

Targeted killings in Pakistan

In fested with myopic exclusiveness and no room for religious minority communities, Pakistan is becoming a wild State in the comity of nations as if manufacturing terrorism and bigotry had any less contribution towards attaining extreme roguery for it that after recent condemnable incident by hordes of fanatics in attacking the historic Gurdwara in Nankana Sahib , a youth of just 25 years belonging to Sikh community was killed in Peshawar. The extent of brutality and disregard for humanity can be seen in Jinnah's dream country Pakistan for shaping which he did not care , even in the least , to have got butchered hundreds of thousands of innocent people that the youth Parvinder Singh was shopping for his wedding when he was shot dead. It is not known what purpose did the killers achieve except condemnation from the civilized conscience .

Indian Government has not only condemned this targeted killing of an innocent Sikh youth but has asked Pakistan Government to "stop prevaricating" and take immediate action to apprehend and award exemplary punishment to the perpetrators. Government of India has taken both the incidents , one after the other , as very serious and wants Pakistan to un-smear its face of treatment towards its minorities. Let it be seen how fast Pakistan starts the process of addressing these issues pertaining to basic human tenets.

Living in the medieval and uncivilized bent up of mind , such elements foolishly think attaining some virtues or blessings by persecuting people belonging to other faiths and beliefs , in fact are serving only satanic ends . The minorities living there are not some illegal immigrants but having hundreds of years rather thousands of years roots there and just by brute numbers and armed by violence coupled with hate , the fanatic elements in Pakistan have virtually exterminated Hindus and Sikhs from that country.

It is all the more astonishing and no less ridiculous as also laughable that the political leadership in power in Pakistan is daring to manufacture lies of "attacks against Muslims in India" when attention was drawn by the Indian Government against the targeted killing of the youth who was to get married shortly . Prime Minister Imran Khan has made a mockery of himself by stupidly making a comparison with intent to draw distinction between the violence in Nankana Sahib and that in India over Citizen Amendment Act . Political and diplomatic bankruptcy would touch so low can happen in only Pakistan. The organised process of kidnapping minor girls of minority communities , converting them under coercion and fear of reprisals against family members in case of resistance and then marrying them to abductors or their accomplices has even been highlighted and voiced against by certain Human Rights Organisations based in Pakistan itself which , however, has not opened the eyes of the Government authorities over there nor stirred their conscience .

Pakistan must sincerely learn from India , in order to become a country worth living in , as regards treating its minorities and not only providing equal rights with other Indian citizens but guaranteeing their religious rights and protecting their institutions by granting minority status and grants and funds . Non Islamic minority communities in that country are not allowed even to live as second class citizens and are subjected to persecution and that is the tragedy . Those political parties in India and their leaders who take suitable "precautions" in not even condemning Pakistan for its inhuman treatment towards Hindus, Sikhs and other minority communities must introspect now , if not go in for remorseful mode.

Disposal of 'condemned' vehicles

Space , space and space whether for parking of the vehicles , the number of which is as a routine increasing day by day is required and again it is required for discarded and 'condemned' vehicles , the number of which is also increasing . This has been analysed by the High Court which has repeatedly asked the Government of Jammu and Kashmir to make arrangements for certified yards forresting and final disposal of such scrapped and not needed vehicles. It is surprising to note that not to speak of providing certified yards , even the sites have so far not been identified. In addition to it , the ban on using roads for parking of vehicles is nowhere in sight which include not only National Highway, State Highways but even city roads as well which we find intensely dotted with vehicles on either side of the roads and even lanes.

Another vital aspect which the court has taken note of is the fate of registration certificates and registration numbers of vehicles with 25 years of age and declared condemned and has asked the Transport Department to file reply along with an affidavit. Scrap dealers must have modern scientific tools and machinery to deal with the discarded vehicles and a decision whether to own the certified yards by the Government or outsource the same must be taken in the right earnest. In addition to these issues related to vehicles , de-congestion on existing roads , possessing parking space by the owners of vehicles and fuel conversion to CNG have already been dealt with by the court in its various directions. The UT Government needs to respond at the earliest.

