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UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, left, with India's PM Narendra Modi, center, and UN secretary-general António Guterres at the climate summit in Glasgow



भारतीय संयुक्त राष्ट्र संस्था संघ
Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA)
(Special Consultative Status with the ECOSOC of the United Nations)
(Affiliated to the World Federation of United Nations Associations, Geneva)

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Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA) join 1.35 billion people of India to congratulate Mrs. Bijoy Chakraborty, President of IFUNA for adding another dimension to her achievements on receiving Padma Shri, one of the highest civilian award of our Nation on 9th November 2021 from H.E. President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind

She has served our country for six terms as Member of Parliament and Central Minister, Government of India and inspired people of India by her dedication towards Social work for which she has been awarded 'Padma Shri'



We are proud of her achievement as she has brought another laurel in the cap of IFUNA.

Justice Shambhu Nath (Retd.)
Chairman-IFUNA

Suresh Srivastava
Secretary General -IFUNA

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On 15th August 2021 IFUNA Chairman Justice (Rtd.) Sambhu Nath hoisted National Flag on IFUNA building in New Delhi

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-H. V. SHRINGLA

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AFGHANISTAN**

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After six years of strenuous negotiations, pending items that prevented the full implementation of the Paris Agreement on carbon markets and transparency have finally been approved at Glasgow.

With 197 Parties, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has near universal membership and is the parent treaty of the 2015 Paris Climate Change Agreement. The main aim of the Paris Agreement is to keep a global average temperature rise this century well below 2 Celsius and to drive efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

The package adopted at Glasgow is a global compromise that reflects a delicate balance between the interests and aspirations of nearly the 200 Parties to the core instruments on the international regime that governs global efforts against climate change.

With significant new commitments from real economy actors on mitigation, adaptation, and mobilization of finance, focus turns now to driving implementation. Finance was extensively discussed throughout the session and there was consensus in the need to continue increasing support to developing countries. The call to at least double finance for adaptation was welcomed by the Parties. The duty to fulfill the pledge of providing 100 billion dollars annually from developed to developing countries was also reaffirmed. And a process to define the new global goal on finance was launched. Adaptation, mitigation and finance are all strengthened in a complex and delicate balance supported by all Parties.

Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of UN Climate Change said it, "an excellent achievement and thanked the Presidency and all Ministers for their tireless efforts throughout the conference and congratulated all Parties on finalizing the rulebook".

However the US President Joe Biden during his closing press conference at the COP26 Summit accused China and also Russia of failing to show leadership on climate change in Glasgow. "I think it's been a big mistake. The world will look to China & say what value-added they provided. They've lost the ability to influence people around the world here at COP. The same way I would argue with regard to Russia." Biden opined that staying at home may have cost Chinese President Xi Jinping some influence on the world stage. On the other hand, the US, by showing up, has had a profound impact on the way the rest of the world was looking at its leadership role.

UN chief Antonio Guterres has also commented "As COP26 closes with 'compromise' deal on climate, but it's not enough, "

That speaks the Glasgow pulse is still weak and it will only survive if the countries concerned keep their promises and translate commitments into rapid action.

– Pran Mohan Parvatiyar
pmparvatiyar@gmail.com



People are seen gathered on George Square during a rally on Nov. 5, 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland.

(Credit: Peter Summers/Getty Images)

CURRENT ISSUES

'Peace in border areas is sine qua non'

India hopes China will work with it to bring 'satisfactory resolution' to current issues: **Foreign Secretary**



H V Shringla

OUR TRADE DEFICIT CONCERNS ARE TWOFOLD - THE FIRST, IS THE ACTUAL SIZE OF THE DEFICIT. TRADE DEFICIT FOR THE NINE MONTHS PERIOD STOOD AT US\$ 47 BILLION. THIS IS THE LARGEST TRADE DEFICIT WE HAVE WITH ANY COUNTRY.

AT THE Seminar on "Leveraging China's Economy" on 21st October India's Foreign Secretary Mr. Shringla emphasized for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' amid India-China LAC tussle.

China is our largest neighbour. With its GDP reaching USD 14.7 trillion in 2020, China's economy is the second largest in the world. Under the shadow of ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, China is the only major economy to have registered positive growth in 2020. Being the largest contributor to the world trade and our largest trading partner, it is imperative for us to have a better understanding of China's economy.

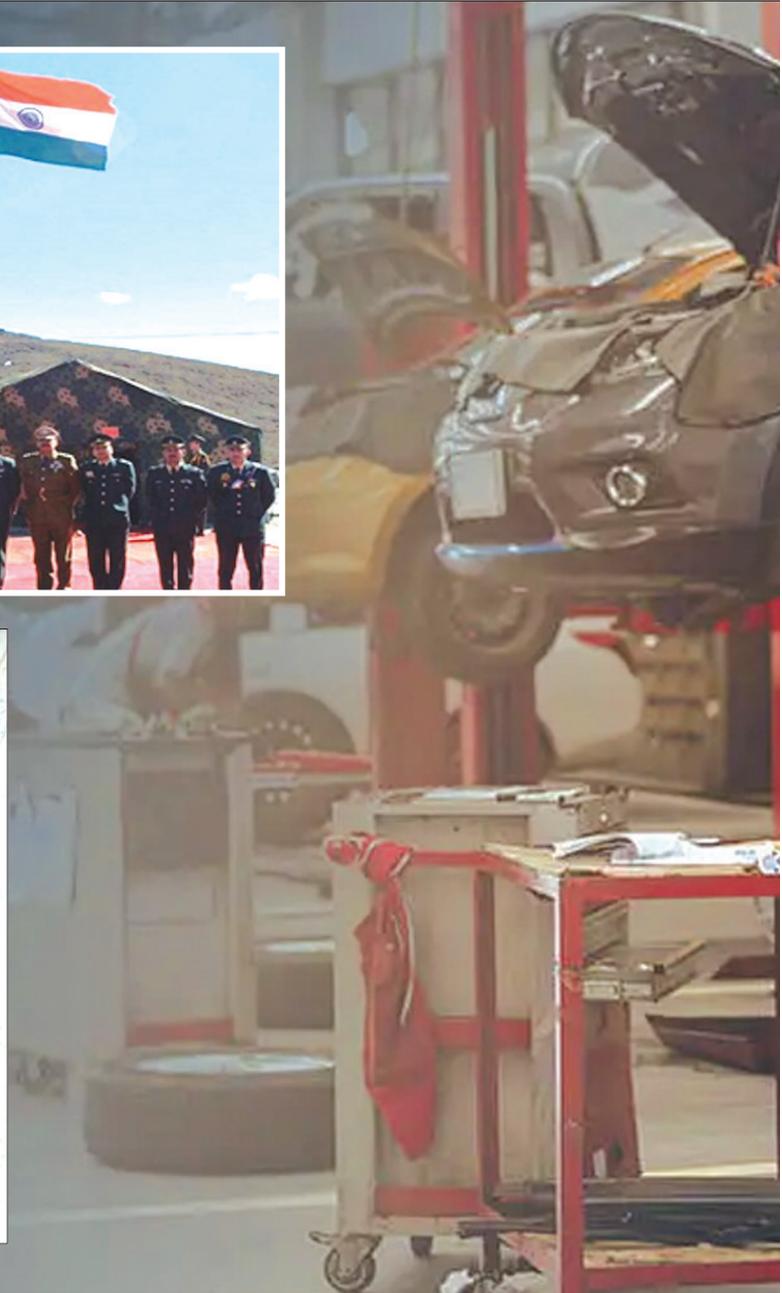
Our relations generally followed a positive

trajectory since 1988 when we reestablished contacts at the highest level. We were engaged in developing a broad-based bilateral relationship. The advancement of ties in this period was clearly predicated on ensuring that peace and tranquility were not disturbed. The areas of cooperation were not limited to bilateral but also had regional and global dimensions. It was also recognized that relations between India and China were in the interest of not only our two countries but also in the interest of peace, stability and security in the region and world at large.

It was against this backdrop that bilateral trade between India and China has grown exponentially since the turn of the century. Last year, the total trade volume between the two countries was around US\$ 88 billion. In the first nine months of this year, our bilateral trade touched US\$ 90 billion, an increase of 49% over last year. At this rate, we are likely to attain the highest ever bilateral trade between two countries. The trade, however, remains unbalanced with a large trade balance in favour of China.

Our trade deficit concerns are twofold - the first, is the actual size of the deficit. Trade deficit for the nine months period stood at US\$ 47 billion. This is the largest trade deficit we have with any country. Second, is the fact that the imbalance has continuously been widening. There are a number of market access impediments including a whole host of non-tariff barriers, for most of our agricultural products and the sectors we are competitive in, such as pharmaceuticals, IT/ITES, etc.

