

TALK BY PROF AMIT GUPTA

‘Analysis of Military and Political Aspects of Gaza & Ukraine’

07 MAR 2024 FROM 1015-11:20h

<u>S.No.</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Name of the Speaker</u>
1	1015-1020 h	Welcome Remarks	Maj Gen BK Sharma, AVSM, SM & Bar (Retd) DG, USI
2	1020-1100 h	Analysis of Military and Political Aspects of Gaza & Ukraine	Prof Amit Gupta, Senior Advisor to the Forum of Federations, Ottawa, Canada
3	1100-1120 h	Q & A	
4	1120-1140 h	Tea	

Key Takeaways

The contemporary wars in Ukraine and Gaza reveal similarities in the nature of warfare in the current geopolitical scenario. Both wars should be analysed through the lens of economy, demography, the role of media, and the political implications. Both the wars have provided concrete evidence of the evolving nature of warfare.



Welcome Remarks by Maj Gen BK Sharma, AVSM, SM** (Retd) DG, USI

- The comparison highlights that despite the emergence of new war fronts and modern tactics, classic principles of war still determine the outcome. Going forward, there is no possibility of sanitised war practices. These wars will have disastrous consequences in terms of demography, and therefore have very high cost of rebuilding as well.



Talk by Prof. Amit Gupta

- While the Ukraine war can be considered an innovation in Military affairs for its notable innovations that were discouraged in traditional military tactics. The Gaza war on the other hand, should be considered a failure in Military revolution, as Israeli's failed in pre-emptive security actions despite the strong support from the US. On the other hand, the successful innovation by the Ukrainians was the use of drones borrowed from wedding photographers, which was modified, to include the ammunitions, to target the tanks at the forefront this cheap drone considerably reduces the cost of war losses as compared to tanks and other traditional armaments.



Distinguished Audience

- Similarly, the Russian government has also been investing in cheap alternatives like drones. Due to sanctions, they are cooperating with the Iranians to manufacture, 600 Shaheed drones.

- Social media plays a significant role as was evident in Russia -Ukraine war where in the initial stages the Ukrainians were able to manipulate the global perception whereas the Russians could not do so.
- Russians may be willing to negotiate if their demands for a neutral Ukraine is considered as also “de-nazi-fication” of Ukraine and retain the strategic areas of Odesa and Kharkiv.
- Similarly, in Gaza war initially the Israelis had an upper hand where they were able to highlight the Hamas’s atrocities but now the momentum has shifted towards the Palestinians as they have been able to portray Israelis as perpetrators of crime against humanity.



Token of Appreciation

- Both Gaza and Ukraine are demographic disasters with skewed population pyramids, with the average age of the nations between 35 and 50 leaving the nations with an old army incapable of fighting. The cost of rebuilding both these nations is ginormous. Since the rule-based order is inconsistent, it is surprising to see 121 countries asking for a Jordanian resolution in the Israel-Gaza conflict.

Report by Manah Popli, Research Assistant, CS3, USI

TALK BY PROF SUMIT GANGULY

'Origins of Sino-Indian Rivalry'

1	1140-1145 h	Welcome Remarks	Maj Gen BK Sharma, AVSM, SM & Bar (Retd) DG, USI
2	1145-1230 h	The Origins and Evolution of the Sino-Indian Rivalry	Prof Sumit Ganguly, Distinguished Professor of Political Science at Indiana University, US
3	1230-1250 h	Q & A	
4	1255-1300 h	Closing Remarks	Maj Gen RS Yadav, VSM (Retd) Director CS3



Welcome Remarks by Maj Gen BK Sharma, AVSM, SM & Bar (Retd) DG, USI

Key Takeaways

- China has always had reservations about India. Long before the Communist Party fought a civil war in China, the seeds of disdain were visible during the boxer revolution in China, which the Kuo Min Tang was wary of, and the mistrust continued beyond 1962 war with India.



Talk by Prof Sumit Ganguly

- There exists an asymmetry in the Sino-Indian relationship but the rivalry is not one-sided. China is equally invested in India as much as India is concerned about its neighbour. To assume otherwise would be a mistake.
- The relationship is mainly characterised by two components: territory and position. Territory refers to the expansionist ideas that China holds, particularly its activities in the Himalayas. Its positional rivalry pertains to the status and significance it wishes to hold in Asia, wanting to be Asia-centric.



Distinguished Audience

- It would be advantageous for India to foster better and stronger relationship with the US. Although India has had strained relations in the past with them, both countries are now entering a structurally different era and a new phase in the relations.
- At the policy level, determinacy by denial is the way to go. What it implies is to have capabilities that make it difficult for an aggressor to inflict any kind of significant harm. To match China is difficult at this juncture; hence, one must develop land, air, and sea capabilities.



Token of Appreciation

Report by: Riddhima Verma, Research Intern, CS3 USI