Instituting CDS a good decision

Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain (Retd)

It has taken almost 20 years since the time it was officially recommended by the Kargil Review Committee and endorsed by the Group of Ministers. Yet the instituting of the system of a Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS) in the Indian Armed Forces is undoubtedly a transformational step towards the much needed integration of the three Services. There have been many contributory factors to the delay, from political apathy to bureaucratic reluctance and lack of clarity within the three Services. This is not something unusual as even in an advanced country such as the US there was no convergence on this most important facet of bringing greater integration in the functioning of the different components of the different Services. The US Army, Navy, Air Force and the Marine Corps were all fearful of losing their individual operational space and it was only through legislation that the Reagan Administration finally forced the integration and restructuring of the different components. The landmark legislation was called the Goldwater Nichols Act of 1986.

Why is a CDS system required at all? Most militaries the world over have realized that they cannot remain optimally effective while functioning in silos. Their resources have necessarily to be put together for best effect and for attainment of the overall national and military aim. A CDS primarily is instituted for the purpose of bringing together the war fighting capabilities of individual Services and integrating them to be prepared under take operations in support of each other. This requires structures and organizations under which all the Services function in unison under one authority in key operational domains. In peace the preparations for war are required to be done joint-

ly pooling all resources for training, equipping, evolving doctrine, logistics and personnel management. One of the most important functions here is budgeting which caters for the allocation of financial resources to each component. On the political side the CDS is supposed to provide single point strategic advice and guidance to the Government as against the necessity for all component heads individually rendering advice. In 2001 based upon the recommendations of the KRC and the GoM a Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) was set up as an interim measure, under a three star officer but a fair amount of duplication persisted with no established command system.

There are different existing models from which to choose the CDS system most suited to the requirement of a nation based upon its threats, the extant political system and the State of advancement of its armed forces. In our case after approval of the proposal by the Cabinet Committee for Security a communiqué was issued containing the various provisions for the newly created structures. Do these provisions meet the envisaged requirement? As a four star officer the CDS will be the 'first among equals'. He will exercise no operational command over the three constituent Services but will be the permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC), giving that appointment stability for up to three years for the present as against the short tenures which had become a characteristic of the COSC. There is considerable criticism about appointing a CDS with only four star rank; perception prevails that equivalence of rank does not carry the stamp of authority. However, this is generally the rule in most other nations. The CDS will exercise authority over the only conventional Joint Command - Andaman & Nicobar Command (ANC) and also the Strategic Forces

Command (SFC) where the nuclear launch resources of all three components are integrated for nuclear response. He would be the Nuclear Adviser to the PM although the actual command and control of the nuclear forces may have several other layers. The CDS would also take under his wing the two special agencies involving domains of Cyber and Space, as also the Armed Forces Special Operations Division; all future innovative technological systems would also be under him. The 15 year Long Term Integrated Perspective Plan (LTIPP) would evolve under the CDS as will modernization and he would be the one allocating priorities after taking into account the recommendations of the three Service HQ. That means the financial allocations would be his responsibility and that is where his power will largely lie.

The communiqué mentions that the CDS would work over three years preparing the ground for an eventual theatre command system. That is virtually the US system where the integrated theatre commander reports directly to the Defense Secretary who is the political head of the Defence Department. The individual Service Chiefs have no operational role and are only responsible for support facets - doctrine, training, equipping, personnel management and logistics. To achieve this status the 17 Commands of the three Services with 14 of them being operationally oriented will have to merge resources under 3-4 theatres. This has its own ramifications both positive and negative which no doubt will get progressively debated as we progress.

