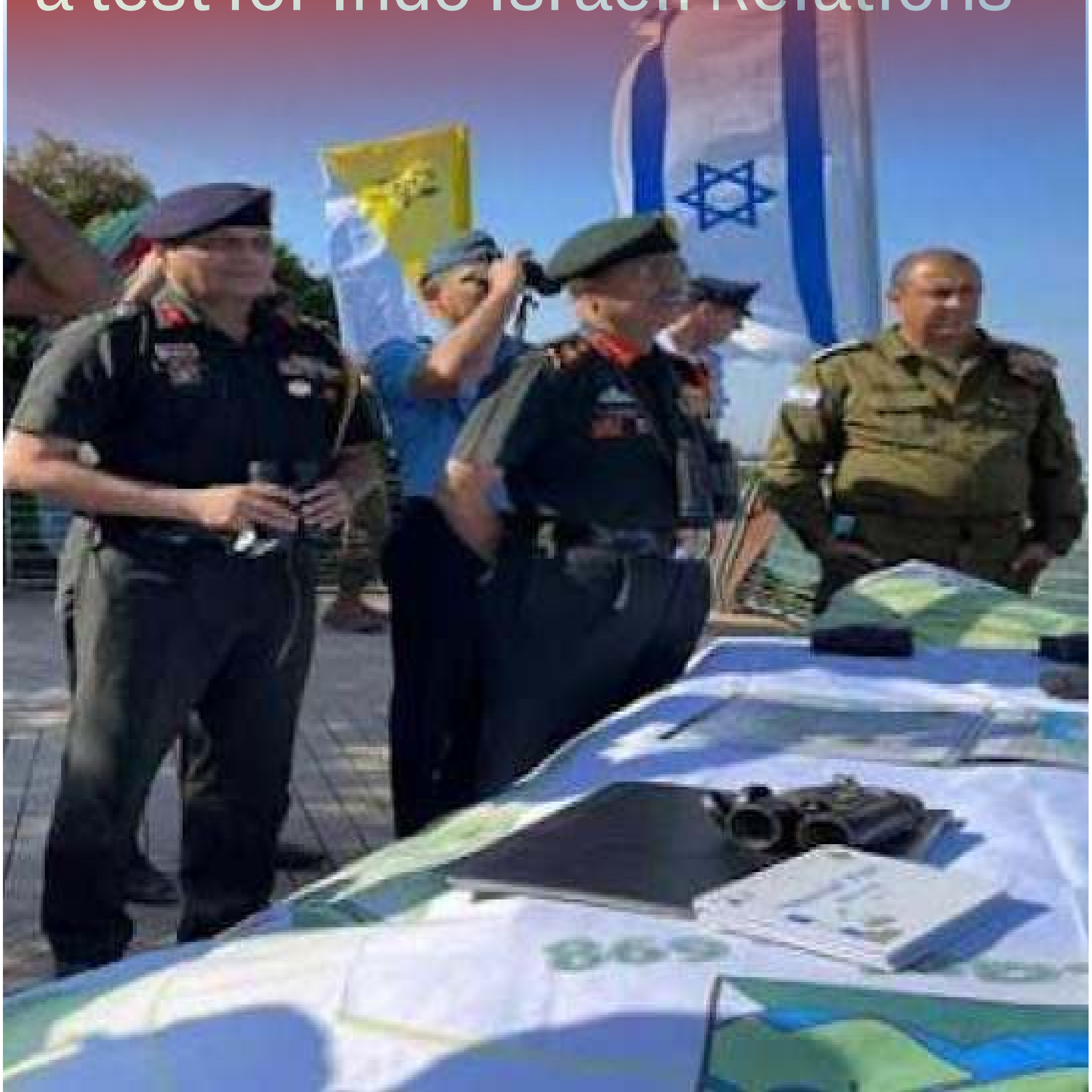


Unholy Indian Army Chief's Visit to Israel - Disappointments but a test for Indo Israeli Relations



colours of PAKISTAN

Pakistan is a diverse country
People of Pakistan are truly rainbow
Our culture, traditional and religions are so colourful
And we are honestly, respect and graceful people



**PUNJABI
& SARAIKI**
Punjab & Northern Sindh



PASHTUN
Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa
& Tribal Areas



SINDHI
Sindh



BALOCHI
Balochistan



**PAHARI/
POTHWARI &
HINDKOWAAN**
Azad Kashmir & Northern Punjab
& Hazara, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa



KUSHUR
Neelum, Azad Kashmir



GILGITI
Gilgit-Baltistan



KALASHI
Chitral, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa



**PAHARI/
GUJORI**
Azad Kashmir



**PUNJABI
& SARAIKI**
Punjab & Northern Sindh



**PASHTUN
& GILGITI**
Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa,
Tribal Areas,
& Gilgit-Baltistan



SINDHI
Sindh



BALOCHI
Balochistan



**PAHARI/
POTHWARI,
HINDKOWAAN,
& GUJORI**
Azad Kashmir & Northern Punjab
& Hazara, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa



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

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| ● Aroosa Hafeez | Research Associate |
| ● Zia-ur-Rehman | Research Associate |
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| ● Nima (Bhutan) | |
| ● Aurangzeb | Computer Operator |

CONTACT US



The Orient News



theorientnews



@theonewslive



The Orient News



+923095096267



theorientnewslive@gmail.com

Pakistan: Sugar Annual

Pakistan's Marketing Year (MY) 2020/21 sugar production is forecast at 5.9 million metric tons (MMT), a six percent increase from the current year's revised estimate due to an expected increase in sugarcane area. Sugar consumption for the same year is forecast at 5.8 MMT, moderately higher than last year's estimates, and exports are forecast at 400,000 metric tons. Ending stocks are expected to decrease to 1.9 MMT. The current year's production estimates are revised up slightly from last year mainly due to increase in productivity. MY 2018/19 sugar exports stand at 600,000 tons mainly due to a subsidy of \$35 per metric ton provided to sugar exporters. Sugar prices jumped 33 percent in March 2020 compared to the same period last year.

SUGARCANE

Production:

Pakistan is the world's fifth largest producer of sugarcane and the eighth largest producer and consumer of sugar. Sugarcane is grown on approximately 1.2 million hectares and provides the raw material for 89 sugar mills. The sugar industry is the country's second largest agriculture-based industry after textiles. In addition to sugar, sugarcane is used in the production of pharmaceuticals, ethanol, bagasse for paper and chip board manufacturing, and press mud - a source of organic fertilizer for crop production. Sugarcane is typically grown on the high delta away from flood areas along Pakistan's major rivers. Pakistan's marketing year (MY Oct/Sep) 2020/21 sugarcane production is forecast at 72 million metric tons (MMT), up six percent from the revised 2019/20 estimate. Planting that will be harvested in the fall of 2020 has been completed and total area increased by 11 percent compared to last year. This year, sugarcane farmers received good price whereas cotton farmers suffered a loss due to failure of cotton crop. Based on support price mechanism and increase in procurement prices, cotton farmers are expected to shift to sugarcane during MY 2020/21.

Sugarcane production in Pakistan fluctuates every 2 to 5 years. In MY 2018/19, sugarcane acreage decreased by 18 percent and is expected to decrease another six percent in MY 2019/20 mainly due to late mill payments to cane growers and better prospects offered by alternative crops such as rice and corn. The Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) is mandated to maintain strategic stocks as well as to keep its supply line in operation for public sector outlets. This arrangement helps in maintaining the sugar supply and prices in the domestic market. The MY 2019/20 sugarcane production is estimated at 68 MMT, up slightly from the previous year. The MY 2018/19 estimate is revised based on official data from the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR) and the Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA).

The Punjab provinces accounts for 65 percent of sugarcane area, Sindh 25 percent, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) 10 percent. There is also a small sugar beet industry in the higher elevations of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Farmers opt for sugarcane planting in autumn or spring; autumn planting provides better results due to a longer growing season. Punjab and KPK farmers mostly plant sugarcane in the spring and harvest eight to ten months later. In Sindh, most planting is in the autumn, allowing growth for up to 16 months. Per hectare yields of sugarcane in Pakistan are relatively low. According to experts, water shortages, a lack of high yielding varieties, and uneven fertilizer and pesticide application contribute to lower yields. Many observers agree that Pakistan would benefit from additional sugarcane research and development initiatives in line with international standards. The harvesting period follows the pattern of many other northern hemisphere crops, beginning in October/November and ending in April/ May.

SUGAR

MY 2020/21 refined sugar production is forecast at 5.9 million tons, up six percent from the revised 2019/20 estimate. Estimated MY 2019/20 sugar production is up slightly due to productivity increase in sugarcane yields. Realizing the impact of smaller sugarcane crop area, the mills extended extension and credit support initiatives to support their contract farmers.



Simultaneously, the public and private stakeholders agreed to increase sugarcane procurement price by Rs.10 per 40 Kg to Rs. 190 (\$30.65 per ton) for Punjab and KPK and Rs. 192 (\$31 per ton) for Sindh; both of these factors increased sugarcane productivity and the sugar recovery rate. MY 2018/19 production now reflects official data from the MNFSR and PSMA. The estimate is based on 79 percent crushing and a 10.4 percent sugar recovery rate.

Sugar in Pakistan's domestic market continues to be priced well above the international market. March 2020 sugar wholesale prices stood at \$507 per metric, an estimated 52 percent higher than the international market pegged at \$334/metric ton. The sugar market is insulated from imports by a tariff of 40 percent.

Industry reports showed that the average wholesale prices in March 2020 increased by 46 percent compared to the prices of August 2018. While mills enjoyed a high price in the domestic market and export

subsidies, the media, influencers, and consumer groups raised concerns about the country's sugar production and availability, subsidies and export mechanism, and pricing mechanisms.

As a result, the current government ordered an investigation of the sugar program. The results are expected by the end of summer.

Consumption:

Consumption continues to grow modestly, largely as a result of a growing population and a slowly developing domestic food processing sector. MY 2020/21 sugar consumption is projected at 5.8 MMT. Bulk sugar consumers such as bakeries, candy, ice cream, and soft drink manufacturers account for about 60 percent of total sugar demand. With the added protection of 40 percent tariff on imports, high market prices likely discourage a larger increase in consumption.

Curtsey: Muhammad Shafiq Ur Rehman

Indian Hegemonic designs and Maldivian Maritime Security – Is the Island facing Indian Threat



INSIDE STORY

By Afshain Afzal

Today on the 3rd of November, Maldives is celebrating Victory Day. The day marks 3rd November 1988, a dark chapter in Maldivian history as an Indian intelligence sponsored unprovoked attack took the lives of 19 locals and injured many others. The attempt was to assassinate Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom as on 11 November 1988, he was to be installed for his third five-year term.

A 1982 report published by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) read that India has been pursuing a foreign policy of maintaining hegemony over its neighbors since becoming an independent state in 1947. The report also claimed that the effects of the Indian military have been well-established in these neighbor-states. Interestingly, the CIA report proved true as since aftermath of the 3 November 1988 attacks in Male; India had stationed military personnel in the country and had refused to withdraw despite the requests of the Maldivian government. Many analysts say that those who staged 1988 attacks were funded and terrorists trained by India. Presently, India is all set to establish two permanent military bases in Maldives.

Over 580 Indian evacuees from Maldives arrive in Kochi by naval ship

Why India planned terrorist operation in Maldives in 1988 to assassinate Maldivian President and then staged a drama to overcome and kill attackers, resolve around Indian official repeated announcements that the Indian navy and the Special Forces were ready to invade the Maldives and establish order. Indian historians says Maldives was part of India. It is on record that in the recent past too, BJP leader, Dr Subramanian Swamy, warned that India would be forced to invade the Maldives if the 2018 presidential election were to be rigged. Last year in November, Indian Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Manoj Mukund Naravane was given presentation by the Indian Army's Southern Command that New Delhi intends to establish a military base in Assumption Island on the line as it did in Seychelles. India has already established police training academy in the southernmost part of

Maldives at Addu City. Indian military strategists have concluded that Addu City will be Indian defence line against China to check mate Hamantota through the presence of Indian Navy and Coastal Guards at Maldivians maritime territory. In a recent development India and Maldives signed two agreements for enhancing the capability of the Defence Forces of the Maldives in exercising jurisdiction and undertaking maritime surveillance of its Exclusive Economic Zone. This was as follow up of February 2021 agreement of extending US \$ 50 million credit line for defence projects was signed between the Finance Ministry of Maldives and the Export Import Bank of India including construction of Coast Guard Harbour & Dockyard at SIFAVARU.

The fact cannot be denied that Article 251 of 2008 Maldivian constitution which prohibits foreign ownership and foreign military purposes is still valid. The amendment of 22 July 2015 that allows foreign ownership of land has been misinterpreted. It provides that in order for foreigners to own freehold land, they must meet certain criteria, including that the project built on the land must be approved by Parliament, there must be a minimum investment of \$1 billion "in the territory of the Maldives," and upon the project's reaching completion, "at least 70 percent of the land must have been reclaimed from the ocean and [be] visible at medium tide." It is all a business permission and not allowing military presence in Maldives. However, Male still need to be careful not to compromise its sovereignty.

India surprised many Asian and African countries when it extended aid, credit and loan worth millions of US dollars. Indian itself is a poor country then how it is able to invest so much in other countries. The fact cannot be denied that US, Israel, Britain, Norway and other major countries which are carrying out multilateral agreements with India as copartner to execute the missions of these countries, mostly aiming to bring secularism and extinct Islam, its culture and heritage from everywhere. A month ago outgoing Indian Ambassador Sunjay Sudhir signed eight Memorandums of Understandings (MoUs) with Government of Maldives under Indian grant assistance scheme for High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP) through local bodies. The projects launched under the MoUs will

contribute significantly to socio-economic development, livelihood activity, conservation of environmental and cultural heritage, empowerment of women and child welfare and skills development. The projects launched were initially signed between the two governments on 17 March 2019, for Maldivian Rufiya 85 million – which were later renewed with an increment up to Maldivian Rufiya 155 million on 23 July 2021. The projects include the acquisition of two sea ambulances; strengthening inclusive education support units in three schools, development of an ice plant, Olympus hall upgrading project, construction of a multi-purpose council building, construction of Dhangethi Cultural Centre to introduce Hindu culture and installation of street lights. Additionally, twelve projects are currently underway, under this grant scheme. They include the establishment of fish processing plants, development of tourism zones in Hithadhoo, Feydhoo, Maradhoo, Meedhoo and Hulhudhoo of Addu City; agricultural and establishing a Drug Detox Centre in Addu City.

3nov1988 hashtag on Twitter

It would surprise many that Maldivian constitution is most powerful Islamic constitution in the world which provides religion of the State of the Maldives as Islam, guarantees to all persons the rights and freedoms that is not contrary to any tenet of Islam. It states that no person shall be found guilty of any act or omission

which did not constitute an offence under Islamic Shari'ah or law at the time committed. Only Muslim and a follower of a Sunni school of Islam can be the parliamentarians and judges and occupy other important positions. It is the responsibility of every citizen to preserve and protect the State religion of Islam, culture, language and heritage of the country.

The fact cannot be denied that India and western partners intend to bring Hindu and secular culture and traditions in Maldives. India strategists claim they would revive what the 14th century traveler Ibn Battutah recorded about Maldivian women, "I strove to put an end to this practice and commanded the women to wear clothes, but I could not get it done." India claims it is their culture. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) located at Nikagas Hingun, Male is slowly and gradually penetrating into the Maldivian Islamic traditions, culture and heritage by offering incentives like military training in India and scholarships to Maldivians. Some of the Maldivians citizens have reportedly married Hindu girls in India during their trainings. With such developments and Indian ingress in Maldivian population, Male needs to be careful from Indian slogans of common civilizational roots and cultural affinities and must preserve its own identity by not allowing foreign culture and heritage to invade Maldives.



Indian Navy Submarine Strike Force in Indian Ocean Region (IOR) – What is next?

