

National Security Imperatives

Praveen Dixit, IPS

DGP (Retired) Maharashtra

Steps to achieve विकसित भारत by 2047

- Most crucial to have Nationalist party in Union Government & States
- Success in various levels of elections is crucial
- Political Stability by supporting sensitive , effective political leadership in Centre as well as State governments
- Visionary and mature political leadership required
- Be prepared to take tough decisions boldly and convince the masses about its necessity
- Proposed changes should appear as if the concerned are demanding these rather than being imposed from above

Overview

- Nature of maladies threatening internal security
- Identify the causes
- Study global solutions & suggest remedial actions
- Structure of reactive internal security borrowed from British legacy needs revisit
- Monopolistic thought process of only government officers can do it, needs to be replaced with pluralistic attitude, where govt acts as facilitator & involves civil society
- Change of attitude required to end distrust against your own people
- In view of rapid urbanisation & technological changes including rapid digitalization, imperative to overhaul Tottenham's bureaucratic structure
- Onslaught of foreign social media & OTT platforms with objectionable content have potential to compromise country's sovereignty. Imperative to counter it with indigenously researched tech platforms having content promoting Indian values & laws

Threats to internal security- terrorism

- Terrorist activities : Proxy war in hinterland promoted by ISI & ISIS
- Terrorist attacks in Kashmir, through overground local youth
- Violence due to ethnic divide in Manipur & Nagaland
- Khalistani militancy in Punjab funded by Pak ISI & other elements
- Terrorism aided & abetted by external forces in different formats
likely to emerge in different degrees

Marxism & Left wing extremism

- Silver lining in end of Naxalism and left wing extremism
- Strong political will and support to Central Armed Forces, police, and tribals in Red Corridor (Dandakaranya) states brought end to gun culture
- Improvement in infrastructure, police stations , supporting resources
- Lesson: no part in the country should be allowed to remain inaccessible
- Echo system of urban Naxals in media and communication areas, universities, central educational institutes is well entrenched. Need to counter it intellectually. Alleged to be assisted by international agencies. They have declared goal of weakening democratically elected India economically, politically and culturally

Cyber crimes

- As the number of users of smart phones and digitisation is expanding, cyber criminals are having a freehand in looting gullible persons including senior citizens, young job seekers, women interested in matrimonial relations, small investors and many more in India as well as abroad
- Between 2021 & May 26, reported cybercrime losses amounted to Rs 64,447 crore. Of this, Rs 10,718 crore was frozen as lien. Only Rs 323 crore has been refunded. India recorded 98 lakh cybercrime complaints between August 2019 & May 2026, while only 2.3 lakh FIRs were registered (FIR conversion rate of 2.36 per cent)
- Involvement of transborder criminals from Myanmar, Pakistan, China. While US successfully identifies Indian cyber criminals, why can't India identify cyber criminals operating from abroad?
- Role of bank officials, mule accounts, Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) is complicating investigations
- Lack of investment by govt in providing resources, reluctance of TEL Cos, apathy of Law Enforcing Agencies (LEAs).Response to calls through helpline 1930 inadequate. Apart from strengthening the same, allow use of 112 helpline as well for registering complaints.

War against drugs

- Push in drugs from golden crescent including Myanmar, and golden triangle as well as other countries for transit as well as for internal consumption by youth in the country. Stern measures by Gol, including better coordination among Centre and States as well as other countries has resulted in detection in many degrees
- Push in by sea route, air, drones, railways and land route from all sides of the country. Also being locally produced.
- Funds raised through sales at mind-boggling profits being used for purchase of arms to be supplied to terrorists & transborder syndicates
- Apathy by parents, curiosity of youth & their craze for rave parties
- Need for suitable legal reforms, training to LEAs for prosecution , collection of intelligence & intensify deaddiction drive through creating awareness

Radicalisation

- Radicalisation of Muslim & vulnerable scheduled caste & scheduled tribe Hindu youth through social media
- Muslim young women and professionals including doctors, engineers are playing leading role in recruiting & propagating radical ideology
- Preparing IEDs, procuring small weapons to attempt explosions, attacks on VIPs, sabotage sensitive installations and espionage
- Use of uncontrolled & proscribed social media/internet by transborder handlers & local sympathisers in influencing youth, for communicating secretly and guiding violent assaults

Infiltration by illegal foreigners

- Illegal migration in India has assumed gigantic nature over the years
- While, infiltration by Bangla Deshis, Rohingyas has aggravated the situation, illegal stay by persons from African & other countries and their continued stay in the periphery of metropolitan cities have further complicated the situation
- Detect, detain and deport policy has caused strained relations with Bangla Desh. Needs to be enforced for all illegal nationals
- Several developed countries are struggling in deporting illegal migrants
- Need to research how the issue is being addressed globally
- What could be the alternative apart from deportation? Can there be status of persons having only economic rights?
- Also imperative to interrogate Indian youth emigrating with ulterior motives & prevent their departure

Strategy to counter infiltration

- Action needs to be initiated legally, administratively, politically and socially
- This being a serious problem threatening national security, action needs to be initiated at the Union Govt level
- Need to create full-fledged Department in MHA dedicated to this task
- Should have presence in almost all districts to identify , detain and deport illegal immigrants
- Involve industry leaders, housing societies & all peoples' representatives in identification of illegal immigrants
- Imperative to make it peoples' movement to save the country
- Create Helpline & reward informers

