

Vol: 28 | No. 9 | September 2020 | ₹20

OPINION EXPRESS

www.opinionexpress.in

A MONTHLY NEWS MAGAZINE



Cover Story

WHO WANTS KHALISTAN?

While natives in Punjab have no interest in a separate nation, some vested interests are trying to reignite the issue



BIPL
Balaji Infra Projects Limited

www.balaji.co.in



www.dighiport.in

EDITOR

Prashant Tewari

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Dr Rahul Misra

POLITICAL EDITOR

Prakhar Misra

BUREAU CHIEF

Anshuman Dogra (DELHI), Diwakar Shetty (MUMBAI), Sidhartha Sharma (KOLKATA), Lakshmi Devi (BANGALORE) Divyash Bajpai (USA), KAPIL DUDAKIA (UNITED KINGDOM) Rajiv Agnihotri (MAURITIUS), Romil Raj Bhagat (DUBAI), Herman Silochan (CANADA), Dr Shiv Kumar (AUS/NZ), Nithya Ramesh (Fashion & Entertainment)

PRINCIPLE CORRESPONDENT

Shakila Makandar

CONTENT PARTNER

The Pioneer
Pratham Pravakta

LEGAL ADVISORS

Vishnu Sharma Adv
Vijai Krishna Adv

ADVERTISEMENT / MARKETING DIRECTOR

Diwakar Shetty
Gopal Chopra

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

Amit Pandey
Bal Mukund Gaur

CORPORATE COMMUNICATION / PR

Sanjay Mendiratta
M M Upadhaya

GRAPHICS & DESIGN

Writeword Commuications (Studio 8)

PHOTOGRAPHER

Ratan Shukla

OVERSEAS MARKETING

OEMCL Ltd (Mauritius), OEHL Ltd (DUBAI)

ADVERTISEMENT / CIRCULATION:

Delhi / NCR - Hemant Sharma: D 239
Defence Colony New Delhi 110024 INDIA
Tel - 011 49060350

Mumbai - Vijay Kalantri - Advisor: New
Excelsior BUILDING, 6th Floor, A.K. NAYAK
MARG, Fort, MUMBAI - 400001 (INDIA).
Phone: 91-22-22019265 / 22019160
FAX : 91-22-22019764 / 22019760

The magazine is published and printed by Rajiv Agnihotri for Opinion Express Communications & Entertainments Pvt Ltd, from Kumpu Graphic Press 2 Ashok Nagar, Lucknow & printed at Kumpu Graphic Press 2 Ashok Nagar, Lucknow - 226001
Tele : 91-522-4060880 &

Nikhil Offset An ISO 9001 : 2008 Certified Company
223, DSIDC Complex, Okhla Industrial Area Phase
-I, New Delhi - 110020 Tele : 91-26812316,
26810097, 26810458, FAX:91 45792362 E-Mail :
nikhil223@yahoo.com, nikhilg91@gmail.com

Registered Office: OPINION EXPRESS HOUSE
24-A Clyde Road, Lucknow-226001 (India)
Phone: 91-522-4060880 Fax: 91-522-2208242
24x7 mobility +91 9984437000
email: info@opinionexpress.in

All disputes are subject to be under jurisdiction of courts in Delhi.

All content published may be subject to copyright, seek written permission to re-produce. Opinion Express is trade mark brand of Opinion Express Communications & Entertainment Private Limited.

Khalistan – An illusion with no substance

Who wants Khalistan? The native Indian Sikh community in Punjab has absolutely no interest even to discuss the subject in their routine life. Sikh Diaspora attached with the main land has no interest in the issue.

But some disgruntle anti national set of people prompted by the foreign funding are running a futile campaign to instigate the subject with no support from credible places. Sikh community in India is the most progressive and prosperous community of the country. Independent India with majority 80% Hindu population size has showered tremendous love and respect to 2% Sikh community in every sphere of life. It can be a unique case study model anywhere in the world wherein the overwhelming population majority has voluntarily offered respect and position to the almost dismal population size group. Sikh community has completely justified the faith and they have reciprocated the gesture with full commitment in every sector that it has been represented.



But the tragedy of Sikhs is that they have not found a leader worthy of carrying forward the legacy of their illustrious Gurus since Maharaja Ranjit Singh. The first work of Guru Nanak who is invariably referred to as the founder of Sikhism, maintained, propounded original teachings, established a new religion and gathered round himself a following drawn from both Hindu and Muslim. This continued for about a century till Guru Hargobind, the sixth guru whose period occupies most of the first half of seventeenth century adopted the doctrine of 'miri-piri' and resorted to an arm rebellion against the attempts made by Mughals to interfere and curb the religious rights of non muslims in India. He accordingly responded to the Mughal threat of violent repression by arming his followers though nothing basic had, however, been changed. The tenth Guru Gobind Singh having observed the growing hostility of Mughal authorities reached a momentous decision to form a structured group of fighters to be named as Khalsa having military discipline.

The present self proclaimed leaders of the Sikh community are illiterate and anti national. They have no intellect to understand the historical prospective and the current geo political games. We are still trying to get over the fall-out from the lack of vision and leadership of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, now another "visionary", Gurpatwant Singh Pannu, has appeared from America. He now wishes to lead the Sikhs by carrying forward the legacy of Bhindranwale. No one has divided Sikhs more than Bhindrawala and also poisoned the minds of our youth who have limited understanding of our faith and history but feel angry due to the attack on the Golden Temple.

And we in India must stop blaming Pakistan for fuelling the insurgency in the recent times. Rather the blame must go squarely to the ignorant Sikh groups who have either no access to their own history or they are blinded by the power of foreign money to destabilize their own motherland. No one has supported operation blue star in totality but the rebel community elements must realise that the issue is permanently dead, just to keep raking up the issue repeatedly and playing to the opponent gallery has discredited the entire community. India has given Sikh President, Prime Minister, Army Chief, top bureaucrats and prominent business men and surely it makes the Sikh community most respected group of the country but any activity against the strategic interest of the country used by any religious or ethnic group must be permanently eliminated. The new offensive defensive policy of the nation must send shivers to the militants and terror groups representing any section of the society. And permanent elimination will be scripted if the larger interest of the country is hurt by any insane action conducted by them directly or under the influence of the foreign forces against India.

—Prashant Tewari, Editor-in-Chief

SEPTEMBER 2020

COVER STORY

Khalistan Referendum 2020

A Myth carried forward by vested interest groups ignores historical facts

P 5-12



13 Sikhs Are The Unbreakable Shield Of India

22 No Sikh will want lawlessness in Punjab

26 Rajapaksa is Commander in Chief in Sri-lanka

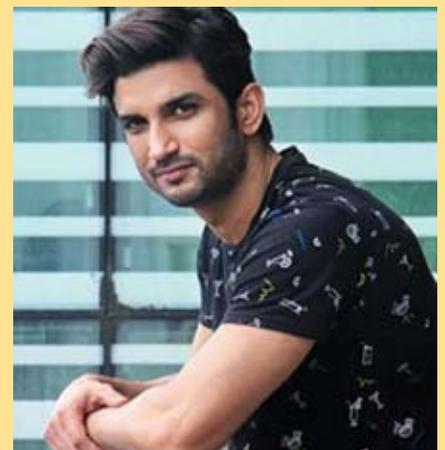
32 Emperor Xi corona misadventure isolates China

42 The US Dollar, the Fed and the Pretenders



50

SSR death divides the glamour industry down the middle between insiders and outsiders



KHALISTAN REFERENDUM 2020

A Myth carried forward by vested interest groups ignores historical facts



By Prashant Tewari & Prakhar Misra

Who wants Khaistan? The native Indian Sikh community in Punjab has absolutely no interest even to discuss the subject in the routine life. Sikh Diaspora attached with the main land has no interest in the issue. But some disgruntle anti national set of people prompted by the foreign funding are running a futile campaign to instigate the subject with no support from credible places. Sikh community in India is the most progressive and prosperous community of the country. It has proudly represented the highest offices of the country – the president and the prime minister, army general, top bureaucrat, technocrats and state heads. Independent India with majority 80% Hindu population size has showered tremendous love and respect to 2% Sikh community in every sphere of life. It can be a unique case study model anywhere in the world wherein the overwhelming population majority has voluntarily offered respect and position to the almost dismal population size group. Sikhs have completely justified the faith and they have reciprocated the gesture with full commitment in every sector that it has represented.

Off course, there are differences of opinion and minute governance disputes within the family but the two communities have integrated well enough to be bifurcated by vested foreign interest. Desperate Pakistan led by ISI has put a lot of stakes in abetting the Khalistan movement since the operation blue star incident. There are western interest groups based in USA, Canada, UK are putting up loop sided effort to flame the fire to keep the Indian progress in check and at the same time, they are keeping the Indian government in good humor to balance the new emerging world order. Frankly, the limited section of Sikh Diaspora aided by western powers and the rouge Pakistani ISI have wrongly evaluated the bond between the Hindu's and Sikhs in India and surely one needs to spend time in India to understand the genuine cultural integration between the two communities.

Lately, the prominent countries where this mischief is played have decided to come up with clear policy of no support to Khalistan. Canada has rejected the idea of Khalistan. In a statement, it said: "Canada respects the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of India, and the Government of Canada will not recognise the referendum". The Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amrinder Singh said that the categorical stand taken by the Justin Trudeau government on this issue is exemplary. He hopes other nations and governments should come out, and be against SFJ as well—which has been banned by India as a terrorist organisation. The founder of SFJ, Gurbatwant Singh Pannu, has been declared as a terrorist for actively promoting Pakistan-backed terror activities on Indian soil. The Chief Minister added that failing to oppose the separatist SFJ organisation could set a dangerous precedent for any country; this could be seen as covert support to an organisation that would freely be propagating secessionist activities. This was in the interest

of global peace and security to reject forces, that are hell bent on spreading terror, the Chief Minister added. Sikhs in Punjab had categorically rejected SFJ's pro-Khalistan movement, which the outfit was spreading at the behest of Pakistan's ISI, he concluded.

Dejected by the stand taken by USA, Canada, EU countries to reject Khalistan, groups associated and funded by anti India forces are desperate to fuel the unrest in Punjab, three 'hardcore supporters of the 'Khalistan movement'

The emphasis of the CDS on Indian force being a 'non expeditionary' force and restrictions of deployment of its personnel around the globe has raised a new debate. In an interview, CDS said Indian forces have 'to guard and fight only along our borders and, of course, dominate the Indian Ocean Region'

were planning to execute targeted killings in several states of Northern India were arrested by Delhi police. On the KLF radar were several activists, politicians and religious leaders, particularly from Punjab. During the interrogation of the three accused and further investigation, it was revealed that they were in contact with Pakistan ISI-sponsored Khalistan leader Gopal Singh Chawla, and leaders of the banned Khalistan group Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), based in Pakistan and the US respectively. The dossier New Delhi shared with

Islamabad about Khalistani anti-India propaganda led by Gopal Singh Chawla. Pakistani intelligence agency asset Gopal Singh Chawla is the former General Secretary of Pakistan Sikh Gurudwara Prabhandhak Committee and President of Punjabi Sikh Sangat. Chawla is a well-known Khalistan element, who often spews venom against India in his speeches, and supports terrorism in Punjab. Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) is a lesser-known Khalistan group based in the US, which was banned by the Indian government in July 2019. SFJ has been involved in several recent anti-India protests in the US, UK and Canada, which have been indirectly sponsored by Pakistani agencies.

In October 2018, Gopal Singh Chawla, in a telephonic interview, had confessed to having knowledge of the



role of Khalistanis in the killing of RSS leaders in Punjab. "The killing of the RSS leaders will continue in Punjab. RSS leaders are our very first target. We don't want any interference of RSS in our gurdwaras or in Punjab. The Indian government may do whatever it wants, but we won't tolerate interference in Punjab in any way," he had told this



journalist. On being asked about the support of globally-designated terrorist and chief of terror group Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, Hafiz Saeed, Chawla said: "I have had relations with Hafiz Saeed and continue even now. Doesn't mean we operate together. Hafiz Saeed is my ideal person. (sic)." While several ISI chiefs in the past have been vocal sup-

porters of the Khalistan movement – including former Army General General Hamid Gul – the Pakistani deep state seems to have now embarked on the K2 (Kashmir and Khalistan) strategy with newfound hate and vengeance. A part of this hatred stems from the fact that diplomatically, Pakistan has failed to gather any global momentum against

India. Post abrogation of article 370, the terror groups in Kashmir have been at their weakest in the last three decades, with Indian security forces killing about 116 terrorists in less than six months (including the top commanders of Hizbul Mujahideen who acted as the ground assets for Pakistani terrorists infiltrating India through J&K).



Misguided section of Sikh Diaspora plans unofficial vote in 2020

Sikhs for Justice says poll to be organized in Punjab and 20 countries abroad to press for legally binding referendum on India but India has categorically rejected the demand, since it is Pakistan sponsored activity to disturb peace in Punjab.

Diaspora group Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) argues Punjab is “currently occupied by India” and vows to organize a non-binding vote —both in Punjab and 20 countries abroad where Sikh diasporas exist— on the issue of establishing an independent country, which they call Khalistan. The group believes that “an

overwhelming ‘yes’ vote” would “start the process through which we will eventually conduct an official legally binding referendum in Punjab thereby peacefully establishing Khalistan.” SFJ says it aims “to get 5 million votes in support of independence for Punjab” in the unofficial vote, the result then “presented to the United Nations with a request for them to intervene and negotiate an agreement between the Punjabi peoples and India for holding an independence referendum in Punjab,” a legally binding one this time.

The group has not disclosed how it will be able to organize the vote in Punjab in the face of Indian opposition to

it. Analysts say support for independence is more popular among diaspora Sikhs than in Punjab itself. In Punjab, the government has been traditionally dominated by either the nation-wide Indian National Congress or the Shiromani Akali Dal —a conservative, Sikh-majority, pro-autonomy Punjabi party currently not striving for independence, despite the fact that in past times some of its leaders and factions had been secession proponents. And the current Chief Minister of Punjab Capt Amrinder Singh of INC is the tallest nationalist leader having support of entire Punjab and Indian Sikh community so the so called vote by SFJ remains a non



starter in the mainland Punjab.

1947 partition to 1984 tragedy ignores history

The Khalistan independence movement decries Punjab partition between India and Pakistan in 1947. Still, SFJ is merely calling for independence from India, not Pakistan. Sikhs make up 58% of the population of the Indian state of Punjab, while they are a very tiny minority in Pakistan's Punjab, after most of them left the area at the time of partition while thousands were killed in inter-communal violence. Faced with the choice between India and Pakistan, most Sikhs went for the former. Yet

blind folded power hungry traitors like Gopal Singh Chawla, Ranjeet Singh, Lakhbir Singh, Wadhawa Singh Babbar, Paramjit Singh with few of their followers are trying to defy the bare fact of the history by using the bluestar operation misadventure for political purpose and by forgetting the supreme sacrifices made by Sikh Guru's fighting Mughal rulers for the protection of their religious rights.

