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CHINA'S INTERFERENCE IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA A TURNING POINT IN GEOPOLITICS

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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

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Vietnam calls it East Sea, while Philippines says West Sea, which is only appropriate since they're both referring to a vast seascape that they share and it separates these two countries. It is the sea that the world at large refers to as South China Sea, which is also an accurate description since it is to the south of the Asian behemoth. That, however, doesn't make it Chinese territory as Beijing would like to have the world believe. And to ensure that it occupies islands, atolls and reefs which are nearer the Philippines than they are to China. International rules don't apply.

At least that is how Beijing would like the rest of the region to accept, for it has bullied its way into encroaching on space that it didn't earlier occupy. The arguments that it produces are fictitious and facetious. Devoid of diplomatic logic, and niceties of course. Because Beijing, the bully, doesn't think it needs to be nice to its smaller neighbours. It hasn't been particularly nice

when it comes to dealing with India in Ladakh, so it is too much to expect good manners in relations with its South East Asian neighbours. They are reeling from the overbearing behemoth.

South East Asia was of course known as Indo-China at one time. The colonial authorities, in this case, France, preferred to give it a cultural rather than a geographical name. In a real sense, they weren't too far off the mark, for this is where the two civilisations met, mingled and produced a remarkable intermingling that is still alive and vibrant in its vividness. The great achievements of the remarkable Chinese civilisation, mirrored and complemented by centuries of Indian contributions created a region that is an amalgam of various threads, competing and yet complementing each other with astounding fluidity.

The extraordinary achievements of China's civilisation have to be separated from the bullying and expansionary attitude of the current rulers in Beijing. The Chinese Communist Party is

not the natural heir to China's heritage, however much it may want its people to believe. It is a totalitarian expansionary entity bent on driving its neighbours into submission, by force or peaceful means. Either way, the result sought is the same, acceptance of Beijing's superiority, territorially as well as psychologically. The South East Asian neighbours are of course at the receiving end since they share the immediate waters, channels and sea routes.

Which is where the game is being played. For this is where the major trade routes pass, and the future of economic growth depends on keeping them safe. That is how the free world sees it. Or keeping control on them, as China would like. Both are incompatible processes and the world has to be prepared for that. The problem is not of South East Asian countries alone, but the world. As an Asian country, and cultural neighbour, India as well. However insular India becomes, it cannot afford to do that for the sake of its own economic and security future.

Manvendra Singh



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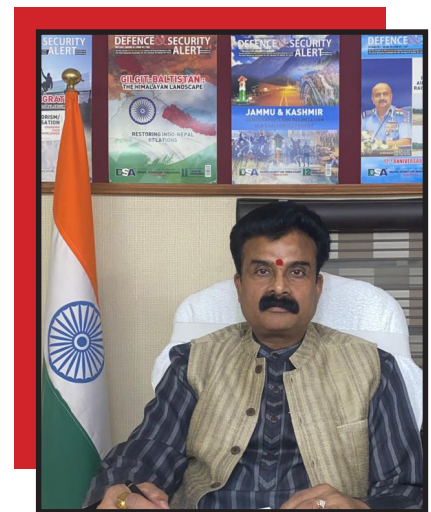
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CHINA'S INTERFERENCE IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA: A TURNING POINT IN GEOPOLITICS

What has happened to China in the past one decade? Growing, developing and standing on top of all states is fine but bullying all is the character of China today. Time has gone when China was known for its wisdom and progressive views and the people of China have been spread across the globe disseminating knowledge, and doing business in other countries. But unfortunately, in the past one decade or so, China's overall character has changed and today, the respect and regard towards China and the Chinese have gone down everywhere.

Apart from the respect and regard, China has lost its credibility and reliability in world politics because of its role towards its neighbours and other countries. The People's Republic of China has been intervening in the affairs of other countries on many occasions. It has been well noticed by the world community how China has entered into various agreements with some countries like Sri Lanka and Nepal and how it has exploited these small nations with its cunning ways that their entire systems have collapsed in due course of time. In the last one decade or so, China has shown its bullishness in the Indo-Pacific region. China being the world's second largest economy and it has been using its might to intervene



in other countries' affairs directly or indirectly; sometimes through financial assistance by offering loans or by disturbing the internal and external affairs of various small countries.

The recent situation in Sri Lanka has been fabricated by China only if we observe the sequence of instances of the past few years. Pumping of huge funds to the then government of Sri Lanka and then in return demanding the various favours in concern to the development projects in Sri Lanka and then how the things turned up, we all know now. China did the same with Nepal also a couple of years back and thus the economy of such small countries collapsed gradually.

China always had a hidden

agenda be it with the neighbouring countries, or with any other country or in the United Nations. China has a lust to overpower other countries with its money power being the second largest economy in the world. Its rift with the USA, Taiwan and India are well known. With India, it has tried to capture the land on the LAC several times in the past and in recent years too. Its support to Pakistan is only to disturb India's national security otherwise Pakistan itself does not have that capability to sabotage and disturb India. But because of China's support, it has been disturbing India for many years now and this is increasing day-by-day only because of China's involvement. China has been threatening Taiwan for quite a long time as its

only interest is to capture Taiwan in its own territory as it did with Hong Kong some years back.

Now that China has been completely exposed on the world map and especially after the Covid Pandemic, it's becoming tough for China to create further disturbances in the South-East Asian countries as per its earlier plans. Time is changing for China internally as well as externally. Lot of resentment is within China which is a big challenge for the current government of China to handle and at the same time, China has been facing external heat too. Due to China's policies, entire world has united against China, except Pakistan and North Korea and these two are not that significant on the Globe though both are

Nuclear Power. As mentioned in the beginning that the overall attitude of China's world politics is being changed, so China is badly exposed on its intentions to intervene in the South-East Asian countries which could be a debacle of China itself.

This edition is highlighting on such thoughts of our esteemed subject experts on China's interference in the other South-East Asian countries. I am sure you will like this edition as always.

Jai Hind!



Pawan Agrawal
Chief Executive Officer

**STOP
PRESS**

As I finished writing this piece, the recent development between China and Taiwan is on the card. The visit of the US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan has created the latest rift between China and USA where China has categorically warned the USA to face the consequences if she visits Taiwan. The US did not give any heed to China's warning and Nancy visited Taiwan as per her plan. Minutes after US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi landed in Taipei, Beijing geared up its military and sent twenty-one fighter planes into Taiwan's air

defence zone as well as deployed tanks in the coastal area of Fujian which is the closest point to Taiwan. Taiwan has also alerted its forces to counter any attack by China.

This is the latest interference of China in South-East Asia which proves its bullishness in the region. This is the worst scenario in Geopolitics where certain super-powers like the US and Germany are in the support of Taiwan and this could lead the world to the third World War if China attacks Taiwan. On one side, we all are watching the war between Russia and Ukraine for the past five

months and if there is another war between China and Taiwan where certain other countries if get involved could be a havoc for the World Peace.

Jai Hind!



Pawan Agrawal
Chief Executive Officer



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