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India-Pakistan Conundrum

What is the issue?

At this moment of great flux in Pakistan comes Sharat Sabharwal's book, *India's Pakistan Conundrum* (Routledge), to guide us through the country's complexities.

What is the current issue in Pakistan?

- Pakistan is in the midst of another spiralling political and economic crisis.
- Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif took office in April after the opposition voted out the Imran Khan government.
- The former prime minister is drawing huge crowds as he rails against an alleged U.S. conspiracy that unseated him.
- The Army chief General Javed Qamar Bajwa, is due to retire in November and his successor may well decide the political course over the next five years.

What are the ground realities in Indo-Pak relation?

- **Dysfunctional state-** Pakistan is a dysfunctional state because of its
 - civil-military imbalance
 - use of jihadi/terrorist groups
- **Role of surgical strikes-** India's tactical military options to deter Pakistan's terror machine ("surgical strikes", Balakot for Pulwama) may carry only temporary impact.
- **Persuasion through trade-** Coercion through trade or water does not work as
 - The volumes are too small
 - It could lead to unintended consequences for India where it is the lower riparian (as with China)
- **China factor-** With the snug China-Pakistan relationship, Pakistan is now part of India's bigger China problem.
- **Nuclear weapon state-** Pakistan too has nuclear weapons and the resulting chaos will not stop at the boundaries of that country.

INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS

INDIA-PAK WAR 1947

After partition, Pakistan tribal army entered Kashmir. Maharaja of Kashmir signs a treaty of accession with India.

INDIA-PAK WAR OF 1965

A brief war breaks out after Pakistan's operation Gibraltar. Ends in a ceasefire.

INDIA-PAK WAR OF 1971

Another Indo-Pakistan war ends in defeat for Pakistan. Creation of Bangladesh.

SIACHEN CONFLICT 1984

The Indian Army seizes control of the Siachen Glacier.

KARGIL WAR 1999

Terrorists backed by Pakistani forces occupy Kargil peaks. India repulses the attack.

PARLIAMENT ATTACK 2001

Pakistan backed terrorists attack Parliament on December 11, 2001.

26/11 MUMBAI ATTACK 2008

Terrorists from Pakistan enter Mumbai through sea and attack public.

SURGICAL STRIKES 2016

India carries out surgical strikes against terror camps in Pok in response to Uri attack

ARTICLE 370 REVOKED

India revokes Article 370 which granted special status to J&K, Pakistan takes the matter to UN



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How can the relations be improved?

- A pragmatic approach that stresses the region's co-prosperity to make Pakistan realise that it has more to gain by bettering itself economically than pulling India down is needed.
- India's own house has to be put in order,
 - Including in Jammu & Kashmir
 - Rebuilding what used to be the broad national consensus on foreign policy
 - Avoiding competitive show of nastiness towards the neighbor

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Waiting for Democracy in Jammu and Kashmir

Why in news?

It has been three years since the orders that read down Article 370 of the Indian Constitution were passed dividing the State of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories.

What was rationale for the actions?

- Security would improve and militancy would be eradicated
- The former State would integrate with the Indian economy and its people would prosper
- Kashmiri Pandits who have been internal refugees for over three decades would be able to return
- A new era of non-dynastic politics would emerge

What draconian actions were taken aftermath the bifurcation?

- **Arrests without trial**- Several hundreds were arrested in 2019 and are still in jail without trial.
- **Muzzling the media**- The media continues to be muzzled, and the journalists suffer from repeated arrests that the Supreme Court criticised in the case of Mohammed Zubair.
- **Delayed elections**- Despite the completion of the delimitation commission's exercise, Legislative Assembly elections have still to be announced.
- **Imposition of President's rule**- Jammu and Kashmir has been under President's rule and then Lieutenant-Governor's rule for four years now.
- **Civilian fatalities**- According to Home Ministry, the number of civilians killed between 2019 and 2021 was higher than in Mr. Modi's first term (2014-19).

- **Alienation and insurgency-** Valley alienation from the Indian Union is such that public support for insurgency is touching the heights of the 1990s.
- According to the South Asia Terrorism Portal, 437 Kashmiri youth joined insurgent ranks between 2019 and 2021.
- **Economic decline-** From being in the top performing States of the Indian Union, according to the NITI Aayog, Jammu and Kashmir was ranked among the bottom last year.
- **Militant attacks-** Kashmiri Pandits have once again become targets of militant attack, as they were during the 1990s.
- **Delimitation commission's report-** The central question of why Jammu has gained 6 Assembly seats and the Valley only 1 has been brushed under general remarks on methodology.

What lies ahead?

- Assembly elections are a first step which should be taken immediately.
- If they could be held under the earlier delimitation and the commission's present report be put to the new Assembly for consultation, it would be in the spirit of 'cooperative federalism'.
- Home Minister Shah has repeatedly promised the restoration of statehood but three years is a long time to hold up that promise without implementing it.

