

It's a three-front war that India faces

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Jagdish Batra

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Dr Jagdish Batra is a senior academic, currently working as Professor of English at O.P. Jindal Global University, India. He has nearly four decades of teaching and research e [... MORE](#)



It was our first Chief of Defence Staff late Gen Vipin Rawat who had cautioned against the two-and-a-half-front war that India has to be prepared for. Over time, this theatre of war has expanded into a three-front war possibility. The additional half-front comprises of motley forces acting from outside India which have now cast off gloves and can be seen with a naked eye.

Anti-India forces operating in the world with a view to dominating and exploiting India are not a new phenomenon; these have always been there. Remember Indira Gandhi who lambasted the 'foreign hand' at play in the 1970s. Whatever the scale and momentum of these forces, the fact is that these inimical forces are always on the prowl ready to strike at the opportune moment. Their actions are concerted and are aimed at serving their own interests at the cost of India and its people. These forces include a section of foreign media, some so-called India experts, certain NGOs, financial institutions, etc. The present tirade whether in the form of BBC documentaries whipping up the dead horse of Gujarat violence or the charges levelled against Adani group by a small financial outfit Hindenburg or, as our foreign minister put it, the "old, rich and dangerous" multi-billionaire American George Soros denigrating Indian democracy – all of them fit into the toolkit of these forces.

While the Hindenburg report was taken as biblical truth by many, leading to huge losses of the shareholders of Adani companies and serving the interests of the global short-seller, BBC documentary cocked a snook at the Indian Supreme Court verdict which had exonerated Prime Minister Modi. And yet, these attacks were cited by interested parties to substantiate their condemnation of the Prime Minister.

The latest laid on the block is Indian democracy which is berated by another short-seller George Soros who is known for using questionable means to make money. If one goes through his biography, one can easily note that he is a habitual troublemaker with the method in madness in that his antics and influence are aimed at minting money (and his greed knows no bounds) and even creating spheres of political influence much like the cold-war actors.

Soros is the unscrupulous American businessman who was charged by a French Supreme Court in 2002 of insider trading and imposed a hefty fine which was upheld even by the European Court of Human Rights when an appeal was brought before it. He has been held

responsible for landing the Bank of England in trouble in 1992 through his speculative moves, due to which the British treasury lost some 3.4 billion pounds and England underwent a phase of recession and inflation. There are many such unethical activities that define the man. Renowned economist Paul Krigman noted in his book *The Accidental Theorist* in 1999 that there are investors who not only move money in anticipation of a currency crisis, but actually do their best to trigger that crisis in order to make profit or for fun! Interestingly, he named these new investors “Soroi”, drawing inspiration probably from Soros’s name!

When you have riches in plenty, aspiring to be a demi-god and dictate terms to the high and the mighty becomes your challenge winning which boosts your ego. Mahathir Muhammad, the former Prime Minister of Malaysia, blamed Soros in 1997 for using his wealth for political interference. Soros’s name cropped up in the context of the Wall Street protests in the US in 2011. Through his grants and donations to political parties and candidates fighting elections in America as also to NGOs world-wide of his choice, Soros has been itching to have people of his choice placed in positions of political power. In many East European countries, he has funded “pro-democracy” movements. But what for? One is reminded of the East India Company which entered India as trader but became the political master. The Hungarian government proclaimed him in 2012 as the ‘Enemy of the State’ for his political interference in the refugee crisis. Not for nothing did our Foreign Minister call him “old, rich, opinionated and dangerous”!

In the garb of being a sympathizer of democracy, Soros’s intentions are not above board. While there may be problems in many countries of the world with regard to the practice of democracy, India at least enjoys a vibrant democracy and there are more than adequate instances of the play of freedom. Just one instance should do: Can anyone forget the 13-month-long farmers’ dharna around Delhi responding to which the Modi government withdrew the three farm acts. Compare it to the month-long similar protest by truckers in Canada which was violently broken up by the police there. Soros will not see that as undemocratic.

It is a tragedy that the machinations and manipulations of such a maverick and morally bankrupt capitalist are being touted as proof of the feared fall of Indian democracy! Indian politicians and intellectuals – those who are not beholden to him for fellowships and grants – need to be free from a partisan and myopic vision in order to face this challenge on the third front that threatens to tarnish the image of our country and stall its progress.

END OF ARTICLE

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