We have highlighted that widening deficit



ON THE DOMESTIC FRONT, OUR ONGOING REFORMS AND INITIATIVES LIKE PRODUCTION LINKED INCENTIVES (PLI) SCHEME WILL ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO ENHANCE THE RESILIENCE OF INDIA'S MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

and increase in trade barriers are issues of concern. These have been regularly flagged at the highest level, most recently at the 2nd Informal Summit between our Prime Minister and the Chinese President in Chennai in 2019. We also remain firm in our commitment of placing this trade relationship on a more sustainable footing and raising these issues at all appropriate occasions with the Chinese side. Developments since then, including COVID-19 pandemic, have not been helpful in our efforts to address these concerns. Furthermore, the developments along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh have seriously disturbed the peace and

tranquility in border areas. This has obviously had an impact on the broader relationship too.

Even as we continue to pursue these issues with China, we also need to do work at home. That is why, Atmanirbhar Bharat - an India with greater capabilities not just helping itself but being a force for good in the international arena, becomes important.

The digital economy is now an integral part of India's development story. In July 2015, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the "Digital India" campaign, with the aim of transforming India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.



Initiatives like JAM (Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile) trinity, launch of UPI platform and increase in access to internet have led to a rapid digitization of our economy. According to ACI Worldwide's report, India recorded 25.5 billion real time online transactions in year 2020, the highest for any country. It is expected that, by 2025, digital payments will account for around 71.7% of all the payments in India. This digital ecosystem has also spurred the rapid growth of Indian startups; India is now home to over 60 unicorns, many of which are based in the digital economy domain.

China is a comparable example which has

also seen similar growth of its digital economy. China is also experimenting with concepts like digital currency. Therefore, understanding of "Digital China" can offer valuable insights to our policymakers as well as industry.

Restrictions imposed on the movement and gathering of people so as to control COVID-19 have impacted economies worldwide and recovery has been uneven. In our case, India's GDP grew by 20.1% in the first quarter of FY 2021-22, indicating a V-shaped recovery. The IMF estimates that the Indian economy will grow by 9.5% in 2021 and by 8.5% in financial year 2022.

**THESE HAVE BEEN
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IN CHENNAI IN 2019.**



ON THE DOMESTIC FRONT, OUR ONGOING REFORMS AND INITIATIVES LIKE PRODUCTION LINKED INCENTIVES (PLI) SCHEME WILL ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO ENHANCE THE RESILIENCE OF INDIA'S MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

COVID-19 has also brought forth challenges in the current form of globalization where only profit considerations have led to a very high degree of concentration of supply chain and markets. The world today is looking at making supply chains resilient and also more trustworthy.

On the domestic front, our ongoing reforms and initiatives like Production Linked Incentives (PLI) scheme will also contribute to enhance the resilience of India's manufacturing sector. We are regularly reviewing and reforming our investment regime to suit the current situation.

Our External Affairs Minister has said that the ability of India and China to work together

will determine the Asian century. For this to materialise, peace and tranquility in the border areas is a sine qua non. He has also clearly articulated that development of our ties can only be based on mutuality - mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interests should guide this process. We hope that the Chinese side will work with us to bring a satisfactory resolution to the current issues so as to make progress on our bilateral relations keeping in view each other's sensitivities, aspirations and interests.

Foreign Secy HV Shringla at Seminar on "Leveraging China's Economy" asserted that the digital economy is now an integral part of India's development story.

'Great Interaction' with members of Indian diaspora in Italy

P RIME MINISTER Narendra Modi said that he had a great interaction with members of the Indian diaspora including those who are studying about India and those who have developed a close bond with their home country over the years in Italy.

On the first day of his visit to Rome ahead of the G20 Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met the Indian diaspora and interacted with several Indologists and Sanskrit experts from Italian universities in the Italian capital city.

" Prime Minister Modi appreciated their interest in Indian culture, literature and practice of yoga and Ayurveda and lauded the role played by them in strengthening the ties between India and Italy

Modi also met and interacted with various organisations, including the representatives of Italian Congregation for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). The Prime Minister appreciated their contribution in several social activities, including spreading the message of Bhagavad Gita in Italy.

He also interacted with the community members and the representatives of Italian Hindu Union-Sanatana Dharma Samgha and lauded the role played by them in propagating Indian culture in Italy.

In a separate meeting, the Prime Minister met representatives of Sikh community and institutions involved in the commemoration of Indian soldiers, who had fought in Italy during World War



Modi Meets Indian Diaspora In Rome

I and World War II."The Prime Minister paid tributes to the valour shown by Indian soldiers in these wars,"

On the second day of his visit to Italy for the G20 Summit, Prime Minister Modi took to Twitter to share glimpses from the community interaction in Rome

" In Rome, I had a great interaction with members of the Indian diaspora in Italy, those who are studying about India and those who have developed a close bond with our nation over the years. It was wonderful to hear their views on diverse topics," he said in a tweet

Swamini Hamsananda Giri, the President of Sanatan Dharma Sangha, termed her meeting with Prime Minister Modi as moving.

"It was (meeting with Prime Minister Modi) moving of course, because to be Hindu in Italy is not so easy but to meet

the Prime Minister, it was a great honour for us. Hindus in Italy are in minority, she said

The culture of India is a treasure for the humanity because it is a culture of ancient times since now for the whole human being and this is a culture of non-violence (Ahimsa), of harmony and respect for the nature and environment since the beginning of this culture, she said, adding that it is a culture for the welfare of human being

As Sarvjan Hitaye, every human being, every being in the world has to live in harmony and in peace and we say Shanti, Shanti, Shanti

To each of us he asked something very peculiar of us and asked what I like if we go to India where and what we like from India so and I said Tamil Nadu and he spoke to me in Tamil, Giri added.

Highlights

G-20 Summit in Rome

G-20 endorses global corporate minimum tax at Rome summit

LEADERS OF the world's biggest economies on Saturday 30th October endorsed a global minimum tax on corporations, a linchpin of new international tax rules aimed at blunting the edge of fiscal paradises amid skyrocketing profits of some multinational businesses.

Leaders of the Group of 20 countries haggled for two days in Rome over steps to tackle climate change and a pandemic recovery that is diverging between rich and poor countries. Climate change dominated their summit, which ended just as an annual U.N. Climate Change Conference was opening in Glasgow, Scotland.

G-20 negotiators worked all night from Saturday to Sunday (30-31) October on the wording of the summit's concluding statement. They labored to bridge the gap between a push for a tougher climate stance from European countries going into the 13-day Glasgow conference and concerns from China, India and Russia, where fossil fuels and coal play a major role.

These are the key takeaways from what was agreed on in Rome - and what wasn't.

■The summit arrived at compromise wording for when G-20 nations need to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. That means producing emissions at a level where they can be removed from the atmosphere by oceans, forests and abatement measures. The Group of Seven rich democracies have set 2050 as the latest date, but leaders of the larger G-20 forum settled on "by or around mid-century." China, Saudi Arabia and Russia have set 2060 as their goal for reaching carbon

neutrality.

■The leaders agreed to end public financing for coal-fired power generation

G-20 NEGOTIATORS WORKED ALL NIGHT FROM SATURDAY TO SUNDAY (30-31) OCTOBER ON THE WORDING OF THE SUMMIT'S CONCLUDING STATEMENT. THEY LABORED TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN A PUSH FOR A TOUGHER CLIMATE STANCE FROM EUROPEAN COUNTRIES GOING INTO THE 13-DAY GLASGOW CONFERENCE AND CONCERNS FROM CHINA, INDIA AND RUSSIA, WHERE FOSSIL FUELS AND COAL PLAY A MAJOR ROLE. THESE ARE THE KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM WHAT WAS AGREED ON IN ROME - AND WHAT WASN'T.



abroad, matching a decision by the G-7 members during their June summit in Cornwall, England. But the G-20 set no target for phasing out coal domestically, a decision that was a clear nod to top carbon emitters China and India.

■The Group of 20 concurred that the impacts of climate change, such as extreme storms, floods and rising sea levels, will be "much lower" if the average increase in global temperature can be held to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit). The 2015 Paris accords seek to keep the rise "well below" 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 F) and to "pursue efforts" to limit it to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

■Aside from climate issues, the leaders

signed off on a landmark agreement for countries to enact a global minimum corporate tax of 15%. The global minimum is aimed at deterring multinational companies from dodging taxes by shifting profits to countries with ultra-low rates where the companies may do little actual business.

■The leaders also said they would keep working on a French initiative for wealthier countries to re-channel \$100 billion in financial support to needier countries in Africa in the form of special drawing rights - a foreign exchange tool used to help finance imports allocated by the International Monetary Fund and also received by advanced countries. Individual countries already have

G20 Countries Leaders in Rome (below)



THE LEADERS AGREED TO END PUBLIC FINANCING FOR COAL-FIRED POWER GENERATION ABROAD, MATCHING A DECISION BY THE G-7 MEMBERS DURING THEIR JUNE SUMMIT IN CORNWALL, ENGLAND. BUT THE G-20 SET NO TARGET FOR PHASING OUT COAL DOMESTICALLY, A DECISION THAT WAS A CLEAR NOD TO TOP CARBON EMITTERS CHINA AND INDIA.