Between the 7th and 11th centuries, Islamic armies conducted several campaigns into the Hindu-dominated Indian subcontinent, making conquests limited to present-day Pakistan and the Punjab. From the 12th through the 16th

century, however, Muslim conquests in the Indian subcontinent were more successful and saw the emergence of Islamic states over Hindu-majority populations. In the early 16th century, one such state was the Mughal Empire, founded by the successful king Babur in northern India. Meanwhile, in the later 15th century in the Punjab, Sikhism had been proclaimed by Guru Nanak as a new monotheistic religion that rejected both Hinduism and Islam, and rapidly gained followers. Perceiving the growth of the Sikhs as a threat, the Mughal authorities began to persecute them, and in 1606 Sikh leader Guru Arjan was executed by Mughal emperor Jahangir,

In October 2018, Gopal Singh Chawla, in a telephonic interview, had confessed to having knowledge of the role of Khalistanis in the killing of RSS leaders in Punjab. "The killing of the RSS leaders will continue in Punjab. RSS leaders are our very first target."

apparently for helping prince Khusrau. Sikhism split into two movements: one led by Guru Arjan's son Guru Hargobind began to regard Guru Arjan as a martyr, became more political and militaristic, and started organising armed rebellions against the Mughals; the other led by Guru Arjan's older brother Prithi Chand focused on peace and nonviolence, and rejected uprisings. The Sikhs first raised their weapons against the Mughal Empire under Guru Hargobind. The tenth and the last Guru, Guru Gobind Singh organized Sikhs into a military sect called Khalsa (means "pure"), in 1699, against the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb. Before his death in 1708, he sent Banda Bahadur to lead the Sikhs of Punjab. Banda Bahadur through his outstanding leadership skills weakened the Mughal grasp over the eastern Punjab. But he was later captured and beheaded in Delhi in 1716, during the reign of Farrukhsiyar. Thereafter, Sikhs became leaderless





and were divided into Misl. Although their martial skills were enormous, their political disunity made them vulnerable to foreign attacks. In 1738, Nadir Shah of Iran, attacked India, looted Delhi and Mughals were never able to recover their power in Punjab. Later, Punjab was subject to constant invasions of Ahmad Shah Durrani of Afghanistan, who upon hearing of the persecution of Muslims of Punjab by the invading Sikhs, took it as his duty to protect the Muslims. Abdali tried many times to recover Lahore but ultimately had to return to Pashtun territories. After his final invasion of Punjab in 1767, he left Lahore which was when it was re-captured by the Sikhs. For more than three decades, Sikhs consolidated their power in areas of Punjab. But the decisive moment came in 1790, when Ranjit Singh of Sukerchakia misl became misldar. He started uniting misls and finally took Lahore in 1799. His coronation on 12 April 1801 marked the beginning of the Sikh Empire, which went on to conquer the whole Punjab, Kangra, parts of Kashmir and briefly, the city of Peshawar.

The tenth and the last guru of Sikhs Guru Gobind Singh organised themselves in jathas, who would see their first battle in 1621. The tenth Sikh Guru is remembered as the spiritual master, warrior, poet and philosopher. When his father, Guru Tegh Bahadur, was beheaded for refusing to convert to Islam, Guru Gobind Singh was formally installed as the leader of the Sikhs at age nine, becoming the tenth Sikh Guru. His four sons died during his lifetime – two in battle, two executed by the Mughal army. Guru's mother Mata Gujri and his two younger sons were captured by Wazir Khan, the Muslim governor of Sirhind. His youngest sons, aged 5 and 8, were tortured and then executed by burying them alive into a wall after they refused to convert to Islam, and Mata Gujri collapsed on hearing her grandsons' death. Both his eldest sons, aged 13 and 17, also killed in the battle of December 1704 against the Mughal army. After several decades, small Sikh states known as misls combined to form the Sikh Confederacy in 1716, that jointly fought against Mughal power. In 1735, the jathas would be combined into a single army, the Dal Khalsa. Though successes varied, the Sikhs contributed to the decline of the Mughal Empire during the first half of the 18th century. By the 1750s, the neighbouring northwestern Islamic Durrani Empire and the southern Hindu Maratha Empire had all but

destroyed the Mughal Empire, which retained a small territory around Delhi. This is a glorious factual chapter of Sikh history that certain so called Sikhs are completely ignores to serve their vested interest.

Foolishly, ISI back Chawla and nine designated terrorists namely Ranjeet Singh Pakistan based Chief of terrorist organization, "Khalistan Zindabad Force", Lakhbir Singh Pakistan based Chief of terrorist organization "International Sikh Youth Federation", Wadhawa Singh Babbar Pakistan based Chief of terrorist organization "Babbar

The tenth and the last guru of Sikhs Guru Gobind Singh organised themselves in jathas, who would see their first battle in 1621. The tenth Sikh Guru is remembered as the spiritual master, warrior, poet and philosopher. When his father, Guru Tegh Bahadur, was beheaded for refusing to convert to Islam, Guru Gobind Singh was formally installed as the leader of the Sikhs at age nine, becoming the tenth Sikh Guru

Khalsa International", Paramjit Singh Pakistan based Chief of terrorist organization "Khalistan Commando Force", Gurmeet Singh Bagga Germany based key member of terrorist organisation "Khalistan Zindabad Force", Bhupinder Singh Bhinda Germany based key member of terrorist organization "Khalistan Zindabad Force", Gurpatwant Singh Pannun USA based key member of Unlawful Association, "Sikh for Justice", Paramjit Singh United Kingdom-based Chief of terrorist organization "Babbar Khalsa International", Hardeep Singh Nijjar Canada based Chief of "Khalistan



Tiger Force” have been declared terrorists under the provision of UAPA. All of them are blind folded to read the script written by Pakistan to use them for destabilizing India. Likewise the confused Sikh Diaspora is affluent and well accomplished in the academics yet some of the anti national community leaders are distorting the image of the community by their actions and ignoring the history of the great Khalsa Path. The tragedy of Sikhs is that they have not found a leader worthy of carrying forward the legacy of their illustrious Gurus since Maharaja Ranjit Singh The first work of Guru Nanak who is invariably referred to as the founder of Sikhism, maintained, propounded original teachings, established a new religion and gathered round himself a following drawn from both Hindu and Muslim. This continued for about a century till Guru Hargobind, the sixth guru whose period occupies most of the first half of seventeen century adopted the doctrine of ‘miri-piri’ and resorted to an arm rebellion against the attempts made by Mughals to interfere and curb the religious rights of Non Muslims in India. He accordingly responded to the Mughal threat of violent repression by arming his followers though nothing basic had, however, been changed. The tenth Guru Gobind Singh having observed the growing hostility of Mughal authorities reached a momentous decision to form a structured group of

fighters to be named as Khalsa having military discipline.

Indian leaders blame SFJ over alleged links to Pakistan

Both the Indian and Punjab governments oppose referendum calls, claiming that SFJ is being helped by Pakistan to undermine the unity of its longtime regional foe. India CDS and Ex Army Chief General Bipin Rawat referred to “external linkages” to “revive insurgency” in Punjab, as Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh linked SFJ with Pakistan’s intelligence agency ISI. The row has reached Canada, the US and the UK, where large Sikh communities live. The Indian intelligence agencies are on alert keening watching the overseas footprint of group of foreign aided vested interest to fuel the movement and create unrest in the border state of India. It is a shame that Pakistan society is damaging temples, Gurudawaras, Churches with impunity having full support of the establishment since it is a declared Islamic state yet traitors like Gopal Singh Chawla, Ranjeet Singh, Lakhbir Singh, Paramjit Singh are working against the overall interest of the Sikh community by collaborating with ISI and non state players to hurt the Indian interest. Surely, they have virtually no support in Indian state of Punjab or in India but certain section of western supported Sikh Diaspora are fueling the fire by

funding groups to weaken Indian state that is likely to be the most powerful nation in terms of military and economy in the next decade.

It is high time that his disgruntle group should shed the violence and anti India activities by collaborating with overseas vested interest groups and seek pardon from the mighty Indian state so that they can be integrated with the mainstream Sikh community of the country that remains the pride of the country. The illusion of Khalistan completely ignores the history and it misrepresents the larger interest of the Sikh community. The glorious sacrifice made by the Sikh community for their motherland is unparalleled in the recent past and contribution made the community in the nation building remains second to none. Lastly, India is considered by many as a soft state till the narrative is altered by the current government of Narendra Modi hence it is highly advisable for the traitors working against the interest of the country to be on guard because Doval’s offensive defensive strategy doctrine can really hurt them badly. As Prime Minister Modi and home Minister Amit Shah has indicated to all the disgruntle elements to shun the violence and talk to government to secure peace on all ends, this is the only option left now.

By Prashant Tewari Editor in Chief with Prakhar Misra Political Editor: Opinion Express.

SIKHS ARE THE UNBREAKABLE SHIELD OF INDIA

By Joginder (Jo) Singh Birring

India's Independence Day since 15th August 1947 has not freed Indian people completely from the western clutches who are often seen as full of greed. Even today we have many Indian supporting this western block that live overseas wishing to exploit homeland with their western warmonger associates. This classified segment of NRIs/ POIs Diaspora is a dangerous threat that needs urgent monitoring before India gets into bigger conflicts, communal riots and increased terrorism attacks by western block by adopting the old trusted policy

of 'Divide & Rule'. India and State of Punjab has suffered due to bad political decisions, bad policing, broken legal systems, lack of employment, lack of business trade, increased corruption, terrorism, religious discrimination, increased uncensored western influences via many Indian MSM News, movies, music and the increasing gap between the rich and poor in India. The addition of the man made Covid19 virus in India and the border clash with China has only increased more outside threats.

The present Indian government led by Narendra Modi and his BJP ministers have the perfect opportunity to peacefully unite strengthen India before

India is attacked and further weakened by its neighbours (Pakistan, China) and warmongering western countries who wish to use India to play the "Divide and Rule India" games against China and Pakistan. The state of Punjab and Sikhs is the only unbreakable shield of India, it is high time for the Indian government to give justice to the disgruntle part of the Sikh community within the laws of equal rights listen to the groups based in India (even when the west supports them) and amicably agrees so that India remains wholly peacefully united. The present youth living in Punjab want jobs, more business opportunities; want better health facilities, better



educational institutions, a corruption free Punjab police and more farming loan waivers assistance from the Indian Government. The state of Punjab requires more government funding than the state of Gujarat and state of Maharashtra. If India's northern land borders with Pakistan are breached by neighbouring countries (Pakistan and China), it will be the State of Punjab, Punjabis and Sikhs in Punjab that will suffer the most NOT Delhi, Gujarat or Maharashtra.

The World Homeland Security fully supports and encourages peace without bloodshed and without any discrimination first before resorting to merciless actions that top the threats posed against innocent people no matter which country, culture or religious beliefs one has. And it is for the sake of all innocent people; the self centric politicians start becoming and behaving more humane. The nepotism and corruption has given birth to active groups who are in many ways right in rebelling fighting against the unfair systems and simultaneously many political parties have countered this by creating their own groups which they discreetly fund to let them break country laws, fight their opponents, create communal riots and who in turn get them more votes at election time. The man-made Covid19 virus which is spreading in India and across the World will escalate more terror threats and increased crimes internally. The world is fully waking up in regards to India, Indian politics and its destruction of millions of people's peaceful lives because of religious beliefs pitted against each other in communal riots.

DENYING THE TRUTH DOES NOT CHANGE THE FACTS

The US Commission for International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) in its annual report said that Hindu nationalist groups and their sympathisers perpetrated numerous incidents of intimidation, harassment, and violence against religious minority. "National and state laws that restrict religious conversion, cow slaughter, and the foreign funding of nongovernmental organisations and a constitutional provision deeming Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains to be Hindus helped create the conditions enabling these violations," it said.

"While Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke publicly about the importance of communal tolerance and religious freedom, members of the ruling party have ties to Hindu nationalist groups implicated in religious freedom violations, used religiously divisive language to inflame tensions, and called for additional laws that would restrict religious freedom," it alleged. These issues, combined with longstanding problems of police and judicial bias and inadequacies, have created a "pervasive climate of impunity" in which religious minorities feel increasingly insecure and have no recourse when religiously motivated crimes occur. "Based on these concerns, in 2017 (and 2020) USCIRF again places India on its Tier 2, where it has been since 2009," it said.

The USCIRF urged the US government to integrate concern for religious freedom into bilateral contacts with India, including the framework of future Strategic Dialogues, at both the federal and provincial levels, and encourage the strengthening of the capacity of state and central police to implement effective measures to prohibit and punish cases of religious violence and to protect victims and witnesses. USCIRF report recom-





The World Homeland Security fully supports and encourages peace without bloodshed and without any discrimination first before resorting to merciless actions that top the threats posed against innocent people no matter which country, culture or religious beliefs one has.

The proposed state would consist of land that currently forms Punjab, India and Punjab, Pakistan, as well as other areas of both countries, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Sindh in Pakistan; and Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and parts of Jammu and Kashmir, and Rajasthan in India. Prime Minister of Pakistan Zulfikar Ali Bhutto of Pakistan, according to Jagjit Singh Chohan, had proposed to make Nankana Sahib (currently in Pakistan) the capital of Khalistan during his talks with Chohan following the conclusion of the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971.





mends the US government to urge the Indian government to publicly rebuke government officials and religious leaders who make derogatory statements about religious communities.

Khalistan Movement: Historical perspective & zero roadmap

The Khalistan movement is a Sikh separatist movement seeking to create a homeland for Sikhs by establishing a sovereign state, called Khalistan ('Land of the Khalsa'), in the Punjab region. The proposed state would consist of land that currently forms Punjab, India and Punjab, Pakistan, as well as other areas of both countries, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Sindh in Pakistan; and Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and parts of Jammu and Kashmir, and Rajasthan in India. Prime Minister of Pakistan Zulfikar Ali Bhutto of Pakistan, according to Jagjit Singh Chohan, had proposed to make Nankana Sahib (currently in Pakistan) the capital of Khalistan during his talks with Chohan following the conclusion of the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971.

The Khalistan movement was established in the wake of the fall of the British Empire. In 1940, the first explicit call for Khalistan was made in a pamphlet titled "Khalistan". With financial and political support of the Sikh diaspora, the movement flourished in the Indian state of Punjab—which has a Sikh-majority population. There is some support within India and the Sikh diaspora, with yearly demonstrations in protest of those killed during Operation Blue Star. Operation Blue Star was an Indian military operation carried out between 1 and 8 June 1984, ordered by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to remove militant religious leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and his armed militants from the buildings of the Harmandir Sahib complex in Amritsar, Punjab. Bhindranwale died and militants were removed from the temple complex. The military action in the temple complex was criticized by Sikhs worldwide who had interpreted it as an assault on Sikh religion. Four months after the operation, on 31 October 1984, Indira Gandhi was assassinated in vengeance by her two Sikh bodyguards, Satwant Singh and Beant Singh, who shot Indira Gandhi 33 times.

Public outcry over Gandhi's death led to the killings of Sikhs in the ensuing riots. Even the so-called Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan shamelessly was inciting violence, revenge and death against the Sikhs. In the aftermath of the riots, the government reported that 20,000 had fled the city; the People's Union for Civil Liberties reported "at least" 1,000 displaced persons. The most-affected regions were the Sikh neighbourhoods of Delhi. Human rights organisations and newspapers across India believed that

the massacre was organised. The collusion of political officials in the violence and judicial failure to penalise the perpetrators alienated Sikhs and increased support for the Khalistan movement. The Akal Takht, Sikhism's governing body, considers the killings genocide. In 2011, Human Rights Watch reported that the Government of India had "yet to prosecute those responsible for the mass killings". According to the 2011 WikiLeaks cable leaks, the United States was convinced of Indian National Congress' complicity in the riots and called it "opportunism" and "hatred" by the Congress government, of Sikhs. [Although the U.S. has not identified the riots as genocide, it acknowledged that "grave human rights violations" occurred. In 2011, a new group of mass graves was discovered in Haryana and Human Rights Watch reported that "widespread anti-Sikh attacks in Haryana were part of broader revenge attacks" in India. The Central Bureau of Investigation, the main Indian investigative agency, believes that the violence was organised with support from the Delhi police and some central-government officials. In early 2018, some militant groups were arrested by police in Punjab, India. Chief Minister of Punjab Amarinder Singh claimed that the recent extremism is backed by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and "Khalistani sympathisers" in Canada, USA, Italy, France, Germany and the UK. Many in the MSM Media news throughout the world have twisted and turned words to suit their narratives to brain wash messages to the public.

