RGNUL Student Research Review invites submissions for the RSRR Blog Series on

“CHALLENGING THE REGIME OF NATIONAL SECURITY LAWS”

Introduction

“National security is the first duty of government but we are also committed to reversing the substantial erosion of civil liberties.”

- Former UK Prime Minister Theresa May

In recent years, the question of national security has been put to debate in many countries like United States, Turkey and India. Increasing terrorist activities has led to the widening of the scope of national security legislations. This is a direct result of countries becoming more aware and wary of, both, traditional and non-traditional threats.

With recent amendments in the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967 and the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 (“NIA”), the issue of national security has been put to dock. Amendment to the former empowers the Central Government to designate any individual as a terrorist without any further riders to the same. The amendment to the latter provided the NIA with extra-territorial jurisdiction in certain cases. Such amendments, though seen as necessary, have received flak from certain libertarian strands of the society.

As the society becomes more informed and aware of their rights, national security legislations have time and again being questioned and debated upon. However, there are instances when information from the people is withheld on the grounds of national security. It remains for the future to tell if the Tshwane Principles (The Global Principles on National Security and the Right to Information) in relation to National Security in India will gain effective application not only in theory but in practicality too.

India’s security legislations and amendments have always been subject to heated debates. There have been umpteen changes in the meaning of ‘national security’ and the related legislations through the years. While the legislations like Terrorists and Disruptive Activities Act, 1985 (“TADA”), Prevention of Terrorist Activities Act, 2002 (“POTA”) have been repealed, UAPA, NIA Act, AFSPA and Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act, 1978 are still in effect.
The recent turn of events like the repeal of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir invoke a heightened check on the proper application of the national security laws. The policies of nations and the military agreements signed by India, like the recent Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ASCA) with Japan, indicate the paramountcy of the national security concerns. Such circumstances invoke debate on the issues if national security should gain priority over civil liberties of individuals.

In light of such events, where imminent security concerns arise, it is important that such laws do not overshadow basic human rights of people in pursuit of protection of the State and a balance is struck. This blog series aims to foster discussion on the validity of the national security policies of India, the legislations and their underlying principles from an analytical perspective and to provide constructive solutions for better legislations in a safer world.

**Sub-Themes**

1. Constitutionality of National Security Legislations like UAPA, NIA, PSA (applicable to Jammu and Kashmir) along with their Merits over TADA and POTA

2. Use and Misuse of AFSPA: A failed application of 60 years?

3. Comparative Analysis of Best Practices Worldwide vis-a-vis Indian laws on National Security

4. Growth of National Security Concerns and Violation of Human Rights: Balancing the Interests

5. The Hooda Document: Expanding the contours of ‘National Security’


7. Effectiveness of Cyber Laws in restricting Cyber Crimes vis-à-vis National Security Concerns

8. Fake News, Disinformation and threats to National Security and Possible Solutions

9. Indian Abidance to standard of National Security in International Conventions and Treaties

10. No First Use Policy: A Viable Perspective?

12. Analysis of Military Support Agreements by India in view of strengthening National Security (Eg: Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement, Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement, etc.)

13. Chief of Defence Staff and its effect on National Security Mechanisms in India: Comparative analysis with US, UK and France

14. RTI and National Security Concerns in light of Tshwane Principles

15. A Need to Overhaul the National Security Council

The submissions are, however, not restricted to the aforesaid sub-themes, provided they fall within the ambit of the main theme.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

Submission Guidelines and Procedure

1. All submissions must be in Garamond, font size 12, spacing 1.5.

2. All endnotes should be in Garamond 10, single-spaced.

3. Margins: Left 1.5 Inch, Right 1 Inch, Top 1 Inch, and Bottom 1 Inch.

4. Word Limit for each post is a maximum of 1500-2100 words (exclusive of endnotes).

5. Authors are required to provide an abstract of around 100-150 words along with keywords that represent the essence of the submission. The abstract is to be submitted along with the article, itself.

6. Please ensure the inclusion of endnotes instead of footnotes.

7. A uniform style of citation is necessary for acceptance.

8. The manuscript should be accompanied by a cover letter specifying the author's name, designation, institute, contact number, and email for future reference. [Authors are requested to not put their name anywhere in the main manuscript].

9. All entries should be submitted in .doc or .docx format.
10. The manuscripts must be e-mailed to submissionsrsrlrgnul.ac.in.

11. The subject of the e-mail should be titled “Submission for RSRR Blog Series: National Securities Law”.

12. Entries that will be selected after the review stages shall be published on the RSRR Blog Series.

13. E-certificate will be awarded to the authors of each published blog.


15. The author(s) bear sole responsibility for the accuracy of facts, opinions or views stated in the submitted Manuscript.

16. In the case of gross plagiarism found in the contents of the submitted manuscript, the manuscript shall be subject to rejection.

17. Copyright of all blog posts shall remain with RGNUL Student Research Review.

18. All Moral Rights shall vest with the author(s).

**Deadline**

The last date of submission is **23 December 2019**.

**Contact**

In the case of any query, contact at submissionsrsrlrgnul.ac.in.

Furthermore, the following people can be contacted:

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