

The  **orient News**

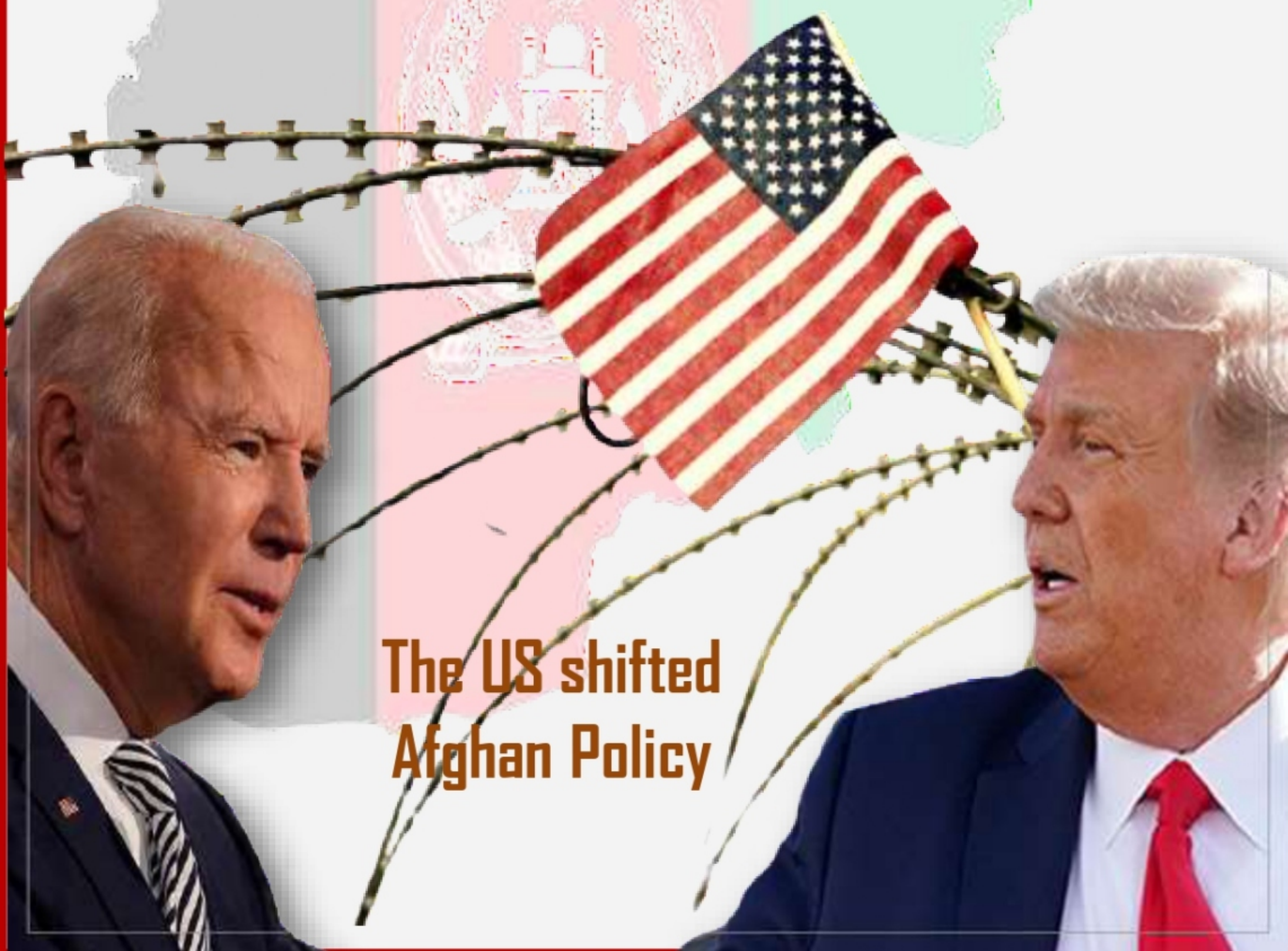
TRUTH, JUSTICE AND CONSCIENCE

The US strategic objectives
and Spy networks in Afghanistan

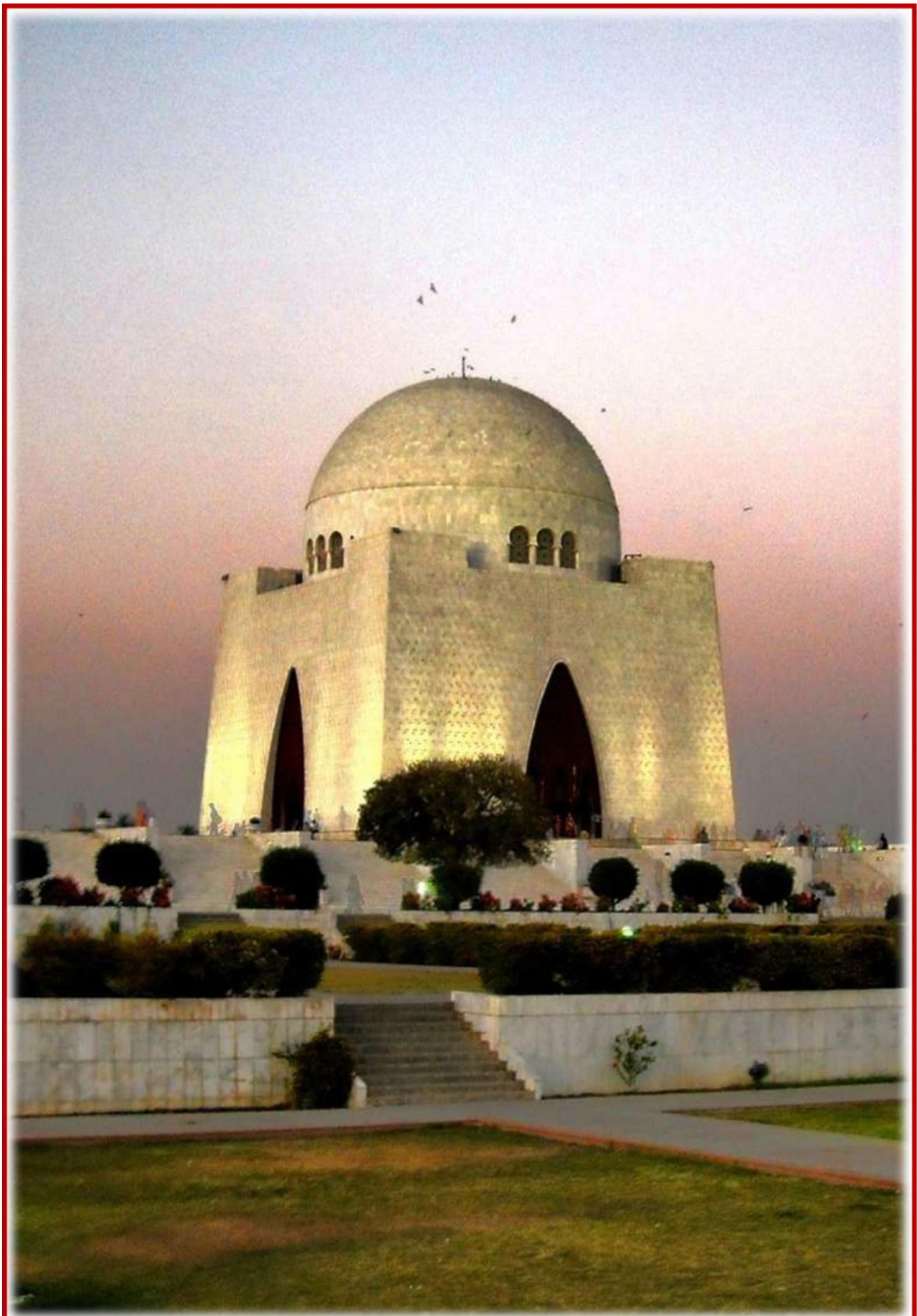
AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN

MYTH AND REALITY

INSIDE STORY
BY AFSHAIN AFZAL



The US shifted
Afghan Policy



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 and 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.

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PAKISTAN

A LAND OF
CULTURAL DIVERSITY



How far India will go to kill its people and communities?



INSIDE STORY

By TON Research Section

New Delhi was quick enough to declare the site of the 4th April encounter with Naxals (Maoists) in Chhattisgarh as “Ground Zero”, where it was confirmed by New Delhi that 23 Indian Para Military personnel and 29 Naxals including women and children were martyred. However, it is claimed by locals that over 300 Naxals were butchered as a result of firing by Indian Aviation MI-17 helicopters. They confirmed having seen Aviation Squadron moving towards Jharkhand and the Andhra-Orrisa border. More disturbing is that Indian agencies killed its own personnel to legitimate operations against Naxals. It was a pre-planned and self-engineered encounter in which Indian Military Intelligence was directly involved. This time the target was not only the Naxal villagers but also Indian Para Military Forces to bring a long lasting impact in the perception of International community. Maoists in Chhattisgarh were given a complete surprise when Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel, District Reserve Guard (DRG) and Commando Battalions for Resolute Action (CoBRA) attacked unprepared local men, women and children. All went well but when Indian military commandos were para-dropped along Sukma-Bikapur border in Chhattisgarh, bodies of 23 Indian Para Military Forces personnel were found ruthlessly killed. One of the eye witness said they saw local civilians of the village ruthlessly killed and they lost their lives during the encounter with the Indian forces. Director-General Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Kuldiep Singh confirmed that there was absolutely no intelligence or operational failure in the Maoists hunt. He confirmed that around 25-30 Maoists were killed in the operation. New Delhi claims that some of its personnel are missing. Reports speak that in their pursuit more deadly operations will be carried out. It is likely that sooner or later, New Delhi will link these movements with Bangladesh, Pakistan and Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

In yet another episode last month in Jammu and Kashmir, the Indian General Officer Commanding (GoC) Victor Force Major General Rashim Bali was in person supervising the operation against his own Sources since 12 March 2021, who successfully undertook numerous operations to defame Kashmiris of Jammu and Kashmir. It all started with cordon-and-search operation in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir's Choor Ki Gali in Herpora

of Shopian district, later it turned into an encounter and setting on fire six house on 13 March 2021, so called Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) Commander Vilayat Ahmad Lone alias Sajjad Afghani was killed along with five other Kashmiris. Indian agencies claim that arms and ammunition including a US made M4 Carbine, 36 rounds, 1 AK-Rifle was recovered from their possession. Indian intelligence input claims that Sajjad Afghani was resident of Shopian and involved in terrorist activities since 8 September 2018 and was part of a group involved in executing a series of attacks on Indian police and Security Forces personnel as well as civilians Kashmiris. Several cases relating to terrorism were registered against him including terrorising people so as to keep them away from Panchayat polls and setting ablaze a Panchayat Ghar at Kanji-ullar. Ironically, Sajjad Afghani was in direct contact with Indian intelligence agencies and Police. It is claimed by the Police that he was behind the killing of his friend belonging to Police department including Special Police Officers (SPOs) Nisar Ahmad, Firdous Ahmad, Suhail Ahmad Ganai, Khusboo Jan, Tanveer Ahmad Dar and Kulwant Singh. Few days earlier, on 10 March Jammu and Kashmir Police claimed to have busted a module of terror outfit JeM by arresting four men, who were allegedly planning to carry out a car-bomb attack on security forces in Kashmir's Pampore. India is trying to

play smart to link the Kashmiris' struggle for independence with operation against Americans in Afghanistan. The fake name of Kashmiri as Sajjad Afghani and recovery of US made M 4 Carbine with 36 rounds, which is used by NATO is only aimed to alert the Americans but hands behind this is Indian Military Intelligence.

Indian Army and security forces have started a reign of terror in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir as well as other States where freedom movements were progressing. If we recall, Pakistan and India signed a ceasefire agreement on 26 February 2021. The day commensurate 26 February 1919 Indian attack inside Pakistani territory, when Indian Mirage 2000 fighter jets crossed the Line of Control (LoC) and bombed Pakistani city of Balakot. The day also reminds of death anniversary of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, founding father of Abhinav Bharat Society, free India Society, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP). On the occasion, General Officer Commanding (GOC) Kilo Force, Major General H S Sahi said “We will ensure that ceasefire agreement be implemented in letter and spirit”. He cautioned Pakistan, “All activities like infiltration or arms being sent from across the border must stop in case the ceasefire agreement has to be implemented earnestly.” The only reason why this operation was conducted was to see Pakistan reaction which will be discussed at Army Commanders' Conference scheduled to be held from 26 to 30 April to devise an overall strategy regarding Line of Control (LoC) and the internal security situation troubled States including Jammu and Kashmir valley and Maoists / Nexals controlled regions. Ever since Indian Army and security forces have started a reign of terror in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir as well as other States where freedom movements were progressing. It is high time that United Nations Organization (UNO), Human Right Organizations and world community must stop Indian brute forces from killing innocent people including their own personnel to prove their case. Moreso, the Americans and International community need to be aware of Indian agencies plan to wipe out all those who struggle for their rights and demand freedom.



Indian Navy exposed over Pentagon's navigational rights claim in Indian Ocean

OPINION

By TON Research Section

The Pentagon has said in a statement on Saturday that its Navy ship conducting navigational rights within India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) without the permission of New Delhi is consistent with international law. In fact, Washington has challenged the rights of all the countries over their Exclusive Economic Zones, especially the Indian Ocean. Washington announced that on Wednesday, 7 April 2021, it conducted a freedom of navigation operation in Indian waters without prior consent to challenge India's "excessive maritime claims". This invited a reaction from New Delhi, which on Friday said it has conveyed concerns to Washington through diplomatic channels.

Earlier Indian Ministry of External Affairs was highly critical of 7 April statement of US Navy's 7th Fleet in which it categorically claimed that the freedom of navigation operation (FONOP) by the guided-missile destroyer USS John Paul Jones "upheld the rights, freedoms, and lawful uses" of the sea recognised in international law by challenging India's "excessive maritime claims".

USS John Paul Jones, a Navy destroyer was sighted



in Indian Exclusive Economic Zone, which Washington claims that was its navigational rights and freedoms as it was an innocent passage. The official statement by 7th Fleet said, "On April 7, 2021 (local time) USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53) asserted navigational rights and freedoms approximately 130 nautical miles west of the Lakshadweep Islands, inside India's exclusive economic zone, without requesting India's prior consent, consistent with international law."

Indian Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh is, in fact, in knowledge about the joint operations planned between Indian and US Navies regarding Iran, Myanmar and Bangladesh in Persian Gulf and Bay of Bengal as well as "Maritime Security operations in the Indo-Pacific" but it always remain confidential. As there is communication gap between Indian Armed Forces and Indian Ministries including Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi spelled out India's stated position on the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is that the Convention does not authorise other states to carry out in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and on the continental shelf, military exercises or manoeuvres, in particular those involving the use of weapons or explosives, without the consent of the coastal state.

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea is that the Convention does not authorise other States to carry out in the Exclusive Economic Zone and on the continental shelf, military exercises or manoeuvres, in particular those involving the use of weapons or explosives, without the consent of the coastal state."



