

Founder Editor S.D. Rohmetra

Time for action

Gestures of goodwill shown by Mian Nawaz Sharief before and after he assumed the reins of the new Government in Pakistan are belied by the happenings on the ground. Pakistan based Lashkar-e-Toiba legions dressed in the outfit of Pakistani soldiers to be disguised as soldiers, lay in ambush in Chakan-da-Bagh area of Poonch sector, intruded 500 yards inside the LoC on our side, laid ambush and encircled the Indian army patrol on normal duty. The intruders were no fewer than twenty who encircled the Indian patrol, rained bullets on them, martyred five and made one jawan wounded. Our base camp rushed reinforcement but the cowardly intruders had run away in the darkness.

This is one of the series of intrusions that infiltrators from PoK have been undertaking this summer. No less than 57 bids of intrusion have been made during this summer with most of these foiled by our border security forces. But odd chances of success for the infiltrators to sneak in cannot be ruled out owing to the long and porous border that it is. The Pakistani army has been giving fire cover to the infiltrators most of the time though at other times they can do it without cover, for example, during dense fog or through thick forests. They laid ambush and attacked without provocation. This is violation of cease fire agreement that exists between the two countries and which had been observed most of the time. It is only past one year or so that Pakistani troops have resorted to regular intermittent firing and the bids of infiltration have accelerated largely this year.

There is a piquant situation in Pakistan. The Army and ISI are least in favour of the Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharief embarking on cordial relations with India. This goes against their desk-book principle. Pakistani army loses much of its clout once Kashmir issue is solved. Previously also whenever Pakistani civilian leadership tried to mend fences the ISI stuck in and gave a different direction to the Indo-Pakistan dialogue.

The point is that we reserve reciprocating of goodwill for the day when Pakistan Prime Minister is able to exercise his prime ministerial powers in full and relegate the army to its constitutional duty and not let it interfere in civilian administration. However, it is not for us to decide what type of political structure Pakistan wants for herself. Since the ground situation does not prove conducive to bilateral talks, the Prime Minister of India is not under any obligation moral or political to extend his hand for handshake with Pakistani Prime Minister. We rather pity his position that a man of such a vast popularity should be dwarfed by the army.

On our level, it is evident that Pakistan is on warpath. Her attitude during past one year and more especially his adventurous enterprises of beheading an Indian soldier and taking his head away beside intermittent firing on or posts especially in vulnerable regions like Krishna Ghati or Mendhar indicate that Pakistan army has nefarious designs and they are on the outlook for a pretext to lit the flames of a destructive war. The axiom is that if you want peace be prepared for war. Fortunately, we have the pre-requisites necessary to take a strong retaliatory step. In the first place, political parties of all hues and denominations have unanimously offered their support to the Government to take appropriate steps for meeting this challenge. Secondly, we have the will and determination to strike back at our choosing. At diplomatic level, New Delhi must get into contact with all major powers in the west and explain how Pakistan has been steadily making situation dangerously complex. All the western powers are already convinced that Pakistan is the cradle of terrorism and she is herself being targeted day in and day out. Thousands of innocent Pakistani civilians have been killed by the home grown terrorist. As such, we should make it clear to them that India is within her rights and jurisdiction to strike back only in self defence.

Multi-barrel rocket

Armament Research Development Establishment has successfully fired Pinaka M II Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher at a test fire at Chandipur testing base. This is another feather in the cap of our space research establishment. Being multi barrel it has the ability to neutralize a firing base of 3.9 miles of area. The weapon has already been delivered to the army but Pinaka II was the advanced version that passed successfully through the test. This achievement has been made indigenously and the credit goes to India scientists. This is in line with self-sufficiency programme of the Indian defence establishment. We highly appreciate the achievement of the scientists and we are confident they will make the nation safe against all threats being posed by our detractors.

Who was Antony speaking for?

