

Pakistan studying 72 peace proposals

NEW DELHI: India and Pakistan, whose foreign ministers meet here for two days from Sunday after a meeting of foreign secretaries on Saturday, are likely to discuss a list of 72 proposals from New Delhi that Pakistan has said it is studying.

The IANS, an Indian news agency, published the proposals on Thursday. They are divided into three sections, one covering confidence-building measures, one covering 'friendly exchanges', and one to promote economic ties.

Confidence-building measures:

- 1 An agreement on peace and tranquillity along the Line of Control.
- 2 Establish new communication links between the navies at the level of assistant chief of naval staff (Ops), and air forces at the level of assistant chief of air staff (Ops); reactivate communication links at division/corps commander level at Karu (Leh)- and Kargil-Gilgit, Baramulla- and Kupwara-Murree, Rajouri-Jhelum, Srinagar- and Nagrota-Rawalpindi, and Jammu-Sialkot.
- 3 Implement the agreement already reached on June 20, 2004, to upgrade, dedicate and secure the communication links between the DGMOs (directors general of military operations) and setting up of a hotline between the two foreign secretaries.
- 4 Formalise an MoU (memorandum of understanding) on establishing communication links between the Indian Coast Guards and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency.
- 5 Develop links and exchange visits between the armed forces through: the exchange of visits by naval ships; seminars between academic and research institutions dealing with strategic and defence related issues, like the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses (India) and IIS (Pakistan); exchanges/lectures/seminars between defence training establishments, like the National Defence Colleges; friendly tournaments (squash/tennis/golf/yachting etc) and joint adventure activities (sailing yachts/hand gliding/mountaineering etc) between the two militaries; and exchange of military bands.

6 The DGMOs of the two countries could meet periodically, which could be followed by an annual meeting between the two vice chiefs of army staff.

7 Restore the strength of the two high commissions to the original level of 110.

8 Re-establish the consulates general in Karachi and Mumbai as early as possible.

9 Agree to release all apprehended fishermen in each other's custody.

10 Start work on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus route through early technical discussions.

11 Open the Jammu-Sialkot route.

12 Mechanism for permitting border/across Line of Control (LoC) trade at selected points.

13 Mechanism for allowing interaction at some selected points between people on both sides of the LoC.

14 Mechanism for permitting pilgrimage on both sides, including to Sikh and Hindu temples and Muslim shrines such as the Sharda Temple, Pir Chinnasi and Gurudwara Chatti Patshahi, either by including these in the existing protocol on Visits to Religions Shrines of 1974 or through some other arrangement.

15 Promote cultural interaction and cooperation.

16 Work for joint promotion of tourism in the area.

17 Explore cooperation on issues such as management of the environment and forestry resources.

Friendly exchanges:

18 Exchange artists, writers, poets, musicians, painters and sculptors: Invitation to artists from Pakistan to participate in the 11th Triennale-India exhibition being organised by the Lalit Kala Akademi in January-February 2005; Invitation to painters from Pakistan for the International Painters Camp from SAARC nations being organised by the Lalit Kala Akademi in February-March 2005 at Hyderabad. Pakistan can consider sending two of its reputed painters to this camp.

19 Liberalise the visa regime for performing artists and film personalities.

20 Exchange theatre groups: Invitation to theatre groups from Pakistan to participate in the 7th Bharat Rang Mahotsav being organised

by the National School of Drama on January 5-20, 2005.

21 Exchange exhibitions, of paintings, sculpture, photographs, handicrafts or musical instruments.

22 Exchange publications, recorded music, slides etc.

23 Interaction between the national museums of the two countries in mutually agreed areas.

24 Participation in book fairs/exhibitions in each other's countries. Interested publishers/booksellers from Pakistan could participate in the Delhi Book Fair in August 2004.

25 Cooperation amongst libraries.

26 Hold joint seminars in the field of elementary education.

27 Promote interaction between India's University Grants Commission and the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan.

28 Hold a joint workshop in the field of medicinal and aromatic plants.

29 Cooperation and exchange between institutions of excellence on reciprocal basis.

30 Exchange youth delegations. A delegation of young persons from Pakistan could participate in the National Youth Festival to be held in January 2005.

31 Both sides exchange sports persons, team and coaches.

32 Pakistan remove the ban on Indian TV channels in Pakistan.

33 Pakistan remove the ban on Indian newspapers and periodicals.

34 Hold film festivals.

35 Set up a joint working group to tackle the issue of piracy of Indian films and music in Pakistan.

36 Annual seminars between groups of journalists in areas of mutual interest, with involvement of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication.

37 The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) could start group tours to specific places of tourist interest.

38 A special 14-day visa for tourists to be introduced.

39 Exchange/cooperation between the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) and their Pakistani counterpart.

