

## India – China Boundry Dispute Philosophical Analysis and Way Ahead

By **LT GEN (Dr.) D. B. SHEKATKAR , PVSM, AVSM, VSM**

Author, a highly decorated soldier is renowned Strategic analyst. He is well respected expert in psychological warfare. Presently he is President of FINS and Chancellor of Sikkim University.

1. While Serving at Indian Army Headquarters at Delhi, as Deputy Director General of Military Operations (dealing with East Asia and CHINA) based on Anticipatory Threat Analysis and Predictability Threat Analysis, I could predict in 1993 about the Chinese Futuristic Designs up to 2035, against India to Settle the boundary dispute in favor of China; and how should India counter the Chinese designs, which will be as follows.
  - (a) Build pressure on India and Indian Armed Forces, through aggressive ingress and forcibly occupy territory in Arunachal Pradesh (which was earlier known as NEFA and now called by China as South Tibet); Badrinath, Kedarnath Sector of then Uttar Pradesh (now Uttarakhand) and Ladakh.
  - (b) Aggravate internal unrest through insurgency and unconventional warfare in North Eastern States of India and Jammu and Kashmir State (J&K) by promoting and sustaining proxy war through direct and active involvement of Pakistan to promote, sustain, finance, direct and Control Separatists movement through TERRORISM. Promote feeling against India based on religious fundamentalism spread by separatists and anti Indian elements.(Political and Religious leaders)
  - (c) Create an alarmingly dangerous situation in Kashmir by forcing Kashmiri Pandits to vacate Kashmir, thereby create a demographically favorable situation to help Pakistan. At that time Pakistan was totally focused and engaged creating "Strategic Depth" for Pakistan by keeping Afghanistan under Pakistan through terrorist organization such as Taliban, Al Quaida and so on. This was an extension of the "Grand Design and Strategy" of Pakistani ruling regime to "Bleed India by thousand Cuts". As a result situation emerged in India in 1993, 1994, 1995 when some influential decision maker and some political parties, secretly started convincing the Government of India to give up Kashmir to save India and establish permanent peace between Pakistan and India. Another section of decision maker recommended that Government of that time should convert the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir into International Border, which will be acceptable to Pakistan. Even one of Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir in those days had recommended that line of control be declared as International Border!! This was to suit the long-term grand designs of China to take over POK from Pakistan under the garb of development, this was also to later on include Kargil Sector (we fought war in 1999 to take back Kargil from Pakistan army at a heavy cost) and Siachen Glacier Sector. If this had happened, China would have militarily captured Ladakh by launching military aggression into

Ladakh from Western Ladakh and Eastern Ladakh. The Military adventure by PLA in eastern Ladakh in May – June 2020 would have happened much earlier. India would have lost Ladakh forever to China. It is very necessary to remember that one of the Prime Minister (as the reports Suggest) was willing to withdraw the Indian Army from Siachen Sector and declare the area as “Zone of Peace”!!

