



CSSAME Viewpoints

Taiwan- India Relations During COVID-19

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CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS

Dr Prashant Kumar Singh is Associate Fellow at East Asia Centre, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), New Delhi. He is a keen follower of Taiwanese affairs, cross-strait relations and India-Taiwan relations. The views and opinions expressed are his personal and do not purport to represent the views and opinions of the Government of India and/or MP-IDSA.

Email: prashant.idsa@gmail.com

Sana Hashmi is Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Taiwan Fellow, Institute of International Relations, National Chengchi University and former consultant with India's Ministry of External Affairs. She is the author of China's Approach towards Territorial Disputes: Lessons and Prospects.

Email: sanahashmi2@gmail.com

HIGHLIGHTS

Executive Summary

COVID-19 has presented a new hope, direction and potential for India-Taiwan relations. Both authors concur that Taiwan's efficient handling of the pandemic coupled with China's aggressive stance on both India and Taiwan has ushered a new era of civil-society and people's support for Taiwan in India. 'Taiwan-Model' garnered appreciation, gathered support and filled the communication gap between both the countries through webinars and media-campaigns. Both countries have enough common development space and the new civil-society activeness would likely to motivate if not compel the two governments to work together.

Policy Recommendations

Both authors strongly recommend to focus on cooperation in 'Health' sector. Both New-South bound policy of Taiwan and Act East Policy of India can efficiently converge on the cooperation and development rooted in the idea of 'Social Value Creation'. Here are some directions.

1. Pandemic Prevention Cooperation with signing of joint statements.
2. Institution-to- Institution Cooperation on research and information exchange.
3. Focus on trade and investment opportunities in pharmaceutical and medical infrastructure.
4. Facilitate creation of alternative 'Supply Chains' for sustainable development.

COVID 19: NEW PROSPECTS FOR INDIA-TAIWAN RELATIONS

Prashant Kumar Singh

The public attention to India-Taiwan relations in these past few months has been unprecedented. The main focus is on the likely convergence of interests between them. This is because of the following developments: The India-China military stand-off and clashes in the Himalayas; an intensified cross-strait stand-off that has raised concerns about a possible military conflagration in the Taiwan Strait; and the international admiration Taiwan has garnered following its remarkable success in containing the COVID-19 outbreak despite Mainland China's efforts to keep it excluded from the World Health Organization (WHO).

This focus on the potential of India-Taiwan cooperation — as seen in the think-tank dialogues, Indian media, as well as the political posturing visible on the official twitter handles in Taiwan — stems from two sentiments: The negative sentiment that has been shaped by angst against China and the positive sentiment stemming from Taiwan's success in handling the COVID-19 outbreak.

Taiwan's Success against COVID-19: A Background

Taiwan's success in curbing the COVID-19 outbreak has been conclusive, thus far. Its success is seen in the small numbers of cases and low infection rate. The COVID-19 cases in Taiwan are mostly traceable to certain foreign contact. The spread has never reached the community transmission stage. The recovery rate has been very high. The cumulative laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 infection as on October 15, since January 21 were 531. Out of these, 439 were imported cases and 55 indigenous. Naval crew members accounted for 36 of these — and there has been no fresh case. Out of 531 cumulative cases 491 patients have recovered with 33 cases active as on October 15, 2020. The death count has been static at seven for the past many months [1].

Only a few other countries such as Vietnam have achieved a similar feat. However, Taiwan's success is more remarkable as it has been achieved against many odds. The international community in general does not recognize it as an independent and sovereign state, thereby, limiting international health

cooperation. Similarly, it is not a member of the WHO and its participation and cooperation with the WHO depend on Mainland China's courtesy and approval. Taiwan's economic, cultural and social links with the international community in general and with Mainland China — where the outbreak took place in December 2019-January 2020 — in particular, are very deep and entail heavy international traffic to and from Taiwan. Moreover, Taiwan's average population density (651 per square kilometer) is considerably high. It is even higher in northern and western coastal areas [2].

