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"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more do more, and become more, you are a leader."

—John Quincy Adams

The HINDU
Analysis
4th March
War, state and martyrdom

In democracies, national security functions cannot be sidelined in electoral public rhetoric. The decisions of the National Secretariat of the Pakistan People’s Party, the anti-government party, to suspend three of its leaders - a move that paved the way for the state to assume control over the immunization drive in the Swat Valley - have been widely criticized. The government, however, has defended the decision, saying it was necessary to maintain law and order. The decision has led to protests and a boycott of the immunization drive by a large number of people.

The road to China is through Kabul

A new parliament in Afghanistan has been formed with the support of the United States and other international organizations. The new government is expected to focus on stabilizing the country and promoting economic development. The government is also working on a plan to improve the country’s infrastructure and boost trade with China.

Moscow’s shadow

The United States and Russia have had a tense relationship in recent years, with the two countries engaging in a military build-up in the Middle East. The United States has accused Russia of supporting terrorist organizations in the region, while Russia has accused the United States of violating international law.

Ear to the ground

The government has been criticized for its lack of transparency and accountability. The latest bout of protests, which began in January, have resulted in a number of deaths and injuries. The government has been accused of using violence to suppress the protests.

Letters to the Editor

The government has been criticized for its lack of transparency and accountability. The latest bout of protests, which began in January, have resulted in a number of deaths and injuries. The government has been accused of using violence to suppress the protests.

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Q- How did India and Pakistan solve Indus river water sharing problem? Do you think both countries can resolve their other bilateral problems in the same manner? Critically examine.
Intro: - India accepts Pakistan’s invitation to the next round of talks, as it has for the Permanent Indus Commission in Lahore later this month. Related to the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), the Permanent Indus Commission mandated to implement the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) has met like clockwork, 112 times in 56 years, annually in each country.

The commission has experts who look into issues and disputes on the ground over the utilisation of the waters of six rivers of the Indus system.

Under the treaty, India has full use of the three “eastern” rivers (Beas, Ravi, Sutlej). Pakistan has control over the three “western” rivers (Indus, Chenab, Jhelum). Treaty that has stood the test of time and war, and also displays New Delhi’s sincerity on the issue of water sharing.

In September last year, doubts had been raised over India’s commitment after the terrorist attack on an army camp in Uri, killing 19 soldiers.
Prime Minister held a review meeting on the treaty to consider retaliatory measures - “blood and water cannot go together”.

India would not allow even a “drop of water” to go waste into Pakistan.

The atmosphere was also charged after the government announced “surgical strikes” had been carried out along the Line of Control.

Pulled out from the SAARC summit in Pakistan, leading to fears of a freeze in bilateral ties.

The government has chosen wisely, with some encouragement from the World Bank and persistence by Pakistan- allow IWT commissioners from both countries to meet.

The decision follows several other moves between India and Pakistan in the past few weeks indicating a softening of positions on some other issues as well:

1) - From a marked reduction in LoC firing,
2) - The regular annual exchange of nuclear lists,
3) - The release of prisoners by both countries,
4) - India being part- consensus to elect the Pakistani nominee as the SAARC Secretary-General this week.
Conclusion...

- It would be premature to expect that any of these events, some of which are routine, consolidate a thaw in relations between the two countries.
- The treaty is considered to be one of the most successful water sharing endeavours in the world today,
- Even though analysts acknowledge the need to update certain technical specifications and expand the scope of the document to include climate change.
- However, they reaffirm the high stakes that are woven into India-Pakistan relations, and the need to keep certain issues such as water-sharing above the politics of the moment.

