

India's maritime legacy: Lessons from history



Revisiting India's maritime legacy can drive advancements in naval strength, trade security and regional cooperation, paving the way for a strong maritime future. India has a rich maritime history dating back to the Indus Valley civilisation. People of ancient Indian empires such as Mauryas and Cholas were active seafarers who undertook long and arduous voyages for trade, cultural, religious and political causes. Various regional powers and rulers such as Marathas, Marakkars and even Mughals tried to contest the ascendancy of European naval supremacy in Indian waters. The present-day Indian Navy was born out of the Royal Indian Navy in 1947, with already meagre assets divided between India and Pakistan. As a result, the Indian Navy was initially a coastal force responsible for coastal defence and protection of maritime trade. The Indian Navy proved its mettle during the liberation war of Bangladesh in 1971. The decisive and bold actions by the Navy in the

1971 war made the nation realise the potential of the silent, yet dynamic and effective element of the comprehensive national power. Commencing with the international humanitarian and disaster relief operations in the aftermath of the 2004 Tsunami, the Indian Navy has significantly stepped up its operational tempo. The recent successes of the Indian Navy in anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden protecting mariners of various nationalities, including Pakistanis, have been internationally appreciated. Indian Navy ships have evacuated personnel of the Indian diaspora and citizens of friendly foreign countries from conflict areas such as Lebanon (2006) and Yemen (2015). Ancient Indian Maritime Culture As India strives for its rightful position on the global stage, we need to revive and study the historical and indigenous Indian maritime strategic thought. Our scriptures, treatises and literature reference the rich Indian maritime strategic culture. Other powers that arose in the Indian sub-continent such as Satavahanas, Pallavas, Pandyas, Cholas and many others continued the rich maritime traditions of the Indian civilisation well past the decline of the mighty Mauryan empire. The adoption of a new naval ensign inspired by the spirit of Shivaji's maritime endeavours is a step in this direction that needs to be ingrained in the ethos of all maritime and

naval endeavours of the nation. Shivaji's Maritime Endeavours: The Marathas were the only Indian power between the 17th to early 19th centuries who successfully challenged the growing European influence in Indian waters. Shivaji, his son Sambhaji Maharaj and their able Admirals such as Mayank Bhandari, Dautat Khan, Sidhoji Gujar and legendary Kanhoji Angre raised and maintained a strong Navy of over 5000 personnel comprising over 300 vessels at its peak. Noted historian Jadunath Sarkar acknowledges that "Nothing proves Shivaji's genius as a born statesman more clearly than his creation of a navy and naval bases". The Maratha naval prowess was further consolidated under Maratha Admiral Kanhoji Angre from 1699 onwards. He effectively challenged the British maritime power on the West coast from his base at Vijaydurg in Ratnagiri. His tactics of attacking the deep draught British ships with shallow water crafts, utilising the shelter of shallow natural harbour and fortress with mounted heavy guns were akin to typical sea denial and littoral warfare operations practised by modern navies. Such was the Maratha naval supremacy that even a combined Anglo-Portuguese assault on Kolaba island of Mumbai in 1772 failed to dislodge the Marathas. Strategic Maritime Culture of Cholas The earliest mention of Chola's naval prowess dating back to Roman records of the 1st century AD highlights the presence of a flourishing port at Kaveripatnam and the King's fleet escort-

ing merchant ships into the harbour. The Periplus of the Erythrean Sea mentions the voyage of the early Chola ship 'Colandia' from Kaveripatnam to islands in the Pacific Ocean. The maritime power of Cholas reached its peak between the 9th and 10th centuries during which the Cholas developed a strong Navy with Blue Water capabilities and established robust trade links with China and South East Asia. The seafarers of the Chola empire had exceptional navigational skills and, an understanding of the seas, monsoons, winds and currents. They were conversant with the use of a 32-point Arab-Tamil wind compass and as many as 56 stars in the Northern Hemisphere for navigation. Despite the lack of a rudder and magnetic compass, the Cholas seafarers could traverse the distance between India and Southeast Asia in twelve to fifteen days, indicative of their Blue Water capability. The maritime endeavours of Cholas provide valuable insights for stakeholders of the contemporary Indian maritime strategy. The Indian maritime outlook for the Indian Ocean Region that has evolved from the 'Look East' to 'Act East' and the Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) can draw inspiration from India's maritime legacy. Initiatives like anti-piracy missions in the Gulf of Aden, HADR missions, Sagarmala and Port Led Development, SAGAR, Atma Nirbharta and Make in India etc. have common threads with the maritime practices of Cholas.

