



India Looks West

SHASHI THAROOR

A hostile China and the looming US withdrawal from Afghanistan have forced India to rethink its regional strategy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has thus sought to improve relations with Pakistan and engage with the Taliban – and for now, at least, it appears to be making the right moves.



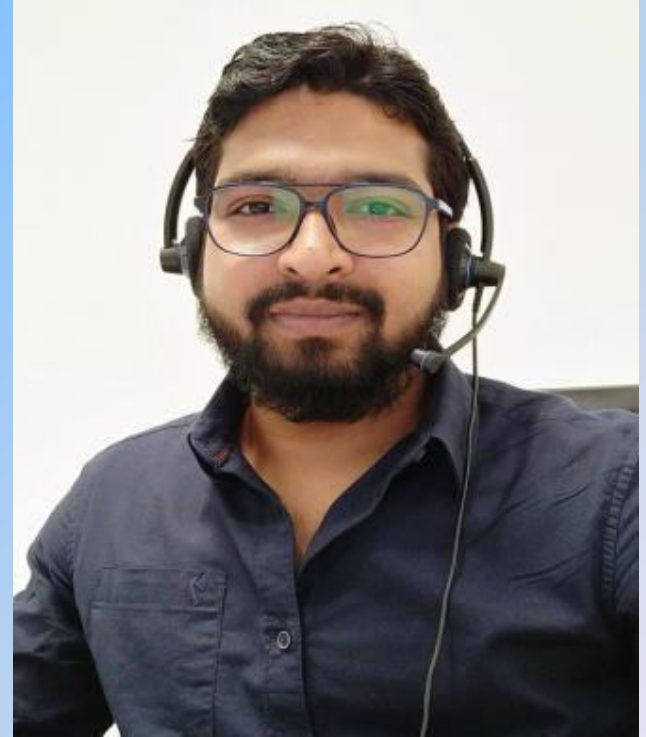
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China

EXCLUSIVE India, Pakistan held secret talks to try to break Kashmir impasse

The Big Question

**Why India
taking
conciliatory
stance towards
Pakistan?**

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Economic impact of Covid on South Asia greater than healthcare challenges, report says

The report says that in order to ensure a safe return to normal life, 'South Asian governments would benefit from focusing more on the development of human capital'.

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China's Post-Coronavirus Aggression Is Reshaping Asia

Multilateral responses are likely as Beijing picks fights.

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By Lt Gen Prakash Katoch,

One year after the Chinese aggression in Eastern Ladakh in May-June 2020, the ground situation is hardly encouraging. India lost its strategic advantage by vacating the Kailash Range. In the North Bank of Pangong Lake, PLA has moved from atop the India post at Finger 4 to the area of Finger 8. India has moved from Finger 4 to between Fingers 2 and 3 (Dhan Singh Thapa Post). A 10-km no-patrol zone now exists with a metal road on the Chinese side leading up to Finger 4.

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Explained: What after US exit from Afghanistan?

President Biden has announced withdrawal of all US troops from Afghanistan by September 11. What are the implications of the move for the Afghan govt, the Taliban, and neighbours India, Pakistan and China?

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What led to India-Pakistan ceasefire at LoC and will it hold for long?

In yet another attempt to bring peace along the LoC, India and Pakistan have implemented ceasefire agreement from Wednesday night. But will it last long enough to make a real difference on the ground?



Prabhash K Dutta 

New Delhi

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The Likely Answer

- Shashi Tharoor:
 - Indian is facing continued Chinese aggression on India's northern frontier and a likely Taliban resurgence in Afghanistan, hence, **improving relations on the country's western flank, with Pakistan, seems prudent.**



The Conclusion

- Shashi Tharoor:
 - There are too many unknowns for any side to have victory in sight. But for now, at least, India appears to be making the right moves.