

Terror structure is intact

Home Minister Shinde has reiterated that Pakistan's terror structure in the occupied part of J&K is intact. This is also what the Prime Minister has said in recent days. The just retired GOC-in-C Northern Command Lt. Gen. Parnaik, too, had said in some detail when interacting with media persons a couple of days before he demitted office. In a recent meeting of the Commandants of JKAP Director General of Police also spoke about the presence of several hundred armed militants across the LoC in PoK. In his address to the Parliamentary Consultative Committee for Home Affairs the Home Minister did not mince words about the threat posed by these terrorists to our national security. We have got used to it.

Home Minister's statement that 300 to 400 armed terrorists are waiting across the LoC in PoK to sneak into our side of the line is to be taken on its face value. But the figures have been varying from time to time. The terrorist training camps in PoK are regularly shifted from place to place in order to maintain their secrecy.

These terrorists have created their local network in J&K State especially the Kashmir valley. Additionally, they have spread their fangs in many vulnerable parts of the country and given birth to outfit like Indian Mujahideen about which the Home Minister has dropped a hint. SIMI is also part of the game.

In recent weeks, there has been definite increase in jihadi attacks in Kashmir. Last fortnight, eight Army soldiers were killed and 11 others injured in a gunfight with a group of terrorists in Bemina on the outskirts of Srinagar. Two policemen on duty were gunned down in Pulwama. In Sopore and Baramulla sectors also jihadis have become active. Some terrorist modules were busted and made ineffective. In addition to this, Pakistan army continued providing cover fire to infiltrators. A Junior Commissioned Officer was killed when Pakistan opened heavy fire with automatic weapons and rockets on Indian posts along the LoC in Poonch sector last month. Pakistani troops had pounded Indian posts along LoC in the Poonch sector with rockets in May. Two jawans were injured when Pakistani troops opened fire on Indian positions along the LoC in Tutmari Gali sector in north Kashmir.

We should not be under any illusion that the gestures of goodwill by the newly elected Prime Minister of Pakistan will put overnight end to jihadi operations against our country. In Pakistan, it is the army and its ISI that enjoy real power. Mian Nawaz Sharif has a long battle to win against the army, a battle whose end result is murky and doubtful. We cannot hold him responsible for jihadi attacks in Kashmir just because the power that controls state terrorism in Pakistan rests in the hands of the army and not Mian Nawaz Sharif.

All that we would suggest to our policy planners is that there is need to modify anti-jihadi strategy and bring in innovative options instead of merely remaining confined to defensive strategy. There is no need to doubt the intentions of Mian Nawaz Sharif straightening relations with India. Normalizing Indo-Pak relations presupposes containment of Pakistan army within that country's constitutional frame. The two things have to go simultaneously. Then alone can we find gradual dismantling of Pakistani terrorist structure. It is also important that the elected legislators and Panchayat members from such border areas in J&K as are prone to maximum infiltration are sensitized to their duty of ensuring that infiltrators are not given any support in their constituencies.

Cyber Security Policy

We appreciate the decision of the Union Ministry of Communication and IT to release National Cyber Security Policy 2013. The next step is to make the policy operational. Cyber warfare is a new threat and one cannot say from which side or country this threat can come. We have the need to protect our physical and business assets. Since everything is computerized now, threat of violation of our privacy and secrecy has increased manifold. In particular we need to safeguard our cyber space to ensure that our establishments and critical infrastructure such as air defence system, power infrastructure, nuclear plants, telecommunications system are fully protected otherwise it may create economic instability. Recent experience has shown that it is possible for interested organizations or individuals to endanger cyber security of a country. Cyber threat is global and not India specific. So far global strategy of cyber security has not been developed and the Minister for Communication is right in suggesting that a global strategy has to be evolved. Our country would be very much willing to be part of the global cyber fraternity, which would also guarantee security, and privacy of physical and business assets.

Guru Hargobind Ji: A Saint Soldier

Inder Jeet S. Prince

Guru Hargobind Ji, the 6th Nanak was born at a place called Wadhali in 1595. His father, Guru Arjan Dev Ji, the 5th Guru of Sikhism, was tortured to death at Lahore on May 30, 1606 on the orders of King Jehangir who had issued such orders mainly on the instigation of Chandu Shah.

Before making his supreme sacrifice, Guru Arjan Dev Ji had his son Hargobind installed as the 6th Guru in presence of prominent sikhs.