Let me begin by saying that from a distance India looks even more mysterious and puzzling than it does from inside the country. This week I write from a distance. I am in a spa in Thailand where I came with the hope of a few days of rest and healthy living but within days of getting here came the latest incident on the LOC (line of control). In these times of instant communications it is easy to follow the news online so I listened carefully to a panel discussion that Karan Thapar conducted with a former army chief, a former foreign secretary and the spokesmen of our two main political parties. And, I read as many newspapers as I could and read carefully the tweets on Twitter, from India and Pakistan, and still failed to understand how our Defense Minister was so sure that the twenty 'terrorists' who killed five Indian soldiers were not Pakistani regular troops.

What mystified me completely was the certainty with which he knew that those in the group who wore Pakistani army uniforms were in fact just militants in disguise. How did he find all this out so soon? Does he have a hotline to Pakistani army headquarters and was he merely parroting what he was told? From what I know of such things I know that army commanders on both sides are usually able to talk to each other so how is it that the army does not share the Defense Minister's certainties? The Defense Minister's mystifying defense of the Pakistan Government could not have come at a worse moment from an international perspective.

We are alas not a country that follows closely what is going on in the wider world so the Indian media has mostly ignored the decision of the United States Government to close some of its embassies and consulates last week. The decision was prompted by fears that Al Qaeda groups in Yemen were plotting a series

of attacks at the behest of Osama bin Laden's lieutenant, Ayman al Zawahiri. This committed jihadi who is believed to have been the master planner of the 9/11 attacks recently made this statement. 'Crusaders and secularists and the Americanized army have converged: with Gulf money and American plotting to topple Mohammed Morsi's Government.' He then appar-

ently spent long hours chitchatting with jihadi commanders and ordered them to attack American properties in the Middle East. This chit-chat was intercepted by American spooks preventive measures were taken. What does this have to do with the attack on the LOC?

Everything, Pakistan has been jihad central, as we in India well know, from long before the 9/11 attacks and if proof were needed of this it came when Osama bin Laden was found living happily in a Pakistani military town. Anyone who believes that he lived there safely with his large brood and multiple wives without the approval of the Pakistani army does not know how deep the Pakistani army's relations are with jihadi groups. Especially the Pakistani ones it spawned. So if the Indian Defense Minister seriously believes that the latest attack on the LOC happened without the support of

the Pakistani army then we need to be not just worried but extremely disturbed. This is not just because it indicates that the Defense Minister has no idea of the history of the jihad or its methods but because it indicates that despite decades of jihadi activity the Government of India has not understood that this is war by another name. And, the main reason why 26/11 hap-

pened and why it could happen again whenever the Pakistani army wants is because our government has not yet come up with an adequate strategy to fight this new kind of war. It could be the only kind of war we are ever likely to fight against Pakistan and it will almost certainly intensify once American troops start withdrawing from Afghanistan next year. Pakistan is paranoid about India's intentions on Afghanistan and it is hard to meet even sensible Pakistanis who do not talk of India's nefarious designs on Afghanistan through its 'consulates'. The recent attack on an Indian consulate in Afghanistan is very much part of a concerted effort to keep India completely out of that country so that Pakistan can continue to treat it as its hinterland.

The paranoia of Pakistani generals when it comes to India is hard to understand unless you actually talk to

them. And, having had this privilege more than once I can tell you that every conversation I have had left me thinking that I was talking to men who really believed that India was bent on destroying Pakistan and that they were the last bastion against this eventuality. It was this kind of deluded thinking that caused the Pakistani army to create the jihadi groups that now proliferate across that country and sometimes threaten its existence. But, to believe that they are now out of control of Pakistan's military men is to believe a lie. So if someone as important as our Defense Minister believes that it is possible for militants to reach the LOC, cross it and kill our soldiers, without the tacit support of the Pakistani army then we have cause to be very, very worried.

