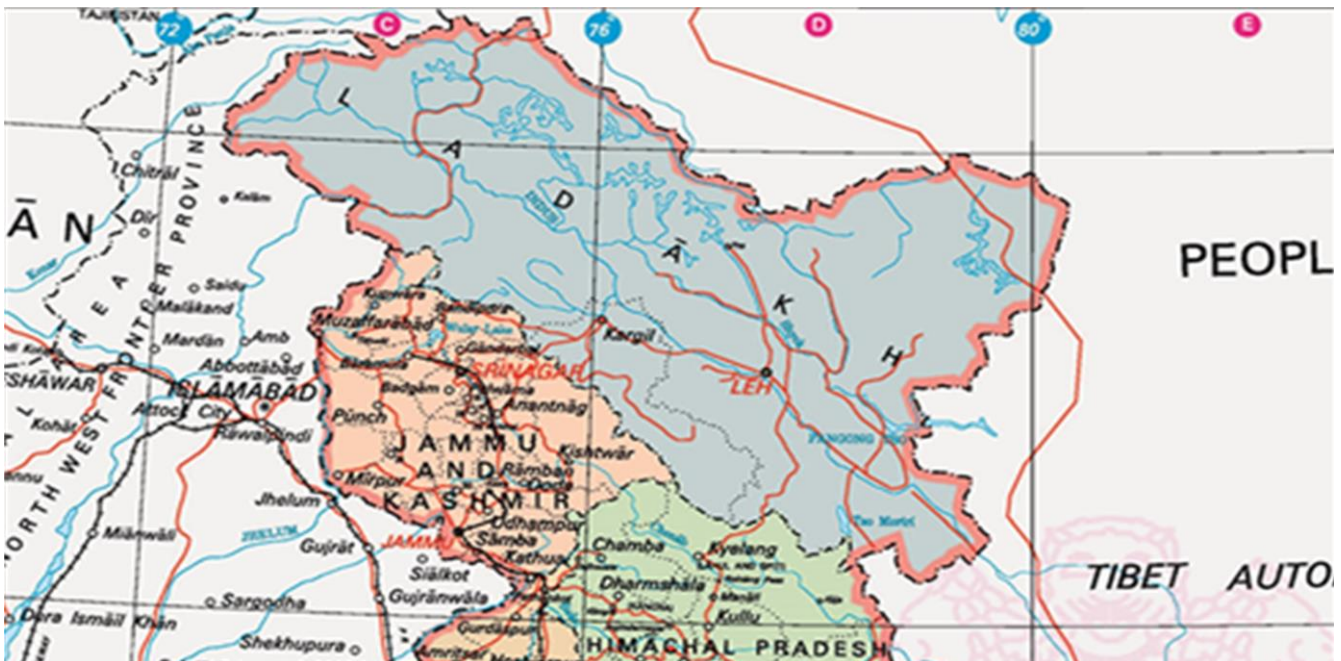


Paleri's Musings: Beautiful Land; Beautiful People - Dawn of Radiance

By Dr Prabhakaran Paleri

Dr. Prabhakaran Paleri is a strategist, researcher, academician and author with professional experience in Indian Naval, Customs and Coast Guard services and also as non-executive corporate director in public sector undertakings. He retired as the Director General of the Indian Coast Guard in August 2006. His interests lie in researching in management and national security strategy, and continuing academic pursuit as a professor and scholar.



It is difficult to say what is more beautiful in the land at the peak of India that touched first the Eurasian Continent in Laurasia, with a bang emptying the Tethys Sea into two parts which will be known much later as Indian and Atlantic oceans. Is it the land, the flora, the fauna or the people? For me, the author, it is the people. There are similar places, flora and fauna, though rare, on Earth, but not similar people. The people are beautiful to the core in behavior and looks; Naïve and innocent in their approach to life. They deserve all protection by governance, not exploitation, to ascend to new heights in wellbeing much beyond the heightened altitudes they perch.

