

## EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL THREATS TO INDIA

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### ABSTRACT

*In 21st century nation states are dealing with external threats as well as internal disturbances causing threat to peace and tranquillity within the territories of the nation. The external threats emerge from conflicts among world powers consistently trying to maintain status quo, enemy states continuously trying to create instability and internal threats emerge from colonial history, artificial formation of states, ethnic tensions, linguistic issues. Today India faces threats from America, China, Pakistan and Bangladesh, in the mean time we also face threats in the region of Jammu and Kashmir where Pakistan sponsored various proxies operate and are involved in terrorist activities and Islamic radicalization, similar threats are posed by militants in the region of North East India where we have been facing insurgencies by different militant groups, the Naxalite issue also cause regular. The Naxal insurgents also enjoy direct and tactical support from some of the sections of leftist ideology groups. Naxals are active in the under developed regions of the country located centrally viz. Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, eastern Maharashtra, Telangana region of Andhra Pradesh, and western part of Orissa. Apart from these issues we as a country also face problem in key areas such as higher education lack of quality education adds up to the problem of managing our human resource for we do not have institutions of eminence in the ratio with which our population is increasing. Our human resource which should have been our strength is now turning into liability due lack of quality education and suitable career opportunities.*

**Keywords:** Nation, External, Internal, Threats, Develop

### INTRODUCTION

The modern nation-state is the product of the concept of territorial sovereignty. The independence of a nation-state, in all its endeavors, was a prized possession in the world characterized by colonialism. All a nation-state wanted was independence in its political, social and economic activities. The nationalist sentiments are inherent in successful nation-states. However, the nation-state is less successful in those situations where the population is fragmented between several large groups who do not wish to surrender portions of their different identities in order to produce a national identity. The

majority of nation-states with such problems seem to be the artificial creations of war and/or colonialism rather than the product of 'natural' evolution. India, too, is a result of such historical happenings and despite being successful till now, which is surprisingly amazing, has been facing a lot of security threats, both from external and internal sources.

### EXTERNAL THREATS

Threats are a matter of perception. Their assessment takes into account capacities, not so much intentions, of a potential adversary. For an

accurate reading, the short term and long term objectives of all leading players in the world have to be judged. Applying this criterion will reveal that India is living in an environment of threat from many corners of the earth.

### **1. Threat from the United States of America:**

Is there a threat from the United States of America? To answer the question, one must first identify the basic interests of the U.S.A. and then examine whether similar interests of India are supplementary or contradictory to those of the U.S.A. An objective study will lead to the conclusion whether the relationship between the two countries is essentially benevolent or malignant.

In each area of U.S.A. interest viz. geopolitical containment of Russia and China, non-proliferation, countering and eradicating Islamism or radical Islam, maintaining access to and dominating control of energy sources, it is seeking to co-opt India as a junior partner. Since Indian interests do not necessarily dovetail into those of the U.S.A., a potential collision lurks in the background.

The U.S.A. possibly views China as the single most potent long-term threat to its continued domination of the world. It is, therefore, presently engaged in building coalitions to hamstring it from all directions. The U.S.A. wants to develop India as an ally in this effort. Although India has its own fundamental differences with China, these do not go to the extent that it should play any role in the U.S. strategy. An implicit threat in the relationship, thus, emerges.

Nonproliferation has been an article of faith with all recent U.S. administrations that have been deeply unhappy with the Indian nuclear weapons programme. They want this programme to be capped, rolled back and eliminated. There have been some studies, commissioned by neo-conservatives in the U.S.A., which have even suggested that it could be bombed out. A war was launched against Iraq under the guise of dismantling its nonexistent Weapons of Mass

Destruction (WMDs). Today, the dominant view in the neo-conservative circles in Washington D.C. favors aerial strikes against Iran to knock out its nuclear facilities to eradicate a possible nuclear programme. How can one assume that the Indian programme, if it is resumed, will forever remain unthreatened?

