

Interaction

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India - No false flag operation

Over 13 kg Uranium seized in India

Construction of Pakistan's largest nuclear power plant

Kashmir: 5th August 2019 - The darkest day

Green Pakistan initiative and the role of PAEC



Nasr Missile :
Deterrent against
India's Cold Start Doctrine



Interaction

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PAKISTAN AFTER 76 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Pakistan's journey to independence began with the dream of Muslims in the subcontinent who had ruled the region for approximately 850 years. However, in the 16th Century, the East India Company (EIC) of Britain entered India through Kolkata and eventually took control of the country under British rule in 1858, exploiting the unstable situation in India. Over the course of almost 200 years of British rule, Muslim systems were dismantled, and the Persian language was replaced with English.

Initially, there arose a strong resistance against learning English among Muslims, but Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's establishment of an English school in Aligarh, which later became a university, gradually changed this perspective. On the other hand, the Hindu community, which had resisted the influence of Buddhism and Islam by isolating itself, aligned with English rule, viewing Muslims as enemies.

The Muslim leaders officially accepted British Raj in 1906 after 48 years of resistance. They met with the then Viceroy Lord Minto in Shimla under the leadership of Sir Agha Khan and secured certain conditions, such as maintaining administrative participation in Bengal and having a separate electoral system for Muslims in local bodies, as well as representation in the British judiciary and power structure of India.

Pakistan's journey towards independence reached a crucial turning point when a resolution for Pakistan's independence was passed on 23rd March 1940 in Lahore, where Minar-e-Pakistan now stands. Pakistan finally gained independence on 14th August 1947, but it faced significant challenges with limited resources, and there was mass migration from India, resulting in the loss of many lives and widespread suffering. In the 1960s, during the formulation of Pakistan's first five-year plan, the country

experienced rapid economic growth and was on the path to becoming an industrialized nation.

Pakistan also made significant advancements in defense and space research, launching about 200 rockets into space, making it the only Asian country to do so at that time. However, despite its potential for progress, foreign interferences and the policies of so-called friendly nations hindered Pakistan's development.

According to the book "No Exit From Pakistan: America's Tortured Relationship with Islamabad" by Daniel Markey, the relationship between the United States and Pakistan has been fraught with frustrations and disagreements, likened to the characters in Jean-Paul Sartre's play "No Exit" tormenting each other in hell. Both sides have felt wronged and struggled to establish strong and sustainable cooperation.

Pakistan believes that the United States seeks to become the sole superpower of the world, achieved with Pakistan's assistance in defeating the Soviet Union in Afghanistan in 1989. However, the US subsequently abandoned Pakistan, leading to the proliferation of drug and Kalashnikov cultures and violence. The US involvement in Afghanistan in 1999 also created more problems for Pakistan. Interference in Pakistan and other countries appears to be a recurring aspect of US state policy.

Despite being blessed with abundant natural resources, Pakistan faces deep economic crises and serious questions about its administrative, political, judicial, and social structures and systems. Corruption has become rampant, and the elites, who played little to no role in the creation of Pakistan, now control the apparatus of power, benefiting themselves at the expense of pushing people under the line of poverty.

In brief, the primary objectives envisioned prior to the establishment of Pakistan aimed at ensuring justice for all and promoting a revival of Muslims in the region. Despite encountering challenging situations both domestically and internationally, the Pakistani nation has remained unwavering and resolute in pursuit of these goals.



THE FUTURE UNLEASHED: PAKISTAN LAUNCHES WORLD'S FIRST AI TV TALK SHOW

Pakistan emerged as the world's leader in AI Technology by launching the world's first AI Talk Show with the name "AI TALK". The show is hosted by AI Anchor Dr. Kaiser and the show becomes very interesting when two foreign AIs and one Pakistani AI joins the show as a guest and analysts. Dr. Kaiser Rafiq who's the CEO of Discover Pakistan HD Tv is a visionary leader with eyes on innovations and new technologies.

It was his idea to develop his human-like AI with more than 700 facial and body movements with the cloning of his voice. The show was so real that most of the viewers thought there was no AI in the show but the show reached a climax when the real Dr. Kaiser the CEO of Discover Pakistan entered the show and talked to his own AI. A representative of Discover Pakistan stated that this will be a regular show now on Discover Pakistan and it will be a game changer for the media industry. He further stated that we are not going to replace human anchors with AI anchors but through this show, we want to prove to the world that AI's are real and already here. We can use AI's to increase our productivity and AI's can be used to provide education and training at the friction of costs. "We would also like to use Artificial intelligence to promote tourism in Pakistan" said Dr. Kaiser Rafiq, CEO of Discover Pakistan HD TV.

IMF RAISES 2023 ECONOMIC OUTLOOK BUT WARNS OF SLOWING GLOBAL GROWTH

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) slightly upgraded its outlook for world growth this year, forecasting 3% growth in 2023 and 2024. This comes after resilient service sector activity in the first quarter and a strong labor market. However, growth is expected



to slow, with weak growth among advanced economies contributing to this trend. Global inflation is now projected to increase by 6.8% this year, mainly due to subdued inflation in China. The IMF has raised the growth outlook for the US to 1.8% this year, but it is expected to slip to 1.0% next year as pandemic savings dry up. Much of the global growth is expected to come from emerging market and developing economies like India and China. Among G7 economies, Germany is the only one expected to contract this year, while the UK's growth forecast has been lifted to 0.4%. Among EMDEs, India's growth prospects have been raised to 6.1%, and Russia's economy is now expected to grow by 1.5% this year.

RECORD GRAIN HARVEST EYED AS MARKET UNDER PRESSURE

The 2023-2024 season is expected to witness a record grain harvest worldwide, particularly in maize and rice production. The International Grain Council (IGC) predicts a total of 2.3 billion tonnes of grains (excluding rice), slightly higher than the previous season. Maize production has increased by 5.5 percent, reaching 1.2 billion tonnes, mainly due to expanded acreage in the United States and a record harvest in Brazil. Rice production, the primary grain consumed by people, is expected to rise by 2.5 percent, reaching 527 million tonnes. However, the wheat



harvest is projected to be 784 million tonnes, slightly lower than last year due to a rise in consumption and concerns about geopolitical risks, including the war in Ukraine and low wheat stocks. Despite uncertainties, global demand for maize remains strong, driven by increased consumption for animal feed, particularly in Asia. Additionally, concerns about weather conditions, such as the El Nino phenomenon in Asia and geopolitical tensions, are influencing grain prices. Notably, India, the world's top rice exporter, has banned non-basmati white rice exports to ensure domestic availability and control rising prices. Nevertheless, global rice stocks are relatively ample, providing some comfort amid rising food prices.

HUMANITARIAN AID IN NORTHWEST SYRIA IS DYING OUT

Russia's recent veto on the UN mandate has left 4.1 million people in northwest Syria without life-saving



humanitarian assistance and essential resources. The Bab Al-Hawa crossing, through which 85% of UN assistance used to transit, has been closed for two weeks, and not a single truck has been able to cross. The conflict zone, considered rebel-held territory, has civilians caught in the crossfire, with President Bashar al-Assad's regime and Russia launching attacks. The UN has been forced to use alternative crossings, but they are not as efficient as Bab Al-Hawa. Conditions set by Assad for aid provision are deemed unsafe and unworkable by the UN. Extreme heat and the 2023 earthquake have worsened the displacement crisis, with 2.9 million internally displaced people in the region. Some neighboring countries are forcibly and voluntarily sending Syrian refugees back to their homeland, but Amnesty International warns that no part of Syria is safe for returnees.

IRAN, PAKISTAN MILITARY CHIEFS MEET

General Asim Munir, Pakistan's Army chief, traveled to Tehran to meet with Iran's Army's Chief of Staff, General Mohammad Hossein Bagheri, to talk about a wide range of topics of mutual interest, including the expansion of bilateral relations. The relationship between the two countries has been fraught because Iran has often been subjected to attacks from Pakistani militants.

A statement said: "Military commanders on both sides agreed that terrorism was a common threat to the region in general and both countries in particular. They vowed to eradicate menace of terrorism in the border areas through intelligence sharing and effective actions against the terrorists' networks, and explore avenues for enhancing cooperation in security domain." Munir also met with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amire Abdollahain and discussed the importance of bilateral relations for regional peace and stability.

TTP SAFE HAVENS IN AFGHANISTAN: COAS VOICES ANGER, VOWS FIRM ACTION

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir visited Quetta Garrison on Friday where he was briefed on recent terrorist attack in Zhob. According to a press statement issued by the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) here, the COAS paid rich tribute to the Shuhada, visited the injured soldiers at CMH, Quetta, lauded their services to the nation and appreciated their resolve.

The Armed Forces of Pakistan have serious concerns on the safe havens and liberty of action available to TTP in Afghanistan. It is expected that interim Afghan government would not allow the use of its soil to perpetrate terror against any country, in the real sense and in line with commitments made in Doha Agreement, the military's media wing said. As per ISPR, the involvement of Afghan nationals in acts of terrorism in Pakistan is another important concern that needs to



NEWS IN BRIEF

be addressed. Such attacks are intolerable and would elicit effective response from the Security Forces of Pakistan. Operations against terrorists would continue unabated and the Armed Forces shall not rest till the menace of terrorism is rooted out from the country. Earlier on arrival, the COAS was received by Commander Quetta Corps.

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FACING A CLIMATE CRISIS, NUCLEAR ENERGY CAN BE A VIABLE OPTION FOR PAKISTAN

By Summaiya Malik

Pakistan is still reeling from the record-breaking heatwaves that hit the subcontinent in April, leading to electricity and water shortages, crop damages, and deaths. The record temperatures are further evidence of the devastating impact climate change has already had on the subcontinent and are a forewarning of



increasing climate-induced disasters in the years to come. Pakistan ranks 8th for the countries most impacted by climate change between 2000-2019, and much of South Asia is likely to bear disproportionate costs of global climate change. However, shifting to nuclear energy could help answer Pakistan's climate woes.

Although Pakistan's carbon footprint is far less than other developed and developing nations, the impact that Global Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions has on Pakistan is devastating. The country can undertake changes to make its energy production more sustainable in the long-term. Currently, around 60 percent of Pakistan's power comes from unsustainable thermal sources, which contribute to GHGs.¹ Pakistan needs to work towards cleaner-energy sources and nuclear energy offers an opportunity. Boosting share of nuclear energy (a zero-emission source) in energy mix offers Pakistan bright prospects of an environment-

friendly and equitable power-generation. In the long-term, Pakistan should look for ways to increase nuclear energy's share in its power production to reduce the harmful impacts of climate change that it faces.

A MOVE TOWARDS NUCLEAR ENERGY

Pakistan's energy sector relies heavily on fossil fuels, and its emissions are growing in correspondence to the usage of oil, gas, and coal, and the deepening climate crisis. Global warming places constraints on the efficiency of energy systems. As temperatures rise, there is a larger energy demand owing to an increased use of water- and air- cooling systems. Pakistan's energy demand has gone from 40 Million Tons of Oil Equivalent (MTOE) to 84 MTOE over the last decade in sync with rising temperatures. Meeting energy demand will therefore require not only a clean but also an efficient energy source.

PROMOTIONS IN PAKISTAN ARMY: 32 BRIGADIERS ELEVATED TO RANK OF MAJOR GENERAL OUT OF THE 32, EIGHT OFFICERS BELONG TO THE ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Tuesday announced promotion of 32 brigadiers in the Pakistan Army to the rank of major general. The promotion, presided by the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa, was held at the General Headquarters today, as mentioned in a statement released by the military's media wing.

The ISPR's statement also shared names of the brigadiers who received promotion. Those promoted to the rank of major general include Brigadier Omer Naseem, Brigadier Syed Abbas Ali, Brigadier Muhammad Abbas, Brigadier Muhammad Shahid Abro, Brigadier Luqman Hafeez, Brigadier Mohammad Yasir Elahi, Brigadier Adeel Haider Minhas, Brigadier Syed Ali Raza, Brigadier Shahid Pervaiz, Brigadier Ahsan Waqas Kayani, Brigadier Azhar Yasin, Brigadier



Qaisar Suleman, Brigadier Haroon Ishaq Raja, Brigadier Aamer Amin, Brigadier Haroon Hameed Chaudhary, Brigadier Waseem Ifikhar Cheema, Brigadier Muhammad Hussain, Brigadier Shoaib Bin Akram, Brigadier Kashif Khalil, Brigadier Kashif Abdullah, Brigadier Amjad Hanif, Brigadier Faisal Naseer, Brigadier Ahmad Kamal and Brigadier Saeed Ur Rehman Sarwar, said the statement.

The ISPR further shared that those approved from Army Medical Corps include Brigadier Tufail Ahmad, Brigadier Rizwan Sadiq, Brigadier Ijaz Ahmad, Brigadier Nadeem Fazal, Brigadier Shoaib Ahmed, Brigadier Tahir Masood Ahmad, Brigadier Waseem Ahmad Khan and Brigadier Sohail Sabir.

PAKISTAN ALLOWS BARTER TRADE WITH IRAN, AFGHANISTAN, RUSSIA

Pakistan has authorized barter trade with Iran, Afghanistan and Russia on specific goods, including



petroleum and gas, to bypass Western sanctions on those countries and ease pressure on its declining foreign exchange reserves. The Ministry of Commerce said Friday that its order, the Business-to-Business Barter Trade Mechanism 2023, "shall come into force at once." Pakistan, a country of about 230 million people, is scrambling to manage a balance of payments crisis and rein in skyrocketing inflation. This week, the country's central bank reported that its foreign currency reserves had fallen to just over \$4 billion, barely enough to cover one month's imports. Inflation hit an unprecedented annual rate of nearly 38% last month, official data showed.

The barter trade mechanism lists 26 commodities that Pakistani state and privately owned entities can export to Afghan, Iranian and Russian markets. In exchange, they can import crude oil, liquid natural gas, liquid propane gas, chemical products, fertilizers, fruits,

wheat, industrial machinery and vegetables from the three countries. Although the United States has designated third-party sanctions on those buying Iranian oil, it might overlook a barter deal. Pakistan is set to receive its first shipment of Russian discounted crude oil later this month. Islamabad, which has shared few details on the deal with Moscow, has not clarified how payment would be made. State Minister for Petroleum Musadik Malik said Islamabad would buy only Russian crude oil, not refined products, under the deal, saying purchases could rise to 100,000 barrels per day if the first transaction goes smoothly.