India touched base first on its head in its 250 million years (not quite) journey from the now Antarctica, floating on a plate over the molten magma below the crust. The bang left a small reminder near the spot on the country's forehead as a tiara dot that the author may muse some other time. India berthed alongside the Eurasian Continent as an added but separate part on three segments later came to be known as Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, extending further to other directions and comfortably settled to accommodate travellers to come, board and merge with those already there. The northward push of India is still on along the tectonic plate exclusively Indian. It is for the governments to decide whether it has to be taken as a sign to press on north geostrategic ally also.

The outsiders who boarded India merged with the insiders. They didn't want to go back. India was enthralling and caring. It is so even today. The entire population slowly became homogenous hybriders² with exclusive traits by genetic compounding. India on the banks of the newly formed Indus River became the most populated and a never-even-once interrupted continuum in the world, aptly responsible and ready to lead the global human system apropos to its philosophy of the "whole world is a family" in every respect whenever the demand falls on it. That is the essence of "Sabke sath..."

The peak of India came to be known as Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh, thousands of years later, with a kind of retained premonition of becoming closely bound with the rest of the territories and human systems of India, a motherland with a destiny of virtuous and exclusive people expected to show the path to the rest of the world in times to come. It is a long away, though; it will happen for sure. One in five humans who walk the Earth is an Indian for whom the entire Planet is India. They are everywhere, not in gated clusters but in assimilated human systems.

Time seeps through life faster than thought. Unlike thoughts, time doesn't come back. But, for the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, time stood in apocalyptic silence.³ The turn in the life of J&K happened on 31 October 2019,⁴ exactly 72 years 2 months and 16 days after India became free from British rule, when the government of India decided to administer them as two separate Union Territories instead of a state so that the innocent and beautiful people can get out of the shackles their own country bound them with, ironically after being free. The immediate events of independence was suicidal for the then state of J&K abetted and imposed by an incompetent and inhuman system of barbarian mindset of a few people with power to tie these beautiful people with selective temporary laws that canted as permanent. Thereafter it was exploitation and subversion of the land and its people by generations of opportunists that will shame even the worst colonisers, slave market brokers, sex peddlers, holocaust slaughterers, Crimes³ plus syndicates⁵, and inhuman peddlers of criminal injustice, all in human garb and name of freedom that was nothing but selective slanting of a powerful few. The people suffered as if there was no tomorrow. Many fled; many became subservient to the arrogant; many succumbed to eternal end. It was sad and agonising.

Indians suffered maximum violence in the history of the world; the people at the crown of India suffered more than the rest repeatedly and in a relatively short period.

The governments of the post independent India didn't know how to handle the external and internal invaders who raided the land and depredated its people directly or indirectly and covertly or overtly. There were also the powerful in and out of the governments who aided the exploiters forever flowing benefits to fill their coffers of power and luxury. Nero never fiddled when Rome burnt. He never set fire to it.⁶ But the vultures of J&K did more than that to their people. Somehow the country as a whole could remain painfully resilient and patient. After all it had 250 million plus years of life span reflecting on its people as a unified part of the Planet that is destined to guide the future as a model of human virtues.

It is more than nine plus months now, if reckoned from November 2019, after the two union territories formed and lived most of the time in secure silence preliminary to an endowed future.

There are signs that trepidation of the past is not likely to come back at least in similar form. India and its people should move cautiously as the entire machinery of the ante force⁷, natural to a world within a world (WIW) like India, is working hard to topple the apple cart literally.

This is the time to meet the living among the thousands of victims of Article 35 A and its fallouts.⁸ They are in thousands—specific communities, refugees from erstwhile West Pakistan, some of them living as living dead for the past seven decades with families under total denial of any rights of civility, beautiful girls married to outsiders with no rights to own properties, brilliant students denied scholarships, people evicted forcefully and inhumanly from their residences, people whose land and properties were grabbed by the powerful, descendants of Gorkha soldiers who protected the land from invaders, entire population of Ladakh who almost lost hope in their future, people discriminated in employment, the selectively haunted and displaced Pundits of Kashmir... The ground is soaked with a lot of blood and tears that is not easy to explain or feel. It was a saga filled with stories of pain, agony and anguish that the rest of the country has no knowledge except for hearsay. If they know and are humane, they will never excuse the harbingers of such cruelty to fellow humans. It is a shame on all of us, Indians, impossible to wash away. World's longest written and most powerful Constitution couldn't wipe the tears of these victims just because of an articulated flaw on its pages. Like a dead fly sandwiched between the pages of an accountant's heavy ledger, the two articles masked the rights of citizens, and gave universal power to a few dynastic families and connected associates to hoodwink the country allying with externals. The right of the beautiful people of the two UTs became clear and equal to the rest for the first time after the dead fly was scraped off from the Constitution.

