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## FAIR STAND: Govt clarifies that citizens free to eat vegetarian or non-veg food, CM says state won't regulate food habits

Finally, a much-needed stand, as politicians' ambiguity in the past affected society & it led to vigilantism. Shutting meat shops & targeting choice of food, is against the spirit of freedom.

### The Asian Tribune

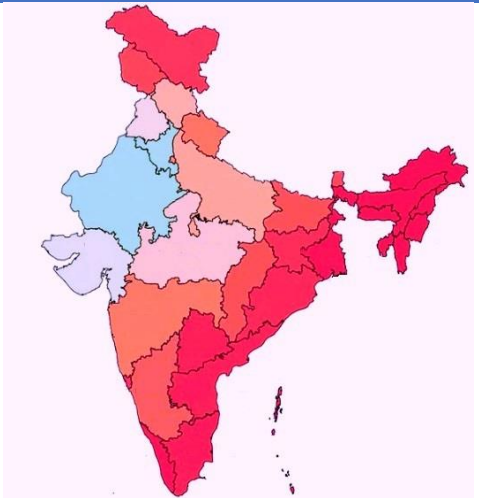
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The clear message that the government won't interfere in people's choice of food, is indeed important and the occasion, indeed, perfect.

After civic bodies issued orders to close shops that sell meat on the occasion of Independence Day, there was criticism in Maharashtra. It was seen as interference in citizens' right to eat & make their choices. Strong voices against the ban led to the clarification. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said that the government was not going to dictate the food habits and there was no question of interfering in choice of food.

He made it clear that this was citizens' right to choose what they eat. "We are not interested in deciding who eats what". Fadnavis said that the order was issued by civic bodies and was from the era of Congress government.

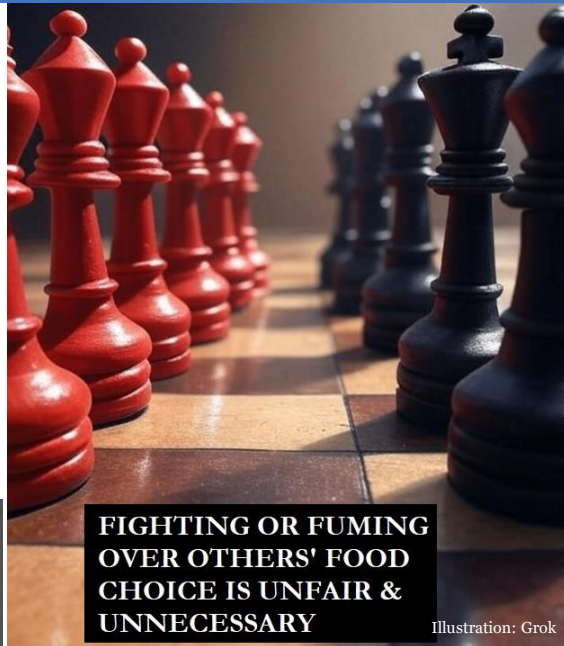
Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar also said that it was an individual's right and in a diverse society, the culture, traditions and food habits of everybody need to be respected. The Maharashtra government has said that it was not interested in finding out what people eat and the state has many other necessary and important tasks, than focusing on food. That it comes from a BJP chief minister is important. In fact, other parties' had dilly-dallied for long and it was a result of years of ambiguity that created a climate that choice of food became a big issue, linking it with survival and security.



Till a few years ago, India had 70% non-vegetarians but recent reports suggest that the figure is around 80%.

From lynchings to attacks on meat shops, such incidents signalled that choice of non-veg food was 'improper'. In Maharashtra, Opposition also lashed out at the meat ban. Shiv Sena criticized the order that asked for closure of outlets selling meat on August 15. No doubt, freedom to live as per one's traditions and culture that includes food and lifestyle, is the cornerstone of the spirit of independence & government's stand comes as a relief. Hopefully, this would bring more clarity in society and other governments will also take clear stand on this issue. Otherwise, ambiguity and silence on many issues, allows vigilantes to misuse their strength on the ground and to harass citizens.