Taking all these factors into account, Taiwan success in handling the COVID-19 outbreak is, indeed, appreciable. The credit goes to its medical infrastructure that is sensitive and alert to the pandemic outbreaks and the strict border control measures to contain the pandemic outbreaks of foreign origin at airports and ports. Taiwan learnt many useful lessons from the SARS outbreak of 2003, to prevent the pandemic from spreading. Taiwan as an island with small population is particularly vulnerable to any serious pandemic outbreak. Thus, a timely response to the outbreak and the taking of preventive measures came naturally to it. Furthermore, the social discipline and cooperation shown by Taiwanese citizens in the fight against COVID-19 also deserves recognition.

Taiwan's International Cooperation against the Pandemic

Taiwan's success in curbing its outbreak has been amplified by its willingness to cooperate with the international community and help it in the global fight against COVID-19. It has helped the international community with medical equipment and insights into pandemic control. The three stages of Taiwan's mask diplomacy and its supplementary voluntary social initiative *Taiwan can help, Health for all* have been noted by international media. Under these initiatives, Taiwan has donated millions of face masks and other protective equipment to its diplomatic allies, New Southbound Policy-target countries, European countries that have been massively hit by COVID-19 and last but not least the US, a country which underwrites Taiwan's security and is also severely hit by COVID-19. Taiwanese has assisted Latin American and Caribbean countries, African countries and Syria as well [3].

Taiwan's agencies have promoted the 'Taiwan Model' of fighting COVID-19 through webinars and media campaigns [4]. They have highlighted transparency, responsibility and efficiency in their model [5], juxtaposing it with what they call 'Chinese model' that is widely believed to have fumbled in the handling of the outbreak in Wuhan. Taiwan's international cooperation and efforts to sensitize world

opinion mainly through international media in times of COVID-19, contributed to generating popular empathy and support for its campaign to be invited to attend the 73rd session of the World Health Assembly (WHA) in May 2020 in Geneva. The empathy it received for its cause was not restricted to its diplomatic partners and the US and its allies [6]. It has received well-publicized heartfelt gratitude for helping others [7], even though it was not able to muster requisite support from the governments to secure the invitation to the WHA. Tsai Ing-wen in her Double Ten Day speech recently remarked that the international media published more than 3,300 pieces that covered ‘Taiwan’s pandemic control performance that ‘has helped the world to see Taiwan more clearly.’ She added, ‘Our international image has never been better’ [8].

Separately, it would be relevant to underscore that Taiwan issued two important joint statements — with the US on March 18, 2020 [9] and the Czech Republic on April 1, 2020 [10] with regard to the pandemic. Both of these promoted: research and development of rapid tests; research and production of vaccines; cooperation and exchanges of medical supplies and equipment. Besides, these statements underscored the need for cooperation in techniques and technology for contact tracing and recording travel history. The need for holding joint conferences with scientists and experts for developing and promoting best practices and technology is also underlined in the two statements. In addition, the Taiwan-Czech joint statement provides for cooperation in research and transfer of technology of medical devices and a designated window for information sharing. Taiwan’s joint statements with the US and the Czech Republic lay out a roadmap for anti-pandemic cooperation with other countries.

India’s Experience of COVID-19

One can say that while Taiwan has almost by-passed COVID-19, India is still struggling with it. As on October 15, 2020, India had more than seven million cases of COVID-19. Of the total cases, 812,390 cases (11.12 per cent of the total) were still active and 111,266 deaths had been reported as on the date [11]. Besides, COVID-19 has taken a massive toll on India’s economy — both the organized as well as unorganized sectors [12]. The emotional trauma caused by the long-march of the migrant workers, followed by the nation-wide lockdown, unemployment and myriad other issues are simply incalculable. Nevertheless, after initial confusion, India regrouped and is fighting back well. The latest indicators appear to suggest that perhaps the worst is over, though situation is still in flux.