The U.S. war on Islamism, fought in the name of terrorism, has brought North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), one suspect, as a permanent presence in Afghanistan. For the U.S. it also serves the collateral purpose of offering a checkmate to China. This war seems to be leading to a gradual polarization of the world into Islamic and non-Islamic and could indeed set in a clash of civilizations. The impact of such a development on South Asia will be devastating. Afghanistan is already deeply radicalized. If anti-American sentiment can be treated as an index to measure propensity towards radicalism, Pakistan will also be affected. A radical fringe can now be identified in India also. The U.S. policies on issues relating to Islam have, thus, a potential for destabilization of communal harmony in South Asia.

A resurgent Russia has put down the U.S. energy related ambitions in the Central Asian Republics but in the energy belt in West Asia, the latter remains dominant. The American enterprise in Iraq was propelled actually by a desire to strengthen this domination. There is an American effort now to block the growth of Iranian gas and oil markets. Indian oil energy needs to the extent of 70% are met from foreign sources. This requirement is expected to rise to 90% at not too distant a date. The U.S. frowns at possibilities of expansion of India-Iran linkages in this sector. In today's world energy security is needed to reach human developmental goals and economic prosperity. But U.S. eyes it as a strategic weapon. A conflictual environment is, thus, already created.

While all that is stated above does not amount to a totality of adverse relations, it is necessary that these factors must not be ignored while determining policy in India. One should not forget the abiding security dictum: 'there are only

permanent interests, no permanent friends. Further, the U.S. 'transformational diplomacy' aims at converting nation states into American clones.

In the field of external relations two other countries stand out, meriting continuous scrutiny and caution, and these are China and Pakistan. Unlike the U.S.A., there have been violent ups and downs in India's relationship with them. One must, therefore, attempt to discover what the core problems are.

## **2. Indo-Sino Unstable Relations:**

Looking at Chinese concerns, it may be said that its core concern relates to the maintenance of its integrity, territorial or otherwise, while moving dynamically forward to build up its economic, political and military strengths. It seems to China that its strongest challenges will emanate from the U.S., seen to be encircling it from all directions with the help of its allies, and wanting to force a democratic wave within China, as well as trying to loosen its hold over Tibet and Xinjiang. In the game of diplomatic chess that has emerged China wants to ensure that no lending hand is given to the U.S. by India. It seeks to achieve this objective by keeping India off balance. It has developed Pakistan as its Israel against India, extending nuclear and missile technology, all directed 100% against India. More than collaboration with the U.S., China fears India over the possible roles it can play around Tibet. As long as fires of Tibetan nationalism burn in Tibet and diasporas of over 100,000 Tibetans, mostly well-educated and politically aware with Dalai Lama providing a focus, take shelter in India, China will view India with grave suspicions. There is no way by which India can succeed in removing such mistrust from the Chinese mind.

While the resulting state of uneasiness may not lead to a war as in 1962, it certainly blocks progress on the border settlement and withdrawal of territorial claims such as over Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin in Jammu and Kashmir. As of today, one may not be off the mark to state that Indo-

Sino relationship will remain a hostage to China's crisis with Tibet.

## **3. Threat from Pakistan:**

The threat from Pakistan is altogether of a different kind. It is not an exaggeration to say that this threat commenced from the day Pakistan came into existence. It was inherent in the two-nation theory, propounded anywhere in the world for the first time, to divide a multi-religious and multi-cultural nation, on a religious basis. An impossible task had been attempted, considering the size of India and its population, religion wise.

The attempt succeeded in carving out a religious majority area, already existing, as a new nation, but the rump India still remained a many layered multi-religious and multi-cultural society. The two-nation theory encouraged Pakistan to lay a claim over Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) state. Beginning with tribal incursions of late 1947, Pakistan has fought several wars to wrest the state out of Indian control. A proxy war continues even today.

