

Unrest among the cops

Disturbing reports have come in that 900 under training policemen in the Police Training School at Manigam in Ganderbal district have refused to go on yatra duty and are on rampage. This is perhaps the first time in the history of the State Police Department when such a large number of cops have gone on wholesale protest. In all probability, there could be more than one reason for them to adopt the defiant mood. Given the circumstances in which their recruitment has taken place, police authorities should have taken extra caution not to give them cause for discontent.

Looking in retrospect, we find that no doubt J&K Police have rendered meritorious service and some of their officers and other ranks have been even awarded for dedicated service as is expected of them. In particular, in a situation of militancy, the police had to face many challenges on many fronts. Fortunately they have come out with flying colours bringing honour and pride to the State. In recognition of their services and the odds against which they are performing, the Government has been taking steps to provide the entire police force and their families, facilities they need to live a good life and to the extent the Government can provide. From time to time the Government has made input towards the amelioration of service conditions of police personnel.

However, a few instances of policemen hobnobbing with the militants have also come to notice in the past. In some of these cases, cops deployed at sensitive positions have been lured by the militants in disclosing tactical information and in all probability against considerable pecuniary benefits. There are also some cases in which policemen, out of fascination for militancy, have left their posts and joined hands with the militants. Apart from this some of the cops have shifted allegiance owing to matters like personal problems, frustration, anxiety or maltreatment by the superiors. This is not unusual. After all the cops are human beings as anybody else and they are part of the social milieu from which they come.

This being the generality, the case under consideration is of the 900 under-training policemen having gone on rampage, 500 or odd have been recruited from downtown Srinagar. These young people were involved in stone throwing during 2010 protests. However, on finding that most of them were unemployed and had no substantial means of earning, the Government decided to treat them on humanitarian grounds and got them recruited in police department. In an overall estimation, this humanistic policy of the Government is appreciable because after all unemployed youth do, in more cases, take to violence and thus become a source of nuisance. Government being the largest employer in the state, they were absorbed in police department. However, prudence demanded that before their mass recruitment, they should have been subjected to strict scrutiny by intelligence organizations of the State to ensure that none of them was suspected of close links with the militants. It was in the interests of the State that such candidates as were patently in liaison with the adversary should not have been recruited in police department. If they were to be provided means of subsistence, an alternative should have been looked for. After the incident took place, the impression gathered is that there must be elements among the defiant cops that have links with anti-national elements, who are misusing them for their ulterior motives. Their antecedents should have been thoroughly checked.

Having said this much, the question of pacifying has to be handled with great caution and not with vengeance. First of all their service related grievances should be heard and remedied without loss of time. They have to be told that once in police service, they have to perform duty wherever they are posted. It is to be ascertained why they specifically refused to perform Amarnath Yatra duty? Seniors should have sensed the possible resentment from the cops for going on this particular duty. After all, the memory of Amarnath yatra agitation still lingers on in the mind of those who were indoctrinated in anti-national culture. The incident has to be taken seriously and in all of its ramifications. This gives an insight into the on-ground situation. Let us not be carried away by the wishful thinking that everything is fine in the State and such incidents are nothing extraordinary. The onus comes to the doorsteps of the leadership that has been instrumental in their recruitment.

Changing infiltration strategy

Goodwill gestures exuded by Mian Nawaz Sharif before and after assuming the new government of Pakistan can prove an illusion if infiltration bids along the LoC remain unchecked. Terrorist structure along LoC in PoK remains intact. The camps are shifted intermittently to avoid their detection. In a bid to change the strategy of infiltration, armed terrorists are being pushed in day time as against doing so at night under the cover of darkness. Another aspect of changed strategy is to use heavy arms, 82mm mortars, artillery guns and open fire on as many posts as is possible to distract the attention of Indian security forces. Under this strategy the entire border posts in Poonch/Rajouri sector like Krishna Ghati, Sabjan and Mandi have come under Pakistani firing causing injury to one civilian on our side of the line. Nevertheless it is evident that Pakistan army is not going to change its agenda on Kashmir. As such, the only option left to us is that we should stick fast to our defensive strategy and disallow the enemy even the slightest chance of sneaking into our side for creating instability. Pak Army seems to be desperate to push the fresher towards our side. Their efforts will not die down and we cannot remain complacent with whatever sweet words Pakistan's Prime Minister has for bilateral relationship.