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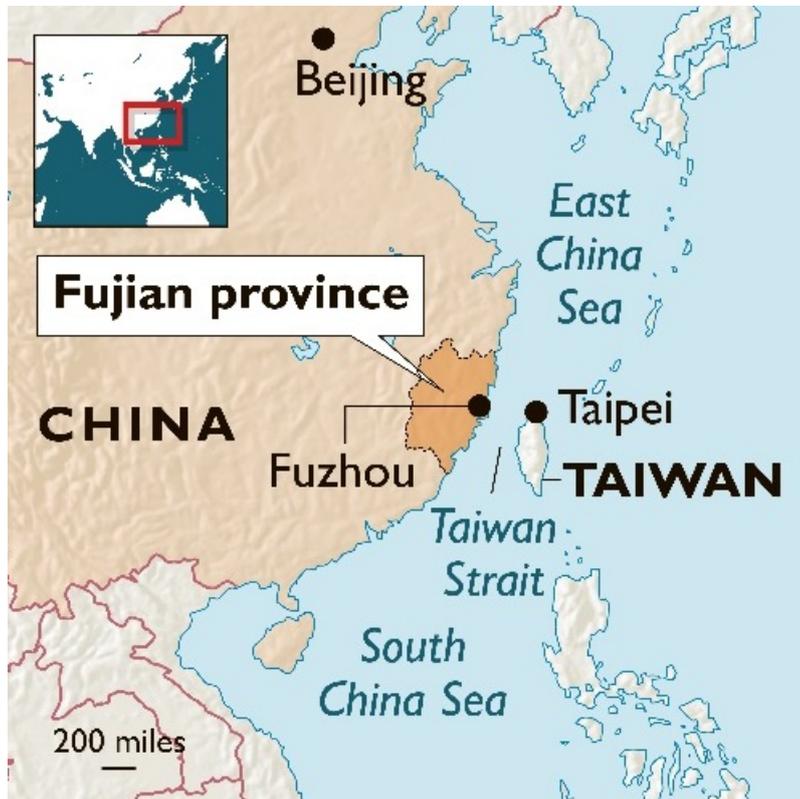
Lessons for India from the Taiwan Standoff

Why in news?

New Delhi must note that Taiwan's close economic links with China have not stopped Taipei from asserting its rights.

What is the issue?

Under the 'One China' policy, China does not recognise Taiwan, formed by the fleeing nationalists in 1949, as a sovereign, separate entity, but only acknowledges the People's Republic of China created by the Communist Party of China.



- The brief visit by the U.S. House Speaker, Nancy Pelosi, to Taiwan, against stern warnings issued by China, has the potential to increase the relationship between the U.S. and China, with major implications for Taiwan.
- **For China**- Its claims about a rising superpower might ring hollow if it is unable to unify its claimed territories, in particular Taiwan.
- **For the U.S.**- It is about re-establishing steadily-diminishing American credibility in the eyes of its friends and foes.
- **For Taiwan**- It is about standing up to Chinese bullying and making its red lines clear to Beijing.

To know about the US-China's tussle on Taiwan, click [here](#)

What mistakes were committed by India with respect to China?

- India's policy of meeting/hosting Chinese leaders while the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) continued to violate established territorial norms on the LAC is a deeply flawed one.
 - It can be argued that diplomacy must go on despite the problems on the border, there is indeed a danger of Beijing viewing such diplomacy as examples of India's acceptance despite provocations.
- India is unilaterally catering to Chinese sensitivities even during the standoffs between the two militaries.
 - The parliamentary delegation visits and legislature-level dialogues between India and Taiwan have not taken place since 2017, coinciding with the **Doklam standoff**.
- The soft-peddling of the Quad (Australia, Japan, India and the United States) when China objected to it is another mistake.
 - It is only in the last two years or so that we have witnessed renewed enthusiasm

around the Quad.

- The gravest mistake India has made has been the non-acknowledgement of the PLA's intrusion into Indian territory in 2020, and its capture and occupation of Indian territory along the LAC since.

What lessons should India learn from the Taiwan standoff?