India's International Cooperation against the Pandemic

Its own hardships notwithstanding, India, has extended a helping hand to several countries throughout this turbulent period. The South Asian region has been a focus area for its help. On March 15, India 'initiated a COVID-19 emergency fund for [SAARC] with an initial offer of USD 10 million for the fund to assist the member countries in the fight against coronavirus' [13]. In March 2020, India supplied 'emergency medical assistance containing 30,000 surgical masks and 15,000 caps' and '50,000 sterile surgical latex gloves and 1,00,000 Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) medicine tablets' to Bangladesh. Later, it 'donated 30,000 COVID-19 test kits... 'under the SAARC COVID-19 Emergency' to the country [14]. In the same month, a 14-member Indian Army delegation went to 'set up coronavirus testing laboratories and train local medical professionals' in the Maldives [15]. India sent 'the first consignment of 5,022 MT of wheat out of a total gift of 75,000 MT'... and 500,000 tablets of HCQ' to Afghanistan on April 12, 2020 [16]. India 'gifted' '23 tones of essential medicines to Nepal' that included '8.25 lakh doses of essential medicines, 3.2 lakh doses of Paracetamol and 2.5 lakh doses of HCQ' on April 22, 2020 [17].

In late July 2020, India extended the '\$ 400 million currency swap facility' to Sri Lanka, which 'will remain available till November 2022' for Sri Lanka to help it 'address the economic hardships caused due [to] pandemic' [18]. Beyond the region, 'a 15-member team of [Indian] Army' set up the required facilities and trained medical professionals in Kuwait under their bilateral cooperation program in early April 2020 [19]. India has supplied 'anti-malarial drug, hydroxychloroquine, considered to be effective in treating COVID-19 cases, to [quite many] African countries'[20]. Incidentally, HCQ from India remained in high demand for quite some time during these months. Finally, anti-COVID-19 cooperation has figured in the latest Quad meeting [21].

Finding Space for a Meaningful Collaboration between India and Taiwan

Taiwan and India have experienced COVID-19 differently. But objectively speaking, there are limits to this comparison. India is around 91 times larger than Taiwan in area. It has 56 times the population of Taiwan. India has highly populous urban centers and towns across the country. Social distancing, a necessary condition to ward off COVID-19, is a luxury for the majority of Indians. Health infrastructure is uneven in terms of quality and accessibility across India. Besides, education and awareness-levels are

also not uniform across the country. These simple facts drastically restrict scope of any comparative study of their experiences as Taiwan is far more comfortably placed on all these counts.

Nevertheless, they can still collaborate. It cannot be denied that like most countries in the world but unlike Taiwan, India was caught off guard by the outbreak of the pandemic. Pandemics are a part of most Indians' distant, not immediate, memory. Sensitivity and alertness to pandemics is not part of health consciousness of the present generations. India's health infrastructure and health administration thus need to evolve and update their pandemic preventive measures.

New Prospects for India-Taiwan Cooperation

In this general backdrop, one can visualize some areas of cooperation. These are: anti-pandemic cooperation; business opportunities in health sector; and economic cooperation occasioned by the COVID-19 outbreak. The ongoing COVID-19 period has by and large only witnessed calls for 'deeper cooperation', most of which are by way of political advocacy aiming at China. However, the first and foremost priority should be for signing an enabling agreement for pandemic prevention cooperation on the lines of the joint statements issued by Taiwan and the US and Taiwan and Czech Republic. The India-Taipei Association — India's representative office in Taiwan — and Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre in India — Taiwan's representative office in India — should sign this enabling agreement to provide a basis for comprehensive institution-to-institution and institutionalized cooperation.