- (d) Create a dangerously challenging internal security threat in the form of Naxalite/Maoist movement through "People's war Group and People's Liberation Army". What was the motivation to convert and rename Naxalites to Maoist? It came from China and was implemented under the pressure from Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPIM).
  - (e) China supplied weapons, equipment, war like sustenance, finance, training and international propaganda (Perception Management through Information warfare) in favor of insurgents operating in North East India, Naxalites, Maoists and terrorists fighting in Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistani sponsored and supported terrorists carried out Terrorist attack on Indian Parliament at Delhi and later at Taj Mahal Hotel, Chhatrapati Shivaji Railway Station and other places in Mumbai.
  - (f) Create and sustain animosity between India and neighboring countries of India like Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and of course Pakistan and create environment of unrest towards India. We should not forget emergence of Maoist Movement in Nepal which destroyed 300 years old ruling regime. Even today in 2020 there are Communist cadres in Nepal who are controlled by China. ULFA and Bodo insurgents had established camps, trainings facilities, and financial safe heavens in Bangladesh, Myanmar and Unan Province of China adjoining Myanmar.
2. The list is endless. China created a China supporting political party and lobby in India through Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPIM), which had a very influential role in the Government and Governance of India till as late as 2013.
  3. China offered Nuclear Technology, required material and financial help to possess Nuclear Weapons to Pakistan and even North Korea. Both are a permanent threat to world peace, stability, security and progress. Some rulers and nuclear scientists in Pakistan have accepted the possibility of smuggling of nuclear technology to some other countries which might have reached in the hands of terrorist organisations. (Those who are interested in detailed study and research on this issue can refer to my article "Buy One Bomb, Get Two Free Briefcase Size Nuclear Bomb" published on 26.09.2011). There is a need for students, researches and young thinkers of Political Science, International Relations, National Defense and Integrated National Security to carry out in depth research and analysis to understand future challenges which will emerge from China.
  4. Economically and industrially China has tried its best to make Indian Economy and industrial growth deeply linked to and dependent on China, by flooding Indian Markets with Cheap Chinese products, internet, mobile connectivity, information technology, cyber and space security.
  5. China – Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) passing through Indian Claimed Pakistan occupied territory (POK) is also part of China's grand design to encircle India through land routes and sea, by occupying sea ports in Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan (Gwadar, in Baluchistan).
  6. China has been trying to establish foot hold in Maldives and Eastern Coast of Africa. It has established a Defence base in North Africa Djibouti. The ultimate aim of China is to control Indian Ocean Rim (IOR), East Coast of Africa, Red Sea, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea and South China Sea, for the furtherance of China's trade through Sea. There is an age-old philosophy of world governance, "Anyone who controls sea will control the World". In 21<sup>st</sup> Century the new philosophy of International governance is that “Anyone who controls sea, under sea domain, land sky and space will rule and dominate the World.” China is working in this direction to accomplish its national vision and ambition to be most powerful nation in the world.

7. By 2047 India will complete 100 years of our "Independence". By 2049 China will complete 100 years of emergence of People's Republic of China and Chinese Communist party duly protected by Peoples Liberation Army (PLA). China would like to be a lone super power in the world; even more powerful than USA, to be able to dominate the world in all aspects of world's governance.
8. China is aware of the fact that India is the only country in Asia and as next door neighbor of China which can stand up to China's grand designs and dangerous ambitious, of world domination.
9. Forum for Integrated National Security (FINS) will cover all aspects of China's grand designs, philosophy, policy and strategy as well as road map every fortnightly through E bulletins published by FINS for the information of our young generation, students, researchers and the creators of future destiny of India. The bulletin will also cover various other aspects of Integrated National Security of India.

## India-China Face off in Ladakh, Expect a Long Haul of confrontation with China -Pakistan Nexus – Part 1

**By Lt Gen V M PATIL**

A veteran of 1962 India- China war and 1965 India-Pakistan war He was the first Defense Advisor in Indian Embassies in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. He was Commander of United Nation's Military Observers Group in IRAQ and IRAN. He is President of Akhil Bharatiya Purva Sainik Seva Parishad and Vice President of Forum for Integrated National Security (FINS).

The events of 2019-20 in India and China have complicated Beijing's perception of Asia, in shifting its focus from "Asian Century" of Sharing prosperity to the construction of a "Chinese Century". The phenomenal rise of China in economic and military spheres, under Xi Jinping, has reinforced his "vision of global domination", even surpassing the USA as per his strategic design. Accordingly, Xi has marshalled all the resources – economic, diplomatic, military, technological and invisible cyber assets, to realize his Strategic objectives – Asian primacy by 2030 and Global domination by 2049. Towards this end, China has adopted assertive policies to grab more territory from its neighbours through soft power initiatives of Belt and Road Initiatives and necessary creeping in by stealth in disputed areas. It's flagship China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Pakistan leading to Gwadar port in Balochistan has to succeed at all costs to control South Asia and eventually dominate the Indian Ocean from straits of Hormuz to Malacca in SE Asia. India's decision to walk out of China-centric economic order (RCEP) in 2019, its refusal to join Belt & Road initiative in 2018, it is standing up to the misadventures of PLA in Ladakh ( including recent clashes in May- June 2020) and announcing of the first step towards digital dissociation from China underline New Delhi's political will to resist Xi Jinping's strategic objectives in Asia. The deepening conflict between India & China is driving both for a long haul of confrontation.

