

PAK'S 'DIRTY TRICKS'
IN AFGHANISTAN

Pakistan is gearing up to play a destructive mischief in Afghanistan as the Taliban leadership is discussing ways to set up a government in Kabul. Pakistan is keen to install a Taliban leader more amenable to their persuasions, unlike Mullah Abdul Ghani or Mullah Baradar who is among the top contenders. The leadership of the present Taliban Amir, Mullah Haibatullah Akhunzada, has been disputed in the past. In fact, after the death of Mullah Omar, the leadership of the Taliban had not been a settled issue first with Omar's family raising serious objections to his successor and then as pointer group challenging the Akhunzada's appointment. There were violent clashes between rival supporters, resulting in the death of over two dozen Taliban cadres in southern Afghanistan. Pakistan's role in these developments have been mischievous. Pakistan, for instance, could prefer Mullah Yaqub, son of the Taliban founder-Amir, Mullah Omar, who is the military chief of the Taliban. Yaqub, who until 2015 was unknown among the Taliban ranks, was based in Karachi for long. He was reportedly trained in terrorist training camps run by Jaish-e-Mohammad. Yaqub is considered close to ISI and enjoys Saudi backing. Baradar and several other Taliban leaders, on the other hand, are deeply suspicious of Pakistan's game plan in Afghanistan and are likely to humour Pakistan but not blindly follow orders from Rawalpindi. The Pakistan Army, which sees the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, as a 'strategic victory', is not going to step aside and let the Afghans decide their fate. The army, along with its proxy terrorist groups which were pressed into service to aid the Taliban, is planning to play the role of 'Kingmaker' through all means. One of the devious means which Pakistan has employed in the past is selective assassination of key leaders. Mullah Baradar could be a likely target. So could be others who are likely to come in the way of Pakistani goals. In 2010, Baradar was arrested by Pakistani agencies in Karachi while he was on the verge of cutting a deal with then President Hamid Karzai. Karzai could be another target. Karzai has no love lust for Pakistan and is currently part of the political process in Afghanistan.

Pakistan could also target the rebellious Amarullah Salah, a former Vice President and spy master, who has declared his intentions to fight the Taliban at all costs. Ahmad Massoud is another likely target. His father was the famous Northern Alliance commander, Ahmad Shah Massoud, who was assassinated by Al Qaeda-Taliban with the help of ISI. Besides Massoud, Pakistan's bloodied hand has been found in the assassination of former Afghan Aviation Minister in 2002, attempt on the life of Afghan Defence Minister and several Northern Alliance commanders. Pakistani agencies have also been involved in the Taliban-masterminded assassinations of judiciary and police officials in the recent past.

Besides assassinations, Pakistan is planning targeted chaos by sparking riots, protests and information blitzkrieg to achieve its objective of controlling the lever of power in Kabul. The singular problem with Pakistan this time around is that it cannot trust the Taliban leadership as it could, with some reservations, in Mullah Omar-led Taliban. The so-called 'strategic victory' could turn out to be a massive 'strategic blunder' if the Taliban leadership were to pick issues with Pakistan over the Durand Line or the border fencing which the Pashtuns see it as dividing their community living on either side of the disputed border for centuries.

OFF 'D' CUFF

Can't go outside? Try going inside

My 87-year-old dad went through the Second World War, the Partition of India and went to jail for Gandhiji's Jail Bharo Andolan. Chatting with him on the current pandemic here are four key thoughts that arose:

1. Calm amidst the panic: Fear levels around us are high and palpable. The reality is that our prehistoric brain is wired for survival, not for peace and equanimity. We instinctively feel fearful with even the slightest of triggers affecting our survival. Imagine stepping on a rope in the dark! The current Covid-19 pandemic crisis is unprecedented and potentially devastating at multiple levels. It may turn out to be a generation-defining event. Fear is naturally turning to panic.