This was the case in regards to the Middle East and their freedom fighters who were (some still are) protecting their Country, their Communities and their cultures from/against the western invaders namely the USA, UK and The British created Illegal State of Israel (Created by stealing the land of the Peaceful Palestine People). The State of Punjab is a part of India, already it has suffered the "dividing state" land loss because of previous Indian governments and their lack of true justice decisions in the rightful favour of Punjabi Sikh people. If the Indian government of the past and present do not listen or abide by true International human rights law than the present Indian government should not be surprised by the blossoming of the Khalistan movement and groups who are galvanising support and unbiased justice from the Western World to give them the true justice they and Punjab Sikhs deserve. We at the WHS Group of Companies agree with this as long as it is peacefully resolved and solved without any more bloodshed so that the Sikh Punjabi and Punjab gets the justice they truly deserve and are entitled to. I, Joginder (Jo) Singh Birring will lead and attack without any mercy with my fearless forces and destroy anyone and anything that is Anti-Sikh, Anti-Punjab



and Anti-India. We support NO Politician, NO Political Party. The best of the west with the egoless east so that more peace prevails without any more bloodshed so that innocent children grow into more sane sensible adults taking care of this World without anymore wars or racial discrimination. The selfish politicians around the World come into power for 4-5 years and destroy the fabrics of peaceful peoples and their children's lives and unbiased justice filled societies. The blossoming of Khalistan Movement and groups is solely the responsibility of the previous Indian governments and Modi's BJP Government has a chance to peacefully and lawfully

solve this mess permanently.

A new hub: ITALY - KHALISTAN

In Italy Intel our WHS Group C8I IND Humint teams with trusted L.T.I (Local True Intelligence) Sources have confirmed the following: 'Khalistani' asylum seekers are reportedly arriving in hordes in Italy, claiming 'persecution by India'.

- Earlier, Sikhs would mainly come as economic migrants or to join their families already working and living in Italy.

- Our WHS Group C8I IND Local sources in Italy claim that since the last couple of months, a steady stream of Sikh asylum seekers have been arriving

every day at the local refugee centres. And all of them declare to be 'persecuted in India', and claim to be members of the 'Khalistan Movement'.

- Many Sikhs in Italy, for at least the past two years, have regularly been joining demonstrations organised by Pakistan in support of Kashmir, or simply against India, carrying placards with 'Khalistan Khalsa' written on them.

Naples, Italy: According to our WHS Group C8I IND Humint squad and local L.T.I (Local True Intelligence) Unit teams, since the last couple of months, a steady stream of Sikh asylum seeker has been arriving every day at the local offices. They arrive mainly by boat,



in most cases already carrying a petition written by a local lawyer. And all of them declare to be 'persecuted in India', being members of the 'Khalistan Movement'.

According to our same local L.T.I (Local True Intelligence) Unit team, it is a totally new phenomenon. Earlier, Sikhs would mainly come as economic migrants or to join their families already working and living in Italy. The stream of asylum seekers in the past few months is big enough to have been noticed by the people working every day at the refugee offices, and to puzzle them. There are no official data yet about the number of requests being actually ac-

cepted by the Italian authorities, but most likely, they will accept almost all requests – mainly because in Italy, the concept of 'Sikh militancy' is widely unknown.

Sikhs in Italy: A Traditionally Well-Integrated Group

In Italy, there are about 70,000 persons of Sikh religion, mainly coming from Indian Punjab: the biggest minority community in Europe after the Sikh group in the UK. They settled in Italy mostly during the '80s and '90s, when the lack of local workers for the agricultural and food sectors had deeply affected many local companies. The communities settled mainly in the Po Valley in

the North, and in the Agro Pontino area near Rome, soon becoming essential for the production and development of many 'Italian excellences', including the production of Parmesan cheese. Many representatives of the Sikh community, for at least the past two years, have regularly been joining demonstrations organised by Pakistan in support of Kashmir, or simply against India, carrying placards with 'Khalistan Khalsa' written on them. And members of Sikh organisations banned in India, like 'Sikhs for Justice', advocating a separatist referendum, are now very active in Italy.

REFERENDUM 2020: Myth or Substance?

A US-based group Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) has planned Referendum-2020 in support of a separate state of Khalistan, throwing the Indian establishment in panic. According to SFJ legal adviser Gurpatwant Singh Pannu, they will certainly build Khalistan. Reports have revealed that most gurdwaras in the US and Canada have started campaigns for the referendum. Pannu, as per the Indian media, says that the SFJ would hold an unofficial referendum in 2020 and would follow the matter after taking into account the response it gets. If required, the SFJ will seek the United Nation's intervention to help the community conduct a referendum for a separate Sikh state. "If Scotland can have a referendum to stay with Britain or not, why can't we have one for Punjab?" questions Pannu. Asked about the boundary of the separate state, he said it would be the present boundary of the state of Punjab in India. On the other hand, Dr Amarjit Singh, the president of the Khalistan Affairs Centre, wants the new state at all costs. He stated: "Why are we giving the option by way of a referendum? We need Khalistan because the Sikhs have been suffering since the rule of (Maharaja) Ranjit Singh (the last Sikh ruler) got over."

"The referendum asks Sikhs living across the world to build a consensus in favour of Khalistan and sign a declaration for the formation of a sovereign and independent country in India-occupied Punjab on the basis that Sikhs are the indigenous people of Punjab and have a historical homeland, are a separate religion and have the right to self-determination." The referendum also asks Sikhs to reject article 25(b)(2) of Constitution that says Sikhs are a part of the Hindu religion. The Indian security establishment is deeply worried as the Khalistan idea is generating deep in-



terest in East Punjab mostly inhabited by Sikhs. It believes there is a wave of radicalization among young Sikhs, who are moving towards another independence movement since 1984. The Indian security agencies have claimed of busting six Khalistan terror modules and arresting 23 terrorists with a small arsenal of weapons. They believe that the Khalistan movement was regenerated following the desecration of the Guru Granth Sahib in Faridkot's Bargari village on October 12, 2015. More than 150 such incidents of desecration of Guru Granth Sahib have occurred in East Punjab, deeply upsetting the population. The consequent protests and demonstrations have been poorly tackled by the police and agencies, increasing the chasm between the Sikhs and Indian state.

Other reasons why Sikhs support Khalistan is the Anand marriage act that is still not applied on Sikhs, who are still forced to marry under Hindu marriage act, Sikh political prisoners are not released even after they have completed their punishment and police injustice. The police are accused of killing hundreds of innocent Sikhs extrajudicially, whose mass graves were also found. It is also advocated that the majority Sikh state would foster Sikhism in a better manner.

our concerns. We have a right to ask for our rights to self-determination." The Indian government has been steadfast in its opposition to the creation of an independent Khalistan, and has been particularly vociferous in trying to curtail SFJ's activities. In early August, the country's minister of external affairs asked U.K. authorities to deny SFJ permission to hold a gathering in London's Trafalgar Square. The U.K. rebuffed the request, however, and SFJ held an Aug. 12 gathering in which it issued its so-called "London Declaration" demanding a Khalistan referendum.

The Indian Ministry of External Affairs described the campaign as "a separatist activity which impinges on India's territorial integrity" and "seeks to propagate violence, secessionism and hatred." Pannu urged Canadian political leaders to resist caving into any pressure from the Indian government to stifle the Khalistan movement. "The United Nations Covenant on Civil and Political Rights gives all people the right to self-determination. The Canadians have given that right openly to the Quebecois, the British have given it to the Scottish," he said. "They should not [compromise] their principles and human rights values because they're afraid of economic sanctions if they stand with the Sikh community or go

Opinion Express News has reached out to Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer and NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh to request comment on how they would handle the matter if they find themselves in the prime minister's seat come 2020. Gurpatwant Singh Pannu, SFJ's legal adviser, said his group is indifferent to how the Canadian and Indian governments view the referendum. "We're not asking any political party or any Member of Parliament for their support, "This referendum is not for the political leaders, this is for the Punjabi community. "The [Indian Prime Minister] Narendra Modi government or the Canadian government can agree or not, but we have a right to voice

against the wishes of the Indian government that's how India pushed Trudeau by saying that Canada will lose economically if they support the referendum campaign." Pannun said the Khalistan campaign is justified because it seeks simply to re-establish a state that existed from 1799 to 1849, when it was annexed by the British.

The Punjabi Sikhs have always fought, died and lived for truths so for them these wise words flow in their bloodstreams for generations. The present Indian government should lawfully peacefully and truthfully solve the local Punjab issues. A more united people of India will raise the flag of India with more peaceful pride across the World. We can only express, serve and deliver our best to peaceful innocent people irrespective of one's country culture or religious beliefs as the true universal forces bless and guide us forward. We only lose 100% when we stop breathing, however our wise words, breaths of peaceful true life and fearless fighting warrior ways still will be in the air of this World and will be understood/read and breathed by good people who believe as well as treasure Humanity which they will pass on to their innocent children, the next generation on this Earth. It is a utter shame that human beings of today have lost touch with the teachings of peaceful sages, spiritual leaders and the great true teachings of essence of peace love life and the planet. The Sikhs have always fought, died and lived for truths so for them these wise words flow in their bloodstreams for generations. India united peacefully is the only path forward if India is to survive in 21st century without being invaded or destroyed by the western funded enemies "Trojan horse" groups in India that we at The WHS Group of Companies know of which are supported by the NRIs/POIs individuals and their western based companies operating in India.

The Punjabi Sikhs are Fearless Lions, Peaceful Warriors and Firm Believers in the Guru Granth Sahib. They believe in and live by the peaceful wise words of Guru Nanak Dev Ji - "Before becoming a Muslim, a Sikh, a Hindu or a Christian let's become a Human first". It is not hard to make a decision when you know what your "True" Values are!!

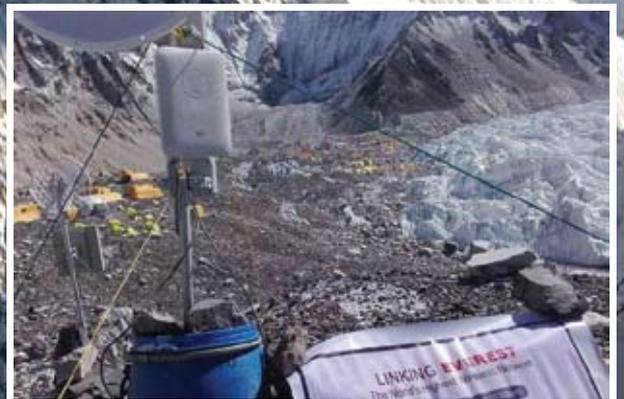
***The Global Chairman Group
President of The World Homeland Security/Smartechno Group of Companies. www.worldhomelandsecurity.one***



World, we have you covered—
from home base to base camp.

Cambium Networks is the only company that
provides a complete wireless fabric technology solution
for Enterprise, IoT and Community Networks.

CambiumNetworks.com



Highest Hotspot on Earth

Cambium e500 serving 900 climbers
and 1500 support staffs.

No Sikh will want lawlessness in Punjab

Sikh community yet to have a true leader after Ranjit Singh

Lord Ranger CBE



The tragedy of Sikhs is that they have not found a leader worthy of carrying forward the legacy of their illustrious Gurus since Maharaja Ranjit Singh. We are still trying to get over the fall-out from the lack of vision and leadership of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, now another “visionary”, Gurbhag Singh Pannu, has appeared from America. He now wishes to lead the Sikhs by carrying forward the legacy of Bhindranwale. No one has divided Sikhs more than Bhindranwale and also poisoned the minds of our youth who have limited understanding of our faith and history but feel angry due to the attack on the Golden Temple. Sadly, the attack led to the assassination of the then Prime Minister of India, Mrs Indira Gandhi and her death followed anti-Sikhs riots in India. Thousand innocent Sikhs were massacred in the communal riots. It is unfortunate that a so-called ‘Saint’ a man of peace and harmony could inflict massive damage to the image of Sikhs in India by considering himself to be over and above the rule of law.

Ironically, Mr Pannu, unlike Bhindranwale, carries an American Passport and Citizenship, and yet he feels for the Sikhs of Punjab. Should he not come to Punjab and lead the Sikhs personally as our Gurus did when they were fighting against the tyranny of Mughals? I am sure he will find out that the Sikhs of Punjab do not have the appetite to once again bring lawlessness into Punjab. They are still suffering the consequence

of an unelected, self-appointed leader who claimed to get the Sikhs more rights than the elected Chief Minister of Punjab and what Sikhs were entitled to in a secular and democratic country, India.

Mr Pannu’s vision is to go against that of the Sikh Gurus by contradicting their philosophy. Where the Sikh Gurus believed in the oneness of the human race, Mr Pannu believes that the Sikhs are a different race and also have a different DNA to that of the rest of Indians. Sikh Gurus dedicated their lives and paid supreme sacrifices to unite us with

others. We all know the death and destruction that this caused in the country where people once lived side by side in perfect harmony regardless of religion. They had shared history, heritage, folklore, food, language etc. The same people have become arch enemies and have had four bloody wars since their division with further loss of precious lives. Who knows if the area becomes a nuclear flashpoint someday such is the hatred that religious disharmony can cause.

Our illustrious father Shaheed Nanak Singh www.shaheednanaksingh.com

Mr Pannu’s vision is to go against that of the Sikh Gurus by contradicting their philosophy. Where the Sikh Gurus believed in the oneness of the human race, Mr Pannu believes that the Sikhs are a different race and also have a different DNA to that of the rest of Indians. Sikh Gurus dedicated their lives and paid supreme sacrifices to unite us with the rest of humankind, there Mr Pannu is trying to divide us by paddling hatred against non-Sikhs of Punjab. Sikh Gurus gave us a faith which is based on interfaith teachings to demonstrate that we are all equal.

the rest of humankind, there Mr Pannu is trying to divide us by paddling hatred against non-Sikhs of Punjab. Sikh Gurus gave us a faith which is based on interfaith teachings to demonstrate that we are all equal. Mr Pannu’s ideology is to deny non Sikhs of Punjab equality by proclaiming that Punjab only belongs to the Sikhs. In other words, he wishes to repeat what the Muslims of India did in 1947 by declaring Hindus, Sikhs and Christians second class in the country of their birth and that of their forefa-

com was a visionary and could foretell the consequences of religious disharmony. He pleaded with the then Muslim leaders not to cut and run and fall for the British policy of ‘Divide & Rule’. He said that after independence, India would be a secular and democratic country with one person one vote, and as a result, together we would make our destiny. He further warned that a country created artificially with the help of bloodshed would continue to generate more hatred for its very survival. In the

words of our father, “India’s diversity is like the colours of a rainbow, its charm will diminish if one is removed”.

Mr Pannu does not believe in learning from history and would like to repeat the mistakes of the past. He seems content to see the death and destruction of 1947 happen once again in Punjab and Sikhs massacred outside Punjab just as we witnessed in 1984. He also does not seem to care what happens to the Sikh holy shrines outside Punjab as, according to him, the Sikhs should be confined to Punjab only. Does he think there will be no reaction in the rest of India against the poisonous ideology of the Khalistanis in Punjab?

It is worth remembering that the Sikh Gurus never stood for any single community not even for the Sikhs as Mr Pannu does. The Sikh Gurus always stood for humanity and as a result, are revered by the people of every faith. Guru TegBhadur Ji paid the ultimate sacrifice to uphold the religious freedom of Hindus in India, and Guru Gobind Singh Ji established the Brotherhood of Khalsa to defend the religious freedom of every Indian. According to Guru Gobind Singh Ji, “diversity must be accepted, respected and if need be,

defended”.

Mr Pannu believes in destroying the diversity of Punjab by making Sikhs superior to the rest of the Punjabis just because they follow a different faith. He will one day advocate the removal of teachings from the Granth Sahib of non-Sikhs to make it written by only the Sikhs. He cannot imagine how people abandoned Pakistan when the majority population of Muslims made them second class to Muslims. People left their every possession to move to India, where the constitution gave them equality. Mr Pannu thinks no Hindu in business or Industry will leave Punjab when he arrives with his team of lacklustre Sikhs to proclaim Khalistan and to make them inferior. Once there is an exodus of people leaving Punjab for Rajasthan, Haryana or UP, then what will remain in Punjab? Sikhs will be treated as second class in the rest of India, the very country their Gurus and followers help to preserve as we see it today. I hate to imagine if Sikhs are thrown out of the rest of India, how Mr Pannu and his gang will accommodate displaced Sikhs in Punjab and provide them suitable jobs. How will he be able to look after the Sikhs from the Indian Army,

Air Force, Navy, Police, etc.?

