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INDIA-CHINA CONFLICT



AMID COVID-19



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MISSION

We endeavour to sound **ALERTS** and create **AWARENESS** about the myriad dimensions and manifestations of **DEFENCE** and **SECURITY** in India and around the world.



The power of a King lies in his mighty arms...

Security of the citizens at peace time is very important because State is the only saviour of the men and women who get affected only because of the negligence of the State.

- Chanakya

DSA IS AS MUCH YOURS, AS IT IS OURS!



The loftily named Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs has met four times since the Chinese initiated Ladakh crisis on 19 April 2020. The respective Corps Commanders have met five times, and are likely to meet again; lower down the military chain, Division and Brigade Commanders many times more. The two Special Representatives, as well as the Foreign Ministers, spoke at least a couple of times. None of these interactions have had any influence on the Chinese leadership to restore the boundary status quo as it existed in April 2020. This, thus, means there is only one option—non-military option left.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has met Chinese President Xi Jinping 18 times since 2014; more interactions than he has had with any other foreign leader. The effusive warmth displayed during the meetings, whether on a swing in Ahmedabad; in Wuhan or last in Mahabalipuram less than a year ago would no doubt have given him a greater insight into the thinking that has gone behind the 2020 Chinese intrusions.

India can benefit from his multiple meetings, but for as things stand, Chinese troops have made no signs of withdrawing to their original positions. New Delhi's hyperactive spin doctors sought to convince Indians that disengagement was underway. But it never happened.

The Government of India has tried to sway Indian thinking into believing 'all is well'. But it isn't, and nobody knows that more than the people on the ground. Former J&K Minister for Cooperatives and Ladakh Affairs, Chering Dorjay, has declared that unless India restored status quo 'there will no end' to China occupying more land. He was the president of Ladakh BJP until recently. Ladakhi shepherds have been complaining about grazing lands having shrunk. Clearly pointing to a very disquieting feature of Indian governance, wherein perceptions on the ground are at stark variance with how the government would like the country at large to believe.

Intrusions have been caused by Chinese troops violating an understood principle on border management. The intrusions can only be evicted when the Chinese

withdraw to original positions. They can't be ousted by making India believe there is no crisis, for there is a severe calamity facing the country, and it can't be brushed under the carpet, even if the PM is chary of naming China. The catastrophe is multitudinous, from the local to the larger military message of not retaliating, regional to the international suggestion that India doesn't have the stomach to fight for its land, and the most important of all, New Delhi is more keen on a spin than a lasting solution.

When transparency has taken a toss, and India responded along predicted ways, China will sit as it had long planned, for 18 meetings have indicated to Beijing that the Government of India believes it is the fount of all knowledge, and nothing preceded it. Wangdung, Sumdorong Chu, 1986, Exercise Falcon and Exercise Chequerboard are essentials of inherited military knowledge. But in the current scheme of things, inheritance is selective, just as information dissemination is also discriminatory. As a result this will be the first government in independent India to give up its land without putting up a fight.

Manvendra Singh



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AT LAST NORMALCY IS IN SIGHT!



What an experience we have all had in the past four months! It has shaken everything from bottom to top and in all directions. No movement at all in such a shocking and scary way which no one had ever expected or even visualised. The Covid-19 Pandemic has toppled everything and brought everything to a standstill which no one has ever seen in his / her lifetime.

It was the only factor which has been observed and experienced in the same manner by everyone with no borders, no limitation of economic status of anyone, no caste, no colour or creed across the globe. The entire mankind was on its knees to pray to the Almighty to save them from this pandemic and it is so unfortunate that millions lost the battle and died because of this deadly virus. Production of everything came to a long halt of almost four months in every industry. All business establishments were vacant and all educational institutes were shut down and are still not opened till date in almost all the countries.

We, at DSA, were equally affected and had to suspend publication of the magazine for four months. The last edition of DSA was published in March 2020 and only now team DSA decided to resume its publication from the September 2020 edition. We could have started its publication in August itself but due to certain challenges, it was delayed by a month or so and only now after the celebration of our 74th Independence Day, we could finalise the September 2020 edition. It is in your hands, dear reader, with the same quality content and presented to you with the same production quality it has been maintaining since its first edition in October 2009.

In the past four months the entire world was facing the challenges of pandemic, taking care of the patients, making arrangements for the last rites of the large number of deceased and trying to do the research to find a possible solution to counter this pandemic. Meanwhile, almost all the countries on the globe accused China of being solely responsible for this pandemic and lots of theories related to China's involvement flooded the social media. When China was accused of creating the Covid-19 virus and millions of people died in various parts of the globe, many international companies stopped their operations and have wound up their companies in China. Beijing was cornered and a lot of resentment emerged within China.

With this situation China faced the internal as well as the external heat and thus to divert attention, the Chinese Peoples' Liberation Army was ordered to infiltrate into the Ladakh region in India and several other points on the Line of Actual Control. On the night of 15th and 16th June, 2020; China deployed its army in the region with a lot of arms and ammunition with the intention of staying for a long time. As per the mutual pact between India and China, none of the soldiers were supposed to carry weapons on the LAC. However, it was a sad incident that around 20 Indian soldiers and some 40 Chinese soldiers were killed during this assault in which unconventional weapons like barbed wire was used by the Chinese.

After this infiltration by the Chinese Army, Indian Army and Indian Air Force were kept on the high alert to deal with them. Simultaneously, the Government of India opposed the action of Chinese Army on its borders and this act of China was condemned by almost all the countries on the globe and thus, China agreed to hold talks at both the military and the diplomatic levels. Currently, when this edition reaches you, dear reader, the Government of India would have been trying its best to release the tension in the concerned region but China is still not executing a complete withdrawal and restoration of the status quo taking its army back from the Indian borders and to positions as in April. Talks are still on between both the armies and the governments.

This edition is focused on the Covid-19 as well as on India-China current relationship and I am sure that this edition will also be read minutely by all the defence and security experts especially since DSA is in your hands after a five-month enforced hiatus caused by the pandemic.

I, personally, seek your good wishes for the entire team of DSA, which is committed to bring out every edition with the same high standards.

Jai Hind

Pawan Agrawal
 Chief Executive Officer



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