

After years of neglect

Though the opposition as well as UPA coalition partner Samajwadi Party was not satisfied with the statement of the Defence Minister in both houses of the Parliament on Sino-Indian border situation, yet, by all standards, his speech has to be accepted as major deviation from the beaten track. Nothing of bonhomie or diplomatic affability that have been the hallmark of India's narrative of Sino-Indian relationship, are discernable in Antony's statement. The candor in his speech is rather unprecedented when, among other things, he made two main confessions. First is that China had made significant advancement in developing viable infrastructure along the Line of Actual Control. The second is that India had now awoken to the realities of infrastructure after many years of neglect. He has called a spade a spade, and deserves to be praised for opening the ground reality for a fair and fruitful debate in the Parliament.

We fully endorse the view of the Defence Minister that China's illegal occupation of part of Aksaichin and five thousand sq km of territory in Shaksgam illegally ceded to her by Pakistan are historical legacies. Ever since those days of idealism and inactivity, Governments have come and gone and the legacy continues to flow from decade to decade. The main source of India-China border dispute is first the McMahon Line drawn by the British rulers of India which Beijing now refuses to recognize unilaterally. And the second source is in China's unmitigated avarice for territorial expansion. What Antony said can also be interpreted that in the follow up action to our defeat in 1962 war at the hands of China, our country did not learn the lesson that we needed to develop adequate infrastructure along our border that would deter China coveting territorial expansion. China took the time by forelock and devoted energy and resources in building advanced infrastructure along the LAC in Ladakh and the eastern region. Naturally, now she is far ahead of India in this sector of border strategy.

Because China is not prepared to show respect to the McMahon Line and because she is prompted by urge for territorial expansion, Chinese troops have been often crossing the line and entering into our side. So have the Indian troops been entering the Chinese side and then returning to their original places. This see-saw game has been going on along the LAC with China. As a temporary measure the two sides have agreed that field commanders would get into touch in such eventualities to avoid escalation of tension.

The most important part of Defence Minister's speech was that India is engaged in building of advanced infrastructure along the LAC in a massive way. It entails a number of decisions of far reaching consequence like rail and road building close to the LAC, raising of two additional mountain divisions, building more airfields and air strips close to the LAC and patrolling of the LAC from close distance etc. Over the years of neglect, which certainly is collective responsibility, China had got used to take things for granted and did not think India would respond to her assertive policy on the LAC. But now finding that India was not only reacting but was making better and more comprehensive infrastructural preparedness, she is apprehensive. Her uncontested superiority on the border was getting eroded. Thus in frustration China is trying to assuage her shattered ego by making intrusions knowing well that India had capacity and will to retaliate. The Defence Minister assured the house that there was no question of China having illegally occupied territory in Ladakh.

We strongly support the Defence Minister for his very candid and open statement on the border issue with China. Here is a man who means business and no rhetoric. His message to Beijing is loud and clear: it is that India will retaliate and with vengeance if her borders are violated.

The Defence Minister is right in saying that for the years of neglect there has to be collective responsibility. It is not the time to make accusations and counter accusations. Border issue with China is to be dealt with above party politics as it is a national issue. It has to be understood that China has already made a strong foothold in Gilgit Baltistan and is in cahoots with Pakistan, our other adversary on the western border. All political parties have to understand that we are defending our border at a very high cost in terms of men and material. Our soldiers on the treacherous heights of Siachin Glacier are making enormous sacrifices. The Defence Minister has taken a historic decision without making fuss about it as is the wont with most of our leaders. The nation admires him.

Pak's deceptive launch pads

It should be no wonder for the Indian army to find that Pakistan has been using deceptive launch pads along the LoC in Mendhar and Poonch sectors from where it has been firing on Indian posts. Since many months jihadis have been trying repeatedly to sneak into our side of LoC. The launch pads constructed to appear civilian houses where jihadis are holed up and would infiltrate whenever an opportunity comes their way. A couple of these concrete structures have been destroyed by Indian troops and more of them rather all of them will be smashed in due course of time. Indian firing and shelling should continue unabated. The time has come when we should turn Pak's guns on them and make them bleed by inflicting on them numerous wounds. Give them no quarter and expose their deception to their utter consternation. They understand only the language of force and let them be served well.

