



INTERNAL SECURITY

For UPSC CSE & State PCS Exams



Internal Security

A complete guide on the concepts of Internal Security for
UPSC CSE and State PCS Examinations

Study IQ Education Pvt. Ltd.

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From the Editor's Desk

Dear Aspirants,

We are incredibly grateful for the wonderful response we received for our Polity, History, Economy, and Geography books. Inspired by this positive feedback, we are thrilled to announce the release of the first edition of our book titled "Internal Security".

The General Studies Paper III of the UPSC Civil Services Mains examination demands a comprehensive understanding of Internal Security, covering areas such as Threats to India's internal security due to Extremism, Terrorism, Cybercrime, Organised Crime, Insurgency, and Naxalism. However, there is a dearth of consolidated and updated material and students have to rely on multiple sources making their preparation more difficult. This book serves as a one-stop solution, offering a structured approach to the subject.

Special Features of This Book

This book aims to make your preparation focused and relevant based on UPSC's current trend and pattern, it is revision-friendly, and up-to-date.

- The book Covers the in-depth analysis and evaluation of multi-dimensional threats to India's internal security.
- Real-life case studies from national and international contexts have been included to provide aspirants with Value addition content to get a competitive edge.
- We have taken great care to ensure that the content is written in a simple and lucid manner to ensure that students can easily learn and recall the concepts to their advantage.
- Wherever necessary, we've incorporated maps for various dimensions under Internal Security to make learning interactive and easy.

With all sincerity and humility, the Study IQ team wishes you the best in your preparation, and we hope this book will help you in your journey.

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Introduction to Internal Security

Security in India has been an unwavering constant throughout its rich history, threading through the fabric of time from the earliest civilizations to the complexities of the modern nation-state. The importance of safeguarding the nation's interests has evolved in response to changing threats and needs, shaping India's approach to security and defence.

In the times of the Indus Valley Civilization and the Vedic period, security centred on the protection of vital resources. These ancient civilizations recognized the significance of safeguarding water sources and arable land, which formed the lifeline of their communities. The security systems of those times were aimed at preserving these invaluable assets, ensuring the prosperity and continuity of these early societies.

During the medieval era, which witnessed the reign of empires like the Mughals and the Delhi Sultanate, the primary concern was defence against invasions. The subcontinent became a crossroads for trade between the East and the West, making the safeguarding of trade routes and diplomatic relations with neighbouring states a top priority. Security measures included fortifications, border defences, and alliances with regional powers. Additionally, security played a pivotal role in maintaining internal stability, as the rise of local rulers and princely states necessitated measures to prevent conflicts and preserve effective governance.

The colonial era under British rule saw India's struggle for independence, a time when the importance of security was paramount. The British colonial authorities implemented measures to maintain control over India, while Indian revolutionaries engaged in resistance movements. This period was marked by conflicts, revolts, and uprisings, all underscoring the interplay between security and the fight for self-determination.

Following independence in 1947, India faced significant security challenges. Territorial integrity and national security took centre stage during conflicts such as the India-Pakistan wars. Moreover, the nation grappled with internal threats, including cross border terrorism emanating from neighbouring countries and insurgencies in the Kashmir valley and the North East India, leading to a focus on counterterrorism measures. In the 21st century, the digital age brought new challenges, highlighting the importance of cybersecurity in safeguarding critical infrastructure and data.

Beyond conventional security, India has also recognized the need for Non-Traditional Security, taking into account concerns related to environment security, economic security, energy security, health security and food security. The no-traditional security is now intrinsically linked to India's security and overall well-being.

So a question arises whether what is the meaning of security for a nation. It refers to the comprehensive efforts and strategies employed by the government and its agencies to safeguard the nation, its people, and its interests from a wide range of threats and challenges. These threats may be of internal or external origin and can include both traditional and non-traditional security concerns. Through the following dimensions of security, one can get an holistic view of the term called security.

1.1 DIMENSIONS OF SECURITY

National Security

National Security is an all-encompassing term that includes the protection of a nation and its citizens from a range of multi-dimensional threats and coercion. This aspect of security focuses on protecting the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of India. It encompasses measures to deter external aggression, defend against military threats, and ensure the nation's strategic interests.