INSIDE STORY

By Afshain Afzal

Admiral R Hari Kumar is all set to take charge as the new Chief of the Indian Navy on 30 November 2021, when Admiral Karambir Singh retires. He would inherit Western allies' assigned role in the Indian Ocean. Presently, Western nations are using India as a front-man to intrude and finance to make countries of Asia and Africa economically their captives. No doubt, it is too harsh a statement but truth starts from this point. The concept of Global Village where people of Asia, Africa and other developing nations would work as labour force and the Capitalist countries would get the job done is being witnessed on ground. It is no more a secret that India, backed by the Western funding and military hardware fitted with hi-technological equipment, is playing the role of Puppet-Policeman in the Indian Ocean. Instance of Indian Navy ships shadowing Chinese ships in the Gulf as well as sailing up to the Pakistani port of Gwadar was detected quite recently.

In the name of Quad-plus Navy drills, the Indo-US Alliance is acquiring territories, harbours and space for the military projects around the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The threat to peaceful Indian Ocean has become a serious question for the maintenance of world peace. In the name of gathering intelligence and fighting terrorism, the Defence Intelligence Authorities (DIAs) of India, US and Israeli Military Intelligence (OMI) "AMAN" are expanding bilateral cooperation, however, there is no doubt that these have military long term designs to achieve strategic ends. The United States and Israeli military is not only providing advisory inputs to Indian military but also to the periphery countries directly as well as through Indian channeled funding, aiming to activate the governments against own nationals on the basis on advices and intelligence inputs. This result foreign-



funded insurgencies and rebellions through International Organizations and INGOs that ultimately lead to mass killings own people.

Quite recently, to establish joint Indian Navy Submarine Strike Force, foreign Navy ships along with three Indian Navy ships including Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kadamba were spotted in the Mauritius' territories of North Agaléga Island, which is being used as strategic naval base by the Indian Navy along with US and other Navies. In the name of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) policy, India plans a hegemonic policy to subdue all smaller nations. An Indian Navy commander at INS Tabar briefed about strategic bases at littoral nations of IOR, overtly for ensuring safe and peaceful sea lanes and working for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), however, he did not rule out launching operations

against suspected ships on sea lane, "against which intelligence input is received having engaged in transferring arms and ammunitions from Asia to African and other parts of the world," He disclosed, "Quite recently, a joint Information Fusion Centre for Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), for better coordination of the maritime domain as well as to develop a Policeman capacity, has been established to control not only the choke points but also sea lanes". In this regard, so far at least 12 countries including Bangladesh, Comoros, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, the Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand have extended their cooperation.

In another development, Indian Navy officers, who are working for foreign companies disclosed, "There are a lot of activities going on in Indian Navy operated airfield at Dabolim, Goa as

well as Gujarat," They claimed, "Presence of Israeli and American military and Navy personnel is not a coincidence and not in the interest of Indian sovereignty." It was revealed, "Israeli Navy personnel are stationed at INS 'Visakhapatnam', a P15B stealth guided-missile which has capability to launch guided anti-aircraft missiles from its deck. India, the US and Israel are also coordination with Tri Services Command for maritime security operations." The fact cannot be denied that since 2007, Israeli and US Commandos are located at different locations in India.

One wonders if Indo-Pacific has been formulated to balance China or control world trade through militarily occupying sea lanes and strategic ports, it would create new war zones. The new constructions at ports at Djibouti, Tanzania and Lamu port in Northern Kenya are steps in the same direction. INS Airavat and huge Navy setups coming up at the Vanilla Islands as chokepoints for Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs) is giving edge to Western and Indian Navies. India has set radio and radar monitoring stations all around Asia and Africa.

If we recall, Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) between Indian and the US was signed in August 2016, which allowed Indian and the American warships to take fuel from Navy oil tankers of each other deployed in the region. The new Navy Alliance has not left any area in its mandate to control even the non-military affairs. Mandates include climate change, sovereignty, delimitation of maritime boundaries, illegal fishing, trade and infrastructure development, marine governance, and port cyber infrastructure security.

India is a poor country and cannot feed its nation properly. In such a case, how can India carryout multi-million military projects abroad? In fact, the Western nations including the US, EU countries, Israel and even Russia have placed their military assets all around through the good offices of India to reinforce military-might under the garb of maritime posture and to protect sea lines of communication. The "Forward Presence" of these nations on land, at sea, and in the air is threat to peaceful survival of sovereign nations, especially the smaller nations. The strengthening of the military strike forces and developing of capacities to deal with the threats and challenges emanating from the economic and trade wars revivals is dragging the peaceful nations towards war, destruction and chaos. It is high time that nations in IOR must review their MoUs, bilateral and multilateral agreements with foreign nations.

Unholy Indian Army Chief's Visit to Israel - Disappointments but a test for Indo Israeli Relations

INSIDE STORY

By Afshain Afzal

High level delegation led by Indian Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane's November 2021-visit to Israel proved to be a bad show but with many hopes, although tied with ifs and buts. The Indian military leadership was really disappointed and had to return with a fatigue and disappointed face to report at New Delhi. Indian Army Chief visit to Israel also saw many surprises. Despite a number of military agreements and Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) as well as joint stance of counterterrorism, New Delhi is being asked very difficult questions that New Delhi may be hesitant to act upon. India basic purpose of visit to Tel Aviv was defence acquisition, support in surgical attacks on Pakistan through Israeli drones, recognition of Jammu and Kashmir as part of India, help India in acquiring belt in Gilgit Baltistan to get connected with Afghanistan, funding and supplies against anti-Taliban groups in Afghanistan and Hindu Temple "Mandir" in Haifa, Israel.

As a follow up of November 2021, Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar visit to Israel, Indian Army Chief visit held immense importance as this time secret agreement were ready to be signed and schedule to be chalked out to move forward. If we recall, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Israel in July 2017 that made the decades old secret relations between Israel and India public. Earlier India bluffed and projected herself as champion of Palestinian cause and leadership at New Delhi is even today anti-Israel being pagans. Earlier in August 2021, Indian Indian Air Force Chief R K S Bhadauria visited Tel Aviv while Indian Navy chief Sunil Lanba to visit Israel in February 2021.

There were apprehensions that something serious was cooking regarding the militarization of Indian Ocean but Indian for the first time realized that it is a trap around India's own neck. What Israel has asked New Delhi included:-

- Recognition of State of Israel with capital at Jerusalem.
- Freedom of transit and settlement from and to India and Israel for thousands of Indian nationals settled in Israel since long. Arrangement of more Indian "lost Jew tribes" to be immigrated.



c. Parting relationship with Iranian religious regime and help Israel to aid revolt in Tehran.

d. Seize Iranian settlement and movements in the Ladakh, especially Kargil.

e. Action against the military fundamentalist in India including Indian Mujahideen (IM) and Lashkar-e-Tayyiba.

f. Mend fences with Pakistan as start peace talks.

g. Allow Israel to station its personnel at ports at Gujarat and Goa as well as establish listening posts in selected area.

h. Continue media campaign against Saudi Royal family and leadership in Saudi Arabia to bring democratic revolution there.

The Indian delegation visited that Israel Defence Forces (IDF) Headquarters and met IDF Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Aviv Kochavi and Major General Tamir Yadaï, Israeli Army's Chief of the Ground Forces and exchanged views on various defense-related issues. The Indian side also visited Special Operations Unit of the IDF where briefing was given on various aspects of counter-terrorism operations. The Israeli senior military and civilian leadership as well as Intelligence personnel at Tel Aviv discussed joint strategy. India-Israel joint working group on defence cooperation also decided to set up a task force.

It was shocking for General Naravane when Tel Aviv agreed in principle to sell India additional Heron drones but set

condition that these would only be deployed at Line of Actual Control (LAC) bordering China and not other Indian borders. Another shock was experienced when General Naravane visited the Indian cemetery at Hafia to paid tribute to the Indian army personnel who lost lives during World War I. It was revealed that when Hindu India was voicing against Israel and Western allies Muslims including those living in present day Pakistan sacrificed their lives for the defence and their graves stand as witness even today. It was a surprise for Israel when Indian Army Chief claimed that Hamas is assisting Taliban of Afghanistan in taking over the control of Afghanistan.

India offered its services to Israel and discussed "Hamas-led Change and Reform" after the general elections for Palestinian Legislative Council in Palestinian-controlled territories amid the fears that across the West Bank and Gaza today, Hamas would again garner the most votes. India is planning to bring a political gains in favour of Hamas as otherwise they are likely to win. It has been decided to offer Hamas to renounce violence and recognize Israel to win its support. However, same could not be confirmed from headquarters of the Palestinian Central Elections Commission (CEC) in Ramallah. The issue of Pakistani Assistant Zulfı Bukhari visit to Tel Aviv in November 2020 to pass on messages from Pakistani Prime Minister and Pakistani Army Chief to Mossad head Yossi Cohen was also discussed in detail.

Not all is open about visit but whatever has come to light is dangerous. No doubt, Israel is India's largest arms supplier, accounting for more than 42% of the total amount expanded on defence procurement and present agreement and MoUs is worth more than a billion dollar. One wonders why New Delhi fails to comprehend that the far-flung military alliances is against the sovereignty and national integrity. It is equally strange that India is playing bluff game with many nations. The game it is playing with Iran and at the same time is realizing the US and Israel as their most trusted ally. It is high time that India must give up dangerous plans to weaponize Indian Ocean and struggle for peace in the whole region. No doubt, peace and development can bring peace and prosperity in the region..

India in Haste to build Strategic Ladakh tunnel amid China Conflict

OPINION

By Usman Khan

Hundreds of laborers are working to finish India's longest and highest tunnel connecting Kashmir Valley with Ladakh, which shares de facto borders with Pakistan and China. The tunnel is anticipated to open to the public on January 25, the eve of India's Republic Day, in 2024. India is stepping up efforts to make the strategic Zojila tunnel in Indian-administered Kashmir, aiming to reduce travel time to Ladakh, where China is increasingly pushing its territorial claims with the so-called Line of Actual Control (LAC).

High in a rocky Himalayan mountain range in the Indian-administered Kashmir, hundreds of people are racing on this strategically important project, drilling tunnels and constructing bridges to connect the Kashmir Valley with Ladakh, a cold, desert region isolated for half of the year because of a huge snowstorm. India currently rests on air supplies for about six months of the year. A 6.5-km (four-mile) tunnel, the first among the four, is already complete and will make the resort town of Sonamarg accessible during the winter months for the first time.

Indian and Chinese soldiers have been engaged in a sometimes violent standoff in the Karakoram Mountains in Ladakh for more than 16 months along their de facto border, called the Line of Actual Control. China and the Indian sides have deployed tens of thousands of soldiers there, backed by artillery, tanks, and fighter jets. Indian military architects vision the tunnel project as tremendously significant for Ladakh. It will provide logistics



flexibility to the military and give it operational and strategic movement.

India has built a setup of tunnels, bridges, and roads in Ladakh to permit for quick deployment of troops in the antagonistic high-altitude region — where temperatures dip as low as -45 degrees Celsius (-49 F). The tunnel, the mass infrastructure project's last, will pass through Zojila in Indian-occupied Kashmir to Sonamarg, which marks the end of conifer-clad mountains before Ladakh begins across the rocky Zojila Mountain pass. The Zojila subway, estimated to cost \$932 million (€815 million), will be India's longest and highest tunnel, at 11,500 feet (3,485 meters).

The passageway would not only allow the Indian Army more elasticity in handling logistics — but it would also decrease the travel time on Zojila Pass

from 3.5 hours to 15 minutes. The horseshoe-shaped, single-tube bidirectional tunnel would also short the space from Baltal to Minamarg from 40 kilometers (25 miles) to 13 kilometers. The time for the completion of the tunnel has been reduced by almost three years, to December 2023.

The Zojila Pass, which joins Kashmir's capital city, Srinagar, to Ladakh, is an international disputed territory that constitutes part of the larger Kashmir region. India forges ahead with the tunnel between Kashmir and Ladakh as it depends on Kashmir valley for most basic necessities, from vegetables to fuel to medicine and other essentials come through the Zojila pass, making life difficult for locals, who are forced to stockpile items for half of the year. The Zojila tunnel might open up Ladakh to tourists year-round and help

facilitate the easier delivery of health care products and other basic amenities for the locals.

India looks to revamp Ladakh with an infrastructure overhaul to counter China and Pakistan. The Zojila tunnel will have inordinate prominence to India's security, as military activities increase at the borders in the Ladakh, Gilgit, and Baltistan regions. As both India and China have positioned tens of thousands of soldiers in those areas, backed by artillery, tanks, and fighter jets.

The tunnel will provide logistics flexibility to the military and give it operational and strategic mobility in case of emergencies and would make the movement of troops and weaponry to Ladakh through the tunnel. As India-China tensions have spiked in recent years as New Delhi accused Beijing of sending troops to the borders. In June last year, at least 20 Indian soldiers were killed in a clash with Chinese forces in Ladakh, marking the deadly clash in the border area in at least 45 years. The 13th round of talks between Beijing and Delhi in October to resolve the disputed Himalayan border broke down, with the sides blaming each other for the failure to make progress. Instead of take-out of troops from the border over the chilly winter, as many as 50,000 Indian soldiers will stay on the line for a second successive year.

The substitute routes between Srinagar and Leh are not only lengthy and hazardous in winters, but situated close to India's borders with Pakistan and China. The want for such a tunnel was first sensed during the 1999 India-Pakistan Kargil war. With China-Pakistan military collaboration becoming stronger in the region, India wants to speed up work on the tunnel to make Ladakh accessible to the Indian Army by road. India forms tunnels to connect Kashmir Valley with strategic Ladakh as it shares de facto borders with Pakistan and China and depends on air supplies for about six months of the year. Such a project will definitely increase the climate of war in the already tense South Asia regions due to India every now and then interferences into the internal matters of its neighboring countries besides working for its hegemonic designs in South Asia.

Bangladesh – India dispute on Bay of Bengal; Question of future friendly relations

OPINION

By Research Section (Bhutan)

India and Bangladesh, the two neighbouring nations in South Asia are back into a confrontation over the maritime boundary issues in the Bay of Bengal. Bangladesh is rightly aggrieved as India's base point 89 is located 2.3 nautical miles inside Bangladeshi maritime boundary with India.

The two developing economies in the region shared fairly good relations on political fronts but it was surprising to learn the issue between the two over the Bay of Bengal has become a never-ending affair.

Bangladesh made a formal objection to the UN Secretary-General in September over maritime issues with India that continued even after the two neighbours came to the settlement in 2014.

Bangladesh claimed that India's base point 89 is located on the Bangladesh side of the maritime boundary, almost 2.3 nautical miles inside the Bangladeshi waters.

The issue between the two came to an end when two agreed upon a peaceful settlement after UN tribunal in 2014 awarded 19,467 square kilometres – fourth-fifth of the total disputed area of

25,602 sq km in the Bay of Bengal to Bangladesh.

The boundary issue existed for decades and the bilateral talks couldn't solve the issue until it reached the UN. The dispute between the two neighbouring countries was put to an end in 2014.

However, the issue has resurfaced.

Several media reports say that the Bay of Bengal provides a unique resource for Bangladesh and the supreme authority for the legal sea territory related to the country's sovereignty.

Many experts predicted the 2014 resolution to hurt the political and economic relations between the two friendly nations. The decision from the UN came as an added advantage to Bangladesh that was struggling with increasing population and limited resources.

Bangladesh's friendly neighbour not abiding by the peaceful settlement at the Bay of Bengal speaks a volume of changing power dynamics in the region and the importance of having superior authority at the Bay of Bengal to both nations.

With the recent development at the Bay of Bengal, the boundary negotiation at the Bay of Bengal that was done over 28 years between the two nations is turning to be an abyss.

The negotiations on maritime boundaries in the Bay of Bengal between Bangladesh and the neighbouring States of India and Myanmar had been ongoing since the 1970s. Since 1974, Bangladesh and India held over a dozen talks. The latest one was in 2014 that awarded Bangladesh a good maritime space and rights.

This year, in September 2021, with a hope that the world organization as United Nations will provide a

sustainable solution, Bangladesh has appealed to the UN to resolve its decades-old dispute with India over the maritime demarcation in the southern Bay of Bengal. In this regard, Bangladesh's Permanent Mission to the UN headquarters in New York on Monday filed two appeals to the UN secretary-general against India, protesting the straight baselines in the Bay of Bengal claimed by India.