- A small island of 23 million people has decided to stand up to one of the strongest military and economic powers on the planet, braving existential consequences.
- India is a far more powerful nation armed with nuclear weapons and with a 1.4 million standing military against whom China has only marginal territorial claims.
- And yet, India continues to be hesitant about calling China's bluff.
- **Articulation of sovereign positions-** The most important lesson for policymakers in New Delhi is the importance of articulating red lines and sovereign positions in an unambiguous manner.
- New Delhi needs to unambiguously highlight the threat from China and the sources of such a threat.
- India's leadership has not clarified to the country what really went on at the border in 2020 and whether China continues to be in illegal occupation of Indian territory.
- India's current policy of 'hide and seek' amounts to poor messaging, and confusing to its own people as well as the larger international community, and is therefore counterproductive.
- **No appeasement of China-** Taiwan could have avoided the ongoing confrontation by avoiding Ms. Pelosi's visit to Taipei but it chose to go ahead with the visit making it clear to China that it is unwilling to back down from its declared aims.
- With enormous power, appeasement might work in the short term, but will invariably backfire over the long term.
- **Flawed argument-** It is often argued that the growing economic and trading relationship between India and China is reason enough to ensure that tensions between the two sides do not escalate.
- Given that the economic relationship is a two-way process and that, the trade deficit is in China's favour, China too has a lot to lose from a damaged trade relationship with India.
- Taiwan knows that, given the economic interdependence between the two sides, China is unlikely to stop trading with Taiwan as China is dependent on the semiconductors produced in Taiwan.
- India for sure should do business with China, but not on China's own terms.

How about India-Taiwan relation?

- India does not have formal diplomatic ties with Taiwan yet, as it follows the One-China policy.
- However, during then Chinese premier's visit to India in 2010, India did not mention support for the One-China policy in the joint communique.
- India has an office in Taipei for diplomatic functions (India-Taipei Association (ITA), 1995) headed by a senior diplomat.
- Taiwan has the Taipei Economic and Cultural Center (TECC) in New Delhi in 1995.
- The ties focus on commerce, culture and education.

- Now, these have been deliberately kept low-profile, owing to China's sensitivities.

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Prelim Bits 06-08-2022 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau

The Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau conducted lightning inspections at the higher secondary directorate, deputy directorate, and regional offices in the State.

- Operation Red Tape was conducted the Vigilance & Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB) by following complaints of widespread corruption and irregularities in section handling teacher/ non-teacher appointments.
- The VACB is the main Government Organisation to fight against corruption among the public servants.
- Each State in India would have its own VACB, which is formed by the State Governments.

Central Vigilance Commission

- The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is the main agency for preventing corruption in the Central government.
- However, the CVC is **not an investigating agency**. It either gets the investigation done through the CBI or the chief vigilance officers (CVO) in government offices.
- The CVC was established in 1964 by an executive resolution of the Central government.
- It was established based on the recommendation of the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption¹ (1962-64).
- Thus, originally the CVC was neither a constitutional body nor a statutory body. In 2003, the Parliament enacted a CVC Act conferring statutory status on the CVC.
- **Functions** - The CVC was set up to advise and guide Central Government agencies in the field of vigilance.
- It advises various authorities in Central Government organizations in planning, executing, reviewing and reforming their vigilance work.
- The CVC shall have all the **powers of a civil court** while conducting any inquiry under Section 11 of the Act.
- In 2004, the CVC has been designated as the agency to act on complaints or disclosure

on any allegation of corruption or misuse of office from whistle blowers under the “Whistle Blowers” Resolution.

The “Whistle Blowers” Resolution is the common name for the “Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers’ Resolution” (PIDPI).

- The CVC is also empowered as the only designated agency to take action against complainants making motivated or vexatious complaints.
- **Related Links** - [Advisory Board on Bank Frauds](#)

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Porcupine Strategy

As the long-range, live-fire drills began with China’s Eastern Theatre Command firing several ballistic missiles, Taiwan is “preparing for war without seeking war” using the strategy of “porcupine doctrine”.

China has launched the aggressive and unprecedented military exercises near Taiwan in response to US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s visit to the island that Beijing claims as part of its territory.

- The “Porcupine doctrine” was proposed in 2008 by the US Naval War College research professor William S Murray.
- It was adopted by Taiwan in 2017 when Lee Hsi-Ming, then-chief of the Taiwanese military forces, referred to it as the "Overall Defence Concept" (ODC).
- It is a strategy of **asymmetric warfare** focused on **fortifying a weak state’s defences** to exploit the enemy’s weaknesses rather than taking on its strengths.

Asymmetric systems are the ones that are small, numerous, smart, stealthy, mobile and hard to be detected and countered, and are associated with innovative tactics and employments.

- This strategy is about building defences that would ensure that Taiwan **could be attacked and damaged but not defeated**, at least without unacceptably high costs and risks.
- **Outer surveillance layer** is about intelligence and reconnaissance to ensure defense forces are fully prepared.
- Behind this come plans for guerrilla warfare at sea with aerial support from

sophisticated aircraft provided by the US.

- **Innermost layer** relies on the geography (mountainous topography) and demography (urbanised environment) of the island.
- This would give Taiwan an advantage during an invasion.
- The ultimate objective of this doctrine is that of surviving and assimilating an aerial offensive well enough to organise a wall of fire that will prevent the Chinese Army from successfully invading.

