India and the Non-traditional Security Threats: Issues and Challenges

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ABSTRACT

The idea of security has drastically changed over time, especially in the post-Cold War period and emphasised has been shifted from traditional security threats to non-traditional security threats as far as nation-States in the contemporary world are concerned. The non-traditional security threats in its ambit include the non-State actors, terrorist networks, biological warfare, cyber-crime networks and the present COVID-19 pandemic other than food, water, internal security and environment issues which revolve around the human face of security. These were demarcated as new security threats or 'new-age threats' with a paradigm shift where India is not outside of its purview. Therefore, discourses and debates centering to non-traditional security approach have impacted the scenario of international relations and foreign policies of the nation-States of the world in general and India in specific. With the above, the paper tries to explore the variables of non-traditional security threats in the light of India's peculiar condition and discusses the related issues and challenges. It also discusses the meaning, definition, and conceptual framework of NTS, as a basis for discussion of India's typical non-traditional security problems in present days.

Keywords: *Non-traditional Security, Variables of NTS, Human Security, Non-state Actors, Environment, COVID-19, Indian Scenario*

Introduction

Traditionally, the concept 'national security' was recognised and revolves around the nation state where conventional methods were emphasised and pursued regarding national security and foreign policy of the State. Territorial wars and deterrence were used as mechanism for national security aims. In the same time, arm capability and warfare techniques were adopted to overcome foreign invasion and security was understood as increasing national strength and military capabilities. The concept and notion of security has changed in the Post-cold War periods which emphasised upon non-traditional dimension. The non-traditional security threats include in its ambit the socio-economic and environment security issues including the non-state actors and bioweapons which revolve around the human face of security. Now, the academic debates and discourses on non-traditional

security threat have impacted the Post-cold War international relations and foreign policies of the nation States in general and India in specific.

Methodology of the Study

The paper is developed during the period of COVID-19 pandemic and there was little scope for primary data and therefore, the author has fully depended on the secondary data like books, newspapers and articles to write this article. Though the article in detail discusses about the non-traditional security threats which India is facing in present times, it has been developed through a background of conceptual framework followed by the meaning and definition of non-traditional security threat where it would facilitate the understanding of the readers regarding non-traditional security issues in general, before proceeding to make out it in the Indian context in specific. The paper is based on qualitative research where analytical discussions are made on different non-traditional security issues ranging from Maoism, terrorism to present COVID-19 pandemic where all these issues discussed in the article are going to remain more or less worrisome and headache for India in its coming future.

Conceptual Framework

The theoretical framework for the security analysis derived particularly from Copenhagen School of Security Studies, where Barry Buzan, Ole Waever and Jaap de Wilde in their work *Security: a New Framework for Analysis* cover the environment of Europe, and later it includes Southeast Asian environment by the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, in Singapore. In this context, during the post-cold war period, the conventional definition of security has become a highly debated and contested. It has questioned the object of multiple interpretations and the traditional security debate in geo-political terms, including components like the balance of power, deterrence, and the state-centric military strategy. So, it changed and had moved to cover a far greater sector than military-geopolitical based position. With regards to the narrow perspective of the field of security studies, Anthony remarked;

This dissatisfaction was stimulated first by the rise of the economic and environmental issues in the 1970s and 1980s in the field of international politics and relations, later by the rise of concerns with identity issues (societal) and transnational crime during the 1990s. Supporters of an alternative approach to security studies have contested the position that security can only be about a military dimension. They have concentrated on non-traditional security matters that include ecological degradation, HIV/AIDS, drugs and human trafficking, ethnic conflicts, illegal migration and others.

It is in this move to a wider analysis of security studies that concerns over migrations and other NTS issues stand (Caballero-Anthony 2009: 199).

The expanding definition of security has encompassed the concept of human security where the most conversant one was provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 1994. It suggests that the concept has the potentiality to recover the concept of security from the earlier notion and focused on the state's security practices.

The UNDP report which offered the first operationalization of the concept presented two main aspects of human security. First, human security means safety from such chronic threats as hunger, disease and repression, and second, it means protection from sudden and hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily life – whether in homes, in jobs or in communities (UNDP, 1994: 23).

Human security concept in the thesis is used interchangeably with human rights.