Bay of Bengal is a strategic sea in the South Asian region that is divided into three countries including Bangladesh, India, and Myanmar. The demarcation is important for not only Bangladesh as millions of Bangladeshis living on coastal areas are dependent on fishing in the Bay of Bengal for their livelihoods but for regional peace. It is time that UN must resolve this issue so that relations between West Bengal and Bangladesh are consolidated.



India is Facing External and Internal Challenges due to its Fascist policies

INSIDE STORY

By TON Research Section

Now-a-days, India is facing external and internal Challenges due to its fascist policies led by the BJP government to impose the ideology of Hindutva despite India's constitutional foundation as secular and the challenges posed by China and serious setbacks on the Afghan front as the most momentous issues in the country's external security policies. Keeping in view, these facts India's top strategic brains have asked Prime Minister Modi-led-BJP government to be moderate and work with regional powers such that Turkey and Iran.

The strategic experts of India have urged the government to resolve some of the concerns with Turkey and Iran for the sake of larger benefit in the region like Turkey's relations with Pakistan. The group of experts emphasized the government to board on a more active pursuit of land ways to Afghanistan and Central Asia, through Iran and perhaps Turkey.

According to the experts, this hunt is not only vital for India's amalgamation with the region but also to dexterity a continental rejoinder to China's growing strategic footmark in Central Asia – an indispensable counterpoint to India's actions in the nautical realm. Maintaining India's ability to sustain a liberal democratic polity at home will be critical in its ability and trustworthiness to pose itself as a countervailing power to China

The "Political polarization and majoritarian rule" is leading towards the isolation of India in the South as India is obsessed with violent communal riots being held by the current government in numerous parts of the country for getting its political mileage. About India's neighborhood, there are valid reasons which circumvent India and get it secluded in the region at large.

Dealing properly at the basis of equality with Bangladesh is now being damaged by internal political postures, and into Nepal political affairs the expectation was dashed to the ground that a shared Hindu heritage will help overcome its anxieties due to time and again interference and has been thoroughly belied by the Indian government. If this trend goes on to subjugate foreign policy to domestic political compulsions, India will find itself more segregated and vulnerable to external and internal dangers than ever.

An effective in managing relations with Pakistan with the resumption of dialogue, promoting economic and cultural links, and reviving a process of confidence-building is the prerequisite and mandatory for the political survival of India as well as for the comfort and peace of South Asia.

The engagement and improvement of relations with India may suit (Pakistan's) interests too. Therefore, as long as its objectives of policy towards Pakistan should be modest and recommencement of dialogue and a gradual revival of trade, transport, and other would-be worth following.

And it will be dreadfully not possible for India to sustain itself if Pakistan remained an inland factor in India –



If New Delhi continues to snub SAARC, there is a distinct danger that other countries may remain committed to it and move ahead without India. This could open the door for China being invited to join a SAARC by sidelining India – a development that will reinforce the Chinese edge on India and penetration in South Asia. As the global economy's center of gravity is shifting from the trans-Atlantic to the Trans-Pacific, and it is certain that geopolitical changes and transformations are loaded with risks as well as spaces.

entangled with the growing salience of majoritarian, communal politics.

The political leadership of India will have to make a cognizant and thoughtful exertion to avoid succumbing to the lure of using anti-Pakistan cards for domestic political purposes which will not help to accomplish the internal security concerns of India. The trend to deliver hate speeches against the neighboring countries in a bid to build up the political stature of the BJP led-government is

harming the country's strategic goals and it is not in the favor of any one country in South Asia.

The economy of India is worsening day by day for holding back the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in an attempt to detach Pakistan. This has led to get less than 7% of total commerce and just 3% of the profit that comes from inside the region.

The Geo-Strategic importance of the IOR amid China and India Strategies

OPINION

TON Research Section

The Indian Ocean is a crucial channel for trade, commerce, and energy. The waters of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) have become a hub for international economic developments, disputes, conflicts, and rivalry for regional influence by regional and international powers including the United States, Australia, Japan, United Kingdom, India, and China in the IOR. During the Cold War, this is one of the reason that Soviet Union wanted direct access to the IOR. The India Ocean remains central for being the world's busiest commerce way. Around 80 percent of the world's nautical oil trade passes through the IOR. The interference of US led allies along with India across the maritime region has compelled China to upgrade its maritime strategy. Due to the geostrategic importance of the IOR new counterbalance strategies are in offing by US led alliance in collaboration with India to block the way of China increasing geo-economic role in Indian Ocean region.

The Indian Ocean, which lies at the junctions of Africa, Asia, and Australia, houses a number of coasts that play critical roles in the region. The IOR is a vigorous sea lane with choke points such the Strait of Hormuz, Strait of Malacca, Bab-el Mandeb, and so forth. These choke points are of enormous strategic importance, by way of vast bulks of trade pass through them. These choke points are exposed to piracy, international disputes, political dissents, and accidents. To ward off such threats and to gain/maintain a strong foothold in this resource rich region, regional and external powers flex their muscles.

These islands play a dynamic role along the sea lines of communication (SLOC) by giving easy access to navies continued presence and allowing them to patrol and secure SLOCs during the time of peace and war. The Indian Ocean acts as an intersection for the transport of oil from the Middle East.

The geostrategic importance of the IOR play significant role in the ups and downs of economies of many countries. Keeping in the view these facts, the Persian Gulf in the Arabian Sea (northern Indian Ocean) also plays a similarly vital role for the security-economic perspective of China. The purpose of China in this area is to protect the SLOCs, which are loaded with piracy threats in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea. The Indian Navy has warships deployed in the Gulf of Oman and Persian Gulf to hinder the safe passage for China - flagged vessels operating in the region. India has also set up the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) to keep a critical lookout on the movement of Chinese ships in the region. The IFC-IOR engages with partner nations for comprehensive maritime domain and share information on vessels to counter Chinese influence.

The Chinese presence in the Indian Ocean remains a major reason of balance across the region. Beijing is eager to have strong footholds in the IOR, Africa, and other island nations, through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The presence of China's People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) and Chinese commercial vessels in the Indian Ocean works in the ambit of United

Nations Convention and the Law of the Sea for the ideal of a free and open Indo-Pacific. The geopolitical theory of the "String of Pearls" explains China's potentials and intentions of establishing commercial and infrastructural projects which is a reason of annoy for India hegemonic designs. As the China has invested in several projects from the Horn of Africa to the ASEAN nations and the Pacific Island nations.

The revival of the Chinese Maritime Silk Route can be seen through China's investment in the port of Hambantota in Sri Lanka and the development of Pakistan's Gwadar Port as a part of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). In the Maldives, China had financed the China-Maldives Friendship Bridge, linking Malé to the island of Hulhumale and Hulhule. It is the first sea-crossing bridge for the Maldives and could play a vital role in the island nation's long-term economic development. The Maldives has also leased an uninhabited island, Feydhoo Finolhu, to a Chinese enterprise for 50 years at a price of around 4 million USD, with plans to develop infrastructure for tourism. Along the African coastal belt, one-quarter of all Chinese investment is



concentrated in Nigeria and Angola. Nigeria has received relatively large funds from China for railways. Abuja also hopes that China will support peacekeeping in the Niger Delta region, which would better secure oil investments there. Beijing is backing two major rail projects—one from Lagos to Kano and the other from Lagos to Calabar.

China's ambitious BRI, 5 a 1 trillion USD investment project, is aimed at infrastructural developments. Beijing's promises to build roadways, railways, and ports to revive the trade route linking China to Asia. The CPEC, which is a BRI project, has been a great concern for India, as it passes through the Pakistan side of Kashmir.

Counterbalancing the India on the Seas the Chinese dragon might be obstructing India on land, disputing New Delhi's claim of the Line of Actual Control (LAC). However, Beijing's predominant geopolitical strategy of the great game lies in the Indian Ocean, where China has engaged in massive infrastructure projects for some time now. To counter the Indian interference China, needs to up its game in the maritime sphere. New Delhi has been increasing India's

The Indian Ocean is/will remain one of the world's most significant strategic locations almost 80 percent of the world's maritime trade and major portion of daily global oil transfers passing through the region. As a result, China's want to have Peaceful sound footing in the Indian Ocean, with a focus toward economic and military advances for its Geo-economics Plans.

military investments since the Modi government first came to power in 2014.

In the Bay of Bengal (BOB), India has modernized facilities in the Andaman Islands and at a base in Campbell Bay in the Nicobar Islands. In 2019, an infrastructure development plan worth 56.5 billion INR aimed at allowing additional warships, aircraft, troops, and drones to be stationed in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands was

However, it is also important to note that Mauritius and Seychelles, being the small islands that they are, may not align with India to the point of isolating China completely in the IOR. The United States, on the other hand is definitely providing Logistics support to India through Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) between Washington and New Delhi to many US facilities located in the Indo-Pacific.

India is a part of several bilateral and multilateral military exercises with US led allies in the Indian Ocean. Naval Exercise MILAN, hosted by the Indian Navy and most recently held on 8 November 2019, was attended by delegates from 17 foreign navies. The 2020 exercise has been postponed in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic but is expected to start its exercises with the projected participation of 30 foreign navies. Exercise Malabar is a trilateral maritime event between India, Japan, and the United States and aims at strengthening cooperation and enhancing interoperability among participants.

Recently India expanded the grouping by including Australia. Previously, India had been reluctant to invite Australia as it would appear to be connected to the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad), an informal strategic .However, given the June 2020 Sino-India clashes at the LAC in eastern Ladakh's Galwan Valley, India has made the decision of inviting Australia and in doing so enhanced its strategic position vis-à-vis Beijing. Separately, in June 2020, the Indian Navy increased its surveillance and operational deployment in the IOR, with the Galwan clash as a backdrop. The Indian Navy also held an important exercise with its Japanese counterparts in the IOR, where Chinese naval vessels and submarines exercises. China's ventures in the IOR are seen critically by the Indian Navy one of the main obstacle to its vested interests in the region.

As a move to strengthen itself at the IOR, China is also increasing its military capacity in the region—from the Malacca Strait to the waters off the African coasts. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, when the world order is witnessing a significant geostrategic shift, China strengthening its presence in the IOR. In this dynamic, China stepping forward to build up the gambit with Indian Ocean littorals such as Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mauritius, and Seychelles to nab the rise of India hegemonic aspirations and to foil the tactical plan of India with the United States, as "anti-Chinese moves" Which could have adverse effects for Pakistan also.

finalized. On 24 January 2019, the Indian Navy commissioned the new naval station INS Kohassa in the BoB islands to counter the Chinese influence at the IOR. Beijing has defended China's moves in the IOR by stating that it aims for peace and stability in the region.

To counter India in the Indian Ocean, China needs to get the support from the island nations in the region. India has recently undertaken infrastructure development projects with dual-use logistics facilities in Mauritius and Seychelles. As per a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed in 2015 by Indian Prime Minister Modi and his Mauritian counterpart, India would set up infrastructure for improving air and sea connectivity and the construction of the naval base would lead to the displacement of Agaléga Islanders. New Delhi wants to use this to India's advantage to gain logistical assistance from Seychelles as well.

With Seychelles, India has agreed on developing infrastructure on Assumption Island. India has also helped Victoria with ocean mapping to protect Seychelles exclusive economic zone and has donated aircraft and launched a radar project.

The importance of Geo-Economics is a reality of the World

OPINION

By TON Research Section

In this period of mass communications, technology, and globalization the international boundaries are shrinking and hazy in terms of economic upheaval. As economic strength is the chief source of a strong political system; hence geo-economics is becoming the new geopolitics as well geo-strategic in the world. As Geo-economics is an avenue to flourish new trends, norms, and traditions in commerce of any country, which realize us that how commerce is moving in new ways in the 21st century.

China was India's top importer till recently despite having disputes with each other for long like the Ladakh crisis. Despite its repeated calls for a boycott of Chinese products, India imported \$58.71 billion worth of goods from China in the year 2019. It means that despite ideological differences, it is impossible without economic interdependence the world can move forward and go ahead even if the nations are at war and logger-heads with each other. The lesson that has to be learned by everyone is that states have to create a perspective on where they stand within the increasingly complex network of geo-economics because in today's world no state can progress or even survive in isolation and need to reassess their economic goals and significance in the sprouting worldwide marketplace and broaden their assimilation crossways borders and through continents.

In the expeditiously varying scenario of our times, it is mandatory to comprehend the importance of geopolitics and geo-economics. Unless we are able to have a fresh, wider, and more open visualization of our world, we will neither be able to see where our future is safe economically nor will we be in a position to make sound decisions and to keep the state our policies free from the reins of foreign hands.

This age of globalization is characterized by factors that include innovatory high-tech advances, concentration in sciences, quicker travel and dwindling spaces, and interconnectedness and interdependency. In this new air, not only do people interact with each other more, but the frequency of nations interacting with more and more nations has increased tremendously — turning politics into geopolitics and economics into geo-economics.

After the Cold War, when the UN and its supplementary officialdoms developed more influential and infiltrators, international commerce and trade were bounded in a unified financial system is the part and parcel of the world. Although the unified platforms, controlled by the banking system and international financial frameworks, opened traders and trading nations to many advantages, they also impose certain sets of regulations that are usually kind of biased towards dominant powers. But with time, because of sharing the same platforms and networks, nations have learned how to play with the system. They have learned how certain changes in trade policy can bring them enhanced profits, or can affect the economy of their adversaries or even send a wave of change across the globe — and even allow them to gain political leverage against their adversaries.

So, the US being the sole superpower, used geo-economic strategies such as imposing trade deals upon states or regional groups that benefit it or employing more and more economic sanctions on its adversaries because it controlled the financial system. Russia used the same card with the Ukraine gas dispute, in which Russia used its mineral resource to obstruct Ukraine's growing ties with the West and its bid to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and now the ongoing tussle of the US-China trade war. All this amounts to

the rise of geo-economics as the new tool in state-craftsmanship between states by knowing more and more aware of their true potentials about their human and natural resources.

It matters that how the way we live and see the world according to our priorities as Pakistani and as humans because good decisions and approaches always change the course of the future and the hitches of times. So, we in the

developing world can find our real possibilities to choose and control the way we should do commerce and business with the world. Another wise we will be unable to compete in the comity of nations and will be redundant to compete with technologically advanced states, and thus render ourselves dormant in the midst of a booming global economy.



To come at par with excellent exporting —nations What we have to understand that our problem is the lack of a sound economic base in form of making tools and accessories in every field of our national life and depending on this to the outside world particularly china shows our weakness. Geo-economics is the key to the progression and prosperity of a state and this we need a nation. Pakistan is strategically surrounded by regional and global adversaries. Therefore, Pakistan should follow the path of Geo-economics to be independent to get rid of its stagnant economic issues. Revaluation is the key to living and competing in a regional and global environment to explore new resolutions, ways, and means in the future. Once to judge and calculate the situation through the geo-economic lens, we could reach easily solutions that will be more innovative, workable, and futuristic as Pakistani—nation.

The Plight of Afghan people

OPINION

TON Research Team

According to the World Food Programme including other UN international agencies the 39 million people of Afghanistan are in danger of severe famine with more than half facing the very real outlook of starvation and despair ahead. UNICEF has warned that children are particularly prone to it and Afghan hospitals are already crowded, with children suffering severe malnourishment. In this situation, the Afghan Taliban has asked for the \$9.5 billion of Afghan funds stuffed overseas by the previous rulers of Afghanistan to be released to them. The Taliban say that \$150 million a month is the least that is required to run the country – at least at a basic level. Cash-strapped Afghanistan is in danger of a very real economic collapse and as winter sets in, conditions are swiftly becoming depressing day by day.

Amid international diplomacy and efforts to save the Afghan people who have faced an endless misery from more than three decades. The US and other Western powers are enduring in their refusal to recognize the Taliban government, on the basis of its past human rights record. With girls secondary schools closed down along with the accusations of maltreatment of journalists facing vehemence which the Taliban is refuting. The UN is providing humanitarian aid but this is not enough to sustain the Afghan people.

