



Trump's hopes dashed, Tehran retaliates

Iran's strong response: Strikes inside Israel, hits American assets across Gulf



Contrary to US president's claims about regime change & America winning the war within days, the hard fact is that more than two weeks have passed, the war has affected global economy & it has become clear that Iran is no cakewalk.

The Asian Tribune
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When the Operation Epic Fury attacks inside Israel, the was launched, US' president Donald Trump had claimed that the regime would be changed in Iran and it was going to be an easy victory for United States and Israel.

But two weeks have passed and Iran has responded strongly to the attacks. In fact, Iran has hit US' bases and consistently targeted American assets in different countries across the region, apart from attacking Israel. Iran has been able to show its supremacy in the region and by attacking US' assets in the Gulf countries, it has shown its

strength as well as dominance in the entire Middle East. The damage to the US' bases and the strikes on United Arab Emirates and other nations have exposed the vulnerability of all these Arab countries that have relied on US' support.

Iran's multi-pronged strategy that includes its decision to close the Strait of Hormuz, has taken the world by surprise. The decision has affected oil supply and also sent a message to the world that Iran controls a strategic trade route and it is strong enough to take such a step to protect its interests, even when it is facing constant strikes all over the country.

Under Mojtaba Khomeini's leadership, Iran has taken a stand that it will give a befitting reply to the US and Israel's strikes.

Iran's proxies have also been active in the ongoing war. Hezbollah has been active again and is targeting Israel, firing rockets. Iran has targeted US' bases and strategic locations in Iraq, UAE, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait.

The European countries have also been forced to rethink due to the US' misadventure in Middle East.

Spain has taken a tough stand in this regard. Several other countries are also not happy with the invasion.

No doubt, Iran has suffered as US' strikes have targeted vital installations and buildings, even civilians.

But the resilience of Iran is a totally different story. It is unlike the operation in Venezuela.

The Iranian state and army's sheer determination to fight, has dealt a blow to Donald Trump's plans of a swift regime change.

The polls within America had also suggested that the citizens were not supporting the war.

However, right now US is again embroiled in the conflict and the war doesn't seem to be heading to an end, soon.

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How Muslims can become change makers, take lead, transform society & own image

There are ways to move ahead but determination & vision are key factors



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You can't change entire society or a nation over night but you can do it differently--making a start from your region.

Understand how things are controlled, how media narrative is formed and become a change maker, a leader in your region.

States are run from their capitals. If you are able to manage things in capitals, [remember cities are power centres and also perceptions are created from big cities], you can do a lot but it needs a bit of planning and dedicated individuals with perseverance and passion are needed.

It's easy to explain more in interactive sessions but let's give some examples. If Mr Siddiqui runs a school or even

a coaching institute, he can do a lot along with the institute. What if he decides is that he will hold a small event--say Mathematics Olympiad or Science Olympiad for your city, at a small scale, annually and give prizes.

It not only helps in branding but also establishes the person's image as someone connected with science, knowledge, technology and it helps in growth of his/her stature, also perception about person's community in the area.

Within a few years he/she is seen as an asset to the society. Remember, on one hand there is an effort to constantly blame you, link you with social evils, term your entire community as backward and

demonize you, so that not just others consider you 'nobody', but you also feel guilty about it and believe that you are indeed backward.

Hence, all the more, there is need to do your bit, make an extra effort to tackle this propaganda.

Take for example any state capital, and see how many people manage to present themselves as experts in diverse fields--history, urban planning, agriculture, arts, sciences, human rights, education, health, fields like legal affairs, commerce, archaeology, RTI, city heritage and a long list. If you carefully see, in your town, when you start your day and pick the paper, you will find certain names, individuals.

In cases of atrocities, the news report will carry a person's quote, on another story about vision of city in 2050 you will find yet another expert's opinion, on and on.

They may be 25-50 names but they are seen as prominent individuals of the city without whom events are seen incomplete and they are seen and intellectuals, change makers or activists. Representation and view of your community--is through how you and your community are able to present yourself.

It is soft power, cultural & intellectual power, your activism and leadership in different fields that makes you a force in a region. These men are seen as representatives of the city. *Continued on Page 3*



MUSLIMS MUST STAND UP AND TAKE CHARGE OF OWN DESTINY

For positive change, you must be active in your city and region. Make effort to gain expertise in at least one field. If you have knowledge or expertise, you need to display it. You must not be shy about it. If you don't have skills, acquire them, be leader in one field. The 'nothing will happen' attitude is extremely damaging and there is need to come out of this syndrome.

If you are interested in a subject, track it and keep noting down things. Recording, documenting, making databases and interacting with others, its the basic job. Once you do it over a period, you have a command, understanding & you can now position yourself as an expert.

Every written communication has some effect. Also, by being a social or community leader, you ensure that others, outsiders, feel that you people do have a presence somewhere in the town, you don't go invisible. If you live in a society, you must be seen as leaders in all fields, not just those who are in complaining or victimhood mode.

There is a person who doesn't have a degree but whenever there is case of atrocity in the city, he notes it down, least keeps a record or writes a letter to DGP or Home Minister, demanding inquiry.

