



# ASSOCIATION OF ASIA SCHOLARS

# GLOBALISING ASIA

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOL 2, No. 4

15TH NOVEMBER, 2021

*From the Editors' Desk...*

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## India at COP26: Is there a consensus?

The old saying that 'One lie can ruin a thousand truths' sums up the frustration and angst that was writ large towards the conclusion of this year's two weeks' of discussions, debates and protests at the Glasgow Climate Change summit that ended on 14th November. Nations did manage to commit to speed up emission cuts but not at the pace and scale necessary to avoid the irreversible damage to our beautiful blue planet. A greater challenge is the need for nations to translate their pledges into rapid action. The broken promise of \$100 billion a year by the developed countries for climate action since 2009 has undermined trust in climate multilateralism. In the run up to the Glasgow COP26, developing countries like India were pressurised to enhance their ambitions in defining their pathways to achieving their stated goals. India's five nectar elements, 'Panchamrit' — comprising of non-fossil energy capacity to increase to 500 GW by 2030, meeting 50 percent of energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030, reducing the total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes till 2030, reducing carbon intensity of its economy by less than 45 percent by 2030, and achieving the target of Net Zero by the year 2070 — reflect its seriousness in combating the challenges of climate change.

At the same time, prime minister Modi did not miss calling out the rich nations on their slack action. He underlined the imperative for climate finance to the extent of \$1 trillion, juxtaposing success of climate mitigation with green finance. Indian Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, alluded to phasing out coal-fired power

plants, though he also stressed that developing countries were "entitled to the responsible use of fossil fuels." He pointed out India's own contribution to climate action, epitomised by the creation of the International Solar Alliance, the, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructures as well as the One Sun, One World, One Grid initiatives. He also though alluded to the lack of consensus on key issues and blamed "unsustainable lifestyles and wasteful consumption patterns" in rich countries for causing global warming.

While such varying interpretations and finger pointing may continue, what is urgent is that each nation must stop focusing only on their own sustenance. They must begin appreciating the interconnectedness of the entire planet. Even India is yet to sign the pledge against deforestation. Even its own experience of rapid loss of forest cover has impacted on the livelihoods of its people as also its environment. India also must consider joining the Global Methane Pledge. After all, as documented by a recent report of the CEEW, the frequency and intensity of extreme climate events in India have increased by almost 200 per cent since 2005. It is a truism that climate is a great equaliser and spares no one. The trouble is that most nations still continue to fend for themselves as also think that they have time!

*Prof Swaran Singh*  
*Prof Reena Marwah*

# Internet Censorship and China's Project to Build a Cyberspace Civilisation

Tennis star Peng Shuai's accusations have reignited the debate on feminism and the "#metoo" movement in China. The post where Peng wrote about her relationship with the former vice-premier was taken down quickly and the



Megha Pardhi

discussion around the case was also heavily censored. Such censorship is not unusual even for China as Chinese netizens do often find innovative ways around censors. Apart from controlling the narrative and damage control, the internet censorship regime in China has also been explained as part of constructing civilised cyberspace to build an 'internet civilisation'.

In September 2021, the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the State Council had released "Opinions on Strengthening the Construction of Network/Cyberspace /Internet Civilization" (关于加强网络文明建设的意见) guidelines to develop a "more civilized" and "well-regulated cyberspace." Building civilised cyberspace is one of the goals mentioned in the 14th-Five-Year Plan of China. The project to civilise the internet goes beyond just filtering some keywords. It is also tied to the crackdown on big tech companies and attempts to build the digital economy. With these guidelines, China aims to mould Chinese cyberspace in socialist and Marxist values. The guidelines aim to prevent cyber-crimes, online bullying, prevent disinformation, protect personal information and data security, educate minors, and encourage self-discipline among the online platform operators. Censorship helps to manage the malice that CPC aims to eliminate to build civilised cyberspace. For example, in 2009 the state adopted various measures to clean up the cyberspace of profanity. These measures included banning keywords and shutting down websites and forums dealing with pornographic content. In 2019, the Cyberspace

Administration of China (CAC) again launched a campaign to sanitise cyberspace by taking down content that was deemed as promoting profanity.

Preventing disinformation is the other most commonly used pretexts by CPC to regulate cyberspace. There are numerous instances of the State and CPC using this excuse to censor the discussion on sensitive topics.

