

NEWS

China, India, compete to help Colombo's demographic onslaught on Tamils

TamilNet

WHILE Colombo plans allotting lands for 'retired' Sinhala army personnel in the so-called 'resettlement' schemes of Tamil North and East of the island of Sri Lanka, China and India compete in proving who is the best facilitator of Colombo in its demographic onslaught, Eelam Tamils circles said.

China has emerged as Sri Lanka's biggest single lender in 2009, revealed Colombo sources adding that China's top aid to the North was spent particularly on creating conducive environment for Colombo's occupying armed forces there.

India is already helping Colombo's communication strategies disrupting Tamil demographic contiguity. In the meantime, relieving Colombo from Western pressure, Indian envoy in Colombo said Sri Lanka could export more garments to India under Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

Tamils sources also said that a proposed World Bank aid for taking census in the North and East has already evoked calls from the south that the number of Tamil parliamentary constituencies has to be now reduced, citing population decrease in the Tamil homeland since 1981.

The situation is for the perusal of those in the West who still pretend of not knowing what is genocide, those who try to teach that what the Eelam Tamils face is not genocide and those who deceive them and deceive others that the crisis in the island could be resolved within united Sri Lanka by restructuring state, Tamil circles further said.

While whatever happening in the name of re-settlement is eye-wash - creation of slums of paupers under the supervision of the occupying army, the Colombo government has extensive plans to allot lands to retired army personnel to have permanent control over the Tamil population, reliable sources in the South told TamilNet.

For nearly two decades now, thousands of SLA soldiers are occupying private houses amidst densely populated areas in the Jaffna peninsula, keeping the people under open prisons.

In the recently conquered Vanni, buildings in good shape

are invariably occupied by the troops and even Colombo's Tamil civil servants find it difficult to get back their quarters.

Last year, SLA Commander, General Jagath Jayasuriya told Colombo newspaper Daily Mirror that the military had ordered pre-fabricated buildings from China to build military camps that were to be installed in the 'liberated' North.

China topped backing Colombo through 1.2 billion dollar loan in 2009, which is more than half of total 2.2 billion foreign aid Sri Lanka received in that year, Colombo sources said.

Sri Lanka now relies more on China, India, Iran, Japan and Myanmar, observers point out.

China's ascendancy as the top abettor of Colombo raise eyebrows in Indian media, but the same media fails to see what their own government is doing in the island, Tamil circles said.

Even though the West is reluctant to accept the justification in Tamil demand for independence, at least there are now powerful voices in the West that political solution is the priority before anything else in the island.

But whether the Indian strategy is collaborating with Colombo in permanently erasing the political aspiration of Eelam Tamils in order to make Sinhalese agree for 'economic and strategic incorporation' with India is the question in the minds of Eelam Tamils. Their suspicion is substantiated by India's actions spanning well over six decades.

India continues playing a negative role oppressing Tamils in the island further and further for its gains from the Sinhala state, Tamil circles say.

Sections of media and ruling families among Tamils of the sub-continent, greedy of their own financial empires, being in the forefront in the subjugation of Eelam Tamils is the topmost irony, Eelam Tamil circles in the island further said.

The crisis in the island and power manoeuvrings denying justice to the victims arise because of international community's irresponsibility in not taking direct control of a region affected by genocidal war, in the early stage itself, according to Tamil political circles.



China continues to build its alliance with Sri Lanka, much to the concern of India

China's 'pearls' spook India

Bruno Philip
The Guardian

CHINA is weaving a web of trade and maritime agreements around its old rival India, encircling the country with strategically placed construction projects and schemes to enlarge port facilities. In the days of the Bush administration, US analysts hatched a theory that has since become accepted wisdom: China is putting together a "string of pearls" in India's home waters.

"The 'string' is part of an indirect strategy, which ... aims to trap India in a spider's web, reducing its options in the event of crisis," said Jean-Pierre Cabestan, professor of political science at Hong Kong Baptist University.

Beijing claims it is pursuing exclusively commercial goals,

but the Indian Ocean is China's main route for importing energy supplies, increasing the likelihood that these facilities could be used for military purposes should a regional conflict erupt, observers say.

The project giving India most cause for concern is a Chinese-funded port being built at Gwadar on the coast of Pakistan's Baluchistan province. China is also extremely active in Sri Lanka, where it is busy developing the port of Hambantota. China Eximbank is funding 85% of the work on port facilities, worth an estimated \$1bn. In Bangladesh China is contributing to the modernisation of the deep-water port at Chittagong, slated to become a major container hub.

The last pearl on the string, Nepal, is a landlocked country but one that occupies a strategic position for Beijing. Last month the

Nepalese prime minister, Madhav Kumar Nepal, led a visit to Beijing that, according to the Chinese media, resulted in an agreement on Sino-Nepali border security.

But an editorial published last month on the Chinese Global Times website sought to reassure. "Worry about China competing for dominance of the Indian Ocean runs deep inside India," it explained. "Such worries are unnecessary. China watches closely over the Indian Ocean because oil imported from the Middle East and Africa has to go through it."

So is the military threat posed by an increasingly tight string of pearls exaggerated? "The ports could serve as logistical bases should China's navy need to evacuate its nationals from an emergency somewhere in Africa or the Middle East. But things could be much more complicated if there was a war on," Cabestan said.

Chinese 'pre-fabricated structures' in Kachchatheevu

THE presence of Chinese in Sri Lanka owned island of Kachchatheevu, considered as a threat to the security of India, is confirmed by a group of journalists and social activists from Tamil Nadu.

More than thirty pre-fabricated structures with Chinese names were found on the island of Kachchatheevu located on the sea boundary between India and Sri Lanka by Tamil Nadu journalists and social activists who participated in the recent annual festival of Kachchatheevu St. Antony's Church, according to Dinamalar, a Tamil Nadu daily.

The pre-fabricated structures, however, were unoccupied but evidence of people living in them was observed by the visiting journalists from Tamil Nadu who were not permitted to photograph

them by Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) soldiers. The presence of Chinese in the island of Kachchatheevu is seen as a threat to the security of India by its citizens, Dinamalar added.

Sri Lankan fishermen and the SLN soldiers to whom the journalists spoke during the festival confirmed that Chinese men who were staying in Kachchatheevu had been temporarily moved out due to the festival. They were further told that a program of joint patrol surveillance training for SLN and Chinese navy soldiers is in progress in Kachchatheevu.

'Attacks on Tamil Nadu fishermen', 'Tamil Nadu fishermen chased off from Kachchatheevu by SLN', 'Chinese surveillance tower in Kachchatheevu', 'China targeting India' are some of the

recent allegations raised by Tamil Nadu fishermen.

The allegation of a Chinese surveillance tower had caused quite a stir in India and when questions were raised Sri Lanka government had categorically denied any presence of Chinese in Kachchatheevu, the journalists said.

It was suggested that representatives from both countries should jointly investigate into the allegation visiting Kachchatheevu but it did not materialize due to reluctance of Sri Lanka, they said.

Hence, journalists and social activists from Tamil Nadu had participated in the festival with the aim of finding the true situation in Kachchatheevu using the opportunity of visiting Kachchatheevu which is out of bounds for anyone.