The health sector is one of the focus areas of Taiwan's New Southbound policy [22]. It is time for it to push business both in terms of trade and investment in the health sector in India. India is a huge medical health market with enormous potential. India's health infrastructure in the public sector is in shambles but there are several shining examples of excellence in the private sector. Besides, India's medical education and research is up to international standards. Thus, Taiwanese health companies should be encouraged to explore trade and investment and collaboration in India.

President Tsai Ing-wen's Double Ten National Day speech contains enough references that can help us to identify areas of common interest. Tsai emphasised the significance of Taiwan's six core industries — information and digital, cybersecurity, biotech and medical technology, national defense and strategic, green energy and renewable energy, and strategic stockpile or 'critical supplies' industries. She

also highlighted railways, water conservation, digital, urban and rural, food safety, and human resources infrastructure as part of Taiwan's Forward-looking Infrastructure Development Program. She laid emphasis on core digital technologies for the 'digital transformation of industry and the economy.' She described 'the reorganization of global supply chains' as an 'irreversible trend.' In her view, the world is 'moving toward segmented markets' and 'production base migration' [23].

India too has the same priorities. Only national defense and the strategic stockpile industry (when directly relevant to military and defense) are areas, where India is likely to avoid any cooperation because of the sensitivities vis-à-vis China. Further, India's ban on Chinese Apps and the change of rule to allow Chinese FDI conditionally with prior government approval, as against the earlier facility of allowing it through the "automatic route", are evidence that India is as keen as Taiwan with regard to reducing reliance on China. Thus, there is a strong convergence of economic interests and policy. The toll that COVID-19 has taken on the Indian economy may make it more receptive toward Taiwan's New Southbound Policy.

Conclusion: Rescuing Cooperation from Geopolitical Exuberances

Cooperation is a value. It needs to be strengthened for social progress. Basing India-Taiwan cooperation on the negative premise of countering China will serve no meaningful purpose, as such an exercise will invariably be taken over by strategic affairs commentators whereby substantial discussions on cooperation will be lost.

Impractical geopolitical inspirations and justifications for cooperation merely satisfy strategic analysts' vanity. And, the sustainability of a China-centric balance of power approach for improving relations, always remains in doubt. India does not desire conflict and instability with China and neither does Taiwan. Strategic analysts do not have their skin in the game, governments do. As per objective analyses and evidence, there is little likelihood of a strategic-security alliance between India and Taiwan in the foreseeable future, that can be both maintained and sustained. Good and bad phases in relations with China are cyclic but China's presence in the neighborhood and its importance are permanent. In bad phases, salvaging relations will be a priority for both India and China. On the other hand, avoiding aggravation of strategic fragility in the Taiwan Strait will always be a preference for Taiwan. On its part,

China would also not like to precipitate conflict with the US over Taiwan. One is also not certain what road the US-China tensions will take after the presidential election next month, or in the coming years.

As of now, the only maintainable geopolitical and geo-economic reason for the enhancement of India-Taiwan cooperation, is the increasing realization of the need to set up alternative global supply chains and the creation of “segmented markets”, as espoused by Tsai in her speech. This realization stems not only from the strategic and security apprehensions arising from China’s policies but also equally from President Trump’s economic policies and strategic unpredictability. Ignoring Taiwan, which is an important economic player in the region, will be difficult in any “supply chain resilience initiatives” that may emerge from the region to facilitate creation of alternative supply chains.

In the context of India-Taiwan cooperation, the best use of the economic situation occasioned by COVID-19 and the geopolitical disturbances with reference to China and the US, would be to identify synergies and mutually beneficial economic opportunities for both of them, in respect of alternative supply chains. Thus, this positive sentiment re-emphasizes that both India and Taiwan have enough common developmental space that they can cooperatively nurture. COVID-19 has given an opportune moment for the two democracies to explore new avenues for sustainable and mutually beneficial cooperation, particularly in the health sector.