THE GROUP OF 20 CONCURRED THAT THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUCH AS EXTREME STORMS, FLOODS AND RISING SEA LEVELS, WILL BE "MUCH LOWER" IF THE AVERAGE INCREASE IN GLOBAL TEMPERATURE CAN BE HELD TO 1.5 DEGREES CELSIUS (2.7 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT). THE 2015 PARIS ACCORDS SEEK TO KEEP THE RISE "WELL BELOW" 2 DEGREES CELSIUS (3.6 F) AND TO "PURSUE EFFORTS" TO LIMIT IT TO 1.5 DEGREES CELSIUS.

ASIDE FROM CLIMATE ISSUES, THE LEADERS SIGNED OFF ON A LANDMARK AGREEMENT FOR COUNTRIES TO ENACT A GLOBAL MINIMUM CORPORATE TAX OF 15%. THE GLOBAL MINIMUM IS AIMED AT DETERRING MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES FROM DODGING TAXES BY SHIFTING PROFITS TO COUNTRIES WITH ULTRA-LOW RATES WHERE THE COMPANIES MAY DO LITTLE ACTUAL BUSINESS.



Leaders of the G20 throw coins inside the Trevi Fountain during an event for the G20 summit in Rome, Sunday, Oct. 31, 2021.

Curtsey Roberto Monaldo/LaPresse via AP

G7 LEADERS ON SUNDAY JUNE 13 VOWED TO START DELIVERING ONE BILLION DOSES OF COVID VACCINES AND TO STEP UP ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, IN A SUMMIT CALL TO ARMS BY A REVIVED DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE THAT ALSO CONFRONTED CHINA AND RUSSIA.

allocated some \$45 billion.

The proposal reflects concern that the post-pandemic recovery is diverging, with richer countries rebounding faster due to extensive vaccinations and large amounts of stimulus spending that poorer countries cannot afford

The move by the Group of 20 summit in Rome was hailed by U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen as benefiting American businesses and workers.

G-20 finance ministers in July had already agreed on a 15% minimum tax. It awaited formal endorsement at the summit Saturday in Rome of the world's economic powerhouses.

Yellen predicted in a statement that the deal on new international tax rules, with a minimum global tax, "will end the damaging race to the bottom on corporate

taxation."

The deal did fall short of U.S. President Joe Biden's original call for a 21% minimum tax. Still, Biden tweeted his satisfaction.

"Here at the G20, leaders representing 80% of the world's GDP - allies and competitors alike - made clear their support for a strong global minimum tax," the president said in the tweet. "This is more than just a tax deal - it's diplomacy reshaping our global economy and delivering for our people."

The agreement aims to discourage multinationals from stashing profits in countries where they pay little or no taxes. These days, multinationals can earn big profits from things like trademarks and intellectual property. These companies can then assign earnings to a subsidiary in a tax haven country.

Briefing reporters midway through the summit, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said: "There are good things to report here. The world community has agreed on a minimum taxation of companies. That is a clear signal of justice in times of digitalization."

Mathias Cormann, secretary-general of the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, said that the deal clinched in Rome "will make our international tax arrangements fairer and work better in a digitalized and globalized economy."

The minimum rate "completely eliminates the incentive for businesses around the world to restructure their affairs to avoid tax," Cormann contended.

On other issues crucial to fairness across the globe - including access to COVID-19 vaccines - the summit on the first of its two days heard pleas to boost the percentage of those in poor countries being vaccinated.

Italian Premier Mario Draghi made a sharp call to pick up the pace in getting vaccines to poor countries.

Draghi, the summit host, said that only 3% of people in the world's poorest countries are vaccinated, while 70% in rich countries have had at least one shot.

"These differences are morally unacceptable and undermine the global recovery," said Draghi, an economist and former chief of the European Central Bank.

French President Emmanuel Macron has pledged to use the summit to press fellow European Union leaders to be more generous in donating vaccines to low-income countries.

But advocates of civil society which have held discussions with G-20 officials said suspension of vaccine patents was crucial to increasing access in poor countries.

Canada noted it was both sharing vaccines



G-20 leaders endorse global minimum corporate tax deal and pledge more vaccines for the poor

as well as donating money to develop production in South Africa, which is a G-20 country. Chrystia Freeland, deputy prime minister, said Canada was increasing its commitment to international vaccine sharing through the COVAX program by donating 200 million doses.

The summit is also confronting two-track global recovery in which rich countries are bouncing back faster.

Rich countries have used vaccines and stimulus spending to restart economic activity, leaving the risk that developing countries that account for much of global growth will remain behind due to low vaccinations and financing difficulties.

Macron has told reporters he expects the G-20 to confirm an additional \$100 billion to support Africa's economies.

On the urgent problem of climate change, Italy is hoping the G-20 will secure crucial commitments from countries responsible for about 80% of global carbon emissions - ahead of the U.N. climate conference that begins Sunday in Glasgow, Scotland, just as the Rome summit winds down.

Presidents Vladimir Putin of Russia and Xi Jinping of China, whose efforts to reduce emissions are paramount to combating climate change, were participating remotely in the Rome summit.

Britain's Boris Johnson greets President Emmanuel Macron as their spouses, Carrie Johnson and Brigitte Macron stand at the side during arrivals for the G7 meeting at the Carbis Bay Hotel in Carbis Bay, Cornwall, England. Macron has welcomed the decision of the United States to donate 500 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines to the poorest countries. (AP)

Indian Federation of UN Associations and Assam UNA organised International Day for Older Person



INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR OLDER PERSON 2021 WAS OBSERVED BY IFUNA & USTM IN GUWAHATI, ASSAM



THE CHIEF GUEST OF THE MEETING AND THE KEY NOTE SPEAKER MR. BEDABRATA DEVA MISHRA - STRESSED ON THE NEEDS OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY FOR THE OLDER PERSONS SO AS TO COPE UP WITH THE MODERN TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT IN DAY TO DAY LIFE ACTIVITIES.

THE INDIAN Federation of UN Associations (IFUNA) and the University of Science and technology (USTM) , Guwahati, Assam organised the International day for Older person on Ist October,2021 at the auditorium of USTM.

The chief guest of the meeting and the key note speaker Mr. Bedabrata Deva Mishra - stressed on the needs of digital technology for the older persons so as to cope up with the modern technology development in day to day life activities.

Dr.(prof). G.D. Sharma the Vice- Chancellor of USTM also spoke about the necessity of digital technology for the older person in the present day to day activities.

Dr. R. K. Sarma the adviser to USTM spoke on the present scenerio of the older person and their difficulties.

Dr. Aswini Sarma Secretary General of UNA- Assam briefed about the health and hygiene awareness of the older persons and their welfare for meeting their daily needs and requirements .

Earlier Mrs. Marami Goswami an executive member of the UNA- Assam read out the message of UN Secretary General Mr Antonio Guterres on the occassion.

Dr. Balendra Das the Director of Administration of USTM also spoke on the occassion.

Dr. M. Ahmed the senior faculty of USTM proposed a vote of thanks.

IFUNA Observed International Day of Peace



THE INDIAN Federation of UN Associations (IFUNA) and University of science and technology (USTM) organised a meeting to observe the International day of peace on 23rd September,2021 at the auditorium of USTM, Guwahati, Assam.

At the outset Dr. A. Matin a senior faculty of USTM welcome the audience and students.

Dr. Ramesh Chandra Barpatragohain- the Ex- Advocate General of Assam and former Dean of law of Guwahati University in his key note speech said that peace is an integral part of development of a nation. Without peace development for human beings and nations will be null and void. Dr. Barpatragohain had appealed to the students community to develop peace in every respect of their life.

Prof. G. D. Sharma the Vice- Chancellor of USTM speaking on the occasion laid emphasis on peace education amongst the students community .

Dr. R. K. Sharma the adviser to USTM also spoke highly on conflict and peace development.

Dr. Aswini Sarma Secretary General of UNA- Assam had briefed about the significance and importance of the International day of peace .

Mrs. Marami Goswami an executive member of the UNA- Assam read out the message of UN Secretary General Antonnio Guetterrus on the occassion.

The meeting was attended by a large numbers of students and faculties of the University.

Ms Nrityanjali Sarmah a senior faculty of USTM proposed a vote of thank.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE 2021 WAS OBSERVED BY IFUNA & USTM IN GUWAHATI, ASSAM

IFUNA celebrated United Nations Foundation Day with UFUNA



UTKAL FEDERATION of United Nations Association (UFUNA) and Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA) celebrated United Nations Foundation Day in Orissa.

