



First Use v No First Use



The Defence Minister has indicated India will reconsider nuclear no first use if circumstances change. Implied threats such as these can heighten arms races and make crises with Pakistan riskier. The government should instead champion a global no first use (GNFU) treaty. If this doesn't work, then circumstances are different.



Where is the PLAN?

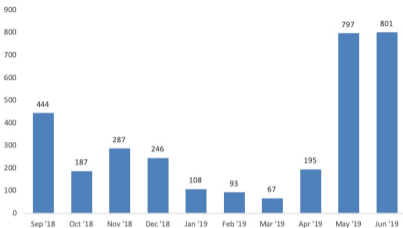
Hong Kong 2019 isn't Tiananmen 1989. Xi Jinping is unlikely to deploy the PLA to quell protests. The costs of troops manning the bustling streets of HK are vastly higher than similar action in the mainland. What's likely is that China will pursue a strategy of attrition.

Command and Management

Appointing a chief of defence staff would be the first step towards jointness of India's armed forces. To take the logic of the CDS to its conclusion, forces should be structured into five different theatre commands. Four of these could be geographical; Northern, Southern, Western, and Bay of Bengal littoral. A fifth should be for expeditionary operations.



Deforested Area in the Amazon (by month in km²)



Rate of deforestation in the Amazon has more than tripled since May 2019

(Source: Imazon, Sistema de Alerta de Desmatamento)

Parting shot:

India's total workforce*

During 2011-12: 474 million people

During 2017-18: 465 million people

Economic slowdown impacts employment

(Source: Periodic Labour Force Survey, 2017-18)

*Number of persons actually working

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