All's not well with Pak PM

M London-based Pakistani journalist friend was perhaps marginally wrong when he told me "all's well with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif", just embarked on his third term as the head of the government in Islamabad. After all, my friend knows his Pakistan well enough; not for nothing had he earned the nickname 'chhota Jinnah' in his Government College, Lahore days in the middle 1940s. And as a Pakistani he has spent the last four months in his country to see through the election process.

But it did come as a shock to me, nevertheless, to watch the horrifying news on Pak TV channels of 23 people including 14 girl students sitting in their bus being killed by terrorists. Not just that, the terrorists also destroyed the house in which the founder of Pakistan, Qaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had stayed just a year before his death in 1948, an old mansion in the picturesque mountain resort town of Ziarat in Balochistan. Thanks to Gen. Ziaul Haq who specially arranged for me to see Quetta and Ziarat on a visit to Pakistan I did see Jinnah mansion which alas is no more.

The 14 students died when their bus was blown up by terrorists and to make the tale more gruesome than it need have been was that the armed men besieged the hospital where the survivors of the bus tragedy were taken for first aid. Some of the killers positioned themselves on the hospital rooftop taking pot shots at the injured and their attendants below as the latter carried the injured for medical aid.

The bus, according to one version, was actually standing and probably waiting for more students of the Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University to get in. Some 35 others were injured and a few taken hostage and freed later by the police. The Deputy Commissioner was among the dead, felled while doing his duty.

The area has for several years now been the centre of much sectarian conflict and predictably the Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, a militant Sunni outfit, which has since owned responsibility, was obviously out on a shooting

spree killing Hazara Shias. The Jhangvis are active in Punjab, in the Quetta region of Balochistan, having spread their tentacles to Karachi as well.

What made me bring in Nawaz Sharif at the outset is the fact that the Prime Minister is someone better equipped than most other politicians to suggest restraint to the Jhangvis, known as he was as a young right-of-Centre favourite of the late military dictator, Gen. Zia.

Indeed Mr. Nawaz Sharif has covered a lot of ground since and today he is seen as a moderate leader for whom the most pressing challenge currently is to restore economic stability in his country. During the poll campaign, he may have avoided any direct references to the var-

province.

Imran's bleeding heart should work to get the Taliban to the negotiating table or at the very least persuade them to abjure from continuing the bloodbath in Pakistan. If the principal political parties were to come together to talk to the Taliban and other reasonable militant outfits, I am sure the results they achieve would be more fruitful than our own experience with the Naxalites, Maoists or armed Adivasis.

The Indian experience should convince the PMNL and the Insafists that the more they delay the talking the sharper will be the challenges by the Taliban and their ilk.

For Nawaz Sharif this won't be the first time to be talking to

complain that they get power for just two hours a day. Nawaz is trying out many options to offer immediate relief; it has sought help from the Chinese and from others. Some 300 to 500 MW are likely to be supplied by the Indian Punjab to light up parts of Lahore for longer spells.

Friends across the border tell me of the horrid time they are having in the near absence of assured power supply. India may not be the ideal source for assured power supply (a very small portion of total need) given its own inability to quicken the pace of power generation. The greens and the environmentalists have virtually blocked most hydel power projects suggesting that the country may have to go in for more energy via the nuclear path which again is not acceptable to the environmentalists.

If the two countries- India and Pakistan- could somehow resolve their long festering bilateral problems, they could jointly work on building up proper power infrastructure. Nawaz Sharif could even contribute his expertise in road-building. I have driven down the massive highway he got built from the tribal heartland down to the plains of Punjab some years ago.

But as I have said earlier, for Indo-Pak cooperation to materialise it is very important that the two sides sit down together to find a sustainable solution to their mutual problems. The old mindsets brought to the table by the moth-eaten bureaucrats steeped in antediluvian ideas should instantly be discarded. Nawaz Sharif, from, what I have known of him or about him, would very much want to get to grips with the Indo-Pak tangle should New Delhi be willing to play ball.

Unfortunately for the immediate future of bilateral relations between the two, New Delhi, slipping gradually into the election mode, may not be prepared just now for a rapprochement. Indeed, the Manmohan Singh government may even not be interested in such talks now. And who knows what kind of a future dispensation India will be saddled with in less than a year from now.

MEN, MATTERS & MEMORIES

M L KOTRU

ious militant outfits, including the Tehreek-i-Taliban of Pakistan but he is committed to engage the militant groups in talks.

The problem, though, may arise when it comes to engaging the Pakistani Taliban and the other Islamist groups including, of course, the sectarian outfits, which seem to rejoice every time they score a hit, say, their killing 100 Shias and the latter returning the compliment with a counter strike bearing their hallmark. The fact, though, is that the Sunnis are the predominant sect while Shias aren't all that numerous.

