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KIM-TRUMP RESTRUCTURING: INDIA'S OPTIONS



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

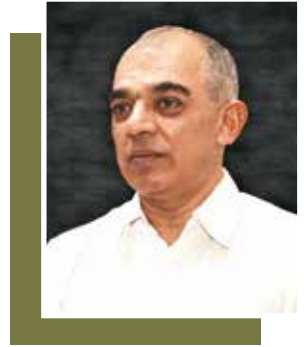


The power of a King lies in his mighty arms...

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 grisly details of Saudi dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi's last moments continue to make news across the world. The fact that the purported crime occurred in the Saudi Arabian consulate in Istanbul make for truly bizarre reading since a diplomatic facility is not known to be a murder site. What makes the whole episode even more interesting is the ever changing position of President Donald Trump of the United States.

From an initial dismissal, to a gradual acknowledgement, then a denouncement, to a consistent line that business interests must not be affected, Trump has covered all the possible scenarios. But it is the 'business interests first' position that merits greater attention, especially since it declares a position that can, and sometimes will, run totally contrary to a committed policy on human rights and the rule of law. These are the pillars on which the US founded a policy that claimed a moral and ethical duty to global citizens. That policy is in serious jeopardy now and India

better prepare for its debris.

India should have been better prepared to understand the pendulum positioning President when he took a remarkable u-turn with North Korea. It was not considered negative; on the contrary, it was a positive change to an unworkable policy on that isolationist dictatorship. It has brought about a calibrated improvement in the atmosphere over the Korean Peninsula. Remarkably, positive steps have been taken towards greater Korean unity, both at sporting events, as well as socio-military developments. But not all that Trump does in Asia has a happy beginning, or, an end.

The Saudi murder mystery is part of a pattern when it comes to dealing with those regarded as 'friends', which means good for business, and those who are not on the right side of Trump's law. On that score, a committed policy and an agreement can be jettisoned in a whim when it catches the fancy of the President. The reversal of President Obama's agreement with Iran was the beginning of the end when it comes to sanity

in the Gulf. A globally recognised pact was sacrificed only so as to please some voters caught in the time warp of history.

The shifting of embassy premises from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem was another such policy reversal that met with universal opprobrium. It runs completely contrary to the two-state solution that remains a policy commitment, for it doesn't advance the cause of peace between Israel and Palestine. And, now the contradictory declarations over the Khashoggi matter. But in this case there is at least clarity since business interests are known to prevail all over. This is a position that India must keep in mind when preparing its Asia policy analysis and implementation. Too many get carried away by visualising hypothetical benefits from an assumed US-China showdown. The fact remains that this imagined showdown may well never happen, and the benefits simply remain a mirage. For under President Trump, a business deal that sweetens the policy may well appear, and all those hoping to pick up crumbs be left with none to collect.

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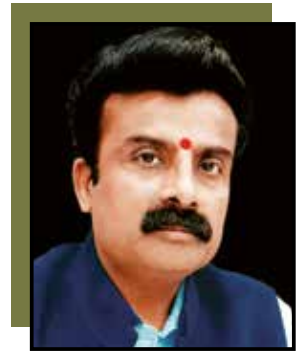
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IMPACT OF TRUMP-KIM SUMMIT ON INDIA



The first most palpable impact on a world watching with bated breath was the rapid reduction of temperature as US President Donald Trump, characteristically unpredictably, dropped the thinly veiled pejorative of “rocket man” in references to North Korean President Kim Jong-un to “very talented” and “great negotiator”. There was a sigh of relief in the world. Hope of more tangible results on denuclearisation has since been strengthened by President Trump talking of a second summit soon.

India, which is a victim of the China-Korea-Pakistan conspiracy of proliferation of nuclear warheads and delivery systems, has a stake in what is happening in the Pacific salient. Its diplomacy, tempered as it is by its insistence on complete and universal disarmament, would want to see that half-measures and loopholes are not built into any likely future denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula which, as seen in the manner in which Pakistan was nuclearised, is a crucial factor in India’s defence posture.

The world has seen two global conflagrations; the second being brought to a ghastly abrupt end by the use of nuclear weapons in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan. We are all too familiar with the after effects on mankind across borders. The rhetoric of President Donald Trump and President Kim was at one point so hysterical that it seemed that the trigger of a Third World War on the planet was about to be pressed.

It needs to be remembered that North Korea did not extend its hand of friendship till it had successfully demonstrated both the great kill capacity of the nuclear warheads and the country’s ability to deliver these to any point in the USA with home-built rockets. Having laid strong foundations of deterrence, Kim was confident that he could talk with the Americans on an equal footing.

India has been keeping an eye on these developments very closely and has not reacted to any developing strategies between the two nations hoping that it will be resolved amicably. India, being one of the most important nations in Asia, sees it as a threat to the world as well as Asia, and, by and large to itself due to the backing of China to North Korea and Pakistan. Therefore, it would prefer to see that nuclear détente has a universal flavour with all nuclear ‘haves’, cloistered nukes and aspiring ‘rogues’ sit together and decide to rid the world of such weapons of mass destruction.

India still hopes that Kim understands the implications of his overview on the geo-politics in a larger perspective for the entire mankind not just his own ambitions.

I am sure this edition will give a new perspective to you, dear reader, on the KIM –Trump discussions and their effect on global and regional geo-politics.

Happy reading!

Jai Hind!

Pawan Agrawal



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