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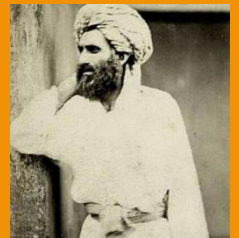


FIGHTING OR FUMING OVER OTHERS' FOOD CHOICE IS UNFAIR & UNNECESSARY

Illustration: Grok

## INSIDE ASIAN TRIBUNE

\*Great freedom fighter who was among the first band of revolutionaries hanged by British. **Page 2**



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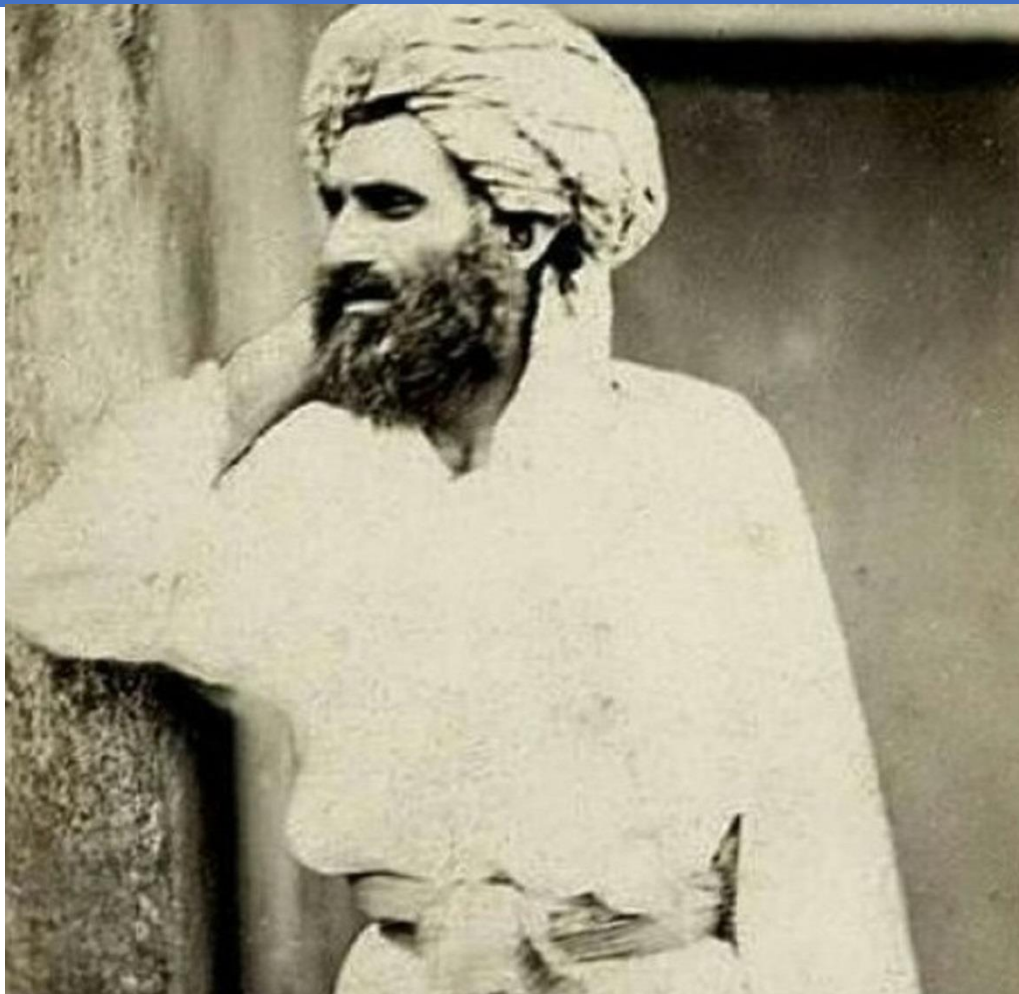
# Revolutionary freedom fighter Mohammad Abdullah belonged to the initial band of patriots hanged during the British rule

The sacrifices of initial band of revolutionary freedom fighters created awakening among masses in the colonial era. Indians were mistreated, harassed & faced extreme atrocities.