Guru Arjan Dev's martyrdom precipitated the issues. It gave a new complexion to the shape of things in the Punjab and the Sikh polity. While Guru Arjan's non violence and the way he made the supreme sacrifice reflects the best in Guru Nanak, the training he gave to his son Hargobind was a sign post of the long drawn out conflict that followed culminating in a momentous turbulence during Guru Gobind's life and times.

It is said that the last message that Guru Arjan Dev Ji sent to his son Hargobind was to arm himself fully and prepare for the struggle ahead which was to be a long drawn-out war against tyranny.

The news of martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Ji, stealed the heart of Guru Hargobind Ji who had succeeded his father as the 6th Guru.

It is said that when Bhai Budha Ji, the grand old man of the sikh brotherhood, brought him 'Seli' the sacred headgear of renunciation the Guru Nanak wore and had bequeathed to his successors one after another, Guru Hargobind Ji put it aside respectfully and asked for a sword instead. Bhai Budha Ji, who had never handled a sword brought out one and put it on the wrong side, Guru Ji noticed it and asked for another. "I'll wear two swords," said the Guru, "a sword of 'Shakti, (power) and a sword of 'Bhakti' (meditation).

Guru Hargobind Ji, combined in him 'piri' (renunciation) and 'miri' (royalty). Henceforth the Guru's sikhs were to carry arms and ride horses. It gave birth to a new concept of the soldier saint.

Sikhs were asked to wield arms and live an active life. They wouldn't frighten anyone nor were they afraid of anybody. They reared horses, rode on them and racing and hunting became their pastimes. The heroic youth joined him in large numbers irrespective of caste and creed. The sikhs all over presented the Guru with the best horses and finest weapons as there offerings. The Guru built forts and battlements, donned a royal aigrette and was known as "Sachal-Padshah"-the true king!

The Guru rose long before the day



dawned and after his bath in the holy tank, went in to meditation. He joined his Sikhs for prayers both in the morning and in the evening. The rest of the day was devoted to parades and maneuvers, horses races and hunting. Bidhi Chand, Pirana, Paia and Langha were some of his sardars with a contingent of a hundred horsemen each under them. The Guru sat on a throne and received visitors and offerings like any other ruler.

All this was duly reported to the king by Chandu Shah, a banker of Delhi, who had some personal enmity against Guru Ji. He was always poisoning the King's ears against Guru Hargobind at last, the king

TODAY IS GURUPURAV

(Jehangir) decided to summon Guru Ji to Delhi inspite of his courtiers advising him to the contrary.

It is said that the moment Jehangir saw Guru Hargobind, he was completely won over by his youthful charm and holiness. Among other questions, the king asked the Guru which religion was better-Hinduism or Islam? In his reply, the Guru Ji quoted Kabir:

"God first created light
All men are born out of it. The whole world came out of a single spark;
Who is good and who is bad?
The creator is in the creation and the creation in the creator.
He is everywhere.
The clay is the same,
The potter fashions various models.
The King was deeply impressed. He had been told that the Guru was a great lover of sports. He invited Guru Ji to accompany him on a tiger hunt. Guru Ji accepted the

invitation gladly. It so happened during the chase that the king was attacked by a ferocious tiger. The sportsmen accompanying the royal party lost their never, and their horses and elephants panicked. The bullets and arrows shot at the tiger missed the target and for a moments it appeared that the tiger was going to pounce upon the monarch. At this, Guru Hargobind rushed his horse and pulling out his sword, he engaged the tiger single-handed. The next moment the tiger lay slain on the ground. The king was full of gratitude.

Chandu Shah was extremely unhappy with this turn of events once king fell seriously ill. The court physicians tried their best but could not cure him. At this stage, Chandu Shah conspired with King's astrologer who told the king that he can be cured of his illness only if some holy man went to Gwalior fort and offered continuous prayers to the deity there. And who could be holier than Guru Hargobind Ji, Guru Ji who was aware of Chandu's in trigue agreed to the proposal and left for Gwalior fort where 52 princes of hilly states were imprisoned. Guru Ji had their living conditions improved. And when the time came to leave Gwalior fort, Guru Ji refused to leave the fort unless those 52 princes were set free with him, Jehangir had no alternative but to agree.

As a result of this episode, Guru Ji came to be known as "Bandi-Chhore"-The saviour of prisoners.