As he is doing it regularly, he becomes a 'go to' person for everyone including newsmen. Over a period, he becomes important and with him, his community also becomes important, the voice is also there.

It is not population or power but how you present yourself in your region, make yourself appropriate as leaders, prominent people and in a way real inhabitant of the place, that you make your presence strong in the society.

You may have hundreds of experts, educationists, professors but this is an era when you need to come forward and not feel that others will come to you, you have to make yourself seen, heard, learn tricks of PR. There are multiple examples, city to city within India.

How this can help even in law-and-order and dealing with persecution too, where presence of prominent persons, proper activism and a psychological feel has helped tide over the worse situations due to your strength in the region.

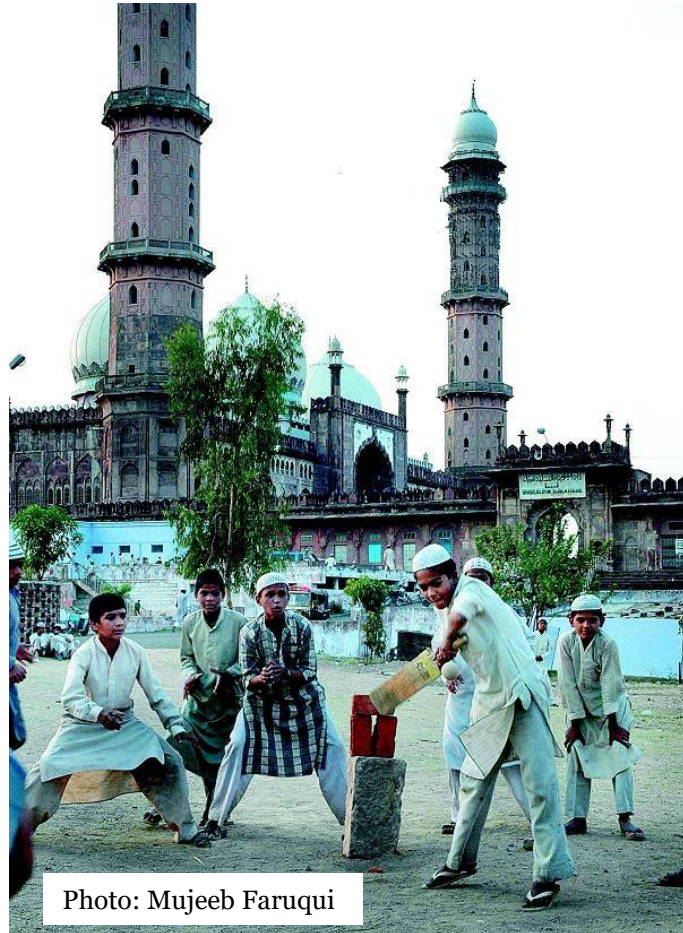


Photo: Mujeeb Faruqui

Indian Muslims have innumerable heroes and they have made huge contribution in each sphere but there is lack of proper focus due to negative media coverage. Muslims don't have ownership of big media and this also hurts the community. It is a subject that needs serious attention and it's not easy to explain nuances in one article but its an effort to tell ways about moving forward and taking steps to create positive image in the society.



Impact of Iran war: How the ongoing war in Middle East is affecting Indian economy



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The war in Middle East has been going on for over two weeks and already its impact is visible across the world.

In South Asia, the economies are feeling the burden of the conflict that shows no signs of end.

Clearly, there was lack of preparation and fewer understanding that the war poses such a major risk to economy in the region.

South Asia has three big countries, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, apart from other smaller nations like Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Maldives.

However, India that has the largest population—nearly 1.45 billion, followed by Pakistan 256 million and Bangladesh 180 million, are facing the impact of the US-Israel led invasion on Iran.

Tensions don't stay local, as the governments in countries across South Asia have now begun to sense.

For India, the impact is real as the risk is huge: affect on fuel prices, inflation, trade and millions of families that stay in the region and tens of millions who are dependent on the expatriates' income from Gulf. India relies heavily on imported oil. It imports 88% of its crude oil needs from other countries. A large share comes from Middle Eastern countries like Iraq, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Kuwait. If conflict disrupts the supply, India's energy security immediately comes under pressure. The shortage of LPG has already hit India and is affect hotels industry.

The Strait of Hormuz is important and a critical route for India. Much of India's crude imports travel through this narrow route between Iran and Oman.

The military escalation disrupts global supply chains. The consequences are already visible.

Higher oil prices hit most of the Indian households. In case the war stretches, global crude oil prices rise.

As a result, petrol & diesel become costlier. The transportation costs increase and this has an effect on food and goods prices, immediately. Oil and Energy prices often trigger wider inflation across the economy.

The risk is severe as economy overall gets slow. Higher import bills for the countries that are dependent on imports from other nations.

Besides, there is a pressure on government subsidies. If the rupee weakens, imports get more expensive. Ripple affect is felt in all sectors. The pace of growth slows down and the result is price rise i.e. inflation.