

INDIA PAKISTAN CEASFIRE PACT – JAN 2021 BACKGROUND AND IMPLICATIONS

By Lt Gen (Dr) D B Shekatkar, PVSM, AVSM, VSM

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On 25th February 2021, both India and Pakistan announced that their Army on both sides will strictly abide by ceasefire agreement along the line of control and other sectors, and also address “each other’s” core issues as well as concerns. It is reliably learnt that there have been discussions between India and Pakistan for over two months. It is also learnt that the initiative first came from Pakistan’s side. Having served at Army headquarters at Delhi at Directorate General of Military Operations as Deputy Director General (in the rank of Brigadier) and later as Additional Director General (in the rank of Major General), one is fully aware the functioning of DGMOs on both sides. While officiating as DGMOs, I used to speak to DGMO of Pakistan on Hot Line on some urgent and sensitive issues. Most of the time the request used to come from General Headquarters of Pakistan Army for telephonic talk. I also learnt as to how powerful and authoritative was the DGMO of Pakistan Army, and how he used to exercise control over Pakistani Rangers (like our Border Security Force) and others who were deployed along International Borders, Functional Border and Line of Control (LOC).

In 21st Century particularly after 9/11, while “Conventional Diplomacy” has been working in the background, it is the “Military Diplomacy” which is taking precedence across the world. Use of Military Power, (Hard Power) Military Force is always the first option followed by Conventional Diplomacy. In India, fortunately Conventional Diplomacy takes precedence. Our experience in Defence at security related issues have clearly proved that both Pakistan and China have always been resorting to Military Diplomacy first. Both have adopted the option of “use of force” first and later conventional diplomacy to retain whatever they gained through Military Force. (1962 war by China, to Galwan incident in Ladakh in April 2020 and 1965 war, Kargil war in 1999 by Pakistan attack on India’s Parliament, attack on Mumbai, and Terrorist attack at Pathankot airbase and so on ... the list is long enough). Is there a clear message for India??!!

In the recent Ceasefire Pact, while the conventional diplomatic channels have been working; but it is the Military Force (Military Diplomacy) which has resulted in this agreement. It is the interest of both Pakistan and India to establish durable and lasting peace along entire border and line of control (LOC) including Kargil and Siachen Glacier Sectors. Though the Ceasefire comes into effect earlier in 2003, between two countries, but like China, Pakistan also did not abide by the agreement to respect ceasefire observance.

The ceasefire came into effect along the 778 Kms line of control and 198 Kms of international border (what Pakistan since many decades calls it functional border). A study of ceasefire violations by Pakistan Army reveals that in the year 2020 itself there were 4600 instances of violations along LOC. This was despite the fact that in 2018 a similar pact was reached between the DGMO of Indian Army and DGMO of Pakistan Army and yet 4600 violations occurred in 2020!

[Read complete Article on FINS website](#)

Re-Inventing the Rural Economy

By Dr P Bala Bhaskaran

Author, a graduate of IIT Madras and IIM Ahmedabad, is senior visiting faculty with 'Entrepreneur Development Institute of India', Ahmedabad. He evolved the Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) model, which is widely being implemented as EDI-EPP model at national and international level. His area of specialisation is "Finance and Strategy"

Newton's First Law of Motion is also known as the Law of Inertia. While the farm-laws have the wider object of ushering in agricultural reforms leading to the overall growth and development of the farmers, they also impinge on the comfort-zones of intermediaries who have been subsisting on the life-blood of the farmers. Since these intermediaries are powerful and well-connected, internally and externally, they are bound to display phenomenal resistance. The Govt had to choose between taking them head-on and cajoling them towards a lenient view. The latter was not really an option when we look at the growth-challenges looming ahead of us.

The immediate impact is the delay in the implementation of the laws. It is desirable to provide the farmers some mental comfort and stability, while the transition is underway. The scenario must be changed strategically to alter the balance of bargaining power in favor of the genuine farmers. Some steps in this direction are outlined in the following paragraphs.