Interestingly, the KRC and GoM had also recommended a key necessity in the structural reforms. This related to the integration of the MoD such that there could be presence of uniformed officers alongside civilian counterparts. Ours is one of

the rare MoD that remains purely civilian. With no military professional orientation its little wonder whether the decisions are optimal or not. The communiqué has authorized the creation of a Department of Military Affairs under the CDS; the CDS will exercise powers of a Secretary of this organization and have the privilege of his files being sent directly to the Raksha Mantri (Defence Minister) and not through the Defence Secretary; the Service Chiefs do not enjoy this privilege. What aspects of defence management will shift to this department will be seen in due course. Effectively therefore the CDS and the Service Chiefs have their individual domains and all four will get invited to the Cabinet Committee for Security when required. Therefore four point advice is what the Government will actually get. However, by virtue of being the permanent Chairman COSC the CDS should be the first appointment to receive the Prime Minister's call up for advice. Any of the Service Chiefs could then receive tasking or supplementary call up to brief the Prime Minister should his Service be the core force for execution. A classic single point advice may not be a workable arrangement unless the CDS has full operational control over all three Services.

There are apprehensions galore about the workability of the new system. We had the same doubts when HQ IDS was raised but given the way the Armed Forces work, they managed to convert it into a viable and useful entity. Hopefully the HQ IDS will form the core of the Department of Defence with some additional civilian induction into it. Lastly it is also about time that India altered the responsibility for the defence of India from the Defence Secretary to the Defence Minister. Kit was a monumental mistake committed at Independence which has never been corrected.

Jammu needs freedom from anarchy

Ashish Kaul

'Modi hai to mumkin hai' - this slogan may be new, but the message is old; one nation, one flag and one Constitution has been the adage for the longest time. Without any doubt, the Modi Govt has given the emblem of One Nation-One Constitution a new high. There were several clauses added to the Constitution after Independence that were intended to create a stronger, better and elevated India. Article 370 was disputed from the beginning amidst all these clauses. This is a reality of the past. Today, the abrogation of Article 370 is a celebration and a political moot point.

Article 370 has been a peculiar irony for Jammu and Kashmir. On one hand, it has given the Muslim society a form of power and aggression while on the other, it blocked the development of areas like Jammu, Poonch, Rajouri, Kishtwar and Ladakh for decades. The entire J&K and Ladakh will now benefit from the facilities and schemes of the Centre after a long hiatus of 70 years. Employment will increase, roads will be built and development is expected to thrive. New offices will open up and the region will attract investment. It has been claimed that the three provinces will be newly recreated after the

historic decision. Will this really happen? Will Kashmir's real problem be diagnosed? Will Jhelum again be called Vitasta? Will the Kashmiri Pandits return & live peacefully among their muslim brethren again in the Valley? Will every person, who was displaced due to Islamic terror for over 700 years, be able to roam on the streets with an Indian flag in his hand fearlessly? While these questions will remain unanswered, this brings forth the state of Jammu province that has always been sacrificed at the altar of J&K's statehood. While the country is celebrating the abrogation, people of Jammu have quietly made tremendous sacrifice yet again. It was the people of Jammu who have wholeheartedly respected and implemented every decision made in the name of the erstwhile J&K State but has the Centre ever reciprocated in any measure?. Restrictions on mobile and internet most certainly was a necessity in Kashmir region due to strategic reasons but why did the people of Jammu have to suffer the same fate? 30 years ago Kashmiri Pandits sacrificed their very being due to their loyalty to India and 30 years hence people of Jammu are faced with the same travesty.

If you take a closer look, several states in India have bigger problems; then why has 'Kash-

mir' been an outstanding thorn for the longest time? I believe the fight against naxalism and for water, land and forests in Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, North-Eastern states is different from the religious terrorism in Kashmir and that's why previous Govts haven't been able to remotely solve Kashmir. I think the pegging peace in Kashmir and prosperity of J&K on Article 370 is a mere distraction and the arguments being presented are cajoling. In retrospect, the statistics are challenging the concerns that are being expressed about the development and infrastructure of J&K as a State. According to data from 2012 to 2014, the estimated age (higher limit) in Jammu and Kashmir is 73.5, compared to 75.1 in Kerala and 64.8 (minimum) in Uttar Pradesh, making the state 3rd in the country on that index. In 2016, there was one doctor in Jammu for every 3040 patients, which is a better than 14-15 States in the country. Did the Governor and State Administrator Jagmohan face the hurdle of Article 370 in the development of Jammu region? Today, the Hindu-dominated Jammu, in which the BJP is ruling, has become a garbage dump. Broken roads, irregular electricity, dilapidated educational institutions, poor medical facilities, non-existent

traffic management system and impotent municipalities - are these due to terrorism in Kashmir or Article 370 or just a lack of political will? Who is responsible for the thousands of Rohingyas believed to be living in Jammu and as widely reported near the high-security Jammu airport and who is responsible for the biggest land grab scam alongside Tawi and Belicharana area?