Things are getting rectified. Constitution of India applies to all Indians for the first time. The change reflects in the smiles of the people. Anyone, if in doubt, could go and witness it for clarity of mind.

Of course, the changes are only beginning to germinate. That makes it tender and vulnerable. The biggest task for the government and people is to protect the change and bring cohesion. People are optimistic and believe in their country and Constitution. Interestingly this has generated hope among the people of Gilgit and Baltistan also. There is an ambience of anticipation. But their problem is different. They are barbarically ravaged by China with the blatant permission by the occupier—Pakistan. That is why India has to push northerly like the tectonic plate. It is time the adversaries realise Indians possess the most powerful weapon of all time—freedom.

The 'Abraham Accord' Between Israel and UAE

By Sheshadri Chari

Author is a journalist, author, strategic and foreign policy analyst. He has also been a consultant on governance with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), posted at Juba, South Sudan.

The three important Abrahamic faiths have much in common when it comes to history, mythology and religion. But the fraternal feud among his followers has divided the geography so much beyond redemption that the new "covenant" may hold very little hope unless a true change of heart occurs. The agreement between Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) known as The 'Abraham Accord' between the Jewish Israel and the Arabic UAE brokered by the Christian US seeks to establish normal relations between the two erstwhile rivals, now friends, thus ending the historic 'Arab consensus'. In fact Israel and the UAE have been negotiating for over five to six years now after Tel Aviv opened a diplomatic office in Abu Dhabi in 2015. This office facilitated furtherance of soft power diplomacy between the two countries in the areas of renewable energy to sports.

New Delhi will have to study the accord, go into the background details and deeply ruminate over the likely fallout of the agreement in the Indian and regional context especially in the emerging post-Covid19 world order. Even before the ink is dry the agreement has run into controversy in its reference to the Palestinian issue. The UAE has interpreted the relevant clause to mean an “immediate end” to Israeli plans to annex areas in West Bank under its control. The Israeli officials have stuck to the word “suspend” the annexation plan and continue negotiations with Palestine. This allows the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to placate the protagonists of a hard policy towards the West Bank settlements so as to convert the status quo into a permanent addition to the existing geography.

When the Trump administration decided to move its embassy in Tel Aviv to Jerusalem India continued with its “neutral posturing” position with a view to balance its strategic engagement with the US and Israel and the economic and energy security pacts with the Arab World. The Palestinian cause has been relegated to the background in the wake of economic meltdown, falling demand for oil and raising joblessness due to Coronavirus that originated from China.

China meanwhile formalised its “Four Points” position on Israel-Palestine conflict as enumerated by Xi Jinping in his speech in July 2017 with a close resemblance to India’s position of calibrated balancing with a realist approach to national interest. Interestingly Islamabad has refused to toe the Arab big brother’s line in recognising Israel. Invoking Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Pakistan Prime Minister has in a veiled reference to UAE has said that ‘whatever any country does we cannot ever accept Israel as long as Palestinians are not given their rights’. What is important to note is his reasoning that (if Pakistan accepted Israel and ignored the oppression of the Palestinians) “we will have to give up Kashmir as well then”.

As the recent agreement cements the changed relationship between Israel and the UAE, India has a window of opportunity to not only participate in the common business platforms but also widen the scope and scale of security arrangements which can have far reaching and positive significance concerning any action plan on POK. The post-Covid19 world order is likely to be very different from what it appears to be now. New Delhi should prepare itself for an enhanced and more active role in the new and emerging geopolitical architecture.

