



Maharashtra National law University, Aurangabad

Presents

International Affairs Digest



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Maharashtra National Law University, Aurangabad.

About the University:-

The state of Maharashtra realizing the importance of quality of Legal Education and need of well-trained law graduates to the Bar, Bench and Professions took a very bold decision by creating three National Law Universities in the state of Maharashtra at Mumbai, Nagpur and Aurangabad. Further all the three are independent and autonomous institutions created under the Maharashtra National Law Universities Act, 2014. Maharashtra National Law University, Aurangabad, commenced from March 16, 2017. The university is emerging as a best amongst all the National Law Universities in India with a significant and study growth under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. K.V.S Sarma. Presently university has been functioning with its full sanctioned strength of nearly 300 students including the Centre for Post Graduate Legal Studies.

About the Digest:-

Maharashtra National Law University, Aurangabad, International Affairs Digest will be published every month with an aim of bringing foreign policy and strategic affairs consciousness, which is mostly neglected in the general public discourse.

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The Pangong Tso Disengagement: A New Opportunity for India and China

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Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh's statement on both the floors of parliament with regard to 'disengagement' with China in the Pangong Tso area is commendable for its clarity. No wonder, unlike in the past, the ruling party and its supporters refrained from celebrating or even claiming a victory in a military stand-off *vis-à-vis* China. The Defence minister's statement, rather, brought focus back on the precarious situation along the Indo-Sino Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Ladakh sector. The current disengagement at the Pangong Tso will certainly be proved significant if it leads to *status quo ante* of March 2020 throughout the Ladakh sector.

Equally important is the technical statements made by the MoD in its clarification. The MoD emphatically clarified that *India has persistently maintained the right to patrol upto Finger 8, including in the current understanding with China*. However, it is not clear whether China has accepted this Indian right and practice which was followed by the Indian patrolling troops prior to the current stand-off. The Defence Minister's statement as well as the MoD's clarification stopped short of saying that India would continue to patrol upto Finger 8. Perhaps, these are not the issues that one can make mention of in the official statements but these are matters of resiliently practicing them on the ground or in the waters as the case may be. In this regard, let the truth be derived from the practice in the near future. The Minister and his ministry, in their respective statements, cleared the air regarding the situation in other areas in the Ladakh sector. Both the statements not only acknowledged the outstanding problems at the Hot Springs, Gogra and Despang areas, but assured the country that they would be taken up with China within 48 hours of completion of disengagement at the Pangong Tso.

India must be cautious of deceptive Chinese tactics. Particularly; in the aftermath of Doklam, wherein India claimed victory without a fight, the Chinese silently went on building infrastructure on its side. By doing so, it has effectively changed the status quo on the line of control between China and Bhutan in the Doklam area, which is going to have long term implications. This time, with the Pangong Tso disengagement in plate, the government is not in a celebration mode that speaks a volume in itself. Pangong Tso disengagement certainly sets a tone to institute a composite dialogue framework between India and China as there is a lot of give and take that can happen on various issues. It also opens up the question whether border issue should be insulated from overall development of bilateral relations even if status quo with peace and tranquillity returns on the LAC in the near future. The crisis of 2020 in bilateral relations is also an opportunity to address all the issues together, which is perhaps the only way to bring in normalcy in relations with China without compromising Indian interests and priorities.

Ethiopia's Civil War in Tigray region: UN's humanitarian response to the conflict.

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Ethiopia is a nation in Africa which has an ancient human civilization spanning for more than 4000 years. It is the second most populous nation of the continent and the headquarters of the African Union(A.U.) The AU Commission 's administrative capital is in Addis ababa, the Ethiopian capital. The nation has registered steady economic growth in the last three decades. Its major ethnic groups are the Amharas and Oromos, native of the two biggest regions, Amhara and Oromia. While Tigrayans in the Tigray region just constitute just 6% of the population.

The Tigray war is an armed conflict that began in Nov. 2020 in the Tigray region of Ethiopia between the Tigray regional Government led by the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and forces supporting Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed with the later also receiving support from President Isaias Afwerki's Eritrean forces. Eritrea is another small neighbor which got separated from Ethiopia in 1993 to form an independent nation after a 32-year struggle since 1961. His government replaced the authoritarian regime headed by the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic front (EPRDF) which was in power since last 30 years and later Meles Zenawi, ATigrayan leader since 1995 till his death in 2012. As he had changed the constitution to devolve considerable autonomy to the provinces, the two largest ethnic groups, the Amhara and the Oromo earlier sidelined by the Tigrayan- dominated federal government were in forefront of protests since 2014 during the reign of the next P.M.Haille Merriam Desalegn another Tigrayan in power since 2012. Following nationwide unrest, Abiy Ahmed an Oromian was elected as leader of the EPRDF and took over from Desalegn in 2018 thus becoming the youngest Prime Minister in the nation's recent history.