**SHAMS UR REHMAN  
ALAVI**

The contribution of the initial band of revolutionary freedom fighters in Indian history, is unparalleled. Their leading role in creating the awakening among masses and their sacrifices for the motherland, can never be forgotten. The fact is that martyrs like Mohammad Abdullah were the revolutionaries of the initial era—soon after 1857. They were hanged and they happily went to gallows for the cause of freedom. Mohammad Abdullah had assassinated the judge who was known for giving harsh sentence to freedom fighters, especially, the revolutionaries. History books mention that John Paxton Norman was assassinated by Mohammad Abdullah in 1871. The incident took place in Kolkata (then, Calcutta). **The judge John Paxton Norman was known for harsh sentences on freedom fighters and revolutionaries.** In those times, revolutionaries were being sent to faraway Andaman too. Historians, for this reason, especially emphasize this aspect and mention that revolutionaries despite strong repressive measures, preferred to die but remained committed to cause of freedom.



**Mohammad Abdullah, freedom fighter and martyr. He was hanged for assassinating Paxton Norman who gave harsh sentences to revolutionaries.**

Sir Paxton Norman was acting chief justice of Calcutta High Court in 1871. Abdullah was later hanged. His portraits adorn museums and homes, now. Remember, it was an era when Indians were treated like slaves and there were large-scale killings after 1857. Even in later years, the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre and Qissakhwani Bazar killings, had infuriated all.

After 1857, freedom movement saw participation of hundreds of such patriots who were willing to give their life for the cause of independence. Just like freedom fighters of later era, who wanted the atrocities to end, and took up initiative--**Bhagat Singh and Rajguru killed John Saunders, and got hanged.** Each such incident and martyrdom in the era,

hangings and freedom fighters shot or killed, led to the rise in nationalistic fervour and as a result created awakening among the people. From Taty Tope to Azimullah, Sher Ali, Bhagat Singh, Ashfaqullah, Rajguru, Madanlal Dhingra, Mohammad Abdullah to Chandrashekhar Azad, the list of martyrs and revolutionaries is too long. [editor@asiantribune.net](mailto:editor@asiantribune.net)

# BRICS' vision for a new global currency amidst changing world order

What defines BRICS today is a strategic ambition: to insulate themselves from Washington's gravitational pull while cooperating to build a joint hi-tech industrial base.

By Asad Mirza

How practical and pragmatic is the vision behind an alternative currency? Is it something that we can see in near future or it is a fantasy?

These are the questions that have risen as we see the world transform in a big way. The BRICS Summit at Rio, apart from raising concerns on the multilateral issues, was marred by dissensions within the grouping.

It also faced the added threats from the American President Trump over BRICS' plans to float a new global currency to give competition to the US Dollar, a move which would face many other hurdles before fruition.

United States is not happy with the prospect. US President Donald Trump mocked the BRICS bloc as a 'little group' that is 'fading out fast' and reiterated his warning of a 10 percent tariff on countries aligning with it, accusing them of supporting 'anti-American policies'.

Trump further took credit for undermining the bloc's attempts to challenge the global dominance of the US dollar, vowing that he would never let that happen.

The American president, Donald Trump, taking a clear and firm stance toward global economic competitors, also said this, 'When I heard about this group of six countries in BRICS, I hit them very hard...'

... and if they ever really forming a meaningful way, it will end very quickly'.

Though he didn't name the nations, Trump added,

"We can never let anyone play games with the US'. He also stressed the importance of maintaining the US Dollar's global reserve status. "We are not going to let the Dollar slide... If we lost the status of the Dollar as the world's reserve currency, it would be like losing a World War." Trump said.

Trump had targeted Brazil with new trade penalties, announcing a 50 percent tariff on imports beginning in August over what he described as 'unfair' trade practices. This follows his earlier July 6 declaration of a 10 percent tariff on any nation aligning with the BRICS group. The BRICS group, originally formed in 2009, is a coalition of emerging economies comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (which joined in 2010). In 2024-25, the bloc expanded to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, bringing the total number of member countries to 11.

BRICS was established with the goal of promoting peace, development, and a more balanced global order by strengthening economic cooperation among developing nations. It has positioned itself as a counterweight to Western-led institutions like the G7 and the IMF, advocating for a multipolar world and reforms in global governance systems. It promotes use of local currencies in trade. But what defines BRICS today is a strategic ambition: to insulate themselves from Washington's gravitational pull while cooperating to build a joint industrial base.