This continued quest has completely reoriented the psyche of Pakistani people and re-aligned all instruments of governance and policy-making in Pakistan against India. The text books in schools and colleges, the entire military doctrine and the entire focus of its nuclear weapon development program is centered against India. The ruling establishment in Pakistan has had to rely more and more on Islam and 'Islampasand' parties to keep the nation under its control. Islam is now so deeply embedded in the corridors of power that none in Pakistan can ignore the Islamic perspective. From the Pakistani view point there is no solution to the Kashmir question other than its amalgamation into Pakistan, a position which India can never accept since any such scenario can ignite a chain reaction of separation in India. The problems between India and Pakistan will, thus, remain insoluble, until Pakistan modifies its commitment to two-nation theory. The prospects for such a change are absolutely minimal, because

demolition of two-nation theory means that Pakistan loses its *raison-de-etre*.

The Pakistani designs against India have created a vast range of threats. Almost all movements within the country, agitating against the center for political reasons have received support by way of finances, training, arms, guidance and shelter from Pakistani intelligence, Inter Services Intelligence (ISI). Within Pakistan itself Islamist groups have been created or supported by ISI for sabotage, subversion and terrorism in India. ISI, with its surrogate Wahabi groups, is now targeting Indian Muslims for getting them involved in questionable activities. While under the U.S. pressure Pakistan has somewhat relented on its support to Islamic radicals operating against the U.S., it has abstained from a similar downsizing of its activities against India.

What one may expect from the new configuration in Pakistan after the recent elections? There is no evidence yet that key changes are in the offing. The President retains all his powers as of old. He derives his strength from the military which, while it seems to have moved backstage, has not shed any substantive power. A new era will not dawn in Pakistan until the military is truly confined to the barracks. Till that happens, perceptions of threats from Pakistan will remain as before.

#### **4. The Threat of Bangladeshi Infiltration:**

India is facing another problem in the form of illegal infiltration of Bangladeshis in the north-east. The governments have in the past acknowledged this but solution seems to be a distant dream as this issue is also being politicized.

Infiltration is one of the biggest internal security threats because the government feels that it can do nothing about this. There is no military response, diplomatic responses have failed, border management is not effective and the legal response is not doable because two crore illegal people's adjudication will take 200 years. Even then, those who will be adjudicated outside the border, it is likely that Bangladesh may not accept them. And

even when they are accepted, they come back after 15 days to a new destination in India. When an Indian court convicts somebody as a Bangladeshi his government escort buys him a ticket, gives him food and takes him to the border. But in a large number of cases the Bangladesh Rifles refuse to accept India's evidence. Bangladeshis enjoy a paid holiday in this country. This has not only caused burden on Indian economy, but has also threatened the identity of indigenous people of north-eastern India. In Tripura, another north eastern state of India, the local population have been turned into a minority community over time by the sheer numbers of cross border migrants from Bangladesh. In 1947, 56 per cent of Tripura's population consisted of tribal (or indigenous) population. Today this stands at a quarter of the total. In many districts, these infiltrators are the one who decide the outcome of elections. Outcomes of the 32% of Legislative Assembly seats in Assam and 18% of seats in West Bengal are decided by them. This is due to the fact that political parties are helping them to get ration cards and voters identity cards and, hence, using them to win elections.

The victims of this infiltration are mainly in the states of Assam and Tripura. Infiltration is affecting the demography of these states. But there has been little systematic study of the problem even in these states, and none whatsoever in states such as Meghalaya. Worse, states such as Manipur and Nagaland, which do not share a border with Bangladesh but which have already been subjected to the negative impact of trends in illegal migration, are entirely outside the scope of current scrutiny. Such has been the scale of Bangladeshi immigration into Manipur that an influential civil society organization, the United Committee Manipur (UCM), published a 231-page report, *'Influx of Migrants into Manipur: A Threat to the Indigenous Ethnic People'* in December 2005, indicating that migrants from Myanmar, Bangladesh and Nepal would, in 30 years' time, "either marginalize or wipe out all the ethnic groups" in the state. Tripura, which shares 856 kilometers border with Bangladesh, has been widely acknowledged to have been transformed from a

tribal majority state into a tribal minority state in less than six decades, and this is now an irreversible feature of the state's demography. There is ample evidence that illegal migration continues to take place in the state, though the scale fluctuates with changes in the political dispensations in Bangladesh. In addition, the porous border also facilitates the movement of militants, criminals, smugglers and drug peddlers, mostly acting under the protection or at the behest of officers and personnel of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR).