40 The chief election commissioner of Pakistan could visit India at the invitation of the election commissioner of India to share each other's experiences.

41 In consonance with the decision reached at the foreign secretary level talks on June 27-28, 2004, in New Delhi, both sides exchange lists of civilian prisoners in each other's custody and initiate steps to release them at an early date.

42 Amend the 1982 Protocol of Consular Access in order to increase the number of jails for providing consular access.

43 In order to implement the agreement reached in the Joint Statement of June 28, 2004, both sides release all apprehended fisherman along with their boats in each other's custody.

44 Pakistan requested to make another effort to trace and release the 54 Indian prisoners of war in Pakistani custody.

45 The following visa liberalising measures could be considered on reciprocal basis: Grant one year multiple-entry visas to bona fide businessmen who are recommended by recognised apex chambers of commerce, and different ports of entry and exit to be allowed; grant exemption from police reporting (EPR) visas as far as possible to journalists, artists, students, scholars, businessmen recommended by the recognized apex chambers of commerce, persons working with multinational companies, senior citizens (65 years and above) and children (up to the age of 12); grant visas to eligible reputed artistes with the permission to give commercial performances; introduce a provision for student visas on a case-to-case basis; introduction of a provision for conference visas; facility for people to come to India on study tours in groups; facility of travel to India by groups from Pakistan for tourism.

46 Both sides hold visa camps in cities other than the capital.

from New Delhi

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Daily Times
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47 The existing protocol of 1974 be amended to include more shrines in both countries. In Pakistan, these could include the Samadhi of Baba Bhuman Shah (Okara); Dev Samaj Temple (Lahore); Hazrat Bari Imam (Islamabad); Nirankari shrine (Islamabad); Sheetal Mata Mandir (Lahore); Sadhu Bela (Khanpur) and Mirpur Mathelo (Sukkur); Hazrat Data Gunj Baksh (Lahore); Prahaladpuri Temple (Multan); Pir Giarwienwala shrine (Multan); Sakhi Sarwar Shrine (DG Khan); Parnami shrines (Sahiwal); and Mata Hingla's shrine (Balochistan). In India, these could include the Shadani Darbar, (Raipur, Madhya Pradesh); Boo-Ali Shah Qalander (Panipat); Hazrat Ahmed Shah (Lucknow); and Hazrat Imam Nasiruddin (Sonapat).

48 The size of the pilgrim group could also be increased from 3,000 to 5,000 on the occasions of Baisakhi and the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev; 1,000 to 2,000 on the occasion of the martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev; and 500 to 1,000 on the barsi of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

Economic cooperation: **49** India continues to extend most favoured nation (MFN) status to Pakistan. Pakistan should reciprocate by granting MFN Status to India.

50 Grant transit to each other's goods on reciprocal basis.

51 The two sides could consider opening the Attari-Wagah land route for trade.

52 Promote investment in joint ventures in identified sectors.

53 Participation in trade fairs and exhibition.

54 Undertake measures to tackle piracy of Indian music and films in Pakistan.

55 Lay down/extend optical fibre cable from Attari to Lahore.

56 Facilitate counterpart arrangements between the mobile operators on the two sides.

57 Participation of Indian companies in telecom projects in Pakistan.

58 Allow multiple airlines for operations of scheduled services on a reciprocal basis.

59 Allow the designated carriers of Pakistan

seeking air connectivity with India seven flights a week to one international airport and seven more flights to a second international airport, on a reciprocal basis.

60 Amend the 1974 Protocol on Resumption of Shipping Services between India and Pakistan: Delete Article 3, thereby allowing third country flagships/vessels to lift India/Pakistan-bound cargo; and delete Article 5, thereby allowing the flag carriers of both countries to lift cargo for a third country from each other's ports.

61 Supply of petroleum products, including diesel, from India to Pakistan and the possibility of extending a diesel pipeline to Pakistan.

62 Exchange experience and exploitation of commercial opportunities in the compressed natural gas sector.

63 Participation of Indian companies in exploration and production activities in Pakistan, both onshore and offshore.

64 Harmonise customs procedures and valuation, and standardisation and quality control measures.

65 Cooperation between SEBI and the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan.

66 Cooperation in the field of information technology, especially IT-enabled services, e-commerce, e-governance, IT education, manpower training, joint seminars/workshops, IT and electronics hardware.

67 Introduce SAL Mail between India and Pakistan.

68 Bring out a joint commemorative stamp.

69 Exchange philatelic (stamp) exhibitions.

70 Explore the possibility of opening branches of the nationalised banks in each other's country on a reciprocal basis.

71 Collaborate in post-harvest technologies, including exchange of information and experts on development of processing units/scientific research, production, marketing and exports.

72 Exchange information and experience in the field of planning, construction, operation and maintenance of projects in the water resources sector. **ONLINE**