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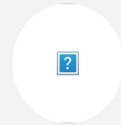
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Why India Needs to Sharpen its Focus on Iran and Afghanistan after the Mecca Security Pact

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Why India Needs to Sharpen its

Context A collective - defence pact signed by Turkiye, Saudi Arabia & Pakistan has changed the security arithmetic & India's solution lies in a security partnership with Iran and Afghanistan.

Facts

■ Collective defence pact : places Turkiye, Pakistan inside Saudi Arabia's protective umbrella & leaves US outside it.

■ Chabahar : lies on Arabian Sea, linking India to Iran & Afghanistan, with a spur towards Central Asia & Russia.

■ International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) :
Mumbai → Bandar Abbas → Bandar Anzali (Caspian) → Astarkhan → Moscow and St. Petersburg.

Analytical Crux

The pact matters less as an alliance and more as a signal. Saudi Arabia has bought protection from someone other than US, and once the protection lapses, the financial half stops being automatic too. It is obvious that Turkish neo-Ottomanism and Iran's Islami-Persian revivalism are set on a collision course, with little scope of accommodation in an expanded Mecca accord camp. For India the immediate cost is narrow and concrete because of Pakistan with Turkish equipment and Saudi money behind it. Deterrence comes not only from military capacity, but also by leveraging geography & forging relevant security partnerships. Chabahar plus the INSTC is the physical form the partnership would take.

Verbatim Quotes

"In one sense, the trilateral pact symbolises the decline of the US military dominance in West Asia, especially in its oil-bearing heartland."

- Atul Aneja

80 years on, its India still being policed by the Raj

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80 Years On, Is India Still Being Policed by the Raj?

Eighty years ago India lowered the Union Jack and raised the tricolor. It did not, however, lower the 1861 Police Act. It was amended and sections renamed but the colonial DNA remained in place: that the citizen is a subject to be controlled, not an empowered rights bearer to be heard.



By C Uday Bhaskar | Aug 14, 2026

Context India Kept the colonial architecture of policing after 1947 and is now paying for it in the daily encounter between citizen and state.

Facts

- The governing statute : Indian police act of 1861, amended but never replaced.
- Constitutional Conduct Group (CCG) : use of force against peaceful protesters "a disturbing departure from constitutional norms and democratic practice."
- Supreme Court's 2006 : fixed tenure for DGPs ; a Police Establishment Board ; a Police Complaints Authority at state & district level ; separation of investigation from law and order.