After the death of Jehangir the relations of the king Shah Jahan and Guru Ji soured. The army of Governor of Lahore attacked

Guru four times in addition to the forces of Faujdar of Jullundhar, engaged the Guru's people in a scuffle. Every time the Mughal attack was repulsed by the disciples of the Guru. The plans of the Mughal ruler to kill the Guru and destroy Sikh faith misfired. The Mughals lost their prestige as invincible soldiers, the Sikhs became more confident of their ability to protect themselves sikhism became more popular to more people.

Guru Hargobind Ji established a new centre at the foot hills of Himalayas called Kiratpur. Before dying, Guru Ji nominated his grandson, Guru Har Rai Ji as his successor in 1645.

Guru Hargobind's greatest contribution is that he gave a new turn to the sikh way of life. He turned saints into soldiers and yet remained a man of God. According to Guru Ji, non-violence is cowardice if it is resorted to out of fear or helplessness. It is the brave and heroic who can be non violent. And when all other means are exhausted, there is always justification to resort to arms.

Notes from a Yatra

Last Monday I spent a day with Vasundhara Rajee on her 'yatra' through Rajasthan. It began in April and she has already covered a distance of more than 8000 kilometres in her 'rath' in earlier phases. But, before writing another word I feel bound to disclose that Vasundhara is an old friend of mine. If you think that because of this my account of her travels cannot be trusted please do not hesitate to stop reading now. If you want details of how far this friendship goes back troff to your nearest book shop and buy my latest book "Durbar" in which you will find the whole story and more. Now having made this disclosure fully and thrown in a plug for my book I shall proceed with telling you about Vasundhara's 'Su-raaj Yatra' which translated into English means a journey for good governance.

We set off from Jaipur in a cavalcade of cars on a morning of such intense heat that the light was almost too white to bear and I found myself doubting whether people would come out to listen to her in such unpleasant weather. Vasundhara's 'rath' awaited us outside the Triveni Dham temple in the constituency of Shahpura an hour's drive away. When we arrived at the temple there was a large, noisy reception party who greeted her with drums and slogans. There were so many people eager to get close to their leader that I lost her in the enthusiastic, jostling crowd and next caught up with her as she sat in the temple's sanctum having her forehead smeared with sandalwood paste by priests who sat at the feet of God of gold and silver. Then another battle through jostling crowds followed before I managed to get onto the 'rath', a bus painted in BJP colours.

The first public meeting of the day was in Ajeetgarh, a small, unremarkable town whose only attractive building is a magnificent old fort on a rocky outcrop. The crowds at this meeting spilled out of the shamiiana onto rooftops and high trees. Inside the shamiiana women had been given a place of honour close to the stage. Women have been among Vasundhara's staunchest supporters and when she began her speech I noticed a look on wonder come over their faces. Rajasthan remains one of the States in which women remain mostly illiterate to this day and mostly still bound by primitive rules of honour and marriage that oblige little girls to live

adult lives because of child marriage being socially acceptable. In her speech Vasundhara talked of the importance of improving the lot of women and although I got the impression that the women did not fully understand what she said when-ever she mentioned the word 'mahila' they cheered. Her speech was an aggressive attack on the Congress Party. "In this State", she said "if you count out my five years and the ten years you gave Bhairon Singh Shekhawat you have given Congress 53 years in Government since 1947. And, you still do not have drinking water, electricity, roads or decent schools...if you had given the BJP 53 years we would have made Rajasthan into a garden."

This led to loud cheering

from her audience that reached a frenzied crescendo when she reminded them of how Narendra Modi in fifteen years had made Gujarat into a development model that the world was impressed by. The mention of Modi's name was a trigger for slogans demanding that he become Prime Minister. A demand I had heard repeatedly on my travels through Rajasthan villages but I will tell you about that next week.

From Ajeetgarh we traveled down broken, rural roads towards Neem Ka Thana where her next public meeting was scheduled for late afternoon. But, we traveled at the pace of a bullock cart because of the huge crowds that lined the route. They were so fervent and so large that every fifteen minutes

fallen by then and she was greeted by fireworks that lit up the dark sky and momentarily drowned out the excited voices that rose from the vast crowd that had gathered to listen to her. From a stage wet with rain she exhorted them once more to throw out a Government that had not been able to provide them with their most basic needs and that was now trying to 'buy their votes' by throwing charity at them. In the past two months the Government of Ashok Gehlot has spent a fortune on handouts like cheap food grain, housing, clothing, pensions and bicycles for the rural poor. Vasundhara urged her audience to take what was being given to them because it was their money that was being spent on this 'khairaat'. But, remember not to vote for Congress.