The report goes further to outline the seven elements of human security, namely: economic security, food security, health security, environment security, personal security, community security and political security. Given the breadth of the UNDP's operation, the truncated definition of human security became that of freedom from fear and freedom from want (cited in Caballero-Anthony 2016: 8).

As an international norm, the concept of human rights wants to protect all people in the world from social, political, and legal abuses. It includes in its purview- the right to freedom of religion, the right not to be tortured, the right to a fair trial when charged with a crime, and the right to engage in political activity. It exists in law and morality at the international and national levels and is addressed primarily to governments, requiring compliance and enforcement whereas the main source of these rights is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

The debate on migration has become inseparable from the issue of human rights, the political organisation and economic development of the country of origin; and the national cohesion and future of the welfare states in the host society. Human security becomes essential in this discussion of non-traditional security concern since the human being is a core entity in security analysis (cited in Caballero-Anthony 2009: 204).

Meaning & Definition

Historically, the concept of security has been defined and confined to relationships

between nation-States in a geopolitical context which deals with issues like the military strategy, balance of power and deterrence. The scope and nature of security discourses have been changing since the end of cold war and it has gone beyond the concept of traditional state security and military strategy. Now, the question of security has increasingly been to incorporate both traditional and non-traditional threats. Non-traditional security threats, both internationally and nationally are arising from different spheres, such as ecological degeneration, internet hacking, drug-trafficking, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and global pandemic diseases etc. The seriousness of the problem lies in the fact that the governments and the research agencies do not know how to define these threats. In the light of the changing global realities and the new security environment, a comprehensive definition is the need of the hour. Though, the concept 'non-traditional security threat' is dominating in every sphere, but it still lacks a commonly agreed definition. Traditional security threat is more precise and confined in comparison to the non-traditional security threats. As far as non-traditional security threat is concerned, no agreement exists in context of what is inclusive and what is exclusive. In spite of the no coherence in the generalisation of definition, the concept may be defined as;

Non-traditional security issues are challenges to the survival and well-being of peoples and states that arise primarily out of non-military sources, such as climate change, resource scarcity, infectious diseases, natural disasters, irregular migration, food shortages, people smuggling, drug trafficking, and transnational crime. These dangers are often transnational in scope, defying unilateral remedies and requiring comprehensive – political, economic, social – responses, as well as humanitarian use of military force (Caballero-Anthony et al., 2006: 6)

As per the above definition, the main characteristics of non-traditional security threats are; (i) Non-military (ii) Transnational (iii) Neither purely inter-state nor totally domestic in nature (iv) Rapidly transmitted due to globalisation. The non-traditional security threats are posing serious challenges towards the nation-state system where it clearly exhibits its significance to the present world which is unavoidable. The old tactics of diplomatic manoeuvrings, military deterrence and short-term political arrangements are incapable of addressing these issues and hence call for alternative way by non-military means with economic, political, and social responses in a broad sense to sort out them.

While comparing non-traditional security threats with traditional security threats, we can observe several features of it:

- The eruptions of non-traditional threats are more irregular and unpredictable. For

example; in 1997 - the Asian financial crisis, in 2002 - the SARS and more recently the Covid-19 pandemic (novel Corona virus) that has spread from China to all over the world has already taken more than five lakh lives all over the world and infecting more than one crore population by end of June, 2020.

- It shows that such non-traditional threats can directly and indirectly bring enormous loss to the nation states including loss of life, financial and economic losses either to the whole world or to a particular region.
- Therefore, it calls for non-military means because; diplomatic maneuverings, military deterrence and political agreements are proved insufficient in resolving the non-traditional issues.

As far as meaning of non-traditional security threat is concerned, it can say that security (national/world) should not be perceived as threat from the territorial borders or to save the nation(s) from military attacks only. Threats that are outside the state premises are more vulnerable in comparison to the threats that arise within it. Keeping in mind the scope and comprehensiveness of non-traditional security threats, among many issues, we can distinguish and mark some of the major potential sources of non-traditional security threats, that are: (i) Trans-national organized crimes (ii) International terrorism (iii) Illegal migration (iv) Energy security (v) Food and water scarcity (vi) Environmental security (vii) Human security and infectious diseases (viii) Biological warfare and bioweapons.

