

The rient News

TRUTH, JUSTICE AND CONSCIENCE

Symbolic Exodus!

**Hundreds of ethnic
Afghans without COVID SOPs,
jam-packed in cargo planes**

Final round in Afghanistan

Inside story
By Afshain Afzal

**UNO must review Consolidated
List to exclude Taliban's names**

PAKISTAN'S TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Saints, Sufis, and Shrines



Highest Trade Route in the World



Punjab (Mughal era monuments and Gandhara Buddhist civilisation)



Balochistan (Mountain Ranges and Caves)



Sindh (Moenjodaro, Karachi, Arabian Sea)



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Kaghan and Swat Valleys)



THE ORIENT NEWS

Message from Patron-in-Chief “The Orient News”

“The Orient News” was founded in 2017, aimed to seek out groundbreaking research in global policymaking and expand the horizons in terms of both content and implementation. TON being a new institute and digital paper in terms of research is focused on enforcing accountability standards through rule of law. We do research that is beyond constructed realities that does not push the dominant viewpoints in global policy research. We hope to diversify the scope of research by including global governance and foreign policy.

Global risks and foreign policies are rapidly changing and there is increasing demand of strategic and public policy. We believe that there is need to strive for establishing a better Research institute in Pakistan and we have talent to work for achieving the goal. We offer a big view of policy, trends as well as global dynamics.

As a research team, we are looking to bring forward the ideas and research related to policy framework on issues at multilevel. We have transformational research ideas that have practical impact and value. Team members of TON are actively involved in proving highest quality of research. We have taken numerous steps to strength research culture by sharing and disseminating our valuable research work. TON also serves as a platform for early-career researchers, academic researchers and policymakers seeking for avenues of research.

ABOUT

As a digital as well as non-formal information hub of handpicked prompt News analysis, inside stories, commentaries and numerous other features “The Orient News” in many ways, is a value addition to already robust social, electronic and print Media. It endeavors to restore old grandeur of journalistic excellence and set standards for different types of media. The Orient News is designed as a platform to identify policy and institutional loopholes, monitor implementation and enforce accountability standards through rule of law, liaison with relevant institutions and public interest litigations. Our mission is to remove criminal behavior and materialistic tendencies from the societies and promote high ethical, cultural, traditional and religious standards set in each society by narrative building through social, electronic, print, digital media and its hybrids. We started our efforts with a single man i.e. the present patron-in-chief and later, from several dozen aims to grow to 50,000 in years to come.

Afshain Afzal Patron-in-chief

- Ambreen Afshain - Researcher (Honorary)
- Aroosa Hafeez - Research Associate
- Zia-ur-Rehman - Research Associate
- Saneem Afshain - Researcher
- Arooj Shakeel - Research Associate
- Sohail Issac – Website Designer
- Nima Dorji - Researcher (Bhutan)
- Twinkle Agrawal - Researcher (India)
- Farzana Tamannur – Researcher (Bangladesh)
- Rafi-ul-Hassan – Researcher (Bangladesh)
- Rahim Lashari – Legal Matters

CONTACT US



The Orient News



theorientnews



@theonewslive



The Orient News



+923095096267

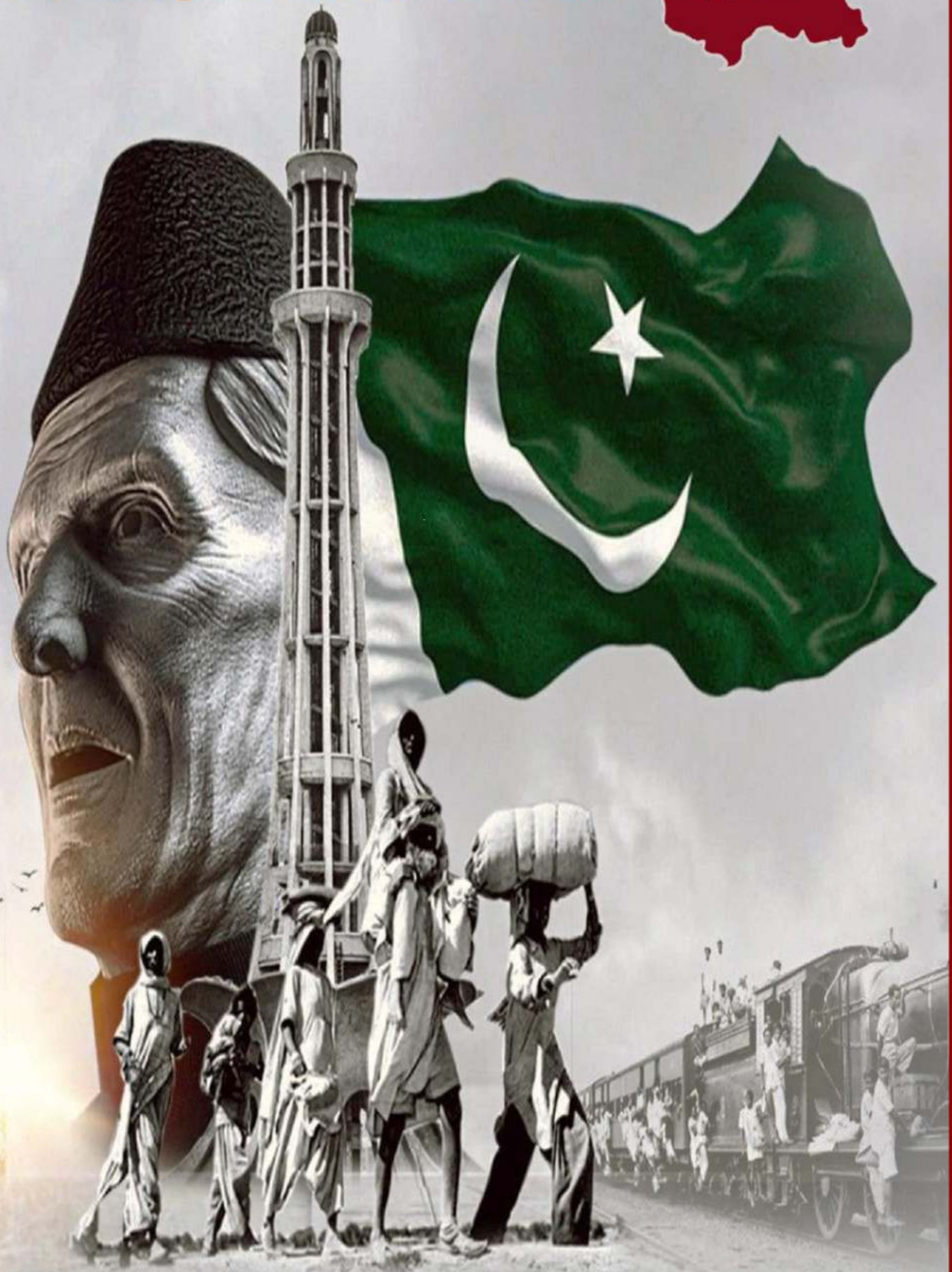


theonewslive@gmail.com

Pakistan Independence Day

And Bleeding Jammu and Kashmir

Jammu
& Kashmir



Pakistan Independence Day and bleeding Jammu and Kashmir

COVER STORY

By Afshain Afzal

Pakistan is celebrating its 74th independence day with traditional zeal across the country. The change of guard ceremonies are held at Mazaar-i-Quaid and Mazaar-i-Iqbal. Flag hoisting ceremonies are held at public and private offices and special programmes are observed at the Independence Day. All the buildings and streets are decorated with flag of Pakistan. This day is celebrated to recall the sacrifices of the forefathers and those who fought and gave their lives for the separate homeland.

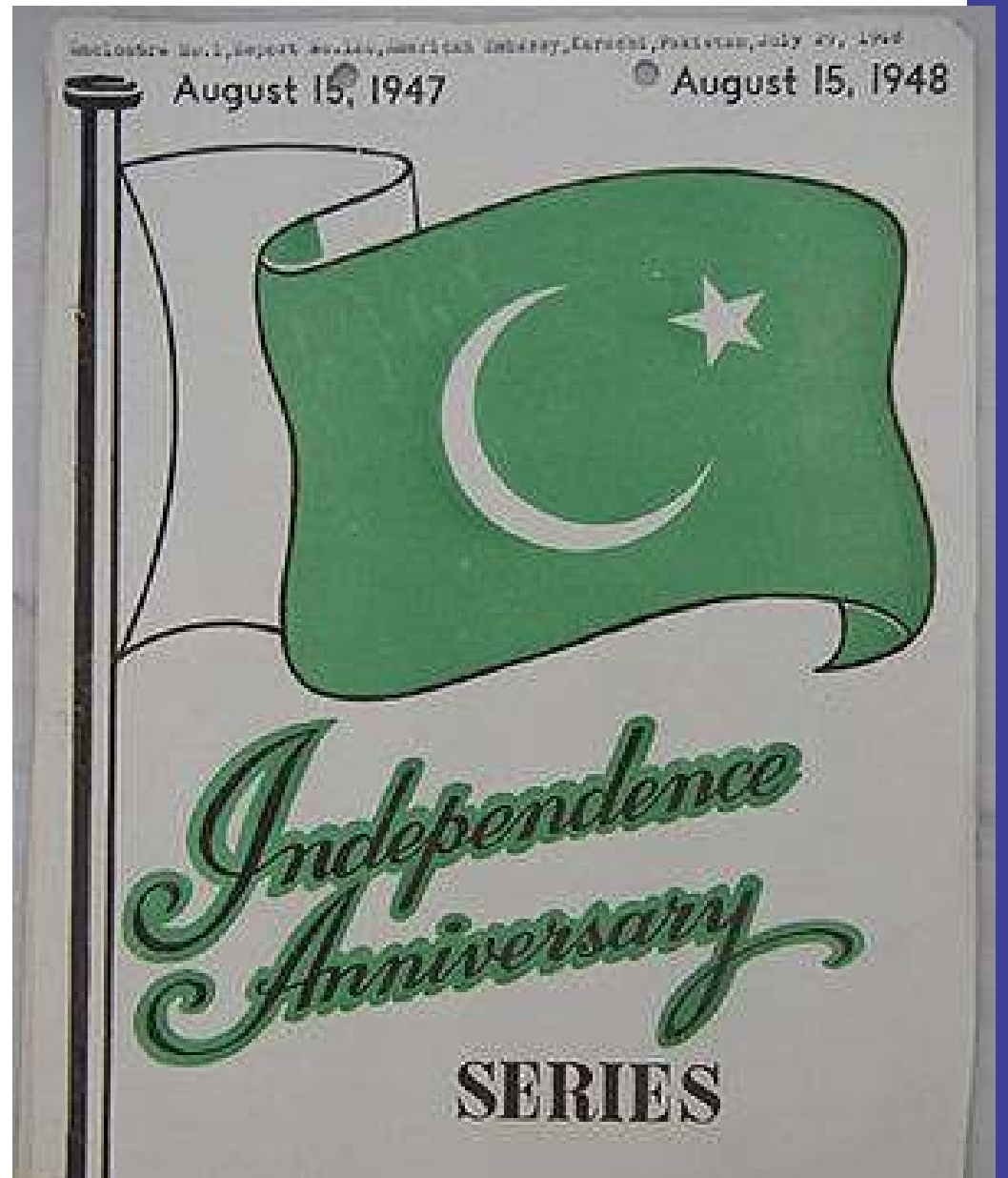
Pakistan was created by the continuous struggle of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and his followers. The idea of Jinnah behind the creation of Pakistan was to freely progress and grow however today, a part of country is under Indian occupation. The idea that gave birth to Pakistan was separate Muslim nation which was destined to grow but at present, our brothers and sisters in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir are facing extreme violence, brutality and restrictions. Last year Pakistan marked Independence of India as “Black Day” to protest India’s move to scrap the special status to Jammu and Kashmir and gave a message to the world that unilateral and illegal act of Indian Government in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) is just to suppress the people of Kashmir. Today, Muslim community in India is such excluded section of Indian social and political structure due to their religion that they are being labeled as 'anti-national'. Muslims don’t feel secure and are apprehensive in today’s India. In truth, India has a long history of marginalizing Muslims, which became the reason on the basis of which our forefathers struggled for separate homeland.

India and Pakistan, both the nations attained independence on 15th August 1947 from the British colonial rule. After the British rule was ended in British India, two nations India and Pakistan were created after 12 pm on 14th August on 15th August 1947. India celebrates its independence on 15th August while

Pakistan initially celebrated its Independence Day on 15th August but after the death of Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the Quaid-e-Azam, the Independence Day was changed to 14th August. There is no doubt that the very first independence day of Pakistan was also celebrated on 15th August. Official holiday of Independence Day was also announced for 15th August 1948 and Press Information Department, Karachi also published “Independence Anniversary Series 15 August 1947 – 15 August 1948”. History gives the evidence that the Indian Independence Act of 1947 that created two separate nations confirms that India and Pakistan attained freedom from the British colonial rule on 15th August. The Clause 1 of the Article 1 titled "The new Dominions" states that, ““As from the fifteenth day of August, nineteen hundred and forty-seven, two independent Dominions shall be set up in India, to be known respectively as India and Pakistan.”

Moreover, the founding father of nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah also declared 15th August as Pakistan’s Independence Day. He said in a radio address to the nation that "It is with feelings of greatest happiness and emotion that I send you my greetings. 15th August is the birthday of the independent and sovereign state of Pakistan. It marks the fulfillment of the destiny of the Muslim nation which made great sacrifices in the past few years to have its homeland."

The first Pakistan’s commemorative postage stamps were released in July 1948, which mentioned 15th August 1947, as its Independence Day. However, it remained unclear that why Pakistan’s government and leaders unanimously advanced the Independence Day. The last British viceroy, Lord Mountbatten in a press conference announced that 15th August would come as the Independence Day, hastening the transfer of power. Mountbatten announced transfer of power of governance over to Pakistan to Muhhammad Ali Jinnah in Karachi that was to take effect at the same time in both the countries.



Historical speeches, documents and all the collections related to creation of Pakistan makes it obvious that Independence Day of Pakistan is 15th August, which has been advanced but the reasons behind this advancements are bizarre. Nevertheless, whatever the reasons are, today, the only thing that matters is that we got our separate nation but indeed, when we are celebrating Independence Day, we are deeply grieved by the sufferings of people of IIOJK who are facing military siege from last two years. Moreover, we cannot forget the immense sufferings of people, horrific violence on Muslims and struggle of our forefathers at the time of partition which left an unforgettable mark on the people of Pakistan and gives the message of faith and courage.



US admits defeat, blames Afghan allies for cowardice and Plans future Afghan strategy

COVER STORY

By Afshain Afzal

In the latest development, President Joseph Biden said in his speech, “American troops cannot and should not be fighting in a war and dying in a war that Afghan forces are not willing to fight for themselves.” Aggrieved over Afghan allies' failure to mount any real resistance to the Taliban and failure to engage in diplomacy to seek a political settlement with the Taliban, Washington has categorically announced that “there is no chance that American military boots on the ground would have made any difference”. Criticizing Afghan political leaders who gave up and fled the country and collapse of Afghan military without trying to fight, US President leveled all blame of US failure on the people of Afghanistan, on whom Washington claims to have “spent over a trillion dollars”.

