

Report

Webinar Topic

An Independent, Open and Prosperous Indo-Pacific Region and the Challenges Posed by China

On dated 16 August 2020

- **Counter to China's aggression in the Indo-Pacific Region: Emphasis on Regional Security and Mutual Partnership**
- **Mutual Partnership on Regional Security and Efforts to Ensure Stability in the Indo-Pacific Region**
- **The strength of the Indo-Pacific Region can counter China's increasing aggression**

New Delhi: On August 15, 2020, a National Webinar was organised by Forum for National Awareness (FANS) on “**Indo-Pacific-Region: China Containment Policy.**” In his opening speech, Shri Indresh Kumar Ji, patron (FANS) and member of All India Executive Board of Rastriya Swayam Sewak Sangh (RSS), while addressing the members of FANS, said that the webinar is going to be a landmark and significant event on the occasion of the 74th Independence Day celebrations. After the partition, India has now arrived at a crucial juncture, where it seems possible to resolve many important issues which have been pending for years. The verdict given by the honourable Supreme Court of India on the issue of the Ram Janmabhoomi dispute is a major indication of the upcoming change.

Shri Indresh Kumar Ji, Chief Patron of Forum for Awareness of National Security (FANS)

We need to be vigilant and observant of China's devious moves in the Indo-Pacific -Region, and the need of hour is to launch a global campaign against it. So far, China has usurped the land of many countries. In the past, by deceiving our former Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, China had invaded Tibet and many other parts of the country. In fact, they have also forcefully annexed Kailash Mansarovar. For the last few years, China has been making constant efforts to occupy regions of Pakistan in the name of development. At the same time, China is also trying to lure Nepal on its side. He said that the current leftist government of Nepal has become a puppet in the hands of China. Nepal's unrestrained comments against India are also a part of China's conspiracy. It exposes another cruel side to the expansionist designs of China. China has always been an expansionist country, and for the same reason, it does not desist from crushing the democracy of any other country. China has violated the fundamental rights of many countries so far.

What China calls the South China Sea is actually Indo-Pacific-Region, the largest center of free maritime trade. One must bear in mind that earlier, it was known as the Purvaarnawah (Purva-Sagar) and the Malay-Sea. This Ocean is rich on many accounts including climate

and marine life. In recent times, China is trying to prove its dominance in this region. We need to give a clear message against China's conspiracies in the Malay-Sea.

India shows more clarity in its position on issues arising in this area than ever before. To tackle this situation, there is a need to launch a worldwide campaign against China's conspiracy by making optimum use of mass media. Taiwan, Tibet and Hong Kong should be recognized as independent countries by the United Nations. We need a global movement for the same because China's repressive policies in these countries are no longer hidden from anyone. All the countries of the world will have to come together to counter the spread of China's brutality and deception.

The corona virus is a bio-weapon developed in China's laboratories. This is the reason why most of the developed countries of the world have failed in producing its antidote or vaccine. After this pandemic, the real face of China has come before the world.

China's current policies are both dangerous for and extremely challenging for the whole of mankind. China's success in its expansionist agenda in India will pose a huge crisis for the rest of the world. Today, most countries of the world are aligned with India, because they are aware of the fact that India has solutions for such a challenge. So far, India has relentlessly and successfully countered the expansionist policy of China.

In order to stop China, it is extremely important to put a halt / stop to its unchecked economic expansion in other countries. Bearing this in mind, India will now have to take serious steps towards its self-reliance, which has already started even amidst the challenging times of the pandemic. Today, many countries of the world recognize the inhuman expansionary and oppressive policy of China. It is against humanity. There is an urgent need to take it to global media. There will surely come a day when the entire world will be able to see through the shrewdness and the conspiracies of China.

