In the last chapter, we studied India's foreign policy. We have now understood that the primary national interest of a country includes defence from foreign aggression and internal unrest and keeping the borders safe. For this, every nation creates a defence system at the national level. India has also created such a system. In this chapter, we are going to understand its nature and study the challenges it faces.

What is National Security?

The international system is made up of sovereign nations. Even if they cooperate with each other, sometimes there are conflicts between these sovereign nations. There are disputes between nations over boundaries or sometimes conflicts emerge between them over water sharing. Some other reasons for conflict could be: not following the terms of international treaties, constantly competing against each other and influx of refugees from neighbouring countries. Whenever such a conflict of interests arises between nations, it is sought to be resolved by compromises and discussions. But when such efforts are not enough to resolve the conflict, a nation may even think of war. When a nation attacks another and challenges the sovereignty of the latter, it endangers the security of the nation. Such challenges are created due to the military power of aggressive nations. In any situation, a nation's first duty and responsibility is to be keep the security systems always well-prepared and ready. This is called as National Security.

Can you tell?

Can you tell some examples of complementary and contradictory national interests in the context of India and our neighbouring nations

Ways to safeguard National Security

- National Security is closely connected with geography, because national security is more likely to be endangered by nations who are geographically closer. A nation must assess the threat to its geographical boundaries and the source of that threat.

- In order to keep this threat at bay, the nation has to increase its military might. The nation has to use modern technology to predict the threat, to build weapon systems and modernise and update the defence forces.

- Resolving conflict by taking recourse to war in order to safeguard national security brings internal peace into danger. Hence, some nations try to get the support of other nations to manage the threat to their national security.

Think and suggest.

All countries are not at par with respect to military might. In such a situation, what needs to be done to implement a policy of arms control?

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

Every nation should try to resolve international conflicts peacefully and by means of negotiations. For that, the dialogue and exchange between nations should increase. The more the interdependence between nations, more will peace and security be strengthened. Because of this, different platforms and mediums will be available for discussions and negotiations for the purpose of increasing international cooperation. Nations will try to avoid wars out of fear of economic losses.

1. What message do you get from the above passage?

2. How will the dialogue between nations increase?

3. What is the relationship between economic losses and war?

India's Security System : India's security system includes the Army, the Navy and the Air Force, the three forces that defend the country. The responsibility of protecting the geographical boundaries is on the Army, whereas the Navy protects the coastline. The Air Force is in charge of protecting India's air space. The Ministry of Defence controls all the three forces. The Indian Army is very big. It is the world's seventh largest. Its Chief is known as the General. The Chief of Navy is known as the Admiral, while the Chief of the Air Force is known as Air Chief Marshall. In order to maintain the coordination between the three defence forces, post of 'Chief of Defence Staff' is created in 2019. These chiefs are appointed by the President.

The Army

The Navy

The Air Force

The President of India is the supreme commander of the defence forces. The defence forces cannot take any decisions about war or peace without the consent of the President, because the latter represents the civil power. In a democracy civil leadership is considered superior to military leadership.

Many measures are taken so that all three defence forces in India's security system are adequately modernised. For this, some research institutions have been

set up. Many training institutes have also been set up in our country to train the personnel of all ranks of our defence forces, so that they can perform their task competently. For example, the National Defence Academy (NDA) at Pune and the National Defence College (NDC) at Delhi, etc.

Paramilitary Forces : There are Paramilitary Forces to help the defence forces in India. They are neither completely military forces nor completely civil forces. Hence, they are called paramilitary forces. Their main task is to help the defence forces. The Border Security Force, Coast Guard, Central Reserve Police Force, Rapid Action Force are some of the paramilitary forces.

The paramilitary forces are responsible for the security of important locations like railway stations, oil depots, water reserves, etc.

Similarly, they play a role in management of disasters, whether natural or man-made. The responsibility of protecting the country's international borders during peace time also rests with the paramilitary forces.

The Border Security Force performs tasks like creating a sense of security in the minds of people living in areas near the border, preventing smuggling, patrolling the border, etc.

The Coast Guard has been created to protect India's oceanic borders. The Coast Guard carries out tasks like protecting the fishing occupation within Indian maritime borders, preventing smuggling along sea routes, etc.

The Central Reserve Police Force helps the administration in various States to maintain law and order.

The Rapid Action Force performs the task of bringing people's lives to normalcy by moving in quickly in incidents of threat to National Security such as bomb blasts or riots.

The National Cadet Corps (NCC) has been established with the purpose of instilling among students the love of discipline and military training. Boy and girl students from schools and colleges can join the NCC.

Home Guards : This organisation was established in the pre-independence period. Citizens can join the Home Guard and assist in the defence of the country. Any citizen, man or woman, between the ages of 20 to 35 years can join the Home Guards.

