

Reviewing security situation vis-a-vis drone attacks

Since new challenges to the security situation in the shape of terror attacks by means of and using drone flying machines have cropped up, it is incumbent upon the security apparatus not only to nip in the bud and fully pre-empt any such attacks in future but keep on regularly reviewing the security situation in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. It is not for the first time when late last month such a terror attack was attempted in Jammu but on many an occasion such drones were sighted in Punjab too. It is now firmly believed rather ascertained that the drone attacks launched last month were from across the border opposite Indian forward village of Makwal and linked to Pakistan ordnance factories. This village is having shortest aerial distance from Pakistan. The immediate task, and definitely new added one, before the security forces is how best such terror strikes could be countered without letting any damages to be caused by such terror strikes. Union Home Secretary reviewing security situation in the UT is an indication of how such drone attacks have been taken very seriously by the Government.

The immediate priority seemingly must rest on upping the security arrangements of vital and sensitive installations, in particular security installations in the Union Territory. Since National Investigation Agency (NIA) has been assigned the task of probing the Jammu drone attack, more details and information gathered could help in devising a suitable strategy to counter such threats and challenges. Since terror and its various antidotes must not be chasing each other and in case even that happens, terror must get neutralised and its designs thwarted - such should be the requisite response from this side. Security forces, otherwise, have been vigorously battling Pakistan sponsored terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir for the last more than three decades and despite newer dimensions in that having been occurring there intermittently, however, now drones are posing a new challenge especially the capacity of carrying arms and ammunition and even explosives. It can be visualised as to the mechanisations of such forces from across the border that even after the recent drone strikes at Indian Air Force (IAF) Station in Jammu late last month, subsequent sightings of more drones over military installations like at Ratnuchk, Kaluchak, Kunjwani and surroundings indicate how Pakistan was upping its nefarious designs. There is hardly any need to elaborate all about who is behind such new challenge posed to us or what precisely the aim of putting into service such drone flying machines can be except that we must be doubly ready to render such misadventures from across the border as totally ineffective and neutralised much before any damages could be caused.

How could the drones in question succeed in dropping the explosives and manage to fly back across the border or to some other destination during the night travelling their capacity run, especially when these flying machines were stuffed with RDX compact devices, should not be taken as an ordinary threat. It is particularly so when the links of these flying machines has now been traced to Pakistan's ordnance factories. It is immaterial to reckon how much and which terror outfit played its part or how much the Army and state actors contributed in meticulously planning such an attack but how best could a counter mechanism to thwart such attacks be solidly built is the important question.

More on-line services of SASB

In the absence of the devotee pilgrims being physically there to pay obeisance at the Holy Amarnath Shrine due to cancellation of this year's pilgrimage on account of COVID-19 pandemic, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha recently launching various new online services of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) was going to provide a new experience to the devotees. It is heartening to note that the Shrine Board has now brought Darshan, Hawan and Prasad facility under the virtual mode. In other words, it means that the devotees could now book their requirements, the Prasad etc which would be arranged to be delivered right at their doorsteps within 48 hours. Online virtual pooja and Hawan too could be performed by the devotees at the Holy site. With this new facility started by the Shrine Board, a unique but new experience was going to be enjoyed by the devotees providing to millions of them, a real feel of being present at the Holy Shrine.

It may be recalled that the Shrine Board has already made arrangements for live telecast of morning and evening pooja, prayers, aarti etc both on TVs and digital platforms. Devotees can also have live Darshan anytime during the day under the said facility. What is, therefore, required is to make the best use of these facilities by the devotees on the eve of the annual pilgrimage to this historic Holy Shrine in Kashmir and get the divine blessings.

Delimitation Process Hilly districts in Jammu deserve more seats

Ch Rashid Azam Inqlabi

The Jammu and Kashmir State bifurcated into the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh on August 5, 2019. Due to which delimitation of the electoral constituencies became inevitable. Delimitation literally means the act or process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a Country to represent changes in population.