*This is not the first attempt to clean cyberspace. Since social media and internet platforms started to become viable platforms for freedom of expression, the CPC has attempted to model it according to the party's vision.*

For example, Li Wenliang, the Wuhan whistleblower who first warned about the COVID-19 was interrogated and made to apologise for spreading rumours. During the pandemic, many articles exposing the mishandling of the COVID-19 situation were taken down on the same pretext. But the primary aim of regulating such articles was to manage unrest over the mishandling of COVID-19 and the present CPC in a positive light.

Tech companies in China have long followed the

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state line on regulating the internet. Late Prof. Jing Wang noted in her book *The Other Digital China*, that Weibo had completed its descent from the “altar of social conscience to a mere entertainment platform.” From removing articles to banning searches of sensitive keywords, the internet platforms constantly try to walk the tightrope of regulations and user demand. The guideline on algorithms, data security regulations, and classification of internet platforms effectively restricts the influence of internet platforms.

Such attempts have affected social movements including key platforms for advocates of feminism and LGBTQ activists. Leta Hong in her book *Betraying Big Brother* argues that subordination of women is a fundamental element of the Communist Party’s dictatorship and its “stability maintenance” system. She states that sexism and misogyny have long been a characteristic of China’s authoritarian control. Hence, it is unlikely that CPC’s civilised internet will have space for strong feminist voices.

*Regulating cyberspace also enables the CPC to check the power and influence of big tech companies which have become more influential with the rise of internet subscribers. The recent guidelines suggest private companies and industries take a lead in building such civilised cyberspace and encourage the private sector to make “financial and material contributions” for the cause.*

The netizens, however, understand that their posts will be removed at some point and hence adopted innovative ways to carry on the discussion. From using humour, converting content into codewords to creating repositories of banned articles, Chinese

netizens often find an innovative way to express themselves. For example, when Weibo blocked mentions of Peng Shuai (彭帅), netizens started referring to the case by sharing “Eddie Peng is so handsome!” because the sentence begins with 彭 and ends with 帅, forming Peng Shuai’s name.

Another motivation behind internet censorship that contributes to building civilised cyberspace is behaviour modelling. Censoring keywords and banning websites, the authorities signal the type of content allowed for publication. Such ‘soft’ signalling encourages netizens to focus more on the positive aspects of leadership rather than discussing the negatives. The guidelines mention the need to mobilise netizens to actively participate in supervising content on the internet, thus encouraging peer censorship. Multiple studies have shown that censorship of the internet has increased self-censorship among netizens. Combined with hard measures like fines, punishments, and the social credit system, internet censorship has become quite effective.

Lastly, attempts to civilise cyberspace are also aimed to strengthen the hold of CPC by using internet platforms to further paint CPC in a positive light. The guidelines on civilising cyberspace advocate promoting CPC’s achievements and discourage attempts to use the past to question the CPC. The CPC’s aim is to present itself as an indisputable leader and guide of China. The CPC project to build civilised cyberspace has ensured that even though the netizen know the innovative ways to keep their discussions alive, the net effect of self-censorship combined with compliance of big tech companies in China has resulted in strengthening the censorship regime.



## China's New Border Law and its Water Hegemony

China has made international headlines again with his strategic attempt to change the geopolitics of Asia. On 22nd October 2021, the Standing Committee of its National People Congress passed a new land border law for the protection

As reported by Xinhua, this law is to come into effect on January 1, 2022.

This new law stipulates that the Chinese border is most sacred and China will be ready to actively combat to ensure the territorial integrity of its borders. This implies taking economic equality to reach these far-out areas. China claims that this law will provide a major boost to its national economy. But China's New Land Border Law is also expected to lead to better surveillance of its border regions. In the end, the law also states that whatever disputes may arise, China will adopt friendly consultation and negotiation policy to resolve them.

China has had border disputes with a total of 14 countries throughout the PRC's history and 12 of them have already been resolved. The remaining two are Bhutan and India. China also has a temporary border agreement with Pakistan which is expected to be renegotiated after final settlement of Jammu and Kashmir between India and Pakistan. Even with Bhutan, China recently signed an MOU to work together on an early border resolution and infrastructural development plan with Bhutan. With India, however, there has been no sign of any early resolution its border dispute. This makes this New Border Law especially directed on China-India ties.

