



Profile of Dr. Ashutosh Misra

Dr. Ashutosh Misra is a **Research Fellow** and **Pakistan Watcher** at the **Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses**, New Delhi. He has written several papers on Pakistan's domestic politics. His papers on the subject have been published in the Institute's journal- *Strategic Analysis*. His recent works include *Indo-Pakistan Talks: 2004: Nuclear Confidence Building Measures (NCBMs) and Kashmir*, **Strategic Analyses**, Vol. 28, No.2, April-June, 2004; as *Rise of Religious Parties in Pakistan: Causes and Prospects*, **Strategic Analysis**, Vol.27, No. 2, April-June 2003; *The Problem of Kashmir and the Problem in Kashmir*, **Strategic Analysis**, Jan-March, Vol. 29, No.1, 2005.

Dr. Misra holds a **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)** degree from the Centre for International Politics, Organisation and Disarmament, School of International Studies, **Jawaharlal Nehru University**, New Delhi. His thesis was titled '*Cooperation in Enduring Conflict: A Case Study of India Pakistan Negotiations*', which sheds light on how two rivals can negotiate successfully despite mutual suspicions and antagonisms.

He has also served as **Program Officer** from December 1999- December 2000 at the **United Nations University's Leadership Academy** in **Amman, Jordan** where he coordinated the Academy's conflict resolution and leadership programmes.

He was also briefly associated as **Project Coordinator** from June-September 2002 of a project titled, '**Human Security in India**', at the **Jawaharlal Nehru University**, New Delhi.

He was awarded the prestigious **Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Award** for the year **1997** and **1998** for his doctoral work.

He has also participated in the track two activities of India and Pakistan.

He was a **gold medalist** in the Master's programme at the Banaras Hindu University, India.

Dr. Misra is a Visiting Faculty with the **University Grant's Commission (UGC)** and **Indian Para Military Forces**. He has published papers and articles in books, journals, and newspapers in India and abroad. Currently, apart from his research work, Dr. Misra is also working on his book on India-Pakistan negotiations.

South Asia's Water Security: Reaching Solutions Amidst Hostility

Scarcity and the deteriorating quality of the water are increasingly becoming a global concern and South Asia is no exception to it. The growing global water stress not only makes human existence tough but it also poses a threat to the survival and prosperity of the future generations. The demand-supply gap is increasing day by day and fresh water resources becoming scarcer. In the tropical region there are countries with abundance of river waters but are yet faced with scarcity for agricultural and domestic consumption. The consequences could be frightening and not very difficult to envisage at the present stage. Water, the key to human survival has become a constant source of conflicts both within the countries as well as between countries. This explains why all ancient civilizations grew along rivers be it the Indus or Nile. South Asia is an apposite case study of water both as a source of cooperation and as well as conflict. The region consists of seven countries namely, Bangladesh, Bhutan India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The concern for water is more pressing in the South Asian mainland consisting of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal.

It makes an interesting subject to study how water poses a serious challenge to these countries not only in the form of scarcity, but also in other forms such as water logging, inundation, submergence of land, displacement of population, degradation of coastal zones, sewage disposals and contamination. It is ironical to find a part of the country facing drought while some are inundated at the same time. This means that proper management of the water resources could not only address the problem of scarcity but could also help deal with other problems mentioned above.

Looking back in history, it is heartening to find that on one hand if conflicts over river waters sharing between two countries have embittered relations, they have also forced them work out a joint solution, even while their overall relations have remained hostile. The cases in point are the Indo-Pakistan Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) of 1960 and the Indo-Bangladesh Ganges-Water Sharing Treaty (GSWT) of 1996. These two agreements particularly the IWT is considered a watershed agreement which offers lessons and directions for future cooperation between these countries.

The water problem in South Asia is a complex issue with both internal and external linkages and cannot be studied in isolation from the existing political and diplomatic relations of the countries. Logically, confronted with common water problems and dependent on common resources states should find it easy to forge cooperative mechanisms on water security to mutual advantages. Ironically, the current situation suggests otherwise.