I can guarantee that Mr Pannu can expect to be arrested the minute he lands in India. Instead of ruling Khalistan, he will end up spending the rest of his life in a prison somewhere in India. He will be lynched by the Sikhs who are suffering because of his anti-India rhetoric. As they say, “common sense is not so common”, and Mr Pannu certainly has no common sense to realise that he has become a foolish friend of the Sikhs; a friend we rather not have. He does not appreciate how less than 2% of Sikhs have given India, with a population of over a billion, a President, Prime Minister, Army, Air Force and Navy Chiefs; how Sikhs have businesses across India and how Sikh farmers are in UP, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Haryana and Rajasthan and how Sikhs have transport and freight businesses across India.

I hope and pray that a good sense will prevail and Mr Pannu apologises to the Sikh Gurus for embarrassing them along with their followers for pursuing an agenda alien to them.

(Writer is chairman of The British Sikh Associations)
www.britishsikhassociation.org



Captain Amarinder Singh dares SFJ's Pannu to come to Punjab

Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh appealed to youngsters not to get swayed by the vicious propaganda of anti-India elements like terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannu and his Sikhs for Justice (SFJ). "You try to come to Punjab and I will teach you a lesson," The Chief Minister urged all youngsters to not pay any heed to Pannu. "Some get emotionally swayed by such vicious propaganda," he cautioned. Reacting to Pannu's call for raising black flags to mark India's Independence Day, the Chief Minister said the Punjabis in India were prosperous people and were not interested in indulging in such acts at the behest of someone sitting in Canada or America. "Why should they (the people of Pun-



jab) do it, if you have the guts you come and do it," he dared Pannu, adding that if the SFJ leader wanted he could make his Khalistan at the place where he was hiding out. "Pannu does not even look like a Punjabi, and does all this only for extracting money," he warned youth.

Congratulating the people on the eve of Independence Day, Captain Amarinder said the unparalleled sacrifice and valour of Punjabis and Sikhs was acknowledged by the whole world. The tales of their bravery could be found everywhere, he said, adding that the Andaman Islands' 'Kaala Pani' was replete with their examples, and the Jallianwala Bagh massacre also bore testimony to the sacrifice of Punjabis. Nobody knows how many people died at Jallianwala Bagh, he said, adding that there was need to ascertain the number.

After Independence too, Punjabis have always led from the front in all the wars fought by India, be it 1962, 1965, Bangladesh war, or Kargil or even the recent skirmishes with China, Captain Amarinder said, recalling that Punjab's brave son from Mansa Gurtej, of 3 Punjab, was brutally attacked but he took down 12 Chinese before making the supreme sacrifice. There is no region or state in the country where Punjabis have not excelled, be it industry, agriculture or services, said the Chief Minister.

Bitta deplore Pannu for defaming Sikh community

Politician and chairman of All India Anti-Terrorist Front (AIATF), MS Bitta has come down heavily on the legal advisor of Sikhs for Justice (SJF), Gurpatwant Singh Pannu, alleging him for bringing disgrace to the Sikhs. US-based Pannu, who runs a pro-Khalistan campaign called 'Referendum 2020', is engaged in radicalizing, funding and motivating gullible youths of Punjab into committing acts of arson and violence. He is alleged to be backed by Pakistan's spy agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

Bitta accused Pannu of collecting funds at the behest of Islamabad and using it for spreading venom amongst the Sikh Diaspora. He, however, said that all of their anti-India agenda



had suffered a massive failure. "They could not manage to gather even a thousand people (at Trafalgar Square) while I demonstrated outside their embassy with 12,000-13,000 Sikh youths. I dare you to come to India. You are an ISI agent collecting fund from them. He is misleading innocent people there. People like him are bringing disgrace to Sikhs across the world," he said. On being asked about Pakistan's agenda on Kartarpur corridor, Bitta said that Islamabad cannot indoctrinate loyal Sikhs of Punjab and no pure devout can be lured into its sinister designs. "If you are sincerely devoted to Guru Kartarpur, then you will never get enticed by Pakistan and the pro-Khalistan leaders and will never provoke the people of Punjab. You will never betray your devotion towards the Guru," he remarked. "There are no Khalistanis in Pakistan but they are the agents of ISI. Today, Punjab is in a very good state. There are no signs of disturbance in the state. Punjab police have been phenomenal in their work. There are no elements of terrorism," Bitta stressed. Pakistan-sponsored militancy in the late 1980s and early 1990s claimed hundreds of innocent lives in Punjab. However, extraordinary efforts of government and security forces succeeded in restoring peace in the state. Since then, it is on the path of development and has become one of the most prosperous states of India.

Report filed OECCL News Services



Rajapaksa is Commander in Chief of Sri Lanka

To describe Sri Lanka as Sri Rajapaksa may be just apt for the leader who changed the destiny of the island country.

There are few international leaders in contemporary global polity that have successfully changed the war torn country in a vibrant progressive democracy in their life time. The charismatic leader accelerated the pace of development of the island country by pushing various infrastructure projects that transformed the growth rate and GDP of the country from 2009 onwards. Mahinda Rajapaksa, served as the sixth President of Sri Lanka from 19 November 2005 to 9 January 2015. A learned lawyer by profession, Rajapaksa was first elected to the Parliament of Sri Lanka in 1970, and he served as prime minister from 6 April 2004 until his victory in the 2005 presidential election. He was sworn in for his first six-year term as president on 19 November 2005. He was re-elected for a second term on 27 January 2010. However due to international and domestic reasons, he was defeated in his bid for a third term in the 2015 presidential election by Maithripala Sirisena and left office on 9 January 2015. Several months after leaving office, Rajapaksa unsuccessfully sought to become prime minister in the 2015 parliamentary election, where the United People's Freedom Alliance was defeated. He was, however, elected as Member of Parliament for Kurunegala District. On 5 August 2020, the Rajapaksa brothers emerged as the island nation's most powerful duo, making Sri Lanka a "one-family state". Sri Lanka People's Front, the party led by the Rajapaksa brothers, won 145 seats in the 225-member parliament in the election. The victory brought the Rajapaksa brothers very close to the two-thirds majority required to make constitutional changes that could strengthen dynastic rule in the country. Mahinda Rajapaksa is presently serving as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.

After becoming Prime Minister of Sri Lanka for the fourth time, Mahinda Rajapaksa has focus on the 2015 con-

stitutional amendment that made the prime minister of Sri Lanka more powerful than the president. Rajapaksa reshuffled the cabinet tightening his grip over the small nation, PM Mahinda Rajapaksa, 75, brought two relatives to the Sri Lankan Cabinet, which means there are four Rajapaksas in the 26-member Cabinet now. Mahinda will be in-charge of the Ministries of Finance, Urban Development and Buddhist Affairs, Gotabaya will retain the portfolio of Defence Minister. Additionally, eldest brother Chamal Rajapaksa has

The most challenging phase of Mahinda Rajapaksa's political career has arrived after he took the Prime Minister of the country. After all, it was PM Rajapaksa who, as Sri Lanka's president, began to obtain heavy loans from China, paving the way for Beijing to take control of the strategic Hambantota Port in December 2018 by then Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe.

been named the Irrigation Minister and Mahinda scion Namal Rajapaksa is the new Youth and Sports Minister.

The most challenging phase of Mahinda Rajapaksa's political career has arrived after he took the Prime Minister of the country. After all, it was PM Rajapaksa who, as Sri Lanka's president, began to obtain heavy loans from China, paving the way for Beijing to take control of the strategic Hambantota Port in



December 2018 by then Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe. Unable to pay off the debt to the Chinese, the previous Sri Lankan government handed over the Hambantota Port on a 99-year lease in lieu of about \$1.1 billion, keeping at stake the country's sovereignty. The fiscal challenges will test the political skills and experience of newly elected Prime

Minister in the coming days.

Historical prospective: Rajapaksa political skills, diplomacy, will power and military acumen were tested by the most horrific ethnic conflict that his country had witnessed. Although styling himself as a man of peace and a willing negotiator, Rajapaksa signaled his intention to end the peace process

once in power by forging an alliance with the Sinhalese nationalist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna and the Jathika Hela Urumaya. The JVP had opposed the original 2002 peace process as treasonous. The agreement made with Rajapaksa included provisions which called for a revision of the ceasefire agreement to give the military broader powers



against the LTTE, as well as ruling out of any devolution of power to the Tamil people.

Immediately following his election victory, a series of mine blasts blamed on the LTTE in the country claimed the lives of many off-duty servicemen and civilians, pushing the country back to the brink of war. Following the closure by the LTTE of a reservoir supplying water to 15,000 people named “Mavil Aru” in government controlled areas on 21 July 2006, the Sri Lankan military launched an offensive against the LTTE, bringing the entire reservoir under government control. Further military engagements have led to the LTTE been driven out of the entire Eastern Province of Sri Lanka and loss of 95% of the territory they controlled. The Sri Lanka government declared total victory on 18 May 2009. On 19 May 2009 President Mahinda Rajapaksa delivered a victory address to the Parliament and declared that Sri Lanka is liberated from terrorism. It was a near miracle achieved by the Rajapaksa led team and instantly he became national hero and darling of the masses in Sri Lanka.

His presidency after ending the Civil war in 2009 is known for the initiating the large scale infrastructure projects. Sri Lanka also made it into the “high” category of the Human Development Index during this time. Initiating, completing and development of many Highways, Roads, Colombo beautification project, rural infrastructure development projects are some several major projects. However the roadways are known for extremely high costs and are suspected of corruption and the large amount of Chinese loans tripled the country’s foreign debt and created an economic crisis. But Rajapaksa claimed that under him Sri Lanka started to experience a rapid economic growth and the GDP growth rate reached over 7%. However this has been disputed and after his fall the successor government revealed that GDP growth was inflated by using the year 2002 as the base year; which is usually revised once in five years. GDP growth for 2013 and 2014 which was 7.2% and 7.4% using 2002 as base year was reduced to 3.4 and 4.5 percent respectively.

Capitalising on the end of the Sri Lankan Civil War in May 2009 and coming off an election win in January 2010 and with the near-collapse of the opposition United National Party, President Mahinda Rajapaksa rallied more than the two-thirds majority in Parliament necessary to pass an amendment to the constitution removing presidential term limits. On the 9th September 2010 the Parliament passed the amendment to remove presidential term limits from the Constitution. This amendment allowed Rajapaksa to run for a third term and cement his grip on power. The move came just a day after the Supreme Court ruled that a referendum was not required to make the change. The amendment had even more even more far-reaching consequences than just term limits, including provi-

sions that increased the president’s power to act without oversight removing an independent advisory council that the president currently must consult before appointing people to important nonpartisan posts, like Supreme Court judges and members of the human rights and electoral commissions. A Parliamentary Council without veto power and with only two opposition members was created in its place.

The domestic politics of India in Tamil Nadu has compelled India to take an arm distance approach with Rajapaksa that forced Rajapaksa to tilt towards China during his second term of Presidency. In fact, Sri Lanka government did offer preferential infra projects to India but it received lukewarm response from the Indian side. It was alleged that President Rajapaksa, during the 2015 presidential campaign and elections received large payments from the Chinese port construction fund that flowed directly into campaign aides and activities. The perception was created that Rajapaksa had agreed to Chinese terms and was seen as an important ally in China’s efforts to tilt influence away from India in South Asia. It is after his unsuccessful bid for presidency in 2015: Rajapaksa adopted a more anti-China policy opposing major development projects such as the Southern Economic Development Zone in which China planned to invest over 5 billion USD. During the opening ceremony protesters led by Joint opposition MPs ignored a court order banning protests in the area violently opposed the projects at the event in which the Chinese envoy claimed that China will ignore “Negative forces”.

But the road to recovery for Rajaspksa has started with his proxy Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna won a landslide victory in the 2018 local authority elections. They were able to secure staggering 239 Local Government bodies out of 340. The SLPP have called for the resignation of the government and for fresh general elections to be held. Mahnida Rajaspaska has realized that his Chinese misadventure was the principle cause of electoral debacle and he is gradually tilting towards India for subsequent political line up. The people of Sri Lanka have realized that without Rajaspaska in power, the prestige and economic development of the country is not possible. And finally in 2019-20: the son of soil has secured the victory that brought the Rajapaksa brothers very close to the two-thirds majority required to make constitutional changes that could strengthen dynastic rule in the country has secured power to serve his countrymen. Activists, already alarmed by the diminishing space for dissent and criticism in the island nation, fear such a move could lead to authoritarianism.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the first foreign leader to call his Sri Lankan counterpart Mahinda Rajapaksa, followed by Dr Subramaniam Swamy and host of world leaders and statesmen.





Q. H.E. Your election for a second term of office in the Presidential Election, held on January 26, 2010, saw the Sri Lankan electorate freely participating in elections after more than two decades of turbulence of unrest and war; you are termed as the messiah who liberated the country from the terrorism of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), and set the country on the path to peace, stronger democracy and rapid economic development. There is no leader worshiped by native population more than you in the recent past, but what went wrong in 2015?

A. It was an international conspiracy against my government that was successfully implemented by certain political opponents to capture the power in 2015. I will not reveal the name of the countries involved but I will be cautious in the future. The opponents have successfully alienated minority community from SLFP to facilitate consolidation against us. However, everyone has realized the bad governance of the current government and the gimmicks played by them. I am sure the trends of the local elections clearly indicate that SLFP is on its way back to power in the next general elections.

Q. H.E. The rare criticism that can be made out of your political career is that you promoted nepotism, appointing three brothers to run important ministries and other political positions for relatives, regardless of their merit. Your brother Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, who was given the post of Defence Secretary, he controlled the armed forces, the police and the Coast Guard and immigration and emigration. You appointed your brother Basil Rajapaksa as minister of Economic Development. Your oldest brother, Chalmal Rajapaksa, was appointed the Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka from 2010 to 2015, and has held many other posts before. Others includes nephew, Shashindra Rajapaksa, who served as the Chief Minister of Uva from 2009 to 2015. Some of his cousins were given ambassadorial positions: Jaliya Wickramasuriya was appointed as Sri Lanka's ambassador to the United States, as well as Udayanga Weeratunga, who was

appointed the ambassador to Russia. Daily Telegraph UK has published a story 'Sri Lanka: a country ruled as a family business by four brothers', how you react to it?

A. I think the narrative build is completely false, all of the above are elected by popular votes is their respective constituencies and all of them have won the elections by largest margins in various elections. Surely if the people like them, how can they be ignored? However, I had appointed Gotabhaya Rajapaksa by executive order because I thought he was the right person to deliver what we wanted at that time. And my stand is vindicated when he displayed tremendous skills to eliminate terrorism during our arm struggle against LTTE.

Q. H.E. You won the Presidency of Sri Lanka on a wide-ranging policy, which was largely people-oriented and was laid out in the "Mahinda Chinthana" – The Con-

Q&A

cepts of Mahinda – which promised, among others, the defeat of terrorism and the advance of democracy. It also offered social democratic approaches to economic and social issues, the continuance of social welfare policies such as free education and free health, an end to privatisation of the State sector, a huge commitment to infrastructure development, strengthening of the rural sector of the economy, protection of the environment and the upholding of traditional values such as the humane treatment of animals. You almost achieved every promise made to the people, how satisfying has been your experience of governance?

A. Mahinda Chinthana means good governance for all. We have drafted it to incorporate desire of every section of the society in the political mainstream so that nobody is left unattended. Our concept is rooted in the soil, the governance that springs from the bottom of pyramid. Yes, we have achieved most of our promises but we have to travel miles ahead to fulfill aspiration of our native people.