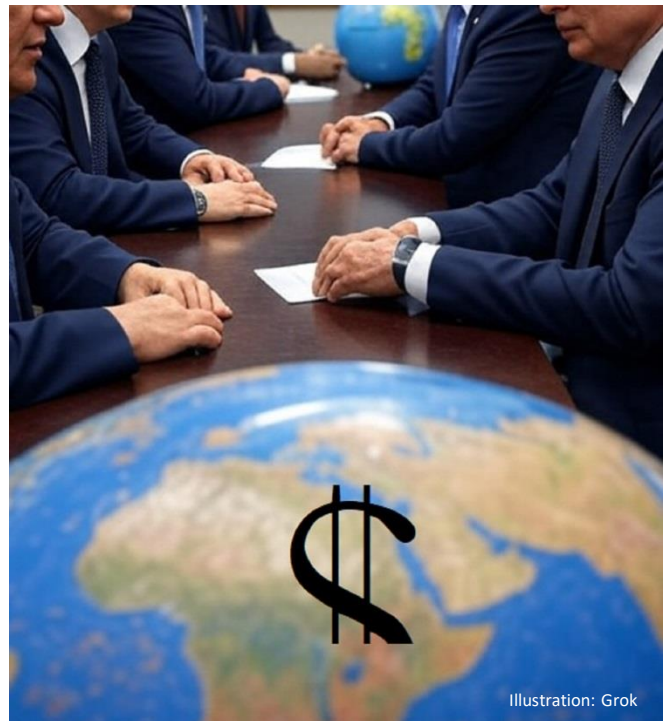


Illustration: Grok

There are things that the BRICS get right. Financial global institutions such as the International Monetary Fund are in need of reform; the rich world has failed to honour climate finance promises. The group's understandable response in the face of inaction is to create its own development bank to promote a form of green industrialisation. Yet, its size hides its contradictions. The grouping's call for more inclusive global institutions sounds welcome, but there is a preponderance of autocracies within its own ranks. BRICS is right that international law should be upheld in Middle Eastern conflicts.

But it climbs down from its moral pedestal by condemning Ukraine's strikes on Russian

infrastructure – while staying silent on Moscow's relentless attacks on civilians. Though, the de-dollarisation rhetoric serves more as a signal of intent than an imminent threat to dollar hegemony. A Guardian editorial on the latest BRICS summit opined that the, 'BRICS nations can still close ranks. Their most technical yet revealing move is to start building financial "plumbing" to bypass western systems.

The group is not ditching the dollar – but its members know what exclusion feels like: India had credit denied after the 2008 crash; Iranian banks have been sanctioned since 2012. The bloc's success will depend not just on ambition, but on the capacity to coordinate across national interests." This seems rather an uphill task.



## THE ASIAN TRIBUNE

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### Fast strides: Muslims march ahead on literacy in Central India, other states and rural parts

Data is available but info about narrowing gap between communities' literacy & Muslim women racing ahead in India (a recent report), ignored in media.



Official data, if seen properly and analyzed, shows that Muslims are moving ahead that's higher than US, France and even Greece... In some old news that data tells that it's half truth... It may surprise you, but Muslims have been doing well in the field of education...

## THE ASIAN TRIBUNE

International Edition Boston, Massachusetts (US) April 1, 2025 TUESDAY www.asiantribune.net

### SLOW PROGRESS: Women's representation in legislature remains low in many Asian countries



The representation of women in parliaments in United Nations report suggests that the one of the major indicators of gender equality... The number of women in the world has...

## THE ASIAN TRIBUNE

International Edition Boston, Massachusetts (US) March 1, 2025 SATURDAY www.asiantribune.net

### Growing influence, Grand projects, investment in infrastructure: Will it eventually be China's century?



China is getting transformed at a fast pace. The country has gained more influence at the global level. Its infrastructure is world class—improving connectivity, running high speed trains, investing in key sectors, developing its own world class cities, projects abroad, strong economy & establishing ties with nations in Asia & Africa.

# The world needs free media.

## Corporate funded media is not free.



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