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India's participation in QUAD would thwart the domination of China

Pavana J & Gautam Nagar

India as part of the QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) countries holds special importance in countering the global supply chain established by China in the Indo-Pacific region, said, Dr. Ashok Sharma, speaking to The Beacon. He is a Visiting Fellow at the Strategic & Defence Studies Centre, Coral Bell School of Asia-Pacific Affairs, the Australian National University.

"India not only has a say in the security issues or hard power (issues like) economy and defence but even in the non-power sectors such as technology, the pandemic and (on) environmental concerns. Renewable energy is becoming a contesting space of power politics, where China is dominating the discourse," he said, explaining the need for India to collaborate with like-minded countries to make a shift to renewable energy.

Speaking on the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Dr. Sharma stated that India's abstained stand on the issue is justified due to the implications it can have on the Indo-Pacific region. "India can act as a dialogue facilitator between Russia and Ukraine, due to India's closeness with Russia. If India withdraws from Russia, its partnership with China can have more problems for the region."

Resist the bid to communalise Karnataka

The state of Karnataka has been in absolute chaos for a while now, owing to the various issues that have disrupted the communal harmony in several places within the region. Kuvempu in one of his celebrated poems had described Karnataka as the garden of peace where all communities thrive in harmony which no longer remains to be the case. This garden has now been infested with pests that are determined to ruin the beauty of it by injecting communal poison as the dividing tool. A series of incidents starting with the hijab controversy followed by the halal meat row, not to forget the clamor to ban Muslim vendors from selling near the tem-



Representational Image

ple premises, appears to be just the indication of wither the wind is blowing. This, undoubtedly, is in line with the much larger agenda that the incumbent government has, the formation of a "Hindu Rashtra", with the use of "Hindutva" to achieve this political ambition. India, a country which has

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been historically known for its rich and varied cultural heritage and the diverse backgrounds of its citizens, is now known for the banning of its Muslim citizens from wearing a headscarf in educational institutions. It is shocking how a harmless piece of cloth covering the head can bring communal har-

mony to such rubble. B. R. Ambedkar, the Father of the Indian Constitution, in his various writings stresses that in democratic polity, if the communal majority undermines the state power, then it becomes necessary for the state to develop certain institutional mechanisms to safeguard the

rights of the minorities. This particular ideology of his is more relevant than ever with the ruling party pro-actively widening the gap between the minority and the majority communities in the name of Hindutva. Despite being a country that was divided on the basis of religion, India and its founding members chose to maintain the secular fabric of the country for the welfare of its future generations. Now, the responsibility of keeping the secular fabric of India alive, lies in the hands of its people, to pluck out the seeds of hatred, and to sow communal harmony and tolerance in the soil of this nation.

Afreen Hussain

'Expansionist China has upended equilibrium in Indo-Pacific'

Pavana J & Gautam Nagar

The rise of China has upended the equilibrium in the Indo-Pacific region and the strengthening of strategic ties between India, Japan and Australia could counter China's sphere of dominance, said Dr. Ashok Sharma, Visiting Fellow, Strategic & Defence Centre, Coral Bell School of Asia-Pacific Affairs, the Australian National University. He was addressing a political science conference on the theme Democracy, Glo-



An intellectual collective

balisation, and International Peace in an Open World: Multi-Disciplinary Perspectives conducted by the Department of Political Science in collaboration with the Karnataka Political Science Association at St. Joseph's College on April 12. "The

Yadhu Krishna Raj

region was very much stabilised for a long time, and it was the US primacy in that region post-World War II, that gave it its stable order. But it has been challenged by China's rising military and economic power," asserted Dr. Sharma. The in-

augural ceremony witnessed several distinguished dignitaries from the field of political science and international relations including the President of KAPSA, Dr. Gurubasavarajaswamy Pandita, the Vice President, Dr. Manglamurthy, political analyst Dr. Chambi Puranik, Diplomats Mumen Chen and Orita Kantro of the embassies of Taipei and Japan in New Delhi, respectively. Principal of the college Fr. Dr. Victor Lobo SJ, felicitated the dignitaries.

Thoughts of Ambedkar a panacea for the disease of disunity says Dr. Prabhudev Sharon Anna James

The silver bullet to unite the people at a time when the political parties are all set to divide us, is to spread the thoughts of Ambedkar, opined Dr. Prabhudev, professor at the Department of Commerce and Management at St. Joseph's College.

He was speaking at an event on Wednesday commemorating Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's birth anniversary.

"The ideals of Ambedkar are crucial in bringing everyone together, and integrating the nation," he said. Dr. Prabhudev further mentioned how the work of Dr. Ambedkar ensured a position in society for women and the downtrodden. The Department conducted various events on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti celebrated on April 14 to reflect on his valuable teachings. Sequences of programs like constitutional board room competition, Jest A Minute (JAM), and street play on social justice themes were conducted. On 14th, Prof. Pauline, Principal of St. Joseph's Law College is invited to be the chief guest which will be presided over by Dr. Prabhudev.

Glimpse of hope for BCCI despite the darkness

Joel P Anto

After creating history in the 2007 ICC T20 World Cup, India has struggled in most of the championships. Until now, a squad fully made of young talents and experienced players has been featured on India's front, nevertheless the team has not been able to restore the past glory. The change in captaincy brought a positive attitude to the squad, but the team feared the issue of lack of a finisher and balancing

the squad, and this has been clearly evident for a few months.

With the start of this season's Indian Premier League, the BCCI may have found solutions to all their problems in terms of bringing the right balance to the squad. Dinesh Karthik's free-flowing form in the IPL will put him in contention for selection. Suryakumar's return to Mumbai Indians, and the resulting impact, will undoubtedly boost his

confidence and re-establish the selectors' trust.

Apart from these players, the performances of Shivam Dube for Chennai Super Kings and Deepak Hooda for Lucknow Super-Giants are encouraging for the selectors.

Shardul's improved batting skills may provide relief to the selectors, as well as the option of bringing in an extra spinner to the side, as he can play as a fast-bowling all-rounder.

National U12 Chess: Ethan Soars, Shubhi Gupta inches ahead

Saishaym Srikanth

Goa's Ethan Vaz triumphed in both his games for the 4th consecutive day and is poised to win the National u12 Chess Championship. Ethan leads his closest rival, Kerala's Gowtham Krishna who is on 7/8, by a full point. Meanwhile, in the girls' section, top seed Shubhi Gupta reclaims the top spot and is now sitting on a score of 7/8. The podium places in this section will be hotly contested

over the last three rounds with 5 players on 6.5/8 including Karnataka's Shriyana Mallya.

Shubhi Gupta from Uttar Pradesh showed her ability to handle the weight of expectations and beat overnight leader Shriyana Mallya to jump into the lead. Shubhi has bounced back tremendously, winning four games on the trot since her surprise loss against Aadhya Jain in the fourth round.