Projecting Afghanistan as the graveyard of empires, President Biden pronounced his verdict, “no amount of military force would ever deliver a stable, united, secure Afghanistan.” He said, “I am deeply saddened by the facts we now face. But I do not regret my decision to end America's war-fighting in Afghanistan.” Interestingly, it is no more now a secret that Americans negotiated with Qatar-based Taliban splinter group to allow them take

over control of several Afghan airports, manned through recently deployed fresh 6000 Indian cum American troops in collusion uniforms and unhindered airlift to as many Afghan nationals to various foreign countries as possible. Military and civilian aircraft including several C-17s, C-120s, Boeing 777s, Qatar Airways, Air India, Pakistan International Airlines etc transported uncountable passenger, many many times more than the aircraft's capacities, to destinations outside Afghanistan. Washington has concluded special agreements with India, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Qatar, an African country and even Russia for the mass airlift and settlement to those loyal to Americans and NATO troops during two decades of US intrusion.

In fact, US has planned to keep an eye and indirect intervention in Afghanistan through the conclusion of new Counter terrorism agreements and reification older ones with incoming Afghan government. This would allow even access to American and allies to station its limited forces in Afghanistan for counter terrorism operations and carryout aerial attacks on targets inside Afghanistan and border with Pakistan and Iran. Another plan that was revealed is to persuade Taliban or future Afghan government to ensure safe access of International Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations for the data collection role and digital revolution. In

another project, Pentagon and CIA posted thousands of Afghan Hazara and similar communities including Aga Khanis to man Radio Interception Rooms (RIC) for digital and satellite surveillance in various countries. As long term plans they would map opponents to eliminate them for smooth take over on lines of US' pre-withdrawal almost two decades era.

Admitting US anti-democratic moves seriously denting Afghan sovereignty, President Biden emphasized in his recent speech, “Our mission in Afghanistan was never supposed to have been nation building. It was never supposed to be creating a unified, centralized democracy. Our only vital national interest in Afghanistan remains today what it has always been: preventing a terrorist attack on American homeland.” Although it is an eye wash that foreign nations intend to bring peace in Afghanistan as Washington, India and some European nations are trying to bring terrorism through foreign-funded and armed Afghan nationals who would pose themselves as Taliban, Haqqani group Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan. Boko Haram and ISIS (K) in their communication to mislead the world. Interestingly, many countries especially China, Pakistan and Middle Eastern & African countries which would monitor their communication and social media activities would believe what they would hear and transcribe communications in the language and dialect they understand well.

If we recall, in December 2008, President Barack Hussain Obama began speaking about a new policy direction in the US

strategy in the Afghan war. He said, “We can't continue to look at Afghanistan in isolation. We have to see it as a part of a regional problem that includes Pakistan, includes India, includes Kashmir, includes Iran.” Washington is attempting to finalize a dangerous plan, segregating North and West from from rest of the Afghanistan and linking it with Central Asia on one side and Wakhan Corridor to create a new country for ethnic minorities and other faiths. It would be a fire and blood game to bring ingenious terrorist revolution by arming and funding terrorists. The testimonies presented before the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee from time to time recommend de facto partition of Afghanistan as alternative to US defeat in Afghanistan. US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) has successfully carried out experiment in the name of biological defense at various military labs but disposal of waste has become an issue due to dangerous contents. One of the names appeared in the unreferenced report was Army lab at Fort Detrick in Maryland. It is suspected that as the past record of carrying nuclear attack on Japan, Pentagon may carryout a biological attack that would bring COVID like symptom leading to mass killing of Taliban or orthodox Muslim areas in districts presumed to be included in the future partitioned state. There are unconfirmed reports that some portion of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan may also be included in the targeted areas. One wonders if United Nations Organization is aware of all this why why it is not intervening to stop this bloody great game.

Military and civilian aircraft including several C-17s, C-120s, Boeing 777s, Qatar Airways, Air India, Pakistan International Airlines etc transported uncountable passenger, many many times more than the aircraft's capacities, to destinations outside Afghanistan. Washington has concluded special agreements with India, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Qatar, an African country and even Russia for the mass airlift and settlement to those loyal to Americans and NATO troops during two decades of US intrusion.



Final round in Afghanistan: Confirming deaths of Taliban leadership – What is next?

COVER STORY

By Afshain Afzal

To much a surprise to those who wrote the plot, Taliban have distanced from occupying Afghan capital Kabul and other major cities but they are in de-facto control over almost whole Afghanistan. There are speculations who would lead the country? But Washington is much perturbed over the survival of Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada in Quetta February 2021 attack. In the backdrop of US-funded Pashtuns, pretending as Taliban, and other leaders who have started assembling at Kabul and are eagerly waiting for the top Taliban leadership to reach Kabul to unfold plans how to rule Afghanistan. Interestingly, Washington, Tehran and New Delhi are deadly against Taliban inclusion in the political process and are resisting the return the Taliban to power, however, all of them are maintaining links and influence over the splinter groups. Meanwhile, Taliban leadership has asked the Afghans not to fall trap in Western and Indian propaganda and leave their country on their call. They urged the people not to flee and to counter “black propaganda” about them through WhatsApp and social media accounts. Many countries including Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have reported return of Afghans voluntarily back to Afghanistan, who earlier took refuge in these countries.

In a quick move, the Western and Indian operators, running the Taliban websites and social media accounts in Pashto, Persian, Arabic, Urdu, Dari, French, English and other languages went offline and have disappeared all of the sudden. Some new websites and blogs have popped up which talks about interfaith harmony and liking Islam and other religions as shield to defend attacks from anti-religious groups. Many religious and sectarian website are openly misquoting statements of past religious leaders, Hadith and verses from Al Quran to support anti-orthodox point of views. Agencies working in Afghanistan are keeping track of prisoners released under post 29th February 2021 agreement through their mobile numbers and WhatsApp and Social media accounts to identify whole groups they are engaged with. However, so far not much achievement has been reported. New fake accounts have been opened in the name of released prisoners to develop engineered linkages.

Few years back, on 25 July 2018, Alice Wells, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asia led a US delegation to Qatar to meet with representatives of the splinter faction of Afghan Taliban. At that time discussion included feedback on the confidence in the new leadership of Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada. Since then Western players are on the hunt of Mullah Akhundzada and other top

leadership. In February this year, Indian intelligence agencies revealed that Mullah Akhundzada was killed along with other Taliban leaders including Mullah Matiuallah, Hafiz Abdul Majeed and four others in a blast in Pakistani provincial capital, Quetta. Same, could not be confirmed rather denied by Taliban ranks. In fact, US and allies would be at great disadvantage if the actual Taliban of Afghanistan return to power. Therefore, stage has been set for Qatar-based splinter group, Iran backed contenders including Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and his son Ghairat Baheer, who are considered by Tehran and the US as a Pashtun-trump card as he not only remained prime minister in 1992 but renounced Hezb-i-Islami and joined the moderates. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar is expected to prove asset for enhanced Afghanistan-Iran relations.

As the UN-back peace talks with Qatar-based splinter group of Taliban turned into a success story; there are high chances that Taliban will have concrete role in a future Afghan government. We have also the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions 2513 (2020), adopted by the UNSC at its 8742nd meeting on 10 March 2020, which annexed the US-Taliban “Doha agreement” of 29 February 2020 signed by the Trump administration to UNSC Resolution 2513 and which not only welcomed “significant steps towards ending the war and opening the door to intra-Afghan negotiations” but expressed its readiness upon the commencement of the intra-Afghan negotiations to consider the start of the review of the status of designations of individuals, groups, undertakings and entities on the List established and maintained pursuant to resolution. As it is evident from intra-Afghan deal and continuing negotiations as well as ground facts that Taliban are not engaged or in support activities that threaten the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan, UNSC is bound to affect the review of Taliban's status of designations of individuals, groups, undertakings and entities on the Consolidated List of the Committee established and maintained pursuant to various UNSC resolutions. Fake videos of extremely threatening nature are purposely being made viral to dub Taliban as extremists and terrorists in the eyes of international community.

In a most important development Western nations have started retrieving Afghan populations who have either been converted to other faiths or have got them addicted in social and moral ills and sins. Apart from them, Italian aid network Caritas Caritas which settled and helped Afghan citizens and Tribal citizens, especially children from Pakistan have expressed fears after Pushtun-Taliban comeback on 15 August 2021 that such children should be evacuated to other countries to avoid prosecution. According to the US

International Religious Freedom Report, published in 2009, there are between 1,000 and 8,000 Christians secretly practicing their faith in the country. However, there is only one officially recognized Christian church as Catholic Chapel inside the Italian Embassy in Kabul, run by Catholic mission sui juris of Afghanistan. Kabul based International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics Association (IGLA) attracted world attraction on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) and called for the protection of women, children, LGBTIQ people and other vulnerable persons in Afghanistan including religious minorities, journalists and human rights defenders. The organization propagated that these groups have come under threat, and many have gone into hiding out of fear. Reports reflects that all such Afghans are been evacuated to other countries.

Other events include sighting of huge transport aircrafts and helicopters carrying passengers for evacuation to airports and other countries. These immigrants are exempted from COVID precautions and are jam-packed in closed

environment. On reaching the destination, compulsory isolation is also not observed. A number of countries have have officially announced to temporarily host or all transit to Afghans evacuated immigrants from Afghanistan which include US, France, Germany, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Greece, Italy, Poland, Pakistan, India, Iran, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Qatar, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Albania, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Mexico, Rwanda, Ukraine and Uganda etc. Meanwhile Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) of US and India have started homework on the confidential course reports of each and every individual who was trained from Indian Military, Security Forces. Police and Government institutions. It was revealed that there were 46 different military institutions from where many Afghans had undergone training. However, reports from Kabul revealed that many Afghan National Army (ANA) and other security forces personnel have started joining Taliban and other Pashtun commanders in alliance.



One wonders, the United Nations Organization (UNO) is considered as an instrument of peace in the world then when it is watching the planned massacre of Taliban which is being planned by the target killers and biological attackers, who would target individuals and groups to create COVID like symptoms followed by deaths. More so, why COVID precautions are not followed while US-supervised immigration of specific community? Can a foreign force take along young boys and girls, many of them under the age of 18 years, to another country without the permission of the country from which they belong? It is a civil war and violence which is being planned under the supervision of UNO. It is high time that UN Secretary General must ensure withdrawal of all foreign combat and non-combat foreign forces from Afghanistan as per 29 February 2020 agreement, exclude names after review of Taliban's status of designations of individuals, groups, undertakings and entities on the Consolidated List of the Committee established and maintained pursuant to various UNSC resolutions and prevent foreigners from planning ethnic cleansing.

Afghanistan witnessing Pushtun takeover of the country



INSIDE STORY

By TON Research Section

Sources at Pul-e-Khumri disclosed that Pushtun are everywhere and in three to four weeks period Pushtun would be controlling more than 90 percent of the Afghanistan. Afghan leaders Abdul Rashid Dostum has sent his commanders to Mazar-e-Sharif for its defence. The Hizb-e-Wahadat aides claimed that Taliban could not capture more than 25 percent of Mazar-e-Sharif. However, conflicting reports speak the Taliban faced negligible resistance everywhere except certain capital cities. Interestingly, the Taliban after taking control of six Northern provinces of

Kanduz, Sheberghan, Zaranj and Samangan are taking control of Farah and Baghlan. Presence of Taliban was not contradicted by the sources. The Taliban avoided Balkh and instead gained successes in Mazar-e-Sharif. Many Afghans have crossed the international border and taken refuge in Central Asian Republics and Russia.

Locals at Mazar-e-Sharif disclosed that Taliban driving humvees and American heavy powerd pick-up trucks were seen moving with confidence. Two skeletons of humvees were also seen after these were destroyed in aerial bombings. The Western nations are working on a plan to deport asylum seekers to Afghanistan. In a latest development Austria, Belgium,

Denmark, Germany, Greece and the Netherlands have started carrying out coercive deportation of migrants back to Afghanistan. Local holding the nationality of foreign forces said advisors were aiding Hizb-e-Wahadat and forces loyal to Abdul Rashid Dostum. However, General Sami Sadat admitted losses without specifying the numbers. Same could not be confirmed.

In an important development, Washington is giving a gesture as if it would delay officially admitting complete troops withdrawal by 11 September. Meanwhile, talks between Taliban splinter group based in Doha and US's special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad were held, later trying to

convince advancing Taliban to accept a ceasefire. However, at this juncture Taliban and the Taliban splinter group based in Doha seems separate entities. American and probably allies aircrafts continued bombing Pushtun populations, which led families to leave their houses. The anti-Taliban black propaganda from the Western and Indian media center has over influenced other news and analysis. However, those who are negotiating with Taliban and at the same time dubbing them as terrorists should not forget that they have proven links with Taliban or in International language are harbouring and aiding Taliban.



5th August – Unconstitutional move of Indian government and brazen violations of Human rights in IIOJK

INSIDE STORY

By Aroussa Hafeez

On 5th August, 2019, India took a unilateral step by abrogating Article 370 and 35A and permanently incorporating disputed state of Jammu and Kashmir in Indian Union. The decision left deep impact on the Himalayan region of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. India's BJP-led fascist regime ended the special status of Kashmir, the unconstitutional measure which is against the spirit of democracy, which caused a burning effect throughout Kashmir. Since then, Jammu and Kashmir has been directly under the control of New Delhi, which wiped out the scope for any middle parties. To avoid any reaction to the move, severe months-long restrictions were imposed by the government in the region.

In the starting days of August 2019, there were signals that something is going to happen in occupied territory. Hundreds and thousands of Indian troops were deployed in the valley moreover, telephone and internet services were suspended, tourists and Indian nationals were ordered to leave, educational institutions were shut down and around 400 regional political leaders were detained or placed under house arrest. Suddenly on 5th August, Indian government announced that the special status given to the state of Jammu and Kashmir is nullified. Indian government scrapped the Article 370 and 35A and put the state on the same footing as rest of the India.

The article 370 gave the state of Kashmir an autonomous status, having its own constitution, own flag and freedom to make own laws but as a result of unconstitutional action of 5th August by Narendra Modi-led BJP fascist regime, Jammu and Kashmir could not make its own rules about permanent residency, ownership of property and many other basic rights. According to a report by Kashmir Media Service (KMS) "Indian troops had martyred 411 Kashmiris including top APHC leader, Muhammad Ashraf Sehrai, 11 women and 16 young boys during the period. It said that at least 2,047 people were critically injured due to the use of brute force, bullets, pellets, PAVA and teargas shells, by Indian troops, paramilitary and police personnel on peaceful demonstrators and mourners in the territory."

The killings since August 5th, 2019



have been higher than those in previous years. Undoubtedly, the Kashmiri martyrs have been the real asset of the Kashmir freedom movement and Kashmiris do not allow the blood of their martyrs go in vain. The government of India wants to change the demographics of the region because it was Muslim majority state and today Indian nationals can buy land anywhere in the region. It could also not be denied that the partition of subcontinent is hopscotch of blunders because most of the majority Muslim states were incorporated into India through heinous and clever planning.

Undeniably, the move of Indian government has made the life of people of Jammu and Kashmir miserable. There has been violence in IIOJK from more than thirty years due to the freedom movement of native people and since day one people of IIOJK resisted against Indian forces and rejected their illegitimate occupation. From the partition of subcontinent, the denial of Indian government of right to self-determination is the only reason of Kashmir dispute. India has been indulged in killing the people of IOJK with indemnity ever since their launch of freedom fight but Kashmiri's had been continuing their freedom struggle despite of the killings of thousands of people Indian troops.