"The 100,000 tons of Russian oil will reach Pakistan by the end of the first week or at the beginning of the second [week] in June," he told reporters last week. Last month, Pakistan and Iran jointly inaugurated the first of the six border markets the countries are building to enhance bilateral trade cooperation. The Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association complained last month that up to 35% of the diesel sold in the country had been smuggled from Iran. The countries share a nearly 900-kilometer border. Pakistan has fenced most of that frontier to deter illegal movement in either direction.

Despite the fencing, regional traders and residents allege smuggling, particularly of petroleum products, is facilitated by Iranian and Pakistani border guards, charges officials in both countries reject. Pakistan's bilateral trade with Afghanistan, especially the import of Afghan coal, has dramatically increased since the Taliban seized control of the landlocked neighboring country in August 2021. The two countries conduct trade mostly in cash while using a barter mechanism for certain goods. The hardline de facto Afghan authorities' return to power prompted Western nations to terminate all economic assistance for the largely aid-dependent nation and impose banking sector sanctions, effectively blocking Afghanistan from conducting regular trade with other countries.

GWADAR SEA PORT TO BECOME ONE OF THE BEST IN THE WORLD

Shehbaz Sharif says true implementation of SIFC vision will bring in revolution in country n Visits Expo Centre in Gwadar, performs groundbreaking of several development projects n Says prosperity of Pakistan depends upon stability and mainstreaming of Balochistan n Regrets negative and sick mentality marred the situation in mineral-rich province. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Thursday said that the concerted efforts and true implementation of the vision of the Special Investment Facilitation Council would



usher in the revolution and guarantee the prosperity of 220 million people of Pakistan.

"The SIFC (Special Investment Facilitation Council) is the biggest motivating engine and vision for Pakistan's progress and prosperity. Nothing can impede our progress, if we follow this vision. This will bring in revolution," the prime minister said addressing the inauguration ceremony of multiple development projects here. The prime minister unveiled the plaques to inaugurate Khuzdar-Panjgur transmission line; construction of a two-lane Khuzdar-Basima road; water supply and distribution scheme; 1.2MGD RO Desalination Pant; and initiation of Gwadar Port dredging.

He broke ground for the rehabilitation and upgradation of Awaran-Naal and Awaran-Jhal Jaho roads; Khuzdar section of M8; Gwadar Safe City project; and the establishment of the University of Gwadar. He also unveiled the plaque marking the completion of airside infrastructure (runway, taxiway and apron) at New Gwadar International Airport. Lauding the vision and efforts of Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir - also present at the ceremony - for the establishment of SIFC, the PM said a mechanism had been established to attract investment and put the country on the course of progress.

SENATE PASSES PAK ARMY (AMEND) BILL 2023

Bill proposes five-year jail for disclosing sensitive information about country's security. The Senate on Thursday passed the Pakistan Army (Amendment) Bill, 2023 that seeks up to five years in jail for anyone who discloses sensitive information pertaining to the security of the country or the Pakistan Army.

The bill that seeks to amend the Pakistan Army Act, 1952 proposed that "anyone who discloses or causes to be disclosed any information, acquired in official capacity, which is or may be prejudicial to the security



and interest of Pakistan or the armed forces of Pakistan, shall be ... punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years".

CHINA ROLLS OVER \$2BN LOAN TO PAKISTAN

Finance minister Ishaq Dar said on Friday that China had rolled over a \$2 billion loan that matured last week, providing relief during the nation's acute balance of payment crisis. Locking in a rollover had



been critical for Pakistan, where reserves have dipped to just four weeks' worth of imports and talks over an IMF bailout tranche of \$1.1 billion have hit a stalemate.

"I am happy to confirm that this had been rolled over on March 23," Dar told the Senate, referring to the maturity date. He said all concerned documentation had been completed. Neither the government in Beijing nor the Chinese central bank responded to requests for comment on the rollover. Dar's comments were the first official announcement of the rollover after the loan matured. Dar did not give the new maturity date or other terms of the arrangement.

A top finance ministry official told Reuters on Wednesday that a formal confirmation of the refinancing would be made after the process was completed. Islamabad has been negotiating with the IMF since early February for the release of \$1.1 billion

from a \$6.5 billion bailout package agreed in 2019. One of the IMF's conditions for the release of the tranche is assurance of external financing to fund Pakistan's balance of payments. Longtime ally Beijing is the only help Islamabad has got so far, with refinancing of \$1.8 billion credited last month to Pakistan's central bank.

PAKISTAN WARNS INDIA AGAINST ANY MISADVENTURE

By Shafqat Ali

FO says Indian remarks reflect India's hostility against its neighbours & Pakistan committed to regional peace & Kashmir internationally recognised dispute. Pakistan yesterday warned Indus against any misadventure saying it has the capability to defend itself against any aggression, as evidenced by its forceful response to India's actions in February 2019. Speaking at a weekly news briefing here, Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zehra Baloch strongly condemned the provocative statement made by India's Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh.

The Indian media had quoted him saying that the Indian army will not hesitate to cross the Line of Control if necessary. Baloch termed these remarks as unwarranted and completely unacceptable, reflecting India's hostility towards its neighbors, especially Pakistan. She urges India to exercise utmost caution, as their aggressive rhetoric posed a threat to regional peace and stability, further destabilizing the strategic environment in South Asia.

"Pakistan commits to acting responsibly and contributing to efforts that promote peace, security, and stability in the region," she said. The Spokesperson emphasized that Jammu and Kashmir was an internationally-recognized disputed territory, and New Delhi should focus on implementing relevant UN Security Council resolutions. Baloch said Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had an active agenda over the last several days.

"The FM held important telephone conversations with a number of his counterparts and leaders of international organizations and institutions," she added. She elaborated that the FM held talks with Foreign Minister of Iran, Dr. Hossien Amir Abdollahian, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Sergey Lavrov, Foreign Minister of Türkiye, Hakan Fidan, Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, United States Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, United Nations Secretary General António

Guterres, Organization of Islamic Cooperation Secretary General, Hissein Brahmin Taha, and High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell.

4 PAK FIRMS SIGN MOU FOR COLLABORATION WITH SAUDI ARAMCO FOR \$10B GREEN REFINERY PROJECT

By Fawad Yousafzai

MoU also signed with Chinese firm to award EPC contract for refinery project at Gwadar Port. Four Pakistani state-owned oil and gas companies Thursday signed an MoU for collaboration with Saudi Aramco for executing \$10 billion green refinery project at strategic Gwadar Port, paving way for commercial negotiation of the contract.

While fulfilling the preconditions of Saudi Arabia, an MoU was also signed with Chinese firm to award EPC contract for the refinery project Oil and Gas



Development Company Limited (OGDCL), Pakistan State Oil (PSO), Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), and Government Holdings Private Limited (GHPL) have signed the MoU for collaboration through a joint investment strategy.

PAKISTAN, AUSTRALIA AGREE TO EXPAND MILITARY COOPERATION

Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, is on an official visit to Australia from July 24 to 28 July for Defence and Security Talks and 1.5 Track Security Dialogue. During the visit, the CJCSC met high-ranking civilian and military leadership including General Angus J. Campbell, Chief of Defence Forces Australia. In the meetings, both militaries agreed to further expand military-to-military cooperation, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

In the meetings, both militaries agreed to further expand military-to-military cooperation. In February

last year, General Campbell called on former army chief to discuss military-to-military cooperation, overall regional security situation and bilateral cooperation in various fields. Australia assures to facilitate further improvement in diplomatic cooperation at all levels and pledged to enhance military cooperation between the two forces, the communiqué added. The CJCS also visited Royal Military College and addressed the participants of the Australian Defence College.

ARMED MILITIAS RULE MANIPUR AS INDIAN FORCES FAIL TO CONTROL CLASHES

'It is state-sponsored ethnic cleansing against local residents'. Schoolboys turned militia fighters stare towards their enemies from their hilltop outpost, as the vigilante gunmen dig in for a long fight in India's troubled Manipur state. Three months ago, 16-year-old Paominthang was a student from the farming Kuki people who dreamed of being a football star -- now he



is armed with a .303 rifle and says he is ready to kill rival Meitei community fighters if needed.

At least 120 people have been killed since May in armed clashes between the predominantly Hindu Meitei majority and the mainly Christian Kuki in the northeastern state. Many in Manipur believe the number could be higher. Paominthang, who gave only one name for fear of reprisal, said he abandoned his books after a Meitei mob attacked his family. "They burnt down my house -- I had no other choice," he told AFP, cradling his gun proudly and insisting he had no qualms about using it in defence.

"I will shoot," he said. Conflict erupted from a mix of causes including competition for land and public jobs, with rights activists accusing local leaders of exacerbating ethnic divisions for political gain. They deny that, but months into the crisis, divisions are hardening into bitter cycles of revenge attacks that have included killings and the burning of homes, Christian churches and Hindu temples.

'TTP LOOKING TO MERGE WITH AL QAEDA TO EXPAND INFLUENCE'

By Anwar Iqbal

The banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) might be seeking a merger with Al Qaeda to create an umbrella organisation that shelters all militant groups operating in South Asia, warned a monitoring report submitted to the UN Security Council. "Some UN member states registered concern that TTP might provide an umbrella under which a range of foreign groups operate, or even coalesce, avoiding attempts at control by the Taliban," the report added.

The report, compiled by a UN committee that monitors terrorist activities across the globe, endorsed Pakistan's complaint that the banned TTP has increased its influence in Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover. "One member state noted the possibility of Al Qaeda and TTP merging. It assessed Al Qaeda to be providing guidance to TTP for conducting increased attacks within Pakistan," the report warned.

PAKISTAN CALLS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY OF ISRAEL FOR CRIMES IN PALESTINE

Pakistan has urged the UN Security Council to "fully and forcefully" implement its resolutions on the Middle East conflict that give the right of self-determination to Palestinian people. Addressing a meeting of the 15-member UNSC on Thursday, Ambassador Munir Akram strongly condemned the recent large-scale Israeli military's operations in Jenin in the Occupied West Bank, and called for holding Israel accountable for its grave human rights violations and crimes in Occupied Palestine.

"Unfortunately," he said, "the killing of children, women, and men continues in Occupied Palestine with complete impunity. The rule of law can be upheld only if it is applied universally and consistently, without exceptions or double standards." The envoy regretted that Security Council had not been able to exercise its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in Occupied Palestine. "It is also incumbent on all states to ensure that any impediment to the exercise of the right to self-determination by the Palestinian people is immediately terminated," he said.

The ambassador pointed out that on July 5 three special rapporteurs of the UN Human Rights Council had stated that Israeli attacks against the Jenin refugee camp may constitute a war crime and had no justification under international law. "The impunity that Israel has enjoyed for its acts of violence over decades

only fuels and intensifies the recurring cycle of violence.” The special rapporteurs had also called for Israel to be held accountable under the international law. “The continuing expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories and the expulsion and evictions of Palestinians from their properties are illegal and grave violations of [Security] Council's resolutions and international law, including humanitarian law,” the Pakistani envoy said. He emphasised that the international community cannot accept the fait accompli Israel is seeking to impose with the design to perpetuate its forcible occupation and destroy Palestinian nationhood.

ASIA-PACIFIC FACES DISASTER EMERGENCY, CLIMATE IMPACTS INTENSIFY

Asia and the Pacific region faces a disaster emergency, with risks surpassing resilience. It urgently needs to enhance its resilience to safeguard development gains from climate change impacts, Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2023 warned. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) report issued caution that without prompt action, a temperature increase of 1.5 and 2 degrees celsius will exceed resilience capabilities and endanger sustainable development. The projected scenario of 2-degree warming indicates annual losses of nearly \$1 trillion or three per cent of regional GDP in disaster-related deaths and economic impacts.

“As temperatures continue to rise, new disaster hotspots are emerging, and existing ones are intensifying. A disaster emergency is underway, and we must fundamentally transform our approach to building resilience,” said UN Under-Secretary-General and UN-ESCAP Executive Director, Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana. The two deadliest flooding events, in 2022, occurred in India and Pakistan, which alone accounted for almost 80pc of the total yearly mortality related to disasters. Flooding was also the disaster which affected the highest number of people in 2022, affecting 33 million people in Pakistan alone.

In April and May 2022, an unprecedented, early, prolonged and dry heatwave affected large parts of North India and Pakistan. India recorded its warmest March on record, with an average maximum temperature of 33.1°C. This was 1.86°C above the long-term average. Pakistan also recorded its warmest March in 60 years. Current annual losses from disasters such as droughts, floods, heat waves, cyclones, and earthquakes are projected to rise, impacting

productivity and exacerbating inequality. The Asia-Pacific region faces a significant intersection between disaster risks, income inequalities, and poverty, with the highest share of economic losses as a percentage of GDP, followed by Africa.

BANGLADESH OPPOSITION HOLDS PROTESTS TO PRESS FOR HASINA'S RESIGNATION

Tens of thousands of supporters of Bangladesh's main opposition party rallied in the capital on Friday to demand Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation and call for general elections to be held under a caretaker government. The main opposition party, in disarray since its leader Khaleda Zia was jailed in 2018 on graft charges, has held bigger protest rallies in recent months, drawing thousands of supporters amid mounting anger over the cost of living. The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has been calling for Prime Minister Hasina to step down and for the next election, due in January 2024, to be held under a neutral caretaker government a demand her government has rejected.

CHINA SET TO UPGRADE TIES WITH GEORGIA TO STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

China is set to elevate its relations with Georgia to one of strategic partnership, President Xi Jinping said on Friday, declaring “unwavering” resolve to deepen ties with the former Soviet republic. China has regarded Georgia as a good friend since they established diplomatic ties 31 years ago, Xi told Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili on the sidelines of the Chengdu University Games in southwest China.

“No matter how the international situation changes, China is unwavering in its determination to develop relations with Georgia,” Chinese state media quoted Xi as saying. “During your visit to China this time, the two sides will issue a joint statement announcing the establishment of a China-Georgia strategic partnership, raising the positioning of bilateral relations to a new level.” Georgia, like other former Soviet states Armenia and Azerbaijan, is on a strategic and sometimes volatile overland route between Europe and Asia, along which China aims to develop a “Belt and Road” network of trade and energy links.

Georgia has had fraught relations with China's ally Russia since the 1990s when Russia backed separatists in two Georgian regions. Russia recognised the breakaway regions as independent after fighting a war with Georgia in 2008. Days after Russian sent troops into Ukraine last year, Georgia applied for EU

membership. Georgia has also sought to become a member of NATO.