Hard facts of India-China conflict and ground reality we cannot ignore.

1. China has never accepted India as a peer/competitor in Asia.
2. Chinese basic policies against India have been –
  1. Contain India within South Asian subcontinent by encircling, entangling & envelope from all angles.
  2. With Pakistan as an all-weather iron brother, Nepal in its basket & Srilankan port on 99 yrs lease, it is now targeting Bangladesh and finally Bhutan.
3. By Chanakya Niti and corrupting its lobbies in India, China has four political parties, five trade unions, 4,- 5 Students unions and few Universities with leftist ideologies and many leftist liberal academicians on their side. China has focused on India's resolve to stand up to China.
4. An unsettled border provides China with the strategic leverage to keep India uncertain about its intentions and dilemma about its capabilities.

5. China along with Pakistan is vehemently opposing abrogation of Article 370 and 35A and total integration of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh into India as it poses a direct threat to CPEC in POK and beyond, besides fueling unrest in different parts of Pakistan.

6. By joining QUAD – Japan, Australia and USA, for containing China in the South China Sea, increasing Indo – USA cooperation in all strategic fields and by opposing Belt & Road initiatives in Asia, India has hurt Chinese regional interests.

### **China's Objectives in Ladakh 2020 – Present Status.**

On the occasion of 70th anniversary of the Communists party regime, Xi Jinping declared on 01 Oct 2019 that China will assert full control over all the areas they have claimed historically. Consequently, PLA has become more assertive along the Chinese borders, obviously with tacit approval from Xi, with rising cases of intrusions.

Government of India should examine with all stakeholders –

1. Why did China undertake these misadventures in Ladakh in Apr-June?
2. Violent reactions by PLA on the night of 15th June, would not have taken place without clearance from Xi Jinping.
3. Chinese knew its intrusions in Galwan valley would cause its relationship with India to suffer for a long time to come.
4. Xi is probably prepared for a state of strained relationship for a long time in the hope of “a weaker coalition with some pro-Chinese lobbyists” in the Indian democratic churning.

Some of our experts on China including Shri Jayadev Ranade feel that Chinese objectives in Ladakh were

- To secure Chinese Strategic and financial interests in Gilgit-Baltistan areas.
- To ensure the security of Aksai Chin highway (G219) linking Xinjiang with Tibet.
- To sever Indian access to Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO) and Siachen Glaciers

What happened in May-June was a deliberate move by the Chinese with a clear objective.

PLA's moves in Galwan valley & Pangong Tso were clearly aimed at testing India's resolve, response & capabilities. To my mind, they did not expect such a ferocious reaction by Indian forces and had not catered for alternative contingency plans A, B & C. Casualties on the Chinese side, though not published, could be an eye-opener for CPC and PLA. They will draw their lessons and India should expect something bigger venture in coordination with Pakistani terrorist actions to keep J&K boiling. China had suffered a setback in Doklam in 2017. Now China is faced with a stalemate in Ladakh. It will neither forget Ladakh nor dilute its overall objectives against Jammu & Kashmir and India.

If India is allowed to succeed in its mission in Jammu & Kashmir post-Aug 2019, it will hurt China and Pakistan in their flagship CPEC, affecting China's objectives in South Asia initially and the Indian Ocean subsequently.