Former central Minister Mr. Bhajaman Bahera while inaugurating the function explained to the audience how United Nations was formed after 2nd world war on 24th October 1945 to establish Peace in the world.

Former Justice Bhikari Charan Rout speaking as chief guest was critical of some countries of their 'Dadagiri' in U.N. He said India so far has not been made a permanent member of Security Council. He vehemently advocated for that. He appreciated

the good work being done by various organisations like WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, and providing food to hungry people in some countries under 'World Food Program' (WFP).

Chief Engineer Akshaya Satpathy, Prof. Dilip Nanda, Er. D.D. Panda, Poet Bahadur Patsani, Ms. Saroj Satapaty, Dr. Srinibas Hota and Upendra Rout also participated and expressed their views in the function.

Earlier Dr. Dipayan Pattanaik, Secretary General, UTKAL UNA welcomed the guests and the members.

The meeting was presided by UFUNA President Adv. Manoranjan Patnaik. Mr. Pitabas Sahu proposed a vote of thanks.

IFUNA observed UN day in Assam



THE INDIAN Federation of UN Association (IFUNA) in collaboration with Prag jyotish college- Guwahati , Assam ,organised the United Nations Day on 24th October,2021 at the auditorium of the college .

Dr. Manoj Mahanta- Principal of the college appreciated the role of UN in promoting peace and development amongst the Nations of the world.

Ms. Disha Sarkar who was the resource person of the meeting spoke about the origin of formation and the circumstances that lead to formation of UN.

Ms. Amrita Borkotoky- an executive member of the UNA- Assam read out the message of UN Secretary General Mr. Antonio Guetterus on the occasion.

Dr. Aswini Sarma- Secretary-General of UNA- Assam briefed about the formation of UN and its developmental works promoted by UN agencies throughout the Nations.

Dr. Priyanka Sarma- a senior faculty of the Prag jyotish college proposed the vote of thanks.

The meeting was well attended by faculties and students of the college.

IFUNA Joins Hands with IMA Doctors

Organize Seminar on Techno-Medical Solution to Air Pollution Challenges



Dr. A. K. Agarwal, Chairman of River Engineering and also Chairman of National Council on Rail Transport, ASSOCHAM, highlighting the role of air purification system and how it works.

With winter approaching, stubble burning remains a serious health hazard as it causes air quality index rise to dangerous levels and severely impacts the health of people. Stubble burning is not just confined to the states of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi but is an alarming issue in all other Indian states too. It causes a rise in air quality index to alarming levels, and enhances the severity of respiratory ailments and directly affects the lungs.

In Punjab, till now this year, 49 per cent more incidents were reported than this period last year due to stubble burning. Every year, about 5.7 million acres of rice paddy stubble are burned on the farms of North India that forms smog that chokes the entire Delhi-NCR during winter, making it one of the most polluted cities in the world.

In view of the severe health hazard that it causes, doctors, industrialists and Bollywood came together to deliberate on the topic,

'Stubble Burning And Air Pollution Challenges Of Post Covid Era: Tecno-Medical Solution', at Hotel Leela in New Delhi on 27th October 2021.

The programme was jointly organized by Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA), Indian Medical Association (IMA), East Delhi, which is the country's biggest IMA branch of Indian Medical Association with 9000 doctors, and a Noida based multi-national, River Engineering, on 27th October 2021 at Hotel Leela, New Delhi.

Mr. Deepak Parvatiyar, Media Advisor and Programme Director of IFUNA lauded the medical fraternity for the selfless service it has rendered during the pandemic. "We at IFUNA acknowledge with gratefulness the contribution and sacrifice that you have made by putting others' lives before your own," he said.

Mr. Parvatiyar mentioned that air pollution is a very important component of sustainable development goals (SDG) 2030 and the targets of particular relevance to ambient and household air pollution include:

- (1) SDG target 3.9.1, which calls for a substantial reduction in deaths and illnesses from air pollution.
- (2) SDG targets 7.1.2, which aims to ensure access to clean energy in homes.
- (3) SDG target 11.6.2, which aims to reduce the environmental impact of cities by improving air quality.

He said that the medical fraternity as well as the industry has a huge role in attaining these sustainable development goals.



IFUNA Media Advisor & Programme Director Mr. Deepak Parvatiyar Addressing the audience

Mr. Deepak Parvatiyar also mentioned that the adoption of resolution on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment by the UN Human Rights Council on October 8, 2021, has been a breakthrough moment for environmental justice. This right has been rooted in the 1972 Stockholm Declaration, he said.

Dr. Gautam Singh, President IMA, East Delhi pointed out in his detailed power point presentation on the health issues caused by air pollution and threw light on the link between



Bollywood actress Pooja Bisht addressing the gathering

MR. DEEPAK PARVATIYAR, MEDIA ADVISOR AND PROGRAMME DIRECTOR OF IFUNA LAUDED THE MEDICAL FRATERNITY FOR THE SELFLESS SERVICE IT HAS RENDERED DURING THE PANDEMIC. "WE AT IFUNA ACKNOWLEDGE WITH GRATEFULNESS THE CONTRIBUTION AND SACRIFICE THAT YOU HAVE MADE BY PUTTING OTHERS' LIVES BEFORE YOUR OWN," HE SAID.



**Bollywood actress Pooja Bisht announcing names of winner of Lucky draw
Dr. Gautam Singh, President IMA, East Delhi is 4th from left**



The Participating Doctors and Guests

SPEAKING ON THE OCCASION, DR. A.K. AGARWAL, CHAIRMAN OF RIVER ENGINEERING, AND ALSO CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL COUNCIL ON RAIL TRANSPORT, ASSOCHAM, HIGHLIGHTED THE ROLE OF AIR PURIFICATION SYSTEM AND HOW IT WORKS.

air pollution and COVID-19 pandemic. He said in post-pandemic recovery, it was important to inhale pure air to minimize the risk of developing complications. He pointed out at studies that showed that pollution from stubble burning significantly reduced lung function of the affected people. Stressing the importance of breathing clean air, he said it was important to consider air purification systems as a remedy to air pollution.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. A.K. Agarwal, Chairman of River Engineering, and also Chairman of National Council on Rail Transport, ASSOCHAM, highlighted the role of air purification system and how it works. Being a technocrat and having more than three decades of experience in augmenting the growth in hi-tech companies and in spearheading successful



Dr. Roya Singh, 1st lady of IMA East Delhi, felicitating IFUNA Media Advisor & Programme Director Mr. Deepak Parvatiyar

global business alliances, he acknowledged the need for the medical fraternity and doctors working together to provide techno-medical solutions to health complications arising in post-Covid era.

The event also witnessed launch of Petrimed, India's first fully loaded air purification system with 99.999% filter efficiency to arrest particulate matter, and with in-built UV-C disinfectant to kill microbes, and in-built ionizer to nourish ambient air. The system is being manufactured by River Engineering with technical knowhow of Petrimed, Canada. So far, the best medical grade air purification system that was available India had filtration between 99.995% and 99.997%. The doctors present at the event acknowledged the product would meet the challenges of today's virus-havocked environment. Dr. Agarwal said although his company's charter was to engage itself in hi-tech areas like products for fighter jets, guns, tanks, mainline railway and metro railways, as a citizen he was concerned with persistent air pollution problem, and that is why he leveraged technology to ensure the people breathe the cleanest air.

The Bollywood star Pooja Bisht, known for her movies, Slip (2020), Mushkil (2019) and Prem Gajra Ani Chilli Chicken (2018) conducted a lucky draw and the winners got the Petrimed air purification system. Her presence in the event and her popularity will no doubt take forward all the good work that IFUNA and IMA were doing to her innumerable fans and create an awareness about air pollution and its harms..

Naya Kashmir- Marz ki dwa?



CHANDER P MAHAJAN

Was a former student of Electrical Engineering at Regional Engineering College, Naseem Bagh, Srinagar, Kashmir (J&K).

AT THE 1964 OLYMPICS IN TOKYO, INDIA'S GOLD MEDAL^ VICTORY HAVING DEFEATED PAKISTAN 1-0 IN THE FINAL WAS AN EVENT TO REJOICE. HOSTELS WERE LIT WITH CANDLES AT THE DOOR STEPS. LATE THAT EVENING, THE DELIGHT CRACKLED IN TO SCUFFLES OVER THE LOYALTIES; FIGHTS LEFT MANY STUDENTS INJURED. BULLU MY JUNIOR, CRYING HOARSE, RAN TO MY ROOM FOR HELP. THERE WAS A CHAOS. SOMEHOW, SITUATION DIFFUSED GRADUALLY WITH THE INTERVENTION OF THE WARDENS. INDIAN RULE.