BUNKERS, SNIPER RIFLES: DEEPENING SECTARIAN WAR IN INDIA DENTS MODI'S IMAGE

A one-mile stretch of a highway in the lush green foothills of India's Manipur state has become the symbol of a vicious sectarian conflict that has killed over 180 people since May and severely dented the strongman image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The bitter fighting between the Meitei community and the Kuki tribals is in the remote northeast of the country but it has lasted for almost three months, a deep embarrassment for Modi as he prepares to host a summit of G20 leaders in September and contest a general election next year.

There have been past tensions between the two groups, but violence erupted in early May after the state high court ordered the government to consider extending economic benefits reserved for the Kuki tribals to the Meiteis. Street protests spiralled into armed conflict and now, rival gunmen have dug into bunkers and outposts along the highway and in other places in Manipur, and regularly fire at each other with assault weapons, sniper rifles and pistols.

The Meitei-dominated state police are seen as partisan while army troops have been ordered to keep the peace but not to disarm fighters. There is no sign of any early resolution. Historian and author Ramachandra Guha described the situation as "a mixture of anarchy and civil war and a complete breakdown of the state administration". "It is a failure of the prime minister at a time of grave national crisis," Guha added, speaking in a television interview. "Narendra Modi lives in a bubble of his own, he doesn't like to be associated with bad news and somehow hopes he will ride it out." The prime minister's office and a state government spokesman did not respond to requests for comment.

The Kukis, who are a third of the Meitei population, have borne a disproportionate brunt of the violence and make up two-thirds of the victims, according to new government data reviewed by Reuters this week. They have mostly fled to the hills, leaving the capital Imphal and the surrounding valley, areas dominated by the majority Meiteis. Much of the violence and killings have taken place in buffer zones near Manipur's foothills where intense gun battles erupt regularly, security officials said. This week, when a Reuter's team visited the Kuki village of Kangvai, just off the highway, volleys

of gunshots could be heard from both sides. Jangminlun Touthang, 32, a Kuki fighter carrying a hunting rifle, was manning a post directly opposite the Meitei lines.

PAKISTAN POST RAISES LOCAL POSTAL RATES UP TO 150PC

By Aamir Yasin

Pakistan Post has increased domestic postal rates by 50 per cent and 150pc from August 1. According to a notification from the Ministry of Communication, rates for non-registered ordinary letters, envelopes and aerogrammes have been increased from Rs20 to Rs30 for 20 grams, Rs38 to Rs60 for 50 grams, Rs50 to Rs75 for 100g, Rs75 to Rs120 for 250g, Rs100 to Rs150 for 500g, Rs200 to Rs300 per kilogram, and Rs250 to Rs380 for 2kg. Other than textbooks, which include pamphlets, journals, periodicals, sheets of music, maps, printed circulars, invitations, bills, greeting cards, and books other than textbooks, the rates will be increased from Rs2 to Rs5 per 100g.

Parcel rates have also been increased as follows: 1kg increased from Rs100 to Rs150, 3kg from Rs175 to Rs270, 5kg from Rs250 to Rs380, 10kg from Rs375 to Rs570, 15kg from Rs500 to Rs750, 20kg from Rs625 to Rs940, 25kg from Rs750 to Rs1,130, and 30kg from Rs875 to Rs1,320.

AFRICAN LEADERS PRESS RUSSIA TO END KYIV WAR

African leaders pressed Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday to move ahead with their peace plan to end the Ukraine war and to renew a deal on the export of Ukrainian grain that Moscow tore up last week. While not directly critical of Russia, their interventions on the second day of a summit with Putin were more concerted and forceful than those that African countries have voiced until now. They served as reminders to the Kremlin leader of the depth of African concern at the consequences of the war, especially rising food prices.

"This war must end. And it can only end on the basis of justice and reason," African Union Commission Chairman Moussa Faki Mahamat told Putin and African leaders in St Petersburg. "The disruptions of energy and grain supplies must end immediately. The grain deal must be extended for the benefit of all the peoples of the world, Africans in particular." President Putin gave the African plan that floats a series of possible steps to defuse the conflict a polite but cool reception when African leaders had presented it to him last month. On Friday, he said Moscow respected the proposal and was 'carefully' studying it.

THE GOLDEN BIRD IN AMERICA'S TRAP

INTERACTION DESK

It seems that history is repeating itself, as if India is donning the colors of subservience once again. India's past is marked by a prolonged period of subjugation, spanning nearly a millennium. For about 850 years, various Muslim dynasties held sway over the region, with the Mughal rule being the longest, lasting for 350 years, followed by a subsequent 200 years of British colonial era. The tide, however, began to turn during the First World War from 1914 to 1919 and further weakened the British government during the Second World War from 1939 to 1945.

In 1945, with the support of America, Britain was coerced into freeing its colonies, setting the stage for India's journey to independence, culminating in the formation of the independent states of India and Pakistan in 1947. During the pre-independence period, Hindus in India, along with the British, sought to create difficulties for Muslims in Pakistan, possibly motivated by a sense of revenge for the centuries of subjugation they had endured. Pakistan, envisioned as the dreamland for Muslims, faced division due to the involvement of India, the Soviet Union, and to some extent, the United States. In response, Pakistan along with America assisted Afghanistan against the Soviet Union, which ultimately contributed to the disintegration of the Soviet Union into 15 separate states.

In 2005, I had the opportunity to attend a

seminar in Chandigarh the capital of Indian Punjab, India, accompanied by Lt. General (R) Talat Hussain and Ambassador Najamuddin Sheikh. As the Convenor of Idea Pakistan Foundation Sindh, I was given importance considering perhaps the hardliner and given seat on center table, despite my pointing out



the presence of more senior personalities of Pakistan than me.

During the seminar, a Russian lady presented a paper explaining why the Soviet Union liberated its 15 states. She claimed that Pakistan had been a concern, as it allegedly sought to create trouble by establishing a base in the historically significant Ferghana Valley. Despite denials from General Talat Masood and myself, the Russian head of the delegation remained firm in her assertion. On our return to Pakistan when it was discussed with Lt. General (R) Hameed Gul, the spy master at that time, he confirmed the claim.

On the other hand, while Pakistan officially

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expressed support for the US in Afghanistan, it simultaneously contributed to a complex situation that led to America's eventual withdrawal. This situation arose due to America's involvement in a proxy war fought by India against Pakistan on Afghan soil. As a result, the conflict in Afghanistan became entangled with regional dynamics, prompting the US to eventually retreat from the region.

Pakistan has faced significant challenges both internally and externally in its quest for survival. Internally, the country dealt a substantial blow to terrorism following the Army Public School incident in December 2016. The Pakistan Armed Forces played a crucial role in eradicating urban terrorism, earning recognition as the only army to achieve this feat and restore peace within the country.

Despite ongoing numerous challenges, Pakistan remains committed to preserving its sovereignty and freedom by making concerted efforts to overcome economic, socio-political, and diplomatic challenges. The armed forces tirelessly work day and night to ensure Pakistan's security, with the support of the entire nation. While on the contrary, India's freedom of choice is currently under serious threat as it finds itself ensnared in the US's influence.

India's desire to dominate Pakistan and assert itself as a global power has led it into a strategic alliance with the US. This includes involvement in the LAC (Line of Actual Control) conflict between India and China, as well as active participation in the QUAD agreement a military pact involving Japan, Australia, India, and the US aimed at countering China's influence. As part of this alliance, India has granted the US access to its naval bases and ports, establishing a system for seamless communication between their respective

naval forces.

In the recent past, the US and India have entered into four significant agreements: the General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), the Logistics Support Agreement (LSA), the Communications Interoperability and Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMOA), and the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA). These agreements serve to enhance cooperation and security ties between the two nations. On June 22nd, 2023, an additional milestone was reached as America and India signed the Artemis accords. This accord paves the way for joint space missions in 2024 through ISRO-NASA collaboration. Moreover, multiple agreements were also inked to facilitate technological advancements in areas like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Quantum technologies, and advanced telecommunications, encompassing 5G and 6G technologies. The notable aspect of all these agreements is their inclusion of private partners from both countries, ensuring increased engagement and participation from the private sector.

At the same time, Russia aims to maintain a close relationship with India. This can be attributed to several factors. Firstly, Russia views India as a valuable trading partner, as it sells significant amounts of oil and military hardware to the country. Secondly, there is a sense of concern in Russia regarding China's rapid advancement.

Through careful observation of Russian media, it becomes evident that Russia believes China's policies could lead to surpassing both the United States and Russia in power and influence. It was also noted during the time when the US prohibited the sale of Russian oil to Europe, China stood in support of Russia but surprisingly, instead of lauding China's

backing, Russia praised India, which had been purchasing oil from Russia based on a 1953 agreement.

In contrast, though apparently it seems that India has aligned closely with the United States but yet Indians believe the opposite, thinking that America is under their influence. Despite India's impressive technological advancements, there are concerns about their ability to assert their own independent path without being swayed by either America or Russia.

In my perspective, India lacks the necessary wisdom even to internally maintain a balance among different ideological identities due to the influence of revenge-driven ideologies like Hindutva. The country is still internally divided, with narrow-minded rulers seeking retaliation instead of pursuing peace with the Muslim community, which constitutes a significant portion of the population at 25%.

This bias is evident in various instances, such as when the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee expressed contempt for Ghazni during his visit in Hamid Karzai's reign. Both Vajpayee and the current Prime Minister Narendra Modi appear to harbor animosity towards Muslims. At present, Modi and the RSS have accumulated substantial power, leaving little room for opposition from Muslims, Sikhs, or Christians.

Even though the Sikh community is highly distressed they haven't yet been able to properly fight back since its leaders are being sought out and slain even in other countries. The prevailing situation in India reflects a concerning lack of tolerance and inclusivity.

On the foreign front, the present situation between the US and India also shows dissatisfaction with their existing agreements. American intellectuals and columnists are

worried about India's reliability and its ability to keep up with the US in terms of ambitions and pace. Consequently, the US might seek to increase its influence in the administration and military of India as it has been doing with friendly nations when faced with such circumstances.

Though India have brave forces like Gurkhas, Rajputs, and Sikhs capable of fighting, but there is a widespread sense of dissatisfaction with India's policies, even within the military, where corruption and other issues have been reported. One question, however, that arises is whether India will be considered a reliable ally in the war in the India Pacific.

If not, there could be consequences for India, and the US might seek to exert control over its political system. Considering the limitations of the US compared to Britain, there may be the possibility of the US utilizing Britain to achieve its goals. The idea of "everything being permissible in war and love" is often mentioned in Western perspectives, suggesting that nations may resort to various strategies to pursue their interests.

The conclusion is clear: India has unquestionably handed over all its naval bases to the United States. This implies that the US could potentially gain control over maritime regions and even employ a substantial part of India's military to create complications for China in Tibet. However, it is essential to consider that such actions might also provoke an increase in insurgency within India. In essence, this scenario resembles the "golden bird" being at risk of getting ensnared in the net woven by America, potentially leading to India's enslavement once again, drawing parallels with its historical experiences of subjugation to foreign powers.

The writer is the Chief Editor of Monthly Interaction.

CHINA BEGINS CONSTRUCTION OF PAKISTAN'S LARGEST NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

AYAZ GUL

Pakistan held a groundbreaking ceremony Friday for what will be its largest civil nuclear power plant constructed by China that will contribute 1,200 megawatts of electricity daily to the national grid and is estimated to cost at least \$3.5 billion. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and senior Chinese officials attended the televised event in the central city of



Chashma, dubbed the birthplace of China-Pakistan nuclear energy cooperation.

Over the past 30 years, Beijing has installed four nuclear power generation units in Chashma, collectively generating about 1,300 megawatts, with China providing enriched uranium for fuel. "This mutual cooperation to promote clean, efficient, and comparatively cheaper energy is a gift of friendship between the two countries and a model for other countries to emulate," Sharif said at the ceremony.

The plant, known as Chashma-5, or C-5, will feature what China says is its domestically developed third-generation pressurized water nuclear technology, the Hualong One or

HPR1000, with "advanced safety and foolproof security features." Raja Ali Raza, the head of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, said the nuclear plant project will be completed by 2030.

"C-5 will be Pakistan's largest generation-III plus nuclear power project," Raza said. "This project has brought PAEC one step closer to its envisaged goal of production of 8,800 megawatts electric cheap and clean energy." Beijing has previously supplied the HPR1000 technology for two nuclear power stations, each with a 1,100-megawatt generation capacity, built and operationalized in the last couple of years in the southern port city of Karachi, enhancing Pakistan's nuclear energy production to more than 3,500 megawatts a day.

Analysts see China's accelerated civil nuclear cooperation with Pakistan as part of efforts to globally find more lucrative buyers for its HPR1000 reactors developed by state-owned China National Nuclear Corporation or CNNC, the country's second-largest nuclear power producer company. "HPR1000 is a homegrown nuclear technology of CNNC and a flagship of China's advanced equipment manufacturing," Yu Jianfeng, the CNNC chairman, told the ceremony. He noted that more than 17 units of HPR1000 are currently under construction in China.

"Today's groundbreaking for the C-5 project is a significant milestone for HPR1000's global journey and a new start for



the China-Pakistan nuclear energy cooperation," Yu stated. "Our cooperation in nuclear energy has become an integral part of the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and a shining example of international nuclear energy cooperation."

Under its global Belt and Road Initiative, Beijing also has built and put into commercial operation 14 mostly coal-fired power plants in Pakistan in the last 10 years, with a total installed capacity of 8,000 megawatts daily. The projects are part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, or CPEC, which has also built road networks, highways, ports, and industrial zones with direct Chinese investment and "soft loans," expected to increase to about \$62 billion by 2030 when the mega undertaking is due to be complete.

Critics blame CPEC for contributing to Pakistan's deepening economic troubles and depleting foreign exchange reserves, making it difficult for the country to catch up with its foreign debt repayments. Pakistan owes more than \$1.3 billion (350 billion rupees) to Chinese power plants. The amount keeps growing, and China has refused to defer or restructure the payment and CPEC debt repayments.

All the Chinese loans both government and commercial banks make up nearly 30%

of Islamabad's external debt. Pakistani and Chinese officials reject the criticism, saying CPEC has stimulated the economy and produced nearly 200,000 jobs for locals since it was launched a decade ago. On Friday, Sharif thanked China for rolling over several billion dollars' worth of loans in recent weeks to help his country tackle declining foreign exchange reserves and avert default.

"The Chinese government and commercial banks rolled over amounts back to Pakistan to the tune of more than \$5 billion. This is not a small contribution by a great friend at a time that was one of the most difficult times Pakistan was facing," Sharif told the gathering in Chashma. Fears of default on external payments and deteriorating economic conditions forced Islamabad to negotiate and secure a much-needed \$3 billion bailout with the International Monetary Fund late last month. The global lender finally approved the bailout this week, bringing relief to the embattled Pakistani government.

