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From the Editors' Desk...

China's Evergrande crisis: Lessons for India

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The plea for China's crackdowns on its businesses during August this year was announced as 'lofty ideals' of President Xi Jinping. Clocked in robes of his new revolutionary reforms it expected wealthy 'giving back to society' for 'common prosperity' to oil the wheels of socialism. To understand Xi's compulsions in engineering this yet another revolution, it is pertinent to draw insights from the recent past.

Like in the rest of the world, the Covid-19 exacerbated income and wealth inequalities in China. The Communist Party of China (CPC), especially its claimed 90 million members, are loathe to envision stinking rich citizens especially if they are suspect of 'spreading wings' and being critical of Xiism. When China's ancient tradition of foot-binding manifested itself in CPC compelling Jack Ma, founder of Ant Group, to shelve its US \$35 billion Initial Public Offering almost a year ago, a stern warning was relayed to local and global audience, viz. capitalism must not triumph at the expense of nationalism.

More recently, the financial crisis in Evergrande — a firm established in Guangzhou in 1996 as Hengda Group and today China's largest real-estate developer with 1,300 projects in 280 cities — has been called China's 'Lehman moment' with global implications. What is perplexing is that the world has not seen Xi Jinping responding with a bailout package. Instead, the CPC has chosen to further up the ante. Evergrande's real estate debt stands at over \$300 billion and this has sent global stock indices tumbling. Given that the Chinese people park their surpluses in real estate, Xi has

pronounced that speculations in real estate raise the cost of housing and reduce China's competitiveness, consequently dwarfing growth trajectories.

The Evergrande crisis perhaps presented an opportunity for Xi to fast forward his grand vision of ensuring that rich capitalists continue to toe the Party Line and pledge funds for his goal of 'common prosperity'. Xi's message is equally clear: China's predicaments transcend its borders due to its global interconnectedness. Experts insinuate that within its boundaries, Xi's patronage networks seek to rein in the Shanghai and Anhui or youth congress cliques. While 2021 ringed in celebrations of hundred years of the CPC, there has been wariness among home-grown and foreign businesses about the wrath of the 'Red Reset' gaining greater traction in recent times.

What lessons this holds for India? Even as India places greater confidence in its private sector, it is imperative that their investments accrue in boosting employment and real incomes for the masses. Government disinvestments must not merely fuel speculation and send the share market soaring, but create credible employment-driven growth. India's banks have battled with bulging debts of crony capitalists. India's post-pandemic recovery must aim at reducing poverty and inequality. For the real estate sector as well, further reforms are awaited. So, even if world may see problems with Xi's crusade in the name of 'Common Prosperity', it surely comes as a wake-up call for India's policy makers to revisit their regulatory and enabling initiatives.

Prof Swaran Singh
Prof Reena Marwah

Gandhian Ideas and their Contemporary Relevance

We recently celebrated the 152nd birth anniversary of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, adorably known as Bapu, the moral political philosopher and a sage-politician. Einstein once said that ‘generations to come will scarce believe that such a one as this ever in flesh and



Suratha Kumar Malik

blood walked upon this earth’. This reflects the preeminence of Gandhi’s revolutionary experiments and ideas. Gandhi inspired the world for a nonviolent struggle against colonial masters through satyagraha. The non-adherence to Gandhian precepts like ‘small living and high thinking’ owes much for today’s catastrophic environmental crisis that have spawned many muddles and stumbling blocks.

Gandhi’s hesitation towards heavy machines — where he prefers ‘production by the masses over mass production’ with small labour intensive technology — remains crucial to win over in today’s prevalent miseries of unemployment and chronic poverty. The dire repercussions of modern civilisation compel us to re-conceptualise human progress that fabricates human beings as greedy, rapacious, immoral and anti-nature that Gandhi calls ‘satanic’ in his seminal work Hind Swaraj. Gandhi believed that ‘the earth has enough for everyone’s needs but not for everyone’s greed’. This has immense relevance in the contemporary world and its ubiquity and uneven development which has exploited the planet’s resources beyond its carrying capacity that Gandhi foresaw a century ago.