By Chander P Mahajan

1962 was a terrible year for India. The once friendly China had turned foe and invaded its NE frontiers. As they faced off at the frontiers, Pakistan leaned

towards China, making an already nervous India, wary. Horrifying sirens, blackouts and the terrifying sounds of the bomber jets haunted us in the campus day in and day out. Dictates to hide in to the trenches could not be evaded.



NAYA KASHMIR



Engineering Collage Table Tennis Team Wins Women College Srinagar Tournament
1960s Author Extreme Left Chander P Mahajan

There, in the Mess, badakhana (special feast) on Saturdays was a ritual. One of those days, waiting for the sweet dish over dinner, it blacked out abruptly. In utter confusion, how funny! A fellow was spotted near the cauldron, soaked & soiled with the pudding (kheer) when it lit back.

In 1963 the missing 5" vial, opaque on one side and with a human hair inside - termed the *Moi-e- Muqqadas* (holy relic)*, created unrest. Our campus was in the vicinity of the Hazratbal mosque, built by Emperor Shah Jehan.

At the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo, India's gold medal^ victory having defeated Pakistan 1-0 in the final was an event to rejoice. Hostels were lit with candles at the door steps. Late that evening, the delight crackled in to scuffles over the loyalties; fights left many students injured. Bullu my junior, crying hoarse, ran to my room for help. There was a chaos. Somehow, situation diffused gradually with the intervention of the wardens.

War of 1965 between Pakistan and India began following Pakistan's Operation Gibraltar, which was designed to infiltrate forces into Jammu and Kashmir to precipitate an insurgency against Indian rule.

1960-1965 five years stay in the hostel barracks of Regional Engineering College, Naseem Bagh Srinagar was a mix of learning, joy and fervour.#

It was neither necessary nor easy to understand the lineage of the batch-mates; though 'Hindustan-Pakistan' figured very frequently in the chats and dialogues. Patriotism was hardly defined. Talks often hovered over 'Azad Kashmir'.

'Naya Kashmir' never surfaced till it emerged in the Centre's image of the day.

Curiosity pushes me down the history:

In 1944, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah launched the 'Quit Kashmir' agitation against the Maharaja Hari Singh demanding an independent democratic constitutional monarchy; setting out his vision of a 'Naya Kashmir' in an innovatory manifesto. It advocated equal rights regardless

Befitting reply in UN to Pakistan P.M. Imran Khan

Sneha Dubey, India's first Secretary, gave a fiery and befitting reply in UN to Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan on his comments about India and asked Pakistan to immediately vacate all areas under its illegal occupation (POK) Earlier, India had denounced Pakistan as a patron of terrorism and a suppressor of minorities in reply to which Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan ranted against India.

“This is the country that is an arsonist disguising itself as a firefighter. Pakistan nurtures terrorists in their backyard in the hope that they will only harm their neighbours. Our region and the entire world, has suffered because



Sneha Dubey, India's first Secretary

of their policies. On the other hand, they are trying to cover up sectarian violence in their country as an act of terrorism” said Sneha Dubey. Sneha Dubey has rightly exposed Pakistan. Pakistan's ties with terrorism are not new to anyone. As a nation they support them. Osama bin Laden was shielded by the country and given home. They treat him like a martyr.

India's first secretary Sneha Dubey responded to Pakistan's PM Imran Khan's remarks on Kashmir at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). She said it's an "attempt to tarnish the image by bringing in internal matters & going so far as to spew falsehoods on the world stage". This isn't the first time Pakistan leader has misused the UN platform to propagate false & malicious propaganda against India, she added.

She further said, "Terrorists enjoy free pass in Pakistan & minority communities are turned upside down. Pakistan has an established history of harbouring, aiding & actively supporting terrorists". Mentioning the 9/11 attack, India's representative said, "Pakistan leadership continues to glorify the mastermind behind 9/11 attack Osama Bin Laden as a martyr. Pakistan is an arsonist disguising itself as a firefighter. It nurtures terrorists in its backyard with hope they will harm only its neighbours".

"Minorities of Pakistan live in constant fear & state-sponsored suppression of their rights. Dissenting voices are muzzled daily, and extra-judicial killings are well documented", Sneha Dubey said at UNGA. India also called upon Pakistan to "immediately vacate all areas under its illegal occupation", and made statement on J&K and Ladakh. India's representative ended her statement saying, "India desires normal relations with Pakistan.



of nationality, religion, race or birth, as well as freedom of conscience and worship, freedom of speech and of the press. It also affirmed that "women citizens shall be accorded equal rights with men in all fields of national life".

The manifesto's economic plan was more radical, envisaging agrarian and land reforms and land redistribution with a mandate of transferring of excess land from the feudal landlords to the peasants and tenants.

Although Abdullah had been in and out of prison since his dismissal and arrest in 1953; the dominant Prime Ministers of India have continually been playing the wishful tunes:

"We will build a new Kashmir, quickly if you help, slowly if you don't, but build it we will!" Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had said while addressing a public rally in Srinagar in

June 1970. My vision, I have stated many times before, is to build a Naya Jammu and Kashmir which is symbolized by peace, prosperity and people's power." Said Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in his Convocation Speech at the University of Jammu on 15 July 2007.

The decades-old struggle of conflict and bloodshed to fulfill the political aspirations of the people is lingering on. Entwined with the 'Naya Kashmir' pledges is a bunch of history that begins with partition of British India into India and Pakistan and a long-running dispute between the two newly formed nations over Kashmir, a state which they control in part but claim in full.

More than seven decades on, while India scrapped Article 370 that guaranteed Kashmir's autonomy, Sheikh's label of 'Naya Kash-

"WE WILL BUILD A NEW KASHMIR, QUICKLY IF YOU HELP, SLOWLY IF YOU DON'T, BUT BUILD IT WE WILL!" PRIMEMINISTER INDIRA GANDHI HAD SAID WHILE ADDRESSING A PUBLIC RALLY IN SRINAGAR IN JUNE 1970.



Janmashtami procession taken out in Srinagar after 2 years Aman Farooq



Mirza's makeshift canteen - REC Naseem Bagh Shrinagar - L-R Lalit Mengi, Subhash Paul, Suresh Chander with Author
Playing Mirza Galib's 'Dile Nadan Tujhe Huaa Kya Hai..' on Gramophone 1960 Chander P Mahajan

It is no easy matter for anyone to read the pulse of the inhabitants and diagnose the cause of unrest and turmoil. How can we draw a line of distinction between the choices of nationalities; and conclude the conflicts of ideologies? Aftermaths of 'autonomy with special status', constitutional democracy and the statehood and the UTs status pose another riddle to solve.

People are putting their heads together to accelerate the delimitation of the boundaries and the rights; mooted by New Delhi. The potion, a concentrate of secularism- federalism with a dash of communism could suffice. A fist full of patriotism with a tinge of generosity towards the displaced persons

I GO BACK IN SPACE AND TIME TO THE TENTED CANTEEN OF NASEEM BAGH; GLUED TO THE GRAMOPHONE- LISTENING TO MIRZA GHALIB'S 'DILE NADAN TUJHE HUA KYA HAI, AKHIR IS MARZ KI DWA KYA HAI' THE STATUS OF THE 'BLACK NECKED CRANE', THE 'STATE BIRD' OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR IS HANGING FIRE.

mir' vanished, perhaps. 39; Hug each Kashmiri, build New Kashmir 39;. India went ahead and split the state into two federally administered areas, J&K and Ladakh, which began to be called Union Territories (UTs).

It is the complete political, social and even cultural makeover that is being attempted to alter people's sense of themselves. New Delhi is wooing outsiders to invest in the region. There is now no bar on the outsiders to buy land and settle down in the region- a demographic project of the soil; a new environment for the inhabitants to rethink as communities.

of the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir could provide a healing touch.

"There are lots of disruptive forces like Lutyens press; communists and even congress who resent patriotism narrative", tells Dr. ML Babu from USA.

I go back in space and time to the tented canteen of Naseem Bagh; glued to the gramophone- listening to Mirza Ghalib's 'Dile Nadan Tujhe Hua kya hai, Akhir is Marz Ki Dwa Kya Hai' The status of the 'black necked crane', the 'State Bird' of Jammu and Kashmir is hanging fire.

CHINA-TIBET

Why is China Focusing on Tibet?

Wang Yang and Xi Jinping's visits signal the beginning of a major Chinese push to bring about a transformation of Tibet



BY JAYADEVA RANADE
Former Additional Secretary,
Government of India,
President, Centre for China
Analysis and Strategy.

THE 3-DAY (August 18-20, 2021) visit to Lhasa by Wang Yang, member of the Chinese Communist party's Politburo Standing Committee and chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, at the head of a 22-member delegation is important. It confirmed the Chinese Communist party leadership's recently increased attention to the Tibet Autonomous region.

The Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference is responsible for policies and interactions with all non-CCP entities, China's ethnic minorities and religion with the Communist party central committee's United Front Work Department reporting directly to it.