The **Indus Waters Treaty** is a water-distribution treaty between India and Pakistan, brokered by the **World Bank** (then the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development).
- The treaty was signed in **Karachi on September 19, 1960** by Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru and President of Pakistan Ayub Khan.
Be Happy, Share & Help Each Other!!
The road to China is through Kabul

- **Intro:** Afghanistan has again emerged as a platform providing new possibilities on the India-China cooperation front.
- Restructured ‘Strategic dialogue’ between India and China last week, Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar said: “On Afghanistan, they certainly seem to suggest to us that their approach and policies are in tandem with us, not on different page.”
- China expressed admiration for India’s developmental work in Afghanistan amidst a broader understanding that New Delhi and Beijing need to strengthen the government in Kabul.
- This development comes against a backdrop of the growing threat of the Islamic State (IS) to China- The IS released a video this week of Chinese Uighur Muslims vowing (कसम खाई) to return home and “shed blood like rivers”.
- China has joined ranks with Russia in a bid to engage the Taliban in Afghanistan.
- China has for years blamed exiled Uighur “separatists” for violence in Xinjiang and has warned of the militants’ potential to link up with global jihadist groups.
The impact of Afghanistan’s destabilisation will be felt not only in Kashmir but also in Xinjiang where the East Turkistan (city in the South Kazakhstan) Islamic Movement is active.

Moreover, China’s mega investment plans in Pakistan are predicated on a measure of regional stability.

Donald Trump administration yet to clarify its position on Afghanistan.

China is keen to engage India, the one country that has built a reservoir of goodwill in Afghanistan and has demonstrated some ability to deliver concrete results on the ground.

Divergences on Afghanistan

Just last December, Mr. Jaishankar said that India and China were not able to “cooperate as effectively” as they should in countering terrorism.

His statement had come in the wake of China putting on hold the inclusion of JeM chief Masood Azhar’s name in the United Nation’s list of global terrorists

For long, India sought to include Afghanistan in its discussions with China on counterterrorism-But nothing of consequence emerged from these dialogues
Conclusion...

- For India, the main source of terrorism is Pakistan.
- For China, Pakistan is an important asset in its South Asia policy and an all-weather friend.
- But as concerns started rising in the region about the consequences of the withdrawal of NATO forces from Afghanistan in 2014, China reached out to India.
- This too couldn’t go far as China continued to emphasise that its relationship with Pakistan was far more important than a regional approach on terrorism with India.
- In this context, New Delhi should not expect Beijing to change its Afghanistan policy significantly to suit Indian interests.
- The road to stability in Kabul lies through Rawalpindi.
- But the fact that China is interested in working with India on Afghanistan suggests that new possibilities on regional cooperation are emerging, which India should not hesitate to explore.
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Dalai Lama’s visit to Arunachal irks China

- Arunachal Pradesh — the State which is at the heart of the Sino-Indian dispute in the eastern sector.

- Tawang, bordered by Tibet in the north and Bhutan in the south-west, was ceded to India by Tibet in an agreement in 1914.
Waiting in the wings

Guests of honour: Seven Humboldt penguins kept in quarantine before being shifted to an enclosure in the Mumbai Zoo on Friday. The date of opening of the Penguin Bay has not been decided yet. The Humboldt penguin is a South American species that breeds in coastal Chile and Peru. It is listed as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.
For Olive Ridleys, it's paradise lost

Thousands of eggs in Gahirmatha perish as nesting turtles crowd shrunked beach

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

Tens of thousands of eggs laid by Olive Ridley sea turtles this year in Gahirmatha Sanctuary in Odisha, one of the world’s largest nesting grounds, are getting destroyed due to shrinking coastal space.

The ongoing mass nesting of the endangered animals has enthused conservationists, but habitat decline is undoing the gains.

The Odisha Forest and Environment Department estimates that 6,04,046 turtles have come to lay eggs at Nasi I Island of Gahirmatha from February 22. The turtles had largely given the island a miss in 2016, with only 50,000 coming to nest.

Since the small island could not host all those that turned up this year, only 50% of eggs may survive.

A female sea turtle scoops beach sand out to lay 80 to 120 eggs, but its effort is undone when a second digs at the same place to lay its own. This season, turtles are estimated to have laid close to 60 million eggs along a 1,000-metre beach of Nasi II.

