

KAUTILYA'S SAPTANGA THEORY IN INDIA'S INTERNAL SECURITY

*Leena Michael**

Abstract

The paper tries to give a thorough understanding of the concept of Kautilya's Saptanga theory in India's internal security in the era of 2014 to 2022, and the paper also tries to find how the era of 2014 to 2022, threats affecting the internal security of India, this paper also find how NDA government take major steps to deal with major threats thorough Kautilya's Saptanga theory.

Keywords: Arthashastra, Government, Allies.

Introduction

Kautilya's Arthashastra is an ancient Indian treatise on statecraft, economics, and military strategy, believed to have been written by the Indian scholar and statesman Chanakya (also known as Kautilya) in the 4th century BCE. The Arthashastra guides the governance of a state, including topics such as foreign policy, law and justice, taxation, diplomacy, and military strategy. It also discusses the importance of trade and commerce, agriculture, and the role of the king in maintaining social order and stability. The Arthashastra is one of the most influential works of classical Indian literature and has been studied and analysed for centuries.

Internal security refers to the measures, policies, and actions taken by a government or organization to ensure the protection, stability, and integrity of its territory, institutions, and population from threats originating within the country. It encompasses various aspects of safeguarding internal stability, maintaining law and order, countering threats to national security, and protecting the rights and well-being of citizens.

* Research Intern, The Sikkim Today

Internal Security involves both proactive and reactive measures aimed at preventing, mitigating, and responding to various forms of internal threats, such as terrorism, insurgency, organized crime, civil unrest, cybercrime, espionage, and other activities that may undermine the stability and security of the state. It often requires coordination and cooperation between different government agencies, including law enforcement, intelligence agencies, the military, and other relevant bodies.

Kautilya's Saptanga theory

Kautilya defines in his literature the seven theories of the state which is called the Saptanga theory which refers to the seven-state factor. The Saptanga theory means that state power is an aggregate of the material variables that can be adequately evaluated. It, therefore, represents a holistic and comprehensive concept of national power.

1. The first is Swami which means an ideal king has the highest qualities of leadership, intellect, energy, and personal attributes.
2. The second is Amatya which defines the councillor or minister as the highest rank and should be a native of the state, born in a high family, and controllable by the king.
3. The third is Janapada which defines territorial society, Jana denotes people and Pada is a symbol of territory where these inhabitants permanently reside.
4. The fourth is Durga which defines fortification it is as essential for the defence and protection of the state.
5. The fifth is Kosha which defines the Treasury. A flourishing economy is always essential to the state and circumstances.
6. The sixth is Danda which defines the army or the Force. Kautilya accepted a strong and hereditary Kshatriya army as the most important requisite of the state.
7. The last and seventh is Mitra which defines the Allies (friend). Kautilya realized that political isolation means death. Kautilya proceeded to consider the Mitra or the ally as a vital factor.

India's internal security from 2014 to 2022

In the era of 2014 to 2022, In this era we see how the government takes major steps to protect India's internal security, for example:

- i. **Strengthening Counterterrorism Measures:** The government focused on countering terrorism and insurgency through proactive policies and operations. Security forces conducted targeted counterterrorism operations across various states, particularly in Jammu, Kashmir, and the North-eastern region. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) was empowered to investigate and prosecute terrorism-related cases effectively. The government also prioritized international cooperation on counterterrorism, signing agreements with various countries to enhance intelligence sharing and joint operations.
- ii. **Modernization of Security Forces:** The government-initiated efforts to modernize and equip the armed forces, paramilitary forces, and police with advanced weaponry, surveillance systems, and communication technology. Various defence procurement deals were signed to strengthen India's defence capabilities, including the acquisition of Rafale fighter jets and advanced surveillance equipment. The government also emphasized capacity building and training programs for security personnel to enhance their skills and operational readiness.
- iii. **Border Security Measures:** The government adopted a proactive approach to strengthen border security, particularly along the India-Pakistan and India-China borders. Measures such as increased border infrastructure development, deployment of additional forces, and advanced surveillance systems were implemented to ensure effective border management.
- iv. **Cybersecurity and Digital Initiatives:** Recognizing the growing importance of cybersecurity, the government launched the National Cyber Security Policy in 2013 to safeguard critical information infrastructure and combat cyber threats. Initiatives like Digital India

and the promotion of cashless transactions were undertaken to digitize governance and improve cybersecurity measures.