The Union Government, on March 6th, 2020 constituted a Delimitation Commission for redrawing the electoral constituencies - parliamentary as well as assembly whose term is extended for further one year. The commission remained on paper up to this time but it has held the virtual meeting with all the Deputy Commissioners of twenty districts of J&K and collected the basic data regarding the population, topography of the area, road connectivity in the area and other information.

It is a periodic exercise in electoral administration. It decides two issues of immense importance; first, the number of representatives, the Members of the Legislative Assembly within Union Territory. Second, demarcating the boundaries of the parliamentary and assembly constituencies. The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the President of India.

The present composition of Delimitation Commission is as under

- (a) Retired Supreme Court Judge (Justice Ranjana Desai)
- (b) Chief Election Commissioners nominee (Sushil Chandra)
- (c) Chief Electoral officer of J&K (Hardish Kumar)
- (d) Members of Lok Sabha from Jammu and Kashmir nominated by Speaker of Lok Sabha.

General functions of commission :

- a) To determine the number and boundaries of constituencies to make population of all constituencies nearly equal.
- b) To provide equal representation to equal segments of a population. Fair division of geographical areas so that one party doesn't have an advantage over others in election.

c) To follow the principle of "One Vote One Person. Identify seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

In case of difference of opinion among members of the Commission, the opinion of the majority prevails. The other members such as Member of parliament nominated by speaker can take part in proceeding but they have no power to vote or sign the report. Before finalising the report the commission invites the objection and views of the public on its finding. The Delimitation Commission in India is a high power body whose orders have the force of law and cannot be called in question before any court.

The J&K Reorganization Act, 2019 Act says that the number of seats in the Assembly of J&K would be increased from 107 to 114. "The delimitation will be done for 90 seats as 24 seats all in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (Pok).

Section 60, clause 2, sub-clause (b) of the J&K Reorganization Act, 2019 suggests that "all constituencies shall, as far as practicable, be geographically compact areas, and in delimiting them, regard shall be had to physical features, boundaries of administrative units, facilities of communication and conveniences to the public.

As per 2011 Census, the population in Kashmir region is 68,88,475. Jammu has a population of 53,78,538. In an answer to Lok Sabha question the Govt has described that there are 37,33,111 voters in Jammu division, 40,10,971 voters in Kashmir division and 1,79,147 voters in Ladakh division in Undivided J&K. The Delimitation Commission has to adjust the boundaries of more seats in Jammu and Kashmir.

The population of Jammu and Kashmir district wise as per 2011 Census, along with area and number of legislator representing the district is as under

- 1) Jammu has population of 15,29,958 having area of 2,342 sq. kilometre having 11 Mla
- 2) Srinagar has population's of 12, 36,829 with

- 1,979 sq. Kilometres having 8 Mla
- 3) Anantnag has population of 10,78,692 with 3,574. Kilometre area having 6 mla
- 4) Baramulla has population of 10,08,039 with 4243 Sq kilometres area having 6 mla.
- 5) Kupwara has population of 8,70,354 with 2379 Sq kilometre area having 5 mla
- 6) Budgam has population of 7, 53,745 With 1361 Sq kilometre area having 5 mla
- 7) Rajouri has a population of 6,42,415 With 2630 Sq kilometers area having 4 mla
- 8) Kathua has population of 6,16,6435 With 2502 Sq kilometre area having 5 mla
- 9) Pulwama has population of 5,60,440 with 1086 Sq kilometre area, having 4 mla
- 10) Udhampur has population. 554985 with 2637 Sq kilometre having 3 mla
- 11) Poonch has population of 4,76,835 with 1674 Sq kilometre area having 3 mla
- 12) Doda has population of 4,76,835 with 1,674 Sq kilometre area having 2 mla
- 13) Kulgam has population of 4,24,483 with 410 Sq kilometers area having 4 mla
- 14) Bandipora has a Population of 3,92,232 with 345 sq. kilometres area having 4 mla
- 15) Samba has Population of 318898 with 904 sq. kilometres area having 2 mla
- 16) Reasi has a Population of 3,14,667 with 1,719 sq. kilometres area having 3 mla
- 17) Ganderbal has Population of 2,97,446 with 259 sq. kilometres area having 2 mla
- 18) Ramban has a Population of 2,83,713 with 1329 sq. Kilometres area having 2 mla
- 19) Shopian has Population of 2,66,215 with 312 sq. kilometres area having 2 mla
- 20) Kishtwar has a population of 2,30,696 with 1664 sq kilometre area having 2 mla.