The others, for the record it must be said both the Nawaz PM-L-N and the Tehreek-e-Insaf of Imran barely touched upon the indigenous Taliban phenomenon in their long election campaigns. The needs of Pakistan are such that the Nawaz League and the Insafists, the former the largest single party and latter having displaced the People's Party founded by the late Zulfikar ali Bhutto and nurtured post-Zulfikar by his daughter Benazir, as the second largest, get together to deal with the local Taliban. As it is, the principal Pakistani Taliban bases are located in the Pakhtunkhwa (old NWFP) and Imran's Party which won the largest number of sets there is in power in the

Islamic right. He has acquired the skills under Gen. Zia and to that experience and his own, marked by his rise to the Prime Ministerial gaddi for the third time now, has endowed him with greater credibility. The Army's ambivalence on the issue has been all too evident in the past; its choice is limited either to the peace pipe or the barrel of the gun. It has been critical of American bombings in tribal areas and curiously encouraged such attacks in the past; this dichotomy saw the Army at one stage refusing American military convoys access into Afghanistan via Pakistan.

Even otherwise it's imperative for Pakistan to get over the problem of domestic militancy. Its economy is crying out for revival and the businessman in Nawaz Sharif is very conscious of this; he will also have to either close down or sell the non-productive public sector establishments, vigorously pursue Pakistanis to pay their taxes.

Pakistan must according to me, a non expert, be one of the few countries were paying taxes is considered infra dig unlike some other countries where the highest tax payer makes it his business to make it known.

Pakistan is suffering from acute power shortages, most parts of the land of five rivers

Commonman's guide to inflation

Anjan Roy

Say what you will, but the inflation rate, at last, is falling. That is according to official figures. You might say you are still paying slightly more for whatever you buy. But a falling inflation rate does not mean falling prices as if you are paying less for what you buy, but only that rise in prices is somewhat slower. This is a common mistake that people often make when inflation rate is said to be falling and the average man in the street says that he is paying more.

Let me illustrate. In times of high inflation, it might be that you say Rs 30 for a kilogram of rice on June 1 this year. By August 1 next year, you are paying Rs 38 to Rs 40 for the same kg of rice. In times of falling inflation rate, you will pay just about Rs 32.50 to Rs 33 for a kg of rice by August 1. This little price rise is good.

Because falling prices means for the economy what falling blood pressure is for the body. In case, blood pressure keeps falling a patient collapses and organs pack up. Economists call this "deflation" and fighting deflation is far more complicated and difficult than fighting inflation. Why? Because in a deflationary situation consumers tend to defer their purchases, hoping that prices should fall further. When the community of consumers does not buy, factories are saddled with unsold stocks, they close down.

The worst such experience of deflation was in Japan. For a whole decade, Japanese prices fell by and by and the economy sank. This period in Japan's economic history in the 1990s is called the "Lost Decade" when Japan did not grow while the rest of the global economy was growing.

For a developing economy, a little bit of inflation is necessary to encourage producers to produce and investors to invest. This is in effect a driver of growth. At the same time, runaway inflation is equally bad in that it destroys all calculations. Once again, the worst case of hyper-inflation was in Germany in the 1920s when the German mark was so devalued that cartloads of currency would be required to make ordinary home purchases.

We are safe from both these extremes, thanks to our institutional set up. We have the Reserve Bank as the guardian of prices. We have the government always afraid of losing vote if prices rise too fast. Recall when Indira Gandhi lost elections because of rising onion prices.

Economists might frown and say, like the famous detective Sherlock Holmes: elementary, my dear Watson, elementary". "But it is important to remember these fundamentals to get the grips about inflation. Having set right that confusion about inflation, let us take a quick look at the dynamics of price rise, as reported by the official release.

The annual rate of inflation, based on monthly WPI, stood at 4.70% (provisional) for the month of May 2013 (over May 2012) as compared to 4.89% (provisional) for the previous month and 7.55% during the corresponding month of the previous year.

Build up in inflation rate in the financial year so far was 0.88% compared to a build up rate of 1.80% in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Food prices inflation continued unabated with wheat prices rising by 12.65%, rice by 18.48% and cereals by 16%. Potato prices declined while onion prices spiked by 97.40% compared with the same month last year. Manufactured products inflation remained subdued at 3.11%. With this core inflation remains close to 2% and far below the tolerable limits of RBI. Basic metals and minerals, iron and semis prices fell indicating softness in industrial demand.