India and US are planning similar interventions in other countries Exclusive Economic Zones including Bangladesh, Brazil, Myanmar, China, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, North Korea, Pakistan, the Philippines, Portugal, Syria, Thailand, Uruguay, and Vietnam for military objectives. This is high time to resolve the issue once for all and disallow nations to destroy peace in the world, especially the Indian Ocean.

American Withdrawal from Afghanistan – Myth and Reality

INSIDE STORY

By Afshain Afzal

It was October 2001, US President George Bush authorized its military to begin strikes on Afghanistan, claiming that there exist terrorist training camps in Afghanistan. Nearly after two decade, US President Joseph Biden says that war in Afghanistan was never meant to be a multi-generational undertaking. We were attacked. We went to war with clear goals. We achieved those objectives. Bin Laden is dead, and Al Qaida is degraded in Iraq and in Afghanistan. And it's time to end the forever war. The golden words of President Biden's 14th April announcement says, "US troops, as well as forces deployed by our NATO Allies and operational partners, will be out of Afghanistan before we mark the 20th anniversary of that heinous attack on September 11th." However, President Biden cautioned, We'll hold the Taliban accountable for its commitment not to allow any terrorists to threaten the United States or its allies from Afghan soil... And we'll focus our full attention on the threat we face today... And the Taliban should know that if they attack us as we draw down, we will defend ourselves and our partners with all the tools at our disposal."

The fact is undeniable that President Donald Trump had withdrawn even the remaining non-combat American troops from Afghanistan last Christmas leaving handful of personnel and security contractors, some say 250 to be precise. Now the new US leadership, President Biden claims that Washington has decided withdraw whole of its troops from Afghanistan by 11 September 2021. Inline with the President Biden's announcement regarding troops withdrawal NATO agreed on 14 April to begin withdrawing foreign forces, which according to US Secretary of State are roughly 7,000 non-American forces in Afghanistan, would be departing from Afghanistan from 1 May. The two contradictory statements on attributable to President Donald Trump while the other to President Biden cannot be correct at the same time. More so, Americans are giving impression that their deployed

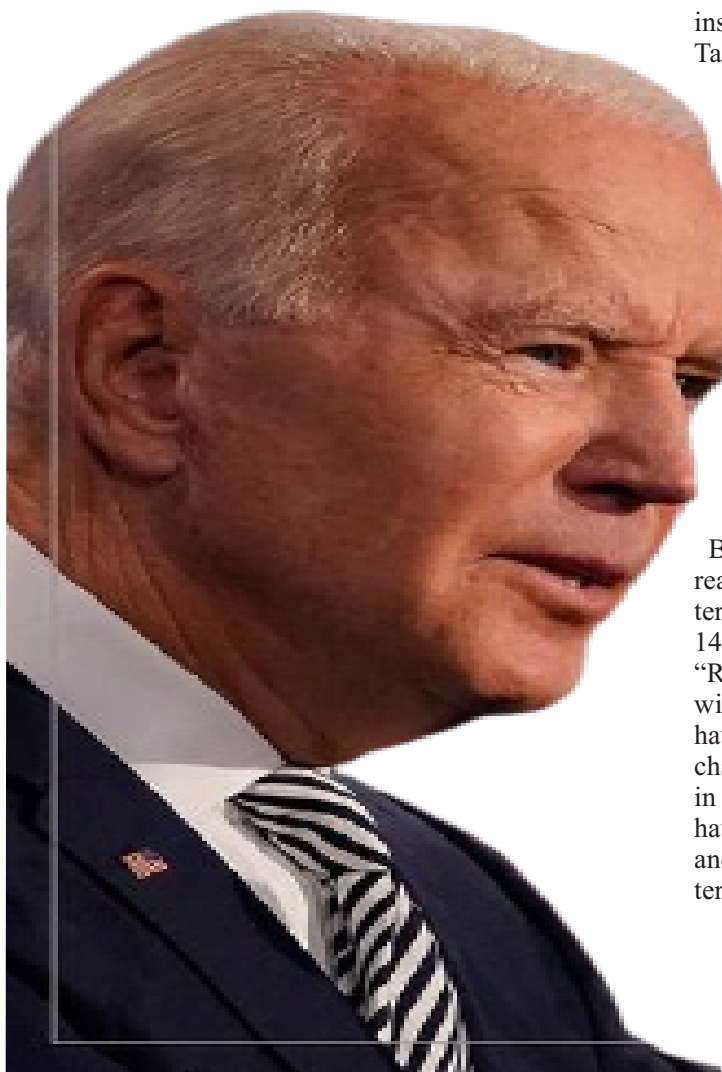


-troops' strength in Afghanistan is to the tune of 25,000 but same if far from the reality as troops movement and ground evidences proves that American combat-troops withdrawal took place some ten years back.

In an interesting moves, ever since February deal between US and the Taliban for the timetable of handful of remaining American personnel, the attacks and killing of Afghan government forces have increased, which means those who do not wish return of Taliban and withdrawal of foreign forces are behind all these attacks, not matter who takes the responsibility by fake claims on media. Interesting, the compromised faction of Taliban having link with defected elements have started giving instigating statement about US withdrawal as "Victory of Taliban" to pressurize US Administration to look for alternates. In a recent development, Haji Hekmat, the mayor in Balkh district was quoted by western media saying, "We are totally prepared for peace, and we are fully prepared for jihad... Jihad is an act of worship which more you do, you don't get tired." Haji Hekmat said, "Jihad will be waged to bring Sharia to this country. Whoever stands against us we will fight against them." He claimed that Qatar-based Taliban group;s decision will be followed, "Whatever they decide we will accept."

It is on record that US Secretary of State Antony Blinken made an unannounced visit to Afghanistan a day after President Biden announced his decision to withdraw from Afghanistan by 11 September 2021. Blinken in a statement at US Embassy in Kabul reassured that the US would continue to combat the terrorist threat in Afghanistan. If we critically examine the 14th April statement of President Biden he said, "Rather than return to war with the Taliban, we have to focus on the challenges that are in front of us. We have to track and disrupt terrorist

networks and operations that spread far beyond Afghanistan since 9/11." There is no doubt, US has shifted its Afghan-policy to digital through electronic monitoring and Artificial Intelligence surveillance, thus, waging war through sea and air or third country with risking its troops presence in target country through drones, long-range bombers and spy networks. The same method Washington would apply in an effort to prevent Taliban returning to power in Afghanistan, threatening US' strategic objectives. In a nutshell, Americans and NATO troops would be leaving Afghan soil but they will be there digitally with actual presence in sea, air and land in a remote location.



The Mystery behind sighting of the moon and disunity in the Muslim world

INSIDE STORY

By TON Research Section

As crescent moon was sighted in Saudi Arabia, it was confirmed that Tuesday, 13 April 2021 will be the first day of Ramadan in Saudi Arabia and the Muslim world. In Pakistan witnesses gave evidence of sighting of moon in the Tribal Areas, especially Waziristan and observed first Ramadan today on 13th April. Officially, the commencement of holy month of Ramadan has not been announced in Pakistan and it will be decided today's evening whether first day of Ramadan will be held on 14th or 15th April. Last month, Chairman Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Moulana Abdul Khabir Azad during a meeting at Ministry for Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony, Islamabad announced that a meeting will be held on 13th April at Peshawar to sight the moon for the holy month of Ramadan. The Committee is to also comprise of representatives of the Pakistan Meteorological Department and Ministry of Science and Technology. Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad spoke to media on 12 April and said, "We have extended an invitation to Mufti Shahabuddin Popalzai to attend the meeting. I pray to God, may we develop a consensus with Mufti Shahabuddin Popalzai and if Allah wants, our decision and Mufti Shahabuddin Popalzai's about the beginning of Ramadan will be the same." Interestingly, the Indian Government announced that the



Mufti Munibur Rahman declared that moon could not be sighted anywhere in the country and the first Ramazan would be observed on Saturday, 25 April 2020. An official of Pakistan Meteorological Department shared information in March that the new moon of Ramadan will be born on the morning of 12 April 2021 (28 Sha'ban) in Pakistan and after 37 seconds, the moon will set and it is highly likely that the moon of Ramadan will be seen sighted on 13 April in most parts of the world, including Pakistan.

The announcement was greeted by enhanced-action by anti Islamic factions that will be followed by reign of harassment and terror. In the international conspiracy, a systematic campaign has already been launched against the

Muslims in the name of their involvement in terrorism, extremism and money laundering. In India, as holy month of Ramadan is due to start strict lockdown in whole Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir has been imposed. At several places authorities fined commuters for not wearing masks and violating COVID19 guidelines. Shops and other business establishments across city remained closed while public transport remained off the roads. The authorities have re-imposed strict restrictions on public movement in 88 areas notified as red zones in Srinagar. Interestingly, in the same areas, the Indian Army and security apparatus are launching man-hunts against Kashmiris, killing thousands of innocent men, women and children. In old Srinagar and other parts of the city, barbed wires have been laid to stop the movement of traffic and Muslims are not allowed to even offer prayers in the mosques. In Africa and Middle East, the reign of terror has intensified.

He elaborates the signs for a people who understand. Muslims including people of Pakistan mostly follow Saudi Arabia to start Ramadan, observe Eids including Hajj and Qurbani because the Holy Kaabah also known as Baitullah is located in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud is the custodian of the holy Mosques of Mecca and Medina while the country is known as the citadel of Islam. But Pakistan and India generally observe Ramadan and Eids one day after Saudi Arabia. One wonders how long we would remain divided in the Muslim world. Did it ever happen in Pakistan that anywhere in the world Christmas was celebrated on different dates. If someone argue over the issue of lunar and solar then why so far countries following solar calendar did not ever experience difference over leap year. Leaving aside the Christmas' fact, in case of the even Muharram there is complete unity on same date as it never happened that Pakistani observed the Muharram on different dates or dates of Pakistan and Iran or other countries ever differed. There is no doubt, it is an attempt to divide the Muslim world. We need to follow Saudi Arabia or at least Muslim world should empower some country to announce a single date for all the Muslim celebrations and observances.



holy month of Ramadan in India is starting from Wednesday, 14 April but Pakistan has yet to decide, despite scientific sermons.

Last year, the country observed two Ramadans and two Eids as first Ramazan was observed in most parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Friday 24 April, on the basis of announcement made by Ruet-i-Hilal Committee Mufti Shahabuddin Popalzai from historic Masjid Qasim Ali Khan while Central Ruet-i-Hilal Committee headed by

Al Quraan in Verse No 5 of Surat Younas guides us, "He (Almighty Allah) is the One who has made the sun a glow, and the moon a light, and determined for it stages, so that you may learn the number of the years, and the calculation. Allah has not created all this but for a rightful purpose."

Vague detention of Kashmir's and situation of prisons in India

INSIDE STORY

By TON Research Section

The skies above India have gone dark with the smoke of hundreds of the dead being cremated. India is facing surge in deadly coronavirus infections and the situation in India is very critical due to instant spike in Coronavirus patients. The number of cases have been increased at an alarming phase in the last few weeks and continues to see record spikes in every single day. The number of deaths have also been rising consistently. India is facing shortage of medicine, oxygen cylinders, ICU beds and that is causing massive anxiety to citizens of India.

On the other hand COVID-19 also hits India's prisons. Indian jails have also become hotbeds of disease. There is alarming situation in prisons due to rapid spread of disease. After the India government abolished the autonomous status of Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019 and imposed direct rule from New Delhi, residents were confined to their homes and many people were illegally sent in prisons. Over the past few months many cases have been reported from jail. Every third prisoner in jail is tested positive for coronavirus.

After the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A by India, there was a rise in call for freedom in Jammu and Kashmir which faced immense suppression by Indian Security Forces and thus resulted in deaths and illegal detention of freedom fighters, political leaders, lawyers, activists and many other citizens of IIOJK under the Draconian laws like Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act (PSA) and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). All these tactics of Hindu nationalist government are used just to silence the voice and struggle for freedom.

Currently, approximately three thousand Hurriyat leaders, activists, youth, women and civil society members are detained in Indian jails. Among the illegally detained Hurriyat leaders and activist include Muhammad Yasin Malik, Syeda Asiya Andrabi, Muhammad Ashraf Sehrai, Shabbir Ahmed Shah, Masarrat Aalam Butt, Fehmeeda Sofi, Nahida Nasreen, Shazia Akhter, Haseena Begum, Dr Abdul Hameed Fayaz, Dr Muhammad Qasim Fakhtoo, Altaf Ahmed Shah, Nayeem Ahmed Khan, Peer Saifullah, Raja Marajuddin Kalwal, Ghulam Muhammad Butt, Ayaz Akbar, Farooq Ahmed Dar, Shahidul Islam, Zahoor Ahmed Watali, Syed Shahid Yousuf, Syed Shakeel Yousuf, Farooq Ahmad Tawheedi, Ameer Hamza, Imtiyaz Haider, Hayat Ahmad Butt, Muhammad Yousuf Mir, Muhammad Yosuf Falahi, Muhammad Rafiq Ganai, Shafi Shariati, Advocate Zahid Ali, journalist Asif Sultan and many more uncounted prisoners (KMS).

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that the situation in India, where COVID-19 cases have surged, is "beyond heart-breaking."

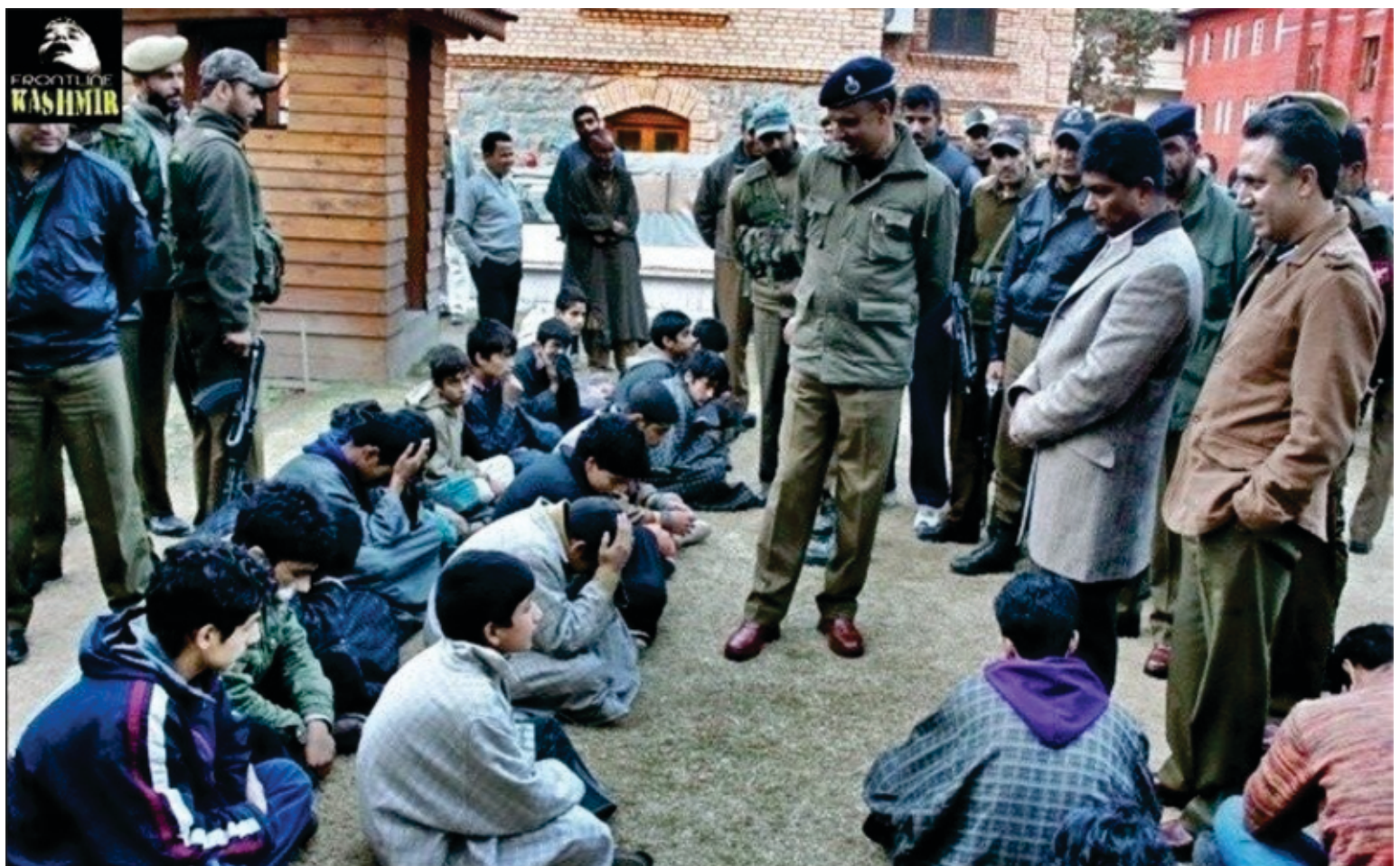
Many of the prisoners are detained under the PSA but have no charge or trials and have not committed any criminal offence. These prisoners are just detained because their only crime is to support Kashmir right to self-determination and merger with Pakistan, therefore are labelled as "anti-national." These prisoners were challenging Indian government and Security forces in Jammu and Kashmir and for that reason India detained these activists and leaders. Today, despite the surge in Coronavirus, these detainees are suffering in many jails of IIOJK and India.

