

## India's Defence and Security in 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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### Abstract of Article

This article aims to discuss India's defence and security challenges using various models from political science and international relations. It examines Gandhi's views and applies quintessential to address major challenges in the 21st century. Global threats are becoming increasingly dangerous, with India's major concerns being oil, natural gas, and technology transfer. India also has an interest in the Indian Ocean for security, trade, and commerce. The speed of threat intensifies, and India's major concerns include the Middle East, Central Asia, and Afghanistan.

### Theoretical Frame Work

India's security is primarily threatened by potential adversaries, and Gandhi's non-violence idea has significantly impacted its defence policy. After India's independence, the focus shifted to economic development and fighting poverty, hunger, and diseases. The country implemented a Planning Commission to determine poverty levels and allocate resources. Gandhi's freedom movement, which led to India's independence, was influenced by Nehru's idealism and active involvement in international politics. The 21st century presents new challenges, and India must make progress in formulating long-term policies to defend its sovereignty and unity.

The global and regional security environment has undergone significant transformations, requiring a complete re-evaluation of national security. The significance of economy, regional integration, and strategic partnerships may have wider implications for India's national security and the security of other nations in the new international order. The concern of this article is to focus on the major critical challenges for example, China's presence in South Asia, Afghanistan, and withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan by 2014.

### China's containment of India

The rising power of China as a global leader is a serious concern to India. China's increasing military, economic industrial power in Asia as well as China's strategic partnership

with Pakistan and Sri Lanka and development activities in Nepal raises a matter of great anxiety to India. According to one scholar “It will expand its military footprint across the globe, much like that of other great power. Secondly, China’s activities behaviour in South Asia by building ports in Bangladesh at Chittagaong and in Sri Lanka at Hambantota. China is expanding its presence in the Indian Ocean. Mr. Harsh Pant writes that “China is protecting and enhancing its interest in the Indian Ocean region. It might produce scepticism in Indian strategic circles, which might sharpen the dilemma between the two Asian giants i.e., India and China.<sup>i</sup>

India's interest in the Indian Ocean stems from its transportation of petroleum products. To protect trade and economic interests, India must re-evaluate its strategic interests and closely monitor China's ship stationing in the Indian Ocean. Vigilance is crucial to maintain international trade and export interests. It will increase a serious conflict between India and China.<sup>ii</sup>

*Why is Iran important for India’s national security?*

1. India imports oil from the Middle East, crucial for its economic, trade, investment, and strategic interests. Maintaining strong ties with countries like Iran, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia, India strengthens its ties. The Middle East region constituting 60% of its oil which is crucial for India’s energy security.<sup>iii</sup>
2. India's strategic competitor, Pakistan, has tarnished its global image, particularly in the Muslim world. To counter Pakistan's influence, India has adopted cautious policies in the Middle East and Gulf region.
3. India entered a \$25 billion tripartite oil pipe agreement with Iran and Pakistan, despite security threats. The US opposes the deal and calls for its cancellation. Hillary Clinton urged India to reduce Iran's oil imports in 2012. Indian leaders, including former External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna, refused, arguing that India's national interests were paramount. This boosted India's image and boosted America's image, as India provided full support without supporting America's trade sanctions on Iran.<sup>iv</sup>
4. India’s-USA has long staying partnership with USA and America expects from India’s to support its policy in Iran which American perception is anti- US stance.

Former foreign secretary Shyam Saran believes that China may prefer Pakistan's dominated Taliban regime for its interest in Afghanistan. He believes India needs to craft a

strategy to maintain a strong presence in the country, as China may see Pakistan as a better opportunity for pursuing its interests.<sup>v</sup>

The US's rise after World War II transformed international politics, leading to the first nuclear bomb explosion in 1945. Gandhi and Nehru urged leaders to abandon nuclear weapons for peace. The Soviet Union's nuclear test in 1949 broke the US nuclear monopoly, leading to the Five Nuclear States (P-5) and Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The NPT was signed in 1970 and implemented for 25 years, but India did not sign it for various reasons.

1. In Indian perception the treaty is discriminated in nature.
2. The treaty is inherently defective.
3. For national security reasons, India required to conduct the Nuclear Test in light of the threat from China and Pakistan to India's national security i.e., India's threat perceptions are based on China and Pakistan.