China's defense partnership has also significantly deepened with nuclear-armed Pakistan over the past decade but both countries maintain their nuclear cooperation is limited only to civilian purposes. Pakistan and officials at the International Atomic Energy Agency say the country's civilian nuclear plants work in line with the global watchdog's safety guidelines.



1965 WAR - THE INSIDE STORY

R.D. PRADHAN

1965 INDO-PAK WAR; ENEMY'S VIEWS

For all who think in their infinite wisdom, that our Army cannot justify its proclaimed achievements in 1965 War; here are excerpts of an Indian writer R. D. Pradhan which uncovers the details of what actually happened on the Indian side, thereby, giving very clearly and emphatically the true and unbiased dimension of 'WHAT OUR HEROES ACHIEVED FOR THEIR MOTHERLAND DURING THE 1965 WAR'

PAKISTAN ARMY COULD BE AT THE GATES OF DELHI IN SEPT 1965? AN INDIAN BOOK

"...a major battle the west of the Beas would end in the destruction of the Indian Army and thereafter, allow the enemy (Pakistani) forces to push to the gates of Delhi without much resistance."



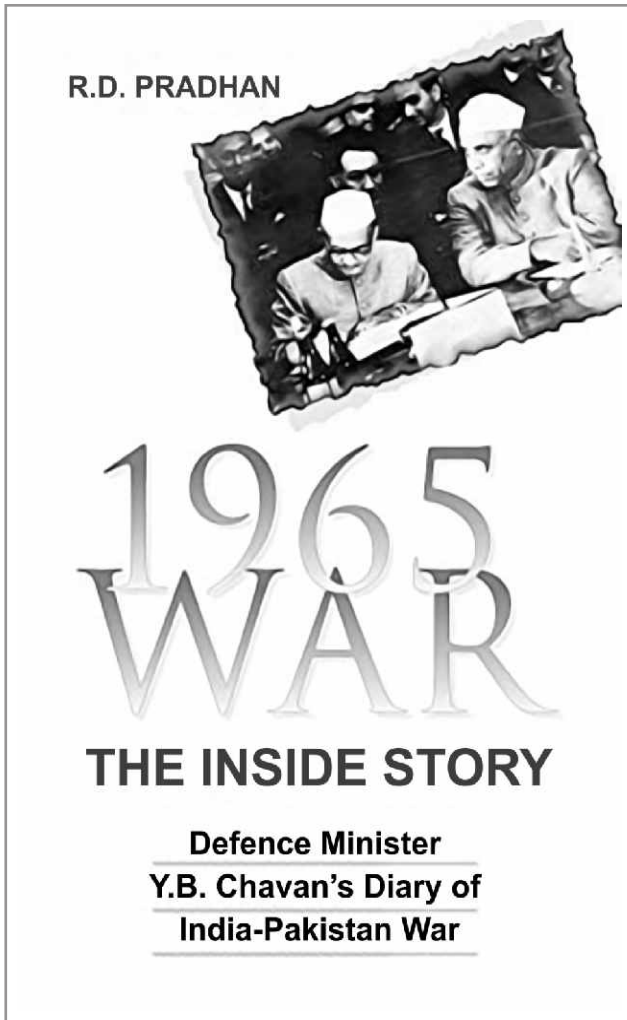
As Pakistanis honor the memory of their 1965 War heroes on Defense of Pakistan Day today, let us review some snippets of how the war looked from the other side.

R.D. Pradhan and General Harbakhsh Singh were both insiders who participated in the 1965 India-Pakistan war. While Pradhan was a civilian working for Indian Defense Minister Y.B. Chavan, General Harbakhsh Singh was commanding Indian troops on the front-lines. Both have written books drawing upon their first-hand knowledge of how the

war started, unfolded and ended in September, 1965.

In Chapter 8 titled "Of Cowardice and Panic" of his book "1965 War-The Inside Story", R.D. Pradhan describes the cowardice of Maj. Gen. Niranjjan Prasad, the Indian general commanding officer in Lahore sector. When Pakistan Defense Forces counter-attacked the intruding Indian military and the general was fired upon on Sept 6, 1965, he "ran away". Here's an excerpt:

"On learning that, Lt. Gen. Harbakhsh Singh and the corps commander drove in a Jonga (Nissan P60 Jeep) to the battlefield, Army commander found that the enemy (PAF) air attack had created a havoc on G.T. Road. (Indian) Vehicles were burning and several vehicles of 15 Division abandoned on the road, the drivers having run away,



leaving some of the engines still running.

Maj. Gen. Niranjn Prasad was hiding in a recently irrigated sugar cane field. As described by Harabakash Singh: "He (Prasad) came out to receive us, with his boots covered with wet mud. He had no head cover, nor was he wearing any badges of his rank. He had stubble on his face, not having shaved." Seeing him in such a stage, Harbakhsh Singh asked him: "Whether he was the General Officer commanding a division or a coolie? Why had he removed badges of rank and not shaved? Niranjn Prasad had no answer."

Chapter 12 of Pradhan's book is titled

"Retreat to Beas" in which there is detailed discussion of Indian COAS's proposal for the Indian Army to retreat behind Beas in the face of Pakistan's fierce counter-attacks after India's attempted incursion in Lahore.

Pradhan argues in this chapter that during the 1965 war with Pakistan, Indian COAS General Chaudhuri feared that "a major battle the west of the Beas would end in the destruction of the Indian Army and thereafter allow the enemy (Pakistani) forces to push to the gates of Delhi without much resistance". Pradhan's book contains many different entries by Indian Defense Minister Y.B. Chavan. A Sept 9, 1965 entry reads:

"Had a very hard day on all fronts. Very fierce counter-attacks mounted and we are required to withdraw in Kasur area. COAS was somewhat uncertain of himself. I suggested to him that he should go in forward areas so that he will be in touch of realities. He said he would go next day."

In Line of Duty: "A Soldier Remembers, according to Shekhar Gupta, the editor of Indian Express, Lt Gen Harbakhsh Singh reveals that not only "did Gen Chowdhury play a very small role in the entire campaign, he was so nervous as to be on the verge of losing half of Punjab to Pakistan, including the city of Amritsar. Harbakhsh describes, in clinical detail, how our own offensive in the Lahore sector had come unhinged."



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"The general commanding the division on Ichchogil canal (BRB Canal) fled in panic, leaving his jeep, its wireless running and the briefcase containing sensitive documents that were then routinely read on Radio Pakistan during the war. Singh wanted to court martial him, Chowdhury let him get away with resignation".

According to Shekhar Gupta, Harbkhush Singh recounts that a bigger disaster struck a bit to the south where the other division cracked up in assault, just as it encountered a bit of resistance. Several infantry battalions, short on battle inoculation, deserted and Singh gives a hair-raising account and confirmation of a long-debated rumor that Chowdhury panicked so badly he ordered him to withdraw to a new defensive line behind the Beas, thereby conceding half of Punjab to Pakistan.

Singh describes the conversation with Chowdhury at Ambala where he refused to carry out the order, asking his chief to either put it down in writing or visit the front and take charge of the battle. Beyond the Indian insiders quoted above, here is how several non-Pakistani journalists have covered the war:

THE LONDON DAILY MIRROR REPORTED IN 1965:

"There is a smell of death in the burning Pakistan sun. For it was here that India's attacking forces came to a dead stop. "During the night they threw in every reinforcement they could find. But wave after wave of attacks were repulsed by the Pakistanis"

"India", said the London Daily Times, "is being soundly beaten by a nation which is outnumbered by four and a half to one in population and three to one in size of armed

forces."

IN TIMES REPORTER LOUIS KARRAR WROTE:

"Who can defeat a nation which knows how to play hide and seek with death".

USA - AVIATION WEEK - DECEMBER 1968 ISSUE:

"For the PAF, the 1965 war was as climatic as the Israeli victory over the Arabs in 1967. A further similarity was that Indian air power had an approximately 5:1 numerical superiority at the start of the conflict. Unlike the Middle East conflict, the Pakistani air victory was achieved to a large degree by air-to-air combat rather than on ground. But it was as absolute as that attained by Israel.

India was the first to accept UN sponsored ceasefire (page 100 of RD Pradhan's book) followed by Pakistan which brought the war to an end on Sept 22, 1965. As the ceasefire took effect, Indian Defense Minister Y.B. Chavan wrote in his diary as follows:

"The ball is now in the political court again--where it should be--and not in the military one. I hope we have the vision and courage to (our) political leadership." Alas, the core issue of Kashmir still remains unresolved 48 years since Mr. Chavan wrote his words of wisdom.



NASR MISSILE: PAKISTAN'S TACTICAL BALLISTIC DETERRENT AGAINST INDIA'S COLD START DOCTRINE

**INTERACTION
TEAM**

Amidst the intricate landscape of geopolitics and strategic affairs, Pakistan's Nasr Missile, produced by the National Development Complex (NDC), has become a crucial element of its Full Spectrum Deterrence (FSD) defense strategy. With its multi-tube ballistic design, sub-kiloton tactical nuclear warheads, and remarkable precision, it has garnered significant attention.

The Nasr Missile serves as a direct response to India's Cold Start Doctrine, which involves limited offensives below Pakistan's nuclear threshold. It thus enhances Pakistan's nuclear as well as conventional deterrence. Additionally, its short-range and swift flight time have presented a formidable challenge to India's Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) system.

UNVEILING THE NASR MISSILE

The story of the Nasr Missile unfolds within the confines of the National Development Complex, where a team of brilliant scientists and engineers meticulously crafted this cutting-edge weapon system. Distinguished by its unique feature of carrying multiple missiles on a single launch vehicle, it earned the title "Multi-tube Ballistic Missile."

In 2011, the world witnessed its first test-firing, a momentous event that significantly impacted the security dynamics in South

Asia. Its subsequent testing in 2013 marked its official entry into service, solidifying its position as a formidable tactical deterrent.

The Nasr Missile, boasting a range of 70 kilometers, is renowned as a highly accurate and agile "shoot and scoot" weapon, utilizing solid fuel, and has the ability to effectively neutralize India's ballistic missile defense.

According to Mansoor Ahmed from Quaid-e-Azam University's Department of Defense and Strategic Studies, the Nasr Missile's enhanced in-flight maneuverability allows it to defeat Indian missile defenses designed for artillery rockets and short-range ballistic missiles, including systems like the Israeli Iron Dome.

Nasr's versatility made it capable to





carry both conventional and nuclear warheads, though its reputation largely revolves around its potential to carry nuclear warheads of appropriate yield. Launched from a multi-tube launcher with the capability to fire four missiles, Nasr is considered a highly efficient weapon that can be quickly prepared for launch.

In fact, the development of the Nasr was a direct response to India's furtive Cold Start doctrine (CSD), which was later on officially confirmed by Indian Army Chief Gen. Bipin Rawat. As a tactical nuclear weapon system, the Nasr is intended to prevent India from engaging in conventional conflict below the nuclear threshold.

THE COLD START DOCTRINE AND PAKISTAN'S RESPONSE

To understand the significance of the Nasr Missile, it is essential to consider the strategic context that led to its development. In the beginning of 2000s, India designed a limited war strategy with the name of 'Cold Start Doctrine' to seize Pakistani territory swiftly without, in theory, risking a nuclear conflict.

It however, raised security concerns for Pakistan and in response, Pakistan had to

develop the Nasr Missile as a "low-yield battlefield deterrent". The approach intended to add deterrence value and ensure a quick response in shorter ranges, countering India's aggressive ambitions.

Advisor NCA (National Command Authority), Lieutenant General (R) Khalid Ahmed Kidwai, explaining the purpose of Nasr missile, stated that the successful test of Nasr was intended to dampen India's Cold Start Doctrine. According to him, Pakistan's nuclear weapons would only be used if the very existence of the country was at risk, with the sole aim of deterring Indian aggression.

Kidwai also highlighted that India's CSD is an offensive limited war strategy meant to swiftly seize Pakistan's territory, and the development of Tactical Nuclear Weapons (TNWs) has effectively blocked avenues for serious military operations from the Indian side.

ADVANCEMENTS IN NASR MISSILE PROGRAM AND ITS UNIQUE ROLE AS A TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPON

The Nasr Missile program in Pakistan has made significant advancements and achieved new technical parameters



through continuous training launches and tests. The recent improvements, including an extended maximum range of 70 kilometers and enhanced flight maneuverability, have strengthened the Nasr Missile's efficacy as a deterrent against various threats, potentially reshaping the security dynamics of the region.

The missile's journey began with its first flight test in April 2011, followed by several subsequent tests, culminating in a powerful display of its capabilities in a test conducted in January 2019. The Nasr Missile, featuring a blast yield of 0.5-5 kilotons, can counter sophisticated missile defense systems. This capability makes it a crucial asset in deterring Indian armored thrusts into Pakistani territory.

The test footage of the Nasr, released by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) Pakistan in January 2019, demonstrates its exceptional precision in hitting targets, showcasing its potential as a highly effective tactical weapon.

NASR'S INTEGRATION AND COMMAND STRUCTURE

The Nasr Missile has been seamlessly integrated into Pakistan's centralized



command-and-control structure, granting decision-makers at the National Command Authority (NCA) prompt situational awareness for swift and effective responses to potential threats.

This integration highlights the Nasr Missile's vital role in Pakistan's FSD. Pakistan's strategy involving tactical nuclear weapons is evident in its objective to limit destruction and avoid provoking large-scale Indian retaliation.

In an interview with The Washington Post, Aizaz Chaudhry, the former Pakistani foreign secretary, clarified that India's adoption of the Cold Start Doctrine has created an imbalance in the military capabilities of the two nations. Consequently, Pakistan felt compelled to develop short-range nuclear weapons as a response to address this situation..

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Nasr Missile stands as a remarkable achievement, showcasing Pakistan's scientific prowess and strategic foresight. Its emergence as a critical tactical ballistic deterrent against India's Cold Start Doctrine highlights Pakistan's unwavering commitment to national security.

INDIA-NO FALSE FLAG OPERATION TO WIN ELECTION -2024

NUSRAT MIRZA

The tragic events of East Pakistan in 1971 left a deep impact on the psyche of the Indian government and its people, who had been under the yoke of slavery for a millennium. This period of deceptive pride has led many Indian individuals, including politicians, intellectuals, and writers, to be hesitant in acknowledging certain facts. However, they might do so only after a blow of humiliation which Indian faced several in the past. In the face of challenges during the 1965 war, General R.D. Parthian's recent article, "1965 War The inside Story," published on July 12, 2023, revealed the potential dangers India had confronted.