In order to distance the country's politics from ethnic federalism, within a year after coming to power, Abiy merged the ethnic and regional parties of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front which had governed Ethiopia for 30 years to float a new Prosperity Party. The TPLF already marginalized by other sections of the parent group refused to join the new party and alleged that PM Abiy used undemocratic norms to continue in power by rescheduling the General Elections twice and then even in 29th August 2020 even due to covid-19 outbreak.

While the TPLF went ahead with the regional elections in Tigray in Sep. 2020 in defiance of the federal government which declared the elections illegal. Several journalists were barred by the central/ federal government there at Addis Ababa airport to travel to cover Tigray's polls at Mekelle, capital of the province.

Fighting began with attacks on the country's Northern Command bases and Headquarters of the Ethiopian National Defence Forces in Tigray region by TPLF led armed groups and counter-attacks by the ENDF the same day. The federal forces captured the Tigrayan capital on 28thNov. after which P.M. Abiy declared the Tigray operation over. As a result, mass extrajudicial killings of civilians took place during November &December, 2020 in and around Adigrat in Tigray. Earlier, killing of an Oromian singer, Hachalu

Hundessa in July 2020 triggered riots killing 250 people in Addis Ababa and also in Oromia region. Abiy had rose to prominence as a defender of Oromo rights but as P.M. he had taken a strong stance against dominance of ethnic politics. The P.M. before Zenawi, Mengistu was against breakup of Ethiopia on ethnic lines but the Eritrean liberation from Ethiopia came during his tenure. Now Abiy had reconciled to existence of Eritrea as the two countries are culturally and linguistically very close. He travelled to Asmara, the Eritrean capital to end the bitter war between Ethiopia and Eritrean which was going on since 1998 and reestablish cordial relations. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2019 but after that things started going against him. The Tigrayans claimed that the present government was conspiring and garnering support from Eritrea against them.

The Ethiopian ambassador to South Sudan had to abruptly return to Ethiopia and South Sudanese diplomats in turn were asked to leave the country within 72 hours. Concerning the spillover of the conflict, besides thousands of people having been killed. On 15th Dec, 2020 some Sudanese were killed in an ambush by Amhara militias near the border with Ethiopia.

As a humanitarian response of the United Nations to the catastrophe, some 2.3 million children are cut off from desperately needed aid and humanitarian assistance. Possible covid -19 outbreaks were feared as refugees the Tigris conflict are sheltered in crowded camps. As of Dec. 2020, the UN estimates more than one million people have been internally displaced by the severe clashes. More than 50000 people including at least 300 unaccompanied children have fled to Sudan due to the conflict. Since nearly three months into the catastrophe now, communication lines and travel links remain cutoff making it impossible for international media to get clear account of what was happening there.

There is a huge food shortage as commercial food deliveries have stopped and farmers cant harvest and their crops have been burnt. Hospitals and clinics were also looted. Around 100,000 Eritrean refugees sheltered in Tigray since 30 years to escape from the dictatorial regime in Eritrea are also suffering from serious food scarcity. Around 70000 children under five years of age in Shire, northern Tigray are severely malnourished.

Some telecommunication lines have been restored as of Dec.16, 2020 according to the statement of Mark Lowcock, UN undersecretary general for humanitarian affairs and emergency relief coordinator. Many civil servants have returned to work now and gun owners were asked to disarm as P.M Ahmed sought to restore order in this embattled region. So the UN through its UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) is continuing to negotiate with all parties to the conflict to ensure unhampered access of relief and aid supplies to rehabilitate the scores of refugees scattered inside and outside the nation. The International Committee of the Red Cross reported in Dec.2020 that some 1000 Eritrean refugees arrived in Mekelle from Shire. Several Eritrean refugees affected by the crisis also arrived in Sudan. Thus the UN aid workers and those of the Norwegian Refugee council in collaboration with them are also working to rehabilitate the refugees. The African Union(A.U.) has led political efforts to resolve the fighting. While the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has expressed the UN support in ending the crisis in Ethiopia though the Security Council has still not engaged actively on the crisis so far. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance(OCHA), an agency of the Secretariat since 1991 responsible for mobilization, funding and coordination of humanitarian action in response to complex emergencies and natural disasters is specially engaged towards the relief of internally displaced persons(IDP's) in Ethiopia, Sudan and South Sudan and is working in close collaboration with the UNHCR and other agencies involved in this volatile region.