But what the price figures are showing? The WPI figures indicated falling inflation rate, but if you go behind the figures these reflect overall slowdown in the economy. How?

If you look at the inflation figures for upstream and basic industries- the foundation of an economy- these prices are softening month after month. When industrial activity is going down, the demand for these is slackening. Hence, their prices are falling. Link up these figures with those of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and you will get a vindication of this assumption. Mining and metals industries are showing no growth. They are often shrinking. Along with that the investment rate in the economy is falling.

It is here that all these figures-released this week-show an action programme. It becomes almost inescapable to bring down interest rates now. The next review of monetary policy is on Monday (June 17). The RBI might as well decide to cut the interest rates to give a little boost to the economy. That's we have been driving at. (IPA)

Women empowerment

Rashmi Deepika

The Principal of Gender equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution in its preamble, fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles. The constitution not only grants equality to women, but also empower the state to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women.

It is amazing that from an early age, women start to learn about some of the finest human qualities like comparison, self awareness, sacrifice, service devotion by observing their own mothers, grandmothers and other women in their lives.

The four pillars of business which are dedication, consistency, hard work and honesty are also attributes of women... For many centuries, the role of women was to be the nurturing institution for her children, to be the solid foundation for her spouse, and to be the soldier fighting against the world's suffering. Then come the times when and intelligent and willing to works, however due to various reasons are unable to do it today.

The reasons could be varied for various women, some women could be deprived of these opportunities because their men don't want them to work, the others may be restricted due to family

pressures or peer pressures.

Gender disparity manifests itself in various forms, the most obvious being the trend of continuously declining female ratio in the population in the last few decades. Social Stereotyping and violence at the domestic and societal levels are some of the other manifestations. Discrimination against girl children, adolescent girls and women persists in parts of the country.

Most of the disadvantaged women work as domestic workers, agricultural labours, sweepers and cleaners in school, hospital, shops and establishment. They do not have permanent, dignified, sustainable livelihoods. They work at the mercy of land lords and owners of shops and establishment. They have uncertain and seasonal wage employment in agriculture fields. Unfortunately agriculture has become gambling due to draught conditions and many other natural reasons. Due to lack of skills and regular income generation activities, they are below the poverty line.

Certain ongoing projects needs to be more strengthened

Sponsor Vocational skill Development Programme
Donate money for Zari Work Training for Rural Women.
Sponsor Livelihood for Economic Empowerment of Women.
Support Livelihood for Indi-

an Tribal Women.

Sponsorship of Goat & Sheep Unit for sustainable livelihood among tribal women.

Strengthening of local craft. The ceaseless cycle of labor rarely shows up in economic analyses of a society's production and value.

Women earn only 10% of the world's income where women work for money, they may be limited to a set of jobs deemed suitable for women- invariably low pay, low-status positions.

Women own less than 1% of the world's property. Where laws or customs prevent women from owning land and other productive assets, from getting loans or credit, or from having the right to inheritance or to own their home women got to the space of equality in the work place, achieving their own dreams, and becoming equal financial contributors within their households.

Women work two third of the world's working hours, according to the united nations

The overwhelming majority of the labor that sustains life growing food, cooking, raising children, caring for the elderly, maintaining a house hauling water is done by women, and universally this work is accorded low status and no pay

Each women has own story some of loved ones murdered, and others of physical and emotional trauma. Most have endured a struggle for survival.

Equipped with job skills training and basic business education along with an awareness of their rights, inspiring women go on to become leaders in their communities, other women to follow in their steps.

Women sustain an income and income Assets Management.

Women are well, Awareness, protection, and prevention.

Women are decision makers. Family and community decision making.

Women have social networks and safety nets. Solidarity for support and protection.

When these four key outcomes are met, women experience lasting change and are positioned to be active citizens. Active citizenship is when a woman engages socially, civically and economically for the betterment of her family and community. As active citizens, women can because leaders of community change that lead to peaceful and stable societies.

Programme need to be organized into three stages as women increases their access to resource and knowledge.

*Creating Awareness
Improving Women's access to

knowledge about their value and the importance of women's rights and social roles.

*Promotion Behavior change:- Encouraging a women's willingness to actively make decisions in her family and community, apply knowledge to maintain physical and psychological wellness, to form or join women's and community groups and take advantage of economic opportunities.