He states, "...a major battle west of the Beas would end in the destruction of the Indian Army and subsequently allow the enemy (Pakistani) forces to push to the gates of Delhi without much resistance." Despite this, the largest Tank Battle of Chawanda since World War II showcased Pakistan's resilience and success in thwarting the Indian Army's

objectives. Notably, Pakistan's dominance extended to the Indian Sea Water and Air, causing significant damage to the Indian Air Force and Navy.

The 1971, a debacle for Pakistan, is a source of pride for India. However, due to this pride, Indians, whether politicians, intellectuals, or the Hindu population of India, may be inclined to overlook the new facts. Indians often talk about surgical strikes on Pakistani soil, but India has failed to provide any evidence to Pakistan or the world media to support these claims. If such strikes took place elsewhere, Indian politicians are deceiving their people, similar to how Adolf Hitler misled Germany with false information to boost pride.

India also mentions the events of February 26, 2019, in Balakot, where the Indian claim of causing casualties was proven false by the world media. Indian media conveniently omits the swift retaliation by Pakistan under Operation Swift Retort on February 27, 2019, which resulted in two Indian fighter planes being shot down, one pilot captured, and an Indian helicopter hit by their own army. It seems like a blind man witnessing an old green landscape everywhere.

One thing more Indians always talk about is terrorism which India, for its own reasons, ignites. After Kashmir, India's RSS, the military wing of the BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party), with the support of the BJP government of Narendra Modi, is now engaged in killing and



demolishing churches of Christians in Manipur state of India. The BJP government is also at odds with Sikhs, Muslims, Gorkhas, Nagas, Bodos, the Naxal Maoist Movement, Mizoram, and others.

With India's upcoming elections scheduled for April and May 2024, there is a perception in Pakistan that India might plan a false flag operation, similar to the Pulwama incident, to gain an advantage in the election. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has a history of exploiting animosity towards Pakistan and Muslims as a campaign issue during elections. In the previous election, India faced accusations of staging the Pulwama incident, and investigations are ongoing to confirm if it was indeed a false flag operation.

According to reports from newspapers in Pakistan and India on April 15 and 16, 2023, the former Governor of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Satya Pal Malik, made statements to veteran anchor Karan Thapar of The Wire during an interview on April 14, 2023. (Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8wmHUhLvOI>)

He told the publication that he immediately realized that Modi wanted to use the attack to blame Pakistan for the benefit of his government and the BJP. Malik said the Indian Prime Minister was "ill-informed" and "ignorant" about IIOJK, and that he had told Malik not to speak about the Home Ministry's lapses, which led to the devastating incident.

He revealed that the attack on the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) convoy in Pulwama was a result of "incompetence" and "carelessness" by the Indian system, specifically the CRPF and the Home Ministry. Malik also gave details of how the CRPF had asked for aircraft to transport its personnel but was refused by the Home Ministry.



More importantly, he said all of these lapses were raised by him directly when Modi called him from outside Corbett Park, shortly after the Pulwama attack. He said the Prime Minister told him to keep quiet about this and not tell anyone. Malik also stated that National Security Adviser Ajit Doval had advised him to remain silent and refrain from discussing the matter. Malik immediately realized that the intention was to shift the blame onto Pakistan and gain electoral advantage for the government and BJP. In a statement issued on Sunday, April 16, 2023, the Foreign Office of Pakistan asserted that Malik's disclosures demonstrated how the Indian leadership habitually used the pretext of terrorism from Pakistan to advance its false victimhood narrative and the Hindutva agenda, solely for domestic political gains.

Considering the above statements, it appears that the well-decorated and highly respected Lt. General Khalid Ahmed, Advisor to the National Command Authority (NCA) and the former Director-General of Strategic Plans Division (SPD), has either issued a warning or stated a fact in his speech on May 24, 2023, to ACDC/ISSI that Pakistan possesses the full spectrum of nuclear weapons in three categories: strategic,

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OVER 13 KG RADIO ACTIVE URANIUM SEIZED IN INDIAN BLACK MARKET

BISMAH MIRZA
MBA (Media Management)



India has unsafeguarded nuclear program and so is the black marketing of Uranium. It is being stolen, sold and kept in brief cases without any safety procedure. A brief rundown of the events in which stolen uranium was recovered along with criminal incidents taking place at nuclear power plant's side. Repeated incidents in India of stolen uranium being recovered is alarming for two reasons.

Firstly, uranium in small quantities produces massive energy for instance one kilogram of uranium can produce as much energy as 1500 tons of coal and therefore is used in power plants to generate electricity.

Secondly, Uranium is sold to countries which are signatories of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) or they allow international inspection to verify that it's being used for peaceful purposes and India despite being a beneficiary of Nuclear Supply Group (NSG) and member of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has fragile surveillance

system.

1. June 4, 2021, 6.4 kilogram of uranium amounting to INR 5 million was recovered from Eastern State of Jharkhan in Bokaro district where seven people were arrested
2. May 5, 2021: 7 kilogram of uranium worth 21.3 crores was recovered from Maharashtra, where two people were arrested.
3. 2018: Kolkata police recovered one kilogram of radioactive uranium which was worth around \$440,000.
4. December 2016: 9 kilogram of uranium was confiscated from two people in Thane.
5. December 2015: The Center for Police Integrity headquarters reported an incident at a recent resident facility adjacent to Madras Atomic Power Station where a head constable used official weapons to kill three fellow officers.
6. 2013: leftist guerrillas in North East India obtained uranium ore from milling complex in northeast India, and was using it to strap to a highly explosives before being caught by police.
7. 2009: A nuclear reactor employee in southwest India poisoned dozens of colleagues by taking advantage of the loopholes in plant security.
7. 2008, a criminal gang was caught smuggling low grade uranium from state of India to India to Nepalese border.
8. In this year only in another incident; a gang was caught smuggling uranium near

- Bangladesh border.
9. December 2006: A container packed with radioactive material was stolen from a fortified research facility in India.
 10. 2003: Indian security force caught members of Jamat-Ul- Mujahedeen in a village near Bangladeshi border and confiscated 225 kilogram of milled uranium. Later it was traced to Uranium Mining Complex at Jadogunda. (Jharkhand State)
 11. 2001: In west Bengal, police arrested 100 kilogram uranium
 12. July: CBI unearthed a major racket in theft of uranium in Tamil Nadu and seized eight kilogram of material
 13. 14. June 1998: West Bengal police arrested and opposition politician carrying 100 kilograms of uranium.
 14. November 1994: Meghalaya police seized 2.5 kilograms of uranium. These incidents the series of incidents point towards
India's weak command & control system

and failure to keep strong safety measure near its atomic power plants is consequence of such thefts which endanger the safety and security of the mankind.

What is more surprising is deafening silence by International community over India's poor record of security measures near its nuclear projects. Pakistan in this current situation has rightly demanded a thorough investigation of the matter as to how such large quantity of uranium could be available outside any state's control.

Further, these cases are those which are discovered. There could be more cases that may cause havoc to the safety of India, neighboring countries and thus the whole world, if serious action is not taken to prevent such cases of theft. More than this, there are cases in India that several scientists have died or they made suicide attempt or were killed. That is another chapter that is to be revealed as something very wrong is going on in India.

The author is Executive Editor of Monthly Interaction.

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INDIA-NO FALSE FLAG OPERATION TO WIN ELECTION -2024

operational, and tactical, covering the entire expanse of the large Indian landmass and its outlying territories, leaving no place for India's strategic weapons to evade detection.

The range of Pakistan's missile strikes, spanning from zero meters to 2750 kilometers, both vertically and horizontally, remains a matter of speculation for most of the Indians. To understand the term they are burning their mid night oil.

It is, however, essential for Indians not to be misled by the BJP's rhetoric, which may suggest that Pakistan is weak in conventional

warfare.

On the contrary, Pakistan's defense capabilities in this domain are formidable and robust. Nonetheless, if any deceptive element exists, it should be addressed and clarified promptly, even if it is not officially acknowledged.

Furthermore, the message is loud and clear: "No False Flag Operation" to win the election of 2024 by blaming Pakistan or engaging in any other activity related to Pakistan. This time, the situation will be worse, considering that Americans claimed to have avoided a nuclear clash in 2019.

The writer is the Chief Editor of Monthly Interaction.

GREEN PAKISTAN INITIATIVE AND THE POSSIBLE ROLE OF PAKISTAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

SYED SAMIULLAH



Pakistan, formerly a leading exporter of agricultural products, is currently facing economic stress due to increasing agriculture-related imports. According to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, food imports reached at US\$ 9,015.86 million during Fiscal Year 2022. The alarming food insecurity situation, with nearly 37% of Pakistanis being food insecure and 18.3% facing a severe food crisis, calls for urgent measures.

The Green Pakistan Initiative (GPI) is thus a valuable endeavor to address these challenges and potentially revolutionize the agricultural sector. The initiative is intended to leverage expertise, resources, and technology to improve agricultural practices and ensure food security.

By granting access to state land for Modern Agro Farming, attracting investment, and promoting innovation, the initiative aims to create job opportunities and contribute to economic growth. In this initiative Pakistan Army is side by side with the government. The Information and Management System (LIMS)

and the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) have been established to assist the government in consolidating uncultivated land, implementing modern farming practices, and utilizing advanced agricultural management practices.

These initiatives are expected to provide real-time information on land, crops, weather, water resources, and pests, enabling informed decision-making and timely interventions. Efforts are also underway to expedite strategic irrigation projects and adopt high-efficiency irrigation techniques.

Countries such as Saudi Arabia, China, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, and organizations including Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) have shown their interest to invest in the sector and assist Pakistan on the basis of mutual-gains approach in making the country food basket especially for the Gulf States which import food products of more than US\$ 40 billion.

The success of these initiatives, however, relies on strong support from the nation and addressing challenges such as rising production costs, infrastructure gaps, and hostile lobbies. The potential benefits of the Green Pakistan Initiative are significant, including job creation, poverty reduction, enhanced food security, increased exports, and decreased agriculture-related imports.

The agricultural sector, with its fertile land, extensive irrigation network, affordable labor force, and favorable climatic conditions, holds

immense potential for Pakistan's economic progress and prosperity. According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, agriculture constitutes approximately 24 percent of GDP, employs half of the labor force, and represents the largest source of foreign exchange earnings.

To maximize the potential of Pakistan's agricultural sector, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) could be given a prominent role under the notion of Green Pakistan Initiative. With extensive experience and a successful track record, the PAEC has excelled in increasing crop production, improving seed quality, enhancing soil fertility, protecting crops from pests and diseases, upgrading irrigation systems, and converting barren land into fertile areas all around Pakistan.

Under the PAEC's umbrella, four renowned institutions are actively promoting agriculture: the Nuclear Institute for Agriculture (NIA), the Nuclear Institute for Agriculture and Biology (NIAB), the Nuclear Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), and the National Institute for Biotechnology & Genetic Engineering (NIBGE).

NIA, established in Tando Jam in 1963 and upgraded in 1998, conducts scientific activities in the fields of Plant Breeding & Genetics, Plant Protection, Soil Science, and Plant Physiology, with a focus on Wheat, rice, cotton, and sugar.

Similarly NIAB, established in Faisalabad in 1972 under the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, utilizes nuclear and related techniques for research on agriculture and biology, aiming to create and maintain new genetic material for sustainable agricultural development.

In the same way, NIFA, founded in Peshawar in 1982, focuses on developing

improved techniques to increase crop yields and extend storage life using nuclear and relevant technologies. Moreover, NIBGE, have been operated since 1994 in Faisalabad, specializes in agricultural biotechnology and has made advancements in understanding the molecular relationship between Gemini viruses and cotton leaf curl disease.

Notably, they have developed genetically modified crops (about 132 yet), insect and disease-resistant cotton varieties, and bio fertilizers called Bio Power, which enhance crop yields by reducing chemical fertilizer use. By involving the PAEC and capitalizing on the institutions' decades-long experience and achievements, Pakistan can not only achieve the objectives of the Green Pakistan Initiative but also witness a revival in the agricultural and economic sectors in the near future.

The agricultural sector in Pakistan holds immense potential for economic progress and prosperity, with its fertile land, extensive irrigation network, affordable labor force, and favorable climate. However, to fully harness this potential, it is crucial to address challenges such as rising production costs, inadequate infrastructure, and vested interests.

Collaborative efforts with the PAEC can lead to expanding forest cover, conserving water resources, and promoting economic growth and food security. Foreign investment, particularly in innovative technologies like drip irrigation and improved seed varieties, can significantly enhance agricultural productivity.

Additionally, investments in rural infrastructure, post-harvest handling, and research and development are vital for sustainable growth. Despite the sector's significant contribution to Pakistan's economy, food insecurity remains a pressing issue.

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BTTN SEMINAR ON MAY 8, 2023 AT QUETTA

DR. SYED JAFFAR
AHMED

PAKISTAN'S IMBALANCED FEDERATING UNITS, RAMIFICATIONS - WAY FORWARD

Dr. Syed Ahmed Jaffar's talk focused on three main topics: the historical rationale of federalism in Pakistan, the constitutional history of Pakistan, and the present status of federating units in Pakistan. His talk in verbatim follows: "Pakistan was created after a long struggle and Quaid-I-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah persistently demanded the provincial autonomy for the Muslims.

The Montagu Chelmsford Reforms 1919 gave shape to the provinces and politics shifted to the provinces. It is a historical reality that Muhammad Ali Jinnah suggested more Muslim provinces to increase the ratio of Muslim representations in India. Another reality from history is that provinces were asked either they wanted to join the Federation of India or the Federation of Pakistan.

The Muslim-majority provinces voted to join Pakistan. Thirdly, Pakistan is a diversified society with different cultures, and, in this sense, Pakistan is a federal society which needs Federal arrangements and Federal institutions to ensure the unity of the country.

Obstacles in Socio-Economic and Political Development of Pakistan-Way Forward

Moving onto the constitutional history of Pakistan. The country went through various types of constitutions, starting with the constitution of 1956. The constitution of 1956 was not ideal and was based on uneasy



agreements, yet it satisfied East Pakistan, which was given 50 percent representation as compared to the 50 percent representation given to the provinces in West Pakistan.

East Pakistan agreed to that even though it had a 54 percent population. That parliamentary system despite its weaknesses at least ensured some role/participation of East Pakistan. Of the first seven prime ministers of Pakistan from 1947-1958, three were from the East Pakistan - Muhammad Ali Bogra, Khawaja Nazim Uddin, and Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardi. Also, both speakers of the national assembly of Pakistan during that period were from East Pakistan. So, in such an arrangement, there was some give and take even though it was not accepted by the smaller provinces. But after the military takeover of 1958, the demand of the political parties was the restoration of the 1956 constitution.