On April 26th, 2021, the Chairman of Kashmir Council Europe (KC-EU), Ali Raza Syed, has called upon the Indian authorities to immediately release all illegally detained Kashmiris in jails to save them from getting affected with the deadly virus in the different parts of India having less sources to fight this pandemic.

Indian government is acting like the Kashmiri prisoners are not humans and despite of the peek in coronavirus patients in jail, Indian government is paying no heed and kept Kashmiris in prisons without any reason. Moreover, these prisoners cannot challenge their detainment because they don't have any legal representation and are not even allowed to meet their families Indian government is

intentionally extending the illegal detention of Kashmiris. Everyone has the right to enjoy full human rights under national and international laws, albeit India is openly violating all these human right laws. Indian government is turning a blind eye towards the pleas of Kashmiri prisoners and is committing grave human rights violations by detaining the citizens of Kashmiris without trials, many are even denied of possibility of judicial review.

Undoubtedly, the detainment of Kashmir's is vague and clearly unspecified. The condition of prisons is extremely poor and now the situation of Corona in prisons is worst. So far, India has been ignoring the call of United Nations and other Human rights organizations in relation to its detainment policy. International community especially world rights bodies should straightway call upon Indian government and should pressurize them to release all the detainees without any delay, who are deprived of liberty to exercise their right of freedom without doing any crime. Indian extremist policy towards Kashmir people needs to be changed. Moreover, Indian government should ensure that all prisoners are in good health and should immediately release illegal imprisoned Kashmiris.



Plan B for Afghanistan and others countries; Indo-US Strategic Naval Maneuver in Indian Ocean

INSIDE REPORT

By TON Research Section

As on today, US aircraft carrier USS Eisenhower is destined for unidentified vicinity, probably sailing to a location near the Arabian Gulf but it is changing. Overtly the move aims to shoulder protection for American and coalition troops during their planned withdrawal from Afghanistan in order to meet 1 May deadline and completion by September this year but it is far less than that was announced. Is it a retreat, a withdrawal or the repositioning of the troops for a strategic assault; analyst are tight lipped. US General Austin Miller has confirmed preparation of handful of remaining security apparatus to move out. Early April this year, US Navy's 7th Fleet guided-missile destroyer USS John Paul Jones was sighted in claimed Indian waters in Bay of Bengal. Washington announced that it conducted a Freedom Of Navigation Operation (FONOP) in Indian waters without prior consent to challenge India's "excessive maritime claims". Indian government reacted strongly while Indian Navy authorities expressed ignorance about US Navy's maneuver but reports speak of increase US and Indian Naval activities in Indian Ocean Region.

Indian Navy Rear Admiral Ajay Kochhar, Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet (FOCWF) at INS Vikramaditya, a conventionally powered aircraft carrier with displacement of 44,500 tonnes and has MiG-29K fighters on board was also sighted in the Arabian Gulf off the Gwadar maritime zone. We should not forget that India Armed Forces claim that they do not come under

the political machinery of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which they claim is unreliable and can compromise Indian interests. Hence both US and Indian Navies are carrying out maneuvers with mutual coordination and consent. In June 2012, the United States moved its nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Enterprise near Gwadar to pressurize Pakistan to ink a deal on NATO supplies passing through its sea and land routes to Afghanistan. These symbolic moves in guise of Afghan withdrawal from Afghanistan means something more than affairs focused at Kabul.

Official reports speaks that all preparation by

money US claims to have spent on Afghan forces and security forces for their training and equipment is not seen on ground and was subject to huge corruption and misappropriation of funds. Today US cannot prove even the 20 percent of the approved funding for Afghanistan spent there as nothing is visible in term of equipment, establishment of institutions, enhanced military capacity and training or even review of military manuals.

The gap created between the Indian Armed Forces and the Indian political leadership has created a sense of mistrust and suspicion. Indian political

Following this trend, today the Armed Forces of the region are in direct talks with the US military and civilian authorities in violation of chain of communication involving their foreign or external affair ministries. This trend is highly negative and may lead to worse scenario detrimental to peace and harmony in the region.

Pentagon for an assault with aircraft carrier USS Eisenhower and other fleet ships in the Arabian Gulf, overtly to shoulder protection for American and coalition troops in their September withdrawal deadline. For fiscal year 2021, Congress ceased around \$3 billion for the Afghan military to put pressure on Afghan government to remain ally of the US in order to continue with the funding. The

leadership wants its sovereignty back while the Armed Forces of India with an ambition to deal China and Pakistan at the same time has secretly become US most trusted ally and come up at one to one contacts with US authorities and allies without the involvement of Ministry of External Affairs.



India's presence in Afghanistan as Non-state actors

OPINION

By TON Research Section

The United States and Forces of NATO announced the withdrawal date of forces from Afghanistan. India's Government and Army are concerned about a vacuum developing in Afghanistan. As per the proposed date, the forces would be withdrawn from May 1 to end the longest war but rejecting the enforcement of peaceful resolution to the Afghan nation. India is highly concerned regarding the current scenario of withdrawal. India believes that Afghanistan's instability could spill over into Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, where the Indian army has been suppressing the political rights and freedom movement for four decades. India also perceives that Pakistan will get a more significant hand in Afghanistan if the Taliban become influential in the Afghan government. Many stakeholders play a dominant role in the peace process. India invested \$3 billion in Afghanistan on roads, power stations and even built a parliament building in Kabul. Indian marginalized its efforts to project its soft power in Afghanistan. Four projects that have been completed, Indians include the Delaram-Zaranj Highway, the hydroelectric Salma Dam, transmission lines providing Uzbek electricity to Kabul and a new building of parliament in Kabul. The Highway has opened a link between a deep-sea Chabahar port to Afghanistan's central ring road system, which connects Kandhar, Kabul, Herat, Mazar-i-Sharif Kunduz. This has enabled the free transport of goods from Afghanistan's main cities to the Iranian border. India also projected significant soft power through education, small business support, and more than 2000 scholarships for Afghan students' higher education. The present leader and President of Afghanistan also get his education from India. The extension of health care facilities is another essential aspect of direct Indian involvement with

Afghanistan's populace. Indian medical missions in Kabul, Jalalabad, Herat, Mazar-e-Sharif and Kandahar have provided free treatment for nearly a decade to Afghans over 400,000 annually. The number of Afghans are coming over to India each year is also on the rise. A liberal visa policy has ensured that India's number of advanced medical care cases has grown from 2500 to 10000 per annum. Patients include members of all ethnic groups, including Pashtuns. Hospitals have employed translators for the patients and Afghan cooks to help these patients. This has helped commenced by India's

fact is that the label is in Urdu ensures that no one is fooled.

Even though India is investing in the infrastructure of Afghanistan, in parallel to curb the Taliban and Kashmiris in occupied Kashmir and along with the political rights movement within India, the Army of India allow ISIS to grow it is set up in India, from where they can operate and conduct insurgencies in Afghanistan, Kashmir and within India against their own people. Indian also assist the Northern Alliance in confronting the Taliban and disrupt the peace. ISIS working in India since 2015, but India's forces



position as the preferred destination and has far-reaching long-term benefits. However, the Indian health assistance can be gauged because medicines manufactured in Pakistan are sold with "Made in India" all across Afghanistan. The

are reluctant to eradicate the network of ISIS and save the heavens in India. According to some reports, the Mohammad Shafi Armar is a leader and head of India's recruitment wing for ISIS. He recruits dozens of Indian nationals who are ISIS sympathizers and involved in terrorist activities in India and across the world. The second leader is Osama Ahmad Attar, is a senior leader and external operator of ISIS India. Osama was also involved in a terrorist attack in Brussels in March 2016 and the 2015 Paris attacks. According to media reports, several people were killed and injured in the attacks, including Americans. To counter India-occupied Kashmir and their struggle Indian army gives way to ISIS to enter Kashmir where a single movement of the person is under the observation of Indian intelligence. ISIS now claims to have established a "province" in India for the first time, declaring a foothold in the disputed region of Kashmir. On May 13, 2019, Islamic State claimed it had established a presence in occupied Kashmir 'Wilayah Hind'. According to all the facts, India was using soft power in Afghanistan to achieve their interest; on the parallel hand, they are giving space to ISIS in India. ISIS is the rival group of Taliban in Afghanistan. The threat of ISIS in the region is contentiously increasing, and it is posing a security threat, and there are potential threats to peace talks. There is a long history of states, use the not state actors for their interests. Sooner or later the ISIS would become strong in India, and Agencies will use them for their purposes.



India-Pakistan fractured trade relations and Kashmir dispute



OPINION

By TON Research Section

Bilateral trade relations between India and Pakistan has witnessed uneven history because of geopolitical tensions and downgraded diplomatic ties. After the partition of subcontinent, India and Pakistan trade relation saw a rapid downfall. In-between 1948 to 1960, about 11 India-Pakistan trade agreements were concluded. The bilateral trade declined to all time low in 1965-1966. After the war of 1965, there was a trade embargo between both countries that continued till 1974 however, in November 1974 trade protocol “Shimla Agreement” was signed to lift the trade ban. In 1981, Pakistan joined Delhi international trade fair after which there was progress in exchange of trade delegation between both countries. In 1986, both the countries became signatories to the final document of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) whose aim is to promote economic growth within the region and is committed to promote the welfare of the people of South Asia. Trade between both countries boosted from 1981 to 1991. In 1995, South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) concluded which introduced integrative trading system in the region. In 1996, India gave most favoured National (MFN) status to Pakistan.

Restrictions or suspension of trade has always been the first action taken, whenever tensions have been escalated between both the countries. After India revoke special status of disputed territory of Jammu & Kashmir on August 5th, 2019 and split the state in two union territories which faced major resistance in Muslim majority state of Jammu & Kashmir, the move escalated tensions between India and Pakistan. In retaliation to protest against the changes in Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan unilaterally suspended trade ties with India on August 9, 2019. The trade suspension cause a monthly loss of USD \$4.2 million and has affected 50,000 people to the bordering city of Amritsar, India. Imports from India to Pakistan fell from USD \$865 million to USD \$286.6 million in the first half of 2018-19. In February 2019, after the Pulwama attack India's Prime Minister withdrew the most

favoured Nation status (MFN) that was awarded to Pakistan in 1996 and imposed 200 percent custom duties on Pakistani goods.

On 31st March, 2021, Pakistan's Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) gave a decision to restart the limited trade with its rival India. Pakistan Finance Minister Hammad Azhar announced to reopen trade with India starting from end-June this year. However, Pakistan's government reversed the decision announced by ECC because of the severe criticism from all around the country. ECC's green light to bring in imports, could have ended the 20 months long trade suspensions but on the other side people of Jammu & Kashmir, which Pakistan says a “Jugular vein”, would have been left alone in their fight of self-determination. Pakistan's Federal



cabinet deferred the ECC decision to allow the import of sugar, cotton and cotton yarn from India through land and sea routes until India restores Article 370 of its Constitution, which guarantees a semi-autonomous status for Indian illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir.

After the ECC's decision Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said, “A perception was emerging that relations with India have moved towards normalisation and trade has been opened,” he said, “There was an exchange of thoughts on this and there was a unanimous opinion on this and it was the prime minister's (opinion) as well that as long as India does not review the unilateral steps it took on August 5, 2019, normalising relations with India will not be

possible.”

Worsening of diplomatic relations between both the countries has not been new. From the past few years the relations between both the countries are deteriorating and the trade between both the countries has been completely suspended. However, until 2019 Pakistan has been among the top buyers of cotton from India. Recently, according to media reports, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) brokered back-channel talks between India and Pakistan. Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar visited the Gulf state at the same time. However, Pakistan's Foreign Minister denied reports about the backdoor diplomacy with rival India.

He said, “I want to make it clear that there is no official back-channel diplomacy with India,” and said that Pakistan is ready for talks if India reverses its August 2019 decision of scrapping the special status of the IIOJK. Nevertheless, it could not be denied that the coinciding visits of Pakistani and Indian Foreign minister to UAE has sparked speculations about a secret meeting between both the countries but both sides rebutted any scheduled interaction.

Undoubtedly, improvement in relations between both the countries are not only good for both but for the whole region. However, the progress in improving relations should not be at the cost of Kashmir. Pakistan's stance on Jammu & Kashmir should remain categorical and Kashmiri's should not be denied to their right of self-determination no matter what. If both the countries want peace, Kashmir dispute needs to be resolved first. Similarly, normal bilateral trade relations will also be established after the permanent solution of Kashmir dispute. Despite Pakistan's important strategic position and India's booming market, both the countries have fractured trade relations and these relations cannot be improved unless and until Kashmir's longstanding special status is restored. No matter what, the challenges in Indo-Pak trade relations lies to a greater extent and looks difficult to meet any kind of set future targets until the lasting solution to Kashmir dispute.