While fear and panic are totally understandable, we need to recognise the need to stay calm. Being calm and positive, while staying fully vigilant and following all necessary guidelines, is the key to effectively working our way through any crisis. Listening to the horror stories of the Partition from my dad, it is clear that if the health crisis continues, each of us will likely experience a roller coaster of emotions – from denial, anxiety, anger and panic to sadness and despair.

To build greater equanimity, it helps to switch off from the external world of news and social media from time to time and instead, focus on our inner world. Simply sitting still and becoming an observer of our varying emotions help. Remain focused only on observing, without judging them (or ourselves). With consistent practise, the volatility of our emotions does subside.

2. We along with i: With the virus spreading rapidly, protecting ourselves and our loved ones is important. If we are healthy, we also need

to pay attention to helping others if we can. Whether it is the frontline health workers, daily wage earners or families of domestic helpers. Being helpful to others is therapeutic for our heart and soul too.

In our individualistic society, where we are otherwise growing apart, the virus is a reminder of our interconnectedness; that we cannot live or succeed in isolation. We are part of different communities and we should routinely contribute towards the welfare of all those communities. We are all in it together.

3. Trifocal vision: It's easy for many of us to get into the survival mode for the next three weeks. Simultaneously, I would encourage you to proactively plan for at least two more time-horizons. The next three months and the next fifteen months.

It is not unforeseeable that the current crisis, including some form of lockdown or social distancing, may continue for a couple of months. Also, it's possible that even if the infections decline this summer, they may reappear next winter – until we have a vaccine over the next 12 months. Besides, the economic downside of a prolonged outbreak would not only be severe but also could last over a year.

4. Pursue personal goals: Crisis and isolation can be a remarkable time for personal growth. Whether the pandemic is short-lived or prolonged, as my dad reminds me, this too shall pass. So, consider using this time of reduced activity wisely. Don't just watch the news or movies. Attend that online photography or AI course that you wanted to; catch-up on your reading; get fitter; learn to meditate; practise gratefulness; be more loving to your family.

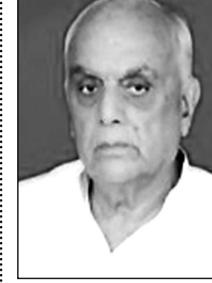
Rajiv Vij

You cannot believe in God until you believe in yourself.

-Swami Vivekananda

EDITORIAL

Proxy war by Pakistan through terror acts in Kashmir



■ ER P L KHUSHU

Recent brutal killings by cowards of Pan-Islamic terrorists in Srinagar speak volumes about its origin and motives behind such of the killings. Humanity all around is in deep anguish and sorry for their acts. The saner sections of the civil society in Kashmir which constitutes a major chunk of elderly Muslims, are very much regretful and sorrowful for such acts of these timid Jihadi radicals, who have violated the covenants of Islam by killing a woman and unarmed men for the fancy of their ridiculous reasons of declaring all such slain people as the representatives of India in Kashmir or for having hoisted the Indian flag somewhere on the independence day. Terrorism has thus raised its ugly head in the Kashmir Valley yet again. Terrorists have gunned down seven people in just last five days. On October 2, terrorists killed Majid Ahmad Gojri and Mohammad Shafi Dar for their alleged links with security forces in Srinagar. On October 5, terrorists killed well known medico eminent person Makan Lal Bindroo, whose family has set up a medical shop in the Valley back in 1947 and was serving all irrespective of caste and religion. He was gunned down at his shop in the high-security zone of Iqbal Park area. Others killed include Virendra Paswan, a street food vendor originally hailing from Bhagalpur in Bihar, and Mohammed Shafi Lone, a resident of Naidkhai village, who headed an association of taxi owners in Shalgund village in Bandipora. On October 7, two teachers, Deepak Chand, a Kashmiri Pandit and Satinder Kour, a Sikh woman, became latest to fall to bullets of terrorists. This spate of killings shows that terror groups are out to destabilize the region once again targeting people hailing from vulnerable minorities like Kashmiri Pandits (KP) and Sikhs. They are also not sparing patriotic and secular Muslims.