Non-traditional Security Threats: The Rising Concerns for India

India as a large democracy of the world and a welfare state has been following the liberal perspective regarding its plan and policies as far as the challenges of non-traditional security threat is concerned. Now, within the liberal framework, the debate has shifted to the discourse on a wider perspective of security which includes the security of the individual, community and environment other than concerning with the security of the state.

At the early 1990s, India has introduced the market based reforms and has made amazing economic progress. Such strides have recognised India as a vibrant economic giant, major regional and a wishful global power. But to rise the targeted growth and development in order to become a major power, it needs to focus on the 'rising security concerns' that prevent the process of development and derail India's desire to be global power. India is confronting with a myriad of rising security challenges which impede the national development and integrity of the nation and therefore, need analysis.

In February 2012, Shri A.K. Antony, the former defence minister of India in his address at the 14th Asian Security Conference held at Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), now renamed as Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA) has mentioned that the idea of security was expanding to incorporate good governance and climate change other than economic progress. The issues such as justice, development, ecology if not resolve on time may raise security problems. Militaries of different countries are promoting their capabilities in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief where the Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India had created the Ecological Task Forces (ETFs) since 1982. The Indian Navy did a meritorious job in 2004 by diminishing the consequences and repercussion of Tsunami both in India and abroad. As far as Indian perspective is concerned, securitisations of non-traditional threats are becoming a growing trend.

In Indian context, some of the non-traditional issues are beginning to have serious security impact. For example, cyber terrorism, climate change, ecology, cyber-crime, information warfare, biological warfare and bio weapons such as viruses are coming out as new variables of security concern. In addition to these non-traditional security threats, energy security receives priority in any security discourse as far as Indian situation is concerned. India as an agricultural country where global warming and climate change is going to cause severe draughts & floods affecting agriculture productivity and that will further deteriorate the already food crisis in the country. Therefore, food and water (drinking water) security for the billions of people of India are emerging as major challenges.

As far as the above non-traditional security issues are concern, the government may precisely gauge the non-traditional threats that the country is facing at present. Even a casual consideration will show that in recent times, India is vulnerable to global pandemic like COVID-19, terrorism, Maoism, separatist challenges, organised crime, illegal migrations, climate change, energy crisis, natural disasters, problem of domestic labour, food and water problem other than traditional security and border issues with its neighbours. For the vast and growing population of India, it's the crying need to provide food, drinking water, employment, health and education and these are basic for human securities. India also needs adequate energy for both security and economic reasons.

The importance of non-traditional security issues cannot be disregard and should be tackled in a comprehensive and holistic manner. The Non-traditional security threats in India were not provided proper consideration and attention at least from security

perspective, because in the past, issues such as energy security, climate change, etc. were considered as developmental issues not as security issues. Therefore, India needs reorientation in its security policies in order to include non-traditional security threats and rising concerns in its ambit. As far as India's response to these non-traditional security threats were concerned, the above issues were discussed in the following paragraphs.

Food Security for Vast Population: A greatest Challenge

The countries of the Rome Declaration agreed to tackle food security by ensuring adequate means of food, appropriate use and techniques for food preservation. India as a signatory, have agreed to ensure to meet the nutritional and food concerns of all citizens of the country. Since the 1996 Food Summit, much has been changed but food security is still a challenge due to under-investment in agriculture, food shortages, scarcity of water for irrigation in farms, heavy population explosion, increasing food prices and increased demand for food. Therefore, assuring food security in India is a herculean task, where a large gap exists in the livelihood and ensuring adequate quantity of food for the vast population and if not solved, potential civilian protests and social unrests are extremely anticipated.

Hence, ensuring food security for the millions is the rising concerns for India at present and also in the near future. It's a challenge for the country, how the issue could be best addressed through innovations and best practices following the other country models. In this regard, 'The National Food Security Bill 2013' is a noble attempt.

In a recent move to bolster food security for the poor impacted by a Covid-induced economic slowdown, Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended the National Food Security Programme Scheme to provide five kg food grains and one kg of pulses for free to 80 crore beneficiaries for another five months (The Times of India, 1st July, 2020:1).

