

## Editorial

International political scene is presently not very conducive to safeguard our environment: while the ongoing conflict in the Middle East is slowly winding up thereby lowering the stress levels related to crude oil and gas, the situation in east Asia is alarming to the extent that the fragile Asian environment may get a big hit in terms of pollution due to potential war. There seems to be loose talk about war in that area and it is not going to do any good for the ecosystem. Right now, in Japan, a baby panda whose survival in captivity is rather limited, was born in captivity (see "snapshot") after many decades and it has the test of first 100 days alive! What are the chances for fragile species such as panda to sustain in case war clouds get louder by the day. Hope better sense will prevail for all involved in the case.

South Asia has just completed the summer monsoon with mixed results: some regions delayed rains, some other regions either had excess or deficit rain; it is expected the agricultural production based on monsoon rain is going to get a small hit; hope the economy will not get a big hit! Gulf of Mexico and thereafter the Caribbean regions have been facing series of tornadoes/hurricane one after the other such that a dam in Puerto Rico has busted and large population displaced. Imagine something similar happening in Asia - where the number of dams are very large and consequences of any of them busting will be catastrophic. The governments in many countries in Asia have now ordered to look into the safety aspects of many dams that are over 100 years old.

Happy reading.

October 1, 2017

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Subramanian', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

(V. Subramanian)  
Editor-in-Chief