His idea of self-reliant village economy, small technology, gram swaraj and self-regulated, sovereign citizens and community living present viable alternatives to the modern concepts like inclusive growth, human welfare, sustainable

development and Gross National Happiness Index. This Gandhian development model remained a crying need from third world perspective in contrast to capitalist, neoliberal, Western politics, economy and development model as far as globalisation and neoliberal,

Western-Eurocentric hegemonic model is concerned. In today’s war-torn world, where nation states are sitting atop nuclear weapons with conflict, radicalisation, aggressiveness; where the world is heading towards a state of continuous crisis from pandemics, climate change and terrorism, Gandhi remains supremely apropos.

*Gandhi inspired the world
for a nonviolent struggle against
colonial masters
through satyagraha.*

Gandhi being the Father of Indian nation puts the onus on India to appertain to Gandhian ideas and it’s high time for the Indian intellectuals to reminisce and re-explore Gandhian noble ideas and present these to the world. This calls for revisiting some of Gandhi’s ideas like gram swaraj, rural development, sarvodaya and his holistic constructive programmes which aim at creating autonomous ideal community living less depended on cities and where devolution and decentralisation of political power leads to his utopia ‘Ramrajya’.

The contemporary world is facing multiple dilemmas like alleviating poverty by lessening the great divide between the haves and the have-nots, ensuring food security for the starving millions, attending to peace and human rights, and fulfilling the objectives of inclusive growth and sustainable development. Gandhi was fully aware about the

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flaws of the system of the 'top-down development model' and centralised power-relations and hence, always referred and emphasised on the 'bottom to top approach' having decentralisation of economic and political power. As the champion of human freedoms and swaraj, he was against state power and machinery where he described state as a soulless machine which constraints individual freedom.

Gandhiji's concept of development, sarvodaya through antyodaya insinuates for the welfare of all which holds great value in today's poverty-stricken world. His 18-point constructive programmes which he initiated in 1935 was based on scientific and spiritual values. Gandhian programmes were holistic and multidimensional in nature where he focused on decentralised, 'microlevel planning' emphasising on conservation and optimum utilisation of resources. The other objective was curbing on consumption; as excessive consumption causes pressure on resources and generates wastage and pollution. His ideas of simple living by suppressing human desire and greed have now become a universal slogan for ensuring environmental protection and sustainable development.

The Gandhian model of rural development that argues for the judicious use of natural resources is inclusive, sustainable and environment friendly, can provides solutions to the present environmental problems. For awakening the most stagnant and dormant of the Indian society, viz. the Indian villagers, his contributions remain remarkable. By invoking the metaphor of 'harijan' Gandhi turned Indian National Congress into a mass organisation for national movement out of an elite organisation of few thousand. Without the awakening of rural India under his leadership, the economic growth and social development which followed India's achievement of freedom would have been inconceivable.

Gandhi made it clear how 'modern civilisation', nourished by British rule, was the real cause of

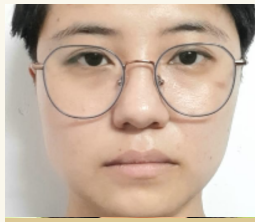
'economic distresses. Against that, Gandhi envisaged that the salvation of India lay in the revival of its ancient village system and civilisation. His idea of an ideal village was an exhaustive one encompassing the social, economic, political and educational dimensions. He argued exploiting of villages by cities is itself an organised violence and the Gandhian idea is very much akin to the modern 'Centre-Periphery Model'. Therefore, it can be said that his ideal village was not anchored to the modern notion of development, rather on the 'post-modern perspective' of development, life, freedom and happiness.

Gandhi realised that if India went for heavy industrialisation, it would push the poor to a condition of further impoverished and today, we aptly discern that in a capitalist, industrialised, globalised and consumer-based society; the rich and affluent are getting richer and the poor and impoverished are becoming poorer. Gandhi visualised 'self-sufficient villages' through panchayats with promotion of khadi and other village industries. Khadi movement was both method of mass mobilisation but also a social reform movement recognising women's capacity to become economically and politically active without which swaraj would be unattainable and meaningless. Providing a key to making of all public policies Gandhi says:

I will give you a talisman. Whenever you are in doubt, or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test. Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man [woman] whom you may have seen, and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him [her]. Will he [she] gain anything by it? Will it restore him [her] to a control over his [her] own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to swaraj [freedom] for the hungry and spiritually starving millions? Then you will find your doubts and yourself melt away" (Gandhi, Last Phase, Vol. II, 1958, p.65).