Breaking all taboo Narendra Modi in 2017 became the first ever Indian Prime Minister to visit Israel. India-Israel defence trade is likely to touch the twenty billion mark with India becoming one of the core countries to be dealing with the high powered SIBAT in Israel. The best part of Modi’s balancing act was revealed when the Arab world took notice of the immense opportunities in India and signalled its readiness to work on trade and investments in India. More importantly the OIC’s refusal to allow a stand-alone meeting on Kashmir issue signals a new era of understanding of New Delhi’s position.

One significant subject in the Abraham Accord is the increased security cooperation between Israel and the UAE against regional threats. Needless to say, the three parties to the accord have a common adversary in Iran. The Trump administration recently seized three Venezuela bound Iranian oil tankers, both countries facing heavily punitive sanctions by the US. Given the effect of US sanctions and its strict implementation, the increased clout of the new partners in the region and elsewhere and the emerging new alliances between China and Iran and Iran-Turkey-Malaysia, New Delhi has to go back to the drawing board for a fresh policy formulation.

China is deeply entrenched in Gwadar and the Indian Ocean region. Tehran is having serious rethink over India’s role in the Chabahar port project. Turkey, which has threatened to recall its ambassador from Abu Dhabi, is busy forging a new non-Arab Islamic alliance to include Pakistan and Malaysia to achieve its dream of reviving the Khilafat-II especially at a time when a section of the Arab world seems to be distancing itself from the Palestinian cause while cosyng up to Israel. In the event of

this non-Arab Islamic coalition gaining ground it would be interesting to see which way Beijing tilts and what this portends for New Delhi and the region.

This emerging non-Arab coalition would like to see the back of the US in the Arab world. But the Arab solidarity is not yet a thing of the past and it is too early to conclude that the US has vacated from the Middle East. The economic catastrophe brought about by the Covid19 pandemic is probably posing a real challenge and forcing new and hitherto unexpected alignments that will impact India seriously.

Mao's playbook to control power

By Gopal Dhok

Gopal Dhok is a researcher with Forum for Integrated National Security.

Korean War

Mao seized power from KMT in 1949. China's economic situation was not conducive for political stability.²² The Korean war broke out in 1950 between North Korea and South Korea and lasted until 1953. Mao diverted people's attention behind another nationalistic and revolutionary cause in the Korean peninsula. People marched on the street against capitalist America. Over the next six months, more than seven lakh people were branded counter-revolutionaries and suspected of KMT sympathisers. All these people were executed or forced to commit suicide. China's involvement in the Korean war ensured people's support and provided Mao with time to consolidate grip on power.

How Mao turned the table on man-made famine in China with 1962 war?

After a disastrous great leap forward, support for Mao within the Chinese Communist Party was at its lowest. At the Chinese Communist Party's 7000 cadre conference (January 1962), Liu Shaoqi (Chairman of the People's Republic of China) described the famine as a human-made disaster. As criticism grew, Mao was forced to accept responsibility against his wish and self-criticized himself. Due to disagreement among party members on various policies, the conference went on for a month. Mao regained control of the power after the 1962 war and purged his opponents. After a disastrous great leap forward, 1962 war turned the table for Mao. Mao's strategy of limited hit and run conflict with India at the time of the Cuban missile crisis provided him with much-needed leverage to regain a position of power in the party.

After the death of Joseph Stalin in 1953, Nikita Khrushchev began de-Stalinization of USSR. Khrushchev set out to reverse many of Stalin's policies and dismantle the personality cult that had formed around him. Similarly, Deng Xiaoping accused Mao of behaving like old Stalin. He realized that there was not enough time to replicate something like 'Great Wall' and become 'Qin Shihangdi, the sovereign emperor of modern-day China.

Knowing his legacy will not last long, Mao launched his last attack – the Cultural Revolution. Youth organized into radical Red Guards. Driven by Mao Zedong thought, Red Guards destroyed Old Customs, Old Culture, Old Habits, and Old Ideas – 'the four olds to save Mao's legacy'.

New Era of Chairman Xi that reflects New Era of Chairman Mao

Xi's belt and road initiative is a modern-day rival of the great wall built by the first emperor of China. Like Qin Shihangdi, Xi intends to unify China with Hong Kong and Taiwan as mentioned in his thoughts (strategic policy guidelines).). With the implantation of National Security law, Xi has gained indirect political control over Hong Kong – a step towards reunification.