It is weird illusion that people are riding upon that the abrogation of Article 370 will give the Kashmiri Pandits their lost land and houses and eliminate terrorism from the Valley. The religious demographic of the entire province has changed. Today Jammu, Poonch, Rajouri & Ladakh - all these areas have seen a growth in Muslim population - it stands at about 50% today. The Muslim community has grown beyond 50% in most areas. The presence of the Gujjars and Bakarwals across the Tawi is officially unaccepted by the government. How much more can a small city like Jammu take? The day is not far when the natives of Jammu and the Muslim community together will oppose the abrogation of Article 370.

Those who are dreaming of buying land in Kashmir, must know that it is difficult to get an inch of land there. And even if the land is found, it is almost impos-

sible to live in peace. As a society, the poison of religion has dissolved deeply into present-day Kashmir. The people look united and they are not going to give anyone even a small piece. If peace has been achieved at the cost of 370, then why isn't the Government already giving a part of Kashmir back to the Hindus? I do not think that the purchase and sale of land will be allowed and if it happens then again Jammu will be the most negatively affected. If there is any merit in religious dilution as a tool then the demand of Panun Kashmir - a region for aboriginals in Kashmir should not be a problem at all.

Only Kashmiris can cure the disease of terror from Kashmir, not a government. Kashmiri Muslims too must now understand that their existence is incomplete without a Kashmiri Pandit. To keep Kashmiriyat alive, the Muslims living in the Valley must understand that had they protested the exodus of the Pandits in 1989 due to religious terrorism, the flames of terrorism would not be so vivid today. Peace can truly be restored if the Muslims of the Valley realize, apologize and rectify their mistakes and welcome the Kashmiri Pandits back with open arms. Like Abhimanyu, the protagonist of my book Refugee Camp, I also

have a strong belief that peace in any society can be brought only by the people of the society, not by the Government or the police. Expectations and celebrations associated with the abrogation of Article 370 are less reality & more exaggeration. The future will tell us what benefits Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh got from this abrogation. At the moment, the removal of this Article will not remove terrorism, nor will the Pandits go back and get guarantees of being safe. All Kashmiris of all faiths themselves have to decide whether they want terrorism or co-existence with Kashmiri Pandits, Kashmiriyat and peace. In the meanwhile, Jammu continues to suffer in silencing void of basic technological needs and in complete apathy of civic administration. Jammu has nothing in common with modern day Kashmir, if anything Kashmir is an unnecessary burden on the limited administrative ability of Jammu region. While abrogation of various articles are focused at restoring much needed peace in Kashmir - the need of hour is statehood for Jammu for Jammu to continue to be an ally and an equal partner in maintaining peace in Kashmir.

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Rajan Gandhi

Corruption is like cancer which if not detected in time can only play havoc on the development front of the area and our Jammu and Kashmir is no exception to this menace. Recent FIR by ACB against two former chairmen of J&K Bank and other higher officials in backdoor appointment of around 2500 persons just reveals the tip of iceberg as throughout the year ACB, Crime Branch, CBI and ED were busy in filing FIRs and raids to get hold of these white collared criminals. Former Governor SP Malik publicly admonished J&K's politicians and bureaucrats as he openly admitted rampant corruption in appointment of executives in J&K Bank and insurance scam of government employees. He also put on record that it takes months for files to move from one table to another for obvious reasons and even some projects of crores got cancelled/delayed in the absence of DPRs. Scam in SICOP for handheld devices supplied to PHQ and SICOP official during his service getting his nephew illegally appointed and promoted as a result he is right now MD of a Government Department. SICOP is not the only Department as politicians and bureaucrats think it's their right to just brush aside the set procedures and it may sound not only incredible but rather impossible to public that that an employee appointed just as reporter, equivalent to a clerk in the J&K Legislature, through 'backdoor', managed to secure the position of Special Secretary, equivalent to senior IAS cadre. The case is in the court and even PMO office has sought the details of this case. Temple of learning, our universities are not far behind as year after year illegal appointments of relatives, union leaders or favorite ones are being done blatantly flouting every rule in the book.