This force has the following tasks : Maintain public security, supply of milk, water and other essential services during riots or strikes, to regulate traffic, to help people at the time of natural disasters like floods, earthquakes, etc.

Challenges to India's security

- Right from the time of independence, Pakistan and China have tried to threaten India's National Security. There are several disputes between India and Pakistan. For example, the Kashmir issue, disputes over river water sharing, the problem of infiltrations, dispute over the border, etc. India has continually tried to solve these issues through discussion and negotiations. (You will study Indo-Pakistan relations in chapter 6.)

- India and China are important countries in Asia. In 1962, we have had to go to a war with China. As China is trying to establish its own

hegemony over countries that are India's neighbours, there are tensions in Sino-Indian relations. There is also a dispute between India and China over their borders.

- India's security is not only threatened by outside powers, but also from within. It is not just the difference between external security and internal security that is important anymore. Religion, regionalism, several rebellious movements based on ideology, race-ethnicity and economic inequality are creating instability. For example, the Naxalite movement is a threat to India's internal security.

- Terrorism is the biggest challenge to India's internal security. It is a global problem and India is making efforts to end terrorism.

Human Security

In the post-Cold war period, the concept of national security changed and became broader. National Security is not just the security of the country but also of the people living in it, because security is ultimately for the people. Hence, human security refers to human-centric thinking. In human security, it is expected that human beings should be protected from all sorts of dangers and they should be given the opportunities of education, health and development.

The concept of human security also includes the idea that a conducive environment should be created for everybody to live a respectable life by overcoming illiteracy, poverty, superstition, backwardness, etc. human security necessitates the protection of the rights of minorities and weaker sections.

Challenges to Human Security

(1) The biggest challenge to human security is that of terrorism. Terrorism targets common, innocent people. It aims at creating terror or fear in their minds, so that they begin to feel insecure. Thus, in order to protect human security, it is necessary to put an end to terrorism.

Discuss.
- Do you think that only a democratic form of government can maintain human security?
  Which points will you present in a discussion?
- What efforts could be made at the level of the family for ensuring human security?

(2) Pollution and other changes in the environment have threatened human life. Diseases like AIDS, chikungunia, swine flu, ebola, corona have presented a big challenge. Protecting human beings from such diseases is also considered as a factor of human security.

What do you think?
Increasing violence in society is endangering human security. What kind of peace processes should be created so as to prevent violence from growing?

In this chapter, we have studied India's defence system. We have also tried to understand the change in the concept of security from national security to human security.

In the next chapter, we shall study the United Nations, an international organisation. We shall understand what efforts it makes to ensure human security.

1. Choose the correct option from the given options and complete the statements.

(1) The .... of India is the Commander-in-Chief of all the Defence Forces.
   (a) Prime Minister
   (b) President
   (c) Defence Minister
   (d) Governor

(2) The .... has the responsibility of protecting the coastline.
   (a) Army
   (b) Coast Guard
   (c) Border Security Force
   (d) Rapid Action Force

(3) The .... has been established with the purpose of instilling among students the love of discipline and military training.
   (a) Border Securty Force (BSF)
   (b) Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
   (c) National Cadet Core (NCC)
   (d) Rapid Action Force (RAF)

2. State whether the following statements are true or false. Give reasons for your answer.

(1) It is necessary to end terrorism to ensure human security.
(2) Every nation creates a strong security system for itself.
(3) There are no issues of dispute between India and Pakistan.

3. Explain the following concepts.

(1) The functions of the Rapid Action Force
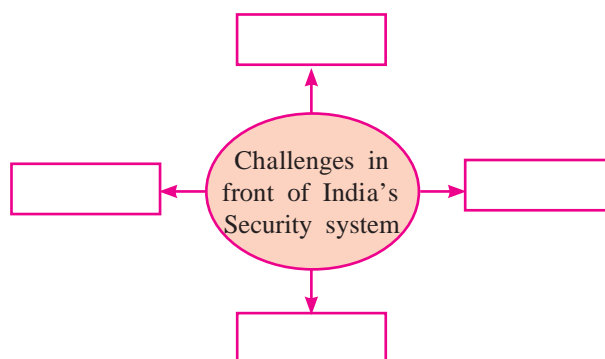(2) Human Security
(3) Home Guard

4. Answer the following questions in brief.

(1) What are the threats to national security?
(2) Write the functions of the Border Security Force.

5. Complete the activity as per the given instructions.

(1) Complete the table about security forces.

Name of the Security Force	Functions	Chief	Name of the Present Chief
Army	....	....	....
....	....	Admiral	....
....	Protection of India's air space		

Project

Arrange a Seminar in your school on 'the Challenges in front of India's Security'.