Can India's Armed Forces become a Role Model for Gender Mainstreaming?

The proposal for inducting women in Corps of Military Police in the Indian Army, as soldiers (general duty) was approved by the Government of India on 22 January 2019. This came to fruition in May 2021 with 83 women



Bonita Pradhan

It focuses on women related war crimes such as sexual assault and abuse and other gender-based violence during an armed conflict. The ECOSOC defines gender mainstreaming as:

...the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality (ECOSOC, 1997: 27).

being formally inducted into the Indian Army. This is a major step in ensuring gender equality in India's Armed Forces. Though the Indian Armed Forces already included women yet their recruitment was confined to women playing role of 'caregivers' that to some extent reconfirmed prevalent gender biases. Women, for example, worked in the Army Medical Corps, Army Dental Corps and Military Nursing Service. However, with the inclusion of women as soldiers — a traditionally masculine role — this gender non-confirming role, is expected to have wider implications.

It may be counterintuitive to say that the February 1st military coup in Myanmar looks like a rather divine intervention.

This gender mainstreaming flows from greater acceptance of gender equality in most institutions that today provide greater equality of opportunity between men and women. This calls for changes in the legal and political framework and structure of governments (Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, 2002). Gender mainstreaming as a concept had especially come into the picture after the Beijing Platform for Action from the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. The United Nations has since played a major role in creating international interventions in the form of international norms.

With gender-based violence during conflicts being given greater attention the categorisation of rape as a war crime — by UNSCR 1820, and with UNSCR 1325, 1888 and 1889 — mandates peacekeeping missions to protect women and girls from sexual violence. It becomes integral for the armed forces to incorporate perspectives of women into their operations. With India being one of the top Troops Contributing Countries in UN Peacekeeping missions, there was a need felt for the inclusion of women as soldiers.

Gender mainstreaming in international security sectors was introduced with United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, which emphasizes on the role of women in the prevention and the resolution of conflicts.

With regard to the Indian Armed Forces, women comprise of a small number of the 1.4 million of its serving personnel.

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The composition of women is also not uniform across the Indian Air Force, Navy and Army. In 2019, women comprised of 3.8% of the Indian Army while the percentage of women in the Indian Air Force was 13.09% and the Indian Navy had 6% of women (Government of India, 2019). Since 1990s Women have become eligible to Short Service Commissions but they could serve only a maximum tenure of 14 years. As of February 2020, the Supreme Court of India granted eligibility of Permanent Service Commissions to women in short service commission. As of September 2021, the Supreme Court ruled that women would be eligible to apply for entrance exams to the National Defence Academy from where high-ranking officers for the Indian Armed Forces are chosen from. Prior to this, the entry-level ranks available for women in the army were limited to support roles: the legal, engineering, education, signals and medical corps. The induction of women into the Corps of Military Police, therefore, widens opportunities with a growing number of roles for women.

On the positive side, inclusion of women makes armed forces more representative of the population and better suited to those they seek to protect.

The concept of masculinity and hegemonic masculinity for Kimberly Hutchings (2007) creates “denigration and exclusion of the feminine” (Hutchings, 2007: 104). For her, the way gender plays out in war where masculinity was seen to marginalise peaceful and non-violent measures have marginalised femininity as well. She explains that masculinity is by no means universally the same; that it changes and is dependent on the

culture. However, that there are certain overarching characteristics of masculinity that are common beyond cultural confines has been used in legitimising the dominant position of the masculine and subordination of the feminine. The armed forces remains one such institution of hegemonic masculinity where men form the standard on which women are measured.

But armed forces have also used ‘martial’ race to exclude or promote certain ethnicities. Victoria Basham (2016), points out to this exclusionary nature of the armed forces but argues that inclusion of women has not made any discernible negative impact as well. However, the inclusion of women is important as the concerns and experiences of women in the armed forces is markedly different from that of men, due to the men’s experience in the armed forces being gender confirming and while women’s experience is gender non-confirming roles.