Recently, the director of External Programs and Aid at the Ministry of Education told in an interview at Kabul. He said the movement was committed to educating girls and was working on ways of getting them back to school. He said no women teachers had been laid off, and that this is “a positive message to the world that we are working on a mechanism to sort the issue. We are not working on deleting them from our schools and universities.” “Our Ulema (religious scholars) are working on it, and soon INSHALLAH, we will announce it to the world.

Pakistan has also asked the Western leaders to recognize the Taliban government. The same plea has come from the former US special envoy for Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad, who had brokered and negotiated the settlement which led to the US withdrawal in August instantly followed by the Taliban takeover. He has said that right now Afghanistan needs to be saved from economic breakdown. At a meeting in Tehran, Afghanistan's neighbors – including Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan and other Central Asian republics joined by China and Russia – have also called for certain formula that can avert the complete collapse of Afghanistan. Russia has indicated it may be keen to offer some help to the Afghan government, while at the same time Russia and regions surrounding it, including Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and other countries have conducted military activities close to the Afghan border indicating a desire to display intolerance to terrorism. The situation is indeed a very puzzling one. But it is the Afghan people who continue to suffer the worst. A solution should be found which can ease their suffering and prevent catastrophe. The UN has already warned that Afghanistan could see the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.



In some northern areas, girls have already resumed their education. However, he also said that education, like other areas of government, had been hit hard by the abrupt withdrawal of foreign support following the collapse of the Western-backed government in August and he appealed for aid to be restored. “If they truly want to see girls in schools, they ought to help us now”. In the meantime, the United States with its western allies besides with, the Russia demanding that the promises should be fulfill by the Taliban with action.

The purportedly visit of the Indian Army Chief to mend F

OPINION

TON Research Team

The three-day crucial visit of India's Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Mukunda Naravane in November last year to Nepal was the first-ever high-level contact from the southern neighbor after a tense border row between the two countries plunged ties to an all-time low in recent history.

The ties between the two countries came under strain after an 80-km-long strategically crucial Nepalese road, which was illegally inaugurated by India. Army chief General Naravane's visit this November to Nepal largely aimed at resetting the bilateral ties that came under severe tension following a bitter border row between the two countries. He was accompanied by his wife Veena Naravane.

They were received by the Chief of General Staff, Lieutenant General Prabhu Ram upon arrival at the Tribhuvan International Airport. During the visit, President Bidya Devi Bhandari conferred the honorary rank of General of the Nepal Army to the Indian Army Chief amid reservations of the sagacious sections of Nepalese society at a special ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

He also met Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli. India's decision to send the Army Chief to Nepal to retune the ties is seen as part of a larger exercise by New Delhi to invigorate relations with Myanmar, the Maldives, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Afghanistan in the wake of greater efforts by China to expand its influence in the region. The ties between the two countries came under severe stress after Indian Defence Minister inaugurated an 80-km-long strategically crucial road connecting the Lipulekh pass with Dharchula in Uttarakhand on 8th May.

Nepal protested the inauguration of the road claiming that it passed through its territory. Later on, in June Nepal's Parliament approved the new political map of the country featuring areas that India usurped illegally. Nepal came out with the new map showing Lipulekh, Kalapani, and Limpiyadhura as its territories to which India reacted harshly, calling it a "unilateral act" and intimidating Kathmandu that such "artificial enlargement" of territorial claims will not be tolerable.

India said Nepal's action violates an understanding reached between the two countries to resolve the boundary issues through talks. Nepal Prime Minister Oli has been asserting that Lipulekh, Kalapani, and Limpiyadhura belong to Nepal and vowed to "reclaim" them from India. The Lipulekh pass is a far western point near Kalapani, a disputed border area between Nepal and India. Both India and Nepal claim Kalapani as an integral part of their territory – India as part of Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district and Nepal as part of Dharchula district.

Although the stated purpose of the visit of Naravane to be adorned with the honorary rank of General of the Nepal Army, in accordance with a ritual of friendship between both the armies but the implicit purpose of the visit Indian army chief is to mend fences with Nepal amid a diplomatic standoff between the two countries and a year after the boundary dispute came to the fore. In fact, the visit drives to stabilize cracked relations due to the longstanding territorial dispute and attempt to revive the much-needed dialogue between the two



countries.

Since then, there have been no high-level visits from both sides as Kathmandu was looking for a date to hold boundary talks with India at Foreign Secretary-level to resolve the dispute but India has shown no interest to solve the issue. Nepal then sent four diplomatic notes to India to hold talks to settle the dispute. However, as India was unwilling to sit for talks on the boundary issue and then Nepal's government issued a new map of the country incorporating the disputed territories with the approval of Nepalese parliamentarians both the treasury and opposition.

A week after the opening of an 80-kilometer long track by Singh in Lipulekh on May 8, The Indian army chief had said that time in conference hinted towards China that was creating a flashpoint between Delhi and Kathmandu. He blamed the then prime minister Oli of Nepal that he is doing this at the behest of someone else. His statement had created a huge uproar in Kathmandu. Many believe that Naravane's statement was one of the major reasons behind Kathmandu's decision to release the new map.

After conclusion of Indian Army Chief to Nepal, the Nepal Army Chief General Prabhuram Sharma paid a four-day visit to New Delhi from November 9 to November 12 during which he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his Indian counterpart Indian army chief and other service chiefs to boost bilateral defense ties. The Nepal Army chief will also meet the National Security advisor, Defense Minister External Affairs Minister, and the three service chiefs and defense secretary. He will also attend an event at the National Defence College.

Nepal and China are getting closer to each other to counter the Indian nefarious and vested interest in South Asia. Accordingly, China also revived the rail project worth \$300 million in Nepal connecting Lhasa to Kathmandu. However, India is playing its card to win Nepal to its side. During the visit, Nepal Army Chief General Prabhuram Sharma has been conferred the honorary rank of General in the Indian Army in reciprocation of the honor given to the Indian Army Chief during his visit to Nepal. New Delhi has promised provision of equipment and military training.

The diplomatic relations between the two nations had become strained over the construction of a new strategic 80 km road in Uttarakhand to the Lipulekh pass on the India-Nepal-China tri-injunction. This will show the BJP led Indian government tactics to propel its hegemonic designs in South Asia. On the one hand, it occupied illicitly the land of Nepal, and on the other hand, as part of media war strategy, it accused China of taking advantage of the strained relations, made attempts to exert influence in Nepal including land grab in many places at the borders. Nepal has adopted a wise policy to engage all neighbours and promote peace, otherwise Kathmandu has made clear that it will not compromise on its land.

France Bangladesh Relations – A Matter of Concern

OPINION

By R. Hassan (TON Bangladesh)

The Bangladeshi city, Dhaka, has seen tens of thousands of people protesting against France's stricter stance on radical Islam. In response to President Emmanuel Macron's defense of cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad, protesters burned his effigy. The French embassy was out of bounds for the protesters due to police blockades. After defending French secularism, Mr. Macron has become a target in Muslim-majority countries.

After the beheading of a teacher earlier this month to display cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad, he expressed his concern. Paying tribute to the educator, Mr. Macron declared that France “would not give up our cartoons.”

Turkish President Recep Erdogan proposed an additional boycott of French goods on Monday. Turkey and France are embroiled in a diplomatic spat. Despite Erdogan's rage at his allies, the lira continues to fall. President Trump said that Muslims are being “subjected to a lynch campaign like that against Jews in Europe before World War II,” in a televised address. European leaders should encourage the French President to stop his hate campaign, he added.

Mr. Erdogan's criticism of the French leader has been denounced by countries across Europe, who have backed Mr. Macron. On Saturday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan suggested France's envoy to Turkey required “psychological treatment” for his stance on extreme Islam, forcing France to recall its ambassador for consultations.

Bangladesh's largest Islamist party, Islami Andolan Bangladesh (IAB), organized the march. According to police estimates, about 40,000 people participated.

There were calls to boycott French goods and for President Emmanuel Macron to be punished by protesters. Islamic Andolan leader Ataur Rahman informed demonstrators that “Macron is one of the few leaders who worship Satan,” he said.

“Islamophobia is France's greatest enemy. Our opponents are those who represent them “a second head of the group, Nesar Uddin, remarked.

To keep protesters away from the French Embassy, police used barbed wire to encircle a route about three miles (5 kilometers) away. Mauritania, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Iraq, and France have all issued a warning to their residents, urging them to exercise caution in the wake of recent protests.

France's position on freedom of conscience and speech, freedom of religion, and the refusal of any call to hatred, as well as Mr. Macron's views on Islam, have been distorted by the calls for a boycott, a statement said.

Because of this, boycott calls are meaningless and must halt immediately, as well as the attacks on our country that are being used by a radical minority.

Abdellah Anzorov, 18, killed French teacher Samuel Paty near Paris on October 16 for displaying Prophet Muhammad caricatures to his students during a seminar on free speech.

Murderers struck just as a trial for the 2015 attack on Charlie Hebdo, a parody magazine that published the drawings.

After the murder of Mr. Paty, protests took place across France. As part of an homage to the instructor, his picture and Prophet Muhammad's caricatures were shown on town halls in two French cities last week.

Samuel Paty, the French teacher who was shot and died in Paris, Toulouse, Lyon, and other French cities, has been the subject of rallies.

This struggle for freedom and the defense of the republic of

France and Bangladesh want to increase their cooperation and conversation to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth by enhancing connectivity in South Asia and facilitating European-Asian contacts. To that end, they lauded the ASEM's efforts in promoting connectivity and the European approach to global connectivity. They stressed the importance of continuing economic projects based on the principles of fair competition and transparency to meet the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda's goals and targets as well as those of the G20. For the first time, Bangladesh and France have inked a defense cooperation agreement, and they also share the same goal for a free and open Indo-Pacific area.

which you have become the face will continue, Mr. Macron vowed during a ceremony.

When Mr. Paty died, it was just two weeks after President Francois Hollande said that Islam was a religion in “crisis” and pledged new steps to combat “Islamist separatist” in France. In Islam, depictions of the Prophet Muhammad are banned, and many Muslims find them offensive.

The Bangladeshi Prime Minister, H.E. Ms. Sheikh Hasina, is scheduled to visit France from November 9, 2021, at the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron. Both nations' 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties will be celebrated next year, as well as key international and regional challenges, during the high-level talks that officials from both countries attended. As both parties remembered the historic leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and Bangladesh thanked France for its support during the War of Liberation in 1971, they also acknowledged the importance of the French government and people.

Secondly, France and Bangladesh praised the expansion of their friendship and reaffirmed their commitment to frequent political consultations for strategic direction. All areas of cooperation, including politics and diplomacy, defense and security, commerce and investment, sustainable development, climate change, and education, have been reaffirmed by the two countries. Both countries also emphasized a long-term commitment to regional and international collaboration.

France and Bangladesh have expressed their desire to expand their cooperation in the area of defense and

security. They agreed during their meeting that they would work together, particularly in the field of training. Consequently, Regarding defense equipment cooperation and capacity building, both countries agreed to work together to meet their respective demands, as well as possible technology transfer. All parties welcomed the signing of a Letter of intent on defense cooperation.

France and Bangladesh have a similar vision for an Indo-Pacific region founded on international law and shared prosperity for all people. They decided to cooperate in maritime security and blue economy, taking French and European plans for the Indo-Pacific. They also agreed to strive to promote peace and stability in the region. Their commitment to the 1982 United Nations Convention on a Law of the Sea and peaceful settlement of disputes, without the threat or use of force, underlined that sustaining security and freedom in all seas and oceans is critical to the peace and stability of the world.

A joint statement from France and Bangladesh reiterated the need to combat terrorism in all its forms and expressions, as well as the fact that terrorist acts are illegal and unjustified. Therefore, both countries agreed to increase their cooperation with the United Nations and voice their support for counter-terrorism measures.

Though the current relationship between the countries seems to be cold and a bit troublesome, we expect the ties between them would be full of peace and love. And as far as Islam is concerned, religion is the most peace-loving one in the world, and it doesn't support any conflict.



Why Should Pakistan become a part of the IORA Policy?

OPINION

By R. Hassan (TON Bangladesh)

IORA is a regional economic cooperation organization founded in 1997 by a group of Indian Ocean countries. The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) has grown into the region's most influential organization.

Twenty-three nations have joined since it was founded with just 14 members at the beginning of its existence: Australia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, China, Egypt, Germany, Italy, Japan, Turkey, the Republic of Korea, the UK, and the USA are among the nine countries with whom IORA has engaged in talks.

With the dawn of the new millennium, Pakistan's and China's naval forces conducted a combined training exercise. The “iron brothers” drill in the Arabian Sea near India's western coast, which houses the country's major ports, was a source of fear and conjecture for India. For the first time, Pakistan demonstrated that it is serious about building an Indian Ocean policy through the “Sea Guardians 2020” exercise.

The Indian Ocean Region, informally known as the IOR, is a huge omission from the media coverage of the region, despite increased rivalry in the region.

The Strait of Hormuz, which separates the Arabian Sea from the Indian Ocean, is just beyond the Pakistani border. Pakistan's Indian Ocean policy, despite its advantageous location, is still missing. However, China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has both land and sea components; Pakistan is solely involved in the land component of the BRI, which includes China's western Xinjiang region. In light of Pakistan's weak economy and isolation from the rest of the international community, Pakistan must develop a comprehensive foreign strategy that incorporates the CPEC, the IOR, and the Gwadar Port.

Isolation from Central Asia and other Indian Ocean states is a sign of Pakistan's lack of an Indian Ocean policy that works together. Karachi Port and Port Qasim, both on the Arabian Sea, account for about ninety percent of Pakistan's trade. The Pakistani government does not participate in many regional meetings and conferences.

“India and the Indian Ocean,” a collection of articles by Indian statesman and subcontinental strategist K. M. Panikkar, provides a strategic overview of the Indian Ocean.

Panikkar analyzes the Indian Ocean's strategic importance to subcontinental India in great detail in his book, which was written before the partition. The



From left, the French navy Tripartite-class mine hunter FS Sagittaire (M650), the mine countermeasures ship USS Sentry (MCM 3) and the Royal Navy Sandown-class mine countermeasures vessel HMS Shoreham (M112) break formation in the Persian Gulf May 21, 2013, during International Mine Countermeasures Exercise (IMCMEX) 2013. IMCMEX is an international symposium and exercise designed to enhance cooperation, mutual maritime capabilities and long-term regional stability between the U.S. and its international partners. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Cmdr. T. Scot Cregan/Released)

Indian government's Maritime Security Strategy has identified choke areas and the need for the Indian Navy to have a militarized footprint in the Indian Ocean, which Delhi derives from today. It should be remembered that Panikkar's essays are just as critical in Pakistan as they are in India.

In the present day, India and Pakistan are still focusing on unresolved partition plans. Their shared heritage is restricted to a divide between the region's literary and historical luminaries and their descendants. A new Muslim identity is being created in Pakistan by disowning strategic sub-continental thinking to separate itself from India. At the same time that the U.S. and China are at odds over their interests in the Indian Ocean, Pakistan lacks a framework to pursue the Indian Ocean's current developments.

Since then, Gwadar Port has never been developed, despite Pakistan's promise to the U.S. in September 1973. As a result, China has taken advantage of this opportunity, which has far-reaching consequences for South Asia. Indian Ocean's “new Great Game” centered around the BRI, a Chinese-led project that includes the countries of Pakistan

and India and their respective allies in the U.S. and China.

As previously discussed, there is a solid Indian component to regional programs like IORA, BIMSTEC, and SAGAR. If South Asia does not have a conflict between India and Pakistan, Pakistan's presence in forums like this is even more critical.

Following President Xi's recent visit to India, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan's recent visit to China shows that states may find ways to coexist competition and trade despite political differences. Pakistan is targeting only one country in the region. In contrast, India and China are at odds, but they also retain commercial ties. Panikkar, in its “Act East, Think West” program, India's Indian Ocean strategy is a saffron Monroe Doctrine. In contrast, Pakistan does not have a strategy for creating a cohesive Indian Ocean policy that looks south to East Africa, Mauritius, and Southeast Asia.