1. **Minimum Supporting Price [MSP]:** The agitators have been demanding for the permanence of MSP. Essentially the concept of MSP was introduced to support the farmers by giving them an option to sell their surplus farm-produce at a fair price. Govt must re-emphasize this aspect and ensure that the benefit of MSP continues to be available with top-most priority being accorded to the small and marginal farmers. This can be achieved through the following stipulations.
 - a. In procuring grains/agri-produce priority should be given to
 - i. the small/medium farmers and the owner-cultivators first
 - ii. tenants/lessees from among the small/marginal farmers second
 - iii. large farmers should be considered last.
 - b. The farmer shall always have the option of refusing the procurement
 - a. Govt and/or its agency FCI shall work out a quota for procurement of the agricultural produce from each state in every season/year. Procurement by GOI through MSP is a benefit given to the farmers. This benefit should be available to all farmers across the country.
 - b. The overall procurement [quantity and price/MSP] in a season/ year should be worked out through an algorithm which considers the previous years' experience, the expected PDS demand of the year, prevailing market prices, prices of previous years, the expected price of the current year etc. The purpose shall be to minimize wastage, optimize the demand and supply position for the PDS etc.
 - c. FCI should be backed by a competent analytical team/agency in arriving at the procurement quantum and the price [MSP] for each state, for each season.

- d. Ideally, there should be ONE NATION, ONE MSP for each commodity.
 - e. The compensation for procurement shall be made through direct digital transfers to the eligible farmers' accounts.
2. Encourage **value-added activities in the rural areas** under the ownership of the farmers
- a. Promote Food Production Organizations [FPOs] for farm-products in every part of rural India. This will facilitate farmers connect with markets as well as inputs; this will enable them to bargain with large buyers for better price; this will enable them to take advantage of converting their produce into value-added products thus paving the way for wealth generation and employment in the rural areas. The entire chain should be owned by farmers through cooperatives. For instance, wheat producing areas can promote roller-flour mills, and further value-added products like biscuits, confectionaries etc.
 - b. Such organizations are slow to grow when there are large number of small and marginal farmers and leadership is not easy to find. So, government/its agencies should take the lead to set up the facilities and gradually transfer them into the hands of cooperatives of the farmers.
 - c. Encourage organizations like AMUL to pitch in select areas and create organizations similar to AMUL for vegetables, fruits, and all other farm-products.
 - d. Ensure that every village and every farmer is covered under some form of cooperatives/FPOs so that there are ever-increasing employment and income-generating opportunities in the rural areas.

Prime Minister, in his talk to the nation, Man-ki-Baat, on 28th February 2021 echoed this sentiment when he talked about empowering the farmers and villagers and enhancing their income. New enterprises, entrepreneurship, wealth generation etc. can happen only when we unleash the animal spirit of competition; subsidies and guarantee only help bottle the animal spirit of competition into complacency and lethargy. Let us co-opt govt agencies, voluntary organizations, Universities and to some extent corporate entities into this grand initiative.

Research Excellence Is a Gift That Keeps On Giving

By Dr Kartikeya Tripathi

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India is today one of the fastest growing economies in the world. This has meant that the government has been steadily increasing its tax collection and has invested thousands of crores in infrastructure projects, defence and social welfare schemes for the poor. While the effort to fill in the gap in these crucial areas is welcome, there is one field where we cannot expect to solve a problem by just throwing money at it.

We are talking about research led higher education. Excellence in this area of national life is a slow process that requires planning and investment (other than money) for decades, even centuries. It has been rightly said that world class universities are luxury products that countries acquire once they have crossed a critical mass of development. We need to look no further than England where the universities of Oxford and Cambridge have stood as symbols of academic excellence for nearly a thousand years now.

Even their younger cousins across the Atlantic, like Harvard University, are nearing four centuries.

Interestingly, studies have shown that once leading universities have been established, they assume an almost independent identity from the larger body politic of their country. Colleges of Oxford and Cambridge survived hostile monarchical regimes, continuing to play host to scholars from all over the world, and in USA universities are often at loggerheads with popular opinion and governmental thinking but that does not affect their reputation or attraction to students. More recently, pundits in the UK said that if there is one institution that will survive the Brexit process unscathed it is the Russell Group of universities in the country.

To go back to the analogy made with a luxury product—some universities become huge national assets because they are excellent at their core competency, i.e., research work. And once they have achieved it, universities can be pretty indestructible, giving huge returns to their societies for centuries to come. Not only do they provide learning infrastructure to the cleverest people in the population to achieve self-actualization, the patents, the technology, and the design innovations that the students produce give unimaginable profits to the economy.

This is an important lesson to learn for India which stands at a historical juncture where the whole world is looking at a giant that is capable of achieving economic greatness while keeping its democratic processes intact. It will take patience, long term planning and innovative thinking amongst academia, policy makers and higher education bureaucracy to make Indian universities centres of high end, relevant learning.

There is a good example to illustrate the point. University College London (UCL) has consistently ranked amongst the top ten research institutions in the world. One of the ways it has done so is by creating high quality courses that draw on inter-disciplinary research to address a gap in knowledge that is particularly relevant at the time. In the 2017-18 academic year UCL introduced a Masters level course in Space Risk and Disaster Management.