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THE AGE OF COVID: NEW PROSPECTS FOR INDIA-TAIWAN TIES

Sana Hashmi

Introduction

COVID-19 pandemic struck the human civilization in 2019, beginning with Wuhan where wet market was reported to have the first outbreak of this health crisis which within a few months transformed itself into a pandemic. As of October 18, 2020, 217 countries are affected with more than 40 million cases reported, out of which there have been one million casualties.

Following the early months of the crisis, the World Health Organization (WHO) termed it as a pandemic. Later, several multilateral bodies and regional groupings such as United Nations (UN), European Union (EU), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) convened their meetings and called for a collective response to deal with one of the most severe health crises in the human history. However, such calls for collective policy responses and actions have fallen short of expectations leaving countries to deal with COVID-19 all by themselves. Such is the magnitude of this crisis and unavailability of foolproof medico-scientific response that countries are trying to only limit the spread of the COVID virus infection and a credible medicine/vaccine is still away from fruition.

Most of the major powers and technologically advanced countries including the United States have failed to protect its people from pandemic and their economies from shrinking. The most glaring example in this regard comes from the United States where the economy has been affected by COVID-19 leading to job cuts, economic recession, and a major medical crisis so much so that till date, the United States remains the most affected country. Major developing economies such as India too have taken a toll. According to reports, the Indian economy is likely to shrink by nine percent which will have a long-term impact on its growth trajectory [1]. Other major countries such as Germany, United Kingdom, France, Italy have also been facing similar challenges. That said a range of countries/companies from the United States, Russia, China, India, United Kingdom (University of Oxford), and Germany are working to develop a vaccine to fight COVID-19.

Taiwan's COVID-19 Response

Over the past few months, COVID-19 has tested the health preparedness of the countries across the world, but Taiwan is one country which has eliminated the pandemic completely. Taiwan's COVID-19 response has generated the much-needed awareness, garnered appreciation about and gathered support for Taiwan among countries such as India- a fellow democracy. As of October 18, there have been 535 cases in total and seven deaths in Taiwan. The largest share of which are imported (443) followed by 55 local cases, 36 from the Panshi fast combat support ship and only one case had an unknown source [2]. Taiwan's success in effectively dealing with the crisis has brought it applauses from the international community. Taiwan has been able to contain the virus without resorting to harsh measures and shutting down the economy due to a mix of factors.

First, it has been preparing to deal with an epidemic since it was hit by the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003. Given that neither SARS was the first health crisis nor the COVID-19 will be the last pandemic, Taiwan was effectively working towards an epidemic strategy. Temperature monitoring, sanitization, social distancing, contact tracing, and strict quarantine protocol are some of the effective measures Taiwan adopted since the detection of the first case in January 2020. Second, the administration was prompt in its response, and the whole-of-government response was adopted. Third, Taiwan has high-quality healthcare system. Its healthcare has been ranked one of the best and 99.9 percent of its population is covered by the National Health Insurance System [3]. In fact, while treating the COVID-19 patients, Taiwan was one of the few countries to use the negative pressure rooms. Taiwan model to deal with the pandemic may be presented to other countries to address the problem at home. Taiwan's success has boosted the argument that democracies can handle a crisis situation well without compromising democratic values. It acted responsibly and even notified the WHO when it first got to know about the existence of novel virus in late 2019.

India's New-found Appreciation for Taiwan

Taiwan's handling of the COVID-19 has led to a positive and responsible image of Taiwan across the world. The pandemic has also brought a silver lining when it comes to India-Taiwan ties. It has not only led to greater awareness among the Indian people about Taiwan's success, thereby essence of appreciation, but also a stronger shift in its favor vis-à-vis China. While the government-to-government

interactions between India and Taiwan have remained somewhat limited, this is unprecedented that Taiwan has been discussed at such a large scale in academia and media. This discussion and support for Taiwan is primarily because of Taiwan's successful COVID-19 response and the growing tensions between India and China was another contributory factor.