It is time for Pakistan to focus on what Panikkar has taught in his articles on the Indian Ocean and recognize its critical importance to both India and Pakistan.

The United States uses India as an off-shore balancing tool to counter China's growing economic power. Indian Ocean ties have been reinforced due to the country's self-proclaimed status as Net Security Provider. It is now looking to grow its naval force through military support, diplomacy, military deployment, and capacity-building. There is a strong correlation between India's ambitions to have a blue economy and a 200-ship fleet, its effective deterrent patrol of SSBN Arihant, and its nuclear triad's completion.

The Role of India in the Socio-Economic Development of Sri Lanka

OPINION

By M.N.F.Nasriya (TON Sri Lanka)

India and Sri Lanka has always been in good bilateral relationship; India always gave a special place to Sri Lanka. Their relationships are built upon strong foundations, as they share the same culture, socio-economic heritage and people to people interaction over centuries. It is marked by close contact in the fields of development, education, culture, trade, investment, politics, defense, and issues on mutual interest. Decades after the armed conflict, Sri Lanka was paving its way to a peaceful future. The government and the people of India gave Sri Lanka a helping hand in reconciliation, reconstruction and rehabilitation with commitment. The development partnership India and Sri Lanka has is unique; they are built on foundations of a historic past, socio-cultural empathy, political understanding and geographical realities. India has been one of the foremost development partners of Sri Lanka with the war coming to an end. Development Partnerships Development projects initiated by India are based on the priorities set by the Sri Lankan government for the benefit of the nation. Sri Lanka has always appreciated India for the value they have generated, their transparency, and timely implementation through recourse on manpower and local material, which in turn strengthens the local economies. Development assistance specially focuses on capacity building, human resources development, strengthening

sections that are weak, and infrastructure development.

If we recall, the relationship between India and Sri Lanka was lukewarm till 2010. India's assistance to Sri Lanka began when the IDPs started moving out of the conflict zone, it gained momentum only after the commitments made during the visit of His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka to India in June 2010. The prime minister of India announced a development package to Sri Lanka which included 50,000 housing units, wreck removal and restoration of the KKS Harbor, Vocational Training Centers, a Cultural Centre at Jaffna, a 500 MW coal power plant at Sampur, recovery of Thiruketheeswaram Temple in Mannar, reconstruction of MahathmaGhandhi center in Matale, Northern Railway lines reconstruction, an Agricultural Research Institute in the Northern Province, scholarship program for Sri Lankan students to pursue studies in India, English Language Training centers and to provide technical assistance for the National Action Plan for a Trilingual Sri Lanka.

India has made an honest effort with a sense of purpose and urgency to fulfill a substantial number of these commitments, despite the challenges faced while implementation. A significant number of projects collaborated with India's assistance have been on schedule and some are ahead of schedule. However, some have been shelved despite passage of over a decade.

The Evolution

Sri Lanka has always appreciated India's timeliness and phased approach considering the ground situation and



addressing the immediate needs of the people at all times. India commenced sending emergency relief to IDPs moving out of the conflict zone even before the armed conflict came to an end. This assistance comprised of items used daily such as clothing, essential food packets, personal hygiene items, utensils, etc. An Emergency Field Hospital was set up at Pulmoddai, to attend to the immediate medical needs of the IDPs which was shifted to Chettikulam later, to give emergency treatment. The focus shifted to resettlement and rehabilitation of the IDPs soon after the armed conflicts came to an end; providing temporary shelters, corrugated roofing sheets and cement bags. Amongst the priority list was livelihood restoration. India supplied seeds and agricultural implements to farmers to revive farming swiftly. To facilitate safe and secure movement and resettlement of the people,

India contributed seven demining teams to supplement this anti-mine action. Artificial limb-fitment camps were organized for the victims of the armed conflict.

Housing, reconstruction and development were the long-term needs India paid attention to after fulfilling the short-term needs of the people. An essential part of India's assistance strategy for this phase is capacity building. India's portfolio of development projects encompasses all important sectors of the economy which includes housing, infrastructure, fisheries, industry, education, health, handicrafts, agriculture, culture and sports. India's assistance kept moving forward to the next step that involved improving trade and investment opportunities with India to uplift the livelihood of people, and to strengthen bilateral relationship. India has initiated several projects to revive the economies in the North and in the Eastern parts of Sri Lanka, which includes the revival of Atchchuvely Industrial Zone, fishnet factory in Jaffna, Palmyrah Research Institute in Jaffna, supplying fishing equipment, outboard motors to fishermen in Mannar district, a Handicrafts Village in Jaffna, distribution of trishaws to war widows in Ampara and Batticaloa districts, and assistance to small businesses in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts which were affected by the war. Better future for all India, after the conclusion of the armed conflict cashed the opportunity to aid in building a strong link with the people of Sri Lanka. India will continue to support due Sri Lankan as Sri Lankan population form majority of the population of Tamil Nadu state and also lives in parts of Kerala, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh states. As India's own internal stability is linked with having good relations with Sri Lanka so Government of India is likely to stand by Sri Lanka in all its endeavors in a spirit of cooperation and partnership.



Are the Minorities' Rights in Bangladesh really in Danger?

OPINION

By R Hassan (TON Bangladesh)

Bangladesh has always been a peace-loving nation. Though Bangladesh is primarily a Muslim living country, the rights of others are well ensured here. But some occurrences within the territory in the past and recently have put Bangladesh in front of a question mark. Recently, a heinous occurrence did take place in the Hindu temple during the Durga Puja festival. PM Sheikh Hasina promised to “track down” anyone guilty for the violence while speaking to worshippers at Bangladesh's Hindu temple in Dhaka.

She is attempting to follow Islamic teachings on how to deal with such difficulties. Islam is the most peace-loving religion, and it always emphasizes respect towards other religions as well. It was discovered that the perpetrators were Indian. PM Hasina delivered a statement as a result: “Our neighboring countries must also cooperate,” she stated. Our country and the Hindu people must not be harmed by any actions taken in India.”

Two Hindu men were slain, and temples were vandalized in Bangladesh amid rioting sparked by the alleged violation of the Muslim holy book at a Hindu religious gathering last week.

Violence erupted across Bangladesh recently when a photo of the Quran being put on the knee of a Hindu deity during Durga Puja celebrations in the eastern district of Cumilla was extensively shared on social media.

At least six people were killed, and over a hundred were injured in a series of attacks on Hindu temples and clashes with the police that erupted across Bangladesh over the following days.

As Hindus in Begumganj, Bangladesh, prepared to mark the end of a 10-day festival, more than 200 armed assailants assaulted and stabbed an executive temple committee member to death, police claimed.

Another Hindu man's body was found near a pond next to the temple on Saturday morning, according to the local police chief Shahidul Islam. After yesterday's incident, two persons were killed. “We're looking for the culprits,” he said.

Bangladesh has a population of over 165 million people, of which approximately 10 % are Hindus.

Brick-throwing Muslim protesters were also pelted with tear gas and rubber bullets by police in the capital Dhaka and the port city of Chittagong. There was an apparent effort to stop the violence from spreading by shutting down high-speed mobile phone internet services. At least 20 Hindu homes in the Pirganj neighborhood of Rangpur city were reportedly set on fire by Bangladeshi media recently. Protesters waving banners of Islamist political



parties had taken to the streets outside Dhaka's largest mosque the day before the tragedy. They shouted “Down with the enemies of Islam” and “Hang the perpetrators.”

More than a thousand Hindus demonstrated at a nearby intersection in protest over Muslim mobs' attacks on temples and the deaths of two Hindu pilgrims. Over 150 people were hurt, according to community leader Gobinda Chandra Pramanik, and 80 improvised temples were targeted.

To prevent more unrest, officials have deployed additional security measures, including a paramilitary border guard. Leaders of the Hindu community in Bangladesh met with Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Thursday, and she assured them of concrete action.

As of this writing, roughly 90 people have been detained. Asad-uz-Zaman Khan, the home minister, promised that “we will hunt down all the masterminds.”

According to the Press Trust of India agency, there will be a sit-in and hunger strike in the Bangladesh port city of Chittagong on October 23 as a protest against the atrocities against Hindus.

On Saturday, a spokeswoman for the forum announced that the protest events would be held at Dhaka's Shah Bagh and Chittagong's Andar Qilla, where they had previously observed a six-hour strike. She wasn't worried when she let her college student son, Pranta Chandra Das, 21, remain at a temple complex in Bangladesh's south-eastern Noakhali region last week. Yet catastrophe happened. Hundreds of Muslim fanatics are said to have battered him to death there.

“He was the closest to my heart of all my children. Since his passing, I've lost both my heart and all I held dear “She said this while sobbing uncontrollably



OPINION

By Farzana Tamannur (TON Bangladesh)

Bangladesh appeals UN to resolve maritime demarcation dispute with India

Bangladesh has filed petition to the United Nations (UN) to solve its decade-long maritime disagreement with India over the demarcation in the southern Bay of Bengal. The disagreement arose following India's coinciding claims and the countries have unsuccessful to sort the matter bilaterally.

As stated by a Foreign Ministry source, Bangladesh's Permanent Mission to the UN Headquarters in New York filed two pleas to the UN Secretary General against India, objecting the straight baselines in the Bay of Bengal appealed by India.

“This disagreement has been hanging for numerous years between the two nationals and both countries have unsuccessful to solve it over bilateral discussions despite lots of meetings over the matter. Now both states have gone to the UN plus we hope that the world's largest platform will deliver a viable solution,” Shahidul Haque, previous foreign secretary of Bangladesh, told Anadolu Agency. The problem has, though, became complex after India sent a letter to the UN conflicting the baseline set by Bangladesh in April 2021. Afterward that, Bangladesh too decided to take the stuff to the UN. At that time, Bangladesh opposed to the Indian claims, saying that there was no lawful basis on the declaration made by India. In 2014, a United Nations tribunal ruled in favor of Bangladesh and against India regarding a sea boundary dispute between the two countries.

Reminding that the border was determined by the decision on July 7, 2014, the letter to the UN chief said, “The Government of the Republic of India issued gazette notices (Ministry of External affairs Notice, New Delhi, G.S.R. 334(E) dated 23rd March 2016 & GSR 381 (E) dated 29 Mar 2016, correspondingly) reflecting the Reward of the arbitral tribunal connected to the single maritime border line among Bangladesh and India, counting the crossing point of the two maritime border lines at precisely the similar coordinates as recognized by Bangladesh in its modified submission.

“There is consequently no dispute among Bangladesh and India as to the bounds of Bangladesh's privilege to the continental shelf



outside 200 M in the Bay of Bengal.”

The Commission (CLCS) has no part to play in the resolve of the range of the supposed “Grey area” wherever the Exclusive Economic Zone of India overlaps with the continental shelf outside 200 M of Bangladesh. The Commission's part is restricted to determining that Bangladesh has a privilege in the continental shelf outside 200 M and the limit(s) of that entitlement,” specified the letter.

“In its unique submission to the Commission dated 25 February 2011, Bangladesh defined the bounds of the continental shelf outside 200 M by reference to the depth formula (2500 m isobath + 100 M), which bound was considerably outside the limit defined by the tripoint wherever its maritime borders with India and Myanmar overlap,” it reads.

“The Commission consequently needs only to decide that Bangladesh's privilege in the continental shelf outside 200M extends at least as far as the tripoint founded on the Reward of the Annex VII tribunal and the Judgment of ITLOS and take notice of the fact that its prospective entitlement has already been significantly curtailed by the verdicts of those tribunals,” it added.

In a note verbale to the UNSG on September 13, 2021, Bangladesh said the use of straight baselines in this region does not conform to the applicable guidelines of worldwide law and normal international law. Several of the base points for the straight baselines set by India are entirely at sea without grounded on any form of shoreline. India's base point 87 is completely at sea, as the nearest Indian coast is about 10.5 nautical miles away. India's base point 89 is situated on Bangladesh's side of the maritime border with India, 2.3nm inside Bangladeshi waters.

The disputes rose as India in 2009 submitted its entitlement to the continental shelf of the Bay of the Bengal cutting off Bangladesh's entree to the deep sea and generating a dispute over numerous thousand square kilometers of regions claimed by Bangladesh of the continental shelf.

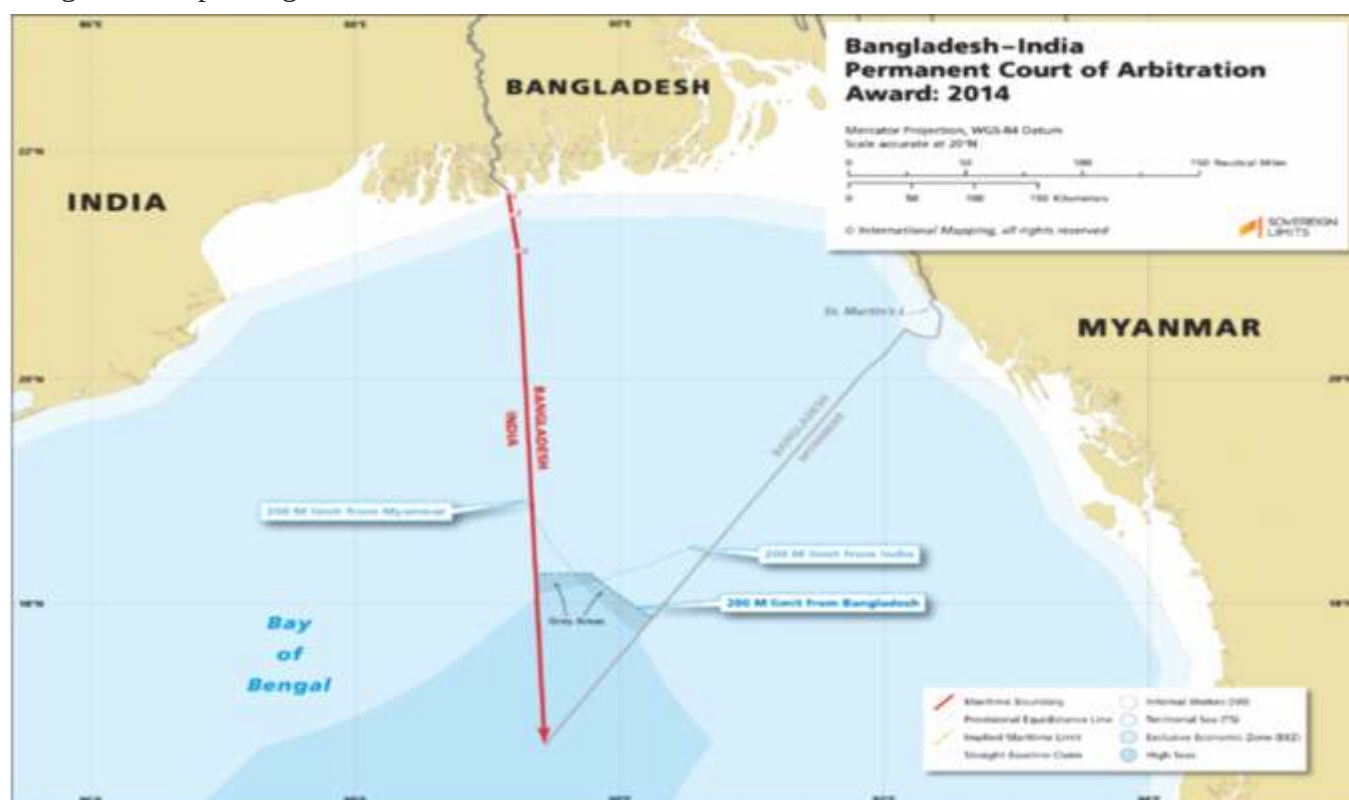
Bangladesh directly lodged distinct objections with the UN on the matters as the maritime boundary demarcation between the two countries endured unresolved back in 2009.

On February 25, 2011, Bangladesh submitted to the commission on the bounds of the continental shelf inside 200nm from the baseline from which the breadth of the regional sea is measured.