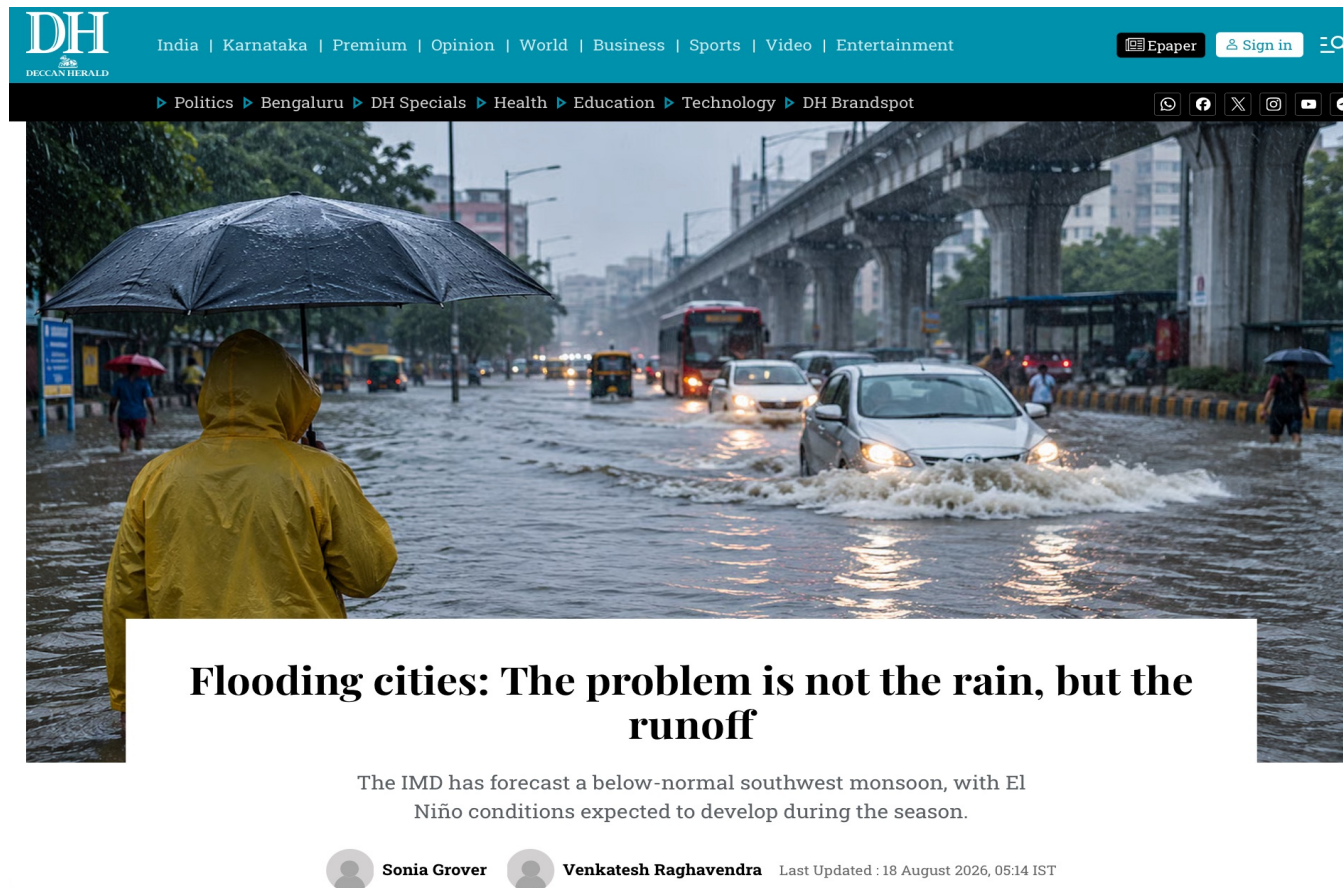
Analytical Crux

The argument is that a statute written in 1861 to hold down a subject population was carried across 1947. It reflexes in Indian state when citizens assemble is contained rather than conversation. Policing is not a police problem as the 2006 directives have failed because a DGP without security of tenure cannot refuse an illegal order. The Vohra report's crime-politics nexus was never dismantled. The causal chains runs backwards from the street to the party i.e. clean the politics and the police become reformable. The way forward is to convert right to assemble into a licensed activity, because a prior-permission regime under Section 163 is prior restraint by another name.

Verbatim Quotes

"India cannot have humane police in a system where political protection of criminality is ballot currency. A democracy that cannot hear its people without beating them is veering towards electoral autocracy."

Flooding cities-The problem is not the rain, but the runoff



Context Indian cities flood every monsoon at the same spots despite large budgets and the failure is lack of accountability and land use.

Facts

■ Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs : issued technical manual in 2019 on planning catchments, sizing drains & maintaining them.

■ Blue-Green infra : wetlands, urban forests, restored lakes, rain gardens, infiltration trenches as alternative to faster concrete drains.

■ Three funding lines : AMRUT, the Smart Cities Mission & Urban Flood Risk Management Programme.

Analytical Crux

The argument is to shift from meteorology to land use and administration. The same spot floods every year is not because of money, manuals or ministries but due to lack of any record of whether the money worked, and a city that certifies its own success has no reason to change. The drainage sits across agencies & no single mayor commands, urban local bodies have neither the funds nor functionaries the 74th amendment promised, and the encroached wetland usually has a political owner. Their fix is therefore not engineering but accountability plumbing. There should be one authority per catchment, an audited registry instead of self-reporting and money against verified outcomes instead of sanctioned budgets.

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