# **Dissent to Zohnerism: Balanced Analysis of Maoism, its Urban Dimension in Elgar Parishad Case is Need of Hour**

**By Capt. Smita Gaikwad**

Author, a former Corps of Engineers Officer of Indian Army, is a research scholar on Left Wing

The recent raids on Delhi University professor Hany Babu's house and subsequent press note by NIA stating his connection to Manipur-based insurgent group Kangleipak Communist Party –Military Council (KCP – MC), a banned outfit, has placed emphasis on the scope of Elgar Parishad investigation once again.

In fact, the actions by Maharashtra Police in this case fetched a variety of reactions and perceptions earlier as well. The opinions originated due to visible credulousness not only of the common man but of many luminaries from the intellectual and political fields further added to this spectrum.

Pragmatically, dissent is the soul of democracy and truth must be the soul of dissent. Democracy without dissent cannot be a healthy one and dissent without truth in it is nothing but subduing the reality. Furthermore, the zohnerism in recent times can also be exemplified by the narrative followed by Elgar Parishad arrests and subsequent bail hearings. Many of the true facts from this case were used to lead legally ignorant populace with no understanding of the contemporary warfare to a false conclusion.

One set of people in India is busy projecting anyone and everyone as 'urban naxals' without any logical reasoning or evidence, and another set is busy labeling the Elgar accused as 'dissenters' or 'human rights activists' with disdain to the evidence produced by police and NIA, and upheld by the judiciary of their links with proscribed terrorist organisations. The unfortunate outcomes of narratives by both these groups are unnecessary branding of some genuine dissenters as 'urban naxals' and equally unnecessary branding of the anti-democracy left wing extremists as civil rights activists or dissenters.

Consequently, the democratic dissension and society at large will have to pay a heavy price due to both these narratives. This also dilutes the threat perception of common human beings making them gullible in front of the false propaganda of Maoist front organisations. Enough has already been said on record about the widespread propaganda mechanism of the Maoist fronts during the UPA government.

Let's get to the core of the case. 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 front organisation of CPI (Maoist) by UPA government in February 2014. Investigation progressed and based on material gathered during 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.

Let's decipher further. 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.

People taking a stand for the accused of Elgar Parishad are supporting them for a variety of reasons. Ignorance about the legal details of the case, lack of awareness on Maoism as a security threat, political affiliations, blind following of party leaders and their stand, mob mentality, caste-based identities, ideological affiliations, thoughtless following of the Intellectual leaders, Zohnerism, membership of the Maoist propaganda groups, inclination to Maoist ideology are just a few to enlist. In this context, labeling everyone supporting the accused as 'urban naxals' without even knowing the reason for their support bears adverse consequences and dilutes the perception of this threat due to generalisation. Sometimes, the word 'urban naxal' appears to be contaminated by political biases and arbitrary definitions. Let's not be judgmental about people's love and commitment to the nation as citizens and, by the same token, let's not be naïve enough to call everyone a dissenter. Healthy communication and awareness is needed on this subject, not judgmental biases. In fact, retired police officers, academic researchers and unprejudiced media can play a vital role in navigating the narrative on this subject into a balanced and factually correct direction.

*This opinion piece was first published in **News18**.*

## **Bal Gangadhar Tilak and the Arctic**

**By DR. UTTAM KUMAR SINHA**

Dr. Uttam Kumar Sinha is a Fellow at IDSA and holds an adjunct position at the Malaviya Centre for Peace Research, Banaras Hindu University. At IDSA, he is also the Managing Editor of Strategic Analysis.

On a rain-soaked Sunday (August 1, 1920) morning in Bombay, with the city battling the after-effects of the influenza pandemic, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, best remembered for his fight for Swaraj, breathed his last. Tilak's campaign against the British colonial rule was anchored on reclaiming Indian heritage and culture, some of which were reflected in his 1892 paper, "The Orion, or Researches into the Antiquity of the Vedas", which drew on the vast knowledge of the Hindu Vedas and Avesta, the sacred scripture of Zoroastrianism. In sum, it was a search into the antiquity of the Aryan-Vedic culture, challenging the ancientness of the Bible and establishing the primacy of the Vedic literature.