By the time I finished writing this piece I discovered from Twitter that Manish Tewari had spoken on Sonia Gandhi's behalf saying that she was 'extremely anguished' about what happened on the LOC. This made me extremely angry, even in my restful, distant spa, because we do not need 'anguish' from her but an explanation for why national security has been so neglected by her Government. A. K. Anthony is a Gandhi family loyalist and is said to have got his job as a reward for his loyalty. So would Soniji get down to finding out from him what strategy he has evolved to defend India against this insidious, ugly, undeclared war. She could begin by asking him how he found out so quickly that the men who killed our soldiers were militants and not Pakistani troops. Her next step could be to ask the Army Chief why the army's view is different to that of the Defense Minister. After this how about sitting these two gentlemen down in the privacy of 10 Janpath and asking them what India's strategy is to take on the jihad and how it has improved and been strengthened since the attack on Mumbai five years ago. We really need to know.

ON THE SPOT TAVLEEN SINGH

Everything, Pakistan has been jihad central, as we in India well know, from long before the 9/11 attacks and if proof were needed of this it came when Osama bin Laden was found living happily in a Pakistani military town.

Ramesh Pandita

With the adoption of resolution by highest decision making body of ruling congress on Telangana, road towards the formation of its 29th independent state of the Republic of India is almost certain, thereby conceding the long pending demand of the people of this region of Andhra Pradesh. Political analysts have already started dubbing the timings as motivated to gain political mileage especially when the countdown towards the forthcoming general elections has already begun. Since, this not being the part of our present discourse, besides such politically motivated moves are routine and offering sops of such sort by a ruling party, be it at national or regional level, as such crucial timings is somewhat expected, hence should not come to us as a surprise. The question is, is the formation of smaller states a better option for a country like India, especially when the country is still reeling under the curse of caste, colour, creed, culture, region, religion, language etc with no hope yet to come out of it despite gaining independence 65 years back.

Looking at the diversity of country at every front and its historical background, when the country was divided into provinces and each province was the formation of smaller princely states who for the want of integrity, magnanimity were always prone to external invasions and rulers used to remain at war during the most part of the lives to defend their territories and for the given fact most

of the princely states agreed to be part of union of India by signing accession document of their own freewill. People do put forth arguments in support of formation of smaller states as they believe that smaller states can be better administered, better governed with more public participation, others say it will help overcome corrupt people and practices. But the question again here is why these practices cannot be extended to bigger and larger states in the same manner the manner one argues for their implementation in smaller states. Still more few draw parallels between small states with small nation countries of Europe and other continents for being better developed and more prosperous than even some of the larger countries of the world. Dissolution into smaller states ultimately results into a weak nation. One must not forget that disintegration of former super power USSR in to smaller nation states was just simply an outcome of same drift which weakened the global power internally and made its disintegration inevitable.

Since no mathematics can prove as whether the smaller states are a better option for country and larger ones not, but definitely we have examples which can be cited for and against the formation of newer states. Formation of a smaller state is more like moving out of a joint family which unarguably is the stronger unit of society than a nuclear one and

knowingly leaving a unit where ones needs and demands get better fulfilled than looking for same in a weaker unit of society is totally insane act. Carving out a small 10 district state from a larger state understandably is not a viable and sensible

decision even if that piece of land has self sufficiency to meet its own requirements to a greater extent. Still more the bone of contention turned out to be Hyderabad which is going to be capital of both the states for next 10 years and will ultimately be part of Telangana thereafter. People of Andhra Pradesh have already started campaign towards declaring Hyderabad either as union territory or the part of Andhra Pradesh only, which if met will lead further disintegration. Though road to carve out Telangana from Andhra Pradesh is clear, but still some analysts see hiccups in its becoming reality, as the bill is

anything form this dissolution or will be reduced to learn from such practices, this is only what time will tell us, but the fact is development as on date is proving more as fuel in fire, which has only helped to intensify campaign towards formation of other smaller states in other parts of the country. Vested interests in some states are pressing for separate state only as a blackmailing tactics to press for their demands. Campaigns towards the formation of other smaller states which are already on cards and are likely to escalate with this decision include regions like Saurashtra, Vindhya Pradesh, Vidarbha,

Purvanchal, Mithila, and Bodoland are just a few to name. Apart from these there are various other parts of the country which too have starting raising their voice for separate statehood statues to their regions mostly based on language and culture.