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QUAD versus AUKUS: Rise of alliance systems in the Indo-Pacific

On 15 September last month, a new security alliance in the Indo-Pacific was announced amongst Australia, UK and the US (AUKUS). This has left experts pondering over the implications of this stealthy rise of such a security pact in the Indo-Pacific especially when the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) of Australia, India, Japan and the US was already revived in 2017 and made hyperactive during 2021. What caught attention was the timing of the formation of the AUKUS. It came as a surprise to many, including India, as it was announced just ahead of the first in-person meeting of the QUAD leaders held on 24 September in Washington DC. Among others, there are two crucial questions that should be asked: One, does the emergence of this new security alliance imply the activation of a balance of power game in the Indo-Pacific region? Two, how could the major players have no clue about this being negotiated beforehand and how do they see these developments?



Ms Shrabana Barua

Trans-Atlantic to the Indo-Pacific region. There is no doubt that China as the leading regional power is the one that is being balanced. Just as France under Napoleon Bonaparte was balanced through the Quadruple Alliance between Russia, Prussia, Britain and Austria in 1813, China's expansionist foreign policies are being balanced in the region through initiatives such as the QUAD and now the AUKUS. The difference is, there had been no open militaristic pact within such alliances; not so far.

The fact that World War II still took place, can be blamed on many factors. However, non-transparent, if not secretive, pacts and alliances has been seen as one most important amongst them.

One of the Fourteen Points pronounced by President Woodrow Wilson towards the end of World War I in 1918 had laid down the norm of 'open covenants of peace, openly arrived at'. Later, when the peace treaty with Germany was being signed at Versailles, this norm was put forth as one of the clauses to avoid wars in the future.

World War II was followed by the Cold War, which simply understood, is nothing but a tussle between two differing ideological blocs; two alliance systems, engaging in a balancing of power act. Therefore, formation of alliances and blocs have remained the norm and the 21st century appears to be moving in the same direction. Meanwhile, the centre of gravitation of global power politics has shifted from the

The QUAD had a rather benign start in December 2004 when the navies of Australia, India, Japan and US collaborated to provide disaster relief to the Tsunami affected countries in the Indian Ocean region. In 2007 a QUAD plus Singapore collaboration took place under the banner of the Malabar naval exercises. China felt uneasy and believed it was a move to counter its rising presence in the region, especially as the string of pearls concept had gaining popularity. Beijing immediately served a demarche to these nations seeking them to explain the motives behind the QUAD. The group had no effective response and waned out by 2008.

Meanwhile, China's aggressive power projections – whether it be in context of the South China Sea

dispute, its territorial claims against India or even the trade war with the US – has been identified as a problem that needs to be countered. It was against this backdrop that the QUAD was resurrected in 2017, few months after the Doklam stand-off took place between the Indian and Chinese armies. Yet, New Delhi was cautious of creating any ‘Asian NATO’ like alliance. So was Japan. The US however, has not been hesitant to have an alliance to openly counter China. The result was the announcement of AUKUS. Hence, there is no doubt that in the balance of power process an alliance system is gradually taking robust shape.

However, Prime Minister Scott Morrison’s remarks that the AUKUS is no military alliance and that even China is welcome to be its part hints at the fact that it may take longer to activate a clear military alliance against Beijing.

After the virtual QUAD summit in March 2021, debates about the grouping being an anti-China alliance was rife with speculations. As India’s foreign minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar had expressed at the Raisina Dialogue in April 2021, efforts through coalition formation are to ‘overcome’ a Cold War era and NATO-like mentality, not reinforce it. For New Delhi, which is often seen as the regional balancer of China, it is important to understand how it should perceive and interact with the AUKUS, about which neither India nor Japan had earlier knowledge. The congratulatory messages sent to the US by the Indian and Japanese Prime Ministers respectively, during their recent visits to Washington, is a fine diplomatic move. Yet, if history is any lesson, secrecy is best avoided.

It now rests upon Beijing to urgently respond to both the QUAD and AUKUS. Though a counter Quad with its allies such as Russia, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey and Malaysia can be attempted, its shaky friendships and staggering foundations will not make it easy for such an alliance formation. The prospects however are never shut. For now, until an immediate cause comes up, the red flags of war can be kept hidden under.

