

Chapter 1 NATIONAL SECURITY

Meaning of Security

Security is one of the essential requirements of society. Even ordinary species in the animal kingdom get strength and means of self-defence from the nature. What is true about the animals is also true about human beings.

Security is a concept related to individuals, society and country. Security creates peace and stability. It protects us from uncertainty. Nations face, challenges and counter challenges. National sovereignty, national values, national territory must be protected. To protect territorial integrity, civic life and nation's natural and material resources is to protect nationhood. In other words, all the defence measures used and implemented to protect the nationhood and sovereignty is known as national security.

India's History

If we look at the Indian history from the ancient times, you will realize that India has experienced a number of invasions especially from the northwest region. In those historical times, there were many states under the rule of many kings.

For example, the Mauryas, the Guptas and the Marathas had made people capable of fighting against external aggression. They had built a defence system for the protection and expansion of the state and had adopted defence measures, for the protection of their territory.

Concepts

To understand the concept of national security, we must know certain related concepts, because they are closely related to the national security issues. Accordingly, let us try to understand what we mean by concepts like nation, nation-state, nationalism, national interest, national power and national security.

○ **Nation:** Nation refers to a group of people living on a common territory belonging to a common race, religion or language. They have a spirit of unity and therefore they become a nation.

○ **Nation-state:** When does a nation become nation-state? The three elements of territory, population and sovereignty make nation a nation-state. There can be a lot of diversity in a nation-state. For example, India has racial, religious, linguistic, regional and economic diversity.

○ **Nationalism :** The very concept of nation itself defines nationalism. The emotions and feelings of the people about their country expressed in different forms can be described as nationalism.

For example, when we talk of Indian nationalism we talk of a united India. All of us are known as Indians in spite of our differences in terms of religion, language and culture.

○ **National Interest :** National Interest is understood within the context of the core values of a nation. The core values are defined in terms of geography, size and other political, social, cultural and economic elements. In India these core values can be seen in the preamble to the Indian constitution. Democracy, socialism, secularism, and republicanism, federal system and equality are the core values of India. These core values help us to understand the history, culture, society, economic system and form of state.

○ **National Power :** National Power is a means to protect the core values and national interests. The capability of a nation to defend itself is known as national power. From ancient times, it has always been at the centre of all political systems. Every nation makes an effort to acquire and sustain it. A powerful nation is in a better position to protect its interests. Every country makes an attempt to seek co-operation from others just to protect its national interests. National power can be defined as the ability of a nation to influence other nations with a view to protect its own national interests.

Every nation tries to increase its national power in various ways, for self protection as well as the protection of its national interests. National power is dependent upon the material and non material elements that contribute to power. Material elements include natural resources like coal, iron and steel, minerals and water. They help a nation to build industrial power. India's achievements in the areas of space research and nuclear science have also contributed to our national power. The non material resources include the psychology and morale of the people and their sense of commitment towards the nation.

○ **National Security :** Measures undertaken for self protection are known as security. Every nation faces internal as well as external challenges to its security. National security implies dealing with external as well as internal threats. External aggression does not happen everyday, however, military preparedness in peacetime becomes a part of national security. Therefore, the defence system created during peacetime for national defence is known as national security.

National security implies the protection of core values through the use of national power. At the same time, other preventive measures are also adopted for social, cultural, economic and political security.

Activities

1. Read about the invasion on India by Alexander the Great. Which kings of India helped him? Read about the battle of Jhelumm between Alexander and Porus. Write in your own words about the valour and self-respect shown by Porus.

2. What kind of conversation might have taken place between Alexander and Porus? Write the conversation with the help of your teacher and enact it.

3. Observe carefully the map of India under Emperor Ashoka. On the outline of ancient India, show the borders /locations and places of his expansion. (Use std 6 History- Political Science text book as reference)

4. Discuss the following

- (A) Significance of national integrity to face external aggression
- (B) Provisions in the Constitution of India relating to national integrity. Discuss one of the provisions and write about it here.

5. Write a note on the natural resources in India as an element of national power.

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6. Discuss India’s development in the fields of science and technology. Write the points you discussed.

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7. Organise a group discussion on India's achievements in the areas of nuclear science and space research. Write here the important matters discussed in the group.

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