With over half a million of Indian soldiers in Kashmir, making it one of the most militarized zones in the world, these massive force are not to protect people of Kashmir but merely to protect India's interests. The entire valley is marked by the presence of troops either in bunkers, on patrols, watching, monitoring, making random searches, a force that

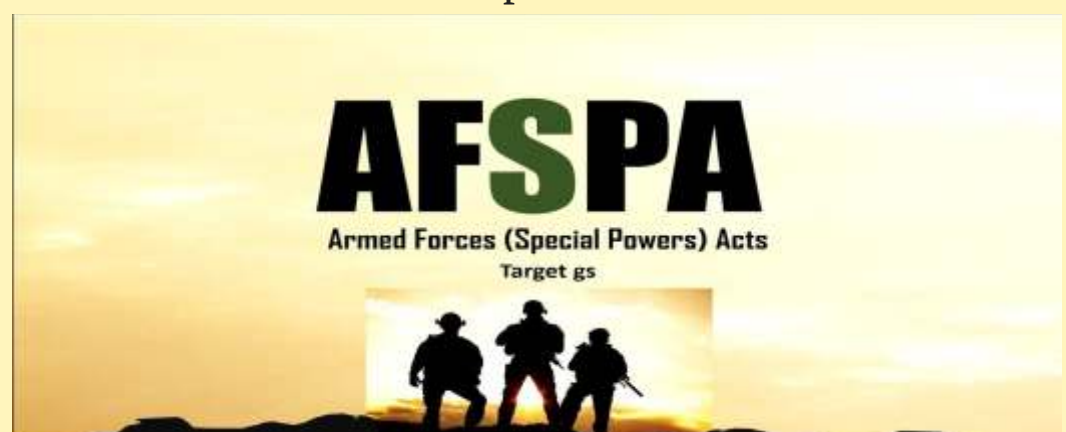
perceives even non-combatant Kashmiris with suspicion in what India claims to be its own territory. The quality of life of Kashmiri people is severely decreased as the guns are always pointed at them, whom India claims its own citizens. It has become normal for every family to lose a member or two by the atrocities of Indian forces. Kashmiris are living a life where one could only see a bleak future.

The current mismanagement and deprivation of rights of Kashmiris of IIOJK has made the life of the people down in the mouth. The people of Kashmir have vowed not to participate in the elections unless the statehood is restored and plebiscite is held on the basis of United Nations Security Council Resolutions. In addition, the Kashmiris are fed up of the powers of Indian Armed Forces under Armed Forces (Special powers) Act (AFSPA). It is high time that

Prime Minister Modi should extend right of self-determination to the Kashmiris for sustainable peace.

It is strange that a game of fire and blood is going on in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir by Indian authorities, which has been intensified since 5th August, 2019 but the United Nations Organization (UNO) and human Rights Organizations, European Union (EU) and other peace organization are merely silent spectators. Whatsoever, Kashmir was always temporarily a part of India but never an integral to India. Political status of entire Jammu and Kashmir State shall be determined only after a plebiscite whereby the wishes of the people of the state shall rule supreme. A rational decision is also needed by the world for the solution of Kashmir dispute.

The Kashmiris are fed up of the powers of Indian Armed Forces under Armed Forces (Special powers) Act (AFSPA). It is high time that Prime Minister Modi should extend right of self-determination to the Kashmiris for sustainable peace.



Security Situation Tense in Afghanistan

INSIDE STORY

By TON Research Section



As Taliban stood aside honouring the peace agreement, local Pashtuns and other communities continued making advances. Interestingly, US and allies have armed and funded locals who remained loyal to the occupying forces since last two decades but where are they? Are they the same who are holding control of buildings and premises? However, they claim to be on the side of Taliban and no one has either accepted their claim nor contradicted it.

Meanwhile, Washington has issued a tough warning of “strong, decisive response” if their presence is challenged in Afghanistan. Interestingly, no one is there at the military bases or elsewhere, except Embassy lower staff at Kabul. There were some helicopters at low flight near Kabul but there were no further inputs. The British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has warned commonwealth nations, “Nobody should bilaterally recognise the Taliban

as the government of Afghanistan”.

Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe remained center for activities for Afghanistan, where US and NATO presence was reported. There were also reports of Indian personnel wearing collusion uniform. Increased air and personnel

movement is being witnessed from the last three days at Indian military air base located near the town of Farkhor in Tajikistan and Ayni Airbase. Some 1800 foreign troops joined the forces at the military base. Late night air-maintenance and serviceability reports were circulated of Su-25 fighter jets, Mi-24 and Mi-8 helicopters.

New Delhi has been asked to place its troops at Afghan soil, which may attract strong reaction from thousands of Afghan refugees living in India since decades. There were reports that Indian aircrafts had flown over Pakistan airspace two days back could not be confirmed. However, Washington has been persuading Islamabad to cooperate to jointly handle Afghan situation.

In the Afghan capital Kabul one Taliban leader said. “we do not know who is

doing that we are just watching implementations of peace talks”. Reports of some of important Afghan leaders fleeing to Tajikistan and UAE have been confirmed. One Afghan pro-Pashtun leader said we are expecting an ugly U-turn by the end of this month. He, however, did not reveal any further.

There are expectations of target attacks and high altitude droppings but nothing could be confirmed at present. The western nations and India are trying level best not to allow Taliban to form the government. Indian Ministry of External Affairs and foreign collaborators have planned neither to allow Taliban to form the government nor give a chance to participate in democratic process. As most of the Afghan refugees have already left Afghanistan, the Afghan situation would be clear by the end of this month.

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The Friendly Ties Between Bangladesh and Pakistan

OPINION

By Rafiul Hasan
(Decca, Bangladesh)

Bangladesh and Pakistan are two of the friendliest nations within the Indian Sub-continent and across the world. People may often believe that these two are rival nations because Bangladesh achieved independence fighting against Pakistan in 1971. But since then, the two countries have always helped each other to redevelop the structure and economy.

Though India helped Bangladesh during the liberation war in many ways, they tend to disrupt the development of the Bangladeshi people and government in many ways. But thankfully, that has not been the case with Pakistan. The government and people of Pakistan have always been there for Bangladesh to work and regroup to develop a relationship between Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Subsequently, the present Prime Minister's Sheikh Hasina Wajed and Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, have been working relentlessly for the cooperation and growth of both these nations. In the proceeding paragraphs we have viewed relationship between Bangladesh and Pakistan from various angles.

Bangladesh and Pakistan have always been two peace-loving nations. That is why the little disruption created by political allegations related to Jamat-e-Islami in March 2020 hadn't affected the trades between the two countries. Bangladeshi Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen told the TON on 10 March 2021, "For the larger advantage of our country, we shall maintain connections with everyone."

The Pakistani Minister for Foreign Affairs spokeswoman, Aisha Farooqui, stated, "Our nation has a great interest in improving and consolidating bilateral relations and relations of the people with Bangladesh." Farooqui added, "We have

solid historical ties, and we want to have collaborative relations with one another."

An Insight into the bilateral trade between these two countries:

- Σ During the fiscal year 2019-20, the Bangladesh-Pakistan bilateral trade totaled USD 543.90 million.
- Σ Bangladesh's export to Pakistan was US\$50.54 million, of which a total of US\$493.36 million were imported from Pakistan.
- Σ President Shams Mahmud of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) announced the information during a debate when High Commissioner Imran Ahmed Siddiqui called him to Bangladesh at the DCCI headquarters on 12 June, 2020. Both discussed concerns of bilateral trade and investment.
- Σ In this capacity, Imran Ahmed Siddiqui recently noted that Bangladesh had grown tremendously in the services sector for IT and IT. He advised Bangladeshi entrepreneurs to invest in Pakistan to make use of this potential and skill.

Mr. Siddiqui also sought to import various industrial raw materials and textiles from Pakistan by industrial workers in Bangladesh.

- Σ He claimed that the advantage of the China–Pakistan Economic Corrida (CPEC) is for Bangladeshi investors in Pakistan to quickly reach their commodities at a reduced rate in China, Central Asia and Russia.
- Σ The High Commissioner of Pakistan further stressed the need for cooperative cooperation, particularly on transferring research and technology.

Below here, we have put down a paragraph describing Bangladesh's exports to Pakistan:

Import from Bangladesh to Pakistan



Pakistan is exporting more than importing from Bangladesh to Bangladesh. Pakistani companies are encouraged to import more from Bangladesh to balance trade. To balance the work, The High Commission would be delighted to help every business person import from Bangladesh. Any company plan to import from Bangladesh may contact the High Commissioner (contact information can be found on the "List of Clerks" page). Current importers must send an invitation for future activities of the High Commission to the High Commission for enrollment.

Each potential importer shall discover a precious one-stop-online source of government information to import and export from Bangladesh on the Bangladesh Trade Portal.

The following are a broad list of items that Bangladesh can export competitively:

- Σ Woven clothing,
- Σ Knitwear,
- Σ Home Textile Jute products,
- Σ Leather products,
- Σ Handicraft Potteries,
- Σ Ceramic Food products.

The increased export prospect from Bangladesh to Pakistan seems to be the following products:

- Σ Silk & crafts
- Σ ceramics
- Σ electronics
- Σ Bikes
- Σ Products created from the leather
- Σ Products from the plastic sector
- Σ Ready-made clothes and knitwear
- Σ Chemical products

The Demands and Scopes of Exporting Bangladesh's National Fiber "Jute" to Pakistan:

The government of Pakistan has adopted a plan for importing raw jute from Bangladesh to promote exports from Pakistan of processes based on jute goods.

While Bangladesh and India are the world's two top growers of jute, Bangladesh, as Pakistan has suspended its trade with India.

In the early 1970s, the jute industry was created, but the increasing use of plastic packaging has reduced demand. There are currently only five or six mills that meet meagre domestic demand and exports to only a few nations. The bilateral relations between the two will be improved.

Despite many think that Bangladesh and Pakistan have political affairs mostly, it is a matter of fact that these two nations are working hand in hand for the development and sake of their respective people.

Here, we have put the tabular data for your understanding of the fact that Pakistan exports quite a good amount of goods to Bangladesh and earns a wealthy value. The table mentioned here is from 2020:

Pakistan exports to Bangladesh	Value	Year
<u>Cotton</u>	\$427.62M	2020
<u>Salt, sulphur, earth, stone, plaster, lime and cement</u>	\$73.72M	2020
<u>Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers</u>	\$17.54M	2020
<u>Raw hides and skins (other than furskins) and leather</u>	\$9.76M	2020
<u>Machinery, nuclear reactors, boilers</u>	\$9.66M	2020
<u>Inorganic chemicals, precious metal compound, isotope</u>	\$4.42M	2020
<u>Manmade staple fibers</u>	\$4.04M	2020
<u>Plastics</u>	\$3.91M	2020
<u>Tanning, dyeing extracts, tannins, derivatives, pigments</u>	\$3.89M	2020
<u>Edible fruits, nuts, peel of citrus fruit, melons</u>	\$3.16M	2020

Afghanistan – What is Cooking Up?

INSIDE STORY

By TON Research Section

Security Situation in Afghanistan has started improving as Taliban offered unconditional amnesty to all the Afghans and asked President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah to step down in order to pave way for democratic process in Afghanistan. There is a general announcement that no one would be prosecuted or punished and foreigners would have protection guarantee. Other developments include that Pushtuns of Afghanistan with Uzbeks and Tajiks in general have joined Taliban and made quite abrupt semi-military moves to fill the gap created after the withdrawal of foreign forces. However, foreign nations encouraged mass immigration of US-NATO affiliated Afghan groups to migrate to Iran, India and Western nations including the US, Canada, Greece and UK. Supportive black media propaganda has started gaining momentum like Taliban denied girls right to go to school, women are not allowed to work outside the home, women are forced to wear veil or Burqa and be escorted by a male relative when going outside. Such propaganda received mixed reaction. The influx of refugee movement has made the security situation complex. For the first time US-NATO afflicted groups were seen fleeing to Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and even to Russia. Personnel incharge at Uzbekistan's Karshi Khanabad (K-2) Base confirmed the reports.

In another development Iran's eighth president Ebrahim Raisi was elected as a result of 48.8 percent turnout, the lowest in any presidential race since the 1979 revolution. He has promised to take action to lift harsh sanctions imposed by the United States and bridge the gap with dissatisfied Iranians, however, he said that he will not tie the Iran's future to the West. In a strategic move, Enrique Mora, the European Union's senior representative in the Vienna talks, is expected to attend Raisi's inauguration on 5 August 2021. There are high chances that as a result of major compromises separate EU-Iran and US-Iran agreements would be concluded. There are high hopes that 2015 nuclear deal with world powers would be revived in original. Soft corner by the Washington towards Tehran has been witnessed in the near past and after emergence of new leadership post elections, White House has reportedly offered mass immigration to the Afghan refugees through third parties as new phase of US Afghan strategy to create Iraq and Libya like situations in Afghanistan. It is being claimed the Pakistani leadership is in the knowledge of new plan but same could not be confirmed. Western and India media's are releasing stories of Taliban's anti-Shia and anti-Hazara but same could not be confirmed on ground. There were available links that suggested some Afghan factions maintaining communication with Western representatives, Iranian leadership and elements in Pakistan were also involved in terrorist attacks in Afghanistan to aggravate security situation in Afghanistan.

At the Afghan capital Kabul, President Ashraf Ghani presented a security plan to challenge the Taliban onslaught before the country's parliament, but its details have not been made public. Western nations attentions were attracted towards what the Presidential statement said, "Taliban have started violating Human Rights". In a collective move, the US and the UK as well as other western nations have accused the Taliban of "war crimes" in the southern town of Spin Boldak in Kandahar province, alleging that dozens of civilians were massacred.

Strange foreign forces have started leaving the country, Medicine Sans Frontier (MSF) coordinator looking after Helmand Project started furnishing situation reports, "There has been relentless gunfire, air strikes and mortars in densely populated areas. Houses are being bombed, and many people are suffering severe injuries." The embassies of Washington and London have started giving separate tweets in which "War Crimes of Taliban" are being highlighted. UK representative in Afghanistan tweeted, "In Spin Boldak, Kandahar, the Taliban massacred dozens of civilians in revenge killings. These murders could constitute war crimes; they must be investigated & those Taliban fighters or commanders responsible held accountable." Tweet said, "The Taliban's leadership must be held responsible for the crimes of their fighters. If you cannot control your fighters now, you have no business in governance later."



Thomas Nicholson, head of the European Union delegation to Afghanistan was not available for comments but he was quoted to have said, "If Taliban rise to power militarily, the EU will not recognise them." Afghan media reported that Nicholson said "We are clearly very concerned about the situation. We are trying to stay involved in Afghanistan as much as possible and will continue our development assistance. We will be involved politically, as well." In a statement US State Department said, "In light of increased levels of Taliban violence, the US government is working to provide certain Afghans, including those who worked with the United States, the opportunity for refugee resettlement to the US." Interestingly, UNHCR is also presenting gloomy predictions. It is expected that by the end of this month, situation would be much clear. However, fears prevails that Western allies may execute their plan to carryout mass killings of Afghans on ethnic and sectarian grounds before 10th of September to find an excuse of direct attacks on Afghanistan to hunt Taliban and affiliated.



Bangladesh as a rising economic regional power (2020 – 2021)



NEWS REPORT

By Farzana Tamannur (Bangladesh)

Bangladesh is considered as a rising star among South Asian economies. Its per capita income was \$1,856 in 2019, —considerably greater than Pakistan which is \$1,285. Its per capita income was \$250 less than that of India. In 2020, Bangladesh was ahead of India because the growth rate was 2.4 percent while India's GDP decreased by 7.3 percent. These numbers especially during the pandemic year positive rate of growth are outstanding which 6% per year is. GDP per capita now stands on \$2,227, greater than India's (\$1,947) as well as much higher than its former rulers, Pakistan (\$1,543).