The grey area at the deep sea involving Bangladesh's maritime border was set by a worldwide tribunal. Myanmar moreover lodged a submission to the UN, in December 2008, to start its claim in deep sea from the west coast bordering the Bay of Bengal, counting around the Preparis and Co Co Islands, which Bangladesh disputes.

Bangladesh protested to the Myanmar submission appealing that the regions Myanmar were looking for in the outside continental shelf form part of the natural prolongation of Bangladesh

The cases on protests recorded by Bangladesh, India and Myanmar are still pending with the UN. It is high time that UN resolve the Bangladesh's grievances of maritime demarcation issue with India as it may lead to any untoward incident between Bangladesh and India.



Religious Identity of Bangladesh

OPINION

By R Hassan (TON Bangladesh)

As a moderate Muslim democracy, Bangladesh has been designated by the United Nations. The current Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, on the other hand, described Bangladesh as a secular country. A “non-communal country,” she said, with a “Muslim majority” population. Moreover, the Foreign Minister argued that Bangladesh could not be considered a moderate Muslim democracy because it gained its independence based on secularism. The debate over whether Bangladesh should be a religious or a secular nation has played a significant role in forming Bangladesh's national identity. Whether Bangladesh is a country of secular Bengalis or Muslims, Bangladeshis still loom large over the country.

A visitor from another country might be perplexed by Bangladesh's contradictory character. A country with a sizeable Muslim population and a government that acknowledges Islam as its state religion is logically referred to as a “moderate Muslim democracy.” Since it began, the world media has been silent on the Shahbag movement's calls for the death penalty for war crimes. One possible explanation is that they don't understand why people of Muslim descent are upset about the politicization of religion (see Islam). From a historical perspective, we must examine the Shahbag movement's concerns. Instead of redressing the 42-year-old wound, we're talking about how it was “silenced” to maximize the narrow political gains of the country's major political parties.

According to the Two-Nation Theory, 'religion' is the driving force behind the 1947 partition of the subcontinent and the link between religion and politics in this region. In the 1946 election, the strong support of Bengali Muslims for the Two-Nation idea was a decisive factor in its demise. But does this imply that East Bengalis held a religious devotion to the notion of the Two Nations? There is a perception that it exact reverse is true. Researchers have shown that East Bengalis rallied around the goal of gaining economic independence from West

Bengal. Fazlul Haque's non-communal attitude to the issue of Hindu-Muslim relations and economic issues collected the people of East Bengal under his leadership. When it comes to 'dal-bhat (rice-lentil),' research demonstrates that the overwhelming support from rural parts of Bengal for the creation of Pakistan was motivated by a desire to alleviate their fundamental food crisis. As a result, Islam was not a dominant political ideology in Bengal, and it could not claim to provide an ideological alternative to the prevailing political ideas.

The Two-Nation Theory, which was based on the Hindu-Muslim dichotomy, proved to be true to its name because it depicted East and West Pakistan as two separate states. They are baffled as to why we, as minor Muslim groups, refuse to learn Urdu due to mass migration of Urdu speaking people from India. Tagore is a Hindu poet, and they don't understand why Muslims are enamored with him. Student protests against Jinnah's statement that “Urdu shall be the national language of Pakistan” in 1948 on the Dhaka University campus despite Jinnah's agreement to Bengali as regional language. It was Indian leadership germs that were planted for a new nation. It is claimed that there was a movement for a new nation that was born out of the Bengali Language Movement. However, grievances against the Indian immigrants settled in East Pakistan and brutal attitude of West Pakistani forces here cannot be ignored.

Even though Bengali nationalism was founded on secularism due to what West Pakistani did, its spirit was only enforced on paper because of the fear that secularism could be misunderstood as atheism. Awami League election manifesto in 1970 said that no law would be passed that contradicted the teachings of the Quran and Sunnah, even if secularism was advocated before 1971. Furthermore, political leader Maulana Bhashani stated that “we want food and we want clothes, but we do not want them excluding Allah.” Such inconsistencies spanned a wide area. Sheikh Mujib declared himself a Muslim and Bangladesh as the second-largest Muslim country upon his return from Pakistan in 1972, as secularism was one of the

founding principles of the People's Republic of Bangladesh constitution.

Back in 1972, secularism was widely feared and resented by the populace. On the day of the formal approval of the Constitution, a public parade was held in Dhaka that chanted, “Joy Bangla joy-hind, Lungi their dhuti pin.” When Bangladesh became a sovereign state in 1971, the customary Awami League motto of “Joy Bangla,” or “Victory to Bangla,” became meaningless and “victories.” Due to secularism being adopted as a state policy, traditional Bengali Muslim men's costume lungi will be replaced with traditional Hindu men's apparel dhuti. Awami League's attempt to reclaim its lost support by embracing Islamic values was the ultimate collapse of the government, combined with severe corruption. Meanwhile, the Awami League's devotion to secularism, which was written on paper, led to Bangladeshi nationalism, which in turn embraced religion to its fullest extent.

Shahbag's demand for an impartial trial of war criminals cannot be limited to a ban on Jamaat-e Islami's political activities or the entire political ideology of Islam. While politicians have utilized religion to their advantage, the overall question of secularism vs. religiosity must be considered. La ilah illallah, Naukar malik tui Allah (There is no god except Allah and Allah is the owner of the boat) was the election slogan of the Awami League, BNP, and Jamaat-e-Islami in 1996. Vote diley play, Khushi hobe Allah (Allah would be pleased if you vote for scale). Electoral campaigns in Bangladesh still begin in Sylhet, where pilgrims to the Islamic shrines and Pirs seek their blessings for a successful election.

Allah Hafiz has replaced the customary greeting “Khuda Hafiz” since “Allah” is Arabic and “Kuda” is Persian, which is two different languages. Even if the word “hafiz,” derived from the Arabic word “hifz,” is linked to the phrase, we have no idea or possibly don't care. To show that we are sincere Muslims, we are pleased to swap out Khuda for Allah. Do you think that's an accurate depiction of Bangladeshi culture? Also, it's painful to witness the sari, the traditional Bengali women's garment, being phased out in favor of the salwar-kameez in any public

gathering. In contrast to the younger generation's endorsement of salwar-kameez as a more convenient and manageable option, the older generation is more explicit in stating how the sari is an 'un-Islamic' attire that exposes essential female body parts salwar-kameez does not.

Our entire national culture is undergoing a radical shift. It's not as if Bangladesh doesn't have a ban on YouTube. A famous newspaper's editor should apologize to the Baitul Mukarram's Khatib for publishing a cartoon that purportedly infringed on religious feelings, but why? Facebook was also banned in the country a few months ago for a similar reason. The scholar Rafiuddin Ahmed, however, pointed it out briefly, “a Bengali Muslim may have seen himself primarily as a 'Muslim' the other day, as a 'Bengali' yesterday, and a 'Bengali Muslim' today, depending on objective conditions, but on none of these occasions did his thoughts and his idea of destiny become separated from his territorial identity.”

In the end, the state can't impose secularism from the top down. George Jacob Holyoake coined the term “secularism” in 1851 to distinguish between secularism and atheism in the English language. It's the same kind of conflict we're dealing with right now in the United States. Secularism is also seen as an attempt to “catch up” with the West or demonstrate that “we, too, have renounced religion; we are contemporary!” when it is enforced from the top down. Non-Western societies have a common problem: how to characterize themselves as modern in a way that the West can grasp. Non-Western societies have their originality to add to the ideals of modernity and secularism, which cannot simply be imposed in a 'add and stir' manner.

You cannot be modern or secular by putting these values into the Constitution, which ignores the social fabric of a country's modernization. There is no single method to be modern or secular. In addition, numerous studies reveal that even as a non-Western civilization modernizes, its religious legacy and historical experiences are not forgotten. The core of a resistance identity is formed by its values, culture, and religion in response to Westernization. Secularism, therefore, cannot be viewed solely through the Western perspective of mainstream and liberalism.

According to an academic, Bangladesh rejected the Pakistani interpretation of fundamentalist Islam in 1971, but this does not mean that Bangladesh has abandoned Islam as an integral part of its identity. Elites are shackled by their inability to see past the secular/religious split because of this. According to Schendel, Bangladesh's post-independence or first leaders failed to deliver on their promises.

There is no doubt; Bangladesh is a majorly Islamic nation but still, it also doesn't disrespect any other religions, and people of all religions ought to live here happily. Today, Bangladesh maintain equal rights for all the religions living here, however, its Islamic identity will remain there forever.



OPINION

By TON Research Section

The six-day visit of the special envoy of OIC in-connection with the IIOJK

The OIC special envoy of OIC arrived Pakistan on 7 November to focus on peace and security, human rights, humanitarian and legal aspects of the severe situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Ambassador Yousef Aldobeay, the special envoy of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation

(OIC) on Jammu and Kashmir, has arrived in the federal capital on Sunday on a six-day visit.

During his stay in Pakistan, Aldobeay, along with OIC's Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Ambassador TarigBakhit and other senior officials, is holding talks with Pakistani officials and Kashmir leaders, besides meeting the victims of the Indian violations of the Line of Control (LOC) ceasefire. The visit is strengthening the significance of a just settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute for durable peace in South Asia.

In the course of his visit to AJK, the envoy would interact with a cross-section of the Kashmiri society, including the true representatives of the Kashmiri people. The delegation will also visit a model village, housing the Kashmiris, who have been forcefully evicted from their homes by the Indian occupation forces in the IIOJK, and would meet with the victims of India's cross-LOC violations, including women

Kashmir at the level of foreign ministers also met on the sidelines of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly in New York, on Sept 23, 2021. The joint communiqué adopted on the occasion affirmed the OIC's unequivocal support to the legitimate struggle of the Kashmiri people for their right to self-determination as protected in UN Security Council resolutions and firmly rejected India's illegal and one-sided actions of August 5, 2019, and following steps. A delegation from the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission also visited Pakistan and AJK in August this year. At the 47th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) in Niamey, Niger in November last year, the OIC had called for examining and analyzing the egregious violations of international human rights and humanitarian standards in the IIOJK with particular reference to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is a litmus test for the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to take concrete steps to resolve the long-standing Kashmir dispute. Since August 5, 2019, over 8 million Kashmiris in Indian Illegally



embarked on a design to change the demographic structure of the occupied territory and obliterate the distinct identity of the Kashmiri people. To implement its plans, over 4.2 million fake domicile certificates have been issued already under the so-called "Jammu and Kashmir Grant of Domicile Certificate (Procedure) Rules, 2020". The snatching of mortal remains of great Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani, who passed away on September 1 after prolonged illegal Indian detention and house arrest even he was not allowed medical treatment abroad. The occupation forces denied his last rites of a Muslim funeral and buried him in another place rather than the 'Cemetery of Martyrs' as wished by Syed Geelani before his death. The OIC's special envoy on Jammu and Kashmir has played an important role in steering the organization's principled position on this issue. The special envoy had earlier also visited Pakistan and AJK in March 2020. He presented his first report to the 47th CFM, in Niamey. The report reaffirmed the OIC's support to the legitimate struggle of the Kashmiri people for their inalienable right to self-determination and recommended intensifying coordination between the OIC states to support the Kashmir cause. The international community should support Pakistan and the OIC's on its principle and steadfast stance on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute to solve it. As a collective voice of over 1.2 billion Muslims across the world, the OIC has led the way on this critical issue for the Ummah.



and children. "These engagements will provide the special envoy a first-hand account of the gravity of the situation on the ground in the IIOJK and along the LOC, besides that, the presence of the assistant secretary-general was particularly significant in the context of last year's Niamey declaration. That report confirmed the OIC's support to the legitimate struggle of the Kashmiri people for their undeniable right to self-determination and suggested increasing coordination between OIC member states to support the Kashmir dispute at worldwide forums. These engagements will provide the special envoy a first-hand account of the gravity of the situation on the ground in occupied Kashmir and along the LOC. As part of wide-ranging engagement on the Kashmir dispute, the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and

Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) continued to face lockdown, military siege, arbitrary detentions, and unprecedented restrictions. Under a suffocating military siege and in the face of ravaging the Covid-19 pandemic, the Indian army had continued so-called cordon and search operations, put down protests violently, and continued the use of pellet guns. The occupation forces are torturing and imprisoning Kashmiri political leaders, abducting children and women, staging fake "encounters", and indulging in a killing spree of Kashmiri youth in I I O J K . With the extremist "Hindutva" ideology, the RSS-BJP regime has



India is bent upon to deprive the Religious rights of its Minorities

OPINION

By TON Research Section

50th birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak and the magnificent, newly built Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur Complex is a gift by the people of Pakistan and its leadership to the Sikh community in India and worldwide. With the birth anniversary of the founder of the Sikh faith is about to start, thousands of Sikh pilgrims awaiting the reopening of the Kartarpur Corridor by the Indian government. The corridor remains shut even as other Covid-induced restrictions have undergone relaxation across the country. Pakistan is allowing visa-free access to Sikh pilgrims from India to visit their holy site. It shows Pakistan's continual assurance to enable Sikh pilgrims and promote religious tourism. However, the facility was temporarily shut down in March 2020 ensuing in the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. As the venue is quite a few days ahead the restrictions are being removed by the Pakistani government to enable Sikhs all over to attend its religious event. Both the Pakistani government, as well as the Sikh community, have been repeatedly urging the Modi administration to allow the religious community access to their holy site. Despite a strained relationship with India, the position of Pakistan is constantly committed to serving the Sikhs "on their visits for religious purposes" and went ahead with the opening of the Kartarpur Corridor, which reflects its continued pledge to facilitate Sikh pilgrims and Pakistan's approach is in line with the government's efforts to promote religious harmony in the regions and the same should be reciprocated by India too. "On Kartarpur, the policy of Pakistan



is very clear and values the significance of this corridor and remain strongly committed to its functioning, and support its early reopening. Recently, Pakistan's foreign affairs spokesperson said that we hope India would respond positively. However, Pakistan stepping up its efforts as a goodwill gesture to facilitate the Sikh pilgrims is likely to allow around 3,000 Sikh pilgrims from across the world to participate in the birthday festivities. In the meantime, Sardar Amar Singh, Head of the Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, said "our

Pakistani government has reopened the corridor well before time but it seems that the Indian government is bent on not letting us reunite with our families across the border." Amar Singh is also overseeing the arrangements for the birth anniversary celebrations. On Guru Nanak's birthday celebrations, on 17 November, around 3,000 Sikh pilgrims are planning and expected to reach Pakistan through the Wagah border if the Indian government allowed its religious Sikhs to attend the birthday of Baba Guru Nanak which is still yet to be seen. The main function will be held on

November 19 at Nankana Sahib. While Sikhs community set up meetings with Home Ministry officials in Delhi to take up the "ill-conceived" rationale of BJP led government keeping the border close for Sikhs when almost all religious places across the world have been thrown open to the public. Recently sworn-in Indian Punjab Chief Minister in a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked him to immediately reopen the corridor as there is considerable improvement in the Covid-19 situation.

Ironically, the government of India has opened India for foreigners and tourist visas from 15 October but the Indian side is hell-bent to deprive the rights of its minority citizens to attend its religious ceremonies in Pakistan like Sikhs despite being already opened from the Pakistan side and the case of reopening of Kartarpur border open is yet to be seen by the Indian government.

It was described by the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as 'Corridor of Hope' during his visit to Kartarpur Sahib in February 2020.

The statement further noted that in the last two years, the corridor has not just fulfilled the earnest desire of the Sikh community around the world for easy access to the revered site, but is also reflective of the primacy that Pakistan accords to all religious minorities in the country.

The corridor, it maintained, has opened new vistas for the promotion of inter-faith harmony.

A day earlier, it was reported that thousands of Sikh pilgrims await the reopening of the corridor and are worried about the fast-approaching birth anniversary of the founder of the Sikh faith. Keeping up with its gesture to facilitate the Sikh pilgrims, Pakistan would allow around 3,000 devotees from across the world to participate in the birthday celebrations.

Sudan doctors say 2 more protesters die from gunshot wounds

KHARTOUM, 16 November 2021, (TON): A doctors union said “two more Sudanese protesters died in the hospital from wounds after being shot during mass protests against last month’s military coup.”