China's post-cold war policy focuses on establishing new relationships with Southeast Asian countries, gaining power and influence. Despite America's withdrawal, China continues to sell weapons to Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia, and engages in diplomacy to cultivate economic, trade, security, and strategic ties with ASEAN member nations.<sup>vi</sup>

### **Nuclear Deal**

In his article "Indo-US nuclear deal and Indian nuclear policy," Lalit Mansingh discusses three options for India's nuclear policy. The first is to pursue the Nehruvian goal of abolishing nuclear weapons, if not successful, securing a guarantee from major powers against nuclear attack. If not, India may explore the ultimate option of arming itself with nuclear weapons. Mansingh emphasizes that nuclear security or national security can be assured when major powers like America provide a guarantee against nuclear attack. He believes that India would never make a bomb if a full guarantee were given. Geo-psychology is crucial in analyzing the motivations of ruling elites.<sup>vii</sup>

Narendra Sisodia, former director general of the Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis, emphasized the importance of state security, economic development, health, and education. He also highlighted the acute electricity shortage in Pakistan and India. The speakers agreed that Pakistan remains India's main foe due to psychological issues and the need to normalize

relations. India is prepared to address bilateral problems, including Kashmir, which has deteriorated since 1947.

### **India's newly emerging Relations with Russia**

India's trusted friend, the Soviet Union, provided security through the 1971 Treaty of Peace, Friendship, and Cooperation. After the Soviet Union's collapse, Russia continued military supply to India, while India sought weapons from the USA. Russia provided the Gorshkov aircraft carrier, INS Vikramaditya, while India developed a defence relationship with the US. However, India's strategic partnership with America may negatively impact the New Delhi-Moscow relationship, as some scholars believe it would harm India's national interest due to its need for a strong friendship with Russia.

1. India needs Russian support to its permanent membership of Security Council.
2. India and Russia are the closest friends in the world of interdependence which require mutual understanding and cooperation.

In this context, it should be noted that China and Russia have close strategic nexus which might side-line other major powers.<sup>viii</sup>

### **Challenges**

India has been facing many challenges internal and external fronts<sup>ix</sup>, for see the figure below. Some crucial challenges are describe as below -

- Lack of domestic production in defence sector
- Lack of light aircraft
- In compagision to China we have inadiquate number of fighter air craft
- Lack of spare parts, for which India has depend on external countries
- China defence budjet is 3 times more than that of India.

India's defence budget will be increased to meet potential emergencies, as the New Delhi government announced in July 2014, increasing FDI in defence from 26% to 49%.<sup>x</sup> Though defence procurement is to be looked into from different angles for two reasons-

- America has been taking keen interest in transferring latest weaponry to India which was not possible during the Cold War era.<sup>xi</sup>

- Indian scholars and American scholars support the need for modernizing India's defences to achieve self-reliance and strengthen security. Raju G. C. Thomas emphasizes the importance of internal and external measures to modernize India's defences.

