

IAAN EXPRESS

Vol. XI ■ No. 9 ■ RNI No. DELBIL/2004/13858 ■ New Delhi 1 May - 15 May 2018 ■ ₹ 2.00 ■ www.iaan.org

DEFENCE NEWS

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT : RCEP in Focus

A MIDDLE POWER AXIS

SYDNEY/PARIS - President Macron has called for the creation of a new strategic alliance among France, India and Australia to respond to the challenge posed by China and to meet the three country's joint objectives in the Indo-Pacific region. **Pg. 4**

AI IS THE FUTURE IN INDIA

NEW DELHI -- Applying AI in governance will let India leapfrog many developmental and infrastructural constraints. The National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is already producing data providing new insights on court litigations throughout the country. **Pg. 12**

INDIA IS CRUCIAL TO RCEP

Everyone from Singapore to Tokyo to Kuala Lumpur agrees that while New Delhi is a major stumbling block with its demands, India provides much needed strategic balance and strategic footing for RCEP. **Pg. 6**

As hopes for peace and reconciliation surge in the Korean Peninsula after last week's summit between the leaders of North and South, there is some wistfulness in the Subcontinent at the absence of a peace process between India and Pakistan. Is there something Delhi and Islamabad can learn from the unfolding prospects for a major transformation in the relations between Seoul and Pyongyang?

Although neither region figures prominently in the political imagination of the other, there are some common features between the conflicts in the Peninsula and the Subcontinent. For one, both the regions were partitioned after the Second World War. For another, nuclear weapons loom large over them. That is probably where the similarity ends.

The differences between the two regions, however, are far more striking. The religious and voluntary basis of the South Asian partition stands in contrast to the primacy of the geopolitical in the division of the Korean Peninsula.

Both the North and South Korea are formally committed to the idea of unification. In the Subcontinent, though, the idea of unification is taboo. After all, many in Pakistan fear that India is not reconciled to the

A KOREAN TEMPLATE FOR SOUTH ASIA?



Partition and wants to undo it.

The shared commitment to unification, however, has not gotten the divided Peninsula very far. At least until now. Even the most optimistic scenario does not envisage the disappearance of North Korea as a state. What is being considered is a peace treaty, an open border, greater economic and commercial cooperation. But the current peace process is certainly animated by the idea that Korean people are one.

The idea of a shared identity, of course, faces much resistance from the deep state in Pakistan. But the agenda for negotiation has not been very different between Delhi and Islamabad – resolving long-standing political disputes and normalising economic and cultural relations. The same can't be said about the nuclear question in the Subcontinent and the Peninsula. In Korea, the entire focus is on the "denuclearisation" of the Peninsula. While the North that has its own nuclear weapons, the

South depends on the extended deterrence offered by the US nuclear arsenal.

After the Indian and Pakistani nuclear tests in the summer of 1998, the world first demanded that Delhi and Islamabad roll back their nuclear and missile programmes. But soon enough it was clear that the international community had to live with a nuclear South Asia. On top of it, India has been nearly integrated into the global nuclear order and Pakistan wants the same status accorded.

The relationship between nuclear weapons and peace is also framed differently in the two regions. In Korea, denuclearisation is seen as a precondition for peace. In South Asia, political reconciliation between India and Pakistan, many argue, will help reduce the salience of nuclear weapons. An equally important difference relates to the way North Korea and Pakistan have defined the strategic value of nuclear weapons. In the last few years, Kim Jong-Un accelerated the development of nuclear weapons and missiles. Once

he was confident of his deterrent, Kim opened the door for peace negotiations with the South and the US.

But unlike Kim, Rawalpindi has adopted a very different approach to nuclear weapons. If Kim sees nuclear weapons as the key to unlocking peace, the Pakistan army sees them as providing the impunity to conduct a low intensity conflict against its neighbours – India and Afghanistan – through cross-border terrorism.

Add to this the role of the Great Powers. Since the cold war the US, China, Russia and Japan have played an active role in promoting peace in the Korean Peninsula. While closer to home, India historically took the Kashmir question to the United Nations Security Council. It accepted American and Soviet mediation with Pakistan during the 1960s. But after 1971, India insisted on the bilateral approach with Pakistan and fended off frequent efforts by the major powers to butt in.