In Reorganisation Act the assembly segments have been raised from 83 to 90, so Delimitation Commission has to adjust these seven segment among the various districts of Jammu and Kashmir on the basis of population and area. As per international standard one person has one vote, irrespective of caste , colour and creed, whether he is

rich or poor. In democracy heads are to be counted not the quality or any preference given to any one.

Any of the formula whether it is based on population or area , cannot be applied rigidly in giving the representation to the districts. The people want that they be given a senses of participation in the affairs of Government, if not a due share then a reasonable share be given to them. Particularly the hilly districts feel that they were ignored in every field of life by successive Govts since decades. Whether it is political representation or education, health sector, industry, tourism or transport facility. In hilly area representatives of people have require more than 15 days to cover his constituency , where as in the plain area in some of segments one can cover their constituency within 8 to 15 hours. In plain area one kilometre road can be constructed say with 10 lac but same one kilometre road requires more funds in hilly areas. Hilly districts like Rajouri, Doda, Udhampur and thickly populated district, Jammu , and districts as Anantnag, Baramulla and Kupwara in Kashmir province deserve more assembly seats on the basis of population and area. While examining the issue delimitation commission has to keep in mind the means of transport, communications and terrain of the area.

In Jammu province after Jammu district the Rajouri district is second as per population , having the tough terrain, having miserable road connectivity, and medical facilities which definitely deserve one more seat.

The Pakistan refugees and Kashmiri Pandit migrants are also demanding separate assembly constituency seats for them. The Sikh community has also raised the voice for reserving some assembly seats for them in the assembly. The Delimitation Commission has to work according to the law of the land as per parameter laid down by former Commission. Justice is not to be done but seems to be done with every district of the Jammu and Kashmir.

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Dr Shashi Sharma

History has impressions of several pandemics on its wall. And each impression has all shades of sufferings in the form of millions of sicknesses and deaths. But as the human kind has poor long distance memories, we tend to forget to learn and evolve out of the fading colors of the past. That is the reason we continue to suffer to magnanimous levels in the pandemic era of COVID-19. Each new wave is bringing sickness and death with it. And when it goes away and we are lucky to remain behind on earth, we have thousands of stories to tell.

The much stretched misfortune of COVID-19 knocked the nation when the first case that originated in China was reported on 30 January 2020. We as a nation are on a journey of apprehensions and unpredictability since then. Mask has been introduced in our culture as are social behaviours like maintaining social distances and hand washing. We have come to learn new concepts in life. But how much we follow them after inculcating into the superficial pool of our conscious minds the knowledge that comes through research or experience is a grave concern and that very fact demarcates the distance between life and death. We are dying and saturating the crematoriums. And we do not require witnesses to prove it. We eventually all are a witness to the face of sufferings, fear and death as each one of us as a community is touched every moment with that experience. We still do not realize that knowledge is nothing but a mere accumulation of facts. But the virus that is so quickly changing its forms will tend to spare only those who instead of mere accumulation of facts proved through experience and research would rather choose to follow them strictly and with utmost honesty towards the self. We may be fool thousands around us with great convictions but impossible is to be fool our-self. And those who do it are the same who are becoming sick and dying. The increasing transmissibility of the virus ironically won't spare their innocent close contacts that exist as their families. The loved ones are paying the price of their belongingness to people who simply are callous

GMC Jammu The Lone Ranger



and do not realize.

