Twitter Thread by Mohal Joshi



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1/n) This is one of the reasons why India never went with either F-16 of F/A-18 for MMRCA and will continue to have doubts over buying F-21/F-35/F-18 etc.

> 3/ Comes from India seeing US
>
> - cut off supply of mil equipment, parts in 1960s in midst of a crisis
> - stepping back in 1971 from promises to help India if China attacked
> -post-nuclear test sanctions
>
> India-US rels might hv \u201csurvived\u201d those but they were significant setbacks
>
> — Tanvi Madan (@tanvi_madan) January 19, 2021

2/n) Sanctions (after Pokhran-2) or cutting off military aid in the past (see thread by Tanvi) meant that US could unilaterally cut of military supplies to toe their line

3/n) Even though India signs a deal in future for let's say MMRCA 2.0 but if the administration in D.C. changes or if the administration in power suddenly decides to shift course India will be left hanging in the wind.

4/n) IAF which is in a precarious position over squadron strength would be dealt a body blow if supplies were halted something like CAATSA

5/n) If the US is serious about deepening a long term strategic relationship with India in face of an ever aggressive China it needs to see that measures like CAATSA do more harm than good.

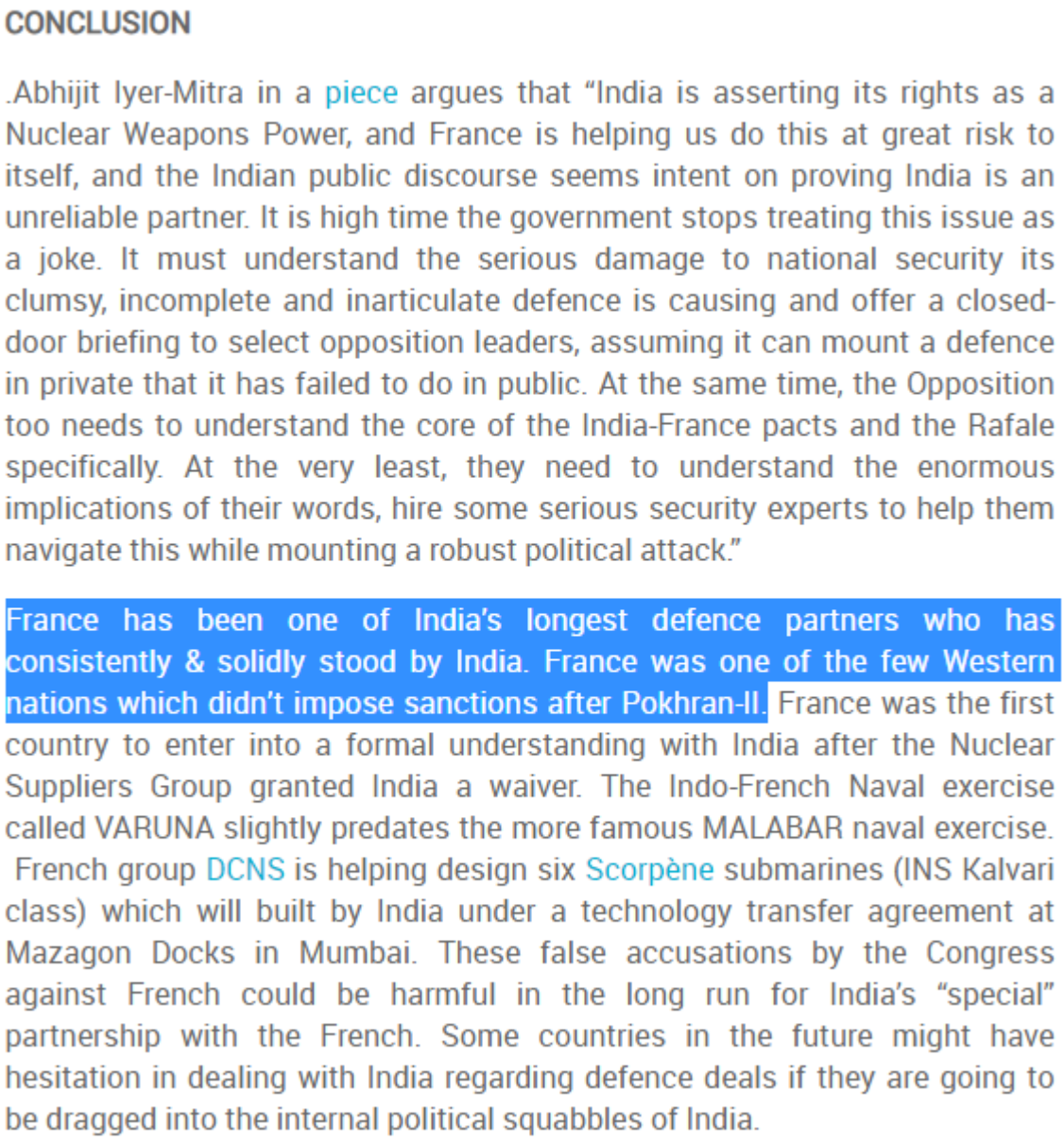
6/n) As mentioned in thread by Tanvi Madan this gives more fuel to critics of closer India-US relationship and gives pause in Delhi to folks who see that they can't rely on DC completely as they are bound to be arm twisted over what the US wants in its self interests.

7/n) Now this does not mean that all military purchases from US will be under CAATSA threat. India for the US defence manufacturers is still a big market and need to sell to India in bulk to help their financial bottomlines.

8/n) But from the India side for any big ticket or strategic purchases India will look elsewhere (such as Rafale from France) P.S. France was one of the few Western nations which didn’t impose sanctions on India after Pokhran-2

9/n) This is something which I had highlighted (in a piece in @myindmakers) to be one of the reasons why India chose to buy Rafale from the French.

https://t.co/3VqYK2nKkX



CONCLUSION

.Abhijit Iyer-Mitra in a piece argues that "India is asserting its rights as a Nuclear Weapons Power, and France is helping us do this at great risk to itself, and the Indian public discourse seems intent on proving India is an unreliable partner. It is high time the government stops treating this issue as a joke. It must understand the serious damage to national security its clumsy, incomplete and inarticulate defence is causing and offer a closed-door briefing to select opposition leaders, assuming it can mount a defence in private that it has failed to do in public. At the same time, the Opposition too needs to understand the core of the India-France pacts and the Rafale specifically. At the very least, they need to understand the enormous implications of their words, hire some serious security experts to help them navigate this while mounting a robust political attack."

France has been one of India's longest defence partners who has consistently & solidly stood by India. France was one of the few Western nations which didn't impose sanctions after Pokhran-II. France was the first country to enter into a formal understanding with India after the Nuclear Suppliers Group granted India a waiver. The Indo-French Naval exercise called VARUNA slightly predates the more famous MALABAR naval exercise. French group DCNS is helping design six Scorpène submarines (INS Kalvari class) which will built by India under a technology transfer agreement at Mazagon Docks in Mumbai. These false accusations by the Congress against French could be harmful in the long run for India's "special" partnership with the French. Some countries in the future might have hesitation in dealing with India regarding defence deals if they are going to be dragged into the internal political squabbles of India.

10/n) And just like that new administration is thinking of revoking sale of airplanes to a partner nation that the previous administration approved. This would be infuriating for allies.

https://t.co/a8jgpQKEC4

> Blinken repeats that he applauds the Abraham Accords and that he would build on that, but said that the administration will \u201ctake a hard look\u201d at the F-35 sale to the UAE
>
> — Jacob Kornbluh (@jacobkornbluh) January 19, 2021