

Traditionally, National Security implied physical protection of the state from external aggressions. The military dimension of security is an important part but it is not the sole component of National Security. To be truly secure, a nation needs other forms of security. Besides the military aspect of security; many other aspects like diplomacy or politics; society; environment; energy and natural resources; economics and human resources; are equally important as a whole. The aim of national security is to achieve peace and harmony among people, i.e. socio - political and individual life stability through good governance; resulting in nation-building.

National survival which is the core of national security, also relies on effective conservation of our environment so that industrial and technological growth go hand in hand with environment. Ecological balance is a shared responsibility of all, as individuals, families, and communities. Another important element for our national survival is national unity. This unity is an outcome of the tradition, culture, history that makes people proud of their country. Thus while the traditional aspect of security is important there are other dimensions that need to be studied.

In the Indian context, the term security is represented by more than one word in Sanskrit language. In Sanskrit, the words 'rakshah, rakshanam, rakshakah; derived from the root 'raksh' (meaning protecting, defending, watching) and the word 'suraksha', all mean security. Similarly, the word 'abhayam' means fearlessness, elimination of fear, safety and security. Kautilya in the 'Arthashastra'; divides the concept of security into internal and external security. Internal security, functionalised as 'dandaniti' argues that the fundamental duty of the government is to maintain public order; and to maintain, protect and increase the wealth of the country.



Chanakya, (4th century BCE) otherwise known as Kautilya or Vishnugupta was an Indian scholar teacher, Philosopher, Economist, Jurist and Royal Advisor. He authored the ancient Indian political treatise, 'The Arthashastra'.

While the traditional approach to security remains very relevant today, there are some other dimensions that need to be understood. In the decade of 1980s and 1990s a lot of new

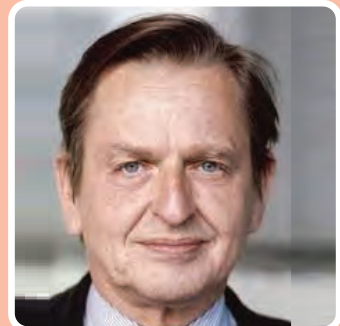
thinking was done on the concept of security. Some of the important contributions that were made, include the following:

1. Willy Brandt's report titled '*North-South : A Programme for Survival*' and '*Common Crisis : North South Cooperation for World Recovery*' : These reports focused on the problem of development and how military resources can be used for development of the country.
2. Olof Palme's report titled '*Independent Commission on Disarmament and Security Issues*': This report suggested the approach of 'common security'. This meant that one country cannot become secure by making the other country insecure. They must search for common security.



Willy Brandt was a German statesman and politician who served as Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) from 1969 to 1974. He was awarded the 'Nobel Peace Prize' in 1971 for his efforts to strengthen cooperation in Western Europe and to achieve reconciliation between West Germany and the countries of Eastern Europe.

Olof Palme was the Prime Minister of Sweden who chaired the Independent Commission on Disarmament and Security in Geneva. He acted as UN special envoy to mediate in the war between Iran and Iraq.



What is a non-state actor?

A non-state actor is any organisation that is not a part of the Government. It works for a specific purpose for which it is created. Some of the important organisations work in the area of environment, health, women and child development etc. They are also referred to as Non-Governmental Organisations or Voluntary Organisations.

Comprehensive Security

The age of globalisation that came in the 1990s saw a lot of changes taking place in the world. The world became interdependent in the area of economy and technology. Communication became faster and cheaper due to TV, mobile phones, internet etc. Non-state actors (or non-governmental organisations and voluntary organisations) became more active and relevant in day to day life.

It is in this context that the concepts of 'Comprehensive Security' and 'Human Security' became important. These concepts link the security of the country to the security of the people and society. The main areas that are included in the concept of Comprehensive Security are :

- i. **Environmental Security** : The issues involved in the environmental sector include ecological problems like pollution, energy problems, population issues, food related problems, climate change, water resource management etc.
- ii. **Economic Security** : This focuses on the problems of poverty, employment opportunities etc.
- iii. **Societal Security** : The issues of migrations, social conflicts based on religion, ethnicity or caste are discussed here.
- iv. **Political Security** : Threats from the political conflicts based on ideology or religions, form part of this issue.

Human Security

Today the term used is 'Human Security'. The Human Development Report of the United Nations has brought in this new thought in the security issues. The 1994 Human Development Report (HDR) highlighted two major components of human security that were in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: 'Freedom from fear' and 'Freedom from want'. The 1994 Report introduced the concept of human security, which equates security with people rather than territories and with development rather than weapons. It examines both the national and the global concerns of human security. The 1994 HDR was even more specific, listing seven essential dimensions of human security :

- i. **Economic security** : People must have an assured basic income.
- ii. **Food security** : All people must get and afford to have basic food.
- iii. **Health security** : Threat to health security is usually greatest for poor people and those living in rural areas. People must have access to health services.
- iv. **Environmental security** : Intensive industrialisation and population growth have put a lot of strain on environment. It is necessary to protect the ecosystem.

- v. **Personal security** : Threats can be of many kinds like torture, war, crime, domestic violence, rape, child abuse etc. People must feel secure and protected from all kinds of violence.
- vi. **Community security** : People get security by being in a family, community, caste or ethnic group etc. Such groups offer practical support.
- vii. **Political security** : People should be able to live in a society that will honour their basic human rights.

The focus of the concept of human security is thus on the people. It focuses on humanitarian values, on the dignity of the individual, on concepts such as social justice, freedom and equality. Human security is not concerned with weapons; it is concerned with human life and dignity

Human Development Index

Mahbub ul Haq first drew global attention to the concept of human security in his Human Development Report, submitted in the 1994 United Nation's Development Programme. Haq devised the Human Development Index along with Amartya Sen which has become one of the most influential and widely used indices to measure human development across countries. The HDI has been used since 1990 by the United Nations Development Programme for its annual Human Development Reports.

Activities

1. Find out an NGO in your locality. Find out what work it does. Discuss it in the classroom and write a note on it. (Students can write about different NGOs)

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2. Meet a political or a social leader or a government official. Find out his/her thoughts on the social or political or environmental problems faced by India. Discuss the same in the classroom and write your views on how to solve the problems mentioned by the person.