If we look at the topology of world, we can see nature has not evenly distributed resources across the globe which is good for creating interdependence and helps to facilitate social solidarity. If one part of the world is having fertile land another is just a barren desert. If one part has deposits of one sort of minerals another part is rich in other kind of deposits, some export crude oil, others food grains and other edible things. In all no individual country in this world is self sufficient to fulfill their all individual requirements from their own resources, but if we take world as a unit we can say it is self sufficient to fulfill its requirements from its own resources. Interdependence is the only driving force of whole world and the countries devoid of natural and other resources find it difficult to fill the bellies of its citizens for the fact that global trade is purely based on give and take policy and the countries who have got nothing to offer have nothing to take. Same holds true about the individual states of each country, if we keep the holistic approach towards life, we will survive and thrive and if we keep indi-

Avoid being a soft State

Shaveta Sharma

One more intrusion, one more betrayal, one more violation of the cease-fire line, one more incident of killing of our brave soldiers... but look at the level of our patience, we still are in a state of slumber... may be waiting for another Kargil like crisis or 13/12 or 26/11 to happen. The stigma on India being a soft state is surely not a thing of credibility for her. Should we take the repeated assaults on our sovereignty so much casually?

First we talk about the Dragon i.e. our neighbor or I should say unfriendly neighbor- China. From the last four years, China has adopted a very aggressive posture as far as its policy towards India is concerned. Countless cases of intrusion into the Indian Territory have been noticed and reported but how stringently we dealt with her dubious moves... a big question to ask. Already China has betrayed our country in 1962 and being an Indian, one must not overlook her recent activities and aggressive postures. China is already possessing around 5,180 km area in Arunachal Pradesh along with many thousands Kms in PoK. And now her dare has increased that much that she is claiming the whole of Arunachal Pradesh as its territory. Since the beginning of the current year, China has many a time intruded into the Northern sector in the Indian territory but our government is just taking the security of our country for granted.

Then comes Pakistan- a country which has been a part of India, but under the umbrella of her pseudo-psychological insecurities, has been waging low-intensity warfare against India as she is not competent to directly match and challenge the military superiority of India. If we start talking about the ulterior and untiring efforts of Pakistan for sabotaging the unity and integrity of India, even thousands of pages would prove short. So I should only highlight the recent bids of intrusion and ceasefire violations. Since the beginning of 2013 to till date, Pakistan has tried to intrude into the Indian territory as many as 57 times and violated the cease-fire line as many as 17 times including the recent one in Poonch sector in which 5 Indian soldiers got martyrdom. Every time, when such kind of incidents occur, our Government repeatedly warned that this kind of incident won't be tolerated further. It was expected that with the coming of democratic establishment in Pakistan, situation would get better but to everyone's dismay, the situation got further worse even worse as the number of violation of LoC has been on the rise. One prominent reason behind this would be that Nawaz Sharief wanted to draw the attention of the world community on the issue of Kashmir and simply wanted to again internationalize the Kashmir issue on the platform of the United Nations as the meeting of General Assembly is bound to be there in the month of September.

Both China and Pakistan have been practicing Mandal's policy of 'the enemy of my enemy is my friend' and playing both sides- a dual game of peace talks and agreement- diplomacy on our face and intruding into our territory and sponsoring terrorism for sabotaging the integrity and unity of our country through underground activities. One fails to understand, why India is always craving hard to hug these countries tightly and mend all the fences with them despite the anti-Indian activities practiced by both these countries? India is surely a peace loving country but now when both our neighboring countries are trying incessantly to sabotage the internal peace and tarnish the democratic fabric of our country. Isn't there a need to break the shackles of being a soft state and take some really substantive and stringent steps against these countries who are anti-Indian.

China and Pakistan have been adopting aggressive and repressive postures one after the other viz-a-viz India and our government is just giving mild warnings that India is not going to tolerate more- a warning which has not even fell on the deaf ears of both the countries. But, unfortunately the reality is that we are tolerating all this from the past many years without taking any concrete step as may be we are over-obsessed with our peace-loving image.