The Sudan Doctors Committee said “that raises the death toll from Saturday’s protests to seven, all but one from gunshots.”

The committee said “more than 200 others were wounded when security forces used live ammunition and tear gas to disperse protesters in the capital city of Khartoum and its twin city of Omdurman.”

Sudanese police denied using live ammunition, saying its forces only resorted to tear gas to disperse demonstrators allegedly attacking police stations and vehicles.

They said “at least 39 policemen were wounded in Saturday’s clashes.”

Thousands of protesters took to the streets across Sudan on Saturday to rally against the military’s takeover last month.

The Oct. 25 takeover upended a fragile planned transition to democratic rule, more than two years after a popular uprising forced the removal of Omar Bashir and his government.



Sudan: Five killed in crackdown on Sudan anti-coup protests



KHARTOUM, 14 November 2021, (TON): Sudanese security forces killed at least five demonstrators Saturday in a crackdown on anti-coup protests, medics said, after the military tightened its grip by forming a new ruling council.

The pro-democracy protests come nearly three weeks after top general Abdel Fattah al-Burhan ousted the government, detained the civilian leadership and declared a state of emergency.

The independent Central Committee for Sudanese doctors said five protesters were killed in Saturday’s rallies, two in Khartoum’s twin city of Omdurman and three in east Khartoum.

Four were shot dead, while one died from “suffocation by tear gas”, the medics said.

they said “a large number of people were also wounded by live rounds “of the putschist military council.”

They added that security forces stormed one hospital in Omdurman and “detained several of the people wounded” there.

Pakistan: PM Imran orders preparation of package for northern Balochistan

ISLAMABAD, 14 November 2021, (TON): Prime Minister Imran Khan has directed the Planning Commission to prepare another special development package for the development of northern Balochistan as was done for southern districts of the province.

He issued these instructions during a meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudoos Bizenjo in Islamabad.

Informed sources said that the prime minister during his meeting with Mr Bizenjo discussed various issues, including the development and financial needs of the province, and reviewed the pace of work and implementation of the federal government-funded development projects, including Rs 600 billion development package for nine southern districts of the province, which had been announced by the prime minister after his visit to Turbat.

The sources quoted the prime minister as saying that bringing Balochistan on a par with other development areas of the country and removing the sense of deprivation of the people of



Balochistan was the priority of the PTI government.

He expressed his anger over Wapda and National Highway Authority for causing delay in connecting Makran with the national grid and

implementation of the federal government development projects in Balochistan.

He directed the planning commission, Wapda and NHA to accelerate the pace of work on these projects.

Pakistan: Three soldiers martyred in two terrorist attacks in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD, 14 November 2021, (TON): The military said “three soldiers of the Pakistan Army embraced martyrdom during two separate terrorist activities in Balochistan.”

According to an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) statement, security forces conducted an operation in the Hoshab area of the province based on the intelligence about the presence of “externally supported terrorists” in the surroundings of Turbat.

It added “on being surrounded by the security forces, an engagement ensued, in which terrorists suffered heavy losses.”

During the engagement, the ISPR said “two soldiers, Sepoy Ramzan from district Sargodha and Lance Naik Liaqat Iqbal from district Swabi, sacrificed their lives while fighting valiantly.”

In another related incident, the official communiqué said, Sepoy Inamullah, a resident of district Lakki Marwat, embraced martyrdom while clearing an improvised explosive device (IED) planted by terrorists along a route frequented by civilians.

The ISPR further said that Pakistan's security forces remained determined to defeat acts of cowardly terrorists, aimed at disrupting the peace, stability and progress of Balochistan.

A local police official said “earlier in the day, at least two police personnel were martyred in an explosion in Bajaur's Khar Tehsil.”



Polish PM accuses Putin of masterminding Belarus migrant 'attack'

WARSAW, 11 November 2021, (TON): Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki accused Russian President Vladimir Putin of orchestrating a wave of migrants trying to illegally enter Poland from Belarus, saying the attack threatens to destabilise the European Union.

The accusation came as thousands of desperate migrants were trapped in freezing weather on the Belarus-Poland border, where the presence of troops from both sides has raised fears of a confrontation.

Western critics have for months said Belarus's strongman leader Alexander Lukashenko is luring migrants from the Middle East to his country and then sending them across the border in retaliation for EU sanctions.

Morawiecki visited guards, troops and police at the border on Tuesday before turning his sights on Russia, Belarus's main international backer.

Morawiecki told the Polish parliament



"this attack which Lukashenko is conducting has its mastermind in Moscow, the mastermind is President Putin."

He said "migrants were being used as "human shields to destabilise the situation in Poland and the EU."

Germany, which accused Lukashenko of unscrupulously exploiting migrants by sending them to the Polish border, called Wednesday for new EU sanctions against Belarus.

Italy rescues 430 migrants from fishing boat



ROME, 12 November 2021, (TON): Italy has rescued 430 migrants, including 13 minors, from a fishing boat that ran aground in front of the Levante pier of the port of Pozzallo, in the southeast of Sicily.

A spokesman from the Italian Coast Guard told media that the boat came from Tunisia. Most of the migrants aboard, he added, were Tunisians, while some came from Sub-Saharan Africa.

The spokesman added "those were the youngest in the group, and they were not looking well at all, so our doctors are now treating them."

Transshipment operations of refugees were carried out by the police and the Italian Coast Guard with inflatable boats and a tugboat. The operations ended at 2 a.m. Mayor of Pozzallo Roberto Ammatuna coordinated the rescue from the pier.

He said "it was not an easy task because the ship had been severely damaged by the hit, and the weather was getting worse. However, all the fishermen of Pozzallo and some young guys helped rescuers with small boats and dinghies so that everything could be done quickly."

West says new Sudan army-led council breaches democracy transition

BRUSSELS, 13 November 2021, (TON): The United States and other Western powers expressed grave concern over the appointment of a new Sudanese ruling council by the general who led last month's coup, saying it complicated efforts to restore a transition to democracy.

The United States, Britain, Norway, the European Union and Switzerland also urged the security services to respect the right to free speech "without fear of violence or detention" ahead of protests set for Saturday by critics of the army's move.

Sudan's Khartoum state said "it would close all but three bridges across the river Nile at midnight ahead of the demonstrations on Saturday, Sudan TV reported, announcing what is a routine move to tighten security before rallies."



General Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan was sworn in as head of the new Sovereign Council, which replaces the power-sharing body he dissolved last month in a takeover that derailed Sudan's transition to civilian rule.

The head of the powerful

paramilitary Rapid Support Forces in Sudan, Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, was sworn in as his deputy.

A joint statement by the United States and the other countries said "the army's move undermined its commitment to uphold

transitional arrangements requiring civilians on the council to be nominated by the Forces for Freedom and Change, a coalition that had been sharing power with the army since 2019."

Germany offers to help migrants on Belarus-Poland border

BERLIN, 11 November 2021, (TON): The spokesman for the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany Steve Alter said "Germany is ready to provide humanitarian support to migrants who are on the border of Belarus with Poland."

He recalled that Germany also offered Poland its assistance in the fight against the crisis, "this offer remains in force," since Warsaw has not yet requested this support.

He also explained that humanitarian support should be organized by the European Commission, and not by individual countries.

Alter said at a briefing "Germany is ready to contribute to the provision of humanitarian assistance to people who are on the border with Poland."

In turn, the official representative of the German Cabinet of Ministers Steffen Seibert recalled that Brussels is already dealing with this topic, including initiating contacts with the UN on this issue.

He also pointed out that such assistance is urgent, because "winter is coming, it gets colder, and the nights are even colder, they (migrants) need to be helped with clothes and food."

Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said that you cannot shift the blame for the migration crisis to Belarus, it was caused by the military incursions of the West in the Middle East.



NATIONAL DONOR SABBATH 2021

Nov. 14, 2021

Each year, National Donor Sabbath is observed two weekends before Thanksgiving Day, from November 12 to November 14 this year. The concept behind this day is to unite the different people of different religions, while learning how to save a life by donating vital organs to those in need. America is a land of great diversity — there are people from different races, backgrounds, and nations. There may be huge differences in their lifestyles and ideas, but one thing all these people have in common is belief in humanity or human kindness. National Donor Sabbath is a three-day observance of prayers, worship, and coming together of the leaders of different faiths to participate in services, programs, and initiatives. Time is taken to talk about the importance and public need of saving lives through organ and tissue donation. Organ donations transfers life to others via transplantation so that the recipient has the chance of a full, long life, free of diseased organs such as kidneys, hearts, and even eyes. These organs are donated by the families of loved ones who pass away in accidents and the like, with their organs intact, thus giving people with organ problems a second chance in life.

HISTORY OF NATIONAL DONOR SABBATH

The National Donor Sabbath spreads awareness on the topic of organ donations. The concept of organ donations comes from a century old goal of healing patients and saving

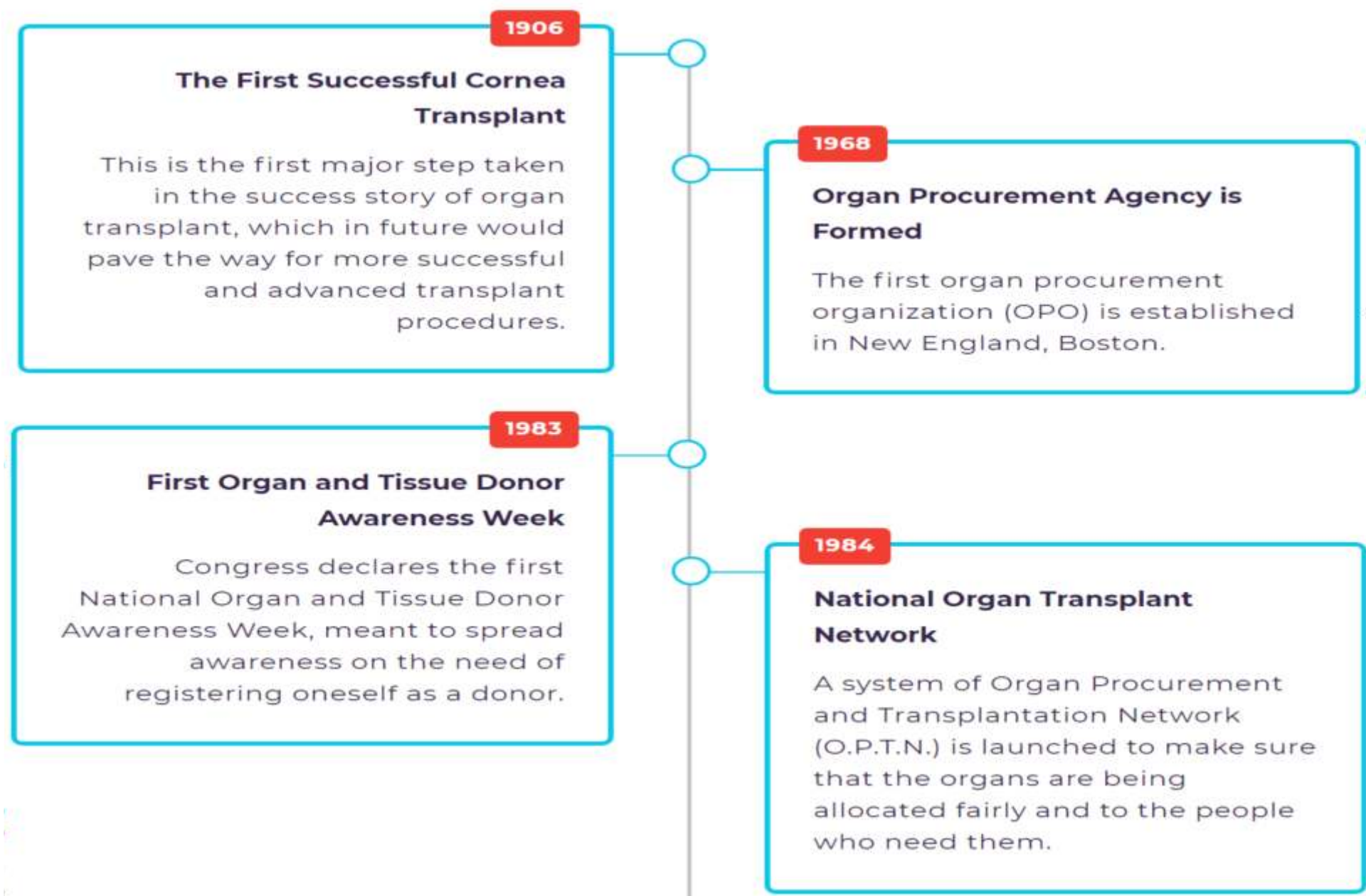
lives by transplanting organs from a donor to a recipient. Starting off as a minor side study pursuit, it soon began to expand as cases of people needing organ transplant started surfacing. In 1906, doctors were able to perform the first ever successful cornea transplant in a patient who was completely blind in one eye. This proved to be a major milestone in the history of organ transplant and paved the way for future transplant to happen. As medical advancements were made, doctors started performing effective transplants of lungs, liver, kidney, bone marrow and other vital organs from deceased donors.

By 1968, the first initiative to register donors and give them a donor card was made under the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act. This led to the first-ever observance of the National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week, which is dedicated to spreading awareness of the need to donate the organs after death to save the lives of others. Soon, another act was passed by the Congress which made the sale and purchase of organs illegal in the U.S. This act was the National Organ Transplant Act. Organ donations are voluntary, free and usually based on decisions made to be a donor ahead of time, and communicated with family members or in the written last will of a person.

Finally, in 1997 as part of the national donation initiative, National Donor Sabbath was announced by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and since 1997 it has been celebrated every year when leaders of different faiths stand together to spread awareness about the campaign.



NATIONAL DONOR SABBATH TIMELINE



Iqbal Day

Iqbal Day (Yom-e Iqbal) is the birthday of Muhammad Iqbal on 9 November. The day was a public holiday in all provinces and federal administrative areas of Pakistan until 2018. Iqbal, a poet and philosopher, was a great inspiration for the Pakistan Movement.

History of Muhammad Iqbal

Iqbal day is organized and celebrated on 9 November every year in all the provinces as a tribute to Allama Muhammad Iqbal, the "Poet of the East". Iqbal was born on 9 November 1877 in Sialkot, within the Punjab Province of British India (now in Pakistan). He died on 21 April 1938 in Lahore, Punjab, British India. The Government of Pakistan has officially declared him the national poet.