It targets to counter disparities as far as access to food is concerned, and aims to diminish haunting malnutrition lived by the marginal groups of India. However, many scholars have advocated for a more proactive and responsive agenda on the part of the government to pay attention with much responsive policy mechanisms, issues of rural development and power supply with the objective of tackling the food security concern.

Climate Change as Potential Threat

Among the alarming issues the globe is facing, the issue of climate change needs an

urgent attention across the globe. The situation is under threat after a develop nation like United States of America's withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement in June 2017, while the Trump administration describes the agreement that disadvantages the United States to the exclusive benefit of other countries. Like other responsible nations, India should play a proactive role as far as climate change like serious issue is concerned.

The crucial task for India is to contrive strategies to counter the already altering climate conditions. The National Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) is a major initiative by the government to tackle the issue. The scheme ingeminates the government's position regarding climate change which directs development policies without disturbing the climate and natural environmental conditions. The plan establishes the government's commitment to extenuate the climate issues. It has bumped with a bunch of criticism from different stakeholders starting from the civil society to international environmental experts. The Civil Service Organisations posed the most detrimental accusations that the plan misses a coordinated comprehensive mechanism, an all-encompassing vision, and is structurally weak.

Terrorism: Greatest Threat to India's Security

The emergence of terrorism is considered as the most serious security challenge at the altering security landscape of India. Terrorism, since India's independence, remain chronic and has made the country to endure lots. Terrorist activities at the Indian soil with the help of Pakistan (state sponsored terrorism) are prevalent since the Mumbai attack in 2008 to Pathankot, Uri and Pulwama terror attack. The separatist activities in the Indian state of J&K has shown through repeated terrorist activities and infiltration which remain perennial, putting serious pressure on Indian security. The Infiltration of terrorists to Indian soil with the help of Pakistan has recently increased as a reaction to India's decision to abrogate Article 370 of the Indian Constitution and Making Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh into two Union Territories with effect from 31st October 2019. The rising China's expansionism policy as a neighbour and it's confront with India at Doklam in the past and at Ladakh recently, also remain challenging as far as the external security of India vis-a-vis its neighbour is concerned.

In recent times, Pakistan with the help of its all-weather friend 'China' is acting as the catalyst for terrorist activities in Indian soil which needs serious attention and is largely evident from the recent Drone attack in the Jammu Air base on 27th June 2021 by Pakistani Terrorists with the help and training from China to operate Chinese Drones.

Separatist Challenges, Illegal Migration and Maoism

As far as the rising security problem is concerned, India now faces numerous security challenges which are related to both internal and external factors. It includes the insurgency problem in Northeast, separatist movement in Jammu & Kashmir, illegal migration from Bangladesh and other countries along with the issue of Maoism which remain the most serious security challenges and are the acclivitous concerns for the country. Owing to their deeper and wider entailments, the distressfulness of these security issues should be emphasised. Not only have these issues had their wider implications on the internal security of the country but also on the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the nation.

The issues like the flow of refugees and the uninterrupted illegal migration from neighbouring countries remain major threats for the internal security of the country. The above factors are also contributing towards the emergence of infiltration and ex-filtration of extremists and armed militants, cross-border terrorism, illegal migration of drugs and armaments etc. This resulted the advent of cross-border organised crimes by non-state actors and their alignment with the separatists, Left-wing extremists and with the insurgents. These crime networks have also their nexus with the local political leaders, local criminals and police officials to alleviate their smooth operations. The conditions of instability, lack of governance and poor economy of the neighbouring countries have both direct and indirect impact on the security of India which comes under the purview of both traditional and non-traditional security issues and could be treated as the rising security concerns for the country.

The Bangladeshi illegal immigrants especially in the state of Assam, Delhi, West Bengal, Bihar and the North-Eastern States pose serious security problems for the country. In a landmark judgment (July, 2005), in *Sarbananda Sonowal v. Union of India*, the Supreme Court of India while annulling the 'Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunal) IMDT Act', observed that:

There can be no manner of doubt that the State of Assam is facing 'external aggression and internal disturbance' on account of large scale illegal migration of Bangladeshi nationals" and directed the Union of India to take all measures for protection of the State of Assam from such external aggression and internal disturbance as enjoined in Article 355 of the Constitution (Singh, P. Vol. CXLI, No. 586/2011).