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Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme

- The Department of Commerce, under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** has launched and is implementing the Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) since 2017.
- Its objective is to **assist the Central and State/UT Government** agencies in the creation or up-gradation of appropriate **infrastructure for growth of exports**.
- The scheme can be availed by States through their implementing agencies, for infrastructure projects with significant export linkages like
 1. Border Haats,
 2. Land customs stations,
 3. Quality testing and certification labs,
 4. Cold chains,
 5. Trade promotion centres,
 6. Export warehousing and packaging,
 7. SEZs and
 8. Ports/airports cargo terminuses.
- Last and first mile connectivity projects related to export logistics will also be considered.
- Under this Scheme, the following projects will not be considered,
 1. Projects where an overwhelming export linkage cannot be established, and
 2. Projects which are covered under sector specific schemes like textiles, electronics, IT, and
 3. The general infrastructure projects like highways, power etc.
- **Grant-in-aid** - Under the scheme, financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid is provided to Central/State Government owned agencies (or their Joint Ventures with major stake-holding by them).
- This grant-in-aid will normally not be more than the equity being put in by the implementing agency or 50% of the total equity in the project.
- However, this grant-in-aid can be up to 80% of total equity, in the case of projects are located in North Eastern States, Himalayan States including UT of J&K, Ladakh.

- Recently, the scheme has been further extended for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26.

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Bodily Autonomy - MTP Act

The Supreme Court of India has allowed an abortion at 24 weeks for an unmarried woman under the 51-year-old Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act of 1971.

- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act of 1971 and its Rules of 2003 prohibit unmarried women who are between 20 and 24 weeks pregnant to abort with the help of registered medical practitioners.
- The Supreme Court, while loosening this provision, said that the prohibition of abortion was manifestly arbitrary and violative of women's right to bodily autonomy and dignity.
- **Intention of the law** - The rules permit termination of pregnancies up to 24 weeks in 7 specific categories, including survivors of rape or sexual assault, minors, in case of physical disabilities and fetal malformation.
- The intention of the law is not to allow abortion freely to all, not to liberalize.
- However, an unmarried woman whose pregnancy is over 20 weeks may have also conceived in a similarly vulnerable situation.
- **Significance** - This SC judgment would put these unmarried women on a par with women with less than 20-week-old pregnancies who run the danger of suffering a mental breakdown as they had conceived.
- This judgment also puts these unmarried women on a par with the married woman.

The MTP Act has not just used the word 'husband'. It has also used the word 'partner'. So, the legislature is not just concerned about women who undergo pregnancy within marriage, but outside marriage too.

- **Rules** - The implementation of abortion in the case is subject to the decision of a medical board constituted by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi (AIIMS).
- This medical board will determine if terminating this pregnancy at this stage is medically safe for the woman.

Survey

- There are nearly 8 lakh unsafe abortions a year and as many as 2.3 million abortions (78% of all abortions) are illegal as per the terms of the MTP Act simply because they occur outside of authorised facilities.

- A 2021 Study by the Centre for Reproductive Rights titled 'Legal Barriers to Accessing Safe Abortion Services in India' found that the following are among the top reasons why women are denied abortions,
 1. Skewed patriarchal morality,
 2. Lack of women's agency and
 3. Fear of anti-foeticide laws.
- In case of married women, first pregnancy, repeated abortions or fear that the woman is using abortion as a substitute for contraception are often used as reasons to deny abortion services.
- For unmarried women, a Victorian morality in the medical community towards unmarried sex and fear of POCSO laws in case of underage women also leads to fear among service providers.

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Glass Cliff

- The glass cliff is a phenomenon that reinforces stereotypes about women not being ideal in leadership positions.
- It refers to a situation in which women are promoted to higher positions during times of crisis or duress, or during a recession when the chance of failure is more likely.
- Although glass cliff mainly refers to the obstacles faced by women, the term also applies to the challenges faced by minorities and other marginalised groups when promoted to leadership roles.
- **Origin** - The term 'Glass Cliff' was coined by researchers from the University of Exeter, United Kingdom.
- These researchers coined this term after studying the disparity between the promotion of men and women in 100 corporate organizations included in the Financial Times Stock Exchange (FTSE) Index.
- They found that women were more likely to be promoted to higher positions mostly
 1. When there is an overall market slump or
 2. When the company was experiencing turbulence or
 3. When there was a decline in performance.
- By doing this, women were set up for failure, which was likened to standing at the edge of a cliff.

The 'think crisis think female' theory perceives women to possess the qualities that help them deal with stressful situations better than men.

Contrasting this, the 'think crisis think not men' theory explains how women are

perceived to be less valuable than men, making it easier for the companies to throw them under the bus.

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