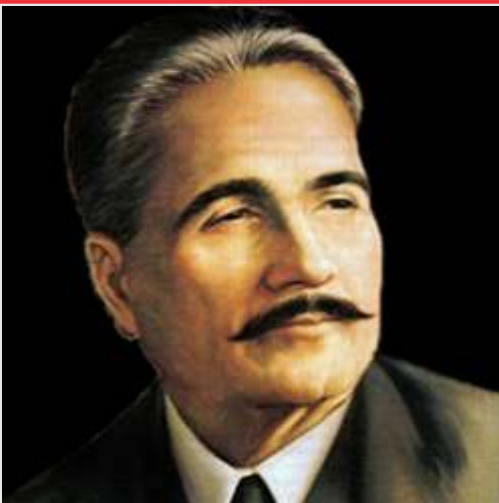
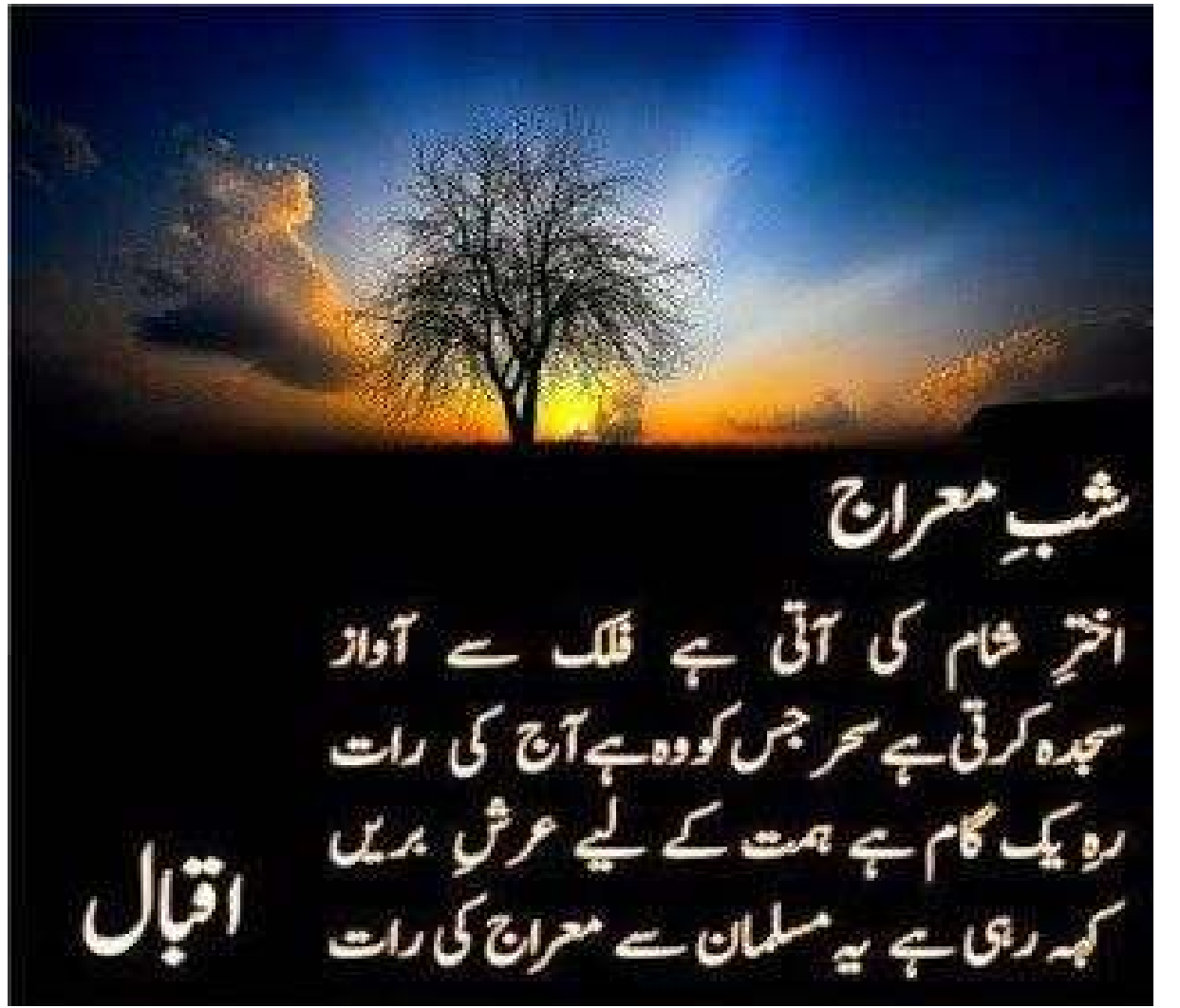
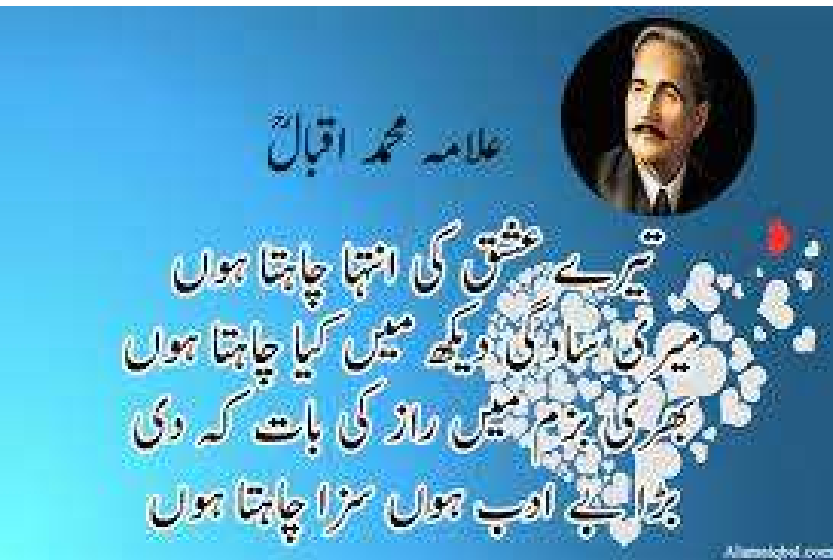
Iqbal Day Wishes and Messages

Allama Iqbal was the real leader of Muslims. He will always be remembered for the work he did. I pray that Pakistan becomes the country that Allama Iqbal dreamed about. Happy Iqbal Day. Allama Iqbal and Quaid-e-Azam were our true leaders. May their pious souls rest in peace. Allama is rightly called Mufakir-e-Pakistan. He will always be remembered for his exceptional work. May God bless his soul. Dr. Iqbal was a great asset just like his mentor Rumi. I wish that we learn from their lives.



9th November

IQBAL DAY



ALLAMA IQBAL POETRY, GHAZALS, SHAYARI & QUOTES

Allama Iqbal Poetry allows readers to express their inner feelings with the help of beautiful sher. Allama Iqbal shayari, ghazals and quotes is popular among people who love to read good poetry. You can read 2 and 4 lines Poetry and download Allama Iqbal poetry images can easily share it with your

loved ones including your friends and family members. Up till, several books have been written on Allama Iqbal sher. Urdu Ghazal readers have their own choice or preference and here you can read Allama Iqbal poetry in English & Urdu from different categories.

World Tsunami Awareness Day 5 November

International cooperation for developing countries to raise tsunami awareness



In 2021, World Tsunami Awareness Day promotes "Sendai Seven Campaign," target (f), which aims to 'substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of the present Framework by 2030.'

By the year 2030, an estimated 50 per cent of the world's population will live in coastal areas exposed to flooding, storms and tsunamis. Scaling up international cooperation to developing countries will help ensure that 100% of communities at risk of tsunami are prepared for and resilient to tsunamis by 2030.

In December 2015, the UN General Assembly designated 5 November as World Tsunami Awareness Day, calling on countries, international bodies and civil society to raise tsunami awareness and share innovative approaches to risk reduction.

World Tsunami Awareness Day was the brainchild of Japan, which due to its repeated, bitter experience has over the years built up major expertise in areas such as tsunami early warning, public action and building back better after a disaster to reduce future impacts. UN Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) facilitates the observance of World Tsunami Awareness Day in collaboration with the rest of the United Nations system.

Background

Tsunamis are rare events but can be extremely deadly. In the past 100 years, 58 of them have claimed more than 260,000 lives, or an average of 4,600 per disaster, surpassing any other natural hazard. The highest number of deaths in that period was in the Indian Ocean tsunami of December 2004. It caused an estimated 227,000 fatalities in 14

countries, with Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand hardest-hit.

Just three weeks after that the international community came together in Kobe, in Japan's Hyogo region. Governments adopted the 10-year Hyogo Framework for Action, the first comprehensive global agreement on disaster risk reduction.

They also created the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System, which boasts scores of seismographic and sea-level monitoring stations and disseminates alerts to national tsunami information centres.

Rapid urbanization and growing tourism in tsunami-prone regions are putting ever-more people in harm's way. That makes the reduction of risk a key factor if the world is to achieve substantial reductions in disaster mortality – a primary goal of the Sendai Framework, the 15-year international agreement adopted in March 2015 to succeed the Hyogo Framework.

What are tsunamis?

The word "tsunami" comprises the Japanese words "tsu" (meaning harbour) and "nami" (meaning wave). A tsunami is a series of enormous waves created by an underwater disturbance usually associated with earthquakes occurring below or near the ocean.



Volcanic eruptions, submarine landslides, and coastal rock falls can also generate a tsunami, as can a large asteroid impacting the ocean. They originate from a vertical movement of the sea floor with the consequent displacement of water mass.

Tsunami waves often look like walls of water and can attack the shoreline and be dangerous for hours, with waves coming every 5 to 60 minutes.

The first wave may not be the largest, and often it is the 2nd, 3rd, 4th or even later waves that are the biggest. After one wave inundates, or floods inland, it recedes seaward often as far as a person can see, so the seafloor is exposed. The next wave then rushes ashore within minutes and carries with it many floating debris that were destroyed by previous waves.

Pakistan Steel Mills

The Pakistan Steel Mills Corporation, colloquially referred to as Pak Steels, is a Pakistan-based company that produces long-rolled steel and heavy metal products in the country.

Headquartered in Karachi, Sindh, the PSMC is currently the largest industrial mega-corporation in Pakistan, having a production capacity of 1.1–5.0 million tonnes[5] of steel and iron foundries.[4] Built with extensive contributions from the Soviet Union in the 1970s, it is among the largest industrial mega-corporation complexes, vastly expanded in an enormous dimension with construction inputs involving the use of 1.29 million cubic meters of concrete and 5.70 million cubic meters of earthworks, as well as containing approximately 330,000 tonnes of heavy machinery, steel structures and electrical equipment.

A controversial attempt was made to privatize the steel mills to global private ownership under a counter-measure Privatization Programme of Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz. However, these efforts were thwarted by the Supreme Court in Islamabad.[8] In spite of its

enormous size and expansion, only 18% of the corporation's capacity was in use, which prompted the PSMC to request a bailout plan of \$12 billion to prevent its closure; the bailout plan was dismissed by the Government of Pakistan. Finally, the steel mills was brought back to government ownership and management under an inverse counter-measure Nationalization Programme of Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani. Since then, its operational plant capacity has reached 30%–50% after seeking the government's financial assistance.

History

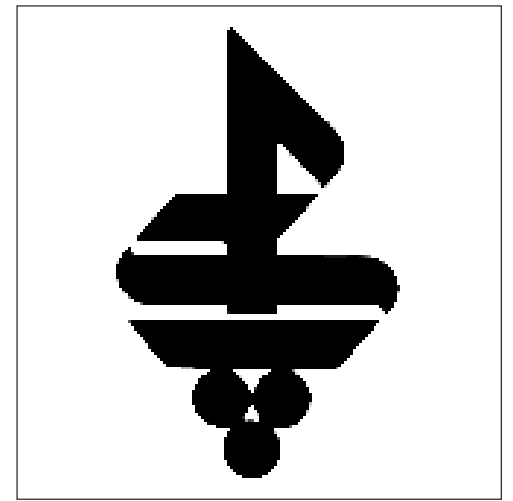
After the creation of Pakistan in 1947, the Government of Prime minister Liaquat Ali Khan realized the importance of local production of iron and steel. Initially, the dependence on imports caused economical setbacks to the state in the form of high import cost. The initial idea and studies were conceived by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR) and put forward the concept to the Five-Year Plans of Pakistan (1955–1960). In 1956, Soviet premier Nikolai Bulganin offered technical and scientific

assistance to Prime Minister Suhrawardy regarding the steel mills and expressing interests in establishing the country's first steel mills.

The project was comprehensively debated in the governments of Prime Minister Huseyn Suhrawardy and President Ayub Khan. The manufacturing process, supply sources of the requisite machinery and raw materials, plant site, domestic ore versus imported ore, ownership pattern, product mix and all foreign financing credit kept the project on hold for a considerable time.

After 20 years of policy development and studies of PCSIR, President General Yahya Khan gave the approval of the recommendations of the state-owned scientific think tank, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.[Bureaucrats and scientists agreed upon a unified decision that the "Karachi Steel Project" would be sponsored in the state-public sector, under which a separate corporation sanctioned by the Companies Act, would be formed.

In pursuance of this decision, the Pakistan Steel Mills Corporation



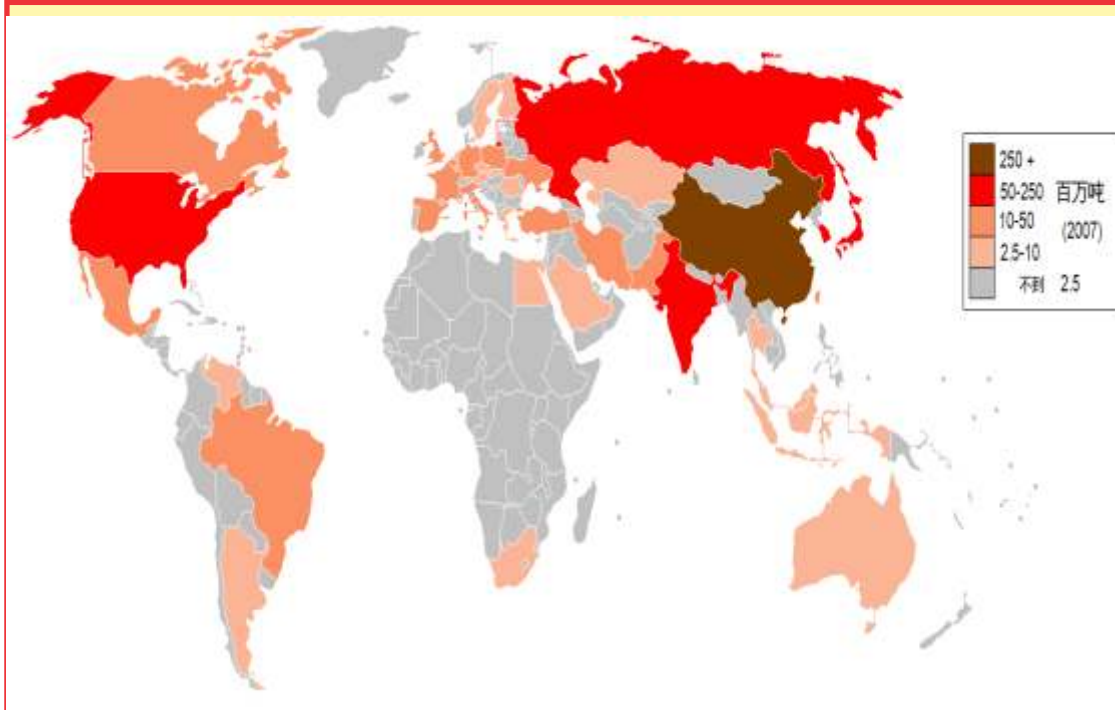
Limited (PSM Ltd.) was commissioned and incorporated as a private limited company in a public sector in accordance with the Companies Act of 1913, to be established in Karachi, Sindh Province of Pakistan. Contacts were made with the United States but the U.S. government showed lack of ambition and interest in the project; therefore the studies were sent to the Soviet Union, which took the initiatives. The United States refused to give any kind of assistance.

Finally, an agreement was reached with the V/O Tyaz Promexport of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) in January 1969. In 1971, Pakistan and Soviet Union finally proceeded to enter into a government agreement, upon which, the Soviet Union agreed to provide techno-financial assistance for the construction of a coastal based integrated steel mill at Karachi.

Headquarters and production expansion

Pakistan Steel Mills are one of the enormous and gigantically expanded industrial complex in the country that is located at a distance of 40 km Southeast of Karachi at Bin Qasim near Port Muhammad Bin Qasim. It was found to be an ecologically preferable location, alongside a tidal creek and having a wind direction away from the city of Karachi.

Pakistan Steel Mills is spread out over an area of 7,550 hectares (18,660 acres) (about 75 km² or 29 sq mi) including 4,205 ha (10,390 acres) for the main plant, 3,266 ha (8,070 acres) for the township and 81 ha (200 acres) for the 110 MG water reservoir.[4] In addition it has leasehold rights over an area of 3,043 ha (7,520 acres) for the quarries of limestone and dolomite in the Makli and Jhimpir areas of Thatta district.[4] It is one of the largest industrial complex in Pakistan as well as in South Asia and due to its enormous expansion, the steel mill has its own educational facilities (see Pakistan Steel Cadet College and Pakistan Steel Institute of Technology), housing and residential programmes, parks and recreation facilities and police services apart from the provisional authorities.



Pakistan Steel Mills listing with the nation capable to produce steel (10-50Mn tonnes of steel) and iron foundries locally



A park in Steel Town.