Wang Yang's visit was followed by Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit in late July and, together, they signal the beginning of a major push to bring about a cultural and socio-economic transformation of Tibet. The '14th Five Year Plan and Long Range Plan-2030' approved by the National People's Congress in March 2021 gave some indication of these changes.

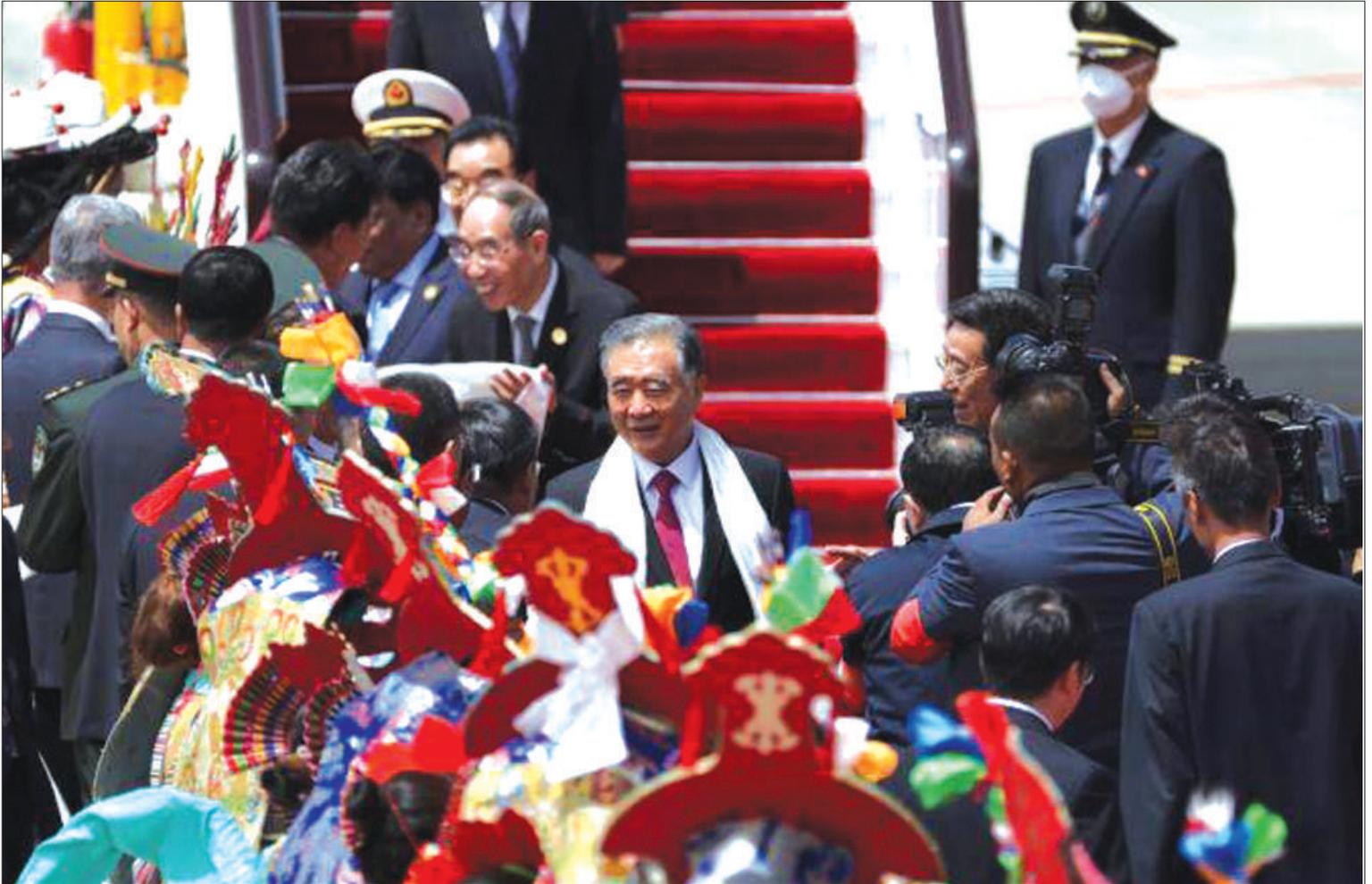
Wang Yang arrived in Lhasa on August 18, 2021, to take part in the 70th anniversary celebrations of the so-called 'peaceful liberation of Tibet' the following day. He was welcomed at the airport by TAR party

secretary Wu Yingjie, chairman of the TAR people's congress Lobsang Gyaltsen, chairman of the TAR people's government Che Dalha and nearly 500 representatives of 'ethnic groups in Tibet'. The People's Daily newspaper marked the celebrations with a special 20-page pull-out.

Wang Yang's delegation included persons with a wealth of knowledge of Tibet and Tibetans. In it were: You Quan, politburo member and head of the United Front Work Department; Pema Trinley, presently vice chairman of the NPC standing committee and former Chairman of the TAR people's government; Zhang Qingli, vice chairman of the CPPCC standing committee and former hard-line TAR party secretary from 2006-2011; Sithar, former executive deputy minister and Head of the UFWD seventh bureau who played a key role during the 2002-2010 talks with the Dalai Lama's envoys; Admiral Miao Hua, political commissar of the Central Military Commission.

During their stay the delegation met leading cadres of Tibet including Pema Trinlay, Phakpa La Gelek Namgyal, Legcho, Pasang, Lobsang Gyaltsen, Che Dalha, Wu Yingjie and Ngapon Ngawang Jigme's family. More than 20,000 party cadres and the 'masses' attended the official celebrations at the Potala Palace Square. They included 24 officers of the People's Liberation Army including 7 lady officers and 10 representatives from the People's Armed Police Force.

Wang Yang addressed the gathering and You Quan, head of the UFWD, read the congratulatory messages from the CCP central committee, national people's congress, state council, CPPCC and the central military commission. TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie,



Wang Yang (with white scarf around his neck) arrives in Lhasa, August 18, 2021. Photograph: CHINA OUT via Reuters

THESE HAVE BEEN REGULARLY FLAGGED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, MOST RECENTLY AT THE 2ND INFORMAL SUMMIT BETWEEN OUR PRIME MINISTER AND THE CHINESE PRESIDENT IN CHENNAI IN 2019.

commander of the Tibet military region Lieutenant General Wang Kai, and two representative of local county governments also delivered speeches. Chairman of the TAR people's government Che Dalha presided over by the celebrations. Wang Yang presented commemorative plaques to select persons and representatives of the TAR, the Tibet military region, headquarters of the People's Armed Police Force, the TAR political and legal affairs commission and the Tibet Branch of the Buddhist Association of China.

Senior and veteran Tibetan cadres attended the celebrations where Gyaltzen Norbu, the Chinese-appointed 11th Panchen Lama, was present. As he was neither photographed nor mentioned among the delegates from Beijing, it appears he arrived in Lhasa separately.

In his speech, Wang Yang asserted that 'The peaceful liberation of Tibet in 1951 was a major victory in the cause of liberation of the

Chinese people and China's reunification' and 'marked a historic transition with epoch-making significance for Tibet'. Implying that the Communist party has acceptability in Tibet, Wang highlighted that Tibet presently has over 35,000 deputies of people's congresses and 8,000 CPPCC members at various levels, 90 percent of whom are ethnic minorities. More than 1,700 temples in Tibet have full access to water, electricity, the Internet, fire-fighting and other facilities, he said and added that all the 46,000 monks and nuns in TAR are covered by the government's social security scheme.