The programme unites emergency response, disaster risk reduction and space technology to prepare students to work in the fields of satellite technology. It focuses on emerging risks posed to modern technology by space weather and the monitoring of hazards on Earth from outer space.

The beauty of the course is that it uses research and skill building to prepare students for a niche but rapidly expanding field of commercial satellite operations. The teaching that is imparted is of the highest standards and the programme draws upon students from traditional scientific disciplines like Physics, Mathematics and Engineering as well as more social science oriented disciplines of geo-politics and security.

It is easy for the students to find lucrative career options because of great demand (and massive lack of supply) for qualified experts in the field. For its part, the university maintains standards of academics by putting the students through a rigorous Masters level programme with all the accompanying elements of learning, project work and examinations.

The point to keep in mind is that such courses cannot be developed overnight. The planning for the course itself can take months and more importantly the inter-disciplinary core competencies the university draws upon to deliver the learning takes decades to develop. However, once the intellectual and physical infrastructure is in place the universities can quickly adapt to contemporary requirements and consistently create both human and economic capital.

It is safe to conclude that excellence in research is a gift that keeps on giving. It requires the creation of the right ecosystem that attracts the best talent in the world to come and teach, that is naturally followed by the best students in the world who come to study. India's passage into the club of superpowers will not be complete until it can boast of being home to at least one such university where it can tap its own vast experience in space technology from agencies like ISRO and deliver it to the brightest minds in the world.

It is a long road but well-worth each step in the end.

Joint Statement by QUAD Leaders

In 2004, coordinated disaster response efforts by the Quad group showcased myriad capabilities that Australia, India, Japan and the USA can bring to the table. However, for over a decade the group remained as a topic of discussion for experts and intellectuals. Another calamity in the form of a pandemic along with several other challenges has once again proven the potential of the group. The Virtual Quad Leadership Summit held last week reflects the growing importance of the group for all four nations.

The following joint statement brings more clarity on the role of quad and broadening areas of cooperation such as cyber, advanced materials and health security. The group is looking beyond maritime security and cooperation towards other major common challenges.

- 1.** We have convened to reaffirm our commitment to quadrilateral cooperation between Australia, India, Japan, and the United States. We bring diverse perspectives and are united in a shared vision for the free and open Indo-Pacific. We strive for a region that is free, open, inclusive, healthy, anchored by democratic values, and unconstrained by coercion. We recall that our joint efforts toward this positive vision arose out of an international tragedy, the tsunami of 2004. Today, the global devastation wrought by COVID-19, the threat of climate change, and security challenges facing the region summon us with renewed purpose. On this historic occasion of March 12, 2021, the first-ever leader-level summit of the Quad, we pledge to strengthen our cooperation on the defining challenges of our time.
- 2.** Together, we commit to promoting a free, open rules-based order, rooted in international law to advance security and prosperity and counter threats to both in the Indo-Pacific and beyond. We support the rule of law, freedom of navigation and overflight, peaceful resolution of disputes, democratic values, and territorial integrity. We commit to work together and with a range of partners. We reaffirm our strong support for ASEAN's unity and centrality as well as the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific. Full of potential, the Quad looks forward to the future; it seeks to uphold peace and prosperity and strengthen democratic resilience, based on universal values.
- 3.** Our common goals require us to reckon with the most urgent of global challenges. Today, we pledge to respond to the economic and health impacts of COVID-19, combat climate change, and address shared challenges, including in cyberspace, critical technologies, counterterrorism, quality infrastructure investment, and humanitarian-assistance and disaster-relief as well as maritime domains.
- 4.** Building on the progress our countries have achieved on health security, we will join forces to expand safe, affordable, and effective vaccine production and equitable access, to speed economic recovery and benefit global health. With a steadfast commitment to the health and safety of our own people, we also recognize that none of us can be safe as long as the pandemic continues to spread. We will, therefore, collaborate to strengthen equitable vaccine access for the Indo-Pacific, with close coordination with multilateral organizations including the World Health Organization and COVAX. We call for transparent and results-oriented reform at the World Health Organization. We are united in recognizing that climate change is a global priority and will work to strengthen the climate actions of all nations, including to keep a Paris-aligned temperature limit within reach. We look forward to a successful COP 26 in Glasgow. We will begin cooperation on the critical technologies of the future to ensure that innovation is consistent with a free, open, inclusive, and resilient Indo-Pacific. We will continue to prioritize the role of international law in the maritime domain, particularly as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and facilitate collaboration, including in maritime security, to meet challenges to the rules-based maritime order in the East and South China Seas.