Q. H.E. You went through a most trying period during the first

five months of your Presidency, from barely two weeks after his election, with the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) launching attacks on the security forces and civilians. From early December 2005 until mid-April 2006, you showed considerable patience and forbearance, for which you won international admiration, in the face of provocative violence by the LTTE that killed nearly 600 people. You allowed limited attacks on LTTE positions only after it carried out a failed suicide-bomb attack to assassinate the Army Commander in April 2006. You demonstrated commitment to peace and negotiation by re-opening talks with the LTTE, which it had unilaterally walked away from in April 2003. But the LTTE did not reciprocate your moves for peace. How difficult it was to push for the military offence knowing the importance to defeat of the LTTE and its terrorism, taking firm stand against western powers and international institutions that pressured you to have a ceasefire with the LTTE during the last stages of the battle. You rejected those pressures as interference in the sovereignty of Sri Lanka, and was not swayed by threats of economic and other reprisals by western forces that were supportive of pro-LTTE expatriate Sri Lankans in those countries? Please narrate the experience of dealing with international community in emergency situation so that many countries battling terror can be inspired by your story?

A. To be honest, we knew that to wipe out terror will take tremendous pain and stress for us but we wanted to live in peace permanently. The main issue was India because Tamil Nadu is an important state for India and the sentiments were flared up by certain vested interest against the probable action. We created TRIOKA plan wherein three high officials of each side were deputed for regular exchange of information to facilitate proper coordination. And it worked because it removed the chances of any wrong information dissemination on either side. Finally we offered the peace option to LTTE or face a war and they opted for the later. We did face tremendous pressure from all UN organizations, certain pockets of Tamil influence countries and local pressures but



Hon'ble Prime Minister of Sri Lanka H.E. Mahinda Rajapaksa with Opinion Express Editor in Chief Prashant Tewari

you, then anything is possible in democracy. We invested over billion dollars in the northern part of the country to build infrastructure and better living conditions for our countrymen so their love and affection was reciprocated in my next presidential elections of 2010 that I won by huge margins.

Q. H.E. At the young age of just 24, you were elected to Parliament as an SLFP member from the Beliatta electorate in 1970. Even after five decades, your political journey continues unabated. Off course, it has taken many decades of service to the

we were resolute to solve the terror issue permanently. Many European countries and their leaders visited our country to mediate in between the war but I have made it a point to stick to my original decision of wiping out terror from the soil of Sri Lanka. Today, we are one of the most peaceful democratic country in the world and I can take immense proud to say that I was always right in the conflict that was forced on us by LTTE.

Q.H.E. You are one of the few exceptional leaders in the modern era who have successfully transformed a war torn country in a vibrant democracy in his life time. Speedy action was taken to restore democracy to the region with the holding of local Government elections there and elections to the first Eastern Provincial Council, all within one year of clearing the region of terrorism. The Provincial Council elections saw the emergence of a former child soldier of the LTTE, Mr. Sivanesathurai Chandrakanthan, as the Chief Minister of the Province. The process of democratization was further enhanced when the former leader of the break-away group from the LTTE, Mr. Vinayagamoorthi Muralitharan, whose nom-de-guerre was Karuna Amman, was sworn in as the Minister for National Integration and

Reconciliation. The remarkable transition from a war torn country to a peaceful nation was achieved by you within no time, we have seen many Middle East countries going through the similar trauma but ended up as a failed state after the war but Sri Lanka and Rajapaksa did impossible, we would be keen to know – how?

A. Thanks for informing me about this remarkable fact of history that even I have not realized during my fight with terror. It is now after taking to you I do agree with the fact that entire effort by me and my team was exceptional. We have taken huge risks in the process like releasing twelve thousand prisoners in 2009 immediately after the war was over. It could have gone wrong but we fought the war with humanitarian approach. We realized that the people fighting are misguided by vested interests and they are our own people. The entire war was fought keeping our country's interest first. The Defence forces of the country must be commended for the most remarkable job done in the recent war history anywhere in the world. They cleaned up the land mines in the north within one year after the war was over to facilitate immediate popular election process in the entire country. This brought confidence in the native population that we are humanitarian in approach and beliefs in rule of law. And if you have people confidence with

people, demonstrating an unfailing loyalty to your political party and leadership, and boldly facing the rough and tumble of politics. Today when you look back to the history, you are satisfied with the efforts put up by you to serve your country or there are some unfulfilled dreams left?

A. Yes, till 2015; the direction of the country and the pace of development were fantastic but I was forced out of the office due to international conspiracy. I want to bring the country back on track so that people of my country can live in peace and prosperity.

Q. How do you see the present state of India Sri-Lanka relationship?

A. All is good but we have to strength it further. We have to continue the dialogue with Indian government on regular basis on economic, fisheries, free trade agreements etc for build more focused mutual relationship. I appreciate the efforts made in individual capacity by Dr Subramaniam Swamy to improve the bilateral relation between the two friendly countries. The effort must be made from both G2G and P2P level in consolidating the relationship.

From – Prashant Tewari for Opinion Express & The Pioneer: prashanttewari@opinionexpress.in * This interview is from our achieve store.

CHINA FACES AN UNPARALLELED GLOBAL SETBACK

With Covid-19 infecting millions worldwide, China is faced with an unprecedented global backlash that could destabilize its reign as the factory of choice for the world. Its neighbor India has felt a chance and is keen to make inroads into a vacuum that China expects will vacate sooner rather than later.

In a recent interview, Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari said that China's weakening global position is a "blessing in disguise" for India to draw further investment. Uttar Pradesh's northern province, which has a population of Brazil's size, is now developing an economic task force to lure businesses willing to leave China. India is also planning a pool of land twice Luxembourg's size to sell companies that want to move production out of China, approaching 1,000 American multinationals, Bloomberg said.

"This outreach has been an ongoing operation," Deepak Bagla, Invest India chief executive, the BBC's national investment promotion agency, told the government. "For many of those firms, Covid would only accelerate the cycle of de-risking from China."

The U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC), a influential advocacy organization seeking to improve investment flows between India and the U.S., has said India has stepped up its pitch considerably. "We see India prioritizing efforts to draw supply chains, both at the central and state levels of government," Nisha Biswal, USIBC President and former US Department of State Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asia, told the BBC.

"Companies that already have some manufacturing in India could be earlier movers in the reduction of output in Chinese plants and the rise in demand in India." But we are still at an assessment stage and it is unlikely that decisions will be taken in haste, she said.

In an environment where global

balance sheets are fractured, it's easier said than done to relocate entire supply chains. "Because of the pandemic, many of these companies face severe cash and capital constraints, and will therefore be very cautious before making swift moves," said independent economist Rupa Subramanya.

According to Rahul Jacob, a longtime China watcher and former head of the Hong Kong Financial Times office, the Indian government setting up land banks is a step in the right direction, but it is unlikely that large corporations will move their operations only because land is made available. "Production lines and supply chains are much more

complex than most people tend to realize, and tearing them apart overnight is very hard," he said.

"China offers integrated infrastructure such as large ports and highways, high-quality labor and sophisticated logistics, all of which are critical factors in meeting the stringent deadlines operated by international companies." India matches the integrated capacities of China's infrastructure? For large multinationals, another reason India may not be the obvious option is because it is not well integrated with major global supply chains.

Last year, after seven years of negotiation, Delhi pulled out of a key mul-



tilateral trade deal with 12 other Asian nations, collectively known as the Global Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). Such decisions make it difficult for Indian exporters to benefit from tariff-free access to the destination markets or offer their trading partners reciprocity.

“Why would I make something I would like to sell to Singapore in India? Institutionally connecting in trade agreements is as important as offering competitive prices,” Parag Khanna, author of *The Future is Asian*, told the BBC.

He believes that regional integration is especially important, as global trade continues to adopt the “sale where you make” paradigm in which businesses are called “near-source” rather than out-source manufacturing, and bring it closer to demand. The unpredictable relationship between India and foreign direct investment (FDI) and inconsistent regulation is also something that continues to worry global firms.

The fear is that India has used the pandemic to build protectionist walls around itself, from banning e-commerce companies from selling non-

essential items and tweaking FDI rules to disallow easier flows of capital from neighboring countries. In a recent address to the country, Indian Premier Narendra Modi made his rallying cry “to be vocal for the local.” Moreover, new policy plans have increased rates for international companies that bid for Indian contracts.

“The more that India can strengthen regulatory stability, the better its chances of persuading more global companies to create hubs in India,” Mr Biswal says. And who else, If not India? Vietnam, Bangladesh, South Korea and Taiwan tend to be favorites to benefit from the backlash against China as things stand.

According to Mr Jacob, the latter two at the “high-tech end of the spectrum” and Vietnam and Bangladesh at the bottom have blamed China for not doing enough to stop coronavirus spread. Owing to rising labor and environmental costs, multinationals started transferring production from China to these countries almost a decade ago.

The slow migration has only gathered speed in recent years as trade tensions between the US and China has increased. U.S. imports of goods from

Vietnam have increased by more than 50 per cent since June 2018, a month before the trade war started, and those from Taiwan by 30 per cent, according to South China Morning Post newspaper estimates.

India is seen as losing out because it failed to establish conditions that would allow multinationals not only to supply the local market, but also to use the country as a production base for exporting to the world. Several states have started to make moves in recent weeks to address some concerns about the ease of doing business-among them making contentious changes to the archaic labor laws of India, put in place to reduce exploitation.

For example, the states of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have abolished substantial labor protections that exempt factories from even maintaining basic standards such as cleanliness, ventilation, lighting and toilets. The aim is to improve the environment of investment and to attract global capital. Yet these decisions may be harmful and harm rather than support, says Mr Jacob: “International companies would be very wary about this. They have strict codes of conduct on labour, environment and safety standards for suppliers.”

A turning point was the collapse of the garment factory Rana Plaza in Bangladesh in 2013 which supplied retailers including Walmart. He cautions that it forced Bangladesh to dramatically upgrade factory infrastructure and protection in order to win further investment. “India must follow better standards. These are white board ideas drafted by bureaucrats on Powerpoint that are completely divorced from the reality of global trade.”

Yet with the US considering punitive measures against China, Japan charging its companies to move out of the country and UK lawmakers coming under pressure to rethink their decision to enable the Chinese telecoms giant Huawei to play a part in building the country’s new 5 G data network, global anti-China sentiment is growing. The time is ripe for India to pursue broad-based structural reforms and use these dramatic geopolitical changes to change its world-wide trading relationship.

Ahuti Singh is assistant professor in department of economics in DAV, Banaras hindu university



DRAGON TRAP

Let us know about China occupied Jammu and Kashmir that is equivalent to the state of Haryana

Pankaj Gupta

Jammu and Kashmir is the 15th state of India that acceded to India on October 26, 1947 and a geographical area of approximately 2,22,236sq. km became an integral part of it. In 1962, China has illegally occupied 37,555sq. km. area of Aksai Chin of Jammu and Kashmir. Later in 1963 Pakistan ceded around 5,180sq. km. area of Shaksgam Valley to China though Pakistan was not legally permitted for it because this land was part of Jammu and Kashmir and it belonged to India. So, this combined area of Aksai Chin, Minsar and Shaksgam Valley (42,735sq.km.) collectively called Chinese Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Both Pakistan and China rejected India's claim with citing their own logics. But a provision was added in the agreement that the settlement would be provisional, pending a solution of the dispute over Jammu and Kashmir between India and Pakistan. On March 2, 1963 Sino-Pakistan frontier agreement was signed in Beijing by Pakistan Foreign Minister Bhutto and Chinese Foreign Minister Chen Yi but the China considered it a disputed area between India and Pakistan. Hence, it added a clause in the agreement in this regard, the Article 6 of the 1963 China- Pakistan agreement mentions that "after the settlement of the Kashmir dispute between Pakistan and India", and the final agreement would replace this agreement. The Shaksgam Valley was provisionally ceded to China by Pakistan under the March 1963 Sino - Pak Boundary agreement. Hence, China has occupied an area of 42,735sq. km. that comprised of Aksai Chin, Minsar and Shaksgam Valley of Indian territory. Under first schedule of the constitution of India, Jammu and Kashmir is the 15th state of India. According to section 3 of Jammu and Kashmir Constitution, the state of J&K is an integral part of India and section 147 states that the state government cannot change section 3 of J&K constitution. The accession of the state was complete and irrevocable, which cement the claims of India over



China has occupied an area of 42,735sq. km. that comprised of Aksai Chin, Minsar and Shaksgam Valley of Indian territory. The Shaksgam Valley was provisionally ceded to China by Pakistan under the March 1963 Sino - Pak Boundary agreement. Hence, China has occupied an area of 42,735sq. km. that comprised of Aksai Chin, Minsar and Shaksgam Valley of Indian territory

the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir. Therefore, the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir including China Occupied Jammu and Kashmir belongs to India. China occupied Jammu and Kashmir that is equivalent to the state of Haryana and it has 4057 km LAC border line that separates India and China and it travels through three areas viz. Western (Ladakh, Kashmir), middle (Uttarakhand, Himachal) and eastern (Sikkim, Arunachal) which is sparsely populated.

The Hunza and Nagar states annexed by the British in 1891-92 and the rulers of these regions paid tribute to Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir. Though Chinese have always maintained that there was some kind of boundary between Hunza and Chinese Turkistan but China has never administered the area, even then the Communist Government in 1959 showed some 15,540sq. km.

area of Hunza and Gilgit as theirs. China had also done some military excursion in these areas since 1953. By 1962, China had illegally occupied around 37,244 square km soft land of Aksai Chin, which is sparsely populated. Though war was ensued between India and China in 1962 but the areas could not be retrieved. Minsar, an Indian principality has been a home to Ladakhi and Kashmiri traders and pilgrims. Minsar though surrounded by Tibet paid taxes to the Kingdom of Ladakh. During 19th century, when Ladakh was annexed in the state of Maharaja Gulab Singh, Minsar automatically became part of it. In 1953, when the then PM Nehru was willing to sign the Panchsheel Agreement, he expressed his wish to renounce the right of Minsar as goodwill gesture towards Communist China but his wish should have the sanction of Indian Parliament, as ceding a territory comes in



the domain of Indian Parliament. This sanction was never taken and no agreement, treaty or convention was signed in this regard. Therefore, Minsar was never given to China and any claim of latter on it remains illegal and invalid. Pakistan ceded Sakshgam Valley to China and India's protest against it after illegal occupation of its large part of land mass.

In May 1962, Beijing announced officially that the Governments of China and Pakistan are entering into negotiation of boundary dispute. India strongly objected to this agreement for the land that belongs to India. India expressed its displeasure into the agreement and the Indian Defence Minister Krishna Menon called this agreement illegal and said in United Nation Security Council in May and June 1962: "Over and above all this then has occurred the situation in which Pakistan today not for any good reason, but merely nuisance values and its instrument to put pressure on us has entered negotiations and, I believe, has concluded agreements with central Government of the People's Republic of China. That agreement is in total violation of any rights or authority Pakistan may possess, for Pakistan has no sovereignty over this State. Secondly, it was not necessary even for considerations relating to Pakistan own security. Moreover, it has been done on a basis that we cannot accept. Our position in regard to

China and Chinese claims, which is not under discussion before the Security Council remains clear".

The protest note of Government of India was also sent to China and Pakistan on May 10, 1962 stating: "In lodging an empathic protest with the Government of People's Republic of China for this interference with the sovereignty of India over the State of Jammu and Kashmir, the Government of India solemnly warns the Government of China that any change, provisional or otherwise, in the status of the State of Jammu and Kashmir brought about by third parties which seek to submit certain parts of Indian territory to foreign jurisdiction will not be binding on the Government of India firmly repudiate any agreements, provisional or otherwise, regarding her own territories arrived at between third parties who have absolutely no legal rights and moral standing to do so.