Unease with Bangladesh is not likely to end as its response on two major Indian security concerns remain negative, illegal infiltration into India and promotion of cross-border terrorism. Bangladesh's asymmetry with India and its extreme sense of inferiority vis-à-vis India contribute in a big way to these problems. The demographic aggression is a direct result of the pathetic poverty of Bangladesh. Infiltration has significantly altered the population patterns in the border areas of India and constitutes a long-term risk. The Bangladesh situation calls for a holistic approach from India, combining a compassionate approach to help in its developmental objectives with firmness where security gets compromised.

## INTERNAL THREAT SCENARIO

The internal scene in India is also not free from anxiety of threats. Growth of Naxalism has been declared by the Prime minister, Manmohan Singh, to be the top internal security problem of the country.

Roots of Naxalism, now known as Maoism, predate independence and now affect about 150 districts spread over 13 states. It has grown to this strength on account of cumulative wrongs, absence of social and economic reforms to ensure human dignity, justice and democratic rights to the rural and forest tribal populations of the country. The movement is seeking to establish a contiguous area from Karnataka to Nepal border to set up a compact revolutionary zone and is now well militarized. It will be a mistake to think that

the movement can be countered by armed means alone. Ways have to be found to include the Maoists in the mainstream and to fulfil the rising expectations of the rural and tribal people through better governance and a paradigm shift in administrative and development strategies, to ensure better delivery of public goods and services.

### 1. Subversion

Subversion is another form of threat the Indian State is facing from several quarters. In J&K it takes the shape of a proxy war led by militant outfits operating from the safety of sanctuaries in Pakistan, at the behest of the Pakistani establishment. Despite the so-called peace process between India and Pakistan, the thrust in this assault remains as sharp and purposeful as before. It is expanding and making inroads into the rest of the country. It wants to transmute itself into what has been dubbed as New Terrorism, mindless destruction of lives and property, merely for spectacular results. New Terrorism will employ WMDs if it can lay its hands on them. Its foreign promoters are eyeing the Indian Muslim community as a fertile field for recruitment of agents. The Pakistani masters try to distort faith by sowing concepts that such terrorism is ultimately a service to the wider community. This in turn promotes sectarian tensions. It is not clear whether the dangers inherent in this Pakistani strategy have been fully comprehended or conceptualized in India. The recent Deoband fatwa, outlawing terrorism, while laudable, does not go deep into the question, whether doctrinal injunctions create a mindset disfavoring growth of liberalism which will offset terrorism. The Muslim community in India needs to be encouraged to examine why it remains out of step with contemporaneous concepts and ideas that can ensure such virtues as gender equality, freedom of expression and keeping religion and state out of each other's way.

## 2. Turbulence in the North-East

The turbulence in the north-eastern states of India is another form of subversion, orchestrated by foreign agencies, notably Pakistani. No doubt the militants in these states, principally Tripura, Assam, Manipur and Nagaland have long standing local grievances but there is an ongoing effort in most cases by the central government to deal with these through dialogue and counter-insurgency operations. Cross border connections, guidance, financing and arming often put a spanner into such efforts.

North-east India has been a witness to many raging insurgencies ever since independence. Several of them are still simmering on. The army has been deployed in almost all the insurgency affected states in the north-east over time, and even the air force was used once in Aizawl during the height of the Mizo insurgency to end a seize of an army camp by the Mizo rebels. *The Armed Forces Special Power Act (AFSPA)* has been in force since 1958 in various insurgency affected parts of north-east, giving Army special and exceptional powers to operate in counter-insurgency operations.

