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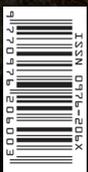
AUGUST 2017
VOLUME 8 ISSUE 11

TERRORISM



or

POLITICAL CONFLICT?





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.



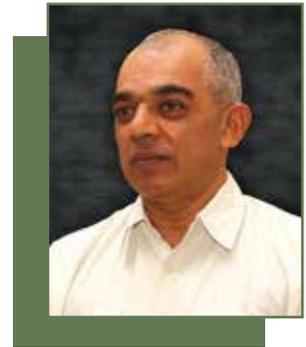
The power of a King lies in his mighty arms...

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 Indian rupee was a legal tender in a number of Arab countries well into the 1960s. From the time mankind learnt how to ride the monsoon winds and trade goods, Indian merchants and currency have been an interminable vision seen in this part of the world. But trade hasn't only been one-way, for the Arab traders brought their own valuable goods to India. And along with trade came religion, with the three Abrahamic faiths settled in India virtually from the time of their revelations.

So, it isn't strange that events of today; political, economic or security related, that occur in West Asia should have an impact on India or at least intrude into the country. And that is precisely what is happening in the context of terrorism and political conflict in West Asia. Wherever it occurs in the region, some impact can be felt on India. Since it is largely terrorism, the impact, naturally, is in the negative. Those in the business of monitoring terrorists and their chatter have detected a significant increase in India

related matters. Whether it is Indian volunteers going for *jihad* or it is motivational speakers, there is enough happening to warrant attention, deeply.

Geography has ensured that India and West Asia are neighbours, have always been and will remain so till the end of time. Political contours and boundary lines can change, place names and country names too, but the land, the sky, the wind and the monsoon, will always be as they are. India has millions of its citizens living and working in the West Asian countries. Blue and white collar employment – Indians top the list. All drawn towards West Asia by the wealth generated from oil and gas reserves that are amongst the largest in the world.

Within the oil and gas world is also a deepening cleavage, one that is being influenced by faith and sect. There is a developing story around the region and its politics, wherein countries are being placed in groupings decided by faith and sect. The hydrocarbon motivation is of course there, but there is also an underlying divide because of history and beliefs.

India has plenty of adherents of both major sects of Islam, amongst the largest in the world. So, the developments there are of great interest to India and must always remain so.

Even as Saudi Arabia and Iran conduct their great game, trying to outflank each other on the ground and in the market, India cannot be a passive observer since its interests are deeply tied in with this part of the world. India must be seen to be active and interested in matters that affect its core national interests. Peaceful conditions for trade, employment and easy passage of its citizens remain the main focus. Along with that is also the predicament of Indians being drawn into the political conflicts of the region through terrorism. Small in number but they exist. This can only be tackled through regional cooperation in which India should take the lead.

Manvendra Singh



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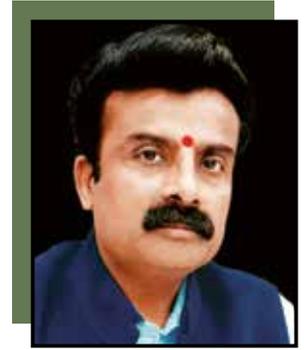
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TERRORISM OR POLITICAL CONFLICT?

Battlelines have become blurred. Rare are the occasions when the Armed Forces of one nation confronted the Armed Forces of another in clearly defined geographical limits. Hybrid warfare has become the norm and war by proxy, the new methodology in regime change operations. The combatants are now either 'our freedom fighters' or as the victims claim, they are terrorists who use improvised explosive devices for suicide bombing, car bombing and act either in concert or as 'lone wolf' to strike.

A Large part of the globe are currently afflicted by the scourge of undeclared wars. Many States are directly or indirectly affected by terrorism of one ideology or the other. West Asia, North Africa and the Levant in the West, India in the centre and the Philippines in the far east are confronting on a daily basis the operations of terrorists on their soil.

There are two main reasons for the existence and proliferation of terrorism: one, political conflicts between various States; and two – certain States, manufacturing arms and ammunitions, finding a continuous source of fuel for their hearths and homes with employment for their populations in such conflicts. Both these reasons are equally responsible for propagating terrorism in the last one decade. The first reason may possibly be amicably resolved through talks and patience but to find a lasting solution to the second one – the black market for small arms, will demand a Herculean motivation from the power corners of the world.

When I mention the second as a strong factor in international instability, there is a strong logic behind it. Any State manufacturing arms and ammunitions keeps the best for their own defence and security forces. The surpluses are then picked up by its allies to conduct proxy wars in their respective spheres of influence.

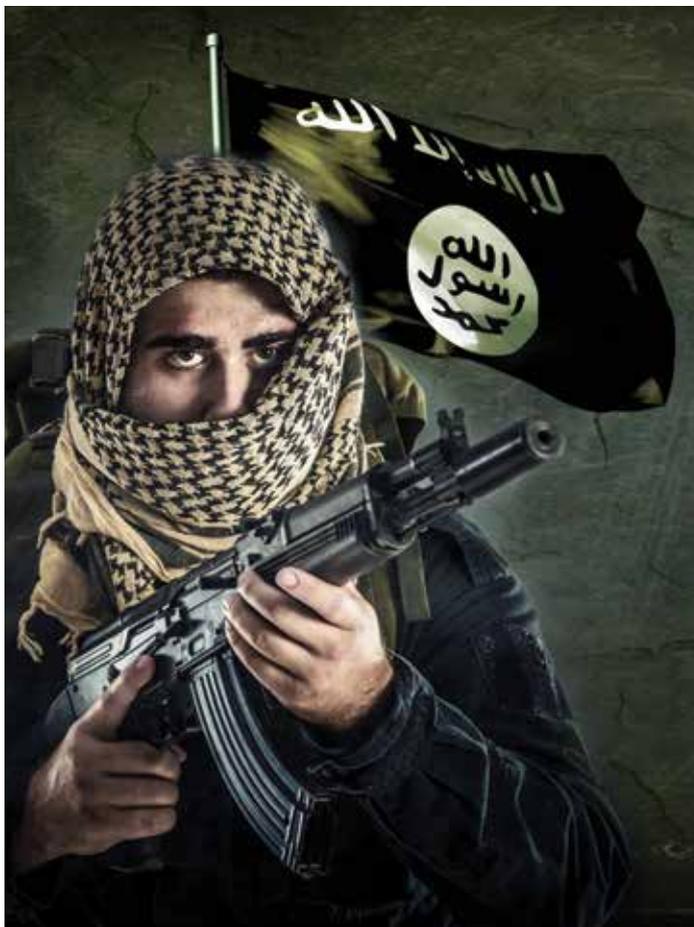
This edition, dear reader, is focussed on the political conflicts and terrorism as we build the dialectics centring around why conflicts are raging around the globe through the in-depth analysis of our esteemed authors.

Jai Hind!

Pawan Agrawal



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No Hope In Sight

Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain (Retd)

Adverse Effect On Indian Foreign Exchange Reserves

Vappala Balachandran

Arab Spring Dissipated

Dr Rajiv Nayan

Required A Saudi-Iran Bandaid

Dr Harsh V Pant

India Must Reduce Dependence On Oil

Mukund V Puranik

Saluting The Star Of David

Colonel Utkarsh Singh Rathore (Retd)

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Sectarian Tensions In Pakistan And Its Geo-political Challenges

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