China's Peaceful Rise as a Threat to India's National Security

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It has been known in many quarters that China has been a major source of concern for India's national security architecture since 1962 war. However, the author is of the opinion that the threat to India emerged from China much before 1962 pushing the year to 1949 when China came into being as a full-fledged Communist country. There are no signs of these concerns abating in the near future. China not only poses a danger to India's sovereignty and territorial integrity but is also determined to obstruct India's rise as a major power.

The attitude of China towards India has to be seen in the perspective of the so-called "Chinese Dream", which is the core reason for Chinese behaviour in a highly irresponsible manner in the domain of international relations with other countries especially with India. China not only poses a threat to India's sovereignty and territorial integrity but is also determined to obstruct India's rise as a major power. According to this lofty "Chinese Dream", by the year 2049 China would be replacing the USA as the sole superpower of the world, thereby retrieving the ancient glory of China's Middle Kingdom concept. The year 2049 was selected as the watershed period intentionally by the top most authorities of China to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the Chinese revolution. The former USA Ambassador to India Mr. Robert Blackwill has emphasized this aspect of Chinese mindset in his book entitled *War by Other Means* where he mentioned China as carrying out geopolitical combat through geo-economic means, often to undermine American power and influence without giving an iota of doubt to others about Chinese grand military ambition of annexing the entire world. China is doing it brilliantly camouflaging them in the cleverly crafted slogan of peaceful rise of China to the world. China thinks that in the fulfillment of this dream other than USA, India is the only Asian country which can hamper China from realizing such a dream. That's why China is not allowing India to rise by the employment of various strategies by fair or foul means.

Chinese Attitude towards Resolution of Border Disputes

The first border talks after the 1962 India-China war took place in December 1981. Seven more rounds of talks were held between 1981 and 1987. After 1988, the talks resumed under the newly-formed Joint Working Group (JWG) mechanism under which 15 rounds took place between 1998 and 2003. In 2003, the talks rebooted to the Special Representative (SR) mechanism. Until 2012, there had been 15 rounds of SR talks. It was also in November 2012 that Xi Jinping took over as President, there were five rounds of meetings at the SR level with the last one taking place in December 2017, making it a total of 20 rounds of SR talks since 2003. In fact, the special representatives talk on the boundary question, or SR-level dialogue mechanism between India and China, is an important channel of communication and should continue in order to mitigate border standoffs and other issues. The 22nd edition, which was the last round of SR-level talks to take place, happened in New Delhi last December 2019 between National Security Advisor Mr. Ajit Doval and Mr. Wang Yi, State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, both of whom are designated SRs for India and China, respectively.

India and China agreed on 23 October 2013 that in any face-off on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) they should not use force or threaten to use force against each other and prevent exchange of fire or an armed conflict. This was among a set of confidence building measures contained in the Border Defence co-operation Agreement (BDCA) signed by both sides during former PM Manmohan Singh's visit to China. The BDCA envisages a graded mechanism, starting with meetings between border personnel, periodic meetings between officers of the regional military headquarters, higher level meetings between the two ministries of defence, working mechanism for consultation and co-ordination on India-China Border Affairs and the Indi-China Annual Defence Dialogue. Crucially, India and China have also agreed that if the two sides come face to face in areas where they have differing perceptions of the LAC, "both sides shall exercise maximum self-restraint, refrain from any provocative actions, not use force or threaten to use force against the other side, treat each other with courtesy and prevent exchange of armed conflict".

The border question has been complicated by the difference in the claims about the length and ambit of the border. According to the official records of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), India shares 3,488 Km of borders with China that runs along the states of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. As the borders are not fully demarcated and the process of clarifying and confirming the LAC is in progress. China does not acknowledge the borders of Arunachal Pradesh as well as Ladakh as sovereign Indian claims. Beijing claims the entire Arunachal Pradesh as its territory and the entire Kashmir state as territory disputed between India and Pakistan.