In the recent time, India's construction of a feeder road that would connect with the road built last year from Durbuk-Shyok in Galwan Valley to Daulat Begh-Oldi was a trigger to Chinese Officials who saw this as an aggressive tilt in India's border strategy. This road strategically connects Leh to the Daulat Begh-Oldi military airbase allowing expedient mobility of troops and equipment to the LAC. Control over this road requires a control of the Galwan val-

ley ridgeline where the June 15 clashes took place. More importantly, control of the valley would provide India access to Aksai-Chin, which holds the Tibet-Xinjiang highway. West of Daulat Begh-Oldi is Gilgit-Baltistan, part of the POK (Pakistan Occupied Kashmir) region and part of CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor). China is apprehensive of India's strategic leverage in the region to compromise the CPEC. This could have a disastrous impact on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and China's socio-economic and political stability. BRI also links to China's own security concerns in Xinjiang and therefore any threat to the CPEC may be viewed as a threat to China's unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. This road also raises China's trepidations regarding Aksai-Chin which it occupied after the 1962 war.

Additionally, the remarks of Indian Union Minister, Amit Shah, in 2019, claiming the Chinese-occupied Aksai Chin to be within the territory of India had served China's geopolitical and nationalistic insecurity no better. The Chinese establishment is nervous of the fact that India may team up with USA to target China with regional allies of America hence it has adopted an aggressive posture to scare off the India threat and its long term strategy to topple China in taking back Aksai Chin back. The events in 2020 are likely to alter major territorial boundaries of the region.

Emperor Xi corona misadventure isolates China

Prashant Tewari & Sanjit Paul Singh

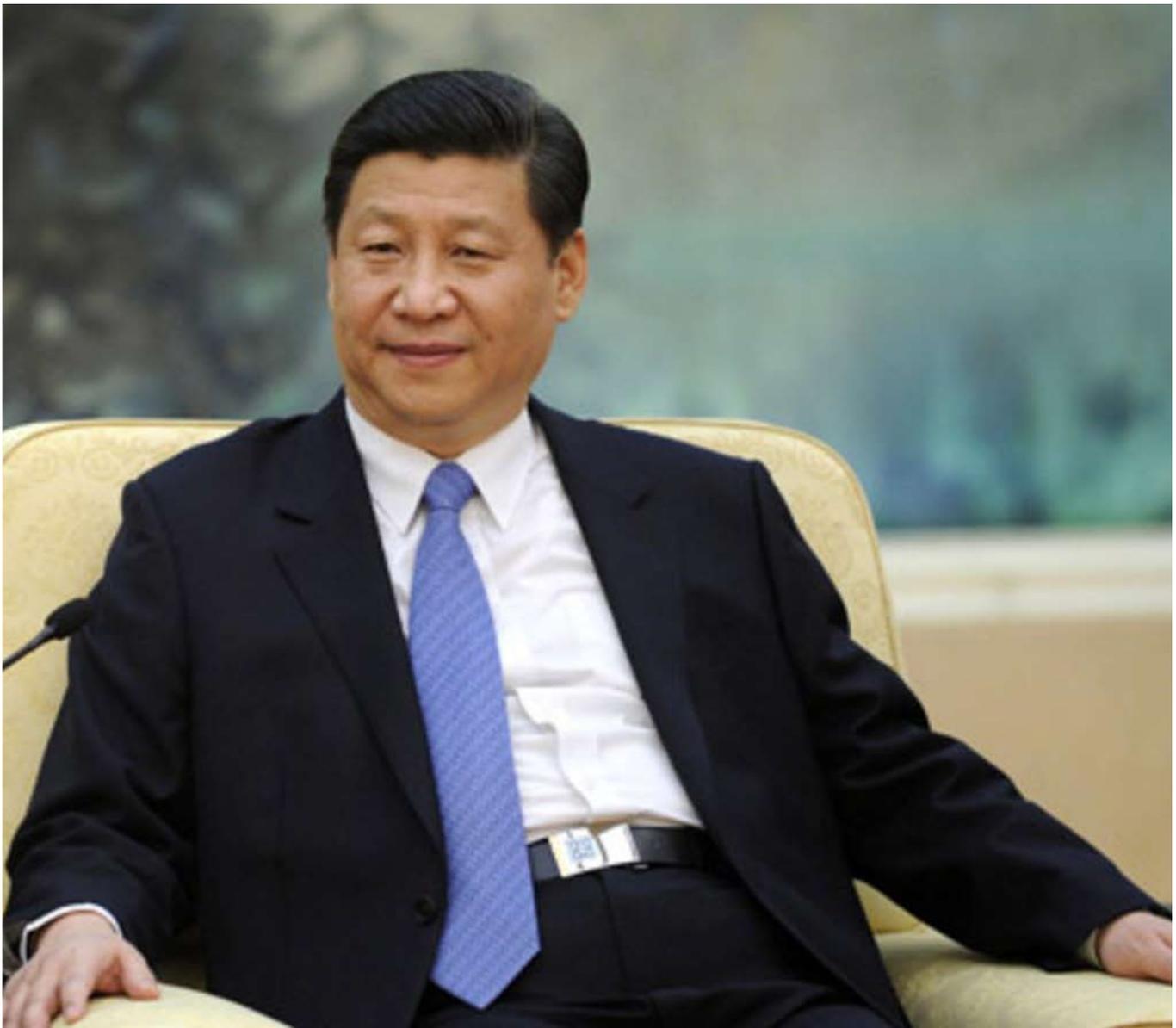
Even before the Covid 19 catastrophe, Emperor Xi Jinping decided that 2020 is the year to establish the Chinese century. American think-tank predicts in 2019 the Chinese GDP was already larger than the USA's GDP and by 2030 it could be upto 70% larger. As a share of Global output China would grow to 32% from 20% currently, as opposed to the USA declining from 16% to 10%. In terms of Global Market capitalisation the Chinese would grow to 25% from 5% in 2019, whilst the USA would decline from 40% to 18%. China's share of global exports would rise to 18% from

12% whilst the USA would be static at 8%. The above forecasts were supported by massive Chinese investments in Education in the fields of Mathematics, Science, Technology, Medicine and rapidly improving the quality of education.

Starting with the 1980's the Chinese had successfully got the world's manufacturing supply chain to relocate to China, and were truly the "factory of the world". From a pure labour arbitrage offering, they created world class infrastructure (Cities, Roads, Ports, Airports) to support it. The top 2500 corporates outside China all had a business presence in China. This aggressive export led growth model allowed the

Chinese to radically improve per capita income, and in the process also create a massive domestic consumption engine. A 40% domestic savings rate supported the huge developments that happened on their Eastern Seaboard. Till 2012 the Chinese government was sitting on Foreign Exchange Reserves of close to \$5 Trillion. Over time Chinese labour had become a very skilled workforce, moved up the value chain and was no longer cheap. China now imported/consumed 45-50% of virtually every commodity in the world even though more than half of it was re-exported.

Chinese leaders till 2012 had made the country keep a low profile, hid-



ing their strengths, whilst they relentlessly gained market share from the world. Asian growth engines Japan and South Korea had also felt compelled to move/make tangible manufacturing investments in China. The Chinese had mastered the skill of acquiring the world's IPR 's by any means. Their Chinese Communist Party(CCP) command and control structure had also silently expanded their Foreign Ministry with requisite resources to create a Public Relations repository in every major country, to manage the national discourse on any prickly subject in their favour. This three decade profile started changing with Xi Jinping's ascension to Chairmanship in 2012. The Chinese strategists now started believing that the Middle Kingdom deserved to rule the world. They changed the nomenclature of the 21st century being an Asian century to a Chinese century. They mapped that post 2008 Global Financial Institutions were weakened, substantially dysfunctional and lacking leadership. They unleashed a project of achieving complete Chinese dominance in the manpower of every multilateral agency and United Nations body in the world. Chinese students were encouraged to study overseas and many persuaded to join these organizations, and as so many FBI investigations are now showing made instruments of government policy.

The collapse of the USSR in the 1990's and the profligacy of the US financial sector in 2008 had left a leadership vacuum in many areas. Xi Jinping moved rapidly to occupy the vacancies. China needed to secure its supply chain as it neither produced adequate food for its population, nor was endowed with manufacturing or energy raw materials. Chinese leadership wanted to avoid supply side shocks and created strategies to acquire assets surreptitiously. They moved rapidly to fund every country and project that the World Bank or rest of the world would not find viable. The Chinese wanted to eventually acquire the underlying asset and default was hence a preferred option for them. This juggernaut covered 150 countries and nearly \$5 Trillion in loans/investments. The new Chairman had successfully over-invested the Chinese USD reserves, and left his country very vulnerable. They desperately needed their Dollar engine (Foreign Direct Investment, Foreign Portfolio Investment, and Foreign Currency Loans) to keep firing quickly to recoup their position,

Starting with the 1980's the Chinese had successfully got the world's manufacturing supply chain to relocate to China, and were truly the "factory of the world". From a pure labour arbitrage offering, they created world class infrastructure (Cities, Roads, Ports, Airports) to support it.



or alternately fast track their long term vision to get global trade out of the dollar and into the RMB.

Unluckily for the Chinese two things changed the landscape in 2017. President Trump had won the US election and was a wildcard that the Chinese read wrongly. Secondly the world economy started topping out, and growth started stalling. The Chinese engine was not designed to handle economic contraction. Fault-lines in the domestic economy led by huge non performing loans in domestic state owned Enterprises. Ghost cities started appearing, as domestic demand stalled, whilst domestic real estate started going belly-up. The country was overbuilt and no more infrastructure spending was needed.

Trump started the trade war and insisted that the Chinese reduce the Trade surpluses. President Xi erred massively in not giving Trump a cheap victory, and getting the Americans riled. Ameri-

can strategists had clearly war-games that the days of the USD hegemony were numbered, and if their political dominance was to be extended, a war with China was not an option, the only question was timing. By a strange coincidence the two technology hardware giants USA and China were tangibly dependent on Taiwan for their Semiconductor underbelly. Taiwan has a dominant share in the Semiconductor foundries globally, and both the USA and China are dependent on them. The Americans had anticipated this and a JV with the Taiwanese would go operational in Arizona in 2023. Till then any military threat to Taiwan would be an attack on their technology dominance, an intolerable thought for them. Democrat Presidents had soft-pedaled on the One China policy, and the Chinese had succeeded in getting away with their wish-lists. The Americans had celebrated access to a large consumption market, but landed up creating a rival.

The Chinese People's Liberation Army(PLA) in manpower terms is the largest standing armed force on the globe. The PLA and CCP moved fast to upgrade weapon systems, stealing blueprints and buying where they could not, theoretically they are a lethal strike force. However the navy is their Achilles heel, and they lack best in class aircraft carriers and submarines. This limits their ability to protect their interests spanning 150 countries. 75% of Chinese oil still moves in tankers through the narrow Malacca Straits. To reach the Arabian sea by land they invested in a bankrupt Pakistan by constructing the CPEC which links Xinjiang to Gwadar Port and is a dedicated economic corridor. They also engaged east European and European countries to construct the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) for creating dedicated freight corridors to 50 European cities. In the process they have de-risked their trade supply routes, but their oil buy routes lie exposed. The nightmare for China achieving dominance is that Indian land illegally occupied by Pakistan is being used by CPEC and India reacquiring POK by use of military power could render their \$66 Billion investment in Pakistan useless, blocking oil supply. The Chinese realized that economic sanctions against Iran had crippled the proud country with 15% of the world's oil, needed investments, and so decided to bust sanctions on Iran imposed by the United Nations (they were party to imposing them). China and Iran signed



a 25 year Trade and Military alliance in June 2020. China has bet on the USA exiting Afghanistan in 2020, and by using the Pakistani's to install a puppet regime in Afghanistan, they could take a pipeline from Iran to Xinjiang. In turn the Chinese have to pump in the equivalent of \$400 Billion into Iran's development, which they can crank their RMB economy to deliver. Where does that leave the Pakistani's?

In the interim President Xi got the CCP to appoint him as the leader for life and emerged as an emperor. The CCP decided that by its 100th anniversary in 2021, they would stamp themselves as "numero uno" in the world. A few pinpricks remained: Taiwan and Hong-Kong as independent democracies was an eyesore, and raised aspirations of good life in mainland Chinese youth. They had to be acquired by coercion or force at the earliest. The South China Sea had \$5 Trillion of supply chain that transited the route. China laid claims to territories/islands of all its neighbours and started constructing artificial islands as missile bases. They started bullying and humiliating Australia since 70% of Australian mining exports is bought by China. Singularly none of the

Asian countries could take on China, but many could exact a heavy toll if it came to conflict. The Chinese flirted with conflict with all their neighbours using "wearing down" tactics.

The success of this gambit hinged on the continuity of their trade with the USA, heavily skewed in their favour. President Trump not getting an early trade war win, upped the ante, imposing a \$250 Billion annual hit on China. Chinese perhaps felt that US corporations would not listen to their government and continue business as usual. They floated a trial balloon by abrogating the agreement with Hong Kong which would have lapsed in 2047, and suppressing protests with brute force. Then they ostensibly colluded/ manipulated the WHO and unleashed the Covid 19 pandemic on the world infecting every-country on the planet. This collapsed world economies and has created a very strong anti-China sentiment. It has resulted in fast tracking the creation of the Quad, an alliance of the USA, Japan, Australia and India to take on the Chinese. UK, France and Israel are openly in support of the Quad, whilst Vietnam, Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia, Taiwan and South Korea have alerted their

armed forces for battle readiness. In the Chinese camp are North Korea, Pakistan, Iran and Turkey with anti-India squeaks may emerge from Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

With China designated as world enemy number 1, even Joe Biden has ratcheted up the anti-China rhetoric, lest President Trump steal the thunder and a potentially lost election by a war with China before November this year. The Indian and Chinese armies are facing off across 3400 Km. border, and a tense peace prevails currently. The Middle East has so far stayed quiet, but by default will have to choose sides as a Shia Iran and a Sunni Pakistan and Turkey side with the Chinese. It is an uneasy time for the Saudi's and the UAE. It is ironic that the OIC and its 54 member countries including the "Turkish caliphate" maintain a studied silence on China incarcerating nearly 3 million Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang.

The Koreans however had seen this coming two years earlier and Samsung had moved an \$18 Billion annual capacity out of China to Vietnam. Japan has incentivized its corporations to exit China totally. USA and UK has banned Hauwei telecom with immediate effect



to secure data for national security. India has banned Chinese Telecom equipment and Apps with immediate effect. There is a very strong anti-Chinese imports movement starting in India, and may set an example for the world to follow.

China's partners in BRI and in Africa are resenting the usurious conditions in their loan agreements. The Americans are shutting off access to their Capital markets to the Chinese, and cancellation of the Hong Kong treaty will kill the USD supply route to China. The Chinese Balance of payments is negative for the last few months, and days of surpluses are now a memory. They still need to buy food and oil and commodities.

Even nature seems to have conspired to ruin Emperor Xi's timing. China is being ravaged by the worst ever floods in the last 100 years with 29 of its provinces impacted, and the survival of the showpiece three Gorges Dam under threat from heavy rain which could affect nearly 400 Million people as downstream cities including Shanghai could be impacted. Scams like fake Gold collateral has shaken China's \$5 Trillion Shadow banking industry as the Kin-gold default is by a powerful former

CCP member. It also puts a question mark on the credibility of China's domestic gold production which is part of its National Reserves, as to how much of it is gold plated copper. Will anyone in the world now ever trust a Chinese certification of gold? This scandal has seriously damaged China's plans of having a partial gold backed alternate currency to replace the dollar.

The world now sits on a powder keg in the midst of the Covid crisis. Funnily it is China's 150 debtor countries (especially Pakistan) that must be praying for a fall and dismemberment of their Lender, for them to escape losing their sovereignty which they have so negligently mortgaged. President Trump and Emperor Xi now have gone too far for either of them to back-down without losing their crowns. For Trump it's just an election, but the world knows what happens to deposed Chinese dictators. The South Asian countries all want Tibet to regain its independence after being annexed by the Chinese in 1950 so that they all get their fresh water security back.