We know that Pakistani army and its intelligence wing want to run down the elected Government in Islamabad because it senses that this Government would want to straighten relations with India, something that undermines the power and influence of defence establishment of that country. The best way of serving our national interests would be to scuttle Pak army's India oriented strategy through aggressive and assertive retaliation.

Judicial appointments

Dr Bharat Jhunjhunwala

The Supreme Court has come down heavily against the Government on matters of corruption in recent period as seen in 2G spectrum and Coalgate cases. This can be attributed in significant measure to the fact that appointments to the higher judiciary have been taken out of the hands of the Government for the last few years. But at the same time complaints of corruption in the higher judiciary have been emanating at a regular frequency. Not a single judge of the Supreme Court has been removed in the 65 years of Independence. Charges have been leveled against Justices V. Ramaswamy, M.M. Punchi and A.S. Anand but none could be impeached because the procedure is very complicated.

Grapevine has it that nepotism rules the roost. Senior Advocate Shanti Bhushan had given a list of eight Chief Justices who the bar considered to be corrupt in a sealed cover to the Supreme Court. The Judges did not have the courage to open and make public the list. Some of these appointees are nicknamed 'uncle judges'. Inefficient and incompetent persons are also being appointed. The Chief Justices are not recommending enough appointments leading to scarcity of judges and pendency of cases. Most importantly, the judiciary is now answerable only to itself. We have fallen from the frying pan into the fire. We have freed the judiciary from Government control but made the judiciary a self-serving institution in the process. Neither of the two systems of political- or self appointments seems to work.

The basic problem is that of balancing between the independence and accountability of the judiciary. It is necessary to keep the judiciary free from political interference but it is also neces-

sary to keep them from becoming self-serving.

The appointments of the judges has been freed from Government interference for the last two decades. Previously appointment and promotion of judges was in the hands of the Government. Indira Gandhi had superseded few senior judges of the Supreme Court and promoted their junior to the post of Chief Justice of India. Such interference gives a clear signal to the judges to take a pro-government stand in order to remain on the right side of the political masters. This system was set aside by the Supreme Court and it took on to itself the task of appointing its members. The Chief Justices of the Supreme- and High Courts in consultation with the senior judges of that court decide whom to appoint to their court. This system has freed the judges from Government control but rendered them wholly unaccountable to any democratic institution. The activism of Supreme Court seen in the recent period on matters of corruption owes largely to this system of appointment wherein the Judge has no incentive to toe the line of the Government. There will be a natural tendency among junior judges to give judgments favouring the Government so that their chances of being promoted are increased.

World over the trend is to move from these extremes to a middle path. A collegium is formed with representation of the legislative, judiciary and independent citizens to make these appointments. This is better but not enough. The problem remains-which politician, judicial nominee or independent person will be appointed to the Collegium and by whom? There are good- and bad persons in all these fields. It is a standard technique of the Government to form a committee with persons pre-disposed in a particular way so

that the findings come in a particular direction. A lady once went to a philosopher and asked whether she should marry the person whom she loved though he belonged to a different religious denomination. The philosopher replied that the very fact that she had come to him predetermined the outcome since he was known for his liberal views. The outcome would be very different had she gone to a priest for advice. The point is that the person appointed determines the nature of outcome. Hence making a Collegium only creates a façade of independence because appointments to the Collegium would be made by the same political persons.