Taiwan will be next. The dream of becoming Qin Shihangdi has alluded many including Mao and Xi is no exception to that.

This is a short version of the article published on FINS Website. You can read the complete article on below link -

Lessons from Mao's playbook – How political insecurity drives external aggression and internal revolution

<https://finsindia.org/lessons-from-maos-playbook-how-political-insecurity-drives-external-aggression-and-internal-revolution/>

Elgar Parishad Case : Important Facts

By Capt. Smita Gaiwad

Author is a former Army Officer with sixteen years of diverse experience in corporate (Human Resource), social, research and education sector. She is a thought leader and internal security expert.

The objective of this article is to encapsulate the events related to Elgar Parishad case. Forum for Integrated National Security (FINS) [has released a comprehensive report on Koregaon Bhima Riot and Elgaar Parishad case in March 2018](#). Post that, many developments have happened. This article is a succinct compilation of those basic facts.

Before Jan 1, 2018

One of the important events or incidents that led to tensions at Koregaon – Bhima on Jan 1, 2018, includes the fight at Village Vadhu on Dec 28, 2017 due to a board with provocative content put up illegally by Pandurang Gaikwad, Rajendra Gaikwad and few other people. Subsequent posts by various groups on social media due to this fight created tensions at Vadhu. Similarly, Elgaar Parishad, the literature distributed at Elgar Parishad and speeches at Elgaar Parishad further added to the tension. Elgar Parishad was organised on Dec 31, 2017 at Shaniwar Wada, Pune by approximately 200 (the number they claim) social organisations. On Jan 1, 2018, riots took place at Koregaon Bhima. Every year on Jan 1, people, especially from Dalit community, visit Koregaon Bhima in the memory of the battle of 1818 as Dr Ambedkar visited this Jaystambh in 1927 to remind the British of fighting spirit of Mahars as Mahars were banished from Army by British quoting a reason of they being 'Non-Martial race'. The battle of 1818 was a battle between Peshwa (Maratha Army) and British. People from all castes fought from both, British and Maratha side. It was not a war for caste and definitely not a Brahmin Vs Mahar war as projected by many media channels. The organisers of Elgaar Parishad created a fake narrative that it was a battle between two castes. Out of 200 organisations, Republican Panther and Kabir Kala Manch (KKM) were the key organisations involved in creating this fake narrative.

[Kabir Kala Manch](#) was declared as Maoist front organisation on Feb 18, 2014, in Loksabha by RPN Singh, MOS, [Home Ministry](#). Thus, it was declared as Maoist front by UPA Govt and in Maharashtra, KKM activists were arrested in 2010 for their Maoist links under Congress-NCP rule. They are on bail now. Similarly, Republican Panther was another organisation. Sudhir Dhawale of Republican Panther was arrested by Maharashtra Police in 2011 for his Maoist links and later acquitted in 2014. The FIR filed by Tushar Damgude is against activists from these two organisations only. Nobody called other organisations as Maoist Organisations.

FIR and Arrests

On Jan 8, 2018, Tushar Damgude, a resident of Pune, lodged an FIR mentioning that the performances at Elgar Parishad on December 31, 2017 were provocative in nature and had an effect of creating communal disharmony. The FIR was launched against six members of Kabir Kala Manch, which was irrefutably declared as a front organisation of CPI (Maoist) by UPA government in February 2014. The investigation progressed and based on material gathered during the investigation, concerned agencies conducted searches on April 17 and Jun 6, 2018.

Documents and material recovered from these searches were sent to Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) and cloned copies were received by Investigating Agency. On the analysis of these cloned copies of material from the first raid, sections of UAPA were applied on May 17, 2018. Based upon the seized and incriminating material, it was revealed that a few more people were part of the Criminal conspiracy and their role was vital, not just peripheral. Therefore, searches were conducted at the residences of the remaining accused and they were arrested on August 28, 2018. Names of accused arrested so far are Varvara Rao, Mahesh Raut, Vernon Gonsalves, Sudha Bhardwaj, Shoma Sen, Arun Ferreira, Sudhir Dhawale, Anand Teltumbade, Gautam Navlakha, Rona Wilson, Hany Babu.