In the twenty first century, India is going to play a significant, or rather decisive role on the world stage. In fact, the entire world is already looking towards India for global peace. In order to fulfil their hope, India will have to emphasize on self-sufficiency. It will also have to work towards increasing its resources and become self-sufficient in every sense of the term. The villages of India have endless creative potential and skills: we will have to respect what we have, give people who have such skills a constructive direction and channelize them accordingly. Only then will we be able to create a new India of the 21st Century. India is a country that can very well lead the world.

Shri Golok Bihari Rai (National General Secretary, Forum for Awareness of National Security)

Today, a new situation has arisen in the Indo-Pacific-Region due to China. China is quite aggressive in its expansionist policy. Its nature has always been that of extreme and aggressive expansion. The current state of China has never been geographically so vast in earlier times. It used to be a group of just five states- Tang State, Eastern Wu State (Sun Wu), Suhan, Soo-bei and Chu State.

In the year 2007, a four-dimensional Quad was formed. Its aim was to better coordinate maritime capabilities for situations of disaster. Today, the responsibilities of the Quad are: to build connectivity, sustainable development, counter terrorism, maritime and cyber security and to develop humanitarian disaster management mechanisms. In recent times, China's aggression has become a matter of grave concern. However, the Quad is now a part of a comprehensive economic and strategic alliance. After 2017, India has played a major role in this situation. Under India's leadership, a consortium of four countries, namely, America, Australia, Japan and India will counter China's expansionist policy. Taking note of the pivotal role that India plays in the Indo-Pacific-Region, Beijing has constantly been engaged in expanding its power in the Indo-Pacific-Region, which they call South-China Sea. In 2017, all the four members (US, Australia, Japan and India) reactivated their alliance to counter China's aggressive expansion in this region. After this, the alliance of these four countries has stepped forward and started promoting an independent and open Indo-Pacific-Region.

In fact, due to China's aggressive expansionist attitude there is galvanization in regional integration among like-minded countries with similar principles. Due to China's growing interest in the region, a regional alliance is being developed, which is essential for regional stability and peace.

Dr. Jagarnath Panda (Research Fellow at IDSA)

Today, China has emerged as an aggressive force. In comparison to India's economic and military strength, China is more powerful. China's policy towards India, Japan and America is quite aggressive. After the arrival of the Modi government, a lot of emphasis is being put on national security. At the same time, seeing threats posed by China and Pakistan, India has started taking a very strict stand on border issues. The current foreign policy of Chinese President Xi Jinping is warning us about the future challenges. Over the past years, several border disputes with China have come to light. The tussle with Chinese troops in Doklam and Galvan Valley resulted from China's well-thought over aggressive policy towards India. It is time that India will have to be prepared for this. The PLA has been influential in China's policy towards India.

However, now China has started taking India seriously. China is now devising a new strategy by taking Nepal and Pakistan on its side quite deceptively. At the same time, China is making the situation in the border area quite complex and tense. It is hence very clear that the attitude of China regarding border issue is going to be very aggressive. The Indo-Pacific-Region is a weak link for China. Keeping this in mind, India will have to increase its naval power. India will have to establish a good relationship with the countries of the Indo-Pacific-Region.

Prof. Srikanth Kondapalli (SIS, JNU)

From the year 2017, China's aggression in the Indo-Pacific-Region has increased significantly. China is trying to capture this entire region. Therefore, in this region, China has deployed missiles and bombers. China has also developed its military resources and naval resources to maintain its dominance in this region. Steps are now being taken to counter this situation. India, Japan and the United States have jointly signed a maritime agreement to deal

with the challenges posed by China. India's interests are deeply rooted in the Indo-Pacific-Region which is the reason why India is also developing maritime infrastructure at four places. In this area, India is now moving ahead confidently and strongly.

Shri Konta Mallikarjuna Gupta (Doctoral Candidate)

In the Indo-Pacific-Region, China has assumed an aggressive role. In such a situation, India should take the initiative to counter China by upgrading her digital technology. We need the latest US military resources to deal with the challenges posed by China in the region. To a large extent, US foreign policy for the region will depend largely on its own business activities. We will have to keep an eye on it.