

## **India is vigilant against new axis of evil**

Tadae Takubo

When I visited New Delhi as a member of a delegation sent by the Japan Institute for National Fundamentals (JINF) to India last December, my biggest interest was to find out what India viewed as national security threats. Researchers, commentators and scholars we met in India commonly cited "Pakistan involved in international terrorism" and "China" as threats, although government officials, including Shivshankar Menon, National Security Adviser, and Gautam H. Bambawale, Joint Secretary (East Asia) at the Ministry of External Affairs, refrained from calling China threat probably because our visit coincided with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's.

### **Terrorist attacks could intensify after 2014**

Pakistan and China are not separate threats but closely linked to each other. While it may be needless to point to the long-pending border disputes over Kashmir between India and Pakistan, I would like to call your attention to terrorist attacks that killed 166 people and injured 304 others in the largest Indian city of Mumbai in November 2008. The 10 terrorists involved in the attacks were reportedly from a Pakistani Muslim radical group known as Lashkar-e-Taiba. Indian intellectuals we met during the visit were commonly concerned about the withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Afghanistan that is planned to begin in July this year and end in 2014. They fear that India could be put into an emergency situation if Afghanistan's Taliban militants took advantage of Pakistani political unrest to advance the "Talibanization" of Pakistan.

### **China's nuke to N. Korea and Pakistan**

How does India view China's roles? China had maneuvered the nuclear balance of power by providing North Korea and Pakistan with nuclear know-how, said C. Raja Mohan, strategic affairs editor of The Indian Express. He and other Indian experts said China had had a strategic attempt to counter Japan and India. The Nuclear Express, authored by famed U.S. nuclear experts Thomas C. Reed and Danny B. Stillman, explains that China in 1982 decided to actively proliferate nuclear technology to some Islamic and socialist countries and has educated scientists for nuclear technology transfers to them. If you remember what Pakistani nuclear scientist A.Q. Khan did, you may find Indian fears well grounded.

Former U.S. President George W. Bush is known for naming North Korea, Iran and Iraq as the "axis of evil." One of Indian strategists gave the name to North Korea, Pakistan and China. India is no comparison to Japan that lacks vigilance. Which country is abnormal?

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