By the end of this day on Vasundhara's 'yatra' I found myself arriving at two conclusions. One that if this is the level of spontaneous anger in the people then there is little chance of the Congress Party winning Rajasthan in November. And, two that there seems to be a real hunger in the people for a strong lead at the top and this is translating already into a demand for Narendra Modi to become Prime Minister. But, I will tell you more about it in this space next week when I write about my own 'yatra' through the villages of Rajasthan.

There are things about India that only become evident when you travel outside the environs of cities like New Delhi and Mumbai. Such very important things that it should be compulsory for our elected representatives to go on regular, monthly travels of the 'yatra' kind through their constituencies.

ON THE SPOT

TAVLEEN SINGH

Education for sale

Sir, This refers to the article 'Education for sale' published in the DE July 3.

The author has touched a vital subject which concerns all of us and needs to be debated and discussed.

Like other commodities of daily use, education too has become a commodity to be bought and sold and a profit to be earned out of it, and while doing so, we have defiled its sanctity.

The commercialisation of education benefits only the children of financially sound families while those belonging to poor section find themselves at the receiving end. In the process, teacher too has become a commodity. He has fallen from the heights he used to command when he was a guide, an icon and a beacon light. There is need to re-establish the bond that existed between teacher and a students. Guru-Shishya parampara is quite essential in case, the nation wants to harvest the fruits of education.

Otherwise commercialisation of education may further strengthen the roots of evils like greed, lust, jealousy against which education is an anti-dote.

Shiv Kumar Sharma
Udhampur

Adulterated milk in market

Sir, This has reference to the news item 'SC asks State Government to curb sale of adulterated milk' DE June 13.

Adulterated milk is indeed a matter of great concern and needs to be addressed without losing further time as it is a great health hazard. Like other parts of the country, adulterated milk is also found in this State also, particularly in twin cities of Jammu and Srinagar. Despite knowing that adulterated milk is sold in the market, the concerned authorities have maintained a criminal silence over the matter.

There is no check on prices of milk products like cheese which is sold as far the whims of the milkmen. It is time that Government wakes up to the reality and acts tough against those indulging in this activity.

There is also need to have fixed rates for toned and untoned milk so that consumers are not fleeced.

Yours etc....
Harshvardhan
Channi Himmat, Jammu

Power curtailment in Jammu city

Sir, Jammu city is facing shortage of power in these hot summer days. There are prolonged power cuts that have made people of the city miserable. It is not only the prolonged power cuts but they are unscheduled too. In these sweltering hot days, shortage of power has added to the hardships of the people. One more problem has arisen due to power curtailment that is water scarcity in several areas of the city. We cannot deny this that illegal connections still exist and power theft is again prevailing but this has to be discouraged and those found involved in theft should be heavily dealt with.

This needs proper checking and vigil from the PDD officials. The need of the hour is proper power supply to the consumers who are metered legally. Those people who are practising unlawful kundi system also need to be checked. This way we can save electricity for the better use of the public. The PDD should ensure adequate supply of power to the people of Jammu city during summer. Let us cooperate with each other.

Uttarakhand must be an eye opener

Prof Javed Mughal

Countless precious lives stand washed away in Uttarakhand deluge and disaster so much so that it left an imperishable traumatic scar on the face of human history. How can one forget the cries of thousands for help and futile attempts to save their life? A video clip, displaying the small family trying hard to save their life but carried away by the strong waves of angry water allowing them to come back never, sent a galvanic shock through my spine.

Such heart-rending moments have many times been witnessed by the history of mankind in the past also. But none with a rational mind to think should blame nature for this formidable dimension to history of human life for the simple reason that Nature is not cruel, it is very compassionately justice loving instead. To the best of my belief, God is not relentless; he does not wrong his creature; he does not do injustice. He has created the human being fully blessed with general will and a common sense and has taught them all to live life according to certain principles. And he, of course, punishes us when we digress from the track just as a student is punished by the teacher or a son is reprimanded by his father when they do wrong.

Our biggest blunder is that we have never respected the Nature-"the detached manifestation God," as Wordsworth says. We harmed environment irreparably and now is the time we are facing the music. Quite clubbed with it is the poor planning of the Government in regard to the development, absence of proper attention to the environmental issues especially when roads and buildings are carved out and erected. The tragedy of Uttarakhand is attracting the attention of environmentalists, who are blaming the Government for this natural calamity which resulted into the death of thousands of people and destruction of property worth thousands of crores. This natural disaster may be the making of men, but the response of the Government, after the calamity happened, was far less than adequate.