Australia remains the weakest link in AUKUS. Its official media statement of 16 September mentions that the three states of the AUKUS will “partner to significantly deepen cooperation on a range of emerging security and defence capabilities, which will enhance joint capability and interoperability”. Notably, it states that the first initiative for Canberra under the AUKUS will be to procure nuclear powered submarines. The number so far has been fixed at 9, reportedly three more than what China currently has. Just as France was co-opted into the Quadruple Alliance of 1815 to form the Pentarchy or Quintuple Alliance, China may be offered to join these alliances to maintain stability and order in the Indo-Pacific.

Webinar Session 51: September 15, 2021 [Link to webinar here](#)

“Afghanistan Humanitarian Crisis Unfolding: Gender Perspective” by Dr Salma Malik



Association of ASIA SCHOLARS **MILLENNIAL ASIA**
An International Journal of Asian Studies

AAS Webinar Series (every 1st & 3rd Wednesday): Session 51
15 September 2021 (Wednesday), 05:30 PM- 07:00 PM (IST)

**AFGHANISTAN HUMANITARIAN CRISIS UNFOLDING:
GENDER PERSPECTIVE**

Pakistan's Security Problems & Challenges in the Next Decade
Edited by Salma Malik

Speaker:
Dr Salma Malik
Assistant Professor
Department of Defence and Strategic Studies
Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad

Chair:
Dr. Reena Marwah,
Secretary-General, AAS

Registration FREE

Webinar Host: Prof Swaran Singh, President, AAS
Register in advance for this meeting @ [rb.gy/la4rt7](#)

*Participants will be given E- Certificate on request, who either made comments or asked questions during webinar

The speaker started the session by emphasising the pertinent issues faced by Afghanistan. She described the country as very diverse having a difficult geography. It is often referred as “the graveyard of empires”. The country witnessed stability only during King Jahir Shah’s reign. In the cold war era, it fell to the Soviets leading to displacement of women and children. This can be seen as the start of humanitarian crisis and a relapse can happen due to the present Taliban regime. Speaking about the first Taliban reign, she said, “The women were prosecuted, there was cross-border illicit trafficking of drugs and women. Taliban follows a tribal form of Islamic Sharia – a narrow approach to interpret the religion. For the survival of the society the norms are made stringent. Women need to be protected so they are made to sit at home.”

She later spoke about the twenty years period after the Taliban. After 9/11 the western powers got involved in Afghanistan for providing humanitarian assistance. The Afghan civil society also developed during the liberal order. However, when the Taliban took over in mid 2021, Afghan

women are once again, at the mercy of Taliban. They have allowed women to attend schools/colleges, but they must be clad in Burqa. She expressed optimism that as the Taliban was legitimised by the Doha dialogues, they would, for their own survival, deliver on their promises. She outlined the policy for Taliban to follow in the aftermath of the exit of the Western powers. In her words, “Taliban should be incentivised rather than pushed against the wall. They are very cautious about their global image and acceptance by the international order. Exclusion of women from public sectors will pose a problem for the entire society. There are many women doctors, nurses, paramedics.”

She concluded by stating that Afghanistan is not like the West, it will never have an inclusive government. The Taliban had an absolute victory so they will not be willing to share power. However, the stakeholders of Doha dialogue need to devise a mechanism to help Afghan people.

by Aparna Divya

Webinar Session 52: October 6, 2021 [Link to webinar here](#)

“Emerging Trajectories of China-India Relations” by Dr Shen Dingli



AAS Association of ASIA SCHOLARS **MILLENNIAL ASIA** An International Journal of Asian Studies

AAS Webinar Series (every 1st & 3rd Wednesday): Session 52
6 October 2021 (Wednesday), 05:30 PM- 07:00 PM (IST)

Emerging Trajectories of China-India Relations

Speaker:
Dr. Shen Dingli
Professor (and Former Dean)
Institute of International Studies
Fudan University, Shanghai

Chair:
Prof Swaran Singh
President, AAS

Registration FREE

Webinar Host: Dr. Reena Marwah, Secretary-General, AAS

Register in advance for this meeting @ rb.gy/bc6whf

*Participants will be given E- Certificate on request, who either made comments or asked questions during webinar

Prof. Shen started the session by talking about the hurt feelings of both Chinese and Indian citizens because they think, "why do your servicemen kill our soldiers" and vice versa. He spoke about the trajectory that followed the bilateral relations. Prof. Shen uncovers the origin of the ideologies behind these conflicts and suggests an Asian model/solution which can surmount the boundary dispute. He also referred to the latest bilateral meeting between the India-USA and the imperative for such talks between China and India, especially when both need to work together to counter terrorism and resurgence in Afghanistan.