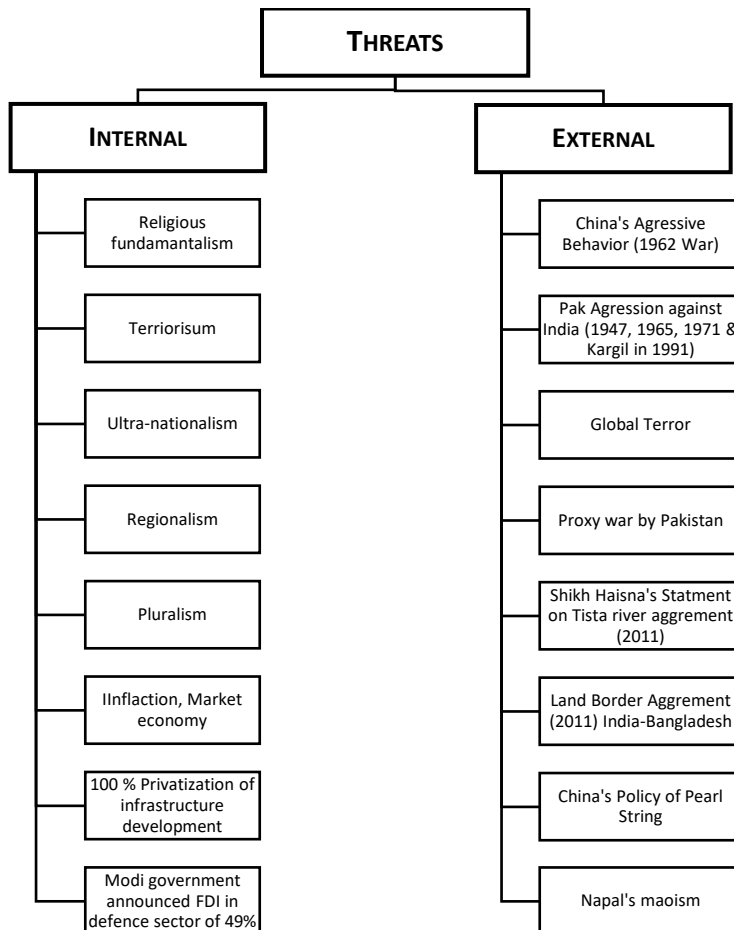
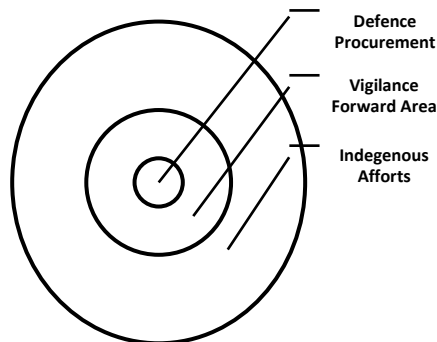


Figure 1: Threats faced by India

In order to explain the multiple challenges to India's defence security policy, It is



important to highlight them, as shown in the model is being produce below –

Figure 2 : Multiple Challenges to India's Defence Security Policy

## Domestic Challenges

India faces numerous external and internal issues, leading to internal conflicts. Poverty, unemployment, and hunger are prevalent issues, with people fighting for better living standards. Villagers struggle to improve their lives, while political parties prioritize their welfare. Despite these challenges, there is no clear solution to these conflicts.

Over 60 years, India has faced numerous problems, including poverty and religious conflicts. The Modi government, based on Hindu ideology, may not be adequate to address global and regional challenges. The recent visit of the Chinese President to India in September 2014 serves as a reminder that India should be realist like China, as China has been violating Indian borders while India has not asked President Jinping to engage in a skirmish. Future research should consider these factors to determine the root causes of the country's poor conditions.

Pakistan, a significant factor since 1947, has been causing problems for India. Prime Minister Modi has warned Pakistan to stay away from India's internal matters, but Pakistan does not take it seriously. The ongoing border fighting and daily soldier deaths further exacerbate the situation. The Pakistani army is also against India, and no progress has been made to improve relations between the two countries. In September 2014, Pakistan violated the ceasefire line more than a dozen times. Lashkar-e-Toiba Chief Sayed Hafiz has been challenging the Modi government, which has asked Pakistan to take swift action to improve its image and the peace process between Islamabad and New Delhi. At the T.V, channel of India on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2014, the Dawn auditor including a few other journalists said in a replied to Indian participant that Pakistan is a nuclear power fully capable of meeting any threat spring from India.<sup>xii</sup>

The caste system in India poses a significant challenge to communal harmony and peace. Government decisions are based on caste, leading to job inequalities and internal conflicts between different classes. This system also creates bedrock between different classes, with politicians responsible for internal struggles and power dynamics. Communities have reported issues with the system, but these efforts have not led to progress. Poverty, hunger, and diseases are significant issues that hinder progress and prosperity. Politicians must address these issues to ensure the country's progress in all fields, without political interference. Human activity is

limited to big cities, and global security is closely linked to national security. The proliferation of nuclear weapons and missiles threatens global security.

Aljazeera explains the Middle East conflicts as psychodynamic, and the Indian government faces the challenge of introducing innovative projects to ensure its security. These projects include acquiring new weapon systems. Camilleri argues that global geopolitics and norms guide the organization of a fragmented world, and Western triumphalism and civilization clashes are unlikely to provide an effective basis for world order. Security is a comprehensive concept that includes eco, social, cultural, and psychological aspects.