Enabling action providing opportunities to develop personal and group plans for action to allow women to become active citizens individually and in a solidarity with other women. In addition women are provided with support and access to essential services such as microcredit loans, legal assistance, cooperative and employment opportunities and social network

Women face many social challenges today income in order to secure an income for her family, to raising children amidst the harsh economic crisis. A woman is dynamic in many roles she plays. Many of women has raised their voices to ban alcohol and drugs e.g. in village of Warwarhere in Maharashtra.

Unless drastic measures are taken to improve female literacy, create skills and capabilities among women for enabling them to stand on their own feet and care

for themselves and family, it will be difficult for India to prosper as a nation.

The Art of living empowers women to face the challenges by providing tools and techniques that help to eliminate individual stress. A sense of community spirit is created that allows to face these similar challenges as a team rather than individually. The Art of living encourages women to find practical solutions to their challenges so that each are becomes self-dependent in their own right.

An empowered woman can change a lot in the society. Money as an energy is one of the most powerful empowerment tools. Practical steps need to be create income for women, who are capable

Within frame work of a democratic polity, our laws, development policies plans and programme have aimed at women's advanced in different spheres

Well its time to let go of all go of all pressures and work towards becoming empowered with regular income coming in our way.

Women Empowerment is an initiative to take practical steps to make women of India financially independent through various initiatives. Financial Independence is one of the most powerful ways for women empowerment.

(The author is Chief Accounts Officer, PW (R&B) Department Jammu)

Disrespect to National Anthem

Sir,

This takes reference to the news item figured in this esteemed paper on 18th June. The open disrespect shown by the students and staff of Kashmir University towards the National Anthem in presence of the Chief Justice of India is highly condemnable. Had this been committed in any other State our Chief Minister would not have lost a second to tweet against the act but in the presence case he had remained a mute spectator. The authorities should have taken it seriously by taking action against the unscrupulous elements behind it.

It is also right time for the authorities which are at the helm of affairs both at Central and State level to take note of the mind set of such people and have a remedial recourse to prevent this type of acts in future.

Taking this type of anti-national events lightly by the Central as well as State authorities will rather encourage the perpetrators of such events. It is very unfortunate that nobody either at State or Central level has condemned this anti national act till date.

Yours etc....
Pyare Lal
Rehari,
Jammu

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Sir,

This refers to the news item "K.U. students remain seated during National Anthem" published in this paper on 18th June.

The students and staff members of Kashmir University who have shown disrespect to the national anthem on the visit of Chief Justice of India have done a great dis-service to the people of Kashmir who happen to visit other status of India as students, traders missionaries or tourists. This attitude of a few people of Kashmir origin sends wrong signals about what people of the Valley in general think about the national anthem, Indian sub-continent and its might. Instead of insulting the national anthem such anti people elements of Kashmir should keep themselves away from the functions where themselves away from functions where national anthem is likely to be played so that those Kashmiries who want to enjoy the pride of Indian Citizenship together with the State citizenship do not feel hurt. The politicians who are part of such gatherings have a duty to perform in the interest of the natives of the Valley.

Yours etc....
S.K. Rekhi (Senior)
Gandhi Nagar

Readers Write

Cancellation of Rahul visit

Sir,

The much awaited visit of Gen Secretary AICC Rahul Gandhi to Chenab valley area viz Doda, Kishtwar and Baderwah to access the earthquake damage and to console the victims of damage was cancelled without thinking what the residents of Chenab valley will notice and think that which type of step motherly treatment is going on with the poor, helpless people residing in the disaster area of earth quake around Chenab valley. Was cancellation due to bad weather here I would like to bring to notice that on the scheduled visit day the weather was not so bad that helicopter could not land at Baderwah, whereas helicopters carrying VIPs went to Budgam Srinagar in that weather, crossing heights of Peer Panchal- Banihal mountains in bad weather and landing Budgam to address public meetings and announcing packages their, whereas people of Chenab valley were kept waiting, it was just rubbing salt on the wounds of earthquake victims and making residents of this area realise that, there is no leader in this country who really have sympathy with them.

Why our leaders play with the sentiments of poor people, what type of heart they have, is there no feelings for the poor people, is their motto is only to win elections by playing tricks with poor, helpless people?

The people of Chenab Valley living in Doda, Kishtwar, Baderwah and far flung mountainous area are braves of all. They have always come out of worst situations many times, because they believe in Almighty God and it is land of sufis, saints and above all clear hearted and hard working people.

By distributing a meager quantity of ration and meager amount to the victims which the people are denying to accept, does the high command think that they are doing justice to people.

Yours etc....
Kaushal Kotwal
SDAO (RETD)
Gatha Baderwah