The Government has recently introduced Judges Appointment Bill in the Rajya Sabha. The Bill aims to set up a Judicial Appointments Commission comprising of the Chief Justice of India, two next senior most judges of the Supreme Court, Union Law Minister and two eminent persons. These two eminent persons will be appointed by a Collegium consisting of the Prime Minister, the CJI and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha. Problem here is that one-half of the Collegium will come from the political stream. The Collegium to appoint two eminent persons will consist of two politicians and the CJI. It is likely that the two politicians will together ensure that such persons are appointed who are soft on corruption by the politicians. Let us not forget that on many issues all politicians are together opposing the Supreme Court's efforts to cleanse the public life. The Judgment barring convicted politicians from contesting elections; or for taking out the political parties from the ambit of the RTI Act has brought all politicians on a common platform. It is likely, therefore, that these two eminent persons will toe the line

of the politicians in the Judicial Appointments Commission. In the result the present system of 'no political interference' will be changed into 'indirect political interference.'

The basic problem is how to ensure accountability of the judiciary to the people without taking recourse to the legislature. The people have lost confidence in the politicians whom they see mostly as self-serving and corrupt. The solution may lie in giving this responsibility to other representatives of the people who are appointed by some process other than by the Government. A Collegium could be formed of, for example, the Chairmen of Medical Council of India, Bar Council of India, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, Institution of Engineers, Chairperson of the largest Trade Union, Senior most Arjuna awardees; Senior most former Chief of the Army, eldest Shankaracharya, and other persons who reach a specific position without interference of the Government. Such a Collegium would be more representative of the people. It will not be subject to whims of the politicians. The persons who reach these statutory positions will come from a different route. It will be very difficult for the politicians to influence the persons who reach these positions.

It would be relatively free of political interference. The trick lies in identifying such representatives of the people who reach their position through different processes that are free of political interference. A Collegium of such persons will both shield the judiciary from political interference; and also not give the judiciary a free hand to engage in nepotism.

A difficult phase of history

K.N. Pandita

We are in a difficult phase of our post-independence history. In economic terms, we had hardly emerged from a brief period of economic growth when recession overtook us ad with vengeance. The rupee is collapsing against the dollar.

The Prime Minister, himself an economist, attributes economic recession to world economic scenario, and particularly, to the somersaults of US economy. He is disposed to link it to the economics of oil.

There is the opposition and their fellow travelers, who bring the onus to the doorsteps of the ruling coalition; its soft paddling with corruption and mismanagement. While making a statement on economic scenario in the parliament, the PM held the opposition responsible for disrupting sessions and indirectly contributing to country's economic downslide. Accusations and counter- accusations continue and a consensual approach to solving the difficult situation has not been forthcoming.

On social plane, political parties, especially the mainstream parties, are less worried about the falling moral values and consequential degeneration of Indian polity into a cesspool of corruption, abuses and lack of direction. But it is the security scenario that is sounding the siren of danger and to which we particularly want to refer.

On domestic plane, nearly sixty-five terrorist and insurgent organizations are active in no less than eight states besides Jammu and Kashmir, which has entered the third decade of armed insurgency and secessionist movement.

Most of the terrorist and insurgent organizations are externally sponsored, abetted and supported. Each of them has its approved agenda of subversion. But they converge on the sole objective of bringing about disintegration of the Indian State.

More prominent among these are the Islamic extremist organizations essentially based in Pakistan but with extensive networks in our country. Their public posture is that the Indian State is oppressive against Muslims in India including J&K. But essentially, the overarching motivation is the religious duty of good Muslims of giving practical shape to the Islamic concept and prediction of worldwide Islamic caliphate. Jihad against the infidels is the power engine generating energy for this movement.

The Khalistanis also supported from abroad, dream of an independent Sikh State. Punjab as a Sikh dominated state makes no sense to them as it remains part of Indian Union. Jihadis and Khalistanis are making a common cause.

There are separatist groups, big as well as small, in the Eastern India working on the thesis of separation from the mainland if not on religious count, but surely on ethnic and linguistic count, and above all, motivated by local aspirations for absolute power not necessarily through democratic process.