- v. **Internal Security Reforms:** The government focused on police reforms, including capacity building, modernization, and training programs.⁹ Initiatives like the SMART policing system, which aimed at integrating technology and analytics for effective law enforcement, were implemented in various states.

Kautilya's Saptanga's theory which reflects the era from 2014 to 2022 in India's internal security

The first is Swami (king) which refers to the ruler or the head of the state, responsible for making decisions, in this context as the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi has played a significant role in shaping and directing India's internal security policies for example:

- i. **Strong Leadership and Policy Direction:** Prime Minister Modi has provided strong leadership and policy direction in addressing internal security challenges. He has emphasized a zero-tolerance approach towards terrorism and insurgency, and his government has pursued a proactive and robust stance in dealing with internal security threats.
- ii. **Strengthening Security Apparatus:** PM Modi has focused on strengthening India's security apparatus by enhancing the capabilities and modernization of security forces, including the police, paramilitary forces, and intelligence agencies. His government has initiated various reforms, including technology upgradation, capacity building, and infrastructure development, to bolster internal security measures.
- iii. **Counter-Terrorism Initiatives:** PM Modi has prioritized counter-terrorism efforts and has advocated for stronger international cooperation in tackling terrorism. His government has taken several measures to improve intelligence sharing, strengthen counter-terrorism laws, and enhance coordination among security agencies to combat terrorism effectively.

- iv. **Digital Initiatives for Security:** PM Modi has championed the use of digital technology for strengthening internal security. His government has launched various initiatives such as the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS), which aim to digitize crime records, improve police communication, and enhance the efficiency of law enforcement agencies.

The second is **Amatya (Ministers)** which refers to advisors and ministers who assist the ruler in making informed decisions regarding policies, in this context we see the NDA government would not score well as it is well known that the governance style is centralized and could certainly do better with a consultative and collegiate approach. For example;

- i. **The National Security Advisor (NSA)** in India plays a crucial role in shaping and coordinating the country's internal security policies and strategies. The NSA is a high-level position within the Government of India and serves as the principal advisor to the Prime Minister on matters related to national security. While the specific responsibilities and influence of the NSA can vary depending on the individual holding the position, their role generally encompasses the following aspects:
- ii. **Policy Formulation:** The NSA assists in formulating and implementing national security policies and strategies. They provide strategic inputs to the government on various security challenges and help in devising measures to address them effectively.
- iii. **Intelligence Coordination:** The NSA acts as a key coordinator between various intelligence and security agencies in the country. They facilitate sharing intelligence, analysis, and assessments among different agencies to enhance overall situational awareness and response capabilities.
- iv. **Crisis Management:** During times of crisis, such as terrorist attacks, communal violence, or natural disasters, the NSA plays a vital role in coordinating the government's response. They work closely with

relevant agencies to ensure a swift and effective crisis management strategy.

- v. **Counterterrorism Efforts:** The NSA plays a crucial role in India's counterterrorism efforts. They oversee and coordinate counterterrorism operations, intelligence gathering, and analysis to combat terrorist threats both domestically and internationally.
- vi. **Border Security:** The NSA is involved in matters related to border security and management. They collaborate with the Ministry of Home Affairs and defence agencies to strengthen border infrastructure, address infiltration and smuggling issues, and manage conflicts along India's borders.
- vii. **International Engagement:** The NSA represents India at various international forums and plays a significant role in bilateral and multilateral engagements on matters of national security. They contribute to shaping India's foreign policy objectives regarding security concerns.

It is important to note that the NSA's role is advisory, and the actual implementation of policies and operations rests with the relevant ministries, agencies, and law enforcement bodies. The specific influence and impact of the NSA may vary based on the dynamics within the government and the priorities set by the Prime Minister.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in India plays an important role in India's internal security by engaging in diplomatic efforts, fostering international cooperation, and addressing external factors that impact internal security. While the primary mandate of the MEA is external affairs, it also contributes to India's internal security in various ways. Here are some key aspects of the MEA's role:

- i. **Diplomatic Engagement and International Cooperation:** The MEA engages with foreign governments, international organizations, and regional bodies to promote cooperation on security-related issues. It works towards strengthening bilateral and multilateral

relationships, fostering dialogue, and addressing shared challenges such as terrorism, cyber threats, and cross- border crime.