We reaffirm our commitment to the complete denuclearization of North Korea in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolutions and also confirm the necessity of immediate resolution of the issue of Japanese abductees. As long-standing supporters of Myanmar and its people, we emphasize the urgent need to restore democracy and the priority of strengthening democratic resilience.

5. To advance these goals and others, we will redouble our commitment to Quad engagement. We will combine our nations' medical, scientific, financing, manufacturing and delivery, and development capabilities and establish a vaccine expert working group to implement our path-breaking commitment to safe and effective vaccine distribution; we will launch a critical-and emerging-technology working group to facilitate cooperation on international standards and innovative technologies of the future; and we will establish a climate working group to strengthen climate actions globally on mitigation, adaptation, resilience, technology, capacity-building, and climate finance. Our experts and senior officials will continue to meet regularly; our Foreign Ministers will converse often and meet at least once a year. At the leader level, we will hold an in-person summit by the end of 2021. The ambition of these engagements is fit to the moment; we are committed to leveraging our partnership to help the world's most dynamic region respond to historic crisis, so that it may be the free, open, accessible, diverse, and thriving Indo-Pacific we all seek.

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:

“The Admired ADMIRAL”

Vice Admiral Rustom "Rusi" Khushro Shapoorjee Gandhi, PVSM, VrC



Fondly called Rusi he was born in 1924 in Jabalpur, India. He studied at St. Joseph's College, Nainital, and completed Intermediate Science in 1941.

After a year of advanced studies at Allahabad University, he subsequently joined the Royal Navy with a permanent commission as an officer cadet on 1 January 1943.

His last posting was as Flag Officer Commanding in Chief (FOC in C) of Western Naval Command and retired in 1979.

Most importantly he remains the only officer to have commanded ships in all naval wars fought by India i.e.,

- ✓ 1961 war to annex Goa as Commander of INS Betwa;
- ✓ 1965 war with Pakistan as Commander of the 14th frigate squadron and Captain of the INS Khukri
- ✓ 1971 war with Pakistan to create Bangladesh when he commanded the INS Mysore, the flagship of the Western Naval Fleet.

During Goa operation, a great soldierly quality of Vice Admiral Gandhi came to light.

“Gandhi commanded the senior ship INS Betwa during the naval battle at Mormugão Harbour. His Portuguese adversary, Captain António da Cunha Aragão, was in command of the destroyer NRP Afonso de Albuquerque, which was anchored off Mormugão Harbour.

In the ensuing battle, the Afonso took a direct hit to its control tower, injuring its weapons officer, killing its radio officer and severely injuring its Captain. Subsequently, the order was given to abandon ship, and the rest of the crew, along with their injured Captain, disembarked directly onto the beach after setting fire to their ship. Following this, the Captain was moved by car to the hospital at Panaji. The destroyer's crew surrendered formally along with the remaining Portuguese forces on 19 December 1961.

As a gesture of goodwill, the Commanders of INS Betwa and INS Beas later visited Captain Aragao as he lay recuperating in bed at Panjim, and presented him with a gift of Brandy, Chocolates, and dried fruit, since it was just before Christmas. In return, Captain Aragão gave Commander Gandhi the keys to his cabin as a token of surrender. Commander Gandhi also sent messages via England to inform Portugal that Captain Aragão was well.

Upon retirement from the Indian Navy, Vice Admiral Gandhi was Chairman of the Shipping Corporation of India from 1981 to 1986.

From April 1986 to February 1990, Vice Admiral Gandhi served as Governor of the State of Himachal Pradesh. During this period, Vice Admiral Gandhi was awarded the Param Visishti Seva Medal PVSM for meritorious service of the highest order. Following his governorship, Vice Admiral Gandhi served as a Member of the National Commission for Minorities from 1993 to 1996.

Admiral Gandhi died peacefully in his home in Navy Nagar of Colaba, Mumbai on 23 December 2014, aged 90. Before his demise once, simply called Rusi, he had “wished to return to the sea which had given him so much”. He jested “I enjoyed fish all my life; now let the fish enjoy me.” After his demise on 27 Dec 2014, his immediate family and few friends sailed from Lion Gate on INS Vipul, 40 miles deep into the Arabian Sea and his coffin was slid into the sea after his siblings jointly said Zoroastrian prayers.

A great man went away after leaving an indelible mark in the Naval history of India.

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