The killing of a Kashmiri Hindu pharmacist in Srinagar and a non-Kashmiri street vendor hailing from Bihar, along with two other local Muslims and shooting dead another civilian in the northern district of Bandipora a local Muslim, followed by terrorists shooting and killing two teachers in a government school in Kashmir's main city of Srinagar; one of them being a female, is a bizarre attempt of a timid and coercive acts of impious Jihad and thus an anti-Islamic act as per the settled cosmic norms of Islam conveyed through Holy Quran, which teaches and preaches peace and equality for all the creatures of nature. Gunmen stormed into the Government Boys Higher Secondary School in Srinagar's Eidgah area and shot two teachers at close range, after identifying these as non Muslim teachers. These victims were members of the region's minority Sikh and Hindu communities. The pistol-wielding men came into the school and asked for identity cards of the teachers and later fired at two teachers, one each from the minority Sikh and Hindu community. Five civilians have been killed in Kashmir; when three of them are from Hindu and Sikh communities respectively. In all, 25 civilians, including political workers, have been killed in targeted assassinations this year, according to police records.

As per police reports these brutal killings have been carried out by The Resistance Front (TRF), a terrorist group that has claimed some of the previous assassinations in the Kashmir valley. TRF is a group of terrorists for Pakistan-based organizations like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Hizbul Mujahideen. Pakistan has said that it will continue to provide moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people, against the Indian rule in Kashmir, which has never been rebutted by the politicians of Kashmir who ruled Kashmir for decades through their dynastic dictatorship. In fact these dynastic rulers have always been advocating the cause of Pakistan by repeatedly proclaiming that India should talk to Pakistan on Kashmir, which is still a problem in their view for their domestic use. These dynastic rulers who have ruled Kashmir for decades by returns have a point of ugly politics in it, which is their ambition to continue to rule Jammu and Kashmir through an appeasement policy of showing sympathies with the secessionist forces in Kashmir. Thus in the first instance by all counts of circumstantial

evidences it is nothing short of a proxy war imposed by Pakistan over India through the corridor of Kashmir; with a solemn consent and abetment of the secessionist elements present in Kashmir; mostly wetted by erstwhile rulers of Kashmir through proxy. The irony is that while the civil society of Kashmir apparently the lone significant majority of Kashmir left now in Kashmir after the well planned ouster of Pandits from Kashmir are Muslim, who though did express their resentment on all of these killings with a formal sense of expression for face saving, yet, it would have been better appreciated had all such saner members of this Muslim community come out on streets with strong protests against the killers, for such brutal killings particularly by two young teachers, that too when amongst the killed is a lady teacher, were mercilessly killed after segregating these two teachers, one being a Sikh and the other a Hindu, amongst other teachers of this school belonging to Muslim clan, when they were imparting education to the little one's of this very majority community in one of the schools of Srinagar. Such resentments shown by some of the majority members of the civil society of Kashmir; viz, the Muslims, are just symbolic and lip sympathies towards the dead and their relatives apart from being a show of false expression for the general public of Jammu and Kashmir at large, particularly the KPs. So is the case with the teachers of all the schools across Kashmir province that should have shown their solidarity with the souls of their inhumanly killed colleagues by going for a mass strike with protests of sorts, for such barbaric acts of the terrorists. There was no such reaction or anguish shown by all such teachers of the other schools of the Kashmir province which must be in hundreds in numbers, either by coming on roads for observing mass protests and strikes in this behalf. One may be constrained to conclude that all such acts of the terrorists with the people who are non Muslims are having a silent approval of most of the members of the majority community for such inhuman and the barbaric acts of these terrorists.