Hydro-politics by India and violation of IWT

OPINION

By TON Research Section

India and Pakistan both rely on snow-fed rivers that rise in Himalayas. The Indus River is one of the mighty rivers of the world and a blessing for the subcontinent because of geographical and economic value. However, conflicts and animosities between India and Pakistan have been continuous over the interpretation of water sharing ever since partition. India is upstream country and Pakistan is the downstream country, Pakistan depends upon the Indus for its sustenance. The Indus River originates from southwestern Tibet Autonomous Region of China and flows through the Ladakh Himalaya, IIOJK and then into Pakistan to drain into the Arabian Sea, forming the Sapta Sindhu ("Seven Rivers") delta in the Sindh province. The total length of the river is 3200 km (1988 miles) and is joined by 5 major Tributaries. The total drainage area of river is exceeding 450,000 square miles.

After the partition of subcontinent, the water system has



As the demand of water has been increasing and supply is decreasing with the passage of time, the water dispute between both the countries is also intensifying. However, the irrigation system that was built before partition is interdependent and way complex. India being the upper riparian can anytime reduce or stop the water flow to its lower riparian, Pakistan but there are treaties and international laws that does not permit to do so and avoid conflicts. After the 8 years of negotiations in 1960, India and Pakistan signed a water distribution agreement known as Indus Water Treaty (IWT). A resolution was partly initiated and brokered by the World Bank to use the water available in the Indus system of rivers. The treaty divides

Electricity Authority and the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation. The Pakistani delegation was led by Indus Commissioner Syed Muhammad Meher Ali Shah. Both the sides discussed a host of issues under the Indus Waters Treaty during the annual Permanent Indus Commission meeting. After the meeting, India approved two Hydropower Projects on Rivers that flows into Pakistan, the Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project and Lower Kalnai hydropower projects. The Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project (1,000 MW) is proposed on the Marusudar river, a tributary of the Chenab river, in Kishtwar district in IIOJK. The Lower Kalnai project is proposed in Kishtwar and Doda districts, IIOJK.

Pakistan has raised objection over the projects, saying that the projects violate the World-Bank mediated Indus Water Treaty (IWT) on sharing of the Indus River and its tributaries. Pakistan also sought additional information on these hydropower projects in Ladakh. The treaty gives right to Pakistan to raise objections to designs of Indian hydroelectric projects on the western rivers.

According to Indian officials India has fast-tracked hydropower projects worth \$15 billion in Kashmir in recent months but according to the IWT India is not permitted to build projects on the Indus, Jhelum or Chenab rivers to divert or store water flowing to Pakistan. The treaty clearly spells the do's and don'ts for both countries; as it allows India to use only 20 per cent of the total water carried by the Indus River but India is continuously violating treaties.

Pakistan is completely dependent on Indus River for agricultural use however; India has other River system upon which it can rely. India takes the advantage of being an upper riparian and many times tends to block or divert the water flow in summer season which subsequently creates drought and release more water in the season when not required, which creates floods in monsoon season. Furthermore, India has repeatedly threatened Pakistan to cut the water flow of the Indus river basin without even considering the international laws on cross border water sharing. India enjoys an obvious advantage of being an upper riparian. However, Pakistan's government needs to approach international forum for redress since the projects which India is building will ultimately destroy Pakistan's agriculture sector.

Undoubtedly, India is taking advantage of being an upper riparian and is thus trying to main its hegemony on lower riparian countries. The perceptions of hegemonic power results in rise of water security threat for lower riparian. India has been using water as a weapon against Pakistan, India's strategy is to deliberately harm Pakistan economically and create serious scarcity of water in it. However, the competition of limited water resources for Pakistan can intensify the relations between both the countries that are already feeble and hostile, if India kept on taking advantage of being an upper riparian.

According to the Treaty the waters of the western rivers Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab were allocated to Pakistan except for “specified domestic, non-consumptive and agricultural use, permitted to India.”

been bifurcated with the headworks in India and the canals running through Pakistan. However, the territorial disputes remained biggest obstacle and security threat between both the countries. The Indus River passes through Indian illegal occupied Jammu and Kashmir which is in dispute between both the countries. IIOJK is also considered to be the source of water in Pakistan thus the territorial dispute has somehow taken hydro-strategic

the control of six rivers between the two nations. India got control over Beas, Ravi, and Sutlej while Pakistan got control over Indus, Chenab, and Jhelum.

A two day meeting between India and Pakistan was held on 23rd and 24th March, 2021 under the Indus Water Treaty after the gap of 2 years. The Indian delegation was led by P.K. Saxena, India's Indus Commissioner, and his team from the Central Water Commission, the Central



The Delhi versus West Bengal: Elections

OPINION

By TON Research Section

Bengal entered its most crucial phase. Four phases were completed with several allegations and killings. There are two major rival groups, the BJP, and TMC (Mamta Banerjee) group, in West Bengal's election. The voters have decided the fate of candidates of both the parties in 135 of 294 seats. The remaining 159 will hold the polls between 17 April and 29.

As history knows, the TMC had strengthened its position in 2016 over 2011 when it had won 19 of these 30 seats. The BJP drew a blank here in 2016. However, it changed the election calculus in Bengal in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. The BJP was leading on 20 of the 30 seats that voted in the first phase.

The party leader and Prime Minister also played an active role in the West Bengal elections. The BJP currently controls a dozen of the country's 28 states, with alliance partners in several others. However, it has never won power in West Bengal, whose 90 million people make it the fourth most populous State. In the West, BJP faces Mamta Banerjee's opposition, which would be equally vociferous for West Bengal. The elections of Bengal become the most critical and unpredictable. In the Nandigram votes, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee took a huge gamble by standing against a local heavyweight and her former aide Suwendu Adhikari, who joined the BJP in December last year. There are some allegations by both sides for rigged the elections.

The hotline started when Mamta Banerjee was injured after being pushed against her car in Nandigram; after an hour, she filed nomination papers contest the election from the East Midnapore constituency. The TMC maintained its Campaign and struggle despite the BJP's massive challenge. Banerjee Claim that Home Minister Amit Shah stated in the Lebong area in Darjeeling that their will be no NRC. However, Mamta Banerjee pointed out that 14 lakh people have been identified and sent to detention camps based on finding illegal migrants under the National Register of Citizens. The organized rigging in the elections further ignites the violence and clashes in the region. She further has upped the ante in her poll-bound State, charging at the Bharatiya Janata Party with allegations of rigging booths during the Lok Sabha elections.

In the recent week, At least five people were killed during gunfire in election-related violence at two polling stations



in India's West Bengal state. Security forces caused most casualties, four killed and four wounded, to control the crowd in Cooch Behar district outside a voting center. West Bengal is renowned for election-related violence, and people have been killed in previous elections when supporters of rival political parties clashed with each other.

In several constituencies around Kolkata, the cultural elite still holds ground, where the BJP is still regarded as an outsider. The demographics also help the TMC in the upcoming rounds of polling. There is 27% Muslim population in West Bengal, but they are not scattered in the State. This election is being found on performance and religious basis, giving the TMC an upper hand in the next rounds.

The demand of the people of Bengal has organized the unorganized sectors of labors and Fisheries. There are many promises from both sides, still unfulfilled. Hence the

massive Campaign launched by the BJP and TMC, but the massive resentment in the rural areas of West Bengal. There are different opinions and predictions regarding the elections. The trend and voting percentage from 2011 onward elections of the Lok Sabha and West Bengal Assembly in the region of Midnapore, Bankura has given ample amount of indications that the population and the specifically minority of the region looking towards Mamta Banerjee, who can give importance to the aspirations and demands of the region.

Meanwhile, the BJP is playing down its religious nationalism and focusing on development rhetoric to pin out the Banerjee down. It has been Delhi versus Bengal for a long time. Mamata wants to be seen as the incorruptible daughter of the West Bengal; the BJP and its leaders portray her as the author of chaos and barrier to the State's progress. This election is about Didi.

Mamta Banerjee stated that at the campaign trail in Jhargram. "I know they (BJP) rigged two booths in the Goaltore area and won in last Lok Sabha elections. All mothers, sisters, and brothers, do not let them rig any of the booths this time. Cast your vote on your own."

India ignores Bangladesh's opposition on Tipaimukh Dam project

OPINION

By TON Research Section

None of the Indian neighbor countries has remained safe from Indian atrocities. Bangladesh is another name in the list of victimized countries. India had been planning to construct a Tipaimukh Dam in Barak River (known as Surma, Kushiara in Bangladesh) for last four decades, which is located on just 1 km north of Bangladesh's north-eastern border. It was planned to construct the dam for the purpose of producing electricity without the concern and discussion of Bangladesh. Bangladeshi people of the surrounded villages had the risk of their lives and they have come up for protests against India. Despite the huge protests from Bangladesh, India had been hiking her struggles for hydroelectric project since 2012. Bangladesh is a lower riparian country for Barak River. It borders with Mizoram on Indian side and it affects the whole north eastern Bangladesh's districts Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulavibazar, Habiganj, Brahmanbaria, Kishoreganj, Netrokona, Norshingdi and Narayanganj. Bangladesh has always opposed India to save her border villages but India's response was always shirking while constructing the dam. Hasina Wajid talked to her then Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh many times but in vain.

Once the dam will be completed, being a lower state, Bangladesh will have to pay its consequences because the huge dam will stop the water towards Bangladesh. Due to which, the agriculture lands of Bangladesh will get effected and farmers of the bordered districts will come to their knees. It will also affect fisheries, vegetation and greenery including local flora and fauna. A big number of people and livestock will displace themselves from these border areas. The uncontrollable immense natural disasters will take place. India wants to make



specific part of Bangladesh a desert area. Millions of people depend upon the fresh water of the Meghna for their survivals. Bangladesh is already facing huge troubles due to climate change led to water shortages. A 286.20 sq. km Land area would come under water forever. The Barak waterfalls and Zeilad Lake, which are connected with the history of the Zeliangrong people, would forever be underwater. More than 40,000 people would be rendered landless. Eight villages situated at the Barak Valley would be completely underwater. More than 90 villages, mostly in the Tamenglong district, would be badly affected. About 27,242 hectares of cultivable land would be vanished.

Two important rivers of Bangladesh, Surma and Kushiara will dry up because they directly get the water from Barak River. India will stop water in Barak River, these Surma and Kushiara rivers will be finished up of water then India will open the spillways from Barak River in off seasons. The

sudden flow of water will bring flood in Bangladesh's river areas.

People of both countries will be getting affected and they are much wise people because they are aware of Indian intentions of building a big dam on the trans-border territory. Not only Bangladesh government has been protesting against the Indian project, but the common people of both countries are protesting against Indian government, because people of these border villages will suffer the consequences of this large dam. They are raising voices on social media; they have raised multiple slogans against Indian government and this project. One of their common slogans is that "Tipaimukh Dam is death to Sylhet and Bangladesh, it must be closed." The people of both Bangladesh and India have launched a strong green progress against the Dam. The movement has taken various shapes; it had been started from streets to indoor protests. It took place in seminars and discussion meetings to virtual protests through Twitter, blogs, and other online web pages. The movement had gone to the stage of submission of petition UNO. This has become a very serious issue in which India is using different kind of Hippocratic techniques to bring Bangladesh closer in this regard.

India is completely thinking of its own interest in making the dam. It does not have any concern if the people of border areas and all of the population linked with the rivers die with hunger or drown in the flood. India always keeps the hegemonic policy towards its neighbors; same it has done with Pakistan. India has constructed number of dams on Indus Rivers by violating Indus water treaty with Pakistan. It only wants dominance in the region because it is seeking the role of a lord in the Indo-pacific trade. India is trying to increase its influencing role inside of countries which are bordered with it. Regional countries have to recognize her as a black sheep and India should stop her hegemonic position and policies regarding its neighbors.



Lakshadweep islands and the claims during the partition: Indian unlawful occupation

NEWS REPORT

By Research Section

The Undemocratic Republic of India is renowned for occupying its neighbor territories. The illegal activities not only restrict to land, but they commenced illegal occupation in seas as well. The islands of the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal are one of the illegal occupations By India. In the Arabian are several islands situated, namely Lakshadweep Island and the Bengal Island, namely Andaman and Nicobar islands. Both islands are located at tragically positions and trade routes as well. Historically both Islands are legally a part

Lakshadweep Island forcefully occupies the Island from the Tipu Sultan. When Britishers were leaving the subcontinent, they divided the region based on religion, but this Island remains in dispute and India, as a usual force, fully annexed the Island and killed the numbers of Muslims in the Island who opposed the Indian occupation.

The Pakistani leadership and Quaid e Azam had paid more attention to the archipelago in the days leading up to the 1947 Partition, but after Quaid e Azam, India sent their forces and annex into the unlawful union territory of India.

Unofficially Pakistan, on different occasions, opposes and condemns the hegemonic attitude of India. The inhabitants of the Island are living second-class life and destitute of fundamental rights.

Why Indians unlawfully annex the disputed territory?

The Island located approximately 300 kilometers from the Indian west coast state of Kerala; the archipelago comprises 36 islands, with a total land area of only 32 square kilometers. However, the geographical spread of the islands gives India around 20,000 km² of territorial waters and an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of approximately 400,000 km.

Lakshadweep's expectation will work closely with the naval base in Karwar, which is primarily used for power-projection operations, although it falls geographically within the area controlled by Southern Naval Command in Kochi. Phase I of the more than 50 billion-plus rupee (around \$985 million) Karwar project was completed in 1995. Phase II is expected to be finished in 2022. The completed project will include the naval base at Port Karwar. Furthermore, given that India, the United States, and Japan will soon start installing acoustic systems in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, it is reasonable to expect a joint project to lay an undersea optical fiber communications cable Chennai to Port Blair could eventuate. This is specifically to counter Pakistan and China, created precisely to monitor the Chinese and Pakistan Navy's submarine activity in the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean Rim. India is inviting foreign forces to the Island of Lakshadweep, although this is a disputed land. The USA should review its policy regarding this Island because they want to build naval bases on the disputed territories.

Pakistan's Government is patiently watching the buildup of the naval base in the Lakshadweep region. India should handover the Muslim majority Areas to Pakistan and Bangladesh as decided during the partition. If it could not happen, India would be responsible for the emerging conflicts in the seas of Arabia.



of Pakistan, but Indian forceful occupation led Pakistan to step backward for regional peace.

The history of Lakshadweep is quite vibrant and visible to everyone. The Tipu Sultan ruled these islands in the 18th century. The people of the Island are mostly Muslims. In the 2011 census there were 96% of Muslims living on the Island, but due to India's oppression and discriminatory attitude, the number has been reduced. However, this is also India's plan to change the democracy of the Island, so Pakistan cannot claim legitimacy on this Island.

This Island is strategically significant for the trade and maritime forces. The History of the Lakshadweep and its population's ethnicity is closely linked to Kerala and the Maldives; both regions are Muslim. The islands' people mostly speak Malayalam, the Dravidian language spoken in Kerala, with a minority in the southernmost islands speaking Mahl, a dialect of Divehi, the Indo-Arye, a language of the Maldives.

The Indian navy has maintained permanent facilities on Kavaratti Island since the 1980s. The islands are en route on vital shipping lanes from the Indian mainland to the Persian Gulf. Indian forces now include this area in her new Indo-Pacific project, although this Island is disputed.

Muslim League indirectly claims the Island of Lakshadweep. Quaid Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah claims this Island under demarcation because the Muslim majority's areas belong to Pakistan. Gujrat is the nearest area of this Island; India wants to divert Pakistan's narrative, although Gujrat belongs to Pakistan.