The current debate that has gained momentum concerns the issue that armed forces are primarily meant for external threats, and not for internal counter-insurgency operations. The talk of avoiding collateral damage in populated areas is a signal of a 'new' thinking in the armed forces and the central security policy makers. This is only welcome if it is backed by adequate reforms in the internal policing system, which they say will be bolstered soon in the naxal affected areas, and 'Operation Green Hunt' could go on without the armed forces' help. However, even after decades of army's deployment in the north-east, the central government or the respective state governments have not managed to implement any reforms towards bolstering the internal policing structure, which could possibly replace the army in any of its counter-insurgency duties.

Vast portions of Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh have insignificant and weak local policing system, which are unable to combat the complexities of strong insurgent networks at present. The ability of the north-eastern insurgent groups to

continue operating as well as managing strong networks of trafficking in arms, ammunition, narcotics and fake currency is testimony to the collective failure of the army, local police and internal security policies. Union Home Minister, P. Chidambaram, has admitted many times that north-east India has been the corridor of arms and ammunition and other logistical support to the naxalites.

The various insurgencies in the north-east have been, to an extent, kept in abeyance by New Delhi for long now, without any attempt to solve them politically. Many of the insurgent groups, who have declared ceasefire and have kept languishing in 'designated camps', have invested in a huge narco-terrorism network. It requires no rocket scientist to point out that this active 'kept in abeyance' insurgency network in the north-east has, indeed, strengthened the naxal preparations against the government. The short-sighted policy of delaying or postponing the peace in the north-east, has, in fact, presented to the central government another internal security problem in the shape of this network, the dimensions of which are yet to be fully comprehended.

Given the inter-connections in the conflict scenario in the north-east, special counter-insurgency attention must be focused on certain insurgent 'hotspots', which are characterized by complex insurgent networks and insufficient governmental presence. The identifiable insurgent hotspots are Karbi Anglong-North Cachar Hills region of Assam, Lohit-Tirap-Changlang region of Arunachal Pradesh, West Kameng-East Kameng-Baksa-Udalguri-Sonitpur region encompassing Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, and Ukhrul-Senapati-Chandel region of Manipur and Southern Mizoram. Rapid modernization of police forces, to continually monitor these 'hotspots' is required.

The army, which in its normal course of duties is meant to monitor the extremely porous border areas of the north-east with Myanmar and Bangladesh, finds itself pressed in internal security duties in many internal areas, where the local police has insufficient capability to handle the same. The force for monitoring these active hotspots will have to be army-local police collaboration, as it will require strong local intelligence networks. The standard of ground level and intelligence sharing



coordination between the local police and the army leaves much to be desired, even with the presence of the unified command structure in some of the states. This is also because of the lack of trust between security agencies and the varying briefs given to them by the central government at one level and the state government at another level.

A genuine peace in the north-east will ultimately come by involving local people in the peace process, and not by having an exceptional Act in the form of AFSPA with little national debate on its amendment or withdrawal for over fifty years, or stalemated negotiations with insurgent groups. New Delhi needs to analyze the internal security situation of India in a wider connected framework and treat the inadequacies urgently.

### **3. The Naxalite Problem**

The recent attacks by the naxalites on security personnel and establishments have raised many questions and concerns about internal security in India. On 6 April, 2010 naxalites launched the biggest assault in the history of the naxalite movement by killing 76 security personnel. The attack was launched by about 1,000 naxalites in a well-planned attack, killing an estimated 76 Central Reserve Police Force (C.R.P.F.) policemen in two separate ambushes, and wounding 50 others, in the jungles of Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district. On 17 May, 2010, naxals blew up a bus on Dantewda-Sukhma road in Chhattisgarh, killing 15 policemen and 20 civilians. In the third major attack by naxals on 29 June, 2010, at least 26 personnel of Centre Reserve Police Force (C.R.P.F.) were killed in Narayanpur district of Chhattisgarh. The large naxal presence, its firepower and its ability to strike the police forces at will, make for a tense law and order situation in many states of India.