“Wildlife staff have observed mass nesting for a month. Since only 1,000 metres is now suitable at Nasi II, there is not enough space. Of 100 turtles, eggs of only 50 survive,” Subrat Patra, Range Officer, Gahirmatha Sanctuary, told The Hindu over phone.

Two bigger beaches with 200 hectares and 50 hectares at Ekakula Nasi and Nasi I Island drew a mere 12 and 100 Olive Ridleys respectively.

Pale shadow

Gahirmatha once had 32 km of beach and nesting area of 1,80,000 square metres. Research by B.C. Choudhury, former scientist, Wildlife Institute of India, showed that Nasi I and Nasi II had fragmented.

Chief Wildlife Warden Sisabant Das said, “there is attrition, but there are also times when submerged portions got exposed again.”

In the Visakhapatnam region, the Forest Department recorded 447 nests with 47,000 eggs, the highest so far.
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Bengal passes ‘historic’ Bill to rein in private hospitals

Repeals the 2010 Act passed by the Left Front government

Salient features
The new Bill recommends

Compensation in case of medical negligence

- ₹3 lakh for ‘simple’ injuries
- ₹5 lakh for ‘grievous’ injuries
- ₹10 lakh in case of death
- ₹50 lakh maximum compensation in case of death

- Criminal proceedings in case of death due to medical negligence
- Elaborate procedure for registration and licensing of all private medical facilities
- Setting up of the West Bengal Clinical Establishment Regulatory Commission
- Fair price medicine shops for hospitals with over 100 beds
- Non-intervention of civil courts into the affairs of the commission
- Private medical facilities not permitted to hold to bodies in case of non-payment of medical bills
- Private medical facilities not permitted to turn away victims of accidents, sexual assault and acid attacks
U.S. nixed India’s plea on reforms in medicine

At WHO meet, New Delhi proposed discussion on ‘Access to Medicines’ report by UN panel

VIDYA KRISHNAN
NEW DELHI

A month after the 140th World Health Organisation’s (WHO) Executive Board meeting, a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) response has revealed that the United States government had opposed including agenda items proposed by India, which aimed at reforming medical innovation that currently pump up drug prices to unaffordable levels.

The Indian government – along with 11 South East Asian countries – had proposed a discussion on an ‘Access to Medicines’ report by the United Nations High Level Panel that had recommended reforms in the funding of biomedical research and development.

However, the set of documents released by Knowledge Ecology International (KEI), a not for profit organisation that gives technical advice to governments, reveals that both the United States and the WHO opposed including the proposal by India.

Email exchange
An email exchange dated September 28, 2016, between Dr. Thomas Frieden, CDC Director and Vice-Chairman of the WHO EB, and Ambassador Jimmy Kolker, Assistant Secretary for Global Affairs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, sets out the position of the U.S. government, stating that, “Access to medicines (oppose proposal by India): The USG should be on the record opposing this proposal from India that seeks to take forward recommendations from the U.N. Secretary General’s High Level Panel on Access to Medicines report, which was released in September. We have serious concerns about the narrow mandate of the Panel and its recommendations...”

The 11 member-states – Bangladesh, Bhutan, South Korea, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Timor Leste – as well as Brazil, Iran, and South Africa supported the inclusion of the agenda item.

The delays by WHO to place the UN HLP recommendations on the agenda of the WHO’s EB and subsequently at the World Health Assembly have drawn widespread criticism from Asian civil society organisations.

“The U.N. report says there is a need for an RD treaty and it recommended reforms in the area of biomedical R&D. The U.S. government has a policy of blocking all reforms that would lead to funding the R&D system in a way that it prioritises diseases that kill millions of people in the developing world. The U.S. government is not just a member-state of WHO but also a big donor. This is consistent with the U.S. policy to pressure countries like India to have more IP barriers while blocking all attempts at reforms,” said Leena Menghaney, lawyer and access campaigner.