In 1965 when the presidential elections

were held, Fatima Jinnah contested the election against Ayub Khan, for the post of President. Fatima Jinnah and the joint opposition committed to restoring the 1956 constitution or reforming the 1962 constitution and doing away with the indirect elections. The election was held based on the Basic Democracy (BD) system which was introduced by Ayub Khan. The BD system comprised 80 thousand BD members. Fatima Jinnah managed to secure more than 18 thousand votes from East Pakistan. It shows that the democratic trust in the country was coming from East Pakistan which could be maintained till 1970. The BD system favored Ayub Khan to win the presidential election.

In 1969, President Ayub Khan abolished his constitution. Thereafter, President Yahya Khan after coming to power announced that he would hold another constituent assembly election which was held in 1970. Making a constitution is not easy in the sub-continent and the constituent assembly election of 1946 and 1970 could not meet. Members of the

constituent assembly (1972-1973) that drafted the current constitution were elected in 1970 when the country was still united.

Third, the status of federalism in Pakistan considering the 1973 constitution despite some weaknesses, has ensured federal arrangements which have kept the country united. This constitution can be amended and further improved. The constitution of 1973 granted autonomy to the provinces to some extent. The 18th constitutional amendment abolished the concurrent list, but it is not the total abolishment of the concurrent list, as the federal government still enjoys a lot of powers. The constitution has been suspended twice in our history by military regimes, The National Finance Commission (NFC) and the Council of Common Interests (CCI) are important institutions, but these have not been allowed to function. Some policy recommendations include the need for strengthening the federal institutions, ensuring internal democracy of the political parties, and controlling the population growth of the country.”

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GREEN PAKISTAN INITIATIVE AND THE POSSIBLE ROLE OF PAKISTAN

Therefore, collaborative initiatives aim to boost exports and make Pakistan self-reliant in terms of its economy and food production, ultimately benefiting the market and industries. In conclusion, Pakistan's Green Pakistan Initiative holds colossal potential for transforming the country's agricultural sector, ensuring food security, and fostering economic growth. By involving the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission and leveraging its expertise through institutions like NIA, NIAB, NIFA, and NIBGE, Pakistan can tap into their

experience and achievements to drive advancements in crop production, genetic improvement, pest control, and soil fertility.

This, coupled with strategic investments, infrastructure development, and research and development, can pave the way for sustainable growth, enhanced food security, and economic prosperity in Pakistan. The collaborative efforts of the government, Pakistan Army, and international partners will be crucial in realizing the objectives of the Green Pakistan Initiative and establishing Pakistan as a self-reliant nation in terms of both economy and food production.

The author is Research Officer at Rabita Forum International.

C-5 PROJECT: PAEC'S POINT OF VIEW

This is apropos a news report “\$5bn Chashma-5 N-Plant to produce power at Rs. 20 per unit: Country has swallowed a bitter bill?” published in Business Recorder. Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) appreciates the due diligence put in by the author. However, PAEC is of the view that some misconceptions in the story demand clarification in order to set the record straight.

Firstly, the cost of upcoming Chashma Nuclear Power Plant Unit-5 (C-5) in the report is claimed to be \$5 billion. Whereas, the details of the loan for C-5 are as follows: The total loan for C-5 is 21318 million RMB (\$2.94 bn), PAEC will not be liable to make any foreign exchange (FE) payments for the first eight years the favour was earned by PAEC keeping in view the financial constraints of the country. Secondly, the C-5 plant will be sited at CNPGS near Kundian in District Mianwali, where four nuclear power plants (NPPs) C-1 to C-4 are already operational and are supplying 1330 MW electricity to the national grid which implies low/ negligible transmission cost as compared to other base load projects.

\$5BN CHASHMA-5 N-PLANT TO PRODUCE POWER AT RS. 20 PER UNIT: COUNTRY HAS SWALLOWED A BITTER PILL?

Thirdly, the levelized per unit cost of electricity produced at C-5 NPP is Rs.13.9 instead of Rs.20 per unit as claimed by the author. Fourthly, the project of C-5 is not 'a



bitter pill'; it is rather a tonic that will boost our industrial sector; the Project's local equipment of worth \$120 million will be bought from Pakistani suppliers, saving precious foreign exchange as well as bringing in an era of highly specialised and high-tech manufacturing. Moreover, local sand, cement, crush and steel industries will also be extensively involved in the project.

Fifthly, through C-5 project's execution the country will gain industrial strength by exporting the specialized equipment's for any future foreign projects of China. Sixthly, C-5 project gives flexibility to our means of power generation by providing essentially required diversity to the existing sources of energy. Lastly, C-5 is a clean energy project which not only saves heavy capital used for fossil fuel imports, but also contributes to the global efforts to decarbonize the energy system using nuclear power, and explore nuclear's potential contribution towards net-zero targets.

Courtesy: Business Recorder.

CHINA'S PREMIER JUST CONSULTED SEVERAL ECONOMISTS WHAT'S THEIR VIEW ON THE ECONOMY?

ZICHEN WANG
LIXING XIE

*RECENT ANALYSIS FROM LIU SHANGXI, LUO
ZHIHENG, TIAN XUAN, AND HUANG XIANHAI*

Li Qiang, the Chinese premier and a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, presided over an expert symposium on the economic situation on Thursday, July 6. Ding Xuexiang, Vice Premier and also a member of the Standing Committee, attended the symposium.

During the symposium, experts including Liu Shangxi, Luo Zhiheng, Tian Xuan, Huang Xianhai, Yuan Haixia, Qin Hailin, Lu Ming, and Zhao Wei spoke. The official readout didn't elaborate on what they said at the meeting, but below are some of what they said recently about the Chinese economy before the meeting.

In an interview published by China Newsweek on July 6, Liu said that

It is a consensus among everyone that the recovery is below expectations. Initially, it was believed that the economy would quickly rebound after the change in the situation of epidemic prevention and control. However, it is now evident that the rebound has not been rapid. Based on some economic indicators, there have been signs of economic downturn starting from the second quarter of this year, which is April.

This indicates that risks may be spreading and expanding, and there is little disagreement regarding this assessment.



Implementing an active fiscal policy and a prudent monetary policy is clear. However, the adequacy of their intensity and effectiveness is another issue. The adequacy of the intensity should be judged based on the results. If we only consider the intensity without looking at the effects, it may backfire. First, we need to assess the effectiveness of fiscal and monetary policies. Over the years, the marginal effectiveness of these policies has been diminishing, becoming weaker and weaker.

The fundamental reason is that the transmission of fiscal and monetary policies relies on a sound institutional foundation. If this foundation is flawed, the transmission will be hindered, or in other words, an incomplete or unsound system will significantly reduce the effectiveness of policy transmission.

Currently, the institutional foundation is not strong enough. For example, in the

financial sector, the institutional foundation of monetary policy depends on the financial system, which requires the establishment of a modern banking system. This system has not been fully established, and the market-oriented structural reform in the financial sector has achieved some results but with limited impact.

There has been progress in the reform of the fiscal system as well, but the reform of the central-local fiscal relationship has fallen short of expectations. Therefore, the current difficulties in local finances are closely related to the adjustment of the fiscal relationship between the central and local governments.

Under the current system, the tight operation of local finances may contradict the requirements of an active fiscal policy to enhance intensity and effectiveness. Even if the national fiscal deficit is expanded and the scale of local government bonds is increased, policy signals may face obstacles in transmission. In addition, monetary transmission has encountered similar problems. On the one hand, there has been a substantial increase in the money supply, with money stock growing at double-digit rates, far exceeding the pace of economic growth. On the other hand, deposit growth has outpaced loan growth, indicating a phenomenon of "idle loans" at the macro level.

Structural monetary policy relies on targeted liquidity injections, which fundamentally should be the responsibility of fiscal policy and require fiscal support to be effective. Currently, the effectiveness of the overall quantity-based monetary policy has been diminishing, making it difficult to effectively stimulate businesses and individuals. Business losses are increasing, and many companies are unwilling to take on additional loans. The same is true for

individuals. Interest rate cuts have played a certain role, but for private enterprises, the cost of capital remains relatively high.

Relying solely on interest rate cuts cannot solve the root problem. The key lies in how to enhance confidence in future scenarios and stimulate the willingness of businesses to borrow. It is essential to find ways to mobilize and inspire businesses to increase their loan appetite.

Currently, there is actually a way to address the situation, mainly by relying on increased leverage at the central level. Moreover, there is room for the central government to increase leverage because the proportion of national debt to GDP is not high.

Currently, the scale of local government debt has exceeded that of the central government, and the effectiveness of relying on local macroeconomic control is declining while the risks are increasing. Therefore, it is necessary to realign and return decision-making and execution of macroeconomic control completely to the central government. From the current perspective, the regulatory policies of uncertainty need to be adjusted first.

Clear negative signals need to be released, and long-term "reassurance pills" should be provided to private enterprises. The old "reassurance pills" may no longer be sufficient. In terms of property rights protection and fair competition review, specific measures need to be taken instead of vague statements. This is crucial for stabilizing expectations and boosting confidence.

It is important for the central government to increase leverage, with a focus on promoting the urbanization of migrant workers. Investment projects should be strategically planned around urban clusters and metropolitan areas.

Book Review

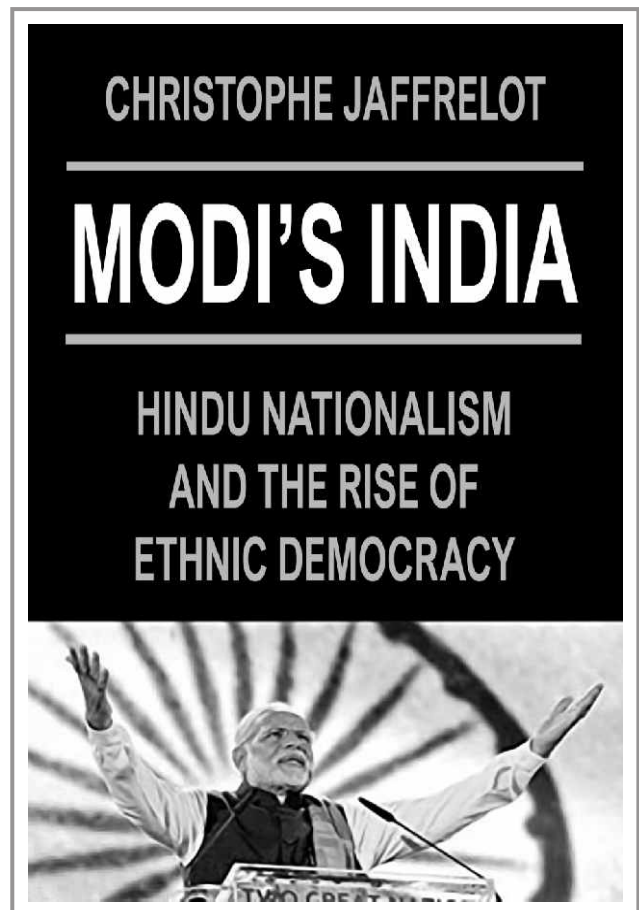
CHRISTOPHE JAFFRELOT, TRNSL. CYNTHIA SCHOCH, MODI'S INDIA: HINDU NATIONALISM AND THE RISE OF ETHNIC DEMOCRACY

RUBIA SHOUKAT

Modi's India: Hindu Nationalism and the Rise of Ethnic Democracy, by Christophe Jaffrelot, comprises three sections: (i) The Hindu Nationalist Power Quest: Hindutva and Populism; (ii) The World's Largest De Facto Ethnic Democracy; and (iii) The Indian Version of Competitive Authoritarianism. Jaffrelot explains Modi's political rise in this book by examining a combination of political, social and historical factors that have promoted Hindu ideology in Indian politics. According to the author India's democratic origins can be traced to three different eras since independence: (i) A conservative to progressive democracy until 1970s; (ii) Progressive democracy following 1971 elections; and (iii) Imposition of emergency in 1980s (p. 1). Contemporary Indian politics of BJP challenge upper castes' political power and strengthen the voices of lower and backward Hindu classes (p. 5).

Jafferlot emphasizes that leadership is an integral component in evolving societies. He stresses that some leaders have the ability to appeal to the masses. This is evident in India's case as Modi's right-wing populism has garnered strong public support due to his middle-class background and self-made personality. The first section of the book recounts the emergence of Hindutva ideology, how Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) entered Indian politics and how Modi's political career evolved from his early days as an avid RSS supporter. Hindu nationalism was largely a reaction to the pan-Islamic inclinations of India's Muslims (p. 12).

To defend Hindus and to ensure their domination over India, RSS was established to unite Hindus and eliminate caste and sectarian



divisions that Hindu nationalists have always viewed as a weakness vis a vis Muslims, whom they believe to be strongly united (p.15). This is where Modi, being an ultra-nationalist Hindu leader supported by right-wing Hindu extremists, challenged the liberal democratic norms (p. 34), doing away with Nehruvian secularism. Modi organized a series of processions in 2000s. The objective was to attract attention of marginalized Hindus by supporting their demand for justice for Hindu victims of the Hindu-Muslim riots of 1985,

despite the fact that most casualties were among Muslims (p. 36).

Modi initiated three schemes in order to please poor Hindus: (i) Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission), launched in 2014 to eliminate open defecation and improve solid waste management; (ii) Jan-Dhan Yojana (People's Wealth Scheme), launched in 2014 to expand access to financial services such as bank accounts, remittances, credit, insurance and pensions; and (iii) Ujjwala Yojana (Brightness Scheme), launched in 2016 to distribute 50 million LPG connections among women living Below Poverty Line (BPL). A budget of INR 80 billion (USD 1.0 billion) was allocated for this scheme (p. 113). In the second section, the book discusses Modi's role as Prime Minister of India. The author highlights how he promoted Hindu supremacy through RSS and gradually turned India into an 'ethnic democracy' from a 'secular democracy' (p. 157). New slogans were introduced by BJP that aimed at promoting the term Bharat instead of India (p. 163). The influence of ethnic democracy is evident as today Christian and Muslim minorities are viewed as a threat and are target of violence by Hindu nationalists (p. 188). Many Churches have been vandalized and clerics attacked. Christians have been stigmatized and repressed.