Few least developed countries could match Bangladesh's record in this detail. Various pointers of human development also show noteworthy improvement: mean years of schooling were up from 4.1 to 6.2; life expectancy in 2019 was 72.6 years, a gain of over 7 years since 2000; and the country's human development index (HDI) value had moved up from 0.478 in 2000 to 0.632 in 2019. Bangladesh's HDI ranking is now 133rd out of a total of 189 countries, still comparatively low however better than both Nepal (142) and Pakistan (154). Bangladesh scores fine against India plus other South Asian countries in several social indicators, counting health, birth-rates, life expectancy, and employment of females.

Bangladesh has the prospective to become the financial hub in South Asia which needs regional and worldwide economic cooperation. Bangladesh is organizing 100 special economic zones for main investors which would create employment chances for millions

together with increased economic development that could contribute vastly to the total socio-economic development of Bangladesh. To attract foreign investments, Bangladesh passed One-Stop Service Act to offer all the essential services to investors from the same point.

The government set numerous targets for Bangladesh, specifically to accomplish the status of a middle-income country by 2021, achieving the SDG goals by 2030, converting a developed country by 2041, becoming a wonder by 2071, as well as executing a delta plan by 2100. Therefore, Bangladesh is moving onward with precise objectives in mind. Many argue that Bangladesh could be a developed nation by 2041 if the political stability in the country regime continues plus the supports from the main development partners. One of the main strengths for Bangladesh is that amongst 170 million persons more than 60 percent are energetic and lively youths who could contribute vastly to the complete development of the country. The world requires to know that Bangladesh is no more a 'global basket case'. And for this achievement, Bangladesh and its people honestly appreciate the collaboration from the

global community.

Among services, computing and microfinance are among the biggest sectors, with the country's technology exports reach about USD 1 billion yearly. The government objects to increase technology exports toward USD 5 billion by 2021. The increasing strength of the Info and Communication Technology (ICT) industry supports the pillars that would support Bangladesh's revolution to a digital economy by 2021, plus a knowledge economy by 2041. The 'Digital Bangladesh Vision' recognizes human resource development, connecting peoples, e-governance as well as the promotion of the ICT business as critical to meeting these revolution targets. The country moreover has 600,00 IT freelancers.

Bangladesh now has a regular growth rate of 8% – well above the Asian average, Asian Development Bank statistics show. A decay in population growth is moreover helping an upsurge in per capita income. The number of employed labors living underneath the poverty line fallen from 73.5% in 2010 toward 10.4% in 2018.

The garment trade that started in Bangladesh in the 1970s is now a \$30

billion business. But the economy is expanding. The services sector – containing computing and microfinance – makes up 53% of Bangladesh's GDP.

The UN assessment committee has moreover put onward some commendations such as restructuring the domestic business as well as taxation policy for the making of jobs, and recommended export and market divergence of goods to stop over-dependence on garments. The government has set a goal of USD 41 billion with 21.75 percent development for FY 2020-21 from exports of merchandise. This contains a target of USD 33.78 billion (20.88 per cent development) for the clothing sector, which contributes above 80 percent to national exports. In 2020, exports minimized to a 5-year low because of the pandemic-induced worldwide slowdown in demand plus order cancellation, contracting 14.6 percent year-on-year, with garments posting a 17 percent drop. There is no doubt that as economic progression is witnessed in Bangladesh, the country is likely to rise as one of the major economic and trade hub in the region.

Presently, the share of agronomy in GDP is around 13 per cent, though that of the industry and services segments are around 30 percent and 53 percent. Though textile includes the largest business by far, the local pharmaceutical segment is performing marvelously, having clocked 17.36 percent upper export growth throughout July to November 2020. Manufacturing of anti-coronavirus medications like Favipiravir and Remdesivir has heightened the industry. The pharmaceutical market is projected to exceed USD 6 billion by 2025, registering 114 per cent development from 2019 levels.

Great hero Sheikh Mujib Ur Rehman's assassination on Independence Day of Pakistan and India on 15 August

OPINION

By Farzana Tamannur (Bangladesh)

The month of August is the month of grief. On 15 August 1975, on the Independence Day of Pakistan and India, the greatest Pakistani-Bengali of all times, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with a maximum of his family members, was inhumanly killed by some disgruntled Army officers of newly independent Bangladesh. The confessed assassins even did not spare Sheikh Russel of 10 years child of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

In line with the continued 24-year struggles and movements against the oppressing Pakistani leaders and marginalization of poor, especially Bengalis, he did in his great speech on 7 March 1971, at Sohrawardi Udyan is a memorable one. At that day he called for 7 days Hartal to make Army back to barracks and allow people representatives to exercise their right. He said that martial should be withdrawn and Assembly should be restored only then he will decide whether to sit in the Assembly or not. In fact, West Pakistan's Army did great injustice and killed or injured innocent Bengalis. He was great leader so he asked people of Bangladesh to fight injustices by closing everything for 7 days followed by further action from 28 March 1971. He made it clear that if salaries are not made by 28 March and even a single Bengali is killed there would struggle for liberty and independence from the tyrant rulers on the basis of which Pakistan was created.

After the most authoritarian genocide occurred on the night of 25 March 1971, the country again heard his announcement of independence on the voice of Major Zia ur Rahman. On that night, the Pakistani military arrested Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from his home at Dhanmondi. He was confined for the entire nine months of the war for freedom in the jails of Pakistan. But the fight ran underneath based on his ideology. While confined, he was under the pressures of execution but never gave up on the demand to end injustices, as he is the most outstanding leader. After the war of liberty ended, Pakistan leaders as planned had no other option to release him back to Bangladesh. Sheikh Mujib Ur Rehman returned on 10 January 1972, with a heroic welcome toward his anticipated liberated Bangladesh as



Sheikh family (from left): Kameel, Rahana, Sheikh Mujib, Russell, Begum Fajjehunnissa, Jinnat and Hasina. Photo courtesy: Unknown

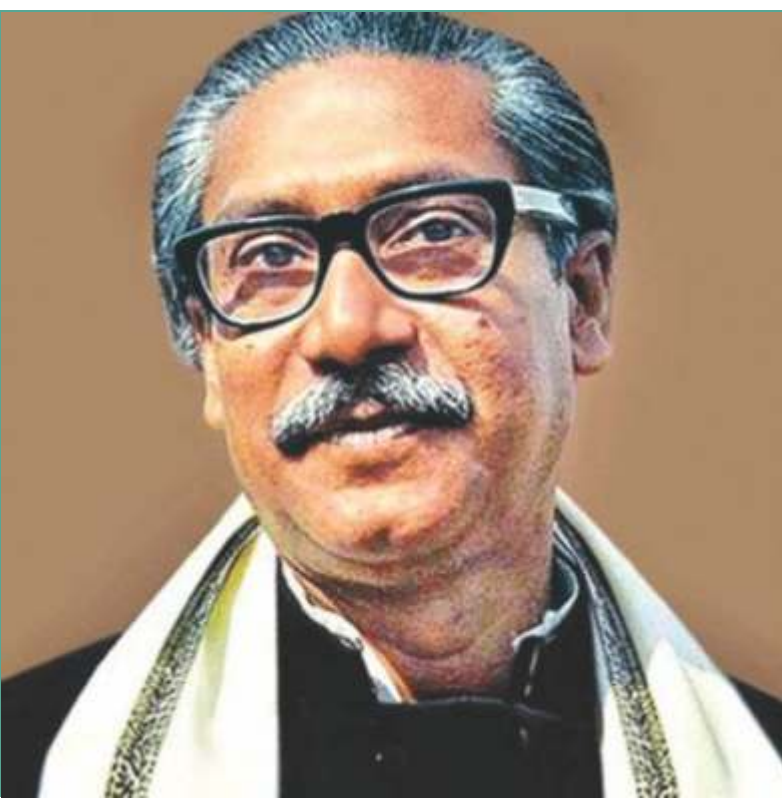
new sovereign country.

After coming back toward a war-torn country, he started working on re-establishing the nation from the wrecks of the war. In his battle towards the nation's reconstruction, he had a firm faith that the people of the government would never forget his devotion and contribution to the country. Never might consider of them as ingrates. As the president of the recently formed Bangladesh, he kept living in his non-glamorous house at Dhanmondi 32, in place of any state-provided home.

The conspiracies of the beaten evil powers never stopped and a campaign against continued in Pakistan and India but also in Bangladesh. To avenge not getting the desired results, they constantly kept laying tricks with conspiracies. Those plotters used those aspirant mist tormented army members on that 15th August murder to place such a conspiracy into reality. And they confronted the house at Dhanmondi 32, also recognized as the refinement place for independence. They killed Sheikh

Mujib Ur Rehman and all of his family members. With that monstrous, the cruelest killing ever in the history of the world plus human civilization, they not only murdered Sheikh Mujib but tried to kill the morals the thousand years anticipated and achieved ideals of liberation along with him.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, after he returned to his country as a hero, started the gigantic task of reconstruction of the war distressed country. Because he failed in understanding the gravity of the conspiracy devised against him, he fell to the bullets of the murderers and became a martyr. History would remember him as an individual who loved his country as well as its people - maybe too much. Long live his memorial. Heroes live forever. Conspirators have murdered Sheikh Mujib Ur Rehman but they could not get rid of his ideology and the purpose for which he sacrificed his life. His name would always be written in golden words for ever.



The Pakistani military arrested Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from his home at Dhanmondi. He was confined for the entire nine months of the war for freedom in the jails of Pakistan. But the fight ran underneath based on his ideology. While confined, he was under the pressures of execution but never gave up on the demand to end injustices, as he is the most outstanding leader.

The flag of Pakistan hoisted at the mount of the Pakistan Monument in Islamabad

Youm-e-Azadi



Surge for Regionalism and India's shift in Foreign policy

OPINION

By TON Research Section

The South Asian region has faced continuous security threats, poverty and many other challenges since long. The regional as well as external major powers try to attain hegemonic position over the small South Asian states. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), an organization of South Asian nations was formed for promoting cooperation in political, social, cultural, economic and commercial fields in the region but the organization failed in achieving its objectives due to the perpetual negative role played by India and its rivalry with Pakistan. India is now turning to Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) to center its foreign policy. BIMSTEC has served as an alternative for India where five SAARC countries minus Pakistan and Afghanistan, plus Thailand and Myanmar countries gather for regional cooperation. Albeit, apparently the aim behind formation of BIMSTEC was for the rapid economic development and progress in the region but India got a viable option to forge an effective regional group for its own strategic and economic interests.

India has now turned its focus towards BIMSTEC and is using it as an option of pursuing regional interests and strategic goals. BIMSTEC, after its creation has gathered more favors from India as compare to SAARC, and undoubtedly, it has been due to India's rivalry with Pakistan. As India is trying to build its sphere of influence and desires to play a hegemonic role over smaller countries, it is striving to materialize its Look East policy and Act East policy. India is all busy in trying to be regional dominant, which also cause an acute sense of insecurity in it. The Bay of Bengal region has been on radar of India along with powers from outside the region because of its emerging strategic and economic importance.

Today, the increasing significance of BIMSTEC in India's foreign policy is



mainly due to the Bay of Bengal, which can be the medium of trade and connectivity. Moreover, China's growing influence in Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and its strengthening ties with South Asian countries cause deeper stress for India. BIMSTEC provides a chance for India to build maritime identities. Its security interests are also based on geostrategic positions of south Asian members of BIMSTEC, who can help to limit the expanding influence of China in the region. All the seven members of BIMSTEC hold a unique position in India's diplomatic interests and it is the only platform which connects India to three main regions from South, East and North.

According to a report of India Ministry of External Affairs, there are 14 priority areas for cooperation in BIMSTEC out of which, India is the lead country in four areas. Although there are not much achievements from the BIMSTEC but the aim of India is clear. The last summit of BIMSTEC took

place in Katmandu, Nepal in August, 2017 which was attended by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with other leaders of BIMSTEC member countries. Next summit was scheduled for January, 2020 but postponed to August, 2021 due to COVID, now again Sri Lanka, which is the chair of the grouping, has proposed holding the BIMSTEC summit in early December, 2021. Earlier, the BIMSTEC foreign minister's meeting took place virtually on April 1st, 2021, in which agenda for the leaders meeting was discussed. In 2019, BIMSTEC member countries head of governments and states were invited to India for PM Modi's oath-taking ceremony for the second term whereas top SAARC leaders were witnessed during the first term oath taking ceremony of PM Modi.

From last few years, there is a strong surge for regionalism. As SAARC has been given less or no importance by India because SAARC never provided India another hegemonic platform. Also, another

important reason is that the interaction and regional cooperation of SAARC countries on Kashmir issue could also be a setback for India and it could possibly dim its perspective of Jammu and Kashmir.

India's enemy construct against Pakistan has inevitably resulted in mistrust and suspicion which has not let SAARC to be an effective forum. The smaller South Asian states have also underlined and needed regional cooperation because of the fast changing international environment and formed BIMSTEC but it is just another tactic of India to isolate Pakistan and counter China. India fears that the alliance of neighbor countries with China or Pakistan is a threat to its strategic as well as economic interests. However, India needs to realize that projection of soft power can much easily win the trust of neighboring countries rather than adopting hegemon behavior.

BIMSTEC

Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical & Economic Cooperation



Bangladesh



Sri Lanka



India



Nepal



Bhutan



Thailand



Myanmar

BIMSTEC has served as an alternative for India where five SAARC countries minus Pakistan and Afghanistan, plus Thailand and Myanmar countries gather for regional cooperation. Albeit, apparently the aim behind formation of BIMSTEC was for the rapid economic development and progress in the region but India got a viable option to forge an effective regional group for its own strategic and economic interests.

Bangladesh: A Friendly Home to Millions of Rohingyas

OPINION

By TON Research Section

Bangladesh has always been a friendly nation within the Indian Sub-continent. Since the influx of the Rohingyas, the Bangladeshi Government, along with UNICEF, WHO, and UNHCR, have been working hand in hand to ensure basic needs and human rights for these people. Here below, we have described how Bangladesh has been a peaceful home for the Rohingyas:

The Bangladeshi Support for education of the Rohingya Children

- Σ Nearly half a million Rohingya children in refugee camps in Bangladesh have been lobbying for their right to an excellent education.
- Σ “The Bangladeshi Government has made an essential and good commitment by allowing students to go to school and pursue their ambitions for the future. A South Asia Campaigner at Amnesty International, Saad Hammadi, said, “They have already lost two academic years and cannot afford to lose any more time outside of the classroom.”
- Σ As a result of their tremendous impact on their communities and the wider community, the benefits of educating children cannot be overstated. These people can speak up for themselves, assert their rights, and help themselves and others to get out of a sticky situation by speaking up for themselves. A child's vulnerability to poverty and exploitation might be exacerbated if they are denied education. In light of these developments, we encourage the administration to follow through on its promises.
- Σ Amnesty International sponsored an art camp at Cox's Bazar refugee camps for children on World Refugee Day this past year. In collaboration with Bangladeshi artists, kids spent two days sketching out their future dreams, including teachers, doctors, pilots, and nurses.
- Σ “Informal education program” (LCFA/GIEP) is taught in “learning centers” rather than in schools, by



“facilitators” rather than teachers. UNICEF submitted the first two levels of the informal education program to the Government for approval in March 2020, and the second two levels in July 2021.

- Σ Education in the camps is being provided by humanitarian organizations, which began slowly rolling out the first level in January of this year. The Government approved the first two levels in May 2019. Senior humanitarian official: “The education ministry has done a terrific job, but political obstructions are preventing us from making progress.”
- Σ As a result of the informal education program, learning-center instructors now have lesson plans, and students now have textbooks. There will be a total of five levels to the informal program when it's completed, which will be equivalent to nine years of school.

Support by Bangladesh for ensuring that Rohingya have access to primary health care:

- Σ Doctors Worldwide have been responding to the Rohingya Crisis in

Bangladesh since November 2020, in conjunction with the UN-IOM.