Another officer who was transferred from the post of Law Secretary, as in-charge Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Council misused his official position by promoting gazetted officers of J&K Legislative Council illegally as the competence to issue such orders lies only either with the Chief Minister or Governor only. Same officer got involved in another backdoor appointment scam in KVIB and government conducted an inquiry committee headed by then Home Secretary to look into these backdoor appointments. Administration finally ordered cancellation of all illegal recruitment's in KVIB in the last two years after Committee submitted its inquiry report. Those allegedly selected through fraudulent means included then CM's cousin, son of her maternal uncle then PDP Vice President.

Ex MD of JAKFED and others got booked in cement scam and rampant corruption and mismanagement ultimately led to closure of JAKFED this year. Former DC of Kupwara got two years jail term and four lakh as fine for embezzlement. ACB raided Ranbir Press for arrears scam of employees. ACB registers FIR against Director ISM and others for spurious drug scam. ACB raided seven premises of former JMC Commissioner and MD of SIDCO and recovered documents, plots, partnerships/investment in various industries, insurance policies, bank lockers and what not running in crores beyond their known sources of income. Crores being recovered from a TSO with even his house getting attached and hundreds of crores as pending liabilities by RDD under MGNREGA exposes the reality of our governance and administration.

J&K Bank has also distinction of sanctioning of illegal loans of several hundred crores violating every norm and which have now turned out to be NPAs only causing huge losses to bank. ACB has registered FIR's in some of these cases also and investigations are on. Such was the brazenness of bank that they filed defamation cases of crores to muzzle the saner voices of journalists when some genuine reporting was done to expose their misdeeds. Another much publi-

Rampant J&K Corruption

Break the cozy nexus

ized scam is of JKCA in which CBI has not only charge sheeted former CM but ED has questioned him for hawala transactions as well. Transfer industry is the only flourishing business of our State as there is no transparency, no seniority list or service record has been put online to escape scrutiny. Is any criterion followed or it's just at the whims and fancies of the politicians and bureaucrats and practically no department is left untouched even now.

With these kind of rampant corruption cases task of investigating agencies is very important and requires meticulous planning and investigation to get evidences which can withstand scrutiny of law. Raids on lower rung bank officials will not reveal the truth as no branch manager of any bank has powers to sanction the loans worth hundreds of crores without patronage of political class but no politician has been booked or taken to task till now in J&K Bank scam. On the other hand loan defaulter politicians and their relatives are still out of the reach of law as ultimately their loans got declared as NPA without following due course of recoveries like mortgage of their properties or recovery from their salaries or pensions and the most astonishing part is that investigating agencies assigned to unveil the truth have undertaken investigations as 'Secret Investigation' which means investigating officers cannot write formally to anyone for information and as such great hindrance in investigation with least way outs to get to the bottom of the truth. But despite these tactics IOs have succeeded in unraveling the truth and recommended registration of FIRs against the board of directors of banks who have declared loans as NPAs without following set procedures and others. Most astonishing is the fact that no FIRs have been registered in such cases till now, why and who is sitting on the files is