Pakistan's National bank is going to be abandoned: Private Banks monopoly

OPINION

By TON Research Section

The national bank of Pakistan shrinks due to the authorities' incompetence and the monopoly of private banks. The irrecoverable damage of the National bank is evident to the general public or clients of National banks. In the last month, the management of NBP has decided to scale down its foreign operations, mainly through its branches. It is working to shut down at least seven units this year, out of 21 total branches. The authorities of Pakistan remained silent on the irrecoverable damage of the National bank.

There are four branches of a National bank in Bangladesh, located in Chittagong, Sylhet, Gulshan and Motijheel. The national bank's incompetent authority decided to close one of its Bangladesh branches after failing to recover nearly 98 per cent of its loans from debtors the bank's.

The state-owned NBP has branches in 21 countries



the banks till February-end.

The corrupt authorities and monopoly of the private bank-led Pakistani national bank fell into big trouble by giving loans to fraudulent clients in 2013-14. The

by the authorities?

In a contemporary situation, it is very complicated for banks to recover the Pakistani nation's money and bad loans as most clients do not want to return the money. This

tarnishes the image of the Pakistan and National bank of Pakistan just because of the monopoly of private banks and officials who have the stake in the corporate which are blessed by the loans of national banks.

The recent statement of Quamruzzaman, head of the country bank, state that "clearing their records, "cannot avail loans from any other banks in the future.", however, the question arise who is responsible for what happened in the past and present?

In 2019 During negotiations, the country had offered to repay the bank around \$16.5 million. And sent this proposal in December 2019, and there was no work last year due to the authorities' lack of interest.

In the last, I want to wind up the tragic incident of closing National's bank in foreign countries. The way we know that Pakistan Is going through a critical period. Simultaneously, the corrupt authorities, for the sake of their self-interest, have done a lot of damage to Pakistan's wobbled economy. The private bank's monopoly already damages the cause of national interest in Pakistan and out of Pakistan. The Supreme court should put up an inquiry on this issue and not punished but also recover the nation's money from those involved in the allow to plunder the loans of Pakistan national bank.



and assets worth \$20 billion. The National Bank of Pakistan has been operating in Bangladesh as NBP-BD since 1994, with four branches in three cities, serving about 8,000 customers. The Pakistani nation ran into trouble in 2013-24, after numerous debtors — mainly from the apparel sector — failed to meet loan obligations, Bangladesh central bank data shows. In December, NBP-BD's defaults amounted to \$164 million, or 97.7 per cent of its total loans.

In the past six years, the bank has filed 143 cases against loan defaulters, recovering about \$23 million, now it seems that the bank was unable to retrieve the loans. The incompetent authorities and officials were also decided to shut down the branch of Afghanistan in Jalalabad, which was started in 2004. In the next phase, the NBP management will further review various branches' operations in different countries and decide whether they will be shut down or remain functional.

However, one branch of the Kyrgyz Republic will be shut down in the coming weeks, as the host country's customers were directed to settle their accounts with

bank's top loans defaulters include Ibrahim Textile, Cotton Group, Koba Group, World Tell BD, DG Knitting Company, Aleya Sweater, Sara Group. These corporates also have links with officials who provide bank loans without any guarantee etc. This case was again repeated in 2017 when 65 officials, including the former president of the National Bank of Pakistan, had to be punished for the loan's irregularities in the lender's Bangladesh. However, the question arises who is responsible and if they punished, then why this situation not be controlled

"We are going to close the operations at our Sylhet branch due to an extraordinary situation," states Mohammad Quamruzzaman, NBP-BD chief

Uyghur Muslims of China suffering in silence

OPINION

By TON Research Section

There is a long history of Muslims in China. . Islam was introduced to China by envoys from the Middle East in 7th century after that Muslims came to China in 13th century in unprecedented numbers and were among the most influential in government. After 18th century, relations between Muslims and Chinese began to change. Due to revolts, influx of migrants in Muslims majority areas in China increased. After the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, it was divided into 56 ethnic groups, 10 groups of these are now recognized as Muslim minorities which include Uighur's. Uighur are Turkic-speaking people living in Xinjiang province, northwest of China. Pre-dominant members of Uighur's are Muslims. Nearly, 11 million Uighur Muslims live in Xinjiang whereas smaller groups are found across Central Asia.

Uighur's are living in Xinjiang province from centuries before the Chinese government seized the region in 1949. After the Chinese's government developed Xinjiang province economically, it encouraged Han Chinese people to migrate to the province. Migration of Han Chinese to Xinjiang inflamed tensions between both ethnic groups. Conflicts between Han and Uighur were frequent and deadly as well in some cases. From 1949 to 2010, Han population in Xinjiang increased dramatically. In 1949, Uighur's were 75% of total population whereas Hans were only 7% but today the figures have changed dramatically. Uighur's have been decreased to 46% while Hans increased to 40% of the total Xinjiang population (Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region Bureau of Statistics 2010). However, this tremendous demographic shift in Xinjiang province was not unintended but China's policy for its visible destiny.

In early 20th century, Uighur's declared their independence from China but the region was brought under complete control of Chinese's Communist government in 1949. In the start, after establishment of People's Republic of China, Muslims got their religious freedom but during the early years of Cultural Revolution from 1966 to 1969, Muslims were prohibited to perform religious obligations, expressions of all religious beliefs were banned by the Communist Red Guards. Since then, gradually restrictions on movement and culture of Uighur Muslims have increased.

In the recent decades, after the mass migration of Han's to Xinjiang the government of China has targeted Uighur Muslims with repression. However, these repressions dramatically scaled up since 2016 and turned Xinjiang the most heavily monitored place by implementing surveillance, and policing ways. In 2017, Chinese government passed a law prohibiting men from growing beards and women's from wearing veils. Crackdowns on Uighur expanded with mass arbitrary detentions, religious oppressions and restrictions on movement. China has built nearly 400 internment camps in Xinjiang province and is constructing dozens more over last



two years. Chinese government claims that these internment concentration camps are “re-education” camps. According to an estimate, more than 1 million people are being held in these concentration camps. However, Chinese government provides no public information

employment training centers” for criminals involved in minor offenses. In 2018 UN human rights committee said that it had credible reports about Chinese, holding million people in “Counter-extremism centres” in Xinjiang. In October, 2020, 39 countries including US submitted a joint statement in UN; calling on China to respect the rights of minorities. Till now, only US provided the most forceful response calling China's actions as crime against humanity. The US has accused China of committing genocide against the Uighur's. Earlier, Trump administration has taken important steps to deter China's forced labor program against Uighur Muslims and imposed sanctions on Chinese officials and government entities. The US new administration has shown signs that it agrees with previous Trump administration. China has long been denying the charge of “genocide” of Uyghur Muslims and seems unmoved by international criticism.

Documented evidence on large-scale human rights violations in Xinjiang clearly depicts that Chinese government is committing mass atrocities against minority Uyghur Muslims. Even after having enough evidence, international community failed to solve the issue and remains numb because China

got the support from countries where it is doing investments of billion

dollars. Today, Muslims of China are suffering in silence. Flag-bearers of Muslim world and champions of Human rights are silent because they show solidarity and speak for someone's right only when it is in their best of interests and suits them. China is the permanent member and an influential voice at UN but on the other hand it is committing grotesque human rights violations. China wants the world to remain silent on concentration camps. China needs to stop what is doing in concentration camps and should allow Uighur Muslims and other minorities to return to normal life.

ormation on the number of detainees in the camps. The Chinese government claimed that in July 2019 many of the Uighur prisoners had been released, but the media continue to find evidence that the camps are still in operation. Chinese authorities also claim that Uighur's are suspected of being separatists and dissidents. Whatsoever, these rampant abuses by Chinese government are the continuous violation of international laws as well as violation of basic human rights, freedom of speech, expression and religion.

The reports about physical and psychological abuses have been denied by Chinese government and say these camps are “vocational education and



OPINION

By TON Research Section



India intentionally maintain higher crime rate in Bihar: Bihar is under dark shadows

The discrimination against west Bengalis and Bihar people has been increased in India and there is no mercy on these people. The numbers of atrocities, killings and insane acts with the lower class of west Bengalis are reported in media on daily basis, in which most of the west Bengalis and people from Bihar are victimized. An inhuman incident has also been observed last year that nine people including women and children had been killed and thrown to Andhra well in Tilangana. Those all belonged to very lowest class families of Bihar and west Bengal and were working in a cold storage to feed their family. Six of among them were from one family. A fellow worker of them who was backed and supported with Tilangana Police, brutally committed murder of these nine innocent poor souls. Criminals buy the confidence of committing such crimes against Bihar's people from police and government and Indian intelligence agencies. The Intelligence and government gave free hands to these criminals and get their own purposes accomplished by them. They hold a network of white collar crimes in all over the India, especially in the disputed areas which they feel that freedom movements can be sparked anytime. They use such type of criminals to kill the masses of freedom movements and then provide them shelters to use for next time.

Basically, Bihar is a state of eastern India. After the Indian occupation, it has its boundaries linked with Nepal to the north side and by the West Bengal to the northeast and the Uttar Pradesh to the west. It is the Muslim majority state. In 1756, Bihar was historically the part of west Bengal which was occupied by India with the back British Raj. The British rulers separated Bihar and Orissa from Bengal on 1 April 1912. They made it a separate province as Bihar on 1 April 1936. It remained a part of Bengal province till the division of Bengal.

India had its dominancy at that time too like it has maintained today even after number of decades. Because of being on a dominant stage at that time, India kept her dominancy on west Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. She occupied these areas of Bengalis. Now India is conducting very insane activities against the people living inside of her own administrative areas. India knows well that these people can stand up against her illegitimacy on any time. So India has intentionally maintained a very high crime rate in Bihar. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, in 2018, total 262815 numbers of cognizable crimes were registered in Bihar. This is a huge number for any specific area. This is all because of keeping people engage in criminal activities, unless people get free from all of this stress situation, they will start struggling for united Bengal. Crime rates of murders and rapes are kept very high in Bihar and west Bengal.

Here, the words are concluded that why India doesn't want to see progression of their minority people. The border and Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, and Dalits majority regions in



the India are still demanding for their rights and facing hurdles in the freedom of speech. Thousands of people were detained in the detention centers who demands for their rights, first they provoke their own people for the agitation then they enter the forces to control the protestors and change the narratives of the media. Although media of India also remains silent on the issue of Bihar and none is listening the voice of the Bihar's people which are historically and geographically Bengalis. People of Bihar and west Bengal are fed up of Indian cruelties on them; they have come to

know about Indian Intentions which are risking their lives. No one guarantees the safety of their lives, children and freedom. They have started chanting slogans of meeting with Bangladesh as per their legitimate rights. International community must pay their attentions and should show the world that what is going on with the minorities living in India.

The two nation theory was implemented on the entire of sub-Continent, by which all Muslims majority areas were given under the Administration of Muslims. According to the Indian census report there are 17,557,809 Muslims living in Bihar which is the highest population of Bihar among all Religions. By law of two nation theory, Muslims had the right on Bihar and west Bengal has the legitimate right on Bihar.

Baluchistan insurgency and Pakistan-Iran military developments

OPINION

By TON Research Section



rupees (\$18.6 million) in additional funds for the fencing of its border with Iran. In May 2020, Pakistan's Chief of the Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa sought Iran's

attacks by militants however; military raids and attacks have also been increased by Pakistan army in the recent period against militants. Pakistan's security forces on March 8th, 2021, killed 5 militants in an intelligence-based operation in Splinji area of Mastung district.

Iran and Pakistan, both agreed to enhance security measures on each side of the border areas. Pakistan has done fencing alongside border however; mutual cooperation is extensively needed to counter militants. Now, with the development of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor, which passes through Baluchistan, these militants view China as a great threat. Chinese investment in Baluchistan is seen as exploitation whereas Pakistan government sees a development. However, Pakistan army has maintained strict vigilance on Pak-Iran and Afghan border and is also fencing the border line to ensure security.

There are many causes of the insurgency however many outside actors are also involved in uprising of the insurgency. This longtime violent upturn in Baluchistan by Baloch militants is supported by India. Afghan and Iranian territories are used by RAW for anti-Pakistan activities. In 2016, Pakistan forces arrested Kulbhushan Yadav who was serving at the Indian Naval office. He infiltrating into Pakistan from the Saravan border area of Baluchistan with Iran and was sponsoring Baloch insurgent groups to destabilize Pakistan. India has long been involved in deteriorating law and order situation in Pakistan. Nonetheless, these provocative activities by insurgent groups are aimed at escalating tensions on the ground but the

Pakistan has been facing a separatist militant surge in Baluchistan. These separatist groups are fighting for Baluchistan's independence from Pakistan and view this as a fight for self-determination. However, this insurrection against Pakistan dates back to 1949. This separation movement is not just limited to Baluchistan only but across the border in Iran, where few Baloch people carry similar approach. These people carrying unique aspirations and identities share a common desire for liberation. Baloch live on both sides of Pak-Iran border but this Baloch factor is dwelled in critical space in the relationships of both countries. Recent instances have shown that tensions have been increased between the militants and the security forces of Pakistan.

These separatist groups carry out their activities mostly in Baluchistan province and also maintain a significant presence in Iran across the border. They cover the Baluchistan Province in southwestern Pakistan and the Iranian province of Sistan-Baluchestan, which has been a flashpoint since long. Baloch militants and separatist are almost regularly engaged in cross-border attacks. These militant groups advocates for a 'greater Baluchistan' which includes Baluchistan region within Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan. Where Pakistan is battling with Baloch insurgent groups, Iran Sistan and Baluchistan province is also dominated by similar tendencies, Baloch separatist ethnic groups.

Militants have carried out several attacks. Border security has remained a significant problem in Pak-Iran ties however; in the past year both the countries have cooperated extensively to improve border security condition by deploying more troops and taking other measures to prevent unauthorized cross-border movement. Pakistan's Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) on April 29th, 2020, approved 3 billion

cooperation in dealing with these militants that are operating from its soil. General Bajwa “urged the exchange of expert delegations to maintain border security and prevent terrorist moves on common borders”.

Iran's General Mohammad Baqeri, while talking to General Bajwa, expressed readiness for cooperation against the miscreants and called for enhancement of security measures at the borders so as to prevent the

According to a senior official of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in Quetta said, “They were planning a big terror attack in Quetta. Explosives, detonators and arms were recovered from their hideout.”

terrorist groups and “common enemies” from creating problems at the borders.

During the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to Iran in April 2019, both the governments agreed to set up a joint rapid reaction force to limit the terrorist activities alongside the porous border of Pak-Iran.

The violent, separatist movement in Baluchistan has given rise to many insurgent groups such as The Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) which is the most prominent, Jaish al-Adl an Iranian terrorist group operating in the border region, Baluch Liberation Front (BLF), United Baluch Army (UBA), Baluch Republican Guard (BRG), Lashkar-e-Baluchistan, Baluch Republican Army (BRA) and Baluch Raji Aajoi Sangar (BRAS). Jaish al-Adl dominates the Iranian side while the BRAS dominates Pakistan's side. The BRAS is a unification of three Baloch insurgent groups, the BLF, BRG, and BLA.

Recently, there has been a rise in radical movement and

joint military and security facet could help improve the situation in Baluchistan.