- Σ COVID-19 has been circulating for a year now, and it's more crucial than ever to assist frontline healthcare professionals. In refugee camps, healthcare personnel needs specialized training and mentorship, especially in Bangladesh, where emergency treatment is still underdeveloped.
- Σ Doctors Worldwide will provide three significant events/programs in Cox's Bazar between March and December 2021 as a result of this and months of planning to facilitate additional training opportunities for medical staff and promote their professional development. The Bangladeshi doctors and health care workers have been helping the ailing mothers, children, and people in the refugee camps as much as possible with the help of UNHCR.
- Σ 11 Rohingya refugees were killed, and 10,100 households were left without shelter when three refugee camps in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar, caught fire on March 22, 2021. Refugees' shelters and personal items were soon consumed, as were critical institutions like hospitals, primary health care facilities, learning centers, and women-friendly areas.
- Σ To help those who lost their homes and possessions, charity organizations and the Bangladeshi Government teamed up immediately after the fire broke out.
- Σ Over 800,000 cooked meals were provided to affected households by March 31, 300 emergency latrines had been erected, and emergency shelter kits were distributed to all families that had been impacted by the fire. Over 300 people were dispatched to the camps to give mental health and

psychosocial treatment to the Rohingya refugees and frontline workers who had been traumatized by the violence.

Vaccination for the Pandemic for the Rohingya Refugees by the Bangladeshi Government:

- Σ COVID-19 vaccines were given to nearly 4,000 Rohingya refugees yesterday as part of a countrywide vaccination push to stop the deadly virus's spread. 48,000 Rohingya refugees over the age of 55 are eligible for immunization in the first cohort. There is a deadline of August 17 for the push to conclude.
- Σ Bangladeshi authorities have begun vaccinating Rohingya refugees, which UNHCR applauds. A fair distribution of immunizations to Rohingya refugees is crucial to halting the spread of the continuing pandemic.
- Σ According to COVID-19 in the camps, the Rohingya refugee and host community volunteers play a vital role, according to UNHCR's Bangladesh Representative Johannes Van Der Klau. But the first step in fully protecting a community is immunization. Thank you, Bangladeshi Government, for include Rohingya refugees in this immunization campaign.”

In the fight against the pandemic, thousands of refugee and host community volunteers have been working since 2020 to educate refugees about health and cleanliness, monitor any signs of disease, and connect the refugee population with essential health services. They have helped prevent and contain epidemics of COVID-19 and saved lives.

The Bangladeshi Government has been working relentlessly to establish peace among the refugees across several refugee camps spreading in the Chittagong area. They are friendly to these neighbors and seek help from world organizations to help them ensure this peace and rights for the refugees together.

Bhutan Economic Growth and rise of inflation

OPINION

By TON Research Section

The small country of Bhutan across mountainous terrain in the heart of the Himalayas has one of the world's tiniest and smallest developed economies based on farming and forestry. However, the central source of revenue is the sale of electricity to India. The country has a continued growth due to the development of the hydroelectric sector and the vitality of the tourism area. Development was estimated to have raised to 5.3% in 2019 from 3.7% a year previous advanced power exports and domestic consumption provided support. This was also 0.4 percentage point higher than IMF's earlier estimation for growth. A reduction in tourism revenue in 2020 and 2021 due to the coronavirus epidemic and communal quarantine measures has

expansive budgetary policy. Debt-to-GDP ratio spiked from 106.6% in 2019 to 120.7% in 2020; however, most debt is considered sustainable as they are covered by financial arrangements with India under which the latter finances the construction of hydropower plans in Bhutan in exchange of power imports. At the same time, government liability is anticipated to increase to 123.4% this year. Bhutan modified its tourism policy in order to attract more tourists, who are not subjected to the daily tourism tax of USD 250. Due to this modification, the number of tourists increased substantially. Inflation is closely linked to the Indian economy as Bhutan's domestic currency ngultrum is attached to the Indian rupee. Inflation increased to 4.2% in 2020, against 2.8% in 2019 and to rise further to 4.9% in 2021/22 as the rupee loses value against major international currencies and food prices rise in the country. Fiscal

not only based on economic indicators but also on sustainable and equitable socio-economic development, environmental conservation, preservation and promotion of culture and good governance.

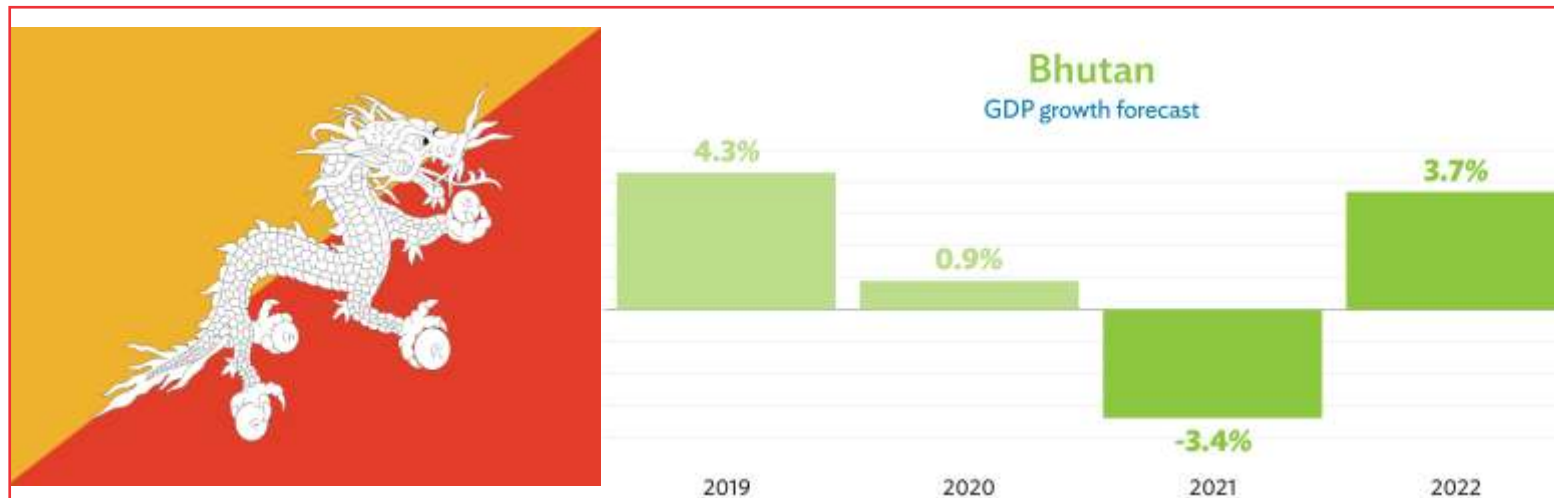
Economic growth in Bhutan is forecast to contract by 3.4% this fiscal year (FY) 2021 from 0.9% in FY2020 on account of strict pandemic restraint measures, including two lengthy nationwide lockdowns that down-graded the economic activity across sectors, according to a new report by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2021, ADB's flagship annual economic publication says economic growth is expected to recover moderately to 3.7% in FY2022 with strong policy responses to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including the country's vaccination drive.

"Inflation is expected to remain elevated on higher prices for food and

consumption, boosting the current account deficit to 10.4% of GDP.

The government of Bhutan should resolve nonperforming loans (NPL) to strengthen financial stability and contain their impact on the broader financial system, which remains critical including granting more autonomy to financial institutions in how they restructure loans, and capital strengthening through measures to improve credit underwriting at both banks and nonbank financial institutions (NBFI) and the introduction of NBFI stress-testing for credit exposure. ADB has been supporting Bhutan since 1982, concentrating its efforts on programs and projects in energy, transport, finance, and urban development. ADB has committed loans totaling \$584.06 million, grants of \$269.22 million, and technical assistance worth \$57.23 million for Bhutan. Cumulative loan and grant disbursements to Bhutan amount to \$728.5 million. In 2020, ADB responded swiftly to assist with the government's most urgent pandemic needs through a combination of program loan, investment projects, grants, and technical assistance worth \$108.9 million. Overall assistance aims to help promote reforms, support inclusive growth, domestic resource mobilization and environmental sustainability. ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty.

Economic recovery is needed to be backed by swift and strong policy response by the government, including the nationwide vaccination drive that started on 27 March 2021 with over 90% of population received the first dose in a week, restoring mobility and economic activity; strong government investment spending; and global economic recovery, reviving tourism moderately. However, it is anticipated that the Bhutan's upward growth trajectory is possible because the country fulfills its enormous potential for hydropower and as key drivers it has means and sources to generate growth, development and prosperity, with the hydropower industry, agriculture and forestry. Bhutan needs plans to up-grade its production market.



jeopardized the financial stability and economic growth. GDP is expected to lose -1.9% in 2021, after shrinking by an estimated 0.8% in 2020. However, economic growth is supported by the hydropower sector, and in 2022 it is predictable to reach 5.7%.

The government has been working on devolution from national to local governments, by expanding the share of resources allocated and by increasing their authority and functions. National self-sufficiency and inclusive socio-economic growth also remain among the pillars of the new five-year plan, meaning the government will pursue an

deficit is forecast to widen to 4.9% by 2021 before stabilizing in the medium term amid rising revenue collection. Bhutan is seeking to expand the base for the green tax by including tourist vehicles. Bhutan remains a poor country, where living conditions are made difficult by hilly areas and a poor-quality infrastructure. However, GDP per capita doubled between 2004 and 2014 whereas the poverty rate fell to 9.9% in 2019. Unemployment remained low at 2.4% in 2020 unchanged from a year earlier (2.3%). Bhutan is also the first country using the Gross National Happiness index to enhance the well-being of its population

transportation. Risks to the growth outlook tilt to the downside, particularly slower than expected revival in tourism amid renewed virus outbreaks with new variants. " Inflation is expected to rise 6.4% in FY2021 due to supply chain disruption and panic buying. However, inflation is forecast to ease to 5.3% in FY2022 as prices are expected to trend lower in India and domestic conditions improve. The current account deficit will moderate to 7.7% of gross domestic product (GDP) in FY2021 as imports contract on falling domestic demand. In FY2022, imports are forecast to revive on recovery in investment and private



BJP's National Hegemony and Role of West Bengal in Future Indian Politics

OPINION

By TON Research Section

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has iron grip over Indian politics since in power from 2014 and then again he came back in power with bigger victory in 2019 elections. However, it seems that Mamata Banerjee's political victory in West Bengal elections is an event that will change the political discourse in the country. Mamata Banerjee was facing extreme formidable challenge in elections of West Bengal because she was standing against the Modi-led BJP. The Bengal win of Banerjee has now prompted a view in the country that a possible opposition unity may be formed in 2024 elections in country against PM Modi. The Trinamool Congress party (TMC) led by the Mamata Banerjee has won more than 200 seats in the 294-seat assembly. Banerjee became the Chief Minister of West Bengal for the third time. Modi addressed hundreds of rallies before election, hoping to widen his Hindu policy whereas, Mamata Banerjee ran his election campaign on wheel chair and won two-third majority, diminishing the hopes of Modi government. Certainly, the BJP defeat of West Bengal has reversed the political game in country.

Earlier, Banerjee lost in Lok Sabha elections of 2019 whereas, the BJP was successful in gaining the power but after the biggest flop show of BJP in West Bengal, the Indian politics will not remain the same. After the massive setback for BJP, many BJP leaders have gone back to TMC and many more members are in touch with Banerjee's party. The outcome of elections in West Bengal has created a situation that all regional parties can unite under Banerjee's leadership. The BJP government has very low success rate against regional parties, which will worry the BJP government now. The opposition parties also seems to be eager in overcoming internal differences, now more than ever.

Earlier on 19th January, 2019 the foundation of a fledgling 'Mahagathbandhan' was laid in a rally organized by Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata, which was attended by national and state opposition leaders. Albeit, the Grand Alliance of political parties lived for very short-term and Narendra Modi returned to power with massive victory. Albeit, now after the victory of Banerjee in West Bengal new determination for a united front against BJP is noticeable. Despite the chequered history of coalition governments in India, union of



opposition parties or 'Mahagathbandhan' has become a compulsion to stand against the BJP's national hegemony that is constant from last few years.

Mamata Banerjee of West Bengal is now preparing to face the BJP in 2024. Speaking at an election meeting in April at Chunchura, Mamata Banerjee said, "I will win Bengal with one leg and Delhi with two legs." The grand opposition against BJP may be possible and the united Opposition under Mamata Banerjee can trouble the BJP and also the rest of the political parties in the future elections. BJP's defeat in West Bengal elections was a big setback for Modi government and it was the result of the mismanagement of Modi government and its least interest in making proper strategy to control the spread of coronavirus, which has left the country in crisis. The people of India now want to hold the BJP government accountable for the gross administrative negligence. It seems that more setbacks are to come for PM Modi in the near future and what happened in Bengal elections is just the start.

The schemes and projects started by PM Modi like 'Swachh Bharat' appears to have little or no impact. Job opportunities have decreased and the area of Foreign policy is also badly affected plus it has very few achievements. India's relations with almost all of its neighbouring countries have turned problematic.

Moreover, the COVID-19 crisis has pushed the middle class Indian citizens towards poverty. The corona virus pandemic has exposed the Modi-led BJP government. It is now hard for Modi government to wipe out these fault lines and regain the position that it had enjoyed previously. Surely, there seems hard times coming for PM Modi.

PM Modi definitely needs to improve his government and his policies. However, now it looks that there is no more Modi wave in the country and due to mismanagement to tackle COVID-19 crisis there is a strong sense of aversion hanging in the air against the central ruling party, BJP. The win of Banerjee in Bengal elections has opened up new possibilities in the country but the strategy she adopts will be significant in terms to take hold of the local and national politics. United Opposition under Mamata Banerjee can trouble the BJP and rest of the political parties in the future elections. However, it should also not be neglected that PM Modi has two forces Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and BJP behind him that will help him hold the national political stage again. Indian political mood seems to be undergoing a shift but still the implications of the shift are unclear.



The schemes and projects started by PM Modi like 'Swachh Bharat' appears to have little or no impact. Job opportunities have decreased and the area of Foreign policy is also badly affected plus it has very few achievements. India's relations with almost all of its neighbouring countries have turned problematic.