In this regard it is obligatory and necessary to quote the former deputy chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir Muzaffar Hussain Baig as per the reports available has said that the recent spate of killings of minorities in Kashmir appears to be a 'foul design' to scare them out of the valley. The onus of trying to repair the damage, he said, is on the shoulders of Kashmiri Muslims. The victims were Kashmiri Hindus and Sikhs and obviously Kashmiri Muslims were the suspects. He has further said that there appears to be a foul design to scare away the few Kashmiri Hindus who had the moral and the patriotic courage to stay back in their motherland. After targeting Kashmiri Hindus, now even the Sikh community, which is known for its valor and courage, has been targeted. The onus to try to repair the damage obviously falls on the shoulders of the Kashmiri Muslims. I hope that Kashmiri Muslims will condemn the neo-Nazism that may raise its head in Kashmir Baig said. This is the impression of an intellectual legal luminary of Kashmiri who is a staunch Muslim by faith, but is a democrat and secular in his social and intellectual mind set up. This is where the true teachings of Islam work which believes in live and let live. Such terror acts have a bigger hounding effect on the Kashmiri Pandits, who are displaced from their homes and hearths and strenuous efforts are in the pipe line to bring them back to Kashmir with dignity and honor; by the government of India through the present Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, who has labored very hard for ensuring the return of Pandits to valley. Some housing clusters have already been constructed at different locations in the valley, where the Kashmiri Pandit employees presently serving in different offices in Kashmir under a package of giving them government jobs, are living in those housing clusters. Much more such housing clusters in a bigger quantum are proposed to be built for the Kashmiri Pandits at different places in Kashmir for accommodating the displaced pundits after their dignified return to Kashmir under a well envisaged programme and plan by the government of India. Equally the present government of Jammu and Kashmir has started a process of retrieving the left over or grabbed properties of the Pandits, through a well defined legal process and the effected Pandits have been asked to apply for the same through well designed portal for the same. Two irritations emanate into the minds of the some of the majority community

members in Kashmir with such proposals, when they feel that once the Kashmiri Pandits come back in bulk, the government jobs in Kashmir acquired by them will have to be shared by them in that case with the Pandits. The other major irritation and the itching in their bodies is that of the grabbed properties of Kashmiri Pandits at pere nut costs shall have to be returned by them back to the Kashmiri Pandits, or shall have to be compensated by them at the appropriate values of such properties usurped by them at residuary values. The present surge in error attacks on the minority communities particularly the Kashmiri Pandits is thus a calculated programme designed and developed across the border and implemented in Kashmir with an unfortunate consent of some of the the local majority community of Kashmir abetted by the reputed slogan mongering of the earlier dynasty rulers of Kashmir. It is on record to quote when leaders of major political parties of Kashmir who were in governance from time to time for decades in Jammu and Kashmir, have often attributed the annulling of Article 370 and 35 A to the fact that government of India wants to bring Hindus from other states of India to settle and live in Kashmir thus making the present Muslim majority in Kashmir into a minority. Simultaneously while with their utterance they have repeatedly warned India that such acts will be resisted by equivalent repulsions. So what has happened this time so far as the terror attacks are concerned, it seems that all such leaders are secretly privy to all such programmes of the terrorist's designs drawn and drafted across the border? So a Kashmiri Pandit is now caught between the devil and the deep sea, in going back to Kashmir in the present scenario when apart from the fear of terrorists acts, some amongst the local majority population of Kashmir is equally not only a silent spectator to these designs of the terrorists, but equally the major silent partner in this whole game, not to speak of the political leaders who are shedding crocodile tears showing sympathies with the Kashmiri Pandits and other non Muslim affected persons.

The resultant solutions to this problem of terrorist acts in Kashmir, which are not just terror acts but a full-fledged proxy war; waged by Pakistan against India through Kashmir since a long time are just three only. Firstly the government of India has to strike Pakistan against this proxy of theirs against India in Kashmir now with a proper military might, when Pakistan is bound to utilize the services of the gruesome Taliban's in disturbing peace and tranquility in Kashmir, which is the recent creation of the ISI wing of Pakistan. How long should India bear the brunt of the pan Islamic terror assaults from Pakistan in Kashmir? Pakistan has to be taught a lesson in this regard so that it winds up its shops and hides of terror hubs where trainings are imparted to the young innocent youths in terror operations with a false base of magnetizing their minds that they will be straight away go into heaven when they kill a Hindu called a Kafir in Kashmir. The second immediate solution to this problem of repeated terrorist attacks in Kashmir is to accord a full-fledged sate hood to Jammu, as to why should the people of Jammu suffer for the problems of Kashmir which they have been facing since 1947.

