

India's intelligence and internal security

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The ever-increasing security concerns and the greater reliance on intelligence are the offshoots of a host of causative factors. New and complex manifestations in the nature of security threats, states resorting to low-cost option of covert actions to achieve their objectives, abundance and accessibility of lethal weapons, availability and accessibility of lethal technology, quick and easy trans-national mobility, low efficacy of conventional security measures, etc. Have come to play a significant part of this gamut of contributory factors.

No wonder, Intelligence has come to play a significant role In all modes of conflicts. Intelligence may be operative in the twin modes of being offensive and defensive. In he offensive mode, it can provide vital inputs for strategy formulation and assessment of enemy strengths and weaknesses on one hand and a capability- degrader on the other. In the defensive mode, intelligence plays the vital role of predicting and preventing security threats. In internal security it operates in an area- specific and problem-specific manner.

India is externally prone to multiple vulnerability owing to a myriad of factors, geopolitical positioning hostile neighborhood, long and treacherous borders, long maritime belt, etc Internally, its communal, caste, linguistic and ethnic economic asperities, political conflicts and turmoil, etc. Contribute to Its vulnerability. But the genesis of Indian's Internal security has undergone a radical change, of late, for the worse. In the conventional breed, the internal threats used to be home-spun, contrary to the external which were of an external genesis.

In the new setting, the politico-strategic objectives, planning, finances, motivation, etc. Of an internal threat are often of external origin. Clandestine in nature, these operations are connected to some domestic fault-lines which lend them a character and color of an internal security problem. India has since long been paying dearly for these externally- sponsored internal security threats. It is a unanimously accepted fact that the Internal security is the most vulnerable segment of the country's national security. This fact has been concurred by the reports of the Gargle Committee.

Some studies have tried to quantify this external factor in Indian's internal security, and, to cope with such an alarming situation, what is called for is not intelligence reforms but, as Deborah Barge propounded, intelligence transformation. Our security measures have to be so aligned as to address the peculiarities of this merging exigencies rather than aligning them as we wish things to be. There are various factors for the paradigm shift in the approach to the perpetration of security threats by cross-border agencies. Conventional and formal wars are becoming more and more costly and obsolete.

In such a scenario, covert action has evolved as suitable alternative to many nations and agencies. It is a low cost and sustainable offensive. This offensive strategy is being employed not only by asymmetric powers too weak to employ formal and conventional means, but even by major powers. The political doctrine prescribed by the US for "protecting supreme national interests" is yet another facade for this diabolic scheme. This covert scheme

has cost India dearly so far with nearly 70, 000 human lives including over 9, 000 security personnel and untold miseries and incalculable losses.

The nuclear-empowered Pakistan has repositioned its massive apparatus to destabilize India. Pakistan has been trying to use Kashmir as a pretext for Jihad for all Muslims over the years. The Jihad irregulars have become an integral part of Pakistani offensive machinery s evidenced by the Cargill War. Our responsive doctrines need to be re-visited and reviewed in the light of the massive Peak operations which have so far caused the death of over 12, 000 Pakistani terrorists on the Indian soil.

Powerful Jihad Habits is yet another threat targeted towards Muslim population. A sizeable population of Afghanistan and Pakistan has come under its spate and desperate attempts are being made to spread its tentacles to India. The superimposition of this exported variant of Islam has to be countered- ideologically and strategically. In the North-Eastern Border States, demographic invasion from Bangladesh has become so frequent that the natives are forced to sell their lands and flee to other parts.

It has resulted in a total demographic transformation and has assumed an inexorable proportion. The gravity of the situation has grown to the extent of voices, subdued though, in support of greater Bangladesh, emerging both in Assam and Bangladesh this illegal migrant population, exceeding 20 million, is not confined just to the seriously affected states like Assam, West Bengal and Bihar, but have found new habitations in the entire length and breadth of the nation.

Unscrupulous political patronages at the connivance of corrupt public officials have even won for these illegal immigrants' identity documents establishing their legitimate existence in the land. The repeal of the EMIT by the Supreme Court of India and the introduction of new rules formed under Foreigners Act have facilitated an easier mobility for this growing In the North-East India, militant Islamic groups linked to extremist organizations in Bangladesh have already formed over a dozen militant outfits with highly sinister objectives.

The revelations made by the arrested Kari Salami and his associates indeed were shocking. It is learnt that for tactical reasons, the mentors of these outfits in Pakistan and Bangladesh have advised their groups not to strike until they are fully mature in their preparedness and congenial political environment. Alongside, a concerted, campaign aimed at the consolidation of the immigrant Muslims in collaboration with local Muslim leaders has started. Clearly, a violent uprising is aimed at, with weaponry, trained cadres, strategic guidance and operating ends sponsored from across the border.

The insurgents in the North- Eastern states have their bases in Bangladesh and Manner which is the sustaining factors of insurgencies in the North-East. The peculiar tenth-political climate of this region is a safe haven for the spread of fundamentalist operations. Yet another upcoming threat to Indian's internal security is the operations of the CPM (Mastitis) in Nepal. This outfit, which has known linkages with Indian Left-Wing Extremists, has become shareholders in Napalm's new power dispensation.

Already, the revelations made by the Nepal Mastitis with respect to bilateral relationship between the two countries, have been quite disturbing. The Mastitis in Nepal are believed to be working with this agenda of ousting the monarchy with political support. Subjecting the points of security concern to be a close-knit and comprehensive scrutiny, it is quite clear that a formidable challenge lies ahead. Admittedly, maintaining a constant vigil over a country with a population of over one billion people occupying a landmass of 3 million sq km and having treacherous borders of 15000 sq km is not an easy task.