Internal Security

Internal security refers to the measures, policies, and actions taken by the government and its agencies to maintain law and order, ensure the safety of its citizens, and protect the country from various internal threats and challenges such as terrorism, naxalism, insurgency, etc. Responsibility of maintaining internal security rests primarily with the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Department of Internal security under MHA deals with various matters including Law & order, Arms and explosives, Naxalism, Terrorism, Insurgency, Terror financing, among others.

Economic Security

Economic security can be defined as the ability of people to meet their basic needs on a regular basis. When there aren't enough resources to pay for food, housing, medical care, and other necessities, economic insecurity tends to happen. Economic security focuses on ensuring the stability and prosperity of the economy. This includes measures to maintain economic growth, trade security, and access to essential resources. Most governments attempt to maintain economic security by establishing social safety nets that provide citizens with minimal protections.

Environmental Security

Environmental security is the protection of the natural environment and vital interests of citizens, society, the state from internal and external impacts, adverse processes and trends in development that threaten human health, biodiversity and sustainable functioning of ecosystems, and survival of humankind.

Energy Security

Energy security refers to the uninterrupted availability of affordable and reliable energy to meet the country's growing energy needs. This is essential for India's economic growth and development, as well as for the well-being of its citizens. India is currently heavily dependent on imported fossil fuels, such as oil and gas, to meet its energy needs. This makes it vulnerable to price fluctuations and supply disruptions in the global energy market. In addition, India's energy consumption is expected to grow significantly in the coming years, due to its rapid economic growth and population growth.

Energy security is a vital dimension of India's national security as dependency on imported energy makes us vulnerable to geopolitical shocks. By diversifying its energy mix and reducing its reliance on imports, India can strengthen its national security.

Health Security

Health security is the ability of a country to prevent, protect against, and respond to health threats. It is a critical component of national security, as a healthy population is essential for economic growth

and social stability. Health security is vital for national security because it can help to prevent and mitigate the impact of health threats such as infectious diseases, chronic diseases, etc. For example, a country with a strong health security system is better able to prevent and respond to outbreaks of infectious disease. This can help to protect the population from disease and avoid the economic and social disruption that can result from a pandemic.

Food Security

It is defined as the uninterrupted availability of affordable and nutritious food to all people at all times. When people do not have access to enough food, it can lead to a number of security threats, including social unrest, political instability, mass migration, and increasing vulnerability to diseases.

Cybersecurity

Cybersecurity began to be viewed as a pressing national security issue in recent times. Electronic information systems are vital for maintaining the national security of any state. Possible unauthorised access to the critical governmental infrastructures by state and non-state entities can create a serious threat and have a negative impact on political, economic and military security of a nation.

1.2 OVERVIEW OF THREATS TO INDIA'S INTERNAL SECURITY

The internal security environment in India is highly complex and challenging. It is impacted by the external as well as domestic environment. Historical factors also influence internal security. Yet it is to the credit of India and the Indian people that none of the security challenges has overwhelmed the country. Despite these challenges, India has become stronger and today is looking towards becoming a middle-income country and also a major player in global affairs.

The instability created by the partition would have destabilised India, which is highly diverse and varied. Many of our problems can be traced to the partition. Yet, India has retained its unity and emerged as a strong country. While the challenges on the internal security front remain and cannot be underestimated, the country is confident that this can be handled. While there is no room for complacency, the country is confident that despite the complexity, these challenges can be handled through a combination of sound policies and institutional capacity.

Classification of threats to Internal Security

1. Traditional threats
2. Non-Traditional threats

Traditional Threats

Traditional threats are called so because they have been around for a long time and have been well-studied and understood. They are also relatively predictable, meaning that security forces can develop strategies and tactics to counter them. Following are significant traditional threats to India's internal security

Terrorism

There has been no consensus on the definition of terrorism among the official agencies or the academia. The second administrative reforms commission explains terrorism as - “an anxiety-inspiring method of repeated violent action, employed by (semi-) clandestine individual, group or state actors, for idiosyncratic, criminal or political reasons whereby, in contrast to assassination, the direct targets of violence are not the main targets. The immediate human victims are chosen randomly (targets of opportunity) or selectively (representative or symbolic targets) from a target population, and serve as message generators. Threat and violence-based communication processes between terrorist (organisation), (imperilled) victims and main targets are used to manipulate the main target audience, turning it into a target of terror, a target of demands, or a target of attention, depending on whether intimidation, coercion, or propaganda is primarily sought”.