Implications of Climate Change on Geographical Indications

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Mother Earth is swaying towards disastrous circumstances owing to the human greed causing climate change. International efforts are regularly made to address the issue of climate change and the most prominent ones are United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Green and Clean technologies, alternative and renewable energy sources etc have become essential in combating carbon emission and to address the climate change concerns. Green and Clean technology and its interface with Intellectual Property primarily concerns with the patents and technology transfer, but a significant IP is being ignored which has lot of importance regarding the development of a community(s) i.e., Geographical Indications.

Geographical indications identify good as originating in a territory, or a region or locality in that territory, where a given quality, reputation or other characteristic of the good is essentially attributable to its geographical origin. The said goods are classified into agricultural and non-agricultural goods. As of now, if we ignore the impact of climate change on non-agricultural goods, agricultural goods are invariably being effected by the negative impacts of climate change. Lack of water, raising temperatures, changing patterns of seasonal climatic conditions is effecting the Agricultural productivity. This would adversely affect the socio-economic conditions of the rural communities who are exclusively dependent upon the nature for their livelihood. In India alone, we have more than 100 Geographical Indications which fall under the category of 'Agricultural Type'. If the global community do not pay heed to this alarming situation for a longer time, millions of people may become climate change refugees in the coming years. International efforts are seeming minimal with regards to the Paris Agreement and other climate change agreements etc are silent on the impact of climate change on Geographical Indications albeit few studies aiming at the concern suggest terroir alterations, minimizing the standard of quality and characteristics of goods coming from the regions which are effected by climate change. But this would go against the very nature of Geographical Indication principles where a specific region, quality and reputation are the significant traits of GI protection. A series of debates, deliberations, discussions and cooperation between the countries at the bilateral and multilateral levels is the prime need of the hour for the mitigation of negative impacts of climate change on Geographical indications. In addition to these efforts, the academicians, agricultural scientists need to aim their research in this horizon calling for an action with respect to its specific impact on Indian Geographical Indications.

UK TEST'S DRONE SWARMS

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As the militaries around the world are competing to enhance their warfare capabilities in coherence with the technological advancements has resulted in the development of swarms. Stigmergy is the basis for “swarm Intelligence”, a term that was introduced by in the context of cellular robotics in 1989 by Gerardo Beni and Jing Wang.

Tactical maneuvering of the drone swarms using algorithms is contemplated as “game-changer,” in the evolution of warfare technology. While elements of swarming tactics have been employed by armies for thousands of years, swarms of automated machines could perfect these maneuvers and add a new dimension to the conduct of rules and nature of warfare in the 21st century. The noteworthy aspect of the drone swarms is the minimal intervention of human resources in the maneuvering of these swarms, these machines are able to cooperate, coordinate, identify, mislead and hit the target with precision. These drone swarms will considerably reduce the cost and human loss in the battle field.

Almost all the countries are competing to develop swarm technology, however because of their cutting edge technological advancement the USA is in an advanced stage of using drone swarms for strategic advantage in comparison to others. The US defense Advanced Research Project Agency (DARPA), for example, has been working on micro-drones the size and shape of missiles, designed to be dropped from planes and perform reconnaissance over vast areas. Russia, France, Israel, China, Iran, India are competing for the cutting-edge technological developments in swarm technology for their multi functional applicability.

Recently UK has demonstrated its done swarm technology capabilities with two week test flight of its 20 fixed-wing drones-the largest military-focused trial of an uncrewed aerial vehicle (UAV) swarms in the country to date. A contract of \$ 3.4 Million was awarded by Ministry of Defence (MOD) Science and Technology Portfolio through the Defence and security Accelerator (DASA) to Blue Bear systems Research that includes Plextek DTS, IQHQ, Airbus and Durham University in 2019, paved the way for the development of 20 swarms. These 20 Swarms of consists of 5 different types Blue Bear's Ghost, Ghost Modular, Red Kite, Cobra, and the hand-launched Flat pack system were evaluated from 220 sorties flown over two weeks from RAF Spadeadam, Cumbria would be ultimately managed by UK Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DsTL)

Note: - Contributions for the next issue on any recent International Affairs are requested from International Relations experts, Academicians, Scholars, and Students with the following guidelines

1. Text should not exceed more than one page
2. Text should be in Times New Roman 12
3. Headings should be in Times New Roman 14 and Bold
4. Details of the author like Name, Designation, Institution etc are to be clearly mentioned
5. Should be sent to vinay.kumar@gmail.com or vinayvijay.kumar3@gmail.com
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