



Director's Pick

Issue XXIV



Vivekananda International Foundation

General N C Vij, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM

Director, VIF



Dear Readers,

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Swearing-in of the 14th President of the Indian Republic was the highlight of the past fortnight. 'Dalit' rhetoric apart, this is for the first time that a politician from outside the Congress Party, that is, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), graces that exalted post. Considering the respect across the party lines the Honourable Shri Kovind commands, perhaps it is also indicative of the polity belying the farce of 'secularist-nationalist' divide as propagated by discredited vested interests.

What however is remarkable is that a nation of illiterate destitutes at the time of independence came together to uphold the principles of democratic governance when most other newly independent nations fell into dictatorship and when even the advanced nations had not adopted the concept of universal franchise. To highlight that singular accomplishment of the spirit of India, we have an article as listed below for the readers to appreciate.

Meanwhile, incessant Chinese impellence to pick morsel from others' plate is in evidence once again at the 'Doklam Area' – actually the Bhutan-Tibet-India Border Tri-junction at Doka La. In attempting to build an illegal road across the mutually agreed status-quo line, the Chinese have struck at a politically sensitive issue of India's credibility. This is a classical example of dictating international relationships from a position of superior military strength to strike where it hurts the most. Practical nuances of this matter have been reviewed in another article uploaded on our web site which, coming from an experienced China watcher, would be interesting to read.



Then we have a piece on conflict management authored by a Kashmir hand and another authored by an astute political analyst on the nation's growing self-confidence in articulation of policies. Finally, under the 'Vibtant India' category, we have noted India's engineering achievement in commissioning the Banihal Tunnel – this indeed being a road to better integration of the Kashmir Valley.

Strategic salience of the North West part of the Indian Ocean- Arabian Sea- of the Peninsula has been gaining in the recent years. As expected, the change of international positioning in this region is directly related to the posturing for power. We had organised a very insightful discussion on the nuances and effects of this development, a Report on this discussion is listed under. I am sure the readers would find the matter interesting and take the appropriate cue.

To access these insightful articles, and more, I urge our readers to visit our website - www.vifindia.org . I am sanguine, they would find the perusal a rewarding experience.

Yours Sincerely,



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Director, Vivekananda International Foundation

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- *Dr. Madhumita Srivastava Balaji, Senior Research Associate, VIF*

Reports:

Discussion on 'India and the North West Indian Ocean Region: Bridging the Gulf'



About VIF

Vivekananda International Foundation is a non-partisan institute for dialogue and conflict resolution from a nationalist perspective. Some of India's leading experts in the fields of security, military, diplomacy, governance, etc have got together under the institute's aegis to generate ideas and stimulate action for greater national security and prosperity, independently funded.

VIF is not aligned to any political party or business house.

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