another issue of proper investigation. With these facts in public domain question arises are we serious enough to eradicate this curse in our J&K? A casual look into the hierarchy of these investigation agencies reveal that IOs as well as higher officials are from State Police itself, investigating cases of either political class or elite administrative lobby or their own seniors and as such major stumbling block in thorough investigation. Another major hurdle is delaying tactics applied to save one among them. There are numerous examples of such cases and even HC has given repeated reprimand to various departments including vigilance organization in the past and more recently ACB. The Special Judge Anti-Corruption Jammu categorically rejected the closure/final report with regard to the state land measuring five kanals and two marlas with the direction to the SSP ACB Jammu to further investigate the matter for including within its ambit all encroachments by anybody and everybody whoever unfazed by their status or position and the persons involved are then Div Com, DC and other officials. No action on Roshni Land Scam till now and non filing of Annual Property Returns (APRs) by majority of officials tell the actual state of affairs. Forty thousand gun licenses in few years and DCs directly involved in the scam of crores and national security is an eye opener of the rot we are in. Not long ago allegations of fmc too by a serving DSP against ADGP rank official for settlement of her case and another case involving brother of another head getting hushed up is not new for public. Practically there is no check on how many cases ACB Head refuses for registration of FIRs or vice versa. Only two years time frame to finish the investigations is not enough as same set of officials are involved in corruption as well as investigations, any change of regime means end of investigations as such if Central Government is serious to weed out cancer of corruption from J&K they have to get rid of this cozy nexus of politicians and bureaucrats immediately, the sooner they do, the best it will be to clear the hurdles of development.

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Nation's CDS delight

Sir,

Nation has got its Chief of Defence Staff. It was a pressing need of the Armed forces. Army, Navy and Air Force are headed by respective Chiefs and were being represented separately and differently in the Govt. Thus cooperation and coordination amongst three remained below optimization during wars. Compelling need to have CDS was felt after the Kargil War. Kargil War review committee and Group of Ministers headed by then Dy PM L K Advani recommended early creation of CDS. Finally the Govt has done it.

Selection of Gen Bipin Rawat as the first CDS is momentous. He was Army Chief for 3 years during the worst of militancy days in the Valley. Doklam Border standoff, Pulwama attack, retaliatory Balakot Air strike as well as Pak Air Raid on our defence installations, control over terrorism & stone pelting happened during his tenure. He superseded two senior Generals for the post. His professionalism put him above them. He thus became controversial from day one and continued to be controversial till the end of his tenure for his out of turn political statements. He lost favours with the veterans for his unsavory comments against them. But he remained steadfast in dealing with all these challenges. He delivered remarkably as Army Chief. His appointment as CDS is there-

fore no surprise. Role of the CDs has been defined. Delivery is to be seen. Nation's expectations are high. He has been selected by Prime Minister Modi himself (underlined) for this assignment. Army rules have been amended for him. He is given three years as CDS which goes long way with Modi's premiership. Hence the environment is conducive for him to work and deliver. That will speed up re-organisation and modernization of the Armed Forces and take care of bureaucratic hurdles in military matters. As a Secretary of Dept of Military Affairs, his files will go direct to RM/PM bypassing Defence Secretary routing. That will also dilute bureaucratic control and delays.

We are aware of alarming security threats to the nation. Chinese extra territorial intentions are well known. Pak abetted proxy war continues. It is hoped that Gen Rawat comes out of his Kashmir centric proxy war syndrome and fully concentrates on threats from Northern and Western neighbors. New Army Chief has also hinted towards preparations against threats from both sides. With Modi at the helms and a professional General as CDS focus now will be on the frontiers instead of terrorism. I think the nation is in safe hands.

Col J P Singh
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Sir,

Appropos article "Accession Day Holiday Historic correction" in DE (Jan 4)

I endorse the view of K B Jandial in his well written Straight Talk that we should go by the policy of Govt of India of 'No Gazetted Holiday in the name of leaders with a single exception of birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, Father of the Nation. Rightly said that holiday on Accession Day on October 26 is the befitting tribute to illustrious Maharaja Hari Singh. There have to be limited closed holidays to inculcate essential work culture. The other important issue of doing away with controversial 'Martyr's Day Holiday' would be welcomed by all unbiased and impartial people, besides the victims of communal frenzy and their generations who observe the day as Black Day. On the same analogy January 19,1990 labelled as mass exodus day of Kashmiri Pandit minority from Kashmir Valley cannot be visualised as a Great Day meriting public holiday in foreseeable future. Mr Jandial has done a good job in bringing forth the facts of the fateful event of July 13,1931 and its aftermath.

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Readers Write

Accession Day Holiday