Tilak's articulation of the Vedic culture was further elaborated in his 1904 work, *The Arctic Home of the Vedas* that brought in an Indian consciousness to human social evolution as a response to the physical environment. While updating his estimate of the Vedic antiquity, Tilak came to the conclusion that the advancement of geological science, astronomy and archaeology proved that the climate conditions at the pole during the inter-glacial period was conducive for human habitation establishing, thereby, his long-held belief that the ancestors of India's ancient Vedic civilisation lived in the Arctic region.

His emphasis on the cultural-historical geography was an important intervention and came at a time when geographical determinism emerged as a dominant school of thought, which viewed human history, culture and society as being determined by the physical environment. On the other hand, political geographers of the time like Friedrich Ratzel and Halford Mackinder, imperialist in their outlook, had emphasised location and topography as important geographic properties in influencing geopolitical thinking. Ratzel compared the state to an organism which needed space (*lebensraum*) to expand, whereas Mackinder strongly felt that geography should have objectives that serve the needs of the state.

Tilak's work and the debate over the origins and the original homeland of the Aryans in the Arctic, while complex and controversial, however, establishes familiarity of the region through genealogical connections and remains the most striking interpretation and superiority of Indo-Aryan history and culture. Sri Aurobindo, the renowned Vedic scholar, in his work, *The Secret of the Vedas*, appreciates Tilak's interpretation noting that by examining the "Vedic Dawn, the figure of the Vedic cows, and the astronomical data of the hymns", a strong probability of the Aryan race "descending from the Arctic regions in the glacial period" emerges.

Tilak's works were unlike the tales of risk, adventure and enterprise from the North Pole that captured the imagination of Western publics. The Arctic is often a backdrop of English literary works of the 19th century. Unlike the European experience, where a collective idea of the Pole came through the detailed notes and diaries of the explorers and inspired prose and verses, in India, the Vedas were the fountainhead of knowledge of the Arctic. Interpreting the text of the Vedas was an evidence-based exercise to fill the missing gaps in the origin and migration theory of the Aryans.

Tilak describes in his work the "Polar attributes" of Vedic deities such as Usha, the goddess of dawn, and the happy land of Airyana Vaêjo or the Aryan Paradise, where the sun glimmered once a year and was lost with the "invasion of snow and ice". Like dawn, night also occupies attention in the Vedas suggesting the half-yearly daylight, darkness and changing seasons in the Arctic. The Vedas in describing the Arctic used metaphorical imaging and spiritual expressions. In contrast, the current age semantics on the Arctic like "gold rush", "resource scramble", "land grab", "great game moves north", "high stakes in the High North", have given it an imagery of chaos emerging from intensified resource competition. However, with increasing scientific findings, the public today is far more aware of the Polar region and Polar climate change.

Tilak's articulation, challenged it might be by the "Out-of-India" migration proponents, gives India a platform to build its engagement with the Arctic region. He reminds us through his scholarship that the Arctic has a civilisation connect and a racial memory. Mainstreaming the ancient textual connection to India's contemporary Arctic policies, which has been dominated by the scientific narrative, will bolster India's engagement with the region.

A few months before Tilak's death, the Spitzbergen Treaty was signed that defined Norway's sovereignty over the Arctic Archipelago of Svalbard. India, as part of the British Empire, was party to the treaty. In remembering Tilak, one is reminded that the Arctic has spectacular roots in Indian thinking and is thus a familiar region to Indians.

## Why Countries Are Banning Chinese Apps?

**By Gopal Dhok**

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

It is not been long that India banned Tik Tok and 58 other Chinese apps due to security concern. A week earlier, the president of the United States also signed an executive order to ban TikTok and WeChat. Yesterday, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo hinted that executive orders against TikTok and WeChat could be **broader** than just those two apps.

The security and sovereignty concerns over Chinese apps are snowballing. Japan is also looking at banning TikTok. Japan is an important market for any tech product to gain traction. Japan was the first big success for ByteDance, the parent company of TikTok. China has threatened Japan about the impact of such action on bilateral relations. Clearly stating that banning Tik Tok would have a "**large impact**" on bilateral relations.