Some experts even insinuate this law aiming to strengthen and legitimise credibility of China's aggressive posturing in these border areas. China's grand standing in controlling a major transnational



Disha Garg

river systems in Asia as also its persistence in the Doklam and the Galwan standoffs, and continued positioning at various other points especially in Ladakh region can have a detrimental impact on India's security interests. All this further reinforces China's emergence as a regional hegemon where its incremental control over transnational rivers have gone virtually unnoticed. China's emergence as the upstream water controller have led experts to forecast likely scenarios of water wars. This creates a potential threat for India's national security as well and New Delhi sure need to rethink its water security strategy and its hydro-diplomacy. Let us briefly examine the case of China's dam proliferation over the Yarlung Tsangpo or Brahmaputra river and its geopolitical implications for the lower riparian country, India.

*China will ensure that the nearby towns and villages under Chinese jurisdiction receive all infrastructural upgrades, economic benefits and connectivity to improve their living standards.*

China's dam-building and water diversion plans along the Brahmaputra (called Yarlung Tsangbo in China) have been a source of tension between the two neighbours, despite the two having signed several MoUs on strengthening communication and strategic trust including those of sharing seasonal hydrodynamics data to prepare lower riparian states against likely floods or droughts. This bilateral understanding is not binding and has not been complied to by upper



riparian state, China. Yarlung Tsangpo's water flows affects 1.3 billion lives annually in China, India and Bangladesh. Assam has always been the most affected region. The Lalho Dam project on the Brahmaputra is an example of China's unquenchable energy thirst to meet its rapid industrialisation in its dry northern region. Geopolitically, the water conflict between India and Pakistan (China's closest ally) coupled with the hydrological dependence of India on China can give rise to the possibility of a water wars. While India is legally bound in water treaties with Pakistan and Bangladesh, the absence of a water treaty between India and China makes South Asian transboundary rivers the most critical scenario for weaponisation of rivers.

*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.*

China weaponising water – after the Doklam and Galwan standoffs — has become a credible scenario. China had stopped sharing the hydrological data of the Brahmaputra river with India during the Doklam standoff. In the absence of hydrological data, floods caused damage to crops and other livelihood of millions of people in Assam. Water can be used as a political weapon as well. For example, China could easily flood some areas. Siang river in Arunachal is the principal constituent river of Brahmaputra flows 1600 km through southern Tibet considered as the lifeline of northern Arunachal Pradesh. In 2017, the crystal-clear water turned dark black due to slag used in constructing infrastructure for dams across major transnational rivers. This resulted in major damage to the aquatic life of the river, loss of livelihood of fishermen community, and water has

become unfit for human consumption.

This New Land Border Law of China, therefore in only going to further complicate India's challenges in redressing its long-pending disputes with China. On one hand, this law tries to open diplomatic channels to settle any border disputes but on the other hand it justifies the deployment of troops on the border areas, building new infrastructure for surveillance, energy, and security. It will create a security dilemma for lower riparian countries like India. It will create anxiety as China plans to come further closer to frontier areas. This also portends China creating legal basis for its unilateral actions on the border with direct implications for transnational river system.

The road map for India to mitigate the risk of water wars or any other border tensions with China calls for early cooperative mechanisms for dispute settlement including on water sharing. India also needs to work to come up with similar stature where it clearly defined the border demarcations stated clearly where it ends, and which areas will fall under its jurisdiction. The multilateral treaties governing the use of transboundary rivers are prominently absent in South Asia. Consequently, India needs to strengthen its regional connectivity through soft diplomacy to counter China's water hegemony in the region.

## India's Growing Ties with the US in the Indo-Pacific

Over the last 20 years, India-United States' (US) relations have witnessed exceptional progress and achieved milestones that include elevating their ties to a "comprehensive global strategic partnership". At the same time, the changing Asian power structure with



Dr. J. Susanna Lobo

the narrowing power gap between the US and China and their deepening global competition for power and influence has shifted the focus of international politics from the North Atlantic to the Indo-Pacific. Apart from this, this vast stretch of water linking the Indian and the Pacific Oceans also consist of critical sea lanes important for the economies and maritime security of a majority of littoral and extra-regional countries. This changing geo-strategic and geo-economic scenario has facilitated this increasing Indo-US proximity.