OPINION

By TON Research Section

Sri Lanka's worst economic downturn and mounting debt

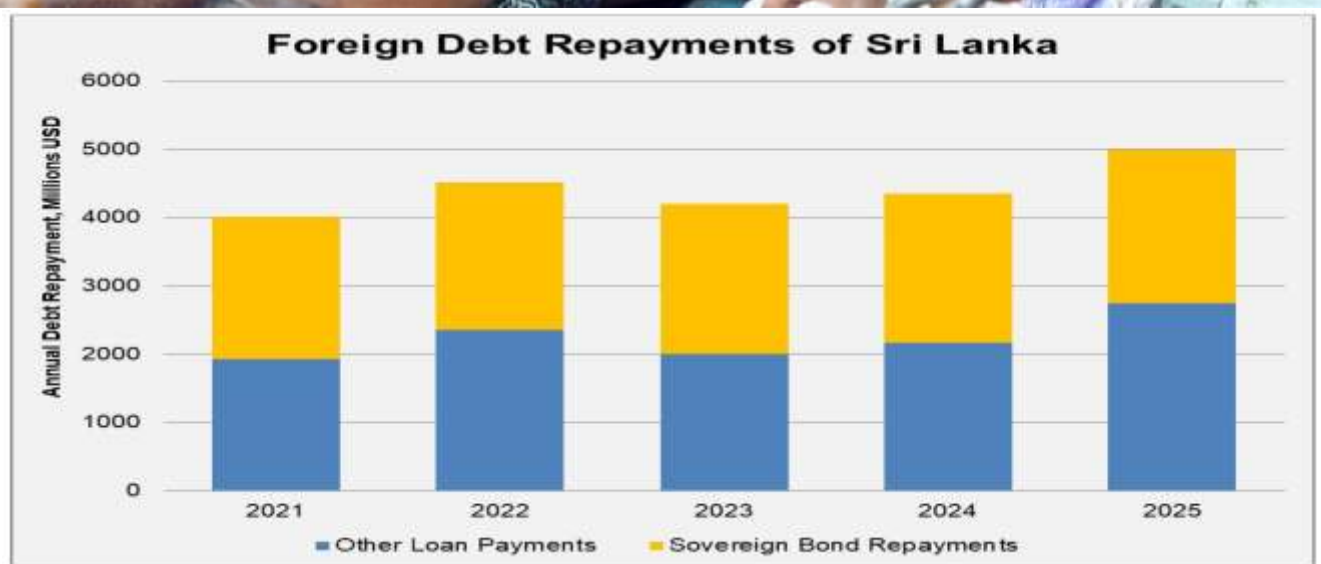
Sri Lanka's GDP per capita is one of the largest among South Asian countries but despite that Sri Lanka is facing worst economic downturn in 73 years. The economy of Sri Lanka was in trouble before the start of Corona virus pandemic however, Sri Lanka is trying to sustain economic growth but the government's high debt payment remained a concern and has contributed to the debt crisis. Sri Lanka's economy was already in trouble since South Asian island nation's civil war ended in 2009 and after that in 2019, the Easter bombings hit hard Sri Lanka's tourism sector in which 250 people were killed. Tourism sector was one of the important sources of foreign exchange earnings which amount for about 5% of GDP earning and provide jobs to 3 million of Sri Lanka's population. As if what happened was not enough, lockdowns during the corona virus pandemic had further damaged the already struggling growth and economy of the country.

However, there is no doubt that Sri Lanka has made significant progress after the military defeated Tamil rebels in 2009 albeit, today the Sri Lanka's economy is again having worst downturn in the years. The growing national deficit and rising debt has put the currency under pressure. The local currency fell to record low and can be rescued only by a \$660 million loan from China.

The central Bank of Sri Lanka declared at the end of 2020 that the country's economy had contracted by 3.6 per cent and has recording the heavy recession since 1948. Moreover, Sri Lanka is also struggling with revenue collection and earlier, government funds and economy both were dwindling. Moreover, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows remained low and the government was not successful in reaching the target which caused drop in Sri Lanka's foreign reserves. And now the foreign exchange reserves had run dry to a level that are barely enough to pay for imports of last three months at a time when big repayments of its foreign debts are falling due, that is further damaging its financial system. International rating agencies have also showed their concern over the ability of Sri Lanka to service its huge foreign debt as the country's foreign reserves fell sharply in 2020. The government has limited U.S. dollar transactions. So far Sri Lanka paid \$1.3 billion debt and in this year, Sri Lanka requires totaling \$3.7 billion to make debt payments. Central Bank of Sri Lanka says that its currency is weakening against other major currencies making the payments more costly.

Although, Sri Lanka's foreign debt troubles are not new and have more often led to balance of payment (BOP) issues, which is much more than its huge borrowing from many other foreign sources. In spite of the limits imposed, imports still surpass the country's exports. From the last four decades; Sri Lanka has been relying heavily on loans from foreign countries for development, which results in a large foreign debt stock. Sri Lanka's government obtained several rounds of loans for construction and development from China and most of the loan repayments have not been started yet. Sri Lanka is also been seen as a country that has fell into debt trap of China due to the many projects that are financed by China but now debt problem of the Sri Lanka goes beyond China.

According to the central bank, Sri Lanka obtained a \$1.5 billion swap facility from China earlier this year



and \$400 million swap from India will be available by August to help rebuild its reserves. Now, Sri Lanka is in need of sufficient foreign currency inflow for the repayments of foreign debt which is only possible through increased exports, FDI or more external debt albeit, Sri Lanka failed to fulfill any of these to equal its growing foreign debt repayment obligations. So far, Sri Lanka's government has not been able to eliminate the fear

of economic downturn. The main reason behind the ongoing economic crisis is the structural weaknesses like low tax revenue, reduction in trade and others. Failure of the Sri Lanka's government to provide long-term inclusive and consistent solutions to deal with all the structural weaknesses has resulted in the economic crisis in the country and now concrete steps are needed to overcome the economic crisis in the country.

The head of the economic research group Point Pedro Institute of Development, Muttukrishna Sarvananthan said that “The condition of the economy is in dire straits; there is no doubt about it.”

The worsening Law and Order situation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir

OPINION

By TON Research Section

Recently, in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leadership has expressed abysmal concern over the Indian policy of colonialism calling it shameless violations of the United Nations Security Council resolutions, which visibly describe Jammu and Kashmir as a disputed land. According to Kashmir Media Service, the APHC General Secretary, in a statement issued in Srinagar, termed the issuance of the domicile certificates to the non-state subject spouses as a brazen plot of implementation of the new set of laws to change the demography of the disputed territory.

He said that India as an aggressor has traversed all limits of illegitimate domination which had never been accepted by the freedom-loving people of Kashmir. The APHC leader pressed the United Nations Secretary General, to take serious acquaintance of the Indian state terrorism and its propelling designs in the disputed territory. On the other hand, he further said that the Indian media report claims of killing 36 persons killed in the month of June and July in Kashmir by Indian troops is a pack of lies, instead the troops martyred 42 Kashmiris and wants to hood wink the international community by hiding the actual figures of their brutal killings. In the meantime, Indian troops have launched a cordon and search operation in Akhnoor area of Jammu.

In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, APHC has warned that the current Indian fascist regime has chalk out a long-term policy to kill the Kashmiri people one by one to change the demography structure of the disputed territory. The APHC Working Vice Chairman, in a statement in

Srinagar strongly condemned the relentless cordon and search operations and said that the Indian occupational forces did not spare Kashmiris even during the sacred days of Eid-ul-Azha.

He paid rich tributes to the last week's martyrs and deplored that India is using its military power in an uncivilized way to quash the Kashmiris. He added that New Delhi had absolutely unsuccessful in its despicable designs in Indian occupied Kashmir. The APHC leader said the horrible situation created by the presence of one million Indian occupational forces requires immediate intervention by the UN chief, to stop the genocide of innocent Kashmiris in the territory and arrange a free and fair plebiscite to resolve the Kashmir dispute according to their true wishes and aspirations of the people of Kashmir.

While director General of Police of Jammu and Kashmir said the efforts of the police force to combat militancy in Jammu and Kashmir have carried out a large number of operations and 83 terrorists have been killed during the operations this year. Moreover, massive cordon and search operations continued in Bandipore district and Indian troops had further martyred three youths in the area on last Saturday. In Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, on the call of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) complete shutdown was observed on the visit of Indian President to the territory, on Tuesday.

The APHC Spokesman in a statement said that the visit was tantamount to add injury to insult and rub salt on the bleeding wounds of Kashmiris, who are under the worst kind of military siege, especially since 5th August 2019. He said ruthless genocide, custodial killings, random imprisonments, indescribable carnages, loot, plunder; wrecking



residential houses and recurrent cordon and search operations with impunity have become a persistent policy of Indian government in the territory. He said in this gruesome situation, any visit of an Indian dignitary meant to support the reign of terror of its forces to tighten inhumane military siege and inflict bloodshed and havoc on the freedom-loving people.

The APHC spokesman said that the Indian president as head of Indian armed forces, involved in massacring

Kashmiri youth with impunity, was on a military mission to mingle with the forces' personnel and devise the strategy on how to intensify killings and brutalities in the territory. Keeping in view the above-mentioned facts, it is the prime responsibility of the United Nations Council for Human Rights and other global human rights organizations to prevent India from committing genocide of Kashmiris and play their active role in resolving the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.



In Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, on the call of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) complete shutdown was observed on the visit of Indian President to the territory, on Tuesday.



Gruesome crimes against Dalit women in India

OPINION

By TON Research Section

A nine year-old-girl belonging to the most oppressed Dalit community in India has been gang-raped, murdered and then forcibly cremated in capital New Delhi. The gruesome sexual crime has again brought into focus the widespread violence and caste prejudice in the Indian society against Dalit community.

According to Indian authorities, the girl had gone to fetch water from a crematorium, nearby her house in southwestern New Delhi. After the girl did not return for half an hour, the crematorium's priest, 55-year-old Radhey Shyam, called the mother, showed her the body and told her that her daughter had been electrocuted.

Her family said that when the girl did not return, they went looking for her. The mother said she saw her daughter's body on the floor of the crematorium with bruises all over. She said the priest and three other men at the crematorium told her not to call the police and threatened her.

According to IngitPratap Singh, a senior Delhi police official, citing a statement from the victim's mother said, "The girl was lying on a bench there, they told her mother that look, her lips are blue and her body is burnt from the lips down to the wrist." Shyam and three other crematorium employees convinced the mother to cremate the body, claiming it would be a hassle to involve the police, said Singh.

According to the police, the suspects then incinerated the girl's body against the family's wishes, without calling authorities. Four men including the crematorium's priest, have been arrested on charges of rape and murder of the girl, police said.

The gruesome incident sparked outcry in the village and hundreds of protestors gathered on the streets in the New Delhi, demanding justice. Today, gruesome crimes against Dalit women in India are on rise. What happened in New Delhi is not an isolated incident, there are a number of other such cases which mostly go unreported. According to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), "widespread custodial torture and killing of Dalits, rape and sexual assault of Dalit women, and looting of Dalit property by the police are condoned, or at best ignored." The victims of Dalit communities struggle to get justice and the police more often do not register the crimes against scheduled castes under the Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989 and the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1995. The police and other officials actively allow people of dominant caste to commit violence and atrocities against Dalits with impunity.

Caste based discrimination and violence is continuously being practiced in Indian society and Dalit community, particularly Dalit women face extreme atrocities. Dalit's former "untouchable" community are still at the lowest level in India's complex caste hierarchy. In 1950, national constitution of India legally abolished the practice of "untouchability" even though the burden of social disabilities on Dalit community still remains a part of Indian society. This lowest level of India's rigid Hindu caste hierarchy is vulnerable to sexual violence and other attacks. More than 160 million people in India are considered "untouchables" and this caste system reflect them as impure or less than human beings therefore this



community face complete social isolation and are segregated by caste.

According to annual Crimes in India -2019 report published by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Crime against Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) saw an increase of over 7% and 26% respectively in year 2019 compared to 2018. The crime rate registered per lakh women population is 62.4 in 2019 as compared with 58.8 in 2018. NCRB report says that India reported a total 32,033 rape cases in 2019, 11 percent were from Dalit community. According to NCRB statistics India recorded 88 rape cases every day in 2019 and every fourth rape victim is a child. According to the crime records bureau about 46,000 cases of crime were reported in 2019 against oppressed

castes.

The Dalit communities in India are deprived of their basic economic, political, social, and cultural rights. India has been ranked 131 out of 189 countries on the Human Development Index 2020. Although, a number of protective measures and privileges in education and employment are granted to Dalit community under constitutional provisions but none has been implemented successfully till now. The Indian government has failed in protecting Dalits, the most socially excluded community in India. The last couple of years has seen very disturbing events in the India where hatred and divisive politics of Modi government has created more threats to the security of Dalits especially Dalit women's and other scheduled castes and tribes.

Ironically, violence and gang rape have been systematically used as a weapon by dominating castes and landlords in India to repress Dalit women and reinforce rigid caste hierarchy, which also creates hurdles in raising their voice against injustice and exploitation. Indian government needs to eliminate this communal hatred, caste system and brutal acts of violence against women of lower castes from the country. The use of sexual abuse and other forms of violence against Dalit women is a clear evidence of widespread exploitation and discrimination against these women. However, today the extreme marginalization of Dalit population requires efforts by government to ensure their security and development and there is a need to bring sexual offenders to justice.

The Maoist insurgency and Indian Government failure to tackle tribal grievances

OPINION

By TON Research Section

India's Maoist (Naxalite) insurgency is one of the biggest internal security threat. The Maoist insurgency started as communist peasant revolt in late 1950s and early 1960s in India. Later on it turned into a combination of ethnic, caste, class-based political and socioeconomic battle in many poorest provinces in East of India. The first armed uprising against landlords of the Naxalbari village in eastern state of India of West Bengal was launched on 1967 which sowed the seed of insurgency. This armed uprising inspired other rebels in the country and became known as Naxalism or Naxalite movement, which was originated as a Maoist movement, struggling for liberation in the small village along India-Nepal border.

The Maoists waged an armed struggle against Indian government for decades and are considered as India's biggest internal security threat. This movement was named as Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) by government of India. The Naxalites operate in about 90 districts across 11 states of India and fighting against Indian government and security forces. Naxal insurgency has moved to the southern states of India, led by Communist Party of India (Maoists) and is active in the states of Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, where they mainly operate in mineral-rich territory or forest area in the east and south of the country also known as "Red corridor."

The people from the tribal areas were driven to join the Maoists due to the grievances with the government of India, who started a series of development projects in the 1980s and removed these tribals from their land in the name of public greater good. Most of the land area was inhabited by tribal people but the acquiring of land by government for mining operations and other projects rehabilitated millions of natives and thus the systematic marginalization contributed to the insurgency movement. Undoubtedly, the government resettlement programs are clearly at fault which alienated and marginalized tribal population. The insurgency seems unlikely to end because the Maoists will continue to support tribals until the government does not meet their grievances of its own people.

Recently, Indian security forces have increased operations against ultra-left-wing guerrillas in the country and regular clashes are witnessed between the Maoists and the security forces. On 3rd April, 2021, about 22 members of Indian security forces were killed, 31 injured and 29 Maoists including women and children were killed during a four-hour gun battle between both in Sukma District of Chhattisgarh. Earlier, on 23rd March, 2021, 5 security personnel were killed and at least 13 were injured in Narayanpur district of Chhattisgarh. Currently, the number of Maoist-linked incidents have decreased due to the heavy operations of Indian security forces against them. However, it

seems from the policy of Indian government for the Maoists and the poor tribals against which the Indian government is fighting and killing them with pride are not countrymen as much as the powerful are.

The police in one of the districts in Chhattisgarh have published findings of survey conducted in January, which figures out Maoist strongholds in the region however, later in July investigation was followed up and results showed that 15 villages were free of Maoists. However, it cannot be predicted that the insurgency in the region is completely over because the Naxal movement is mainly supported by tribal population of the country, who are neglected by the government and left behind in India's economic boom.

Naxalite movement takes up the cause of marginalized section of society in India. The economic marginalization, poverty, social exclusion, political instability, corruption, supremacy of landlords and several other factors have contributed to the ongoing Maoist insurgency.

According to United Nations Human development index report 2020, India has been positioned at 131 out of 189 countries and territories, slipping two positions down than previous year. People are deprived of their basic rights. Increase in poverty and the treatment of Indian government with the people has created hatred for local and central administration. The cycle of resistance and revenge between powerful and poor led to such insurgencies.

Albeit, the battle between the Maoists and the Indian government cannot be overlooked, it is indeed very complex and the heavy presence of security forces and armed personnel have strained the situation more. Moreover, Indian government has failed to tackle tribal grievances. The government's view to eliminate Maoist's military through operations against them is not the solution of the problem because a number of unsatisfied people from indigenous communities join this insurgent group and Indian government and security forces are busy in killing their own people.