- ii. **Counterterrorism and Intelligence Sharing:** The MEA collaborates with foreign partners to enhance counterterrorism efforts and intelligence sharing. Bilateral and regional mechanisms, such as Joint Working Groups on Counterterrorism, facilitate the exchange of information, best practices, and capacity-building initiatives to combat terrorism and address its financing and support networks.
- iii. **International Legal Frameworks and Agreements:** The MEA plays a role in negotiating and ratifying international agreements, conventions, and protocols related to security and terrorism. It actively participates in shaping global legal frameworks to combat terrorism, promote extradition and mutual legal assistance, and strengthen international cooperation in criminal matters.

The third is Janapada (territory) refers to the territory or land under the ruler's control. In this context, the NDA government takes various steps to protect India's territory for example:

- i. **Strengthening Border Security:** The NDA government, has focused on enhancing border security along India's land and maritime boundaries. This includes deploying additional troops, improving surveillance capabilities, and increasing the construction of border infrastructure such as roads, airstrips, and border outposts.
- ii. **Modernizing the Armed Forces:** the NDA government, has emphasized the modernization of India's armed forces to enhance their capabilities and deter potential threats. Efforts have been made to upgrade the military's equipment, including the procurement of advanced weapons, fighter aircraft, submarines, and surveillance systems.
- iii. **Defence Cooperation and Agreements:** India has engaged in defence cooperation agreements and strategic partnerships with various countries to enhance its territorial defence capabilities. These

agreements involve intelligence sharing, joint military exercises, and technology transfer, among other areas of collaboration.

- iv. **Strengthening Internal Security:** The NDA government, has focused on improving internal security measures to safeguard India's territory. This includes initiatives to counter terrorism, insurgency, and cross-border infiltration and address issues related to cyber threats and radicalization.
- v. **Diplomatic Engagement:** The NDA government, has engaged in diplomatic efforts to address border disputes and maintain peaceful relations with neighboring countries. Initiatives like the Act East Policy and Neighbourhood First Policy aim to promote regional stability, economic cooperation, and dialogue to resolve territorial issues peacefully.

The fourth is Durga (Fortress) This signifies the importance of having a strong defence and security apparatus to protect the state. In this context, the NDA government, take several major initiatives were undertaken to strengthen India's border security. For examples;

- i. **Integrated Border Management System (IBMS):** The IBMS was launched in 2018 to enhance border security and management. It aims to integrate various security systems, including surveillance, communication, and intelligence gathering, along India's borders. The system employs advanced technologies such as high-resolution cameras, thermal imagers, and radars to improve situational awareness and enable quick responses to any security threats.
- ii. **Smart Fence and Comprehensive Border Management:** Under the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS), India has been deploying smart fences in vulnerable border areas. These fences are equipped with advanced surveillance technologies, including sensors, cameras, and alarms, to detect and deter infiltrations and border violations. The CIBMS also includes the deployment of additional manpower and resources for effective border management.

- iii. **Border Infrastructure Development:** Significant focus has been given to the development of border infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and border outposts. These infrastructure projects aim to improve connectivity, mobility, and accessibility along India's borders, facilitating better border management and surveillance.

The fifth is Kosha (Treasury) refers to the economic resources and financial stability of the state. In this context, major steps were taken by the NDA government, to protect India's economic security. For examples;

- i. **Make in India:** The Make in India initiative, launched in September 2014, aimed to transform India into a global manufacturing hub by promoting domestic production and attracting foreign investment. The program aimed to boost job creation, encourage innovation, and enhance the country's economic security.
- ii. **Goods and Services Tax (GST) Implementation:** The implementation of the Goods and Services Tax in 2017 aimed to streamline India's indirect tax structure and create a unified market. The GST replaced multiple state and central taxes, reducing complexities, and enhancing efficiency in the tax regime.
- iii. **Infrastructure Development:** The NDA government has prioritized infrastructure development through initiatives such as the Bharat-Mala Project (road development), the Sagar Mala Project (port-led development), and the development of industrial corridors. These initiatives aim to improve connectivity, boost trade, and attract investments.
- iv. **Digital India:** The Digital India campaign focuses on digital empowerment, expansion of digital infrastructure, and promotion of digital services across the country. It aims to enhance access to technology, improve governance, and promote digital payments and financial inclusion.
- v. **International Economic Engagements:** The NDA government, has actively pursued economic diplomacy and engaged with global partners to strengthen India's economic security. Initiatives such as

the Act East Policy, Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self- Reliant India), and participation in forums like BRICS and G20 have aimed to enhance trade, investment, and economic cooperation.

