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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.



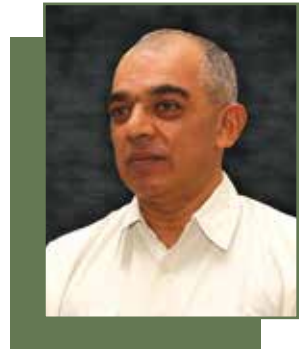
**The power of a King lies in his mighty arms...**

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!*



**J**ammu and Kashmir is regarded as the unfinished business of partition. Indeed it is, in a political sense of the word. Since both India and Pakistan have been at each other after they separated at birth. And they've been at each other over Kashmir, at least in the public domain. The atmospherics declare that Muslim majority Kashmir opted for India once the Maharaja signed the Instrument of Accession, the formal deed that merged various princely states with either of the separating countries. Chronological evidences suggest that the signature was preceded by a Pakistan sponsored 'tribal' invasion of the Valley.

This dependence on irregular troops has been one enduring feature of Pakistan's Kashmir policy and remains at its core even in 2017. If they were marauding Frontier tribes in 1947-48 who simply followed in the footsteps and practices of their forefathers, in 2017 it is a melange of faith and mythology. As in 1947-48 so in 2017, the common people suffer the brunt of attacks and prejudice. So schools burn, simply because they teach. And dropouts become cult heroes through an elaborate social media campaign, aimed at creating disorder and disharmony. The loss is of Kashmir.

India, however, takes it more seriously than simply a law and order issue. And likewise, Pakistan takes it more than simply a matter of faith. Although in both the cases, the publicly stated claims are law and order, and faith. In Pakistan's case, the deep underlying and unstated motive is the control over river waters that flow through Kashmir. A water dependent country, and one that splurges rather than conserves, Pakistan is perennially paranoid about its tap being turned off by India. Not that India has done anything about it but the paranoia remains. As it does over Balochistan.

In the last decade, the shrillness about India's interference in Balochistan has grown to such a chorus that a reasonable debate seems well nigh impossible now. Not that much needs to be debated, for Balochistan is unlike any other South Asian insurgency or uprising. It is unique in its own way since its history is unlike most of South Asia. Balochistan is in fact a bridge state, one that connects a region to another, quite like Afghanistan does between South and Central Asia. So, for centuries, Balochistan was the frontier, political and cultural, between Hind and Fars.

It remained so until the British decided to put everything on record, and a finality to things, much like they did elsewhere in their domains. Except that Balochistan, at least most of it, was excluded from their domains earlier than the rest of them and a formal treaty was entered into between the Khan of Kalat and the British Empire. As a result, Balochistan attained independence before the rest of South Asia, enacted their own laws and assemblies well before either of the two dominions. The vast underpopulated landscape, however, didn't stand a chance in an era of ideological warfare.

In the name of Islam and the Land of the Pure, Mohammad Ali Jinnah ordered the extinguishing of Balochistan's independent flame shortly after freedom. In fact, in less than 250 days of liberty, Balochistan was once again bound by another ruler and another capital. Till this date, that hasn't gone down too well with the people of Balochistan and they're in perpetual revolt. Unlike Hyderabad, for example, the princely state that suffered a similar fate. The 'police action' against Hyderabad is the closest to what occurred in Balochistan but that is where the similarity ends. For the Nizam wanted Pakistan in the heart of India while Balochistan wanted freedom on the frontier where it belonged.

Indians generally get themselves in a twist when it comes to Kashmir and Balochistan, and have only themselves to blame for their ignorance. The two are completely different cases, one created by centuries of homogeneity and Kashmir is a creation of imperial transaction. The historical, sociological and cultural conditions of the two societies are completely at variance with each other, as is the landscape. Which is where India's armchair strategists err in believing Pakistan can be returned the favour of Kashmir in Balochistan. The soil, in every sense of the word, is different. Ground realities must always dictate policy, rather than policy trying to justify mythical realities. Clever statesmanship is all about keeping ear and nose to the ground and then making policy.

**Manvendra Singh**



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# Balochistan: The Counterpoint

**T**he signs came in quick succession that Pakistan and China were preparing to present India with a *fait accompli* in Jammu and Kashmir. First, Pakistan and then China called on India to participate in the creation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor connecting the Chinese province of Xinjiang with the Gwadar seaport on the Balochistan coastline that dominates the North Arabian Sea through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. With India refusing to commit geostrategic *harikiri* by joining the project, PoK announced that it would only be formally annexing the territory in Jammu and Kashmir that it had illegally occupied in 1948 and designating it as the “Fifth Province” of Pakistan.

That China and Pakistan were preparing to place a steel collar around India's throat was known from the moment Beijing announced the *One Road, One Belt* policy for connectivity with West Asia and Europe. This was supported by the induction of about 9,000 troops of the People's Liberation Army into Pak-occupied Kashmir very obviously to protect Chinese interests in the region. What has been put in place for the defence of Chinese interests in the PoK is a hybrid phalanx of the regulars of the PLA and the “sub-conventional” terrorists of the *Jaish-e-Mohammad*, *Lashkar-e-Toiba* and the *Hizbul Mujahideen*.

The stakes are very high because China has launched the multi-billion dollar investment to be able to cut travel time for goods and energy from the Persian Gulf and it is through the Gilgit-Baltistan segment of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, the corridor must traverse to be economically viable. As a counterpoint, Prime Minister Modi has made it clear that India will support the people of Balochistan and the Gilgit-Balawaristan movement in their endeavours to free themselves from the tightening Sino-Pak grip on their homelands. The current Gilgit-Baltistan announcement will create more such non-cooperation movements against the Pakistan government and I think that Pakistan must reconsider several times before taking such anti-India decisions. Such activities will not bring peace and prosperity to the people of Pakistan.

This edition is focused on the importance of Balochistan for the world community and its strategic importance in the region.

Team **DSA** is sure that you will like this edition too, dear reader.

*Jai Hind!*

**Pawan Agrawal**



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