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<sup>i</sup> See Manas Chattergi and BM Jain, *Conflict and Peace in South Asia*, Emerald publishing, London, 2008, Pg. 231-248.

<sup>ii</sup> For detail see *Strategic Analysis*, Vol.36, No. 3, May-June 2012.

<sup>iii</sup> For this part of discussion See – *Journal of Third World Studies*, Vol. XXVII, No. 2, 2010.

<sup>iv</sup> For a detail study of this part see B.M. Jain, *Global Power: India's Foreign Policy*, Lexington Books, Lanham, MD 2008.

<sup>v</sup> See Business Standard, 15<sup>th</sup>, September 2010.

<sup>vi</sup> Ibid. pp 51-52.

<sup>vii</sup> For a critique of the potency of geo- psychology dimension see B.M. Jain, *India in the New South Asia*, Chapter 1, London, IB Tauris, 2010, The South Asian edition, 2011, Viva Publishers, New Delhi, 2011.

<sup>viii</sup> See Janne. L Wilson, *Strategic Partners: Russian Chinese relation in the past Soviet Era*, New York: ME, 2004.

<sup>ix</sup> In this regard see Prem Manadevam, "The Politics of counterterrorism in India", IB Tauris, London, 2012.

<sup>x</sup> See Times of India, 24 July 2014.

<sup>xi</sup> For see Raju G.C Thomas, *Indian Security Policy*, Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey, 1986.

<sup>xii</sup> News T.V. Channel New Delhi, 8Pm- 8.30 Pm, 16 September 2014, One of India's panelists replied sarcastically, "India is a huge power in every sense capable of meeting any threat from Pakistan".

## ABOUT AUTHOR

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**Books Published:** A book on “**Evolution of Maritime Strategy and National Security of India**” has been published 2008 by **Decent Books, D K Print World, New Delhi**. This book relevant for UG, PG level & UGC NET and also being used as textbook in Dept. of Defence & Strategic Studies, MD University, Rohtak (Haryana).



**Awards:** **Chanakya Award – 2022** by International Council for Education, Research and Training (ICERT).

**Conference Coordinator:** Two days multidisciplinary international web conference on “**Current Trends and Challenges in Education, Research and Social Sciences**” held on May 21-22, 2022.

## Paper Published in UGC Journals:

- 1-चीन की “स्ट्रिंग ऑफ पलर्स” की रणनीति और भारत की सुरक्षा परिचय, Indian Journal of Social Concerns, Ghaziabad, Vol-9, issue-36, Jan-June 2020, pp 84-86.
- 2-“हिन्द महासागर में भारत के समक्ष चुनौतियाँ”, भारतीय विदेश नीति के नए आयाम, उदय पब्लिशिंग हाउस, नई दिल्ली, 2020, पेज 282-292.
- 3-“भारत की चीन नीति और कोरोनाकाल”, दृष्टिकोण रिसर्च जर्नल (यूजीसी केयर गुप-01), Vol-1, Aug 2020, ISSN-0975-119X.
- 4-“भारत की सुरक्षा चुनौतियाँ, भारत की सुरक्षा चुनौतियाँ बदलते हुए वैश्विक सामरिक परिदृश्य में, दी रीडर्स पैराडाइस, नई दिल्ली, Vol-01, Article 6, p 60, ISBN 978-81- 947016-6-8, FEB 2021.
- 5-“वैश्विक महामारी के दौरान दरकते अंतर्राज्यीय सम्बन्धों और उपायों का विश्लेषण”, दृष्टिकोण रिसर्च जर्नल (यूजीसी केयर गुप-01), Vol-1, January 2021, ISSN-0975 -119X.
- 6-“India’s Defence and Security in 21<sup>st</sup> Century”, दृष्टिकोण रिसर्च जर्नल (यूजीसी केयर गुप-01), Vol-1, Mar 2021, ISSN-0975 119X.