The sixth is Danda which refers to the Army or the Force. Kautilya accepted a strong and hereditary Kshatriya army as the most important requisite of the state. In this context, the Indian Army plays a crucial role in maintaining internal security within India. Its primary responsibility is to safeguard the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and unity of the country. The army is deployed to assist civil authorities in dealing with various internal security challenges, including insurgency, terrorism, communal violence, and natural disasters. For examples;

- i. **Counter-Insurgency Operations:** The Indian Army actively participates in counter-insurgency operations in regions affected by insurgent activities. It provides support to state police forces and central paramilitary forces to combat insurgency effectively. The army conducts intelligence-based operations, patrols, search, and cordon operations, and assists in restoring law and order. It also conducts training programs for local security forces to enhance their capabilities in dealing with insurgencies.
- ii. **Border Security:** The Indian Army is responsible for ensuring the security of India's borders, both along the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan and the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China. It deploys troops, conducts regular patrols, and establishes border posts to prevent infiltration and maintain territorial integrity. The army plays a significant role in countering cross-border terrorism and addressing ceasefire violations.
- iii. **Disaster Management:** The Indian Army plays a crucial role in disaster management during natural calamities such as earthquakes, floods, cyclones, and avalanches. It aids in rescue operations, relief distribution, and medical aid. The army's specialized units, including the Army Medical Corps and the Engineering Units, are at the forefront of providing humanitarian support during such emergencies.

- iv. **Internal Security Assistance:** The Indian Army assists civil authorities in maintaining law and order during situations of communal violence, riots, and other internal security challenges. The army is called upon by the state governments to provide aid in restoring peace, enforcing curfews, and conducting flag marches to create a secure environment.

The seventh is Mitra (Allies) which signifies the importance of alliances and partnerships with other nations. In this context During the period from 2014 to 2022, the NDA government engaged in multiple alliances and partnerships that contributed to enhancing its internal security. These alliances provided strategic cooperation, intelligence sharing, and capacity- building support. For examples;

- i. **United States-India Strategic Partnership:** The United States-India strategic partnership witnessed significant progress during this period. Cooperation in the field of counterterrorism, intelligence sharing, and defence collaboration played a crucial role in strengthening India's internal security. The two countries conducted joint exercises, signed defence agreements, and collaborated on cybersecurity initiatives.
- ii. **India-Israel Partnership:** India's partnership with Israel expanded in various domains, including defence and homeland security. Cooperation in areas such as counterterrorism, intelligence sharing, and cybersecurity contributed to India's internal security capabilities. Joint military exercises and technology transfers further enhanced collaboration between the two countries.
- iii. **Regional Partnerships:** India's engagement with regional partners also contributed to its internal security. Collaborative efforts with countries such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Myanmar focused on countering transnational threats, border management, and intelligence sharing. These partnerships aimed to address common security challenges and enhance regional stability.

Conclusion

India's internal security threats are from various aspects like terrorism, insurgency, organized crime, civil unrest, and cybercrime. The ancient philosopher Kautilya's Saptanga theory called the seven-state factor, provides a way head how to protect state internal security, in contemporary India, we see how the NDA government, takes various steps to protect India's internal security, those influenced by Kautilya's Saptanga theory. The concept of allies is fully applicable in contemporary India because, the NDA government, 's active participation in international forums like the United Nations and the G20 reflects its aspiration to play a larger global role and influence decision-making processes. India's current government has prioritized economic engagement with countries around the world, fostering trade, investment, and technology partnerships. The "Make in India" initiative has attracted foreign investment and encouraged the growth of domestic industries, aligning with Kautilya's emphasis on economic strength as a foundation for state factors.

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