitya, Diamond Pocket Books, New Delhi, p- 271.

²⁹ Ryszard Szpyra, supra note 1, at Pg 59.