Similarly the third solution to this problem is to create a 'separate homeland' for the KPs, with in Kashmir, having a status of 'Union Territory'. Such a call is not any political proposition. It is in fact the only way to ensure the return of the KPs to their 'homeland' securing their return with safety and dignity. Government of India has to keep it in mind that no solution will be perpetual for Jammu & Kashmir unless the Kashmiri Pandits do not get their due which is a 'Homeland' for them within Kashmir, their mother land. It is their fundamental right and fundamental demand. Enough is enough now. A tangible space has to be carved with in the Kashmir valley, in between the ranges of south Kashmir and the north Kashmir, for the creation of the 'homeland' for the rehabilitation of the KP's, which has to be given a status of the Union Territory, with in the Union of India. This space to be called as the 'Home land of KPs' will have separate independent governance absolutely free from any encumbrance from the state of Kashmir.

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International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction

■ SUBHANARAYAN SATAPATHY

Natural disaster is an event that always causes rampant destruction, damage and loss of life & property both. It might be caused in terms of earthquakes, flooding, volcanic eruption, landslide, hurricanes, tsunami, cyclone etc. If we took a look world's figure towards on highest death toll estimate of human due to 10 deadliest natural disaster since year 1900 to 2010 it seems that around 2,73,00 in 1920 Haiyuan earthquake, 143,000 in 1923 Great Kant? earthquake, 4 lakhs in 1931 China flood, 1,45,000 in 1935 Yangtze flood, 5 lakh above in 1970 Bhola cyclone, 2,29,000 in 1975 Typhoon Nina, up to 6 lakh in 1976 Tangshan earthquake, 1,38,866 in 1991 Bangladesh cyclone, 2,27,898 in 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami, 3 lakh above in 2010 Haiti earthquake that we lost. We should memorize that location specific disaster and its past record always vital for concern inhabitants. Similarly, a report of UN office for disaster risk reduction & CRED shows that between 1998 and 2017 climate-related and geophysical disasters killed 1.3 million people and left a further 4.4 billion injured, homeless, displaced or in need of emergency assistance. While the majority of fatalities were due to geological events, mostly earthquakes and tsunamis, 91 per cent of all disasters were caused by floods, storms, droughts, heat waves and other extreme weather events. In 1998-2017 disaster-hit countries also reported direct economic losses valued at US\$ 2,908 bil-

lion, of which climate-related disasters caused US\$ 2,245 billion or 77 per cent of the total. Overall, reported losses from extreme weather events rose by 251 per cent between these two 20-year periods. The report also speaks the global thrust by the UN and other stakeholders for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, there is also widespread recognition that we need to accelerate implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the global plan to reduce disaster losses by reducing existing levels of risk, avoiding the creation of new risk and managing risks that cannot be eliminated. So all these reports depict how our climate is changing or worsens and the risk of disaster increasing day by day. Rather using technological practice we are not at par to control on natural disasters. We can prevent or control manmade disasters by adopting awareness, personal alertness and taking precaution at every individual level but similar focus of preparedness at individual, community and country level can reduce the risk of natural disaster anyway. Preparation in managing natural disasters can reduce the risk during and post disaster periods. The Preliminary Paper E L Quarantelli in 1991 on 'more and worse disasters in the future' of University of Delaware Disaster Research Center states that old kinds of natural disaster agents that simply have more to hit, and along some lines will impact more vulnerable populations. Secondly new and increasing kinds of technological accidents and mishaps that were

almost non-existent prior to World War II and that will increasingly occur in developing countries. Thirdly technological advances that reduce some hazards but add complexity to old threats. Fourthly new versions of past dangers. Fifthly new risks are developing that have not been traditionally thought of as in the province of emergency planning and managing. That what is mentioned in the paper happening now and we can predict it's more acute existence in future. Hence Awareness, education, preparedness, and prediction and warning systems can reduce the disruptive impacts of a natural disaster on communities. Management measures including adoption of zoning, land-use practices, and building codes are needed, however, to prevent or reduce actual damage from hazards, nature-based solutions, such as conserving forests, wetlands and coral reefs, can help communities prepare for, cope with, and recover from disasters, including events such as drought. They can also reduce the secondary impacts from non-climate-related disasters such as landslides following an earthquake.