## Paper Presented

(A) *International*

1. Paper presented entitled “*The Importance of Gandhian Non-Violence in Present Scenario*” in the UGC & ICSSR, New Delhi Sponsored International Conference on “*Non-Violent Protest Movement: Forms, Techniques and Relevance*” held from January 7-9, 2013 at Kanoria PG Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Jaipur.
2. Paper presented entitled “*Feminism: Problems and Challenges*” in the National Commission for Women and ICSSR sponsored International Seminar on “*Interpreting*”



Feminism vis-à-vis Activism” held from January 23-25, 2013 at Kanoria PG Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Jaipur.

3. Paper presented entitled “हिन्दमहासागर में चीन का हस्तक्षेप और भारत की सुरक्षा पर इसके प्रभाव” in multidisciplinary international web conference of ICERT on “Current Trends and Challenges in Education, Research and Social Sciences” held on May 21-22, 2022.

**(B) National**

1. “Political Development” in the National Conference on “Politics of Development: A Social Science Perspective” jointly organized by Indian Social Science Association and PG School of Social Sciences, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur on March 20-22, 2012.
2. “राजस्थान में राजनीति और सैनिक वर्चस्व” in the ICSSR sponsored National Conference on “Emerging Patterns of State Politics in India with special reference to Rajasthan”, organized by ULP, Dept. of Political Science, Univ. of Rajasthan, Jaipur from 22-24 November, 2012.
3. “जयपुर की संगीत एवं नृत्य परम्पराएँ” in the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of Rajasthan History Congress organized by the Centre for Rajasthan Studies, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur on 15-16 December, 2012.
4. Presented paper “Gender Equality - Problems and Challenges” in UGC Sponsored National Workshop on “Women in the 21st Century: Gender Equality, Empowerment and Economic Growth” organized by Shri Khandelwal Vaish PG Girls College, Jaipur on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2012.
5. “मानव संसाधन प्रबंधन की चुनौतियाँ” in the UGC & ICSSR, New Delhi Sponsored National Conference on “Human Resource Management - Challenges, Opportunities and Relevance in Indian Society” organized by Faculty of Commerce, S. S. Jain PG College, Jaipur from 22-23 January, 2013.
6. Paper presented “Political & Social Development during medieval period and Role of Medieval Saints”, in National Seminar on “Social Harmony in the Indian Saint Tradition” organized by Sri Guru Govind Singh Chair for National Integration & Sikh Studies, University of Rajasthan, 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2021.

**(C) Seminars/ Workshop**

1. UGC & ICSSR, New Delhi Sponsored National Conference on “भारतीय लोकतंत्र: समसामयिकता, वास्तविकताएं एवं चुनौतियाँ” at S. S. Jain PG College, Jaipur from 27-28 Jan., 2012.
2. National Seminar on “*Public Private Partnership in Higher Education: Challenges and Opportunities*” organized by Kanoria PG Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Jaipur on 27-28 February, 2012.
3. National Conference on “*Rethinking Feminism: Human Rights Approach to Women Empowerment*” organized by Department of Political Science & Dept. of Life Long Learning, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur on 3-4 March, 2012.
4. Workshop on “*Empowerment of Indian Women in 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Dynamics and Dimensions*” at S. S. Jain Subodh PG Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Jaipur on 30 October 2012.
5. राजस्थान हिन्दी ग्रन्थ अकादमी द्वारा आयोजित राजस्थान पुस्तक पर्व में राष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी में 22-24 नवम्बर 2012 को भाग लिया।
6. UGC sponsored National Seminar on “*Role of Urbanization in the Context of Futuristic Socio-Economic Development*” at Shri Khandelwal Vaish PG Girls College, Jaipur on 03 October, 2013.
7. UGC & RIICO Sponsored National Seminar on “*Environmental Impact Assessment: Issues, Significance & Challenges*” at Kanoria PG Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Jaipur on 06-07 December, 2013.
8. UGC sponsored National Seminar on “*Society, Polity & Economy in Contemporary India*” at Kanoria PG Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Jaipur on 24-25 January 2014.
9. National Seminar on Environment Studies Issues and Sustainable Development (EISD-2022), organized by S. S Jain Subodh College of Global Excellence on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2022.
10. International webinar on “Education for Sustainability” organized by ICERT on June, 25<sup>th</sup> 2022. This webinar was a part of UNESCO’s movement towards Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Education for Health and Well-being and Global Citizenship Education (GCED).