China's growing presence and military buildup in the Indian Ocean region through the 'Maritime Silk Road' initiatives has increased India's security concerns in the immediate neighbourhood. Likewise, China's aggressive and assertive behaviour in the South China Sea (SCS) hampers the security of the US' allies who are involved in disputes with China in the SCS and challenge the dominant US position in Asia. India and the US have also been concerned about the free flow of trade and the security of sea lanes as billions of dollars of commerce flows through the vital sea lanes.

With the growing convergence of their interests in the Indo-Pacific, India and the US have been building their security cooperation to secure and promote their long-term strategies. In October 2010, Hillary Clinton, the former US Secretary of State, had first used the phrase 'Indo-Pacific' to describe a newly emerging and integrated theatre.

This further gained momentum under the Barack Obama administration's new found regional strategy called the 'Asia Pivot' coming into being. Prior to this, India did not even figure in the US' imaginations of their continental Asia-Pacific strategy. In its official statements and reports since

the US has repeatedly reiterated India's importance in the region as a reliable partner. The 2010 US Quadrennial Defense Review report, for instance, had stated: "As India's military capabilities grow, India will contribute to Asia as a net provider of security in the India Ocean and beyond" (US Department of Defense 2010: 60).

*China's growing presence in the region has strengthen Indo-US sense of their shared maritime challenges. Their growing strategic partnership is also guided by their shared democratic values and commitment to the rule of law, which converges their support for a free and open Indo-Pacific*

Again, during President's Obama's visit to India in 2015, the US showed interest to work with India towards their common challenges in the region. This understanding led to the conclusion of a Joint Strategic Vision, highlighting the importance of safeguarding maritime security and ensuring freedom of navigation and overflights throughout the region. Later the US Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (ARIA) of December 2018, laid down the US long term strategic vision for the region, recognised India and the US' strategic partnership in promoting peace and security.

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In October 2020, before the third 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue, the US. Defense Secretary Mark Esper stated that “India will be the most consequential partner for the US in the Indo-Pacific this century” (Hindu 2020). This underlines how close the two have forged their ties in a short span of 20 years.

The Logistic Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), and the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA).

### *India-US defense cooperation and the signing of three foundational military agreements have especially facilitated India-US cooperation in the maritime domain.*

In fact, ever since 1992 India and the US have been holding the Malabar naval exercise to enhance their maritime security, ensure freedom of navigation and security of sea lanes from piracy, and to confront their common maritime challenges. The Malabar exercises have since been widened in its engagement and area of operation with the involvement of Japan and Australia where the recent naval exercises are making it Quad navies exercises. The US has facilitated India's closer defense cooperation with Japan and Australia in the maritime domain where it has signed the “mutual logistics support agreement” with both states that allow all three of them to use each other's military base for logistic support.

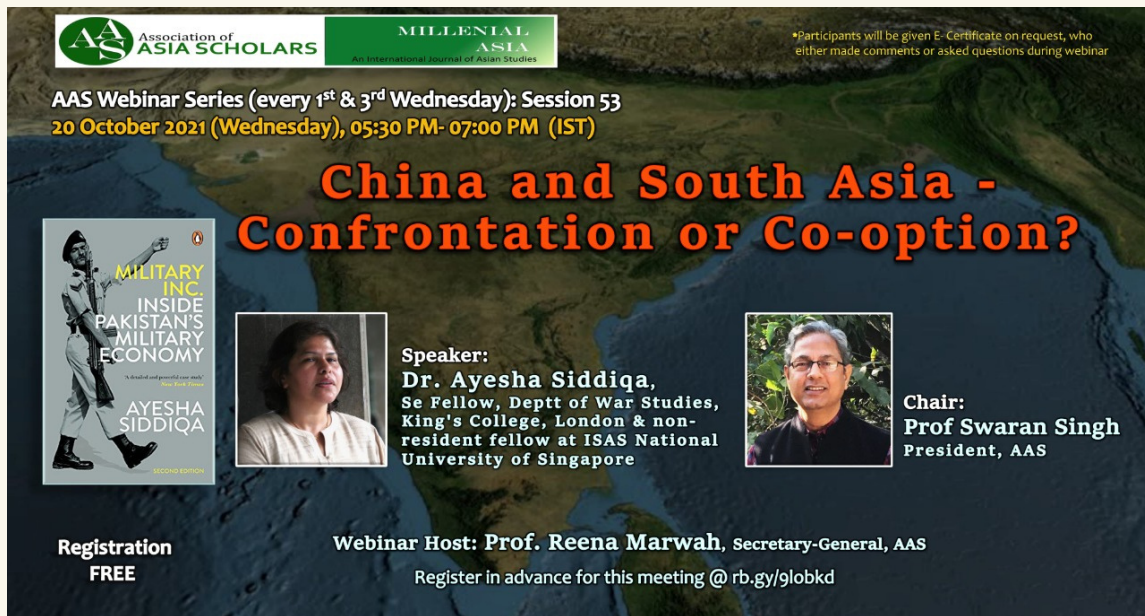
Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (or Quad) — a network of like-minded and democratic states working towards a shared security interest of FOIP — have symbolised the Indo-US partnership in the Indo-Pacific. In their first-ever online Quad Leaders' Summit in March 2021 followed by their