Undoubtedly, insurgency has begun in Baluchistan to weaken Pakistan but the future of Baloch insurgent groups is embedded in uncertainty and will never be any obstacle in united Baluchistan. The solution of Baluchistan insurgency is not one-sided, if one side of the border is stabilized, volatility will spill out from the other side of the region. Both the countries need to overcome this challenge by mutual collaboration. Since Pakistan and Iran are embedded in same challenges alongside border, both the countries only need a joint action to win war against terrorist insurgency. In a nutshell, Baluchistan can be a reason of tension or it could be a reason for Pakistan and Iran to strengthen their ties by working together towards peace in the region.

Modern slavery turned India as a dangerous place for women

OPINION

By TON Research Section

The world has been transformed from traditional ways to modern ways. Where modernity has come up with blessing, in the parallel, it would become a curse for a large number of sections of the society. According to some International reports, India is one of the largest countries involved in modern slavery or human trafficking. According to the Global Slavery Index, reported there were 18.3 million people in modern slavery in India. After California, the USA's state, India is the destination for women and girls from neighboring countries, smuggled for sexual exploitation.

Indian women are also trafficked to different parts of the world via borders for the same purpose. A total of 6,616 human trafficking cases were registered in the country, far higher than the 5,788 cases registered in 2018 and 5,900 cases in 2017. The previous year also saw a drop in conviction rates of trafficking cases - from 29.4% in 2018 to 22% in 2019. The uncountable oppression that is not registered faces the lower caste or women, children, and minorities in India's entirety. Even though India is the world's largest democratic republic, it is plagued with widespread poverty and lack of proper education, resulting in many human rights violations, especially against women and girls. Women in India are also traumatized in less obvious ways. Their oppression starts almost invisibly. It



for spying purposes, which is illegal and violation of human rights.

The Government of India failed to confront trafficking through various relevant laws. In the Constitution, Article 23 states the prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labor, and Article 24 states the prohibition of employment of children in factories. Sections in the IPC,

These all the laws in the constitution were made to maintain the dignity of humans in the state, but authorities and border forces are reluctant to implement the laws, affecting the Hindu nation's entire culture.

takes place in their homes, within families, with girls being locked up in their own houses, women being beaten by their husbands, fathers and brothers. It has become a dangerous place for women.

Human trafficking in India may affect between 30 and 80 million people. Women and underage girls are trafficked within the country for commercial sexual exploitation and forced marriage, especially in those areas where the government's poverty and disparity ratio increased. 10.1 million Child labor has become slaves of the shops, markets, agriculture, mining sectors, etc. They were also raped and physiologically tortured by the authorities. The local authorities are also involved in Human and child trafficking. Some of the children used in armed violence and conflict reported cases of abductions and coercion of children to join Bal Dasta units that train children in front-line operations, and some time security forces use children

such as 366A, 366B, 370, and 374, penalize traffickers with imprisonment up to 10 years and a fine. The Juvenile Justice Act, Information Technology (IT) Act, Immoral Traffic Act, Prevention of Child Labour Act, the Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act are among others that try to penalize trafficking.

The bordering countries Nepal, Bangladesh also wants the Indian government to establish a mechanism to stop human trafficking within Indian and across the borders of India. Millions of people were affected and abducted by the non-state actors and the Indian Army in Kashmir, Assam, Naga land. There are several incidents in cities in which Indian forces are willingly involved in women trafficking and Gang-raped. The most notorious incident occurred at midnight in kunan Village. The Kunan Poshpora incident was an alleged mass-rape on February 23, 1991, when the Indian security forces launched a faked search operation in

the Village located in Kashmir's remote Kupwara District. The residents of the neighborhood stated that militants had fired on soldiers nearby, which prompted the operation. Some of the villagers claimed that many women were raped by soldiers that night. The horrible incident happened, and none of the alleged Army personals are jailed or sentence to death. This is the legacy of the Indian Army that raped and trafficked women of Kashmir and Indian national women, which is continued on the borders, and in seven sister's states.

All the same, indeed, discrimination and violence against women, lower class, minorities, and Dalits are ingrained in the uppers class of Indian society. Discrimination starts at India's birth, where many people think giving birth to a girl child is a curse. According to some surveys more than 8 million girls are involved in the prostitution due to poverty, and a large number of girls blackmailed then they are trafficked into prostitution center for the money-they are just like the slaves of the modern era.

In the last, I want to conclude with the wrenching heart and the bitter truth of the negligence of the Indian government over Human and specifically women trafficking. In India, many women and girls who belong to foreign countries are abused by the local extremist and still are not brought to justice. Children from tribal areas are at greater risk of human trafficking, including the Kuki people from Manipur and the Nagas from the Northeast, while the Jharkhand state and the Anantapur and Prakasam regions of the Andhra Pradesh State are some areas prone to human trafficking. All the areas mentioned above are highly neglected by the Government and border security because they do not want to resolve it. According to India's constitution, the number of local and Army personals is involved in the trafficking and earning millions of illegal dollars.

Gurkha recruitment in Indian Army and Gorkhaland movement

NEWS REPORT

By TON Research Section

The Gorkhas are people of Nepali-origin who have been plunged in histories. The term 'Gorkha' was a concept of British colonial imaginations. After the expansion of the East India Company in India, British started to come into contact with vigorous power on the northern borders of its newly won territories in Bengal and Bihar. Gorkha was a feudal hill village, now known as western Nepal. Eventually, as a result of boundary disputes and repeated raids by Gorkhas into British territory, war was declared on Nepal in 1814.

After the East India Company won the Anglo-Nepalese War of 1815 against the Gorkha Kingdom, the British enlisted Gorkha defectors into their armies. After two long and bloody campaigns a Peace Treaty was signed at Sugauli in 1816. The Gorkhas, were known particularly for their great capacity for soldiering and by the special relationship they shared with the British. The Gorkhas were considered a 'subaltern' group in British colonial perceptions of the Brigade, which have lasted till now. However, colonial abstractions assume the Gorkhas, as steadfast and uncontested loyal to the British. The Gurkha Brigade was subject to partition alongside India in 1947.

Considering the role of the Gorkhas during partition is evidently complex but to neglect the reality of Gorkhas during partition is to neglect the reality of their shared history. Divided between India and Britain, Gorkha Brigade was confused about their future. They exist amongst those who were witnesses to the chaos of partition. Gorkha accounts demonstrate the atmosphere surrounding partition was characterized by insecurity and this appears to have been a crucial factor which contributed to the intense violence. Insecurity encouraged the flow of refugees. Naturally, the movement of refugees was increased as violence mounted.

When India gained independence, six regiments from the Brigade of Gorkhas were transferred to the Indian Army under a 1947 Tripartite Agreement between Nepal, Britain and India. Currently, the Indian army has 7 Gorkha regiments. A section of people in Kathmandu valley argue that the Gorkha Regiments of the Indian Army are mercenary force. Yet, there is another fuss in Nepal that Nepalese nationals are part of a foreign army, which is against Nepal's national honour. The question of Gurkha recruitment has come up in public debate in the past also but gained new momentum in 2018, when Britain started recruiting Gorkha women without seeking the consent of Nepal. In December 2019, Nepal expressed concern about issues like standards for selecting and employing Nepali citizens in foreign armies.

Previously, Nepal Government tried to put an end to Gorkha recruitment in the Indian Army but failed due to public outcry because employment opportunities in Nepal are almost non-existent. Nepali government wants to revise the terms and replace it with individual treaties with each country because the current treaty does not allow Nepal to play any role in selecting its citizens for foreign armies.

Earlier, Nepal Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli, in an interview said that Nepal is open to review pact

over Nepalese soldiers in India. "This should be internally and mutually discussed and corrected, if necessary. We live in a new world, and Nepal is starting a new journey, we have to update whatever is considered outdated and bring it in line with the modern era."

Gurkha recruitment has had deep social, economic and cultural impacts. The most important factor is that the selection procedure is strictly based on the caste system. Britain and India think of Nepal as a poor, unstable country that needs paternalistic domination. Gorkhas are been recruited in army because it is believed that they have few sources of income.

There are two types of Gorkhas residing in India, Nepali citizens and those who have obtained Indian citizenship. Gorkha community is living in the India as per Foreigners Act 1946. Official recognition of Gorkhas to Indian citizenship came with a notification issued by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on August 23, 1988.



According to this notification, the Gorkhas domiciled in India from "commencement of the Constitution (26-1-1950), born in the territory of India, also of whose parents was born in the territory of India," are Indian citizens.

Nepalese citizens who came to India for work have settled down in different cities across India, because of free borders and movement agreement between India and Nepal. Under the Citizenship Amendment Bill 2016, Gorkhas are Indians citizens like any other. However, the National Register of Citizens (NRC) process poses a huge challenge for Gorkha community including those who have served in the armed forces, as there is very little understanding of the socio-political history of the Gorkhas in the power corridors of New Delhi. The 1950

treaty saves Nepali citizens from being sent to a Foreigners Tribunal. However, many Gorkhas with Indian citizenship are calling for a separate Gorkhaland state and are against provisions in the treaty protecting Nepali citizens.

The Gorkhaland movement is a campaign to create a separate state of India in the Gorkhaland region of West Bengal. The main reason for the separate Gorkhaland movement is due to the differences in ethnicity, culture and language. The people of Nepali-Indian Gorkha ethnic origin on the Northern part of West Bengal demands a state on basis of their cultural identity, which is very different from Bengali culture. In addition to an identity crisis, there is also an issue of poverty, under-development and politicisation of the issue.

There is difference in opinion regarding recruitment of Gorkhas in Indian army people who support it say that the Gorkhas have been an integral part of the world

warrior history, which is pride for the Nepali people. Whereas people who are against it say that recruitment in armies of other countries should be stopped. Fighting on behalf of a foreign country against another Nepal's friendly nation does not have positive implications for Nepal.

The common Indian man is usually not aware of complexity of Gorkha recruitment in Indian army but the Indian government have to tackle it well. People of Nepal are looking for jobs and they consider India as their biggest market. According to an estimate six lakh youth have not returned to Nepal and continue to settle in India. It is important, not to forget Gorkha force as they also have major contribution in histories of partition.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal, Pradeep Gyawali in the past said "We should define the presence of the government of Nepal in the (recruitment) process."

Delhi prejudice: Elections of West Bengals and dogma of leaders, Bangladesh Card

OPINION

By TON Research Section

Bengal elections campaign became a hardline for Delhi and Bengalis. Some Ministers of Delhi spreading false propaganda against Bangladesh and Bengalis especially, Amit Shah during the election campaign in West Bengal. Unfortunately, Amit Shah is India's home minister and former president of the ruling fundamentalist political organization called Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). In Calcutta's Ananda bazar he addressed the newspaper, and he disdains the integrity of the Bengali people; he stated, "The poor people of Bangladesh is still do not get food, so they come to India. If BJP comes to power in West Bengal, infiltration from Bangladesh would be stopped."

Bangladesh had not officially and formally protested on Amit Shah's statement, but in reply to Amit Shah's latest statement, the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh AK Abdul Momen said: "His knowledge about Bangladesh is limited. On the contrary, in some areas, Bangladesh is far ahead of India." There is a long history of Indian politicians, disregard the people of Bengal and Bangladesh. On 11th February, 2021, Amit Shah speaks about Bangladeshis; Earlier, at a public meeting in West Bengal he again gave provocative remarks and alleged infiltration from the Bangladesh border to Indian Border. He stated, "If the BJP came to power in West Bengal, 'not just people, even a bird, will not be able to enter the country through the border.'"

He did not stopped there. In 2019, he rendered a policy guideline in a meeting and categorically said Bangladeshi would be found and expelled from the land of west Bengal. In his policies, he mentioned to the BSF in November 2020 that the border should be sealed "even mosquitoes and flies cannot enter. Histories know that West Bengal is also a part of United Bengal under the rule of Sijar dolha."

It is now clear that Delhi has intensified these anti-Bangladesh campaigns as the West Bengal Assembly elections had begun. Their target is to defeat Bengal Daughter Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress party and seize West Bengal's power. Due to hatred and persecution against the Muslim community, the Muslim vote in West Bengal is less likely to go to the BJP, counting 30% of the total vote. The most proactive "Pakistan card" in Indian elections is obsolete in West Bengal because of the geographical distance.

After the Failure of the Pakistan card, Delhi is now keen to run the "Bangladesh card" because the two parts of Bengal have a bitter history of partition by the British Colonial rule and the huge migration and sad history of Hindu-Muslim communal riots. The Muslim Rulers, language, literature, religion, and common culture have made a historical bond between the two parts of Bengal.

Bangladesh officials have several times said that

Bangladesh would accept its citizens wherever they are in India if India provides a list with the appropriate evidence. However, Amit Shah could not give it, even after becoming the home minister because Amit Shah knows very well that there is no Bangladeshi Muslim infiltration in India, which is their headache.

It's a huge conspiracy against Bengalis people and Muslims of Bangladesh came to India for jobs through illegal immigration. Here the questions arise, why would Muslims of Bangladesh go to India and opt for third-class citizens? In India, minorities cannot go for the rent houses in dominant areas of upper caste of Hindus; they do not get high-ranking jobs in Government and camp to do lower-class jobs. On the other side in Bangladesh, they are first-class citizens. They get government jobs, and Bangladesh is the Asia tiger in terms of economy. Then why the people of Bangladesh left their homelands and migrated to India.

Bangladesh is patiently observing the allegations and propaganda of Delhi. Bangladesh protested

several times on Indian behavior; on the other side, Bangladesh gives a huge number of jobs to Indian citizens for regional stability. The Indian work in garments, the IT sector, textiles, and various NGOs based in Bangladesh. According to some media reports, most Indian citizens are sending money to India through hundi. The Refugee and Migration Movements Research Unit, in its 2019 report showed that remittances from Indian nationals from Bangladesh amounted to \$4 billion. There is no official data on how many Indians are working legally or illegally in Bangladesh, but it is not less than half a million.

On the other hand, the official statistics showed that 2.25 million tourists (one in five foreign tourists) went to India from Bangladesh in 2018. The US is in second place. Although Amit Shah did not know the role of this massive number of tourists in the Indian economy, what happened to the business of Kolkata in the absence of Bangladeshi tourists after the Covid-19 situation -- the businessmen of Kolkata understood it well.



Southeast Asian countries urge Myanmar Army for constructive dialogue

NEWS REPORT

By TON Research Section

South East Asian leaders have greeted the head of the Myanmar army, which took power in February. The leaders requested to end the human rights violations and allow the democratic process to prevail in the country. Sultan Hassanah Bolkiah from Brunei Darussalam, the current chair of the regional bloc, presides over the meeting at the office of the ASEAN Secretariat in the Indonesian capital Jakarta. General Min Aung Hlaing was requested to release political prisoners and open a dialogue between the military and civilian leaders for peace. Myanmar was also offered humanitarian assistance. A statement released after the summit said the leaders and foreign ministers from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) had reached a consensus on five points:

First, there shall be an immediate cessation of violence in Myanmar, and all parties shall exercise utmost restraint. Second, constructive dialogue among all parties concerned shall begin to seek a peaceful solution in the people's interests. Third, a special envoy of the ASEAN Chair shall facilitate mediation of the dialogue process, with the assistance of the Secretary-General of ASEAN. Fourth, ASEAN shall provide humanitarian assistance through the AHA Centre. Fifth, the special envoy and delegation shall visit Myanmar to meet with all parties concerned.