Naxalites want complete possession of political power in India. They want to liberate India and turn it into a nation based on the communist ideology of Mao. They are waging a futile but fatal war against the state with an eye fixed on the throne in Delhi. But their ideology is flawed. They are a minority. Their violent way of conveying message has made them villains in the eyes of large section of society. Violence in any form is not justifiable. Their ideology was born out of frustration and

desperation against the oppressors. Oppression was by police, zamindars, corrupt bureaucracy and in the form of ugly politics by local politicians. Tribals were made aliens in their own land by rich and mighty. Every development project displaced millions of people without ever providing them adequate or minimum living conditions necessary for sustaining lives. Landless farmers were exploited by big zamindars even after independence and the abolition of zamindari system.

There have been intense debates about considering the deployment of army and the possible use of air force. It is pertinent at this point to analyse the internal security situation in naxal affected areas and draw some vital linkages with the internal security situation in the north-east.

India has one of the worst managed police system in the world. Our police system is as old as oldest civilization when it comes to maintaining law and order in the country. Their primitive techniques and very poor training have readily helped the cause of naxalism. Till today greater number of police-men has died as compared to those of naxalites. When our police cannot handle a small mob on the street how can one expect them to penetrate deep into the jungles and fight guerilla trained Maoists.

At present, naxalites are active across approximately 180 districts in 10 states accounting for about 40% of India's total geographical area. They are especially concentrated in an area known as the "*Red corridor*", where they control approximately 92,000 square kilometres area. According to India's intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing, 20,000 armed cadre naxalites are operating in addition to 50,000 regular cadres and their growing influence has prompted Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, to declare them as the most serious internal threat to India's national security.

In February 2009, the central government announced its plans for broad, co-ordinated operations in all affected states (Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal), to plug all possible escape routes of naxalites. Practically, all naxalites groups trace their origin to the Communist Party of India (Marxist – Leninist) [CPI(ML)]. A separate offshoot from the

beginning was the Maoist Communist Centre (MCC), which evolved out of the Dakshin Desh group. The MCC later fused with the People's War Group to form the Communist Party of India (Maoist).

Today, some naxalite groups have become legal organisations participating in parliamentary elections, such as the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation. Others, such as the Communist Party of India (Maoist) and the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Janashakti, are engaged in armed guerrilla struggles.

Naxal insurgency is the gravest threat to our national security. Ever since its origin from a militant peasant uprising that took place in 1967 at Naxalbari village in Darjeeling, West Bengal, the naxal problem is ever spreading and escalating. The naxal insurgency continues to enjoy direct and tacit support of some of the sections of left ideology groups and factions. Naxals are active in the least developed region of the country located centrally viz. Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, eastern Maharashtra, Telangana region of Andhra Pradesh, and western part of Orissa. Uneven land distribution and bleak socio-economic condition of the affected area are among the key reasons for the origin of the naxal problem.

No government in the concerned states and center has been successful to chalk out a foolproof and meaningful strategy to resolve the issue once and forever.

Maoism and foreign subversion pose strong challenges but still India remains strong. Nobody can say that India is not an admirably successful example of a multi-ethnic, multi-religious, multi-lingual and pluralist entity in motion. However, interplay of politics and corruption, and absence of good governance, a must for efficient security, remain a big blot on India's record and add to the existentialist threats which India is facing from various directions.

#### **4. Plight of Higher Education**

Higher education in India has witnessed tremendous expansion since independence. There has been an enormous increase in the number of colleges and

universities. However, the success story of this impressive growth turns bleak when the question of quality is raised. The standards in higher education have been eroded by the rising tides of mediocrity. Since long, the country has been facing serious problems of quality in higher education.

Higher education sector is finding it difficult to meet the challenges of knowledge expansion, uneven growth, financial crisis, student unrest, teacher turnout, and a number of other problems. The consequence of this failure to meet these challenges is a fall in the standards which is a serious threat to a developing nation like India.