in-person summit in Washington in September 2021, have expanded their agenda to include climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic. On this front, they have initiated the Quad Vaccine Partnership. They have shown their political will to work on the themes of climate ambition, that include working on 2030 targets for national emissions and renewable energy, and clean energy, innovation and deployment, as well as adaption, resilience, and preparedness.

From the pace as also direction of their bilateral engagement so far, it seems India and the US are forging a long-term strategic partnership to address their traditional and non-traditional security challenges with an increasing focus on the FOIP. In the past, India was skeptical of involving itself in a partnership with the external powers, primarily to avoid taking sides in the bipolar system and maintain its strategic autonomy. With the changing international scenario and ever-increasing regional security compulsion, India now seems willing to work with the like-minded states to overcome the security challenges. India's relations with the US and other states of the region have accordingly increased its regional profile as an emergent power and reliable partner against the forces having intentions to destabilise the region.



## “China and South Asia: Confrontation or co-option?” by Dr Ayesha Siddiq



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

**AAS Webinar Series (every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday): Session 53**  
**20 October 2021 (Wednesday), 05:30 PM- 07:00 PM (IST)**

**China and South Asia - Confrontation or Co-option?**

**Speaker:**  
**Dr. Ayesha Siddiq,**  
Se Fellow, Deptt of War Studies,  
King's College, London & non-  
resident fellow at ISAS National  
University of Singapore

**Chair:**  
**Prof Swaran Singh**  
President, AAS

**Registration FREE**

**Webinar Host: Prof. Reena Marwah, Secretary-General, AAS**  
Register in advance for this meeting @ [rb.gy/globkd](https://rb.gy/globkd)

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

Professor Ayesha's speech focused on South Asia. She interrogated if the region was prepared for confrontation, or Co-option. She also spoke at length on how South Asia is evolving concerning the two main power centres, the US and China. Her address focused on issues pertaining to Pakistan, China in particular, and the Indian Ocean.

The critical point, in her view, was 2011, when the US eliminated Osama Bin Laden and began cleaning up Afghanistan, and then there is a focus on confronting China and Russia, similar to the Cold War. The US was very interested even in the China Pakistan Economic Corridor. In her words, “China has engaged with several South Asian countries, such as Nepal, Sri Lanka with the intent of strengthening itself. The United States does not have either the resources or the intent to feed into the South Asian region. And that's where China is using it as an opportunity, especially the regime and political changes in the region. China is strategically interventionist, unlike the US and this has worked in its favour. Due to its actions, the South Asian region is, in a way partnering

with China but not entirely shifting towards China. Pakistan is divided, in the way it is working with both US and China.”

Pakistan looks at China, particularly post what happened in Afghanistan, and is keen to pursue its own interests. While India is trying to find its place in Afghanistan, Dr. Ayesha noted that China had a lot of capacity to invest in the region. She also emphasized the need to have multiple dialogues between countries and the need to cooperate to protect the South Asian region and also to decide how the region imagines itself, particularly where global competition is considered. She also indicated that she does not think that the conflict between China and the US would evolve into a war. She also emphasized that both India and Pakistan must cooperate and come together and engage in constructive dialogues. Professor Ayesha concluded by stating that there needs to be more cooperation and for scholars to truly look at what the region can achieve and how all the countries can come together to mutually develop themselves and the region.

