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STUDIES IN INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

OBJECTIVE

AGNI is the journal of the Forum of Strategic and Security Studies [FSSS]. The aim is to use this instrument to explore the perceptions and developing logic on strategic issues, that have a bearing on global stability and harmony, from a wide range of analysts, policy makers and academics world wide, who influence strategic thought in their countries or region, so as to create greater awareness and a wider understanding of the elements giving drive to formulation of State policies and responses.

CONTRIBUTIONS

The FSSS shall publish, solicited or unsolicited, studies by experts or groups conducting them, on strategic issues that have a direct or indirect bearing with immediate or long term implications, on regional or global security.

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Each paper should be summarised in an abstract of not more than 500 words. The article should be accompanied by the particulars of the author to include a CV in 100 words or so and address for correspondence.

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EDITOR'S PAGE

Much speculation has been going on regarding India's nuclear doctrine since acquisition of new short range tactical weapons by Pakistan and deploying short NASSR missiles; many experts are of the view that India should now change its "No First Use" policy against Pakistan and target and destroy its nuclear and command assets instead of massive counter value retaliation. The aim should be destroy Pakistan's second strike capability by counter force targeting rather than causing massive destruction. This will decouple India's nuclear policy Vis a Vis China and Pakistan, retaining NFU and massive counter value retaliation against China. There is no word about these speculations from the government circles so far. A review of our nuclear policy is, however, overdue because of the changing nuclear environments in South Asia.

Attack on Lal Shahbaz Qalandar's Dargah in Sind by Salafi-Wahhabis on directions of ISIL has widened the rift between various religious sects in Pakistan, this may eventually lead to wide spread violence across the country. Wahhabi-salafi ideology considers followers of Sufi saints to be Kafirs who deserve to be killed.

The ISIL may soon establish itself in remote frontier areas of Pakistan and various Jihadi groups of these areas are likely to help the ISIL, this will lead to Salafi- Wahhabi culture spreading to various neighboring countries, India in this environment must curb these trends within the country with all resources at its command.

Alok Kumar Gupta in his article "India's act east policy: Reiventing India's relations with Vietnam" says India is responding by fast-tracking military ties with countries in China's own backyard. The expanding strategic and military ties with Japan and Vietnam, in particular and re-inventing 'Look East Policy'

into 'Act East Policy' has emerged as a major thrust area within the matrix of India's foreign policy.

V B N Ram in his analysis of 'The Impact of Diplomatic Cross-Currents between India, Pakistan and the US' observes: The China-Pakistan axis which goes against India's national interests needs to be taken head on by India -without dragging its feet. This alone will contain such an axis. The most effective way of achieving the above objective is to evolve a strategy which facilitates speeding up defence ties and logistics and technical cooperation with nations such as the US, Japan and Israel.

Jai K Verma in his detailed and thought provoking analysis' LWE is the greatest threat to India's Internal security observes: The government agencies claim that between 2005 and 2015 approximately 4510 persons including 2193 Naxalites were killed and 1753 security personnel were also martyred. Central Government should chalk out a comprehensive plan after consulting all the stake holders in the LWE affected areas. There should be a two prong strategy first the security forces must be equipped with latest weapons and must collect actionable intelligence so that Maoist leadership can be exterminated. On the other hand the development of the area must be done at war footing so the residents of the area become part of overall development of the country.

Nilofar Suhrawardy in her analysis of the Kashmir situation 'Kashmiris Need a Friendly Approach & Not Bullets!' says: Ironically, attempts made to normalise life in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) have paid little attention to worst sufferers of the tension in the state. This provides ample opportunity for the few militants to try and aggravate the situation further. In certain cases, ordinary Kashmiri Muslims may be forced to participate in protest demonstrations, not as much out of their choice but out of fear of militants. To help Kashmiri Muslims shed fear it is important to remove the bias entertained against them.



Major General. Afsir Karim (Retd)
Editor