The UT of Jammu and Kashmir has always been known to the world as a heaven that has charmed the guests with its beauty and picturesque surroundings. There is a range of mountains by the name Pir Panjal that naturally divides this piece of land into two geographical locales. One is the Kashmir valley and the other the hills and plains of Jammu. The people on both the sides may speak different languages or live different cultures but their tears carry the same emotions. Virus knows no language and culture. All it knows is the way to identify the particular receptors located in the mucosal lining of our nasopharynx and hide itself layers deep to proliferate and survive and then jump very rapidly to the next target. It is invisible yet powerful enough to make a heaven cry.

In the fight against the atrocities of misfortune

brought by the invisible demon the tertiary care hospitals stood up as the divine angels and as goes on through ages of human existence the angels took weapons of defense in their hands. The real weapons like their angelic features were not guns and bombs but saga of divine virtues like endurance, peace, acceptance and trust in the ultimate power of God. We all stood up in these hospitals against all unpredictable odds that the virus would bring to us.

While the valley across was fortunate enough to have multiple tertiary cares dedicated in the service of pandemic hit people, GMC Jammu was observed throughout the toughest times as a lone ranger fighting against the misfortune born of one of the deadliest pandemics human history has ever witnessed. This ranger still stands with the same resilience against SARS CoV 2 with an ever

increasing stretch of the limits it sets for itself each coming moment. GMC Jammu knows that if it has to be victorious in war, it has to be four steps ahead of the enemy the world cannot see with unaided eyes. The persistence of growth has been bought by the war itself and that is the good side of the bad times. GMC Jammu has witnessed that transformation where it has stretched from being a soldier exercising its normal duties in the pre COVID era to a limitless commando fighting in the intense battle field and standing upright like a wall between the invisible enemy and the innocent masses. The stretch of the limit was so huge that from a mere 70 ICU beds we are holding more than 800 patients at present who are pandemic hit and require ICU care. This becomes more pertinent when the combined bed strength of all tertiary care hospitals in the valley is of 94 beds.

The deceptive virus makes the people ignore the hospitals and when the condition becomes worse they rush towards us. We get almost all patients seriously ill and large portion of them have already deteriorated to the extent of collapse. A considerable number of those who were brought were brought dead adding to the ugliness of already worsening statistics. The commando has stretched each fiber of its nerves and muscles as each health care worker crosses the human limits of dedication and working capacity. Needless to say that each worker is a single neuronal and muscular unit of this lone commander the world knows as GMC Jammu. The plight of the community is that it finds it much easier to believe half facts or rumours without realizing that those who are donating each moment of their present to serve them do not come from somewhere else but are a part of this community only. Most of them do have old parents at home who are already COVID-19 positive and are at risk. They still work with undivided attention while at the same time keep their loved ones in deepest prayers of their subconscious mind. And while serving they are held responsible for the ugliness of each turning page of the book of misfortune. The worst part is that each pointing finger belongs to those to whom we belong.

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Scenario of Climate Change

Dr. Parshotam S. Manhas

"We are living on this planet as if we had another one to go to" Terri Swearingen

Climate change refers to the increasing changes in the measures of climate over a long period of time including precipitation, temperature, and wind patterns. These phenomena include the increased temperature trends described by global warming, but also encompass changes such as sea-level rise; ice mass loss in Greenland, Antarctica, the Arctic and mountain glaciers worldwide; shifts in flower/plant blooming; and extreme weather events.

There is international consensus that human activities over the last 50 years have altered the Earth's natural climate. With the increasing greenhouse gases, changes to our natural ecosystems (such as deforestation) and declining glaciers, the threat of our green planet becoming a barren land in future seems real and imminent. The elevation in the pollution levels due to the reckless use of the Earth's resources has created an alarming situation for the people inhabiting the planet. If this misuse of the resources continues in the future, chances are that our planet might be amongst the other seven planets where life is not possible. To prevent this, we, as the residents of this green planet should take strict measures to guard the uniqueness of our planet and let it be green and full of life forever.

Climate change mitigation strategies can contribute to climate change by limiting greenhouse gas emissions which is one of the major factors. Planting forests and trees to remove excess carbon dioxide from our atmosphere and reducing fuel emissions associated with motor vehicles. Even if mitigation strategies are successful at reducing the impact of greenhouse gas emissions to minimum, the scientific community is certain that the Earth's climate will keep changing because of the trends that we see in the instrumental climate record of temperature and precipitation and the changes that have been observed in physical and biological systems.