According to Prof. Shen, both India & China need to support each other. He added that Asian countries had not developed the notion of nation-state and sovereignty; that was a European notion. They set it to limit their domestic governance within a precisely defined territory. These ideas have evolved and been imposed on other countries.

China has tried to draw a clear borderline that India has been refusing, India does the same, and

neither has accepted the proposed border demarcation. China-India both are powerful nations who have been able to counter each other's intended borderline demarcation.

China has been more competitive than USA even during the Covid-19. Thus negotiations with China are essential for India as in 5-10 years; China would be better off than the USA; it also has the best elements of globalization.

He then spoke about the solution to counter these issues and challenges faced by India & China: creating a joint jurisdiction/management while creating an Asian model. Joint government offices for dispute management would be under common jurisdiction, joint management area, and joint police for patrolling in this area. He suggested that third-parties like the UN can be invited to watch as observers. Perpetual peace is the ultimate goal, he underlined. Based on this, the two nations could build trust, fight terrorism and climate change. This webinar was followed by an engaging and insightful question and answer session.

By Shivangi

OCTOBER IN ASIAN HISTORY

by Dr Chaitra C

1 OCTOBER

1949- Mao Zedong names himself head of the state; officially proclaims existence of the People's Republic of China (PRC), thereafter becomes China's National Day.

1955- The Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region is established.

1960- China- Burma definitive border treaty is signed.

2 OCTOBER

1949- Soviet Union recognizes the PRC.

2007- Second Inter-Korean Summit between Roh Moo Hyun and Kim Jong Il.

2008- US senate approves 123 Nuclear Treaty with India.

3 OCTOBER

1943- Japan organises Giyugun (local defense forces) for Sumatra and Java.

2013- US & Japan boost regional military surveillance amid territorial tensions with China.

4 OCTOBER

1957- Prime Minister Nehru's 10-days visit to Japan begins.

1980- At UNSC, 38 Islamic countries demand withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan.

2015- India lifts unofficial blockade against Nepal.

5 OCTOBER

1961- Border treaty is signed between China and Nepal signed

1989- Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama is awarded Nobel Peace Prize.

2020- Kyrgyzstani protests began in response to allegations of vote rigging in parliamentary elections.

6 OCTOBER

1950- Battle of Markham Gartok occurs amid Chinese invasion of Tibet.

1970- After three-months operation, South Vietnam forces withdraw from Cambodia.

1976- The cultural revolution in the PRC ends with the arrest of the Gang of Four and their associates.

7 OCTOBER

2001- US launches Operation Enduring Freedom in response to 11 September attack by the Taliban and al-Qaeda militants.

2014- Myanmar's government pardons 3073 prisoners, including 58 foreign nationals.

8 OCTOBER

1954- With the defeat of France in Vietnam, Vietminh communist guerrilla occupy Hanoi.

1998- Japanese PM Obuchi issues a written apology to South Korean citizens for 35 years of brutal colonial rule.

2010- Liu Xiaobo receives Nobel Peace Prize for his non-violent struggle for human rights in China.

9 OCTOBER

1979- Foundation of the Cambodian Liberation National Front, including royalists and Khmer Rouge against the pro-Vietnam government.

2006- North Korea announces of having conducted its first nuclear weapons test.

2012- Malala Yousafzai fired by Taliban activists in Pakistan.

10 OCTOBER

1995- The National League for Democracy defies the Junta and reappoints Aung San Suu Kyi as its General Secretary.

2002- After the 1999 coup, free election was held in Pakistan for the first time.

2014- Kailash Satyarthi of India and Malala Yousafzai of Pakistan are awarded Nobel Peace Prize.

11 OCTOBER

1987- Operation Pawan starts wherein Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka killed several thousand ethnic Tamil civilians, hundreds of Tamil Tigers and several hundred Indian soldiers.