The consensus on the mentioned five points was welcomed by Myanmar's newly formed National Unity Government (NUG), a group made up of opponents of the regime - including pro-democracy figures and representatives of the armed ethnic groups and former members of civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi's former government.

The members of ASEAN render their opinions on the Myanmar issue. Some of the comments by Mr. Joko and Mr. Muhyiddin were out of the ordinary but under the constitutional foreign policy for ASEAN, which has a policy of non-interference in the affairs of member nations. It issued a

statement in March calling on "all parties to refrain from instigating further violence. Indonesia played a vital role in organizing Saturday's summit. In addition to Mr. Joko and Mr. Muhyiddin, those attending included Brunei, Cambodia, Singapore, and Vietnam. Laos, the Philippines, and Thailand sent representatives. ASEAN has declared that it seeks to build a "people-oriented and people-centered ASEAN Community, where our peoples enjoy human rights and fundamental freedoms." This too, is what protesters are fighting for. We ask ASEAN member states to end their indecision, which is endangering safety throughout the region, and stand with us in solidarity instead.

Some ASEAN members, including Singapore and Thailand, have close business ties with Myanmar and its military, known as the Tatmadaw, which owns two of its largest conglomerates. Three-member of the ASEAN, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam, also sent representatives to the Tatmadaw's Armed Forces Day celebration on March 27. Most of the ASEAN members have good relations with Myanmar and with their government. International rights groups had requested to ASEAN nation not

to meet with the General. Rather, they said, the group should impose sanctions on the junta's leaders. However, it was a good gesture for the peace of the region and further proceedings in the dialogue with the regime of Myanmar. ASEAN has repeatedly mentioned there should be "no further violence" and that "parties concerned ... seek a peaceful solution, through constructive dialogue and practical reconciliation". The statement and five points are welcomed by the Myanmar regime. The leaders assembled at Saturday's meeting were expected to reiterate the bloc's previous message to Min Aung Hlaing.

The efforts of the ASEAN leaders regarding the Myanmar regime issue are the next step towards peace and regional stability. Such efforts will lead towards the constructive and betterment of the people of Myanmar. The dialogues between the stakeholders, mediated by the ASEAN members for the goodwill gesture. The international community wants to sanction the Myanmar general who took power against the democratic regime. Sanctions are not the only solution to evacuate from the crises. The dialogues in the peaceful, normalize the situation.



China is endangering peace in South China Sea: EU

BRUSSELS, 25 April, 2021 (TON): On Saturday the European Union blamed China for endangering peace in the South China Sea and urged all parties to abide by a 2016 tribunal ruling which rejected most of China's claim to sovereignty in the sea, but which Beijing has rejected.

A new policy aimed at stepping up its influence in the Indo-Pacific region to counter China's rising power was released by EU in last week.

The Philippines on Friday protested to China over its failure to withdraw what it called as "threatening" boats believed to be manned by maritime militia around the disputed Whitsun Reef, which Manila calls the Julian Felipe Reef.

In a statement by EU spokesperson on Saturday said, "Tensions in the South China Sea, including the recent presence of large Chinese vessels at Whitsun Reef, endanger peace and stability in the region."

EU reiterated its strong opposition to "unilateral actions that could undermine regional stability and international rules-based order".

It urged all parties to resolve disputes peacefully in accordance with international law, and

Saturday insisted that China's sovereignty, rights and interests in the South China Sea were formed in the "long course of history and consistent with international law" and rejected the 2016 tribunal ruling as "null and void".



highlighted a 2016 international arbitration that had ruled in favor of the Philippines while invalidating most of China's claims in the South China Sea.

China rejected EU's accusation that its ships at Whitsun Reef, which China calls Niu'E Jiao, had endangered peace and security.

The Chinese Mission to the EU in a statement on

disputed waters.

The South China Sea disputes involve both island and maritime claims by several sovereign states within the region, namely Brunei, the People's Republic of China (PRC), Taiwan (Republic of China/ROC), Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

"The South China Sea should not become a tool for certain countries to contain and suppress China, much less a wrestling ground for major-power rivalry," the Chinese statement said.

China increased its military activity in the South China Sea by conducting a series of naval maneuvers and exercises. China continues to construct military and industrial outposts on artificial islands it has built in

Sikh diaspora: Changing demography in Bangladesh

INSIDE REPORT

By TON Research Section

It is claimed that Sikhism first emerged in Bengal when Guru Nanak visited Bangladesh in 1504 and established several Gurdwaras. Gurdwara Nanak Shahi is the principal Sikh Gurdwara (prayer hall) in Dhaka. Bangladesh does not have any significant Sikh population. Most of the Sikhs in the country are officials of the Indian High Commission, Businessmen, or pilgrims. According to the 2011 census, there were only 23000 Sikhs in Bangladesh. There were eighteen historical Gurdwaras in Bangladesh. The relations of Sikhs with the Bengalis are remarkable and quite tangible.

In 2019 India announced the CAA bill provided opportunity to Sikh and Hindus living in Bangladesh to regularize their migration in India, although they are living peacefully in Bangladesh. According to the International Monetary Fund, Bangladesh's per capita GDP was likely to expand by 4% in 2020 to \$1,888, while in the case of India, it was expected to fall by 10.5% to \$1,877. The GDP number for both countries was at current prices. On the other hand, Amit Shah stated that "the poor in Bangladesh "go hungry," but figures say otherwise. On the contrary to the Amit Shah's claim India ranks 94 among 107 nations in Global Hunger Index 2020 below Bangladesh which is at ranks 75 and falls under the serious category. One wonders if they are living peacefully, then why India has offered Indian nationality to Sikhs, which may in the future graded as dual nationality?

Sikhs Farmers are protesting in New Delhi for four months, but the government did not respond to the demand of the Sikhs farmers but on the other hand, according to the CAA bill, they want

to Sikh community to acquire Indian nationality. The ambiguous behavior of India leads to logical debate. Britain is also helping India to focus work on Sikhs card to change the demography of Bangladesh. According to Britain House, there are 5 lac Sikhs are living in the UK and contributing to the British economy. Prince Charles of Wales Visited at Bangla Sahib in 2019 and showed his concern towards the Sikh community. Prince was overwhelmed seeing Langar getting prepared at Gurdwara Bangla Sahib. The wants to become closer to the Sikhs to established Sikhs diaspora in different communities to change the culture and

organization. The religious organization supported by the Indian Punjab Government. Stealthy, they are penetrating in the culture of Bengalis. This religious organization had already set up a Sikh Research Centre (SRC) at Gurdwara Nanakshahi with Dhaka University professor Nirol Kazi as its head. If we analyze history, India played the same strategy during the separation of East Pakistan. Not all but some of the teacher brainwash the people and spread feelings of hatred against each other. It is an established fact that India is playing a dual rule regarding Sikhs diaspora.

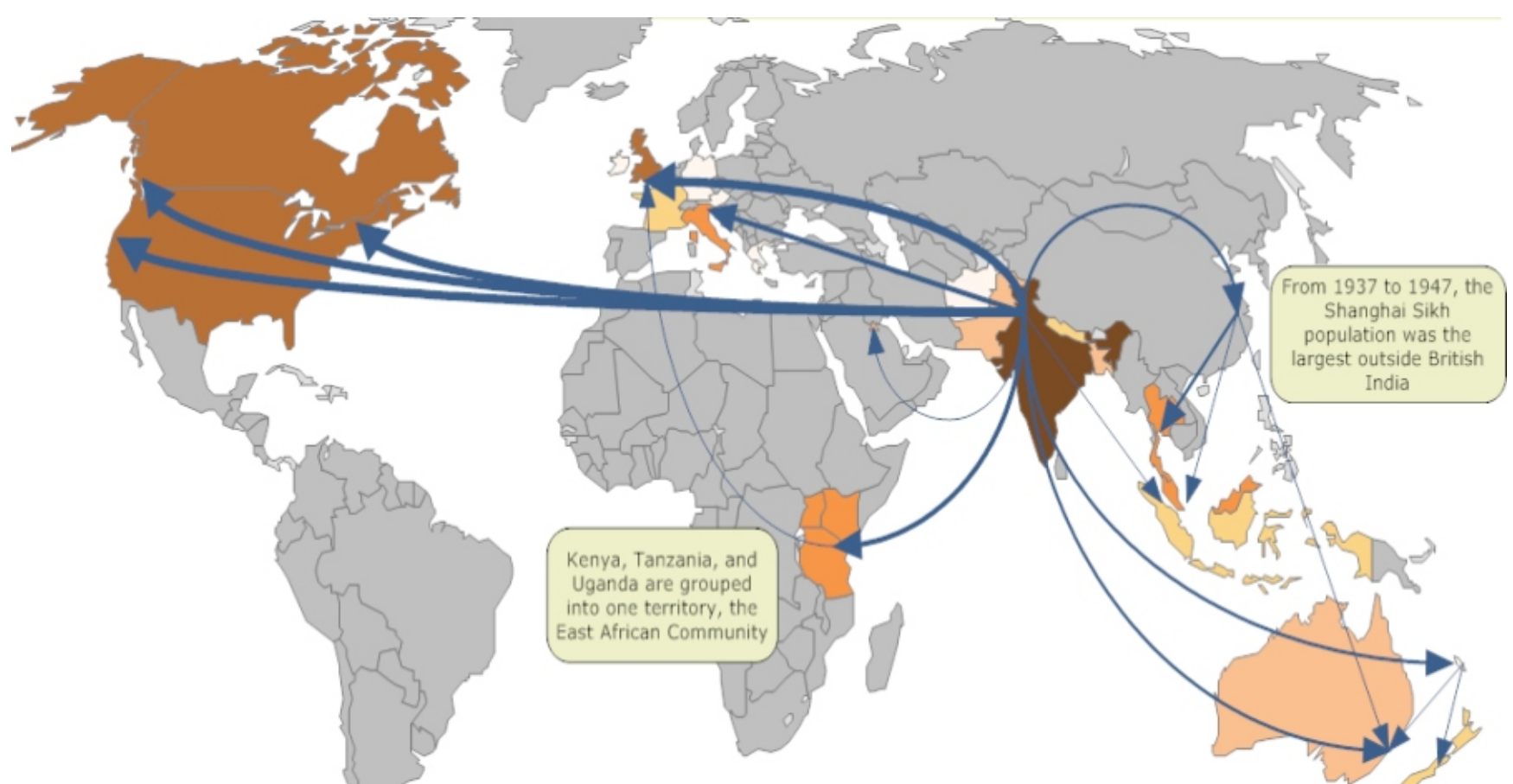
According to reports, the main Gurdwara was built in 1830, during the East India Company by the Britishers. In the adjacent buildings, which then housed the Langar-Khana (community kitchen and place for free distribution of food) and Musafir-Khana (rest-house for guests/pilgrims) probably the Gurdwara was also built during the same time, as evident from the same architectural pattern. For decades, a few of the Sikhs living in Bangladesh without any fear or any disruption by most locals.

The CAA bill amends India's 64-year-old citizenship law, which currently prohibits illegal migrants from becoming Indian citizens. However, it is a false conspiracy against the Bengalis. This bill also expedites the path to Indian citizenship for members of six religious minority communities - Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi, and Christian - if they can prove that they are from Muslim-majority Pakistan, Afghanistan, or Bangladesh. Why India focus on these three countries? They gave citizenship and train the

demography under the flag of Diversity.

Bangladesh has two schools teaching the Punjabi language. The schools are being constructed by Sampardai Kar Sewa, Sarhali, a religious

diaspora, especially Sikhs for Bangladesh, Hindu for Pakistan, and Buddhist claiming to be from Afghanistan. After the training, they will sent back and change the entire culture and tradition.



Indo-Bangladesh porous border and unprecedented surge of coronavirus cases in India

NEWS STORY

INSIDE NEWS REPORT

Bangladesh and India share 4,096-kilometre-long (2,545 mi) international border, the fifth-longest land border in the world, 2,217 km (1,378 mi) in West Bengal and 262 km (163 mi) on the north-eastern states of Assam, 856 km (532 mi) in Tripura, 318 km (198 mi) in Mizoram and 443 km (275 mi) in Meghalaya. Indo-Bangladesh border is porous with regard to movement of people and goods. There are many places that are prone to infiltration alongside border and this border is the hub of illegal migration, human trafficking, smuggling of narcotics, goods, ammunition and other essential supplies.

Number of people from Bangladesh and India travel through these porous borders from one country to another. Infiltration is relatively easy in border areas of India and Bangladesh because of the irregular nature of border. Indian government has claimed that there are vast number off illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in India. However, there have been major disagreements over the exact numbers of Bangladeshis who've entered illegally in India.

Undoubtedly, only few number of Bangladeshi people living in villages alongside border areas migrate to India for better economic opportunities in the nearest border areas but on a large scale Indians are also involved in illegal immigration and cross border illegal activities. However, Indian government claims that a vast number of Bengalis are illegal migrants in India but the fact cannot be denied that today Bangladesh beats India in social development and other indicators such as literacy rate and

gender equality. Moreover, Bangladesh is one of the fastest growing economy in South Asia. So the question arises that why will Bengalis migrate to India, leaving behind better opportunities in their own country?

Earlier, Indian government announced to remove illegal immigrants from the National Register of Citizen and claimed to crackdown on them. However, among these citizens many are ethnic Bengalis but are not Bangladeshi citizens. Undoubtedly, India is doing crackdown against them because they are Muslims and by doing this India only paved way to make India just a Hindu state to finish all the ethnic minorities especially Muslims from India. BJP government use these tactics to suppress Muslims of India.



At this time, the situation of India is worse, as Coronavirus has strongly hit the country. Hundreds and thousands are being infected by this deadly disease every day. Coronavirus cases are increasing at an alarming rate and every day see record high deaths. Due to the



current situation of India, Bangladesh government decided to seal the land borders with India. Air travel between both the countries was already suspended since April 14 due to the rise

relatives. They went to neighbouring country but now are stuck there and could not return back. Moreover, there are many other citizens of Bangladesh who are in similar situation in India and are not able to come to their own country. Many of them don't have enough money to return. In the last year due to fear of virus around more than 2,300 trucks were stuck along the India-Bangladesh border in the Petrapole-Benapole region.

India-Bangladesh border crossing of Benapole and Petrapole is one of the busiest border crossing between both the countries. This land border crossing operate daily services from Kolkata to Dhaka and is the legal way to travel from one country to another. However, there are number of illegal routes between both countries where infiltration on daily basis is normal. Number of approaches have been adopted by both governments to prevent illegal migration but all were delayed due to land acquisition problems. There is no fencing neither there are any proper observation posts alongside border to prevent illegal immigration and other illegal activities.

The porous border of India-Bangladesh are the supply lines for smuggling, illegal activities and infiltrations but now keeping in view the current circumstances when the situation of India is worse, these border areas have still no proper check and balance. These permeable border areas will certainly help in spreading deadly disease unless some serious action is taken by Bangladeshi government. No matter, legal border crossing areas have been closed but spread of Coronavirus will continue till these are not closed completely until the situation in country improves. However, it seems that none of the government has anything in their manifesto for Indo-Bangladesh border people.



in infections.