Is this a case of political dissent? No. Is this a case of just keeping some Maoist literature at home? A big no again. Are all the arrested people accused of being present at Elgar Parishad? Not at all. They are accused of being a part of a criminal conspiracy by a proscribed terrorist organisation CPI (Maoist). According to the affidavit filed by investigating agency in the beginning, the scope of this investigation is not restricted to finding out the object and effect of the programme of Elgar Parishad organised on December 31, 2017 or to carry out the investigation into the violence that followed in Koregaon-Bhima; but, the investigation was expanded to unearth a much larger conspiracy of seizing political power through armed revolution by mobilising masses by CPI (Maoist), a proscribed terrorist organisation.

The Police Charge Sheet says that Elgaar Parishad was held as per decisions taken at Eastern Regional Bureau (ERB) of CPI Maoist in 2015. CPI (Maoist) hatched a conspiracy to form 'Anti Fascist Force' during these meetings. The banned outfit guided its operatives about different tasks including 'Acts of Terror' as well as forming a 'united forum' comprising Dalits, Tribals and minorities. Operatives of CPI (Maoist) organised Elgaar Parishad under the banner of Koregaon Bhima Shouryadin Prerana Abhiyan. Inciting speeches at Elgaar aggravated the violence at Koregaon Bhima. Dhawale, Raut, Sen, Gadling involved in channelling funds for Elgaar Parishad.

Petitions and Bails

Romila Thapar and few others have moved a petition raising doubts over Police investigation and asked for a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate. The demands were rejected by a bench of Justice Chandrachud, Justice Khanwilkar and Chief Justice Dipak Misra. Similarly, the Court took a stand that the suitors cannot determine the investigation bureau of their personal preference and rejected the appeal for the SIT. It also mentioned that crisis is only regarding the connection with the proscribed terrorist group CPI (Maoist) and not regarding various aspects and beliefs. Later Romila Thapar filed a review petition, which was heard in Oct 2018. A bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud has [dismissed the review plea with a comment](#) "We have perused the review petition as well as the grounds in support thereof. In our opinion, no case for review of judgment dated September 28, 2018, is made out."

From session Court to the Supreme court, the accused have been repeatedly denied bail. Some of the accused have also tried to quash FIR or get anticipatory bail. Even that has been denied by different Courts due to the severity of offences and evidence presented by Pune Police. All the courts repeatedly said that 'there is prima facie evidence against the accused that they were active with CPI (Maoist), a proscribed Terrorist Organisation. Due to the wide scope of the case and its national and international links, the case was transferred to NIA from Maharashtra Police.

There was an article in a newspaper declaring the evidence inadmissible without any supporting reference in Court Order and Twitterati used that to propagate the rumour that evidence is inadmissible. Let the Court decide the admissibility of evidence once the trial begins.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors. They do not purport to reflect the opinions or views of the FINS or its members.

Nation is Indebted to:

Sarswathi Rajmani (1928-2018)
(Indian National Army)



Rajamani was born in Rangoon, Burma (now Myanmar). Her father owned a gold mine and was one of the richest Indians in Rangoon. Her family was a staunch supporter of the Indian freedom movement and also contributed money to the movement.

As a 16-year-old, inspired by Netaji's speech at Rangoon, she donated all her jewellery to the INA. Realizing that the young girl might have donated the jewelry naively, Netaji visited her house to return it. However, Rajamani was adamant that he use it for the army. Impressed by her determination, he christened her Saraswathi.

In 1942, Rajamani was recruited in Rani Jhansi Regiment of the INA and was part of the army's military intelligence wing. She was the youngest spy in Netaji's INA.

For almost two years, Rajamani and some of her female colleagues masqueraded as boys and gathered intelligence. While posing as a boy, her name was Mani. Once, one of her colleagues was caught by the British troops. To rescue her, Rajamani infiltrated the British camp dressed as a dancer. She drugged the British officers who were in-charge and freed her colleague. While they were escaping, Rajamani was shot on the leg by a British guard but she still managed to avoid capture.

Freedom fighter Saraswathi Rajamani breathed her last in Chennai on January 13, 2018.

What a selfless love for the nation!

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