Rapidly changing regional strategic scenario including the United States-China spat and India's fast developing strategic collaboration with the United States led to a shift in India's approach vis-à-vis China which has only strengthened with the Galwan standoff. The Galwan standoff came at a time when India was struggling with the pandemic. The unexpected aggression on part of China coupled with the popular perception that it was China that irresponsibly unleashed the COVID-19 Virus led to a strong public opinion against China. Several videos during the first half of 2020 by Chinese whistleblowers and international media emerged where Chinese local authorities were seen as practicing inhumane ways to deal with the COVID-19. In a complete contrast, President Tsai Ing-wen was seen visiting places and people and addressing their concerns with compassion. Such videos strongly contributed to building up of a positive image of Taiwan and its leadership, thereby also contributing to Taiwan's soft power projection vis-à-vis China in India.

A closer look at the Indian print and electronic media and also the social media platforms testify the unparalleled appreciation for Taiwan amongst the common Indians. What is striking is that while this enthusiasm among Indian people is newfound, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has had prior exposure to Taiwan. Therefore, there have been hopes that India-Taiwan ties will reach heights under his administration. When Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister of India in 2014 after a landslide electoral victory, he launched the Act East Policy to engage the countries of the Indo-Pacific in a more elaborated manner. Likewise, Tsai Ing-wen's electoral victory and coming to power in 2016 led to the launch of the New Southbound policy. These two policies complement each other and can lead to further engagement between the two countries at several levels.

India is a focal point of Taiwan's New Southbound Policy and is at the core of its South Asia policy. One thing that has changed significantly after the launch of the policy is that there is great discussion and awareness about each other.

On the strategic front, Taiwan has also shown interest in the the emerging Indo-Pacific construct. Supporting the Indo-Pacific and playing an active role in it, suits well with the Tsai Ing-wen's foreign policy. However, despite the availability of these synergies, so far, Taiwan-India relations have remained rather informal and limited in scope. Regular, formal and full-scale diplomatic engagement is yet to be achieved in the relations. Both sides need to shed hesitance and engage each other proactively. In this context, the paper argues that it is an opportune moment for both sides to take concrete steps to expand India-Taiwan cooperation in sector such as health, economic, education, etc.

Cooperation in the Age of COVID-19

Taiwan's successful COVID-19 response has thwarted China's attempts to shrink Taiwan's global space. The high-level visits by Czech Senate President Milos Vystreil, US Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) Alex Azar and the Under Secretary of State Keith Krach to Taiwan demonstrate Taiwan's ever-growing popularity and credibility. Recent moves of the United States also indicate that it wants Taiwan to play a more active role in the Indo-Pacific region. This new strategic development has created avenues for India and Taiwan to work more closely. In the age of the COVID-19, there is more convergences than divergences between the two countries.

Health cooperation is one of the important components of the New Southbound policy and the pandemic has provided an opportunity to India and Taiwan to cooperate. Taiwan's experience can help India in managing the COVID-19. There is much to learn from Taiwan's best practices. Taiwan even donated one million masks to the Indian Red Cross Society in May 2020 and donated masks worth Rs 45 lakh (US\$ 61,000) to the Mizoram government in June 2020. Given that India has the second largest cases of the COVID-19, Taiwan's International Cooperation and Development Fund (Taiwan ICDF) along with Terre des hommes Foundation (TdhF) is working towards implementing the project Digital Health Innovation for COVID-19 Response in India, which will help healthcare workers from 80 Primary Health Care (PHC) facilities in the Ranchi district, the capital city of Jharkhand State, to apply digital technology to deliver quality healthcare services and comply with infection prevention and control standards[4].

In 2018, Under the New Southbound Policy, Taiwan's Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) provided funds to National Chung Cheng University (NCCU) and the Institute of Technology Ropar (IIT

Ropar) for establishing the Taiwan-India Joint Research Center on Artificial Intelligence in India, and as a part of this collaboration, since the pandemic, CCU and IIT Ropar has been conducting research for frontline pandemic prevention [5]. With India assuming the chair of the WHO's Executive Board, it is important that Taiwan's greater participation in the WHO is encouraged so that the international community could learn and benefit from Taiwan's experience.