While India has some of the world class institutes like Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and some really good universities, in general, the condition of higher education is miserable. The expansion of higher education has been chaotic and unplanned. The drive to make higher education socially inclusive has led to a sudden and dramatic increase in number of institutions without a proportionate increase in material and intellectual resources. As a result, academic standards have been jeopardized. The basic problems before higher education include inadequate infrastructure and facilities; large number of vacancies in faculty positions and poor quality of faculty members; outmoded teaching methods; declining research standards; unmotivated students; overcrowded classrooms; only examination-based evaluations; and widespread geographic, income, gender and ethnic imbalances. There is an inadequate and diminishing financial support for higher education from the government and from society. Apart from these, the system of higher education has met several setbacks with regard to its regulatory framework, funding and finances, and the much debated and controversial move of privatization of higher educational institutions.

#### **5. Population Threat**

India was the country to adopt an official family planning programme as early as 1950. However, 60 years later this has not prevented the population



touching the one billion mark. It is obvious that despite good intentions and concerted efforts we have failed in controlling our population. Considering the seriousness of the situation it is appropriate to introspect and ascertain as to what went wrong.

Population, if it continues to increase at the same rate, will destroy the country. Insufficient initiatives by the government together with lazy people are responsible for this destructive problem. People are not realizing the aftermaths of this problem. One day the result will be riots. India will be the largest slum creator. All cities will be like fish markets with people everywhere. Traffic will move like ants party. Everybody will scream, shout but nobody will listen.

Population growth and its relation to economic growth have been a matter of debate for over a century. The early Malthusian view was that population growth is likely to impede economic growth because it will put pressure on the available resources, and result in reduction in per capita income and resources. This, in turn, will deteriorate the quality of life. Contrary to Malthusian predictions, several of the East Asian countries have been able to achieve economic prosperity and an improvement in quality of life in spite of population growth. This has been attributed to an increase in productivity due to development and utilization of innovative technologies by the young educated people who are the majority of the growing population. These countries have been able to exploit the dynamics of demographic transition to achieve economic growth by using human resources as the engine driving economic development. Improved employment with adequate emoluments have prompted saving and investment which, in turn, have stimulated economic growth. But this success story may not be a long lasting one in view of dangerous rates of growth of population.

Rapid population growth has led to overexploitation of natural resources, contamination of resources, and overall environmental degradation. The resultant deforestation has led to shrinking of forest cover. Environmental degradation is posing serious health hazards.

Some of the problems arising due to excessive population are:-environmental degradation; water pollution; adverse effects on savings and investment; unproductive investment; slow growth of per capita income; underutilization of labour; growing pressure on land; adverse effect on quality of population and life; adverse social impact(law and order problem); and lack of employment.

Following possible solutions may be considered:

1. Using various means of communication to persuade people;
2. Use of significant inducements to persuade people;
3. Making easily available family planning methods;
4. Setting up family planning centers separately for males and females;
5. Significant financial assistance to acceptors and motivators;
6. Promoting education;
7. Promotion of delayed marriages; and
8. Proper conceptualization and strict enforcement of population related policies.

With more than 1,210,000,000 people in India (as per provisional data of Census 2011), the country is presently the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest in the world. While India crossed a population of 1 billion in 2000, it is believed by the demographers that the fast rate at which population is increasing, it will cross the population of China (largest country by population) by the year 2030. India represents 17% of the world's population.

Few years down the lane, India is expected to be the only nation that will reach the population mark of 2 billion. Thus, the increasing population is moving towards an alarming situation.

Although, several steps have been taken to minimize the growth of population but everything remains in vain. This makes it obvious that instead of concerted efforts from various fields, India has failed to check its rapid population growth. In last few

decades, the fertility control programmes have also failed in sustaining the threat of over-population. Another draw back in the strategies of population control is 'female sterilization'. Targeting women and not men, by the government, actually means adopting more dangerous means of controlling birth.

Even though India has undertaken quite a few impressive goals for reducing its growing population yet they have fallen short. Rapid growth in population remains a matter of concern for India and the country has a long way to go.

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