The app is banned in Malaysia. Indonesia banned TikTok in 2018. The French National Data Protection Authority has also initiated the investigation against TikTok over privacy issues. Authorities in the European Union are also looking at **data practices of TikTok**.

In January 2020, the Australian government asked defence personals to delete Tik Tok app from their phones. Australian intelligence agencies were also assigned the task of assessing Tik Tok's threat. A recent conversation in Australian political circles suggests that the government may consider a ban on Chinese app.

Such action by all Quad+ countries could have a domino effect on other countries in Europe and Asia and other countries may also look at security implications of Chinese app. The ban in India and the United States has set the ball rolling.

## When China banned ByteDance's apps in 2018

In April 2018, the Chinese State Administration of Radio and Television (SART) asked **ByteDance to take down its app Jinri Toutiao** for three weeks and asked to shut down Neihan Duanzi from app stores. Joke sharing app Neihan Duanzi was accused of hosting vulgar content on its platform. In China, a political joke directed towards leadership, party and ideology can be termed as a vulgar content. With thirty million user base, **Neihan Duanzi created a unique subculture**.

The app came under the crosshair of SART after platform floated live streaming ability. Detecting and censoring live streaming is a difficult task.

ByteDance's other app, Jinri Toutiao which means Today's Headlines was banned in China for three weeks for not proactively promoting news from Chinese state-run media entities. The news aggregation app was criticised for not promoting state-run media outlets. **AI-driven news platform** was accused of not prioritising party, leadership news.

On April 11, 2018, the maverick founder of ByteDance Zhang Yiming apologised publicly in a letter for not following core social values. **In a letter, He wrote** "ByteDance took the wrong direction in delivering content that was contrary to socialist core values" He further stated that state authorities have provided the company with support in the company's growth. However, the company faltered in understanding the demands of the communist party.

He further wrote that *the company so far had not been fully attentive towards corporate social responsibility, to promote positive energy and to grasp correct guidance of public opinion.*

The words such as corporate social responsibility, positive energy, correct guidance of public opinion may sound benevolent. In China, these innocuous words have deeply political and authoritative meaning. Guidance of public opinion means media outlet will not publish content that is contrary to party's official line. Media outlets should promote party policies. Any news that may be harmful to the party and its leadership 'core' must be snubbed. News that may jeopardise the reputation of the party leadership must not find a place in publications or digital media outlet. The media outlets as well as a news recommendation software system has a responsibility to guide and shape public opinion that is conducive for the party and leadership. Guidance of public opinion does not have national boundaries. Hence opinion of people outside China must also be shaped through United Fronts Works.

Positive energy reflects actions that are in line with CPC. Any criticism or collusion with the party is termed as negative energy.

Zhang Yiming in his letter lamented that *as the company grew, it did not invest much in supervision content hosted on his platform. As a start-up company developing rapidly in the wake of the 18th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party, we profoundly understand that our rapid development was an opportunity afforded us by this great era. I thank this era. I thank the historic opportunity of economic reform and opening, and I thank the support the government has given for the development of the technology industry.*

18th National Congress was held in 2012. Xi Jinping assumed leadership of the Chinese Communist Party in the 18th National Congress. The period there onward is termed as China's New Era.

He stated that *recent problems in the company is a weakness of the "four consciousnesses" deficiencies in education on the socialist core values and deviation from public opinion guidance.*

Four consciousnesses consist of consciousness of the ideology of the communist party, consciousness of great Chinese dream, consciousness of political leadership and consciousness of the alignment with the party.