Then we have the Naxalites and the Maoists in specific regions like Central and eastern regions of the country. They are also supported clandestinely by external agencies and have formed armed legions of unemployed youth.

Security scenario on our borders with Pakistan to our west and China to our east and north is disappointing. The two neighbours are in a nexus. The common strategy is to keep the border alive so that Indian army and security forces get distributed thinly over entire country. This makes the ground conducive to massive incursion at vulnerable points. India's encirclement is complete with Chinese presence in Gilgit and Baltistan to the north, Sri Lankan seaport to the south and Gawadar port to the west in Indian Ocean.

Pakistan has updated the

strategy of unprovoked firing along the LoC and now also along IB to provide cover to the infiltrating jihadis who are assembled in thousands all along the vulnerable points on their side of LoC. These jihadis are provided with highly advanced fighting equipment besides advanced training in subversion.

China is using its master stroke of iron fist in velvet gloves. While it wears a smile when talking to the Indian counterparts on non-lethal issues like trade, tourism, health, sports etc. it has not failed to contrive no fewer than 159 incursions into Indian territory along the border in the east and in Ladakh. The tactics is to force India spread out its security forces along a long border and thus reduce pressure on Pakistan.

But apart from this overall picture, the most seriously threatening scenario is presented by the vested interest in some of the vitally important political parties within the country. This is to serve the vote bank politics.

Imagine the deep inroads of communalizing terror to serve vote bank interests. Samajwadi Party ruling Uttar Pradesh has raised doubts about the arrest of IM activist Bhatkal, the person involved in the killing of more than 200 innocent citizens in bomb blasts in no fewer than seven cities of India. Bihar has refused to conduct interrogation of Bhatkal just because he has a Muslim constituency in Darbanga.

Many Parliamentarians, union and state ministers, MLAs and many so-called human rights organizations or activists within the country have been identified as sympathizers of terrorists and secessionists. They are outside the grip of law because they function under the mask of secularists and sympathizers of Muslim minorities. To them people like Afzal Guru are heroes to be divinized.

Not surprising, sections of Indian media, both print and electronic, are easily pandering

to the interests of militants, secessionists, separatists, insurgents and communalists. They vie with one another in scoring a point on projecting Hindu communalism as the main culprit. Their role in disinformation and distortion of facts of history has remarkable efficacy.

This section of media is basking in the warmth of petro dollar booty floated from the Gulf States. Rulers of the country have framed financial code as vulnerable and fragile as to leave all routes open for importing illegal money through hawala and other channels. Everybody in the trade is having a nice day.

Political parties in India, including the national mainstream party called Congress, have helped national politics degenerate into vote bank politics in which money and muscle power combine to do the spoils. Spectrum seams like the 2G Spectrum or Coalgate or Commonwealth Games are somehow finding links to moles in the party. The ruling coalition is unwilling to streamline accountability chapter for the powerful while social movements aimed at curbing corruption get battered and bruised under state power.

Democracy in the country has been eroded to the extent of a phenomenon in which we have only a decision making but not accountability structure. India has been oscillating between egoistic and supercilious governance, amusingly both under the rubric of democracy. How true is the axiom of political punditry that by and large people get the government they deserve. A billion people of this country deserved their national identity to be recognized.

The solution of the impasse lies in Indian civil society rising up to the great responsibility it has in providing the right type of leadership, nationalist, forceful and determined and not governance by proxy.