2015- K P Sharma Oli, leader of the Communist Party of Nepal defeats Sushil Koirala and becomes new Prime Minister.

2016- Ilham Tohti, imprisoned Chinese Uygur Economics professor, receives top human rights award, bestowed by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and eight other groups.

12 OCTOBER

1948- Soviet Union recognises North Korea as People's Democratic Republic of Korea.

2013- In Maldives, Mohamed Waheed ends election bid after receiving mere 5 percent vote in first round of ballot. He gets replaced by Mohamed Nasheed.

2020- State of emergency declared in Kyrgyzstan by President Jeenbekov.

13 OCTOBER

2000- South Korean President Kim Dae Jung is awarded Nobel Peace Prize.

2006- Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh is awarded Nobel Peace Prize.

2016-Maldives announces to withdraw from the

Commonwealth of Nations accusing it of intervention in domestic affairs.

14 OCTOBER

1952- Battle of Triangle Hill amid the Korean War occurs between UN-South Korean forces and China.

1984- About two million people gather at Dhaka protesting the end of two and half year martial law.

1991- Aung San Suu Kyi selected for Nobel Peace Prize for her non-violent struggle for democracy and human rights.

15 OCTOBER

1990- UN General Assembly approves the Peace Plan for Cambodia.

1999- General Pervez Musharaff declared emergency and suspends the constitution in Pakistan.

2012- The Philippines signs a peace plan with the largest Muslim rebel group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

16 OCTOBER

1905- Partition of Bengal (India- Bangladesh) by the British.

1934- The Long march and start of Communist Party of China.

1964- PRC detonates its first nuclear weapon.

17 OCTOBER

2007- The Dalai Lama receives the US Congress Gold Medal.

2009- Red Shirt protesters rally in Bangkok, seeking royal pardon for Thaksin Shinawatra.

2014- India's indigenous subsonic cruise missile, Nirbhay is tested at Odisha coast.

18 OCTOBER

1991- Cambodia renounces ideology of Marxism and embraces multiparty system.

2017- Xi Jinping in the 19th CPC address endorses new era Chinese socialism.

19 OCTOBER

1950- Battle of Pyongyang, one of the major battles of the UN, during the Korean war, ends.

1956- Soviet Union and Japan signed the Treaty of Peace to end war and restore diplomatic ties between the nations.

2012- US invites Myanmar to joint military drills, Cobra Gold, symbolic gesture of rapprochement with West despite poor human rights record.

20 OCTOBER

1962- Sino-Indian war; China invades India around Aksai Chin, NEFA and Ladakh.

2012- A court in Bangladesh jails 723 border guards for their role in a bloody mutiny in 2009.

2019- Second Battle of Ras al-Ayn between Turkish armed forces and Turkish backed Syrian

National Army against Syrian Democratic Forces.

21 OCTOBER

1895- The capitulation of Taiwan marked the beginning of the era of Japanese colonial rule in Taiwan.

1959- The United Nations General Assembly resolution 1353-XIV expresses concern over Tibet.

1994- North Korea and US sign agreement requiring N.Korea to stop its nuclear weapons program.

22 OCTOBER

1999- China ends its first ever human rights conference, defying western notions of civil liberties.

23 OCTOBER

1944- Battle of Leyte Gulf at Philippines, amid World War II begins.

1955- By a referendum, South Vietnam abolishes monarchy.

1991- Comprehensive Political Settlement of Cambodia at Paris Conference puts an end to 21-year long war.

24 OCTOBER

1945- UN Charter comes into existence. Turkey, India, Iraq and Republic of China were among the 51 founding member states.

25 OCTOBER

1945- Fifty years of Japanese rule in Taiwan ends with China assuming control.

26 OCTOBER

1962- National emergency declared in India, following Chinese aggression.

2014- British forces end combat operations in Afghanistan.

27 OCTOBER

1961- Mongolia joins the UN.

1987- Operation Lalang begins in Malaysia.

28 OCTOBER

2015- Nepal elects its first female President, Bidhya Bhandari.

29 OCTOBER

2001- Japanese Diet approves a law authorizing the sending Japanese forces to fight international terrorism outside its territories.