On 25th, April 2021, Bangladesh Foreign Minister A K Abdul Momen announced that Bangladesh will close its land borders with India for the next 14 days due to the unprecedented surge of coronavirus cases in the neighbouring nation.

Bangladesh's National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC) on Covid-19 had earlier suggested border closure with India in view of the surging number of coronavirus cases. It had also suggested that the land routes should not reopen until there is an improvement in the coronavirus situation in India.

Bangladesh has closed the border with India to contain the spread of coronavirus. Just a day after the decision of Bangladesh government to ban the commuting at Indo-Bangladesh land border for 14 days, nearly 250 Bengalis were stranded at the Benapole-Petrapole border. Many of them went to India to meet their

Military authoritarianism and flawed democracy of Myanmar

OPINION

By TON Research Section

Throughout decade of independence, Myanmar has suffered military rule. The military has remained the most dominant institution from independence till now. Since the country's freedom from Britain in 1948, military enjoyed unimpeded control over political structure of country. In 2011, transfer to civilian leadership increased hopes of people that democratic reforms in country will be spurred but military maintained its authoritarianism in one way or other.

Democracy has faced challenges throughout Myanmar's post-independence history. Today, history is repeating itself, with troops once again on the streets of Myanmar. Despite the landslide victory of Aung San Suu Kyi's political party National League for Democracy (NLD), in parliamentary elections of November, 2020, the military officially retook control of the country on February 1st, 2021. Military announced a yearlong state of emergency and handed over the power to military Chief Mn Aung Hlaing. The military coup in Myanmar triggered political crisis which is gradually worsening. The army of Myanmar claims that the parliamentary elections of November, 2020, which NLD won with land sliding victory are fraudulent but military asserts the elections were fraud without any evidence. The army put Aung San Suu Kyi and President Win Myint under arrest, together with many other democratic leaders in reaction to fraud elections as claimed by military.

The military coup angered citizens due to which thousands of protestors have taken to the streets of Myanmar. Large anti-coup demonstrations started after the military coup. Military leadership of Myanmar is refusing to move back and citizens of Myanmar on the other hand are not willing to accept

this. The political crisis in Myanmar is deteriorating day by day, with clashes between citizens and troops. Military has responded to the protests of citizens and a nationwide civil disobedience movement with brutality by opening fire into crowds, using tear gas and flash bangs on the protestors. The peaceful resistance to dictatorship in Myanmar has turned violent. Government works have gone on strike and hundreds and thousands of protestors came on the streets. Since the military coup in Myanmar, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), troops shot dead more than 738 people, including 43 children. Whereas, 3,300 people are currently in detention, including 20 who have been sentenced to death who were in detention.

The UN special rapporteur for Myanmar, Tom

lived experience with democracy indicates that the military is not likely to allow the return of democracy in the country. Military's pledged to hold new elections in a year but it seems doubtful.

Myanmar's neighbours prepared for a summit in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, on Saturday to discuss the coup. The 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) tried to guide Myanmar's out of the bloody turmoil create by the Myanmar's military coup. ASEAN leaders requested General Min Aung Hlaing of Myanmar's to end the human rights violations, release political prisoners and allow the democratic process to prevail in the country. ASEAN leaders said they had reached a consensus on five points with Myanmar's junta chief Min Aung Hlaing on Saturday to end the crisis in the violence-hit nation. However, the chief of Myanmar

did not clearly responded to demands to stop the killing of civilian protesters.

Huong Le Thu, the Australian Strategic Policy Initiative, wrote in an analysis of the ASEAN meeting that "Formal representation of the Tatmadaw (Myanmar military) at the ASEAN summit, without giving any concessions in return, including first and foremost a commitment to stop the bloodshed, is not constructive."

ASEAN is a consensus-based organisation which moves forward on the pace which is comfortable to all the

members and thus limits the role of members however, the dialogue between the civilian leadership and military, mediated by ASEAN members should be welcomed. The need of democratic sustainability is crucial in Myanmar but the ASEAN members along with the whole international community needs to play an active role and should protest strongly on the actions of Myanmar's military. Previously, Military has been continuously dictating national politics. The short period of democracy in Myanmar shows that military will hold on to power for a long time because there are very tiny reasons for giving back

power to civilian government.

The democratic process in country seems to diminish. Undoubtedly, the military seizing the power is a step back into dark past. No matter the democracy in Myanmar is fragile and remained uneven throughout decades of independence but its return is must.



Andrews said, "The Myanmar military's crackdown on anti-coup protests has displaced close to a quarter of a million people," he added, "The world must act immediately to address this humanitarian catastrophe."

The United Nations on Thursday, April 22nd said, "Food insecurity is rising sharply in Myanmar in the wake of the military coup and deepening financial crisis with millions more people expected to go hungry in coming months."

Military takeover in Myanmar caused economic uncertainty, having negative effects. The crisis left the businesses unable to continue and the banking system is brought to a standstill. Myanmar's short-

According to World Food Programme (WFP) up to 3.4 million more people will struggle to afford food in the next three to six months with urban areas worst affected as job losses mount in manufacturing, construction and services and food prices rise.

Violent Protests in Bangladesh over Modi's visit-warning for India

OPINION

By TON Research Section

Bangladesh celebrated its 50 years of independence. The holidays were announced from March 17th to 27th for the grand celebration of birth centenary of father of nation, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birthday 17th March and Independence Day 26th March. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi also visited on March 26th and 27th to celebrate the golden jubilee of the nation's independence and the birth centenary of 'Bangabandhu' Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, its founder.

PM Modi attends inaugural programme of Bangabandhu-Bapu Museum at Bangabandhu International Conference Center in Dhaka on his first day of visit and also inaugurated the museum after his speech at National Parade Ground where the main celebration "the Eternal Mujib" were held. Modi began Day 2 of his visit to Bangladesh with a trip to the Shaktira Jeshoreshwari temple and then went to Tungipara, the mausoleum complex of the Bangabandhu, which is the ancestral home of late leader "Sheikh Mujibur Rehman where Bangladesh's Prime Minister received him.

Leaders of the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Nepal were all guests of honour at the event along with Modi's who was meant to end the 10-day long celebrations on a good note but protests blew out in country. After Friday prayers on March, 26th, 2021 protests started, soon after which clashes erupted. Modi visit to Bangladesh was to symbolize great friendly ties between India and Bangladesh but this visit was denounced by citizens of Bangladesh. A large number of people rallied in Bangladesh's capital and other cities to protest the visit of Modi. Protesters chanted anti-India and anti-Modi slogans. The protesters criticized Bangladesh's PM Sheikh Hasina for inviting Modi for the celebrations, saying that both the countries have many disputed issues.

Protests against the visit of Modi killed at least five dead and dozens injured on March 28th after the clashes between police and demonstrators. The violence occurred at the eastern border district of Brahmanbaria, where protestors clashed with police and border troops. Earlier on Friday, 27th



March, five people were killed at the port city of Chittagong and in Brahmanbaria.

Social Media platforms were restricted and services were blocked in Bangladesh during the protests. Violence in Bangladesh by police force got widespread condemnation from Bangladesh and other parts of the world. The attacks on peaceful protest were however declining the people to exercise their freedom of speech.

Bangladesh's independence celebrations turned violent after Modi visit. Modi has been a controversial figure in Bangladesh because of his treatment with Muslims of India. Modi visit to India was strongly opposed by Bengalis because of his policies of religious polarization in India mainly Muslims. Modi has been responsible for violence against Muslims in Gujarat in 2002, when he was Gujarat's Chief Minister. The Gujarat massacre of Muslims is a dark spot on India's face in which more than 2000 Muslims were murdered and tens and thousands were left homeless. Furthermore, India's controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the border killings have increased the hate of Bengali citizens for Modi. A number of unresolved disputes between India and Bangladesh have worsened the relations between both the countries.

Modi now projects himself and India as a face of democracy but the policy of unprecedented

savagery against minorities, particularly Muslims has unveiled his real face. BJP, who wish to create India a country only for "Hindus" have always proved India wrong in being a secular country. Despite the fact that Modi visit to Bangladesh was focused particularly on Bangladesh's golden jubilee celebrations, the visit also have political implications as well as implications on the relations between both countries. Relations between both the countries were strong but in the recent years, the ties got strained. Mounting tensions between both the countries can spoil India's plan of dominating South Asian region. The anger of Bangladesh citizens over Modi visit is somehow a warning for India which can deteriorate relations in future, if issues got unaddressed and Modi continued its anti-Muslim policies. However, the unrest in Bangladesh due to Modi visits reduced the possibility to strengthen ties between both the countries. Bangladesh being the most trusted ally of India has every reason to get distressed. A raft of issues from water disputes to other tension have sowed mistrust and strained the ties between both countries. These unresolved issues between both can further derail the relations however; India's regional interests compel it to maintain stronger ties with countries in South Asia.



Worst violence has been witnessed by Dhaka and the eastern district of Brahmanbaria. About 12 protesters have died so far but according to Hefazat-e-Islam there were many more casualties. Protestors accused Modi of pursuing anti-Muslim policies.

Pakistan opens a new "Pishin-Mand" border with Iran for trade benefits and economic exchanges

ISLAMABAD, 22 April, 2021 (TON): On Wednesday, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan opened a new border "Pishin-Mand" with Iran to boost economic and trade exchanges.

This newly opened border was the third crossing point after Taftan and Gabd.

This happened amid Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi's three-day visit to Iran to bolster bilateral relations.

Located in Pakistan's southwest Balochistan province, near the country's Gwadar port, the Mand crossing point will not only facilitate import and export of goods with Iran, but also help reduce pressure on crossings in handling thousands of Pakistani pilgrims visiting Iran.

In December last year, the two countries inaugurated the Rimadan-Gabd border gateway, whereas the Taftan border has



been operational for decades.

Speaking at an inaugural ceremony, Pakistan's Minister for Defense Production Zubaida Jalal said, "It will prove to be a milestone in providing employment and trade benefits to

Pakistan, particularly for the people of Baluchistan."

However, the ceremony was attended also by Iranian Minister for Road and Urban Development Mohammad Eslami.

Sri Lanka and Pakistan to enhance relations in various fields of interest

ISLAMABAD/COLOMBO, 22 April, 2021 (TON): On Wednesday, the Sri Lankan High Commission and Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) have agreed to enhance bilateral trade relations in diverse fields.

On Wednesday, in order to discuss the bilateral trade opportunities between the two countries, Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry delegation led by President Mohammad Nasir Mirza along with Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf and Vice President Shahraiz Ashraf Malik had a meeting with High Commissioner of Sri Lanka Vice Admiral (Retd.) Mohan Wijewickrema and U.L. Niyas Counselor (Political and Trade) at the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Islamabad.

Sri Lanka has deep historical, cultural and trade ties with Pakistan, said Sri Lankan High Commissioner Mohan Wijewickrema while talking to the delegation.



The relations between the two countries have been further strengthened since Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to Sri Lanka in February earlier this year.

However, the recent meeting with the Secretary

Aviation and the PIA Chairman regarding direct flights had been fruitful, besides, mutual relations in the fields of pharmaceuticals, food, gems, jewellery, tourism and education can be enhanced.



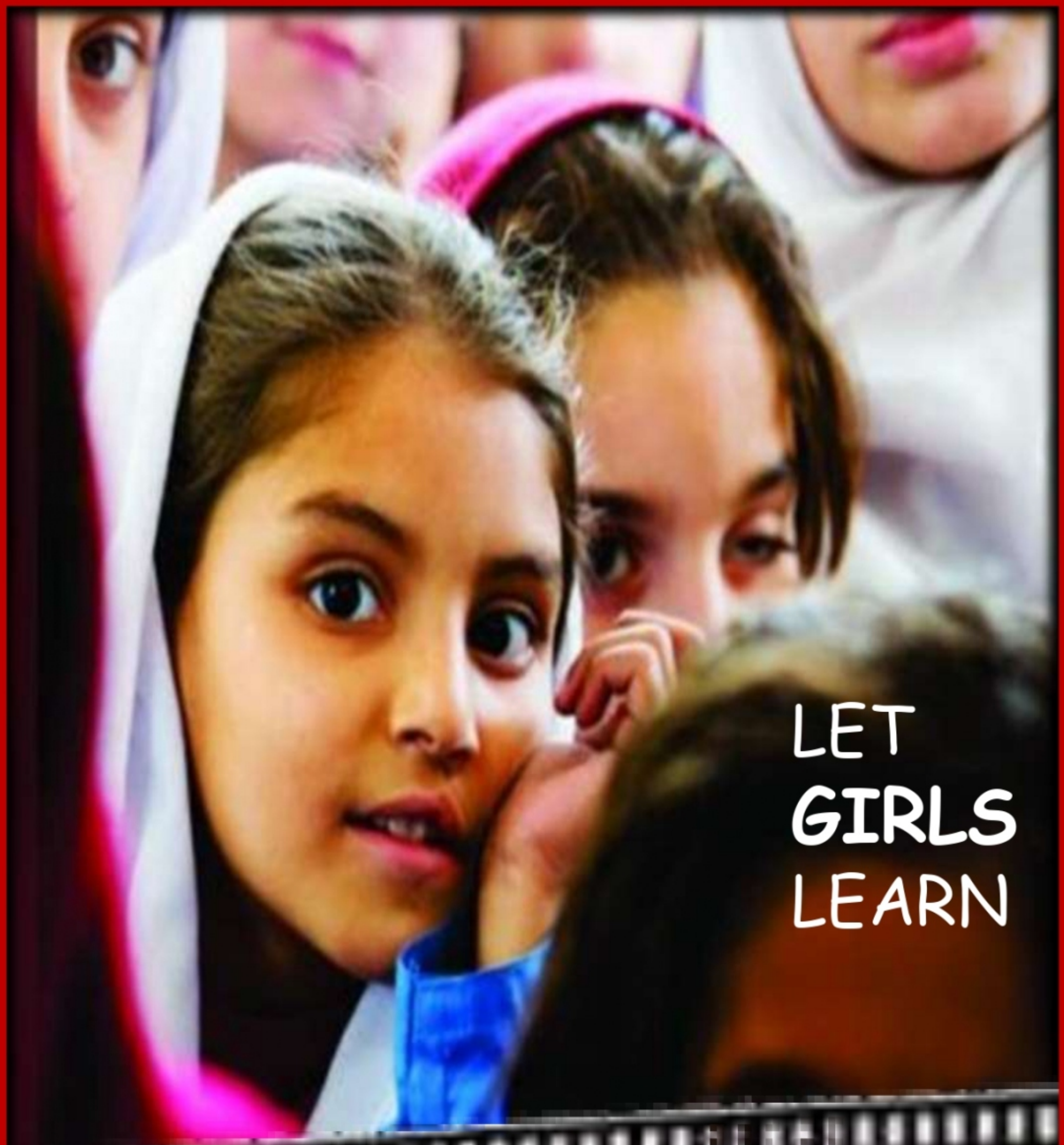
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Save the Tree
Save the Earth
We are the Guardians
of Nature's Birth







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