Education is that which liberates

Er. Vinod Verma

It is a matter of great sorrow that there is not among our youth that sense of joyousness, that release of energy, that buoyancy of spirit that characterizes great liberation movement. To choose rightly requires the cultivation of the heart and intelligence. Modern man has become so enslaved by his pseudo thought, so responsive to outside or environment influence that he has ceased to be a human being and instead has turned into an Automatism. There is no real difference between the savages and intellectuals in this respect. This dependence on external influence is characteristic of unenlightened, unregenerate and irrational element in human nature and the awakened soul (truly educated and cultivated) is free from all reactions generated by shocks from outside. This awareness, to be aware of what man truly is, can lead to enlightened and freedom from the automatism of reason. PEOPLE often confuse qualification with education. The person who is highly qualified can be less educated or vice-versa because of which the real sense of education has taken a back seat. We often come across with the people highly qualified in different subjects like Arts, Commerce, Home Science, Education, Technology, sometimes find it hard to cope-up with the real values of life. Standard of living no doubts is increasing day by day but the duration of living is reducing day by day. Even the qualified persons might not know about the basic ingredients of life like being honest, being helpful, respecting elders, active involvement in fruitful and creative discussion, spiritual attitude and working for some good cause. Qualification may not necessarily lead to the education of a person since Education is nothing but "self realization." The realization between Good and Bad, Truth and False, Right and Wrong, Conception and Misconception, Life and Living, See and Vision, Wise and Wisdom, Speak and Speech, Materialism and Spiritualism, Think and Thought, Mind and Brain, Acting and Action, Art and Creation, Relative and Relation- The relation with one's own self - The Godly Self- which is the realization to dispense with one's responsibilities, duties and one's workmanship.

The scientific study of the world does not give us a complete knowledge of the world. There are problem like the relation of body and mind, the nature of self consciousness which are puzzles for science. Belief in the realm or spirit is not based on the present day so called educational institutions but on the sense of goodness in the very heart of creation, inherent in the way in which the world works, obeying a certain order and yet emerging into novelties. We cannot weigh and measure the beauty, goodness or value of saintliness. The world of truth and falsehood, right and wrong, beauty and ugliness, love and hatred, appreciation and jealousy, is different from the world of science but is definitely in tune with the day to day living which cannot be inculcated just by going to schools, colleges, professional Organisation etc. but can be imbibed by inheritance (sanskars), by inspirations, by following the example set by our parents, by knowing yourself and by educating yourself along with good qualification, educative and moral values. Here lies the importance of education, which is nothing but overall development of a being along with domestic life, to build up a healthy atmosphere inside your hearts and society as a whole. Education is right belief, right feeling and right action: it is all the three, a passage from quantitative accumulation to a qualitative emergence. We must train not only the intellect but bring grace the heart of man. The greatest of all goals of man-kind is to keep learning and learning on the way, not by the way, with a qualitative outlook. Education generates an inherent capacity of our mind to "renew and refresh" ourselves with least of the outer aid which is unfortunately deadened day in day out by our mechanism of haste and traits, derived from the mechanistic or more appropriately to say, neurotic Socio-economic order which is actually disorder.

The purpose, the aim and drive of the schools is to equip the child with most excellent technological proficiency, so that we function with clarity and efficiency in the modern world and far more important, to create the right climate, so that the child may develop fully as a complete human being. But the present system of education revolves itself from Physics to Chemistry, from Chemistry to Biology, from Biology to Psychology from Psychology to "Marks obtainology" (by hook or by crook) and we seem to have an unbroken and underdeveloped chain, a serious of causes and defects ending up with unprofessional Parliamentary Govts and larger size of Universities. The mystery of the emergence of the ideals of the Truth, Goodness and Beauty and the real sense of Education are blank spaces in our Knowledge which can't be filled by the so-called Educational Institutions. In the words of Jawahar Lal Nehru "I considered the Human soul without education like a marble in quarry which shows none of its inherent beauties, unless the skills of a polisher, fetches out the colour, makes the surface shine, discovers every ornamental spot, cloud or view that runs through the body of it."