Juvenile delinquency

- Number of young children being detected or committing serious offences is increasing geometrically
- These offences include gang rapes, rapes, murders, robberies, thefts and many more.
- Children in the age group of 14 to 18 need to be treated as adults and need to be prosecuted accordingly. Present provisions of seeking approval from Juvenile Justice Board are proving ineffective.
- Organised gangsters are taking disadvantage of the provisions and using these children to commit robberies
- Most of these are school drop outs. Many of these are victims of social platforms. Imperative to ensure intervention by Dept of Education

Transborder organised crimes

- US Department of Justice revealed, 'Operation Hard Ball' indicates Indian crime syndicates engage in racketeering, targeted killings, shootings, extortions, trafficking of bulk quantities of narcotics, across international borders, and other crimes around the world whose impact is especially felt in the Indian diaspora. (July 8, 2026)
- These gangs are spread from Punjab to Maharashtra and their recruitment, payments to gang members, supply of weapons is managed from abroad. Lawrence Bishnoi is successful in instructing his assistants from jail in Sabarmati, Ahmedabad using contraband mobile phones and internet-based communication devices. This nuisance is likely to aggravate.
- These syndicates expanded by cultivating corrupt law enforcement and government officials in India, feeding them information to frame rivals and run international extortion rackets

Corruption

- Corruption among government officers is rampant. Periodic integrity checks required of persons in sensitive positions. Need to use artificial intelligence in investigating disproportionate assets
- Action against corrupt officers either departmentally or through judicial process is highly delayed & loses its relevance.
- Archaic legal provision of requirement of sanction to prosecute by competent authority needs to be repealed
- Corruption cases need to be decided in fast track courts
- Criminals are taking advantage of such corrupt officials as demonstrated in 1993 Mumbai blasts and transborder syndicates to frame their rivals
- Internal vigilance in all govt agencies & particularly in LEAs needs to be strengthened

Missing girls and women

- Huge number of young girls, women are reported to be lost every year. Almost 94% of these are reportedly traced by police and restored to their families. Even then the number of untraced young girls and women continues to be in thousands.
- Reasons may include kidnapping by Jihadi persons, 46% eloped due to love affair, lured for attractive job offer, angry with family members etc
- To trace these, efforts need to be stepped up to ensure registration of every girl , woman for Aadhar card number
- Railways should make it mandatory to record Aadhar no of every passenger
- Similarly ST buses & private travels must record Aadhar no of every passenger
- Police need to be given access to Aadhar record to trace missing girls/women

Measures to reduce losses in traffic accidents

- Annually five lakh persons die , while ten lakh are impaired/injured
- Most of these are youth, directly impacting national productivity
- Violation of traffic regulations goes mostly unpunished
- Courts advise adopting soft stand against violators
- Can India enforce remedial action through technological innovations such as surveillance through drones, AI assisted CCTVs at important road patches, linking driving licence, vehicle no and bank accounts, so that fines are deducted from bank accounts immediately ?
- Unified action by Corporation, RTO, Exise & Police
- Implement Road safety police (RSP) scheme & NCC in all schools & colleges to train them in traffic rules

Structural Reforms

- Dictatorial regimes such as British India had the model of Superintendent of Police working under the District Collector
- This suited the British requirements of suppressing any dissent against their rule
- This system is reactionary & has inherent drawbacks. Emphasis needs to be on preventive measures through mass awakening with help from common man
- There is no accountability to people
- Net result is police remain cut off from local people
- Policing draws its strength from consent of local people, but the same is missing
- As a long term measure, research required to study various models in democratic countries to make police accountable & responsible to meet aspirations of people

Community participation

- Attitude of “we know everything” and “we alone can remedy the situation” creates distrust and gap between people and police
- Instead of depending only on informers, need to implement the scheme of “police Mitra” to involve local willing people who have clean record.
- Steps can be taken to ensure there is no misuse by these police Mitra
- Advantage is it acts as force multiplier and there is never shortage of resources for traffic regulation, crowd control, awareness drives
- Results in creating responsible citizens to remedy various offences including creating awareness against drugs, cybercrimes, juvenile delinquency, domestic violence, economic offences, accidents etc

Reforms in criminal justice system

- Reforms required in judiciary and prison arrangements
- In the present system, judicial delays appear to be unending and justice delayed is justice denied. Nasrapur case should serve as case model at least in sexual offences against women and children for expeditious judgement
- People have almost lost hopes of getting justice . Though unjustified, this results in violence and people taking law in their hand to punish alleged miscreants
- Delays in judicial processes and refusal to accept technological innovations result in overcrowding in prisons
- Crowding of undertrials has resulted in turning prisons as government financed universities producing hardened criminals rather than correction centres
- Persons released on bail need to be tagged electronically

Uncontrolled foreign social media

- Social media being operated with the intention of business model has no respect for ethics, values or adverse impact on their users
- Creates addiction for videos depicting overt sex & violence
- Acts as tutor to indulge in murders, suicides and terrorist activities
- Collects individual data and exploits it for commercial purposes
- Need to encourage indigenous , responsible and sensitive social platforms backed by government efforts legally and financially.
- Imperative to establish Central Board of Content Examination before a serial is launched on OTT

Conclusion

- स्वमंत्र स्वयंत्र स्वतंत्र स्वविद्याः
- प्रकटय प्रकटय।
- असाध्यं साधय साधय।।