There is immense potential at the economic front as well. Indian economy is slowing down due to COVID-19. Amidst the ongoing tensions with China, India has also started to de-hyphenate its economy with China. Under such circumstances, India would need a technologically advanced country which could help replace China. Taiwan can do so in certain key sectors. It can particularly contribute to India's greater regional economic collaboration and integration specially in advanced technology sectors, infrastructure and connectivity, and even human capacity development objectives. This is also significant in view of the recently announced Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) among India, Japan and Australia. It offers a good opportunity for Taiwan to fill the gap that is being increasingly created with countries of the region de-hyphenating from China. Taiwan is a leading country when it comes to industrial manufacturing particularly in electronics, petrochemical, and machinery. For an IT superpower- India, collaboration with Taiwan, seventh largest economy in Asia, will be a win-win situation as Taiwan is a technologically advanced country in production of computer micro-chip and other related hardware products.

Times have gone where countries' China policy used to be the driver behind their engagement with Taiwan. Taiwan has established itself a formidable economic powerhouse. India needs to treat Taiwan and China separately and therefore, relations with China and Taiwan should go parallel. Deputy Foreign Minister Tien Chung-kwang, former Representative of Taiwan to India, stated, 'We have no objections for India to make friends with any country in the world but not at the cost of Taiwan's relations with India. This is something (on which) we are very firm and urging the Indian government'[6]. This is an important consideration for driving India-Taiwan relations further. The COVID crisis has so far been an advantage in bringing India closer to Taiwan. However, it remains to be seen how India and Taiwan sustain their engagement in the post-COVID era.

Road Ahead

The extraordinary circumstances created by the COVID-19 and challenges posed there from have kept countries across the world preoccupied with finding a way out. Ironically, China's neighbors are also facing another challenge at their frontiers due to Chinese aggression over the years. This has put both India and Taiwan in a uniquely similar position. While India is doing all that it can to militarily and diplomatically deter the aggressor along the boundary, Taiwan has also been busy building its military capabilities while trying to find ways to deter China from violating its airspace. This has created a sense of unease and anxiety against a common threat and mutual empathy for each other. Despite this, the governments of the two countries have not been able to build significant thrust and overtly engage each other on the politico-military front. However, the shifts happening at multiple levels especially at the civil-society level are likely to motivate if not compel the two governments to work more closely.

The COVID-19 crisis, mutual concerns vis-à-vis China, complementary foreign policy initiatives of both countries (Act East and New Southbound Policy), emerging Indo-Pacific order facilitated by India's fast developing ties with the United States provide New Delhi and Taipei with multiple shared concerns and mutual interests that bind them together. In this regard, the role played by the United States and other regional powers such as Japan cannot be underestimated. How soon and how strongly India and Taiwan work towards finding a calibrated response to military and non-military threats looming large will determine the nature and scope of their cooperation.

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About the Centre

Established in March 2014, Center for Studies on South Asia and the Middle East aims at promoting studies of both regions in Taiwan, and serving as a platform for exchanges among government think tanks and academic communities. Affiliated with the College of Law and Politics, National Chung Hsing University, the Center organizes academic seminars and conferences regularly and hosts scholars from South Asia and Middle Eastern countries for research. Through the official website (cssame.nchu.edu.tw) and two newsletters (Middle East Weekly and CSSAME Viewpoints), the Center provides updated observations, insightful analyses, and research findings on contemporary politics, economics, and society in South Asia and the Middle East.

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CSSAME

Center for Studies on South Asia and
the Middle East
Graduate Institute of International
Politics (GIIP), NCHU, Taichung,
Taiwan
Tel: +886-4-22840310