*by Neeraj Singh Manhas*

## “The Evolution of American Foreign Policy: Principle or Pragmatism?” by Dr. Gregory Moore

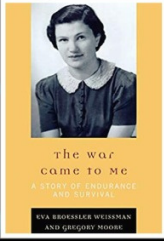


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**AAS Webinar Series (every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday): Session 54**  
**03 November 2021 (Wednesday), 05:30 PM- 07:00 PM (IST)**

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


### The Evolution of American Foreign Policy: Principle or Pragmatism?



**Registration FREE**



**Speaker:**  
**Dr Gregory Moore**  
Centre for Intelligence and Security Studies, Notre Dame College, Ohio, USA



**Chair:**  
**Prof Swaran Singh**  
President, AAS

**Webinar Host: Prof. Reena Marwah, Secretary-General, AAS**

Register in advance for this meeting @ [rb.gy/wn7hq8](https://rb.gy/wn7hq8)

Prof. Gregory Moore spoke about the evolution of American Policy since the American Revolution. According to him the approach of the US to foreign policy did not develop all at once, or as the result of solitary inspiration but two critical factors had shaped the current approach of conducting foreign policy. He stated that after the revolution the American Foreign Policy reflected the National Interest which was very basic i.e. preserving its independence. Geography played a critical role in minimizing the potential threat from Europe.

He talked about the role of leadership in formulating policies for America. In his view, the founders of America were very sophisticated political minds ever gathered in human history. They conducted diplomacy for their country and were successful in preserving the country's independence. He then mentioned the element of neutrality in American foreign policy. During French Revolution, the US declared neutrality as it did not want a winner in European affairs. So, the US practiced a form of non-alignment and the founders very quickly realized the benefits of neutrality as a bargaining tool.

Prof. Moore compared the American and European foreign policies. American leaders were committed to principles that they believed made the US exceptional. He viewed that European Nations had much narrower margins of survival, and they form an alliance against the possibility of change. However, America adapts its policy to resist the actuality of change. He analyzed American foreign policy with the dimension of security and peace. He added that Americans viewed their security and the oceans that provide them as signs of divine providers. USA believes that nation states should act as cooperative partners, not rivals. In the past, leaders also avoided alliance as a tool for security. The idea that peace depends on promoting democratic institutions has remained a fundamental part of American thought.

He uncovered the global vision of American leaders and countries' responsibility to spread its values in contribution to world peace. America was aware of no conflict between high-minded principles and the necessities of survival.

*By Disha Garg*



# NOVEMBER IN ASIAN HISTORY

by Dr Chaitra C

## 1 NOVEMBER

1954- French return Pondicherry to the Indian sovereignty.

2015- China-Japan-South Korea trilateral summit in Seoul begins.

2016- In the Battle of Mosul, ISIL militants killed 40 former Iraqi security forces.

2020- Hong Kong pro-democracy leaders arrested for scuffles with pro-Beijing legislators.

## 2 NOVEMBER

2016- US blocks sale of firearms to the Philippines due to concerns of human rights violation.

2018- Maulana Sami-ul-Haq, known the father of the Taliban is killed in Rawalpindi.

2020- Kabul University attack by ISIL militants results in around 20 casualties.

## 3 NOVEMBER

1839- First Opium war between Britain and China begins.

1946- A new constitution is adopted in Japan, ending the rule of Emperor Hirohito.

1978- Treaty of Amity and Cooperation is signed between Vietnam and Soviet Union.

2007- A state of emergency is declared in Pakistan by General Mushraff.

## 4 NOVEMBER

2016- South Korean political scandal; later results in invoking impeachment motion against President Park Geun-Hye.

2019- Amid civil unrest in Iraq, internet access across the country cut off.

## 5 NOVEMBER

1556- Second Battle of Panipat results in Akbar assuming the throne.

1945- France gives administrative autonomy to Cambodia.

2003- Chandrika Kumaratunga declares state of emergency in Sri Lanka.

## 6 NOVEMBER

1950- King of Nepal Tribhuvan flees to India and Gyanendra is enthroned.

2008- Meeting between Ma Ying-Jeou (Taiwan) and Chen Yunlin (China).

2015- China and Vietnam pledge to be "good neighbours" to maintain peace in South China Sea.

## 7 NOVEMBER

2015- First ever meeting of President Xi Jinping and President Ma Ying Jeou in Singapore.

2015- China-US joint military exercises in the Atlantic Ocean begins.

## 8 NOVEMBER

1937- Chiang Kai-shek issues retreat order from Shanghai, under Japanese offensive.