Domestic compulsions get the better of Trudeau

While the Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's focus on India may serve short-term political goals, it risks long-term damage to bilateral relations. Recently, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) made sensational claims accusing Indian diplomats of engaging in acts of violence, intimidation, and murder targeting Khalistani extremists, allegedly with the help of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. This accusation came just two days before Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was scheduled to testify before the Foreign Interference Commission, which was investigating allegations of Chinese interference in elections. These allegations suggested that such interference had benefited Trudeau's Liberal Party, contributing to its electoral success and the loss of seats for Conservative candidates.

Notably, a day before the RCMP's claims, members of Trudeau's government leaked sensitive information to The Washington Post (WP) to amplify Ottawa's narrative internationally. On October 16, Trudeau appeared before the commission but devoted significant attention to India instead of addressing the allegations of Chinese interference. He admitted to having no "hard evidence" but only "intelligence inputs" regarding the claims against India, raising questions about his motives.

Political Diversion

Prime Minister Trudeau faces mounting dissatisfaction among Canadians over various domestic crises, including high living costs, an unaffordable real estate market, immigration issues, and rising unemployment. Economic challenges such as slow growth, a widening fiscal deficit, and stagnating per capita GDP have further eroded Trudeau's support. Additionally, accusa-



tions of personal extravagance and the unpopular carbon tax have compounded public frustration. Speculation abounds that Trudeau may also be contending with internal dissent within his party.

Khalistani Separatism

For decades, India has criticised Canada for allegedly providing a safe haven to Khalistani separatists, driven largely by domestic vote bank politics. The most egregious example of Canada's leniency toward Khalistani extremists was the 1985 Air India Flight 182 bombing. Despite prior intelligence, Ottawa has been accused of failing to prevent the attack or bring its perpetrators to justice. Sikhs represent approximately 2.1% of Canada's population but hold disproportionate influence with 4.4% of parliamentary representation. While the majority of Sikh Canadians do not support Khalistan, a vocal minority of Khalistani extremists wields significant political influence through intimidation and mobilization. Their support ensures votes, financial con-

tributions, and political protection, making Canadian politicians reluctant to alienate them. Maxime Bernier, leader of the People's Party of Canada, has openly criticized this dynamic. He condemned Trudeau and Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre for not naming "Khalistani Sikhs" while condemning attacks on Hindu temples, accusing them of pandering to extremist elements. Bernier argued that

Canada must collaborate with India to address Khalistani extremism instead of jeopardising bilateral relations. Toronto MP Kevin Vuong also raised concerns over the growing threat to Hindu Canadians following recent attacks on temples.

India's Response

Ottawa has accused India of being uncooperative in the investigation into the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a prominent Khalistani figure. However, some analysts suggest the issue lies in Canada's limited geopolitical leverage compared to the United States. For instance, WP reports allege that the CIA assisted in gathering evidence implicating Indian operatives in potential plots against Khalistani leaders. In contrast, Canada has only intelligence inputs from its Five Eyes partners and intercepted conversations of Indian diplomats. Ironically, while Canada prioritises the safety of Khalistani extremists, acts of violence, hate speech, and threats targeting Indian diplomats, temples, and community

leaders have received little attention from Trudeau's government.

Trudeau's Dilemma

Recent revelations have further complicated Trudeau's position. Last month, RCMP Commissioner Mike Duheme claimed to have "irrefutable evidence" implicating senior Indian officials in Nijjar's murder. However, Trudeau later denied possessing any such evidence, calling leaks to The Globe and Mail baseless and criminal. This inconsistency has fueled speculation about Trudeau's motives and whether external pressures—such as U.S. intelligence directives or political considerations—might be influencing his stance.