(The writer is a PhD scholar in the Department of Political Science, University of Jammu)

Creation of new states

vidualistic approach we are bound to perish.

Most of the movements towards the formation of new smaller states are just simply an outcome of public anger, showcasing that their regions have been neglected on the developmental front and as such deem separation from their parent land as the only and lasting solution. There is no denial in it that most of the developmental schemes throughout the country remain region centric for political reasons and becomes a reason for disproportionate development and ultimately public anger. And the question is instead of seeking way out in disintegration why can't we work on conceiving solution to such problems in more integrated manner. If the problem is known, need is to exterminate it by fighting it out and not by choosing route of escapism that too which not just puts in danger the overall integrity and solidarity of state but of whole nation. Raising and conceding demands for separate smaller state on the basis of language, culture, or any other regional superlative can be termed more as an anti national activity. These activities are more aimed at weakening the nation state and ultimately its disintegration, so it becomes imperative to look into to pros and cons involved prior to conceding any such demand and unjust if any endangering integrity and sovereignty of county should be met head on and be crushed at the very beginning of its conception.

(The author is Assistant Librarian, BGSB University, Rajouri, J & K).

Countering Pak attack

Sir,

It does not matter whether attack on Indian posts in Poonch sector was carried out by Pakistani military or terrorists sponsored by Pak army. The matter of utmost urgency is why India is attacked time and again from across the border? Is it our inability to respond properly to such attacks that militants or Pak military take advantage of this situation time and again? Had we given them a befitting reply in the past perhaps such a situation would not have arisen now.

The matter will die a slow death after so much of rancour and jingoism by political parties and media.

Pakistan army will not stop sponsoring terrorism in our country. It is hell bent on creating mayhem in this country. The frequent firing and ceasefire violations along the LoC border is quite indicative of its designs. The attack on India posts by Border Action Team (BAT) in which five Indian jawans were killed reflects the mood of Pak Army. The only way we can counter such situation is by strengthening our security apparatus and by paying Pak in the same coin.

Yours etc....
Rajesh Gupta
Udhampur

Ailing hospital

Sir,

Refer news item 'Mortality at GB Pant Hospital increases, admission fall' DE Aug 7.

There is something seriously wrong with the hospital that mortality rate continues to increase despite upgrading infrastructure and increasing staff strength.

More machines won't do the job. Machines are one of the components of providing proper health care to people. But it is men behind machines who play an important role in this endeavour. It is to be seen whether people who handle these machines or do allied jobs have the competence and are wedded to professionalism. It is for the hospital administration to look every aspect of the situation, find loopholes, and at the same time plug them effectively.

In case such a thing does not happen, people will stop visiting the hospital as can be concluded from the falling admissions.

It is a serious matter which can not afford loss of time or administrative intervention.

Yours etc....
Nazir Ahmed Mir
Kakapora Pulwama

Rationalize tax policy

Sir,

It is the moral obligation of every rational citizen to pay income tax in the largest interest of the progress and development of the nation. However, at the same time, it is the duty of the Government to review the tax policy from time to time to make it rational, democratic and humanistic.

Employees are paid dearness allowance on monthly basis and the Government is reviewing it two times in an year keeping in view the price level of the market. In fact this dearness allowance is a form of consumption allowance as it is utilized by the employee for consumption of commodities in the fluctuating market.

In our state the dearness allowance at new rates is usually paid after inordinate delay. As such, consumer rights of employees are usurped. Now when these allowances are paid, the arrears are credited to the GP Fund Account members of the employees.

What adds to the problem is that Income Tax Department who is in wait like a hound-predator catches the prey by levying income tax on these arrears. As such, the poor employees are caught between the devil and deep blue sea.

This is a serious issue confronting the employees and needs a fresh look from the concerned quarters. There is an utmost need to exempt the D.A. Arrears from tax as it directly goes to the exchequer instead of employees pocket. There is a need to rationalize the tax policy to make it rational and employee friendly.

Yours etc....
Ramesh K Raina (Wanpoh)
Jammu

Readers Write