2009- The Dalai Lama visits the Tawang monastery in Arunachal Pradesh.

2015- First free nation-wide elections held in Myanmar.

## 9 NOVEMBER

1946- The first constitution of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam is adopted.

1953- Cambodia becomes independent from France.

1990- A new constitution is adopted in democratic Nepal.

## 10 NOVEMBER

1973- Henry Kissinger visits Beijing to normalise relations with China.

1986- Restoration of Bangladesh's constitution.

2001-China is admitted to the WTO officially.

## 11 NOVEMBER

1921- Washington Naval Conference to discuss the Pacific and Far East issues begins.

1983- Ronald Reagan becomes the first US President to address Japanese Parliament.

## 12 NOVEMBER

1944- The Second Eastern Turkestan Republic is proclaimed near Xinjiang.

1978- Deng Xiaoping visits Singapore.

## 13 NOVEMBER

1998- Russia and Japan agree to sign a post-World War II peace deal by 2000.

1998- Cambodian Prime Minister arrives at an agreement with his rival Prince Norodom Ranariddh to lead a coalition government.

2010- Aung San Suu Kyi released from house arrest in Myanmar.

## 14 NOVEMBER

1860- The Treaty of Peking was signed between China and Russia.

1979- UNGA adopts a resolution with regard to withdrawal of foreign forces from Cambodia.

1981- A new constitution is promulgated in Bhutan.

1999- UNSC asks all the member states to freeze Taliban assets abroad.

## 15 NOVEMBER

1929- Chen Duxiu, founder of Chinese Communist Party ousted for opposing the policies of the Comintern.

2009- Barack Obama makes his first visit to China.



## 16 NOVEMBER

1988- Benazir Bhutto is elected as the first women Prime Minister of Pakistan.

2000- Bill Clinton visits Communist Vietnam, first of its kind by a US President.

2017- Cambodia's Supreme Court dissolves main opposition CNRP party; seen as the end of democracy there.

## 17 NOVEMBER

1869- The Suez Canal traffic opens; offering direct sea link between Asia and Europe.

1905- Japan-Korea Protectorate Treaty (Eulsa Treaty) makes Korea a protectorate of Japan.

1975- East Timor freed from Portugal.

2011- Khmer Rouge leader Thirith, charged with genocide unfit for trial, adjudges Cambodia's UN backed tribunal.

## 18 NOVEMBER

1974- General Ford becomes the first US President to visit Japan.

2014- Buddhist Party quits Sri Lankan government for Rajapaksa's refusal to bring in democratic reforms.

## 19 NOVEMBER

1858- Following Sepoy Mutiny, powers transferred from British East India Company to British Crown, over India.

1928- Japanese Emperor Hirohito appears on the newly unveiled Times Magazine cover.

1946- Afghanistan becomes the UN member-state.

2009- Barack Obama offers economic aid to North Korea on abandoning its nuclear weapons.

## 20 NOVEMBER

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.

## 21 NOVEMBER

1970- Operation Ivory Coast launched by US forces to rescue US prisoners of war during Vietnam War.

1972- A new constitution approved in South Korea and Fourth Republic gains legitimacy.

2006- Peace accord signed between Girija Prasad Koirala and Prachanda in Nepal.

## 22 NOVEMBER

1972- Richard Nixon lifts 22-year-old interdiction for US citizens to visit China.

2001- Pakistan closes Afghan embassy under Taliban control.

2015- ASEAN Community to evolve a single market and eliminating trade barriers formed.

## 23 NOVEMBER

2008- The Commonwealth suspends Pakistan for the imposition of national emergency.

2013- China establishes air-defense zone over East China Sea.

## 24 NOVEMBER

2013- Thousands of civilians' protest against Thailand government.

## 25 NOVEMBER

1936- The Anti-Comintern Pact is signed between Japan and Germany.

1950- Chinese army entered the Korean War.

2015- A renewed nuclear treaty is signed between US and South Korea.

## 26 NOVEMBER

1924- Mongolian People's Republic comes into existence.

1949- New Constitution for independent India adopted by the constituent assembly.

2008- Terror attacks in Mumbai kills 164.

## 27 NOVEMBER

1971- ASEAN proclaims to be a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality.

2016- Dalai Lama's visit to Mongolia results in China's backlash.