The situation for Muslims is even worse (p. 194). A Hindu youth group known as Hindu Yuva Vahini (HYV) contends that Hindustan should be free from Muslims (p. 241). Systematic targeting of Muslims is taking place as part of cow protection movement. A shift in mindset of the armed forces is also visible as they exclude Muslims from recruitment process in the army (p. 425- 426). In the last section, the author explains how India has transformed from an open and democratic state to an authoritarian state. This is evident as minorities have been excluded from participation in politics and government jobs including judiciary and bureaucracy. In addition, journalists, intellectuals and artists have also been attacked physically as well as virtually by BJP

followers (p. 253).

Arun Jaitley, former Indian law minister and a lawyer has observed that "step by step, brick by brick, the edifice of India's legislature is being destroyed" (p. 307). The undermining of the electoral process in India is being termed as "electoral authoritarianism" (p. 327). Media is considered to be the fourth pillar of democracy. However, in India, it has lost its voice and purpose (p. 315). Electronic media channels have doubled the air time for Modi in comparison to the air time for leaders of other political parties. (p. 350). Modi government purposely targeted autonomous status of Jammu and Kashmir (p. 377) and justified the abrogation of Article 370 on the pretext of promoting national integration and development (p. 379). Journalists were not given access to the areas where protests took place in response to this amendment. However those who managed to reach there reported that shots had been fired at the local Kashmiris resulting in fatalities (p. 381).

Jaffrelot concludes that Prime Minister Modi has introduced a new dimension to Indian politics in the form of creating a de facto Hindu state. It was, in fact, a case of populism. Not only did Modi manage to manipulate a substantial number of lower-caste Hindus but also was able to project himself as the protector of Hindus against minorities. The book largely presents an objective and well-structured analysis. However, there are some inconsistencies and factual errors that need to be highlighted. For instance, according to the author, during the Balakot incident one Indian aircraft was shot down by Pakistan Air Force (PAF) instead of two. The author also incorrectly blames Pakistan for the Pulwama incident without any supporting evidence. (p. 330). It has been Pakistan's position right from the beginning that Pulwama was a false flag operation which has been vindicated by recent statement of Satya Pal Malik, the so-called former Governor of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

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ARMS SUPPLY TO UKRAINE AND DEFENSE MARKET

**SYED ZAIN UL
ABIDEEN**



Ukraine's demand for arms has been steadily increasing, posing potential challenges for the suppliers in the near future, especially the South African companies that have been providing substantial quantities of arms. Despite the significant supply, the demand continues to rise, making it difficult for these companies and countries to cope, particularly with the surge in fuel prices and manpower requirements in Ukraine.

Moreover, delays in supplying the required arms have arisen due to limitations in factory manufacturing capacity and the need for government approval on finance, as Ukraine expects all defense supplies to be provided free of cost. According to data from the Keil Institute up until the end of May, the amount of military aid provided to Ukraine amounted to 104 billion US dollars. However, the demand from Ukraine exceeds this figure. The largest contributors to this aid are the USA with 46.56 billion, followed by the EU with 29.84 billion, Germany with 8.15 billion, the UK with 7.15 billion, Poland with 3.26 billion, the

Netherlands with 2.7 billion, Denmark with 1.71 billion, Canada with 1.63 billion, Sweden with 1.62 billion, and Finland with 1.21 billion. Additionally, a recent announcement by the US revealed a fresh military aid package for Ukraine valued at a maximum of \$500 million. As part of this assistance, the US has confirmed its intention to supply cluster munitions, a decision that has raised concerns among certain NATO allies.

Furthermore, France is set to contribute to Ukraine's defense by providing missiles similar to the UK's Storm Shadow missiles, which were recently delivered. These developments indicate an increase in international support to bolster Ukraine's military capabilities amidst ongoing tensions in the region.

TANKS

Dozens of tanks have already been committed. However, Ukraine still says that they urgently need some more to defend its territory and to push out Russian troops. In response,

- The US is sending 31 of its Abrams tanks (Announcing the US decision, President Joe Biden described them as "the most capable tanks in the world". The US plans to begin training Ukrainian soldiers to use the tanks promptly, but the exact delivery timeline for the tanks remains uncertain. However, reports in the US media indicate that Ukrainians are expected to complete their Abrams tank training by the end of summer, which roughly aligns with the

■ RUSSIA

- anticipated delivery schedule.)
- The UK is providing 14 Challenger- 2 tanks (The Challenger 2 was built in the 1990s, but is significantly more advanced than other tanks available to Ukraine's armed forces.)
 - Germany is providing 14 Leopard- 2 tanks (The Leopard -2 is used by a number of European countries, and is considered to be easier to maintain and more fuel-efficient than most other Western tanks.)
 - Spain says it is also sending six of its Leopard- 2 tanks.
 - Ukraine used Warsaw Pact designed T-72 tanks prior to the invasion, and since February 2022 has received more than 200 T-72s from Poland, the Czech Republic and a small number of other countries.

COMBAT VEHICLES

Military professionals emphasize that achieving success on the battlefield demands a comprehensive array of equipment, coordinated deployment, and adequate logistical support. As part of the support to Ukraine, the US has donated 90 Stryker armored vehicles to bolster their capabilities.

AIR DEFENSE

Throughout the conflict, Ukraine has employed Soviet-era S-300 surface-to-air systems to counter Russian attacks. Prior to the conflict, Ukraine possessed approximately 250 S-300s, and efforts were made to replenish these with comparable systems from other former Soviet countries, including some from Slovakia. In addition to the S-300s, the US has contributed NASAMS (National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System) to Ukraine, with the first delivery taking place in November. The UK and Germany have also provided air defense systems, such as the Star streak and IRIS-T, each offering unique

capabilities in countering low-flying aircraft and approaching missiles. Notably, the US and various European countries have dispatched long-range rocket launchers, including the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HMARS), which played a vital role in Ukraine's successful pushback against Russian forces in the south, particularly in Kherson in November 2022.

THE STRATEGIES

The adopted strategy by the USA to support Ukraine against Russia was anticipated by many writers worldwide, including the Interaction desk. However, Russia's behavior appears to follow a similar strategy to that of the USA and its allies. While Ukraine has several allies, with the USA taking the lead, it seems that both the USA and Russia aim to prolong the war.

Russia's reasons for this could be its limitations in manpower to occupy Ukrainian territory, a desire to minimize Russian casualties, and an intention to exhaust USA's resources, including fuel. On the other hand, the USA benefits from having multiple allies who can support its resources in this conflict. There's a possibility that Russia's actions might extend the drama of the revolt to other European countries supporting Ukraine.

As both rivals prepare for a long war for their respective reasons, the rest of the world is under stress due to the escalating involvement of allies on both sides. Countries like Pakistan find themselves in a difficult position, as the war started while its Prime Minister was in Moscow, and now the Foreign Minister of Ukraine's visit adds to their complexities. The outcome of this ongoing conflict remains uncertain, and the world watches anxiously as the situation unfolds.

The author is analyst & Media Coordinator at Rabita Forum International.

AMERICAN PRIMACY - UK'S DEFIANCE

MIRZA KASHIF
BAIG



After world war II, UK's colonial power started to shatter as per the international agreement but till the 1956 Suez Canal crisis, the UK enjoyed superpower status which was fizzled out by the USA asking the UK, France, and Israel to withdraw from the Suez Canal issue. The USA took the driving seat of the West, while the USSR remained to challenge which also ended in 1989 when the USSR collapsed after the Afghan war with the help of Pakistan and the USA became the world's sole power. Since then and earlier, the United Kingdom of Britain remained a much close and loyal friend of the USA in Europe.

So much so that it accepted American demand to weaken the EU by leaving the European Union, which was gaining strength. Brexit has damaged UK interests also. Its fish market has been affected as EU countries are not buying. Other than this, for the first time after 1945, Britain has shown defiance in geopolitics when Foreign Secretary James Cleverly articulated Britain's commitment to the global multilateral order.

In a speech addressed on 29 June 2023 at London Conference at Chatham House, Britain's Foreign Secretary James Cleverly articulated the government's commitment to a multilateral world order. In his words, the British government "cares deeply about multilateralism", something "we're deeply invested in". Earlier this year, Foreign Office Minister Andrew Mitchell outlined Britain's approach to international development. Alluding to the importance of multilateralism, Mitchell articulated Britain's support for an "effective and ambitious rules-based international system" that tackles global challenges.

The Foreign Secretary's speech on multilateralism comes at a time in international history when geopolitical competition, tensions, and rivalries divide nation-states. Accordingly, cleverly referred to the present era as one "of growing geopolitical and geo-economic rivalry". This message is backed up by the Integrated Review Refresh 2023 (IR2023), a paper outlining Britain's foreign policy approach. Crucially, the paper updates the government's policy priorities in response to the pace at which "inter-state, 'systemic' competition over the nature of the international order" has developed.

This seems defiance of the US policy which is still sticking to the prime Superpower of the world or agrees with the USA to retreat from its stated position. Joe Biden the president of the USA, recently warned China when it infiltrated

■ AMERICA

the space of America by sending a balloon that any effort to challenge American primacy over the world shall not be accepted. Though, American primacy is tricky one. US Security advisor claimed immediately after USSR's collapse but it has always been a point of discussion in geopolitical circles and especially in Asia where China is emerging as a power to threaten American primacy.

In its policies toward Asia, the United States has long sought to reconcile its unsurpassed military, economic, and rule-setting prowess with a desire for stability. Until recently, this was not hard to accomplish. Washington's international dominance coincided with the post-1979 "Asian peace" a period of remarkable stability in East Asia and the Pacific and so the United States had little trouble holding sway over the region without provoking any conflicts.

Over time, Washington even came to believe that U.S. supremacy and regional tranquility could not just coexist but were causally related. As a result, U.S. policymakers made many efforts to uphold its supremacy which is being threatened this time very seriously. About 60% of its forces are around the South China Sea and some more in the strait of Taiwan.

It has organized two NATO types of organizations AUKUS, Australia UK, and USA. The other one is Quad having India, Japan,



Australia, and the USA itself in this Asian military NATO. Indian sea bases have been taken by the USA to use together with keeping communication between Indian sea forces and naval vessels and interface have been installed in Indian and American Aircraft carriers and other sea vessels to use against China. In addition, it would be used to engage China through India in Tibet. The USA has captured many islands in the South China region. More armies in Guam, the Philippines, and other South China Sea regions.

In any case, America is doing all a cowboy could do to frighten the opponent. China an emerging power is doing its best to counter cow-boyish policy. China has patience which America lacks. A war has to break out if this patience of China is broken. I do believe that America has more chances to win in this game as it has a specific plan which it discussed in 2010 and 2014. It can only be defeated or limited if the petrodollar system is checked, and hybrid war breaks out in the USA itself indigenously. Its contradictions take different directions to weaken its military complex which not be able to go to war to unite the United Nations of America.

Now the question arises, the UK in this case is defying the USA or revisiting its policy taking into consideration, the international environment, or perhaps it is again working for America which is now considering accepting the fact that the world has now become a multipolar world? Is it stepping backward under the circumstances, but the facts do not coincide that America has given up its policy of supremacy over the world. Or it has started retreating under the cover of strength. More indications are required to reach the conclusion.

The author is the Editor of Monthly Interaction.

5TH AUGUST 2019

THE DARKEST DAY IN THE HISTORY OF OCCUPIED JAMMU AND KASHMIR

FAROOQ AZAM

PhD Scholar

On 5th August 2019, India, under the provisions of its constitution, revoked the special status of occupied Jammu and Kashmir, marking four years since this momentous decision. During this period, there has been an excessive use of force and violence by the Indian authorities in occupied Kashmir.

Political activities were curtailed, and to date, the region has not seen any legislative elections for its assembly. India has been drastically altering the demographics in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, similar to how Israel changed the population balance in Palestine.

On 14th February 2019, a tragic incident occurred in Pulwama, occupied Kashmir, where Adil Ahmad Dar, a local Kashmiri youth, carried out a suicide attack on a convoy of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), resulting in the loss of more than 40 security personnel's lives. This attack marked one of the deadliest events in the history of occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Following the attack, India blamed Pakistan of involvement, but when Pakistan



demanded evidence, India decided to take matters into its own hands and conducted airstrikes. On 26th February, Indian fighter jets reportedly crossed the Line of Control (LoC) and bombed a mountain in Balakot, claiming to have targeted a Jaish-e-Mohammed training camp, resulting in over three hundred casualties.

Pakistan refuted the claim and invited international media to visit the site, which ended up exposing India's actions. However, this escalation further heightened tensions between the two countries.

A few months later, in May 2019, India held its general elections, and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) successfully formed the government again, with Narendra Modi becoming the Prime Minister for the second term. The BJP-led central government decided to implement its policy regarding Jammu and Kashmir on 5th August 2019, unilaterally abrogating Articles 370 and 35-A of the Indian Constitution, which provided special



■ KASHMIR

status to Jammu and Kashmir.

After the annulment, the region of occupied Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh division were reorganized into two separate administrative units directly under the central government. The decision led to an unfixed communication blockade, curfew, and a clampdown on political leaders and activists in occupied Kashmir. It also sparked a wave of anger and protests in Pakistan, while celebrations were held in India.

In response to the situation, Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan engaged with various international leaders, including US President Donald Trump, appealing for their attention and urging them to play a role in resolving the Kashmir issue. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) held an informal closed-door meeting on 16th August to discuss the delicate situation in Kashmir and the violations of human rights in the region.

At the conclusion of the meeting, China's permanent representative to the UN, Zhang Jun, stated that Kashmir is an internationally recognized dispute and should be resolved according to the UN resolutions. He also warned that India's actions could further escalate tensions in the region.

Pakistan's permanent representative, Dr. Maleeha Lodhi, highlighted that the UNSC meeting established that Kashmir is not India's internal matter and rejected India's claims of "reasonable restrictions" imposed in the region. In September, during the 74th session of the UN General Assembly in New York, Prime Minister Imran Khan again raised the issue of Kashmir. He warned that when two nuclear powers engage in conflict, the consequences are not limited to their borders, indicating the seriousness of the situation.

Kashmir remains an ongoing issue at the UN General Assembly, where Pakistan's



representatives, including the Prime Minister, President, Foreign Minister, and the permanent mission to the UN, have consistently advocated for the Kashmiri cause and presented Pakistan's stance on various international forums. Additionally, Kashmiri organizations and freedom leaders have also continued to engage with Pakistan and the international community to bring attention to the Kashmir dispute.

Despite the efforts and struggles of Pakistan and Kashmiri representatives, it is undeniable that the situation in Kashmir remains complex and challenging. On one hand Pakistan has been striving to keep the issue alive in the eyes of the global fraternity while on the other hand India has been managing to distract attention and avoid any substantial international intervention in the matter.

