

## Air pollution

The rising menace of air pollution is wreaking enormous damage on people's lives in the world. The air quality has significantly worsen since the dawn of the industrial era. With every passing year, instead of getting any better, it further deteriorates. Consequently, people have badly suffered and are still suffering from its pernicious effects. Many health disorders have become a common occurrence nowadays. A great number of people are contracted with diseases such as respiratory, lungs cancer, heart strokes, etc. A recently published report in the Lancet Planetary Health Journal has indicated that more than 7% deaths every year in big Indian cities are due to air pollution. The study has pointed out that the level of PM<sub>2.5</sub> has reached 4 times more than recommended by WHO. Thus, with burgeoning air pollution, humans are bearing terrible pain.

## Overcoming air pollution

To overcome the threat of air-pollution, it is necessary that the substantive steps are taken to discourage the use of pollutants at domestic level. The practice of using coals, biomass, wood, etc is still wide and pervasive in our society. It is one of the primary source of air pollution. According to WHO report, 4 million people die annually due to illnesses attributed to domestic air pollution that stems from cooking stoves, coal, biomass, etc. Hence, it is imperative to reduce use of these elements at the domestic level in order to get rid of air pollution. For this, steps such as educating people about the threat and encourage use of renewable sources would produce significant outcomes. As a result of people's abandoning air-pollution-inducing sources, the environment will begin healing.

## China and India

The incessant tussle between China and India has enormously contributed in the polarization of South-Asian region. It is true that no other region in the world would be as disintegrated and unharmonious as the South-Asia. Many stakeholders in this part of the world have long-standing enmity with each other, which is not allowing the region to achieve unity and integration. Amongst the warring countries are the two neighbours: India and China. They share a long border, but poorly demarcated, which remains a bone of contention between the two in all weathers. What adds more to their hostility towards each other is an unending aspiration to become hegemonic power in South Asia. Moreover, China is a potential threat to the USA's supremacy; thus, India's incline to America nettles China. Amidst this unceasing meley, it is unfortunately, the South Asian region that is bearing the brunt.

## Nuclear Weapons and the two neighbours

In some sense, it is safe to say that nuclearization of India and Pakistan ~~has~~ served the two countries from resorting to full-blown conflicts with each other. It is widely contended that the nuclear weapon is a political weapon. Undoubtedly, this notion is inherently true. Prior to becoming nuclear states, Pakistan and India had involved themselves in three full-fledged wars. The first one of them erupted very next year of the independence; while the other two happened in 1965 and 1971 respectively. Ever since, the two countries ~~achieved~~ nuclear weapons, they have largely resisted the wills and whims of taking on each other in a ~~hot~~ war. No doubt, the two have remained ~~hostile~~ in fighting hybrid war with each other; destabilizing their economies, more often than not. Hence, it goes without saying the nuclear weapons have deterred war between both India and Pakistan.

## Relations with India

In addition to improvement in security situation, resumption of ties with India will give enormous economic benefits to Pakistan. At present, the two countries have no relations or communication with each other. This discontinuation in relations eroded after the rise of Narendra Modi as Prime Minister since 2014. The incumbent Indian PM has presented Pakistan as an enemy and constantly indulged in spewing hatred towards Pakistan in order to strengthen and expand his political clout. Unfortunately, due to his myopic view, the two countries are deprived of great benefits that they can extract from each other. The friendly relations with India will particularly be advantageous for Pakistan. According to World Bank, relations with India will increase Pakistan's export by 80% or by \$25 billion. With trade, Pakistan's industry will grow and interest rate will come down. Thus, resumption of amicable relations with India, Pakistan's economy will consolidate.

## New Budget Laden with Taxes

The clueless government has rather added further to the fury of public by announcing the current budget - thus alleviating it. The new fiscal year's budget has been announced merely a few days ago. It has brought great pain to ordinary citizens of the country. In the budget, the government has levied new taxes on various areas/sectors. The taxed domains include milk, baby care products, restaurants, etc. More shockingly, decision of the government with regards to budget was announcing tax on book's sale. As of Pakistanis were only doing reading all the time that the government has boldly rushed to include this segment in tax net as well. A great paradox on the behalf of the government which recently announced 'Education emergency'. Moreover, selected class has been enormously burdened with taxes like shariat. Thus, the new budget has unleashed agony on the public.