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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

Kashmir has been in turmoil for more than two months, more than fifty agitating Kashmiris have already lost their lives and almost two thousand injured, many of them blinded by pellet guns. Although during the unrest in 2010 more than hundred stone pelting youths lost their lives, there was major difference between the type of violence in 2010 and 2016. Unlike the agitations in the past people during this agitation have been attacking security forces and their camps without fear.

The current violence was kick-started by the killing of Burhan Wani, a local terrorist, but it was by no means the main cause of widespread violence. The mass uprising in Kashmir was organised by Pakistani agents that was being planned by ISI for a long time. The Centre and the strategic community must formulate a credible socio-economic, political and security policy for finding a long term solution to the Pakistan orchestrated periodic violence in Kashmir.

In this issue:

V. Balasubramaniyan in his article 'Understanding the Linkages Among Insurgents Groups in India's Northeast' observes: Research on various transitions in the support structures between insurgent groups could pave the way for understanding the key pivots which underpins the relations, thus negating the limitations of a static analysis. Mapping the transitions would be an ideal mechanism to study the evolving inter-organisational linkages among insurgent movements in India's Northeast. Studies focused on transitions in Insurgent linkages over a period of time, are limited and not exhaustive in the Indian context. While, there is an appreciable work of literature on linkages among terror networks internationally, most of them pertain to studying intra-organisational linkages in foreign terror groups especially Al Qaeda post 9/11 attacks. This research will fill this void by attempting to map, visualize and depict the linkages both theoretically as well in the form of illustrations depicting networks.

Rajeev Bhattacharyya in his article *New Rebel Camps along Sino-Myanmar Frontier* says: Camps belonging to separatist rebel outfits from the Northeast have surfaced in a remote region in northern Myanmar along the country's border with China. The available evidence suggests that at least two organisations – the anti-talks faction of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) and People's Liberation Army (of Manipur) – have stepped up their activities along a certain stretch of the border between the twin countries since the past few years. This development is the outcome of a combination of factors including the subtle transformation of the political situation in Myanmar's Sagging Division where the insurgent outfits have had a presence for more than three decades. Two conclusions can be safely arrived at given the current situation in the neighbouring country and the activities of the separatist outfits. First, there is still space in Myanmar for new rebel camps and the possibility of them expanding with training facilities cannot be ruled out in the near future. As events in the past few years have proved, it may be difficult to convince *Tatmadaw* to swing into action against the rebels and eliminate their bases.

Ali Ahmed in his thought provoking analysis: *India-Pakistan: A War Scenario Examined* says: Clausewitz rightly held that statesmen must be clear on the kind of war they embark on, lest they demand the impossible of the military instrument. If crisis was to turn into conflict then it must be to the extent feasible on one's own terms. Therefore, a consideration of war scenarios is not without utility.

The scenario had been made plausible by Pakistan's propensity for terrorism and India's doctrinal movement from a defensive mode towards proactive operations. This ensured Pakistan largely turning off the tap of insurgency in Kashmir by mid last decade. It instead transferred the pressure to terrorism in the homeland, culminating in the 2008 Mumbai attack. However, India's conventional makeover accelerating thereafter as a consequence, has suitably impressed Pakistan. This explains absence of a triggering event since. Even so, Pakistan has taken care to very visibly equip itself with tactical nuclear weapons.

Alok Kumar Gupta in his article *Changing Contours of Indo-Nepal Relations: Strategic Implications for India* observes: India has been facing challenges almost with all its neighbours at one time or the other that has posed strategic implications as it provides powers external to the region to make inroads in South Asia, much

to the distaste of India. Ironically, India and Nepal is the only pair of neighbours which share affinity which are in their long-term interests; compare to other pairs of neighbours which have some ingredients in common but not the comprehensive unbreakable natural, historical and cultural linkages that this pair of neighbours possesses. However, the bilateral relations between these two neighbours have seen frequent ups and downs yet things always seemed to be in command. Short-term politics frequently have been obscuring the long-term interdependence and bonhomie between the two neighbours, which has serious strategic implications. This is because worsening of India's relations with its neighbours possesses the potentials of significant change in geo-politics in the region.



Major General. Afsir Karim (Retd)
Editor