Meanwhile the domestic market collapse will force Emperor Xi to take few more hasty decisions. China's banking regulator has advised domestic banks to be prepared for sharp rises in bad loans once the Covid moratorium period is over. It has guided banks to conserve capital by not paying dividend and bonuses. Three Chinese banks have collapsed in the last three years, and 15% of the financial sector is supposedly past a high risk stage. Tax revenues have grown under 5%, and budget deficits exceed 11%. The season of discontent for 1.4 Billion Chinese has arrived. China created the BRI to use the surplus capacity in its construction material and equipment sector, and to keep Chinese labour occupied. Experts estimate that this project needs another \$5 Trillion over the next five years to complete it. The money given to 150 countries cannot be recalled. The Hong Kong door may be closed by the Americans if push comes to shove. The FDI and FPI flows post Covid may flow outwards. China's \$10 Trillion foreign debt is realistically supported by \$2 Trillion of reserves. With Balance of Trade going negative, even diehard Chinese supporters are a highly nervous lot. If China's trading partners do not agree to settlements denominated in the RMB, a run on the currency is highly possible.

It is a serious reason to worry for 1.3 billion Indian. Already, we were facing

economic downtrend since last three years, the GDP growth rate is gradually slipping towards 5% mark and Covid 19 has destroyed the large section of economy permanently. Xi Jinping has taken Chinese virus as an opportunity to attack its neighbors to distract world's attention from the pandemic. Now it is India's turn to return the gesture to China. This crisis offers tremendous long term strategic advantage for policy makers to deal with Chinese threat permanently. India must immediately recognize Tibet and Taiwan as sovereign countries and allow them to run official embassies in India and vice versa, this will open floodgate for several countries to follow the footsteps of India in shaking up Chinese hegemony globally. Secondly, India must supply subsidized arms and military technology to Vietnam and Philippines to create multiple fronts for China and its PLA in response to what China is doing by arming Pakistan to be used for India in a proxy war. Thirdly, India should take a lead in Indo pacific command with USA, Japan, and Australia to choke Chinese trade route; it will hurt PRC and its ambition to be a global economic leader. Fourth, India must use weapon and army on regular basis when it is spending billions of dollars on armed forces and weapon procurement. The country like Pakistan, Nepal and others must be fearful of the consequences, if they plan to go against the interest of India. Lastly, restrict Chinese import of non essential goods by imposing tariff and focus our attention in building formidable self reliant economy with a target of \$10 trillion by 2030 to face hostile China, this threat is permanent and China should be treated as permanent adversary even when the times are good. India and the world must escalate the information warfare to expose the draconian CCP and its oppressive regime working against the interest of native Chinese. The dilemma for the Xi led CCP is what do they tell their domestic audience. In the age of the internet, you can censor but not hide. News spreads like wildfire with every citizen carrying smart-phones. Do the Chinese need to beat the war-drums to transfer the blame for their miscalculations. The world scenario is evolving every week, and 2020 threatened to be a very long year indeed.

(Prashant Tewari Editor in Chief Opinion Express & Sanjit Paul Singh Managing Partner S&S associates)

Domicile Certificates a Boon for Marginalised Groups

By Sant Kumar Sharma



It has been a year since the J&K Reorganisation Act that has ushered a new era of peace and development to J&K was passed in the parliament.

One of the major achievements of this act which had immediate effect is the domicile law. Domicile is understood generally as the status of being a lawful permanent resident in a particular jurisdiction. A person can remain domiciled in a jurisdiction even after he has left it, if he maintains sufficient links with it.

Now apply this definition to Hindu and Sikh refugees who crossed over into areas in Jammu from adjacent areas of Sialkot and other areas which became Pakistan.

Incidentally, they had entered Jammu, which became a part of India, in 1947 when Partition happened



and there was communal mayhem all around. They didn't maintain any links whatsoever with Pakistan, from where they had barely escaped, losing heavily. They thus lost domicile of the areas from which they had forsaken irrevocably. The word Pakistan, however, did not stop chasing them and they came to be known as West Pakistan Refugees (WPRs).

What happened to them in Jammu? They were settled, mostly all along border, in several tehsils of the Jammu province. However, successive J&K governments worked against them sys-

tematically and did not give them domicile status. They were denied Permanent Resident Certificates (PRCs) which were reserved for the domiciles of the state. They got citizenship of India but had very limited rights within J&K in the absence of PRCs.

In fact, it created two types of Indian citizens within the state. Indian citizens living in J&K who were non-Permanent Residents and PRC holders. Non-PRs like WPRs living in the state had far inferior rights as compared to the PRs. They were treated in most spheres of life as second class citizens and given a

third class treatment.

Limited residency rights meant they were not eligible to vote in state assembly and panchayat elections. It also meant that their children were denied access to scholarships, admissions to professional colleges and even loans given by the state government. Their participation and say in their own welfare measures was virtually zero as PRs represented them at the local levels.

Here they were, Indian citizens, living permanently in J&K but as non-PRs they were virtual pariahs. All this had the legal sanction of J&K Constitution, Part III of which comprising Sections 6 to 10, defined Permanent Residents. In turn, this right to define PRs was given to the state legislature by Article 35-A of the Indian Constitution.

This article was added to the Indian Constitution by a Presidential order of May 14, 1954. It was not debated in Parliament, either Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha, and this amendment of the Constitution was done behind the backs of MPs. Due to this peculiarly anomalous manner in which the Constitutional amendment was carried out, it was placed in Appendix I of the Constitution. Not in the main body. Incidentally, Article 21-A appears between Article 21 and 22. Similarly, other articles carrying capital A with them are insertions between two articles. They can be found at appropriate places but 35-A is not to be found between Article 35 and 36!

The fact of the matter is most articles with letters Capital A, B, C and so on appearing with them were empowering. They empowered the people they dealt with. On the contrary, 35-A disempowered and immensely harmed those people to whom it was applied. According to "State Subjects" laws formulated during Maharaja Hari Singh's rule on April 20, 1927, continuous residence of 10 years was enough for anyone to acquire domicile of J&K.

To disable WPRs and other groups like them, the state legislature (Constituent Assembly of J&K) put May 14, 1944, as an arbitrary cut-off date. Saying only those people who had entered the state before that date were eligible for PR-ship. The enabling clause of Maharaja's laws was done away with even as meaningless lip service was paid to these laws. Going by this 10 years' residency clause prescribed by the Maharaja, WPRs could have become eligible for getting PRCs by 1957. However, as pointed out earlier, they were barred by the legislature in 1954, seven years



Here they were, Indian citizens, living permanently in J&K but as non-PRs they were virtual pariahs. All this had the legal sanction of J&K Constitution, Part III of which comprising Sections 6 to 10, defined Permanent Residents. In turn, this right to define PRs was given to the state legislature by Article 35-A of the Indian Constitution.



after they had settled in the state. This retrospective disability was conferred on them by dubious legal manoeuvres.

Similar disabilities were faced by at least 277 families of Valmikiis who were brought in from Punjab to Jammu in 1957 by J&K government itself. Once here, they were also not given PRCs, neither their next generations. Gorkhas from Nepal, who were recruited in Maharaja's armed forces and gave their blood as also lives defending J&K, were also denied PRCs as a consequence of 35-A.

For several generations, these people suffered and struggled for justice. On August 5, 2019, far-reaching changes were initiated in the Indian Constitution to empower them. Article 35-A which was the reason for all their woes was done away with. Several other

changes have also been brought in since then to gradually confer all rights which they were entitled to, morally, legally and ethically.

In May 2020, new domicile rules were framed in the Union Territory of J&K and these people, named above, have started getting domicile certificates now. The application of most laws of the country to the UT in other spheres has brought many positive changes.

Besides, officials of all-India services like IAS, IPS, IFS working in J&K cadre also stand to gain. Some of them had been working their whole lives here (for two or three decades) and were denied PRCs.

The gross injustice done to WPRs, Valmikiis and Gorkhas is now being rectified. This will virtually mean nothing for those who are no longer eligible for

jobs, loans, or admissions in professional colleges. However, it is sometimes that would give a ray of hope to their present and future generations.

The issuance of domicile certificates to some groups of non-PRs is being portrayed as attempts to change the demographics of J&K. These narratives are nothing short of deliberate mischief aimed at distortion of facts. To distract attention away from the unfair treatment meted out to WPRs, Valmikiis and Gorkhas. The mischief is being sought to be done in the name of the Maharaja who was exiled from J&K unfairly.

Writer is a senior journalist who has earlier worked with *The Indian Express*, *The Statesman*, *The Times of India*, *Star News*, *Dainik Bhaskar* and *Naidunia*.

CMYK PRINTECH LIMITED

completes



8 editions

- Delhi ● Lucknow ● Bhopal
- Bhubaneswar ● Dehradun
- Chandigarh ● Ranchi ● Raipur



4 editions

- Delhi ● Lucknow ● Raipur
- Faridabad



MAGAZINES

EXOTICA
DIALOGUE

COFFEE TABLE BOOKS

- The Edge of 50
- The Eight-Fold Path
- In Search of Solace
- UP: The Growth Factory
- The Making of the Country's Longest Road
- Building the Great Himalayan Railway

COMING SOON

- New enhanced website
- More editions

The Pioneer thanks all its readers and patrons for their support.
The journey of passion continues with your blessings as we enter our 20s

THE US DOLLAR, THE FED AND THE PRETENDERS

Sanjit Paul Singh

At the end of 2019, the total global Foreign Exchange (FX) currency reserves stood at \$11.7 trillion, of which \$6.7 trillion were in dollars or dollar-denominated assets. Nearly 60% of global trade and 40% issuance of worldwide debt is also denominated in the US Dollar. The dollar's dominance in FX reserves enables America to borrow large amounts at low interest rates without fear of disruption in flows. A currency becomes globally acceptable and dependable based on the size of the economy and free convertibility on both trade and capital accounts, the country's education standards and quality of its manpower, the innovation and IPR creating ability, the competitiveness of its businesses, the established and demonstrated rule of law, and a very strong defense capability. In world history (as analysed by Ray Dalio of Bridgewater Associates), nations held the title of "reserve currency of the world" for no more than 50-100 years, and had a recurring boom to bust cycle which led to its re-birth in the form of another currency.

Intertwined History of the Dollar and the Federal Reserve

Between 1781 -1907 the dollar was directly linked to gold and was convertible. In 1913, the Federal Reserve was created.

- The Federal Reserve, America's central bank, is responsible for conducting monetary policy and controlling the money supply.

- The primary tools that the Fed uses are interest rate setting and open market operations (OMO).

- The Fed can also change the mandated reserves requirements for commercial banks or rescue failing banks as lender of last resort, among other less common tools.

- When the economy is faltering, the Fed can use these tools to enact expansionary monetary policy. If that fails it can use unconventional policy such as quantitative easing.

The USA does not own its Federal Reserve. It is a privately owned body which originally had 300 shareholders

with a profit motive. The stockholders were to get a fixed dividend of 6% of profits and 100% of the balance belonged to the US Treasury. By 1919 this 100% reduced to 90%, and in 1933 the stockholders delivered a stroke of genius. They made a one-time cash injection to create the US Deposit Insurance Corporation, and in lieu of this they now owned 100% of profits with no share for the US

Treasury. In 1947 the Fed realized that a massive outcry was expected in the US Congress, and they pre-empted it by agreeing to pay an annual franchise tax to the Treasury, but the quantum would be decided exclusively by

In 1929, when the economic depression peaked, the Fed reached its currency printing limit. President Roosevelt passed a law making it mandatory for all American citizens to sell their gold to the Fed at \$29 an ounce.

the Board of the Fed (as per reports of the Brookings Institute). The Fed conducts a self-audit, and is not subject to US Congress or Senate scrutiny as per media reports.

In 1929, when the economic depression peaked, the Fed reached its currency printing limit. President Roosevelt passed a law making it mandatory for all American citizens to sell their gold to the Fed at \$29 an ounce. He bought gold globally at higher prices, and once the targeted quantity was acquired, reset the price at \$39 an ounce (upping the value of Fed's holding and cheating his own citizens!). During World War II, the US lent a lot of money to the Allied nations. In 1944, 44 nations met at Bretton Woods

in New Hampshire, and decided that their currencies would be linked to the US Dollar, and the Dollar would be linked to gold. In 1966 multiple countries were concerned that the Fed was printing more cash than the gold they held, and insisted that their USD holdings be repaid in gold. In 1971, President Nixon and the US reneged on their commitment and said that the USD was not linked to gold, would become a Fiat currency i.e. paper which acts as a store of value based on Trust. It signaled that henceforth the US was the "global sheriff" and the work on dismantling its challenger - the USSR started. It took from 1913-1982 for the US national debt to reach 1 Trillion (T), In 2006 it reached \$8 T when Ben Bernanke became chairman of the Fed, and in tandem with the Obama years it ended 2016 with \$20 T. The reality is that pre-Covid19, the US Government debt had already hit \$25 T, and post Covid19 it could add another \$3.5 T for the year. Interestingly since Reagan, every American President has contributed to running up the debt book and mortgaging their future generations.

The US Government pays an approximate \$400 Billion (B) annually towards interest costs alone. Then there is the unfunded liability of \$45 T on a present value basis of Medicare and Social Security. What could possibly fund this? More debt every year of course!! In any crisis, every politician finds a reason to evade fixing it and thereby defers the problem. As a consequence, using the 1913 USD as a benchmark, the buying power of the 2020 USD is now just 2.7%. So any holder of US Dollar denominated debt has an implicit 2% per annum devaluation built into their holdings as the real value declines due to printing of more and more cash by the Fed.

Who is the US Federal Reserve?

The Federal Reserve Board of Governors, the main policymaking body, is appointed by the President of the United States and confirmed by the Senate. However the ownership of the Fed remains in private hands. "Then there are also twelve regional Federal Reserve Banks, whose presidents participate



in the committee that sets monetary policy. These Reserve Banks operate as private corporations owned by member banks in their districts, even though they also regulate the same banks. (It is worth noting that their websites have a .org , not a .gov, suffix).

The Question that arises is who then owns the Fed and through it controls the Global Financial System?

These are excerpts from what Dean Henderson researched and wrote in the Herland Report on 27 th March 2020- “Controlling equity (nearly 80% control by eight families- JW Macallister in the Grim Reaper) of the US Federal Reserve resides with- Goldman Sachs, Rockefellers, Lehmans and Kuhn Loeb’s of New York; the Rothschilds of Paris and London; the Warburgs of Hamburg; the Lazards of Paris; and the Israel Moses Seifs of Rome. Many of the bank’s stockholders reside in Europe. CPA Thomas D. Schauf corroborates Macallister’s claims, adding that ten banks control all twelve Federal Reserve Bank branches . He names N.M. Rothschild of London, Rothschild Bank of Berlin, Warburg Bank of Hamburg, Warburg Bank of Amsterdam, Lehman Brothers of New York, Lazard Brothers of Paris, Kuhn Loeb Bank of New York, Israel Moses Seif Bank of Italy, Goldman Sachs of New York and JP Morgan Chase Bank of New York. Schauf lists William Rockefeller, Paul Warburg, Jacob Schiff and James Stillman as indi-

viduals who own large shares of the Fed. The Schiffs are insiders at Kuhn Loeb. The Stillmans are Citigroup insiders, who married into the Rockefeller clan at the turn of the century. Eustace Mullins came to the same conclusions in his book *The Secrets of the Federal Reserve* , in which he displays charts connecting the Fed and its member banks to the families of Rothschild, Warburg, Rockefeller and the others. The control that the families exercise over the global economy cannot be overstated and is quite intentionally shrouded in secrecy . The Four Horsemen of Banking (Bank of America, JP Morgan Chase, Citigroup and Wells Fargo) own the Four Horsemen of Oil (Exxon Mobil, Royal Dutch/Shell, BP and Chevron Texaco) along with Deutsche Bank, BNP, Barclays and other European old money behemoths. Companies under Rockefeller control include Exxon Mobil, Chevron Texaco, BP Amoco, Marathon Oil, Freeport McMoran, Quaker Oats, ASARCO, United, Delta, Northwest, ITT, International Harvester, Xerox, Boeing, Westinghouse, Hewlett-Packard, Honeywell, International Paper, Pfizer, Motorola, Monsanto, Union Carbide and General Foods. According to company 10K filings to the SEC, the Four Horsemen of Banking are among the top ten stock holders of virtually every Fortune 500 corporation.”