## 28 NOVEMBER

1956- Zhou En Lai visits Nehru in New Delhi.

1998-China and Japan arrive at a Joint Declaration on Building Partnership of Friendship and Cooperation for Peace and Development.

## 29 NOVEMBER

1890- The Meiji Constitution and Japan's Diet comes into existence.

1983- UNGA Resolution 37/37 seeks Soviet forces to withdraw from Afghanistan.

## 30 NOVEMBER

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

## 31 NOVEMBER

1814- The Battle of Nalapani, between Nepal and East India Company ends.

1949- India recognises People's Republic of China.

## News in Pictures



Suicide bombing targeted a Shia mosque in southern Kandahar 15th October, 2021  
Source: France 24



ASEAN excludes Myanmar's junta chief from upcoming regional summit - 16th October, 2021  
Source: The Hindu



Kerala is hit with floods and landslide, taking 26 peoples life - 17th October, 2021  
Source: BBC News



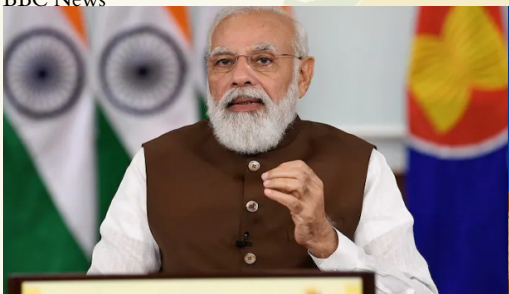
Russia calls for inclusive Afghanistan government in talks with Taliban - 20th October, 2021  
Source: The India Today



For the first time South-Korea launches domestically produced space rocket - 21st October, 2021. Source: BBC News



Clash between two rohingya refugees groups leaves six dead and 10 people severely injured - 22nd October, 2021  
Source: France 24



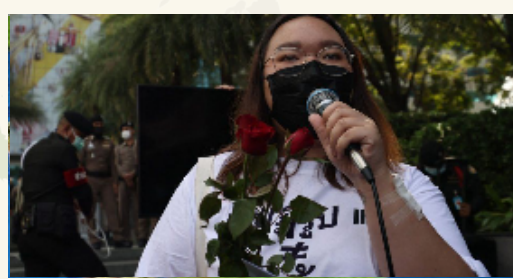
Prime Minister Narendra Modi co-chairs 18th ASEAN summit. Source: MEA Govt. of India



Japan's PM Fumio Kishida strong election victory - 1st November, 2021. Source: Reuters



Climate deal struck at COP26; India, China force amendment on coal reference. Source: The Tribune



Thai protesters calls for reforms in Monarchy has been termed unconstitutional by the court - 10th November, 2021. Source: BBC News



## Feedback

“It was both an honor and privilege for me to be invited to speak at the AAS forum. Especially at a time, when there is a need for such windows to open and allow open and candid exchange of views. From the organizers to the participants, the entire experience was memorable. Such opportunities and that too at the regional level are unfortunately shrinking. I learnt more during the interactive session, and it was indeed pleasant to come across diverse, challenging and extremely intelligent young minds, who approached the subject without any bias and were eager to explore beyond the immediate. The credit goes to this fine selection of participants, the organisers who deserve huge appreciation for creating a platform, where interaction and knowledge sharing is both fun, a great learning exercise, and a wonderful experience. I wish AAS all the best”.

*Dr Salma Malik,  
Department of Defence and Strategic Studies,  
Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan*

“In the time of Smart Research, the AAS's work is up to the mark. The discussions take place in the webinars provides the very basis for crafting future scenarios at the regional and the global level. In contrast to traditional debates and much-trumpeted topics, the AAS always come up with new Perspectives that attract large audience. Instead of shaping up the minds, the AAS's focus is on 'shaking the minds'. This is what the real job of a Think Tanks is.”

*Syed Imran Sardar  
Author. and Senior Research Analyst  
Head, Regional Conflicts and Human Security Program  
Institute of Regional Studies, Islamabad*

“The AAS provides us with useful and great platforms and methods to communicate and understand hot topic issues in Asia with many prominent scholars and researchers through conferences, webinars, discussions, and monthly newsletters. Attending AAS's event will help us learn more about the variety of perspectives and the most up-to-date academic ideas.”

*Chamtha So  
Ph.D student in International Relations  
The University of Cambodia*

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