Future of India-Canada Relations

Despite robust people-to-people ties and ongoing trade, India's relationship with Canada has been fraught with tensions over Khalistani extremism. The issue transcends Trudeau or the Liberal Party and reflects deeper systemic problems in Canadian politics. Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre, while maintaining a neutral stance, has also avoided directly addressing Khalistani extremism, raising doubts about whether a change in government would significantly alter Canada's approach. India has historically responded to incidents involving Khalistani extremism in Canada with diplomatic protests and calls for accountability. However, experts argue that India should adopt a more proactive and sustained approach, raising the issue at international forums like the United Nations and during bilateral dialogues with Western nations. Emphasising the principles of hate speech and incitement laws, which exist in Canadian legislation, could strengthen India's case against Khalistani violence.

190 Crore DLF Penthouse Shatters Real Estate Records!

Within the domain of genuine legacy, the advertisement regularly takes after a high-stakes diversion, where properties are the chips and each exchange can set unused records. As of late, the stakes come to an all-time high with a penthouse in Gurgaon's DLF Camellias offering for a bewildering ₹190 crores. This momentous bargain, not only breaks records but also highlights the furious competition between skyrocketing genuine bequest costs and the opening day collections of blockbuster movies, taking off numerous shocked by

the sheer greatness of such exchanges. The deal, which took place on December 2, included Info-x Program Tech Pvt Ltd obtaining a sprawling 16,290 square feet penthouse. The amazing cost deciphers to ₹1.18 lakh per square foot in the super region and ₹1.82 lakh per square foot in the carpet region, stamping it as the most noteworthy recorded cost for a high-rise loft in India. This bargain has ended up being a central point of dialogue in media circles, especially since such extreme costs are regularly related to extravagant mar-

kets in cities like Delhi and Mumbai, not Gurgaon. Gurgaon has developed as a hotbed for extravagance genuine domain, drawing in high-net-worth people looking for upscale living spaces. The region's request is opened up by its nearness to major trade centre points and elite neighbourhoods, winning it the epithet "billionaires' push." This later exchange underscores the developing drift of ultra-luxury properties in Gurgaon, where requests proceed to surge as princely buyers run to secure their put-in this select advertise.

Looking ahead, the direction of Gurgaon's genuine domain showcase shows up promising. As extravagance advancements like DLF's Camellias proceed to draw in consideration and venture, we may witness indeed more record-breaking deals in the near future. With an expanding number of affluent people looking for unparalleled living encounters, Gurgaon's status as a head goal for a high-end genuine bequest is likely to cement further, potentially rivalling indeed the foremost prestigious ranges in Mumbai and Delhi.

Indian Students Face Alarming Surge in Violent Attacks!



Within the tremendous scene of instruction overseas, where dreams take flight, a dull cloud looms over the encounters of Indian undergraduates. Later measurements uncover an upsetting slant: assaults against Indian undergraduates in outside nations have surged since 2019, coming about in 20 appalling passings. The Joined together States and Canada account for a stunning 80% of these episodes, with the Service of Outside Issues detailing that nine Indian undergraduates were assaulted in Canada and seven within the U.S. This disturbing rise raises genuine questions approximately security and security for those seeking after their instruction distant from domestic. Whereas Canada and the U.S. dominate the features, savagery against Indian undergraduates isn't limited to these two countries. Other nations such as Russia, Ireland, and Australia have moreover detailed occurrences, with Russia recording the most elevated number of assaults at 14, in spite of the fact that none were deadly. The broader suggestions of these insights paint a bleak picture for the Indian community overseas, highlighting an unavoidable issue of prejudice and viciousness that rises above borders. In Canada alone, there have been 163 passings of Indian undergraduates over the past five a long time, underscoring a squeezing requirement for comprehensive security measures. The Indian community overseas is progressively powerless to such viciousness, inciting calls for more grounded security conventions and back frameworks. With around 1.3 million Indian undergraduates examined in Canada, it is basic that colleges and governments prioritize their well-being. The need for satisfactory assurance not as it were imperils lives but undermines the instructive goals of incalculable youthful people who look for openings abroad. The community's strength is commendable, however, it must be reinforced by systemic changes to guarantee a more secure environment for all. As we see to long-standing time, it is vital to foresee a move in how nations address these challenges. Increased mindfulness and backing may lead to stronger security measures and community bolster systems for universal undergraduates. The hope is that through collective endeavours from governments, instructive education, and nearby communities, we will make a more secure scene where undergraduates can thrive without fear. As it were at that point can we really honor the desires of those who wander overseas to seek after their dreams and construct a stronger future?