Based on the above and comments made by former Congressman Dr. Ron Paul and a few US Senators,

there are three obvious questions that arise:

Firstly, did the Fed take any business risk in the monetizations related to Covid19 now, or the debt crisis in 2008, while its balance sheet expanded to 7 T dollars? Secondly, does the Fed also act as an instrument of state for the US government and of course get paid in both cases? Lastly, is there a conflict of interest in the ownership of the Federal Reserve and the entities that do business with the Fed and earn fees. The reality is that the Fed and its shareholders smartly push the fiscal risk onto the US taxpayers, and as the US Treasury Secretary stated that all losses related to the Covid19 lending program would be paid out of the national budget.

The “influence” aspect is a very strong stick that they wield giving the US Government and the key stakeholders in the Fed immense coercive power to tame unfriendly governments. The US can print its dollars, but with 60% of trade denominated in it, the world excluding a few well-managed country treasuries is always short of dollars. The US can also bail-out its allies in a crisis by giving them Credit Swap and Currency Swap lines .The Levy Institute actually crawled through over 30,000 documents to discover that post 2008, European Banks were given nearly \$ 9 T through this structure to survive. There were no data points available whether this facility needed any formal approval from the US Government or was the US Congress or Senate ever looped in,



other than the Fed Board of Governors being appointed by the Government, and whether this facility still exists 11 years later or has been wound up. Interestingly, the intended beneficiaries are foreign companies who now have access to USD and can compete with American companies. To stabilize Europe, does America undermine its own competitive advantage, or is it the cost of being the “Reserve Currency?”

Looking at the intertwined ownership structure of the Fed and the banks through which it operates in markets, the answer to the conundrum is a no brainer. The dominance in global affairs including American politics and trade on the face of it certainly gives an advantage to businesses owned by eight families. It is no surprise that many aspiring countries are wanting to break-out of the dollar hegemony.

The Competition :

China has over the last decade positioned itself as the principal challenger to the US. Its economy is larger in Purchasing Power Parity terms, its aggregate Debt/GDP ratios very similar, its supply line of quality STEM students nearly five times that of the US, its unicorns rival those of the US in number and valuations, its huge investments in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learn-

The “influence” aspect is a very strong stick that they wield giving the US Government and the key stakeholders in the Fed immense coercive power to tame unfriendly governments. The US can print its dollars, but with 60% of trade denominated in it, the world excluding a few well-managed country treasuries is always short of dollars.

ing, Education Tech, Fin-Tech are bearing fruit. Its legal and regulatory framework is weak, but has improved substantially and money always loves strong dictatorships. They are the largest gold mining country and export no gold. They have steadily built their gold

reserves, and a lot of it may be kept off-book to avoid undue attention. The Chinese are also the “lender of last resort” to countries whose projects get rejected by the World Bank and multilaterals. They now have a \$ 5.5 T portfolio of global investments, though most of them illiquid. Certainly they are the most dominant players in Africa, and emerging very strongly in Europe. Their plans of trying to move their non –US foreign trade out of the USD had been progressing steadily.

However, in the post Covid19 world, the Chinese have very few friends who are significant in global trade. They also have serious territorial disputes with 23 of their neighbours by land and sea. The Chinese RMB is not fully convertible on capital account and China’s capital controls make it difficult for foreigners to hold the onshore version. While this remains the case, the RMB’s share of global FX reserves may continue to be low, and Asian countries may continue to rely more on the yen and the dollar than the RMB. But given their intrinsic strengths as a manufacturing hub, a fast emerging technology hub, and an important military power, the RMB continues to gain market share in world trade, perhaps in a creeping acquisition mode for a few years.

The Euro flattered to deceive! It ar-

rived as a challenger, threatening to take the denomination of the oil trade away from the USD. The Saddam balloon was floated, the US cleverly converted it into a “WMD issue”, took out Iraq and Saddam, and oil was back in the Dollar camp. Even though 20% of global central banks reserves are currently in Euros, the absence of a “safety net” other than Germany, and England’s Brexit have exposed its underbelly and inherent contradictions even more. The 2009 bailout by the US Fed exposed the fragility of Europe’s banks and the ECB. With just the French and Germans to keep the EU afloat, it ceases to be a viable option, and some of this 20% may flow out into other currencies.

The rise of Cryptocurrency

Since US laws forbid anyone from printing currency/money, “Satoshi Nakamoto” created Bitcoin in 2008 out of Amsterdam and then disappeared or changed identity. Bitcoin is a virtual currency, stored/traded on the internet, created on an open source platform. Hundreds of programmers globally have improved the original software over the last decade. A finite quantity of 21 Million bitcoins were mined/to be mined. All Bitcoins reside in a publicly distributed ledger called Blockchain. Every holder of a bitcoin owns a wallet, the bitcoin ledger is always balanced as every debit/credit is within the system. Each holder accesses their account with their own created unique password, and their money is not retrievable if the password is lost. This is a financial system that replaces middlemen i.e. the banks. A mobile phone with an internet connection becomes a bank. To get mainstream adoption Bitcoin questions whether users are happy using plastic credit/debit cards created by technology companies who collectively add \$200 Billion annually in transaction costs. The value proposition being offered is that by eliminating the middlemen the savings would accrue to merchants and consumers.

Till 2016, the Fed treated Bitcoin lightly, as just one more technology experiment, and the traded price of one bitcoin hit USD 20,000 i.e. a monetary system now worth \$400 B. They woke up in 2017 and along with China debarred banks from accepting Bitcoins. However now every major player in the Financial Sector has jumped on the Bitcoin gravy train (The Fed’s owners) realizing that making it illegal would just make it move offshore. The Fed by



default accepted that every year over \$2 T gets laundered and they can’t crack it successfully, therefore fighting Bitcoin would be futile. Today Bitcoin is a contrarian investment, but 5 years hence it might be a “must have” what with people like Antony Pompliano forecasting a price of \$100,000 in that time, a ten-fold growth from the current price of \$10,000. There are other crypto-currencies around too, and at a future date the world may collectively be forced to move to a financial reset, or a different format of digital currency backed by a mix of underlying assets.

Conclusion

The dollar is not exhibiting an underlying weakness. Between January 2008 and 2020, the dollar index has strengthened by 30%, from 89.2 to 115. The Corona event strengthened it a further 10%, rising as high as 126.4 on March 23, 2020. A collapse couldn’t occur without a triggering event that destroys confidence in the dollar. Altogether, foreign countries own more than \$6.7 trillion in U.S. debt. The two largest are China and Japan. If they dump their holdings of Treasury notes, they could cause a panic leading to a collapse. The economies of Japan and China are dependent on U.S. consumers. They know that if they sell their dollars, their action would further depress the value of the dollar. So their products, still priced in RMB and Yen, would cost relatively more in the United States and hence their economies would suffer. Right now, it’s still in their best interest to hold on to their dollar reserves. China and Japan are aware of their vulnerability. They are

selling more to other Asian countries that are gradually becoming wealthier. But the United States is still their best market in the world, and would remain so unless US citizens start consuming/importing much less.

The USA now faces a very strong pushback from China, Russia, Germany and Iran and on currency issues can only be sure of the UK, Japan, Australia, South Korea and Israel to provide blanket support. Countries like India, Brazil and Saudi Arabia would prefer a currency solution that is neither US or China centric. Today, as nearly 50 Million Americans file for unemployment claims, the Government and US Congress response is to print more cash. This approach is the greatest disservice to any honest, hardworking citizen anywhere in the world who values thrift and saves for the future, as a giant unseen force destroys the value of his/her hard labour by printing even more cash. We are moving forward into an arena of likely financial chaos and uncertainty. Eventually economies and societies survive on the goods and services they produce and sell, not on a race of competitive bankruptcy. I wonder if the US think-tanks have gamed what happens if another 30% of global trade moves out of the dollar into a barter system, and the potential hyperinflation it would unleash in America and what rising interest rates will do to the aggregate American debt? Will the world see a sequel to 1971 when America reneged on its debt to the world and to its citizens? Only time will tell!

*(Writer is Managing Partner
S&S Associates)*

Forest Fire Management

A Global Initiative

Dr. Gabriela Raducan completed the PhD degree at RMIT University Melbourne, Australia, where she undertook a deep research in the bushfires (wildfires/forest fires) field. She has a multidisciplinary background and broad experience in Advanced Data Science and ICT. She is very passionate about research and through her Australian not-for-profit called Tech4Future, she launched a global initiative to stop fires across the globe.

Dr. Raducan, what can you tell us about this initiative?

Through Tech4Future, I launched F.I.R.E. (Fire Initiative in Research and Education) that aims to stop wildfires/forest fires or “bushfires”, as they are called in Australia.

Each region in the world has some specific characteristics which need to be considered when making decisions for fire management. In Australia, for example, where the natural environment needs the fire to clean it up, the best method to prevent the wildfires is to organise “planned fires” in wildfire prone areas. In India, only 21.4% of forest areas are prone to fires, so there shouldn't be many fires in the country. However, there are, and out of these, 95% are of anthropogenic origin, which means that these fires are caused by people, mostly when they prepare the land for agriculture (slash-and-burn cultivation).

The majority of fire cases across all countries have human negligence as a root cause. Hence why, one of the components of F.I.R.E. is an educational program that aims to partner with all the Governments in the world who are interested in fire prevention, and to have free training modules implemented in schools, universities and workplaces of safe fire practices.

What is the Research & Development part of this initiative?

I am very passionate about research, and I am a strong advocate for market disruption through breakthrough innovations. For the Research & Development component of this initiative, I am working to create a prototype of a new



device, able to extinguish the wildfires without using water or toxic substances. Using water to extinguish the fires is inefficient, and sometimes it is not feasible either, especially in countries like India, given that India is among the world's most water-stressed countries. This device is an innovation that will revolutionise the way in which we extinguish fires and will tip the balance

in our advantage, in the fight with the fires.

The next step will be to create a remotely controlled robot, able to handle the above mentioned device. This combination is the best method to successfully extinguish the fires without putting people's lives at risk in the process.

For more information, please visit www.tech4future.com.au/fire.



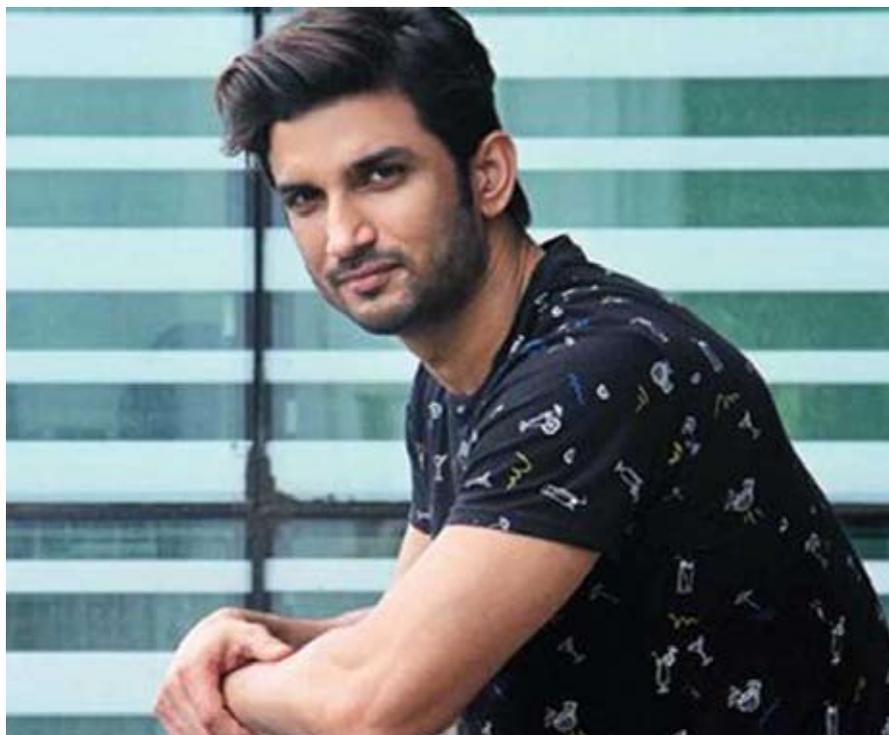
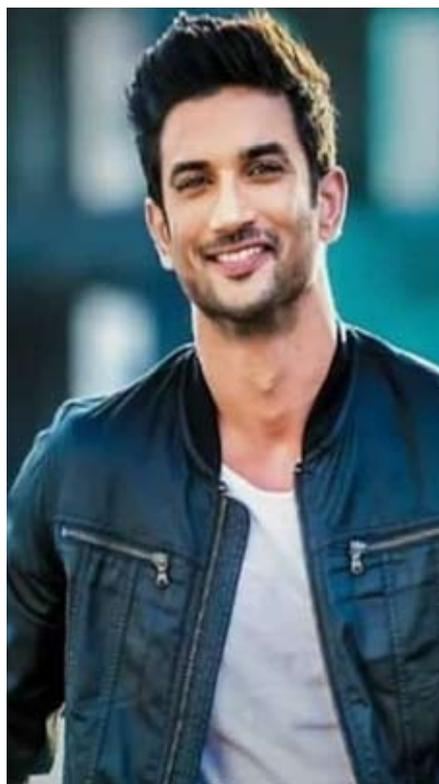
Shriram
Properties

Homes that live in you

SSR death divides the glamour industry down the middle between insiders and outsiders

Actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death has exposed the deep fault-lines in the Hindi film industry with issues such as bullying, nepotism and discrimination emerging from tinsel town rarely discussed dark corners into the spotlight of introspection and debate. The split in the glamour industry is down the middle between insiders' and outsiders entities'. That Rajput, who came from a middle class home in Patna and made his mark in mainstream Hindi cinema in what could be the classic fairytale, ended his life led to soul searching about power structures in Bollywood and also angry accusations at the biggies who call the shots.

Rajput was considered that rare actor, after Shah Rukh Khan perhaps, to have transitioned from television to Bollywood stardom and his death opened the proverbial can of worms. The untimely death of the young actor had clearly not just touched a chord but triggered a rallying cry for change. An online petition on Change.org asking fans to boycott Johar, YRF and Salman Khan has gathered almost 38 lakh signatures so far.



BJP Rajya Sabha MP Subramanian Swamy has termed the death of late Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput murder. Taking a dig at Bollywood, Mumbai Police and the Maharashtra government, he called SSR's death "Waterloo and Watergate for Bollywood." Fasten your seat belts as we are about to take off and bombard and won't give up till either guilty are brought to justice or justice is brought to the guilty," Swamy tweeted.

SSR loss can dent moral of several young deserving talented artists seeking to establish name and fame in the entertainment industry, and nepotism off course will continue to flourish unabated. The CBI must investigate the case keeping the Mumbai Police away from the case because important high profile people and organized bollywood mafia is involved in the crime and the cover up. It is a shame for the country that wild speculations are flying everywhere yet the authorities have been complacent to secure the truth.

**Report filed by Diwakar Shetty
from Mumbai.**





GST made Easy
One solution does it all
Karvy WOW Devices



**Karvy WOW 10TGST with
Vodafone Connectivity Pack**

Price : ₹ **17,999** (Taxes extra)
EMI option available
Karvy ASP & GSP Solution
Accounting Package

**Karvy ASP & GSP with
Vodafone Connectivity Pack**

Price : ₹ **3,599** (Taxes extra)
Microsoft Azure Cloud Storage (24 months)
Dashboard Reporting
Advance Mismatch Tracking



Sciknow Techno Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
Millennium House, E-48/9, IInd Floor
Okhla Industrial Area, Phase II
New Delhi - 110 020, INDIA

Visit us : www.getwow.in
Write to us : getwow@karvy.com
Contact us : +91-75171 50001





Shapoorji Pallonji

**ENGINEERING &
CONSTRUCTION**