

Review of National Security in India: Contemporary Challenges and Legal Insights

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Abstract

National security in India has evolved into a multidimensional concept encompassing territorial integrity, internal stability, cybersecurity, economic resilience, public order, and the protection of constitutional institutions. This study reviews the contemporary challenges confronting India's national security framework and examines the legal mechanisms developed to address them. Particular attention is given to threats arising from terrorism, cross-border conflicts, cybercrime, misinformation, organized crime, emerging technologies, and challenges to critical infrastructure. The study analyses the relationship between national security measures and constitutional principles, particularly fundamental rights, due process, privacy, freedom of expression, and the rule of law. It further examines the role of major legal and institutional frameworks governing national security and their implementation within India's constitutional structure. The review highlights the continuing need to balance legitimate security objectives with democratic accountability and individual liberties. It also considers how technological developments, including artificial intelligence and digital communication networks, are creating new legal and regulatory questions for national security institutions. The study concludes that an effective national security framework requires not only strong preventive and enforcement mechanisms but also clear legal safeguards, judicial oversight, institutional coordination, and respect for constitutional values. A balanced and adaptive legal approach can strengthen India's capacity to respond to emerging security threats while preserving the democratic principles that underpin the Indian constitutional system.

Keywords: National security, India, constitutional law, internal security, terrorism, cybersecurity, fundamental rights, privacy, rule of law, legal framework, emerging technologies, national security challenges.