The means of terrorism are attacks on persons and property using weapons, bombs, Improvised Explosive Devices (IED), grenades, landmines etc. hostage taking, hijacking and forcible takeover of buildings, especially government and public buildings. These are conventional means of terrorism. Other means include resort to suicide attacks and kidnapping, use of weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, chemical, biological), cyber terrorism and environmental terrorism.

Terrorism simply means deliberately and violently targeting civilians for political purposes. It has seven crucial characteristics:

- a terrorist act is politically inspired;
- if the act does not involve violence or threat of violence, it is not terrorism;
- the point of terrorism is not to defeat the enemy but to send a message;
- the act and the victim usually have symbolic significance;
- terrorism is the act of sub- state groups, not states;
- the victims of the violence and the audience the terrorists are trying to reach are not the same; and
- the most important characteristic of terrorism is the deliberate targeting of civilians.

India has been a victim of terrorism emanating from its neighbouring countries. Terrorist attacks such as 26/11 attacks in Mumbai (2008), Pathankot air base attack (2016), and Pulwama Attack (2019) have been major acts of terrorism faced by our nation in recent times. Terrorist groups who carried out such cowardice acts find safe haven in the state of Pakistan.

Remarks of Rajnath Singh (Union Defence Minister) on Terrorism

“...Terrorism remains the biggest challenge and threat to our peace. It has no boundaries, values or principles. Enmity with humankind is its only objective. Merely strong condemnation of such terrorist attacks is not enough. We must harden our resolve to eradicate this menace and also take serious steps to this end. It also needs to be ensured that terrorism is not glorified and is not patronised by any state. One country’s terrorist cannot be a martyr or freedom fighter for anyone. Those who provide support, encouragement, sanctuary, safe haven or any assistance to terrorism or terrorists must be isolated. Strongest possible steps need to be taken not only against terrorists and terrorist organisations but also those individuals, institutions, organisations or nations that support them. Only this will ensure that the forces engaged in promoting the heinous crime of terrorism against humanity are effectively countered...”

Insurgency

Insurgency is an organised armed resistance against the state or constituted authority with the aim of overthrowing the regime. And those people who are engaged in insurgency activities are known as 'insurgents'. Insurgency, therefore, involves at least one non-state actor or movement that fights against an established authority to achieve political change.

The Indian Army's Doctrine for Sub Conventional Operations defines insurgency as "an organised armed struggle by a section of the local population against the state, usually with foreign support. Its goal may be seizure of power and replacement of the existing regime or even liberation of a defined area".

Insurgency is often assumed as identical with terrorism, although there are differences between them. The insurgent tends to use similar kinds of violent activities as terrorists do. However, unlike terrorism, insurgency movements generally involve or require material or moral support from some section of the population in order to justify their existence and also to erode the legitimacy of the government. In this regard, insurgent groups normally carry out information and psychological warfare for propaganda and mass political mobilisation. The goal of an insurgency is to challenge the existing authority with an attempt to bring political change for the control of its territories or a part of it.

North-East Insurgency

Out of the eight states in northeast India - Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and Sikkim, three have witnessed insurgency of higher scale and more enduring than in other states. These three states are Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur.

Insurgencies in these states spanned during the 1950s-1960s. In Tripura, the tribal majority state of Tripura was reduced into a Bengali dominated state after the massive population influx after the Bangladesh War of 1971. It led to the formation of Tripura National Volunteers (TNV) in collaboration with Mizo National Front (MNF) in 1978. After a decade of violence, TNV surrendered with an agreement in 1988. However, peace could not prevail for long as a new insurgent group called National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) emerged in 1989. Later, another group called All Tripura Tribal Front (ATTF) emerged. Both groups continued their rebellious operations because of their common agenda to drive out Bengali immigrants.

Insurgency in other states started later than in these states: In Assam and Meghalaya insurgencies started in the late 1980s and the 1990s respectively. In Meghalaya insurgency developed with the emergence of the Hynniewtrep Achik Liberation Council (HALC), 1992. In Assam, the ULFA, which was formed on 7 April, 1979, aimed to achieve a sovereign state out of Assam, Bodo movement sought to achieve an autonomous state of Bodoland within the Indian Union. National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) was formed in 1986 with the demand of forming an autonomous state of Bodoland. HALC aimed to protect the interest of indigenous peoples of Meghalaya against the rise of the outsiders. Later, it was renamed and converted into Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council (HNLC). Besides this, another insurgent group known as the Achik National Volunteer Council (ANVC) emerged in the state.