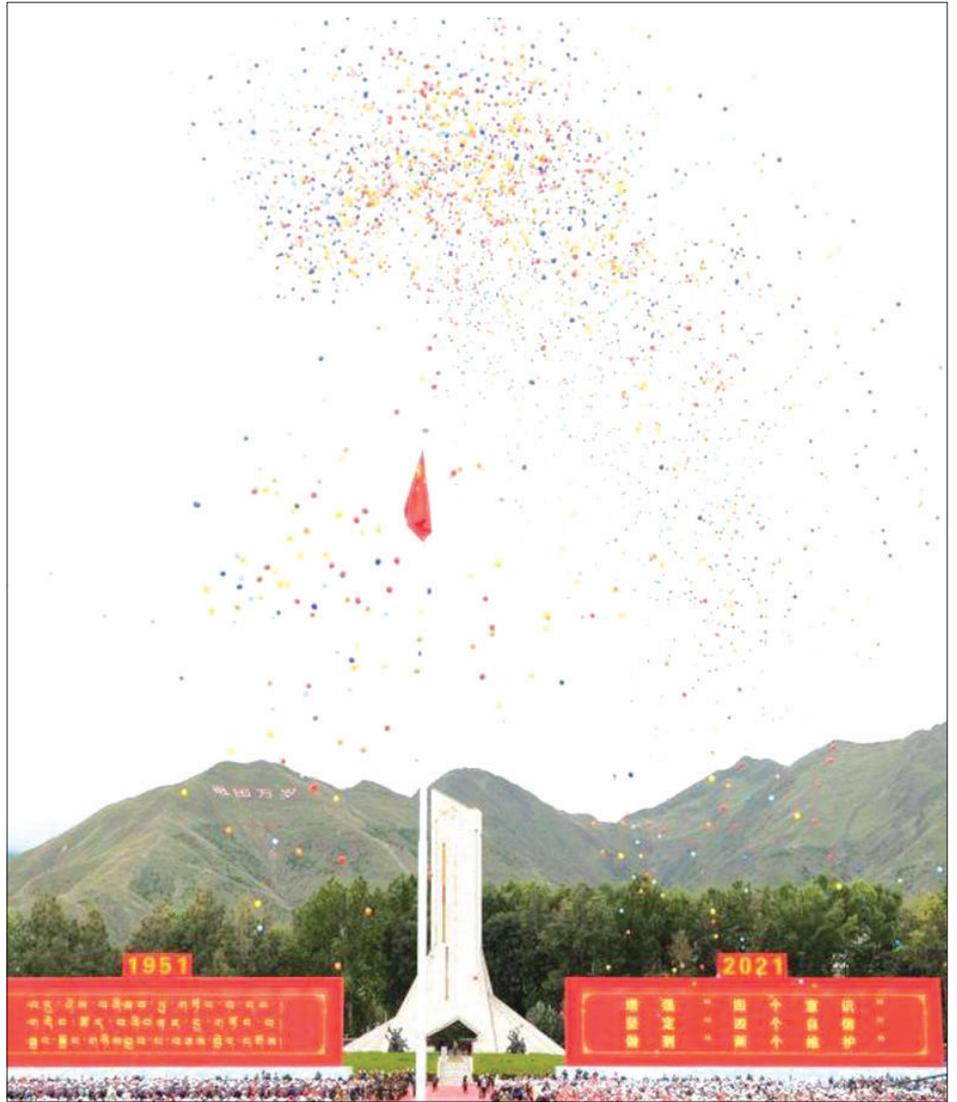
Notwithstanding Wang Yang's declaration that 'separatist and sabotage activities' committed by 'the Dalai group and hostile external forces have been crushed', he urged officials and the general public of all ethnic groups to mobilise to forge an 'ironclad defence' against separatist activities!



People at the August 19, 2021 event. : courtesy Jigme Dorje/Xinhua
courtesy: Huang Jingwen/Xinhua

Describing Tibet's development over the past seven decades as a blessing, he warned that 'separatist activities and chaos can only lead to disaster'. Wang Yang stressed that Any attempt or maneuver designed to separate Tibet from China is doomed to fail'. Wang Yang reiterated that 'religions in China are Chinese in orientation' and cadres must guide 'Tibetan Buddhism in adapting itself to socialist society' to safeguard national security and social harmony. His call to rally religious figures and believers to jointly 'safeguard national security and social harmony' reveals that monks, nuns and Tibetans continue to resist the Communist party's efforts. Wang emphasised the need to assimilate Tibetan culture with that of the Han, since 'solidifying the cultural foundation for ethnic unity' and 'a shared cultural identity underpins ethnic unity'. He asserted that efforts be made to 'teach standard spoken and written Chinese language' and that shared 'Chinese cultural symbols and images of the Chinese nation among all ethnic groups' are a 'source of inspiration for the entire Chinese nation'.

The following day the delegation split into two groups. Wang Yang, Zhang Qingli, Miao Hua and some members of the delegation from Beijing traveled to Nagchu (Chinese: Nagqu). TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie accompanied them. You Quan, Pema Trinlay and some of the other delegates from Beijing visited Lhoka (Chinese: Shannan) and Shigatse



Balloons were released at the August 19, 2021 event.

(Chinese: Xigaze). Lobsang Gyaltsen, chairman of the TAR People's Congress, accompanied this group.

Interestingly, when the delegation 'inspected' the Tashi Lhunpo monastery in Shigatse, there was no mention of Gyaltsen Norbu, the Chinese-appointed 11th Panchen Lama, being present at the monastery, which is his traditional religious seat. Wang Yang's speech outlined the CCP's policy for Tibet in the coming years. The focus was on unity and oneness of culture among Han and Tibetan ethnic groups and the defence and security of the borders.

His speech also revealed that the Communist party continues to face resistance
(courtesy Vivekananda International Foundation)

TAR PARTY SECRETARY WU YINGJIE ACCOMPANIED THEM. YOU QUAN, PEMA TRINLAY AND SOME OF THE OTHER DELEGATES FROM BEIJING VISITED LHOKA (CHINESE: SHANNAN) AND SHIGATSE (CHINESE: XIGAZE). LOBSANG GYALTSEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE TAR PEOPLE'S CONGRESS, ACCOMPANIED THIS GROUP.

PM Modi Meets Pope At Vatican

"INVITED HIM TO VISIT INDIA"



PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI VISIT TO THE VATICAN WAS SCHEDULED TO LAST ONLY 20 MINUTES BUT WENT ON FOR AN HOUR, PEOPLE FAMILIAR WITH THE MATTER SAID ON CONDITION OF ANONYMITY. MODI AND THE POPE DISCUSSED A RANGE OF ISSUES "AIMED AT MAKING THE PLANET BETTER", SUCH AS CLIMATE CHANGE AND POVERTY.

DURING THEIR maiden meeting at the Vatican City Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pope Francis discussed a wide range of global issues, including the Covid-19 crisis, fighting climate change and alleviating poverty.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visit to the Vatican was scheduled to last only 20 minutes but went on for an hour, people familiar with the matter said on condition of anonymity. Modi and the Pope discussed a range of issues "aimed at making the planet better", such as climate change and poverty.

Modi was the first Indian prime minister to meet Pope Francis since he became head of the Catholic Church in 2013. It was also the first meeting between an Indian prime minister and a pope since June 2000, when late prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited the Vatican and met Pope John Paul II.

There was no set agenda for the talks with the Pope. "I believe tradition is not to have an agenda when you discuss issues with His Holiness. And I

think we respect that. I'm sure the issues that will be covered would cover a range of areas of interests in terms of the general global perspectives and issues that are important to all of us," Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said.

Modi was accompanied to the Vatican by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and external affairs minister S Jaishankar. Modi also met Cardinal Pietro Parolin, secretary of state of the Vatican City, and Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, the Vatican secretary for relations with states. The Pope granted Modi a private audience at the Apostolic Palace, and the two leaders discussed the Covid-19 pandemic and its consequences for people around the world as per External Affairs Ministry of Indian Government.

They also discussed the challenge posed by climate change, and Modi briefed the Pope about India's initiatives to combat the phenomenon and the country's success in administering one billion Covid-19 vaccination doses. The Pope appreciated India's assistance to countries in need during the pandemic, the ministry said.

A statement from the Vatican said, "During a brief conversation, the cordial relations between the Holy Seer and India were discussed."

The official Vatican News reported Modi gifted the Pope a silver candlestick and a book on the commitment to the environment. The Pope reciprocated with a bronze plaque with the inscription "The desert will become a garden", volumes of papal documents, his message for World Day of Peace and the document on Human Fraternity, signed on February 4, 2019 in Abu Dhabi by the Pope and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has invited Pope Francis to India after a one-on-one meeting in Vatican City.

"Had a very warm meeting with Pope Francis. I had the opportunity to discuss a wide range of issues with him and also invited him to visit India," wrote Modi on Twitter after the interaction.

DELHI DECLARATION

Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan Afghan territory must not be used for terrorism, India, 7 others affirm

THE Third Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan was held on 10 November, 2021 in New Delhi in an expanded format. National Security Advisors Rear Admiral Ali Shamkhani of Iran, Nikolai P Patrushev of Russia, Karim Massimov of Kazakhstan, Marat Mukanovich Imankulov of Kyrgyzstan, Nasrullo Rahmatjon Mahmudzoda of Tajikistan, Charymyrat Kakalyevvich Amavov of Turkmenistan, Victor Makhmudov of Uzbekistan and Ajit Doval of India attended. NSA Ajit Doval of India chaired the meeting.



Third Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan In New Delhi being chaired by National Security Advisor of India, Mr. Ajit Doval

While welcoming at the Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan, Ajit Doval said, "This is the third meeting of the process that was initiated by Iran in 2018. We had the second meeting there as well. We are grateful to Iran for that. It's a privilege for India to host the dialogue today with participation of all the Central Asian countries and Russia who was the initiator of the idea."

Pakistan did not attend either meeting. In fact, sources said that Islamabad - rather Rawalpindi - had put a precondition to Iran early that if India attended, they wouldn't. Tehran did not yield. This time again, Pakistan has predictably decided to skip the meeting.