The whole administration of Uttarakhand Government seemed to be paralyzed. When Chief Minister was needed in Uttarakhand to oversee the rescue relief and rehabilitation works, he was seen running towards Delhi to get Central help. One District Magistrate suffered heart attack. The administration even could not coordinate properly the rescue operations being carried out by para-military forces and Army. The rescued persons could not be provided even food and shelter and in most cases even medical facilities. The whole administration seemed to have collapsed. What kind of development is taking place there can be seen by the figures of their development. One basic fault of our development model is that we attach this development with the development of the region. In this development model, we leave the local people residing in the region out. Not only local people, we ignore the ecology and environment of the region as well. Developments can be made and are being made at huge social cost. We just ignore it. No cost-benefit analysis based on social cost is made. People of a region want separate state to develop them, but new states were made to develop the region at the cost of the people. If some studies are made to see the response of local people of Uttarakhand to the so called developmental projects, it may open up our eyes to see how people were resisting them but their resistance went unheeded, if not unnoticed.

There was a Chipko movement launched by the local population of Uttarakhand. People were resisting the cutting of trees for development purposes. Their Chipko movement went unheeded and trees continued to be cut for their use in development and for clearing the areas where trees were standing for some development projects. There was a stiff resistance against the building of Tehri dam. The works on the dam went on for decades. The anti-dam slogans of the people were relegated to back-drop of ignorance and what they could get by their movement was only infra-dignitary compensation. Thousands of tons of explosives were used to complete the dam injuring the Himalayas and its natural habitats. So far dam has not caused any damage, but what would happen, if an earthquake damages it and water stored in it comes down abruptly?

According to an environmentalist, the whole low lying areas would get destroyed; the destruction would not be limited only to the hills, but even to the plains of Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. The water of Tehri dam can even reach Delhi and cause devastation there by washing out the national capital. In fact what we needed in Uttarakhand is not the exploitation of its waters for electricity and development of religious place for tourism, but to preserve it in its natural form. Himalayas cannot withstand the population pressure witnessed in the Gangetic Plain. They cannot withstand a consumerist society, which has come into existence lately, where the destruction of ecology has become a rule to own more consumer goods and go for more consumption.

Himalayas save us, when they are in natural form, if we play with them, they will finish us. Development of India is not sustainable, if we give injuries to the Himalayas. Nature has not to be harmed to make cities and towns with Ferraris and Mercedes plying on it and the skyscrapers meddling with the sky. Apart from it what the victims of Uttarakhand disaster are getting at the moment from their Government or the Central machinery is extremely disgusting and condemnable. Thousands of people are still held in the affected areas and are waiting for assistance but all in vain. There may be two reasons behind this sadistic attitude of the Government mechanism--first the Government is not competent enough to help the victims out for want of adequate resources and secondly our Government is simply not interested to do anything for those who have lost their lives or those who are likely to succumb to nature's wrath.

By cutting both the ways the Government is condemnable. Thanks to the NGOs who have voluntarily come forward for the noble cause of human service at such a critical juncture otherwise the scene would have been far worse that it is now. Apart from it the environment is to be escorted. Plantation drives must be carried out widely. The soil has to be strengthened and the chances of floods and deluges have to be discouraged. Our developmental programmes must not be implemented at the cost environment. The development setting aside the environmental concerns is transitory and is quite possible bring disaster sooner or later.

Readers Write

National Cyber Security Policy

Sir, The demand for a National Cyber Security Policy has finally been met. There was a clamour for Cyber Security Policy which would ensure that no harm is caused to national interests by anti-social and anti-national forces. It is cyber age. Most of the work related to defense and economy is transacted through cyber space. And these two spheres always remain vulnerable to disruption by anti-national forces. To keep these forces at bay, and to fight them legally there was need to have a policy which would guide in these matters.

Underlining the need for such a policy the Minister of Communications and IT Kapil Sibal has rightly said, "...Air defence system, power infrastructure, nuclear plants, telecommunication system will have to be protected to ensure there is no disruption of the kind that will destabilise the economy..." Hope the policy would meet the security challenges.

Yours etc....
S. N. Raina
Jammu

Yours etc....
Veena Mehta
Jammu