Insurgencies do not arise in vacuum. The frustrations, grievances and other unheard demands of people motivates such revolts against the government. Today, there is a rift between poor and rich in India, which needs to be reduced. A new wave of Maoist insurgency cannot be terminated if the rich continues to get richer and the poor get poorer day by day. The benefits of economic growth should be for the people who really need it. The systematic economic exploitation in urban areas of India need serious attention because these socioeconomic factors inspire Naxal insurgency and in addition, the conflicting views need to be heard by the government.

The Naxalite-Maoist insurgency



The Everlasting Friendly Ties between India and Bangladesh: Exports and Imports

NEWS REPORT
By TON Research Section

India and Bangladesh are two of the vibrant and prospering countries within the Indian Subcontinent. The two nations have also got a friendly relationship between their people, government and all. Since centuries Indian West Bengal and present Bangladesh was one State. The relationship further developed after the liberation war of 1971. India has always been helping Bangladesh in many ways for redeveloping the country.

The two countries typically have amicable relations with each other, yet there are some problems unresolved. On 6 June 2015, the historical land border accord concluded for decades-old border disputes, but the Transboundary River Water Sharing negotiations still is pending. SAARC, BIMSTEC, IORA and the Commonwealth are common to Bangladesh and India.

Below here, we have described the relationship between Bangladesh and India in different sectors:

The Cooperation Between India and Bangladesh During this global pandemic:

Bangladesh began vaccination campaigns on 7 February 2021 Covishield Vaccines provided by India's Serum Institute. Bangladesh obtained an additional 7 million doses, and India gave an extra 3.3 million doses.

However, the export of vaccines was stopped due to the spread of coronavirus epidemic in India. It hindered Bangladesh's vaccination campaign. The history, language, culture and many more commonalities between Bangladesh's territory and India's West Bengal have linkages between India and Bangladesh. The



good bilateral relationships show the widespread sovereignty, equality, trust and understanding cooperation that extends well beyond strategic partnerships.

The year 2020 saw high solid level political and governmental commitments, notwithstanding the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, starting with a New Year's greeting exchange between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sheikh Hasina on 1 January 2020.

The participation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the 100th-anniversary celebration of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the course of a video message of 17 March 2020, and his phone calls to PM Hasina on 29 April, to greet and discuss the regional situation following the COVID-19 pandemic, and again, to greet the Eid reflect on 25 May 2020, speaks of Indian interest in Bangladesh.

On 17 December 2020, the two Prime Ministers convened a virtual platform

summit to address all areas of bilateral relations and to exchange perspectives on both worldwide and regional concerns. On this occasion, the two countries signed seven bilateral MOUs in diverse sectors, covering hydrocarbons, agriculture, trade, development projects, and cultural protection.

The two Prime Ministers also released a postal stamp created by the Indian government commemorating the centennial of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Two bilateral projects were held at this time, the Beautification and City Development Project in Rajshahi City and Construction at the Girls' College in Khalishpur.

The Exports and Imports Between these two Neighboring Nations:

Bangladesh in South Asia is India's major trading partner due to common border of once united Bengal. Bilateral commerce has increased substantially during the previous decade between India and Bangladesh. India's exports

to Bangladesh amounted to \$9.21 trillion in FY 2018-19, and imports reached \$1.04 billion in the same year. China is also friend of Bangladesh. Beijing favours the Bangladesh trade imbalance with China. In 2018-19, China shipped 1,3638 million dollars worth of commodities to Bangladesh, while exports in Bangladesh totaled 568 million dollars.

An Economic Survey by TON's experts indicated that India might take specific “lessons” from Bangladesh, a rice exporting country, and focus on products that competitively support it. It says that Bangladesh appears to emerge as a dominating exporter because its outgoings growth rate (CAGR) was excellent, compared to 0.9% for India and 0.4% for the globe, of 8.6% between 2011 and 2019.

The Bangladesh-India relation is one of the most promising ones out there within the Indian sub-continent. We anticipate this relation to only get better in future.

The Tabular data presents the exports which India have done to Bangladesh in the year 2020:

India exports to Bangladesh	Value	Year
Cotton	\$1.70B	2020
Mineral fuels, oils, distillation products	\$855.89M	2020
Vehicles other than railway, tramway	\$588.48M	2020
Machinery, nuclear reactors, boilers	\$536.33M	2020
Cereals	\$351.69M	2020
Organic chemicals	\$289.37M	2020
Coffee, tea, mate and spices	\$278.81M	2020
Electrical, electronic equipment	\$264.40M	2020
Iron and steel	\$240.23M	2020
Plastics	\$236.62M	2020

India forcing its Tamil population into Sri Lanka and rise of secessionist movement

NEWS REPORT

By TON Research Section

Sri Lanka's geo-strategic location is significant from the fact that it is nearly in the center of Asia and its sea lines between the Far East and the African and Arab worlds. The site gives the island a central position on the maritime trade route between West and East Asia. Ships pass from Yangon and Calcutta goes from west to the Suez and the Cape and those sailing from Bombay or the Gulf and eastward to Singapore use Sri Lanka's excellent harbors in Colombo and Trincomalee. The island nation thus occupies a vital place in the critical sea lines of communication. Much of the trade and naval activity in the Indian Ocean can be monitored from here. Trincomalee has the capability to serve as a key naval base and an extra regional naval force could fully dominate the sea routes in the area including those of India and could disrupt Indian shipping easily. Therefore, it plays an important role in its security, as it occupies one of the most exposed and central position of any country in the world. India wants Sri Lanka, the island nation to be part of India's coastal and naval defense. Sri Lanka views it as a design of India expansionism and direct interference in its internal affairs.

The nature of relations between the two countries Sri Lanka and India on the basis of threat perceptions and suspicions are manifold. The ethno composition of Sri Lanka and majority of Sri Lankan people whether they are Sinhala, Tamil or Muslim belong to the same ethnic stock as India's population and cultural affinities extend

not only to religion like Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam but also to language. The Tamil language is common to Tamil Nadu as well as north Sri Lanka. Though the Sinhalese are the majority community in Sri Lanka in comparison to the Tamils of Sri Lanka but together with the Tamils of Tamil Nadu from India, they suffer from a minority complex. These factors have played a major role in Sri Lanka, determining its course of events in dealing between the two countries. India is purposely forcing its Tamil origin population as a tool to create unrest and chaos inside Sri Lanka, due to which Sri Lankan authorities are facing severe law and order issues.

To meet the difficult situation following the riots, Sri Lanka planned to assume a military solution to the problem. Thus a series of steps were taken whereby Sri Lanka approached other countries for political and military help. India was not asked for similar help as its sympathies lay with the Sri Lankan Tamils. These moves of Sri Lanka resulted in facilitating the strategic presence of the forces hostile to India's security interests. As Sri Lanka in itself was not a threat to India but the latter feared that by these measures the island nation would only become a seat for outside influences. The relevance of India's security concern prompted India to involve itself in the Sri Lankan crises first in the capacity as a mediator and later through IPKF.

The divergences also arise owing to the differences of views between both the countries and the manner in which they have tried to accommodate their interests regarding Tamil issue. It is clear that given

the size of the two countries, straight threat is received from India to Sri Lanka. The two countries are separated at the closest point by 22 miles. As far as direct threat to India's territorial integrity is concerned, it does not have any threat from Sri Lanka but has the apprehension that any power gaining a foothold in Sri Lanka, might be in a position detrimental to the security of India.

Additionally, Sri Lanka being an island nation dealing with security perceptions brings the important issue of the place island country in India's naval defense perceptions, which is an important aspect while dealing with the security discernments of India's other immediate neighbors. Such threats have necessarily resulted in a divergence of security approaches and perceptions of both the countries. This is one of the reasons that India's actions were motivated by its desire to not only increase its regional influence but also to preserve its multiethnic provinces intact like Tamil Nadu from any insurgency in the future. The Sri Lankan Tamils' attempt of secessionism, if become successful could influence the Indian state of Tamil Nadu which would be the first to demand secession from India. It is in this respect that the territorial integrity of Sri Lanka is the foremost importance to India. Along with this by interference in Sri Lanka it wants to win the hearts of its 50 million Tamil citizens of India who were sympathetic to the Tamils of Sri Lanka.

For Sri Lanka, the concern arises from the existence of a minority complex of the majority Sinhalese community when seen in comparison with the Tamils of the

Indian state of Tamil Nadu separated hardly by 22 miles in the Palk Strait. The permanency in this reality will always give rise to doubts and suspicions about its only neighbor, India. It is in-between these limits that the two countries' divergences and convergences will have to be expressed. India is the country which is interfering in Sri Lanka since long. India's government actions and the growing political power of the military are instead generating new grievances that increase the risk of an eventual return to violence into Sri Lanka.

Previously, after the riots, refugees started fleeing to Tamil Nadu. The Sri Lankan question became of concern for the people in the Indian state, and it eventually grew into a major political issue in Tamil Nadu. With this, the populist Dravidian political parties saw the potential increase their political hegemony. Close links were built between Indian Tamil political parties and activists (primarily DMK and DK). Moreover, Sri Lankan Tamil militants trained and assisted by both the Tamil Nadu government by the order of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and the state government of India for violent incidents inside Sri Lanka. Not only they had an easy access to weapons but they were also involved in gems and drugs smuggling and other similar contrabands.

Therefore, it is better advised that India should refrain itself from interfering not only in Sri Lanka but also its other neighbors' countries which are fed up from Indian involvements in their territories by one or other, which has jeopardized the regional stability of South Asia and created a war-like situation in the area.



Previously, after the riots, refugees started fleeing to Tamil Nadu. The Sri Lankan question became of concern for the people in the Indian state, and it eventually grew into a major political issue in Tamil Nadu.

OPINION

By TON Research Section

Inter-states tug of War in India

Partition of subcontinent is hopscotch of blunders. The border disputes are not only limited to India with its neighboring countries but it moves to the states within India. Recently, the long-standing dispute between the two states of India, Assam and Mizoram took an ugly turn few days back. In the recent clashes at least six of the army personnel were killed and about 60 were injured as a result of Assam and Mizoram policemen firing on each other. Those killed in the clashes were all policemen from Assam. Tension between both the states escalated on 26th July, when police on both sides fired at each other. The escalation was sudden but the dispute has its roots in pre-partition. Earlier, in October 2020, at least eight people were been killed in clashes, twice in a week between residents of Assam and Mizoram over territory. Moreover, shops on both sides were also destroyed in those clashes.

The Chief Minister of Assam Himanta Biswa Sarma and Mizoram Zoramthanga argued and blamed each other for the violence and asked the central government for intervention. After a meeting between Assam ministers Ashok Singh and Atul Bora with three representatives from Mizoram, both the states issued a joint statement saying that “Both the states shall not send their respective forest and police forces for patrolling, domination, enforcement or for fresh deployment to any of the areas where confrontation and conflict has taken place between police forces of the two states in recent times,” it added that “Both the state governments agree to maintain peace in the inter-state border areas and welcome the deployment of neutral force by the Government of India in this regard.”

The movement of vehicles and goods has been effected by the blockade by locals in Assam's Cachar district. Mizoram claimed that Assam has blocked all the roads entering and exiting from Mizoram, hindering vehicle movement and wrote a letter to Union Home Ministry stating that “The NH-306 is the main highway for transportation of essential commodities and other goods. The blockade has already affected life and livelihood adversely in Mizoram,” it added that “Vehicles bound for Mizoram which have been stranded on NH-306 at Lailapur since July 26 want to enter Mizoram without delay. In this regard kindly make all necessary arrangements immediately for enabling their entry into Mizoram without any law and order problem in Assam. The government of Mizoram gives it assurance for the safety and security of all drivers, passengers and their vehicles within Mizoram.” This comes on a day when the Union Home Secretary held a meeting with chief secretaries of both states in New Delhi.

The violence and clashes on the border between two states of India spotlights the long-standing boundary issues in the subcontinent. During the colonial rule, Mizoram was part of Assam and was known as “Lushai Hills” and after that it became a Union territory in 1972. Later on it was upgraded to a full-fledged state in 1987, following an agreement between the government of India and Mizo National Front (MNF), who started independence campaign and secession movement of Mizoram from the Union of India and it lasted for 20 years. According to that agreement “status quo should be maintained at no-man's land set up in the boundaries.” Now Assam and Mizoram are separate states of India and share a 165km-long border. Three districts in Assam: Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj shares border with three districts of Mizoram: Aizawl, Kolasib and Mamit. The origin of the border disputes is a 1,318 sq km (509 square miles) area of hills



and forests that Mizoram claims as its own on the basis of British law of 1875. Assam recognizes that it's claimed boundary as transgressed and is part of its “constitutional boundary”. This forested region has dispute at several points and both the states keeps on accusing each other of their land encroachment. Both the states contest its demarcation.

Although, these border disputes are not new in India but the role of BJP-led Modi government is not very impressive. Amid this alarming situation in Assam-

Mizoram border dispute, PM Modi remained silent and refrained from giving any public statements regarding the situation in the northeast of country. However, it seems like any border solving misstep or taking side of one of the two states can damage and decrease the influence of BJP-led North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA) that's why the Modi-led central government seems to be less interested in solving border disputes and gives the impression to be more interested in political win.

Certainly, these inter-state boundary disputes and clashes tell a lot about India's inner situation and the blunders in partition. There are about seven other inter-states boundary disputes in the country which are the result of upheavals during the colonial rule and partition of the subcontinent. So far, no serious efforts have been made to solve the inter-states disputes in the country. The discussions and meetings on inter-state boundary disputes have led to temporary cease fire but the real problem goes unaddressed. The approach of putting the national as well as international issues on back has become new normal for Indian government, which is needed to be changed.

The Implications of COVID-19 Pandemic in India

NEWS REPORT

By TON Research Section

The spread of COVID-19 worries have sent shock waves across global financial markets and brought social and economic lives to a low-degree and it badly affected all spheres of human life in India once the hot-bed of tourism such as health, education, religious activities cargo, shipping, aviation, tourism, retail prices, capital markets and oil etc. The interactions is restricted, and the revenues generated by travel and tourism are badly hit which contributes 9.2% of the GDP of India. The Aviation revenues has come down by USD 1.56 billion. Oil has plummeted to 18-year low of \$ 22 per barrel and Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have withdrawn huge amounts from India, about USD 571.4 million. Rupee is continuously depreciating at all-time low. The crisis witnessed a horrifying mass departure of floating population of migrants on foot, amidst countrywide lockdown. Their concerns were mainly loss of job, earning daily bread and absence of a social security net.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has jammed nations in a massive way and the nations-wide lockdowns which have brought socio-economic life to non-existent. This COVID-19 pandemic affected all sectors of India including hospitality, tourism, traveling, healthcare, banks, hoteling, education, health, IT, recreation, media and others. The pandemic become a source of sharp decline in demand for goods and services by the consumers in the market on the other, thus led to a collapse India economy.

The tourism industry is too-much affected due to the COVID crisis world-wide. Lakhs of people associated with tourism industry lost their jobs in India. Tourism in India accounted for 9.2 per cent of GDP and had generated US\$247.3 billion in 2018, with the creation of 26.7 million jobs. The coronavirus pandemic has stopped international travellers to India.

The aviation sector in India currently contributes US\$72 billion to India's GDP. The lockdowns have a significant impact on arrivals in the second quarter. If, estimate a 25 per cent decline is visible in the contribution of the aviation sector, it amount to 18 billion. Railways contributed US\$27.13 billion in 2019 to GDP. A 21-day lockdown period has brought down the revenue by US\$1.56 billion.

The Indian retail industry is also underwent severe jolts due to the pandemic. And the COVID-19 pandemic has an adverse impact on the economic growth of the country such as the GDP growth of India for the present economy was declined to 4.8 per cent in 2020. The global recession and uncertainties of future showed 2 percentage point decline in growth rate form 2020–2021 possibly.