The recent attempt by the central government towards the ongoing update of the

National Register of Citizens in Assam, which aims to settle the issue of illegal foreigners once and for all is a great initiative indeed as far as the illegal migration issues and the security challenges of India is concerned.

The Northeast states are blighted with different types of violence, ferocity, and low-intensity conflicts and the situation is worst in Nagaland and Assam. Separatist movements for independence, poverty, underdevelopment and discriminations remain perennial in these States. Shifting demographics owing to heavy inflow of migrants made the cause of multiple cultural and religious conflicts. Ethnic conflicts, demand of autonomy and separate statehood remain the headache for the central government and for the Indian Army to maintain peace in this region. The policy like 'From look east to Act East' of the present government remain successful but a lot need to be done in order to develop the region and maintain peace and security in North Eastern states. In case of North Eastern states, the security concern is double jeopardy: in one hand the security threats from the North Eastern states itself and on the other hand, the threat from mighty aggressive China in Arunachal Pradesh' border.

So far as India's internal security is concerned, Maoists remain greatest security challenge having their multi-layered impact and adverse. States like Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh are mostly affected with the cancer of Maoism. Operation COBRA, implementing Battalions, Paramilitary forces and BSFs to conduct operation 'Green Hunt' is not the only option which could root out the problem of Maoism, rather the problem should be analysed at different level-regarding the sources, causes tactics, and the spaces of such Left wing extremist activities. Education with pro-people development and welfare programmes at tribal areas and underdeveloped red-corridor locations of the country should be the priority of both the central and state governments in order to bring the tribal to mainstream. Awareness programmes should be organised at Maoist affected areas. People should be mobilised to join the mainstream.

Dialogue and development along with spread of free education and educational facilities should be the priority to prevent and arrest the cancer like Maoism, rather than hunting the tribals in the name of Maoism. The states like Odisha, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar should be specially focused while formulating five year plans and developmental policies because these states remain as the sanctuary for the Maoist and their menace of terror which hindrance the development

process and remain migraine headache for the Country as far as security issues of India is concerned.

Public Health Needs Paramount Importance

The term 'public health' is an all-encompassing term that comprehends a proviso all health related services and education which needs priority because it directly relates to human security. It includes in its scope, the protection of public health from vulnerability. India is facing the task of annihilating emerging non-infectious occupational lifestyle diseases, infectious diseases, and emerging infectious diseases (EID). The spread of COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020 (since ever the first phase of lockdown in India) and now with the 'second wave' of the virus where 4000 people are dying daily and more than 4 lakhs of new cases reporting every day especially in the month of May, 2021 have worsened the situation with lack of vaccine, oxygen, Corona bed and ventilators without future hope, made the life and health security of the country precarious. Hence, at present, there are multiple challenges that entammel India's public health system; specifically, the high risk of life as we are living in a time where the line between life and death is so thin. Therefore, getting out of COVID-19 and especially preventing the 'third wave' of the virus with vaccine, oxygen, ventilators, health and infrastructure, quality health education and research remained major challenges before the country as far as the human security and public health is concerned.

COVID-19 Pandemic and Its Implications on India's Security

Most of the countries of the world including the super powers are tussle with the COVID-19 pandemic where India is not an exception from the impact of the deadly virus. The virus has posed a plethora of challenges before the world in general and India in specific. India with an approximate 1.38 billion population has declared the first phase of national lockdown with effect from 25 March 2020 for 21 days to curb the spread of the COVID-19 via community transmission and is still continuing lockdown, shut down in different states with the dangerous 'second wave' which is more alarming where supply of oxygen and vaccine remained major challenge without any future hope. Due to lockdown, shutdown and continuous spread of the mutant virus in it's more complex second wave, it seems we are living in a country where the line between life and death is so thin. With more than 4 lakh daily new positive cases and 4000 deaths in a daily average all over the country, have made the situation worst in comparison to other countries of the world. The second wave of the virus demands heavy price from India with lack of oxygen, vaccine, Corona bed, ventilator, along with food and economic insecurity which forced the country and the

administration to face the ever greatest non-traditional security challenge with no future hope where a 'third wave' of the virus is anticipated and cannot be avoided. With more than 4000 thousand daily death, the virus has pushed the country into an uncertain future and inescapable situation creating fear and panic among the masses. In context of India, the recent data reveals that;

India saw more than 4000 deaths linked to Covid in a day for the first time and over 4 lakh daily positive cases for the fourth time in a week. A day after reporting the world's highest daily surge, India recorded 4.01 lakh cases today, taking the active caseload to 37,23,446. In the last 24 hours, 4,187 people died, taking total deaths to 2.38 lakh (NDTV, 8th May, 2021:1).