Insurgency in Punjab

Punjab experienced a period of insurgency that commenced in the late 1970s and reached its zenith during the early 1980s. This insurgency is commonly referred to as the Khalistan movement, which sought to establish an independent Sikh state called 'Khalistan.' The foundation of Khalistan was intended to fulfil the goals of the Anandpur Sahib resolution, adopted at Anandpur Sahib in 1971. Regrettably, this

was a violent movement that resulted in the loss of thousands of lives. The Khalistan movement was led by Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, who, in a bid to evade arrest in 1983, took refuge within the fortified Sikh shrine known as Akal Takht, situated in the Golden Temple Complex, from where he directed the insurgency.

In response to the escalating violence, on June 6, 1984, the government led by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi initiated a military operation named 'Operation Blue Star' to remove militants from the Golden Temple complex. This operation resulted in the loss of approximately 200-250 Khalistani militants, including Bhindranwale. However, it also generated significant discontent within the Sikh community towards the Indira Gandhi-led government.

This discontent ultimately led to the tragic assassination of Indira Gandhi in 1984 by two of her bodyguards. Following 'Operation Blue Star,' the insurgency subsided over the next few years, particularly due to the success of 'Operation Black Thunder' in 1991, which was conducted by K.P.S. Gill, the Chief of the Punjab Police."

Insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir

Insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir emerged in the late 1980s. This was preceded by a period of political uncertainty. In 1974, Sheikh Abdullah reached an agreement with Indira Gandhi, known as 'Kashmir Accord'. Under this Accord Sheikh Abdullah was released from jail. After the release he became the Chief Minister again. But, upon his release, he was asked by the centre to drop the demand for self-determination. Dropping of self-determination demand created resentment in Jammu and Kashmir. A few years after the Accord, the central government dismissed the Faruq Abdullah government that was formed after the death of Sheikh Abdullah. The Kashmir Accord and dismissal of Faruq Abdullah government were viewed as acts of intervention by the centre in the state politics and "subversion of Democracy".

The resentment intensified following the controversial election of 1987 in Jammu and Kashmir. After this election, Kashmir valley witnessed a dramatic rise in armed-rebellion against the Indian state. By the 1990s, two types of insurgency groups emerged in Kashmir. One was the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) which launched a guerrilla revolt against India with the aim to 'liberate' Kashmir from India. The other was the Pakistan-sponsored groups like the Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) based on pan-Islamism. There were multiple reasons for the rise of insurgency in J&K.

Around that time, the use of religion for politics in Kashmir became more intense, transforming the 'political struggle' of Kashmir into a religious struggle exclusively for Kashmiri Muslims. In 1993, around twenty-six pro-separatist parties united to form the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (Hurriyat). There were two factions divided on ideological lines within the Hurriyat: one faction following the 'hard-line', advocating for merger with Pakistan; another faction, the 'moderate' faction, urging for an 'independent' Kashmir. And after the Kargil War of 1999, insurgency in Kashmir became dominated by pro-Pakistan local groups and cross-border proxy groups. Pakistan sought to control the Kashmir militancy by supporting Islamic groups which are inclined towards Pakistan and systematically undermining pro-independence groups like the JKLF .

During the 1990s, a large number of suicide bombings or fidayeen attacks were carried out by Pakistan-sponsored groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba, Harkat-ul- Mujahideen, Jaish-e-Mohammad, etc. as a part of Pakistan's proxy-war against the Indian state. Insurgency related violence continued until 2003,

when a cease-fire agreement between India and Pakistan reduced the intensity of violence. Though violence may have been contained, the rebellion itself was far from over.

Tensions once again escalated in 2008 in the Kashmir valley but with a completely new form, in which Kashmiri youths came out in mass protests on the streets. Unlike the previous generation who took up arms, this new generation has used 'stone pelting' as a new form of agitations which were largely spontaneous. But, by and large, the new form of mass protests is less violent as compared to the high-intensity violence of the 1980s and 1990s. This is, however, not to suggest that insurgency has disappeared from Kashmir, rather it continues to remain one of the most complex problems in India today.

Naxalism

In several regions of the country, such as Jharkhand, specific areas of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Odisha, certain segments of society are engaged in insurgency inspired by the Maoist ideology advocated by China's communist leader, Mao Tse Tung. This insurgency is commonly referred to as Maoist or Naxalite. The primary goal of Maoist insurgents is to eliminate class-based divisions and replace the Indian state with one that adheres to Maoist political principles. Their approach involves armed rebellion carried out by well-organized groups against state institutions, including the police, and against the propertied classes whom they perceive as their class adversaries.