An unprecedented drop for the demand oil has lower-down the crude oil prices the first time in 18 years low as US\$22 per barrel. The economic measures include



paying the healthcare bill raised by the pandemic for providing masks, gloves, testing kits, personal protection equipment, ventilators, ICU beds, quarantine wards, medicines and other equipment an enormous burden in healthcare spending. The public spending on healthcare in India which was 1.1 per cent of GDP was also increased. The Repose rate has been minimized by 75 basis points, as consequence of ensuing Pandemic situation.

The federal reserve had cut its interest rate by 1 percentage point and decided to keep it in the range of 0–0.25 per cent in the USA. The in-effective monetary policy has brought anxiety-induced frugality among companies. The Micro, Small and Medium enterprises is a source of majority of the jobs in India, employing over 114 million people and contributing 30 per cent of the GDP are also severely hit. Many of them might just disappear if their cash-routine is disturbed because of the lockdown, with fixed costs dangling over them in such a situation. India cannot have a reliable-sustainable progress without sound MSME sector.

Another dilemma of Indian nation is the accumulation of wealth in a few hands which is glaring example of the dipartites in Indian society among haves and haves-not. According to the economic survey of the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (OXFAM) report in 2018, the richest 1 per cent of the population owned 73 per cent of the wealth generated in the country. The wealth of this group was increased by 20913 billion, which is equal to the total budget of the Indian government in the same year. The richest 1 per cent in the country holds more than four times the wealth held by 953 million. Six hundred and seventy million Indians who comprise the poorer half of the population saw 1 per cent increase in their wealth in 2017–2018. It is clear that the benefits of development have been got by a few people in the Indian society. The COVID-19 pandemic crisis has forced the Loss of daily

wages, the large fragment of the society to face with famine and hunger.

An invisible small virus has battered wealth resulted in slowed-down private consumption, investment, disturbed workstations and markets. A rise in demand for commodities is increasing prices in India along unemployment rates entail massive loss of life and millions of people are pushed towards un-imaginable level of poverty. Almost fifty-per cent of the Indian households depend upon agriculture directly or indirectly. The people in this sector do not claim unemployment benefits because they are not a part of social security net. The Laborer's return to farms and production houses after lockdown will, however, depend upon many socio-economic and behavioral aspects. The laborers are reluctant to go to other states for employment which will result in labor shortage in many industrial sectors. The escalating and inescapable COVID-19 pandemic has brought down the world's flourishing economy in unpredictable and vague manner.

The unprecedented situation has caused a great damage to the economy, especially during periods of lockdown. The risk of a global recession due to COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021 would be extremely high, as it has been observed globally that the shutdown of all economic activities—production, consumption and trade—to control the spread of COVID-19 is imminent.

The Government of India should give importance and equal opportunities to the marginalized communities in a bid to save precious many lives. Every crisis brings about a unique opportunity to rethink on the path undertaken for the development of a human being, community and society. The COVID-19 pandemic has a clear message for the Indian economy to adopt sustainable developmental models, which are based on self-reliance, inclusive frameworks and are environment friendly.

The use of social distancing, avoiding gatherings, and use of masks and sanitizers should be the way of life till the end of virus. It ominously showed that the current downturn seems primarily different from the past which had shaken the country's economic base. It is unquestionably the need of the hour for Indian-government to take-care for its people in the future as sustainable and structured viable system providing equal opportunities to its entire citizen irrespective of caste, creed and religion.



The 'India Out' campaign and China's increasing influence in Maldives

OPINION

By TON Research Section

The Indian High Commission in Maldives is facing continuous 'India Out' campaign on social media platforms which has gained momentum in previous days. Indian High Commission while expressing concerns over the smear social media campaign had written to the government of Maldives asking for action and greater security. Indian High Commissioner Sunjay Sudhir said in his letter to the Foreign Ministry that these attacks were motivated, malicious, and increasingly personal. He said, "Such repeated attacks can affect the efficient performance of the functions of the High Commission and can damage the time-tested and mutually beneficial bilateral relations." The letter further said that they were also aimed at inciting hatred and violence against India.

The 'India Out' campaign started last year in 2020 on-ground protests in Maldives and promptly moved to social media platforms. However, its origin dates back to the year 2013 when Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom of the Progressive Party (PPM) became president of Maldives. The PPM was considered by many as pro-China and anti-India which soared feelings in India. The pro-China policy

adopted by then President Yameen was not acceptable for India as long India has considered Maldives in its sphere of influence.

Earlier in 2010 and 2015, India gifted two Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopters (ALF) to Maldives for the use in sea rescue operations, maritime weather surveillance for airlifting patients between islands. However, the PPM argued that the helicopters gifted by India marked the start of military presence in the country and it's a secrete attempt of India to set up a naval base in Addu after which the Maldives government requested Indian government in 2016 to take back the helicopters but Indian government refused to take back the helicopters and denied the claims. Albeit, after two years the new government of Ibrahim Mohamed Solih overturn the orders and said to use those gifted choppers, which slowed down 'India Out' campaign in the country. Another reason of the 'India Out' campaign gaining momentum and prominence was that the bilateral agreements between both countries were not discussed in Parliament of Maldives due to which controversies were arisen.

Earlier, before the request of taking back helicopters, the Maldives government declined India's invitation to participate in a naval exercise. Over the past few years the bilateral relations between India and



Maldives nose-dived after Maldivian President Abdulla Yameen declared an emergency on 5th February. Undoubtedly, India has been one of the biggest players in the country so far. According to Reuters report after the emergency declared in Maldives on February 5th, Indian government sent troops to foil a coup in Maldives moreover, it moved aircraft and

ships to its southern bases and put Special Forces on standby but the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi deferred and canceled the action in the end. Whereas, China considered this act not very kind and define it as foreign involvement in sovereign state.

India has also been investing in Maldives with a firm eye on China. Indian government not only gifted two helicopters to Maldives but also stationed six pilots and over a dozen ground personnel to operate the ALHs and help the Maldivian National Defence Forces. India is also assisting Maldives in setting up 10 coastal surveillance radar system (CSRS) stations equipped with navigation radars, electro-optic sensors and AIS (automatic identification system) transponders.

Maldives is positioned geographically as a gate linking western Indian Ocean chokepoints of the Gulf of Aden on one side and on the other hand the Strait of Hormuz therefore, these are of particular importance to India. The Indian Ocean is the key pathway for global trade. It is very much obvious that in efforts to limit China's engagement in Maldives, India is struggling to bolster its position in the country because China's presence in the region has the potential to hinder trade movement at these chokepoints that are vital to India's economic interests.



Where India is investing on large scale in Maldives, China also sees Maldives as a key participant in its 21st century Maritime Silk Road plan in the Indian Ocean. China is investing millions of dollars on Belt and Road Initiative and it will not let any intervention of third party to damage it. Undoubtedly, India has been keeping a wary eye on China so that it could not let China build its inroads in South Asian countries especially in its own neighborhood but today; China's presence in South Asian region has been stronger than that of India. It has been a worrying fact for India from long that Maldives has allowed China to muscle in economically, politically and most importantly strategically.

An Insight into the India's Maoist Insurgency

OPINION

By TON Research Section

India's Maoist insurgency is one of the most significant concerns in Andhra, Telengana, and several more. As one of the most leading news portals within the Indian Sub-continent, we have done an in-depth research on the prevailing Maoist-related negotiations in India. In this post, TON will cover the different Naxals within India and insight into these:

India's Maoist insurgency, biggest internal security threat

Internal security in India is not a part-time job. A constant stream of vital judgments must be made in the face of too many challenges. This ministry should be separated from the MHA and headed by a full-time minister who is hands-on. The ministry's secretary should be an expert, either a serving or former police officer with a sterling record. There's no more time to waste.

One of the fiercest fights between the Communist Party of India (Maoists) and security forces in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur area claimed the lives of 22 elite CRPF and CRPF Cobra battalions, District Reserve Guard (DRG), and Special Task Force (STF) soldiers. On Saturday, the Maoists deployed light machine guns and AK-47s in a five-hour battle. At the same time, the security forces reacted with under-barrel grenade launchers and mortars targeting locations detected by Heron (an uncrewed aerial vehicle).

Armed Struggle against government forces in India

After killing 22 cops in an ambush over the weekend, Indian security forces have intensified operations against ultra-leftist insurgents deep in the forests of a mineral-rich central state. Chhattisgarh's four-hour firefight with Maoist militants on Saturday was the worst ambush of its kind in four years.

Chhattisgarh's top cop, Om Prakash Pal, warned that operations against the insurgents in the state would be escalated. Naxals, or Maoists, have fought against the government for decades. "We are fighting for the poor," they claim.

There are 28 types of significant minerals in Chhattisgarh, one of the fastest-developing states in India. It is

also home to 16 percent of India's coal reserves, as well as substantial iron ore and bauxite reserves. According to experts, the Maoist insurgency is India's most serious internal security concern. They operate across the mineral-rich area in the east and south of the country, known as the "red corridor."

Indian security forces operations against ultra-left-wing guerrillas

After killing 22 police officers in an ambush over the weekend, India's security forces have intensified operations against ultra-left-wing fighters deep in the forests of a mineral-rich central state, a top police official said. There are 28 types of essential minerals in Chhattisgarh, one of India's fastest-growing states. There are vast quantities of iron ore and bauxite in the country as well. Known as the "red corridor," which has dwindled in recent years due to costly operations against them, the Maoists operate in a mineral-rich region in the east and south of the country.

Role of the district reserve guard states main counters Maoist force. Using remnants of the SalwaJudum movement, the District Reserve Guard forms the state's counter-Maoist militia. Maoist insurgencies have been effectively countered by many states through the use of specially trained

defense troops established and explicitly recruited to combat extremists. In the Struggle against Maoism, security experts believe that state forces must take the lead and Central paramilitary forces should play a supporting role.

Many people in Andhra Pradesh give credit to the Greyhounds, while in Maharashtra, the C-60 is credited with defeating Maoism in the bordering districts of Chhattisgarh. On April 3, 22 security personnel were killed in Chhattisgarh, a state with neither the SOG in Odisha nor a Hawk Force similar to those in Madhya Pradesh.

The Maoists fight for the poor and indigenous communities.

Bastar, a region in the Indian state of Chhattisgarh, is a Maoist stronghold. People from impoverished indigenous communities make up the rebel army. Reports and analyses by TON correspondents suggest that the Indian government recruits poor young men from other regions to fight against them rather than resolve their issues through a political discussion.

Many rights advocates claim that the state has turned into a hazardous environment for individuals who criticize the government's policies and actions in the crossfire between the state and the Maoists.

Indian government failure to tackle tribal grievances

One of India's major internal security threats is the Maoist (Naxalite) insurgency. The Maoist insurgency began in India in the late 1950s and early 1960s as a communist peasant insurrection. Later, it evolved into a political and social struggle based on ethnicity, caste, and class in many East India's poorest provinces. To start things off, in 1967, the Naxalbari armed insurrection against landlords was begun, sowing the seeds of rebellion. Another group of rebels took inspiration from the Naxalite movement, born out of a Maoist revolution in a small town along the Ganges.

Due to their complaints with the Indian government, which began a series of development projects in the 1980s and expelled these tribals from their lands in the name of public more significant benefit, the people from tribal areas were compelled to join the Maoists. As a result, millions of natives were rehabilitated due to the government's acquisition of land for mining activities and other enterprises. As a result, systematic marginalization contributed to rebellion. It is high time that Indian Union must allow the Maoists their fundamental rights and end coercive methods to allow peace and development to prevail.



Most Popular Historical Buildings in Pakistan

Allama Iqbal Museum



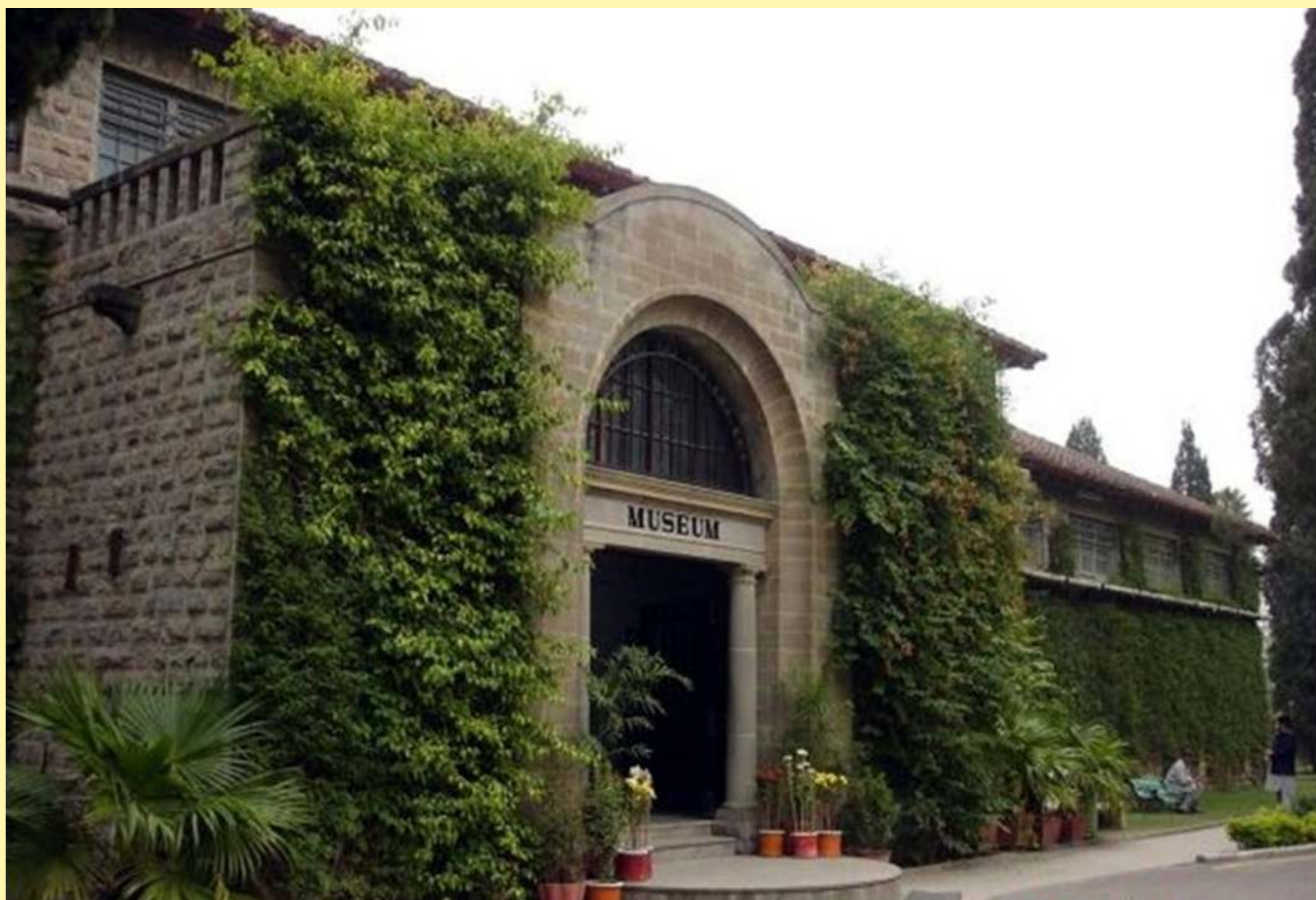
Dir Museum



Harapa Museum



TEXLA MUSEUM



RAWALPINDI MUSEUM



Pakistan celebrates 75th Independence Day with patriotic zeal and fervour