Other than life and health insecurity, both food and economic insecurity have threatened the well-being of poor labourers and downtrodden people engaged in the informal sectors. As most of the industries came to a halt, it generates huge unemployment with food and economic crisis with other issues. Due to non-functional of transport (train, bus etc.) a humanitarian crisis developed all over the country where people started walking back tens and hundreds of kilometres to get back to home with very little resources at their disposal. As per the Economic Times report; the informal sector workers and the rural poor will suffer the most as they are most likely to lose their daily wage and will make it difficult for them to secure even the basic food items. (The Economic Times, 7th April, 2020:1). The International Labour Organisation report released in Geneva in the month of April, 2020 mentioned that;

COVID-19 is already affecting tens of millions of informal workers. In India, Nigeria and Brazil, the number of workers in the informal economy affected by the lockdown and other containment measures is substantial. In India, with a share of almost 90 per cent of people working in the informal economy, about 400 million workers in the informal economy are at risk of falling deeper into poverty during the crisis (cited in The Economic Times, 7th April, 2020:1).

COVID-19 has increased the cyber security concerns due to heavy dependence and application of Zoom, Skype and Google Meet with the idea of working from home in online modes. So, it demands an increased cyber security apparatus to protect personal data and information of the users and different institutions of the country, because under the COVID-19 period, so many people have complained against the popular Zoom App for hacking data. The Home Ministry's (Govt. of India) warning has come after India's nodal cyber security agency – Computer Emergency Response Team of India (CERT-in) had cautioned against

the vulnerability of the App (The Economic Times, 29 April, 2020:1).

As far as the present situation in India is concerned, the country is in an arduous position, where its economy had already been slowing due the lockdown and COVID-19 pandemic and the panic situation is out of control of the government as thousands of people are dying daily. Lack of preparedness for the 'second wave' especially lack of Corona bed, oxygen, ventilator and sufficient doses of vaccine are the factors which worsening the situation. While the health, education and service sector are likely to be the most affected, for an agrarian economy like India, in terms of number of workers employed in agriculture and allied sectors will be the worst hit. In this critical situation, India should take steps for minimum human loss, providing human security utmost priority and providing necessary infrastructure, producing and disbursing sufficient oxygen, ventilators and vaccine doses to control further loss of human life and to prevent the 'third wave' which is a most anticipated one.

Conclusion

In the backcloth of the rising security concerns, especially in terms of the non-traditional security issues which have potential concern for the nation-states of the world in general, it needs precise appraisal in India specific. Even a perfunctory consideration will depict that India is endangered to Maoism, terrorism, illegal migrations, organised crime, ethno-religious disturbances, water crisis, inauspicious impact of population growth, poverty, climate change and the recent disastrous COVID-19 pandemic. The population explosion is in upward trend and will not stabilize until 2050/2060. Therefore, it is great challenge for India to provide, food, water, health, education, employment, and other civic and economic necessities to the vast million populations in one hand and countering terrorism, Maoism, separatism, communal violence, energy deficiency and increasing alarming COVID-19 pandemic in other hand.

Though the government of India has initiated a large number of programmes to counter such challenges including the present COVID-19 pandemic, the only concern is that it failed because till date the non-traditional security challenges are never considered as security issues. Still today, India is hesitating and reluctant to consider environment degradation, climate change and COVID-19 as security issue. The approach should be changed and these non-traditional issues should be given priority as far as security policy including human security is concerned.

This paper, thus argues that the rise of non-traditional security threats i.e. organised crime networks, international terrorism, environmental degradation, climate change, demographical changes, food and water security, cyber-conflict and bio-weapons and epidemic diseases (present COVID-19 pandemic) can be considered as the rising security concerns for India. The security implications of non-traditional challenges which are the major rising concern today cannot be ignored & India should address these issues in a holistic fashion.

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