Thus there is no escaping that the Peninsula and the Subcontinent have to find their own paths to peace. If there is one lesson from the current political dynamism in Korea, it is this: For the strong-willed, there is always room for creative diplomacy. ■ *Ayush Garg*

COULD FACEBOOK DATA LEAKS IMPACT PAKISTAN'S ELECTIONS?

■ *Avnish Chaturvedi*



ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN - In Pakistan the spread of misinformation is a much graver problem than the impact it might have on polling.

The surfacing in March of Cambridge Analytica's social media breaches, with a whistleblower claiming that over 50 million Facebook profiles were used to manipulate polls including the 2016 U.S. elections, meant that similar concerns have shrouded upcoming elections elsewhere this year. Among these are the general elections in Pakistan, scheduled to be held this summer.

On April 6, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced two steps that would be introduced to address these apprehensions.

"From now on, every advertiser who wants to run political or issue ads will need to be verified. To get verified, advertisers will need to confirm their identity and location," he wrote on Facebook. "Second, we will also require people who manage large pages to be verified as well. This will make it much harder for people to run pages using fake accounts, or to grow virally and spread misinformation or divisive content that way."

While testifying before a joint hearing of the U.S. Senate's Commerce and Judiciary committees, Zuckerberg said his company was introducing the latest new artificial intelligence tools to target fake accounts.

However while fake news has impacted voting patterns the world over, it has become especially problematic in Pakistan with all leading political parties asking their social media teams to create fake profiles as part of their social media strategy.

Social media managers from the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), and the two main opposition parties Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) and the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), have confirmed that creation of fake Facebook and Twitter accounts to propagate their narratives was the official policy of each party.

"Everyone's running fake Facebook accounts and Twitter bots, so we're just keeping pace with what others are doing," a social media executive of the PML-N who requested anonymity said. "It was the PTI that started this trend. So we're just countering propaganda with propaganda," they added, citing the fact that one of the rumours that the PML-N social media team has had to counter in recent weeks was the false report that the party has hired Cambridge Analytica's services for the upcoming elections.

Kaleem Hafeez, a member of the PTI social media team, has said that his party isn't ruling out the possibility of the PML-N purchasing data to manipulate elections, considering the party's control over the IT ministry.

"Our data analysts are monitoring what other parties are doing, and the undemocratic tools and methods being used to rig elections digitally," Hafeez said. "Considering that the PML-N was involved in heavy on-field rigging in the 2013 balloting, it won't be a surprise if they do the same digitally as well."

Digital analysts are also critical of what they dub the IT ministry's failure to protect users' data in Pakistan. "The IT ministry should have... as promised, enacted the data protection law alongside the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act in 2016. A law which was much more

predatory in nature. PECA was given priority whereas a law that stands to provide protection to citizens' data was delayed.

Now it seems to be too late. Only in the next term can something happen about it. Meanwhile, if someone for instance, chooses to exploit local data sources, they can do so with impunity.

Ali Warsi, associate digital editor at the Daily Times, believes that the sheer volume of fake accounts being run from the country makes it impossible for anyone to control the spread of fake news.

"How exactly would [Mark Zuckerberg] track the fake accounts? This is too difficult to actually implement."

"What I have observed interacting with social media executives over the years is that the parties are good at making fake accounts. But that's all they can do actually as far as the skill set is concerned. Disciplined use of data is something far beyond their capacity," Warsi adds.

Pakistani investigative agencies may look into this, but the Country is out of time and Mashal Khan's case looms large as an example of its glaring vulnerability.



An in-depth analysis of the newly formulated Defence Planning Committee suggests its nomenclature and the role of the National Security Advisor be examined in a whole of ship approach, which may be the key to future-readiness in many dimensions of National Defence. If the DPC works, a new era has begun in the National Security architecture of the Country.

DEFENCE PAPERS, PAGE 10

The anticipated economic and strategic windfall from environmental change in the Arctic has spurred China to officially enunciate an Arctic policy. And amazingly, Beijing has justified its entry and activity in the Arctic using international law... something it does not recognize in the SCS.

POLAR SILK ROAD, PAGE 9

Affordability, software domination, reduction in mission costs and risk reduction are some of the consummate advantages swarm technology promises, making them the Next Generation Military Weapon of Choice and Lethality. Drone swarming is here, and it is here to stay.

DRONE SWARMING, PAGE 11