*We have not acknowledged that technology must be led by the socialist core value system, broadcasting positive energy, suiting the demands of the era (Era of Political leadership – Xi Jinping), and respecting common convention.*

*We want to make a **global platform** for creation and conversation. This demands that we must ensure that the of "creation" and "conversation" are positive, healthy and beneficial, that they can offer positive energy to the era (Xi Jinping), and to the people.*



*I profoundly recognise that the company's development must stick closely to the era and to the main theme of national development. Zhang Yiming clearly mentions that his company will ensure that its global apps and platforms will serve Chinese leadership. Today the authorities have pointed out problems in our company, and this is a well-intentioned reminder and an encouragement to us. The company will work immediately to bring about change — changing our own thoughts and changing our methods.*

Zhang suggested following countermeasures to align products of ByteDance with the Communist Party and Xi Jinping's leadership (the new era)

1. *Strengthening the work of Party construction, carrying out education among our entire staff on the four consciousnesses, socialist core values, the guidance of public opinion, and laws and regulations.*
2. *Further deepening cooperation with state-run media, prioritizing authoritative media content, ensuring that authoritative media voices are broadcast to strength.*
3. *Strengthening the editor-in-chief responsibility system, comprehensively correcting deficiencies in algorithmic and machine review of content, steadily strengthening human operations and review, raising the current number of operational review staff from 6,000 to 10,000 persons for content review.*

**ByteDance** later stated that Communist party members with political understanding will be preferred for the job.

The letter underlines the stark reality that Chinese businesses have no option but to serve the agenda of the communist party and its leadership. The letter is a perfect example of how China uses weapons of censorship on Chinese companies to align them with the party.

In June 2017 China enacted National Intelligence Law. The law makes it mandatory for Chinese Citizens as well as companies to help the state in intelligence gathering. Article 7 of this law underlines that the State protects individuals and organizations that support, assist and cooperate with national intelligence work. Section 9 underlines that State will reward individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to national intelligence work.

With an authoritative rule and supporting legal framework, Chinese companies are an extended instrument of the party.

TikTok, for long, has been saying that it does not send data to China or censor any content. After brief ban of TikTok in Indonesia in 2018, ByteDance acquired Indonesian news aggregation app '**Baca Berita (BaBe)**'. According to this report, after acquisition ByteDance started censoring content criticising of Chinese government, leadership or party in its news aggregation app. ByteDance invested in news aggregation app in India.

The app's role is also under investigation for fueling recent rites in the United States in close coordination with Chinese Consulate in Houston. Chinese companies may have been claiming that they have no connection with the Chinese Communist Party. However, the letter of a Chinese CEO and legal framework for intelligence sharing leave no scope for ambiguity. That's just one example

China's Three warfare strategy hinges upon media and psychological warfare. For such a strategy to succeed, global censorship and control of information flow are critical for China. Such control can only be achieved and leveraged through China-based media aggregation apps as well as short video apps which can be exploited to **fuel rites** or create political disturbances in democratic countries.

China, over a period, has denied access to non-Chinese social media apps, news media due to national security concerns. Other nations are also coming to terms with the same reality. Chinese businesses have no choice but to follow orders from the party. So other nations have no choice but to ban.

**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:**

### **Hav. Durga Singh Paliwal**

(1936- )



A railway Train Driver who was part of an Engineers Territorial Army (Engineers) Bn

On 12 December 1971, Durga Shanker Paliwal was the driver of the supply train plying 27 Km inside enemy territory in the Rajasthan Sector when six Pakistani jets attacked his train by rockets and incendiary bombs. One of the incendiary bombs dropped two meter away as a result of which he was seriously injured. He drove the train in reverse to avoid damage. When the train derailed owing to the broken track, he declined medical aid and walked five miles to report the derailment to his superior authority.

His this exemplary action save the train load of Ammunition, Bombs and other war related stores.

In this action, DS Paliwal displayed highest order of bravery, initiative and devotion to duty of a high order.

He was awarded Veer Chakra, a gallantry award for this exemplary courage

Write to us at:

**[bulletin@finsindia.org](mailto:bulletin@finsindia.org)**

*OFFICE :*

***4, Belle View, Lakhamsi Nappu Road,  
Dadar (East), MUMBAI 400014***

***Phone 022 24127274***

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