The term 'Naxal' originates from Naxalbari, a village in the Darjeeling district of West Bengal, where the movement initially emerged in 1967. It began as a small-scale peasant uprising among members of the Santhal tribe who were resisting exploitation and oppression by local landlords. What started as a localised incident quickly evolved into a series of events. The Naxalite movement was initially led by the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist), founded in 1969 under the leadership of Charu Majumdar. Within a few years, the 'Naxal' movement spread to other states such as Bihar and Andhra Pradesh.

However, in 1972, Charu Majumdar and several other Naxalite leaders were arrested and imprisoned. After the release of several naxal leaders in 1977, the Naxalite movement fragmented into four major groups based on ideological differences: the Maoist Communist Centre (MCC), People's War Group (PWG), the Party Unity (PU), and CPI-ML (Liberation). The MCC, PWG, and PU rejected the idea of parliamentary democracy and eventually merged to form the unified CPI-Maoist in 2004. This unification led to an escalation in armed rebellion against state forces. In 2009, the Government of India initiated a counter-insurgency operation known as "Operation Green Hunt" to confront the Maoist insurgency.

Organised Crime

According to Interpol, any group having a corporate structure whose primary objective is to obtain money through illegal activities, often surviving on fear and corruption, come under the ambit of organised crime. The term "organised crime" refers to crime that involves the cooperation of several different persons or groups for its successful execution. Organised crime is usually professional crime. The organisation may be loose and general, or informal; or it may be definite and formal, involving a system of specifically defined relationships with mutual obligations and privileges. Crime organisations may involve small or large groups. Organised crime is devoted almost exclusively to economic ends, to the acquisition of wealth.

According to Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act 1999, 'Organised Crime' means- Any continuing unlawful activity by an individual, singly or jointly, either as a member of an organised crime syndicate or on behalf of such syndicate, by use of violence or threat of violence or intimidation or

coercion, or other unlawful means, with the objective of gaining pecuniary benefits, or gaining undue economic or other advantage for himself or any person or promoting insurgency.

It encompasses a wide range of activities, including drug trafficking, smuggling, counterfeiting, extortion, and human trafficking. Organised crime groups are often well-organised and have access to significant resources.

Non-Traditional threats to Internal Security

Non-Traditional Security (NTS) comprises a gamut of human security concerns such as climate change, shortage of food and resources such as energy, infectious diseases, natural disasters, transnational crime, drug trafficking, and mass migration. This is what analysts refer to as the human security-development nexus. These NTS areas have typically fallen outside the purview of discussions on more “immediate” threats to national security such as, for instance, territorial encroachment. Addressing these challenges also often calls for the involvement of transnational actors.

Non-traditional security focuses on non-military threats with these common characteristics:

- The threats are transnational in nature with regards to their origins and effects.
- They do not stem from competition between states or shifts in the balance of power, but are often defined in political and socioeconomic terms.
- Non-traditional security issues such as resource scarcity and irregular migration cause societal and political instability and therefore become threats to security.
- Other threats like climate change are often caused by human-induced disturbances to the fragile balance of nature; they have dire consequences to both states and societies which are often difficult to reverse or repair.
- National solutions are often inadequate; these threats require regional and multilateral cooperation.
- The referent of security is no longer just the state (on issues of state sovereignty or territorial integrity), but also the people (survival, well-being, dignity) both at individual and societal levels.

Internal security conflicts faced by India

State/Region	Duration	Remarks
Nagaland	August 1955 – Present	Conflict has its origin before India’s independence
Manipur	1964 – Present	Intermittent phases of violence. Recent violence between Meitei and Kuki communities has deteriorated the Law and Order in the state.
Mizoram	1966 – 1988	Insurgency has, by and large, ended
Meghalaya	1988 – Present	Relatively few incidents in the last few years
Tripura	1965 – Present	Had periods of peace; currently, insurgent groups located across the border
Assam	1979 – Present	No insurgent groups exist
Punjab	1978-1993	Successful resolution; traces of Khalistan movements exist

State/Region	Duration	Remarks
Jammu and Kashmir	1988 – Present	Ongoing conflict, with active support of Pakistan
Left Wing Extremism (Naxalism/Maoism)	1967 – Present	Ideological struggle that has spread into urban areas

1.3 OVERVIEW OF SECURITY APPARATUS IN INDIA

Over the years, the governments have paid a great deal of attention to dealing with internal security challenges. For instance, the government's focus on counterterrorism has grown enormously since the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.