Graffiti That Fueled Syria's Unstoppable War!



Within the embroidered artwork of history, a single thread can untangle a complete texture, and such was the case in Syria when a 14-year-old girl's spray painting touched off a transformation. In 2011, within the little town of Daraa, Mouawiya Syasneh spray-painted the words "Ejak el entryway, ya doctor" (It's your time, Specialist) on a divider, focusing on President Bashar al-Assad and his therapeutic foundation. This apparently harmless act of resistance rapidly got the start

and tormented by the regime's mystery police. Their brutal treatment touched off shock among the nearby populace, driving broad challenges in Daraa. On Walk 15, 2011, these challenges advanced into Syria, to begin with, the facilitated "Day of Rage," motivated by comparative developments over the Middle Easterner world. The reaction from Assad's administration was quick and rough, as security powers unleashed tear gas and live ammo on serene demonstrators, advance fueling

that lit the combine of a national rebellion, changing into one of the deadliest respectful wars of the 21st century. What started as a high school trick borne out of dissatisfaction heightened drastically when Mouawiya and his companions were captured

open outrage. As pictures of the battered boys circulated online, they got to be images of resistance against abuse. The introductory calls for political reform quickly morphed into requests for flexibility and an end to Assad's run the show. The circumstance weakened when deserters from Assad's armed forces shaped the Free Syrian Armed Forces (FSA), checking the transition from serene challenges to outfitted strife. Radical bunches like ISIS abused the chaos, complicating an as-of-now desperate circumstance. Twelve long times afterwards, Syria remains in turmoil, with over 500,000 lives misplaced and millions uprooted. As we see to long term, it is obvious that the echoes of Mouawiya's graffiti will proceed to reverberate. With continuous turmoil and later reports of revolt groups picking up ground against Assad's administration, there's a developing plausibility that another wave of alter might clear through Syria. The potential for recharged strife or indeed a move in control flow looms huge on the skyline, proposing that this chapter in Syrian history is remote from closed.

Trump's Shocking Plan: Mass Deportations and End of Birthright Citizenship



Within the political field, the arrangement is set for an emotional execution, and President Donald Trump is balanced to require a central arrangement with his driven migration plan. In a later meeting on NBC News' "Meet the Press," Trump laid out plans that may reshape the scene of movement within the Joined together States, including mass extraditions of undocumented migrants and the questionable move to conclude bequest citizenship. These propositions flag a return to hardline approaches reminiscent of his to begin with the term, lighting furious talks about their suggestions for millions living in America. Upon taking office on January 20, Trump extreme to announce illicit migration as a national crisis, which would permit him to designate government assets for a broad crackdown. The Division of Homeland Security gauges that around 11 million undocumented migrants as of now dwell within the U.S., a figure that has likely developed. When pressed on

whether he points to expelling all people without lawful status, Trump expressed, "I think you've got to do it," emphasizing the requirement for strict adherence to migration laws. This statement sets the organisation for a noteworthy heightening in authorization activities against undocumented people. Whereas Trump's position shows up uncompromising, he communicated an eagerness to arrange securities for "Dreamers" those brought to the U.S. as children. This marks a potential move from his past administration's endeavours to dismantle

DACA, which has given little help from extradition for these people. Trump has shown that Republicans may well be open to talks about safeguarding Visionaries, recommending that bipartisan participation might be on the skyline in spite of his forceful talk. As Trump's organization gears up for its moment term, the challenges ahead are imposing. The proposed mass extraditions and changes to inheritance citizenship will without a doubt confront legitimate obstacles and open backfire. Faultfinders contend that such measures may lead to family divisions and strain government assets whereas supporters demand they are essential for national security and implementing migration laws. Looking ahead, as Trump plans to execute these clearing changes, it is likely that migration will stay a characterizing issue of his administration, shaping not as it were arrangement but to open opinion within a long time to come.