The education must we are receiving in the present day system seems to be the second hand Knowledge derived from books but the source of true Knowledge lie unexplored and unknown. It is necessary to give up all "borrowed outlooks" in order to secure and cultivate our own individuals vision. The basic criteria of education is somewhere hidden behind the bushes. Since the Privatization of Education has led to the discouragement to studies in schools and encouragement to the tuition studies, resulting into excessive burden to the students (the learner). The Toppers admit, it was the Self- Study and Self Effort which made them to come forward. The low esteem in which the teachers are held is the most eloquent evidence of the malady from which our society suffers. We must get the right type of men for teaching profession. Respect for teachers can't be ordered, it must be earned. The basic disciplinary education is out of the scene now which educates the common students to respect their elders, do mental exercise, do meditation and many other basic necessities of life as it was used to be in previous educational systems like Gurukuls. Magnificent buildings and equipments are no substitute for the great teachers. The kind of Education provided to youth is determined overwhelmingly by the kind of men and women we secure as teachers. No doubt we have made a great deal of advancement in science and technology but the western influence in Education has overshadowed the conceptional education and our cultural heritage. Students are not trained to approach life's problem with the fortitude, self control and sense of balance which our new conditions demand. Without this enthusiasm of great causes, students become a danger to themselves and a society as a whole. This approach is encouraged by a study of classics.

This which is the king of education. The most secret of all the secrets. It is the purest knowledge because it gives direct perception of the Self by Realization, it is the Perfection of Humanities, it is everlasting and it is joyfully performed. Those who want to walk on their own feet must open their eyes of wisdom. Attainment of real and lasting peace within is possible. You can always have an open mind to accept the other person's goodness with an understandable mind and try rectifying your weakness/mistakes with broader outlook being aware of the fact that Education is self realization and it should liberate, that trains us to seek personal gain and security, to fight for ourselves, to be efficient and capable of managing time and work properly as certainly required. It leads to person to be a well defined, well developed and well disciplined human being. Real understanding comes only from Self- Knowledge which is awareness of one's total psychological process. Education is the self realization in true sense for it is within each of us that whole of existence is gathered which illuminates the whole of the world. To understand life is to understand ourselves and that is both the beginning and end of education.

Police- militant nexus

Sir,

Refer news item 'Two more cops nabbed for militant links' DE Sept 6.

The involvement of some policemen in illegal activities, and their nexus with militants is a cause of concern for national security. The news item has not come as a surprise for people as there are numerous instances of policemen involved in these activities.

Some of them have been unearthed by the Police Department. Besides, the police has not ruled out the possibility of more men involved in such activities.

Therefore, it is high time that the Police Department launches a vigorous campaign to purge the department of these elements.

Public poses great trust in police. It is on this trust that people breathe in an atmosphere of security. If any way this trust breaks, people will live in constant fear and will always blow before the diktats of anti-social elements.

Yours etc...
Sunil Sharma
Kathua

Players will suffer

Sir,

It is quite disappointing to note that Indian Olympic Association has adopted a defiant attitude and is not functioning as per the guidelines of International Olympic Committee. This uncalled for attitude will harm the cause of Indian players only and nobody else.

The confrontational attitude will debar Indian players from participating in Olympic games in which India had begun to show some success. The move will not only dishearten the participating players but will discourage them. It will have a lasting adverse effect on their psyche and with that Indian sports sector will receive a severe set back.

It is also interesting to note that the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and the Sports Ministry have reacted in contrasting manner to the tough stand taken by the IOC on the chargesheet clause. It also underlines the fact that some people for their vested interest are not allowing the things to settle in favour of players.

Yours etc...
Joginder Singh
Channi Rama,
Jammu

Readers Write

Plea to JKSSB Chairman

Sir,

The Entrance Test for the posts having basic qualification 10th, 12th and graduation is scheduled to be held on 14th and 15th of September, 2013 in J&K State. Notification in this regard was published on 18th of August, 2013 in newspapers.

However, one is constrained to mention here that the candidates got very less time to prepare for the exam, as the syllabus is very vast and within a short span of time, it is not possible to complete it and go through the examination. In order to save the future of the candidates, Chairman J&K Service Selection Board is very kindly requested to postpone the said examination for atleast one month, so that candidates who are dreaming for their bright future may be able to complete the syllabus and qualify the Entrance Test.

Yours etc...
Monika Rajput,
Janipur, Jammu