There are many natural and human-induced anthropogenic factors that contribute to climate change. Climate change has always happened on

Earth, which is clearly seen in the geological record; it is the rapid rate and the magnitude of climate change occurring now that is of great concern worldwide. El Niño a climatic cycle where the surface temperature of the eastern Pacific Ocean warms affecting the weather worldwide; changes in the Earth's orbit; human activities such as burning coal, oil, or natural gas increase the amount of CO2 and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere; deforestation; albedo and aerosols which reflect sunlight and affect clouds.



So far we have seen an increase of 0.8°C in the average surface temperature of the Earth since 1900, with melting in the Polar Regions and more frequent extreme weather. Simple calculations and our most complex models all agree: if we double CO2 we will see an average warming of between 2 and 4.5°C. In context, 4.5°C is the difference between today and the deepest ice-age. Small changes in average temperature can translate to big changes across the planet, leading to rising sea levels, more extreme weather and some areas becoming much harder to live in. However, small increases in CO2 may increase crop yields but larger increases will affect which crops

can grow. Some colder areas will become more pleasant, but such benefits will be outweighed by rising seas, heat and drought.

Scientists have predicted that long-term effects of climate change will include a decrease in sea ice and an increase in permafrost thawing, an increase in heat waves and heavy precipitation, and decreased water resources in semi-arid regions. With increasing global surface temperatures the possibility of more droughts and increased intensity of storms will likely occur as witnessed by India recently.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states in its special report, 2019 that land is under growing human pressure and climate change is adding to it. At the same time, keeping global warming to well below 2°C can be achieved only by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from all sectors including land and food by adopting following measures:-

Stop chopping the forests
Deforestation is one of the major reasons of climate change. The loss of trees and other vegetation can cause desertification, soil erosion, fewer crops, flooding, increased greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Say no to plastic
Plastic or polyethylene without a doubt is harmful, not only for the health of humans but also for the health of the biodiversity. Even small initiatives can considerably decline the amount of plastic pollution from our lives: using a recyclable cloth bag; discarding the plastic bottles and using glass, clay, stainless steel or copper bottles; replacing plastic lunchboxes with steel one.

Encourage the use of renewable energies
Focusing our efforts to spread awareness about renewable energy is the best way to create a positive impact in the community. Setting up rooftop solar panels or panels for a tiny area of their homes can lead to a significant decrease in the consumption of electricity.

Make Your Commute Green

Millions of people drive to work every day as a result of which millions of cars emit greenhouse gases that destroy our atmosphere. Vehicle emissions are a close second when it comes to the top causes of climate change. Taking public transportation to work is a great way to cut out emissions and allows us to meet new people in our journey to the office. Switch over to electric vehicles is another option to lessen pollution on the Earth. Emphasize on renewable sources like wind turbines, hydroelectric power, and solar energy to make this planet sustainable for future generations.

Be More Conservative with Energy Usage

Make sure to turn off lights and unplug devices that you are not using anymore when you are done with them. Replace your light bulbs with energy-efficient light bulbs to help you save electricity too.

Recycle
Recycling is a cost-effective and eco-friendly process that eliminates waste and doesn't emit greenhouse gases into the environment. Be sure to collect your discarded paper, glass, plastic, and electronics to your local recycling centre.

Educate Yourself and Others
Lack of awareness among the common people is one of the major aspects of the misuse of resources which ultimately leads to pollution. There are many platforms- social media, awareness programmes, debates, symposium to educate the general public on what catastrophic effects the climate change is doing to our planet. People should be educated by the aid of documentaries, short films, advertisements and campaigns.

Suppress the population growth
Overpopulation has overburdened our planet and will soon emerge as the largest single threat to the ecology and biodiversity of the planet in the decades to come.

Get Active and Vote
Voting the right people into office will help pass legislation that allows us to fight not only against the detrimental effects of climate change but also against erring countries that are mainly to blame for climate change.

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