In brief, it is evident that the Kashmir dispute continues to be a critical issue that needs to be resolved through international consensus. The situation demands an end to India's inhumane curfew, the release of all political prisoners, and, most importantly, granting the Kashmiri people their right to self-determination. The world must realize that it is crucial to recognize the urgency of the Kashmir issue and play a constructive role in finding a just and lasting solution.

The author is a PhD Scholar at KU.

THE ILLUSION OF A U.S. INDIA PARTNERSHIP

ARUNDHATI ROY



The state visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India to Washington last month was billed as a meeting of leaders of two of the world's greatest democracies, and the countries duly declared themselves “among the closest partners in the world.” But what sort of partners will they be? What sort of partners can they be?

President Biden claims that the “defense of democracy” is the central tenet of his administration. That's commendable, but what happened in Washington was the exact opposite. The man Americans openly fawned over has systematically undermined India's democracy.

We needn't be shocked by America's choice of friends. The enchanting folks that the U.S. government has cultivated as partners include the shah of Iran, Gen. Mohammad Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan, the Afghan mujahedeen, Saddam Hussein of Iraq, a series of tin-pot dictators in South Vietnam and Gen. Augusto Pinochet of Chile. A central tenet of U.S.

foreign policy has, too often, been democracy for the United States, dictatorship for its (nonwhite) friends.

Mr. Modi certainly does not belong in that rogues' gallery. India is bigger than him. It will see him off. The question is: When? And at what cost? India is not a dictatorship, but neither is it still a democracy. Mr. Modi heads a majoritarian, Hindu-supremacist, electoral autocracy that is tightening its grip on one of the most diverse countries in the world.

This makes election season, which is just around the corner, our most dangerous time. It's murder season, lynching season, dog whistle season. The partner that the U.S. government is cultivating and empowering is one of the most dangerous people in the world dangerous not as a person but as someone turning the world's most populous country into a tinderbox.

What kind of democrat is a prime minister who almost never holds a news conference? It took all of the U.S. government's powers of persuasion (such as they are) to coax Mr. Modi into addressing one while in Washington. He agreed to take two questions, only one of them from a U.S. Journalist.

Sabrina Siddiqui, The Wall Street Journal's White House reporter, stood up to ask him what his government was doing to prevent discrimination against minorities, particularly Muslims. Given the worsening abuses against Muslims and Christians in his country, it's a question that really ought to have been raised

■ INDIA

by the White House. But the Biden administration outsourced it to a journalist. In India, we held our breath.

Mr. Modi expressed surprise that such a question should be asked at all. Then he laid out all the bromide that he had brought along in his baggage. "Democracy is our spirit. Democracy runs in our veins. We live democracy." He added, "There's absolutely no discrimination." And so on.

In India the mainstream media and Mr. Modi's vast fan base reacted as though he had hit the ball clean out of the park. Those who oppose him were left sorting through the debris for shreds of reassurance. ("Did you notice Biden's body language? Totally hostile." And so on.) I was grateful for the hypocrisy. Imagine if Mr. Modi had felt confident enough to tell the truth. Hypocrisy gives us a sort of ragged, shabby shelter. For now, it's all we have.

Mercilessly attacked by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's cheerleaders and other Hindu nationalists on Twitter, Ms. Siddiqui was accused of being a biased Pakistani Islamist hatemonger with an anti-India agenda. Those were the more polite comments. Eventually the White House had to step up and condemn the harassment as "antithetical to the very principles of democracy." It felt as if everything that the White House had sought to gloss over had become embarrassingly manifest.

Ms. Siddiqui may not have anticipated what she walked into. The same cannot be said of the State Department and the White House. They would have known plenty about the man for whom they were rolling out the red carpet. They would have known about the role Mr. Modi is accused of having played in the 2002 anti-Muslim pogrom in the state of Gujarat, in which more than 1,000 Muslims



were killed. They would have known about the sickening regularity with which Muslims are being publicly lynched, about the member of Mr. Modi's cabinet who met some lynchers with garlands and about the precipitous process of Muslim segregation and ghettoization.

They would have known about the hounding of opposition politicians, students, human rights activists, lawyers and journalists, some of whom have received long prison sentences; the attacks on universities by the police and people suspected of being Hindu nationalists; the rewriting of history textbooks; the banning of films; the shutdown of Amnesty International India; the raid on the India offices of the BBC; the activists, journalists and government critics being placed on mysterious no-fly lists; and the pressure on academics, both Indian and foreign.

They would have known that India now ranks 161st out of 180 countries on the World Press Freedom Index, that many of the best Indian journalists have been hounded out of the mainstream media and that journalists could soon be subjected to a censorial regulatory regime in which a government-appointed body will have the power to decide whether media reports and commentary about the government are fake or misleading.

They would have known about the situation in Kashmir, which beginning in 2019 was subjected to a months long

communication blackout the longest internet shutdown in a democracy and whose journalists suffer harassment, arrest and interrogation. Nobody in the 21st century should have to live as they do, with a boot on their throats.

They would have known about the Citizenship Amendment Act, passed in 2019, which barefacedly discriminates against Muslims; the massive protests that it touched off; and how those protests ended only after dozens of Muslims were killed the following year by Hindu mobs in Delhi (which, incidentally, took place while President Donald Trump was in town on a state visit and about which he uttered not a word).

They might also have known that at the same time they were feting Mr. Modi, Muslims were fleeing a small town in northern India after Hindu extremists affiliated with the ruling party reportedly marked Xs on their doors and told them to leave. It's time we retired that stupid adage about speaking truth to power. Power knows the truth far better than we do.

In addition to everything else, the Biden administration would have also known that every moment of the grand reception and every episode of bogus flattery will be spun into pure gold for Mr. Modi's 2024 election campaign, in which he is seeking a third term. Ironically, Mr. Modi had openly campaigned for Mr. Trump in 2019 at a huge gathering of the Indian diaspora in a Texas stadium attended by Mr. Trump. Mr. Modi revved up the crowd, shouting, "Ab ki baar Trump sarkar!" (Once more for a Trump government!)

Still, Mr. Biden pulled out all the stops for this most polarizing figure in the history of modern Indian politics. Why?

In an interview with Christiane Amanpour that aired on CNN during the state visit and it's tempting to believe that this, too, was a

piece of White House outsourcing President Barack Obama told us why. He was asked how a U.S. president should deal with leaders like Mr. Modi who are widely considered autocratic and illiberal. "It's complicated," he said, mentioning the financial, geopolitical and security concerns that any American president must consider. To those of us listening in India, what came through was simply, "It's China, stupid!"

Mr. Obama added that if minorities are not protected, India could "at some point start pulling apart." The trolls in India went to work on him, but these words were a balm to many in India who are paying a hard price for standing up to Hindu nationalism and have been shocked by how Mr. Biden has moved to strengthen Mr. Modi's hand.

But if the president of the United States is allowed to consider national self-interest in his dealings with other countries, that courtesy must be extended to other countries too. So what kind of ally can India be to the United States? Washington's top envoy to East Asia has said the U.S. military expects India to help it patrol the South China Sea, where the atmosphere has thickened with tension over China's territorial claims. So far, India is playing along, but will it really risk putting skin in this game?

India's ties with Russia and China are deep, wide and old. An estimated 90 percent of India's army equipment and around 70 percent of its air force equipment, including fighter jets, are of Russian origin. With 2.2 million barrels a day in June and in open defiance of U.S.-led sanctions on Russia, India is among the biggest importers of Russian crude oil, some of which it refines and sells overseas, including to Europe and the United States.

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WESTERN MEDIA PREPPING NUCLEAR FALSE FLAG... AND THERMONUCLEAR WAR

FINIAN
CUNNINGHAM



Western media are conditioning the public for a false-flag attack on the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant (ZNPP) to blame Russia. That would then provide the United States and NATO a pretext to directly intervene in their proxy war to support the Kiev regime. The Kiev regime's month-old counteroffensive is failing miserably to push back Russian defense lines. Indeed, if anything, it seems that Russian forces are turning the tables to gain more territory in eastern Ukraine. The military situation is becoming a fiasco for the NATO-backed regime in Kiev.

Months of much-hyped counteroffensive are delivering nothing but defeat for the Ukrainian forces despite massive supplies of weapons from the U.S. and its NATO allies. Western governments and media can barely hide the reality that NATO's proxy war in Ukraine against Russia is turning into a historic debacle. How long can the charade continue before the American and European public demand answers and accountability?

With a major NATO summit due to take

place next week in Vilnius, Lithuania, on July 11-12, the battlefield disaster for the alliance's Kiev proxy will be potentially an acute embarrassment. There will be severe political repercussions for Washington and the European Union which has funneled close to \$200 billion in military support to the Kiev regime since the conflict erupted in February last year.

Blowing up the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant is one way of dramatically shifting the narrative albeit an act of criminal desperation. The power station is Europe's largest civilian nuclear installation. The radioactive fallout from a fatal missile strike on the ZNPP would engulf large swathes of Europe, including Russia, with potentially deadly contamination.

Russian forces took over the ZNPP last March, days after launching their special military operation in Ukraine on February 24. Since then, the power station has been routinely fired on by the Kiev regime using U.S. and NATO-supplied rockets. Moscow has presented categorical evidence of NATO missile fragments recovered from air strikes on the plant's cooling ponds.

The UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, has visited the ZNPP multiple times and will surely know from where the missiles are being fired, yet the IAEA is conspicuously reluctant to publicly identify the perpetrators. It confines itself to making vague statements expressing concern about security and public safety.

The Western media have shamelessly spun the Kiev regime's narrative claiming that the ZNPP is being shelled by Russian forces despite the absurdity of such claims given that the Russian military controls the nuclear plant.

The situation is a repeat of the sabotage on the Kakhovka Hydro-electric Power Plant. The dam was blown up last month by the Kiev regime using U.S.-supplied HIMARS rockets. Yet the Western media immediately blamed and continue to blame Russia for that sabotage even though Moscow had been warning the United Nations Security Council for months that the Kiev regime was planning to strike the dam. And even though Russian forces were in control of the dam.

Incredibly, given that obvious precedent, a false-flag attack on the Zaporozhye nuclear plant is now being intensively prepped. The Kiev regime has stepped up public warnings that Russian forces have mined the ZNPP and are going to blow it up. Of concern is that Western media are amplifying these claims regardless of the fact that the IAEA inspectors have said they see no evidence that Russia has mined the nuclear station.

The British Times newspaper this week claimed that Russian President Vladimir Putin is facing a "perilous moment" of internal dissent within Russia due to alleged war losses in Ukraine and the thwarted mutiny by private military boss Yevgeny Prigozhin. The Times is sowing the notion that "Putin might blow up



the ZNPP to bolster his frayed authority".

In that event, the Times urges, NATO should intervene directly with troops on the ground in Ukraine. "That would be the quickest way to end the cruel war and neutralize Putin's corrupt regime," intoned the newspaper with hypocritical reasoning.

The Western media propaganda machine is once again turning reality on its head. The Prigozhin mutiny on June 24 was an abject failure because the Russian armed forces and the Russian public resolutely spurned the half-baked plot, remaining loyal to President Putin's leadership. There is strong evidence that the plot was a Western-intelligence-backed coup attempt orchestrated by Britain's MI6, as Scott Ritter has comprehensively analyzed.

Having failed to destabilize Russia and overthrow Putin's government, the CIA and Britain's MI6 through their reliable Western media outlets are resorting to a consolation narrative that Putin's authority is now facing a "perilous moment". This is fabricating a prelude to blowing up the ZNPP. But it won't be Russia bombing a nuclear plant where its forces are stationed. It will be the Kiev regime using NATO munitions and U.S. and British targeting intelligence as was the case in the sabotage of the Kakhovka dam on June 6.

The Kiev regime is ordering civilians to evacuate from areas near the ZNPP, while its intelligence and military chiefs are outlining "contingency plans" on how to deal with the fallout from an alleged Russian strike. All this is a tad too theatrical, indicating orchestration.

The Western media have continually covered up or not reported on the Kiev regime's habitual air strikes on the ZNPP over the past year. Instead, the media have audaciously twisted the narrative to implicate Russia. Now the Western media are prepping

■ MISCELLANEOUS

the coming false flag by trying to convince the public that Russia is losing the war in Ukraine and that Putin is losing authority among ordinary Russians. Gaslighting the public is what the Western media do best, not “reporting”. That’s been the way for decades but never has the media function been so blatant than during the U.S.-led proxy war in Ukraine against Russia.

The shockingly corrupt Neo-Nazi Kiev regime is desperate to keep the war racket going at all costs as is the Western weapons industry and its bought-and-paid-for politicians. (Whether Democrat or Republican, liberal or conservative, they are all War Party.)

The NATO ideologues are desperate to hide their debacle, which is in effect funded by impoverishing the Western public. Putin isn’t the one who is desperate. It’s the United States and its European satraps who are like the rats

in a corner. If these desperados blow up the Zaporozhye nuclear plant that’s tantamount to NATO dropping a dirty bomb on Russia. And all the gaslighting by the Western media is unleashing thermonuclear catastrophe.

Here’s a proposal, just one among other possibilities: an antiwar campaign might consider the Western public avowedly and en masse turning off their TVs and toxic media channels. For rolling days, just turn off CNN, Fox, BBC, New York Times, Guardian, Times, and so on. In a concerted, synchronized protest. Turn it off! Before these crazies turn off the entire planet.

Courtesy: Strategic Culture.

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THE ILLUSION OF A U.S. INDIA PARTNERSHIP

Not surprisingly, Mr. Modi has kept India neutral on Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Nor can he truly stand up to China, which is India’s biggest source of imports. India is no match for China not economically, not militarily. For years, China has occupied thousands of square miles of land in Ladakh in the Himalayas, which India considers its sovereign territory. Chinese troops are camped on it. Bridges, roads and other infrastructure are being built to connect it with China. Other than banning TikTok, Mr. Modi’s government has responded with timidity and denial.

And what kind of an ally will the United States be to India in the event of a

confrontation with China? The United States is far from the potential battlefield. The only price it might pay if things go badly is a bloody nose and a last helicopter ride out of the war zone as collaborators hang on to its landing skids. We need only look around our neighborhood at the fate of America’s old friends Afghanistan and Pakistan.

A bad moon is rising in the South China Sea. But for India, its friends and enemies are all wrapped up together in a tight ball of wax. We should be extremely, exceedingly, exceptionally, extraordinarily careful where we place our feet and float our boats. Everybody should.

Arundhati Roy is an author, with novels including “The Ministry of Utmost Happiness.” Her most recent work is the essay collection “Azadi: Freedom. Fascism. Fiction.”

Courtesy: The New York Times.

جشن آزادی مبارک

Happy

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