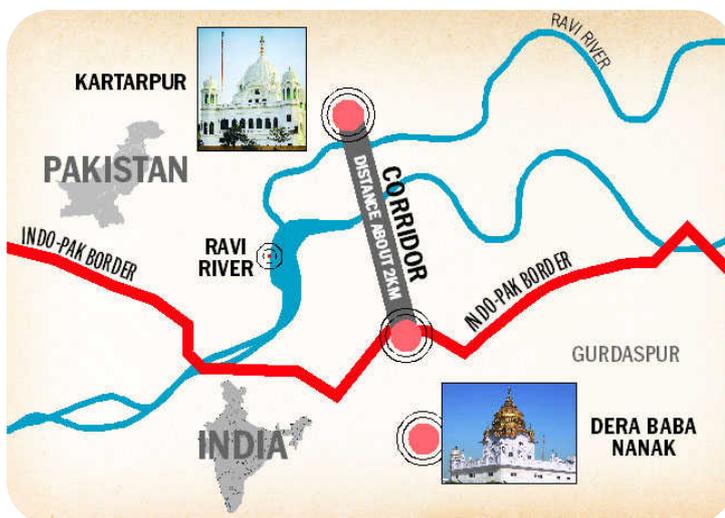


Spotlights of Institute of Regional Studies

Hybrid Warfare Manifest

Pakistan's Olive Branch to India

- Imran Khan invited cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu to his swearing-in-ceremony where our army chief agreed to Sidhu's plea to grant Indians access to Kartarpur. Pakistan agreed, and decided to make this access visa-free offering an olive branch to India.
- New Delhi now projects the opening as its initiative, i.e., it is waging hybrid warfare (sabotage by means other than war):
 - ✓ Sushma Swaraj: "Bilateral dialogue will not start because of Kartar opening India will not attend a SAARC summit if held in Pakistan."
 - ✓ India's National Highway Authority remains unaware of the Kartarpur Corridor's layout plan.
 - ✓ The CM of Indian Punjab warned Pakistan to not "vitate the atmosphere."
 - ✓ New Delhi now loftily directs Pakistan to build facilities in Kartarpur for Sikhs.



✓ A cabinet minister of the government of Indian Punjab termed the ceremony a "step taken in a hurry" by Modi, moving the Indian foundation laying one day ahead than Pakistan. This could be an electioneering ploy for the 2019 general elections.

- Criticism erupted in India.
- New Delhi placed BJP leaders' names but ignored leaders from the Punjab, Congress cabinet ministers and even the Gurdaspur minister. Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa blacked out his own and other Punjab ministers' names on the foundation stone, stressing it was "not a BJP-Akali event."

International Media mostly Ignores Pakistan's Corridor of Peace

Friendship Unbroken Between China & Pakistan

At the time when India is observing the 10th anniversary of Mumbai's 26/11, the Chinese Consulate in Karachi on Nov 23 was attacked. The Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) claimed responsibility. This was aimed to disrupt CPEC.

The foreign made weapons used suggests that the attack was orchestrated across the border, though India issued swift condemnation. UK-based BLA leader Hyrbyair Marri is among the 13 people Pakistan has booked for the attack as Baloch separatist groups are openly supported by India, i.e., hybrid war.

Yao Jing, the Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, quickly reiterated that the attack had failed to shake the longstanding trust between the two countries. Though the Chinese media was low-keyed, Beijing conveyed that Pakistan must ensure the safety of CPEC and Chinese citizens.



Pakistani forces protecting the Chinese Consulate in Karachi

Russia Leads Afghan Peace Dialogue Amidst Continuing Violence

Dialogue: Russia hosted talks with Taliban delegates, members of Afghanistan's Loya Jirga or High Peace Council, alongside representatives of Iran, China, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, and India at a 'non official level'. Taliban reiterated that Russia meeting was 'not about direct talks' with Kabul and they



will only hold direct talks with the US. On the same day, at least 16 killed in Taliban attack on army base in Baghlan.

Taliban officials held talks in Qatar with Zalmay Khalilzad the United States' special representative for Afghanistan. They condemned attacks against neighbours from Afghan soil, and aimed to secure a timetable for withdrawing all foreign troops that would facilitates an intra-Afghan dialogue.

Blasts: In an explosion in a large Kabul Eid Milad-un-Nabi gathering killed at least 55 people. Another blast inside an Afghan base in Mandozai district, killed 12 Afghan soldiers. Surprisingly, no

one claimed responsibility, though the Taliban commander WhatsApped his condemnation. Third party involvement is suspected. A third Taliban attack, in Ghazni killed three 3 U.S soldiers. Other than Taliban attacks, 'insider attacks' by Afghan police and army personnel have killed eleven U.S soldiers.

Two blasts; two dialogues: Who's the third party?

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