The abolition of article 370 has been a landmark development in J&K. It has created opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir where the incidents of terrorism have gone down.

By a combination of prudent policies aimed at fighting insurgents, focusing on development, reaching agreements with insurgent groups and deft diplomacy, the government has been able to bring insurgency in the Northeast under control and usher in a new era of development. Northeast is undergoing a multidimensional transformation.

A well thought out strategy, improved coordination, focus on development, building of the capabilities of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) in dealing with extremism has yielded positive result in dealing with Left Wing Insurgency.

According to the Indian Constitution, "Public Order" and "Police" figure as entries 1 and 2 respectively in the State List in the Seventh Schedule, giving states exclusive power to legislate with respect to the police system and exercise full administrative control over the police. The union or central government can exercise similar powers only in the Union Territories. Under entry 2A of the Union List, the central government can deploy any armed force of the union in any state in aid of civil power. However, powers under this entry are invoked only in a serious emergency, when a state civil administration requests the assistance of central armed forces to maintain public order.

Many policing functions such as traffic control, enforcement of civic laws, investigation of "ordinary" crimes, and routine law-and-order problems can be effectively supervised by state-police forces. However, the police are the first responders in almost all internal-security crises and have to deal regularly with organised crimes, cyber crimes, terrorism, insurgency and large-scale political violence. The nexus between terrorists on the one hand and organised-crime syndicates (such as smugglers and drug traffickers) on the other has added a new dimension to the internal-security situation. The legal and jurisdictional lines between terrorism and organised criminal activities are often blurred, especially given the difficulty in defining these concepts.

At present, there is no national agency to deal with organised criminal syndicates (of which there are many operating in various states) and advise states on coordinated preventive action. Since 'police' is a state subject, the powers of the central government to make an intervention is limited, except when the entire state administration is taken over by the central government.

Institutional Mechanisms

Union Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal ministry for internal security related issues. As stated earlier, state police forces are in-charge of maintaining law and order in their respective states. The Union government has raised seven Central Paramilitary Forces (CPMFs), which are regularly deployed for law-and-order duties along with the police forces of respective states. These seven CPMFs are the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Assam Rifles, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Seema Surksha Bal (SSB) and the National Security Guard (NSG). The personnel of all seven CPMFs total around one million.

The CRPF, the most significant of the CPMFs, performs a wide range of duties, including management of law and order, counterinsurgency and counterterrorism, all over India. Though the BSF, the ITBP and the SSB are primarily meant for border security, they play a crucial role in counterinsurgency and counterterrorism operations in three critical conflict zones: the Northeast, Maoist-affected areas and Kashmir.

Following are the mechanisms for protecting India's security

Intelligence Agencies

- **Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW):** India's primary foreign intelligence agency, responsible for gathering external intelligence to protect the nation's interests. R&AW collects foreign intelligence from a variety of sources, including human intelligence (HUMINT), signals intelligence (SIGINT), and imagery intelligence (IMINT). This intelligence is used to inform Indian policymakers about the intentions and capabilities of India's adversaries. R&AW's assessments of foreign threats and developments are essential for the Indian government to make informed decisions about foreign policy and security.
- **Intelligence Bureau (IB):** It is responsible for collecting, analysing, and disseminating intelligence on a wide range of threats to India's national security, including terrorism, insurgency, cyber threats, and organised crime. The IB also plays a key role in counterintelligence and counterterrorism operations.
- **National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO):** This agency is dedicated to technical intelligence and is responsible for monitoring communication systems and other advanced technologies that can impact internal security.

Counter-terrorism Mechanisms

The National Investigation Agency has emerged as the Government of India's leading federal agency for investigating terrorism in the country. The agency's powers are derived from the NIA Act of 2008, and it is involved in investigations of terrorism cases with cross-state connections, illicit trafficking, and other activities.

The National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Act 2019 establishes a national-level agency to investigate and prosecute specified offences (scheduled offences). Furthermore, the Act provides for the establishment of Special Courts for the trial of scheduled offences. The amendment allows the agency to investigate the following new offences as well:

1. Human trafficking,
2. Counterfeit currency or bank notes related offences,
3. Sale or manufacture of prohibited arms,