Meanwhile our country and state has implemented disaster management rules and national and state Disaster Management Authorities are drawing their plans and working in an effective manner to diminish the life and property risk. Disaster Management is the creation of the plans or through which communities reduce vulnerability to hazards & cope with disaster. Proper, appropriate and on time service in this sector is highly required. So using Information, Education & media. Apart from search engines like Google, Firefox, social media teams have benefited the general public as well as litterateurs in reading and writing. The increase of knowledge did not happen, but the new writers also got the benefit of the writing workshop. Senior writers also got the companionship of e-gosht, e-samah and world class scholars. Social media has also given a platform to many emerging and senior writers. The literature publishers also got the benefit of social media and new technologies. Newspapers and magazines may have got the benefit of free-riding, composing, disseminating it in digital form by making PDF files, but good literature also got it. Social media has exposed the literary genius to countless possibilities and has given a limitless horizon for expansion of knowledge. But it is rightly said that excessive use or misuse of social media, continually extracting oil from their raw water and making it an addiction or addiction, has spread riots in literary streets and today in virtual space! The category of 'Evast' has been piled up. Children, old people, working class, villages, cities - all are in the grip of this virtual world. In social media, activism and virtual relationships are being considered synonymous with vibrancy. With affordable mobile data, skin time is increasing, social media is being worked on by violating our important work and domestic responsibilities. Every hour of a notification disturbs the daily schedule and disturbs the thinking process. Efforts are being made on social media by the gurus of mob lynching to create different types of controversies and to hurt

religious sentiments, spread false rumors or incite hysteria. Prevention is necessary. While creative activism has increased through writing and other literary activities on social media, its excess has hit contemplation. Good writers will write well everywhere because they are used to hard work and meditation. They refine the written work, take time to meditate, write and print. But those who are bogus, they will scatter garbage everywhere, this is a harsh truth. Many writers make mistakes in the rush of social media activism and publicity. There is also a risk of theft or copying of our own proprietary and unpublished articles in social media. It is necessary that we should be careful about the copy-right of our creation. There is also a risk to privacy by putting all kinds of personal details and making everything common. The threat of 'cyber security' is looming everywhere. A word stems from these days' mobile fasting. In such times, mobile fasting is also an effective way for some time. This gives the necessary pause for thinking and writing. The brain again enters the mode of creative activation! Instead of garbage, mature writing or discourse comes to the fore. If social media is used in a balanced and restrained way, then other literary creations are also a few fingers away. Creation, dispatch, review - everything is possible in this magical mirror. I wish all senior and new writers to get immense benefits from the use of social media in moderate and balanced amounts, such as my good wish.

Vijay Garg.

YOUR COLUMN
Impact of social media on literature, creativity

Dear Editor:

Social media came into life as a means of bridging the distance and as a means of quick communication. Facebook, WhatsApp, Social media groups like Instagram were just like any other useful tool providing convenience. Balanced use of social media tools was largely positive. It is said that remoteness is near; Yo Yasyadi Varata. That is, the one who is situated in the heart is near even when he is far away. Social media proved this to be true. It made possible contact with kindred people, conversation, exchange of pictures, so that even childhood Italians can be seen in front. Seeing your children, family, siblings, friends sitting far away, feeling connected to yourself, seeing almost the whole world sitting at home, such a happy coincidence has been possible only because of social media. The social media has given an opportunity to show not only the souls of the heart, but also literary psychics and their works by bringing them on the screen. Whenever he wanted, he saw the author's works, read, wrote on it. Giving your opinion by reading the article is also the result of social