Policy incoherence
The U.N. Access to Medicines report had recommended solutions for remedying the policy incoherence between justifiable rights of inventors, trade rules and global public health targets. The report recommended that “governments and the private sector must refrain from explicit or implicit threats, tactics or strategies that undermine the right of WTO Members to use TRIPS flexibilities.”

On March 1, India delivered a statement during WTO TRIPS Council discussions on the Access to Medicines report, urging member-states to discuss the report’s recommendations.
UN body slams Sri Lanka

Rights chief urges Colombo to quickly deal with the horrors of its wartime past

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GENEVA

Reports of abuses including torture remain widespread in Sri Lanka eight years after the end of a decades-long civil war, the UN said on Friday, criticising the government's slow progress in addressing wartime crimes.

Sri Lanka's President Maithripala Sirisena swept to power two years ago promising justice for the minority Tamil community and a full investigation into alleged atrocities committed under the leadership of his predecessor.

But UN rights chief Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said the island had made "painfully slow" progress in addressing its wartime past, warning this could threaten lasting peace and stability.

"I urge the government and people of Sri Lanka to prioritise justice alongside reconciliation to ensure that the horrors of the past are firmly dealt with, never to recur," he said. His comments came in a new report in which the UN human rights office said the use of torture was "a serious concern".

It pointed to the island's own Human Rights Commission's acknowledgement of the use of torture by the police throughout the country as a means of interrogation and investigation.

"The prevailing culture of impunity for perpetrating torture has undoubtedly contributed to this situation," the report said.

Lapsed deadline
At least 1,000,000 people died in the conflict between Tamil separatists and government forces that ended in 2009. The UN has been pushing for a special court to investigate allegations that government forces killed up to 40,000 Tamil civilians in the final months of fighting.

Mr. Sirisena had agreed to a UN Human Rights Council resolution in October 2015 which called for special tribunals and reparations for victims and gave Sri Lanka 18 months to establish credible investigations. But the deadline lapsed without such commitments being met. The UN said coalition politics in the unity government Mr. Sirisena formed after ousting former strongman leader Mahinda Rajapaksa were likely to blame for the slow pace of progress.

"Party politics, including the balancing of power between the different constituencies of the coalition in the run-up to constitutional reforms, have contributed to a reluctance to address difficult issues regarding accountability," it said.

On Monday, Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera asked the UN for more time, promising that his country remained committed to seeking justice. "With patience, understanding and constant and consistent effort and perseverance, we truly believe that we can make the reconciliation process a success," he told the Human Rights Council.

In its report, the UN urged the government to prioritise the return of private land occupied by the military, adopt laws allowing the creation of a hybrid court, and invite the UN rights office to establish a presence in the country.

Lamborghini unveils Aventador S at over ₹7 cr.

Driver can select from among four driving options, including the EGO mode

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Automobili Lamborghini India has introduced Lamborghini Aventador S in India at an ex-showroom price of ₹5.01 crore. The sports car comes with redeveloped suspension, increased power and new driving dynamics, according to the company.

"This next generation of the V12 Lamborghini flagship is for customers who appreciate the Italian attributes of our brand which is design and technological leadership," said Sharad Agarwal, Head, Automobili Lamborghini India.

The 12-cylinder, 6.5 litre engine provides an additional 40 HP output over its predecessor. Acceleration from 0-100 km/h can be reached in 2.9 seconds, with a top speed of 350 km/h, according to the company.
Want to win the World title? Start knockout events in India

Three-time bronze winner Harika says the format breeds the ability to play quickly, even in inferior positions

RAKESH RAO

A look at her holding a third women’s World Chess Championship bronze medal, posing next to the National colours and sporting a wide smile, could lead you to believe that D. Harika was highly pleased with her performance at the game’s highest level. In fact, the truth was far from it.

“I was heartbroken. After a long time, I cried. I couldn’t believe my campaign had ended the way it did,” said the 26-year-old, devastated at missing her shot in a pulsating semifinal against China’s Tan Zhongyi.