30 OCTOBER

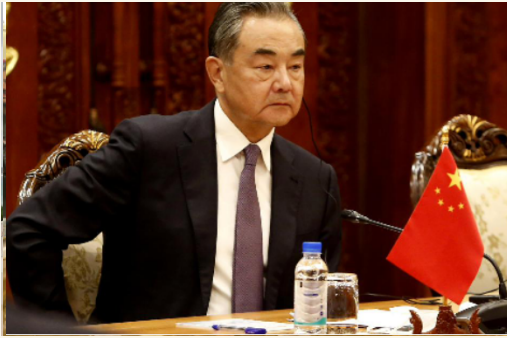
2009- Taiwan's President calls on China to withdraw missiles targeting the island.

31 OCTOBER

1968- US President Lyndon Johnson orders end to bombing in North Korea.

1984- Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi is assassinated resulting in riots around Delhi.

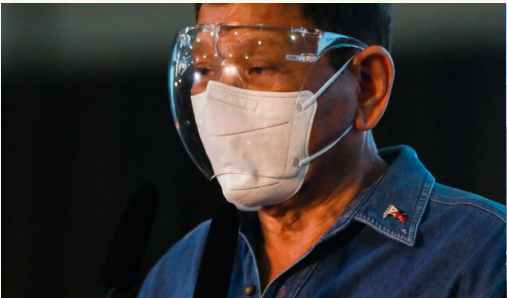
News in Pictures



China's FM grants Cambodia aid of 1.74 billion yuan (\$272 million) for aid and friendship – 12th September, 2021. Source: AP News



North-Korea tests anti-aircraft missile – 1st October, 2021. Source: The Wall Street Journal



Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte resignation from Politics – 2nd October, 2021. Source: The Wall Street Journal



Japan's northwestern Chiba Prefecture was struck by a 5.9 magnitude earthquake on 7th October, 2021. Source: CNN



Suicide blast in Afghanistan's Shia Mosque – 8th October, 2021. Source: CNN



Sydney reopens after four months lockdown – 11th October, 2021. Source: BBC News



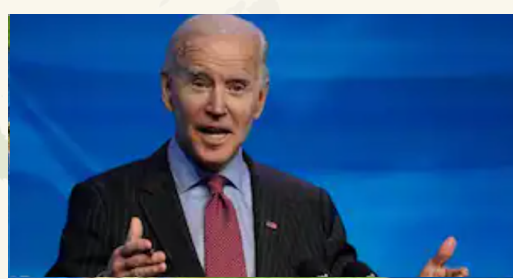
Taliban-USA first direct talks since US left in August – 12th October, 2021. Source: BBC



Abdul Qadeer Khan, Father of Pakistan's Nuclear Program, Dies at 85. Source: New York Times



PM Modi visit to US. Source: TOI



Joe Biden announces Indo-Pacific alliance AUKUS with UK, Australia ahead of Quad summit. Source: First Post

Feedbacks

“I have been associated with the Association of Asia Scholars (AAS) as a participant in their webinars, workshops and international conferences in the last two years. These have given a valuable platform for young scholars like me to engage with established scholars from world over and learn as part of AAS community. AAS’s webinar format of an open and their detailed discussion after talk especially stands out as their unique feature. On a personal note, I have gained excellent suggestions for my academic writing by way of contributing towards their publications. I recommend young scholars to participate and engage with AAS.”

Devendra Kumar Bishnoi,
Ph.D. Research Scholar
Department of Political Science, School of Social Sciences
University of Hyderabad

“I have found Association of Asian Scholar’s webinars, discussions highly comprehensive and full of intellectual appetite for grooming younger International Relations’ Researchers and teachers. Since its very beginning and now reaching at 52 webinars as of now, the credit goes to its learned organisers and disciplined team members for their remarkable commitment to carry out this beacon of knowledge and academic excellence and enhancement. I believe this lecture series will be seen as a trend-setter under the leadership of Prof Swaran Singh and Prof Reena Marwah for many years to come.”

Ahmed Bux Jamali
PhD Candidate, School of International Relations and Public Affairs
Shanghai International Studies University China

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This issue is comprised of theoretically well-grounded and evidence-driven research papers on comparative issues of Asian countries.

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