The participants discussed the evolving situation in Afghanistan, especially the security situation and its regional and global ramifications. The sides paid special attention to the current political situation in Afghanistan and threats arising from terrorism, radicalisation and drug trafficking as well as the need for humanitarian assistance.

During the meeting, the National Security Advisers / Secretaries of the National Security Councils:

I. Reiterated strong support for a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan while emphasizing the respect for sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity and non-interference in its internal affairs.

II. Expressed deep concern over the suffering of

the people of Afghanistan arising from the security situation in Afghanistan and condemned the terrorist attacks in Kunduz, Kandahar and Kabul.

III. Emphasised that Afghanistan's territory should not be used for sheltering, training, planning or financing any terrorist acts.

IV. Condemned in the strongest terms all terrorist activities and reaffirmed their firm commitment to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including its financing, the dismantling of terrorist infrastructure and countering radicalization, to ensure that Afghanistan would never become a safe haven for global terrorism.

V. Called for a collective cooperation against the menace of radicalization, extremism, separatism and drug trafficking in the region.

VI. Stressed the necessity of forming an open and truly inclusive government that represents the will of all the people of Afghanistan and has representation from all sections of their society, including major ethno-political forces in the country. Inclusion of all sections of the society in the administrative and political structure is imperative for the successful national reconciliation process in the country.

VII. Recalling the relevant UN Resolutions on Afghanistan, the participants noted that the United Nations has a central role to play in Afghanistan and that its continued presence in the country must be

preserved.

VIII. Emphasized the importance of ensuring that the fundamental rights of women, children and minority communities are not violated.

IX. Expressed concern over the deteriorating socio-economic and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, and underlined the need to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan.

X. Reiterated that humanitarian assistance should be provided in an unimpeded, direct and assured manner to Afghanistan and that the assistance is distributed within the country in a non-discriminatory manner across all sections of the Afghan society.

XI. Reiterated commitment to provide assistance to Afghanistan to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

XII. Reiterated the importance of their dialogue and agreed to remain engaged with each other in the future. With winter approaching, Afghanistan is on the brink of massive food shortages. Ninety-five percent of the people don't have enough food and more than half of Afghanistan's 39 million people do not have enough to eat & are "marching to starvation", according to reports.

This means that nearly 23 million Afghans are looking at a severe winter and starvation, while 3.2 million children under five could suffer acute malnutrition. If the weather is as bad as experts are predicting this winter, the expectation is that large numbers will be threatened with acute hunger and widespread famine.

Due to long-standing economic and security challenges, major droughts, and floods in recent years, hunger in Afghanistan has increased substantially. But with the takeover of the Taliban the situation has become extremely challenging.

International donors have pledged hundreds of millions of dollars for the country but they do not want to work with the Taliban directly. There is



Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla meet U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan Thomas West and exchanged views on recent developments and issues of common interest in Afghanistan.
Twitter/@MEAIndia

widespread concern in the international community about how to help Afghan people access food. According to the executive director of the WFP, David Beasley, the situation is alarming, "It is as bad as you possibly can imagine," ... "In fact, we're now looking at the worst humanitarian crisis on Earth. Describing a family facing starvation in Afghanistan, BBC's Foreign Affairs Editor, John Simpson, broke down and said, "It hasn't yet happened, but you know it's just around the corner." UN Food and Agriculture Organization Director-General Qu Dongyu has warned, "It is urgent that we act efficiently and effectively to speed up and scale up our delivery in Afghanistan before winter cuts off a large part of the country, with millions of people -- including farmers, women, young children and the elderly -- going hungry in the freezing winter."

The Taliban, whose financial reserves came from illegal activities, are proving completely incapable of funding social services and food assistance, experts on Afghan affairs pointed out. Cash shortages, bank closures, and suspensions of money transfers since the Taliban took Kabul are contributing to hyperinflation of the Afghan currency, according to reports. Meanwhile, withdrawal of international support and security concerns are preventing many humanitarian organizations from continuing their operations on the ground.

The Taliban takeover has meant that both commercial and humanitarian supply lines are affected, cutting off many people from necessary resources. In the west of the country, thousands of poor families have already sold their flocks and fled, seeking shelter and assistance in packed temporary camps near major cities. Families are forced to sell their daughters into early marriage to cover debts and secure enough food to survive, according to Afghan experts. In Badghis a man was reported to have left his six children in a mosque due to poverty and



Taliban fighters patrol inside the city of Ghazni, southwest of Kabul, Afghanistan,

hunger. Government officials, school teachers, healthcare workers, and many others have not received salaries for the past four months since the Taliban came to power. In the midst of food shortages and inflation, new cases of Covid-19 are emerging in the country. However, due to the lack of coronavirus testing equipment in most local laboratories, many people do not perform the test or do not see a doctor due to poverty. But the Taliban insists on blocking female aid workers.

For the first time, urban residents are suffering from food insecurity at similar rates to rural communities, which have been ravaged by drought twice in the past three years. Across cities, towns and villages, virtually no family can afford sufficient food, according to recent WFP surveys.

Afghanistan's agriculture sector had been hard-hit by drought, intense fighting and the subsequent Taliban takeover. Thousands of tonnes of pomegranate lies rotting on trucks blocked at Pakistan's frequently shuttered border - leaving thousands of farm workers unemployed. Islamabad has tightened controls on ordinary Afghans trying to cross over, fearing illegal entries. This means that the trade of 40,000 and 50,000 tonnes exported across this border to Pakistan, and also on to India and the Gulf states has been paralysed, leaving nearly 15,000 farm workers in Afghanistan have been laid off.

The situation is further complicated because Pakistan has tightened its border protocols since the Taliban takeover, which has made transit much more complicated. Torkham allows entry only to Afghans with valid travel documents. Chaman, which usually allows transit for Afghans from certain areas near the border, has also started enforcing visa rules more strictly. Both crossings have been closed intermittently over the past two months. Trade, food supplies, healthcare all these services have been affected by the closing of the border with Pakistan.

Afghanistan's health system is on the brink of collapse. Funding cuts from international donors have led to a dearth of medical supplies and equipment. Some doctors left during the early days of the Taliban

rule, and others lost jobs at hospitals that could no longer afford to pay them. Ordinary Afghans trying to transit via the Torkham crossing for basic necessities like treatment at hospitals are facing a problem. Before the Taliban took over, patients from Afghanistan regularly crossed into Pakistan to Peshawar for treatment.

India has expressed willingness to send humanitarian aid to the people of Afghanistan and in October it reached out to Pakistan for allowing movement of trucks carrying 50,000 metric tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan, via the Attari-Wagah border with Pakistan. India had last year delivered 75,000 MT of wheat to Afghanistan but that was through the long and circuitous Chabahar port route but that will be a complicated exercise given that Pakistan doesn't allow two way trade for India and Afghanistan through that border. While the Taliban have indicated that they are eager to receive this humanitarian aid, Pakistan is not allowing the use of the land route.

As Afghanistan's winter sets in, the Taliban may be learning the hard way that managing a resistance force is not the same thing as running a state. The challenge of aid governance in Afghanistan is not new. Distribution mechanisms had become anaemic due to corruption and misgovernance well before the Taliban took over, but their inexperience has almost paralysed it. The latest assessment of the UN predicts that the crisis in Afghanistan could be worse than what was seen in Syria and Yemen. Afghanistan is reeling from the quadruple crises of conflict, coronavirus, climate change and economic collapse.

Pakistan must be held responsible for creating the current crisis in Afghanistan and supporting a proxy force to oust an elected government, experts alleged. In a tweet Amrullah Saleh said, "For the Taliban in Kabul & their backers in Rawalpindi starvation of 23m people is called victory."

After its takeover, the Taliban declared China as their "main partner" in rebuilding and developing Afghanistan. China's main aim is to expand the BRI into Afghanistan, but an uncertain security situation in Afghanistan has prevented it from committing itself fully. China and Pakistan decided to skip the Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan on November 10. The desperate economic and humanitarian situation could reignite conflict within the country, potentially destabilizing the wider region while creating space for international terrorist groups to plan new campaigns.

The participants thanked the Republic of India for holding the Third Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan in New Delhi. The participants agreed to hold the next round in 2022.

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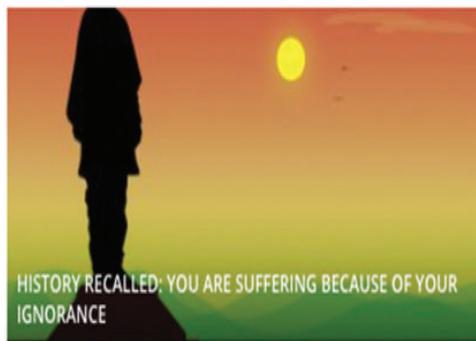
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