When Harika flew home with her grandmother, they were received only by family. Harika’s arrival, much like her fighting performance in Tehran, went unnoticed. “I guess, for chess players, this is nothing new. But I wish to do something to help the image of chess and chess players,” says Harika, who had won the bronze in 2012 and 2015 as well. Seeded fourth in the 64-player knockout championship, Harika needed tie-break games in each of her four victories to reach the last four.

Not closing it out
“It was frustrating not to win in two classical games. If you see, I never had bad positions. It was only that I could not convert the advantage I had in most of my drawn games.

Even as I was playing every single day, and also preparing for my game the next day, I realised that physically I was ready. As part of my training for the World championship, I was playing badminton regularly and that helped a great deal.”

In the second classical game in the semifinal, Harika faced a must-win situation. As it turned out, she eventually won in a marathon 162 moves to draw level and force tie-break games. But there was as much drama in Harika’s mind as on the board during the tense moments of this long contest.

After 117 moves, Harika had to checkmate her rival’s lone king with the help of king, bishop and knight in the next 50 moves...

As the climax unfolded, fatigue almost caught up with Harika before she finally saw the winning sequence and snatched victory. In fact, if Harika had not sealed the issue by the 167th move, Zhongyi could have claimed a draw and advanced to the final. “I felt my mind was not responding quickly. Though I knew the winning way well, somehow, at that time, I could not remember the sequence. Worse, a thought crossed my mind: if I don’t win this game, people are surely going to talk about it and laugh at me. But then, I got it right... just in time.”

Is there something she thinks can be done to improve the chances of winning gold?

“In India, we don’t have a single event in the knockout format while the Chinese girls play lots of these at home.

“As you saw, Zhongyi could play quickly even in inferior positions. That comes from playing more in such formats.

“Wish we have knockout events at home. Whether some like it or not, this is the format we need to play for the World title!”
AI flight with all-woman crew eyes record

Aircraft circles the globe; feat comes ahead of International Women's Day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

In a quest to set a new world record, Air India has operated a flight around the world with an all-woman crew ahead of International Women’s Day.

The flight, which departed from here on February 27 for San Francisco, landed at the Indira Gandhi International airport on Friday after flying across the globe.

The aircraft, a Boeing 777-200LR, flew over the Pacific on its journey to San Francisco, while the return flight flew over the Atlantic,encircling the globe, Air India sources said.

An Air India spokesperson said the airline has applied for a Guinness World Record and an entry in the Limca Book of Records to mark the feat.

The cockpit and cabin crew, check-in and ground handling staff, and the engineers who certified the aircraft were all women, Air India said. It added that the Air Traffic Controllers who cleared the departure and arrival of the aircraft were also women.

As part of the celebrations for International Women's Day, which is observed on March 8 every year, the airline will operate similar flights on some domestic and international routes.
Infant mortality rate down in Odisha- MAMATA scheme

Western Ghats issue

Madhav Gadgil recommended in 2011 that all of the Western Ghats be declared as the ESA — with only limited development allowed in graded zones— States have forced the Centre to consistently delay imposing the Ecological Sensitive Area (ESA) restrictions.

A committee headed by K. Kasturirangan, former ISRO chairman, recommended that only about 60,000 sq km — or about 37% of the WG and a significant reduction from that of the Gadgil committee — be declared as ESA.
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The **Indus Waters Treaty** is a water-distribution treaty between India and Pakistan, brokered by the World Bank (then the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development).

The treaty was signed in Karachi on September 19, 1960 by Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru and President of Pakistan Ayub Khan.

The **Humboldt Current** is a cold, low-salinity ocean **current** that flows north along the west coast of South America from the southern tip of Chile to northern Peru. Also called the Peru **Current**, it is an eastern boundary **current** flowing in the direction of the equator, and can not extend 1,000 kilometers offshore.

The olive ridley sea turtle, also known as the Pacific ridley sea turtle, is a medium-sized species of sea turtle found in warm and tropical waters, primarily in the Pacific and Indian Oceans.